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.


Unintentional injury is the leading cause of death and morbidity among Canadian children. Not only are injuries associated with increased health care costs, hospitalizations and physician care, but injuries sustained in childhood also have consequences that can last throughout the life course. For these reasons, childhood injuries have been identified as a public health issue. Among Aboriginal children, in particular, injury rates have been reported to be relatively high.

- This study examines rates of unintentional injury hospitalization for children in areas with a high percentage Aboriginal identity population
- Rates of unintentional injury hospitalization were calculated for 0- to 19-year-olds in census Dissemination Areas (DAs) where at least 33% of residents reported an Aboriginal identity
- Unintentional injury hospitalization rates of children and youth in high-percentage Aboriginal identity areas were at least double the rate or their contemporaries in low-percentage Aboriginal identity areas

For link to the study:


The divorce rate among North American Muslims has risen sharply in the last 25 years. While marriage breakdown is also on the rise in some Muslim countries, for many members of the older generation divorce was unusual or even unheard of in their family. When marriages did end, the widespread social taboo associated with divorce meant that it was difficult to talk openly with one’s family and other community members about marital discord and breakdown. This taboo continues today, to some degree, in the North American Muslim community.

- Muslim couples face many of the same challenges as non-Muslim couples as they adapt to changing societal values and norms
- Islamic family identity is emerging from a range of traditions and practices which are rooted in cultural values as well as religious principles
- Misinformation and misunderstanding has made shari’a a toxic word in public discourse, associated with the idea that Muslims wish to impose “their” laws on non-Muslims
This study shows that for North American Muslims, whatever their level of observance, the most commonplace expression of their shari’a obligations is through critical rites of passage and family transitions, especially marriage and divorce.

For link to the report:

http://www.ispu.org/pdfs/ISPU%20Report_Marriage%20II_Macfarlane_WEB.pdf

Cause-Specific Mortality by Education in Canada: A 16-Year Follow-Up Study by Michael Tjepkema, Russell Wilkins and Andrea Long, Statistics Canada, August 2012.

The social, economic and environmental conditions that people experience throughout their lives are the most important influences on their health. Known as the social determinants of health, these factors include income, occupation, living conditions, and importantly, education.

The level of education that a person achieves is influenced by circumstances that include family income during childhood and intergenerational effects such as the mother’s education.

People with lower levels of education tend to have high rates of disease and mortality, compared with those with higher levels of attainment.

Educational attainment may be an indicator of intra-and inter-personal skills that are needed to produce and maintain good health.

Higher attainment can increase opportunities for employment and income security, and research consistently documents better health in higher-income groups.

For link to the study:


This article examines the job-search behaviour of the older unemployed by comparing it with that of their younger counterparts, using data from the Employment Insurance Coverage Survey from 2006 to 2010. It looks at age differences in the number of hours spent looking for work and the methods used. It examines the level of optimism of the older unemployed about their chances of finding an acceptable job quickly, as well as what, in their view, would help them most in their efforts.

The unemployed age 55 to 64 spent an average of 13 hours per week looking for work. This is similar to the amount of time spent by those ages 20 to 34.

There are differences in job-search methods between the younger and older unemployed. Older job seekers are less inclined to contact an employer directly and use the Internet, but they are more likely to have mainly looked at job ads.

The older unemployed are not significantly less likely to look for work outside their community. The probability of the unemployed age 55 to 64 looking for work outside their community was 39%, compared with 43% for those 20 to 34.
➢ The older unemployed are more likely to say they would accept a job offer at a lower wage than in their previous job
➢ Most of the older unemployed are pessimistic about their chances of finding an acceptable job in the next three months. The older unemployed who are more pessimistic about their chances of finding an acceptable job are the most likely to believe that better health or being younger would help them most in finding a job.

For link to the article:


Most research on educational interventions, including school vouchers, focuses on impacts on short-term outcomes such as students’ scores on standardized tests. Few studies are able to track longer-term outcomes, and even fewer are able to do so in the context of a randomized experiment.

➢ Using a voucher to attend private school increased the overall college enrollment rate among African Americans by 24 percent
➢ The positive impact of a voucher offer on Hispanic students is a statistically insignificant impact of 1.7 percentage points
➢ In the absence of a voucher offer, the percentage of African American students who attended a selective four-year college was 3 percent
➢ No impacts for the above were detected for Hispanic students
➢ Evidence suggests that educational and religious reasons may explain the different findings for African American and Hispanic students

For link to the report:
http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Research/Files/Papers/2012/8/23%20school%20vouchers%20harvard%20chingos/Impacts_of_School_Vouchers_FINAL.pdf

Social Policy, Analysis and Research Information Resources:
Wellbeing Toronto: www.toronto.ca/wellbeing
Neighbourhood Profiles: www.toronto.ca/demographics/neighbourhoods.htm
Census 2011 Backgrounders & other resources: www.toronto.ca/demographics