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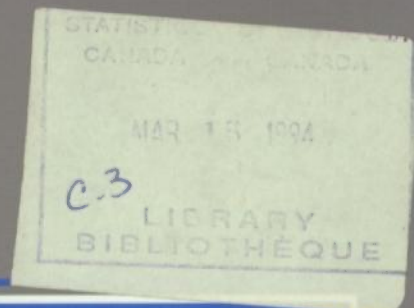
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Youth in Canada

Second Edition

Target groups project



1994 International Year of the Family
Année internationale de la famille



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Youth in Canada Second Edition

Target groups project

Colin Lindsay
Mary Sue Devereaux
Michael Bergob

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HIGHLIGHTS

- Youths make up a significant proportion of the Canadian population. In 1991, there were 1.9 million people aged 15-19, representing 6.8% of all Canadians.
- The youth population, however, has been declining since the mid-1970s, when their ranks had been filled by children born during the baby boom. In 1976, for example, 15-19-year-olds had numbered 2.3 million and made up 10.2% of the total population.
- Youths constitute an above-average share of the population reporting visible minority origins. In 1991, 7.9% of all those in the various visible minority groups were aged 15-19. Youths also represent a relatively large share of the population reporting Aboriginal ancestry. In 1991, 9.7% of all people with Aboriginal origins were aged 15-19.
- The vast majority of young people live with their parents. In 1991, 90% of the population aged 15-19 had never been married and were living with their parent(s). At the same time, 4% of 15-19-year-olds lived with non-relatives, 3% lived with other relatives, and 1% lived alone; the remaining 3% headed their own family.
- Most young people are going to school. In 1991-92, 77% of all 15-19-year-olds were full-time students, up from 65% in 1975-76. Fewer than half (47%) of people aged 19, though, were attending school full-time, compared with 61% of 18-year-olds, 84% of 17-year-olds, and virtually all 15- and 16-year-olds.
- Relatively few young people participate in the paid work force. In 1992, 42% of all people aged 15-19 were employed, which represented only 6% of all employment in Canada. As well, the large majority of young people with jobs work part-time. In 1992, 70% of all employed people aged 15-19 had part-time jobs.
- The majority of employed youth work in occupations that generally do not require extensive education or experience. In 1992, 77% of all workers aged 15-19 were employed in a sales, service, clerical or primary occupation. At the same time, youths are under-represented in managerial/administrative and professional occupations. In 1992, just 7% of workers aged 15-19 were in these types of jobs.
- Youths aged 15-19 have the highest unemployment rate of any age group in Canada. In 1992, 184,000 15-19-year-olds, 19.7% of all labour force participants in this age range, were unemployed. This compared with 16.6% for those age 20-24 and 9.9% among those aged 25 and over.
- Unemployment rates are particularly high among youths living in the Atlantic provinces and Central Canada. In fact, 31.4% of all 15-19-year-old labour force participants in Newfoundland were unemployed in 1992.
- The incomes of Canadian youths are relatively low. For example, families headed by someone aged 15-19 had an average income of \$15,559 in 1991. This was only about a third the average income of all families.
- A large share of Canadian youths who head families or live alone have incomes below Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-offs. In 1991, 83% of all families headed by people aged 15-19 had incomes below the Low Income Cut-offs. Families headed by female youths were especially likely to have low incomes. In 1991, 93% of families headed by a woman aged 15-19 had incomes below the Low Income Cut-offs. At the same time, 71% of families headed by males in this age range also were classified as having low incomes. As well, 84% of unattached individuals aged 15-19 had incomes below the Low Income Cut-offs.
- People aged 15-19 devote less time than the overall population aged 15 and over to productive activities, while they have more free time and spend more time sleeping.
- Young people are generally healthy. In 1990, 91% of people aged 15-19 reported that their health was good to excellent, while just 9% indicated that their health was only fair or poor.

- Motor vehicle accidents account for the largest share of all deaths among youths. In fact, while the overall death rate for young people is well below those of older age groups, youths are the most likely group to die as a result of a motor vehicle accident.
- Suicide is the second-leading cause of death of youths. In 1991, one-in-five deaths of 15-19-year-olds were suicides. Young men are more likely to take their own lives than young women. In 1991, there were 23 suicides for every 100,000 men aged 15-19, compared with only 4 for every 100,000 women in this age range.
- Less than half of all young people drink alcohol on a regular basis. In 1991, 43% of people aged 15-19 reported they consumed alcohol at least once per month.
- Relatively few young people smoke. In 1991, 16% of people aged 15-19 were regular smokers, that is, they smoked daily. Another 6% were occasional smokers, 6% were former regular smokers who had quit, while the majority of youths, 72% in 1991, had never smoked daily.
- Youths make up a large share of those involved in criminal activity. In 1992, police charged almost a quarter of a million (238,472) young people with criminal offenses. That year, people aged 12-17 made up 25% of all those charged by the police in criminal offenses. This was up from 22% in 1987.
- The proportion of drug offenses accounted for by young people has declined in recent years. In 1992, 8% of those involved in drug offenses were under age 18, down from almost 10% in 1987 and 1988. Indeed, the actual number of young people charged with drug offenses fell from 4,117 in 1987 to 3,445 in 1992.
- The majority of youths sentenced to a correctional institution receive sentences of less than a year. In fact, nearly seven out of ten young offenders sent to a custodial facility in 1991-92 received a sentence of less than 3 months: 23% were for less than a month and 46% received a 1-3 month sentence. A further 20% were sentenced to 4-6 months, while only 11% were sentenced to more than 6 months in custody.
- Youths are also more likely than older Canadians to be the victims of a crime. In 1987, 36% of people aged 15-19 were victims of a crime, about the same figure as for 20-24-year olds (37%), but well above rates for those aged 25-44 (27%), 45-64 (15%), and 65 and over (8%).
- Young people are the victims of a homicide about as often as older Canadians. In 1991, there were 2.8 murders for every 100,000 15-19-year-olds, compared with 3.3 for every 100,000 people aged 20 and over. Overall, in 1991, 52 people aged 15-19 were murdered, representing 7% of all murder victims in Canada that year.

INTRODUCTION

Youth is an age of transition. While the majority of the population aged 15-19 live at home with their parents and most are still in school, it is also an age when many leave home, enter the labour market for the first time and begin to encounter many of the problems usually associated with adult life. Indeed, young people currently have the highest unemployment rate of any age group in the country; they are responsible for a large proportion of all crime; and those who head their own families or live alone have very low incomes.

At the same time, though, most youths are healthy and relatively few use tobacco or alcohol. As well, a growing proportion are enrolled in educational institutions, particularly at the postsecondary level.

These and other characteristics of youths in Canada are described in this report. The information has been integrated from a variety of Statistics Canada sources to provide an overview of their demographic and family status, education, labour force characteristics, income, health, time use patterns, and criminal activity and victimization.

Much of the information in this report has been taken directly from Statistics Canada publications. However, a number of series include previously unpublished data from sources such as the General Social Survey, Survey of Consumer Finances, Labour Force Survey and Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Because the data have been drawn from different sources, the concepts and universes vary considerably. The surveys from which the data have been taken are conducted at different times during the year, over different periods, with different sample

sizes, and with different collection techniques. Readers seeking more precise information on data quality and comparability should consult the source publications listed at the end of the report or contact the Target Groups Project.

For the most part, youths are defined in this report as people aged 15-19. However, much of the information describing the criminal activity of young people refers only to those aged 12-17, as covered by the *Young Offenders Act*.

The information is generally presented at the national level, although several important provincial breakdowns are also included. As well, information has been provided for youths with Aboriginal origins where available.

Most of the series also include benchmark comparisons with other age groups, and historical series are shown to describe significant long-term trends.

This report was prepared under the direction of Doug Norris, Assistant Director, Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division, Statistics Canada.

The authors gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Cheryl Sarazin, Claire Maxwell, Joanne Pilon, Alex Solis and Lyne Bélanger in the preparation and release of this report.

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SECTION 1: POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

The youth population

Youths make up a significant proportion of the Canadian population. In 1991, there were 1.9 million people aged 15-19, representing 6.8% of all Canadians. (Table 1.1)

The youth population, however, has been declining since the mid-1970s, when their ranks had been filled by children born during the baby boom. In 1976, for example, 15-19-year-olds had numbered 2.3 million and made up 10.2% of the total population.

The decline in the size of the youth population reflects changes in the birth rate in the past several decades. People who were aged 15-19 in 1976 were born during the baby-boom years of the late 1950s and early 1960s, when there was an annual average of almost 27 births per 1,000 population. In contrast, the 15-19-year-olds of 1991 were born

during the early 1970s, when the birth rate had fallen to around 16 per 1,000 population. (Chart 1.1)

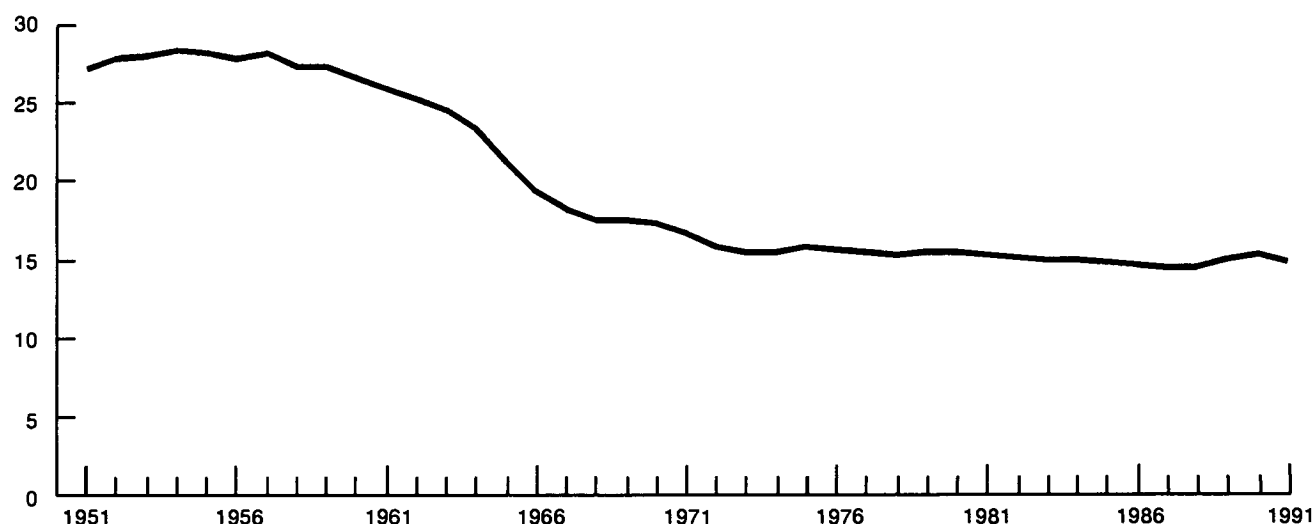
Differences across the country

The youth component of the population varies considerably across the country. In 1991, people aged 15-19 made up 9.5% of the population in Newfoundland, 8.0% in New Brunswick, 7.7% in Prince Edward Island, 7.4% in both Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan, 7.3% in Manitoba, 7.0% in Alberta, 6.7% in Ontario, 6.5% in Quebec and 6.4% in British Columbia. (Table 1.2)

In terms of their total numbers, however, youths are concentrated in the largest provinces. In 1991, over 80% of all 15-19-year-olds lived in one of the four largest provinces. That year, 36% lived in Ontario, while 24% were in Quebec, 11% were in British Columbia and 10% were in Alberta.

Chart 1.1 Birth rate, 1951-1991

Live births per 1,000 population



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 84-204 and 82-003S14.

More young men than young women

Young men make up a slight majority of the youth population. In 1991, 51.3% of people aged 15-19 were male, while 48.7% were female. This is in direct contrast to older age groups, among which women outnumber men.

Urban/rural distribution

The majority of youths, like most Canadians, live in urban areas. In 1991, 74% of people aged 15-19 lived in areas classified as urban. In fact, over half (53%) of all youths resided in census metropolitan areas (CMAs), that is, urban areas with a population of 100,000 or more. Another 13% of 15-19-year-olds lived in urban areas with population between 10,000 and 100,000 and 7% lived in urban areas with fewer than 10,000 residents. Just 26% of people aged 15-19 lived in rural areas: 22% were classified as rural non-farm residents, while 4% were rural farm dwellers. (Table 1.3)

The proportion of youths in the population, though, is higher in rural areas and small urban centres than in larger urban areas. In 1991, 15-19-year-olds made up 9.2% of people living in rural farm areas, 7.3% of those in rural non-farm areas, and around 7% of those in urban areas with fewer than 100,000 residents. In contrast, just 6.4% of people in CMAs were aged 15-19.

Indeed, youths are under-represented in most of the eight largest CMAs in Canada. Whereas 15-19-year-olds made up 6.8% of all Canadians in 1991, they represented only 6.1% of Vancouver residents, 6.2% in Montréal, and 6.4% in Toronto, Ottawa and Calgary. In the three other largest CMAs, youths made up a share of residents similar to that for the population overall: 6.9% in Edmonton, 6.8% in Winnipeg and 6.7% in Québec. (Chart 1.2)

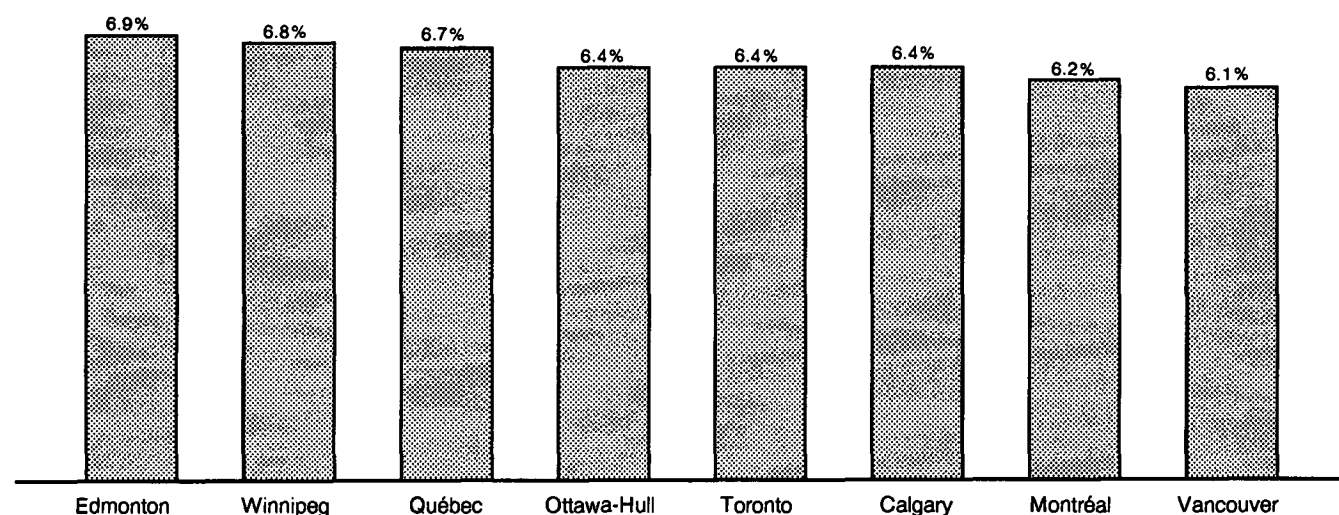
Migrant youths

People aged 15-19 are slightly less likely than the population overall to make a residential move. In 1991, 15.8% of youths had moved in the previous year, either by themselves or as part of their family, compared with 16.4% of all Canadians. (Table 1.4)

Most moves by youths are made within the same province. In 1991, 13% of all 15-19-year-olds had made an intraprovincial move during the previous year, whereas just 1% each had either moved from one province to another or had immigrated to Canada within the previous year.

Interprovincial migrants aged 15-19 tend to flow into Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta. In 1991-92, Alberta had a net gain of just over 3,000 15-19-year-olds, while British Columbia gained almost 2,000 and Ontario, 1,000. On the other hand, there was a net outflow of over 2,400 youths from the Atlantic

Chart 1.2 Population aged 15-19 in selected census metropolitan areas, 1991



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 93-310.

provinces, while Quebec and Saskatchewan each lost around 1,500 and Manitoba, 740. (Chart 1.3)

Young women are more likely than their male counterparts to move. In 1991, 18% of women aged 15-19, versus 14% of comparable men, had moved in the previous year. Most of this difference was accounted for by the fact that female youths were considerably more likely than their male counterparts to have moved within the same province. Indeed, there were almost no differences in the percentages of women and men aged 15-19 who had either moved interprovincially or had immigrated to Canada in the previous year. (Table 1.4)

Housing-related concerns are the primary reason for residential moves involving youths. In 1990, 36% of moves by 15-19-year-olds in the previous year were housing-related. Another 15% of migrants aged 15-19 moved to attend school, 10% moved because of their own work, 9% moved because of family-related work and 6% moved to be independent. The remaining 25% moved for a variety of other reasons including marriage or separation, financial reasons, or to be closer to or to care for other family members. (Chart 1.4)

Immigrant youths

Relatively few youths are immigrants. In 1991, 163,595 people aged 15-19, 9% of all youths, were immigrants. By contrast, immigrants accounted for 16% of the total population. (Table 1.5)

The distribution of 15-19-year-old immigrants by place of birth reflects the shift away from traditional source nations in Europe toward developing countries. For instance, 64% of all 15-19-year-old immigrants living in Canada in 1991, compared with 39% of all immigrants, were born in Asia, Central or South America, the Caribbean or Bermuda, or Africa. At the same time, only 27% of 15-19-year-old immigrants, half the figure for all immigrants (54%), were European-born. (Table 1.6)

The largest share of immigrant youths are from Asia. Of all 15-19-year-old immigrants living in Canada in

1991, 40% were born in Asia. At the same time, 10% were from Central or South America, 8% were from the Caribbean/Bermuda and 6% were African. Another 11% were from the United Kingdom, 17% were from other European countries and 7% were born in the United States.

As well, 16,955 people aged 15-19 living in Canada in 1991 were non-permanent residents who were holding either student or employment authorizations or Minister's permits, or were refugee claimants. These people represented just under 1% of all 15-19-year-olds, about the same as the proportion of non-permanent residents in the population overall. (Table 1.5)

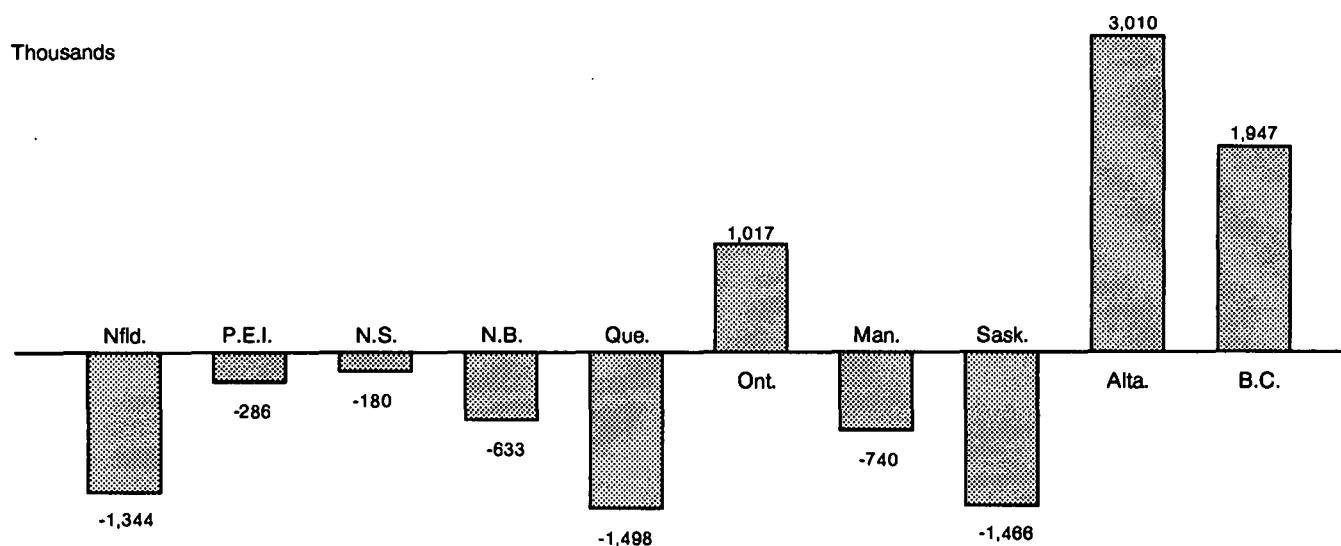
Youths in visible minorities

Youths constitute an above-average share of the population reporting visible minority origins. In 1991, 7.9% of all those in the various visible minority groups were aged 15-19, whereas people in this age range represented 6.8% of the total Canadian population. (Table 1.7)

Youths make up a particularly large proportion of several of the groups identified as visible minorities. In 1991, 12.4% of Koreans, 9.2% of Pacific Islanders, 8.6% of Latin Americans and 8.5% of those with Black origins were aged 15-19. People in this age range also represented around 8% of those with Southeast Asian, Japanese and Chinese origins, and around 7% of those in the South Asian, West Asian/Arab and Filipino groups.

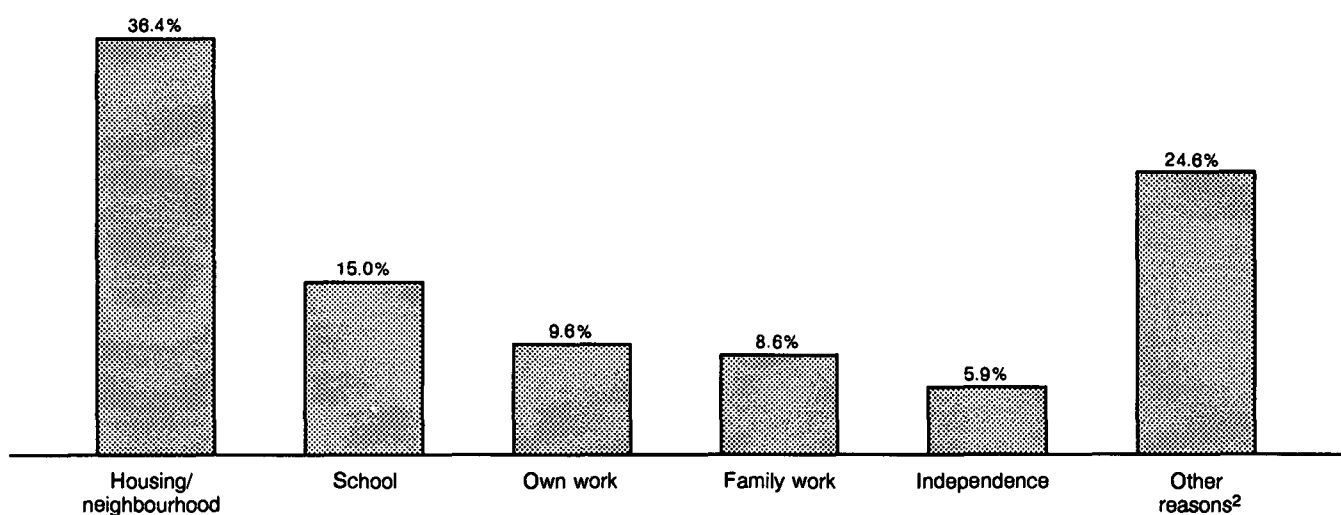
Aboriginal youths

Youths also represent a relatively large share of the population reporting Aboriginal ancestry. In 1991, 9.7% of all people with Aboriginal origins were aged 15-19, whereas this age group made up only 6.8% of the total Canadian population. That year, Aboriginal youths represented 5.1% of all people aged 15-19. (Table 1.7)

Chart 1.3 Net interprovincial migration¹ of people aged 15-19, 1991-92

¹ Refers to in-migrants less out-migrants.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 91-210.

Chart 1.4 15-19-year old movers,¹ by reason for move, 1990

¹ Includes those who moved in previous year.

² Includes those who moved to be closer or to care for family; because of marriage or separation; or for financial reasons.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1990.

Table 1.1
Population aged 15-19, 1921-1991

	Population aged 15-19			As % of the total Canadian population
	Men	Women	Total	
	000s			
				%
1921	404.7	399.9	804.6	9.2
1931	525.5	514.4	1,040.0	10.0
1941	565.2	554.8	1,120.0	9.7
1951	532.2	525.8	1,058.0	7.6
1956	586.6	575.7	1,162.3	7.2
1961	729.0	703.5	1,432.6	7.9
1966	929.0	908.8	1,837.7	9.2
1971	1,074.4	1,039.9	2,114.3	9.8
1976	1,196.0	1,149.3	2,345.3	10.2
1981	1,182.0	1,132.9	2,314.9	9.5
1986	985.3	939.6	1,924.9	7.6
1991	958.4	910.2	1,868.6	6.8

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 92-715, 92-823, 93-101 and 93-310.

Table 1.2
Population aged 15-19, by province, 1976 and 1991

	Population aged 15-19		Population aged 15-19 as % of the provincial population		% distribution of the population aged 15-19
	1976	1991	1976	1991	1991
	000s		%		
Newfoundland	62.7	54.1	11.2	9.5	2.9
Prince Edward Island	12.9	10.0	10.9	7.7	0.5
Nova Scotia	86.7	67.0	10.4	7.4	3.6
New Brunswick	73.8	57.6	10.9	8.0	3.1
Quebec	666.3	451.2	10.7	6.5	24.1
Ontario	808.0	679.1	9.8	6.7	36.3
Manitoba	100.4	80.2	9.8	7.3	4.3
Saskatchewan	96.9	73.1	10.5	7.4	3.9
Alberta	193.2	177.9	10.5	7.0	9.5
British Columbia	237.9	211.7	9.6	6.4	11.3
Canada	2,345.3	1,868.6	10.2	6.8	100.0

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 92-823 and 93-310.

Table 1.3
Urban/rural distribution, 1991

	Population aged 15-19			Distribution of the total population
	Number	%	As % of population in region.	
	000s			%
Urban:				
Census metropolitan area	1,000.9	53.4	6.4	56.7
Census agglomeration	249.4	13.3	7.1	12.9
Other urban area	134.4	7.2	7.0	7.0
Total urban	1,384.8	74.1	6.6	76.6
Rural:				
Rural farm	73.9	4.0	9.2	3.0
Rural non-farm	409.9	21.9	7.3	20.4
Total rural	483.8	25.9	7.6	23.4
Total population	1,868.6	100.0	6.8	100.0

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 93-339.

Table 1.4
Mobility status, 1991

	Population aged 15-19			Total population aged 1 and over
	Men	Women	Total	
	%			
Non-movers	86.0	82.4	84.2	83.6
Movers:				
Intraprovincial	11.8	15.3	13.4	14.3
Interprovincial	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.2
Immigrants	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.9
Total movers	14.0	17.6	15.8	16.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total population (000s)	954.5	905.9	1,860.4	26,430.9

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 93-322.

Table 1.5
Immigrant status, 1991

	Population aged 15-19		Total population	
	Number	%	Number	%
Immigrants	163,595	8.7	4,342,890	16.1
Non-permanent residents	16,955	0.9	223,410	0.8
Non-immigrants	1,691,675	90.4	22,427,745	83.1
Total population	1,872,230	100.0	26,994,040	100.0

Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Census of Canada.

Table 1.6**Place of birth of Immigrants, 1991**

	Immigrants aged 15-19		All immigrants		Immigrants aged 15-19 as % of all immigrants
	Number	%	Number	%	
Place of birth:					
Asia					
Southeast Asia	25,130	15.4	311,970	7.2	8.1
Eastern Asia	21,710	13.3	377,210	8.7	5.8
Southern Asia	9,365	5.7	228,795	5.3	4.1
Western Asia/Middle East	9,900	6.1	146,790	3.4	6.7
Total Asia	66,100	40.4	1,064,765	24.5	6.2
Europe					
United Kingdom	17,680	10.8	717,750	16.5	2.5
Other European	27,045	16.5	1,646,950	37.9	1.6
Total Europe	44,725	27.3	2,364,700	54.4	1.9
Caribbean/Bermuda	13,385	8.2	232,525	5.4	5.8
Central/South America	16,810	10.3	219,390	5.1	7.7
Africa	9,000	5.5	166,175	3.8	5.4
United States	10,915	6.7	249,080	5.7	4.4
Others	2,660	1.6	46,250	1.1	5.8
Total	163,595	100.0	4,342,890	100.0	3.8

Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Census of Canada.

Table 1.7**People aged 15-19 as a percentage of the visible minority and Aboriginal populations, 1991**

	Population aged 15-19	% of people in group	% of all people aged 15-19
Visible minorities:			
Chinese	48,685	7.8	2.6
Black	42,875	8.5	2.3
South Asian	36,815	7.3	2.0
West Asian/Arab	20,320	7.0	1.1
Filipino	11,650	6.9	0.6
Latin American	11,560	8.6	0.6
Southeast Asian	10,905	8.2	0.6
Korean	5,685	12.4	0.3
Japanese	5,095	8.0	0.3
Pacific Islander	500	9.2	--
Total visible minorities ¹	199,000	7.9	10.6
Aboriginal people	97,450	9.7	5.1

¹ Includes those reporting multiple visible minority origins.

Source: Statistics Canada, Employment Equity Data Program and 1991 Census of Canada.

SECTION 2: FAMILY AND LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

Living with parents

The vast majority of young people live with their parents, either in a two-parent or lone-parent family. In 1991, 90% of the population aged 15-19 had never been married and were living with their parent(s). (Table 2.1)

Younger youths are more likely than their older counterparts to live in their parental home. In 1991, 95% of 15-17-year-olds were living with their parent(s), compared with 82% of people aged 18-19.

As well, young men are more likely than young women to live with their parent(s). In 1991, 92% of 15-19-year-old males were living with their parent(s), compared with 87% of women in this age range. Most of this disparity was accounted for by older youths. Among youths aged 18-19, for example, 87% of men, versus 78% of women, were living in their parental home. In contrast, there was little difference between the percentage of males (95%) and females (94%) aged 15-17 living with their parent(s).

Most youths live in two-parent families, though, a substantial minority live in lone-parent families. In 1991, 74% of all 15-19-year-olds were in families with two parents present, while 16% were living with just one parent.

As with younger children in lone-parent families, most lone-parent 15-19-year-olds live with their mother. In 1991, 12% of all 15-19-year-olds lived in a lone-parent family headed by their mother, while 3% lived in a male-headed lone-parent family.

Youths heading families

While most young people still live with their parents, a small proportion already head their own families. In 1991, 3% of all 15-19-year-olds were spouses, common-law partners or lone parents.

Those living in common-law relationships make up the largest component of youths heading their own families. In 1991, 1.7% of all 15-19-year-olds were living common law, while 0.6% were married and 0.4% were lone parents. (Chart 2.1)

Not surprisingly, older youths are more likely than their younger counterparts to head their own families. In 1991, 6% of 18-19-year-olds, compared with fewer than 1% of those aged 15-17, were spouses, common-law partners or lone parents.

As well, women aged 15-19 are more likely than men in this age range to head their own families. In 1991, almost 3% of women aged 15-19, compared with fewer than 1% of men in this age range, were living common law. At the same time, 1% of 15-19-year-old women, versus just 0.2% of men, were married.

In addition, virtually all lone parents aged 15-19 are female. In 1991, women made up 97% of 15-19-year-old lone parents. That year, 0.8% of women in this age range were lone parents, compared with only 0.03% of males.

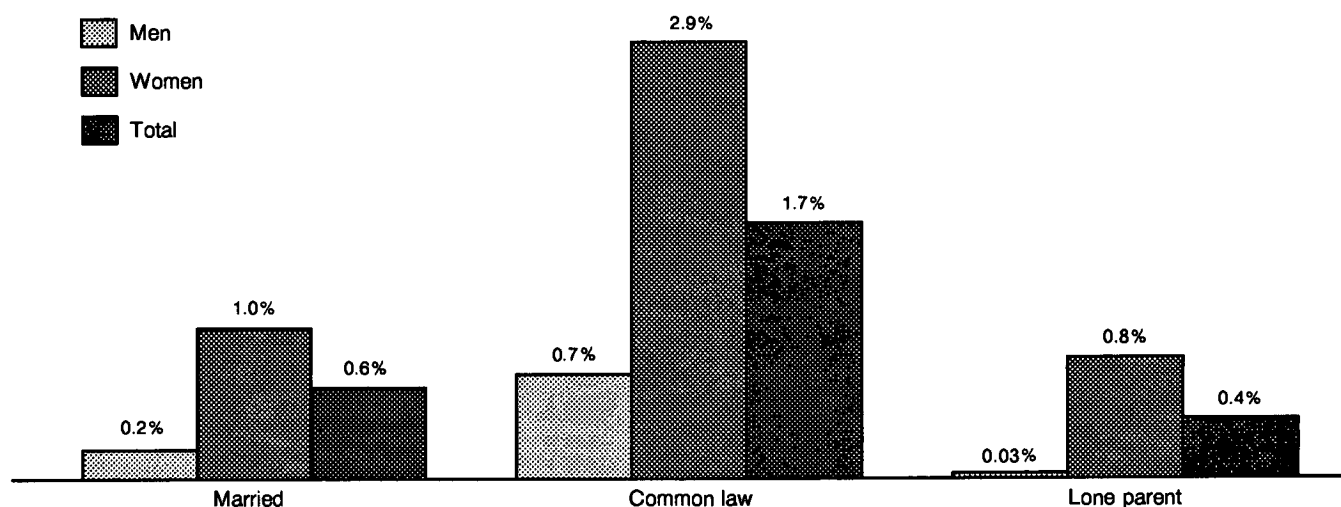
Other living arrangements

A small proportion of youths do not live in their own family, that is, they do not live with either their parents or in a family they head themselves. In 1991, 4% of 15-19-year-olds lived with non-relatives, 3% lived with other relatives and 1% lived alone.

Older youths are more likely than younger ones to live outside their own family. In 1991, 12% of 18-19-year-olds, versus 5% of those aged 15-17, resided with either relatives or non-relatives, or lived alone.

Youths aged 18-19 are around three times more likely than 15-17-year-olds to live with non-relatives and twice as likely to live with other relatives. Older youths are also considerably more likely than their younger counterparts to live alone, although, the actual percentage of each group living alone is quite small. In 1991, just 1.8% of 18-19-year-olds and only 0.2% of those aged 15-17 lived alone.

There is almost no difference in the proportions of men and women aged 15-19 living outside their own home. In 1991, a total of 8% of 15-19-year-old women and 7% of comparable men did not live in their own family.

Chart 2.1 People aged 15-19 living as a spouse or lone parent, 1991

Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Census of Canada.

**Table 2.1
Living arrangements of people aged 15-19, 1991**

	People aged								
	15-17			18-19			15-19		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
	%								
With parents:									
Two-parent family	79.2	77.5	78.4	71.6	64.3	68.0	76.2	72.2	74.2
Lone-parent family									
Male-headed	3.9	2.9	3.4	3.8	2.6	3.2	3.9	2.8	3.3
Female-headed	12.4	13.5	12.9	11.3	10.9	11.1	11.9	12.4	12.2
Total lone-parent family	16.3	16.4	16.3	15.1	13.5	14.3	15.8	15.3	15.5
Total with parents	95.4	94.0	94.7	86.8	77.8	82.4	92.0	87.4	89.8
Husbands, wives, common-law partners, or lone parents	0.2	1.2	0.7	2.0	9.9	5.9	0.9	4.7	2.8
Not in own family:									
With non-relatives	2.1	2.5	2.3	5.8	6.8	6.3	3.6	4.2	3.9
With other relatives	2.1	2.1	2.1	3.8	3.4	3.6	2.8	2.6	2.7
Living alone	0.1	0.2	0.2	1.5	2.0	1.8	0.7	0.9	0.8
Total not in own family	4.4	4.8	4.6	11.1	12.3	11.7	7.1	7.8	7.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total population (000s)	565.2	537.5	1,102.7	373.1	359.4	732.6	938.3	897.0	1,835.3

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 93-312.

SECTION 3: EDUCATION

Rising enrolment

Most young people are going to school. In 1991-92, 77% of all 15-19-year-olds were full-time students, up from 65% in 1975-76. (Table 3.1)

Much of the rise in the enrolment of young people occurred in the early 1980s, however, there has also been an increase in their enrolment rate in recent years. Between 1989-90 and 1991-92, for example, the share of 15-19-year-olds enrolled full-time in some type of educational institution increased from 74% to 77%.

Virtually all 15- and 16-year-olds are currently going to school, however, school attendance declines among older youths. In 1991-92, fewer than half (47%) of people aged 19 were attending school full-time. At the same time, 61% of 18-year-olds and 84% of 17-year-olds were full-time students.

There has been considerable growth, though, in the enrolment rates of older teenagers in the last decade and a half. Indeed, the proportions of 17-, 18-, and 19-year-olds in school each increased around 20 percentage points between 1975-76 and 1991-92. (Chart 3.1)

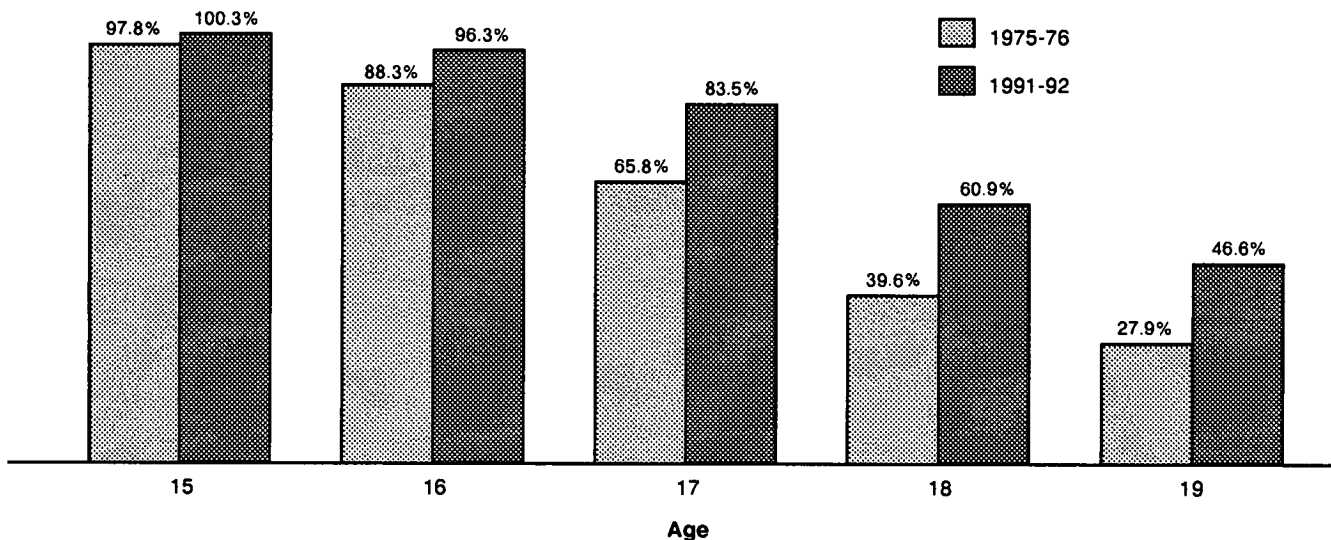
There has also been marked improvement in the enrolment of registered Indian youths living on reserves. By 1991, 54% of these young people were staying in school until Grades 12 or 13, compared with only around 17% in the late 1970s and fewer than 5% in the early 1960s. (Chart 3.2)

Type of educational institution

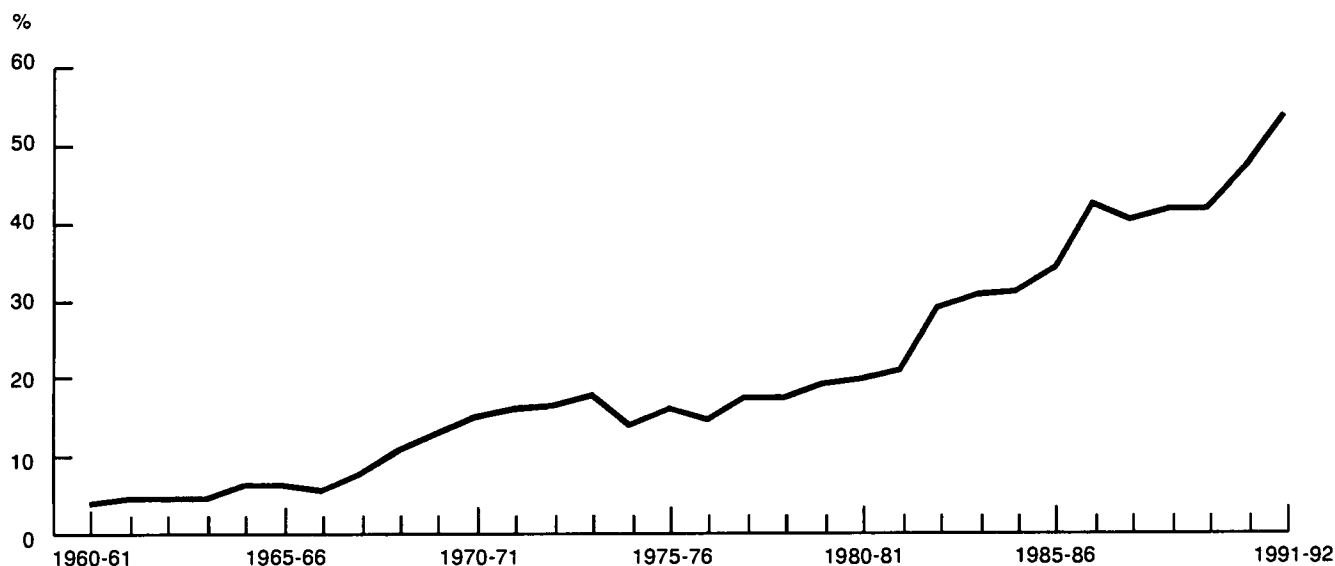
Most youths are enrolled at the elementary or secondary level. In 1991-92, 82% of full-time students aged 15-19 were in elementary or secondary schools, while 11% were in college and 8% attended university. (Table 3.2)

Of course, the type of institution in which young people are enrolled varies depending on their age. In 1991-92, virtually all students aged 15 or 16 attended elementary or secondary schools, as did the majority of 17-year-olds. In contrast, the majority of 19-year-old students were enrolled in either university (43%) or college (34%), though 24% were still at the lower levels.

Chart 3.1 Full-time enrolment rates of people aged 15-19, 1975-76 and 1991-92



Source: Statistics Canada, Education, Culture and Tourism Division.

Chart 3.2 Percentage of students living on Indian reserves remaining in school until Grades XII or XIII, 1960-61 to 1991-92

Source: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Basic Departmental Data.

Sharp Increase among women

Young women are slightly more likely than comparable males to be enrolled in an educational institution. In 1991-92, 78% of women aged 15-19, versus 77% of men in this age range, were in school full-time. This is a major change from the years before 1986-87 when men aged 15-19 were more likely than their female counterparts to be full-time students. (Chart 3.3)

There is a particularly wide gap between the enrolment rates of 19-year-old women and men. In 1991-92, 50% of women aged 19, compared with 44% of their male contemporaries, were full-time students. Women aged 18 were also slightly more likely than men at that age to be in school full-time, while there was little difference in the enrolment rates of women and men aged 15-17. (Table 3.3)

The difference in the enrolment rates of older youths is due in large part to the rapidly rising number of these women attending postsecondary institutions. For example, by 1991, 41% of all 19-year-old women, versus 30% of comparable men, were full-time students at either a university or college. (Table 3.4)

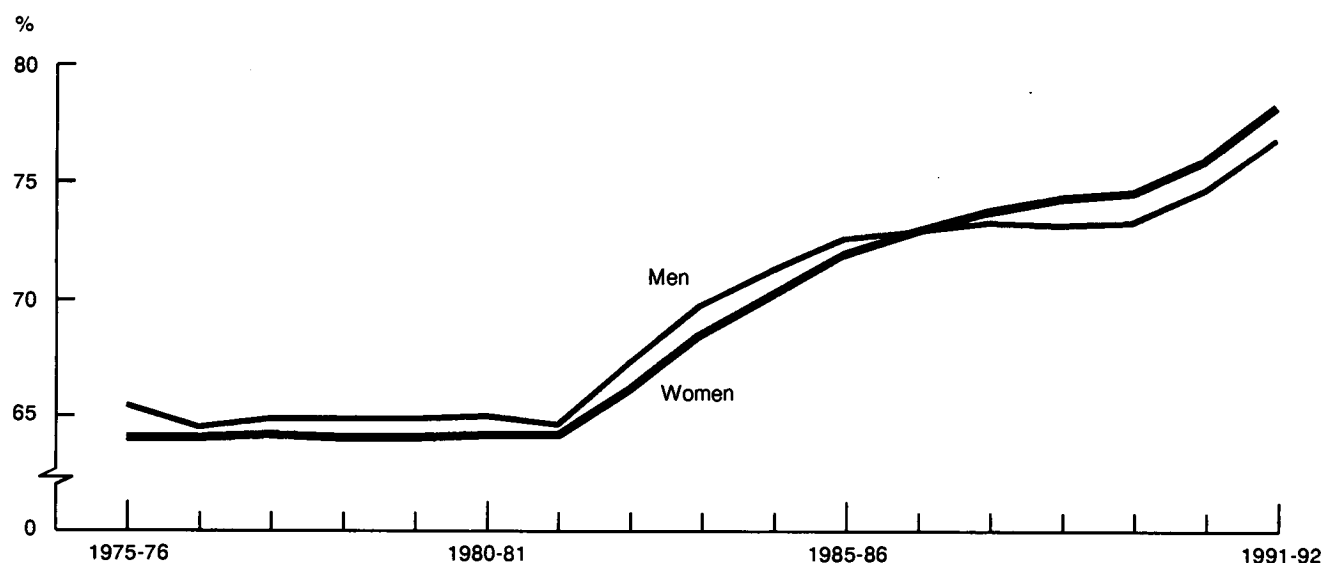
There has been a particularly sharp rise in the percentage of older teenaged women in university. Indeed, the percentage of all 19-year-old women attending university doubled from 12% to 24% between 1975-76 and 1991-92. In the same period, the share of 19-year-old males in university rose only from 12% to 16%.

Older female youths are also more likely than their male counterparts to be in a college. In 1991-92, 18% of 19-year-old women were enrolled full-time in college, compared with only 14% of their male counterparts.

There is similar variation in the enrolment patterns of 18-year-old women and men, though, the magnitude of the differences is smaller.

Bilingualism

Young people are the most likely age group to be bilingual. In 1991, 23% of 15-19-year-olds could speak both English and French well enough to conduct a conversation. In comparison, the proportion of people in older age groups able to converse in both official languages ranged from 21% of those aged 20-24 to just 12% of those aged 65 and over. (Table 3.5)

Chart 3.3 Full-time enrolment rates of people aged 15-19, 1975-76 to 1991-92

Source: Statistics Canada, Education, Culture and Tourism Division.

Computer usage

Young people are also more likely than older age groups to be able to use a computer. In 1989, 82% of 15-19-year-olds were computer literate, whereas the figures among other adults ranged from 66% of 20-24-year-olds to just 6% of those aged 65 and over. (Table 3.6)

Youths are also more likely than older Canadians to have some formal computer training. In 1989, 63% of all 15-19-year-olds indicated that they had received some training in the use of computers. This was ten percentage points above the figure for the next highest group, people aged 20-24 (53%), and almost double the level for the total adult population (32%).

Young people are also more likely than other age groups to live in a home with a computer. In 1989,

35% of 15-19-year-olds reported that there was a computer in their household, whereas the figure for the adult population overall was 19%.

Game playing is the most frequent computer activity engaged in by young people. In 1989, 92% of 15-19-year-old computer users reported this use. At the same time, 72% used computers for word processing, 61% for data entry, 49% for programming, 38% for record-keeping and 24% for data analysis. (Table 3.7)

Computer users aged 15-19 were somewhat more likely than other age groups to engage in game playing, word processing and programming, while they were less likely to do data entry or analysis.

Table 3.1
Full-time enrolment rates of people aged 15-19, 1975-76 to 1991-92

	Men	Women	Total
		%	
1975-76	65.2	63.8	64.5
1976-77	64.3	63.8	64.1
1977-78	64.6	63.9	64.2
1978-79	64.6	63.8	64.2
1979-80	64.7	63.8	64.2
1980-81	64.8	63.9	64.4
1981-82	64.4	63.9	64.2
1982-83	67.1	65.9	66.5
1983-84	69.5	68.3	68.9
1984-85	71.0	70.0	70.5
1985-86	72.4	71.8	72.1
1986-87	72.8	72.8	72.8
1987-88	73.1	73.6	73.3
1988-89	73.0	74.2	73.6
1989-90	73.1	74.4	73.7
1990-91	74.5	75.8	75.2
1991-92	76.7	78.1	77.4

Source: Statistics Canada, Education, Culture and Tourism Division.

Table 3.2
Distribution of full-time enrolment of people aged 15-19, by level, 1991-92

	People aged					Total
	15	16	17	18	19	15-19
						%
Elementary/secondary	100.0	100.0	87.8	60.0	23.6	81.8
College	...	...	11.6	25.9	33.8	10.7
University	...	...	0.6	14.1	42.6	7.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total enrolment (000s)	368.3	355.7	298.8	223.3	174.8	1,421.0

Source: Statistics Canada, Education, Culture and Tourism Division.

Table 3.3
Enrolment rates of people aged 15-19, by level, 1991-92

	Elementary/ secondary	College	University	Total
	%			
Men aged:				
15	100.6	...	...	100.6
16	96.1	...	...	96.1
17	75.1	8.0	0.4	83.5
18	40.3	13.2	7.0	60.5
19	13.3	13.9	16.4	43.7
Total	64.8	7.0	4.8	76.7
Women aged:				
15	100.0	...	...	100.0
16	96.5	...	...	96.5
17	71.6	11.5	0.5	83.6
18	32.6	18.6	10.2	61.3
19	8.5	17.6	23.5	49.6
Total	61.6	9.5	6.9	78.1
Total aged:				
15	100.3	...	...	100.3
16	96.3	...	...	96.3
17	73.4	9.7	0.5	83.5
18	36.6	15.8	8.6	60.9
19	11.0	15.7	19.8	46.6
Total	63.3	8.3	5.9	77.4

Source: Statistics Canada, Education, Culture and Tourism Division.

Table 3.4
Postsecondary enrolment rates of people aged 16-19, 1975-76 and 1991-92

	Percentage enrolled in					
	University		College		Total postsecondary	
	1975-76	1991-92	1975-76	1991-92	1975-76	1991-92
	%					
Men aged:						
16	0.1	...	1.4	...	1.4	...
17	0.9	0.4	6.1	8.0	7.0	8.4
18	6.0	7.0	10.7	13.2	16.8	20.2
19	12.4	16.4	10.3	13.9	22.7	30.4
Total	3.8	4.8	5.6	7.0	9.3	11.9
Women aged:						
16	0.1	...	1.7	...	1.7	...
17	1.1	0.5	7.5	11.5	8.6	12.0
18	6.7	10.2	13.4	18.6	20.1	28.7
19	12.1	23.5	11.0	17.6	23.1	41.1
Total	3.9	6.9	6.6	9.5	10.5	16.5
Total aged:						
16	0.1	...	1.5	...	1.6	...
17	1.0	0.5	6.8	9.7	7.8	10.2
18	6.4	8.6	12.0	15.8	18.4	24.4
19	12.2	19.8	10.7	15.7	22.9	35.6
Total	3.8	5.9	6.1	8.3	9.9	14.1

Source: Statistics Canada, Education, Culture and Tourism Division.

Table 3.5
Knowledge of official languages, 1991

	English only	French only	Both English and French	Neither English nor French	Total
	%				
People aged:					
15-19	62.9	14.2	22.7	0.3	100.0
20-24	66.6	11.6	21.3	0.5	100.0
25-44	66.8	13.4	19.0	0.8	100.0
45-64	66.0	14.9	17.2	1.9	100.0
65 and over	69.6	14.4	12.4	3.6	100.0
Total	67.1	15.2	16.3	1.4	100.0

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 93-318.

Table 3.6
Computer use, training and ownership, 1989

	Able to use	Have had formal training	Computer in home
	%		
People aged:			
15-19	82	63	35
20-24	66	53	16
25-34	60	38	17
35-44	56	35	30
45-54	38	23	25
55-64	22	12	10
65 and over	6	5	3
Total	47	32	19

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1989.

Table 3.7
Type of computer use, 1989

	Game playing	Word processing	Data entry	Record-keeping	Data analysis	Programming
	%					
People aged:						
15-19	92	72	61	38	24	49
20-24	79	65	60	46	28	26
25-34	72	60	65	50	35	23
35-44	71	63	66	52	39	21
45-54	59	60	65	51	31	15
55-64	47	52	61	51	35	14
65 and over	72	40	41	32	18	14

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1989.

SECTION 4: WORKING YOUTHS

Employed youths

Relatively few young people participate in the paid work force, and the majority of those who do have part-time jobs, mainly in sales, service and clerical occupations. In addition, young people appear to be especially vulnerable to downturns in the economy.

In 1992, 42% of all people aged 15-19 were employed, compared with 65% of 20-24-year-olds, 75% of those aged 25-44 and 61% of people aged 45-64. (Chart 4.1) That year, 15-19-year-olds made up 6% of all employed Canadians.

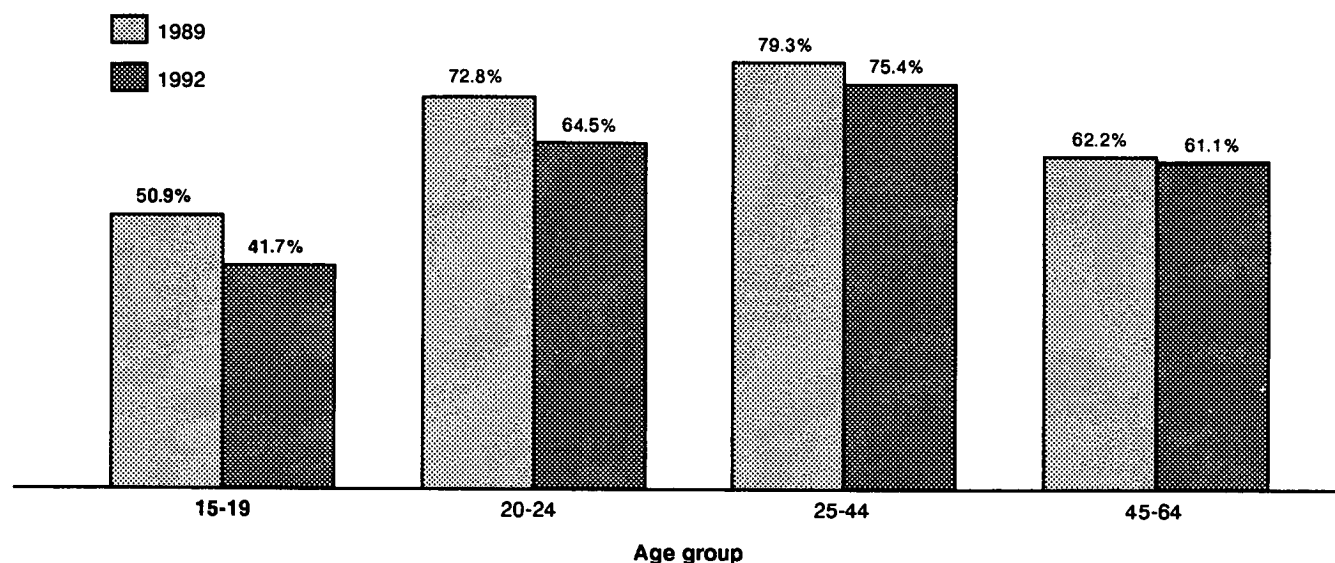
The level of employment of young people dropped sharply during the recession in both the early 1980s and 1990s. Between 1989 and 1992, for example, the percentage of 15-19-year-olds with jobs fell almost ten percentage points, from 51% to 42%. The employment levels of older Canadians also fell in this period, however, these declines were not as great as that experienced by youths. There was a similar pattern in the early 1980s, when the proportion of employed youths fell from 47% in 1981 to 40% in 1983. (Table 4.1)

The decline in the employment levels of young people in recent years was greater for males than for females. Between 1989 and 1992, the percentage of men aged 15-19 with jobs dropped from 52% to 41%. In the same period, the figure for women aged 15-19 fell from 50% to 42%.

As a result, women aged 15-19 were slightly more likely than their male counterparts to be employed in 1992: 42% versus 41%. This is in contrast to most of the 1980s when the employment level of male youths was several percentage points higher than that of comparable women.

Young people in the Western provinces and Ontario are generally more likely than those in Québec and the Atlantic provinces to be employed. In 1992, nearly half of 15-19-year-olds in British Columbia (49%), Alberta (47%) and Manitoba (47%), along with 45% of those in Saskatchewan and 44% in Ontario, were part of the paid work force. In contrast, just 21% of 15-19-year-olds in Newfoundland were employed, while the figure was 35% in Québec and Nova Scotia, 37% in New Brunswick and 41% in Prince Edward Island. (Table 4.2)

Chart 4.1 Percentage of the population employed, 1989 and 1992



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 71-001 and 71-220.

Part-time work

Most youth employment is part-time. In 1992, 70% of all people aged 15-19 with jobs worked part-time. This compared with 24% of workers aged 20-24 and just 12% of those aged 25 and over. (Table 4.3) Indeed, young people made up 26% of all part-time workers in Canada in 1992, whereas they represented only 6% of all workers.

Young women are more likely than their male counterparts to work part-time. In 1992, 75% of employed females aged 15-19, versus 66% of comparable males, worked part-time. Both young women and men, though, were more likely than older workers of the same sex to have part-time jobs.

Younger teenagers are especially likely to work part-time. In 1992, 88% of people aged 15 or 16 with jobs worked part-time. The share of 17-19-year-old workers employed part-time, at 63%, was also very high.

The majority of young people work part-time because they are going to school. In 1992, 74% of part-time workers aged 15-19 were also attending school. At the same time, though, 100,000 young part-time workers, 19% of the total, reported they could not find full-time jobs. Another 7% said they did not want full-time employment, while less than 1%

worked part-time because of personal or family responsibilities or other reasons. (Table 4.4)

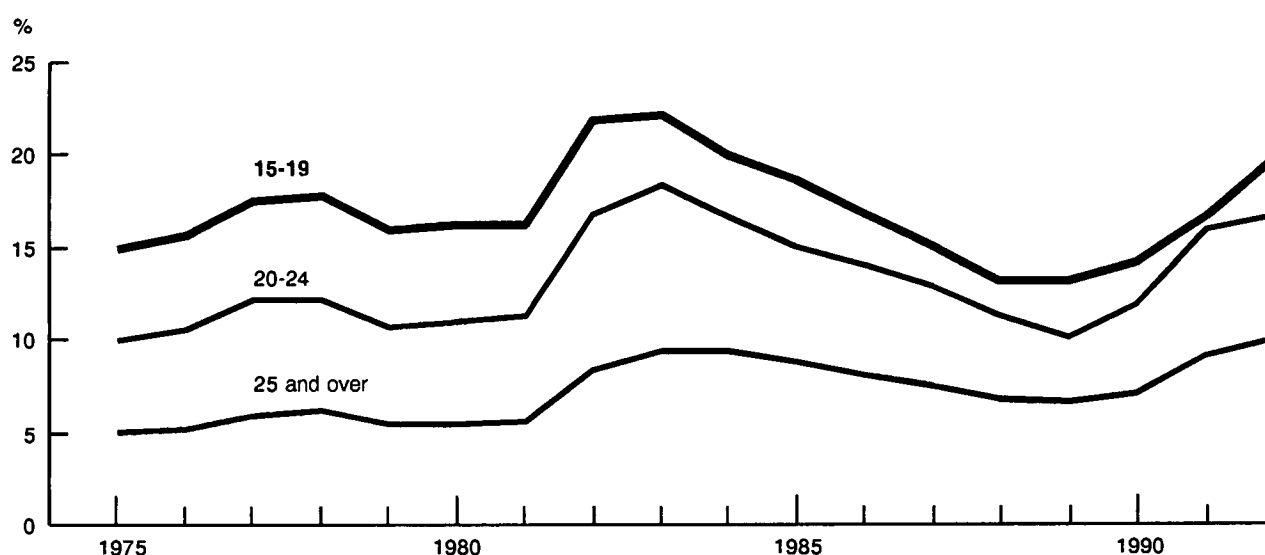
Work and school attendance

As suggested above, a significant share of young people combine work with their studies. In 1992, an average of 34% of full-time students aged 15-19 worked during the school months from January to April and September to December. At the same time, 47% of those planning to return to school in the fall had jobs between May and August, as did 58% of those who were not planning to return to school or who were not certain of their plans. All these figures were up from the mid-1980s, however, they were also down substantially from highs recorded in the late 1980s. (Table 4.5)

Youth unemployment

Young people have the highest unemployment rate of any age group in Canada. In 1992, 184,000 people aged 15-19, 19.7% of all labour force participants in this age range, were unemployed. This compared with 16.6% of those age 20-24 and 9.9% of those aged 25 and over. (Chart 4.2) As a result, young people made up 12% of all unemployed Canadians in 1992, whereas they represented only 6% of those with jobs.

Chart 4.2 Unemployment rates, 1975-1992



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 71-001, 71-220 and 71-529.

The unemployment rate for 15-19-year-olds in 1992 (19.7%) was up substantially from the late 1980s, when around 13% of labour force participants in this age range were unemployed. Current levels of unemployment among 15-19-year-olds are still about 2 percentage points below peak figures reached during the recession in the early 1980s, when around 22% of 15-19-year-old labour force participants were unemployed. (Table 4.6)

As well, the gaps between the unemployment rates of young people and older Canadians have closed in recent years. For example, the unemployment rate for youths was three percentage points greater than that for 20-24-year-olds in 1992, whereas it had been around five percentage points higher during the late 1970s and early 1980s. Similarly, while the unemployment rate of 15-19-year-olds in 1992 was double that for labour force participants aged 25 and over, it had been more than three times greater in the late 1970s and early 1980s. (Chart 4.2)

Unemployment is generally higher among young men than young women. In 1992, 21.5% of male labour force participants aged 15-19 were unemployed, compared with 17.7% of their female counterparts.

Unemployment rates are particularly high among youths living in the Atlantic provinces and Central Canada. In fact, 31.4% of all 15-19-year-old labour force participants in Newfoundland were unemployed in 1992. Unemployment rates were also around 20% among 15-19-year-olds in Nova Scotia (21.5%), Quebec (21.1%), Ontario (20.2%) and New Brunswick (20.0%) in 1992. In contrast, youth unemployment rates in the Western provinces ranged from 18.6% in Manitoba to 15.4% in Saskatchewan. (Table 4.7)

The largest share of unemployed youths either lost or were laid off from their last job. In 1992, 39% of unemployed 15-19-year-olds had either lost their last job or been laid off. This, however, was well below the figure for unemployed workers aged 20 and over, 72% of whom had lost or been laid off from their last job. At the same time, 21% of unemployed youths had left their last job to return to school and 22% had never worked. In comparison, only 3% of unemployed workers aged 20 and over had gone back to school and just 1% had never worked. (Table 4.8)

Occupation

The large majority of employed young people work in occupations which generally do not require extensive education or experience. In 1991, 77% of all workers aged 15-19 were employed in a sales,

service, clerical or primary occupation. This compared with 56% of workers aged 20-24 and just 41% of those aged 25 and over. (Table 4.9)

The largest share of teenaged workers are in service jobs. In 1991, 29% of employed youths had service jobs, while 21% were in clerical positions, 19% were part of the sales work force and 7% were in one of the primary industries.

Employed youths make up relatively large components of these occupational groups, especially the sales and service work forces. In 1991, people aged 15-19 made up 14% of all service workers and 12% of those in sales. They also represented 9% of those in primary occupations and 7% of those in clerical positions. (Table 4.10)

In contrast, few young people hold managerial and administrative or professional occupations. In 1991, just 7% of workers aged 15-19 were in these types of jobs, compared with 19% of workers aged 20-24 and 33% of those aged 25 and over.

Young people are also under-represented in processing, product fabricating and construction occupations. In 1991, 9% of workers aged 15-19 were employed in one of these occupations, compared with 16% of workers aged 20-24 and 18% of those aged 25 and over.

There are differences in the occupational distributions of young women and men. Female workers aged 15-19, for example, are much more likely than their male counterparts to be employed in service, clerical or sales occupations. In 1991, 84% of all female workers in this age range had one of these types of jobs, versus 57% of comparable men. Young women, though, are also more likely to be in a professional position. In 1991, 6% of working women aged 15-19, versus 4% of employed male youths, were in a professional occupation.

In contrast, male youths are considerably more likely than comparable women to be employed in primary, processing, product fabricating or construction occupations. In 1991, 25% of male workers aged 15-19 were employed in one of these occupations, compared with only 6% of working women in this age range.

Table 4.1
Percentage of 15-19-year-olds employed, 1975-1992

	Men	Women	Total	As % of total employed
	%			
1975	46.2	40.6	43.4	10.5
1976	44.0	39.9	42.0	10.2
1977	44.3	38.9	41.6	10.0
1978	44.7	39.8	42.3	9.8
1979	47.8	42.8	45.3	10.1
1980	48.0	44.2	46.1	9.9
1981	48.3	44.9	46.6	9.5
1982	40.5	41.0	40.7	8.3
1983	40.1	40.1	40.1	7.7
1984	42.4	41.0	41.7	7.5
1985	42.5	43.3	42.9	7.3
1986	45.6	44.6	45.1	7.4
1987	48.1	46.9	47.5	7.4
1988	50.2	49.3	49.8	7.5
1989	51.8	50.0	50.9	7.4
1990	49.8	48.7	49.3	7.1
1991	45.6	45.8	45.7	6.7
1992	41.4	42.0	41.7	6.1

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 71-001, 71-220 and 71-529.

Table 4.2
Percentage of 15-19-year-olds employed, by province, 1992

	Men	Women	Total
	%		
Newfoundland	21.0	20.9	20.9
Prince Edward Island	--	--	41.0
Nova Scotia	34.5	35.4	35.0
New Brunswick	35.8	37.8	36.8
Quebec	36.1	33.9	35.0
Ontario	43.3	45.5	44.3
Manitoba	46.8	47.6	47.2
Saskatchewan	47.5	41.9	44.8
Alberta	49.1	45.6	47.4
British Columbia	45.6	52.5	49.0
Canada	41.4	42.0	41.7

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 71-220.

Table 4.3
Percentage of employed people working part-time, 1992

	Men	Women	Total
	%		
People aged:			
15-16	85.7	90.7	88.2
17-19	59.0	68.1	63.4
Total 15-19	66.4	74.6	70.4
20-24	19.8	27.8	23.7
25 and over	4.2	21.7	12.0
Total	9.3	25.9	16.8
Total employed part-time (000s)			
15-19	253.6	275.6	529.2
Total	618.1	1,440.0	2,058.1
15-19 as % of total	41.0	19.1	25.7

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Table 4.4
Reasons for part-time work, 1992

	Men aged		Women aged		Total aged	
	15-19	20 and over	15-19	20 and over	15-19	20 and over
	%					
Going to school	74.8	24.1	72.8	9.0	73.7	12.6
Could only find part-time work	18.9	47.4	18.8	34.0	18.9	37.2
Did not want full-time work	5.9	22.4	7.2	39.9	6.6	35.7
All other reasons ¹	--	6.0	--	17.1	--	14.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total employed part-time (000s)	254	365	276	1,164	529	1,529

¹ Includes working part-time because of personal or family responsibilities and all other reasons.

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Table 4.5
Full-time students employed during school year and summer months, 1984-1992

	Employed during school year ¹	Employed during summer months	
		Planning to return to school	Not planning return to school ²
		%	
1984	30.0	44.8	53.5
1985	31.3	46.7	54.1
1986	34.0	50.4	60.1
1987	36.6	57.3	62.5
1988	39.0	55.2	64.9
1989	40.6	56.6	60.8
1990	40.2	54.6	62.0
1991	37.6	50.5	61.1
1992	33.9	46.5	57.8

¹ Includes January to March and September to December.

² Includes those not certain of their plans.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 71-001, 71-220 and 71-529.

Table 4.6
Unemployment rates of people aged 15-19, 1975-1992

	Men	Women	Total
	%		
1975	15.4	14.4	14.9
1976	16.3	15.1	15.7
1977	18.1	16.7	17.5
1978	18.4	17.1	17.8
1979	16.3	15.8	16.0
1980	17.0	15.3	16.2
1981	17.0	15.4	16.2
1982	24.6	18.9	21.9
1983	24.1	20.1	22.2
1984	21.3	18.5	20.0
1985	20.6	16.7	18.7
1986	18.2	15.2	16.8
1987	16.4	13.6	15.1
1988	14.2	12.0	13.2
1989	14.5	11.5	13.1
1990	15.4	12.8	14.2
1991	18.3	15.0	16.7
1992	21.5	17.7	19.7

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 71-001, 71-220 and 71-529.

Table 4.7
Unemployment rates of people aged 15-19, by province, 1992

	Men	Women	Total
		%	
Newfoundland	--	--	31.4
Prince Edward Island	--	--	--
Nova Scotia	--	--	21.5
New Brunswick	--	--	20.0
Quebec	22.7	19.3	21.1
Ontario	22.0	18.3	20.2
Manitoba	20.8	--	18.6
Saskatchewan	--	--	15.4
Alberta	17.3	16.1	16.7
British Columbia	21.6	14.2	17.9
Canada	21.5	17.7	19.7

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 71-220.

Table 4.8
Unemployed, by reason for leaving last job, 1992

	Men aged		Women aged		Total aged	
	15-19	20 and over	15-19	20 and over	15-19	20 and over
				%		
School	21.0	3.1	21.5	3.2	21.2	3.1
Lost job or laid off	43.8	78.9	32.9	61.6	39.1	71.6
Never worked	20.0	1.0	25.3	1.9	21.7	1.4
All other reasons ¹	15.2	16.9	20.3	33.5	17.9	23.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total unemployed (000s)	105	805	79	567	184	1,372

¹ Includes people unemployed because of own illness, personal or family responsibilities, retired, not worked in last 5 years and other reasons.

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Table 4.9
Occupation of experienced labour force participants, 1991

	People aged			Total
	15-19	20-24	25 and over	
	%			
Managerial/administrative	1.4	5.1	14.0	12.2
Professional	5.1	13.6	19.2	17.7
Clerical	21.4	23.4	17.1	18.1
Sales	18.9	10.6	8.3	9.2
Service	29.4	17.3	10.9	12.8
Primary	7.3	4.8	4.5	4.7
Processing	2.9	4.7	4.9	4.8
Product fabricating	2.7	5.6	6.6	6.3
Construction	3.0	6.1	6.1	5.9
Other	7.9	8.8	8.3	8.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total experienced labour force (000s)	863.9	1,622.3	11,734.0	14,220.2

Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Census of Canada.

Table 4.10
Occupation of experienced labour force participants aged 15-19, 1991

	Men	Women	Total	15-19-year-olds as % of occupation group
	%			
Managerial/administrative	1.4	1.3	1.4	0.7
Professional	4.1	6.1	5.1	1.7
Clerical	12.4	31.2	21.4	7.2
Sales	17.4	20.6	18.9	12.4
Service	26.7	32.4	29.4	14.0
Primary	11.0	3.3	7.3	9.4
Processing	4.2	1.5	2.9	3.7
Product fabricating	4.2	1.0	2.7	2.6
Construction	5.4	0.3	3.0	3.0
Other	13.0	2.4	7.9	5.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	6.1
Total experienced labour force (000s)	451.4	412.4	863.9	...

Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Census of Canada.

SECTION 5: INCOME

Family Income

Families headed by young people have very low incomes. In fact, in 1991, the average income of families headed by people aged 15-19, at \$15,559, was less than a third the figure for all families (\$53,131). It was also less than half that of families headed by 20-24-year-olds (\$31,520), the group with the second lowest average income. (Table 5.1)

Families headed by young men have higher incomes than those headed by comparable women. In 1991, families headed by men aged 15-19 had an average income of \$16,877, versus \$14,595 for those headed by women in this age range.

Income of unattached individuals

The income of young people living as unattached individuals is also well below that of comparable older people. In 1991, unattached individuals aged 15-19 had an average income of just under \$8,000, about 40% the average income of all unattached individuals (\$20,203), and just half the figure for comparable 20-24-year-olds (\$16,043), the group with the next lowest income. (Table 5.2)

Unattached young men have higher incomes than their female counterparts. In 1991, unattached males aged 15-19 had an average income of \$8,522, versus \$7,386 for comparable women.

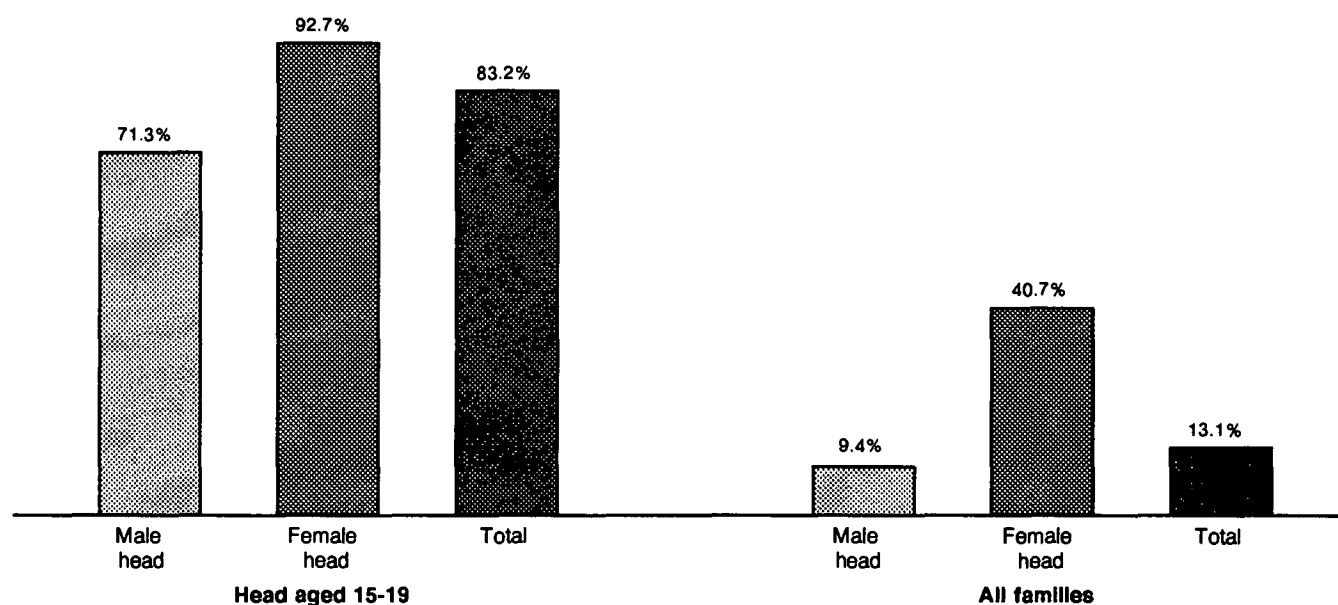
Both young men and women living alone have considerably smaller incomes than older Canadians. Even unattached women aged 65 and over, generally considered to be one of the poorest groups in the population, had an average income in 1991 (\$17,304) which was more than twice that of both unattached men and women aged 15-19.

Low Income youths

Not surprisingly, given their relatively low average incomes, large shares of young people who either head families or live alone have incomes below Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-offs.

In 1991, 83% of all families headed by people aged 15-19 had incomes below the Low Income Cut-offs, compared with 13% of all families. (Chart 5.1) However, because of the small number of young families, they made up only about 2% of all low-income families.

Chart 5.1 Percentage of families with low income, 1991



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-207 and Survey of Consumer Finances.

Families headed by young women are especially likely to have low incomes. In 1991, 93% of these families had incomes below the Low Income Cut-offs. At the same time, 71% of families headed by males aged 15-19 were also classified as having low incomes.

A large majority of unattached youths also have low incomes. In 1991, 84% of unattached individuals aged 15-19 had incomes below the Low Income Cut-offs, compared with 37% of all unattached individuals. (Chart 5.2)

Unattached young women are slightly more likely than their male counterparts to have low incomes. In 1991, 85% of unattached women aged 15-19, versus 82% of young men, were classified as having low incomes.

In contrast to their counterparts who head families or live alone, young people still living with their family are much less likely to be in the low-income population. In 1991, 14% of families with children aged 15-19 living at home had incomes below the Low Income Cut-offs.¹

Sources of Income

The sources of income of young families differ from those of families headed by older people. In particular, earned sources provide a smaller share of

the income of young families than for older units, while transfer payments make up a relatively large share of the income of young families.

In 1991, 61% of the income of families headed by 15-19-year-olds came from wages and salaries.² However, this was somewhat below the figure (78%) for families headed by people aged 20 and over. (Table 5.3)

Investment income also represents a relatively small percentage of the income of families headed by young people. In 1991, income from investments made up 1% of the income of families headed by 15-19-year-olds, compared with 5% of that of other families.

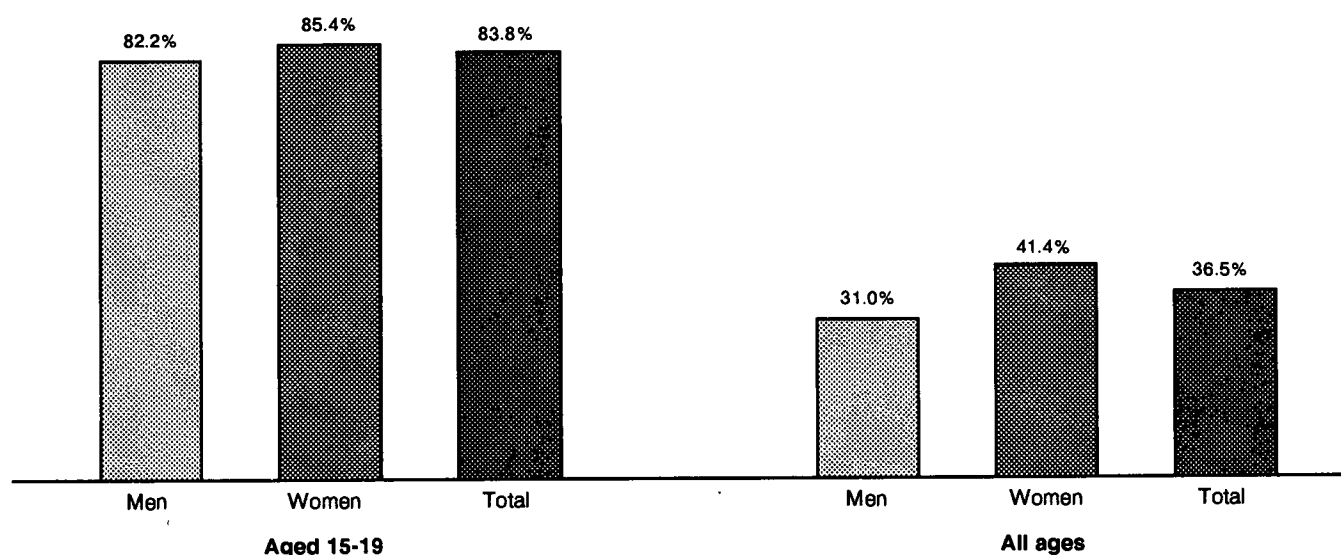
In contrast, young families are much more dependent on transfer payments than families headed by older people. In 1991, 35% of all income received by families headed by 15-19-year-olds came in the form of transfer payments. This was almost three times the share for families headed by people aged 20 and over (12%).

In terms of actual dollars, however, families headed by young people receive less in transfer payments than older families. In 1991, families headed by 15-19-year-olds received an average of \$5,398 in transfer payments, compared with \$6,374 for all other families.

¹ Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Consumer Finances.

² Includes net income from self-employment.

Chart 5.2 Percentage of unattached individuals with low income, 1991



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-207 and Survey of Consumer Finances.

While earned income makes up a relatively small share of the income of families headed by young people, and transfer payments account for a relatively large share, the opposite is the case for unattached individuals aged 15-19. In 1991, 81% of the income of unattached youths came from wages and salaries, including income from self-employment, compared with 66% for unattached individuals aged 20 and over. (Table 5.4)

At the same time, only 16% of the income of unattached youths, versus 21% of that of unattached

individuals aged 20 and over, came from transfer payments. The latter figure reflects the fact that many people in this group are elderly pension recipients.

Again, however, the actual dollar value of the transfer payments received by young unattached individuals was considerably less than that going to comparable older people. In 1991, unattached individuals aged 15-19 received an average of \$1,252 in transfer payments, only about a fourth the total for people aged 20 and over living alone (\$4,665).

Table 5.1
Average family income, 1991

	Male head	Female head	All families
		\$	
Age of head:			
Under 20	16,877	14,595	15,559
20-24	36,093	17,373	31,520
25-34	49,949	20,127	46,255
35-44	61,160	28,889	57,459
45-54	68,604	43,720	66,184
55-64	57,239	42,620	55,866
65 and over	40,154	39,179	40,036
Total	55,946	31,701	53,131

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-207; and Survey of Consumer Finances.

Table 5.2
Average income of unattached individuals, 1991

	Men	Women	Total
		\$	
People aged:			
15-19	8,522	7,386	7,949
20-24	17,525	14,421	16,043
25-34	26,163	23,946	25,343
35-44	30,920	26,967	29,335
45-54	30,245	25,784	28,445
55-64	25,953	19,498	22,004
65 and over	20,259	17,304	18,056
Total	22,514	25,179	20,203

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-207; and Survey of Consumer Finances.

Table 5.3
Sources of family income, 1991

	Families headed by people aged			
	15-19		20 and over	
	\$	%	\$	%
Wages and salaries	9,445	60.7	38,722	72.7
Net income from self-employment	73	0.5	3,060	5.7
Investment income	162	1.0	2,723	5.1
Transfer payments	5,398	34.7	6,374	12.0
Other money income	481	3.1	2,355	4.4
Total	15,559	100.0	53,235	100.0
Total estimated number of families (000s)	20	...	7,246	...

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-207; and Survey of Consumer Finances.

Table 5.4
Sources of income of unattached individuals, 1991

	Unattached individuals aged			
	15-19		20 and over	
	\$	%	\$	%
Wages and salaries	6,367	80.1	13,951	61.3
Net income from self-employment	40	0.5	980	4.3
Investment income	100	1.3	1,694	7.4
Transfer payments	1,252	15.8	4,665	20.5
Other money income	190	2.4	1,482	6.5
Total	7,949	100.0	22,772	100.0
Total estimated number of unattached individuals (000s)	60	...	3,383	...

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-207; and Survey of Consumer Finances.

SECTION 6: TIME USE PATTERNS

Less work, more play

The time use pattern of young people is different from that of other adults. People aged 15-19, for example, devote less time than the total population aged 15 and over to productive activities,¹ while they have more free time and spend more time sleeping.

In 1992, 15-19-year-olds spent an average of 6.5 hours per day engaged in productive activities. This was 1.3 hours less than the total for the population aged 15 and over (7.8 hours). (Table 6.1)

Not surprisingly, education-related activities account for a large share of the productive time of young people. In 1992, people aged 15-19 averaged 3.6 hours per day on educational activities, compared with less than an hour per day (0.6 hours) for the total population aged 15 and over.

In contrast, young people spend less time than older Canadians on work activities. In 1992, people aged 15-19 averaged 1.5 hours per day on paid work and 1.4 hours per day on unpaid work. Both figures were less than half those for the total adult population.

At the same time, youths get more sleep than other adults. In 1992, people aged 15-19 averaged 8.7 hours of sleep per day, about half an hour more than the figure for the total population aged 15 and over (8.1 hours).

Young people also have more free time than the overall adult population. In 1992, people aged 15-19 averaged 6.7 hours of free time per day, compared with 5.7 hours per day for the total population aged 15 and over.

Young people spend most of their free time socializing or watching television. In 1992, people aged 15-19 averaged over two hours per day on each of these activities. But while 15-19-year-olds spent a half an hour more per day socializing than the overall adult population, they watched about the same amount of television.

¹ Productive activities include: (1) paid work and related activities such as travel to and from work, and meal and other breaks; (2) unpaid work activities such as domestic work, child care, shopping and services, and organizational and volunteer work; and (3) educational activities.

Youths also spend more time than the overall population playing sports. In 1992, people aged 15-19 averaged almost an hour per day (0.9) participating in active sports, compared with less than a half an hour per day for the total adult population (0.4).

Young people, though, do not spend much time engaged in passive leisure activities such as reading for pleasure. In 1992, people aged 15-19 averaged only a half an hour per day on these activities, though, this was about the same amount of time as for the total population aged 15 and over.

Young women busier

Young women devote considerably more time than their male counterparts to productive activities. In 1992, women aged 15-19 spent 7.4 hours per day on these activities, versus 5.7 hours for comparable men. (Table 6.1)

Women aged 15-19 spent over an hour per day more than men in this age range on educational activities and almost an hour more per day on unpaid work. Male youths, however, did spend slightly more time than their female counterparts on paid work activities.

Male youths also sleep more than young women. In 1992, men aged 15-19 averaged 8.9 hours of sleep per night, compared with 8.6 hours for women in this age range.

Young men also have considerably more free time than comparable women. In 1992, males aged 15-19 had an average of 7.4 hours of free time per day, versus 5.8 hours for female youths. Most of this difference was accounted for by time devoted to television viewing and active sports. In 1992, men aged 15-19 spent about three-quarters of an hour more per day than their female counterparts on each of these activities.

Time use by main activity

The time use patterns of young people vary considerably depending on their main activity. Students, for example, spend more time on productive activities and have less free time than employed youths.

In 1992, 15-19-year-old students devoted 7.2 hours per day to productive activities, compared with 6.4 hours for employed youths. The reason for this difference was that students spent about an hour a day on paid work activities, whereas employed youths spent only a few minutes a day on education-related activities. (Table 6.2)

Conversely, employed youths enjoy more free time than students. In 1992, people aged 15-19 whose

main activity was working had an average of 6.7 hours of free time per day, compared with 6.2 hours for students.

Generally, employed youths and students spend about the same amount of time watching television and playing sports. However, young people with jobs spend more time than students socializing and engaging in passive leisure activities such as reading for pleasure.

Table 6.1
Average daily time spent on selected activities, 1992

	People aged 15-19			Total population		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Hours per day						
Productive activities:						
Paid work and related activities	1.6	1.4	1.5	4.5	2.7	3.6
Unpaid work	1.0	1.9	1.4	2.6	4.5	3.6
Education and related activities	3.1	4.1	3.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Total productive activities	5.7	7.4	6.5	7.7	7.8	7.8
Sleep	8.9	8.6	8.7	7.9	8.2	8.1
Other personal care activities	2.0	2.2	2.1	2.4	2.6	2.4
Free time activities:						
Socializing	2.3	2.3	2.3	1.8	1.9	1.8
Television viewing	2.5	1.8	2.2	2.4	2.0	2.2
Reading and other passive leisure	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6
Attending movies, sport events and other entertainment events	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1
Active sports	1.2	0.5	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.4
Other active leisure	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.5
Total free time	7.4	5.8	6.7	6.0	5.4	5.7
Total time	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1992.

Table 6.2
Average daily time spent on selected activities by people aged 15-19, 1992

	Employed			Students		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Hours per day						
Productive activities:						
Paid work and related activities	4.6	5.8	5.0	0.8	0.8	0.8
Unpaid work	0.9	2.0	1.3	0.9	1.4	1.2
Education and related activities	...	0.3	0.1	4.9	5.6	5.3
Total productive activities	5.4	8.1	6.4	6.5	7.9	7.2
Sleep	9.0	8.1	8.7	8.7	8.4	8.6
Other personal care activities	2.1	2.4	2.2	1.9	2.2	2.1
Free time activities:						
Socializing	2.6	2.6	2.6	1.9	2.1	2.0
Television viewing	2.4	1.2	2.0	2.4	1.6	2.0
Reading and other passive leisure	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.4
Attending movies, sports events and other entertainment events	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.3
Active sports	1.3	0.6	1.0	1.3	0.5	0.9
Other active leisure	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.5
Total free time	7.4	5.4	6.7	6.9	5.4	6.2
Total time	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1992.

SECTION 7: YOUTH AND HEALTH

Health status

Young people are generally healthy. In 1990, 91% of people aged 15-19 reported that their health was good to excellent, while just 9% indicated that their health was only fair or poor. (Table 7.1)

The health status of youths is similar to that for individuals between the ages of 20 and 54; young people, though, are healthier than those aged 55 and over. In 1990, around 90% of people aged 20-54 also reported good to excellent health, while the figure dropped to 80% for those aged 55-64 and to 74% among those aged 65 and over.

Young women report slightly better health status than their male counterparts. In 1990, 92% of women aged 15-19 said that their health was good to excellent, versus 90% of men in this age range. At the same time, 8% of young women, compared with 10% of young men, indicated that their health was only fair or poor.

Activity limitations

The generally good health of young people is also reflected in the fact that few people in this age range

report activity limitations. In 1990, only 8% of people aged 15-19 reported that they were limited in their activities. (Chart 7.1)

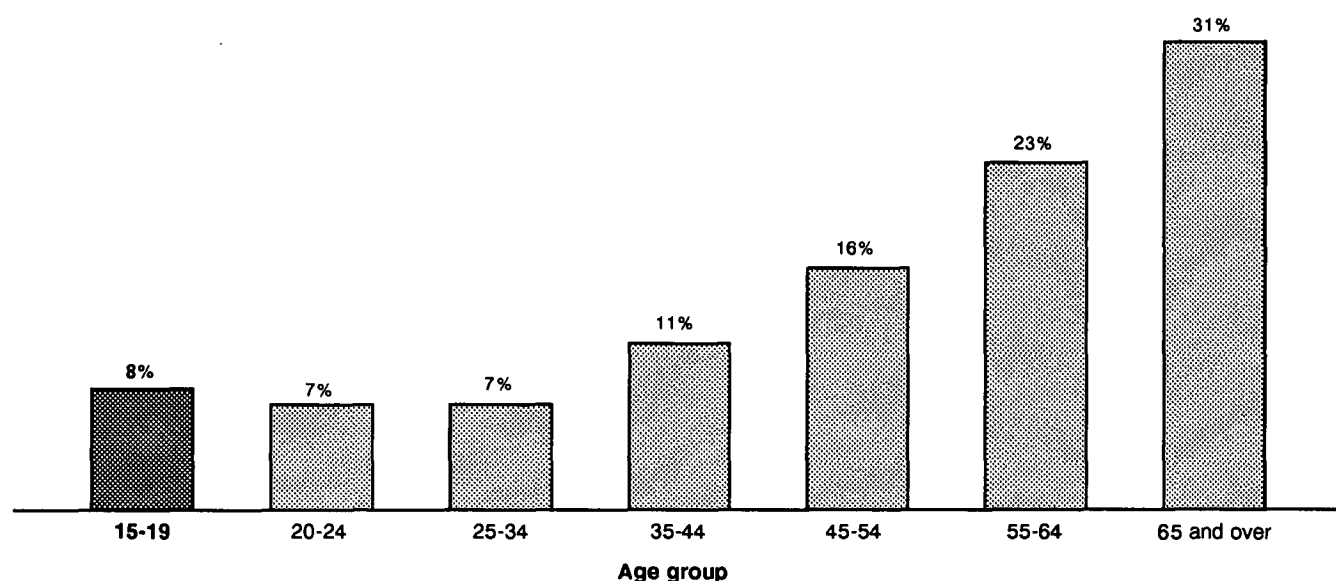
The level of activity limitation among young people (8%) was about the same as that for individuals aged 20-24 (7%) and 25-34 (7%), but below rates among those aged 35 and over, which ranged from 11% for those aged 35-44 to 31% for those aged 65 and over.

Mortality

People aged 15-19 have a lower death rate than other adult age groups. In 1991, there were 68 deaths for every 100,000 people aged 15-19, compared with 85 per 100,000 people aged 20-29, 110 among those in their thirties, 222 for those aged 40-49 and over 3,000 for those aged 50 and over. (Table 7.2)

As well, the incidence of mortality has declined among young people in the last decade. Between 1980 and 1991, for example, the number of deaths per 100,000 people aged 15-19 fell from 93 to 68. (Table 7.3)

Chart 7.1 Percentage of the population with activity limitations, 1990



Source: Health and Welfare Canada, Canada's Health Promotion Survey, 1990: Technical Report.

Young men are considerably more likely than their female counterparts to die. In 1991, there were 97 deaths for every 100,000 males aged 15-19, compared with 39 for every 100,000 women in this age group.

Death rates have declined for both young men and women in the last decade. Between 1980 and 1991, the number of deaths per 100,000 men aged 15-19 fell 28%, from 134 to 97. In the same period, the death rate among comparable women dropped 22%, from 49 to 39.

Causes of death

Half of all deaths of young people are caused by accidents. In 1991, there were 34 accidental deaths for every 100,000 people aged 15-19. Another 14 deaths per 100,000 population were suicides, while all other causes of death accounted for a total of 21 deaths per 100,000 15-19-year-olds. (Table 7.2)

Accidental deaths

Motor vehicle accidents account for the largest share of all deaths among youths. In fact, while the overall death rate for young people is well below those of older age groups, youths are the most likely group to die as a result of a motor vehicle accident. In 1991, there were 24 motor vehicle accident fatalities for every 100,000 people aged 15-19, compared with 22 among 20-29-year-olds, 13 among those aged 30-39, 10 among 40-49-year-olds and 17 among those aged 50 and over. (Table 7.2)

The incidence of deaths due to motor vehicle accidents among youths, though, was almost halved in the past decade. There were 24 such deaths per 100,000 people aged 15-19 in 1991, down from 47 in 1980. (Table 7.3)

Males aged 15-19 are at much greater risk of being a motor vehicle accident fatality than comparable women. In 1991, there were 34 motor vehicle accident deaths for every 100,000 men aged 15-19, over two and a half times the figure for women in this age range (13). Both these figures, though, are only about half what they were in 1980, when there were 68 motor vehicle deaths for every 100,000 men aged 15-19 and 25 among comparable women.

Other accidents account for a smaller share of deaths of Canadian youths. In 1991, there were 10 deaths from other accidents for every 100,000 people aged 15-19. As well, the incidence of these deaths among youth is lower than among older age groups. (Table 7.2)

Male youths are at greater risk of being killed in other accidents than their female counterparts. Indeed, the incidence of these deaths among men aged 15-19, at 15 per 100,000 population in 1991, was almost four times greater than the figure among comparable women (4).

Suicide

A relatively large share of all deaths of young people are suicides. In fact, suicide is the second-leading cause of death of youths after motor vehicle accidents. In 1991, one-in-five deaths of 15-19-year-olds were suicides; that year, there were 14 suicides for every 100,000 people aged 15-19. (Table 7.2)

The incidence of suicides, however, is lower among youths than among older age groups. In 1991, there were 14 suicides per 100,000 youths aged 15-19, compared with around 18 per 100,000 population in groups aged 20 and over.

Young men are much more likely than young women to take their own lives. In 1991, there were 23 suicides for every 100,000 men aged 15-19, compared with only 4 for every 100,000 women in this age range. As well, the incidence of suicide has increased among young men in the last decade, whereas it has remained stable among young women. Between 1980 and 1991, for example, the number of suicides per 100,000 men aged 15-19 rose from 19 to 23, whereas the figure among young women was unchanged at 4 per 100,000 population. (Table 7.3)

Deaths from other causes

Few deaths of youths result from other causes. In 1991, there were 5 deaths per 100,000 people aged 15-19 as a result of neoplasms (cancer) and 2 as a result of diseases of the circulatory system. (Table 7.2) All other causes accounted for 11 deaths for every 100,000 15-19-year-olds, though, individually these other causes resulted in one or less death per 100,000 population.

Death rates for all these conditions are somewhat higher among males than females aged 15-19. As well, these rates have generally fallen for both young men and women over the last decade. The one noticeable exception is female deaths from cancer, which rose from 3.3 per 100,000 women aged 15-19 in 1980 to 4.0 in 1991. (Table 7.3)

Sexual activity

The majority of youths are sexually active. Among people aged 15-19 in 1990, 60% of men and 56% of women reported having been sexually active.¹

Most young people who engage in sexual activity, though, are monogamous. Indeed, almost three-quarters (73%) of all young people aged 15-19 in 1990 who had had sex had had only one partner. Young men are less likely than their female counterparts to report having only one partner. Of 15-19-year-olds who had had sex, 64% of males, versus 83% of females, had had only one partner.

Fertility

The fertility rate among young women is relatively low. In 1991, there were 27 live births for every 1,000 women aged 15-19, about a third the figures for women aged 20-24 (83) and 30-34 (88), and about a fifth the rate among women aged 25-29 (128). (Table 7.4)

The birth rate among young women has risen in the past few years. In 1991, there were 27 live births for every 1,000 women aged 15-19, up from 23 in 1987.² The current figure, though, is about the same as that in 1980. (Table 7.5)

Not surprisingly, there are more births to older teenaged women. In 1991, 67% of all births to women aged 15-19 were to those aged 18 or 19, while 33% were to those aged 17 or younger.

In addition, single women account for the large majority of births to young women. In fact, 83% of all women aged 15-19 giving birth in 1991 were single, while 17% were married.

Therapeutic abortions

Young women have therapeutic abortions³ about as often as women in other age groups. In 1991, there were 15 therapeutic abortions for every 1,000 women aged 15-19. This was lower than the rate among women aged 20-24 (22), but higher than the figures among women aged 25-29 (14) and 30-34 (9). (Table 7.4)

The therapeutic abortion rate among young women has declined in the last decade. In 1991, there were 15 therapeutic abortions per 1,000 women aged 15-19, down from 17 in 1980. (Table 7.5)

Women aged 18-19 are over twice as likely as those aged 15-17 to have a therapeutic abortion. In 1991, there were 22 therapeutic abortions for every 1,000 women aged 18-19, compared with 10 among women aged 15-17.

Sexually transmitted diseases

Young men and women are the most knowledgeable of all age groups about methods of preventing sexually transmitted diseases,¹ however, the practical application of this knowledge is less encouraging. Indeed, women aged 15-19 have the highest rates of gonorrhoea and chlamydia infections of any age group in the country.

In 1991, there were 119 reported cases of gonococcal infections for every 100,000 women aged 15-19, compared with 98 for women aged 20-24 and 38 for those aged 25-29. At the same time, there were 60 cases of gonococcal infections reported for every 100,000 males aged 15-19, about half the figure for women in this age group. (Table 7.6)

The incidence of gonococcal infections, however, has declined sharply among young people in the last several years. Between 1989 and 1991, for example, the number of reported cases of this disease among females aged 15-19 dropped from 338 per 100,000 population to 119, while the figure for males fell from 156 to just 60. (Chart 7.2)

Young women also report the highest rate of chlamydial infections. In 1991, there were 1,550 cases of this disease per 100,000 women aged 15-19, compared with 1,387 for women aged 20-24, 431 for those aged 25-29 and 110 among women aged 30-39. As well, the rate of chlamydial infections among women aged 15-19 was almost 7 times greater than that for males in this age range, among whom there were 236 cases per 100,000 population. (Table 7.6)

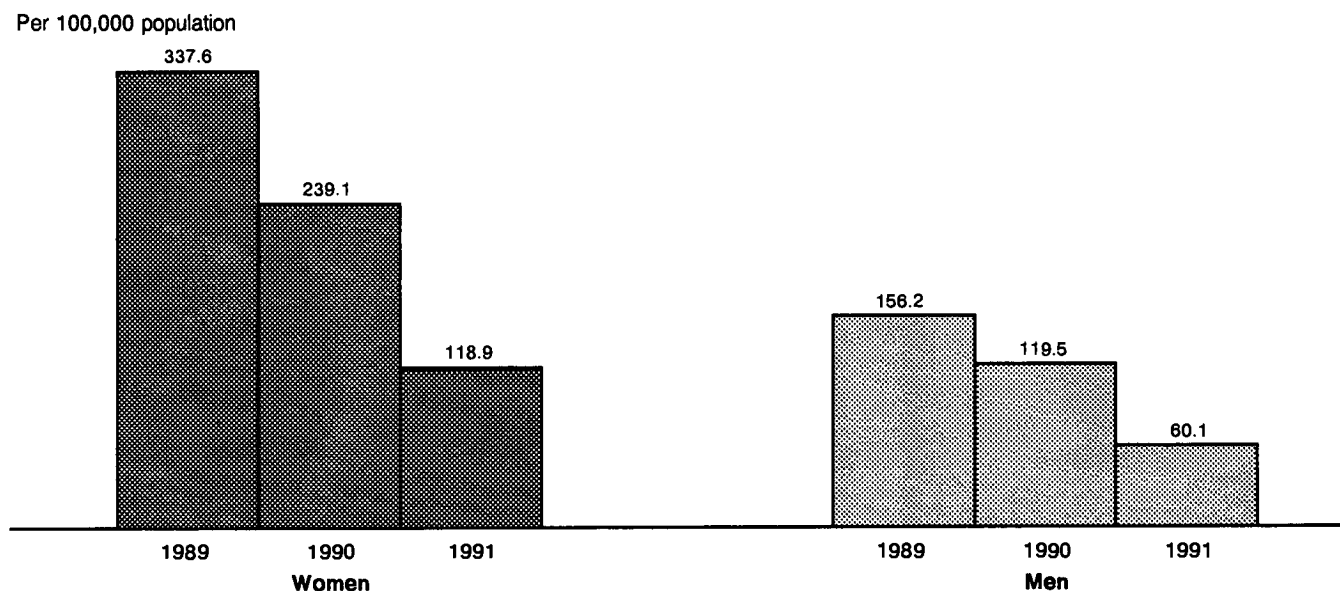
Young women also have a relatively high rate of syphilis. In 1991, there were 3.1 reported cases of this disease for every 100,000 women aged 15-19. While this was below the figure among women aged 20-24 (3.9), it was higher than rates for older age groups. The incidence of syphilis among female youths was also over 4 times greater than among males in this age range (0.7). As well, the incidence of syphilis more than doubled among both women and men aged 15-19 between 1989 and 1991. (Chart 7.3)

¹ Source: *Health and Welfare Canada, Canada's Health Promotion Survey, 1990: Technical Report.*

² Figures for 1980-1990 do not include Newfoundland.

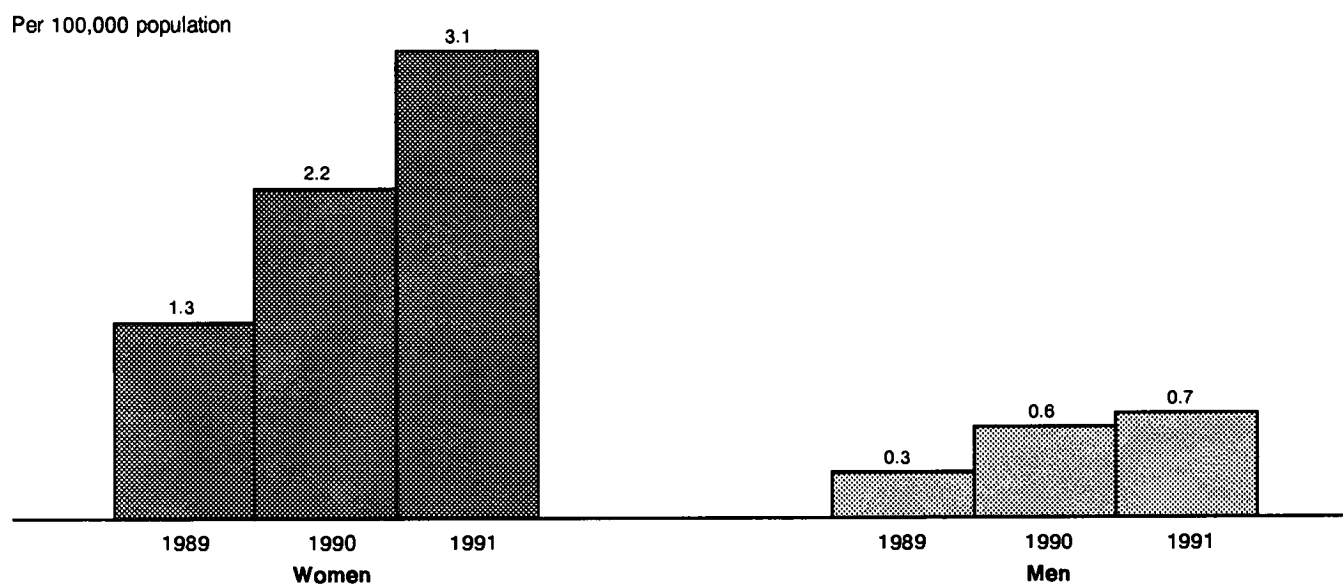
³ Includes only therapeutic abortions performed for Canadian women in Canadian hospitals.

Chart 7.2 Gonococcal Infections of people aged 15-19, 1989-1991



Source: Health and Welfare Canada, Division of STD Control.

Chart 7.3 Syphilis Infections of people aged 15-19, 1989-1991



Source: Health and Welfare Canada, Division of STD Control.

AIDS

To date, few youths have contracted AIDS. In fact, as of July, 1993, only 28 AIDS cases, just 0.3% of all adult cases, involved 15-19-year-olds.⁴ Of these victims, 19, or 68% of the total, had died.

Most youth AIDS cases involve males. Of the 28 youth AIDS cases reported as of July, 1993, 25 involved male victims, while only 3 involved female victims.

Drinking

Less than half of all young people drink alcohol on a regular basis. In 1991, 43% of people aged 15-19 reported they consumed alcohol at least once per month. (Chart 7.4)

The proportion of youths who drink is generally below that of older age groups. Indeed, the share of drinkers among young people aged 15-19 (43%) was the lowest of all age groups except individuals aged 65 and over, just 36% of whom drank regularly in 1991. In contrast, 69% of 20-24-year-olds, 63% of those aged 25-44 and 52% of those aged 45-64 drank at least once a month.

Young men are more likely than young women to drink regularly. In 1991, 47% of men aged 15-19 drank at least once per month, compared with 38% of women in this age range.

⁴ Source: Health and Welfare Canada, Laboratory Centre for Disease Control.

Aboriginal youths are less likely than the overall youth population to drink regularly. In 1991, 37% of Aboriginal people aged 15-19 reported they drank at least once a month, compared with 43% of all 15-19-year-olds.⁵

As with the overall youth population, young men of Aboriginal origin are more likely to use alcohol than comparable women. In 1991, 42% of Aboriginal males aged 15-19, versus 33% of their female counterparts, drank at least once a month.

Smoking

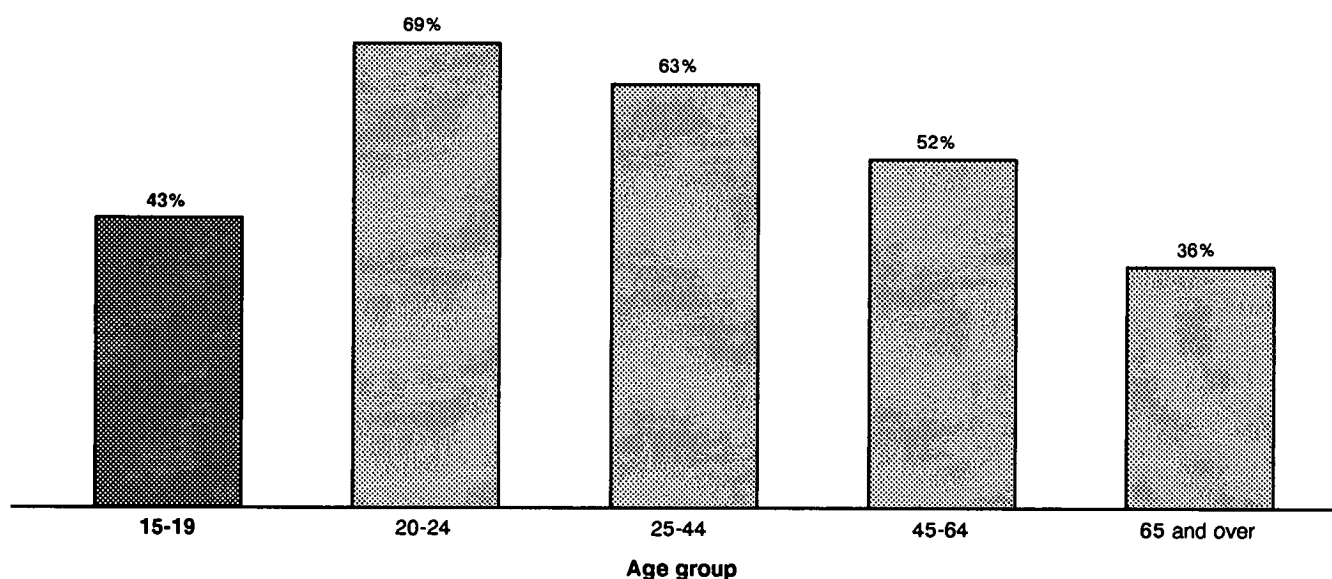
Relatively few young people smoke. In 1991, 16% of people aged 15-19 were regular smokers, that is, they smoked daily. Another 6% were occasional smokers, 6% were former regular smokers who had quit, while the majority of youths, 72% in 1991, had never smoked daily. (Table 7.7)

Youths are less likely than most older Canadians to smoke. While 16% of 15-19-year-olds smoked regularly in 1991, the comparative figures were 28% for 20-24-year-olds, 31% for those aged 25-44 and 26% for those aged 45-64. Only people aged 65 and over, just 13% of whom smoked in 1991, were less likely than youths to be regular smokers. (Table 7.8)

The percentage of young people who smoke has declined in the last decade or so. In 1991, 16% of people aged 15-19 smoked regularly, down from 20% in 1985 and 33% in 1978. (Chart 7.5)

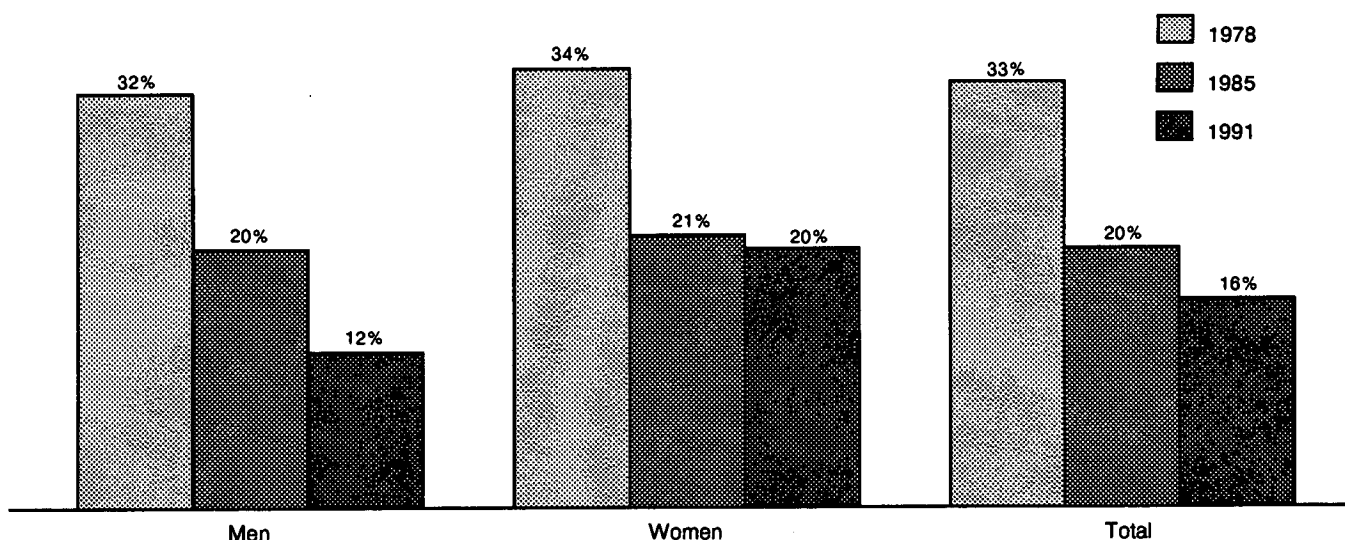
⁵ Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Aboriginal Peoples Survey.

Chart 7.4 Percentage of the population who are regular drinkers,¹ 1991



¹ Refers to those who drink at least once a month.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1991.

Chart 7.5 Percentage of people aged 15-19 who are daily cigarette smokers, 1978, 1985 and 1991

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 82-538 and 11-612, No.1, and General Social Survey, 1991.

There has been a particularly sharp drop in the percentage of male youths who smoke regularly. Between 1985 and 1991, the proportion of men aged 15-19 smoking daily fell from 20% to 12%. In contrast, the proportion of female youths smoking regularly declined only from 21% to 20% in the same period. As a result, women aged 15-19 were more likely than their male counterparts to smoke in 1991. That year, 20% of female 15-19-year-olds compared, with 12% of male youths, smoked daily.⁶

Smoking is higher among Aboriginal youths than among young people in general. In 1991, while only 16% of all youths were regular smokers, 40% of

Aboriginals aged 15-19 did so.⁵ At the same time, 14% of Aboriginal youths smoked occasionally, 6% were former smokers and 40% had never smoked regularly.

Young women with Aboriginal origins are slightly more likely than their male counterparts to smoke. In 1991, 41% of Aboriginal women aged 15-19, versus 39% of comparable young men, smoked regularly.

⁶ Note this result differs from other recent surveys. For example, Canada's Health Promotion Survey reported that in 1990 almost the same proportion of men (20%) and women (19%) smoked regularly.

Table 7.1
Health status, 1990

	Men			Women			Total		
	Good ¹	Poor ²	Total	Good ¹	Poor ²	Total	Good ¹	Poor ²	Total
	%								
People aged:									
15-19	90	10	100	92	8	100	91	9	100
20-24	93	7	100	90	10	100	92	8	100
25-34	92	8	100	93	7	100	92	8	100
35-44	90	10	100	93	7	100	91	9	100
45-54	90	10	100	87	13	100	90	10	100
55-64	75	25	100	85	15	100	80	20	100
65 and over	74	26	100	74	26	100	74	26	100

¹ Includes those reporting excellent, very good or good health status.

² Includes those reporting fair or poor health status.

Source: Health and Welfare Canada, Canada's Health Promotion Survey, 1990: Technical Report.

Table 7.2
Causes of death, 1991

	People aged				
	15-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50 and over
	Per 100,000 population				
Accidents					
Motor vehicle accidents	23.9	22.2	12.7	10.2	16.8
All other accidents	9.8	13.0	13.4	14.1	74.6
Total accidents	33.7	35.2	26.2	24.3	91.4
Suicides	13.8	18.4	18.0	17.4	17.9
Neoplasms	5.1	7.7	20.8	80.1	871.1
Respiratory diseases	1.4	1.3	2.4	5.7	282.4
Diseases of the circulatory system	2.1	3.6	10.9	45.5	1,276.0
Congenital anomalies	1.2	0.8	0.9	0.9	2.8
All other causes	11.3	17.7	31.0	47.8	467.6
All causes	68.4	84.8	110.2	221.9	3,009.2
Total deaths	1,258	3,675	5,152	8,148	173,483
Total population (000s)	1,839.4	4,332.9	4,674.6	3,672.4	5,765.0

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 84-209.

Table 7.3
Deaths per 100,000 people aged 15-19, by cause, 1980 and 1991

	Men		Women		Total	
	1980	1991	1980	1991	1980	1991
	Per 100,000 population					
Accidents						
Motor vehicle accidents	68.3	34.0	24.7	13.2	47.0	23.9
All other accidents	22.5	15.4	5.3	3.9	14.1	9.8
Total accidents	90.8	49.4	30.0	17.1	61.1	33.7
Suicides	19.4	23.0	3.8	3.8	11.7	13.8
Malignant neoplasms	6.3	6.0	3.3	4.0	4.9	5.1
Respiratory diseases	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.1	1.6	1.4
Diseases of the circulatory system	3.6	2.3	1.7	1.8	2.7	2.1
Congenital anomalies	1.7	1.7	1.4	0.7	1.5	1.2
All other causes	10.6	12.7	7.5	10.0	9.1	11.3
Total	134.1	96.8	49.2	38.5	92.6	68.4
Total deaths	1,618	913	568	345	2,186	1,258
Total population (000s)	1,206.5	943.4	1,154.4	895.9	2,360.9	1,839.4

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 84-206 and 84-209.

Table 7.4
Live births and therapeutic abortions, 1991

	Live births		Therapeutic abortions ¹	
	Number	Per 1,000 women	Number	Per 1,000 women
Women aged:				
15-19				
15-17	8,064	15.1	5,579	10.4
18-19	16,116	44.5	7,888	21.8
Total 15-19	24,180	27.3	13,467	15.4
20-24	80,723	82.6	21,084	21.6
25-29	150,024	128.4	16,278	13.9
30-34	107,560	88.0	11,092	9.1
35-39	33,107	29.2	6,204	5.5
40-44	4,124	4.0	1,699	1.6

¹ Includes only abortions performed in Canadian hospitals for Canadian women.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Health Information.

Table 7.5
Live births and therapeutic abortions to women aged 15-19, 1980-1991

	Live births ¹		Therapeutic abortions ²	
	Number	Per 1,000 women aged 15-19	Number	Per 1,000 women aged 15-19
1980	31,000	27.6	18,937	16.9
1981	29,062	26.4	17,858	16.2
1982	28,262	26.5	17,241	16.2
1983	25,382	24.9	14,883	14.7
1984	23,637	24.4	14,236	14.7
1985	22,090	23.7	13,755	14.5
1986	21,452	23.5	13,801	15.0
1987	20,981	23.2	13,626	15.1
1988	21,080	23.5	13,918	15.5
1989	22,483	25.6	15,439	16.3
1990	23,176	26.6	13,985	15.9
1991	24,180	27.3	13,467	15.4

¹ Does not include Newfoundland for 1980-1990.

² Includes only abortions performed for Canadian women in Canadian hospitals.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 82-553, 84-210 and 82-219.

Table 7.6
Incidence of sexually transmitted diseases, 1991

	Women			Men		
	Gonococcal infections	Chlamydial infections	Syphilis	Gonococcal infections	Chlamydial infections	Syphilis
Per 100,000 population						
People aged:						
15-19	118.9	1,550.0	3.1	60.1	235.5	0.7
20-24	98.1	1,386.7	3.9	115.8	480.2	4.4
25-29	38.1	430.5	2.8	75.9	208.8	3.9
30-39	13.3	109.5	1.1	35.0	66.0	2.6
40-59	3.0	16.8	0.4	11.0	13.6	2.0
60 and over	0.2	2.5	0.2	2.2	2.0	0.4
Total	21.9	265.4	1.0	28.7	85.8	1.7

Source: Health and Welfare Canada, Division of STD Control.

Table 7.7
Cigarette-smoking status, 1991

	Regular smoker	Occasional smoker	Former smoker	Never smoked	Total
%					
People aged:					
15-19	16	6	6	72	100.0
20-24	28	12	11	49	100.0
25-44	31	4	21	42	100.0
45-64	26	4	30	39	100.0
65 and over	13	3	38	44	100.0

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1991.

SECTION 8: CRIMINAL ACTIVITY AND VICTIMIZATION

Young people and the police

Youths make up a large share of those involved in criminal activity. In 1992, police charged almost a quarter of a million (238,472) young people¹ with criminal offenses. That year, people aged 12-17 made up 25% of all those charged by the police in criminal offenses. This was up from 22% in 1987. (Table 8.1)

Young people account for a particularly large share of those charged with property crimes. In 1992, young offenders made up 38% of those charged in these offenses, up slightly from 36% in both 1987 and 1988.

In fact, in 1992, youths made up over half (51%) of all those charged by the police in motor vehicle thefts and 46% of those in break and enter offenses. Young people also accounted for 42% of those charged with other thefts. At the same time, though, youths represented only 11% of those charged in fraud cases. (Chart 8.1)

¹ The information in this section related to criminal activity pertains to those individuals aged 12-17 at the time of the offense and are covered by the Young Offenders Act.

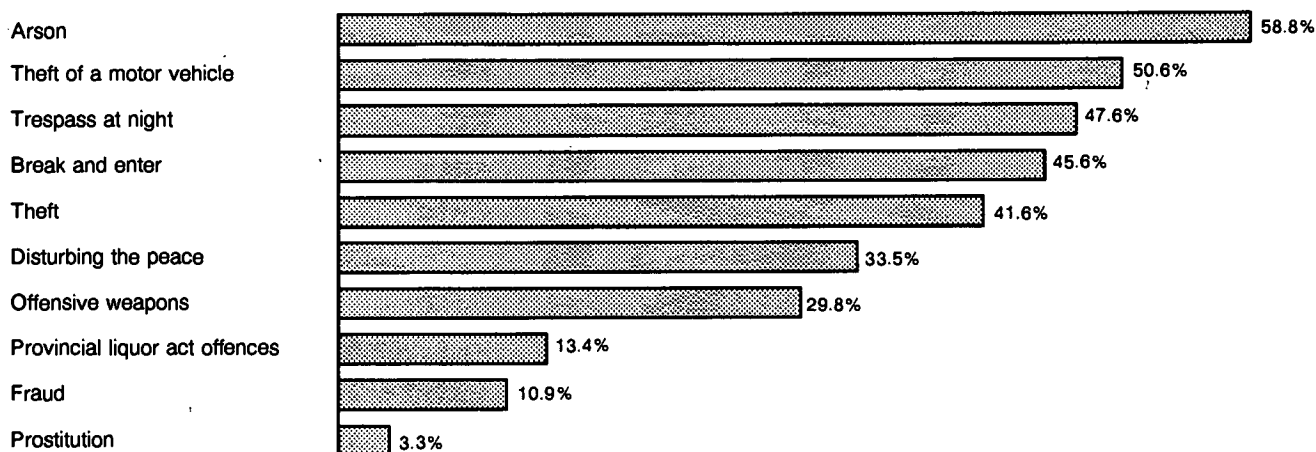
Young people also make up a growing share of people involved in violent crime. In 1992, people under the age of 18 made up 19% of all people charged with violent offenses, up from 15% in 1987 and 1988.

In 1992, 53 people under the age of 18 were identified as the suspect in homicide incidents. These young people accounted for 9% of all those accused of committing a homicide that year. While the number of youths accused of murder in 1992 (53) was considerably higher than the figure in 1987 (35), the total has not changed significantly since 1988 when 50 young offenders were accused of homicide.

Young people also account for one-fifth of all persons charged with sexual assault. In 1992, young offenders made up 20% of all those charged with sexual assault offenses, a figure that was relatively stable during the 1987-1992 period.

In contrast to most other types of crime, the proportion of drug offenses accounted for by young people has declined in recent years. In 1992, 8% of those involved in drug offenses were under age 18,

Chart 8.1 Young people as a percentage of those charged with selected non-violent offences, 1992



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 85-205.

down from almost 10% in 1987 and 1988. Indeed, the actual number of young people charged with drug offenses fell from 4,117 in 1987 to 3,445 in 1992.

As well, cannabis possession offenses make up the majority of drug incidents involving young people. In 1992, 58% of all youths charged in drug-related crimes were involved with possession of cannabis. In contrast, only 38% of drug charges against adults were for cannabis possession.

For other crimes, the share of persons charged accounted for by youths varies considerably depending on the type of crime. In 1992, people aged 12-17 made up 59% of those dealt with by the police in arson cases, 48% of those involved with trespassing at night, 34% of those charged with disturbing the peace and 30% of those involved with offensive weapons crimes. At the same time, they represented 13% of those dealt with in provincial liquor act offenses and just 3% of those charged with prostitution-related offenses. (Chart 8.1)

Young men are far more likely to be involved in criminal activity than young women. Indeed, 80% of all 12-17-year-olds charged in criminal incidents in 1992 were male, whereas only 20% were female.

Youth courts

In 1991-92, 116,397 cases² were heard in youth courts in Canada. When changes in reporting jurisdictions³ are taken into account, this represented increases of 15% from 1990-91 and 35% from 1986-87.

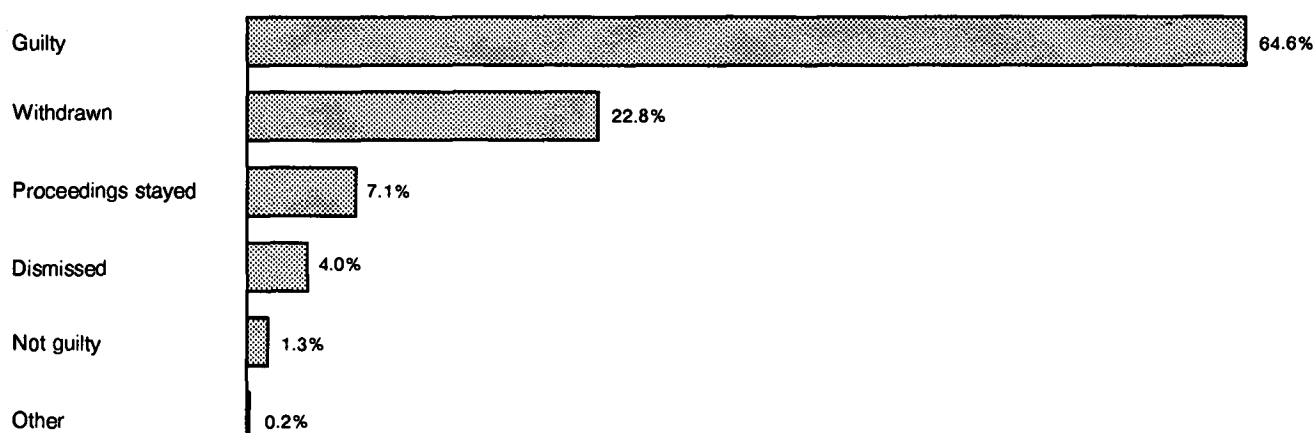
Most cases heard by youth courts involve older youths. In 1991-92, 74% of cases involved teenagers aged 15 or over. As well, the large majority of these cases involve young men. In 1991-92, 82% of all cases heard in youth court involved males.

Most cases heard in youth court result in guilty verdicts. In 1991-92, 65% of those charged were found guilty. In another 23% of cases the charges were withdrawn, while the proceedings were stayed in 7%, the charges were dismissed in 4% and just 1% resulted in a not guilty verdict. (Chart 8.2)

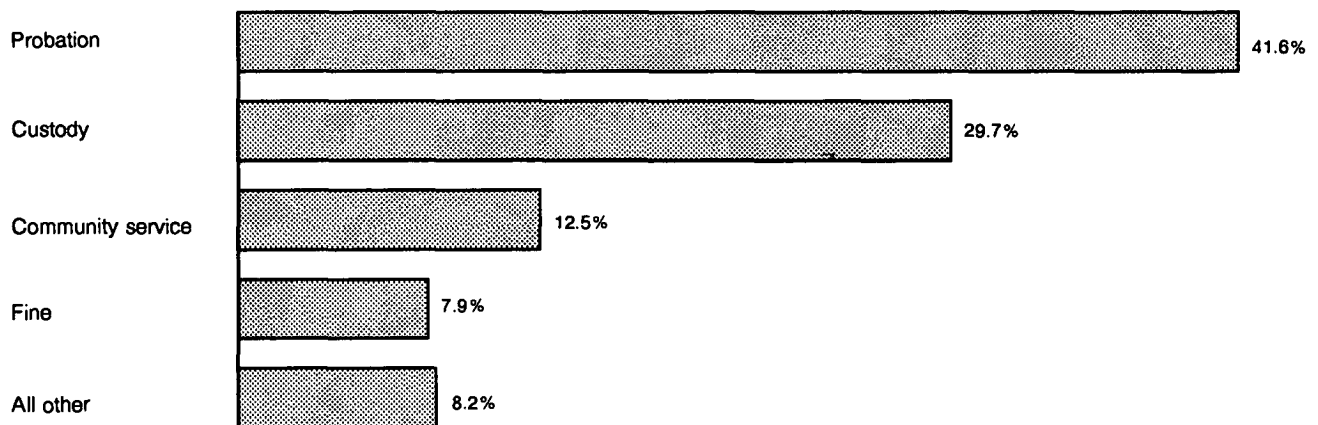
² Includes cases against federal statutes such as the Criminal Code, Narcotic Control Act, Food and Drug Act, the Young Offenders Act and other federal statutes, but does not include appeals or reviews or cases against provincial statutes or municipal by-laws.

³ Data for Ontario were not included in the total prior to 1991-92; as well, only partial data were available for Ontario and British Columbia in 1991-92.

Chart 8.2 Results of youth court cases, 1991-92



Source: Statistics Canada, Youth Court Statistics.

Chart 8.3 Most serious disposition of youth court cases with a finding of guilt, 1991-92

Source: Statistics Canada, *Youth Court Statistics*.

The majority of cases heard in youth court with a finding of guilt result in non-custodial dispositions. Probation was the most serious disposition in 42% of all cases with a guilty verdict in 1991-92. Another 13% resulted in a community service order, 8% resulted in a fine, 4% resulted in an absolute discharge, while a further 4% received other dispositions ranging from compensation/restitution to apologies, essays and counselling programs. (Chart 8.3)

Close to one in three youth court cases with a guilty verdict, though, results in a sentence to custody. In 1991-92, more than 22,000 youth court cases, 30% of the total with a guilty verdict, resulted in the accused being sent to a custodial institution.

The majority of youths sentenced to a correctional institution receive sentences of less than a year. In fact, nearly seven out of ten young offenders sent to a custodial facility in 1991-92 received a sentence of less than 3 months: 23% were for less than a month and 47% received a 1-3 month sentence. A further 20% were sentenced to 4-6 months, while only 11% were sentenced to more than 6 months in custody. (Chart 8.4)

Young people in custody

There was an average daily count of 3,810 young offenders in custodial institutions in 1992-93. This figure excludes Ontario data for incarcerated youth

aged 12-15 and, as such, is not comparable with figures from earlier years. (Table 8.2)

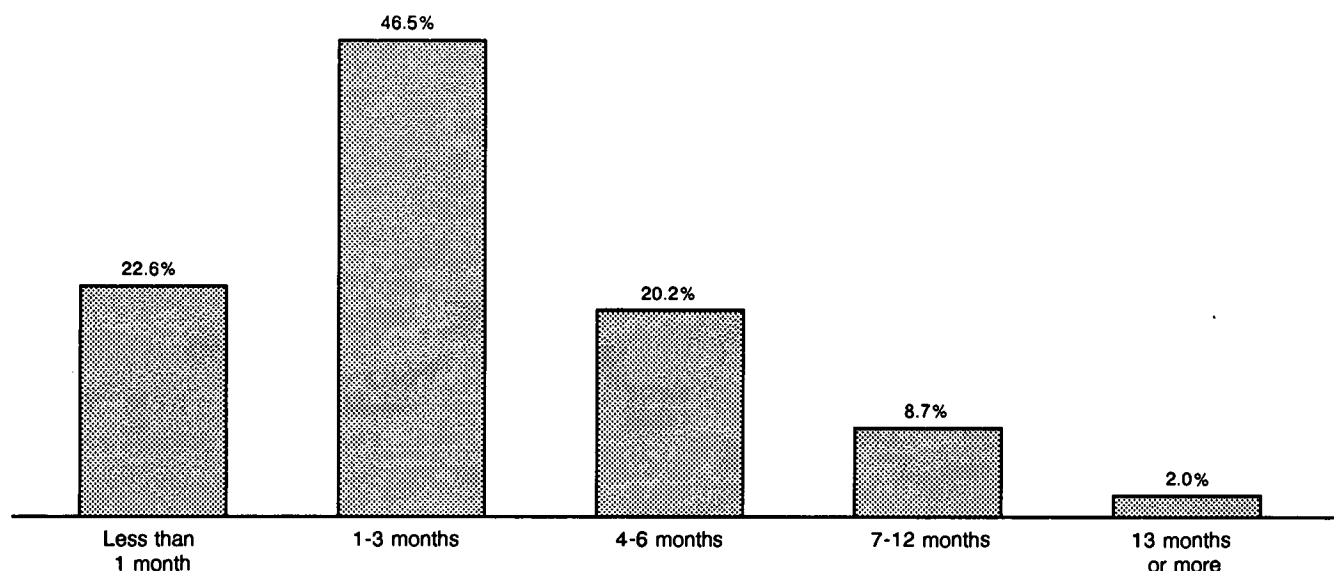
The largest proportion of incarcerated youths are in open custody. In 1992-93, 43% of youths in an institution were in an open custodial facility such as a community residential centre, group home, child care institution or wilderness camp. Another 40% were in secure custody, while the remaining 17% were in remand or temporary detention awaiting trial.

Transfers to adult court

Each year, a small number of cases brought before youth court are transferred to an adult court. In 1991-92, 71 such cases, just 0.1% of all cases originally heard in youth court, were transferred to an adult court.

The majority of cases transferred to an adult court involve older youths. Of the 71 transfers in 1991-92, 52 involved youths aged 17 or over, while in 13 cases the accused was aged 16. There were only 6 cases in which a youth aged 14 or 15 was transferred to an adult court.

Of the 71 youth court cases transferred to an adult court in 1991-92, 33 involved violent offenses, including 8 homicide cases, 8 sexual assaults and 6 robberies. Another 30 cases were for property offenses, while the remainder were for other offenses.

Chart 8.4 Length of sentence of young people sentenced to custody, 1991-92

Source: Statistics Canada, Youth Court Statistics.

Criminal victimization

While youths represent a large share of those involved in criminal activity, they are also more likely than older Canadians to be the victims of a crime. In 1987, 36% of people aged 15-19 were victims of a crime, about the same figure as for 20-24-year-olds (37%), but well above rates for those aged 25-44 (27%), 45-64 (15%) and 65 and over (8%). (Table 8.3)

Young men are more likely than comparable women to be crime victims. In 1987, 39% of men aged 15-19, versus 33% of women in this age range, were victimized.

Young people are particularly likely to be victims of personal incidents. In 1987, there were 238 violent victimizations per 1,000 youths aged 15-19, compared with 146 among those aged 20-24, 92 among people aged 25-44 and just 23 for those aged 45-64. (Table 8.4)

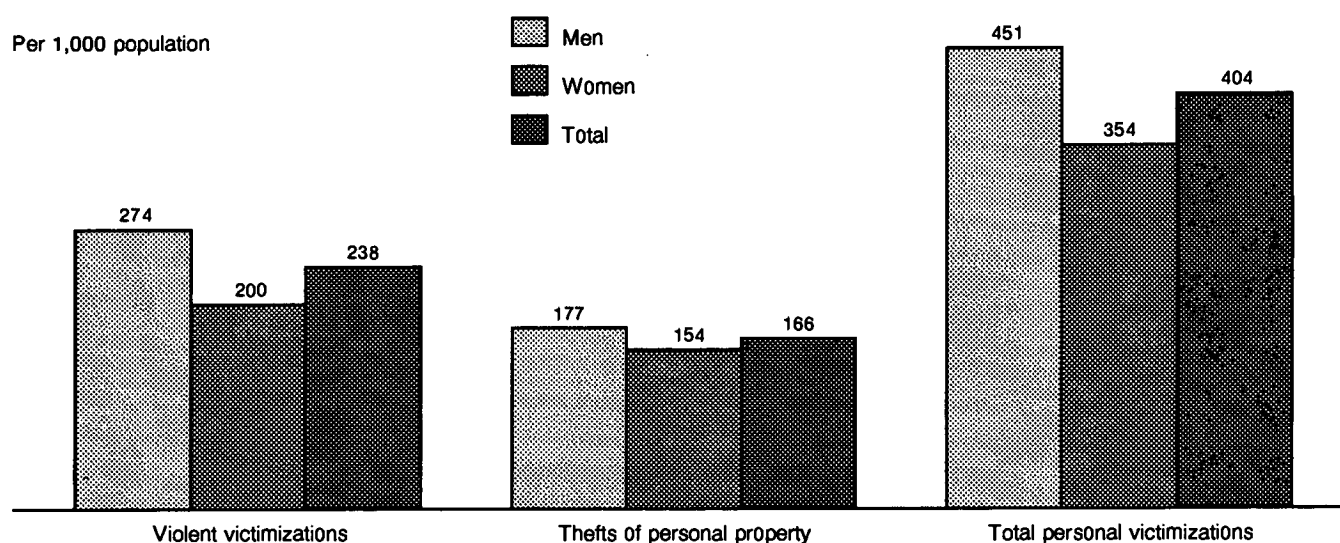
At the same time, there were 166 thefts of personal property for every 1,000 people aged 15-19, almost twice the figure among those aged 20-24 (87), three times that for 25-44-year-olds (65) and eight times the rate among 45-64-year-olds (22).

Young men are more likely than comparable women to be the victims of these personal incidents. In 1987, there were 274 violent incidents for every 1,000 men aged 15-19, compared with 200 among women in this age range. At the same time, there were 177 thefts of personal property for every 1,000 men aged 15-19, versus 154 among comparable women. (Chart 8.5)

Homicide victims

Young people are the victims of a homicide about as often as older Canadians. In 1991, there were 2.8 murders for every 100,000 15-19-year-olds, compared with 3.3 for every 100,000 people aged 20 and over. Overall, in 1991, 52 people aged 15-19 were murdered representing 7% of all murder victims in Canada that year. (Table 8.5)

Young men are generally more likely than young women to be homicide victims. In the period 1982-1991, a total of 276 men aged 15-19 were murdered, compared with 197 women in the same age range. In 1991, however, the number of young women murdered (28) was slightly greater than the number of male victims aged 15-19 (24).

Chart 8.5 Personal victimizations of people aged 15-19, 1987

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1988.

Table 8.1
Young persons charged,¹ by type of offence, 1987-1992

	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
Homicide						
Number	35	50	49	54	54	53
% ²	5.6	9.6	8.7	9.2	8.9	8.6
Sexual assault						
Number	1,871	1,852	2,169	2,405	2,759	2,910
% ²	20.2	18.1	19.7	19.7	20.9	20.4
All violent offenses						
Number	15,668	16,917	20,480	22,650	26,827	28,821
% ²	15.3	15.4	17.0	17.1	17.9	18.6
Property offenses						
Number	108,901	104,840	110,045	117,014	128,144	122,533
% ²	36.4	35.7	37.9	38.3	38.6	38.3
All criminal code offenses						
Number	164,732	162,726	179,668	185,686	208,702	204,845
% ²	28.6	28.0	30.0	29.6	30.2	30.1
Drug offenses						
Number	4,117	4,112	4,253	3,851	3,249	3,445
% ²	9.5	9.5	8.7	8.6	7.4	7.6
All offenses						
Number	206,551	203,216	225,766	224,676	248,011	238,472
% ²	21.7	21.5	23.3	23.3	24.6	25.3

¹ Includes all persons aged 17 or less charged with an offence by the police.

² The percentage refers to the number of young persons charged as a proportion of all persons charged.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 85-205.

Table 8.2
Average number of young offenders in custody per day, 1987-88 to 1992-93

	Secure custody		Open custody		Remand/temporary detention		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
1987-88	1,645	39.5	1,835	44.1	682 ¹	16.4	4,161	100.0
1988-89	1,555	38.2	1,773	43.6	738 ¹	18.2	4,066	100.0
1989-90	1,654	39.1	1,761	41.6	813	19.2	4,229	100.0
1990-91	1,691	39.2	1,811	41.9	817	18.9	4,318	100.0
1991-92	1,633	37.0	1,939	43.9	845	19.1	4,417	100.0
1992-93 ²	1,537	40.3	1,637	43.0	636	16.7	3,810	100.0

¹ Does not include remand/temporary detention figures for Northwest Territories.

² Excludes Ontario data for youths aged 12-15.

Source: Statistics Canada, Youth Offender Key Indicator Report.

Table 8.3
Percentage of the population criminally victimized, 1987

	Men	Women	Total
		%	
People aged:			
15-19	39	33	36
20-24	43	32	37
25-44	27	27	27
45-64	16	15	15
65 and over	10	7	8
Total	25	22	24

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1988.

Table 8.4
Personal victimizations, 1987

	Thefts of personal property	Violent victimizations	Total personal victimizations
		Per 1,000 population	
People aged:			
15-19	166	238	404
20-24	87	146	232
25-44	65	92	158
45-64	22	23	46
65 and over	--	--	--
Total	59	83	143

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1988.

Table 8.5
Homicide victims aged 15-19, 1982-1991

	Men	Women	Total	As % of all homicide victims
1982	34	30	64	9.6
1983	24	20	44	6.5
1984	28	12	40	6.0
1985	29	19	48	6.8
1986	27	15	42	7.4
1987	24	17	41	6.4
1988	18	16	34	5.9
1989	39	17	56	8.5
1990	29	23	52	7.9
1991	24	28	52	6.9
Total	276	197	473	7.2

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.



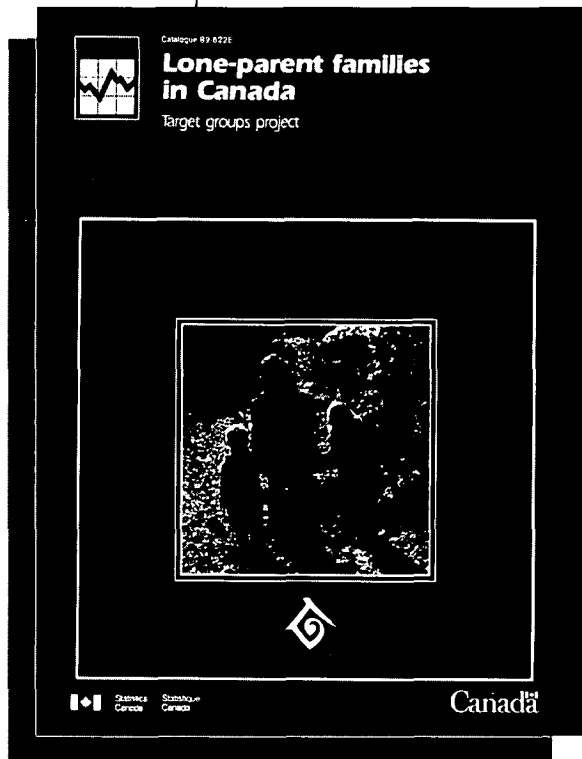
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