

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.

The Census and You by Statistics Canada, May 2021.

The 2021 Census is underway! The information you provide is converted into statistics used by communities, businesses and governments to plan services and make informed decisions about employment, education, health care, market development and more.

- [Many resources](#) available to community supporters, educators and influencers
- Census fact sheets are [available in 25 languages](#)
- The 2021 Census questionnaire contains new and modified content that is critical to measuring equity, diversity and inclusivity. This content includes questions on gender expression, minority language rights-holders, self-identification, religion, the labour market, Indigenous groups, housing, income and expenditures, as well as population groups.
- This [FAQ](#) details how the Census will be conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic

Link to the Census 2021 portal: <https://census.gc.ca/>

Canadians' Well-being in Year One of the COVID-19 Pandemic by Sarah Charnock et al., Statistics Canada, April 2021.

This report brings together diverse findings that illuminate changes in quality of life since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and provides valuable insights through examining these results through a well-being lens. Several widely used frameworks exist to describe the dimensions of well-being, such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Framework for Measuring Well-Being and Progress.

- By April 2020, 5.5 million workers had been negatively affected by the COVID-19 economic shutdown in the form of lost employment or reduced hours, a number that was still as high as 1.1 million by December 2020
- As of June 2020 however, the mean financial resilience index score at the national level was 55.58; 54.53 in October 2020 and higher at 55.69 in February 2021, signalling improved financial resilience for individuals and families
- Prior to COVID-19, youth aged 15 to 24 were the least likely of any age group to report excellent or very good mental health, and by July 2020 they also reported the largest declines in mental health – a 20 percentage point reduction from 60% in 2019 to 40% in July 2020. Seniors aged 65+ were the only age group not reporting declines in mental health between the beginning of the pandemic and July 2020

Link to the full paper:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/75f0002m/75f0002m2021003-eng.pdf>

Covid-19 & People Living in Mutual Dependence in the Toronto Metropolitan Area by Richard Maaranen & John Stapleton, Open Policy Ontario, April 2021.

Mutually dependent adults are those who presumably cannot live independently for financial and/or other reasons (e.g., a cultural choice). They live as a member of a multiple family household; a multiple adult noncouple, non-parent household; or a one-family household with additional adult(s). The higher incidence of mutually dependent living arrangements in recent decades is likely one of the factors accelerating the spread of Covid-19.

- The number of mutually dependent adults has increased in almost all demographic categories between 2006 and 2016
- The main reason appears to be higher housing costs. Vancouver and Toronto have the greatest increases in mutually dependent living arrangements between the 2006 and 2016 censuses
- Non-white adults display the highest proportional mutual dependence, likely because they are poorer
- Mutual dependence is also concentrated among younger adults with a higher concentration among males

Link to the full presentation:

https://openpolicyontario.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/2021/05/Mutually-Dependent-Adults_Toronto-CMA-30April-2021R.pdf

A Labour Market Snapshot of Black Canadians During the Pandemic by Statistics Canada, Feb 2021.

To mark Black History Month, Statistics Canada is looking at how the 1 million Black Canadians aged 15 to 69 are faring in the labour market during one of the most disruptive times in our economic history. Analysis of the recent labour market situation of population groups designated as visible minorities is now possible as a result of a new question added to the Labour Force Survey (LFS) in July 2020.

- Over one-quarter of Black Canadians in this age group [15-69] were born in Canada (27.1%), and two-thirds (66.3%) are immigrants
- Black Canadians experienced a higher unemployment rate than non-visible minority Canadians in the recent past. For example, 12.5% of Black Canadians in the labour force were unemployed at the time of the 2016 Census, compared with 6.9% of non-visible minority Canadians
- Almost one-third of employed Black women (31.7%) worked in health care and social assistance in January 2021, and over four-fifths (81.2%) of these women were immigrants
- In January 2021, Black Canadians (33.2%) were almost twice as likely as non-visible minority Canadians (16.6%) to be living in a household reporting that it had been difficult or very difficult to meet its basic financial commitments in the last four weeks

Link to the study:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/daily-quotidien/210224/dq210224b-eng.pdf?st=cZ6XfGGO>

The COVID-19 Risk/Reward Assessment Tool by Statistics Canada, April 2021.

Different sectors of the economy present different levels of risk of exposure to the coronavirus. Information about this risk may be important for evidence-based decision-making about how and when to impose or ease restrictions on businesses. To respond to this need, a network of academic researchers across Canada (Baylis et al. 2020) developed a new tool to measure the risk of COVID-19 exposure by occupation, and the importance of different sectors to the economy.

- The first [part of] the COVID-19 Risk Index ranks occupations by the risk of exposure to the virus based on job characteristics (proximity or close contact with others, frequency of personal contacts, exposure to

diseases or infections, interaction with the public, outdoor work, and the job can be done from home) and worker characteristics (commutes using public transit, works from home, lives in a crowded dwelling, and lives with a health care worker)

- The second part of the tool is the economic importance of different sectors measured several ways, including the size of employment (pre-pandemic), change in employment, or sector centrality (how important a sector is to the functioning of all other sectors in the economy)
- For example, the risk of exposure to the virus is highest in the healthcare and social assistance sector, and lowest in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting sector
- The COVID-19 Risk/Reward Assessment Tool is now available through custom tabulations at Statistics Canada

Link to the tool:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/36-28-0001/2021004/article/00006-eng.htm>

Unequal Justice: Experiences and Outcomes of Young People in Ontario's Youth Bail System by The John Howard Society, March 2021.

An examination of the youth bail system shows that the successes of the YCJA are not equally shared by all youth. Fairness and equality under the law are fundamental principles afforded to us all. A young person's experience with the justice system – or likelihood of being jailed – should not depend on where they live or what their background is. However, new research from the John Howard Society of Ontario (JHSO) indicates that for youth going through the bail system in Ontario, these factors can make a difference. This document provides select highlights from the research.

- Today, the rate of incarceration is 3.79 per 10 000 youths, compared to 17.64 per 10 000 youths in 2000.
- Our analysis of the ICON court data found some good news to this end: just over half of cases (from 51% in 2006 to 59% in 2017) in the research sample received their bail decision in just one appearance at bail court, and the proportion of cases reaching a bail decision in only one appearance has increased over the years. The remaining cases, however, took multiple appearances - sometimes upwards of five - to reach a decision on bail
- In 2006, 44% of cases reached a final disposition in three months or less, but this number dropped to 35% in 2017. By 2017, 65% of youth cases took more than three months to reach a disposition, with 38% of cases taking six months or longer. This same year, 9% of cases took over a year to get resolved

Link to the report:

<https://johnhoward.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Youth-Bail-Highlights-Final.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/>