

Study reveals children in precarious or mixed status families remain unable to access childcare subsidy and other key services to which they are entitled.

*Researchers from Toronto Metropolitan University say that precarious status families remain largely invisible in Canada.*

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In a [Working Paper published today](#) by the Canada Excellence Research Chair in Migration and Integration, the Toronto Metropolitan Centre for Immigration and Settlement and the Faculty of Community Services at TMU, researchers concluded that precarious status families experience many challenges in accessing services their young children need.

Precarious status families are those in which at least one person is potentially deportable. Deportability applies to non-status and temporary residents.

“We know that *if even one* member of a family does not have secure status, stable and predictable access to early childhood services becomes a challenge,” said Judith Bernhard, professor in Early Childhood Studies and a leading researcher on the Working Paper published today. “We have analyzed where the discrepancies lie between what policies state and families’ experiences in accessing services related to childbirth, childcare, parenting programs, and schooling for their children.”

The Working Paper examined literature and Sanctuary City policies to conclude that because of the tension between the presumed universality of children’s rights and the limited rights associated with boundaries established by citizenship, access is limited for children of precarious status parents, regardless of children’s place of birth. Researchers are calling for collaboration between all levels of government to provide children with the services needed and act in the best interests of children in Canada. One way to reduce parents’ fear in accessing services is by extending access and ensuring that Sanctuary City policies can be fully implemented, in practice as well as on paper.

Bernhard and TMU worked with co-authors Julie Young from the University of Lethbridge and Luin Goldring from York University on the Working Paper.

For more information about precarious status families and the services their children require [visit the Canada Excellence Research Chair in Migration and Integration Working Papers series.](#)

### **About Toronto Metropolitan University**

Toronto Metropolitan University, formerly known as Ryerson University, is Canada’s leader in innovative, career-oriented education. Urban, culturally diverse and inclusive, the University is home to more than 46,000 students, including 2,900 Master’s and PhD students, 4,000 faculty and staff, and 225,000 alumni worldwide. For more information, visit [torontomu.ca](http://torontomu.ca).

\*In April 2022, the university renamed and began a [new chapter](#)

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