

GBA+ Methodology and Findings

Methodology

A review of academic literature pertaining to concepts of safety and well-being for a variety of racialized and marginalized groups in Canada was conducted. Search terms included: concepts of safety, concepts of well-being and Black/Asian/Latinx/Indigenous/LGBTQ2S+/people with disabilities in Edmonton/Canada through an intersectional lens.

A brief scan of Edmonton news outlets was conducted to find articles related to feelings of safety and well-being for racialized and marginalized groups.

Research also included a variety of sources that use both qualitative and quantitative data sets, including: 2016 Census Data, Health Canada surveys, Alberta Health Services reporting, and localized data sources such as Homeward Trust, Edmonton Social Planning Council and the City of Edmonton's Citizen Perception Survey.

Findings

Literature and Media Scan

Edmonton has some excellent resources for understanding well-being from an Indigenous perspective: RECOVER and the Soulful City resources can teach us a great deal about how well-being is achieved through good relationships and a sense of purpose, rather than through possessions or stable housing.

Edmonton: Safe City Project (2018) provides insight into the physical safety concerns of women, Indigenous women and girls, newcomer/racialized, LGBTQ2S+ individuals, and women with a disability, in public spaces. This document provides data (2011- 2015) on the amount and types of sexual violence against women in an Edmonton and Canadian context.

In 2020, Edmonton Transit Services made Edmonton one of the first cities in North America to use a GBA+ analysis to improve safety and security for transit users who identify as women. The work to improve safety and security on transit, particularly in and around LRT stations, continues at the City of Edmonton through a variety of partnerships, policy changes and initiatives.

LGBTQ2S+ people and people with a disability span all races and demographics, but are frequently overlooked when discussing health, well-being or public policy. A comprehensive understanding of well-being and safety would include this population using an intersectional lens.

People with disabilities have traditionally been seen as “sick” or in need of “repair”, so well-being has often been understood as related to their impairment. This attitude is changing so their well-being should be discussed irrespective of their disability.

Federal Data: Safety & Crime

According to the 2019 General Social Survey (GSS) on Canadians’ Safety, nearly half (46 per cent) of Black people aged 15 years and older reported experiencing at least one form of discrimination in the past five years, compared to 16 per cent of the non-Indigenous, non-visible minority population.

Of all Black people, four in ten (41 per cent) experienced discrimination based on their race or skin colour, about 15 times higher than the proportion among the non-Indigenous, non-visible minority population (3 per cent).

Forty-four per cent of First Nations people had experienced discrimination in the five years preceding the survey, as had 24 per cent of Métis and 29 per cent of Inuit.

First Nations, Metis, Inuit (FNMI) homicide victims represented 26 per cent of the national homicide count in 2019 and 27 per cent in 2020, despite only representing 4.6 per cent of the total Canadian population.

Eight per cent of Aboriginal people living in the provinces and territories compared with 18 per cent of non-Aboriginal people reported being the victim of one of the eight types of offences measured by the General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization.

In 2014, the overall rate of violent victimization among Aboriginal people was more than double that of non-Aboriginal people (163 incidents per 1,000 people versus 74 incidents per 1,000 people).

Aboriginal females (220 violent incidents per 1,000 people) had an overall rate of violent victimization that was double that of Aboriginal males (110 per 1,000), close to triple that of non-Aboriginal females (81 per 1,000) and more than triple that of non-Aboriginal males (66 per 1,000).

The higher rates of victimization observed among Aboriginal people appeared to be related to the increased presence of other risk factors among this group, such as experiencing childhood maltreatment, perceiving social disorder in one’s neighbourhood, having been homeless, using drugs, or having fair or poor mental health.

Health

57 per cent of FNMI people (568,940) reported suffering from long-term health problems, of which 17.7 per cent reported chronic mood disorders and 19 per cent reported chronic anxiety disorders. Canadian immigrants and refugees are roughly half as likely to receive mental health support/treatment.

19.7 per cent of FNMI people report not having a regular medical doctor. FNMI experience a life expectancy 8.8 years lower than non-FNMI Canadians.

Poverty/Income Inequity

24.2 per cent of FNMI households reported not having enough income to meet basic household needs, while 53.8 per cent of FNMI households reported having the bare minimum.

36.7 per cent of FNMI reported they would be unable to cover an unexpected expense of \$500.

29.8 per cent of Urban FNMI children live in poverty. This rate jumps to 51.2 per cent when a child or children are within a lone-parent household.

Amongst Urban FNMI people, 50 per cent lived in a rented dwelling versus 29 per cent of non-FNMI population.

11 per cent of FNMI people live in a dwelling that needs major repairs compared to 19.4 per cent non-Urban FNMI; 3.6 per cent live in a crowded dwelling compared to 18.3 per cent non-Urban FNMI.

Median FNMI household income in 2016 was \$34,205 against the Canadian 2016 Median Household income of \$57,000 or 40 per cent lower than the Canadian median.

Provincial Data

FNMI represented 40.4 per cent of all custodial admissions (prison sentencing) in Alberta in 2019/20, this is 10.6 per cent higher than national FNMI custodial admissions. This is taken under consideration in the context that Edmonton has the second-highest urban FNMI population in Canada.

Unemployment amongst FNMI Albertans is 5.2 per cent higher than non-indigenous identities and 2.1 per cent higher in Alberta than the national average. Albertan FNMI had the highest unemployment rate of any province in 2021 at 13.7 per cent.

34.8 per cent of FNMI Albertans do not feel a sense of identity to their culture.

27.6 per cent of FNMI Albertans report a negative sense of belonging to their culture.

Edmonton Data

In a study of 50 major Canadian cities, Edmonton was tied for eighth on the dissimilarity index with a score of 0.23, signaling Edmonton FNMI are moderately segregated from the broader community.

FNMI represents 9 per cent of Edmonton's total population but represents 60 per cent of the houseless population.

32 per cent of Edmonton's Islamic Community reported not to have adequate resources to practice social distancing during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Edmonton's Islamic Community cited: social isolation (58 per cent), mental health (48 per cent) and providing food (32 per cent) as their largest struggles in the pandemic.

Social Forecast Insights

Edmonton has significant ethnic diversity, with 46.2 per cent of people identifying as a conventional ethnic minority.

The gender Wage Gap is, as of 2020, \$0.87 to the male dollar.

Race, skin colour and ethnicity are reported to be the three most prevalent experiences of discrimination.

Anti-Asian racism followed worldwide trends due to COVID-19.

Increasing violent hate crimes are being experienced by Muslim women.

Domestic violence (against women) calls have risen by 48.6 per cent over the last 10 years.

50 per cent of Edmontonians reported experiencing racism or discrimination in 2020.

Edmonton's three largest minority communities are: East/South East Asian (15.3 per cent), South Asian (9.1 per cent) and FNMI (8.8 per cent).

Gap Analysis

Data collection and use has been central to the development of the proposed Community Safety and Well-being Framework and will also inform the implementation of the Framework. The City understands that data use for this project must take into consideration the historical harm of data and prioritize transparency for how the data is being used and shared. The City will ensure

that data collection includes the perspectives and voices of marginalized communities in how and why it is being done in order to avoid causing harm.

The development of a system of disaggregated race-based data collection in Edmonton is in early stages. Disaggregated data can support to better identify the challenges and problems and inform policy making, program development, and budget allocation more effectively and equitably.

Several initiatives led by Administration, such as RECOVER and CSWB, are working on collecting better data.

Edmonton Planning and Social Council wrote a report outlining both the dearth of disaggregated local data and recommendations on how to address this moving forward. Several local initiatives, such as the Edmonton Data for Racial Equity Collective, EndPovertyEdmonton and Coalitions Creating Equity, are also looking at strengthening their disaggregated race-based and gender-based data collection.

Edmonton Public School Board passed a Recommendation Report near the end of 2020 to create a model for the collection of race-based disaggregated data.

Unfortunately, there will be quite a bit of lead time before nuanced insights can be gained from these programs. Most are currently in the design and prototyping phases, which will take time to fully develop so it may be a few years until the data sets are robust enough to draw insights from.

Significant data does exist in these areas at provincial and national levels; in the short term, quantitative inferences could be drawn from these, complemented by qualitative studies and storytelling methods into the community, led by Administration, community organizations or through partnerships. Marginalized communities should be included in the ways stories are told about their communities and how the data is used to impact their communities.

Currently, the 2021 Federal Long Form Census is semi-aggregated, differentiating between the majority, visible minority and FNMI. At all levels of government, core demographic tracking is not nuanced to disaggregate between racial lines effectively. This is a major issue Statistics Canada is seeking to improve within the 2026 Census through a \$172 million investment.

The literature review focused primarily on available local data and news as well as regional and national data. Additional research on best practices for implementing GBA+ informed programs or equity measures could be useful.

The City will endeavor to use a GBA+ lens to ensure that data collection is done respectfully with marginalized communities and that diverse voices are included in data collection and analysis. The City will use foundational data from the federal census on the following categories to ensure an equity-based perspective in the analysis:

- Age in five year cohorts - children, working age adults and seniors
- Average household income by neighbourhood
- Education level
- Language
- Population (X people in Y households)
- Sex
- Gender
- Race & Ethnicity (Visible minority in federal census)
- Status - immigrants, residents without Canadian citizenship, residents with citizenship

In the work of Community Safety and Well-being, data collection and reporting are important tools to help address the harm experienced by the marginalized communities in Edmonton. The collection of disaggregated data is vital to advance the work of safety, inclusion, and well-being through a commitment to anti-racism and reconciliation.