
CRDCN Research Policy Snapshot Digest

Volume 1 Issue 1
January 2022

Recueil des instantanés recherches- politiques du RCCDR

Volume 1, numéro 1
Janvier 2022



Introductory Note/Remarque préliminaire

CRDCN invites researchers publishing academic articles or producing policy reports that use microdata available through CRDCN to provide one-page snapshots that can be used to communicate their work to a wide audience.

Each CRDCN Research Policy Snapshot Digest, produced twice per year, assembles the individual snapshots prepared in the previous six months, inviting authors to include up to one page of supplementary material to accompany their snapshot.

Le RCCDR invite les chercheurs qui publient des articles universitaires ou produisent des rapports sur les politiques publiques en se servant des microdonnées disponibles par l'intermédiaire du RCCDR à en fournir des synthèses d'une page qui pourront être utilisées pour faire connaître leurs travaux à un large public.

Chaque d'instantanés recherches-politiques du RCCDR, produit deux fois par an, compile les instantanés préparés au cours des six mois précédents en invitant leurs auteurs à ajouter jusqu'à une page de documentation supplémentaire pour les accompagner.

Citation:

CRDCN. "CRDCN Research Policy Snapshot Digest". Vol. 1, no.1, 2022. <http://hdl.handle.net/11375/27324>.

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COVID-19 and the economic importance of in-person K-12 schooling

Simard-Duplain, Gaëlle and Siu, Henry E "COVID-19 and the economic importance of in-person K-12 schooling"
CRDCN research-policy snapshots. January 2022 <http://hdl.handle.net/11375/27304>

What the researchers did

The authors assess the economic importance of K-12 schooling in Canada using two measures: the size of the sector and how central the sector is to the economy. They extend these measures by modelling a "new" sector – workers needing childcare in order to be available to work – which is not accounted for by conventional methods.

What the researchers found

In Canada, those needing childcare in order to be available to work contribute approximately 8.9% of GDP. Accounting for the role of in-person schooling in availing the economy of this labour, the researchers show that K-12 education represents the second largest sector in the economy, accounting for 11.5% of GDP. The extended modelling also places K-12 schooling as the most central sector in the economy.

RDC Datasets used

Canada's Census of Population, 2016
Canadian Symmetric Input-Output Tables, 2015

Policy areas this research can inform

- Children and youth
- Education, training and learning
- Families, households and marital status
- Income, pensions, spending and wealth
- Labour

Policy implications of this research

In-person K-12 schooling plays an important role in the economy because it allows parents to work and contribute to other sectors in the economy. The authors' extended modelling shows that the importance of K-12 schooling is not captured by conventional measures. These findings are important to inform decisions related to in-person school openings and closures affected by COVID-19. The results can also inform decisions regarding COVID-19 vaccine priorities and where to place school teachers on the priority list.

Read the full article

Green, DA., Karimirad, A., Simard-Duplain, G. & Siu, HE. (2021). COVID-19 and the economic importance of in-person K-12 schooling. *Canadian Public Policy*. <https://doi.org/10.3138/cpp.2021-002>





Cultural socialization and the formation of trust in others

Wu, Cary "Cultural socialization and the formation of trust in others" *CRDCN research-policy snapshots*. January 2022
<http://hdl.handle.net/11375/27301>

What the researchers did

The researcher investigated when do people to trust in others. Using migration as a "natural experiment", the researcher considers whether growing up in a low trust place and then migrating to a high trust place would change migrants' trust and vice versa. The researcher used the General Social Survey (2014) and measured trust using the survey item that asks people's *trust in strangers*.

What the researchers found

The researcher found that in Canada, trust is lower in Quebec. Quebecers who emigrated to live in other regions of the country continued to show a lower level of trust. English Canadians who migrated to live in Quebec remained more trusting than local natives. This is especially true among migrants who migrated as an adult. The pattern suggests that an individual's trust in others is learned early in life and learned trust persists into adulthood.

RDC Datasets used

Statistics Canada's General Social Survey (2014)

Policy areas this research can inform

- Children and youth
- Education, training and learning
- Immigration and ethnocultural diversity
- Population and demography
- Society and community
- Statistical methods

Policy implications of this research

This research yields two general policy implications. First, since trust matters for individuals' socioeconomic status and well-being as well as for economic growth and social cohesion at the societal level, the finding that not all Canadians trust equally suggests a new direction to understand and address inequality in Canadian society – that is, to promote trust for all. Second, the finding that trust is acquired at an early age from cultural socialization and remains relatively stable in adulthood suggests that policy interventions to promote trust and address trust inequality will need to pay attention to how people are socialized differently early in life. This means considering differences, for example, in parental influence and schooling.

Read the full article

Wu, C. (2021). How stable is generalized trust? Internal migration and the stability of trust among Canadians. *Social Indicators Research*, 153(1), 129-147.





Fluoride exposure and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in Canadian youth

Riddell, Julia and Till, Christine "Fluoride exposure and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in Canadian youth"
CRDCN research-policy snapshots. January 2022 <http://hdl.handle.net/11375/27295>

What the researchers did

Fluoride was measured in urine and tap water. Youth (ages 6 to 17) or their parents completed a questionnaire asking about hyperactive and inattention symptoms and if the child has been diagnosed with ADHD. The researchers used statistical models to examine the relationship between fluoride exposure and ADHD diagnosis/symptoms.

What the researchers found

An increase of 0.5 mg/L of fluoride in tap water was associated with a rise in ADHD prevalence from 5.5% to 14%. Higher fluoride levels in tap water and living in an area with community water fluoridation (CWF) was associated with more hyperactive/inattentive symptoms in adolescents.

RDC Datasets used

2010 Survey of Household Spending

Policy areas this research can inform

- Children and youth
- Environment
- Health
- Society and community

Policy implications of this research

Fluoridation of public water supplies has been a debated topic for many decades. A growing body of evidence – including the results of this study – indicates that fluoride may be associated with adverse health effects. Given the enormous public health implications, a comparison of the potential risks and benefits of community water fluoridation is urgently needed with an emphasis on vulnerable populations. Because of the unique vulnerability of the developing brain, there is a greater potential for adverse outcomes due to early childhood fluoride exposure. The field of public health must be open to reviewing existing policies as new evidence accumulates.

Read the full article

Riddell, J. K., Malin, A. J., Flora, D., McCague, H., & Till, C. (2019). Association of water fluoride and urinary fluoride concentrations with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in Canadian youth. *Environment international*, 133, 105190. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envint.2019.105190>





Food insecurity in Nunavut worsened following the introduction of Nutrition North Canada

Li, Tim "Food insecurity in Nunavut worsened following the introduction of Nutrition North Canada"
CRDCN research-policy snapshots. January 2022 <http://hdl.handle.net/11375/27307>

What the researchers did

The researchers analyzed changes in food insecurity prevalence in the 10 largest communities of Nunavut before and after the introduction of Nutrition North Canada in 2011. When introduced, the program aimed to improve food access by subsidizing the cost of transporting perishable, nutritious foods to remote communities across Canada's North.

What the researchers found

The prevalence of food insecurity in the communities was 33% in 2010, just before the program was launched. By the time it was fully implemented in 2014, the prevalence had increased to 46%, meaning almost half of the households had insecure or inadequate access to food due to financial constraint.

RDC Datasets used

**Canadian Community Health Survey
(2007 to 2016)**

Policy areas this research can inform

- Agriculture and food
- Government
- Health
- Society and community

Policy implications of this research

The rise in the already-high prevalence of food insecurity in Nunavut communities following the launch of Nutrition North Canada points to a need to re-evaluate the government's approach to improving food access in the North. There are serious questions around the federal government's continued focus on food subsidies. The study findings highlight the urgent need to develop effective strategies to address food insecurity in Canada's North.

Read the full article

Fafard St-Germain AA, Galloway T, Tarasuk V. Food insecurity in Nunavut following the introduction of Nutrition North Canada. CMAJ 2019;191(20):E552-E558. <https://www.cmaj.ca/content/191/20/E552>





Food insecurity is associated with higher health care use and costs among Canadian adults

Li, Tim "Food insecurity is associated with higher health care use and costs among Canadian adults"
CRDCN research-policy snapshots. January 2022 <http://hdl.handle.net/11375/27297>

What the researchers did

The researchers examined the relationship between food insecurity and healthcare use for adults in Canada by linking survey data on food insecurity with hospital records regarding acute care hospitalization and same-day surgeries. They also estimated the costs associated with the healthcare service utilization.

What the researchers found

As the severity of food insecurity increases, so does the odds of acute care admission, having same-day surgery, and being a high-cost user (being part of the top 5% highest cost-incurring users). Of those who were admitted to acute care, more severely food insecure adults stayed longer in hospital and were more likely to be readmitted.

RDC Datasets used

Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) 2005–17

Discharge Abstract Database

Policy areas this research can inform

- Government
- Health

Policy implications of this research

Whereas previous studies demonstrate the relationship between food insecurity and poor health using self-reported health measures, this study does so on a national level using clinical health data. Food insecurity presents a serious burden on health outcomes, healthcare services, and healthcare spending. The findings suggest that reducing food insecurity may result in decreased health care use and expenditures. Other studies have shown that policy interventions can reduce food insecurity by improving households' financial resources. Given that food-insecure adults often have difficulty affording prescription drugs, pharmacare may also be a policy that could improve health and reduce health care use and costs.

Read the full article

Men, F., Gundersen, C., Urquia, M.L., & Tarasuk, V. (2020). Food Insecurity Is Associated With Higher Health Care Use And Costs Among Canadian Adults: Study examines the association of food insecurity with acute care hospitalization, same-day surgery, and acute care costs among Canadian adults. *Health Affairs*, 39(8), 1377-1385. <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hlthaff.2019.01637>





Impact of COVID-19 school closures on test scores

Haeck, Catherine "Impact of COVID-19 school closures on test scores" *CRDCN research-policy snapshots*.
January 2022 <http://hdl.handle.net/11375/27294>

What the researchers did

The authors studied the achievement gap in reading, mathematics and science in students 15 years of age from families of different Socio-Economic Status (SES) at the national and provincial levels in Canada. The authors then consulted the literature on the impact of school closures on test scores to estimate the achievement gap related to COVID-19 school closures across SES.

What the researchers found

Test scores were consistently higher for 15-year-olds in higher SES prior to COVID-19. The achievement gap between the highest and lowest SES was equivalent to more than one year of schooling (at the national and provincial levels). There is an estimated additional 30% achievement gap between highest and lowest SES during COVID-19 related school closures in 2020.

RDC Datasets used

Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)

Policy areas this research can inform

- Children and youth
- Education, training and learning

Policy implications of this research

School closures are known to have negative effects on the academic performance of students and on their likelihood of persevering in school. Socioeconomic inequalities between students can intensify these outcomes. Considerations regarding COVID-19 and school closures should take into account the negative impact of school interruptions within the context of inequalities in Socio-Economic Status (SES) and the resulting long- and short-term consequences. The academic achievement gaps between students in higher and lower SES present a long-standing issue that will need to be addressed during the pandemic and beyond.

Read the full article

Haeck, C. & Lefebvre, P. (2020). Pandemic school closures may increase inequality in test scores. *Canadian Public Policy*, 46(s1). <https://doi.org/10.3138/cpp.2020-055>





Life course trajectories of family care: Implications for care policy

Eales, Jacquie and Fast, Janet "Life course trajectories of family care: Implications for care policy"
CRDCN research-policy snapshots. January 2022 <http://hdl.handle.net/11375/27305>

What the researchers did

Researchers drew a sample of 3,299 Canadians aged 65+ who had ever provided care from the 2012 General Social Survey on Caregiving and Care Receiving (representing 2.1 million Canadians). Using Latent Profile Analysis and cross-tabulations on retrospective care history data, they empirically identified life course patterns (trajectories) of family care.

What the researchers found

Researchers moved beyond point-in-time 'snapshots' of care to identify, for the first time, life course care trajectories. Trajectories differed in age of first care experience, number of care episodes, total years of care and amount of overlap among episodes. They identified five distinct trajectories: (1) late bloomer; (2) encore; (3) all at once; (4) enduring; and (5) serial. These are described in further detail in the attached supplementary information with percentage of the population experiencing that trajectory.

RDC Datasets used

2012 (Cycle 26) General Social Survey on Caregiving and Care Receiving (GSS)

Policy areas this research can inform

- Families, households and marital status
- Health
- Population and demography
- Seniors and aging
- Society and community

Policy implications of this research

Canada lacks a policy strategy to mitigate negative health, social and economic consequences for 8 million current and 13 million previous caregivers, despite claims that supporting them is important. Evidence about life course trajectories deepens understanding of caregiver diversity, and suggests interventions to mitigate cumulative financial, social, and health risks by tailoring solutions to the needs of caregivers with specific care trajectories (see supplementary information for details).

Read the full article

Fast, J., Keating, N., Eales, J., Kim, C., and Lee, Y. (2020). Trajectories of family care over the lifecourse: evidence from Canada. *Ageing & Society*, 1-18. [DOI:10.1017/S0144686X19001806](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0144686X19001806).

For illustrations of the different care trajectories, please see: Research Recap: Beyond "Snapshots" to "Lifetimes" of Family Care. <https://vanierinstitute.ca/research-recap-beyond-snapshots-to-lifetimes-of-family-care/>



Supplementary Information

Eales, Jacquie and Fast, Janet "Life course trajectories of family care: Implications for care policy"

Further details on the five distinct life course care trajectories, with percentages of the population experiencing that trajectory, were as follows:

- Late bloomer (54%; single 4-year period of care to parent or spouse starting in their 60s);
- Encore (25%; mid-life, 14-years of caring for close family members, then to same generation kin or friends);
- All at once (11%; intense mid-life decade of care to parents or in-laws, often at the same time);
- Enduring (6%; starting young and caring for close family members for over 3 decades); and
- Serial (4%; mainly women who start young and care for over 3 decades for multiple kin and friends, often at the same time).

Solutions tailored to the needs of caregivers in the life course trajectories identified in this research are as follows:

- For Enduring and Serial caregivers: supports that help caregivers successfully juggle work, parental and caregiving responsibilities (flexible work arrangements, paid leaves), healthy opportunities/choices; socially engaged life styles.
- For All at Once and Encore caregivers: supports that help caregivers successfully juggle paid work and care work (flexible work arrangements, paid leaves); financial supports for caregivers who have to leave the labour force (caregiver allowance, pension protection, e.g. CPP drop out); return-to-work assistance.
- For Late Bloomer caregivers: supports that help caregivers maintain their financial (pension credits, early retirement opportunities, retirement transition assistance), physical and mental wellbeing and reduce social isolation (system navigation, formal care services).



Non-linear PSE pathways and credential accumulation patterns

Sartor, Stephen and St-Denis, Xavier "Non-linear PSE pathways and credential accumulation patterns"
CRDCN research-policy snapshots. January 2022 <http://hdl.handle.net/11375/27299>

What the researchers did

The researchers investigated the various postsecondary pathways and credential accumulation patterns of Canadians that extend later into the life course. They examined the predictors of postsecondary pathway uptake as well as the labour market outcomes associated with such pathways and credential accumulation patterns.

What the researchers found

The researchers found that a substantial amount of credential accumulation occurs beyond the traditional ages associated with postsecondary education, as many individuals attain first and second credentials in their late-20s and mid-30s. However, the acquisition of additional credentials is not always associated with higher annual employment income. Upward pathways (i.e., college diploma to bachelor's degree, or more linear pathways such as bachelor's to master's degree) are associated with the highest annual employment income premiums, although significant gaps according to the first credential remain.

RDC Datasets used

Longitudinal International Survey of Adults, Wave 3 (2016)

Policy areas this research can inform

- Education, training and learning
- Population and demography

Policy implications of this research

The first postsecondary credential an individual attains plays a large role in determining the next credential they get (if any). Regardless of the pathway they take, graduates with a first credential below the bachelor's level experience lower average annual earnings than those with a first credential at the bachelor's level. These findings are useful for the design and implementation of transfer and articulation policies that can smooth the transition between credentials for students and foster educational outcomes that help to close the earnings gap between individuals that start their PSE journey in different places. Such policies will be increasingly necessary and improve institutional efficiency as a greater share of the population attain more than one PSE credential.

Read the full article

St-Denis, X., Boujija, Y., & Sartor, S. (2021). Non-Linear PSE Pathways and Credential Accumulation Statistical Portrait and Evaluation. Toronto: Ontario Council of Articulation and Transfer. <https://oncat.ca/en/projects/non-linear-pse-pathways-and-credential-accumulation-statistical-portrait-and-evaluation>





The impact of EI generosity on post-claim employment

Lluis, Stéphanie "The impact of EI generosity on post-claim employment" *CRDCN research-policy snapshots*.
January 2022 <http://hdl.handle.net/11375/27300>

What the researchers did

The researchers analyze two Employment Insurance (EI) initiatives that extended the benefit duration and the allowable earnings criterion for claimants working while on claim. They study the impact of the initiatives on transitions into full-time employment, part-time employment and on job search. They review evidence from the multiple pilots of the Working While on Claim (WWC) program whereby EI claimants can keep a portion of their benefits while working a part-time job, implemented over 2005-2018, to determine if the provisions facilitate a return to permanent and full-time work. They also survey the outcomes of similar provisions in other countries.

What the researchers found

Extending the weeks of EI benefits creates adverse employment effects, but these effects can be tempered if combined with policy changes that incentivize the take-up of part-time jobs to maintain work attachment. WWC provisions can help unemployed Canadians successfully transfer to permanent jobs. But the rules should be improved to consider greater flexibility in the benefits design and new programs should be introduced for those unlikely to benefit from part-time, casual work.

RDC Datasets used

**Labour Force Survey (LFS) –
Employment Insurance Status Vector
(EISV) data**

Policy areas this research can inform

- Government
- Income, pensions, spending and wealth
- Labour

Policy implications of this research

The researchers' analysis highlights the urgency to consider data on the labour market trajectories of all displaced workers and of claimants before and after they exit the EI (not only those who return to EI) to conduct a comprehensive policy evaluation of how well EI changes support transitions to permanent work. WWC provisions could be made more generous during economic downturns. This recommendation is especially timely as the economy recovers from the massive work interruptions of the COVID-19. During economic recessions, there tend to be more part-time jobs available than full-time. To encourage displaced workers to stay connected to the labour market during such times, policymakers should temporarily allow claimants to keep more employment earnings without having their EI benefits reduced.

Read the full article

Lluis, S. and B.P. McCall (2019), "Employment and Job Search Implications of the Extended Weeks and Working While on Claim Pilot Initiatives", DOI: 10.3138/cpp.2018-031

Busby, Colin, Stéphanie Lluis and Brian McCall. 2021. *Transitioning Back to Work: How to Improve EI Working-While-on-Claim Provisions*. IRPP Study 85. Montreal: Institute for Research on Public Policy





The Learning, Earning and Parenting (LEAP) program two decades on: A descriptive cohort study

Smith-Carrier, Tracy and Kerr, Don "The Learning, Earning and Parenting (LEAP) program two decades on: A descriptive cohort study" *CRDCN research-policy snapshots*. January 2022 <http://hdl.handle.net/11375/27302>

What the researchers did

The study followed two cohorts of participants in Ontario Work's (OW) Learning, Earning, and Parenting (LEAP) program (Cohort One: 2003-2008, Cohort Two: 2009-2014) to explore how many had stayed, shifted programs (e.g., to the disability program) or left the social assistance system entirely.

What the researchers found

The researchers found that after following participants over a 5-year period, the number of participants able to leave income assistance entirely after five years was greater for Cohort One (51.3%; N=1,747) compared to Cohort Two (43.2%; N=1,520). Rates of people leaving the OW program, while higher for Cohort One than Cohort Two, were still low; roughly 10% lower than those leaving the overall social assistance caseload. Compared to the OW caseload in its entirety, LEAP participants were more likely to remain in receipt of benefits over time.

RDC Datasets used

Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services administrative datafiles

Policy areas this research can inform

- Children and youth
- Education, training and learning
- Income, pensions, spending and wealth
- Labour

Policy implications of this research

The LEAP program does not appear to vastly improve the employment prospects of a large proportion of its participants over time. The researchers suggest that active labour market programs (ALMPs), like LEAP, which focus on short-term employment readiness (e.g., resume writing workshops) do not dramatically assist LEAP participants over the long-term. Other researchers have suggested that access to advanced education and skills training, paired with access to affordable childcare and housing, is showing promising results for LEAP participants in the USA.

Read the full article

Smith-Carrier, T., Kerr, D., & Wang, J. (2019). The Learning, Earning and Parenting (LEAP) program two decades on: A descriptive cohort study. *Social Policy and Society*, 19(4), 573-584. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1474746420000147>



The Ontario Disability Support Program: An Overview of the Trends

Smith-Carrier, Tracy and Kerr, Don "The Ontario Disability Support Program: An Overview of the Trends" CRDCN research-policy snapshots. January 2022 <http://hdl.handle.net/11375/27306>

What the researchers did

The researchers offer an overview of the trends in the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), including descriptive statistics, caseload profiles, and trajectories relative to Ontario Works (OW). Using the postal code conversion file, they observed trends across Census Metropolitan Areas.

What the researchers found

The ODSP caseload has rapidly risen, from about 280,000 in 2003 to over 475,000 in 2016, an increase of about 70%. The researchers estimated that demography alone can be considered responsible for only about 28% of the overall growth in ODSP over the 2003-2014 period (Kerr et al., 2017). In Kerr et al. (2019), the researchers found that the the ODSP participation rate in high unemployment Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) (e.g., Windsor, St. Catherine's-Niagara, London) had higher social assistance participation rates than those areas with low unemployment (e.g., Guelph-Kitchener-Waterloo, Ottawa). In terms of the composition of the caseload, 56% of ODSP participants had a diagnosis of "mental disorder" in 2014.

RDC Datasets used

Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services administrative datafiles

Policy areas this research can inform

- Children and youth
- Education, training and learning
- Income, pensions, spending and wealth
- Labour

Policy implications of this research

The ODSP caseload increased by 70% over the 2003 to 2016 period. The Great Recession of 2008 had a pronounced impact on Ontarians living with low income, with a reduced employment rate, a tightening labour force, and increased competition for jobs, all of which had a direct impact on (both the OW and) ODSP caseload. With a growing proportion of persons on ODSP, we have seen a shift from social assistance for those deemed "temporarily jobless" to those deemed "disabled" and in need of longer-term assistance.

Read the full article

Kerr, D., Smith-Carrier, T., & Wang, J. (2019). From temporary financial assistance to longer term income support: Probing the growth in Ontario's Disability Support Program (ODSP). *Canadian Review of Social Policy*, 79, 11-31. <https://crsp.journals.yorku.ca/index.php/crsp/article/view/40301>

Kerr, D., Smith-Carrier, T., Wang, J., Kwok, S-M., & Tam, D. (2017). Population aging and the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP). *Canadian Journal of Disability Studies*, 6(4), 33-55. <https://doi.org/10.15353/cjds.v6i4.382>





The relationship between homeownership and food insecurity

Li, Tim "The relationship between homeownership and food insecurity"
CRDCN research-policy snapshots. January 2022 <http://hdl.handle.net/11375/27303>

What the researchers did

The researchers compared the odds of food insecurity between renters and homeowners with and without a mortgage, and with different home values. They also examined whether housing cost burden (ratio of housing cost to after-tax income) contributed to differences between renters and homeowners with and without a mortgage.

What the researchers found

Renters were more vulnerable to food insecurity than homeowners, except those with mortgages owning low value homes (<\$120,000). Housing cost burden did not explain the difference in vulnerability between renters and homeowners. However, differences in housing cost burden did explain the higher vulnerability for mortgage holders compared to mortgage-free homeowners.

RDC Datasets used

2010 Survey of Household Spending

Policy areas this research can inform

- Health
- Housing
- Income, pensions, spending and wealth
- Society and community

Policy implications of this research

Policies that help Canadians own their homes and manage the financial burden of mortgage debt may help mitigate food insecurity. There is also a need for policies to address the high risk of food insecurity among renters. Other studies show that policies that increase incomes for low-income households reduce food insecurity. Governments should explore targeted income-based interventions for low-income renters to reduce their risk of food insecurity. Since renters make up the majority of food-insecure households in Canada, policies that improve the financial circumstances of low-income renters could help lower the prevalence of food insecurity.

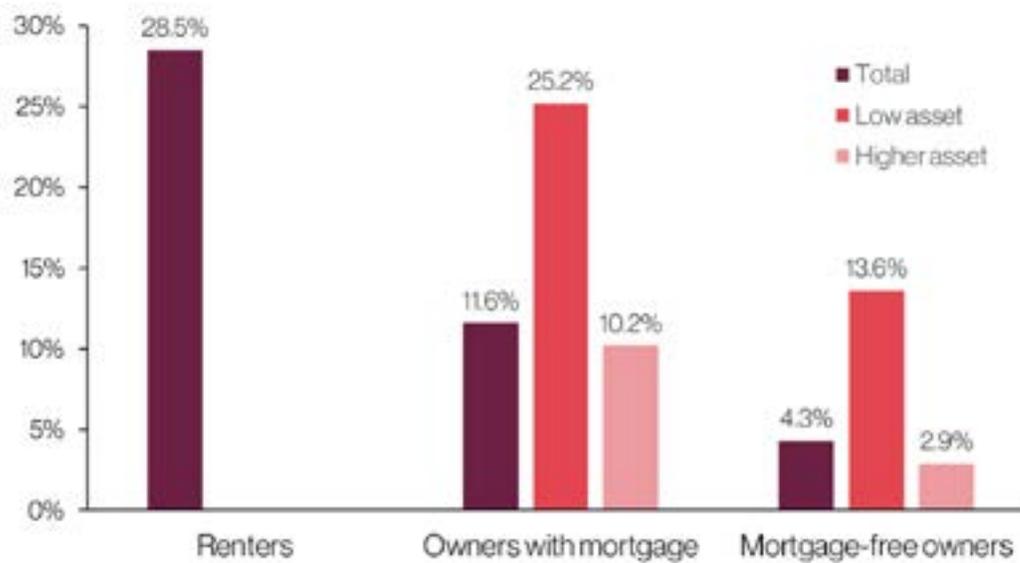
Read the full article

St-Germain, A.A.F., & Tarasuk, V. (2020). Homeownership status and risk of food insecurity: examining the role of housing debt, housing expenditure and housing asset using a cross-sectional population-based survey of Canadian households. *International journal for equity in health*, 19(1), 1-12.
<https://equityhealthj.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12939-019-1114-z>



Supplementary Information

Li, Tim "The relationship between homeownership and food insecurity"



Food insecurity prevalence by homeownership status and housing level
Data source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Household Spending (SHS) 2010. Low housing asset defined as home value \leq \$120,000, representing the lowest decile of home value; higher housing asset defined as home value $>$ \$120,000. From Fafard St-Germain, AA., Tarasuk, V. (2020)



The unrealized potential of the Canada Child Benefit to reduce food insecurity among households with children

Li, Tim "The unrealized potential of the Canada Child Benefit to reduce food insecurity among households with children"
CRDCN research-policy snapshots. January 2022 <http://hdl.handle.net/11375/27296>

What the researchers did

The researchers examined the impact of Canada Child Benefit (CCB) by comparing the changes in food insecurity among eligible households (those with children under 18) and ineligible households (those without), following its introduction in 2016.

What the researchers found

There were no significant changes in the overall prevalence of food insecurity among households with children under 18, following the introduction of the CCB. However, the probability of severe food insecurity (missing meals to going whole days without food) for low-income families fell by a third from 12.3% to 8.2%.

RDC Datasets used

Canadian Community Health Survey (2015-2018)

Policy areas this research can inform

- Children and youth
- Government
- Health
- Income, pensions, spending and wealth

Policy implications of this research

While the CCB did not reduce the prevalence of food insecurity among households with children, this study highlights the potential for modest income supplements to reduce food insecurity for low-income households. The reduction in severe food insecurity is important considering severe food insecurity is associated with the greatest negative health outcomes. The findings suggest that the benefit could have had a larger impact on food insecurity if it was better targeted to provide more money to low-income families. Although the CCB was not designed with food insecurity in mind, it should be thought of and revisited as a key policy lever for reducing food insecurity in Canada moving forward.

Read the full article

Brown, E.M., & Tarasuk, V. (2019). Money speaks: Reductions in severe food insecurity follow the Canada Child Benefit. *Preventive medicine*, 129, 105876. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0091743519303524>

