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TARGET GROUPS PROJECT

# YOUTH in CANADA

Selected Highlights

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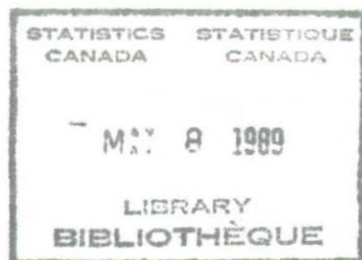
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**Catalogue 89-511**

Youth in Canada: Selected Highlights

**ERRATUM**

Holders of this publication are kindly requested to insert this erratum into their copies.

**Page 19**

There is an inversion of the terms "males" and "females" in the first sentence of the first highlight on this page. The text should read as follows:

"For both sexes aged 15 to 19, the divorce rates decreased between 1983 and 1984, falling from 4.9 to 3.8 for females and from 2.5 to 2.2 for males;..."

**N° 89-511 au catalogue**

Les jeunes au Canada : Faits saillants choisis

**ERRATA**

Les détenteurs de cette publication sont priés d'insérer cet errata dans leur copie.

**Page 19**

Les termes "hommes" et "femmes" sont inversés dans la première phrase du premier fait saillant sur cette page. Le texte exact est comme suit:

"Le taux de divorce chez les jeunes de 15 à 19 ans a diminué entre 1983 et 1984, passant de 4.9 à 3.8 dans le cas des femmes et de 2.5 à 2.2 dans celui des hommes."



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## Statistics Canada

Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division

TARGET GROUPS PROJECT

# YOUTH IN CANADA

Selected Highlights

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the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and  
the Minister of State for Science and Technology

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and Services Canada 1989

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## Highlights

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- As of the 1986 Census, there were over 1.9 million youth aged 15 to 19 years and close to 2.3 million youth aged 20 to 24 years in Canada.
  - Youth aged 15 to 24 represented only 17% of the Canadian population in 1986, compared to 20% in 1976.
  - In 1986/87, only Alberta and Ontario had significant positive interprovincial net migration for persons aged 15 to 24 (10,341 and 2,000, respectively).
  - Only 6% of lone parents in 1986 were between 15 to 24 years old. Close to 6% of the lone parents in the 15 to 24 age group were males compared to 18% for lone parents of all ages.
  - In 1976, 50% of youth aged 18 to 24 lived at home as children compared to 57% in 1986. In the 15 to 24 year old age group, the proportion increased slightly from 64% in 1976 to 68% in 1986.
  - Close to 60% of bridegrooms in 1971 were 24 years old or younger, compared to just 34% in 1985.
  - Close to 77% of all females who divorced in 1985 had been married before the age of 25, a decrease from the 82% noted in 1976. The corresponding proportions for males were 61% and 66%, respectively.
  - Some 8% of females and 3% of males were granted a divorce before the age of 25 in 1985.
  - In 1986, 74% of all live births to 15 to 19 years olds were to never-married women compared to only 34% in 1976.
  - In 1985, for every 1,000 females aged 13 to 44 years in Canada, 9.3 reported therapeutic abortions.
  - In 1986, almost half (48%) of the youth population aged 15 to 24 with postsecondary qualifications were concentrated in two major fields of study: the "Commerce, management and business administration" field (25%), and the "Engineering and applied science technologies and trades field (23%).
  - More than two out of every five full-time students aged 15 to 19 were actively involved in the labour force in October 1988.
  - In 1987, almost 58% of males aged 15 to 19 and 85% of those aged 20 to 24 participated in the labour force. Corresponding rates for females were 54% and 76%, respectively.
  - In 1987, there were approximately 386,000 unemployed youth aged 15 to 24 in Canada, or approximately 34% of all the unemployed, although they accounted for only 21% of the labour force.
  - Among the youth population, average income of females was still below that of their male counterparts. However, the gap between male and female incomes decreased by about 7 percentage points in 1985 compared with 1980.
  - In 1986, the proportion of youth in both age groups (15 to 19 and 20 to 24) who reported being able to conduct a conversation in both English and French, climbed to between 20 and 21% from approximately 18% in 1981.
-

## Highlights – concluded

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- In all three age groups, the frequency of "active" exercise was higher among males than females, the most active being 15 to 19 year old males (78% vs 72% for females).
  - Youth aged 20 to 24 have the lowest percentage of non-drinkers (8%) and more regular drinkers than any other age group.
  - Among youth aged 20 to 24, a larger proportion of females than males (38% vs 35%) reported smoking daily, while among the 15 to 19 year olds, more males (24%) than females (21%) reported the same daily habit.
  - In the 15 to 19 age group, there were more males who claimed drug usage than females (15% vs 13%, respectively), while in the 20 to 24 year age group, more females claimed drug usage than males (24% vs 19%, respectively).
  - During the period 1979-1986, the death rate among males aged 15 to 19 and 20 to 24 was more than twice the rate of their female counterparts.
  - In 1986, suicide represented 22% of the deaths among males aged 15 to 24 and 13% of deaths among females of the same age group.
  - In 1986, close to 22% of homicide victims and 37% of homicide suspects were youth aged 15 to 24 years.
-

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## Introduction

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The youth population examined in this chartbook is comprised of persons aged 15 to 24. The charts reflect selected demographic and socio-economic characteristics that provide an overview of Canada's young people. It is felt that the information presented through this mainly descriptive and national approach will foster a better understanding of this important segment of our society.

Whenever possible, observations over time, between sexes and among youth of different age groups, (e.g. 15 to 19 years) as well as comparisons with the "adult" population (i.e. 25 years and over) are shown. Furthermore, salient points from the data shown in graphic form and additional facts and figures accompany each theme. The data depicted in the charts and in "facts and figures" comments are taken mainly from published information, and originate from various Statistics Canada surveys. Most non-census surveys exclude residents of the Yukon and Northwest Territories, persons living on Indian reserves, institutional residents and full-time members of the Armed Forces. On the other hand, data from the various population censuses generally include these groups with the exception of the population in some 136 incompletely enumerated Indian reserves. Further information on data quality, definitions and other youth-related data, as well as provincial data, are available in the various publications cited in the sources of each chart.

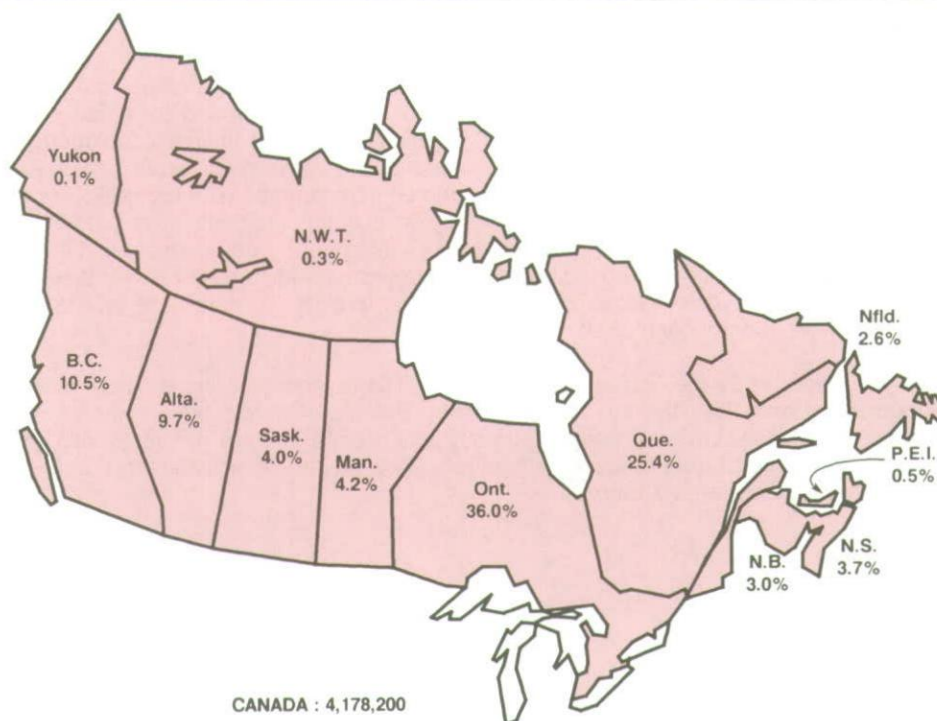
This publication was prepared by the Target Groups Project. The objective of this program is to integrate data on target group populations from the diverse holdings within Statistics Canada. As examples, target groups also include the family, the elderly, aboriginal peoples, immigrants, women, visible minorities and the disabled. Thus, this report on youth is but one of the products such as reference guides, chartbooks and data bases, designed to facilitate user access to data on target groups.

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## 1.0 Demographics

Chart 1.1

### Percentage distribution of youth population aged 15-24, 1986



Source: Statistics Canada, 1986 Census of Canada, summary tabulations, DM86A01.

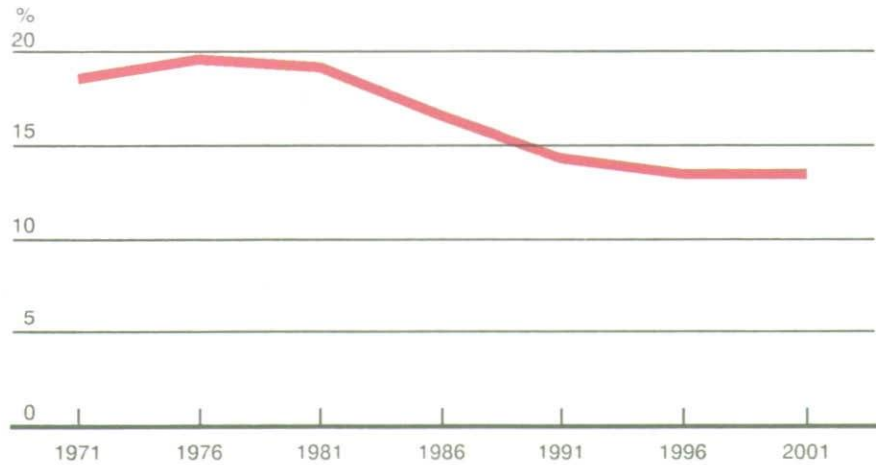
**Table A. Youth population, by age group and sex, Canada and regions, 1986**

Age & Sex	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Prairies	British Columbia	Yukon/ Northwest Territories	Canada
Male 15-19	103,490	243,315	352,725	175,270	106,855	3,600	985,250
Female 15-19	97,885	232,185	336,435	167,975	101,770	3,360	939,600
<b>Total 15-19</b>	<b>201,370</b>	<b>475,500</b>	<b>689,160</b>	<b>343,235</b>	<b>208,625</b>	<b>6,965</b>	<b>1,924,855</b>
Male 20-24	104,910	294,800	408,595	204,115	115,275	3,755	1,131,455
Female 20-24	103,085	290,630	406,015	204,155	114,275	3,735	1,121,895
<b>Total 20-24</b>	<b>208,005</b>	<b>585,425</b>	<b>814,610</b>	<b>408,270</b>	<b>229,555</b>	<b>7,495</b>	<b>2,253,345</b>

Source: Statistics Canada, 1986 Census of Canada, Summary tabulations DM86A01.

- As of the 1986 Census, there were over 1.9 million youth aged 15 to 19 years and close to 2.3 million youth aged 20 to 24 years in Canada.
- Males accounted for 51% of the youth in the 15 to 19 age group, and 50% in the 20 to 24 age group.
- Almost two-thirds of the youth population were residing in either Ontario (36%) or Quebec (25%).

Chart 1.2

Youth population aged 15-24 as a percentage of total population, 1971-2001<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Projections begin in 1991.

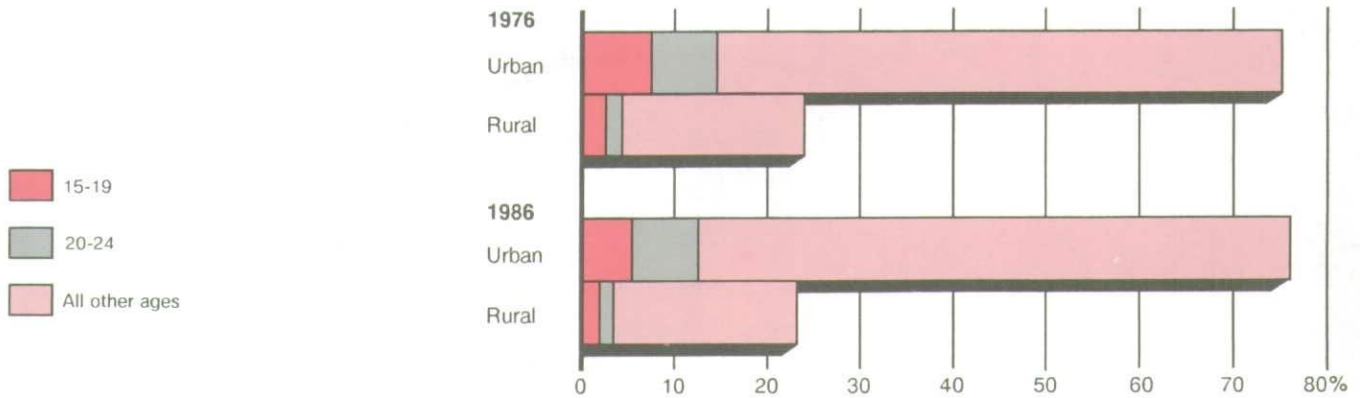
Sources: Statistics Canada, 1971, 1976, 1981 and 1986 censuses of Canada, and Population Projections for Canada, Provinces, and Territories, Catalogue 91-520.

- Youth aged 15 to 24 represented only 17% of the Canadian population in 1986, compared to 20% in 1976.
- It is estimated that, by 2001, youth will make up only 13% of the total Canadian population.
- In 1986, the population of British Columbia had the lowest proportion of youth aged 15 to 24 (15%) while the proportions in the Northwest Territories and Newfoundland were higher, at 20% and 19%, respectively.



Chart 1.3

Percentage distribution of the population residing in urban and rural areas, by age group, 1976 and 1986



Sources: Statistics Canada, 1976 and 1986 censuses of Canada.

Table B. Youth population residing in urban and rural areas, by age group, Canada and regions, 1986

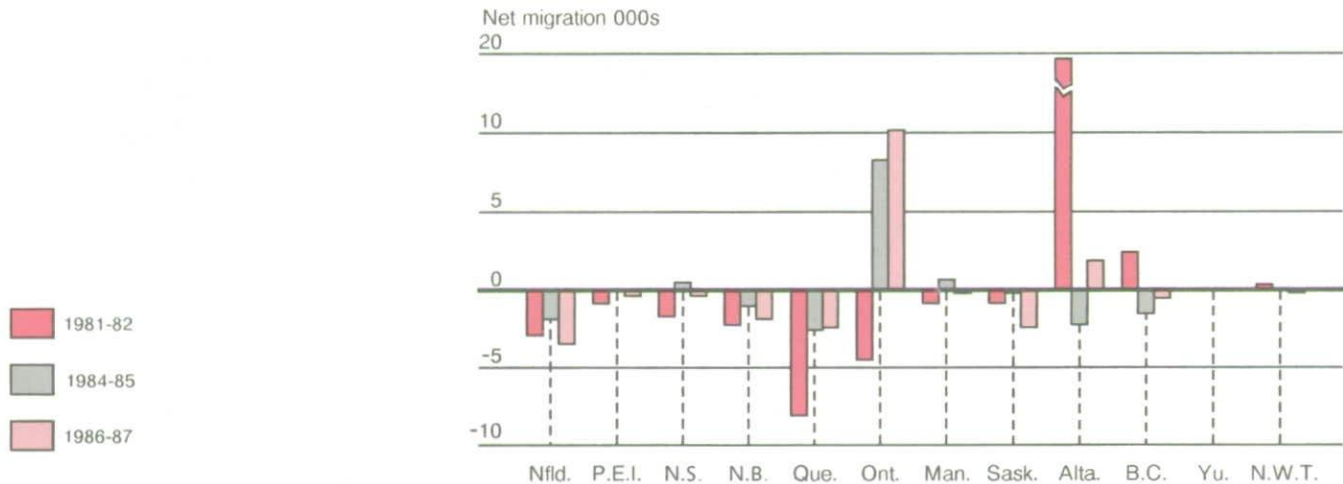
Age & Region	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Prairies	British Columbia	Yukon/ Northwest Territories	Canada
Urban 15-19	102,455	364,335	554,260	240,845	162,110	3,215	1,427,220
Urban 20-24	120,600	473,360	695,980	325,650	191,820	3,950	1,811,355
<b>Total Urban</b>	<b>1,204,455</b>	<b>5,088,995</b>	<b>7,469,420</b>	<b>3,264,810</b>	<b>2,285,005</b>	<b>39,415</b>	<b>19,352,090</b>
Rural 15-19	98,910	111,170	134,895	102,390	46,510	3,745	497,635
Rural 20-24	87,400	112,065	118,625	82,610	37,735	3,545	441,990
<b>Total Rural</b>	<b>1,073,170</b>	<b>1,443,470</b>	<b>1,632,275</b>	<b>1,173,650</b>	<b>598,365</b>	<b>36,330</b>	<b>5,957,240</b>

Source: Statistics Canada, 1986 Census of Canada.

- Urban youth aged 15 to 24 represented 15% of the total population in 1976 compared to 13% in 1986.
- In 1986, some 77.5% of all youth aged 15 to 24 lived in urban areas. This proportion is almost identical to the 76.4% recorded in 1976.
- The urban youth population is distributed almost equally among both sexes, but males represent 53% of the corresponding rural youth population.
- In Prince Edward Island, 61% of youth 15 to 24 live in rural areas, but in Ontario only 17% of youth in the same age group are in rural areas.

Chart 1.4

## Interprovincial net migration of youth aged 15-24 for 1981-82, 1984-85 and 1986-87



Source: Statistics Canada, *Postcensal Annual Estimates of Population by Marital Status, Age, Sex and Components of Growth for Canada, Provinces and Territories*, Catalogue 91-210.

- During the 1981-82 to 1986-87 period, Ontario and Alberta were the only two provinces which experienced significant positive net internal migration of youth aged 15 to 24. Quebec, Saskatchewan and most of the Atlantic provinces had only negative net migration of youth during that same period.
- In 1986/87, only Alberta and Ontario had significant positive interprovincial net migration for persons aged 15 to 24 (10,341 and 2,000, respectively).
- About 26% of all interprovincial migrants in 1986/87 were 15 to 24 years of age.
- Some 97,000 youth aged 15 to 24 migrated from one province to another in 1986/87, of which 52% were males.

## 2.0 Youth at home and on their own

Chart 2.1

Living arrangements of youth<sup>1</sup> aged 15-24, by sex, 1981 and 1986



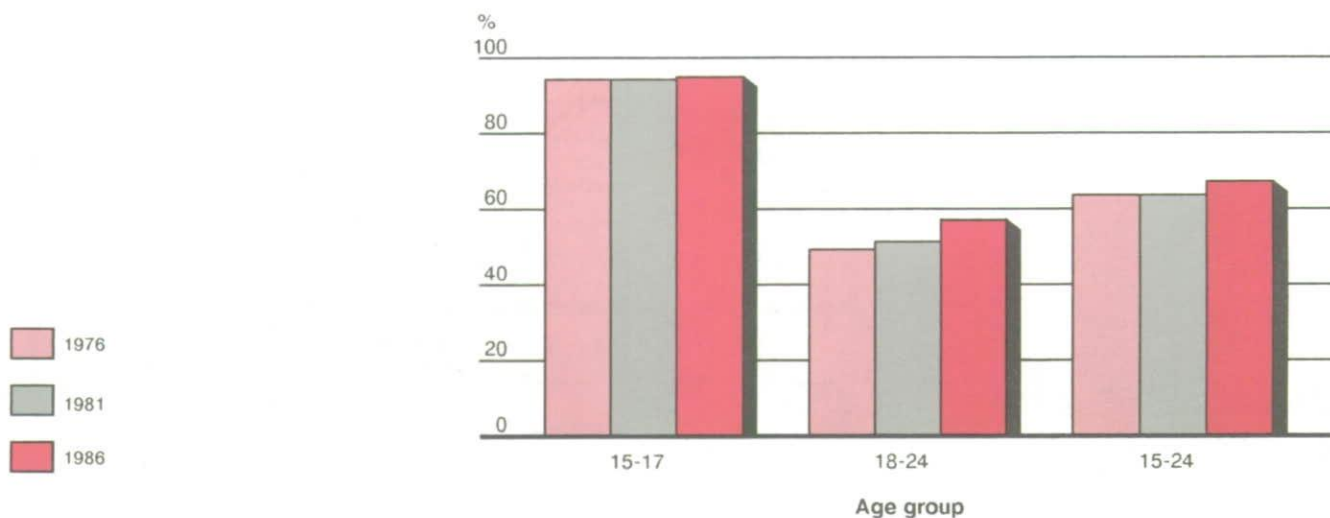
<sup>1</sup> In private households.

Sources: Statistics Canada, 1981 Census of Canada, Catalogue 92-905, and 1986 Census of Canada, Catalogue 93-106.

- From 1981 to 1986, there was a decrease in both the absolute number and percentage of 15 to 24 year olds in a husband/wife situation, declining from 20% to 16% in that period.
- In both 1981 and 1986, males 15 to 24 years old were more likely to live as children in families than females (74% compared to 62% in 1986, for example).
- More than twice the proportion of females aged 15 to 24 than males (22% to 11%) were in a husband/wife situation in 1986, slightly more than the comparable ratio in 1981.
- Only 6% of lone parents in 1986 were between 15 to 24 years old. Close to 6% of the lone parents in the 15 to 24 age group were males compared to 18% for lone parents of all ages.

Chart 2.2

Percentage distribution of youth<sup>1</sup> living as children in a family, by age group, 1976, 1981 and 1986



<sup>1</sup> In private households.

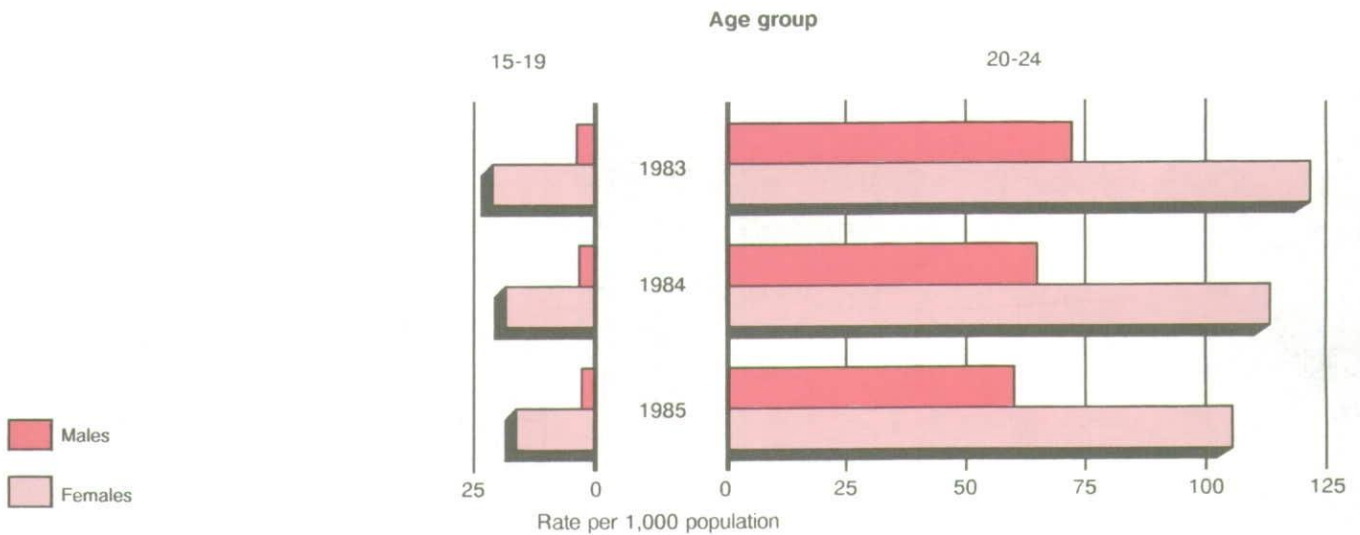
Sources: Statistics Canada, 1976 Census of Canada; 1981 Census of Canada, Catalogue 92-905; and, 1986 Census of Canada, Catalogue 93-106.

- In 1976, 50% of youth aged 18 to 24 lived at home as children compared to 57% in 1986. In the 15 to 24 year old age group, the proportion increased slightly from 64% in 1976 to 68% in 1986.
- The vast majority (95%) of 15 to 17 year olds lived at home as children in 1986.
- In 1986, some 57% of 18 to 24 year olds living as children in families were males.



Chart 2.3

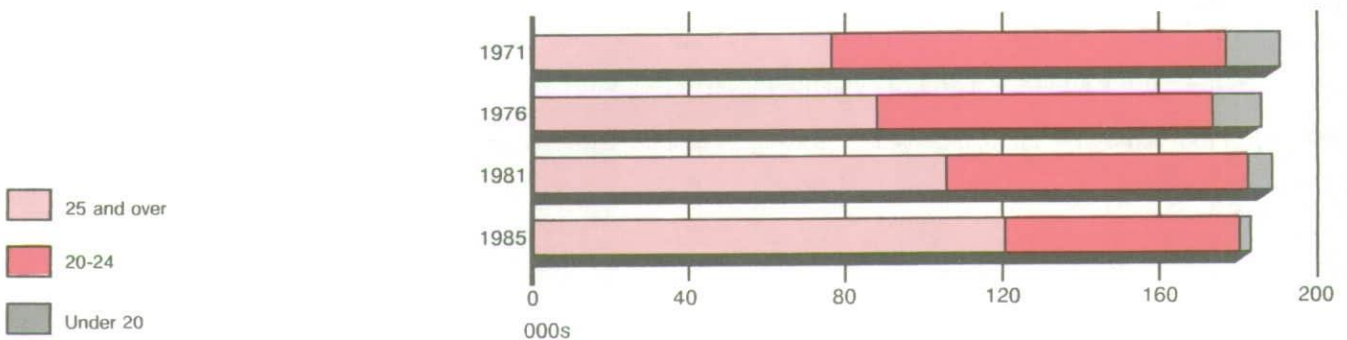
## Marriage rate for youth, by age group and sex, 1983-1985



Source: Statistics Canada, *Marriages and Divorces: Vital Statistics, Catalogue 84-205*.

Chart 2.4

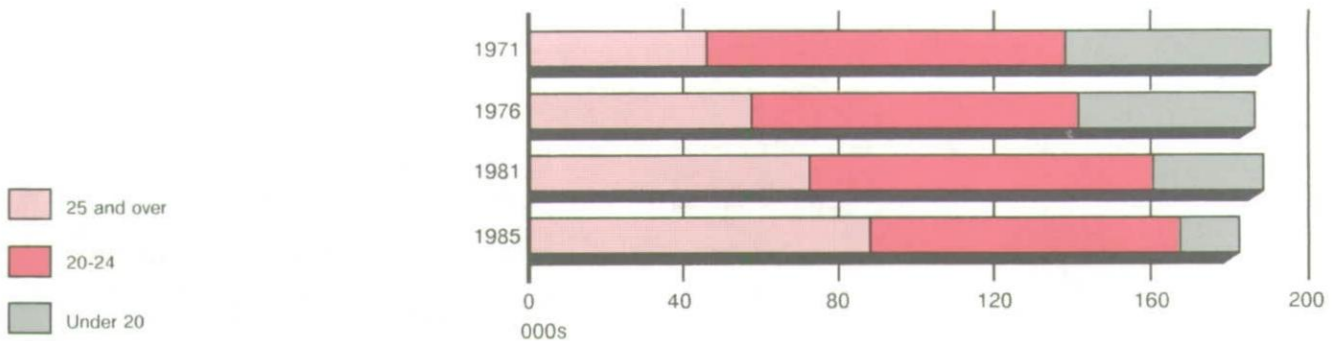
## Number of marriages, by age of bridegroom, 1971-1985



Source: Statistics Canada, *Marriages and Divorces: Vital Statistics, Catalogue 84-205*.

Chart 2.5

## Number of marriages, by age of bride, 1971-1985



Source: Statistics Canada, *Marriages and Divorces: Vital Statistics, Catalogue 84-205*.

- The age-specific marriage rates for 1983 to 1985 have been declining among youth in general. The most significant decrease occurred among the 15 to 19 years old declining by 26% for males, and by 22% for females.
- Close to 60% of bridegrooms in 1971 were 24 years old or younger, compared to just 34% in 1985.
- In 1971, almost 76% of brides were under the age of 25, while only 52% of brides were in that same age category in 1985.
- Almost five times as many females as males under 20 years of age married in 1985.

Chart 2.6

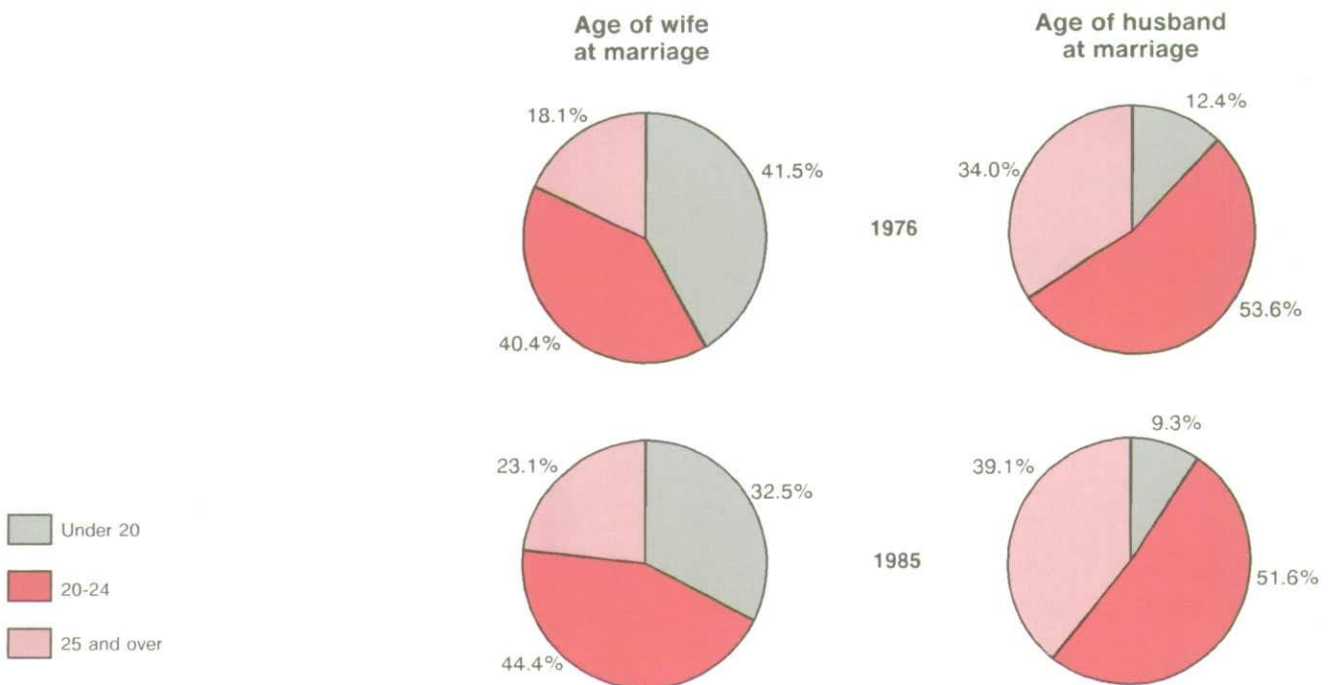
## Divorce rate for youth, by age group and sex, 1983-1985



Source: Statistics Canada, *Marriages and Divorces: Vital Statistics, Catalogue 84-205*.

Chart 2.7

## Percentage distribution of divorces, by age of wife and age of husband at time of marriage, 1976 and 1985

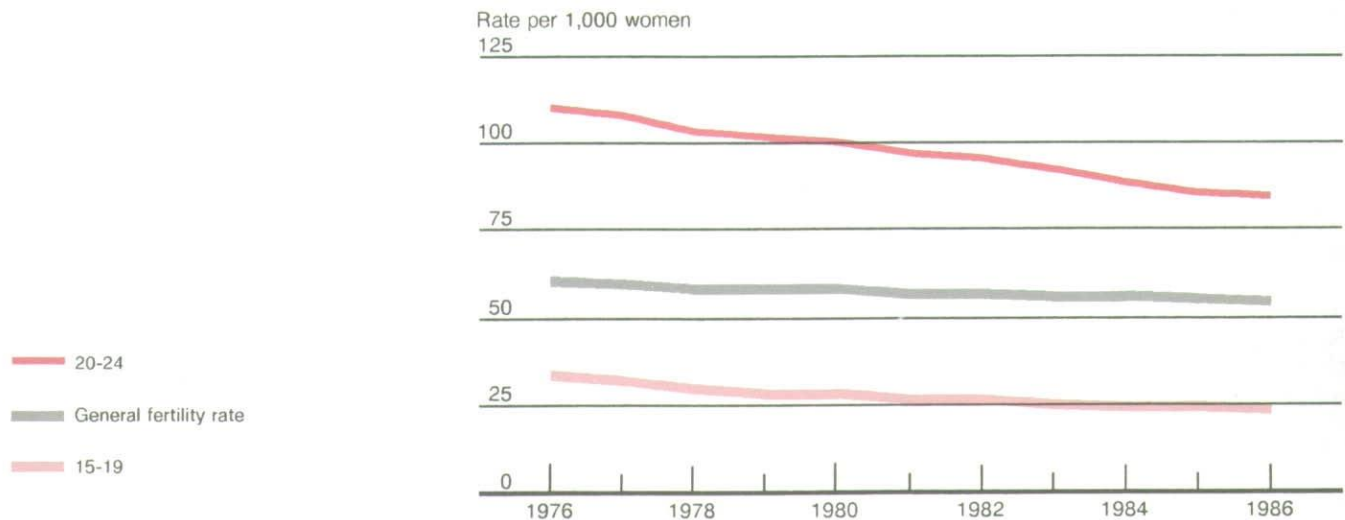


Source: Statistics Canada, *Marriages and Divorces: Vital Statistics, Catalogue 84-205*.

- 
- For both sexes aged 15 to 19, the divorce rates decreased between 1983 and 1984, falling from 4.9 to 3.8 for males and from 2.5 to 2.2 for females; and then rose again in 1985 to about the same level as 1983. On the other hand, the divorce rate among youth aged 20 to 24 decreased steadily since 1983. The decrease was most noticeable among females, falling from 13.7 to 11.6.
  - Close to 77% of all females who divorced in 1985 had been married before the age of 25, a decrease from the 82% noted in 1976. The corresponding proportions for males were 61% and 66%, respectively.
  - Some 8% of females and 3% of males were granted a divorce before the age of 25 in 1985.
-

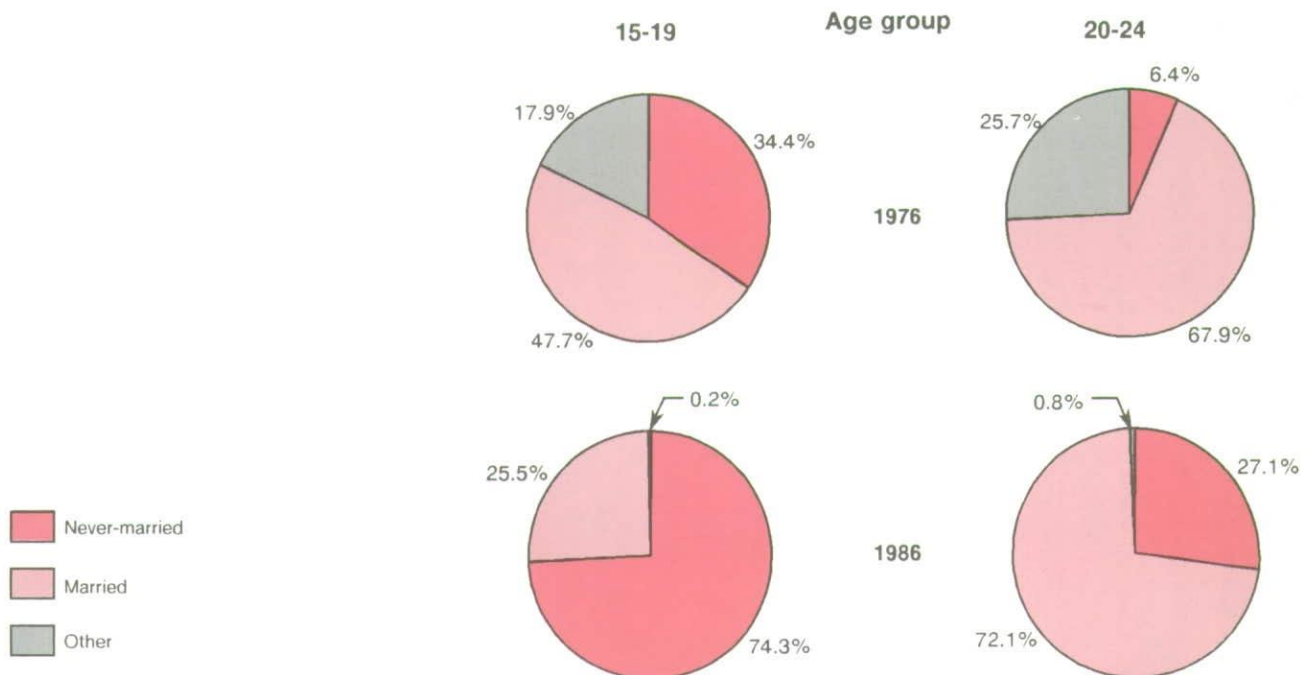


Chart 2.8

Fertility rate for young women, by age group, Canada<sup>1</sup>, 1976-1986<sup>1</sup> Excluding Newfoundland.

Source: Statistics Canada, Births and Deaths: Vital Statistics, Catalogue 84-204.

Chart 2.9

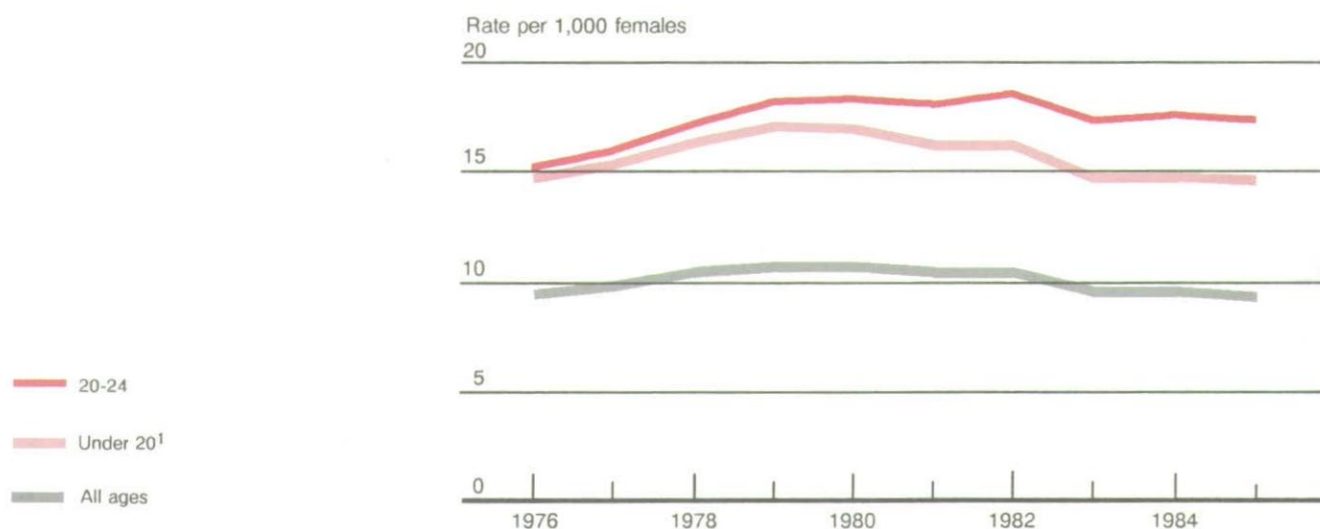
Percentage distribution of live births, by age and marital status of mother, Canada<sup>1</sup>, 1976 and 1986<sup>1</sup> Excluding Newfoundland.

Source: Statistics Canada, Births and Deaths: Vital Statistics, Catalogue 84-204.

- 
- The age-specific fertility rate for women 15 to 19 and 20 to 24 years has been generally declining since 1976, from 33.4 and 110.3, respectively, to 23.5 and 84.8 in 1986, noticeably in a more pronounced way for the latter group.
  - In 1986, 74% of all live births to 15 to 19 years olds were to never-married women compared to only 34% in 1976.
  - In the 20 to 24 age group, the actual number of live births to never-married women increased dramatically (from 7,371 in 1976 to 25,175 in 1986 – an increase of 242%).
-

Chart 2.10

## Therapeutic abortion rate, by age group, 1976-1985



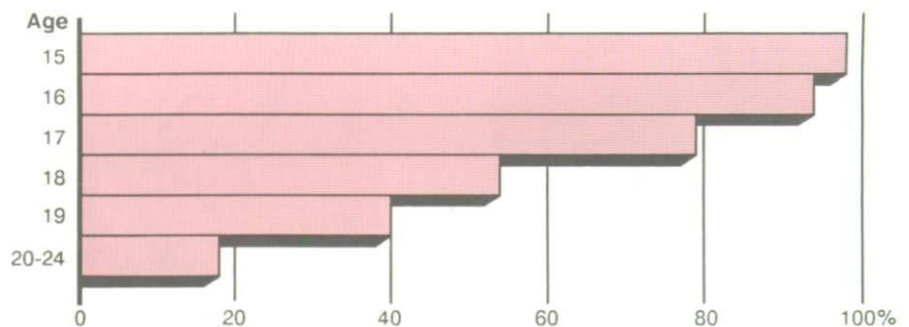
<sup>1</sup> Rate based on all therapeutic abortions performed on women under age 20, and on the female population aged 15 to 19.  
Source: Statistics Canada, *Therapeutic Abortions*, Catalogue 82-211.

- In 1985, for every 1,000 females aged 13 to 44 years in Canada, 9.3 reported therapeutic abortions. The rates among females under 20 years of age and 20 to 24 years were 14.5 and 17.3, respectively.
- The rate of therapeutic abortions to young women under 20 years of age has been decreasing since 1979 (17.0) to a low of 14.5 in 1985. Among women aged 20 to 24 years, the rate decreased to 17.3 in 1985 from a high of 18.5 in 1982.
- Over 56% of all therapeutic abortions in 1985 were performed on women under 25 years of age, down from 62% in 1979.

### 3.0 Education

Chart 3.1

Proportion of full-time enrolment<sup>1</sup> of youth, by age, 1986-87<sup>2</sup>



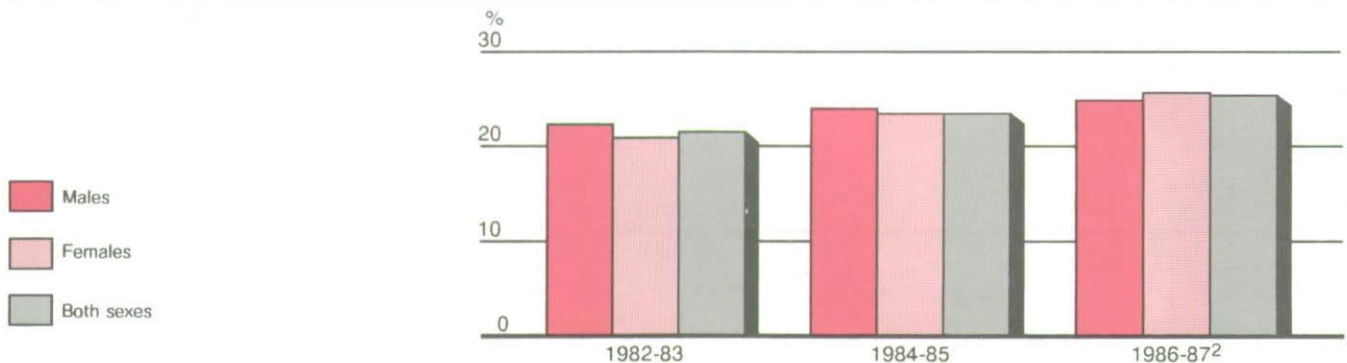
<sup>1</sup> Related to population in each age category.

<sup>2</sup> Preliminary figures.

Source: Statistics Canada, *Education in Canada: A Statistical Review*, Catalogue 81-229, (1987).

Chart 3.2

Proportion of full-time postsecondary enrolment<sup>1</sup> of youth aged 18-24, by sex, 1982-83, 1984-85, and 1986-87<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Related to population aged 18 to 24.

<sup>2</sup> Preliminary figures.

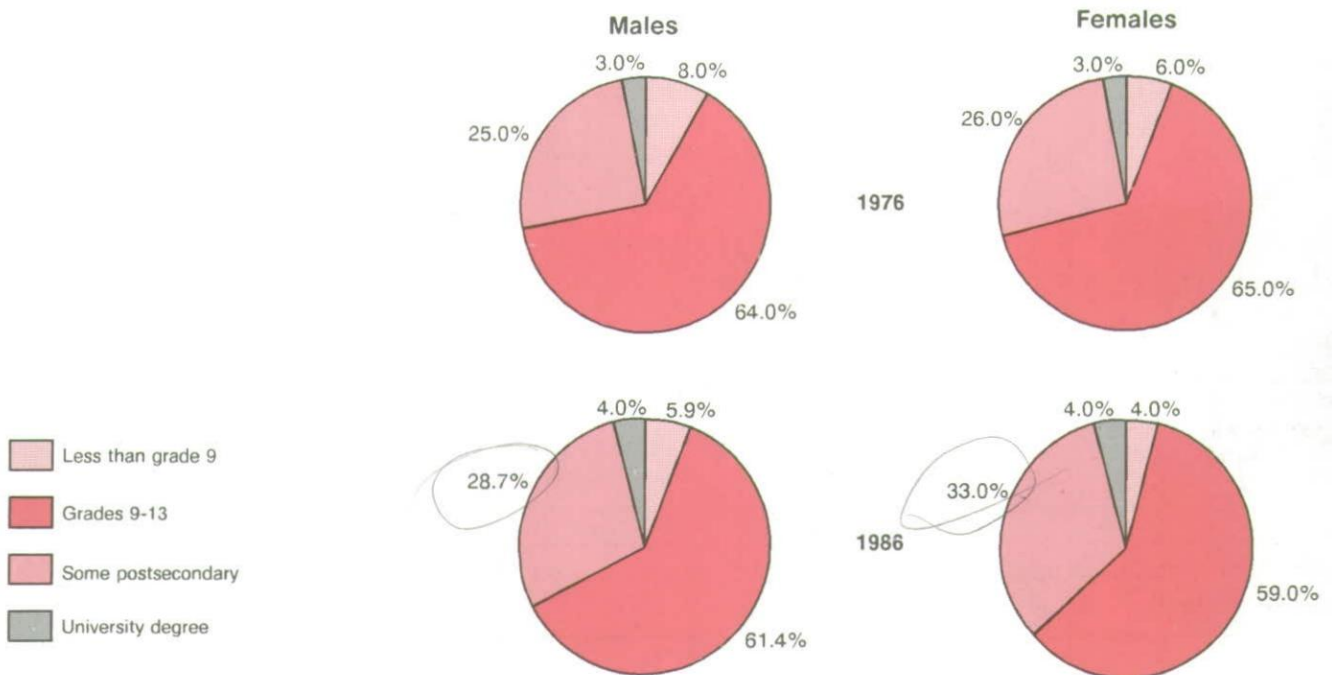
Source: Statistics Canada, *Education in Canada: A Statistical Review*, Catalogue 81-229, (1987).

- Full-time enrolment declines rapidly with age. While the rate was well over 90% for youth aged 15 and 16, it declined sharply among the 18 and 19 year olds (54% and 40%, respectively).
- Among youth aged 18 to 24, full-time postsecondary enrolment increased steadily since 1982-83 (from 21.7% to 25.5% in 1986-87). Males had a higher rate than females during the 1982-1985 period. However, the rate of growth in female enrolment over this period exceeded that of males, such that their proportion finally edged males out in 1986-87.



Chart 3.3

Percentage distribution of youth population aged 15-24, by highest level of schooling and sex, 1976 and 1986

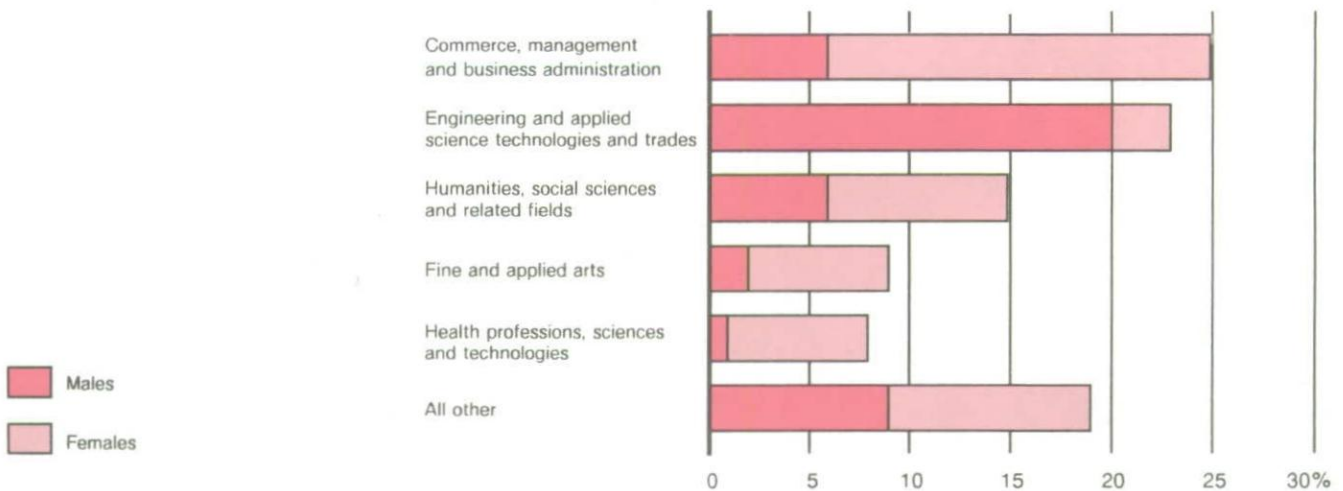


Sources: Statistics Canada, 1976 and 1986 censuses of Canada.

- In general, youth aged 15 to 24 show a higher level of educational attainment in 1986 than in 1976. The difference is most noteworthy among females, where 33% attained some postsecondary education in 1986 compared to 26% in 1976.

Chart 3.4

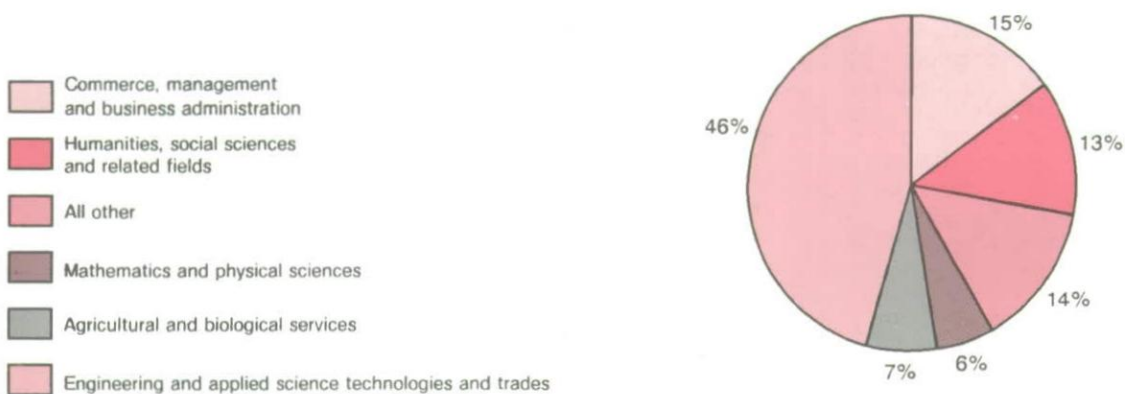
Percentage distribution of youth aged 15-24 with postsecondary qualifications<sup>1</sup>, by major field of study and sex, 1986



<sup>1</sup> Refers to university degrees, certificates or diplomas and trades and other non-university certificates or diplomas.  
Source: Statistics Canada, 1986 Census of Canada.

Chart 3.5A

Percentage distribution of top five fields of study for males aged 15-24 with postsecondary qualifications<sup>1</sup>, 1986



<sup>1</sup> Refers to university degrees, certificates or diplomas and trades and other non-university certificates or diplomas.  
Source: Statistics Canada, 1986 Census of Canada.

Chart 3.5B

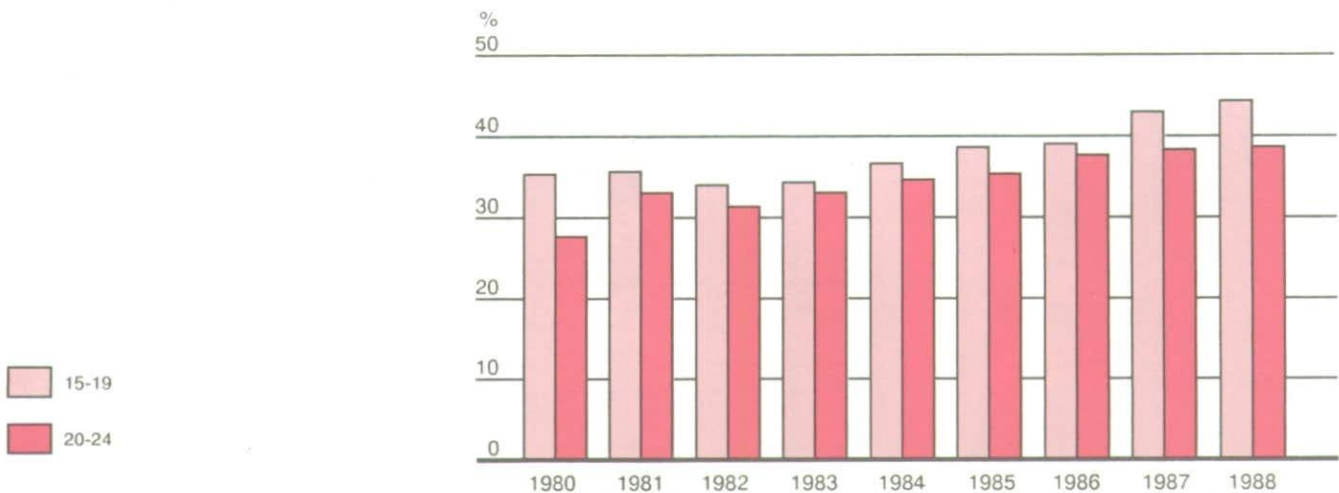
Percentage distribution of top five fields of study for females aged 15-24 with postsecondary qualifications<sup>1</sup>, 1986



<sup>1</sup> Refers to university degrees, certificates or diplomas and trades and other non-university certificates or diplomas.  
Source: Statistics Canada, 1986 Census of Canada.

- In 1986, almost half (48%) of the youth population aged 15 to 24 with postsecondary qualifications were concentrated in two major fields of study: the "Commerce, management and business administration" field (25%), and the "Engineering and applied science technologies and trades" field (23%).
- There are marked differences in the distribution of the major field of study within sexes. Close to half (46%) of the males were in the "Engineering and applied science technologies and trades", while just over half of the females (51%) were in the "Commerce, management, and business administration" and "Humanities, social sciences and related" fields combined.

Chart 3.6

Labour force participation rate of full-time students, by age group, 1980-1988<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> As at the month of October of each year.

Source: Statistics Canada, *The Labour Force*, Catalogue 71-001.

Note: Figures quoted below pertain only to the month of October of each year.

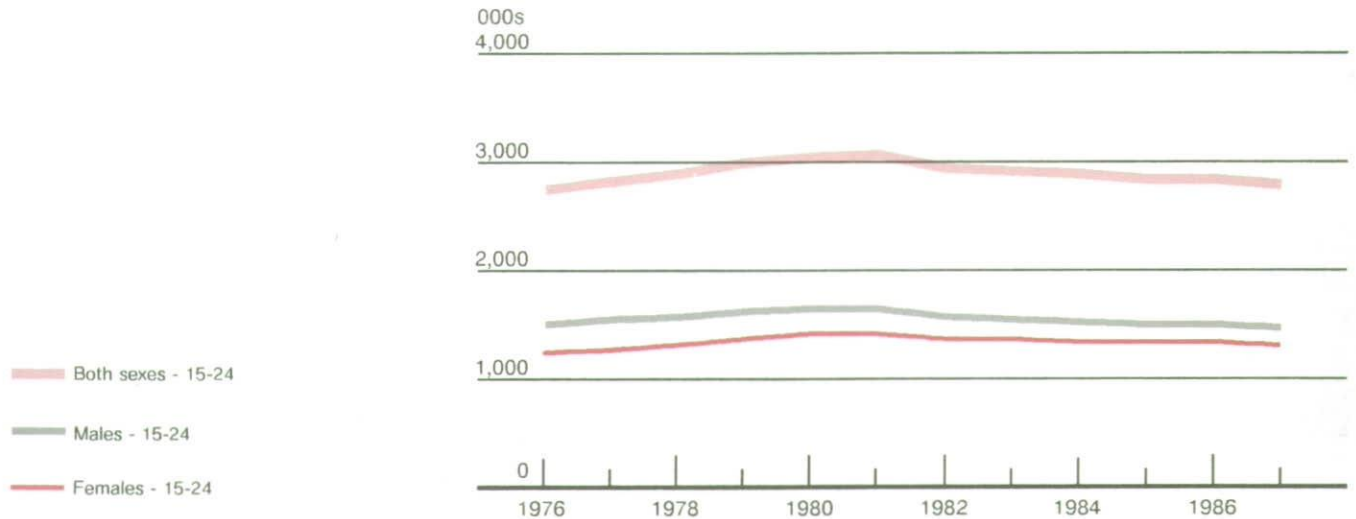
- There were 792,000 full-time students aged 15 to 24 years active in the labour force in 1988.
- Between 1980 and 1988, the 15 to 24 year old student labour force increased by 28% (from 619,000 to 792,000).
- More than two out of every five full-time students aged 15 to 19 were actively involved in the labour force in 1988.
- Over the period 1980-1988, full-time students aged 15 to 19 experienced a higher labour force participation rate than their 20 to 24 year old counterparts, reaching 44% and 39%, respectively, in 1988.
- In 1988, male and female full-time students aged 20 to 24 had very similar labour force participation rates (38% versus 39%), while among those aged 15 to 19, females maintained a definite edge over the males, at 46% versus 43%, respectively.



## 4.0 Employment/Income

Chart 4.1

Youth aged 15-24 in the labour force, by sex, 1976-1987<sup>1</sup>

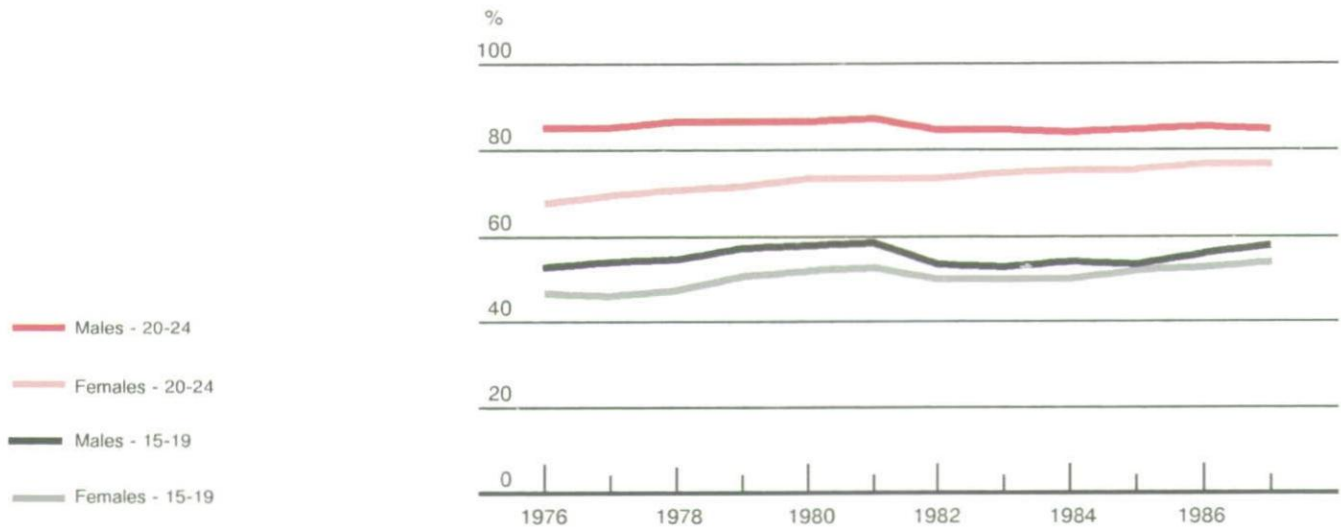


<sup>1</sup> Annual averages.

Source: Statistics Canada, *Historical Labour Force Statistics, Catalogue 71-201, (1987)*.

- In 1987, approximately 2.8 million youth aged 15 to 24 were in the labour force. Of these, 47% were women.
- Over the 12-year period, the number of youth in the labour force peaked in 1981 at close to 3.1 million, declining to 2.8 million by 1987.
- While the number of youth in the labour force peaked in 1981, their proportion in the labour force actually decreased over the period, from about 27% in 1976 to just over 21% in 1987.

Chart 4.2

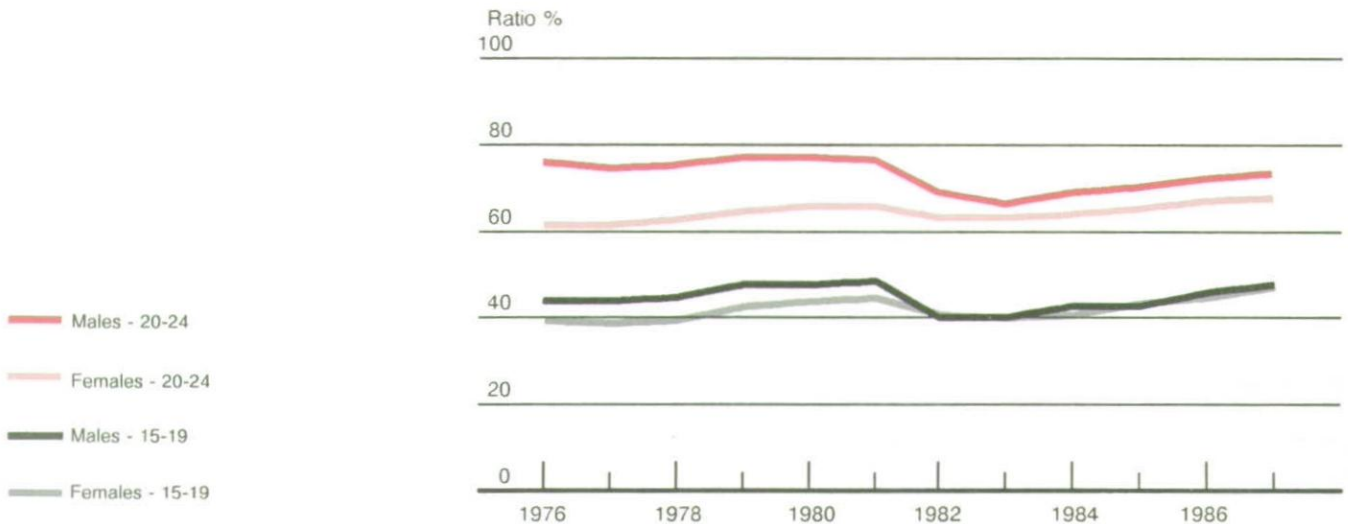
Labour force participation rate of youth, by age group and sex, 1976-1987<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Annual averages.

Source: Statistics Canada, *The Labour Force*, Catalogue 71-001.

- In 1987, almost 58% of males aged 15 to 19 and 85% of those aged 20 to 24 participated in the labour force. Corresponding rates for females were 54% and 76%, respectively.
- Females aged 20 to 24 were the only group not showing a decline in the recession following 1981.
- During the 1976-1987 period, males aged 20 to 24 experienced the highest participation rate (between 84% and 87%) although the gap with their female counterparts closed to within 8 percentage points. Males and females aged 15 to 19 displayed a similar trend in participation rates (between 47% and 58%) during that period.

Chart 4.3

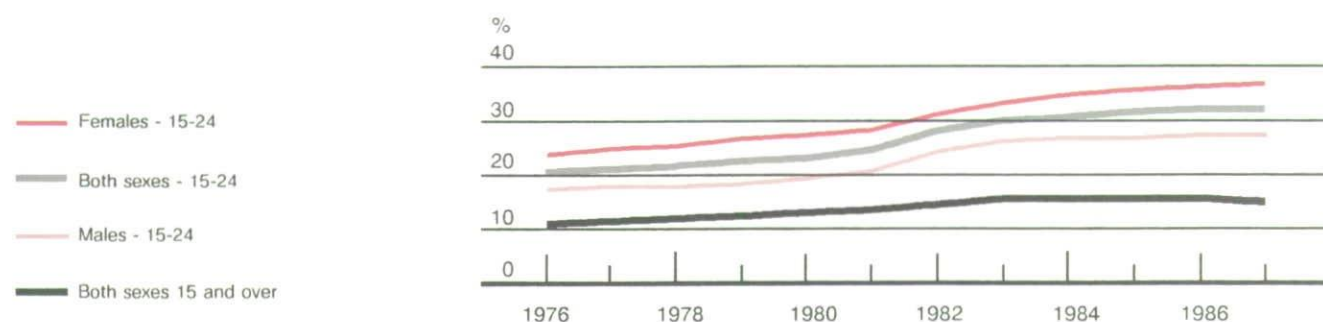
Employment/population ratio for youth, by age group and sex, 1976-1987<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Annual averages.

Source: Statistics Canada, *The Labour Force*, Catalogue 71-001.

- In 1987, employment attracted about 73% of males and 67% of females aged 20 to 24. The comparable rates among youth aged 15 to 19 were 48% for males and 47% for females.
- During the 1976-1987 period, males aged 20 to 24 consistently displayed a higher employment/population ratio; but since 1982, the situation between males and females aged 15 to 19 has alternated. In 1982 and 1985, for example, females edged males by 0.5 and 0.8 percentage points, respectively.

Chart 4.4

Proportion of young workers employed part-time<sup>1</sup>, by age group and sex, 1976-1987<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Part-time employment consists of persons who usually work less than 30 hours per week.

<sup>2</sup> Annual averages.

Source: Statistics Canada, *The Labour Force*, Catalogue 71-001.

**Table C. Percentage distribution of reason for part-time employment, by age group<sup>1</sup>, 1976, 1981 and 1987**

Reason	Youth aged 15 to 24			Persons 25 years and over		
	1976	1981	1987	1976	1981	1987
Personal or family responsibilities	2.7	2.1	1.4	21.5	20.2	14.3
Going to school	69.5	65.3	66.0	2.1	2.2	3.1
Could only find part-time work	13.5	21.0	23.4	10.8	15.8	28.9
Did not want full-time work	12.7	10.1	8.5	57.9	55.3	50.7
Other reasons	1.6	1.5	0.5	7.7	6.3	3.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

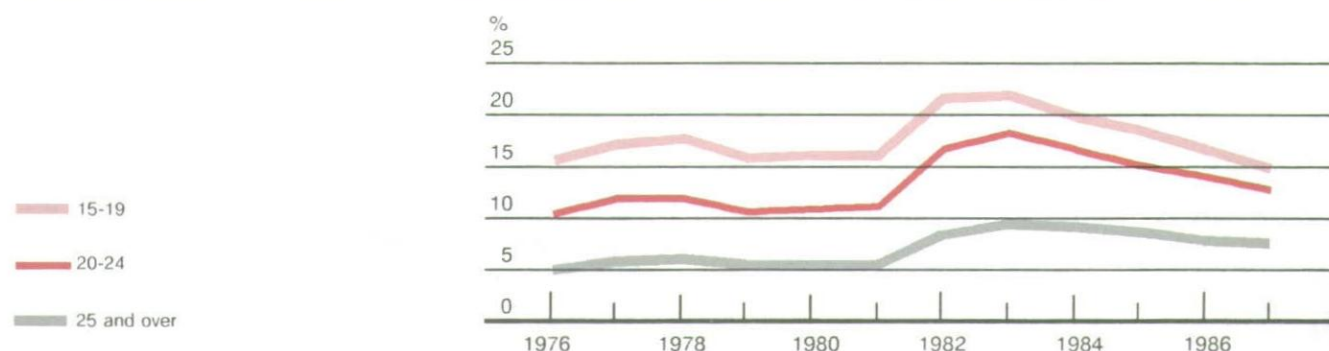
<sup>1</sup> Annual averages.

Source: Statistics Canada, *The Labour Force*, Catalogue 71-001.

- Part-time employment among youth aged 15 to 24 has increased steadily since 1976 (from 20% of all young workers to 32% in 1987). This compared with an increase from 11% to 15% for all ages.
- The proportion of part-time work showed a significant rise in the period beginning 1982 for young workers of either sex, advancing by between 3 and 4 percent in that year alone.
- Part-time female workers aged 15 to 24 have consistently outpaced their male counterparts over the period shown, rising from about one-quarter of all female workers in 1976 to well over one-third in 1987.
- As shown in Table C, two-thirds of youth aged 15 to 24 engaged in part-time work did so as they were attending school. This contrasted sharply with just over 3% of workers aged 25 and over. Interestingly, the proportion of those not wanting full-time work, declined in both cases, from 12.7% to 8.5% for the 15 to 24 age group and from 57.9% to 50.7% for the 25 and over population.



Chart 4.5

Unemployment rate of youth, by age group, 1976-1987<sup>1</sup><sup>1</sup> Annual averages.

Source: Statistics Canada, Historical Labour Force Statistics, Catalogue 71-201, (1987).

Table D. Unemployment rate, by age group and sex, 1976-1987<sup>1</sup>

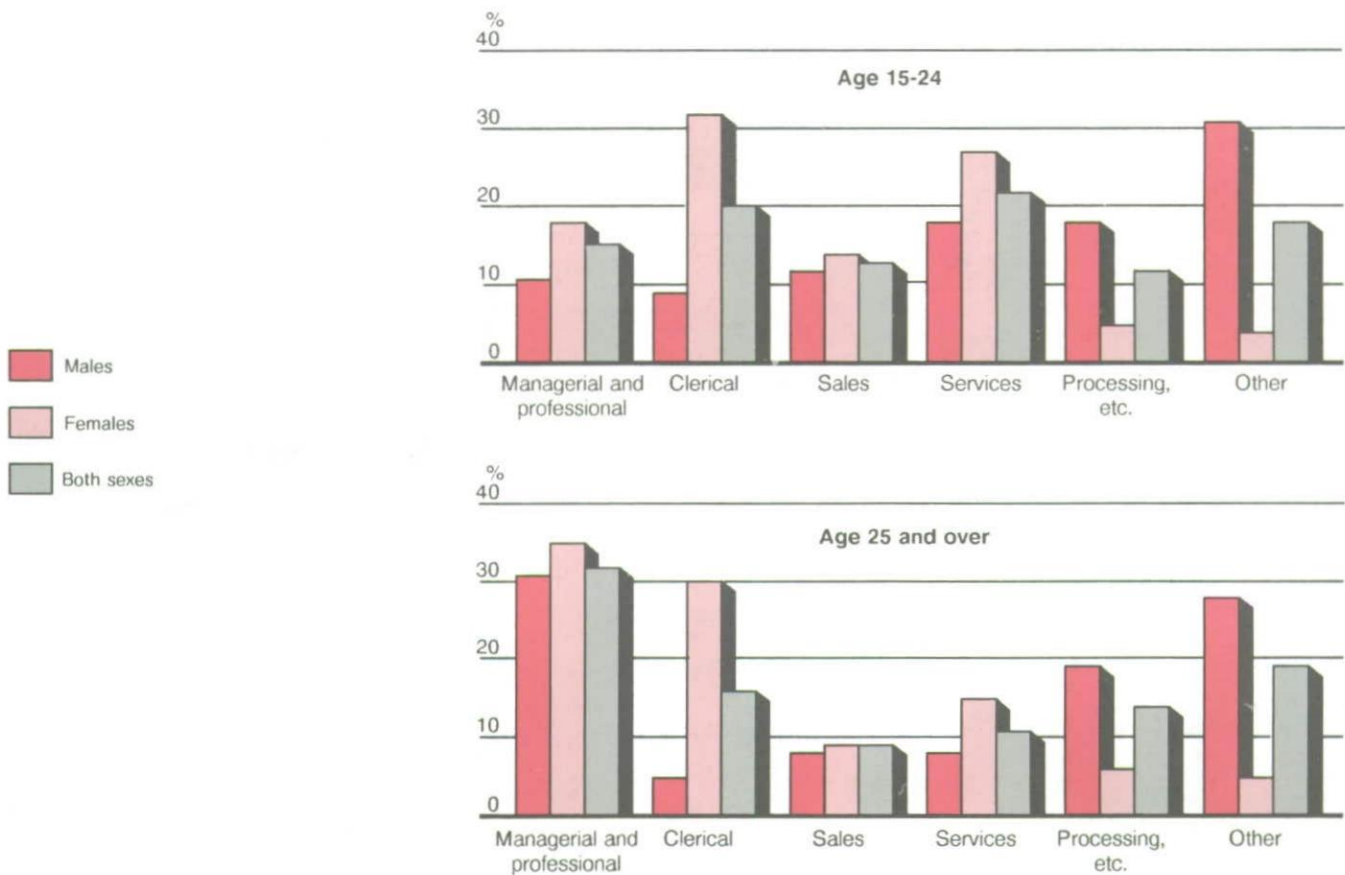
Sex/Age	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987
Male 15-19	16.3	18.1	18.4	16.3	17.0	16.9	24.6	24.2	21.3	20.6	18.2	16.4
Female 15-19	15.1	16.7	17.1	15.8	15.3	15.4	18.9	20.1	18.5	16.7	15.2	13.6
Male 20-24	11.1	12.6	12.7	11.0	11.3	12.2	19.0	21.4	18.4	17.0	15.5	13.9
Female 20-24	9.8	11.7	11.5	10.4	10.7	10.0	14.4	15.2	14.9	13.4	12.9	11.8
Male 25+	4.2	4.9	5.2	4.5	4.8	4.8	8.2	9.2	8.9	8.3	7.6	7.0
Female 25+	6.6	7.4	7.7	7.0	6.5	6.7	8.8	9.6	9.7	9.4	8.6	8.4

<sup>1</sup> Annual averages.

Source: Statistics Canada, Historical Labour Force Statistics, Catalogue 71-201, (1987).

- In 1987, there were approximately 386,000 unemployed youth aged 15 to 24 in Canada, or approximately 34% of all the unemployed, although they accounted for only 21% of the labour force.
- Youth employment suffered a greater impact in the 1981/82 recession. However, rates have been declining steadily since the highs of 1983, amounting to 15% for the 15 to 19 year olds, 13% for the 20 to 24 age group, and 7.6% for those aged 25 years and over, by 1987.
- During the 12-year period, young males experienced higher unemployment rates than females. The opposite was true of the adult population. The difference was greatest in the 15 to 19 age group, where male unemployment, at 16.4%, was nearly 3 percentage points higher than females.
- However, between 1986 and 1987, the decline in unemployment for youth of 15 to 19 years was slightly higher in the case of males (1.8 percentage points) than females (1.6 percentage points).

Chart 4.6

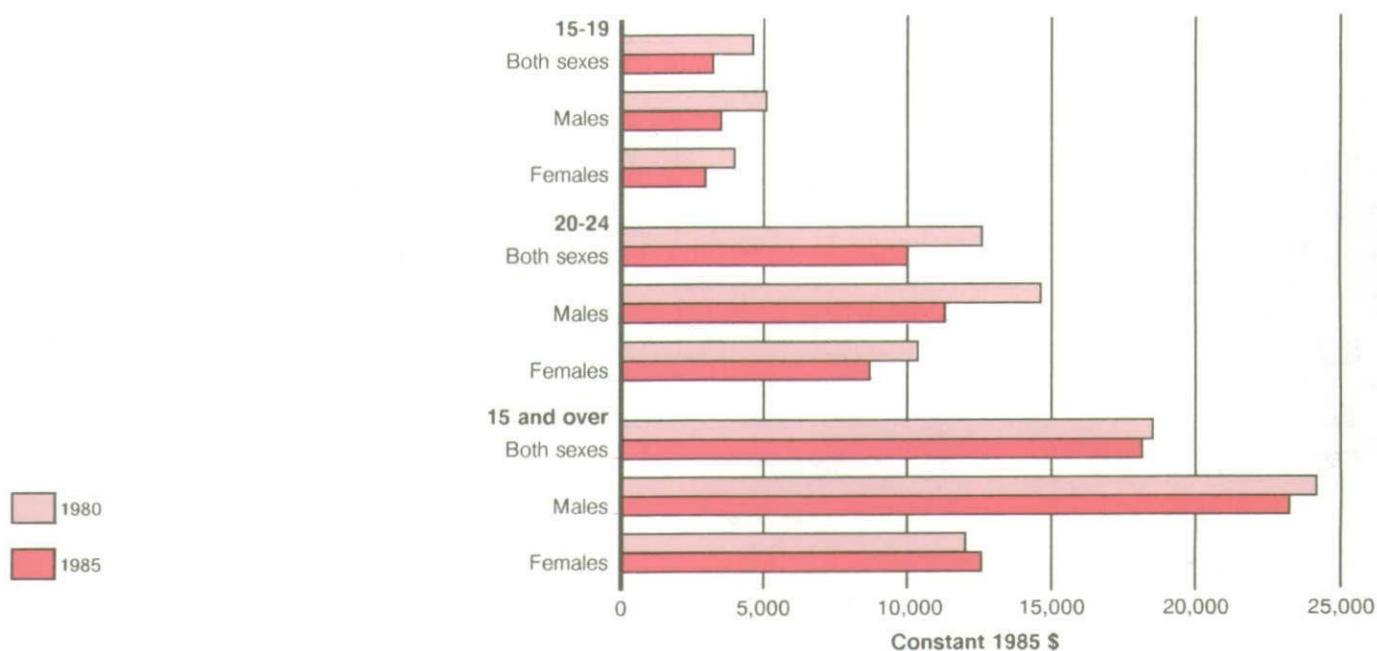
Percentage distribution of workers, by occupation<sup>1</sup>, age group and sex, 1987<sup>2</sup><sup>1</sup> Based on the 1980 Standard Occupational Classification.<sup>2</sup> Annual averages.

Source: Statistics Canada, The Labour Force Survey.

- Service and clerical groups together accounted for 42% of workers aged 15 to 24, compared to just 27% for workers 25 years and over.
- Females aged 15 to 24 accounted for a much higher proportion of workers in the clerical and service occupations than males, amounting to 67%.
- Service occupations employed a much larger share of the 15 to 24 year old work force in 1987 (22%) than in 1976 (15%).

Chart 4.7

## Average annual income in constant (1985) dollars, by age group and sex, 1980 and 1985



Sources: Statistics Canada, 1981 Census of Canada, Catalogue 92-928; and, 1986 Census of Canada, Catalogue 93-114.

Table E. Incidence of low income among population<sup>1</sup>, by age group, 1980 and 1985

	1980	1985
	%	
<b>Population</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>17.0</b>
Under 6 years	18.9	21.3
6-14 years	17.7	19.4
15-24 years	16.6	20.1
25-34 years	12.8	15.5
35-44 years	11.7	13.0
45-54 years	10.9	12.5
55-64 years	15.5	16.9
65 years and over	23.9	18.0

<sup>1</sup> Includes all persons in economic families and unattached individuals.

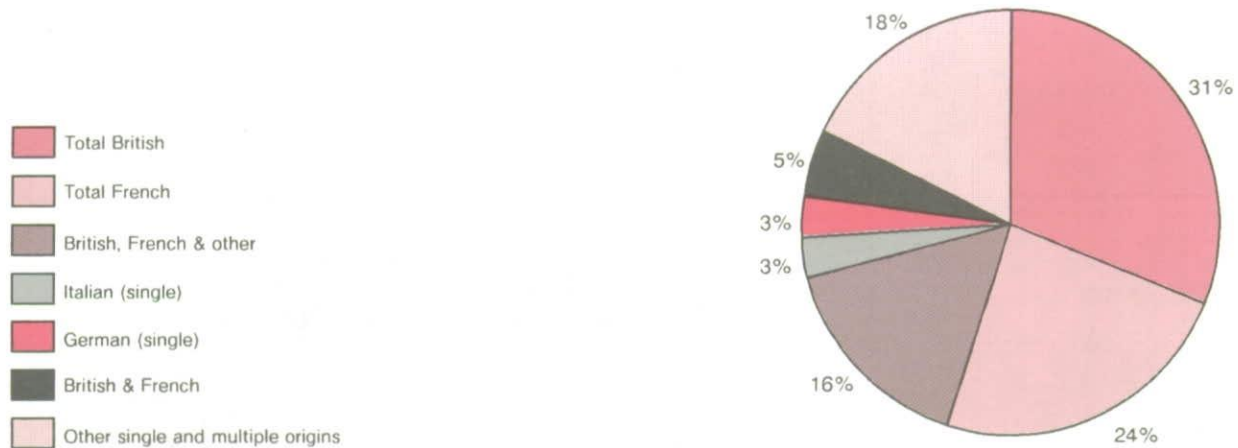
Source: Statistics Canada, 1986 Census of Canada.

- In general, average individual incomes for 1985 were still below those of the pre-recession peak of 1980 (after adjustment for inflation).
- Among the youth population, average income of females was still below that of their male counterparts. However, the gap between male and female incomes decreased by about 7 percentage points in 1985 compared with 1980.
- The incidence of low income among the population aged 15 to 24 increased from 17% in 1980 to 20% in 1985, compared with an increase from 16% to 17% for the population in general.

## 5.0 Cultural characteristics

Chart 5.1

Percentage distribution of youth aged 15-24, by ethnic origins<sup>1</sup>, 1986

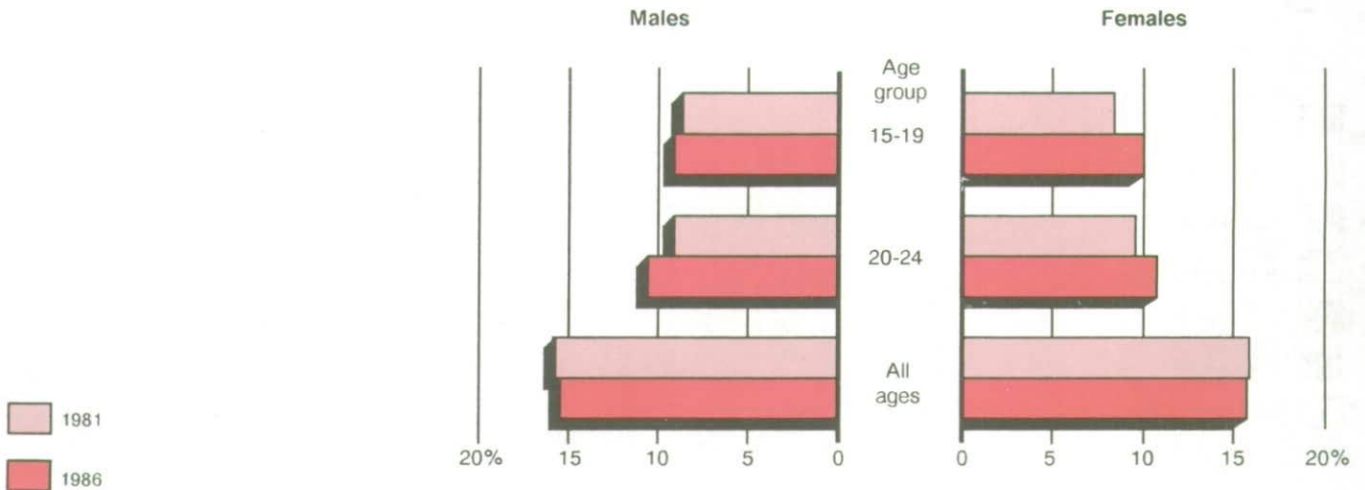


<sup>1</sup> Details on ethnic origins within each category are available in Catalogue 99-101.  
Source: Statistics Canada, 1986 Census of Canada.

- Over three-quarters of Canada's youth population were of British or French background. British origins accounted for the largest proportion of youth at 31%, followed by French at 24%, and 16% for British, French and other origins combined.
- Reporting of ethnic origin to some extent reflected expected regional variations as in Quebec for example, where over 77% of youth 15 to 24 years were of French extraction and in the Northwest Territories where aboriginal origins accounted for 61%.

Chart 5.2

### Percentage of immigrants among youth population, by age group and sex, 1981 and 1986



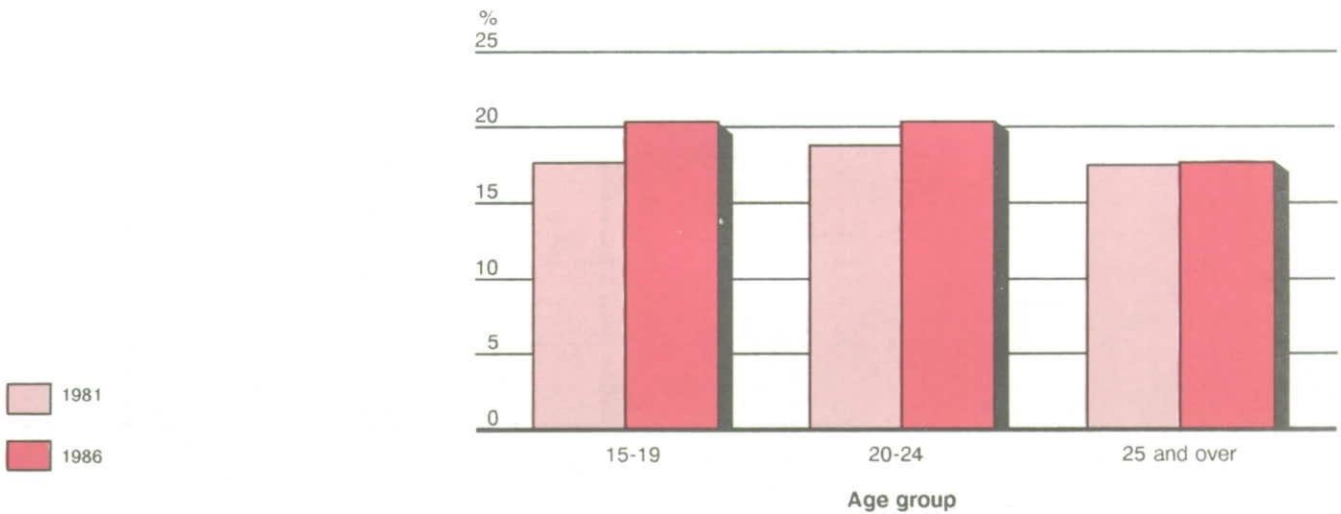
Sources: Statistics Canada, 1981 and 1986 censuses of Canada.

- In 1986, just over 9% of males and 10% of females aged 15 to 19 reported being immigrants to Canada. These proportions were slightly higher than in 1981 (8.7% of males and 8.5% of females).
- The proportion of immigrants among youth aged 20 to 24 was higher than those aged 15 to 19. Both proportions were considerably less than the average for the total population which approached 16%.
- In 1986 and 1981, youth aged 15 to 24 accounted for 11% of the 3.9 million immigrants in Canada.



Chart 5.3

## Percentage of youth who are bilingual, by age group, 1981 and 1986

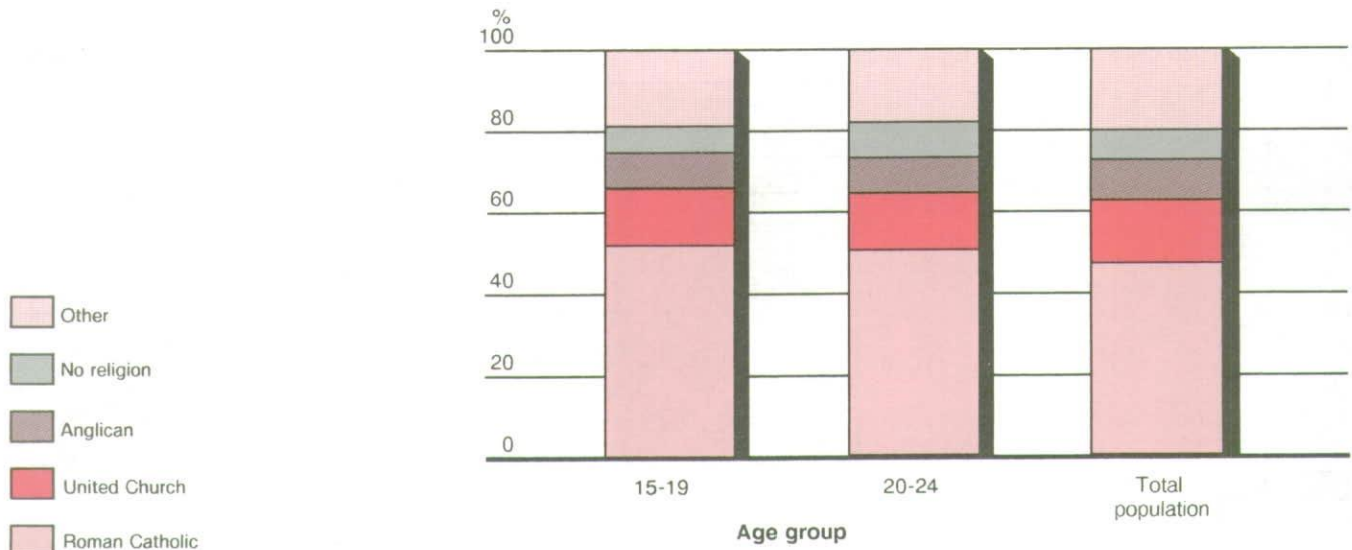


Sources: Statistics Canada, 1981 and 1986 censuses of Canada.

- In 1986, the proportion of youth in both age groups (15 to 19 and 20 to 24) who reported being able to conduct a conversation in both English and French, climbed to between 20 and 21% from approximately 18% in 1981.
- In comparison, the rate of bilingualism among persons aged 25 years and over increased only marginally (from 17.5% to 17.7%).
- In the province of Quebec, 42% of the youth aged 15 to 24 were bilingual in 1986 compared to 36% in 1981. In the remainder of Canada, the proportions were 13% and 12%, respectively.

Chart 5.4

Percentage distribution of youth population, by religious denomination and age group, 1981



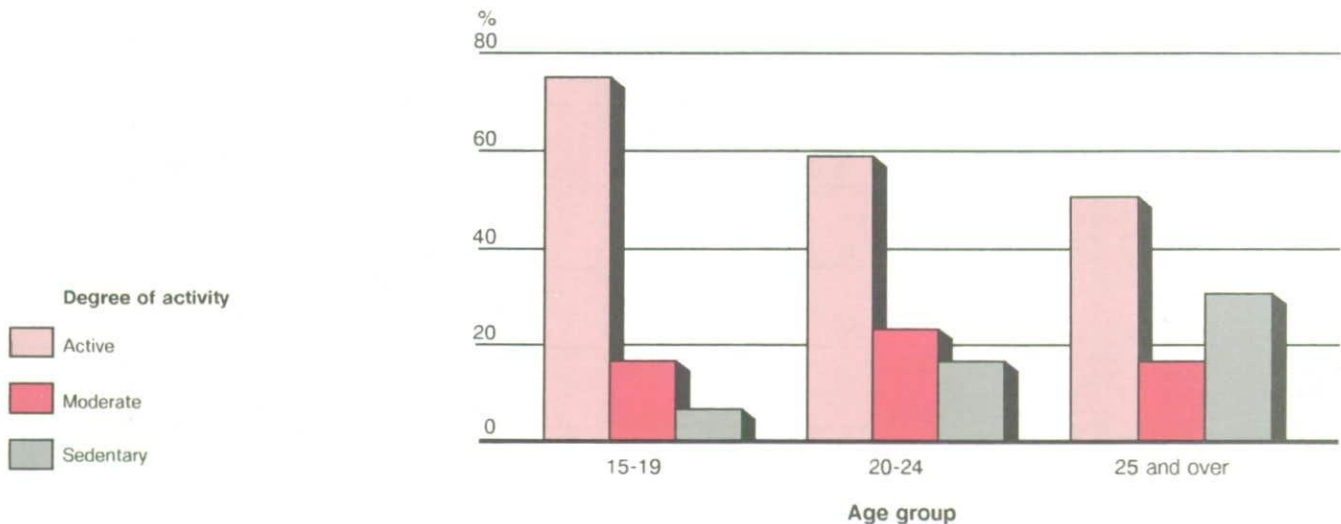
Source: Statistics Canada, 1981 Census of Canada, Catalogue 92-912.

- In 1981, about one-half of youth aged 15 to 24 were of Roman Catholic denomination. United and Anglican Church affiliations accounted for 14% and 9%, respectively.
- Among youth aged 20 to 24, the "no religion" category and Anglican each accounted for 9%, exceeded only by United Church and Roman Catholic. In 1971, "no religion" represented the fourth most popular choice for the two age groups shown.

## 6.0 Health conditions

Chart 6.1

Percentage distribution of population<sup>1</sup>, by frequency of exercise<sup>2</sup> and age group, 1985



<sup>1</sup> "Not stated" responses are not shown.

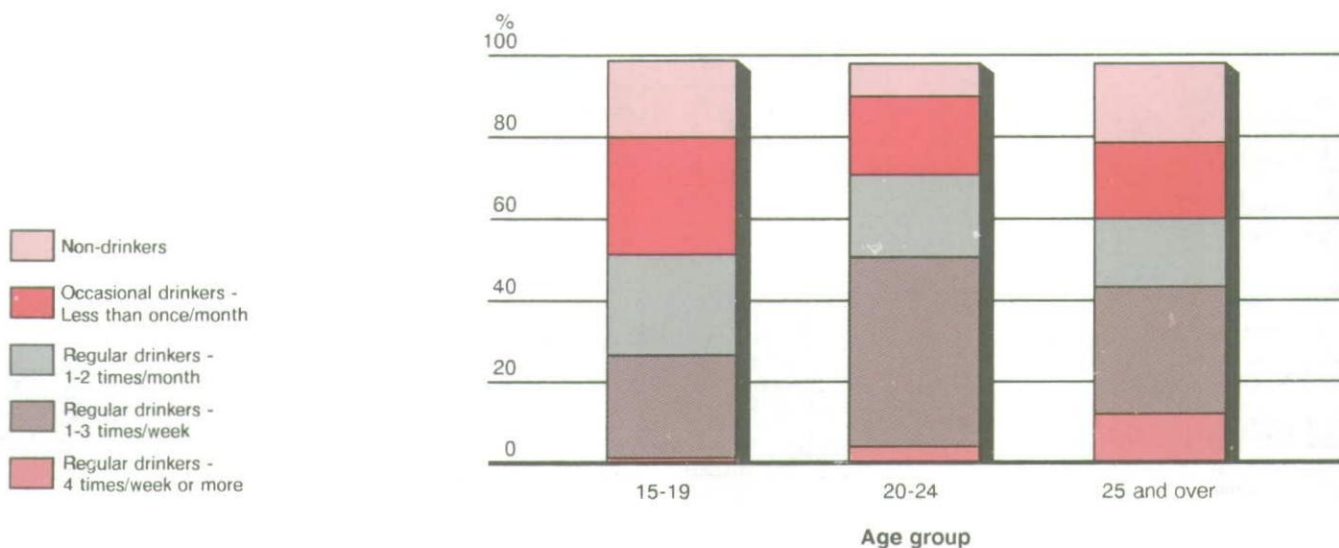
<sup>2</sup> Active means exercise 3 times a week for at least 15 minutes in duration; moderate, 1 or 2 times a week; sedentary, less than once a week.

Source: Statistics Canada/Health and Welfare Canada, Health Promotion Survey.

- In 1985, over 75% of youth aged 15 to 19 and 59% of those aged 20 to 24 reported themselves as "active" exercisers, compared to only 51% for persons 25 years and over.
- In all three age groups, the frequency of "active" exercise was higher among males than females, the most active being 15 to 19 year old males (78% vs 72% for females).
- Only 7% of youth aged 15 to 19 and 17% of those aged 20 to 24 were classified as "sedentary". The proportion of the population 25 years and over classified as such was 31%. In all three age groups, more females than males were sedentary.

Chart 6.2

Percentage distribution of population<sup>1</sup>, by frequency of drinking (alcohol) and age group, 1985



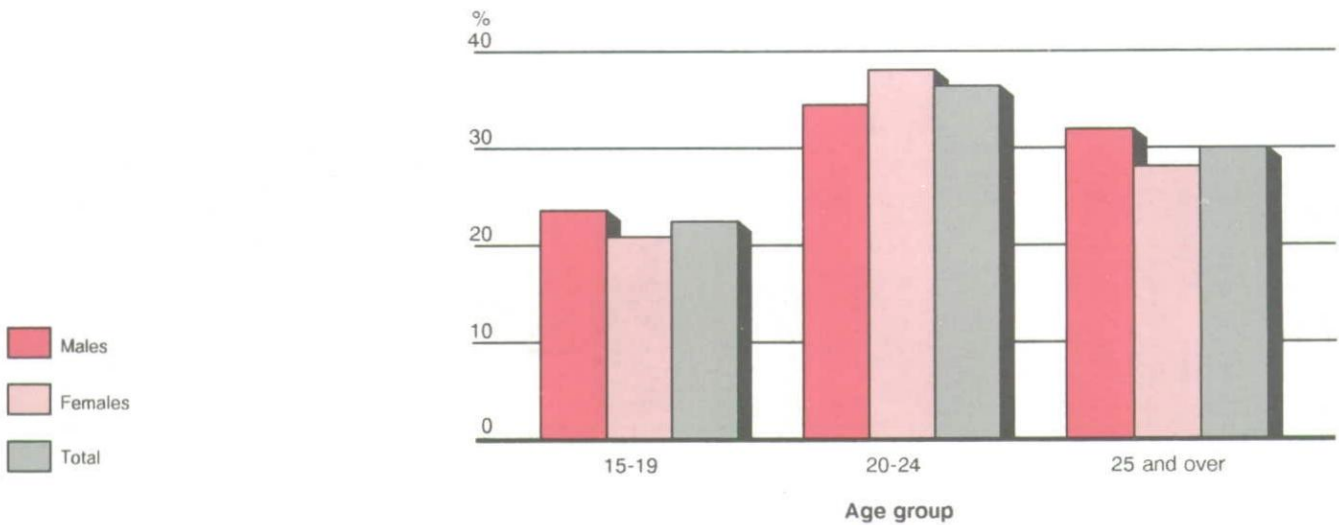
<sup>1</sup> Total may not add to 100.0% as "Not stated" responses are not shown.

Source: Statistics Canada/Health and Welfare Canada, Health Promotion Survey.

- In 1985, 72% of youth aged 20 to 24 years reported drinking regularly (one or more times per month) compared to 52% of youth 15 to 19 years and 61% of persons 25 years and over.
- Youth aged 20 to 24 have the lowest percentage of non-drinkers (8%) and more regular drinkers than any other age group.
- In the 15 to 19 age group, there is almost an equal percentage of males and females in each category of drinker. However, in the 20 to 24 age group, there is a definite increase in the percentage of males reporting drinking one to three times per week (55.3%) compared to females in this category (38.1%).

Chart 6.3

Percentage of population who are daily smokers, by age group and sex, 1985



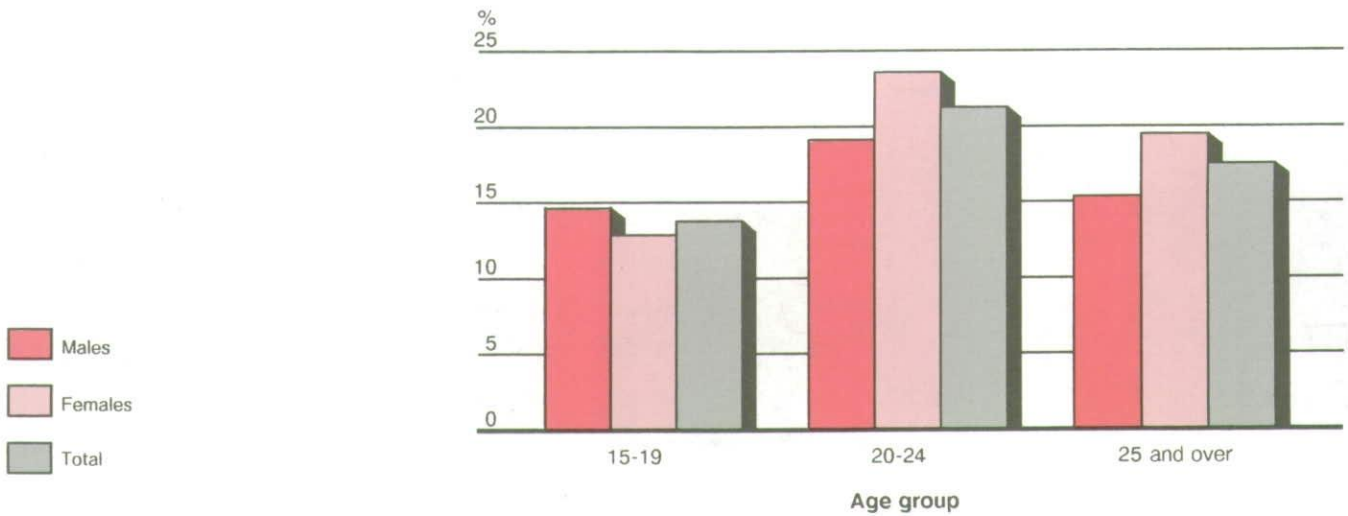
Source: Statistics Canada/Health and Welfare Canada, Health Promotion Survey.

- In 1985, while just over 30% of the Canadian population 25 years and over reported smoking daily, some youth smoked less (22.5% of the 15 to 19 age group) and some smoked more (36.4% of the 20 to 24 year olds).
- Among youth aged 20 to 24, a larger proportion of females than males (38% vs 35%) reported smoking daily, while among the 15 to 19 year olds, more males (24%) than females (21%) reported the same daily habit.



Chart 6.4

### Percentage of population who are drug users<sup>1</sup>, by age group and sex, 1985



<sup>1</sup> Drug use refers to the habit of respondents who used drugs at all in the twelve months prior to the survey.

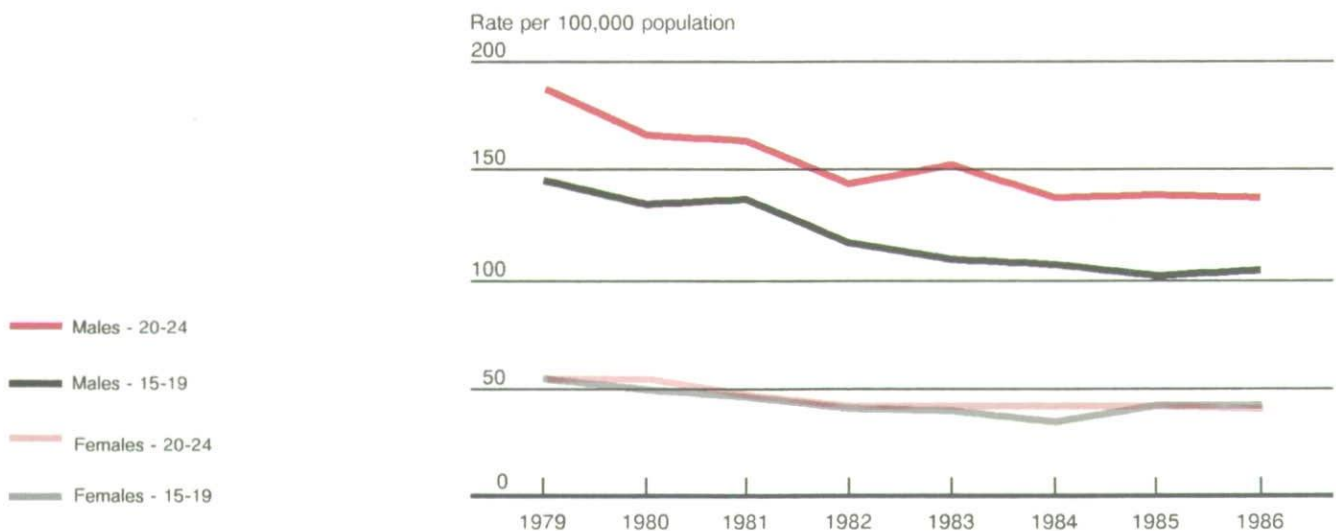
Drugs include: marijuana/hashish, cocaine, sleeping pills, tranquilizers, stimulants/pep pills.

Source: Statistics Canada/Health and Welfare Canada, Health Promotion Survey.

- In 1985, drug use among youth was reported in 14% of youth aged 15 to 19 and 21% of youth aged 20 to 24. As was the case with alcohol, some youth were above and some were below the national average (18% for 25 years and over).
- In the 15 to 19 age group, there were more males who claimed drug usage than females (15% vs 13%, respectively), while in the 20 to 24 year age group, more females claimed drug usage than males (24% vs 19%, respectively).

Chart 6.5

## Death rate for youth, by age group and sex, 1979-1986

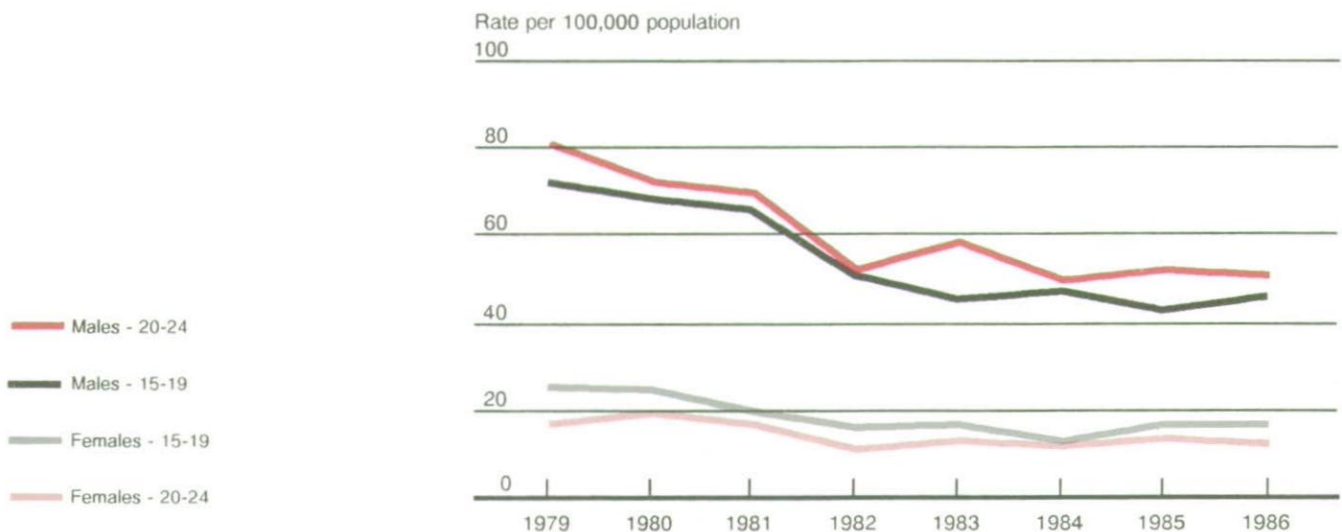


Source: Statistics Canada, Mortality, Summary List of Causes: Vital Statistics, Catalogue 84-206.

- During the period 1979-1986, the death rate among males aged 15 to 19 and 20 to 24 was more than twice the rate of their female counterparts.
- The death rate among males of either age groups was significantly lower in 1986 than in 1979, falling from 144.8 to 104.4 for the 15 to 19 age group and from 186.0 to 136.8 for the 20 to 24 age group.
- There was very little difference in female death rates regardless of the age group, whereas, the comparable rates for males did display a fairly wide gap.

Chart 6.6

### Death rate due to motor vehicle accidents for youth, by age group and sex, 1979-1986

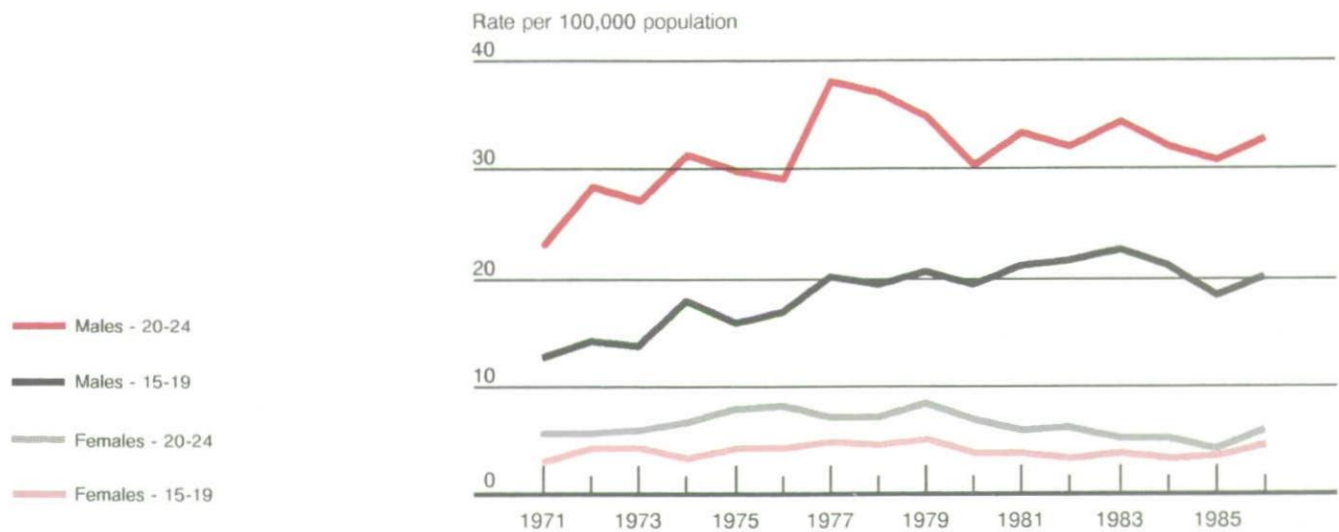


Source: Statistics Canada, *Mortality, Summary List of Causes: Vital Statistics, Catalogue 84-206*.

- During the period 1979-1986, males aged 20 to 24 experienced the highest death rate due to motor vehicle accidents of the two age groups shown.
- Male deaths due to motor vehicle accidents were also considerably higher than was the case with females. For example, male rates for those aged 20 to 24 ranged from 80.7 (1979) to 49.9 (1984), compared with 19.1 (1980) to 11.3 (1982) for females of the same age group.
- Death rates by motor vehicle accidents were significantly lower in 1986 than in 1979 among youth in general. This was especially true among males of both age groups (falling from 72 to 46 for those aged 15 to 19 and from 81 to 51 for 20 to 24 year olds).

Chart 6.7

## Suicide rate for youth, by age group and sex, 1971-1986



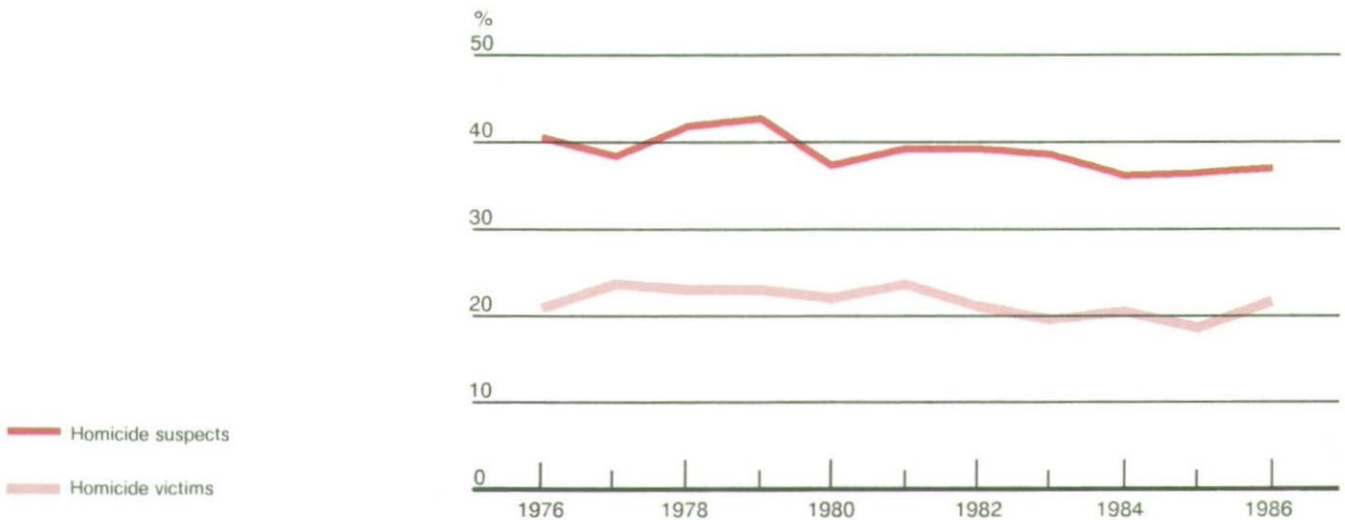
Source: Statistics Canada, Mortality, Summary List of Causes: Vital Statistics, Catalogue 84-206.

- During the period 1971-1986, suicide rates were higher in the older youth group (20 to 24) than in the younger one (15 to 19) for both males and females.
- In 1986, male suicide rates were significantly higher than those of females, amounting to a difference of 15.7 for the 15 to 19 age group and 26.8 for the 20 to 24 age group.
- In 1986, suicide represented 22% of deaths among males aged 15 to 24 and 13% of deaths among females of the same age group.

## 7.0 Criminology

Chart 7.1

Youth aged 15-24 as a percentage of all homicide victims and homicide suspects, 1976-1986



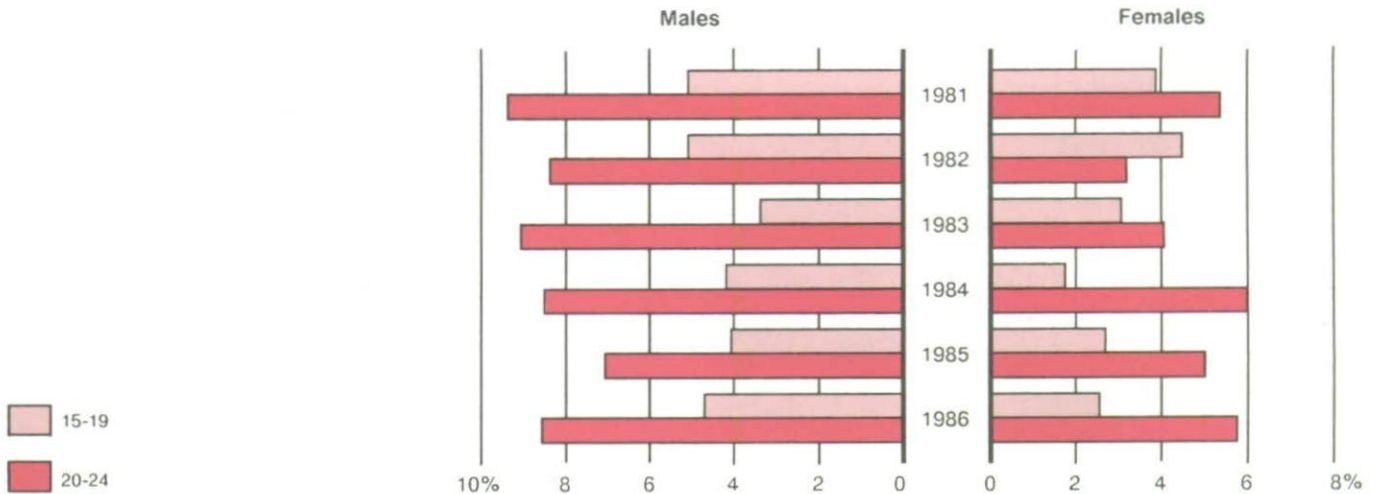
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

- In 1986, close to 22% of homicide victims and 37% of homicide suspects were youth aged 15 to 24 years.
- During the 11-year span, the proportion of youth as homicide suspects was highest in 1979 (42.7%) and, as victims, was highest in 1981 (23.8%).
- In 1986, females accounted for 39% of homicide victims aged 15 to 24, but they accounted for only 16% of homicide suspects in that same age group.



Chart 7.2

Youth as a percentage of all homicide victims, by age group and sex,  
1981-1986

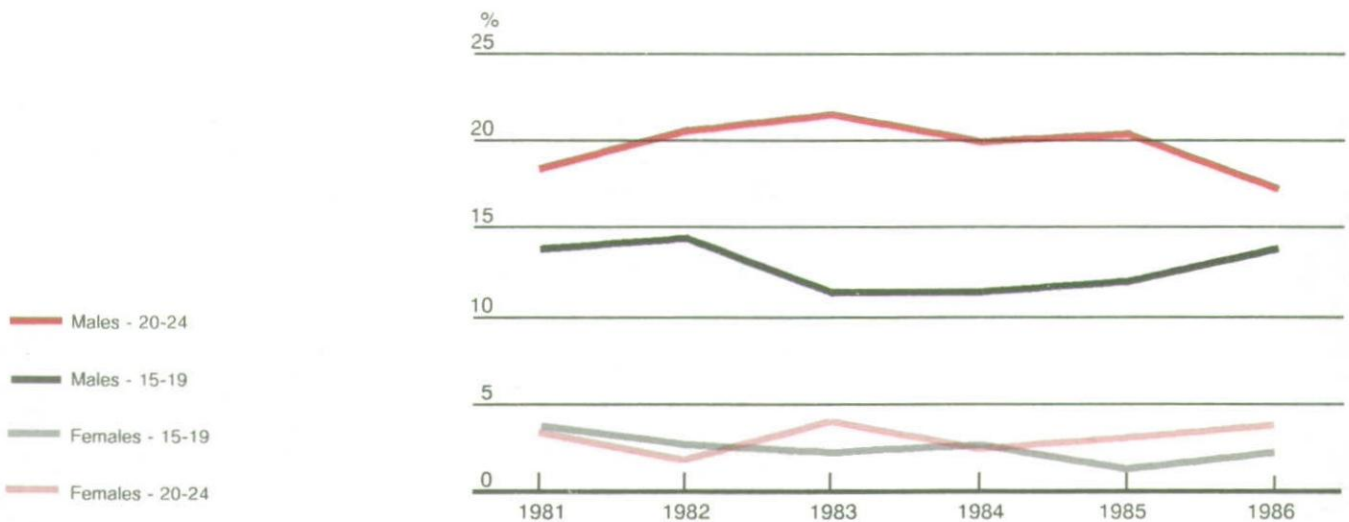


Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

- In 1986, victims aged 15 to 24 accounted for more than one-fifth (21.7%) of all homicide victims (7.3% for 15 to 19 year olds and 14.4% for 20 to 24 year olds).
- Each year during the 1981-1986 period, a higher proportion of homicide victims were males rather than females. Males aged 15 to 24 ranged between 11.2% and 14.5% of all victims, while the proportions for their female counterparts during that period were between 7.2% and 9.3%.

Chart 7.3

Youth as a percentage of all homicide suspects,  
by age group and sex, 1981-1986



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

- In 1986, youth aged 15 to 24 represented over 37% of all homicide suspects (16% for 15 to 19 year olds and 21% for 20 to 24 year olds).
- During the 1981-1986 period, approximately 36% to 39% of all homicide suspects were youth aged 15 to 24.
- Each year during the 1981-1986 period, males aged 15 to 19 and 20 to 24 accounted for significantly higher proportions of homicide suspects than females of the same age groups. The proportions for males aged 15 to 24 varied between 31% and 35% of all homicide suspects, while the proportion of females aged 15 to 24 who were homicide suspects was in the range of 4% to 7%.

## Bibliography

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The following Statistics Canada publications have been used in the preparation of this study and may be consulted for further information:

### Catalogue

- 71-001 *The Labour Force*
- 71-201 *Historical Labour Force Statistics, 1987*
- 81-229 *Education in Canada: A Statistical Review, 1987*
- 82-211 *Therapeutic Abortions*
- 84-204 *Births and Deaths: Vital Statistics*
- 84-205 *Marriages and Divorces: Vital Statistics*
- 84-206 *Mortality: Summary List of Causes: Vital Statistics*
- 91-210 *Postcensal Annual Estimates of Population by Marital Status, Age, Sex and Components of Growth for Canada, Provinces, and Territories*
- 91-520 *Population Projections for Canada, Provinces, and Territories*
- 92-905 *Census Families in Private Households: Persons, Children at Home, Structure and Type, Living Arrangements, 1981 Census of Canada*
- 92-912 *Population: Religion, 1981 Census of Canada*
- 92-928 *Population: Total Income, 1981 Census of Canada*
- 93-106 *The Nation Series: Families – Part 1 (100% data), 1986 Census of Canada*
- 93-114 *The Nation Series: Total Income – Individuals, 1986 Census of Canada*

In addition, the study presents unpublished data from the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, the Health Promotion Survey, the Labour Force Survey and from the 1971, 1976, 1981 and 1986 censuses of Canada.

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