



# SteppingUp

A Strategic Framework to Help Ontario's Youth Succeed

# Annual Report

2015

Read *Stepping Up: A Strategic Framework to Help Ontario's Youth Succeed* (2013) and the 2014 *Stepping Up Annual Report* at [www.ontario.ca/steppingup](http://www.ontario.ca/steppingup).

 Tweet about *Stepping Up* using [#ONYouth](https://twitter.com/ONYouth)

The 2015 *Stepping Up* Annual Report was developed by the ministries of:

- [Aboriginal Affairs](#)
- [Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs](#)
- [Attorney General](#)
- [Children and Youth Services](#)
- [Citizenship, Immigration and International Trade](#)
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# Message from the Minister of Children and Youth Services

Welcome to the second annual report on *Stepping Up: A Strategic Framework to Help Ontario's Youth Succeed*. *Stepping Up* strengthens our government's commitment to young people, identifies our priorities and guides our decision making.

It's also a call for continuing cooperation, partnership and action in our communities to help our young people find the best footing to step confidently into their futures.

We all want our children and youth to thrive. We want them to be safe, healthy and happy. We want them to succeed in school and to have the opportunities they need to grow into responsible, contributing adults.

But while we recognize that most of our children and youth are doing well, some youth and specific communities face barriers and obstacles in their lives, and need our help to reach their full potential. This second *Stepping Up* annual report highlights the progress Ontario is making in helping these youth succeed.

*Stepping Up* takes a cross-sector and whole-of-government approach to supporting our youth. It provides evidence-based outcomes and related indicators across seven important themes to help guide program and services and measure their impact.

*Stepping Up* was originally developed in 2013 with input from 18 provincial ministries, the Premier's Council on Youth Opportunities and our non-profit, public-sector and private-sector partners. These partners continue to work together on programs and services designed to improve outcomes for Ontario's youth.

As you read the 2015 annual report, you will learn about our collective achievements and our challenges. You will find evidence-based data that show we are making a difference and that we still have more to do.

The report also details the government's plans for the future, including important initiatives that will soon be making a difference in your community. For example, we announced the enhanced Ontario Youth Action Plan in June 2015. This plan, which we continue to roll out, builds on the 2012 version of the plan by directing supports and resources where youth and communities need them most.

I am also proud to share real-life stories that I hope will inspire you and make you feel proud of what our young people are accomplishing every day across this province. These are stories I'm sure you'll want to return to throughout the year.

I look forward to seeing our collective progress continue to produce results and ever greater impact for our young people in the years ahead.

**Tracy MacCharles**

Minister of Children and Youth Services

# Message from the Premier's Council on Youth Opportunities

The Premier's Council on Youth Opportunities brings the voice of youth to the province and its ministries. We provide advice on key government initiatives that impact youth and are proud to say we have seen our advice help shape policies and programs.

This year, we championed the enhanced Ontario Youth Action Plan, a \$55-million investment that will result in more supports for the young people who need them most. These additional and continued supports let us know that we are having an impact.

This year, the council was also involved in a variety of other ways. We gave input on the design and implementation of youth employment programming to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. We discussed how to bring at-risk youth into the conversations about Ontario's Culture Strategy with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport. We talked about opportunities and issues related to technology in schools with the Ministry of Education. We gave input to the Ministry of Children and Youth Services' review of the *Child and Family Services Act*. We also met with the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services to provide advice on Street Checks.

We want to thank council members past and present for their contributions, as well as the partners and stakeholders that continue to put youth first. We also want to acknowledge and thank the province and the ministries that have reached out for our advice.

In our role to amplify youth voice to government, we are constantly working to connect with and listen to youth across the province, and to keep this dialogue strong. As we write this message, council members are leading a Listening Tour across Ontario so that we can learn more about the things that are important to youth.

If you are interested in joining the council, learn more by going to the Public Appointments Secretariat website at [www.pas.gov.on.ca](http://www.pas.gov.on.ca). To learn more about the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, visit the website at [www.children.gov.on.ca](http://www.children.gov.on.ca). Contribute to our conversation on youth issues by sending us a tweet using [#ONYouth](https://twitter.com/ONYouth).

## **Natricia Drummond, Chair**

Premier's Council on Youth Opportunities

## **Madeleine Ross, Vice-Chair**

Premier's Council on Youth Opportunities

# Table of Contents

PG 3	<b>Message from the Minister of Children and Youth Services</b>
PG 4	<b>Message from the Premier's Council on Youth Opportunities</b>
PG 6	<b><i>Stepping Up: A Snapshot</i></b>
PG 8	<b><i>Stepping Up</i> in 2014–2015: Executive Summary</b>
PG 11	<b>How You Can “Step Up”</b>
PG 14	<b>Ontario's Profile of Youth Wellbeing</b>

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Themes  
of Youth  
Wellbeing →

PG 18	<b>Health &amp; Wellness</b>
PG 24	<b>Strong, Supportive Friends &amp; Families</b>
PG 30	<b>Education, Training &amp; Apprenticeships</b>
PG 37	<b>Employment &amp; Entrepreneurship</b>
PG 45	<b>Diversity, Social Inclusion &amp; Safety</b>
PG 52	<b>Civic Engagement &amp; Youth Leadership</b>
PG 58	<b>Coordinated &amp; Youth-Friendly Communities</b>

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PG 62	<b>Looking Ahead</b>
PG 65	<b>Endnotes</b>
PG 67	<b>Appendix: Ontario's Profile of Youth Wellbeing Source Material</b>

# Stepping Up: A Snapshot

*Stepping Up* is the Government of Ontario's 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, be informed by one clear vision and be inspired by a set of guiding principles, while working towards common goals.

### Common Vision

The vision of *Stepping Up* is that together we will support all young people to become healthy, safe, hopeful, engaged, educated and contributing members of their communities and our province.

### Guiding Principles

The following principles—grounded in positive youth development—guided the development of *Stepping Up*:

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. The themes are based on what was heard from young people and experts. The outcomes represent the Government of Ontario's priorities for youth.

### Themes

### Priority Outcomes

#### Health & Wellness

- 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 2014–2015: Executive Summary

In the past year, the *Stepping Up* framework informed the design and delivery of government initiatives for youth by creating opportunities, promoting well-being, and focusing supports on Ontario's most vulnerable and marginalized [youth populations](#).

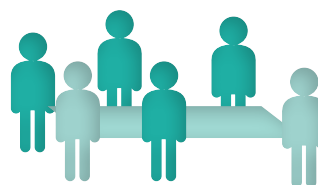
## What the Numbers Say



Ontario launched, expanded or enhanced **52 initiatives** for youth since the release of the *2014 Stepping Up Annual Report*.



**Twenty provincial ministries** collaborated to support youth and capture progress in the *2015 Stepping Up Annual Report*.



The Premier's Council on Youth Opportunities met **eight times** to voice the experiences of vulnerable youth and share its insight on government programs and policies.



*Stepping Up* was downloaded more than **7,000 times** in the last year, and the *2014 Stepping Up Annual Report* was downloaded more than **6,000 times** by community organizations, youth workers, parents and other allies.



## Supporting Youth Well-Being

Guided by *Stepping Up*, Ontario supported programs and services across all seven themes of youth well-being this year. Highlights include:

### Health & Wellness

- Encouraged physical activity by expanding the After-School Program and launching a new initiative to promote 60 minutes of physical activity every school day
- Revised the [health and physical education curriculum](#) to include up-to-date information on human development and sexual health to help students be safe and healthy
- Passed the [Making Healthier Choices Act](#), a new law that helps Ontarians make healthier choices when dining out, strengthens the [Smoke Free Ontario Act](#) and protects youth from the potential harms of e-cigarettes
- Increased access to services and improved youth transitions to adult services through the next phase of Ontario's [Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy](#)
- Enhanced funding to the [Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy \(AHWS\)](#) to increase support to many programs accessed by Aboriginal peoples, including a youth treatment centre to help Aboriginal youth with addictions problems

### Strong, Supportive Friends & Families

- Increased the Ontario Child Benefit, [Ontario Child Benefit Equivalent](#), [minimum wage](#) and [support for people receiving social assistance](#), including those who rely on the [Ontario Disability Support Program](#) and the [Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities Program](#), as part of the [Poverty Reduction Strategy](#)
- Learned about solutions to end homelessness through the [Expert Advisory Panel on Homelessness](#) and launched a [pilot research project](#) to help end the cycle of homelessness for Toronto youth

### Education, Training & Apprenticeships

- Launched [Experience Ontario](#), a new pilot program designed to help recent high school graduates choose their career direction and next steps
- Extended Registered Education Savings Plans (RESPs) to all eligible children in care under the age of 18
- Released [Achieving Results through Partnership: First Progress Report on the Implementation of the Ontario Aboriginal Postsecondary Education and Training Policy Framework](#). The report highlights the progress made in improving Aboriginal learners' access to, participation in, and completion of postsecondary education and training programs in Ontario

## Employment & Entrepreneurship

- Renewed Ontario's [Youth Jobs Strategy](#)
- Launched [Youth Job Connection](#) to help young people who face complex and multiple barriers gain access to employment
- Supported [workplace safety initiatives for youth](#) and vulnerable workers
- Implemented the [Labour Market Information strategy](#) to improve access to high-quality labour market information that helps young people make better-informed decisions about their careers

## Diversity, Social Inclusion & Safety

- Released an [enhanced Ontario Youth Action Plan](#) to reduce youth violence and create new opportunities for high-risk youth
- Worked with Aboriginal partners to co-develop the first-ever [Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy](#)
- Released [Community Safety and Well-Being in Ontario: Booklet 2—A Snapshot of Local Voices](#)
- Released [It's Never Okay: An Action Plan to Stop Sexual Violence and Harassment](#)
- Led a review of the [Child and Family Services Act](#) to identify areas for change to improve outcomes for children and youth

## Civic Engagement & Youth Leadership

- Encouraged civic and electoral participation through youth-focused [electoral reform](#)
- Created a social legacy for youth through leadership and volunteer opportunities with the TORONTO 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games

## Coordinated & Youth-Friendly Communities

- Reduced wait-lists and expanded services to support youth with special needs
- Launched the [Youth Collective Impact Program \(Youth CI\)](#) to improve outcomes for youth and the [Youth Research and Evaluation eXchange \(YouthREX\)](#) to measure and enhance the success of community programs for youth

## 2015 Profile of Youth Wellbeing

Data was updated for 24 indicators and 17 outcomes.

- ⬆️ Fifteen indicators showed small changes in the desired direction.
- ⬇️ Nine indicators showed small changes against the desired direction.
- 🔄 Eight indicators were replaced.
- ★ Four new indicators were added.

# How You Can “Step Up”

Across Ontario, many dedicated individuals, organizations, communities and programs contribute positively to the lives of youth. It can be easy for these collective efforts to become disconnected from one another. Ontario wants to bolster these collective efforts, provide a common set of outcomes to better align our work, and be better informed through research and what youth themselves say is important for their success.

## How to Use *Stepping Up*

*Stepping Up* can be used by anyone—parents, teachers, service providers, policy-makers and youth—at any level to support the development and well-being of youth. It is a common lens for decision making, program planning and partnerships. *Stepping Up* can help align goals and identify gaps to support a whole-of-youth approach to well-being.

No one organization can do it alone. *Stepping Up* provides a framework to support a collective impact approach and ensure all youth have access to a range of programs and services in their community.

*Stepping Up* also identifies sub-populations of youth that may need greater support. Knowing these target populations can help you consider whether your communities’ programs, services and policies are accessible to the youth that need them most.



The following programs can help you work towards the 20 outcomes in *Stepping Up*:

- [Youth Collective Impact Program \(Youth CI\)](#): This program helps organizations in local communities across Ontario learn about collective impact. It also enables them to develop, launch and carry out collaborations that focus on major challenges and directly improve outcomes for youth in their community.
- [Youth Research and Evaluation eXchange \(YouthREX\)](#): This program makes research evidence and evaluation accessible and relevant to Ontario's youth through knowledge mobilization, capacity building and evaluation leadership.
- [Youth Opportunities Fund \(YOF\)](#): This provincewide annual program provides grants and capacity-building supports to community-based organizations and grassroots groups serving young people who face multiple barriers to economic and social well-being. It uses outcomes from *Stepping Up* as granting themes.



## How You Can Get Involved

- Join your local youth council or start one.
- Learn about the [Premier's Council on Youth Opportunities](#) and apply to become a member.
- Visit the [Stepping Up website](#) regularly for updates and opportunities.
- Let others know about *Stepping Up* by embedding the *Stepping Up* icon on your website.



## IMPACT! Teens

IMPACT! Teens is a youth group that advocates for improved youth well-being in the town of Hanover. It gives youth a voice to the community's decision makers on the policies and programs that impact young people. IMPACT! Teens has developed a 21-point strategy that is aligned with the outcomes of *Stepping Up* and will support improvements to youth well-being in Hanover.

In 2015–16, the group will tackle the priority items identified in their review of Hanover's current services for youth. IMPACT! Teens is also working to form a junior advisory group for Hanover's town council and is organizing a provincewide summit for youth, to be held in 2016. The *Stepping Up* framework is reflected in IMPACT! Teens' decision making to ensure that all areas of youth well-being are considered.

**“IMPACT! Teens is important because it gives youth an actual voice in their communities to create positive change.”**

—Ashton Lawrence,  
member of IMPACT! Teens



*Members of IMPACT! Teens are prepared to make a difference in their school and community.*

# Ontario's Profile of Youth Wellbeing

The 2015 Profile of Youth Wellbeing includes 20 outcomes and 55 indicators selected to create a picture of how young people are doing in Ontario. The indicators in the profile include publicly reported population-level data and administrative data from government programs. Ontario-based data is used wherever available. Indicators reflect many different data sources and should not be directly compared with one another.

The profile helps tell the story of the government's priorities for young people as it tracks progress in improving outcomes for youth. It is part of the ongoing commitment to better understand the needs and experiences of youth in our communities. Ontario is using the profile to inform policy and program design for youth that is grounded in evidence.

## Incremental Changes

The 2015 Profile of Youth Wellbeing demonstrates continued incremental changes in outcomes for youth.

Twenty-four indicators in the 2015 profile were updated with new data from existing sources. Of these, 15 indicators showed small changes in the desired direction, while nine showed small changes against the desired direction.

The profile is now in its third year, and trends are emerging for several indicators. For example:

- The proportion of youth who are in the labour force increased from 60.1% in 2012 to 60.8% in 2013 and to 61.9% in 2014.
- The proportion of youth who are a healthy weight fell from 79.9% in 2010 to 77.9% in 2013 and to 76.7% in 2014.

## What's Changed in 2015

### INDICATOR SUMMARY

Number of indicators updated	24
Number of indicators unchanged	21
Number of indicators replaced	8
Number of indicators added	4
TOTAL	57

Small changes to the profile are expected after two updates, and changes may not be statistically significant. They are influenced by many factors and should be considered in the context of the individual data (e.g., source, sample size, type and time of data collection). A description of each indicator and data source is available in the Appendix.

## A Living Profile

Gaps continue to appear in tracking progress for youth; the indicators are only as good as the data available. That's why the profile is a living resource. Ontario continues to search for meaningful sources where existing data can be improved.

This year, eight indicators were replaced because data sources were no longer available or better measures were found. For example: the indicator “the proportion of youth who have a postsecondary certificate or diploma” was replaced with “the proportion of adults who have completed postsecondary education.”

As part of the commitment to reduce youth violence through the enhanced Youth Action Plan, a new indicator was added to the profile on the youth violent crime rate.

The profile will continue to be improved so it better reflects the experiences of young people in Ontario. This will clarify how all of Ontario's youth are doing and help align initiatives to strengthen positive outcomes for youth.

## Youth Facing Barriers to Success

Looking beyond the profile, data continues to suggest that some groups of youth experience challenges more acutely than others.

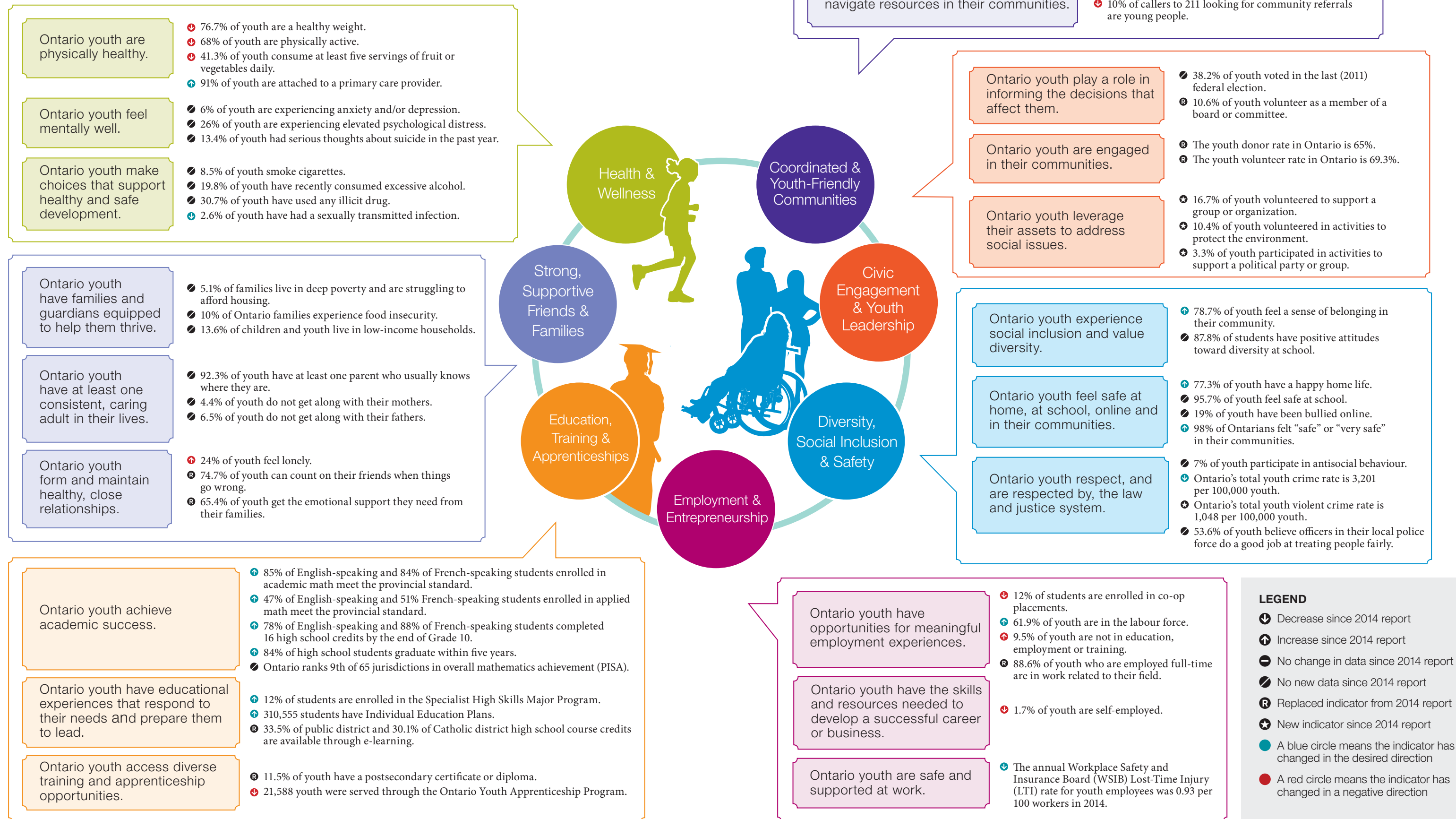
- A 2013 study in Toronto found that 67% of respondents in racialized groups experienced discrimination because of their race, ethnicity or culture.<sup>1</sup>
- Ontarians living on low income are less likely to rate their health as very good or excellent (47%) versus those in the highest income groups (73%).<sup>2</sup>

Ontario continues to look for data that will help us better understand and represent the experiences of youth facing these challenges, and support improved outcomes for them across the province.





# Ontario's Profile of Youth Wellbeing



# Health & Wellness



Ontario wants all young people to be happy, physically healthy, emotionally resilient and able to make positive life choices. Healthy young people are better equipped to learn, develop and build the skills they need to succeed as adults. They also have a lower risk of chronic disease and illness, which can reduce demands on health care. Through early identification of illness and by giving support, the long-term health and wellness of young people can be enhanced.

This year, Ontario encouraged young people to be healthy and well by focusing on getting kids active, expanding mental health supports and reducing unhealthy choices. Its programs and policies have made progress in the following areas:

- Increasing opportunities for kids to get active
- Expanding access to mental health services
- Promoting well-being and healthy eating
- Protecting young people and helping families make healthier choices



## Outcomes



### Ontario wants youth to:

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

# Supporting Youth to be Physically Healthy

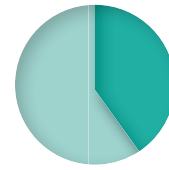
This year, Ontario continued to create opportunities for young people to get active and form healthy habits. Supporting youth health and well-being also involves recognizing that some young people need more assistance than others.

- Ontario invested \$13.5 million in the [After-School Program](#). This program helps more than 130 service providers give more than 21,000 children and youth the opportunity to participate in sport and recreation activities and learn about healthy habits.
- The [60 Minutes of Physical Activity Initiative](#) helps children and youth get 60 minutes of physical activity a day. Pilot sites were established to help identify factors that create access to and opportunity for physical activity during the school day.
- Forty-five communities are participating in the [Healthy Kids Community Challenge](#). These communities are receiving funding, tools and training to deliver locally run programs and activities that focus on healthy eating and physical activity.
- Ontario invested \$10 million in the [Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy \(AHWS\)](#). AHWS programs and services are guided by the medicine wheel, the life cycle and healing continuum, and traditional teachings. AHWS supports a residential treatment centre that helps Aboriginal youth with addiction problems. With the enhanced funding, the government's total investment committed to AHWS by 2015-16 has increased to \$47.5 million.

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## What the Data Says

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In 2004, an estimated 41% of Canadian youth of Aboriginal descent were considered overweight or obese, which is approximately 2.5 times higher than the national average.<sup>3</sup>

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In children and youth, physical activity aids in promoting healthy growth and development, improves mental health by reducing stress, and increases self-esteem and physical competence.<sup>4</sup>

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## Supporting Youth to be Physically Healthy

- The [Student Nutrition Program](#) will roll out to 63 First Nations communities over the next two school years (2015–16 and 2016–17), with ongoing funding to be provided.
- Ontario provided support to the organization Right to Play for the Promoting Life-skills in Aboriginal Youth (PLAY) program. PLAY helps Aboriginal youth improve their health, self-esteem and leadership skills through regular, weekly participation in sport and recreation activities year-round. In 2014–15, over 3,500 children and youth participated regularly in PLAY, and almost 14,000 community members participated in youth and community-led initiatives that encourage positive community-driven change.

### Data from the 2015 Profile

- 76.7% of youth are a healthy weight.
- 68% of youth are physically active.
- 41.3% of youth consume at least five servings of fruits or vegetables daily.

### What the Data Says



Many studies show that children and youth who exercise at school see significant boosts in both mathematics and language test scores.<sup>5</sup>

During the 2013–14 school year, Ontario's Student Nutrition Program helped provide nutritious breakfasts, snacks and lunches to over 756,000 school-age children and youth across over 4,450 programs.<sup>6</sup>

New in 2014-2015

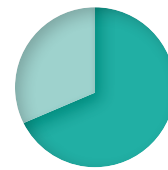
## Supporting Youth to be Mentally Well

Ontario supported young people to feel mentally well by identifying risk factors early and supporting young people to develop the skills they need to deal with challenges as they happen. This year, Ontario expanded services to promote awareness, reduce stigma and ensure more youth get the support they need.

Ontario is moving forward on the next phase of the government's [Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy](#). This phase focuses on supporting the transition between youth and adult services and improving the quality of services. It includes reducing wait-times; providing more supportive housing spaces; improving supports for youth with eating disorders; and working to increase awareness, fight stigma, and promote mental health in schools and the workplace. Other aspects of the strategy are as follows:

- [Mental Health Innovation Fund \(2014–15\)](#): The fund has helped postsecondary students access mental health services faster through 14 new projects, including 12 at Ontario colleges and universities.
- [Transitional-aged youth facility](#): This new mental health facility is for youth aged 16 to 19. It is run by Youthdale Treatment Centres and offers residential and day programs to care for young people who face mental health challenges.
- [Residential treatment centre for eating disorders](#): This centre was launched in Whitby to provide a residential treatment pilot program for children and youth with eating disorders.
- [Mental Health and Addictions Leadership Advisory Council](#): The council formed a Youth Addiction Working Group that reflects the diverse needs of young Ontarians struggling with addictions.
- [Child and youth mental health lead agencies](#): These agencies were identified to oversee the delivery of core mental health services and help community-based collaboration with health care providers, schools and other organizations.

### What the Data Says



70% of mental health and addiction issues start when people are young.<sup>6</sup>

### Data from the 2015 Profile

- 6% of youth are experiencing anxiety and/or depression.
- 26% of youth are experiencing elevated psychological distress.
- 13.4% of youth had serious thoughts about suicide in the past year.



# Understanding and Addressing Risk Taking

Young people learn as they try new things and take risks. This year, Ontario helped young people make healthy choices and avoid harmful risks by changing the laws and practices relating to physical and sexual health, tobacco, e-cigarettes and food choices.

- Ontario revised the health and [physical education curriculum](#) in 2015 to provide students with accurate and up-to-date information on human development and sexual health that will help keep them safe and healthy. The newly revised curriculum is more reflective of Ontario's growing and diverse population and includes information on healthy relationships, consent, mental health, online safety and the risks of "sexting."
- Changes to the [Smoke-Free Ontario Act](#) to protect children and youth made it illegal to sell tobacco on university and college campuses, and to smoke on bar and restaurant patios, playgrounds and public sports fields.
- The new [Making Healthier Choices Act](#) will help Ontario families make healthier food choices when dining out. It will also protect youth from the dangers of tobacco and the potential harms of e-cigarettes.
- The [Healthy Kids Strategy website](#) launched in September 2015. The site provides information on initiatives that fall under the strategy's three main goals: giving kids a healthy start, making healthy food choices easier, and creating healthy communities.

## Data from the 2015 Profile

- 8.5% of youth smoke cigarettes.
- 19.8% of youth have recently consumed excessive alcohol.
- 30.7% of youth have used any illicit drug.
- 2.6% of youth have had a sexually transmitted infection.

## What the Data Says

Approximately 12% of high school students smoke, and 18% have smoked in the past 30 days. Of those who used any tobacco product, 50% reported using flavoured tobacco products. One in four Ontario high school students has smoked menthol cigarettes in the last 30 days.<sup>7</sup>



Each year, tobacco claims more than 13,000 lives in Ontario—equivalent to 36 lives every day.<sup>8</sup>

The World Health Organization has found that providing kids with comprehensive sexual health information helps prevent early sexual activity and negative health outcomes.<sup>9</sup>

# YouthNet/RéseauAdo

YouthNet/RéseauAdo (YNRA) is a bilingual mental health promotion and intervention program of the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario. Research suggests that youth are much more likely to talk to peers than to adults about mental health. For this reason, YNRA offers support services using a peer-to-peer model. Youth facilitators aged 20 to 30 create an open, non-judgmental space for youth to engage in healthy dialogue about mental health.

YNRA aims to build resilience in young people by demonstrating healthy stress-coping strategies while decreasing the stigma surrounding mental illness and its treatment. Embracing a youth engagement philosophy, YNRA is informed by a Youth Advisory Committee. The committee both develops youth-relevant programming and advocates for youth to service providers, families, policy-makers and systems-level decision makers. This industry-leading youth engagement program benefits young people by giving them the voice they deserve in their own health care.

**“YouthNet has changed a lot in my life. For me, it’s a space where I can feel safe and comfortable being myself. It’s also a way for me to contribute to [breaking] mental health stigma.”**

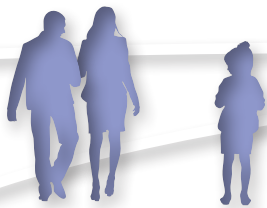
**—YouthNet Youth Advisory Committee Member**

*Youth-adult partnership is key to creating safe, inviting spaces for young people to help one another maintain good mental health.*





# Strong, Supportive Friends & Families



Supportive families and friends help young people thrive and equip them with the tools they need to deal with today's challenges. For some families, however, providing the basic necessities is hard. They may also need services and supports. It is vital to support the network of care that surrounds youth. Parents, guardians, mentors and friends have the capacity to help young people develop important life skills along their path to adulthood.

This year, Ontario continued to support families and caregivers so they can better support youth as they transition to adulthood. Its programs and policies have made progress in the following areas:

- Increasing financial benefits for families and caregivers
- Increasing access to mentors and positive role models for youth



## Outcomes

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5

6

### Ontario wants youth to:

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

New in 2014-2015

## Supporting Strong Families and Guardians

When adults and caregivers are supported, they are better able to help youth navigate new challenges, access services in their communities and provide positive direction. This year, Ontario made improvements to the system of care surrounding youth to ensure they get the best opportunities to succeed.

As part of [Realizing Our Potential: Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy \(2014–2019\)](#), Ontario has done the following:

- It raised the general minimum wage on October 1, 2015, from \$11.00 to \$11.25 per hour as part of recent changes to the [Employment Standards Act, 2000](#) that tie minimum-wage increases to Ontario's Consumer Price Index.
- It increased the [Ontario Child Benefit](#) as part of annual adjustments for inflation, which was also reflected in the Ontario Child Benefit Equivalent for children and youth in the care of children's aid societies.
- It increased [social assistance rates](#) by 1% for families receiving Ontario Works, people with disabilities on the Ontario Disability Support Program, and children receiving benefits under the Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities Program.
- It supported innovative, community-driven projects through the [Local Poverty Reduction Fund](#), a \$50 million, six-year initiative available for projects that improve the lives of those most affected by poverty. Eleven of the projects starting in 2015–16 will help build a body of evidence on how to improve outcomes for children and youth.

### Data from the 2015 Profile

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



## SPOTLIGHT

### Stepping Stones—A Resource on Youth Development

*Stepping Stones—A Resource on Youth Development* combines research on youth development with the voices of youth on the opportunities and supports they need to succeed. It provides a detailed look at how youth grow and develop physically, cognitively, socially and emotionally, and ways to identify and respond to their needs at each stage of development.

*Stepping Stones* was designed for organizations and individuals who, either directly or indirectly, support or influence the well-being and development of youth.

New in 2014-2015

## Supporting Vulnerable Youth

This year, Ontario made progress in supporting youth who face the greatest barriers and need extra help to reach their full potential.

- Ontario expanded the Youth-in-Transition Worker Program in Aboriginal communities. This program helps meet the special needs of First Nations, Métis, Inuit and urban Aboriginal youth leaving the care of a children's aid society. Youth-in-transition workers help youth access and navigate community services, and transition to independent living and adulthood. This expansion increased the total number of workers to 60.
- A panel of experts is leading a [review of the child and youth residential service system](#). The panel will provide advice on improving the existing residential service system. The review builds on changes in the child welfare, youth justice, mental health and special needs sectors, all of which laid the foundation for changes in residential services.

New in 2014-2015

## Supporting Vulnerable Youth

To better support homeless youth, solutions based on evidence and best practices are needed. In early 2015, Ontario established an [Expert Advisory Panel on Homelessness](#) to provide advice on a provincial definition of *homelessness* and how to apply evidence to prevent and end homelessness.

[A Place to Call Home: Report of the Expert Advisory Panel on Homelessness](#) was released in October 2015. Ontario's response to the report is to move forward with a number of actions, including:

- Adopting the panel's recommended definition of *homelessness*
- Providing up to \$10 million over two years in targeted funding from the Local Poverty Reduction Fund to help prevent and end homelessness across the province
- Making action to reduce homelessness in four areas a priority: youth; Aboriginal; homelessness following transitions from provincially funded institutions and service systems; and chronic homelessness
- Setting a target to end chronic homelessness in 10 years



### Data from the 2015 Profile

- 24% of youth feel lonely.
- 74.7% of youth can count on their friends when things go wrong.
- 65.4% of youth get the emotional support they need from their families.



## SPOTLIGHT

### Research and Capacity Building

Youth who are homeless are more likely than other youth to experience negative health and well-being outcomes. Research shows that the pathways to homelessness for youth are distinct from those of adults<sup>10</sup> and that LGBTQ youth, youth leaving care, and Aboriginal youth are more likely than other young people to experience homelessness<sup>11</sup>.

This year, to better understand the issues of homelessness and youth homelessness, Ontario appointed subject matter experts to the [Expert Advisory Panel on Homelessness](#). The panel's report, [A Place to Call Home](#), will be used to inform the government's update of the [Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy](#).

In response to the panel's report, Ontario committed to a number of immediate and long-term actions, including:

- Setting a target to end chronic homelessness in 10 years
- Providing up to \$10 million over two years in targeted funding from the Local Poverty Reduction Fund to help prevent and end homelessness across the province
- Adopting the recommended definition of homelessness, including *chronic homelessness*, to build common language and understanding about the problem

- Planning to require enumeration at the local level to gather data about homelessness
- Making action to reduce homelessness in four areas a priority: youth; Aboriginal; and chronic homelessness; and homelessness following transitions from provincially funded institutions and service systems, such as jails and hospitals

Ontario also launched a [pilot research project](#) to help stop the cycle of homelessness for Toronto youth through supports to improve mental health. This work was guided by, and is in support of, a commitment to end homelessness made in [Realizing Our Potential: Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy \(2014–2019\)](#).

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### What the Data Says

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LGBTQ youth make up an estimated 25 to 40% of the homeless youth population.<sup>12</sup>

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A 2014 study found that for every \$10 invested in a homeless person, \$21.72 was saved in avoided emergency care costs.<sup>13</sup>

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6.97% of the urban Aboriginal population in Canada is homeless as compared with the national average of 0.78%.<sup>14</sup>

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# S.W.A.G.

S.W.A.G., or Success With Age and Guidance, is a 13-week mentorship program in Peel Region. The program equips participants with the skills needed to achieve personal success. It also empowers young men to define success for themselves. Drawing on the personal experiences of mentors who come from diverse walks of life, the program provides support to high-risk youth who may be falling through the cracks. It builds on the assets of its youth participants, recognizing their talents, skills and strengths so they feel empowered to reach their full potential.

S.W.A.G. provides youth with a safe space they can call home and access to positive male mentors in their community. S.W.A.G. has increased youth access to jobs and local resources, including health supports, legal advisors and clinics. The program is led by young men who live or work in Peel Region. All program coordinators are pursuing or have completed postsecondary education, qualifying them to be mentors and role models.



*S.W.A.G. coordinators discuss accountability and social awareness with program participants.*

## S.W.A.G. Mantra:

**I am excellent because  
I am capable.**

**I am responsible for the  
decision I make.**

**I am a leader and a role  
model to others.**

**I am valuable.**

**I am strong.**

**I am valuable.**

**I am strong.**



# Education, Training & Apprenticeships



A strong education helps young people become successful, confident and informed citizens. Supportive learning environments are linked to increased student achievement, higher paying jobs, and enhanced overall well-being. Ontario focused its efforts to ensure that young people are supported in achieving their learning goals and reaching their full potential.

This year, Ontario's programs and policies have made progress in the following areas:

- Improving test scores and graduation rates
- Supporting young people so they can make healthy and positive choices
- Supporting diverse learning needs in a changing labour market



## Outcomes

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Ontario wants youth to:

- Achieve academic success
- Have education experiences that respond to their needs and prepare them to lead
- Access diverse training and apprenticeship opportunities



New in 2014-2015

# Increasing Access to and Success in Postsecondary Education

In today's labour market, more jobs need young people to have postsecondary credentials. To support youth, Ontario has made getting a postsecondary education more accessible so young people can gain the skills and opportunities they need to thrive.

- Ontario introduced changes to the [Ontario Student Assistance Program \(OSAP\)](#) to increase Ontario maximum student aid levels and index OSAP loans and debt caps annually to inflation, starting in the 2015–16 school year.
- In partnership with Seneca College, a new [York University–Markham Centre Campus](#) will help an estimated 4,000 students a year pursue a postsecondary education closer to home.
- Registered Education Savings Plans (RESPs) have been extended to all eligible children in care under the age of 18, as a result of the federal Universal Child Care Benefit expansion.

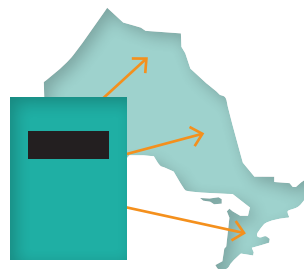
## Data from the 2015 Profile

- 78% of English-speaking and 88% of French-speaking students completed 16 high school credits by the end of Grade 10.
- 84% of high school students graduate within five years.

## What the Data Says

Students who drop out can expect an income loss of more than \$100,000 over their lifetime compared with individuals with a high school diploma (and no postsecondary education).<sup>15</sup>

## Data Breakout



For the first time, Ontario is publishing [school board level graduation rates](#) from across the province. Giving parents, students, teachers and boards open access to this data will help inform efforts to improve students' success.

New in 2014-2015

# Helping Young People Get the Skills They Need

Academic success can lead to improved health and well-being across a range of areas. This year, Ontario focused on providing youth with the tools they need to succeed at school, make healthy life choices and become informed active citizens.

- The Anishinabek Nation's [We Are All Treaty People](#) teachers' kit helps teachers build public awareness and promote a greater understanding of treaties across the province through new tools and resources.
- The [Joint Protocol for Student Achievement template](#), which helps collaboration between children's aid societies and school boards, was released in February 2015 with the goal of improving the educational outcomes of children and youth involved with the child welfare system.
- [Experience Ontario](#) is a new pilot program designed to help recent high school graduates who are unsure of their next steps choose a career direction and an appropriate postsecondary education or training pathway (i.e., college, university or apprenticeship training).
- A [Youth Trades Training Centre](#) was built in Ottawa to support youth involved with the youth justice system and those who are at risk of becoming further involved. The centre will provide trades training and skills development to help youth build the skills they need to find a meaningful career.

## Data from the 2015 Profile

- 12% of students are enrolled in the Specialist High Skills Major Program.
- 310,555 students have Individual Education Plans.

New in 2014-2015

## Helping Young People Get the Skills They Need

- Pilot projects began in the South West and Toronto South Detention Centres to expand education programs and services to youth aged 18 to 25. At the Thunder Bay Correctional Centre, a pilot project is focused on updating educational materials to better respond to the learning needs of northern and Aboriginal inmates.
- [Fort Williams Historical Park](#) launched educational programming to increase recreational, heritage and cultural opportunities for youth with a focus on Canada's Aboriginal culture. Programming includes:
  - Paddling into the Past—recreational canoeing and natural history program
  - Cosmic Horizons
  - The Wild Rice Project
  - Science, Math and Anishnawbe Cultural Perspectives
  - Interactive educational programs for students in Grades 1–12



## Reflecting Diverse Learning Needs

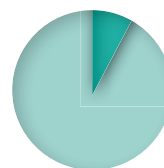
Ontario is committed to providing learners with the tools they need to reach their full potential, regardless of their individual circumstances. This year, there was a focus on supporting youth who face the greatest barriers, including youth with disabilities, youth with special needs and Aboriginal youth.

- Ontario added \$6 million in new funding to help [postsecondary students with disabilities](#) across the province pursue their passions and get the skills they need to succeed at college or university.
- Ontario invested \$5 million to develop strategies and actions that support the [Ontario First Nation, Métis, and Inuit education policy framework implementation plan](#). The plan's goals are to improve student achievement and well-being among First Nations, Métis and Inuit students, and to close the achievement gap between them and other students.
- Ontario recently released the report [Achieving Results through Partnership: Progress Report on the Implementation of the Ontario Aboriginal Postsecondary Education and Training Policy Framework](#). The report provides an overview of the steps taken to support Aboriginal learners' access to, and success in, postsecondary education and training opportunities.
- Ontario invested \$1.5 million in Indspire, an Aboriginal charitable organization. The funding will strengthen Indspire's Building Brighter Futures Bursaries, Scholarships and Awards program and provide [support for up to 400 Aboriginal learners](#).

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### What the Data Says

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Students with disabilities made up 8.8% of postsecondary student enrolment (or 54,300) in 2013-14.<sup>16</sup>

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In 2015, twice as many students with disabilities enrolled in postsecondary education as compared with 2002-03.<sup>17</sup>

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## Reflecting Diverse Learning Needs

- To help more First Nations, Métis, and Inuit learners access high-quality postsecondary education and training opportunities, Ontario is investing \$97 million over three years in [Aboriginal postsecondary education and training](#).
- Ontario increased First Nations, Métis and Inuit-focused [Student Work Study Teachers \(SWSTs\)](#) to 13 district school boards. SWSTs document student learning experiences and co-reflect with other educators about next steps that will increase student achievement and well-being.
- The [First Nations, Métis and Inuit-Focused Collaborative Inquiry \(FNMI CI\)](#) was expanded to 45 district school boards across the province. CI teams focus on three goals: improving the achievement and well-being of FNMI students; increasing the knowledge and understanding of FNMI histories, cultures and perspectives; and engaging FNMI community members.
- The [Summer Literacy and Numeracy Project](#) was expanded to include more classes with a First Nations, Métis and Inuit focus. Primary students take part in three-week summer programs intended to reduce summer learning loss and improve literacy and numeracy skills for vulnerable students. The programs include a mix of high-quality and culturally embedded instructional programming and recreational activities.

### Data from the 2015 Profile

- 11.5% of youth have a postsecondary certificate or diploma.
- 21,588 youth were served through the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program.

### What the Data Says



93% of Indigenous students who receive funding for their education earn a postsecondary credential, and 82% of those graduates find work.<sup>18</sup>

In 2013–14, more than 16,000 Aboriginal learners attended college and university in Ontario, an increase of about 9% from 2009–10.<sup>19</sup>

# Mining Matters

Mining Matters is a national charitable organization dedicated to bringing knowledge and awareness about Canada's geology and mineral resources to students, educators and the public. One of its core programs, the Mining Rocks Earth Science Program, is designed to illustrate real-life experience with earth science, mineral exploration and mining.

Mining Matters educates youth aged 9 to 17 about the mineral sector, including key environmental, economic, and social issues associated with resource development. It provides youth with information on employment opportunities and the necessary education to work in the sector. It also provides career guidance and mentoring opportunities.

Programs are delivered in First Nations communities across Northern Ontario. In 2015–16, Mining Matters will also offer sessions to Aboriginal, non-Aboriginal and francophone youth in the Hearst to Cochrane corridor.

**“My favourite activity was doing the cookie mining because it was kind of like math.”**

**—A 15-year-old Grade 8 female student in Webequie First Nation**



*Mining Matters students from Aroland First Nation complete the Product-Matching Game with graphite.*



# Employment & Entrepreneurship



Starting a new business or rewarding job helps young people build their sense of identity, connects them to new people and places, and allows them to develop lifelong skills. Employed young people can better contribute to their families and their own well-being and can reduce the economic costs related to unemployment and poverty. Ontario's workforce and job market continue to change. Ontario has focused on developing innovative strategies to ensure young people can access employment in a competitive economy. It has also sought to help employers and qualified candidates connect.

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

- Connecting cross-sector partners to create opportunities for youth to develop the right skills and access a changing labour market
- Creating more employment and entrepreneurship opportunities, particularly for vulnerable youth
- Engaging youth to ensure they are safe and supported at work



## Outcomes



### Ontario wants 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



# Supporting Youth Employment

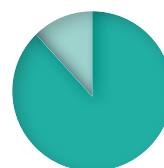
Employment increases access to resources and can improve well-being and life outcomes for youth. This year, Ontario carried out strategies to create jobs, train youth with appropriate skills and help job seekers and employers connect. The government also developed new supports for youth who face the greatest barriers to accessing employment.

- Part of Ontario's 2013 Youth Jobs Strategy, the [Youth Employment Fund](#) exceeded its initial goal of helping more than 25,000 young people aged 15 to 29 find work, particularly those facing multiple barriers to employment. The fund helps young people access job opportunities, develop skills and gain valuable work experience.
- The [renewed Youth Jobs Strategy](#) builds on its previous success and will receive an added \$250 million over the next two years for youth employment programs. The strategy will serve up to 150,000 young people and focus on skills development, labour market connections, entrepreneurship and innovation.
- Also part of the renewed Youth Jobs Strategy, the government recently launched [Youth Job Connection](#), a new program to provide intensive support and training to young people who face complex and multiple barriers to employment, such as poverty, homelessness, disability and mental health challenges. It focuses on paid pre-employment training, job opportunities and wrap-around supports, including mentorship for youth aged 15 to 29 who are not in employment, education or training (NEET).
- Ontario supported the Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative's [Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneurship Program \(AYEP\)](#) for First Nations, Métis and Inuit students in nine district school boards across Ontario. This program gives students high school credits and uses Aboriginal content in case studies.

## What the Data Says



Studies suggest that seven out of 10 new jobs are expected to require postsecondary education or training.<sup>20</sup>



85% of youth who participated in the Youth Employment Fund have either been hired or gone on to further employment.<sup>21</sup>

New in 2014-2015

## Supporting Youth Employment

- Ontario supported the expansion of the [Magnet career-networking platform](#) in 20 colleges and universities across the province to help university and college students access labour market information and transition into the workforce.
- The [Ontario Job Futures website](#) was updated to provide more career-related information on over 200 occupations and employment outlooks for 2013–17. Ontario launched a mobile version of the website in January 2015 to be better aligned with the way young people access information online. Following the website update, traffic to the site rose by 50% compared with a year earlier.
- Ontario supported the ongoing development of the Toronto Financial Services Alliance's [Financial Services Career Advisor website](#). The site provides information to students and job seekers on career opportunities in the financial services sector that has been collected from employers in the sector.



### Data from the 2015 Profile

- 61.9% of youth are in the labour force.
- 9.5% of youth are not in education, employment or training.
- 88.6% of youth who are employed full-time are in work related to their field.

# Helping Youth Develop Skills for Work and Enterprise

Ontario's economy, workforce and job market continues to change. As a result, the government is working to remove skills barriers, encourage entrepreneurship, and help youth to lead in innovation, and generate new ideas and perspectives. This year, Ontario supported opportunities for youth to develop the skills they will need in a changing economy.

- The Private Sector Jobs and Mentorship Initiative convened partners in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and Hamilton Area to begin work on the recommendations of the [Escalator: Jobs for Youth Facing Barriers](#) report that support employment for high-risk youth. The Escalator initiative provides technical skills, internships and mentoring through NPower's Technology Service Corps program. It is being expanded provincewide as part of the enhanced Youth Action Plan.
- The [Mining Essentials program](#), developed by the Mining Industry Human Resources Council, is now being delivered in French and English. The program provides hands-on experience relevant to the mining industry to Aboriginal peoples, while incorporating Aboriginal cultures and traditions.
- The Ministry of Northern Development and Mines' [Northern Ontario Internship Program](#) is a pilot program for recent postsecondary graduates. It supports training and work experience in a variety of sectors in Northern Ontario.
- A new initiative of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, the [Abilities Connect Fund](#), creates experiential employment and training opportunities for postsecondary students and recent graduates with disabilities. It also helps remove financial barriers associated with providing workplace accommodations for employees.

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## What the Data Says

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Almost one in five new jobs in Ontario over this decade is expected to be in trades-related occupations.<sup>22</sup>

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New in 2014-2015

# Helping Youth Develop Skills for Work and Enterprise

- The development of a Supported Employment Demonstration for young people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) involved consultation with experts, researchers and service providers. This two-year Demonstration focuses on assisting young people with ASD aged 14 to 30 get and keep paid employment.
- The [Employment and Modernization Fund](#) offers financial support for projects that promote greater inclusion and independence for youth and individuals with developmental disabilities.
- [Summer Company](#) gives students aged 15 to 29 hands-on business training, mentoring and grants of up to \$3,000 to start and run their own summer business. Participants get to keep the profits made through the operation of their businesses.

## Data from the 2015 Profile

- 1.7% of youth are self-employed.

## What the Data Says



Youth that show entrepreneurial behaviour are 1.5 times more likely to have received training in starting a business.<sup>23</sup>

## Ensuring Youth Work in Safe and Supportive Environments

Young workers are often vulnerable workers. They are often employed in non-standard jobs such as temporary and part-time positions. They may hold service-sector jobs or internships. They may earn only the minimum wage. They may have the minimum amount of training needed to operate heavy equipment. This year, the government continued to work with employers to ensure all young workers are safe, qualified and prepared for employment in diverse areas.

- The Ontario legislature passed Bill 18, the [\*Stronger Workplaces for a Stronger Economy Act, 2014\*](#), to help protect vulnerable workers, including youth. Employers and supervisors now have the same duties towards unpaid co-op students and many other learners and trainees as they do paid workers. Unpaid students and trainees now have the same rights as paid workers, including the right to know about hazards in the workplace and to refuse unsafe work.
- Public consultations were held for the [\*Changing Workplaces Review\*](#) to look at issues that affect workers and employers in our changing economy. A couple of examples of those issues are the increase in temporary and part-time work, and the rise of service-sector jobs. Consultations considered legislative amendments to best protect workers, including youth, while supporting businesses.
- A new [\*Occupational Health and Safety Prevention and Innovation Program\*](#) awarded 12 grants to organizations throughout the province to help improve occupational health and safety in workplaces. One of the organizations that received a grant is [\*Our Youth at Work Association\*](#).



## Ensuring Youth Work in Safe and Supportive Environments

- For seven consecutive years, employment standards officers have carried out various enforcement blitzes to ensure employers comply with the *Employment Standards Act, 2000*. The following blitzes took place in 2014–15:
  - A [proactive enforcement internship blitz](#) that focused on interns and unpaid internships
  - A [proactive vulnerable and temporary foreign workers blitz](#) that was held in sectors known to hire vulnerable or temporary foreign workers
  - A [proactive new and young worker blitz](#) that checked for hazards that could affect new and young workers, with the goal of preventing injury and death

### Data from the 2015 Profile

- The annual Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) Lost-Time Injury (LTI) rate for youth employees was 0.93 per 100 workers in 2014.



# Hospitality Workers Training Centre

The Hospitality Workers Training Centre (HWTC) is a non-profit organization that provides hands-on vocational training for employment in Toronto's growing hospitality industry. Training is linked to real employment needs identified by hospitality industry partners. Between 30 to 50% of the participants in the program are under the age of 30. Over 70% of participants are racialized and/or from low-income families. Participants include refugee and LGBTQ youth. A full 90% of youth in the program receive social assistance.

HWTC works with community partners across the GTA to identify, recruit and train strong candidates. It also works closely with industry partners to connect pre-screened and trained talent with the right employer. To support ongoing success, the program offers post-employment services. Those services include career development, vocational cross-training (to help students grow their careers in the sector), supervisory soft skills, English, computer skills and financial planning. With an 80% placement rate and a 70% retention rate among at-risk youth, this program is doing great work!

**“I love being a houseman... I’m always on the move. It’s given me a purpose and a future.”**

**—Andre, graduate of the Hospitality Workers Training Centre**



*The Hospitality Workers Training Centre celebrates the graduation and achievements of its students.*

# Diversity, Social Inclusion & Safety



Ontario has a vibrant mix of young people with diverse strengths, needs, abilities, perspectives and experiences. To realize the potential of this diversity, the government works to ensure that Ontario is a safe, inclusive and accepting place where all our young people can thrive. When young Ontarians are safe and supported at home, school, work, online and in their communities, they can move into adulthood more successfully and can better support inclusion and diversity in their communities.

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. Its programs and policies have made progress in the following areas:

- 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

### Ontario wants 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

## Promoting Diversity and the Social Inclusion of Young People

Ontario is committed to ensuring all young people have an equal opportunity to participate in society, regardless of their circumstances. This year, Ontario supported social inclusion and identified barriers for youth and their communities through various initiatives.

- Ontario is working with First Nations, Métis, Inuit and urban Aboriginal partners to co-develop the first-ever [Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy](#). The strategy will ensure community-driven, prevention-focused, and culturally appropriate services for Aboriginal children, youth and their families. The strategy is being co-developed to improve outcomes and opportunities for Aboriginal children and youth by transforming the way programs and services are designed and delivered.

The goals of the strategy are for First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and urban Aboriginal children and youth to be healthy, happy, resilient, grounded in their cultures and languages, and thriving individuals and members of their families, communities and nations.

- Through the [Ontario 400th Celebrations Program](#), Ontario commemorated 400 years of French presence, culture and identity in the province. Projects included a school-level creative competition, [Tirage400](#), and other programs for youth.



## Promoting Diversity and the Social Inclusion of Young People

- The *Stratégie pour les apprenants du français et les nouveaux arrivants (AFENA)* (“French Learners and Newcomers Strategy”) supports diversity in schools.
- The *Parents en salle de classe* (“Parents in the Classroom”) initiative provides an opportunity for new Canadian parents to make classroom presentations that describe their migratory journey and give some facts about their country of origin (e.g., geography, customs, language and dialects, music and dance). This approach values all ethnocultural communities and offers students a greater awareness of the world around them. It also helps with the integration of newly arrived students.
- The interactive learning goals for primary, junior, intermediate and secondary levels help francophone newcomers enrolled in French-language schools learn about Canadian society. Resources include interactive games that deal with topics such as the geography of Canada; First Nations, Métis, and Inuit cultures; the environment; volunteering; money; and bullying. These resources are accessible through a virtual learning environment (VLE).





New in 2014-2015

# Helping Young People to be Safe, Grow and Develop

Wherever young people spend their time—at home, in school, on campus, in workplaces and online—they need to be safe. Ontario is committed to identifying and addressing the root causes of social issues that challenge this safety, such as youth crime, youth violent crime, and sexual violence and harassment.

- [It's Never Okay: An Action Plan to Stop Sexual Violence and Harassment](#) is Ontario's plan to end sexual violence and harassment by changing attitudes, seeding generational change, providing more supports for survivors, and making workplaces and campuses safer.
- The booklet [Community Safety and Well-Being in Ontario: Booklet 2—A Snapshot of Local Voices](#) summarizes information heard at over 30 community engagement sessions held across the province. It includes locally identified community safety and well-being challenges and promising practices, including those related to youth.
- In 2014–15, Ontario reviewed the [Child and Family Services Act](#), which included a wide-reaching public engagement process. The resulting report summarizes what was heard about the way the Act affects the lives of children, youth and their families—and how it can be improved. Ontario will continue to explore areas for change to the Act to improve outcomes for children and youth.



## Data from the 2015 Profile

- 95.7% of youth feel safe at school.
- 19% of youth have been bullied online.
- 98% of Ontarians felt “very safe” or “safe” in their communities.

# Supporting Youth Who Are At Risk of Conflict with the Law

Ontario is committed to improving outcomes for all youth who are at risk of, or have come into conflict with, the law and the youth justice system. This year, Ontario focused on programs that help youth get back on track, where necessary, and improve outcomes for youth who have come into contact with the law.

- The [enhanced Ontario Youth Action Plan](#) is expanding efforts to prevent youth violence across the province. Building on the success of the 2012 Ontario Youth Action Plan and the 2006 Youth Opportunities Strategy, more high-risk youth and additional high-needs communities will benefit from targeted investments and services.

The enhanced Ontario Youth Action Plan is based on five pillars:

- Best Start, Right Start—providing early and ongoing support to help young people successfully transition into their teen years
- Safe Communities—laying the foundation for keeping youth and communities safe
- Youth Well-Being—decreasing exposure to risk factors
- Youth Engagement—addressing barriers to social inclusion and creating more positive opportunities for newcomer and Aboriginal youth
- Working Together, Building on Success—working with the private sector and community providers to create new opportunities for youth

The Youth Action Plan promotes partnerships among ministries, municipalities, police, local businesses, community groups, youth leaders and Ontario families. All partners play a role in helping young people make the right choices and reach their full potential.

## Data from the 2015 Profile

- 7% of youth engage in antisocial behaviour.
- Ontario's total youth crime rate is 3,201 per 100,000 youth.
- Ontario's total youth violent crime rate is 1,048 per 100,000 youth.



## Supporting Youth Who Are At Risk of Conflict with the Law

- The expansion of the Youth Justice Family Workers program will assign more workers to families of youth in conflict with the law to support rehabilitation and reduce the risk of re-offending.
- The Restorative Justice and Conflict Mediation Program is a new program that will use restorative approaches and peer mediation within a school or community setting to address conflict and/or violence. Youth will be encouraged to take accountability for their behaviour and strengthen pro-social skills. The program will provide access to community services and supports as needed through partnerships with schools, community agencies and police.
- Gang Prevention/Intervention Programs are new programs to support youth who are gang-affiliated, or are at risk of becoming affiliated. Youth will be helped to leave or avoid gangs and build pro-social skills through intensive one-on-one, wrap-around supports as they reintegrate into their communities from custody. These supports will focus on education, employment and training.
- The [Youth Justice Outcomes Framework](#) uses four key outcomes for youth, along with associated measures and indicators, to monitor and report on the impact of programs on the youth served.
- The multi-year Strategy to Support Gang-Involved Youth is a collaborative model that focuses on challenges and builds staff and organizational capacity to address the needs of youth involved in gangs. The strategy includes expanding the pilot program [Stop Now and Plan Youth Justice Model](#), designed by the Child Development Institute.

# The Black Experience Project

The Black Experience Project (BEP) is a ground-breaking research study that explores the lived experiences of individuals in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) Black community. The BEP's data-collection survey covers many aspects of life such as identity, education, spirituality and experiences with the justice system. The study also looks at the different experiences of Black Canadians, immigrants and newcomers. To date, interviews have been held with people from more than 50 countries across Africa and the Americas, capturing the cultural diversity of the Black community. Youth involvement has greatly enriched the research process.

The BEP researches the challenges and contributions of members of the youth and adult Black community. It also provides youth with meaningful opportunities to develop their skills and learn about their community. Currently, 70% of the staff employed with the BEP are under 30.

Through the project, youth are trained and mentored on research and data collection, community engagement and social change. Youth also play a key role in working with media outlets to offer reflections on youth experiences in the GTA and the broader study findings. The project has also provided an avenue for Youth Community Interviewers to experience a greater connection to their community than they would otherwise have had.

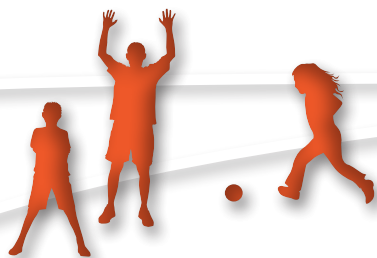
**“Even though I am Black, I have not been a person that is deeply involved with my community. I feel like I have been ignorant to a lot of things. Being able to hear people’s stories and what they go through opens my eyes.”**

**—Tynelle Chase,  
BEP Community Interviewer**

*The Black Experience Project Community  
Meet and Greet Event*



# Civic Engagement & Youth Leadership



Young people have innovative ideas and diverse perspectives. When they are given the right tools and opportunities to lead, they are well positioned to make positive changes in their communities. Ontario is committed to engaging young people in decision making on policies that impact them and creating opportunities for their voices to be heard.

This year, Ontario encouraged civic engagement and leadership in young people. It supported them to get involved and created opportunities for their voices to be heard and reflected in policy-making. Its programs and policies have made progress in the following areas:

- Expanding opportunities for youth engagement
- Creating opportunities that encourage civic engagement



## Outcomes

16

17

18

### Ontario wants youth to:

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

New in 2014-2015

## Supporting Young People to be Heard

This year, Ontario enhanced opportunities to engage youth in the decisions that impact them and supported youth to be involved in their communities.

- Youth-focused [electoral reform](#) encouraged civic and electoral participation.
- Youth actively participated in [pre-budget consultations](#) through an online forum (budgettalks) and on Twitter (#budgettalks) created to engage Ontarians on decisions that affect them. A total of 29% of the participants were youth aged 18 to 35.
- The 2015 Ontario Biodiversity Summit supported [Young Leaders for Biodiversity](#) to learn about the state of the province's biodiversity and the steps being taken to protect it.

### Data from the 2015 Profile

- 38.2% of youth voted in the last (2011) federal election.



# Providing Opportunities for Youth to be Involved and Lead: TORONTO 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games

This year, Ontario supported opportunities for youth to volunteer at the Pan Am/Parapan Am Games and participate in cultural events. As part of the games, programs across Ontario provided youth with occasions to connect, meet new people, develop skills, and gain experiences that will enrich their lives.

- [The PrideHouse That Kids Built](#) is an educational outreach program that raises awareness of fair participation in organized sports. This year, added focus was on the creation of an inclusive sport environment for the Pan Am/Parapan Am Games.
- [IGNITE Excitement 2015](#) helped organizations and municipalities connect residents and visitors with the spirit and cultural diversity of the Pan Am/Parapan Am Games with 103 initiatives that helped foster inclusivity through youth involvement.
- Through the [Pan Am/Parapan Am Kids program](#), Ontario provided 4,500 tickets to children and youth to help them experience the excitement of the Pan Am/Parapan Am Games.
- As part of the Pan Am/Parapan Am Games, Ontario launched two new [volunteer legacy initiatives](#) to help increase volunteerism and job placement opportunities in Ontario: [PREB Ontario](#), a web-based volunteer certificate program, and [SPARK Ontario](#), the province's first bilingual online volunteer database.

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## What the Data Says

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In 2015, over 2,200 students and teachers participated in the Annual Ontario Student Leadership Conference.<sup>24</sup>

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New in 2014-2015

## Providing Opportunities for Youth to be Involved and Lead: TORONTO 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games

- Ontario proudly selected [50 youth heroes](#) aged 13 to 25 who have committed acts of bravery to be among the 3,000 torch bearers for the Pan Am/Parapan Am Games.
- Ontario worked through the Aboriginal Leadership Partners' Aboriginal Youth Working Group and other partners to support Native Child and Family Services of Toronto (NCFST) and the Aboriginal Sports and Wellness Council of Ontario in holding [Pan Am/Parapan Am-themed summer camps](#). These Aboriginal Community Youth Projects helped inspire passion for sport, recreation, healthy living, civic engagement and leadership programming among youth.

### Data from the 2015 Profile

- The youth volunteer rate in Ontario is 69.3%.





# Addressing Social Issues through Youth Innovations

Investing in youth-led innovation creates real benefits for young people and their communities. Supporting youth-led innovation is an important way to build an innovation-based economy, address social problems and empower young people to act as agents of social change.

- The DRIVEN Accelerator Group received a Grassroots Innovation grant from the [Youth Opportunities Fund](#) for its Tech Spark initiative. Using innovative technology-based programming, Tech Spark will address the challenges faced by racialized and newcomer youth. It will also give youth access to professional mentors and the skills needed to get and keep high-demand jobs in the technology sector.
- [Studio Y: Ontario's Youth Social Impact and Leadership Academy](#) celebrated the success of its first cohort of participants. Studio Y projects include:
  - A first-of-its-kind exhibition that brought leading cleantech energy entrepreneurs and emerging artists together to showcase solutions being developed to tackle climate disruption.
  - Sci-Fy, a mentoring program that brings students in the Algoma District School Board together with postsecondary students to do science, reading and math activities to encourage healthier daily living. The program's creator received the Queen's Young Leader Award, which will be presented to her in 2016 at Buckingham Place by the Queen.

## Data from the 2015 Profile

- 16.7% of youth volunteered to support a group or organization.
- 10.4% of youth volunteered in activities to protect the environment.
- 3.3% of youth participated in activities to support a political party or group.



*Youth Opportunities Fund recipients attend an Orientation Retreat to kick start their programs to support youth.*

# The London Youth Advisory Council

The London Youth Advisory Council (LYAC) is an elected youth government that represents London youth aged 15 to 25 and amplifies their voices to local politicians and civic leaders. The LYAC ensures that young people are recognized as active participants in community decision-making processes.

Youth councillors build on their existing skills by starting community development projects, opening up conversations, conducting research and advocating on behalf of their constituents. They have authored budget submissions and policy papers and have conducted public engagement sessions that have brought young voices into the policy process. The LYAC is an opportunity for young people to participate in the political process at an early age: about 100 young people in London have run for election in the last three years.

“Being involved in the LYAC has been a very empowering and humbling experience. Empowering, because it has given me a space to express my opinions and ideas as well as a confidence to do things I wouldn’t normally feel I have the capacity to do. Humbling, because of the knowledge and wisdom that is shared in each of our focus groups and because of the relationships that I have built with many inspiring constituents and dedicated peers.”

—Nicole Worozbyt, Ward 4 Youth Councillor, the LYAC (2014–present)



*LYAC Councillors design, analyze and advocate for policies, projects and processes that reflect varying youth perspectives.*

# Coordinated & Youth-Friendly Communities



Young people are better able to achieve their full potential when individuals, organizations and communities work together to support them. Ontario must create youth-friendly communities and spaces that are accessible and inclusive, and that make the needs of young people a priority. Doing so will make youth feel more supported, connected, engaged, valued and safe.

This year, Ontario encouraged youth-friendly communities by enhancing the coordination among services and promoting community collaboration. Its programs and policies have made progress in the following areas:

- Reducing wait-times and improving the coordination of services for youth
- Supporting organizations to collaborate, evaluate, and improve services and outcomes for youth



## Outcomes

19 20

### Ontario wants youth to:

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

New in 2014-2015

## Supporting Youth through Friendly, Inclusive Communities

Ontario focused on strengthening the youth sector to enable more organizations to support positive youth development, collaborate and provide timely, relevant and responsive services to improve outcomes for youth.

- [Learn to Fish](#) introduces kids, teens and adults to fishing. This fun, two-hour program combines a practical teaching session with an hour of supervised hands-on fishing. Ontario Parks provides everything participants need to learn how to fish safely and sustainably in Ontario, identify and catch local fish species, get a fishing licence and follow fishing regulations.
- [Sport Pathway for Ontario Native Wellness](#) is a new provincial initiative led by the Aboriginal Sport and Wellness Council of Ontario. It supports the health and well-being of Aboriginal youth across the province.
- The [Newcomer and Youth Community Indicators](#) is a new analytical tool that provides information to help communities assess their attractiveness in drawing newcomers and keeping youth, and thereby increase local productivity and innovation.
- The [Community Transportation Pilot Grant Program](#) supports youth and other vulnerable populations by providing grants to municipalities that partner with local community organizations and transportation providers. Partners coordinate transportation services and resources for people travelling to training or education; people seeking employment; people living on low income; and people with disabilities. This year, grants to two of the participating municipalities will be used specifically to serve youth.

### Data from the 2015 Profile

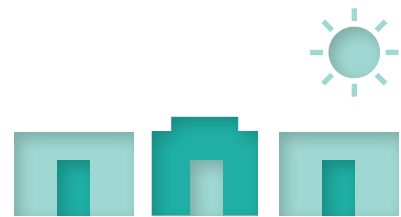
- 62% of parents feel recreation opportunities in their community meet their child's needs.
- 75.7% of youth feel there are good places in their community to spend their free time.

# Improving Information and Coordination of Ontario's Youth Services

Ontario improved the coordination of youth services and reduced wait-lists to help ensure services for youth are accessible and impactful.

- [Investments in children's treatment centres](#) of an added \$5 million annually are expanding access to physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech-language therapy for up to an added 2,000 children each year across Ontario. These investments will further reduce wait-lists for assessments.
- Eight thousand children with physical and/or developmental disabilities are now receiving direct funding sooner from the [Special Services at Home program](#). This program helps kids develop new skills and abilities and provides support for family caregivers. The 2014 wait-list for the program was removed in just eight months, ahead of the commitment of two years in the 2014 Budget.
- [Working with Children and Youth with Complex Mental Health Needs: An Integrated Training Project website](#) helped direct service providers enhance their skills in key areas. Those key areas include targeted prevention, brief services, family/caregiver skills building and support, and supporting the capacity to practice within a health equity lens.
- The [Youth Collective Impact Program \(Youth CI\)](#) is a new program that helps organizations in local communities across Ontario learn about Collective Impact and enables them to develop, launch and implement collaborations that address major challenges and improve outcomes for youth in their community.

## What the Data Says



Children's Treatment Centres served more than 74,000 children and youth with special needs in 2014-15.

## Data from the 2015 Profile

- 78% of students use social media to find information about news, health issues, or relationships.
- 10% of callers to 211 looking for community referrals are young people.



New in 2014-2015

## Improving Information and Coordination of Ontario's Youth Services

- [Youth Research and Evaluation eXchange \(YouthREX\)](#) makes research, evidence and evaluation accessible and relevant to Ontario's youth sector so grassroots groups and youth-focused organizations can measure and enhance the success of their programs for youth.

Case Study

### The SPOT (Sudbury)

The SPOT (Supporting Potential Overtime with Teens) is a multi-functional hub serving youth in the Donovan, Flour Mill and downtown areas of Greater Sudbury. It is a safe space for teens and a central location for community partners to deliver services. The SPOT provides services to teens aged 13 to 17 that promote healthy living, arts and culture; strengthen participants' resilience; and improve quality of life. The program is free and accessible to youth five days a week. By partnering with over 15 community providers, The SPOT has offered over 70 free activities, outings, services and workshops.



*Program participants enjoy a nutritious evening snack with their friends at The SPOT.*

“Youth describe The SPOT as one big family. Many of them feel unaccepted by other traditional social institutions, such as family or school. The SPOT represents a safe place to be truly themselves.”

—Natasha Lidkea,  
Outreach Worker, The SPOT



# Looking Ahead

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

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

- Ontario will continue its work to remove barriers and create opportunities for diverse and vulnerable youth, address gaps in services and strengthen the collective capacity to serve youth.
- Ontario will enhance the engagement of youth in government policy-making through initiatives such as the [Premier's Council on Youth Opportunities](#).
- Ontario will continue to promote openness and accountability through future reports on the collective progress to improve outcomes for all Ontario youth.



## Implementing the Enhanced Youth Action Plan

This year, Ontario announced an [enhanced Youth Action Plan](#), a three-year, \$55-million investment to support more high-risk youth and additional high-needs communities across the province. Through the enhanced Youth Action Plan, investments will be made in programs and initiatives such as the following:

- [Stop Now and Plan \(SNAP\)](#), a program that teaches children with behavioural problems and their parents how to make better choices “in the moment”
- Youth Justice Family Workers, Gang Prevention/Intervention Programs and a new Restorative Justice and Conflict Mediation Program, which will help keep youth and communities safe
- [Youth Outreach Worker Program](#), which helps at-risk youth connect with services and supports in their communities, and the [Youth Opportunities Fund](#), which supports youth-led and youth-focused grassroots groups community agencies and is now available provincewide
- Youth engagement programs including the Newcomer Youth Settlement and Integration Services and the [Aboriginal Community Recreation Activators program](#)
- Mentorship and employment programs delivered in partnership with the private and non-profit sectors, such as a new Youth Mentorship Program, the Private Sector Jobs and Mentorship Initiative with CivicAction, an expansion of the [Focus on Youth Program](#), and the [Career Navigator Program](#) with the United Way Toronto and York Region

## More Supports for Youth

At the same time, support will continue for other new and promising initiatives that will have a positive impact on Ontario's youth.

- The [Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy](#) is being co-developed with Aboriginal partners to ground children and youth in their cultures and languages. The other goals of the strategy are for children and youth to be healthy, happy, resilient and thriving individuals and members of their families, communities and nations.
- [One Vision One Voice: Changing the Child Welfare System for African Canadians](#). The ministry is providing the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies (OACAS) with funding to develop a practice framework to assist caregivers and Children's Aid Societies (CAS) staff in providing culturally appropriate services to African Canadian/Black children, youth and families who interact with the child welfare system. The framework will provide CAS staff and caregivers with information on the following:
  - Anti-oppressive and anti-racist clinical practice guidelines;
  - Culturally appropriate clinical assessment
  - Standards of practice
  - Appropriate alternatives to apprehension
- Pilot projects financed through [Social Impact Bonds](#), which are a form of pay-for-performance contract, will focus on improving social outcomes.
- [Youth Job Connection](#) is part of the renewed Youth Jobs Strategy. It will provide intensive support and training to young people with multiple barriers to employment

# Endnotes

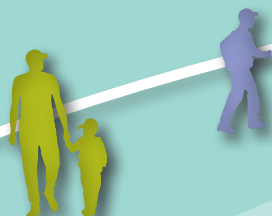
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# Appendix

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:

↑ UP

Actual:

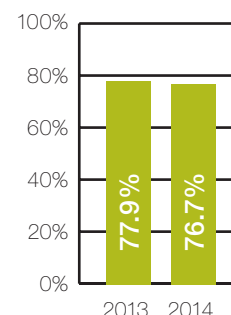
↓ DOWN

**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 12–17 (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.<sup>25</sup> 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).

**Source:** This data is based on the responses to the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS), conducted by Statistics Canada. Data presented here is based on survey responses from 2014. The CCHS is conducted every year.

**Sample:** 1,690 youth aged 12–17 responded to the CCHS 2014—representing a population of 969,500. Data collection excludes First Nations reserves and some remote communities.

## Data:



## Indicator:

**Proportion of youth who are physically active**

## Direction of Change

Desired:

↑ UP

Actual:

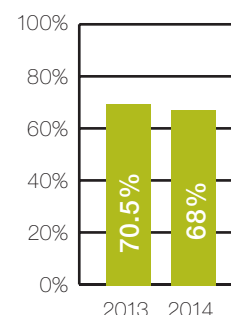
↓ DOWN

**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.

**Source:** This data is based on the responses to the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS), conducted by Statistics Canada. Data presented here is based on survey responses from 2014. The CCHS is conducted every year.

**Sample:** 2,230 youth aged 12–19 responded to the CCHS 2014—representing a population of 1,293,500. Data collection excludes First Nations reserves and some remote communities.

## Data:



**Indicator:**

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

**Direction of Change**

Desired:

⬆️ UP

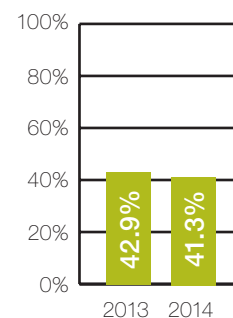
Actual:

⬇️ DOWN

**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 (CCHS), conducted by Statistics Canada. Data presented here is based on survey responses from 2013. The CCHS is conducted every year.

**Sample:** 2,230 youth aged 12–19 responded to the CCHS 2014—representing a population of 1,293,500. Data collection excludes First Nations reserves and some remote communities.

**Data:****Indicator:**

**Proportion of youth who are attached to a primary care provider**

**Direction of Change**

Desired:

⬆️ UP

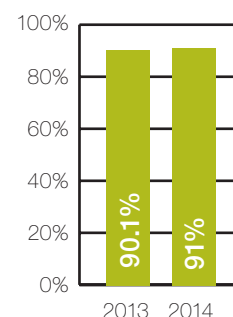
Actual:

⬆️ UP

**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 January and December 2014.

**Sample:** 871 youth aged 16–25 responded to the survey, representing 7.8% of all respondents aged 16 and older.

**Data:**

**Indicator:**

**Proportion of youth who are experiencing anxiety and/or depression**

**Direction of Change**

Desired:



DOWN

Actual:

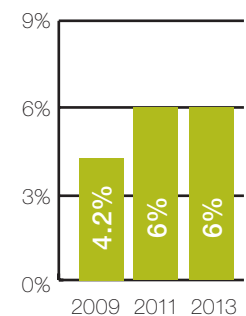


no new data

**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.

**Sample:** For the 2013 survey, 10,272 students (63% 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 are experiencing elevated psychological distress**

**Direction of Change**

Desired:



DOWN

Actual:

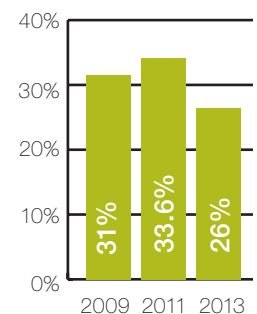


no new data

**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.

**Sample:** For the 2013 survey, 10,272 students (63% 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 had serious thoughts about suicide in the past year**

**Direction of Change**

Desired:

 DOWN

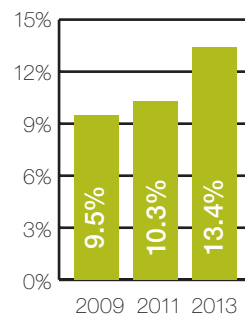
Actual:

 no new data

**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.

**Sample:** For the 2013 survey, 10,272 students (63% 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:****3**

Ontario youth make choices that support healthy and safe development.

**Indicator:**

**Proportion of youth who smoke cigarettes**

**Direction of Change**

Desired:

 DOWN

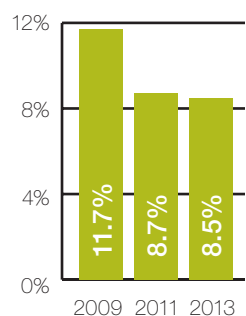
Actual:

 no new data

**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:** For the 2013 survey, 10,272 students (63% 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:

↓ DOWN

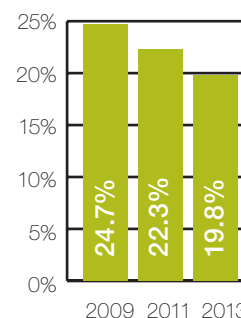
Actual:

no new data

**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.

**Sample:** For the 2013 survey, 10,272 students (63% 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 used any illicit drug**

**Direction of Change**

Desired:

↓ DOWN

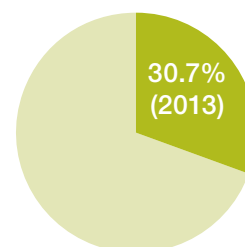
Actual:

no new data

**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:** For the 2013 survey, 10,272 students (63% 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 had a sexually transmitted infection**

**Direction of Change**

Desired:

↓ DOWN

Actual:

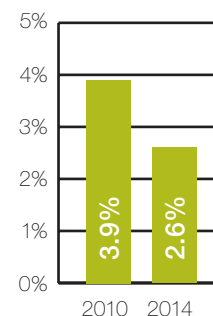
↓ DOWN

**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 (CCHS), conducted by Statistics Canada. Data presented here is based on survey responses from 2014. The CCHS is conducted every year.

**Sample:** 3,809 youth aged 12–24 responded to the CCHS 2014—representing a population of 2,281,583. Data collection excludes First Nations reserves and some remote communities.

**Data:**



## 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:

↓ DOWN

Actual:

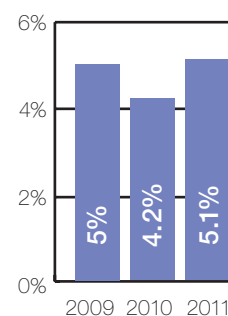
⊘ no new data

**Definition:** The Ontario Housing Measure tracks the percentage of households with children under 18 that have incomes below 40% of the median household income (LIM40) and spend more than 40% 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. Statistics Canada has not yet released a replacement survey that measures and tracks income/poverty. Once this has been done, the relevant indicators will be incorporated into the profile.

**Sample:** Approximately 10,000 Ontarians.

**Data:**





**Indicator:****Proportion of Ontario families who experience food insecurity****Direction of Change**

Desired:

↓ DOWN

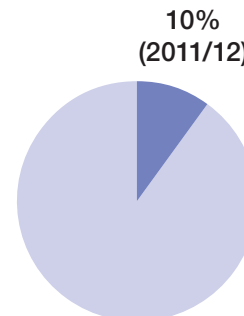
Actual:

⦿ no new data

**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 CCHS, conducted by Statistics Canada. Data presented here is based on responses to the 2014 survey. The CCHS 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 0–17.

**Data:****Indicator:****Proportion of children and youth who live in low-income households****Direction of Change**

Desired:

↓ DOWN

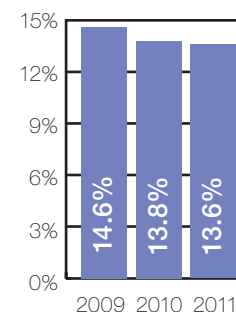
Actual:

⦿ no new data

**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% of the median adjusted household income measured in 2008 and adjusted for inflation for 2009–11. 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. Statistics Canada has not yet released a replacement survey that measures and tracks income/poverty. Once this has been done, the relevant indicators will be incorporated into the profile.

**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:**

**Indicator:**

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

**Direction of Change**

Desired:



UP

Actual:

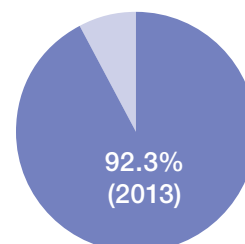


no new data

**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.

**Sample:** For the 2013 survey, 10,272 students (63% 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 do not get along with their mothers**

**Direction of Change**

Desired:



DOWN

Actual:

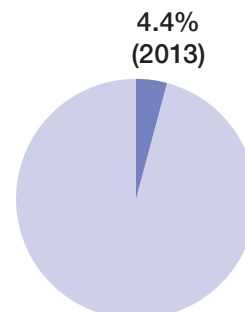


no new data

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

**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:** For the 2013 survey, 10,272 students (63% 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 do not get along with their fathers**

**Direction of Change**

Desired:

↓ DOWN

Actual:

⊘ no new data

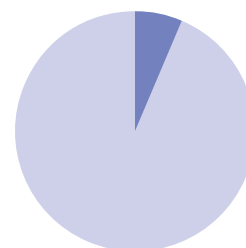
**Definition:** This indicator is defined as the proportion of Ontario students (Grades 7–12) who reported not getting along with their fathers.

**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:** For the 2013 survey, 10,272 students (63% 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:**

6.5%  
(2013)



6

Ontario youth form and maintain healthy, close relationships.

**Indicator:**

**Proportion of youth who feel lonely**

**Direction of Change**

Desired:

↓ DOWN

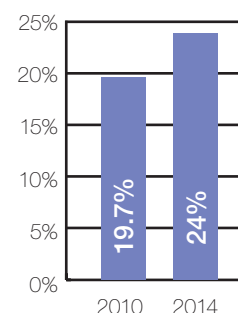
Actual:

↑ UP

**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 2014 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 on behalf of the World Health Organization (WHO) and is funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada.

**Sample:** 5,949 students, in Grades 6–10, from 81 Ontario schools.

**Data:**

---

**Indicator:**

**Proportion of youth who feel they can count on their friends when things go wrong**

**Direction of Change**

Desired:

⬆️ UP

Actual:

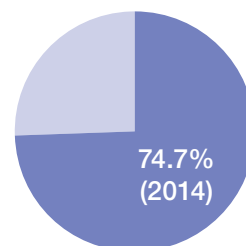
Ⓡ replacement indicator

**Definition:** This indicator is defined as the proportion of youth who agreed or strongly agreed with the statement “I can count on my friends when things go wrong.”

**Source:** This data is based on responses to the 2014 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 on behalf of the World Health Organization (WHO) and is funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada.

**Sample:** 5,949 students, in Grades 6–10, from 81 Ontario schools.

**Data:**



---

**Indicator:**

**Proportion of youth who get the emotional support they need from their families**

**Direction of Change**

Desired:

⬆️ UP

Actual:

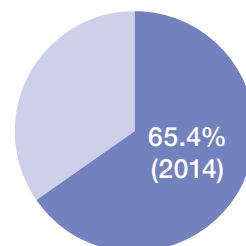
Ⓡ replacement indicator

**Definition:** This indicator is defined as the proportion of youth who agreed or strongly agreed with the statement “I get the emotional support and help I need from my family.”

**Source:** This data is based on responses to the 2014 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 on behalf of the World Health Organization (WHO) and is funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada.

**Sample:** 5,949 students, in Grades 6–10, from 81 Ontario schools.

**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:

↑ UP

Actual:

↑ UP

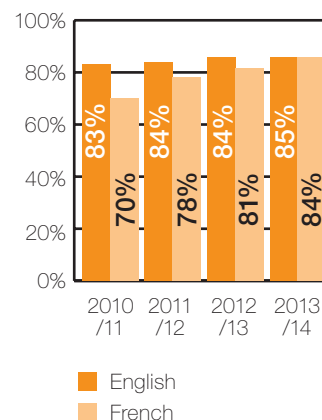
**Definition:** This indicator is defined as the proportion of Ontario students meeting the provincial standard in academic math. Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) results are scored on a scale out of 4, with 3 or above being defined as meeting the provincial standard.

**Please note:** In the 2014 *Stepping Up Annual Report*, the 2012–13 data for this indicator were reported incorrectly. The correct data are **84%** for English-speaking students and **81%** for French-speaking students. The electronic version of the 2014 *Stepping Up Annual Report* has been revised to reflect the correct information.

**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 2013–14 Grade 9 Academic Assessment was administered to 95,914 English-speaking students and 4,051 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:

↑ UP

Actual:

↑ UP

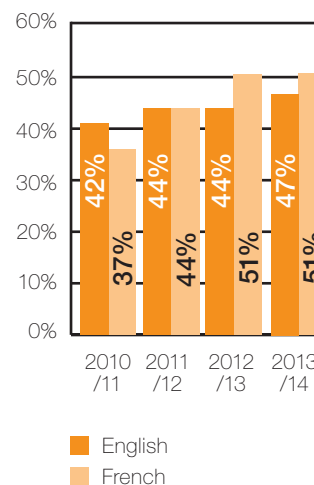
**Definition:** This indicator is defined as the proportion of Ontario students meeting the provincial standard in applied math. Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) results are scored on a scale out of 4, with 3 or above being defined as meeting the provincial standard.

**Please note:** In the 2014 *Stepping Up Annual Report*, the 2012–13 data for this indicator were reported incorrectly. The correct data are **44%** for English-speaking students and **51%** for French-speaking students. The electronic version of the 2014 *Stepping Up Annual Report* has been revised to reflect the correct information.

**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 2013–14 Grade 9 Applied Assessment was administered to 38,181 English-speaking students and 1,530 French-speaking students. Data excludes students attending school on First Nations reserves.

## Data:



**Indicator:**

**Proportion of English-speaking/French-speaking students who completed 16 high school credits by the end of Grade 10**

**Direction of Change**

Desired:

⬆️ UP

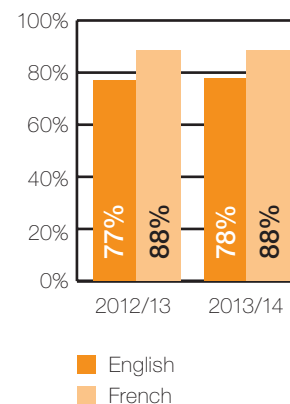
Actual:

⬆️ UP

**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 (OnSIS). Data presented for 2013–14 is based on students' Grade 9 (in 2012–13) and Grade 10 (in 2013–14) course credits. Data presented for 2012–13 is based on students' Grade 9 (in 2011–12) and Grade 10 (in 2012–13) course credits.

**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 within five years**

**Direction of Change**

Desired:

⬆️ UP

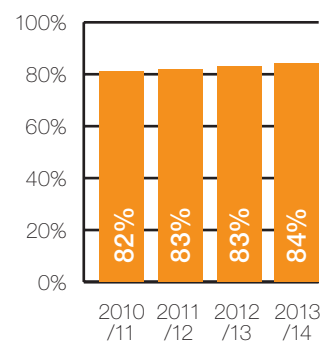
Actual:

⬆️ UP

**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 2013–14 school year.

**Sample:** The data includes the cohort of students who started Grade 9 five years prior (in 2009–10). Data excludes students attending school on First Nations reserves.

**Data:**



**Indicator:**

**Ontario's  
overall  
mathematics  
achievement  
ranking  
according  
to PISA**

**Direction  
of Change**

Desired:

⬆️ UP

Actual:

⬆️ no new data

**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.

**Source:** PISA is an international study conducted by the Organisation 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.

**Data:**

2012 — Ranked  
9 out of 65  
jurisdictions.



8

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:

⬆️ UP

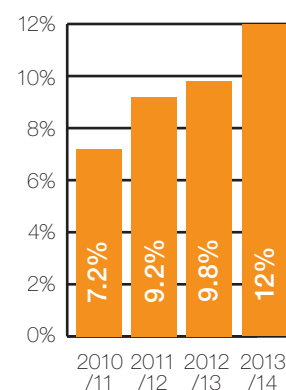
Actual:

⬆️ UP

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

**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 (OnSIS). Data presented here is based on the 2013–14 school year.

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

**Data:**

**Indicator:****Number of students who have Individual Education Plans****Direction of Change**

Desired:

⬆️ UP

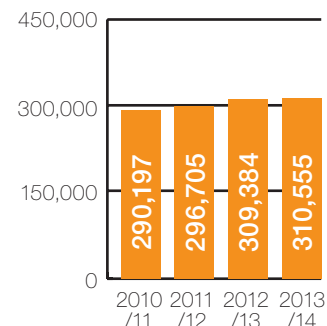
Actual:

⬆️ UP

**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.

**Source:** This data is sourced from the Ontario School Information System (OnSIS). Data presented here is based on the 2011–12 to 2013–14 school years.

**Sample:** The data includes students enrolled in publicly funded schools including school authorities in Ontario who are receiving special education programs and services and have an Individual Education Plan in place.

**Data:****Indicator:****Proportion of public/Catholic district high school course credits that are available through e-learning****Direction of Change**

Desired:

⬆️ UP

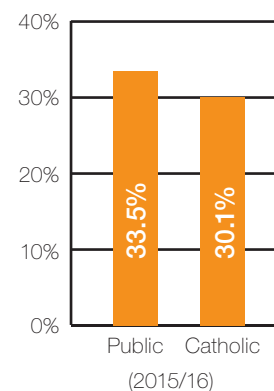
Actual:

Ⓡ replacement indicator

**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 at both public and Catholic school districts.

**Source:** This data is based on the number of e-learning course credits that are available in the 2015–16 school year according to administrative data on credit courses listed in the Ontario secondary curriculum. Of the 299 secondary school credit courses that are being offered, 100 are designed for use in public school boards and 90 are designed for use in Catholic school boards.

**Sample:** This data is reported for the 2015–16 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.

**Data:****Please note:**

This indicator is identified as a replacement indicator due to a change in methodology.

**Indicator:**

**Proportion of youth who have a post-secondary certificate or diploma**

**Direction of Change**

Desired:

⬆️ UP

Actual:

Ⓡ replacement indicator

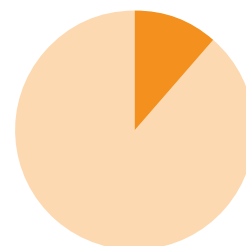
**Definition:** The share of youth aged 15–24 who have completed postsecondary education—either university or college credentials, or trade/vocational education.

**Source:** Statistics Canada: Labour Force Survey (LFS).

**Sample:** The target population of the LFS is the civilian, non-institutionalized population aged 15 years 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:**

11.5%  
(2014/15)

**Indicator:**

**Number of youth served through the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program**

**Direction of Change**

Desired:

⬆️ UP

Actual:

⬇️ DOWN

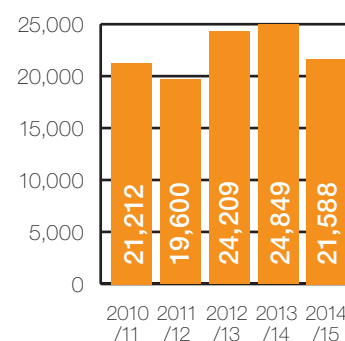
**Definition:** This indicator is defined as the number of annual participants in the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP). Participants are full-time high school students who are aged 16 and over and have at least 16 credits.

Additional OYAP funding has been provided to school boards since 2012–13 to promote trades in which women are historically under-represented, and increase awareness and opportunities for exploration to girls in both elementary and high schools.

**Source:** Program administrative data for the 2014–15 school year is collected by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

**Sample:** All annual OYAP participants.

**Data:**



# Employment & Entrepreneurship

10

Ontario youth have opportunities for meaningful employment experiences.

## Indicator:

**Proportion of students who are enrolled in co-op placements**

## Direction of Change

Desired:

↑ UP

Actual:

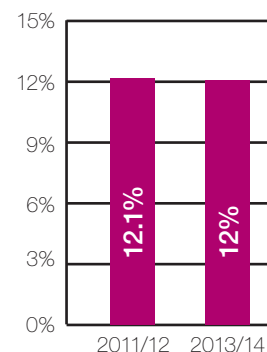
↓ DOWN

**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 (OnSIS). Data presented here is based on the 2013–14 school year.

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

## Data:



## Indicator:

**Proportion of youth who are in the labour force**

## Direction of Change

Desired:

↑ UP

Actual:

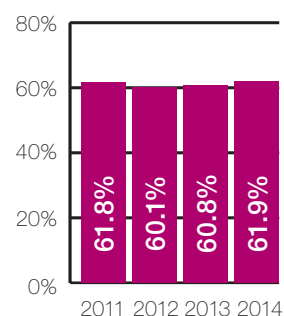
↑ UP

**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 2014 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.

**Sample:** The target population of the LFS is the civilian, non-institutionalized population aged 15 years 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:

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

### Direction of Change

Desired:

↓ DOWN

Actual:

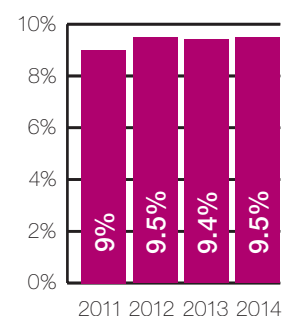
↑ UP

**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 2014 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.

**Sample:** The target population of the LFS is the civilian, non-institutionalized population aged 15 years 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:

**Proportion of youth who are employed full-time in work related to their field**

### Direction of Change

Desired:

↑ UP

Actual:

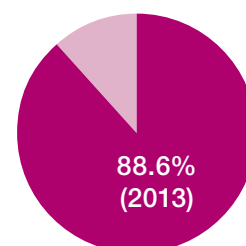
Ⓡ replacement indicator

**Definition:** This indicator is defined as the number of students who graduated from undergraduate programs at Ontario universities in 2011 who reported that their full-time employment was either closely or somewhat related to the skills they developed at university.

**Source:** This data is based on the 2013 Grad Survey conducted by the Council of Ontario Universities. The Grad Survey is conducted annually with university graduates at six months and at two years post-graduation.

**Sample:** 72,429 students who graduated from undergraduate programs at Ontario universities in 2011 were surveyed, with 25,119 (34.7%) responding. Data was collected between November 2013 and March 2014.

### Data:



# 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:

↑ UP

Actual:

↓ DOWN

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

**Source:** This data is based on the 2014 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 aged 15 years 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. The data presented here is based on a sample of 34,200 Ontario youth, aged 15–24. Data collection excludes First Nations reserves.

## Data:



# 12

Ontario youth are safe and supported at work.

## Indicator:

**Annual WSIB Lost-Time Injury (LTI) rate for youth employees**

## Direction of Change

Desired:

↓ DOWN

Actual:

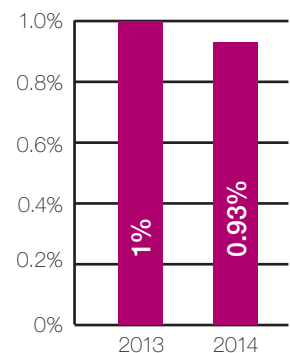
↓ DOWN

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

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

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

## Data:





# 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:

⬆️ UP

Actual:

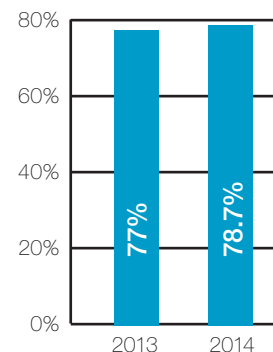
⬆️ UP

**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 (CCHS), conducted by Statistics Canada. Data presented here is based on survey responses from 2014. The CCHS is conducted every year.

**Sample:** 2,230 youth aged 12–19 responded to the CCHS 2014, representing a population of 1,293,500. Data collection excludes First Nations reserves and some remote communities.

## Data:



## Indicator:

**Proportion of students who have positive attitudes toward diversity at school**

## Direction of Change

Desired:

⬆️ UP

Actual:

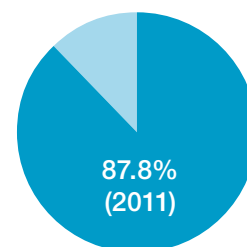
⬆️ no new data

**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—and all regions of the province—participated in the online survey.

## Data:



**Indicator:**

**Proportion of youth who have a happy home life**

**Direction of Change**

Desired:

⬆️ UP

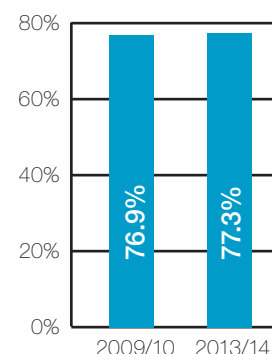
Actual:

⬆️ UP

**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 2014 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 on behalf of the World Health Organization (WHO) and is funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada.

**Sample:** 5,949 students, in Grades 6–10, from 81 Ontario schools.

**Data:****Indicator:**

**Proportion of youth who feel safe at school**

**Direction of Change**

Desired:

⬆️ UP

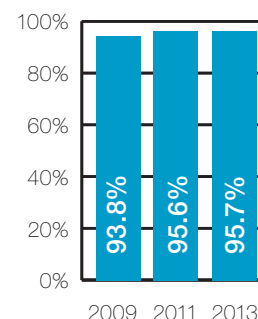
Actual:

⬆️ no new data

**Definition:** This indicator is defined as the proportion of Ontario students (Grades 7–12) who reported that they generally felt safe 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:** For the 2013 survey, 10,272 students (63% 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:

● no new data

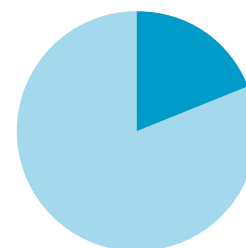
**Definition:** This indicator is defined as the proportion of Ontario students (Grades 7–12) who reported having been bullied over the Internet in the past 12 months.

**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:** For the 2013 survey, 10,272 students (63% 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:**

19%  
(2012/13)



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

**Direction  
of Change**

Desired:

↑ UP

Actual:

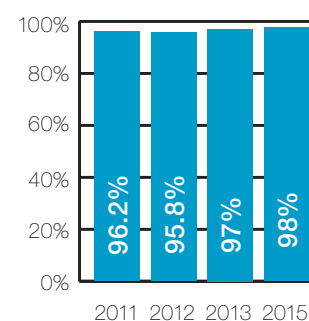
↑ UP

**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 (OPP) Community Satisfaction Surveys (CSS). Data presented here is based on survey responses from the 2015 OPP Community Satisfaction Survey Provincial Report.

**Sample:** 1,005 Ontarians aged 16 and over, and who are from a household where no member of the household was employed by the OPP.

**Data:**



**Indicator:****Proportion of youth who participate in antisocial behaviour****Direction of Change**

Desired:

 DOWN

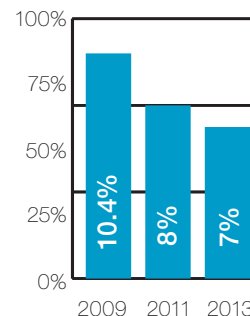
Actual:

 no new data

**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:** For the 2013 survey, 10,272 students (63% 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**

**Direction  
of Change**

Desired:  
⬇️ DOWN  
Actual:  
⬇️ DOWN

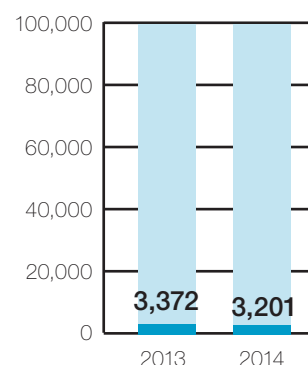
**Definition:** This indicator is the proportion of youth who were either charged by police or diverted from the formal criminal justice system through the use of warnings, cautions, referrals to community programs, etc. The proportion was calculated based on Criminal Code incidents excluding traffic offences, calculated on the basis of 100,000 youth aged 12–17 in the population. In 2014, the total youth crime rate (excluding traffic) was 3,201 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 (1,449 and 1,753 per 100,000, respectively).

**Please note:** The previously published data for this indicator has been revised due to Statistics Canada annual updates from police services: In 2013, the total youth crime rate (excluding traffic offences) was 3,372 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 (1,554 and 1,818 per 100,000 respectively).

**Source:** The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (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 CCJS calculates crime rates for youth aged 12–17. Ontario youth who have been formally charged or diverted for non-traffic-related incidents in 2014 were included in this sample.

**Data:**  
3,201 per  
100,000 youth



**Indicator:**  
**Ontario's  
total youth  
violent  
crime rate**

**Direction  
of Change**

Desired:

↓ DOWN

Actual:

★ new  
indicator

**Definition:** This indicator is one of the sub-categories included in the total youth crime rate. It 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 violent offences categories, calculated on the basis of 100,000 youth aged 12–17 in the population. In 2014, the violent youth crime rate was 1,048 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 (573 and 475 per 100,000, respectively).

Ontario's total youth violent crime rate has been steadily decreasing. Over the past three years, the rate has dropped from 1,507\* (2011), to 1,378\* (2012), to 1,180\* (2013).

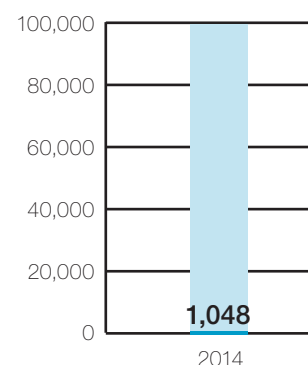
*\*Proportion calculated on the basis of 100,000 youth aged 12–17 in the population.*

**Source:** The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (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 CCJS calculates crime rates for youth aged 12–17. Ontario youth who have been formally charged or diverted for violent offences in 2014 were included in this sample.

Violent crime categories include the offences of homicide, attempted murder, sexual and non-sexual assault, sexual offences against children, abduction, forcible confinement or kidnapping, use of/discharge or pointing of a firearm, robbery, criminal harassment, extortion, uttering threats, threatening or harassing phone calls and other violent offences.

**Data:**  
1,048 per  
100,000 youth





### Indicator:

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

### Direction of Change

Desired:

⬆ UP

Actual:

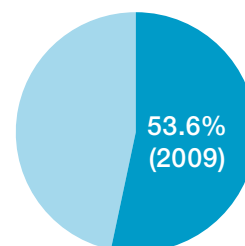
⦿ no new data

**Definition:** Respondents were asked if they believed officers in their local police force did “a good job,” “an average job,” or “a poor job” of 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–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 persons living in such households represent approximately 0.9% of the target population (Residential Telephone Services Survey [RTSS], 2008). As interviews were not conducted by cellular telephone, persons with only cellular telephone service were also excluded. The 2008 RTSS reported that 8% of households in Canada have cellular telephone service only.

**Sample:** While the GSS uses a national sample of respondents aged 15 and older, for the purposes of this analysis respondents aged 15–24 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 (2011) federal election**

## Direction of Change

Desired:

↑ UP

Actual:

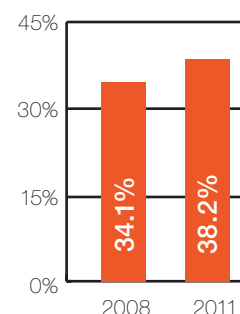
no new data

**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.

**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 volunteer as a member of a board or committee**

## Direction of Change

Desired:

↑ UP

Actual:

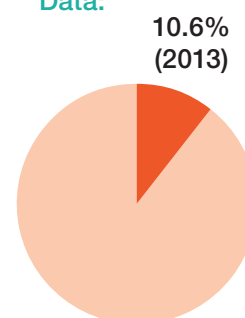
Ⓡ replacement indicator

**Definition:** This indicator is defined as the number of Ontario youth aged 15–24 that volunteer as a member of a board or committee.

**Source:** Data is obtained from the 2013 Statistics Canada General Social Survey (GSS), Cycle 27: Giving, Volunteering and Participating, variable FV\_040 (Formal Volunteering)

**Sample:** While the GSS uses a national sample of respondents aged 15 and older, for the purposes of this analysis respondents aged 15–24 from Ontario were isolated. This resulted in a total sample of 251 respondents.

## Data:



**Indicator:****Youth donor rate****Direction of Change**

Desired:

⬆ UP

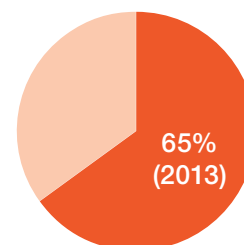
Actual:

Ⓡ replacement indicator

**Definition:** The indicator is defined at the number of Ontario youth aged 15–24 who donated to an organization.

**Source:** Data is obtained from the 2013 Statistics Canada General Social Survey (GSS), Cycle 27: Giving, Volunteering and Participating.

**Sample:** While the GSS uses a national sample of respondents aged 15 and older, for the purposes of this analysis respondents aged 15–24 from Ontario were isolated. This resulted in a total sample of 251 respondents.

**Data:****Indicator:****Youth volunteer rate****Direction of Change**

Desired:

⬆ UP

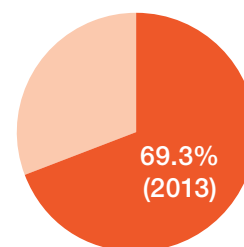
Actual:

Ⓡ replacement indicator

**Definition:** This indicator is defined as the number of youth aged 15–24 that volunteered in Ontario.

**Source:** Data is obtained from the 2013 Statistics Canada General Social Survey (GSS), Cycle 27: Giving, Volunteering and Participating.

**Sample:** While the GSS uses a national sample of respondents aged 15 and older, for the purposes of this analysis respondents aged 15–24 from Ontario were isolated. This resulted in a total sample of 251 respondents.

**Data:**

**Indicator:**

**Proportion of youth who volunteered to support a group or organization**

**Direction of Change**

Desired:

⬆ UP

Actual:

★ new indicator

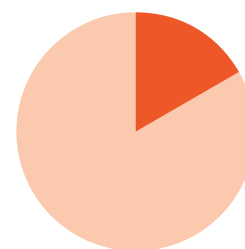
**Definition:** This indicator is defined as the number of Ontario youth aged 15–24 that provided unpaid time to support a group or organization.

**Source:** Data is obtained from the 2013 Statistics Canada General Social Survey (GSS), Cycle 27: Giving, Volunteering and Participating, variable FV\_160 (Formal Volunteering). The purpose of this survey is to better understand how Canadians provide unpaid hours of work to support their community.

**Sample:** While the GSS uses a national sample of respondents aged 15 and older, for the purposes of this analysis respondents aged 15–24 from Ontario were isolated. This resulted in a total sample of 251 respondents.

**Data:**

16.7%  
(2013)

**Indicator:**

**Proportion of youth who volunteered in activities to protect the environment**

**Direction of Change**

Desired:

⬆ UP

Actual:

★ new indicator

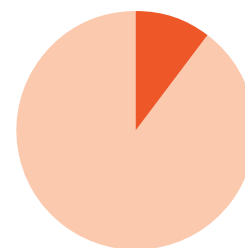
**Definition:** This indicator is defined as the number of Ontario youth aged 15–24 that provided unpaid time to support activities to protect the environment.

**Source:** Data is obtained from the 2013 Statistics Canada General Social Survey (GSS), Cycle 27: Giving, Volunteering and Participating, variable FV\_150 (Formal Volunteering). The purpose of this survey is to better understand how Canadians provide unpaid hours of work to support their community.

**Sample:** While the GSS uses a national sample of respondents aged 15 and older, for the purposes of this analysis respondents aged 15–24 from Ontario were isolated. This resulted in a total sample of 251 respondents.

**Data:**

10.4%  
(2013)



**Indicator:**

**Proportion  
of youth who  
participated  
in activities  
to support a  
political party  
or group**

**Direction  
of Change**

Desired:

⬆ UP

Actual:

★ new  
indicator

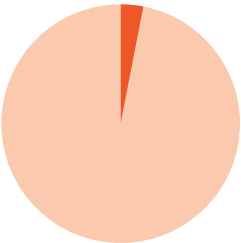
**Definition:** This indicator is defined as the number of Ontario youth aged 15–24 that participated in activities to support a political party or group.

**Source:** Data is obtained from the 2013 Statistics Canada General Social Survey (GSS), Cycle 27: Giving, Volunteering and Participating, variable CER\_120. The purpose of this survey is to better understand how Canadians provide unpaid hours of work to support their community.

**Sample:** While the GSS uses a national sample of respondents aged 15 and older, for the purposes of this analysis respondents aged 15–24 from Ontario were isolated. This resulted in a total sample of 242 respondents.

**Data:**

3.3%  
(2013)



# 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 meet their child's needs**

## Direction of Change

Desired:

↑ UP

Actual:

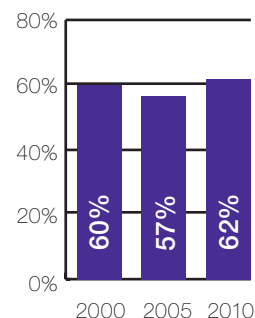
no new data

**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 children and youth aged 5–17 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:

↑ UP

Actual:

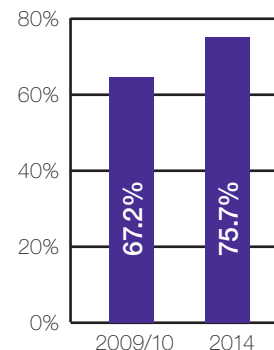
↑ UP

**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 2014 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 on behalf of the World Health Organization (WHO) and is funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada.

**Sample:** 5,949 students, in Grades 6–10, from 81 Ontario schools.

## Data:





**Indicator:**

**Proportion of students who use social media to find information about news, health issues, or relationships**

**Direction of Change**

Desired:

⬆️ UP

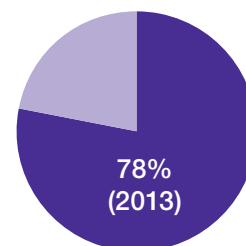
Actual:

⬆️ no new data

**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:

⬆️ UP

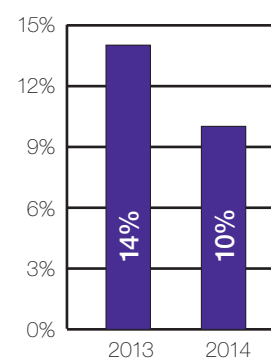
Actual:

⬇️ DOWN

**Definition:** This indicator is defined as the proportion of callers to the 211 community referral service who are aged 25 or younger.

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

**Sample:** Data is based on 51,103 calls to 211 in 2014, by individuals aged 0–35.

**Data:**





2016



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