Toronto still 'child poverty capital' of Canada, warns report

The effects of poverty on children

Poverty affects the ability of Toronto children to access important programs and services. Inadequate housing "causes family stress and hinders child development," said Polanyi.

"Already, lower income children are in danger of falling behind right when they start school," said Polanyi.

"We found that children in the lowest-income neighbourhoods were twice as likely as children in middle-income areas to score below the "at risk" level on a standard test," said Polanyi.

"In families with incomes below $30,000, 48 per cent of children don't regularly attend sports and arts activities outside of school. In families with incomes above $100,000, 14 per cent of children don't regularly attend such activities," said Polanyi.

Update to recreation 2018 report

There's a general movement toward inclusion and access to programs and services. As Mayor John Tory has pointed out, child poverty is an "economic crisis." The report argues that "we need to think about how to invest in Toronto's children so that they have a fighting chance at a brighter future."