The Role of Community Based Organizations in Research, Evaluation and Outcomes

What is Colour of Poverty – Colour of Change?

- Campaign to address growing racialization of poverty and resulting increased levels of social exclusion and marginalization of racialized communities (both Indigenous Peoples and peoples of colour) across Ontario.

https://colourofpoverty.ca

What is Colour of Poverty – Colour of Change?

- Made up of organizations and individuals from across Ontario.

- OCASI is a founding Steering Committee member of COP – COC.

https://colourofpoverty.ca

What is Colour of Poverty – Colour of Change?

- Came together in 2007
- Launched Colour of Poverty Campaign in 2007
- Released Fact Sheets to highlight racialization of poverty, based on 2006 Census data.
- New Fact Sheets based on 2016 census data were released on March 21, 2019.

https://colourofpoverty.ca/fact-sheets/

What is Systemic Racism?

- Occurs when an institution or set of institutions working together creates or maintains racial inequity.

- Can be unintentional; doesn't necessarily mean people within an organization are racist.

- Often caused by hidden bias.

- Can be the result of doing things the way they have always been done.

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Systemic Racism and its impact on Racialized Communities

- 20.8% of peoples of colour are low-income compared to 12.2% of non-racialized people
- 80% of Indigenous people living on reserves in Canada live in poverty.
- 27 of these communities reported median total incomes below $10,000.
- Indigenous children experience poverty at a rate that is almost twice that of non-Indigenous.
- 45% income gap between Indigenous women and non-Indigenous men
- Average income gap between all Indigenous and non-Indigenous people was 33%.
- Low-income rate for peoples of colour was 21.3% in 2016. It was 11.5% for non-racialized Ontario residents.

Source: 2016 Census

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All Peoples of Colour Living in Poverty in Ontario - Percentage of Total by Select Ethno-Racial Groupings

□ Communities of Colour   (Source - Canadian Census 2016 - Statistics Canada)

Ethno-Racial Grouping	Percentage
Multiple Identities of Colour	2.7
Peoples of Colour (not counted elsewhere)	2.1
West Asian	6.8
South East Asian (not including Filipino)	3
South Asian	25.1
Latin American	4.7
Korean	3.4
Japanese	
Filipino	2.85
Chinese	20.3
Black	18.3
Arab	10.3

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Percentage of Population Groups Living in Poverty – in Select Ontario Communities (Census 2016)								
	Windsor	London	Kitchener-Waterloo-Cambridge	Hamilton	Toronto CMA	Ottawa	Ontario	Canada
Total Population	17.5	17.0	12.2	13.0	15.6	12.2	14.4	14.2
Total Peoples of Colour (POC)	35.1	34.3	22.9	23.5	20.4	23.6	21.3	20.8
South Asian	26.0	33.5	17.9	18.0	17.8	15.1	18.0	16.5
Chinese	33.8	37.7	29.0	24.9	21.8	18.3	22.2	23.4
Black	38.2	29.8	24.2	25.4	23.4	28.2	24.1	23.9
Filipino	8.4	11.4	4.2	6.0	7.4	9.0	7.5	7.4
Latin American	22.3	26.1	16.2	17.5	20.3	16.8	19.9	19.8
Arab	51.0	51.2	48.6	49.4	36.4	39.8	40.6	36.2
Southeast Asian	15.9	17.8	13.3	23.2	19.1	16.5	18.4	17.6
West Asian	41.2	44.2	31.0	30.9	37.3	27.6	36.1	34.7
Korean	25.7	42.7	36.3	27.5	31.0	23.3	31.4	32.6
Japanese	0.0	10.7	13.2	12.2	12.7	9.6	12.1	12.9
POC (not included elsewhere)	43.1	39.3	20.9	26.1	16.4	22.4	18.1	18.5
Multiple identities of colour	32.6	28.3	18.5	20.3	16.3	17.9	17.1	16.7
Not a Person of Colour	12.9	13.7	9.6	10.8	10.5	8.4	11.5	12.2

Immigration and Newcomer Settlement

- Detention: No maximum time limit on detention in Canada.

- Canada Child Benefit (CCB): Parents with precarious immigration status – including those with Canadian-born children - are excluded.

- Family reunification: Rules typically exclude siblings, extended family, some parents, those who are low-income.

- Language: Limited interpretation and translation services even for basic needs.

- Permanent Residents: Status in Canada is insecure, can lose status and be deported.

Benefits of Socio-demographic Data

For frontline staff

- Evidence informed and culturally appropriate services
- Improved capacity for advocacy for program resources

Benefits of Socio-demographic Data

For organizations

- Evidence informed planning and improvement of service quality
- Identify inequities, disparities and vulnerable populations
- Increased capacity to advocate for funding
- Prevent legal action
- Potential for collaboration with other service providers

Benefits of Socio-demographic Data

For communities

- More dialogue between communities and service providers.

- Data increases regional capacity for service providers to identify and collaborate with communities on shared issues.

- Equitable, fair and socially just life chances and life outcomes

What questions are organizations asking?

- Ethno-racial data (CIMS, ARD Categories)
- (Dis)ability
- Sexuality / Sexual Orientation
- First / Home / Preferred Language
- Faith / Spirituality / Religion
- Gender Identity
- Age
- Immigration or Citizenship Status
- Socio-economic Status (education, income)

Racial Equity within Your Work

External

- There is a lot of advocacy that organizations can plug into on issues of racial equity that impact their service populations
- Examples:
  - National Anti-Racism Strategy (Canadian Heritage)
  - Pushing the provincial government to operationalize the provincial Anti-racism legislation
  - Poverty reduction by all orders of government and its impact on racialized communities
  - Access to justice reform and ensuring proper resources for racialized communities