

This bulletin is a quick inventory of recent social research information. Its purpose is to promptly disseminate the most current external and internal research relevant to social policy.

City of Toronto Backgrounder on the 2021 Census: Housing and Indigenous Peoples Release by City of Toronto, September 2022.

The 2021 Census Day was May 11, 2021. On September 21, 2022, Statistics Canada released its fifth set of data from this Census, on housing and Indigenous peoples. This backgrounder compiles the most pertinent information from this release for the city of Toronto and the GTHA region.

- In 2021, there were 1,616,890 private households in Toronto. Of these, 602,915 households or 52% owned their home, while 557,975 or 48% rented
- 353,215 occupied private dwellings in Toronto were condominiums. This is 30% of the total, compared to 16% in the rest of the GTHA
- Almost one in five households in Toronto were in core housing need. This is 215,225 households or 19% of the city's 1,160,885 households
- There were 22,925 people (0.8% of the population) living in Toronto who identified as Indigenous, of which 60% were First Nations, 33% were Métis and 1% were Inuk (Inuit).

Link to the backgrounder: <https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/8e3a-CityPlanning-2021-Census-Backgrounder-Housing-Indigenous-Peoples.pdf>

To Buy Or To Rent: The Housing Market Continues To Be Reshaped By Several Factors As Canadians Search For An Affordable Place To Call Home by Statistics Canada, September 2022.

The housing market has continued to change since Census Day on May 11, 2021, with house prices continuing to rise through February 2022 before tumbling over the spring and summer in the face of interest rate hikes designed to curb inflation. Trying to figure out the right time to buy is a difficult decision that can leave Canadians wondering how long they want to hold out on entering the real estate market—or whether they even want to. For many Canadians, both in and outside the housing market, housing options will continue to unfold over time.

- The proportion of Canadian households who own their home—or the homeownership rate (66.5% in 2021)—is on the decline in Canada after peaking in 2011 (69.0%)
- 40.4% of the housing built in the five years ending in 2021 was tenant-occupied, the highest tenant rate next to that of dwellings built in the 1960s post-war apartment boom
- The rate of unaffordable housing, or the proportion of households that spent 30% or more of their income on shelter costs, fell from 24.1% in 2016 to 20.9% in 2021
- Almost 1.5 million Canadian households lived in "core housing need" in 2021
- Over half (55.1%) of the dwellings built in Montréal from 2016 to 2021 were rented in 2021, the highest share among Canada's three largest cities, followed by Toronto (43.4%) and Vancouver (42.6%)

Link to the article: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/220921/dq220921b-eng.htm>

Indigenous Population Continues To Grow And Is Much Younger Than The Non-Indigenous Population, Although The Pace Of Growth Has Slowed by Statistics Canada, September 2022.

Over multiple decades, census data have revealed that the Indigenous population has grown quickly, at a pace far surpassing that of the non-Indigenous population. There are two reasons for this growth. The first, often called "natural growth," relates to higher birth rates and increasing lifespans. The second has been termed "response mobility," which refers to people who once responded to the Indigenous identity questions one way on the census questionnaire, but now respond differently. Despite the challenges posed to in-person collection, the Census of Population remains the most comprehensive source of community-level data for the Indigenous population in Canada and robust data are available for First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities.

- The 2021 Census counted 1.8 million Indigenous people, accounting for 5.0% of the total population in Canada, up from 4.9% in 2016
- The Indigenous population grew by 9.4% from 2016 to 2021, surpassing the growth of the non-Indigenous population over the same period (+5.3%)
- There were 1,048,405 First Nations people, 624,220 Métis, and 70,545 Inuit living in Canada in 2021
- The Indigenous population was 8.2 years younger, on average, than the non-Indigenous population
- Almost one in five Indigenous people in Canada (18.8%) lived in a low-income household, using the low-income measure, after tax. This was down nearly 10 percentage points from 2016

Link to the article: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/220921/dq220921a-eng.htm?HPA=1>
Indigenous Peoples Reference Guide, Census of Population, 2021:
<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/ref/98-500/009/98-500-x2021009-eng.cfm>

Municipal Benchmarking Study 2nd Edition by Altus Group Economic Consulting and BILD, September 2022.

The study compares approaches that municipalities have in place to deal with the approval and development of new housing. It also highlights key features (and associated benefits of those features) in promoting the approval of new housing and ultimate construction, as well as the cost implications of municipal processes and policies. The analysis presented in the study was based on research done on 16 municipalities across the GTA.

- Municipal approval timelines range from 10 to 34 months depending on the GTA municipality, with most types of applications taking 20 to 24 months on average
- Municipal fees and charges have increased on average by 30 to 36 per cent since 2020, with charges amounting to \$53 per square foot for low-rise housing and to \$99 per square foot for high-rise housing
- Average approval timelines have increased by 41 per cent since the 2020 study, and between 27 to 53 per cent depending on application type
- Compared to the 2020 study, the average municipal charge on low-rise development has increased by 30 per cent, while high-rise charges have increased by 34 per cent
- The best average approval timelines were found in Milton, Whitby, Barrie, Oakville and Brampton, with each municipality averaging less than 16 months [and] the worst average approval timelines were found in Caledon, Toronto, Richmond Hill, and Vaughan, at 27 months or greater

Link to the report: <https://www.bildgta.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Municipal-Benchmarking-Study-2022.pdf>

How to Reduce the Depth of Single Adult Poverty in Canada by Garima Talwar Kapoor, Mohy Tabbara, et al., Maytree and Community Food Centres, September 2022.

Canada's social safety net does not reflect the economic and social realities of today. In particular, governments have long neglected the needs of working-age single adults without children (or unattached working-age single adults). Unattached working-age single adults currently face the highest rates and deepest levels of poverty in the country.

- Working-age single adults have persistently faced higher rates of poverty compared to other family types, and over 35 per cent who filed taxes were living in poverty
- The proposed Canada Working-Age Supplement (CWAS) would enhance and transform the existing Canada Workers Benefit (CWB) into an income support program that is available to people living in deep poverty, regardless of employment
- The results of our analysis demonstrate that between 2.5 and 3.1 million unattached working-age single adults across Canada could benefit from the CWAS — including the 1 million people living in deep poverty who are not currently eligible for the CWB

Link to the report: <https://maytree.com/wp-content/uploads/canada-working-age-supplement-report.pdf>

COVID-19 Mortality Among Racialized Populations In Canada And Its Association With Income by Shikha Gupta and Nicole Aitken, Statistics Canada, August 2022.

Currently, it is unknown in Canada if the higher rates of COVID-19 mortality among racialized populations are associated with the higher proportion of racialized groups living in low income or if there is a combined effect which puts them at a higher risk for COVID-19 mortality. This study estimated COVID-19 mortality rates among racialized populations in Canada in 2020 and further explored the impact of individual's low income status on the mortality for racialized populations after accounting for other known risk factors such as age, sex, dwelling type and housing suitability.

- The likelihood of dying from COVID-19 was significantly higher for men, older adults, those living in a dwelling that does not have enough bedrooms for the size and composition of the household, those living in an apartment, and those living in low income
- Overall, the COVID-19 mortality rate was significantly higher for racialized populations (31 deaths per 100,000 population) compared to the non-racialized and non-Indigenous population (22 deaths per 100,000 population)
- The mortality rate ratio between Black people and the non-racialized and non-Indigenous population was more than two times higher (2.2 times). The mortality rate among Chinese people was similar to the non-racialized and non-Indigenous population
- Males had 1.6 times higher age-standardized COVID-19 mortality rates than females

Link to the paper: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/45-28-0001/2022001/article/00010-eng.pdf>

Previous issues of the SPAR Monitor can be viewed online at: <https://bit.ly/3h42Zob>

Wellbeing Toronto: www.toronto.ca/wellbeing

City of Toronto Data, Research & Maps: <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/data-research-maps/>