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Introductory note

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.

Remarque préliminaire

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 (2025). *CRDCN Research-Policy Snapshot Digest*, 4(2).



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The spatial clustering of productive firms: Spillovers versus sorting into good locations

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Canadian Employer
Employee Dynamics
Database

**Policy areas this
research can inform**

Business and consumer
services and culture

Business performance
and ownership

Context

A large literature in economics and regional science argues that firms benefit from proximity to both productive firms and greater amounts of overall economic activity. Using individual level data on all single-location firms in Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver for the 2001 to 2012 period, this study empirically investigates these hypotheses. It finds that a 10 percent increase in the average quality of firms within 75 meters causes a firm to experience a 0.24 percent increase in productivity, with greater spillovers imparted by more productive firms. However, the study finds no evidence that firms become more productive if the total amount of economic activity increases within 500 meters holding the average quality of nearby firms constant.

Key finding

While evidence of local productivity spillovers is clear in the data, most of the block-level variation in firm productivity in tradeable services industries within Canada's largest cities is driven by sorting of better firms into better locations.

Policy implications

More productive firms in skilled services industries impart small positive productivity spillovers on their neighbours within 75 meters. While the most productive firms are in the densest and most productive locations, mostly downtowns, it is not the case that firms benefit from a greater quantity of economic activity within 500 meters conditional on nearby average firm quality. Therefore, policy should be oriented toward creating more good locations to do business. Attracting the best firms to cluster in one location is almost zero sum, as approximately equal sized productivity spillovers are lost in these firms' former locations.

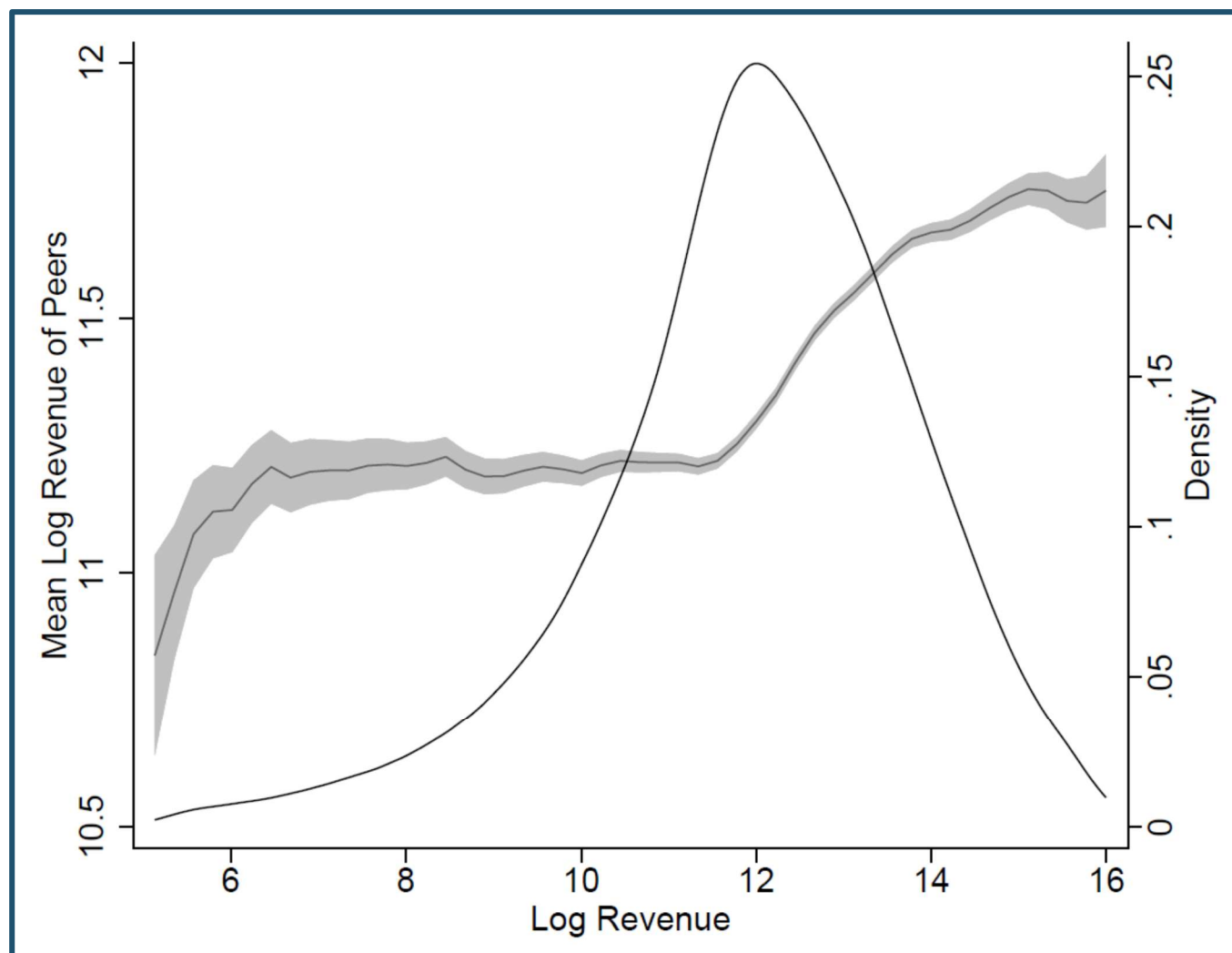
Read the full article here

Baum-Snow, N., Gendron-Carrier, N., & Pavan, R. (2024). Local Productivity Spillovers. *American Economic Review*, 114(4), 1030–1069.

<https://doi.org/10.1257/aer.20211589>

Citation

Baum-Snow, N., Gendron-Carrier, N., & Pavan, R. (2025). The spatial clustering of productive firms: Spillovers versus sorting into good locations. *CRDCN Research-Policy Snapshot Digest*, 4(2), 1-2. <http://hdl.handle.net/11375/32073>



The bell-shaped line depicts the distribution of the natural log of firm revenue across all firm-years in the estimation sample. Its scale is on the right axis. The line bordered by shaded bands shows the nonparametric relationship between firm log revenue and the average log revenue of all single location firms within 75 meters (left axis). 95% confidence intervals are shaded in grey. The plot shows a strong positive sorting of higher revenue firms into neighbourhoods with higher average revenue peers above the median of the log revenue distribution.

Citation

Baum-Snow, N., Gendron-Carrier, N., & Pavan, R. (2025). The spatial clustering of productive firms: Spillovers versus sorting into good locations. *CRDCN Research-Policy Snapshot Digest*, 4(2), 1-2. <http://hdl.handle.net/11375/32073>

Unequal burden: High rates of activity limitations in transgender and gender-diverse populations

Antony Chum, Yihong Bai, Peiya Cao, Kristine Ienciu, Inthuja Selvaratnam, Alex Abramovich, Brittany Jakubiec

Datasets used

Canadian Population Census

Policy areas this research can inform

Health

Population and demography

Society and community

Context

This study fills a critical knowledge gap by using Canada's 2021 Census—the first national census to collect gender identity data—to compare specific types of activity limitations (e.g., mental, cognitive, mobility) across cisgender, transgender, and non-binary individuals. Prior research has typically used non-representative samples or aggregated gender-diverse populations, limiting visibility of disparities. By disaggregating both gender identity and types of limitations, this study provides a comprehensive and nationally representative understanding of health inequities in Canada. These findings can inform targeted policies and inclusive program planning for gender-diverse populations.

Key finding

Due to systemic barriers, non-binary and transgender individuals in Canada face significantly higher rates of activity limitations—especially in mental, cognitive, and mobility domains—compared to cisgender individuals, with non-binary people assigned female at birth reporting the highest predicted probability (76.1%), followed by non-binary individuals assigned male at birth (61.6%), transgender men (44.7%), and transgender women (34.4%), while cisgender women (22.0%) and cisgender men (19.3%) reported the lowest.

Policy implications

This study highlights the urgent need for more inclusive and equitable healthcare systems that recognize and address the unique barriers faced by transgender and gender diverse individuals. Policymakers can use these findings to support training for healthcare providers in culturally competent, gender-affirming care, and to improve access to mental health services and disability supports tailored to gender-diverse populations. Simple yet meaningful changes – such as updating intake forms to reflect transgender and gender diverse identities and routinely screening for activity limitations – can enhance care experiences and outcomes. Addressing these disparities requires a coordinated effort to make healthcare environments more inclusive, affirming, and responsive to the needs of all Canadians.

Read the full article here

Bai, Y., Cao, P., Kim, C., Ienciu, K., Selvaratnam, I., Abramovich, A., Jakubiec, B., Brennan, D. J., & Chum, A. (2025). Gender identity and activity limitations: A national study on transgender and non-binary Canadians. *Preventive Medicine*, 192, 108224. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ypmed.2025.108224>

Citation

Chum, A., Bai, Y., Cao, P., Ienciu, K., Selvaratnam, I., Abramovich, A., & Jakubiec, B. (2025). Unequal burden: High rates of activity limitations in transgender and gender-diverse populations. *CRDCN Research-Policy Snapshot Digest*, 4(2), 3.

<http://hdl.handle.net/11375/32075>



The chore divide: How gender equality at home shapes baby plans

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Datasets used

General Social Survey -
Family

Policy areas this research can inform

Families, households
and marital status

Government

Population and
demography

Statistical methods

Context

There is limited research on how women's employment and education affect the relationship between household labor division and fertility intentions. This study aims to address this gap by analyzing recent survey data from Canada. We explore whether the distribution of routine (cooking, cleaning, dishes, and laundry) and intermittent (grocery shopping, social organization, finance, and bill paying) household tasks impacts women's fertility plans. The findings will offer insights into the factors driving low fertility, especially within the Canadian context. This research will also contribute to ongoing discussions on the complex connections between gender equality, employment, education, and fertility.

Key finding

Employed women who didn't equally share household chores with their partner were less likely to want children, while education didn't affect this relationship.

Policy implications

This study shows that women who handle most household tasks are less likely to have more children. To address this, policies should encourage men's involvement in domestic duties, including childcare. Programs like Canada's maternity leave, Quebec's Parental Insurance Plan, and Germany's universal childcare have been linked to higher fertility rates. These policies allow both parents to share caregiving responsibilities, easing the burden on women. Expanding such initiatives can help create a more balanced division of labor at home, potentially boosting fertility rates and supporting gender equality in family life.

Read the full article here

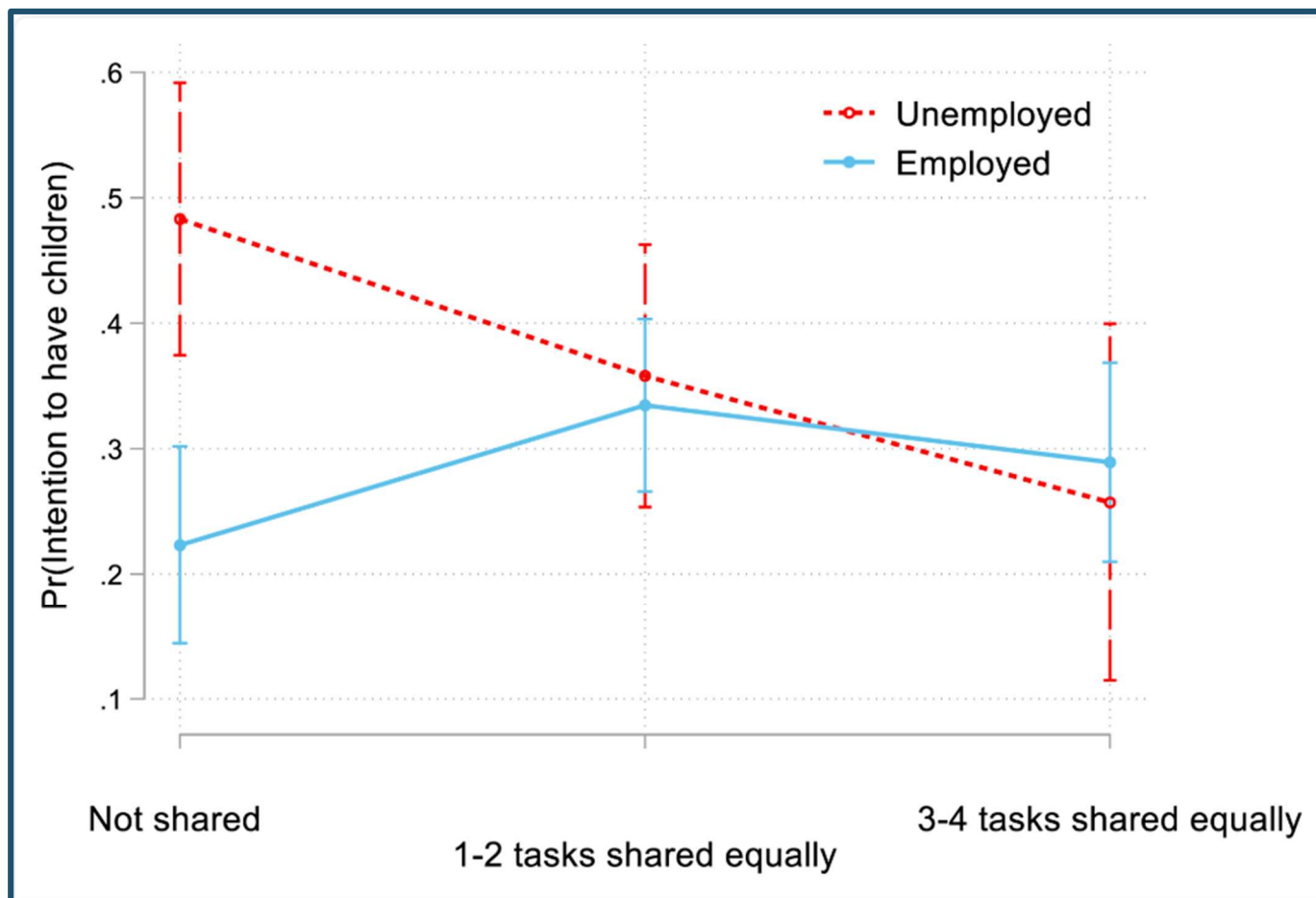
Erfani, A., & Pilon, L. (2024). Gender equality in the division of housework and fertility intentions in Canada: The moderating effect of employment and education. *Journal of Family Issues*, 46(5), 784-804.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/0192513X241299419>

Citation

Erfani, A., & Pilon, L. (2025). The chore divide: How gender equality at home shapes baby plans. *CRDCN Research-Policy Snapshot Digest*, 4(2), 4-5. <http://hdl.handle.net/11375/32076>





Adjusted predicted probability of intention to have children (CI 95%) by gender division of household routine tasks.

Citation

Erfani, A., & Pilon, L. (2025). The chore divide: How gender equality at home shapes baby plans. *CRDCN Research-Policy Snapshot Digest*, 4(2). <http://hdl.handle.net/11375/32076>

The ethnic wage gap may hinder the attractiveness of the chiropractic profession to attract and retain talent

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Datasets used

Canadian Population
Census

Policy areas this research can inform

Health

Immigration and
ethnocultural diversity

Labour

Population and
demography

Context

Given global population aging and increasing but widespread unmet needs for medical rehabilitation services, better understanding of the factors favouring or hindering the recruitment and retention of chiropractors is especially valuable. In particular, it has been argued that the chiropractic profession lags behind the physician profession in concerted efforts to advance diversity across the education-to-practice and leadership pipelines. This study used 2021 Canadian census data to characterize chiropractic practitioners aged 25–54 in terms of demographic representation and earnings differentials underlying the (un)attractiveness of this health profession to new talent.

Key finding

Chiropractors belonging to a visible minority group were found to be underrepresented in relation to the Canadian population (20.0% versus 26.5%) and to earn significantly less (-21.0%, 95% CI: -28.8 to -12.5%) on average than those who were white, independently of gender, immigration status, and other characteristics.

Policy implications

The significant earnings disparities found by ethnicity among chiropractors emphasize the need for equity-oriented initiatives in leadership opportunities and compensation structures, not only for the overall quality of care provided to patients but also for the fair treatment of practitioners.

Read the full article here

Miah, P., & Gupta, N. (2025). Gender and ethnic diversity and wage gaps in the Canadian chiropractic workforce. *Discover Social Science and Health*, 5(1), 3. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s44155-025-00148-x>

Citation

Gupta, N. (2025). The ethnic wage gap may hinder the attractiveness of the chiropractic profession to attract and retain talent. *CRDCN Research-Policy Snapshot Digest*, 4(2), 6. <http://hdl.handle.net/11375/32077>

Generous tax credits make tax filers more generous in their giving

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A. Abigail Payne

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Datasets used

Longitudinal
Administrative Databank

Policy areas this research can inform

Families, households
and marital status

Government

Income, pensions,
spending and wealth

Society and community

Context

The authors' work provides depth for our understanding of how government policy affects the charitable sector. First, they demonstrate that the rationale for the tax credit is to increase giving. Second, they show that while charitable giving has remained relatively constant over the years, during the same period there has been decreasing rate of tax filers claiming the charitable donations tax credit. Third, they review the evidence of estimating donor responses to tax credits, showing that the tax credit is effective in stimulating generosity.

Key finding

When governments increase tax credits available for charitable donations, the average tax filer becomes more generous.

Policy implications

Reported charitable giving in Canada fell 10 percent between 2008 and 2018. This work provides a rationale for increasing the generosity of the tax credits available to Canadian tax filers, which could help to boost donations. The current structure of donation tax credits in Canada gives small donors a lower credit than big donors despite the fact that there are more small givers than big givers. Research has found that higher tax credits lead to more donations, so increasing the credit for small donors would likely result in increased giving in Canada. Before implementation of such a policy, however, we would encourage provincial policy experimentation to test the efficacy of this approach, as Alberta is doing by increasing their credit for small donors to 60%.

Read the full article here

Hickey, R., Payne, A. A., & Smith, J. (2024). Policy Forum: Understanding the Efficacy of Tax Credits for Charitable Donations in Canada. *Canadian Tax Journal/Revue Fiscale Canadienne*, 72(2), 317–327.

<https://doi.org/10.32721/ctj.2024.72.2.pf.hickey>

Citation

Hickey, R., Payne, A. A., & Smith, J. (2024). Generous tax credits make tax filers more generous in their giving. *CRDCN Research-Policy Snapshots*, 4(2), 7. <http://hdl.handle.net/11375/32078>



Not all rental housing is equal for health

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University of Saskatchewan

Nazeem Muhajarine

University of Saskatchewan

Datasets used

Canadian Housing
Survey

Policy areas this research can inform

Government

Health

Housing

Income, pensions,
spending and wealth

Society and community

Context

The current study fills a gap in understanding how different types of rental housing in Canada, namely, government, not-for-profit, cooperative, and privately owned, are linked to tenants' self-reported health and mental health, especially among equity-seeking populations. Using data from over 26,000 renters in the 2018–2019 Canadian Housing Survey, the study employs advanced statistical techniques (multivariable logistic regression with interaction terms) to explore how disparities vary by income, age, household composition, and racial identity. These findings challenge the assumption that all forms of affordable rental housing provide equal health benefits, offering valuable insights for designing more equitable, health-informed housing policies.

Key finding

Health disparities across rental housing types among the renters in Canada are especially pronounced among equity-seeking groups, such as low-income, racialised, and lone-parent households, highlighting the importance of equity-focused housing and health policy.

Policy implications

This study suggests that rental housing policy must go beyond affordability to integrate health-supportive infrastructure and social services, particularly in not-for-profit and government housing. It highlights significant disparities in mental health and self-reported health among vulnerable groups, including low-income, BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Colour), and lone-parent households. The findings of this study challenge the idea that all affordable housing is equally health beneficial. Instead, it points to urgent policies that integrate mental health support, improve housing quality, and enhance neighbourhood safety, emphasising the need for equity-driven interventions for residents of subsidised housing to reduce health risks.

Read the full article here

Kader, S. B., Ahmed, M. S., Desjarlais-deKlerk, K., Leloup, X., Simard, L., Leviten-Reid, C., & Muhajarine, N. (2024). Rental housing type and self-reported general health and mental health status: Evidence from the Canadian Housing Survey 2018–2019. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 21(9), 1181. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph21091181>

Citation

Kader, S. B. & Muhajarine, N. (2025). Not all rental housing is equal for health. *CRDCN Research-Policy Snapshots*, 4(2), 8-9. <http://hdl.handle.net/11375/32079>

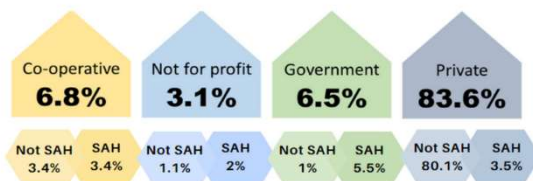


RENTAL HOUSING TYPES & GENERAL HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH AMONG CANADIANS A SNAPSHOT FROM THE 2018-2019 CANADIAN HOUSING SURVEY

ARTICLE LINK



Renters living in different types of housing



SAH= subsidized affordable housing



14.3% renters live in subsidized rental house

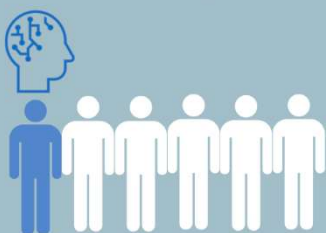
General and mental health were assessed using self-rated responses from a Likert scale (poor, fair, good, very good, excellent) and later dichotomized into Good (good, very good, excellent) and Poor (poor or fair).



GENERAL HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH STATUS OF RENTERS



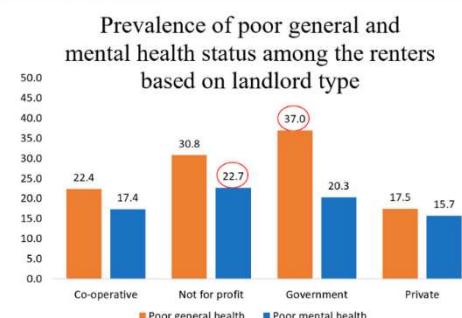
Approximately 1 in 5
(19.5%) renters
reported **poor**
general health



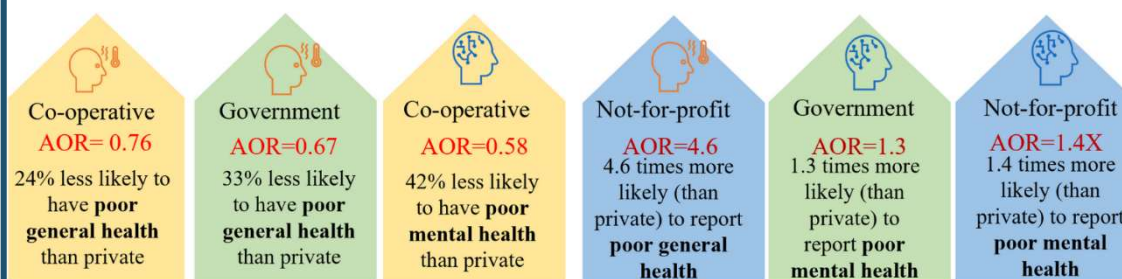
Approximately 1 in 6
(16.3%) renters
reported **poor** mental
health

HEALTH DISPARITIES BY HOUSING TYPES

Poor general health was highest in government housing (37.0%), while poor mental health peaked in not-for-profit housing (22.7%).



ASSOCIATIONS (ADJUSTED ODDS RATIOS) BETWEEN HOUSING TYPE AND GENERAL HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH STATUS



AOR=Adjusted Odds Ratio

Likelihood of General Health and Mental Health Decreased

Likelihood of General Health and Mental Health Increased

Citation

Kader, S. B. & Muhajarine, N. (2025). Not all rental housing is equal for health. *CRDCN Research-Policy Snapshots*, 4(2), 8-9. <http://hdl.handle.net/11375/32079>

The disadvantage in food insecurity faced by high-risk groups remained unchanged between 2005 and 2018

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University of Ottawa

Landon Liu

Carleton University

Valerie Tarasuk

University of Toronto

Datasets used

Canadian Community Household Survey

Policy areas this research can inform

Children and youth

Families, households and marital status

Government

Income, pensions, spending and wealth

Population and demography

Context

Food insecurity involves uncertain or inadequate access to food due to financial constraints. This paper investigates whether the political prioritization of poverty reduction by Canada's higher-level governments since the early 2000s reduced food insecurity among high-risk households. The researchers compared the differences in food insecurity for high-risk groups based on household composition and main source of income over time, while controlling for other sociodemographic characteristics and local circumstances.

Key finding

The disadvantage in food insecurity faced by couples with children, single persons, and single parents (compared to couples without children) and by households relying on non-pension-related government transfers (compared to households relying on employment incomes) remained unchanged in Canada and its four largest provinces individually between 2005 and 2018.

Policy implications

The lack of change in food insecurity disadvantage, despite reduction in income poverty disadvantage among these high-risk groups documented in other studies, underscores the importance of using a comprehensive set of indicators to monitor progress on poverty reduction, including outcome-based measures of material well-being such as household food insecurity. Our findings suggest that more concerted efforts are needed to make meaningful progress for high-risk groups, requiring significantly larger and sustained investments at higher levels of government.

Read the full article here

Notten, G., Liu, L., & Tarasuk, V. (2025). Poverty reduction politics and food insecurity: Better for high-risk groups? *Canadian Public Policy*, 51(2), 150–164. <https://doi.org/10.3138/cpp.2024-028>

Citation

Notten, G., Liu, L., & Tarasuk, V. (2025). The disadvantage in food insecurity faced by high-risk groups remained unchanged between 2005 and 2018. *CRDCN Research-Policy Snapshots*, 4(2), 10. <http://hdl.handle.net/11375/32080>