



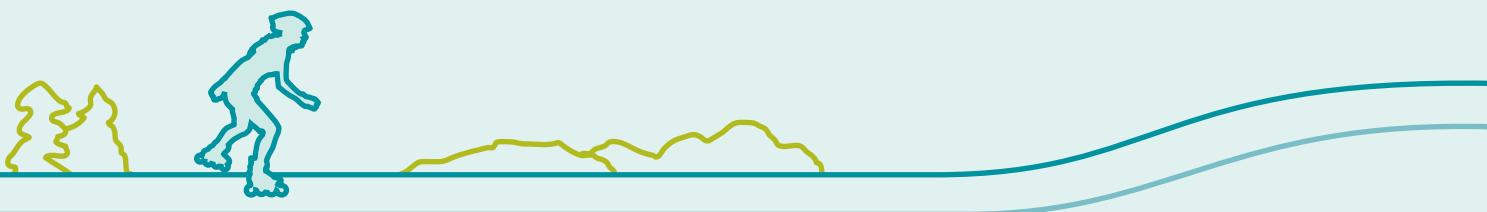
Stepping Up



A Strategic Framework to Help Ontario's Youth Succeed

Annual Report

2014



Read *Stepping Up: A Strategic Framework to Help Ontario's Youth Succeed* (2013) at www.ontario.ca/steppingup.

 Tweet about Stepping Up using #ONyouth

The *Stepping Up* annual report was developed by the ministries of:

- Aboriginal Affairs
- Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs
- Attorney General
- Children & Youth Services
- Citizenship, Immigration & International Trade
- Community & Social Services
- Community Safety & Correctional Services
- Economic Development, Employment & Infrastructure
- Education
- Government & Consumer Services
- Health & Long-Term Care
- Labour
- Municipal Affairs & Housing
- Natural Resources & Forestry
- Northern Development & Mines
- Research & Innovation
- Tourism, Culture & Sport
- Training, Colleges & Universities
- Treasury Board Secretariat

Message from the Minister of Children and Youth Services

I am proud to share the first annual report on *Stepping Up: A Strategic Framework to Help Ontario's Youth Succeed* (Stepping Up). Supporting opportunities for youth, particularly vulnerable youth, are core parts of my mandate from the Premier and I am deeply committed to this work.

Strong partnerships are critical to helping our youth succeed. With *Stepping Up*, we are taking a cross-sector and whole-of-government approach to supporting Ontario's youth to thrive. *Stepping Up* is a collaborative endeavour and I am grateful for the ongoing dedication of my minister colleagues, community agencies, advocates, youth and the Premier's Council on Youth Opportunities. Moving forward, we must continue to strengthen our relationships to achieve our shared priorities for youth.

This report furthers our government's goal to be open and transparent. It also supports the objectives of the new Poverty Reduction Strategy to invest in what works and measure success. This year's key investments in youth align with the changes observed in the Profile of Youth Wellbeing. While the majority of indicators suggest that outcomes are improving for Ontario's youth, certain indicators moved

against the desired direction of change, and there are gaps in outcomes for some vulnerable populations. Our government has made investments in each area of identified need.

More than ever, we are targeting our investments to help remove barriers, support transitions and improve outcomes for Ontario's most vulnerable youth. We are delivering on every commitment in *Ontario's Youth Action Plan* and are guided by the report on the *Review of the Roots of Youth Violence*.

Moving forward, we will continue to value diversity, build the capacity of our programs and services to serve vulnerable youth, and use *Stepping Up* to inform our work with communities. We will measure and report back on our collective progress.

I look forward to seeing our results as we work together to support young people in this province to realize their full potential.

Tracy MacCharles

Minister of Children and Youth Services

Message from the

Premier's Council on Youth Opportunities

Last year, the Premier established this Council – a first for Ontario. Since then, we have worked hard to engage and strengthen Ontario's youth voice. We have learned a lot about how government makes decisions and how youth can make an impact. We have seen our advice shape key policies and programs. This first annual report on *Stepping Up: A Strategic Framework to Help Ontario's Youth Succeed* (Stepping Up) allows us to take a moment to see how we are doing.

This report shows that ensuring there is a youth voice is a priority for government. We provided advice on some key government initiatives, including the Youth Jobs Strategy and *Achieving Excellence: A Renewed Vision for Education in Ontario*. But we cannot do this alone. We have a collective responsibility to represent the needs and expectations of as many youth as possible. It is our task to not only speak to government, but also to keep an open dialogue with youth in our communities.

In the year ahead, we will step up our engagement with youth across the province. Guided by *Stepping Up*, we will continue to advocate for the most vulnerable youth. We would like to thank the Premier and the Minister of Children and Youth Services for the opportunity to speak on behalf of youth. We also want to thank past Council members for their contributions and commitment to young people, as well as our partners and stakeholders who have helped us to advance our goals.

We want to hear from the youth of Ontario. What has the last year been like for you in your communities? And, as you look at this report, what surprised you? Please speak up, and we will listen! Start talking to us by tweeting #ONyouth.

Natricia Drummond, Chair

Premier's Council on Youth Opportunities

Madeleine Ross, Vice-chair

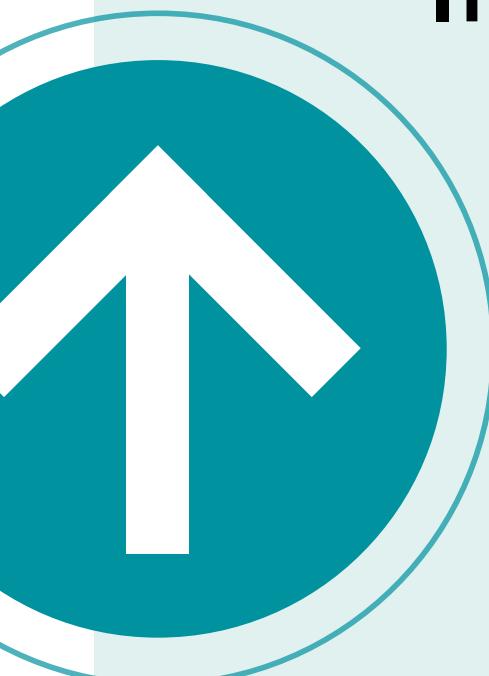
Premier's Council on Youth Opportunities

Table of Contents

Themes
of Youth
Wellbeing →

PG 6	Introduction
PG 8	Stepping Up: A Snapshot
PG 10	Stepping Up in 2013-14: Executive Summary
<hr/>	
PG 12	Health & Wellness
PG 18	Strong, Supportive Friends & Families
PG 25	Education, Training & Apprenticeship
PG 30	Employment & Entrepreneurships
PG 37	Diversity, Social Inclusion & Safety
PG 43	Civic Engagement & Youth Leadership
PG 48	Coordinated & Youth-Friendly Communities
<hr/>	
PG 51	Profile of Youth Wellbeing
PG 56	Looking Ahead
PG 58	Endnotes
PG 59	Appendix

Introduction



In June 2013, the Government of Ontario released *Stepping Up: A Strategic Framework to Help Ontario's Youth Succeed*. It is a first-of-its-kind framework to help services for youth respond to and reflect the needs and voices of our youth.

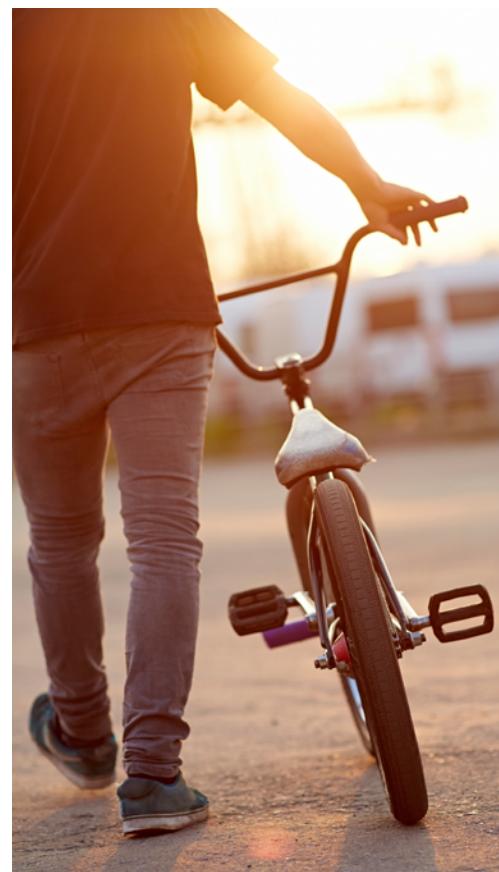
Ontario's young people are more diverse, well-educated and technologically savvy than any generation before them. While many are doing well, today's youth are experiencing challenges unique to the 21st century.

These include changing family structures, high levels of unemployment, and an uncertain and competitive job market. There are also many young people who face additional barriers, including poverty, that make them more vulnerable. These youth often require specific supports to meet their individual needs. *Stepping Up* is proof of our sustained commitment to support these young people, and all Ontario youth, to help them realize their potential.

The first *Stepping Up* annual report includes a refreshed Profile of Youth Wellbeing and an appendix with updated data and several new indicators to improve our understanding of how Ontario's young people are doing in everything from health to education to employment. It also highlights the government's progress this year in supporting youth through investments in programs and policies across the seven *Stepping Up* themes. Examples of community and organizational support for *Stepping Up*'s priority outcomes are included as case studies throughout the report.

An updated list of the Government of Ontario initiatives for youth is available online to complement this report.

The *Stepping Up* annual report is also available online at www.ontario.ca/steppingup. The online version includes links to programs, policies, data and resources.



Stepping Up

A Snapshot



Stepping Up is a framework to support the positive development of [Ontario youth](#) aged 12 to 25.

Framework Components

Stepping Up provides a platform for all those involved in supporting Ontario youth to come together, informed by one clear vision, inspired by a set of guiding principles, and working towards common goals.

Guiding Principles

A Positive, Asset-Based View of Youth

Targeted Support for Those Who Need It

Collaboration and Partnership

Meaningful Youth Engagement and Leadership

Diversity

Evidence-Informed Choices

Transparency

Common Goals

Stepping Up consists of seven themes and 20 related outcomes that evidence indicates are important for the positive development of Ontario's youth. These outcomes represent Ontario's priorities for youth. They are based on what we have heard from experts and from young people themselves. These themes and outcomes are:

Themes

Health & Wellness

Priority Outcomes

- 1 Ontario youth are physically healthy.
- 2 Ontario youth feel mentally well.
- 3 Ontario youth make choices that support healthy and safe development.

Strong, Supportive Friends & Families

- 4 Ontario youth have families and guardians equipped to help them thrive.
- 5 Ontario youth have at least one consistent, caring adult in their lives.
- 6 Ontario youth form and maintain healthy, close relationships.

Education, Training & Apprenticeships

- 7 Ontario youth achieve academic success.
- 8 Ontario youth have educational experiences that respond to their needs and prepare them to lead.
- 9 Ontario youth access diverse training and apprenticeship opportunities.

Employment & Entrepreneurship

- 10 Ontario youth have opportunities for meaningful employment experiences.
- 11 Ontario youth have the skills and resources needed to develop a successful career or business.
- 12 Ontario youth are safe and supported at work.

Diversity, Social Inclusion & Safety

- 13 Ontario youth experience social inclusion and value diversity.
- 14 Ontario youth feel safe at home, at school, online and in their communities.
- 15 Ontario youth respect, and are respected by, the law and justice system.

Civic Engagement & Youth Leadership

- 16 Ontario youth play a role in informing the decisions that affect them.
- 17 Ontario youth are engaged in their communities.
- 18 Ontario youth leverage their assets to address social issues.

Coordinated & Youth-Friendly Communities

- 19 Ontario youth have access to safe spaces that provide quality opportunities for play and recreation.
- 20 Ontario youth know about and easily navigate resources in their communities.

Stepping Up in 2013-14: Executive Summary

The *Stepping Up* framework promoted youth wellbeing, supported collaboration across government and within communities and informed the design and delivery of new and existing initiatives for youth in 2013-14.

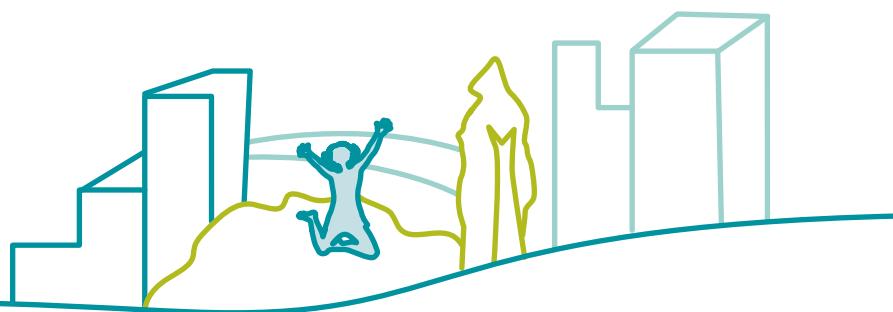
2014 Profile of Youth Wellbeing

Data was updated for 30 indicators and 14 outcomes.

- ↑ 23 indicators showed small changes in the desired direction
- ↓ Seven indicators showed small changes against the desired direction
- REPLACEMENT Five indicators were replaced
- NEW Two new indicators were added

What the Numbers Say

- Ontario invested in 58 new, expanded or enhanced initiatives for youth since the release of *Stepping Up*.
- The Premier's Council on Youth Opportunities met 12 times to share the perspective of vulnerable youth and provide insight into government's programs and policies for youth.
- 19 provincial ministries collaborated to support youth and capture progress in the *Stepping Up* annual report.
- *Stepping Up* was downloaded more than 15,000 times and more than 1,000 copies were shared with community organizations, parents, teachers and youth workers to better align efforts to support youth.



Supporting Youth Wellbeing

Informed by *Stepping Up*, Ontario invested in all seven themes of youth wellbeing this year. Key initiatives include:

→ Health & Wellness

- Launched eight new initiatives as part of [Ontario's Healthy Kids Strategy](#)
- Ongoing implementation of the [Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy](#)
- Developed a new [Youth Suicide Prevention Plan](#)

→ Strong, Supportive Friends and Families

- Released [Realizing Our Potential: Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy](#) (2014-19): increases to [Ontario Child Benefit](#) and [minimum wage](#), expansion of the [Student Nutrition Program](#)
- Introduced [new benefits and supports for youth transitioning](#) from care, including youth-in-transition workers, aftercare benefits, and postsecondary education supports

→ Education, Training and Apprenticeships

- Released [Achieving Excellence: A Renewed Vision for Education in Ontario](#)
- Implemented the [Ontario First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework](#)
- Launched new and expanded specialized programs for vulnerable youth in secondary and postsecondary education, including First Nations, Métis and Inuit students

→ Employment and Entrepreneurship

- Created 20,000 jobs through Ontario's [Youth Jobs Strategy](#)
- Expanded the [Jobs for Youth After-School Employment Program](#)
- Launched the Private Sector Jobs and Mentoring Initiative

→ Diversity, Social Inclusion and Safety

- Launched the [Youth Opportunities Fund](#); 23 projects funded in 2013-14
- Delivered on all 20 commitments in [Ontario's Youth Action Plan](#)
- Improved developmental services and enhanced supports for youth with special needs
- Promoted community safety and wellbeing through [Safer and Vital Communities Grants](#)

→ Civic Engagement and Youth Leadership

- Supported 26 fellows to participate in StudioY: Ontario's Social Impact and Youth Leadership Academy's first cohort
- Created [volunteer opportunities for youth with the 2015 Pan Am and Parapan Am Games](#)
- Supported 40,000 youth to volunteer 210,000 hours at over 700 community events during Change the World: [2014 Ontario Youth Volunteer Challenge](#)

→ Coordinated and Youth-Friendly Communities

- Launched the [Special Needs Strategy](#)
- Expanded and enhanced the Youth Outreach Worker Program
- Improved transition planning supports for youth with special needs

Health and Wellness



We want our young people to be happy, physically healthy, emotionally resilient, and making positive life choices. Healthy young people are better equipped to learn, develop and build the skills they need to succeed as adults. Healthy and engaged citizens contribute to their communities, reduce demands on health care and lower the risk of chronic disease and illness. Together, we can enhance the long-term health and wellness of our young people through early identification and support.

Outcomes

- 1
- 2
- 3

We want Ontario youth to:

- Be physically healthy.
- Feel mentally well.
- Make choices that support healthy and safe development.

This year, Ontario encouraged young people to be healthy and well by expanding on existing strategies and helping those most in need. Our programs and policies have made progress in:

- Promoting wellbeing.
- Encouraging healthy eating and lifestyle habits.
- Increasing supports for healthy and active communities.
- Supporting young people to take fewer unhealthy risks.
- Expanding access to health and mental health services.
- Improving early identification and treatment of mental health.
- Focusing efforts on our most vulnerable youth.

New in 2013-2014

Implementing the Comprehensive Mental Health & Addictions Strategy

In 2013-14, over 50,000 more children, youth and their families are continuing to benefit from new investments in child and youth mental health through the Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy. New and expanded supports include:

- **Moving on Mental Health:** To improve mental health services for children and youth, Ontario is implementing an integrated and responsive mental health system through the Moving on Mental Health action plan. The plan focuses on creating conditions so that, regardless of where they live in Ontario, children and youth with mental health issues and their families will know what mental health services are available in their communities and how to access the services and supports that meet their needs.
- **Ontario's Youth Suicide Prevention Plan:** To help communities to better respond to youth in crisis, Ontario's new youth suicide prevention plan:
 - Provided funding to eligible mental health agencies for local initiatives to prevent youth suicide.

- Established annual regional forums across the province to provide education and training on youth suicide prevention.
- Supported the development of a new web-based community mobilization guide/toolkit—[Together To Live/ Vivons Ensemble](#)—to help communities better respond to and support children and youth in crisis.
- Provided targeted supports to First Nations, Métis, Inuit and urban Aboriginal partners to develop and implement community-based, culturally-appropriate approaches to youth suicide in their communities

What the Data Says:



70 per cent of mental health and addictions issues have their onset in childhood and adolescence.¹



One quarter of Ontario youth reported feeling depressed in the past year.²

New in 2013-2014

Implementing the Comprehensive Mental Health & Addictions Strategy

- [Residential Eating Disorder Treatment Centre for Children and Youth](#): To support young people with eating disorders, the Ontario government is investing \$17.2 million over four years to open the first public residential treatment program for youth. Located in Whitby, this program will have 12 beds and treat approximately 32 patients annually.
- [Mental Health Innovation Fund](#): To improve supports for students at colleges and universities, Ontario is investing \$27 million over three years in new mental health services and supports. The funding will support several population-specific programs, including programs for Aboriginal youth, LGBTQQ youth, newcomer youth and youth with special needs.
 - One such program is [Good2Talk](#)—a provincewide, free, confidential and anonymous 24/7/365 helpline providing professional counselling, information and referrals for mental health, addictions and wellbeing to postsecondary students in Ontario.



What the Data Says:



Suicide rates are **five to seven times** higher for First Nations youth than for the rest of the youth population.³



47 per cent of transgendered youth in Ontario had thoughts about suicide and **19 per cent** had attempted suicide in the preceding year.⁴

New in 2013-2014

Ontario's Healthy Kids Strategy

- [Healthy Kids Community Challenge](#):

To improve health among children and youth, 45 selected communities from across the province are receiving funding, tools and training over four years to deliver locally-run programs and activities that focus on healthy eating, physical activity and adequate sleep.

- [Aboriginal Health Promotion Program](#):

To increase support for Aboriginal health promotion, Ontario invested \$6.5 million. This doubled the funding for the healthy eating / active living components of three successful health promotion programs that benefit Aboriginal communities, and are tailored to their unique cultural traditions.

The programs are:

- Th [Urban Aboriginal Healthy Living Program](#), delivered by the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres.
- The Healthy Eating and Active Living program, delivered by the [Aboriginal Health Access Centres](#).
- The Northern Fruit and Vegetable Program, delivered in partnership with the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association and local Public Health Units.

What the Data Says:



24 per cent of Canadian children and youth aged 5 to 17 use active forms of transportation to get to and from school.⁵



Childhood obesity prevalence rates are higher among Aboriginal populations. More than **40 per cent** of Aboriginal children are overweight or obese.⁶

Data from the Profile:

- 77.9% of Ontario youth are a healthy weight. • 70.5% of youth are physically active.
- 42.9% of Ontario youth consume at least five servings of fruit or vegetables daily.

The Canadian Food Guide recommends 7 to 8 servings.⁷



New in 2013-2014

Supporting Youth to be Healthy and Active

- **Healthy Smiles Ontario:** To help more children and youth in low-income families without dental coverage access dental care, Ontario expanded the Healthy Smiles Ontario program. Effective April 1, 2014, approximately 70,000 more children and youth became eligible to receive dental services.
- **Ontario Sport and Recreation Communities Fund:** To increase opportunities for families to lead healthy and active lives, Ontario supported more than 130 projects across the province in 2013-14. These projects provided programs and services to more than 350,000 participants. In 2014-15, the government will invest \$7.2 million to support 116 projects across the province.
- **After-School Program Expansion:** As part of Ontario's Youth Action Plan, the province invested an additional \$3.1 million to expand the After-School Program to 99 new sites in priority neighbourhoods across Ontario. This investment provides an estimated 3,290 children and youth with the opportunity to participate in fun, safe and supervised activities on weekday afternoons from September to June. The After-School Program helps reduce childhood obesity and poverty, promotes physical fitness and healthy food / life choices, and contributes to greater self-esteem and student achievement.
- **Pan Am / Parapan Am Kids (PPAKids):** Launched in 2013, PPAKids builds excitement for the 2015 Pan Am / Parapan Am Games and

inspires young people to lead healthy and active lives. PPAKids provides opportunities for children and youth to:

- Increase physical activity and awareness of the benefits of healthy active living.
- Participate in Games-related sports and paraports activities.
- Increase cultural understanding of Pan American countries.
- Encourage community celebrations leading up to the 2015 Games.

PPAKids is currently being implemented through Ontario's publicly funded schools, After-School Programs and PPAKids-sponsored summer camps.

- **Aboriginal Communities Youth Project:** This project is creating new opportunities for urban Aboriginal youth in and outside of sport by encouraging greater engagement in social and vocational settings and promoting healthier and positive life choices. It is intended to inspire and ignite passion for sport and recreation, healthy living, civic engagement, and leadership programming among youth. Two programs were selected for funding in 2014-15 and 2015-16:
 - Native Child and Family Services Toronto will deliver summer camps with a Pan Am theme for Aboriginal children and youth.
 - The Aboriginal Sport and Wellness Council of Ontario will create multi-sport camps for Aboriginal youth across Ontario

through partnerships with local colleges and universities.

- [Skin Cancer Prevention Act](#): To protect Ontario's young people from skin cancer, the Skin Cancer Protection Act bans the use of tanning beds by youth under the age of 18, effective May 1, 2014.
- [Quit the Denial Campaign](#): Ontario launched a public awareness campaign to help reduce smoking among young people. An innovative social media campaign deconstructs the idea of "social smoking". The [YouTube videos](#) have been viewed almost one million times since their release. The Quit the Denial Facebook page has received over 5,000 likes.



- [Concussion Policy](#): To help prevent concussions and support treatment, Ontario released a policy that outlines the expectations for school boards in developing and maintaining a policy on concussions. Each school board's policy on concussion will address roles and responsibilities, concussion awareness, prevention, identification, training and communication. It will include symptoms and signs of a concussion, initial response procedures for a suspected concussion, as well as procedures and best practices in the case of a diagnosed concussion. Management procedures for a return to learning and/or return to physical activity following a diagnosed concussion will also be identified.



Data from the Profile:

8.5% of Ontario youth smoke cigarettes

Case Study

mindyourmind.ca

Mindyourmind is an online mental health program that engages youth, young adults and service providers to co-develop reliable, relevant online and mobile resources. These resources are designed to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness and improve access to professional and peer-based community supports among youth.

Through the use of active engagement, best practice and technology, **mindyourmind** inspires youth to *reach out, get help and give help*. **Mindyourmind**'s 2012 program evaluation revealed that 63 per cent of repeat users with self-reported mental health issues accessed formal and informal supports as a result of the tools and information received on their online spaces. The program receives project funding from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

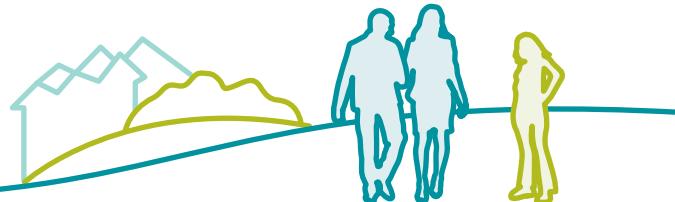
"You really helped me out. I always come here when I'm upset or stressed... Thanks so much for putting this site together... It has saved lives; I am living proof of that."
— Anne, 16



Strong, Supportive Friends and Families



We know that caring, supportive families and friends help young people to thrive. We also know that strong and supported young people are best equipped to respond to today's challenges and pursue positive opportunities.



Outcomes

- 4
- 5
- 6

We want Ontario youth to:

- Have families and guardians equipped to help them thrive.
- Have at least one consistent caring adult in their lives.
- To form and maintain healthy, close relationships.

It is vital that parents, guardians, mentors and friends support young people along their path to adulthood by helping and encouraging them to gain important life skills. Adults who understand the developmental needs of youth are better able to help them navigate new challenges, and access services in their communities.

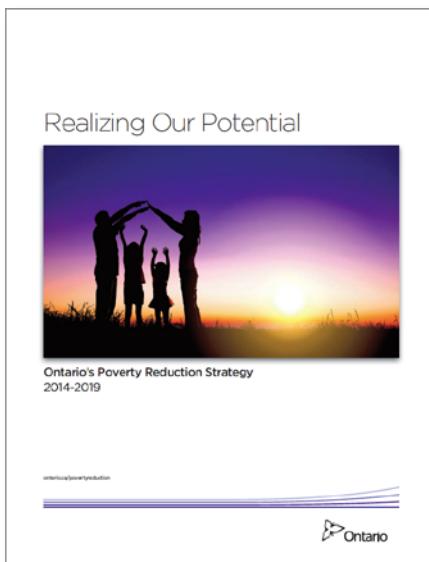
For some families, however, providing the basic necessities is hard. These families may require additional services and supports. This is particularly true when young people continue to receive support from their families as they transition into adulthood.

This past year we worked to enable strong and supportive friends and families for Ontario youth. We connected more youth and families to services and supports to help them thrive. This year, our programs and policies have made progress in:

- Increasing financial supports for families of young people.
- Improving financial security for young workers and families.
- Enhancing supports for vulnerable and transitioning youth.
- Supporting parents and caregivers of young people.

New in 2013-2014

Realizing Our Potential: Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy (2014-19)



In September 2014, Ontario released its new [Poverty Reduction Strategy](#), which builds on the success of the first five-year strategy, and identifies new provincial priorities for the next five years. Consistent with *Stepping Up*, these priorities for Ontario's youth include:

- **Continuing to break the cycle of poverty for children and youth.** We remain committed to improving outcomes for children and youth living in poverty through continued and strategic investments in programs that set young people on the path to a prosperous future.
- **Moving towards employment and income security.** We are helping Ontario's youth

transition to the workplace through youth-focused employment and training supports that help young people find jobs, get training and gain valuable work experience.

- **Establishing a long-term goal to end homelessness.** We are providing homeless or at-risk youth with the right kinds of housing and other wraparound supports so that they can successfully transition to independent living.
- **Working towards our long-term goal of ending homelessness.** We know that the realities of homelessness and the required supports look different for youth and adults. Providing homeless or at-risk youth with the right kinds of housing and other wraparound supports is an important part of breaking the cycle of poverty.
- **Using evidence-based social policy.** We will leverage evidence and data so that we can make smarter investment choices that will drive better outcomes for Ontario's youth.
- **Growing the Ontario Child Benefit:** To help reduce poverty, break down financial barriers for families, and help with the costs of raising children, Ontario is investing \$160 million to increase Ontario Child Benefit (OCB) payments.

New in 2013-2014

Realizing Our Potential: Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy (2014-19)

- In July 2014, the maximum annual benefit was increased by \$100 per child. As a result, hundreds of thousands of families are now receiving a maximum annual benefit of \$1,310 per child, per year.
- Beginning in July 2015, the OCB maximum annual benefit and its income eligibility threshold will be indexed to the Ontario Consumer Price Index.
- The OCB provides direct financial support to about one million children and youth under the age of 18 in over 500,000 low- to moderate-income families.
- [Supporting Ontario's Vulnerable Workers:](#) To increase protection for vulnerable workers, Ontario increased the minimum wage to \$11 effective June 1, 2014. The province is also proposing to tie the minimum wage to the Ontario Consumer Price Index to ensure that it keeps up with the cost of living.
- [Expansion of the Student Nutrition Program:](#) Ontario is investing an additional \$32 million over three years to expand and enhance the

What the Data Says:



In 2013, **44 per cent** of minimum-wage workers were teenagers 15 to 19 years old and **21 per cent** were young adults aged 20 to 24.⁸

Student Nutrition Program. This will provide an estimated 56,000 more school-aged children and youth in higher-needs communities with access to a nutritious breakfast, and will provide funding enhancements to some existing and underserved programs. The program will also be expanded to some on-reserve schools in First Nations communities. This expansion will give First Nations communities the opportunity to lead the development of student nutrition program models that address the unique strengths and needs of each community.

This \$32 million investment adds to the almost 200 new nutrition programs created across Ontario through a \$3 million Healthy Kids Strategy investment this year.

- Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative:

Ontario is investing \$251 million in municipalities and local governments in 2014-15 to help prevent and reduce homelessness in local communities. As part of the new Poverty Reduction Strategy, the province is enhancing funding for this program by \$42 million starting in 2014-15, to a total of almost \$294 million per year.

- Local Poverty Reduction Fund: Poverty looks different in different areas of the province and for different communities and populations. To help foster partnerships with local communities, the government is investing \$50 million over five years to create a new Local Poverty Reduction Fund. The fund would address poverty by building on local strengths and addressing local needs. The funding would support innovations through partnerships at the local level.

Data from the Profile:



- **5.1%** of families live in deep poverty and are struggling to afford housing
- **13.6%** of children and youth live in low-income households
- **10%** of Ontario families experience food insecurity.



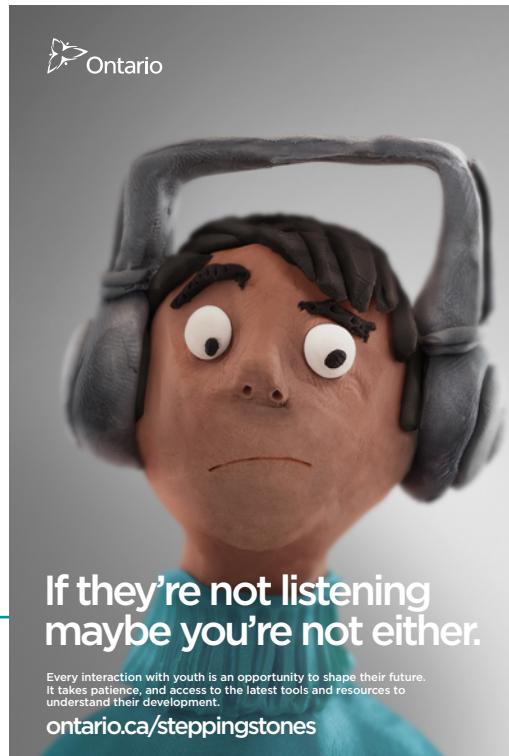
Spotlight: *Stepping Stones*—A Resource on Youth Development

In 2012, the Government of Ontario released *Stepping Stones*, a resource which combines the most recent research on youth development with the voices of youth on the opportunities and supports they need to succeed.

To support the use and application of *Stepping Stones*, this year the province developed new tools and resources including:

- A new, easy-to-use web page.
- Downloadable developmental maps to help identify what's happening with young people and find ways to lend them support at specific stages of their development.
- Downloadable promotional posters, postcards and pamphlets.

Learn more at
www.ontario.ca/steppingstones



One of four new *Stepping Stones* promotional posters

New in 2013-2014

Connecting Youth and Families to Services and Supports

- **Supports for Youth Leaving Care:** Youth in and leaving care often experience poor outcomes compared to their peers. For example, in 2013, young people in care had a high-school graduation rate of 46 per cent compared to an overall 83 per cent for Ontario youth.⁹

To better support youth leaving care, Ontario has invested an additional \$6.6 million annually in transition services, which include:

- **60 Youth-in-Transition Workers** across the province to support young people transitioning out of the care of children's aid societies. Workers help young people aged 16 to 24 access housing, education, employment and health services and supports in their communities.
- **The Aftercare Benefits Initiative**, which provides eligible young people aged 21 to 24 who were previously in the care of a children's aid society with access to:
 - ➔ Health and dental services, including prescription drugs.
 - ➔ Extended health services, such as physiotherapy, therapy and counselling.

Youth Leaving Care Working Group

The commitment to increasing supports for youth transitioning from care responds to recommendations from the [2013 report](#) by the Youth Leaving Care Working Group on how to improve outcomes.

Recommendations included:

- Raising the age of Extended Care and Maintenance benefits to 25.
- Developing transition plans for youth in care that relate to their goals and identify and prepare them to access relevant supports before they leave care.
- Providing youth leaving care prescription and dental health insurance coverage from ages 18 to 25.
- Connecting youth leaving care to youth-in-transition workers.¹⁰



The Autism Dragon – the dragon fights for both awareness and acceptance in the world. It was designed by Aiden Lee who won the online Autism Resource Kit Design Challenge.

- [Autism Parent Resource Kit](#): There are an estimated 40,000 children and youth in Ontario with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).¹¹ To support the families of young people with ASD, Ontario developed a web-based resource kit which provides information and resources to support families of children/youth with autism at all stages of their child's progress and development.

Case Study

Ethno-Racial Youth Mentoring Project

The **Ethno-Racial Youth Mentoring Project** fosters supportive relationships between young ethno-racial newcomers in Northeast London and caring adults, and provides mentoring services for the mothers of these young people. This project is run by the London Intercommunity Health Centre and includes two components:

- Youth mentoring: a volunteer mentoring program with both group and one-on-one connections
- Mother mentoring: Mother mentors provide one-on-one companionship and support for mothers of youth participants. Mentors assist their mentees in understanding their child's adaptation to Canada.

Case Study

Parents' Lifelines of Eastern Ontario

Parents' Lifelines of Eastern Ontario (PLEO) is a not-for-profit, volunteer-driven support organization for families who have young people up to age 24 dealing with mental health issues. Services include a helpline that parents can call for emotional support and assistance with navigating the child and youth mental health system.

PLEO also operates **the Source**, a social, recreational group for young adults aged 16 to 24 living with a mental illness. The Source offers a safe, supportive, non-judgmental environment where young people can make new friends and socialize with their peers.

Education, Training and Apprenticeships

Ontario is committed to ensuring that young people have access to high quality education and opportunities that support student success and wellbeing. We know that young people have diverse learning needs, and that learning opportunities and transition planning must reflect those needs. Education promotes development and enables young people to acquire the knowledge and the skills they need to become personally successful, economically productive and actively engaged citizens.



Outcomes



We want Ontario youth to:

- Promoting excellence in public education.
 - Targeting supports to close achievement gaps among learners.
 - Expanding postsecondary opportunities for vulnerable populations.
 - Supporting transitions in education.
- Achieve academic success.
 - Have education experiences that respond to their needs and prepare them to lead.
 - Access diverse training and apprenticeship opportunities.

New in 2013-2014

Strengthening Primary and Secondary Education

- [Achieving Excellence — A Renewed Vision for Education in Ontario](#): To build on the gains made in education over the past 10 years, this year Ontario released a renewed vision for the education system. [Achieving Excellence](#) continues to focus on basics such as reading, writing and math, while placing a new emphasis on higher-order skills like critical thinking, communication, collaboration and entrepreneurship. The new vision identifies four goals:
 - Achieving Excellence
 - Ensuring Equity
 - Promoting Well-Being
 - Enhancing Public Confidence

Ontario is increasing collaboration across education partners and government to integrate services from early years to adulthood. Through working together toward common goals and shared priorities, Ontario education will become an even more responsive, high quality and accessible system.

- Ontario First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework Implementation Plan:

In March 2014, the province released the *Ontario First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework Implementation Plan* to build on the Aboriginal Education Strategy. The plan will guide the work of the Ministry of Education and school boards through to 2016. In 2014-15, district school boards are receiving funding to support the development of Board Action Plans on First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education and the implementation of strategies and actions identified in the Implementation Plan.



- **First Nations, Métis and Inuit School Support Initiative:** Ontario is investing \$560,000 to enhance the First Nations, Metis and Inuit (FNMI) School Support Initiative in nine district school boards across the province. This program will strengthen supports for FNMI students and schools in Grade 9 and 10 applied courses. Dedicated FNMI instructional coaches will provide instructional strategies and tools and curriculum content appropriate to the learning styles and preferences of FNMI learners to help enhance classroom instructional practices.
- **The Children and Youth in Care Initiative:** This program identifies and provides additional supports to help increase the educational achievement of children and youth in the care of or receiving services from children's aid societies. In 2013-14, over 200 youth in care across 19 school boards participated in innovative pilot programs to help improve educational outcomes. The pilots are continuing in 2014-15.

Data from the Profile:

- 83% of Ontario youth graduated from high school.
- 9.8% of Ontario youth are enrolled in a Specialist High Skills Major program.



- **Expanded Specialist High Skills Major Program:** Ontario is expanding and enhancing the Specialist High Skills Majors program to help more high school students find their career passion and get the skills and knowledge they need for jobs in the 21st century. To meet the growing demand, the province is expanding the program in high schools across Ontario for the eighth year in a row. Beginning in September 2014, more than 44,000 students will be enrolled in 1,680 programs – an increase of 2,000 students and 125 new programs compared to the 2013-14 school year.

This innovative program lets students in Grades 11 and 12 focus on preparing for a career that matches their skills, learning styles and interests while meeting the requirements of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma.



Participants of the Youth Recording Youth project with West Neighbourhood House tour Noble Street Recording Studio as in March, 2014.

New in 2013-2014

Improving Access and Achievement for Vulnerable Youth

- [100% Tuition Aid for Youth Leaving Care:](#)

Ontario is partnering with universities and colleges to help former Crown wards and young people in or leaving care to pay for postsecondary education. Eligible youth can access coverage for 50 per cent of their tuition costs (up to \$3,000 per year) through the Ontario Access Grant for Crown Wards. The remaining 50 per cent of tuition is covered by participating postsecondary institutions (all Ontario universities and one third of colleges). Additional supports include:

- A Living and Learning Grant of \$500 per month (up to \$2,000 per semester) to help cover living costs for young people aged

21 to 24 who are leaving care and are enrolled in OSAP-eligible college and university programs.

- The Ontario Postsecondary Application Fee Reimbursement Program to help cover the cost of college and university application fees for Crown wards and former Crown wards applying for their first college or university program

- [Supporting Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder to Attend Postsecondary Education:](#)

To help students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) apply for and succeed in postsecondary education, Ontario is providing additional supports through two new pilot projects at York University and Algonquin College. Students will be supported in acquiring the skills they need through a variety of resources, including:

- A new accessible website, transitionresourceguide.ca, created with input from students with disabilities, will make it easier to research colleges and universities and the services they provide
- A \$1.5 million investment over three years to help students with ASD transition to postsecondary institutions.

What the Data Says:



1,300 former Crown wards and youth in and leaving care receive funding from OSAP to attend Ontario's colleges and universities.¹²



Colleges and universities reported having more than 1,300 students with ASD receiving supports and services in 2012-13.¹³

Case Study

Biwaase'aa

Established in 2004, **Biwaase'aa** is a unique program that supports Aboriginal students and is inclusive of all students in seven elementary schools in Thunder Bay. Youth workers deliver in-school and after-school programs including mentoring, literacy and numeracy supports, food security programs, life skills, and cultural awareness programs. This program nurtures relationships between families, schools and Elders and offers culturally relevant teachings that support the whole school community. Biwaase'aa helps students to feel included, build self-esteem, discover their identities and take pride in their communities. The program receives funding from the Ministry of Education.

- [Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program](#)

[Pan Am Game Expansion:](#)

The Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program helps clients including at-risk youth, women, new Canadians, Aboriginal people and francophones to prepare to work in trades that are in demand. Ontario is investing \$3 million over two years in training opportunities for 200 new pre-apprentices through the construction of Pan Am and Parapan Am Games infrastructure projects. Trainees will develop their job skills and gain valuable work experience with the skilled trades organizations that have been contracted to build and support Ontario's accessible, world-class facilities for the 2015 Games.

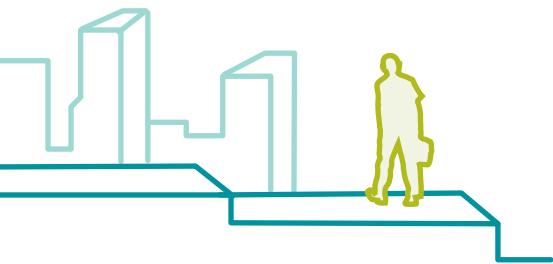
- [Youth Justice Financial Literacy and Employment Toolkits:](#)

Ontario has developed self-study resources to support youth in conflict with the law to develop financial literacy and employment preparation skills. These tools are youth-centred, personalized and adaptable to the unique experiences and learning levels of youth. A facilitator guide supports front-line workers

to assist youth in completing toolkit exercises, and helps to facilitate discussions with youth on planning for future education, training and employment. The toolkits and facilitator guide are available to youth justice service providers across the province as part of the Youth Justice Education and Skills Training Success Strategy.



Employment and Entrepreneurship



Outcomes

- 10
- 11
- 12

We want Ontario youth to:

- Have opportunities for meaningful employment experiences.
- Have the skills and resources needed to develop a successful career or business.
- Be safe and supported at work.

Starting a new business or a rewarding job helps a young person build their sense of identity, connects them to new people and places and allows them to develop lifelong skills. Increasingly, many young people are pursuing social entrepreneurship because it strikes a balance between entrepreneurship and providing social value. As Ontario's economy, workforce and job market continue to change, we need to encourage young workers to lead in innovation and generate new ideas and perspectives. Safe, supportive and meaningful employment opportunities help equip young people to contribute, adapt and thrive.

This year, Ontario supported young people to have safe and meaningful employment and entrepreneurship opportunities by investing in new programs and expanding on existing strategies. Our programs and policies have made progress in:

- Creating more employment and entrepreneurship opportunities, particularly for vulnerable youth.
- Stimulating private-sector discussion on employment opportunities for vulnerable youth.
- Engaging youth themselves to ensure all young people are safe and supported at work.

New in 2013-2014

Employment and Entrepreneurship

- **Youth Jobs Strategy:** To help young Ontarians to develop their career skills, find employment, or run their own businesses, Ontario is investing \$295 million over two years in the Youth Jobs Strategy. In 2013-14, the strategy helped more than 20,000 young people find jobs, get training and gain valuable work experience. Strategy funding includes support for youth facing multiple barriers to employment, including

Aboriginal youth, recent immigrants, visible minorities and young people with disabilities.

Ontario modified several policies and regulations to ensure that all vulnerable youth are able to take advantage of these new opportunities. For example, Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program regulations were amended to ensure that vulnerable youth are able to fully benefit from the Youth Jobs Strategy.

What the Data Says:



The unemployment rate for Ontario youth aged 15 to 24 is more than two times the rate for all Ontarians. Marginalized youth, such as visible minority youth, Aboriginal youth or young people with disabilities, experience even greater difficulty finding employment.

Labour Force Participation Rate and Unemployment of Youth (Aged 15-24), Ontario

Labour Force status	Participation rate	Unemployment rate
Canadian-Born Youth ¹⁴	60.9%	19.8%
All Immigrant Youth ¹⁴	50.4%	21.9%
Recent Immigrant Youth (arrived 2001-2005) ¹⁴	46.5%	23.3%
Very Recent Immigrant Youth (arrived 2006-2011) ¹⁴	42.5%	23.4%
Visible Minority Youth ¹⁴	45.8%	24.1%
Non-Visible Minority Youth ¹⁴	63.9%	19.0%
Aboriginal Youth ¹⁵	57.4%	21.2%
Youth with Disabilities ¹⁶	40.5%	30.4%

New in 2013-2014

Employment and Entrepreneurship

Youth Jobs Strategy Programs:

- [Youth Employment Fund](#) helps youth aged 15 to 29 to connect with employers and get a job placement of four to six months. Support is flexible and tailored to youths' needs—a combination of training, employment and individual help. Employers providing youth job placements may receive an incentive to help cover the cost of wages and training.
- [High School Entrepreneurship Outreach](#) funds projects by high school students to help spark interest in entrepreneurship as a viable career option and encourage students to engage with entrepreneurial ideas and opportunities.
- [Strategic Community Entrepreneurship Projects](#) funds not-for-profit organizations across the province including in rural and northern communities, to deliver projects that enable youth aged 15 to 29 facing multiple barriers to become self-employed or to start a small business.
- [Starter Company](#) provides mentoring, training and capital for youth 18-29 to start, grow or expand a small business, along with the opportunity to qualify for funding up to \$5,000.
- [Summer Company](#) provides hands-on business training and mentoring, and up to \$3,000 to help enterprising students, aged 15 to 29, start and run their own summer businesses. Summer Company was expanded through the Youth Jobs Strategy, and new emphasis was placed on outreach to vulnerable youth. In 2014, over 940 summer businesses were launched across Ontario.
- [Young Entrepreneurs, Make Your Pitch](#) challenges students in Grades 9 to 12 to pitch a business idea in a two-minute video. Contest finalists receive admission to Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE)'s Discovery conference and showcase, and access pitch preparation training and entrepreneurship and networking activities. In 2013-14, 123 "pitches" were submitted and the top 19 participated at the [OCE Discovery](#).
- [Youth Skills Connections Program](#) promotes partnerships among business, labour, educators and youth to identify and solve skills development issues. The program provides youth aged 15-29 facing multiple barriers with training and employment opportunities, and addresses sector specific skills gaps by providing youth with industry-led training and employment opportunities.

- **Jobs for Youth Program Expansion:** As part of Ontario's Youth Action Plan, the province built on the success of the Jobs for Youth Summer Employment Program by providing \$3.5 million in new annualized funding for after-school jobs in Toronto, Durham, Peel and York regions. In 2013-14, program expansion created over 700 employment positions with local businesses and community organizations for youth aged 15 to 18 years facing multiple barriers. Jobs for Youth also provides pre-employment readiness and post-employment supports to help youth to build the skills required for future work.
- **Private Sector Jobs and Mentorship Initiative:** As part of [Ontario's Youth Action Plan](#) (2012), the province funded the Greater Toronto CivicAction Alliance to actively engage private sector employers in identifying ideas for employer-led action to increase employment for youth not in education, employment or training (NEET). This project focused on NEET youth in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA).

Data from the Profile:

- **1.9%** of youth are self-employed.
- **9.4%** of youth **aged 15-24** are not in education, employment or training (NEET).



New in 2013-2014

Employment and Entrepreneurship

CivicAction's report *Escalator: Jobs for Youth Facing Barriers* prioritizes pilot projects to increase employment and mentorship opportunities for NEET youth. In September 2014, CivicAction began work with private sector partners to implement pilot projects in the GTHA.



The Honourable Tracy MacCharles, Minister of Children and Youth Services and members of the Premier's Council on Youth Opportunities attend the release of Escalator.

- [Aboriginal Young Entrepreneurship Pilot Program](#): To help more Aboriginal youth develop business and entrepreneurial skills, Ontario is investing \$1.35 million over three years in an innovative Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneurship Pilot Program. In partnership with the [Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative](#), the province is helping First Nations, Métis and Inuit youth access mentorship from Aboriginal business owners, as well as funding to start their own businesses.
- [Northern Ontario Internship Program](#): To strengthen Northern Ontario's competitive advantage and build economic development, the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation is launching an internship program to attract and retain graduates in the North. The program provides access to internships for recent graduates who are interested in launching and building their careers in Northern Ontario.

New in 2013-2014

Engaging Youth in New and Young Worker Safety

- **New and Young Worker Safety Blitz:** To support the safety of new and young workers, the Ministry of Labour facilitates an annual workplace safety blitz focused on workers aged 14 to 24 and those who are starting a new job or have been on the job for six months or less.

To engage young people in job safety, Ontario coordinates the [It's Your Job](#) contest. This contest challenges secondary school students in each province to develop an original video that can be used in social media to illustrate to younger workers the importance of working safely on the job. All winning entries and their schools receive a cash prize and move on to compete nationally.

What the Data Says:



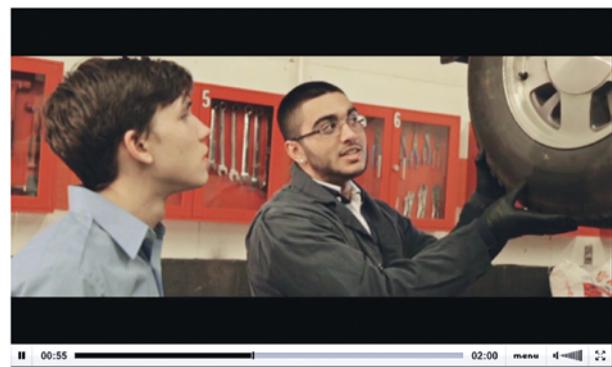
In 2011, **11 per cent** of WSIB (Workplace Safety and Insurance Board) claims were for youth employees aged 15 to 24 years¹⁷.

It's Your Job
Prevention Starts Here

Video Contest

1st Place (Tied): \$1000 for the students, \$1000 for the school

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Secondary School, Mississauga, Ontario



Ontario's It's Your Job contest winner (1st place tied) from Xavier Catholic School in Mississauga.

 Case Study

SureStart Youth Entrepreneurship Program

The **SureStart Youth Entrepreneurship Program** is a practical and hands-on youth employment and entrepreneurship training program in Oxford County. It is available to young adults, aged 18-29, who are interested in starting their own business. It was developed by the Fusion Youth Centre and is delivered in partnership with Community Employment Services. SureStart helps youth develop the skills and resources needed to develop a successful career or business and access. It also gives them access to a \$1,000 startup grant upon program completion.

Recent participant Jody Bennett has been able to bring her business idea of a yoga studio with a social purpose—Stone Roots Yoga—to life.

“The SureStart program helped me take my idea and grow it into something even bigger than I had imagined. SureStart provided me with all the resources I needed to complete a business plan and pitch my idea to investors. I am so grateful to have received a \$1000 grant to bring my business to life.” — Jody

 Case Study

YOU Made It

YOU Made It is a social enterprise program of Youth Opportunities Unlimited in London Ontario. YOU Made It provides local youth with meaningful, hands-on job experience and skills development. Paid on-the-job training is available at four Youth Opportunities Unlimited businesses, including the YOU Made It Café, YOU Made It Retail Kiosk and Market Quality Preserves and the YOU Made It Recycling operation and Woodshop operation. Revenue generated from the YOU Made It enterprise is invested back into the Youth Opportunities Unlimited program to provide services for local youth.

The YOU Made It Café is staffed by youth and is open to the public. It offers high quality catering made from scratch, breakfast and lunch menu items and contracted meals for Meals on Wheels London. The café operates out of the Cornerstone, a safe space for homeless and at-risk youth aged 16 to 24 that provides supportive social programming and encourages youth to make positive choices. The Cornerstone and YOU Made It work towards the elimination of youth homelessness and providing youth access to employment opportunities and skills development.

Diversity, Social Inclusion and Safety

Social inclusion and safety are central to creating a cohesive society and a strong economy that enable future growth and prosperity. Ontario is one of the most diverse places in the world. We must be a safe, inclusive and accepting place for all youth for our many diverse young people to flourish. We want our young people to be included and valued for who they are. In turn, we want them to value diversity and support inclusion in their communities.



Young people must be safe, included and accepted—at home, school, work, online and in their communities—to develop successfully into adulthood. Supports and early intervention can help youth to stay on track or get back on track where necessary.

This year, Ontario encouraged diversity, social inclusion and safety among young people by improving access to services, targeting supports and continuing to deliver on existing commitments. Our programs and policies have made progress in:

- Reducing waitlists and expanding access to services for youth with special needs.
- Creating new opportunities and promoting social inclusion and safety for young people.
- Targeting services to Ontario's most vulnerable young people.

Outcomes

13

14

15

We want Ontario youth to:

- Experience social inclusion and value diversity.
- Feel safe at home, at school, online and in their communities.
- Respect and be respected by the law and the justice system.

New in 2013-2014

Improving Access and Inclusion

- [Enhancing Supports for Youth with Special Needs](#): Beginning in 2014-15, Ontario is investing an additional \$5 million annually in children's treatment centres to reduce wait times for core rehabilitation services for children and youth with special needs. Through this funding increase, the government has set a target to serve up to 2,000 additional children and youth. This builds on a \$5 million investment in 2013-14 to improve access to rehabilitative services such as physical, occupational and speech therapy for children and youth with special needs.
- [Improving Developmental Services](#): Ontario is investing \$810 million over three years to eliminate waitlists for developmental services. This investment will eliminate the current waitlist for the [Special Services at Home](#) and

the [Passport Program](#) for young people. It will also support young adults as they navigate key life transitions such as going to school or getting a job. Passport is a program that helps adults 18 years or older with a developmental disability to participate in their communities

- [Promoting Life Skills for Aboriginal Youth](#): A partnership with Right to Play Canada has resulted in sport for development programs (i.e., lacrosse and hockey) being offered in several youth justice secure custody/detention facilities. Programs are designed to meet the needs of youth through leadership, sportsmanship, respect, education, reconnection with the youth's culture, skills development, distribution/ use of equipment by youth, teamwork and establishing strong relationships.

Spotlight: Youth Equity Lens

Ontario's investments in young people should reflect the needs of all youth, especially those who are more vulnerable and face multiple barriers to success. Many of these populations are identified in [Stepping Up](#).

The Youth Equity Lens was created to examine various government policies and programs from a youth perspective. By looking at day-to-day government decisions with an eye to increasing opportunities and reducing barriers for vulnerable youth, we can make smarter investments in some of our most valuable assets — our young people.

New in 2013-2014

Delivering on Ontario's Youth Action Plan

On August 22, 2012, Ontario released a [Youth Action Plan](#) in response to gun and gang violence in Toronto (i.e., the Danzig Street and Eaton Centre shootings). It was a 20-point plan developed to foster safer communities and give young people the support and opportunities they need to succeed. It included actions to fill identified service gaps, as well as to establish long-term strategies to address structural challenges, strengthen coordination and improve the integration of services.

Ontario is now delivering on all 20 initiatives committed to in the Youth Action Plan. This progress is reflected throughout this report. In 2014-15, these initiatives are expected to benefit over 28,000 young people.

- *Stepping Up in Action: Youth Opportunities Fund:* A key component of Ontario's Youth Action Plan, the Youth Opportunities Fund (YOF) is a direct application of *Stepping Up's* principles and priorities for young people.

The YOF is a \$5 million annual program that provides grants and capacity-building supports to grassroots, youth-led initiatives and community-based organizations serving youth who are facing the multiple barriers to economic and social wellbeing in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), as identified in *Stepping Up*. YOF grants are available for projects that also align with one or more of five *Stepping Up*

priority outcomes, which address identified gaps in Ontario's services and supports for young people. These outcomes are:

- Youth have families and guardians equipped to help them thrive (#4)
- Youth have least one consistent, caring adult in their lives (#5)
- Youth form and maintain healthy, close relationships (#6)
- Youth are engaged in their communities (#17)
- Youth know about and easily navigate resources in their communities (#20)

The YOF is administered by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. In 2013-14, it funded 23 projects that are expected to create more than 50 full- and part-time jobs for youth. Together the projects anticipate serving almost 15,000 young people this year in the GTA.



Premier's Council members provide input into the design of the Youth Opportunities Fund.

 Case
Study

Camp Ten Oaks

Camp Ten Oaks is a one-week, sleep-away camp for children and youth from LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, two-spirit, queer) identities, families and communities. The programming is designed to empower campers through play that enhances self-esteem, life skills, independence, leadership and self-confidence. For many of the campers, Camp Ten Oaks is the first place where they can be open about their identities and family structures, meet and form bonds with others with shared identities, and create community to support each other throughout the year. Camp Ten Oaks supports Ontario's young people to experience social inclusion and value diversity, and gives them a space of respect, acceptance, inclusion and celebration.

“Camp Ten Oaks has shown me that I can be whoever I want to be. And nobody can ever judge me for that.” —Camp Ten Oaks Camper



Spotlight: Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy

Ontario is working with First Nations, Métis, Inuit and urban Aboriginal partners to develop an Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy. This strategy will be a framework to improve outcomes and opportunities for Aboriginal children and youth by transforming the way services are designed and delivered. It will consider systemic approaches to enable community-driven, integrated and culturally grounded supports for First Nations, Inuit, Métis and urban Aboriginal children and youth, so services can better meet their needs. The government has been engaging with partners through various mechanisms at both technical and leadership levels, including technical tables, bilateral processes, and engagement with youth and Aboriginal agencies.

Spotlight: Community Safety and Wellbeing Grants Program

The **Safer and Vital Communities (SVC) Grant** supports not-for-profit community organizations, First Nations Chiefs and Band Councils to implement local initiatives that prevent crime and enhance community safety and wellbeing. Projects help reduce risk factors and enhance protective factors associated with crime and victimization.

- In 2013-14, the SVC Grant supported crime prevention through early intervention with at-risk children and youth. Projects addressed issues such as cyberbullying, youth violence and substance abuse.
- In 2014-16, the SVC Grant is supporting crime prevention through the promotion of mental health among at-risk individuals, including youth. Projects are targeting issues including youth homelessness, human trafficking, youth violence and hate crimes.

The **Proceeds of Crime: Front Line Policing Grant** supports community safety and wellbeing through projects that increase front-line police presence or fill gaps in services. In 2013-14 and 2014-15, Ontario funded projects where police and communities worked together to address issues such as strengthening parent-youth relationships, reducing human trafficking and gang-related activities and promoting internet safety.

Case Study

African Canadian Training and Capacity Building Project

To improve service delivery to African Canadian youth, the **African Canadian Legal Clinic** has developed an innovative training and capacity building project for the Youth Outreach Worker and Jobs for Youth Programs.

This project trains front-line youth workers, managers and team leaders to better understand the needs of African Canadian youth and how best to support them. Training helps to increase awareness of the Afri-centric principles that inform the identity of African Canadian youth and enables workers to incorporate this knowledge into service delivery. The project receives funding from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.

 Case
Study

FACES of Peel Collaborative

The FACES of Peel Collaborative is a group of organizations, service providers and users and residents within Peel region that promotes social justice by reducing inequality, poverty, and other issues that stem from discrimination and oppression. Formed in response to the Danzig Street shooting in 2012, FACES of Peel works to help racialized youth in Peel experience social inclusion and feel safe in their communities.

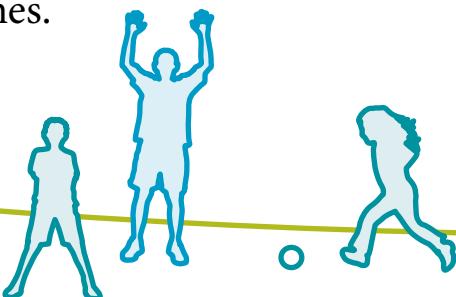
FACES of Peel is currently coordinating a research project to examine the social, economic, environmental, and health inequalities faced by the African Canadian population in Peel. The collaborative has trained four youth researchers to facilitate the project using a participatory action research model. Project recommendations will identify actions for government and community organizations to address the needs and issues of African Canadian youth, support their feeling of wellbeing and improve outcomes.

- Data from the Profile:**
- **97%** of Ontarians felt “very safe” or “safe” in their communities.
 - **77%** of youth feel a sense of belonging in their community.



Civic Engagement and Youth Leadership

We know that young people have innovative ideas and opinions, and they have much to contribute. We need to engage Ontario's youth, encouraging them to contribute to their communities and help shape the decisions that affect them. In this way, we can enhance our decision-making and improve policy and program outcomes.



It is also clear that encouraging civic engagement and giving young people leadership opportunities helps them build capacity and life skills. Engaged youth report better confidence and grades and higher levels of physical activity and commitment to friends, families and community.

This year, Ontario encouraged civic engagement and leadership in young people by encouraging them to get involved, and creating opportunities for their voices to be heard and reflected in policy-making. Our programs and policies have made progress in:

- Creating spaces for youth to share their insights on government policies and programs.
- Encouraging youth leadership and innovation.
- Enhancing opportunities for volunteerism.

Outcomes

16

17

18

We want Ontario youth to:

- Play a role in informing the decision that affect them.
- Be engaged in their communities.
- Leverage their assets to address social issues.

New in 2013-2014

Promoting Leadership and Volunteerism

- [Studio Y-Ontario's Social Impact and Leadership Academy](#): To help young people lead positive change in their communities and across the province, Ontario is investing \$10 million over five years in Studio Y. Each year until 2018, 25 young leaders, aged 18 to 29, from across the province will participate in a nine-month social impact and leadership training program at MaRS Discovery District in Toronto. Studio Y provides youth with critical leadership, social innovation and entrepreneurship skills and opportunities they need to shape their future.
- [Feathers of Hope: A First Nations Youth Action Plan](#): The Ontario government has committed resources, including staff, to respond to the Feathers of Hope: A First Nations Youth Action Plan. The Action Plan report addresses issues faced by First Nations youth – as identified by the youth themselves – who are living in Ontario’s near north and far north communities. Key issues highlighted by the youth in the Feathers of Hope report include quality of education, identity and culture, mental and physical health, and youth opportunities and leadership.
- [Helping Youth Be TORONTO 2015 Pan Am and Parapan Am Games Volunteers](#): To encourage volunteerism and support students who want to be Pan Am and Parapan Am Games volunteers, Ontario is offering Ontario Student Assistance Program loan repayment deferrals and waivers to 4,500 college and university students who volunteer for the Games. Volunteers will also be provided with a certificate recognized by Employment and Social Development Canada that acknowledges the training and experience received, and will help them to stand out in the job market.



PACHI the porcupine is the Official Mascot of the TORONTO 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games

Data from the Profile: • 17.8% of youth started volunteering to help a cause they personally believe in. • 7.0% of youth volunteered with schools, religious organizations or community associations.



- [Change the World–2014 Ontario Youth Volunteer Challenge](#): From April 6 to May 19, 2014, Ontario hosted the annual Youth Volunteer Challenge, designed to encourage high school students to volunteer in their schools and communities. The 2014 challenge asked Ontario youth to volunteer three hours during the campaign with the goal of having 33,000 young people volunteer a minimum of 99,000 hours over the course of six weeks. The challenge exceeded the target with 39,951 youth volunteering a total of 209,659 hours at 735 community events. Since 2008, over 140,000 youth have participated in the campaign.
- [Élargir l'espace francophone](#): Ontario funds Élargir l'espace francophone to help expand the francophone environment and promote French-language education and leadership within French-language school boards and communities. This year, the initiative supported two projects promoting civic engagement and youth leadership among francophone youth:
 - **Relève le défi du leadership** is a program offered by community organizations to inspire young francophone leaders in Grades 10 to 12 in Eastern Ontario to make a difference in their communities. The projects help the students develop their leadership skills, explore the potential within their environment and engage in concrete actions to positively impact their community.

- **Place aux jeunes**, a project of the Réseau de développement économique et d'employabilité de l'Ontario (RDÉE Ontario), fosters youth engagement, leadership and pride in the francophone community among youth aged 14 to 17, through training, civic engagement and participation in contests aiming to reinforce their sense of belonging to the francophone community.

What the Data Says:



4 per cent of children in Ontario are francophone.¹⁸

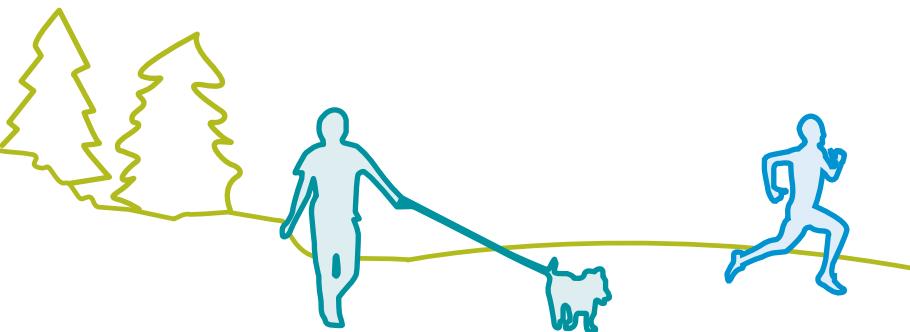


Spotlight: Youth Input into Ontario's Renewed Vision for Education

Ontario's renewed vision for education was developed with significant input from students and young people from across Ontario. In August of 2013, the [Minister's Student Advisory Council](#) (MSAC) shared their ideas on the future of Ontario's education system.



The illustration captures MSAC's big ideas and was used at all of the Ministry of Education's Great to Excellent consultation sessions.



 Case Study

Whitby's Recreation and Leisure Services Youth Strategy (2013-2018)

The Town of Whitby is recognized by **Play Works** as a Platinum Level Youth-Friendly Community. Whitby's youth strategy makes a commitment to creating access to safe spaces for play and recreation, and ensuring that local youth know about and easily navigate opportunities for play in their community. In 2013, Whitby developed a **2013–2018 Recreation and Leisure Services Youth Strategy** to guide the delivery of recreation and leisure services to Whitby youth aged 12 to 18. The strategy was developed with the active participation of young people, including the Whitby Youth Council, who provided information about their needs and desires. It was also developed with input from community partners.

Objectives for the 2013-18 strategy include formalizing a youth partnerships network to connect service providers and identify gaps in services, and developing a long-term plan for indoor and outdoor youth recreation facilities.

 Case Study

City of Guelph Youth Council

The Guelph Youth Council (GYC) is a group of local youth volunteers, aged 13-18, dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of youth culture within the City of Guelph. The GYC plays an active role in ensuring the collective youth voice is heard and represented throughout the community. To accomplish this, the GYC liaises with City Council, plans and implements various special events and activities, engages in leadership training and development and advocates on behalf of youth in the City of Guelph.

To date, the GYC members have developed and implemented activities for National Youth Week, the Multicultural Festival, Music Works Stage Works (a performing arts and mentorship program), ACTIVATE Southwestern Ontario Youth Leadership Forum, and local causes including Adopt-a-Family, homelessness awareness and social equity programming. Through the GYC, young leaders cultivate civic engagement, personal growth, and become inspired and empowered to make a positive change in their communities.

Coordinated and Youth-Friendly Communities



Young people are better able to achieve their full potential when individuals, organizations and communities work together to support them.

We must create youth-friendly communities and spaces that are accessible, inclusive, and prioritize the needs of young people. This will enable Ontario youth to feel more supported, connected, engaged, valued and safe.

Outcomes

19

20

We want Ontario youth to:

- Have access to safe spaces that provide quality opportunities for play and recreation.
- Know about and easily navigate resources in their communities.

This year, Ontario encouraged youth-friendly communities by enhancing service navigation and coordination and promoting community collaboration in support of youth. Our programs and policies have made progress in:

- Helping vulnerable young people access and navigate services and supports.
- Improving services and service coordination for vulnerable youth.

Photo credit: Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services

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New in 2013-2014

Connecting Vulnerable Youth to Services

- [Special Needs Strategy](#): In 2014, Ontario launched the Special Needs Strategy to help children and youth get timely and effective services they need at home, at school, in the community, and as they transition to adulthood. This strategy aims to improve services for children and youth with special needs and their families by working with communities to improve coordinated service planning for children and youth with multiple and/or complex special needs and removing barriers to seamless delivery of rehabilitation services. The strategy builds on the recommendations to government made in the 2013 report [Services for Children and Youth with Special Needs in Ontario, and their Families: Opportunities for Improving their Experiences and Outcomes](#).
- [Strengthening the Youth Outreach Worker Program](#): To enhance service delivery and improve program coordination, all Youth Outreach Workers (YOWs) began using a common evidence-informed intervention model based on the Stages of Change theory in the fall of 2013. The model enables YOWs to assess an individual's readiness for change and helps YOWs tailor their supports to best meet a young person's needs.

In 2013-14, the YOW program helped over 13,000 hard-to-reach youth across the province to obtain better access to services

and opportunities in their communities (e.g., employment, education, mental health and housing supports, etc.)

- [Integrated Transition Planning for Young People with Developmental Disabilities](#): In 2013, Ontario began the implementation of integrated transition planning for all young people aged 14 and over with a developmental disability. Young people with developmental disabilities will now have a single integrated transition plan that will inform educational planning and help the young person transition from secondary school and child-centred services to adulthood, and help to prepare parents/guardians and other family members for changes. The integrated transition planning process will consider the young person's goals for work, further education and community living and the steps needed to attain these goals.



Case Study

NewYouth.ca

NewYouth.ca is an accessible and easy-to-navigate online community for newcomer youth to Ontario. The website connects young people to services and provides them with information on housing, employment, low-income services, tenant rights and how to access other valuable supports. It features videos created by other recent new-to-Ontario youth who share their experiences coming to this province as young immigrants and trying to fit into school, make friends and deal with issues like bullying or finding a job.

In 2014, NewYouth.ca partnered with York University and the Rexdale Hub for a Photo-Journal Project that gave youth in Rexdale the opportunity to learn about their community, share their stories and speak to community leaders and law enforcement about community improvements.

NewYouth.ca is available for francophone newcomers at [**NouveauxJeunes.ca**](#). It is funded by the Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants and the federal government.

What the Data Says:

5.05 per cent of Ontario youth aged 15 to 24 are newcomers who have arrived in Canada in the last 10 years.¹⁹

Case Study

Youth Council Toolkit

The Youth Council Toolkit is an evidence-based guide for helping young people to establish local youth councils in their communities. The kit identifies 10 easy steps to creating a council and explains the unique challenges and opportunities of running a youth council in rural communities. The Youth Council Toolkit encourages young people to be engaged in their communities and leverage their assets to address social issues. It was developed by the former Rural Youth Working Group of the Ontario Rural Council (now the [**Rural Ontario Institute**](#)) and [**Endeavour Volunteer Consulting for Non-Profits**](#).

What the Data Says:

12.1 per cent of children and youth in Ontario live in rural areas.²⁰

Ontario's Profile of Youth Wellbeing

The [2014 Profile of Youth Wellbeing](#) includes 20 outcomes and 54 indicators of youth wellbeing, which were selected to create a picture of how young people are doing in Ontario. The indicators consist of data that is collected on a regular basis. Publicly reported population-level data is used where available. Data from government programs is used to supplement population-level data and provide a well-rounded snapshot of youth wellbeing. The data for each indicator in the Profile should not be directly compared to the data for other indicators, as each comes from a different source and has different parameters.

Together, the outcomes and indicators tell the story of our government's priorities for young people, and help to measure our commitment to and progress in improving outcomes for Ontario's youth.

We will update the profile annually as part of our ongoing commitment to Ontario's youth. Where current data is lacking, we will search for meaningful sources.



What's changed in 2014?

Incremental Changes

The 2014 Ontario Profile of Youth Wellbeing experienced incremental changes:

Number of Indicators Updated → 30

Number of Indicators Unchanged → 17

Number of Indicators Replaced → 5

Number of Indicators Added → 2

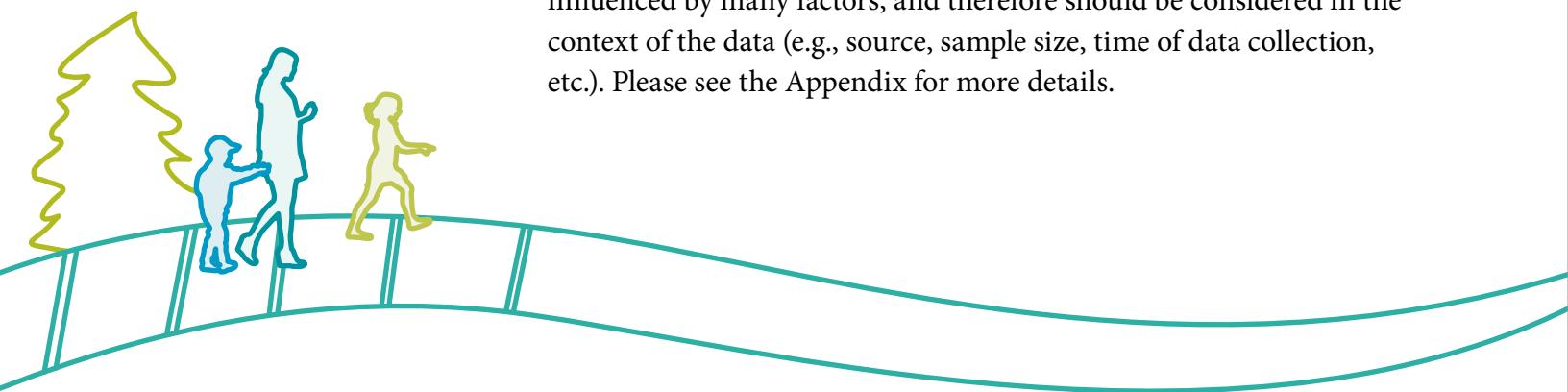
Total → 54

Thirty indicators in the 2014 Profile were refreshed with new data from the same sources that were used to develop the 2013 Profile. A description of all of the indicators, including data sources is in the [Appendix](#).

There were small changes to youth outcomes measured in the 2014 Profile. Twenty-three indicators showed small changes in the desired direction, while just seven showed small changes against the directed direction. For example:

- Positive: the proportion of youth who are self-employed increased from 1.8 to 1.9 per cent.
- Negative: the proportion of youth who are a healthy weight fell from 79.9 per cent in 2010 to 77.9 per cent in 2013.

Such incremental fluctuations are to be expected after one year. These changes are not necessarily statistically significant. They can be influenced by many factors, and therefore should be considered in the context of the data (e.g., source, sample size, time of data collection, etc.). Please see the Appendix for more details.



Youth Facing Barriers to Success

Beyond the Profile, data continues to suggest that some groups of youth experience challenges more acutely than others. For example:

- African Canadian and Aboriginal youth are more likely than other groups to be unemployed (28.2 per cent and 21.2 per cent, respectively). Youth with disabilities face the highest unemployment rate (30.4 per cent).^{21, 22, 23}
- 19 per cent of young transgendered people have attempted suicide in the past year.²⁴

Moving forward, we will work to identify data that will help us to better understand and represent the experiences of these youth.

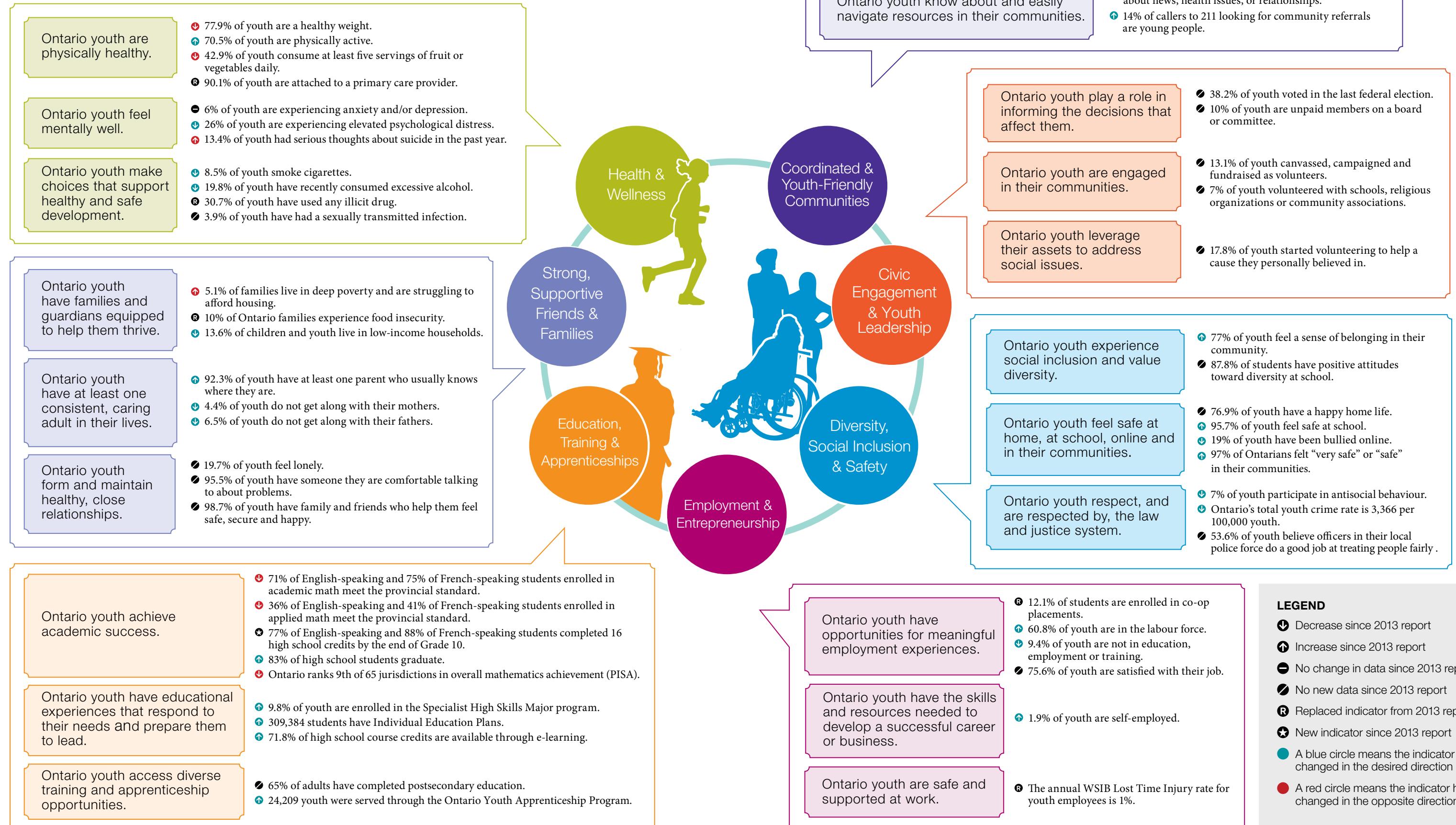
A Living Profile

We know that Ontario's youth serving sector would benefit from data collection that better identifies how youth are doing. Admittedly, there are gaps related to tracking progress. The information available comes from a number of different data sets. This makes it challenging to provide an accurate picture of youth outcomes. This is especially the case for youth who experience multiple barriers to success.

This is why Ontario's Profile of Youth Wellbeing is a living document. It will continue to evolve to better reflect the experiences of young people in Ontario, particularly by leveraging disaggregated datasets that focus on vulnerable youth and by aligning research and evaluation activities to provide meaningful comparisons across initiatives.

Overall, the value of the Profile is found in the picture it creates when all the indicators are considered together. In this way, the Profile is both a catalyst for change in the areas that need further support and investment, and a portrait of what our government—along with community partners—is doing to help Ontario's youth succeed.

Ontario's Profile of Youth Wellbeing



Looking Ahead

The Province of Ontario remains dedicated to the wellbeing, positive development and success of our young people. Moving forward, we will work collaboratively across government and with communities to support young people to successfully transition into adulthood through programs and services that are responsive to the needs and strengths of all youth.

Our sustained commitment to help build the capacity of Ontario's youth services:

- We will improve services and address gaps and challenges in service delivery by continuing to build the capacity of our government and communities to serve diverse and vulnerable youth and remove barriers to success through tools like the Youth Equity Lens.
- We will grow our engagement of youth and better reflect youth voice in government decision-making through mechanisms like the Premier's Council on Youth Opportunities.
- We will collaborate and build strong relationships with communities to support their engagement and service delivery to youth, through the new Local Youth Collective Impact Program.
- We will work towards improved outcomes for youth and better measure and invest in what works. We will enhance the capacity for youth service providers to use research and evaluation and measure outcomes and progress through a new Youth Research and Evaluation Hub Program.
- We will continue to promote openness and accountability through future reports on our collective progress to improve outcomes for all Ontario youth.



Spotlight: Youth Research and Evaluation Hub Program

This new program will provide research and evaluation resources, tools, supports and services to Ontario's youth serving sector in order to help improve outcomes for young people. By encouraging sound research, evaluation practices and methodologies across the youth serving sector, service providers and particularly smaller-scale and grassroots groups will be better able to measure their successes, track their progress, and identify opportunities for improvement in both their program design and implementation strategies.



Spotlight: The Local Youth Collective Impact Program

To empower communities to develop and support local youth collaboratives, Ontario is launching the Local Youth Collective Impact (LYCI) program. This program will help strengthen cross-sector initiatives that serve youth, focusing particularly on vulnerable youth. The LYCI program will:

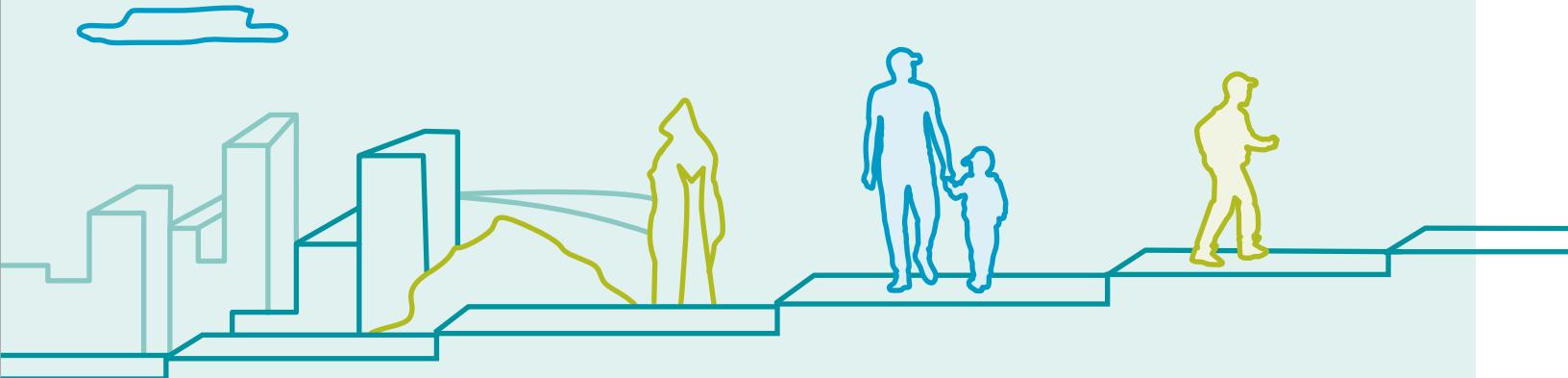
- Provide and share supports to strengthen local collective impact initiatives, including:
 - Tools and resources for local youth collective impact groups
 - Best practices for effective collaboration and youth engagement
 - A shared vision and common youth outcomes
 - A strategic plan
 - A website profiling leading communities and their status
 - Relevant training and coaching support for community leaders.
- Distribute one-time project grants to communities with collaborative projects that focus on clear outcomes to support improved outcomes for young people, particularly vulnerable youth.

Endnotes

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Appendix:

Ontario's Profile of Youth Wellbeing Source Material



Health & Wellness

1

Ontario youth are physically healthy.

Indicator

Proportion of youth who are a healthy weight

Direction of Change

Desired:

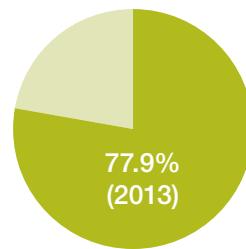


Actual:



Definition: This indicator is defined as the proportion of Ontario youth (aged 12-17) who self-rated their weight as neither overweight nor obese. This variable classifies children aged 12 to 17 (except female respondents aged 15-17 who were pregnant or did not answer the pregnancy question) as “obese,” “overweight” or “neither obese nor overweight” according to the age-and-sex specific BMI cut-off points as defined by Cole et al. The Cole cut-off points are based on pooled international data for BMI and linked to the widely internationally accepted adult BMI cut-off points of 25 (overweight) and 30 (obese).

Data:



Source: This data is based on the responses to the Canadian Community Health Survey, conducted by Statistics Canada. Data presented here is based on survey responses from 2013. The Canadian Community Health Survey is conducted every year.

Sample: 2,305 youth aged 12-17 responded to the CCHS 2013—representing a population of 936,500. Data collection excludes First Nations reserves and some remote communities.

Indicator

Proportion of youth who are physically active

Direction of Change

Desired:

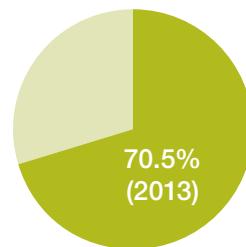


Actual:



Definition: This indicator is defined as the proportion of Ontario youth (aged 12-19) who reported that during their leisure time they were active or moderately active.

Data:



Source: This data is based on the responses to the Canadian Community Health Survey, conducted by Statistics Canada. Data presented here is based on survey responses from 2013. The Canadian Community Health Survey is conducted every year.

Sample: 2,305 youth aged 12-19 responded to the CCHS 2013—representing a population of 1,283,000. Data collection excludes First Nations reserves and some remote communities.

Indicator

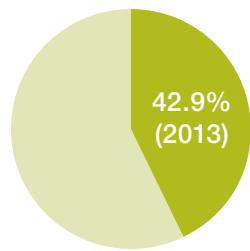
Proportion of youth who consume at least five servings of fruit or vegetables daily

Definition: This indicator is defined as the proportion of Ontario youth (aged 12-19) who reported that they consumed less than five daily servings of fruit or vegetables.

Source: This data is based on the responses to the Canadian Community Health Survey, conducted by Statistics Canada. Data presented here is based on survey responses from 2013. The Canadian Community Health Survey is conducted every year.

Sample: 2,305 youth aged 12-19 responded to the CCHS 2013—representing a population of 1,283,000. Data collection excludes First Nations reserves and some remote communities.

Data:



Direction of Change

Desired:



Actual:



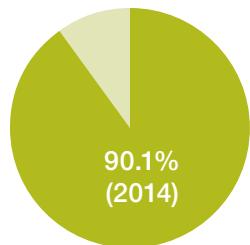
Indicator

Proportion of youth who are attached to a primary care provider (replacement indicator)

Definition: This indicator is defined as the proportion of Ontario youth (aged 16-25) who reported having a primary health care provider.

Source: This data is based on the responses to the 2014 Health Care Experience Survey (HCES), conducted by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. The HCES is a voluntary telephone survey aimed at Ontarians aged 16 and older. Data was collected between April 2013 and March 2014.

Data:



Direction of Change

Desired:



2**Ontario youth feel mentally well.****Indicator:****Proportion
of youth
who are
experiencing
anxiety/
depression****Direction
of Change**

Desired:

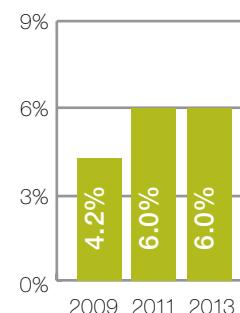


Actual:



Definition: This indicator is defined as the proportion of Ontario students (Grades 7-12) who reported anxiety/depression symptoms experienced during the past four weeks.

Source: Data is based on self-reports from students who participated in the Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey. The survey is conducted every two years. Data presented here is derived from anonymous questionnaires completed in classrooms between November 2012 and June 2013.

Data:

Sample: In 2013, 10,272 students (63 per cent of selected students in participating schools) in Grades 7-12 from 42 school boards, 198 schools, and 671 classes in Ontario completed the survey. Students excluded from the sample include those enrolled in private schools or home-schooled, those institutionalized for correctional or health reasons, those schooled on native reserves, military bases, or in the remote northern regions of Ontario.

Indicator:**Proportion
of youth
who are
experiencing
elevated
psychological
distress****Direction
of Change**

Desired:

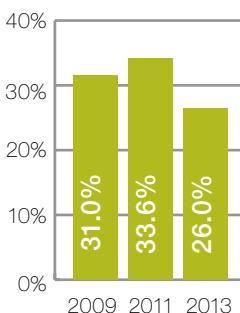


Actual:



Definition: This indicator is defined as the proportion of Ontario students (Grades 7-12) who reported experiencing a moderate to high level of psychological distress in the past month.

Source: Data is based on self-reports from students who participated in the Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey. The survey is conducted every two years. Data presented here is derived from anonymous questionnaires completed in classrooms between November 2012 and June 2013.

Data:

Sample: In 2013, 10,272 students (63 per cent of selected students in participating schools) in Grades 7-12 from 42 school boards, 198 schools, and 671 classes in Ontario completed the survey. Students excluded from the sample include those enrolled in private schools or home-schooled, those institutionalized for correctional or health reasons, those schooled on native reserves, military bases, or in the remote northern regions of Ontario.

Indicator:
**Proportion
of youth
who had
serious
thoughts
about suicide
in the past
year**

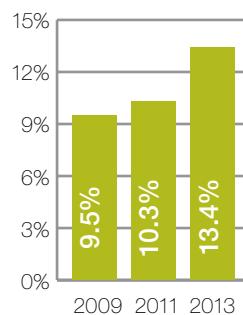
**Direction
of Change**

Desired:
 DOWN
Actual:
 UP

Definition: This indicator is defined as the proportion of Ontario students (Grades 7-12) who reported they had seriously contemplated suicide in the past year.

Source: Data is based on self-reports from students who participated in the Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey. The survey is conducted every two years. Data presented here is derived from anonymous questionnaires completed in classrooms between November 2012 and June 2013.

Data:



Sample: In 2013, 10,272 students (63 per cent of selected students in participating schools) in Grades 7-12 from 42 school boards, 198 schools, and 671 classes in Ontario completed the survey. Students excluded from the sample include those enrolled in private schools or home-schooled, those institutionalized for correctional or health reasons, those schooled on native reserves, military bases, or in the remote northern regions of Ontario.

3

Ontario youth make choices that support healthy and safe development.

Indicator:
**Proportion
of youth
who smoke
cigarettes**

**Direction
of Change**

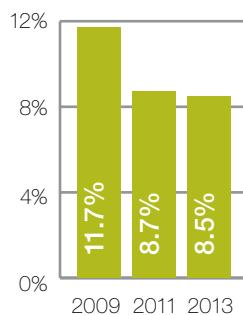
Desired:
 DOWN
Actual:
 DOWN

Definition: This indicator is defined as the proportion of Ontario students (Grades 7-12) who reported smoking cigarettes during the 12 months before the survey.

Source: Data is based on self-reports from students who participated in the Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey. The survey is conducted every two years. Data presented here is derived from anonymous questionnaires completed in classrooms between November 2012 and June 2013.

Sample: In 2013, 10,272 students (63 per cent of selected students in participating schools) in Grades 7-12 from 42 school boards, 198 schools, and 671 classes in Ontario completed the survey. Students excluded from the sample include those enrolled in private schools or home-schooled, those institutionalized for correctional or health reasons, those schooled on native reserves, military bases, or in the remote northern regions of Ontario.

Data:



Indicator:
**Proportion
of youth
who have
recently
consumed
excessive
alcohol**

**Direction
of Change**

Desired:



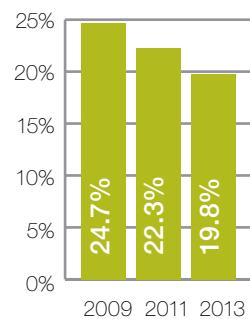
Actual:



Definition: This indicator is defined as the proportion of Ontario students (Grades 7-12) who reported binge drinking (drinking five or more drinks on one occasion) at least once during the four weeks before the survey.

Source: Data is based on self-reports from students who participated in the Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey. The survey is conducted every two years. Data presented here is derived from anonymous questionnaires completed in classrooms between November 2012 and June 2013.

Data:



Indicator:
**Proportion
of youth
who have
used any
illicit drug
(replacement
indicator)**

**Direction
of Change**

Desired:

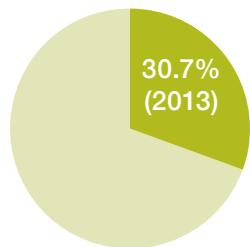


Definition: This indicator is a composite of Ontario students (Grades 9-12) who reported non-medical drug use of cannabis, LSD, mushrooms/methamphetamine, cocaine, crack, heroin, ecstasy, stimulants (non-medical), and tranquilizers/sedatives (non-medical) in the past year. This indicator excludes the use of alcohol, tobacco, high-caffeine energy drinks, inhalants, jimson weed, salvia, ketamine, OxyContin and other prescription opioid pain relievers, prescription ADHD drugs, over-the-counter medication and steroids.

Source: Data is based on self-reports from students who participated in the Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey. The survey is conducted every two years. Data presented here is derived from anonymous questionnaires completed in classrooms between November 2012 and June 2013.

Sample: In 2013, 10,272 students (63 per cent of selected students in participating schools) in Grades 7-12 from 42 school boards, 198 schools, and 671 classes in Ontario completed the survey. Students excluded from the sample include those enrolled in private schools or home-schooled, those institutionalized for correctional or health reasons, those schooled on native reserves, military bases, or in the remote northern regions of Ontario.

Data:



***Please note:**

Although this indicator appears in the 2013 Profile of Youth Wellbeing, in the 2014 Profile it is considered to be a "replacement" because the sample size is different. In 2013, students in Grades 7-12 were asked to report on this indicator; in 2014, only students in Grades 9-12 were asked to report.

Indicator:
**Proportion
of youth
who have had
a sexually
transmitted
infection**

**Direction
of Change**

Desired:



Actual:

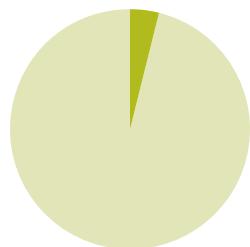


Definition: This indicator is defined as the proportion of Ontario youth (aged 12-24) who replied that they had been diagnosed with a sexually transmitted infection at least once.

Source: This data is based on the responses to the Canadian Community Health Survey, conducted by Statistics Canada. Data presented here is based on survey responses from July 2010. The Canadian Community Health Survey is conducted every year.

Sample: 3,809 youth aged 12-24 responded to the CCHS 2010—representing a population of 2,281,583. Data collection excludes First Nations reserves and some remote communities.

Data:
 3.9%
 (2010)



***Please note:**
 Although the Canadian Community Health Survey is conducted annually, this indicator is *optional*. It was not included in subsequent versions of the survey.

Strong, Supportive Friends & Families

4

Ontario youth have families and guardians equipped to help them thrive.

Indicator:
**Proportion
of families
who live in
deep poverty
and are
struggling
to afford
housing**

**Direction
of Change**

Desired:



Actual:

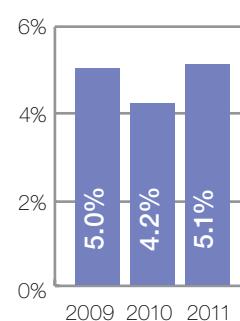


Definition: The Ontario Housing Measure tracks the percentage of households with children under 18 that have incomes below 40 per cent of the median household income (LIM40) and spend more than 40 per cent of their income on housing.

Source: This data is based on responses to the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics, conducted by Statistics Canada. The most recent data is from 2011, released in June 2013. The Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics is no longer active.

Sample: Approximately 10,000 Ontarians.

Data:



Indicator:
Proportion of Ontario families who experience food insecurity (replacement indicator)

Direction of Change

Desired:

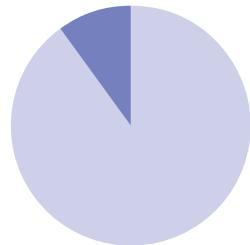


Definition: The Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) defines “food insecurity” as a household’s ability to afford the food it needs over the past 12 months. This indicator is defined as the proportion of Ontario households with children that are food insecure.

Source: This data is based on the responses to the Canadian Community Health Survey, conducted by Statistics Canada. Data presented here is based on responses to the 2011 and 2012 surveys. The Canadian Community Health Survey is conducted every year. Excluded from the CCHS are residents of First Nations reserves, health care institutions, some remote areas and full-time members of the Canadian Forces.

Sample: This sample includes Ontario households with children aged 0–18.

Data:
 10%
 (2011/12)



Indicator:
Proportion of children and youth who live in low-income households

Direction of Change

Desired:



Actual:

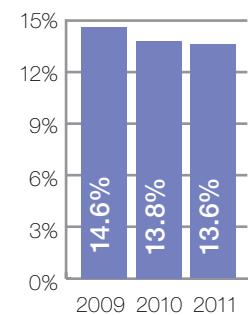


Definition: Low income is defined using Ontario’s ‘fixed’ LIM50. It is the number and percentage of people living in a household with an after tax income less than 50 per cent of the median adjusted household income measured in 2008 and adjusted for inflation for 2009 to 2011. The after tax threshold varies according to household size.

Source: This data is based on responses to the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics, conducted by Statistics Canada. The most recent data is from 2011, released in June 2013. The Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics is no longer active.

Sample: Approximately 16,000 individuals in approximately 7,000 families. The sample includes approximately 3,200 children and youth under the age of 18. Persons living in institutions, on First Nations reserves or in military barracks are excluded.

Data:



5

Ontario youth have at least one consistent, caring adult in their lives.

Indicator:

Proportion of youth who have at least one parent who usually knows where they are

Direction of Change

Desired:

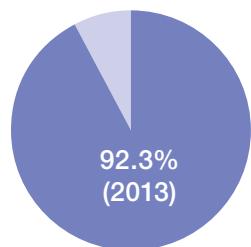


Actual:



Definition: This indicator is defined as the proportion of Ontario students (Grades 7-12) who reported that at least one parent “always” or “usually” knows where they are when they are away from home.

Source: Data is based on self-reports from students who participated in the Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey. The survey is conducted every two years. Data presented here is derived from anonymous questionnaires completed in classrooms between November 2012 and June 2013.

Data:**Indicator:**

Proportion of youth who do not get along with their mothers

Direction of Change

Desired:

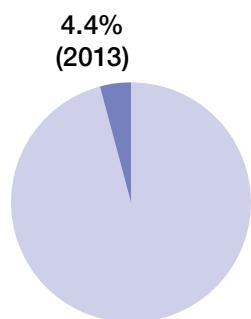


Actual:



Definition: This indicator is defined as the proportion of Ontario students (Grades 7-12) who reported not getting along with their mother.

Source: Data is based on self-reports from students who participated in the Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey. The survey is conducted every two years. Data presented here is derived from anonymous questionnaires completed in classrooms between November 2012 and June 2013.

Data:

Indicator: Proportion of youth who do not get along with their fathers

Direction of Change

Desired:



Actual:

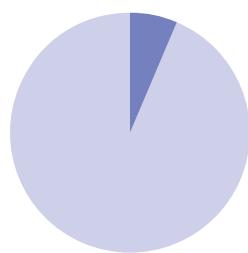


Definition: This indicator is defined as the proportion of Ontario students (Grades 7-12) who reported not getting along with their father.

Source: Data is based on self-reports from students who participated in the Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey. The survey is conducted every two years. Data presented here is derived from anonymous questionnaires completed in classrooms between November 2012 and June 2013.

Data:

6.5%
(2013)



Sample: In 2013, 10,272 students (63 per cent of selected students in participating schools) in Grades 7-12 from 42 school boards, 198 schools, and 671 classes in Ontario completed the survey. Students excluded from the sample include those enrolled in private schools or home-schooled, those institutionalized for correctional or health reasons, those schooled on native reserves, military bases, or in the remote northern regions of Ontario.

6

Ontario youth form and maintain healthy, close relationships.

Indicator: Proportion of youth who feel lonely

Direction of Change

Desired:



Actual:



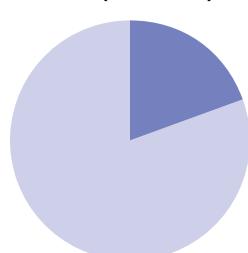
Definition: This indicator is defined as the proportion of youth (aged 11-15) who agreed or strongly agreed with the statement "I often feel lonely."

Source: This data is based on responses to the 2009-10 Health Behaviour in School-aged Children study. The self-reported survey is administered every four years by the Social Program Evaluation Group at Queen's University. The 2013-14 data is not yet available.

Sample: 3,691 students, aged 11-15, from 69 Ontario schools.

Data:

19.7%
(2009/10)



Indicator:
Proportion of youth who have someone they are comfortable talking to about their problems

Direction of Change

Desired:



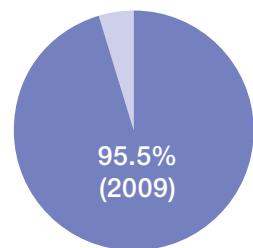
Actual:



Definition: This indicator is defined as the proportion of respondents who disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement “There is no one I feel comfortable talking about problems with.”

Source: Data is based on self-reports from youth to the Youth in Transition Survey (YITS). YITS is a longitudinal survey administered by Statistics Canada. The data presented here is based on responses from Cohort A (born in 1984) on Cycle 6 of the survey (2009). YITS includes youth who were attending any form of schooling in one of the 10 provinces of Canada at the time of the first cycle of data collection. Data collection excludes schools on Indian reserves, Canadian forces bases and in some remote areas. YITS is no longer active.

Data:



Indicator:
Proportion of youth who have family and friends who help them feel safe, secure and happy

Direction of Change

Desired:



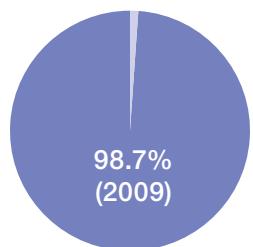
Actual:



Definition: This indicator is defined as the proportion of respondents who agreed or strongly agreed with the statement “I have family and friends who help me feel safe, secure and happy.”

Source: Data is based on self-reports from youth to the Youth in Transition Survey (YITS). YITS is a longitudinal survey administered by Statistics Canada. The data presented here is based on responses from Cohort A (born in 1984) on Cycle 6 of the survey (2009). YITS includes youth who were attending any form of schooling in one of the 10 provinces of Canada at the time of the first cycle of data collection. Data collection excludes schools on Indian reserves, Canadian forces bases and in some remote areas. YITS is no longer active.

Data:



Education, Training & Apprenticeships

7

Ontario youth achieve academic success.

Indicator:

Proportion of English-speaking/ French-speaking students enrolled in academic math who meet the provincial standard

Direction of Change

Desired:



Actual:

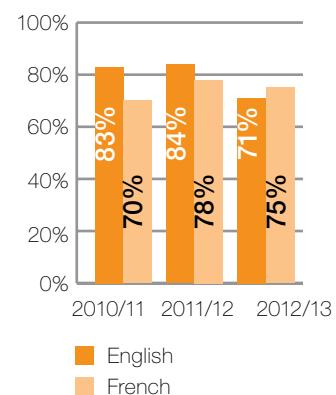


Definition: This indicator is defined as the proportion of Ontario students meeting the provincial standard in Academic Math. Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) results are scored on a scale out of 4, with 3 or above being defined as meeting the provincial standard.

Source: The tests are administered and the data is compiled by the EQAO. EQAO tests are administered for grade 9 students in math only.

Sample: The 2012-13 Grade 9 Academic Assessment was administered to 97,158 English-speaking students and 3,908 French-speaking students. Data excludes students attending school on First Nations reserves.

Data:



Indicator:

Proportion of English-speaking/ French-speaking students enrolled in applied math who meet the provincial standard

Direction of Change

Desired:



Actual:

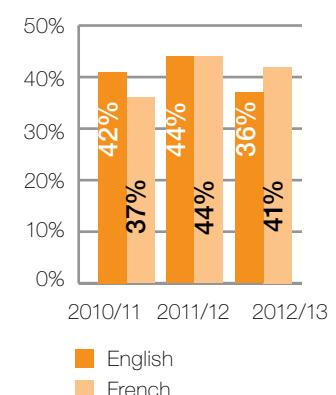


Definition: This indicator is defined as the proportion of Ontario students meeting the provincial standard in Applied Math. Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) results are scored on a scale out of 4, with 3 or above being defined as meeting the provincial standard.

Source: The tests are administered and the data is compiled by the EQAO. EQAO tests are administered for grade 9 students in math only.

Sample: The 2012-13 Grade 9 Applied Assessment was administered to 39,881 English-speaking students and 1,456 French-speaking students. Data excludes students attending school on First Nations reserves.

Data:



Indicator:
**Proportion of English-speaking/
French-speaking students who have completed 16 high school credits by the end of Grade 10 (new indicator)**

Direction of Change

Desired:

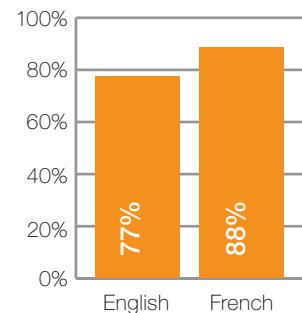


Definition: The Grade 10 Credit Accumulation indicator is the percentage of students who accumulated 16 or more credits after two years of secondary school out of the total number of students who completed two years of secondary school. Research shows that the successful completion of 16 credits by the end of Grade 10 keeps students on track to graduate with their peers.

Source: This data is sourced from the Ontario School Information System. Data presented here is based on the 2011-12 to 2012-13 school years.

Sample: The data includes all students who were enrolled in a publicly funded secondary school at the end of their Grade 9 and Grade 10 school years.

Data:



Indicator:
Proportion of high school students who graduate

Direction of Change

Desired:



Actual:

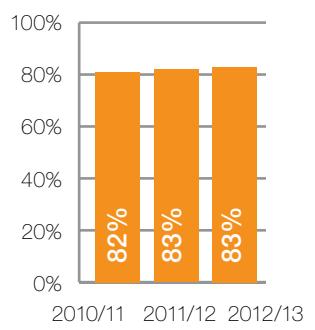


Definition: The percentage of students from a five-year cohort who achieved their high school diploma.

Source: This data is based on data reported by school boards to the Ontario School Information System (OnSIS) for the 2012-13 school year.

Sample: Large representative subsets are drawn from a full cohort of students who started grade 9 five years earlier. Data excludes students attending school on First Nations reserves.

Data:



Indicator:
Ontario's overall mathematics achievement ranking according to PISA

Direction of Change

Desired:



Actual:



Definition: This indicator is defined as Ontario's ranking among jurisdictions that participated in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) for overall mathematics achievement.

Data:

2012—Ranked 9 out of 65 jurisdictions.



Source: PISA is an international study conducted by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) that measures the abilities of 15-year-olds in reading, mathematics and science. Conducted every three years, each assessment has one major focus among the three subjects; in 2012, the major domain was mathematics.

Excluded from the assessment are students with a moderate to severe permanent physical disability; students with an intellectual disability; and students with limited proficiency in the assessment language.

Sample: 65 countries and economies took part in the 2012 PISA. 147 of Ontario's schools participated, representing 3,699 students. Of those students, 2,353 were from the English-language school system, and 1,346 were from the French-language school system.

Ontario youth have educational experiences that respond to their needs and prepare them to lead.

Indicator:
Proportion of youth enrolled in the Specialist High Skills Major program

Direction of Change

Desired:

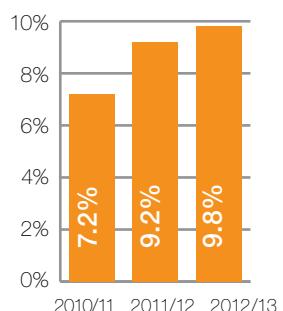


Actual:



Definition: This indicator is defined as the portion of Grade 11 and 12 students enrolled in the Specialist High Skills Major program out of the total number of students enrolled in Grade 11 and 12 in Ontario publicly funded schools.

Data:



Source: This data is sourced from the data collected from school boards on students enrolled in the Specialist High Skills Major program as well as enrolment data collected through the Ontario School Information System. Data presented here is based on the 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 school years.

Sample: The data represents all students who are enrolled in the Specialist High Skills Major program.

Indicator:
Number of students who have Individual Education Plans

Direction of Change

Desired:

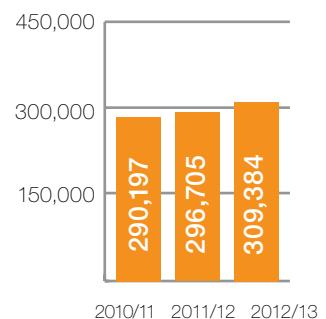


Actual:



Definition: This indicator is defined as the number of students receiving special education programs and services who have Individual Education Plans. An increase in the number of students with Individual Education Plans indicates that a greater number of students with special education needs are receiving personalized and precise assessment and instruction based on their individual strengths and needs.

Data:



Source: This data is sourced from the Ontario School Information System (OnSIS). Data presented here is based on the 2008-09 to 2012-13 school years.

Sample: Students enrolled in publicly funded schools including school authorities in Ontario who are receiving special education programs and services.

Indicator:
Proportion of high school course credits that are available through e-learning

Direction of Change

Desired:

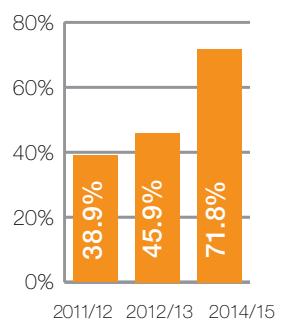


Actual:



Definition: This indicator is defined as the proportion of e-learning credits in relation to the total number of course credits available in the Ontario secondary school curriculum.

Data:



Source: This data is based on the number of e-learning course credits that are available in the 2014-15 school year according to administrative data on credit courses listed in the Ontario secondary curriculum. Of the 294 secondary school credit courses that are being offered, 108 are designed for use in public school boards and 103 are designed for use in Catholic school boards.

Sample: This data is reported for the 2014-15 school year by the Ministry of Education. It includes the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course and the Math transfer course, and excludes locally-developed, focus, or emphasis courses.

9

Ontario youth access diverse training and apprenticeship opportunities.

Indicator:**Proportion of adults who have completed postsecondary education****Direction of Change**

Desired:



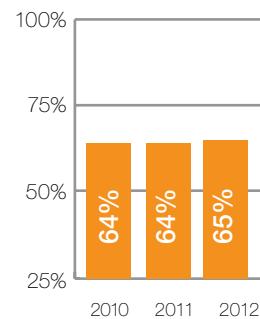
Actual:



Definition: The share of adults aged 25-64 who have completed postsecondary education—either university or college credentials, or trade/vocational education.

Source: Statistics Canada—Labour Force Survey (LFS) and Census.

Sample: The target population of the LFS is the civilian, non-institutionalized population 15 years of age and over. Since July 1995, the monthly LFS sample size has been approximately 54,000 households, resulting in the collection of labour market information for approximately 100,000 individuals. It should be noted that the LFS sample size is subject to change from time to time in order to meet data quality or budget requirements. Data collection excludes First Nations reserves.

Data:**Indicator:****Number of youth served through the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program****Direction of Change**

Desired:



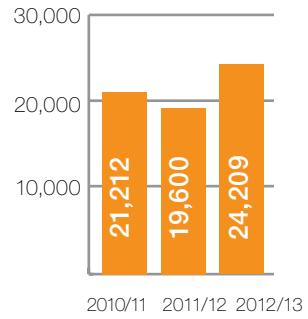
Actual:



Definition: This indicator is defined as the number of annual participants in the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program. Participants are fulltime high school students who are 16 years old or over and have at least 16 credits.

Source: Program administrative data for the 2012-13 school year is collected by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

Sample: All annual Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program participants.

Data:

Employment & Entrepreneurship

10

Ontario youth have opportunities for meaningful employment experiences.

Indicator:

Proportion of students who are enrolled in co-op placements (replacement indicator)

Direction of Change

Desired:

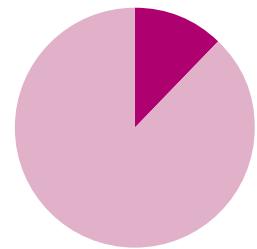


Definition: This indicator is defined as the proportion of students who are enrolled in co-operative education courses out of the total number of students enrolled in Ontario secondary schools (Grades 9-12).

Source: This data is sourced from the Ontario School Information System. Data presented here is based on the 2011-12 school year.

Sample: The data includes all students in publicly funded secondary schools in grades 9 to 12 who took co-operative education courses throughout the school year.

Data: **12.1%**
(2011/12)



***Please note:**

Although this indicator appears in the 2013 Profile of Youth Wellbeing, in the 2014 Profile it is considered to be a “replacement” because the data for 2010-11 has been revised. Previously published figures for data on co-operative education have been retracted.

Indicator:

Proportion of youth who are in the labour force.

Direction of Change

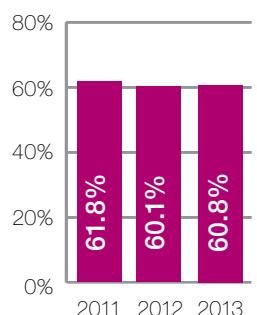
Desired:



Definition: This indicator is defined as a percentage of the youth population (aged 15-24) that is in the labour force.

Source: This data is based on the Labour Force Survey (LFS), which provides estimates of employment and unemployment. Both monthly and annual data on this indicator are available for the period 1976-2013. Data collection for the LFS is carried out each month during the week following the LFS reference week. The reference week is normally the week containing the 15th day of the month.

Data:



Actual:



Sample: The target population of the LFS is the civilian, non-institutionalized population 15 years of age and over. Since July 1995, the monthly LFS sample size has been approximately 54,000 households, resulting in the collection of labour market information for approximately 100,000 individuals. It should be noted that the LFS sample size is subject to change from time to time in order to meet data quality or budget requirements. Data collection excludes First Nations reserves.

Indicator:
Proportion of youth who are not in education, employment or training

Direction of Change

Desired:



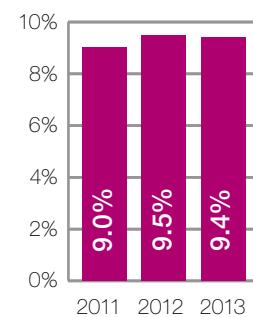
Actual:



Definition: This indicator is defined as the proportion of youth (aged 15-24) who are not students, and at the same time are not employed. It is calculated as the proportion of non-student youth who are not in the labour force out of the total youth population.

Source: This data is based on the Labour Force Survey (LFS), which provides estimates of employment and unemployment. Both monthly and annual data on this indicator are available for the period 1976-2013. Data collection for the LFS is carried out each month during the week following the LFS reference week. The reference week is normally the week containing the 15th day of the month.

Data:



Indicator:
Proportion of youth who are satisfied with their job

Direction of Change

Desired:



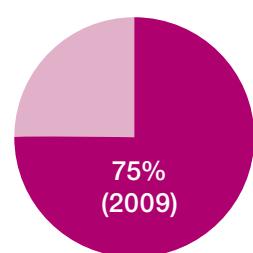
Actual:



Definition: This indicator is defined as the proportion of respondents who reported they were satisfied or very satisfied when asked "Considering all aspects of your job, how satisfied were you with it?"

Source: Data is based on self-reports from youth to the Youth in Transition Survey (YITS). YITS is a longitudinal survey administered by Statistics Canada. The data presented here is based on responses from Cohort A (born in 1984) on Cycle 6 of the survey (2009). YITS includes youth who were attending any form of schooling in one of the 10 provinces of Canada at the time of the first cycle of data collection. Data collection excludes schools on Indian reserves, Canadian forces bases and in some remote areas. YITS is no longer active.

Data:



Sample: This data is based on Cycle 6 of Cohort A respondents who were living in the province of Ontario in Cycle 1 and still living in Ontario in Cycle 6. The weighted Ontario sample for Cycle 6 is 117,182 youth.

11

Ontario youth have the skills and resources needed to develop a successful career or business.

Indicator:**Proportion of youth who are self-employed****Direction of Change**

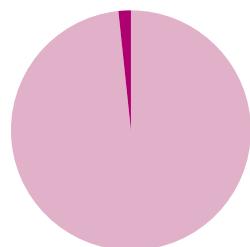
Desired:



Actual:



Definition: This indicator is defined as the number of youth (aged 15-24) who reported that they were self-employed.

Data:1.9%
(2013)

Source: This data is based on the Labour Force Survey (LFS), which collects information about employment and unemployment. Data collection for the LFS is carried out each month during the week following the LFS reference week. The reference week is normally the week containing the 15th day of the month.

Sample: The target population of the LFS is the civilian, non-institutionalized population 15 years of age and over. Since July 1995, the monthly LFS sample size has been approximately 54,000 households, resulting in the collection of labour market information for approximately 100,000 individuals. It should be noted that the LFS sample size is subject to change from time to time in order to meet data quality or budget requirements. Data collection excludes First Nations reserves.

12

Ontario youth are safe and supported at work.

Indicator:**Annual WSIB Lost-Time Injury rate for youth employees (replacement indicator)****Direction of Change**

Desired:



Definition: The Lost-Time Injury (LTI) rate is defined as the number of WSIB allowed lost-time injury and illness claims per 100 Full-Time Equivalent workers.

Data:

1%

Source: This data is based on calculations from the Data Management and Performance Metrics Unit, Prevention Office, Ministry of Labour, using the standard Workplace Safety and Insurance Board LTI formula.

Sample: Youth employees aged 15-24, who work both full and part time.

Diversity, Social Inclusion & Safety

13

Ontario youth experience social inclusion and value diversity.

Indicator:

Proportion of youth who feel a sense of belonging in their community

Direction of Change

Desired:



Actual:

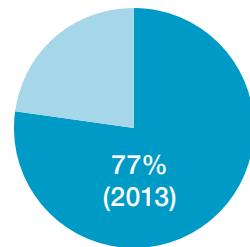


Definition: This indicator is defined as the proportion of Ontario youth (aged 12-19) who described their sense of belonging to their local community as strong or somewhat strong.

Source: This data is based on the responses to the Canadian Community Health Survey, conducted by Statistics Canada. Data presented here is based on survey responses from 2013. The Canadian Community Health Survey is conducted every year.

Sample: 2,305 youth aged 12-19 responded to the CCHS 2013 representing a population of 1,283,000. Data collection excludes First Nations reserves and some remote communities.

Data:



Indicator:

Proportion of students who have a positive attitude toward diversity at school

Direction of Change

Desired:



Actual:

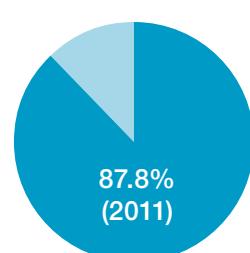


Definition: This indicator is defined as the percentage of students who answered “yes” when asked “Do you think that a student wanting to establish a Gay-Straight Alliance club in their school should be allowed to do so?”

Source: This data is based on the 2011 Ontario Student & Parent Survey. The Ontario Student Trustees Association-l’Association des élèves conseillers et conseillères de l’Ontario (OSTA-AECO) conducts an annual student survey across Ontario schools to ensure that their voices are heard. Survey questions are proposed and selected by students across the province, reflecting issues important to them. Identified themes include technology, mental health and diversity. Questions change every year based on students’ attitudes to these important issues.

Sample: In 2011, 7,112 students from 70 of Ontario’s English, Catholic, and French school boards, from all regions of the province, participated in the online survey.

Data:



14

Ontario youth feel safe at home, at school, online and in their communities.

Indicator:**Proportion of youth who have a happy home life****Direction of Change**

Desired:



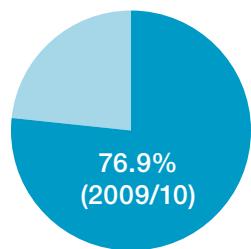
Actual:



Definition: This indicator is defined as the proportion of youth (aged 11-15) who agreed or strongly agreed with the statement “I have a happy home life.”

Source: This data is based on responses to the 2009/10 Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children study. The self-reported survey is administered every four years by the Social Program Evaluation Group at Queen’s University. The 2013-14 data is not yet available.

Sample: 3,691 students, aged 11-15, from 69 Ontario schools participated.

Data:**Indicator:****Proportion of youth who feel safe at school****Direction of Change**

Desired:



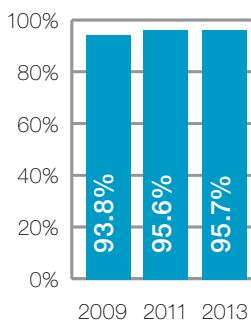
Actual:



Definition: This indicator is defined as the proportion of Ontario students (Grades 7-12) who did not express worry about being harmed / threatened at school.

Source: Data is based on self-reports from students who participated in the Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey. The survey is conducted every two years. Data presented here is derived from anonymous questionnaires completed in classrooms between November 2012 and June 2013.

Sample: In 2013, 10,272 students (63 per cent of selected students in participating schools) in Grades 7-12 from 42 school boards, 198 schools, and 671 classes in Ontario completed the survey. Students excluded from the sample include those enrolled in private schools or home-schooled, those institutionalized for correctional or health reasons, those schooled on native reserves, military bases, or in the remote northern regions of Ontario.

Data:

Indicator:
**Proportion
of youth who
have been
bullied online**

**Direction
of Change**

Desired:

⬇️ DOWN

Actual:

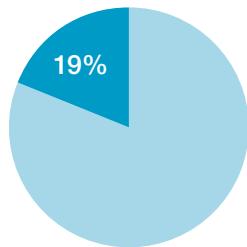
⬇️ DOWN

Definition: This indicator is defined as the proportion of Ontario students (Grades 7-12) who reported having been bullied over the Internet in the past 12 months.

Source: Data is based on self-reports from students who participated in the Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey. The survey is conducted every two years. Data presented here is derived from anonymous questionnaires completed in classrooms between November 2012 and June 2013.

Sample: In 2013, 10,272 students (63 per cent of selected students in participating schools) in Grades 7-12 from 42 school boards, 198 schools, and 671 classes in Ontario completed the survey. Students excluded from the sample include those enrolled in private schools or home-schooled, those institutionalized for correctional or health reasons, those schooled on native reserves, military bases, or in the remote northern regions of Ontario.

Data:



Indicator:
**Proportion
of Ontarians
who feel
safe in their
communities**

**Direction
of Change**

Desired:

⬆️ UP

Actual:

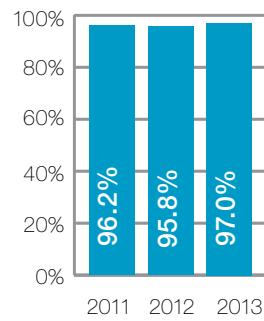
⬆️ UP

Definition: This indicator is defined as the proportion of respondents to the Provincial Community Satisfaction Survey who responded they feel safe or very safe in their community when asked "How safe do you feel in your community?"

Source: This data comes from the provincial component of the Ontario Provincial Police Community Satisfaction Surveys (CSS). Data presented here is based on survey responses from the 2013 OPP Community Satisfaction Survey Provincial Report.

Sample: 1,000 Ontarians aged 16 and over responded per survey cycle.

Data:



15

Ontario youth respect, and are respected by, the law and justice system.

Indicator:

**Proportion
of youth who
participate
in antisocial
behaviour**

**Direction
of Change**

Desired:



Actual:

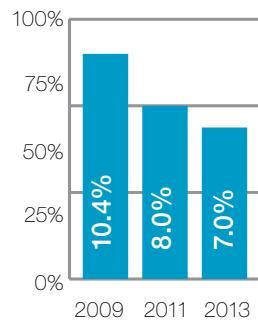


Definition: This indicator is defined as the proportion of Ontario students (Grades 7-12) who reported at least three of the following nine antisocial behaviours in the 12 months before the survey: vandalized property, theft of goods worth less than \$50, theft of goods worth \$50 or more, stole a car/joyriding, break and entering, sold cannabis, ran away from home, assaulted someone (not a sibling), and carried a weapon.

Source: Data is based on self-reports from students who participated in the Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey. The survey is conducted every two years. Data presented here is derived from anonymous questionnaires completed in classrooms between November 2012 and June 2013.

Sample: In 2013, 10,272 students (63 per cent of selected students in participating schools) in Grades 7-12 from 42 school boards, 198 schools, and 671 classes in Ontario completed the survey. Students excluded from the sample include those enrolled in private schools or home-schooled, those institutionalized for correctional or health reasons, those schooled on native reserves, military bases, or in the remote northern regions of Ontario.

Data:



Indicator: Ontario's total youth crime rate	Definition: This indicator is the proportion of youth who were either charged by police or diverted from the formal criminal justice system through the use of warnings, cautions, referrals to community programs, etc. The proportion was calculated based on Criminal Code incidents excluding traffic offences, calculated on the basis of 100,000 youth aged 12-17 in the population. In 2013, the total youth crime rate (excluding traffic) was 3,366 per 100,000 youth aged 12-17 in the population, which is a combination of the rate of youth accused who were formally charged, and the rate of youth accused who were diverted (1,559 and 1,807 per 100,000, respectively).	Data: 3,366 per 100,000 youth
Direction of Change		
Desired:  DOWN		
Actual:  DOWN	Source: The CCJS, in cooperation with the policing community, collects police-reported crime statistics through the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey. This survey was designed to measure the incidence of crime in Canadian society and its characteristics.	
	Sample: The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics calculates crime rates for youth between the ages of 12 and 17. Ontario youth who have been formally charged or diverted for non-traffic related incidents in 2013 were included in this sample.	

***Please note:**

This indicator has been modified for ease of understanding. The 2013 wording was "Proportion of youth who police have reported as committing a non-traffic related crime (charged and not charged)". The data source remains the same.

The previously-published data for this indicator has also been revised based on data from the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS): In 2011, the total youth crime rate (excluding traffic offences) was 4,438 per 100,000 youth aged 12-17 in the population, which is a combination of the rate of youth accused who were formally charged and the rate of youth accused who were diverted (2,074 and 2,634 per 100,000 respectively).

Indicator:
**Proportion
of youth
who believe
officers in
their local
police force
do a good
job at treating
people fairly**

**Direction
of Change**

Desired:



Actual:

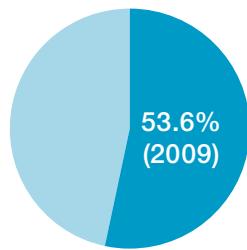


Definition: Respondents were asked if they believed officers in their local police force did a good job, an average job, or a poor job at treating people fairly. This indicator is defined as the proportion of respondents who indicated they felt police officers in their local police force did a good job in this respect.

Source: Data is obtained from the 2009 Statistics Canada General Social Survey (GSS) Cycle 23. The purpose of this survey is to better understand how Canadians perceive crime and the justice system and their experiences of victimization. Data collection was conducted from February 2 to November 30, 2009. Respondents from Ontario were isolated for the purposes of this analysis, though the GSS uses a representative sample of all Canadians. All respondents were interviewed by telephone. Households without telephones were therefore excluded. There is evidence, however, that people living in such households represent approximately 0.9 per cent of the target population (Residential Telephone Services Survey, (RTSS), 2008). As interviews were not conducted by cellular telephone, people with only cellular telephone service were also excluded. The 2008 RTSS reported that 8 per cent of households in Canada have cellular telephone service only.

Sample: While the GSS uses a national sample of respondents aged 15 or older, for the purposes of this analysis respondents aged 15 to 24 from Ontario were isolated. This resulted in a total sample of 519 respondents.

Data:



Civic Engagement & Youth Leadership

16

Ontario youth play a role in informing the decisions that affect them.

Indicator:

Proportion of youth who voted in the last federal election

Direction of Change

Desired:



Actual:

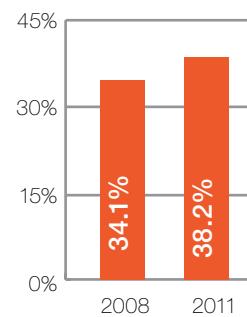


Definition: This indicator is defined as the number of votes cast by youth aged 18-24 divided by the number of registered electors aged 18-24 years.

Source: Data is based on Elections Canada administrative data obtained from the National Register of Electors. Data represents voting activity in the 2011 and 2008 federal elections for youth aged 18-24 registered to vote in Ontario. The estimates of voter turnout by age group have margins of error between three and nine percentage points at the provincial or territorial level, for almost all age groups. Actual participation rates should be within the associated margin of error for the estimates 19 times out of 20.

Sample: The 2011 data represents 438,444 voters of the 1,148,575 registered electors in Ontario aged 18-24.

Data:



Indicator:

Proportion of youth who are unpaid members on a board or committee

Direction of Change

Desired:



Actual:

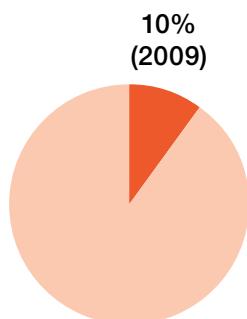


Definition: This indicator is defined as the proportion of respondents who reported that they had been an unpaid member of a board or committee at any time between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2009.

Source: Data is based on self-reports from youth to the Youth in Transition Survey (YITS). YITS is a longitudinal survey administered by Statistics Canada. The data presented here is based on responses from Cohort A (born in 1984) on Cycle 6 of the survey (2009). YITS includes youth who were attending any form of schooling in one of the 10 provinces of Canada at the time of the first cycle of data collection. Data collection excludes schools on Indian reserves, Canadian forces bases and in some remote areas. YITS is no longer active.

Sample: This data is based on Cycle 6 of Cohort A respondents who were living in the province of Ontario in Cycle 1 and still living in Ontario in Cycle 6. The weighted Ontario sample for Cycle 6 is 117,182 youth.

Data:



17

Ontario youth are engaged in their communities.

Indicator:

Proportion of youth who canvassed, campaigned and fundraised as volunteers

Direction of Change

Desired:



Actual:



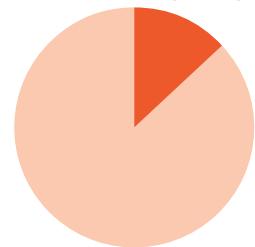
Definition: This indicator is defined as the proportion of respondents who stated affirmatively that they had, at any time in 2009, canvassed, campaigned, or fundraised as an unpaid volunteer.

Source: Data is based on self-reports from youth to the Youth in Transition Survey (YITS). YITS is a longitudinal survey administered by Statistics Canada. The data presented here is based on responses from Cohort A (born in 1984) on Cycle 6 of the survey (2009). YITS includes youth who were attending any form of schooling in one of the 10 provinces of Canada at the time of the first cycle of data collection. Data collection excludes schools on Indian reserves, Canadian forces bases and in some remote areas. YITS is no longer active.

Sample: This data is based on Cycle 6 of Cohort A respondents who were living in the province of Ontario in Cycle 1 and still living in Ontario in Cycle 6. The weighted Ontario sample for Cycle 6 is 117,182 youth.

Data:

13.1%
(2009)

**Indicator:**

Proportion of youth who volunteered with school, religious organizations or community associations

Direction of Change

Desired:



Actual:



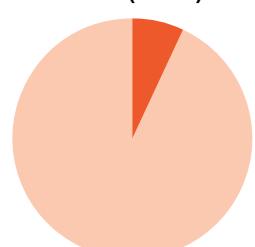
Definition: This indicator is defined as the proportion of respondents who stated they had, at any time in 2009, volunteered by helping schools, religious organizations, community associations, etc. other than those previously described volunteering activities (as outlined in the indicator above) or by educating or influencing public opinion or lobbying others on behalf of an organization.

Source: Data is based on self-reports from youth to the Youth in Transition Survey (YITS). YITS is a longitudinal survey administered by Statistics Canada. The data presented here is based on responses from Cohort A (born in 1984) on Cycle 6 of the survey (2009). YITS includes youth who were attending any form of schooling in one of the 10 provinces of Canada at the time of the first cycle of data collection. Data collection excludes schools on Indian reserves, Canadian forces bases and in some remote areas. YITS is no longer active.

Sample: This data is based on Cycle 6 of Cohort A respondents who were living in the province of Ontario in Cycle 1 and still living in Ontario in Cycle 6. The weighted Ontario sample for Cycle 6 is 117,182 youth.

Data:

7%
(2009)



18

Ontario youth leverage their assets to address social issues.

Indicator:

**Proportion
of youth
who started
volunteering
to help a
cause they
personally
believed in**

**Direction
of Change**

Desired:



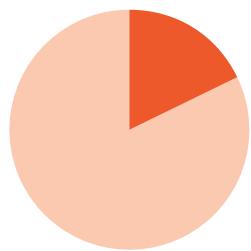
Actual:



Definition: This indicator is defined as the proportion of respondents who selected “to help a cause that you personally believe in” as the main reason for starting volunteer activities.

Source: Data is based on self-reports from youth to the Youth in Transition Survey (YITS). YITS is a longitudinal survey administered by Statistics Canada. The data presented here is based on responses from Cohort A (born in 1984) on Cycle 6 of the survey (2009). YITS includes youth who were attending any form of schooling in one of the 10 provinces of Canada at the time of the first cycle of data collection. Data collection excludes schools on Indian reserves, Canadian forces bases and in some remote areas. YITS is no longer active.

Sample: This data is based on Cycle 6 of Cohort A respondents who were living in the province of Ontario in Cycle 1 and still living in Ontario in Cycle 6. The weighted Ontario sample for Cycle 6 is 117,182 youth.

Data:17.8%
(2009)

Coordinated & Youth-Friendly Communities

19

Ontario youth have access to safe spaces that provide quality opportunities for play and recreation.

Indicator:

Proportion of parents who feel recreation opportunities in their community meets their child's needs

Direction of Change

Desired:



Actual:

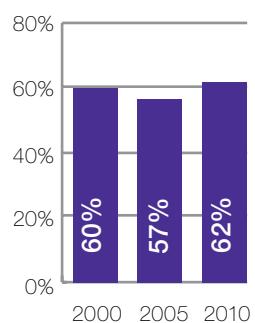


Definition: Proportion of parents with children aged 5–17 who responded that the public facilities and programs for physical activity in their community meet the needs of their child quite well or very well.

Source: Data is based on responses to a national, random-digit dialing telephone survey, Physical Activity Monitor (PAM), or a representative sample conducted annually over a 12-month period from April to March. PAM was developed by the Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute. Data presented here is based on data collected between April 2010 and March 2011.

Sample: 984 Ontario parents of 5- to 17-year-olds responded to the 2010 PAM.

Data:



Indicator:

Proportion of youth who feel there are good places in their community to spend their free time

Direction of Change

Desired:



Actual:

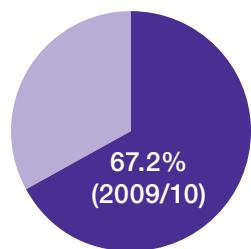


Definition: This indicator is defined as the proportion of youth (aged 11–15) who agreed or strongly agreed with the statement “There are good places to spend your free time (e.g., recreation centres, parks, shopping centres).”

Source: This data is based on responses to the 2009–10 Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children study. The self-reported survey is administered every four years by the Social Program Evaluation Group at Queen’s University. The 2013–14 data is not yet available.

Sample: 3,691 students, aged 11–15, from 69 Ontario schools participated.

Data:



20

Ontario youth know about and easily navigate resources in their communities.

Indicator:

Proportion of students who use social media to find information about news, health issues, or relationships (new indicator)

Direction of Change

Desired:

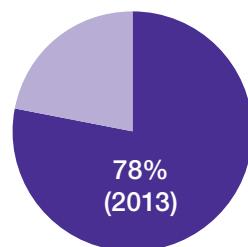


Definition: This indicator is defined as the proportion of children and youth who use the Internet to find information about news, health issues, or relationships.

Source: This data is based on the 2013 report, Young Canadians in a Wired World, Phase III: Life Online. This series of reports provides a snapshot of what children and youth are doing and thinking to get a better understanding of how digital technologies affect their daily lives.

Sample: In 2013, 5,436 Canadian students in Grades 4-11 were surveyed.

Data:



Indicator:

Proportion of callers to 211 looking for community referrals who are young people

Direction of Change

Desired:



Actual:

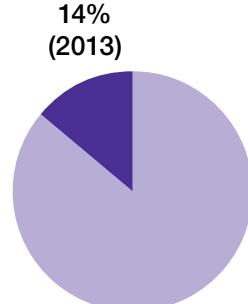


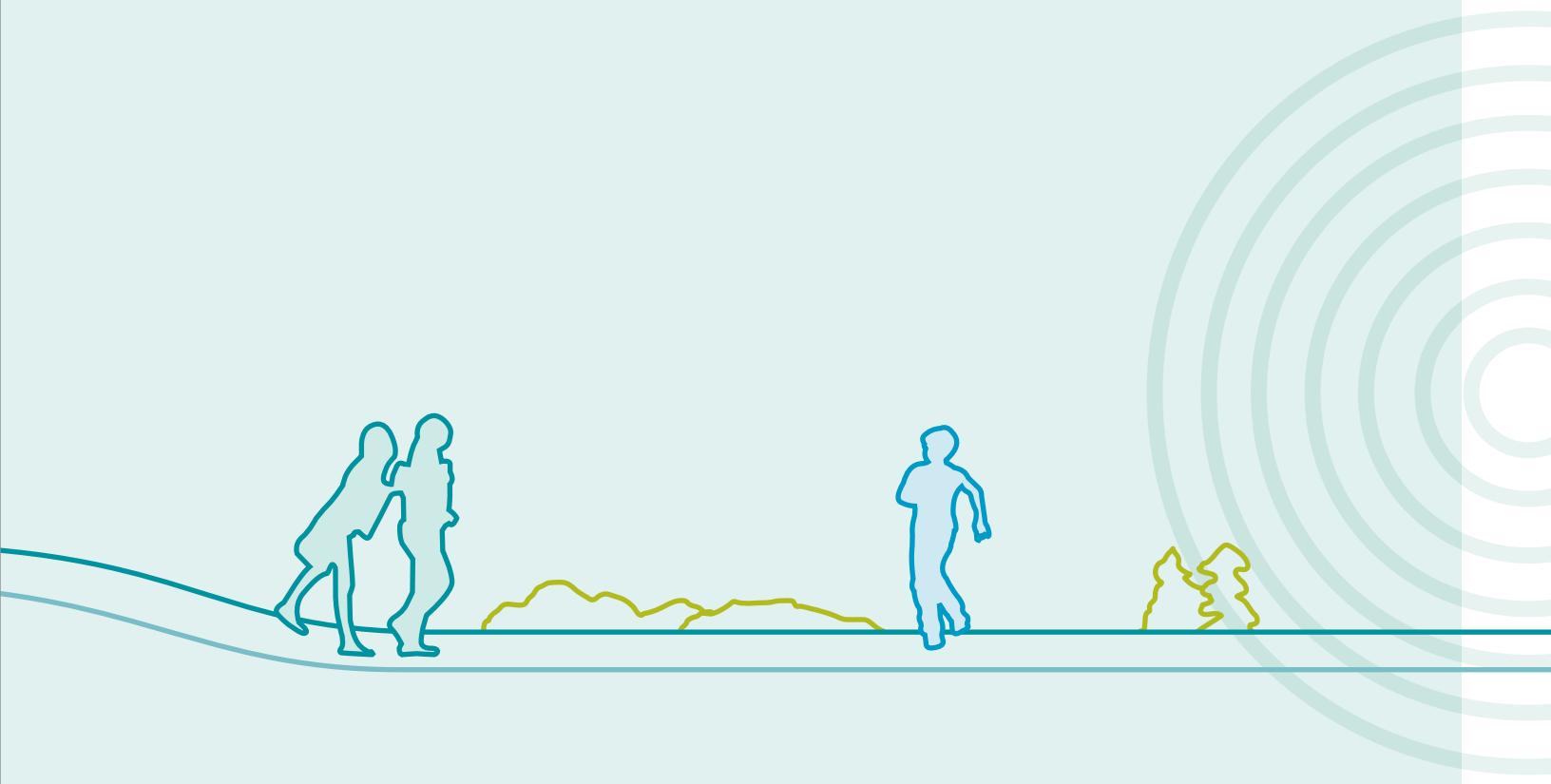
Definition: This indicator is defined as the proportion of callers to the 211 community referral service who are 22 years of age or younger.

Source: This data is based on administrative data collected annually by 211 operators.

Sample: Data is based on 57,993 calls to 211 in 2013, by individuals aged 0-35.

Data:







2014

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