

# Ontario's Profile of Youth Wellbeing

## 2015

**Ontario youth are physically healthy.**

- 76.7% of youth are a healthy weight.
- 68% of youth are physically active.
- 41.3% of youth consume at least five servings of fruit or vegetables daily.
- 91% of youth are attached to a primary care provider.

**Ontario youth feel mentally well.**

- 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.

**Ontario youth make choices that support healthy and safe development.**

- 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.

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

- 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.

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

- 92.3% of youth have at least one parent who usually knows where they are.
- 4.4% of youth do not get along with their mothers.
- 6.5% of youth do not get along with their fathers.

**Ontario youth form and maintain healthy, close relationships.**

- 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.

**Ontario youth achieve academic success.**

- 85% of English-speaking and 84% of French-speaking students enrolled in academic math meet the provincial standard.
- 47% of English-speaking and 51% French-speaking students enrolled in applied math meet the provincial standard.
- 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.
- Ontario ranks 9th of 65 jurisdictions in overall mathematics achievement (PISA).

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

- 12% of students are enrolled in the Specialist High Skills Major Program.
- 310,555 students have Individual Education Plans.
- 33.5% of public district and 30.1% of Catholic district high school course credits are available through e-learning.

**Ontario youth access diverse training and apprenticeship opportunities.**

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



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

- 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.

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

- 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.

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

- 38.2% of youth voted in the last (2011) federal election.
- 10.6% of youth volunteer as a member of a board or committee.

**Ontario youth are engaged in their communities.**

- The youth donor rate in Ontario is 65%.
- The youth volunteer rate in Ontario is 69.3%.

**Ontario youth leverage their assets to address social issues.**

- 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.

**Ontario youth experience social inclusion and value diversity.**

- 78.7% of youth feel a sense of belonging in their community.
- 87.8% of students have positive attitudes toward diversity at school.

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

- 77.3% of youth have a happy home life.
- 95.7% of youth feel safe at school.
- 19% of youth have been bullied online.
- 98% of Ontarians felt "safe" or "very safe" in their communities.

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

- 7% of youth participate 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.
- 53.6% of youth believe officers in their local police force do a good job at treating people fairly.

**Ontario youth have opportunities for meaningful employment experiences.**

- 12% of students are enrolled in co-op placements.
- 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.
- 1.7% of youth are self-employed.

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

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

**Ontario youth are safe and supported at work.**

**LEGEND**

- Decrease since 2014 report
- Increase since 2014 report
- No change in data since 2014 report
- No new data since 2014 report
- Replaced indicator from 2014 report
- New indicator since 2014 report
- A blue circle means the indicator has changed in the desired direction
- A red circle means the indicator has changed in a negative direction