

Sylvia Novac

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Sylvia Novac is the Research Manager at Toronto Community Housing, the largest social housing provider in Canada, and the second largest in North America. It houses about 164,000 low- and moderate-income tenants in 58,500 households, including seniors, families, singles, refugees, recent immigrants to Canada and people with special needs. Toronto Community Housing works to create community conditions that minimize risk and promote resiliency. Dr. Novac is responsible for managing research projects and partnerships and overseeing in-house evaluation.

She is also an independent research consultant specializing in gender and housing issues. As a consultant since 1988, she has conducted policy-relevant research on the topics of women's, youth, and family homelessness; Canadian housing policy; women's housing status; housing issues of older women and racialized and immigrant women in Canada; housing discrimination; violence against women; evictions; and supportive, transitional, co-operative, and public housing. Her clients include government agencies as well as community-based and non-profit organizations.

As a researcher at CUCS, she was the research coordinator for the Neighbourhood Change CURA, a five-year participatory research partnership investigating patterns of gentrification and strategies to promote community inclusion. She also worked on studies of immigrant families' homelessness; the relationship between homelessness and the criminal justice system; the multi-dimensional impacts of adequate housing; and recent immigrants' experiences in the Toronto rental sector.

Dr. Novac received a Ph.D. in sociology from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto and a master's degree in environmental studies from York University. She has taught as a lecturer at several universities. Before becoming a research consultant, she worked as a program evaluator and researcher in the field of children's mental health.

Recent Publications

Family violence and homelessness: A review of the literature. Ottawa: Health Canada, National Clearinghouse on Family Violence. 2007.

Justice and injustice: Homelessness, crime, victimization, and the criminal justice system. Research Paper #207. Toronto: Centre for Urban and Community Studies, University of Toronto, 2006. Co-authors: J. Hermer, E. Paradis, and A. Kellen.

A visceral grief: Young homeless mothers and loss of child custody. Research Paper #206. Toronto:

Centre for Urban and Community Studies, University of Toronto, 2006. Co-authors: E. Paradis, J. Brown, and H. Morton.

Housing discrimination in Canada: The state of knowledge on housing discrimination. Ottawa: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, 2002. Co-authors: J. Darden, D. Hulchanski, and A-M. Seguin, with the assistance of F. Bernéche.

On her own: Homelessness among young women in Canada. Ottawa: Status of Women Canada, 2002. Co-authors: L. Serge, M. Eberle, and J. Brown

Housing discrimination in Canada: What do we know about it? Research Bulletin #12. Toronto: Centre for Urban and Community Studies, University of Toronto, 2002.

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