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Social Exclusion: An In-depth Study for the Conference of European Statisticians

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Telling Canada's
story in numbers

Background

- April 2017 Statistics Canada volunteered to do an “In-depth Review” on social exclusion for the February 2018 Conference of European Statisticians (CES)
- The goal of the review is to study how different National Statistical Organizations (NSOs) measure social exclusion
- This paper and presentation is Statistics Canada’s first step towards reaching out to other countries for this “In-depth Review”
- Paper also features significant input from National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI)
- Any feedback would be much appreciated

Introduction

- Social exclusion - anything limiting a person's ability to fully participate in society and a non-monetary measurement of poverty
- Examples include:
 - Poor health
 - Physical characteristics
 - Limited access to material and/or social resources
 - Generational inequalities
 - Denial of rights



Concepts

Social Inclusion

Focuses on the non-psychological benefits of being a participatory member of society

Focuses on the importance of community

Social Cohesion

Focuses on personal satisfaction from feeling like a person belongs in society

Social Exclusion

People who are or feel excluded from their community and fall into one of the following groupings

- face some type of non-monetary deprivation
- do not actively participate economically, socially, politically, or culturally
- have a poor quality of life

4 Source: Levitas, R (2006). Concept and measurement of social exclusion, The. Excerpt from: Pantazis, C., Gordon, D. and Levitas, R. (2006) Poverty and Social Exclusion in Britain, Bristol, U.K. The Policy Press. 2017-09-19

ECLAC (2007a). Social cohesion: Inclusion and a sense of belonging in Latin America and the Caribbean. United Nations. Santiago, Chile.



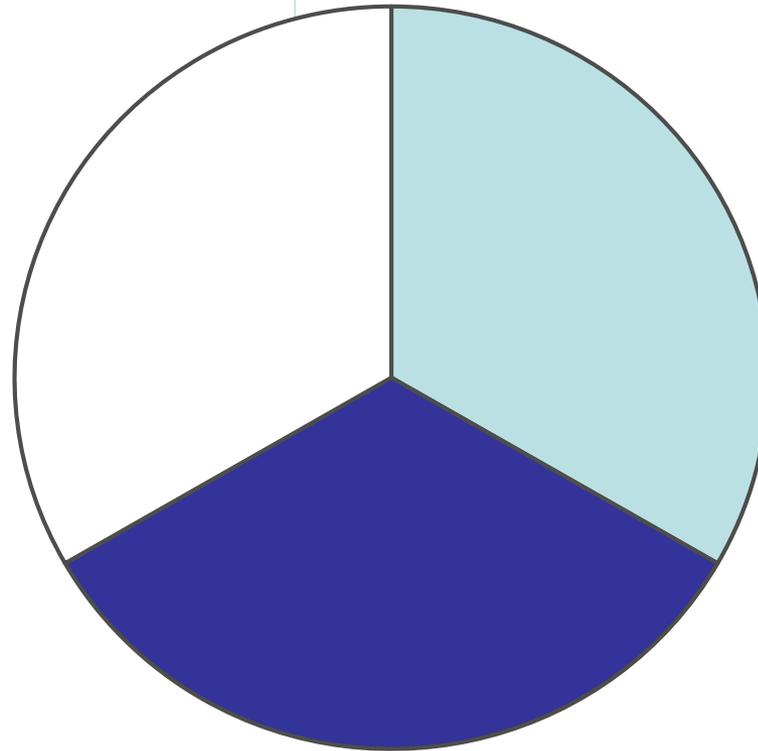
Commonly Used Measurement Techniques

- Material Deprivation Indices – Indices that measure the portion of the population who cannot afford good that are seen as necessities for functioning in society by a large majority of the population
- Low Work Intensity – Percentage of people who are unemployed or underemployed and then might be missing social networks that would allow them to be more included in society
- Others country specific indicators possible



Comprehensive Poverty Measure

Possible Index



■ Low Work Intensity ■ Material Deprivation Index ■ Other Measures



Resources Utilized for Research to Date

- Web searches of publically available documents from NSOs on how they measure social exclusion
- Literature review
- Feedback retrieved from experts

Australia

- Australia Social Inclusion Board
- Goal: measuring social exclusion based on characteristics such as marital status, race, gender and employment status
- Calculates social inclusion through different indicators like:
 - *People in Households with Low Economic Resources and High Financial Stress*
 - *Proportion of People 18 to 65 Experiencing Three or More Disadvantages*

Source: Australian Social Inclusion Board (2012). Social Inclusion in Australia: How Australia is faring. Commonwealth of Australia.



Latin America

- According to Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), people who suffer from a low work intensity are at risk of poverty/social exclusion/social cohesion because they have no savings, and a smaller social network from not being employed
- ECLAC uses ILO indicators to measure social exclusion such as
 - Income Quintile Ratio
 - Infant Mortality
 - Adult Literacy Rates
 - Percentage of Population in a State of Under-Nutrition,
 - Unemployed and Underemployed

Source: ECLAC (2007b) System of indicators for monitoring social cohesion in Latin America, A. United Nations. Santiago, Chile.



Ireland

- Ireland's *consistent poverty* measure can be described as a measure of social exclusion because it combines a material deprivation index along with a low income line

Sources: Callan, T., Nolan, B., Whelan, C. T. (1993) Resources deprivation and the measurement of Poverty.

Eurostat

- Previously used Laeken indicators
- However, has transitioned to EU-SILC questions
- At Risk Of Poverty or Exclusion (AROPE) is the larger indicator which includes At Risk Of Poverty (AROP), an anchored in time low income line, and a 9 item material deprivation index
- Also targets different smaller indicators of social exclusion that are country specific like quality of housing, education rates, etc.

Source: Eurostat (2013). The measurement of poverty and social inclusion in the EU: achievements and further improvements. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Conference of European Statisticians Session 3: Interlinkages between poverty, inequality, vulnerability and social inclusion. Working Paper

Guio, A.C., Gordon, D., Najera, H., et al (2017, forthcoming). Revising the EU material deprivation variables. Eurostat.

Mexican Experience with Social Exclusion

- National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy's (CONEVAL – Spanish Acronym) “*La Línea de Bienestar*” and the “*Línea de Bienestar Mínimo*” are two wellbeing lines that measure social exclusion in Mexico
- They measures nine indicators mandated in the LGDS using INEGI data
- Defines people to be in one of four categories: Multidimensionally poor, vulnerable due to social deprivation, vulnerable due to insufficient income, not multidimensionally poor and not vulnerable

Sources: México Gobierno de la Republica (2017) Estrategia nacional de inclusión. Documento rector.

Canadian Experience with Social Exclusion

- Canada also has experiences with material deprivation and dashboard indicators
- Current policy focuses on
 - Aboriginals
 - Homeless
 - Mental Illness
 - Recent Immigrants

Sources: HUMA (2017). Breaking the cycle: Study on poverty reduction, A.

Public Health Agency of Canada (2016). Positive Mental Health Surveillance Indicator Framework.

Rodrigue, S. (2016) Hidden homelessness in Canada. Statistics Canada. Insights on Canadian Society.

Rotenberg, C. (2012). Social determinants of health for the off-reserve First Nations population, 15 years of age and older. Statistics Canada. Aboriginal Peoples Survey, 2012.

Statistics Canada (2009). Ontario Material Deprivation Index.



Conclusion

- Social exclusion is a non-monetary multidimensional view of a person's wellbeing
- Many statistical agencies now focusing on material deprivation indexes



Questions/Comments

- Potential feedback could include
 - Possible errors or omissions
 - Areas of improvement
 - Additional sources
 - Questionnaire to follow
 - Email to connect – andrew.heisz@canada.ca