Divorced and Unpartnered: New Insights on a Growing Population in Canada


INSIGHTS

- There has been large growth in the number of divorced Canadians since 1971, and as a group, this population is getting older, and more than half currently live alone.


- Both women and men who are divorced and unpartnered have lower levels of economic well-being than married people, and the gap between the divorced and married has increased over time.

INFORMATION

1.9M
Number of currently divorced and unpartnered (i.e. not remarried and not living with a new partner) adults aged 20 and above in Canada in 2018, a tenfold increase since 1971

44%
Proportion of currently divorced and unpartnered Canadians aged 60 and older, more than double the share in 1991 (16%)

26% and 24%
Proportion of divorced and unpartnered adult women and men, respectively, aged 20 and above who lived in a low-income family in 2016, down from 37% and 25% in 1991

IMPLICATIONS AND APPLICATIONS
Separation and divorce agreements; divorce law and associated regulations; family finances; child and/or spousal support orders; mediation

INDICATORS
Income; Consumer Price Index (CPI); low-income status (individual and family); employment rate

FUNDING
Government of Canada; Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR); Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)

PRIMARY DATA SOURCES
Census data; annual estimates of population

STAKEHOLDERS
Family lawyers; family court judges; immigration adjudicators; divorce mediators; family researchers; family studies and law students; financial advisors; demographers; marriage counsellors and therapists; faith leaders

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ALIGNMENT WITH UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)