
From: Loren King [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 11:31 AM
To: Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Hamilton police services budget

As someone who grew up in Hamilton and who is now a professor who's spent most of my career puzzled by how badly we design our urban lives together, I'm now wondering why the Hamilton police services need such a dramatic increase in allocated funds?

All of the evidence we have suggests that strong public support for health and housing and mental health dramatically reduce the need for coercive policing.

Literally ALL of the evidence.

Coercive policing never solves the problems politicians insist it's needed to address.

Never.

I tell you this as a scholar who has devoted my career to understanding city life.

Given all of this evidence, why do we still have these coercion-focused police departments getting massive budget increases while our hospitals struggle to stay open and homeless encampments grow?

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/glasgow-violence-crime-ottawa-police-1.5338102>

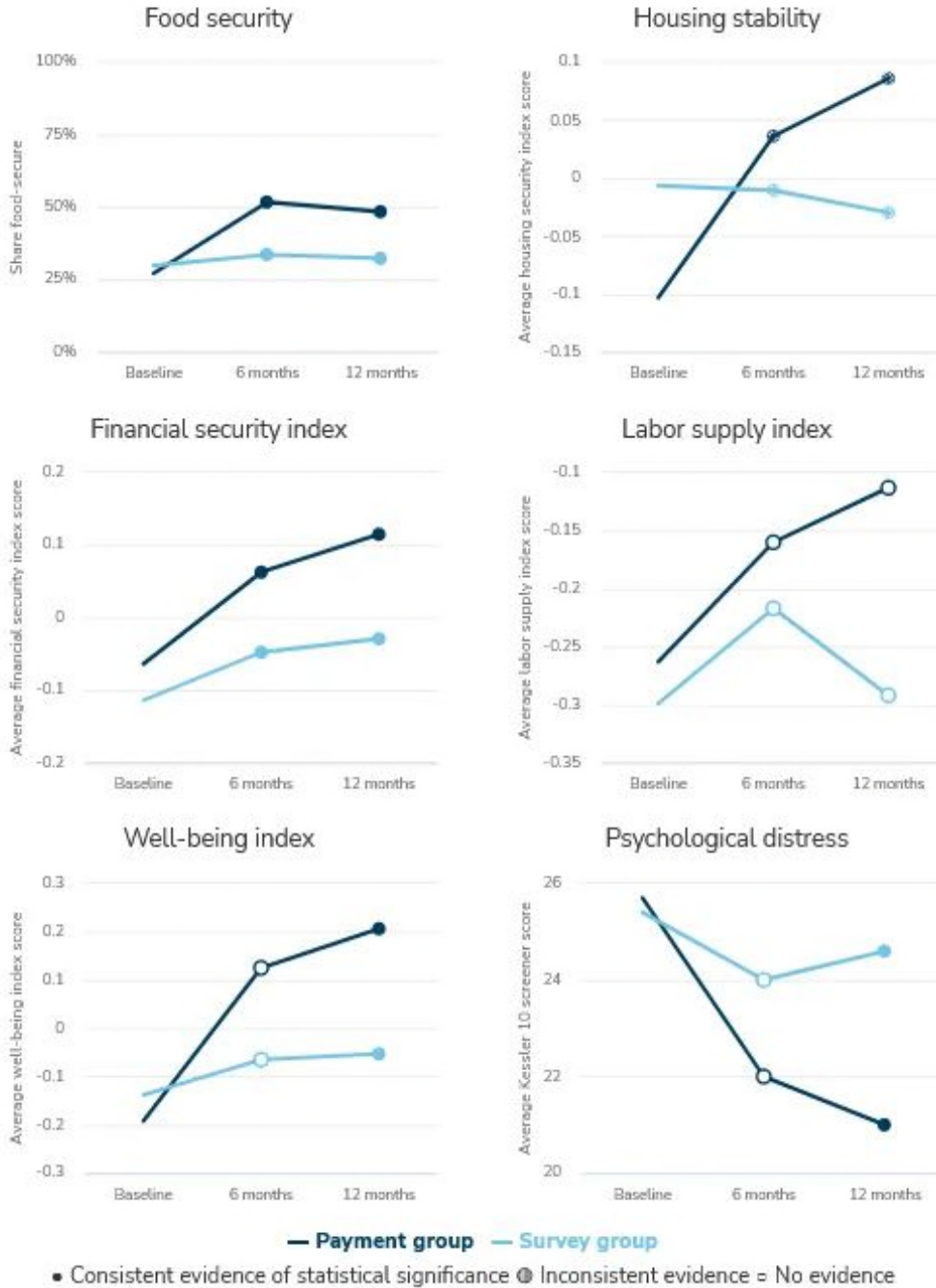
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/new-leaf-project-results-1.5752714>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/aug/30/canada-study-homeless-money-spending>

<https://www.minneapolisfed.org/article/2024/one-year-of-basic-income-in-minneapolis>

After one year of payments, GBI program shows positive impacts for recipients on several indicators

Statistically significant positive change in measures of food security, financial security, self-assessed general well-being, and psychological wellness



The answers aren't actually that complicated, or terribly expensive. But they don't sell well in our sound-bit simplified political culture, or placate suburban voters who are convinced that more cops on the beat will somehow solve poverty and homelessness in neighborhoods they drive through occasionally on their way to the highway.

Loren King