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Youth in Canada

Third Edition

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Youth in Canada

Third Edition

Target Groups Project

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Highlights

- Youths make up a substantial portion of the Canadian population. In 2001, there were an estimated 2.1 million people aged 15 to 19 in Canada, representing 6.7% of the total population. The share of the population accounted for by youths, however, has been declining steadily over the past several decades, falling from just over 10% in 1976 to the current figure of under 7%. As well, the share of the population accounted for by youths is expected to continue to fall over the course of the next several decades. Statistics Canada has estimated that the share of the population accounted for by 15- to 19-year-olds will drop to 5.3% by 2021, and that by 2051 youths will represent only about 5% of the total population.
- Young people currently account for a fairly consistent share of provincial populations right across the country. In 2001, people aged 15 to 19 as a proportion of the total provincial population ranged from just under 8% in Saskatchewan to slightly more than 6% in Quebec.
- People aged 15 to 19 make up a relatively small share of all immigrants currently arriving in Canada. As a result of this trend, immigrants made up only 10% of the overall youth population in 1996, whereas immigrants accounted for 17% of the total population of Canada. The youth immigrant population, though, is far more likely than the overall immigrant population to have come from Asia and other non-European regions.
- As with the overall immigrant population, immigrant youths tend to be concentrated in Ontario and British Columbia. Further, within Ontario and British Columbia, immigrant youths are concentrated in Toronto and Vancouver. Indeed, in 1996, over one-quarter of all young people in both Toronto (28%) and Vancouver (27%) were immigrants.
- While youths make up a relatively small share of the immigrant population, they account for a somewhat disproportionate share of the population belonging to visible minority groups. In 1996, 13% of people aged 15 to 19 were part of the visible minority population, whereas persons in a visible minority made up only 11% of the total Canadian population.
- Youths also account for a relatively large share of the Aboriginal population. In 1996, people aged 15 to 19 represented 9% of the total population identifying themselves as Aboriginal, whereas youths accounted for 7% of the overall Canadian population.
- There are particularly large concentrations of Aboriginal youth in Winnipeg, Regina and Saskatoon. In 1996, 9% of all those aged 15 to 19 in each of these urban areas were Aboriginal people, as were 8% of those in Thunder Bay.
- The vast majority of young people live at home with their parents. In 2001, 90% of people aged 15 to 19 lived with one or both of their parents. That year, 74% of all people in this age range were part of a two-parent household, while 16% lived in a one-parent household, with the large majority of these living with a lone mother. At the same time, 2% of people aged 15 to 19 lived with members of their extended family, 3% were either married or living common-law or were a lone parent themselves, 3% lived with non-relatives, and just 1% lived alone.
- People aged 15 to 19 generally report they are in good health, but people in this age range are somewhat less likely than those in older age groups to score well on measures of psychological well-being, which are conducive to coping successfully with stressors. While young people tend to score lower on these measures of psychological well-being, they are also generally less likely than people in most older age ranges to experience episodes of clinical depression. The suicide rate among young people is also lower than that among older age groups; among youth, though, males are almost three times more likely to take their own lives than females.
- There has been a particularly sharp decline in the overall death rate among young men in the last decade, although the death rate among young men is still more than twice the figure for their female counterparts.

- Accidents account for almost half of all deaths of young people. In 1998, there were 23 accidental deaths for every 100,000 people aged 15 to 19, representing 45% of all deaths of people in this age range. Young people are particularly at risk of being killed in a motor vehicle accident. As well, among young people, males are at much greater risk of being a motor vehicle accident fatality than females. The motor vehicle death rate among both young men and women, though, has fallen sharply over the course of the past decade.
- Youths have a particularly high risk of contracting certain types of sexually transmitted diseases. Indeed, females aged 15 to 19 have the highest rates of both gonorrhea and chlamydia infections of any age group in the country, although the incidence of both gonococcal and chlamydia infections has declined among this age group in recent years.
- While relatively large numbers of young people have contracted other sexually transmitted diseases, to date, few youths have contracted AIDS. In fact, as of June 2000, just 0.3% of all AIDS cases involved 15- to 19-year-olds.
- There has been a decline in the birth rate among young women in the past quarter century. In 1998, there were 20 live births for every 1,000 females aged 15 to 19, almost a third the rate in 1961, when there were 58 births for every 1,000 females in this age range. While the live birth rate among young women has generally declined in the past decade, the abortion rate among females in this age range is currently higher than it was in the late 1980s. Indeed, the abortion rate among females aged 15 to 19 is now slightly higher than the live birth rate among females in this age range.
- The large majority of young people report that they are in good health. Still, in 1998–99, 38% of people aged 15 to 19 reported suffering from some form of chronic illness. Allergies and asthma are the most common chronic health conditions affecting young people.
- Over one in four Canadians aged 15 to 19 is a smoker. The share of young people who smoke, though, is down sharply from levels of three decades ago. In 1998, 28% of people aged 15 to 19 were either daily or occasional smokers, whereas half of all people in this age range smoked in 1970. The overall decline in smoking rates among young people, however, masks the fact that all of this drop had occurred by the late 1980s and that the incidence of smoking among people aged 15 to 19 has actually been on the rise again in the past decade.
- Among young people, females are much more likely than their male counterparts to smoke. In 1998–99, 32% of females aged 15 to 19, compared with 23% of males that age, smoked either on a daily basis or occasionally.
- Close to half of all young people consume alcohol on a regular basis, that is, they have at least one drink per month. In 1998–99, 48% of people aged 15 to 19 were regular drinkers.
- The large majority of youth in Canada are going to school. In 1998–99, 74% of all 15- to 19-year-olds were enrolled in some form of educational program on a full- or part-time basis.
- While most 15- to 19-year-olds will eventually graduate from high school, over one in 10 will drop out. The proportion of young people currently classified as early school leavers, though, is considerably lower than it was in the early 1990s. In 1999, 12% of all 20-year-olds were no longer in school and had not completed high school, down from 18% in 1991.
- Males are substantially more likely than females to leave school early. As of 1999, 15% of 20-year-old males, compared with only 9% of their female counterparts, had not completed high school and were no longer in school.
- A relatively large proportion of Aboriginal people aged 15 to 19 are considered to be early school leavers. In 1996, 27% of all Aboriginal youth in this age range were early school leavers, with the figure climbing to 36% among those living on-reserve.
- Almost all young people in Canada use a computer at home or at school. Young people aged 15 to 19 are also generally more likely than those in older age ranges to use the Internet. In fact, in 2000, 90% of all those aged 15 to 19 said they used the Internet either at home or somewhere else in the previous 12 months. That year, 19% of youth aged 15 to 19 reported they spent 14 hours or more in the week prior to the survey on the Internet, although the majority (58%) spent seven hours or less on the Internet.

- While most young people are enrolled in some form of educational program, a substantial number also participate in the paid work force. In 2001, 44% of people aged 15 to 19 had jobs. The majority of youths with jobs, though, work part-time. In fact, that year, young people made up almost one-quarter (23%) of all part-time workers in Canada, whereas they represented just 6% of all people with jobs. And, not surprisingly, most young people who work part-time do so because they are going to school.
- Young people make up a relatively large share of workers in the sales and service sector. In 2001, people aged 15 to 19 comprised 16% of the sales and service work force, whereas they represented just 6% of the total employed work force in Canada.
- Young people have the highest unemployment rate of any age group in Canada. In 2001, 16.6% of all labour force participants in this age range were unemployed, compared with 10.3% of those aged 20 to 24 and just 6.1% of those over age 25. Among young workers, unemployment is higher for males than females; that year, 18.4% of male labour force participants aged 15 to 19 were unemployed, compared with 14.7% of their female counterparts.
- As with the overall labour force, unemployment rates among youth are higher in the Atlantic provinces and Quebec than they are in the other regions of the country. As well, unemployment rates are particularly high among Aboriginal youth. In 1996, 33.0% of Aboriginal youth aged 15 to 19 were unemployed, compared with 18.6% of their non-Aboriginal counterparts.
- Young workers earn far less than those in older age groups. In 2001, workers aged 15 to 19 earned an average of \$7.64 an hour, only 43% that paid to people aged 20 and over, who made an average of almost \$17.86 per hour.
- In addition to participating in the paid work force, many young people also contribute to their communities through formal and informal volunteer activities. In 2000, close to three-quarters of a million (744,000) Canadians aged 15 to 19, 37% of the total youth population, contributed their time to a charitable or non-profit organization. Overall, young volunteers aged 15 to 19 spent an average of 2.6 hours per week working on behalf of non-profit groups or organizations that year.
- Over one in 10 young people in Canada lives in a low-income situation. In 1999, 13% of all people aged 16 to 19, including those living with their parents, as well as those heading their own families or living alone or with unrelated people, lived in a household in which the after-tax household income fell below Statistics Canada's low income cut-offs. In fact, young people are somewhat more likely than people in older age groups to live in a low-income situation; that year, 11% of those aged 20 and over lived in a low-income situation.
- Particularly large proportions of young people who either live alone or head families themselves have low incomes. In 1999, 85% of 16- to 19-year-olds who either lived alone or with unrelated people had after-tax incomes that fell below Statistics Canada's low income cut-offs, while the figure was 54% for families headed by someone in this age range.
- The overall crime rate among young people has been falling in recent years. Based on data from selected police services across Canada, the number of Criminal Code violations, other than traffic charges, per 1,000 people aged 15 to 19 in 2000, was down over 20% from 1995.
- The decline in the overall crime rate among young people, however, masks an increase in the incidence of violent crimes committed by people aged 15 to 19. In contrast, the property crime rate among young people has dropped sharply in the past five years.
- Among young people, males are considerably more likely than females to be involved in criminal activity. In 2000, there were 62 charges against the Criminal Code for every 1,000 males aged 15 to 19, compared with only 13 per 1,000 females in this age range. The overall crime rate among young men, however, has dropped sharply in the past five years.
- While young people account for a disproportionate share of criminal activity in Canada, youths are also more likely than adults to be the victim of a crime. In 1999, there were 434 incidents of personal crime victimization for every 1,000 people aged 15 to 19, almost three times the rate for the overall adult population. Indeed, people aged 15 to 19 have by far the highest criminal victimization rate of any age group in Canada, with young people particularly likely to be the victim of a violent crime. And while young men are considerably more likely than their female counterparts to engage in criminal activity, young women are somewhat more likely to be the victim of a crime.

Introduction

Youth is an age of transition. The majority of young people aged 15 to 19 live at home with their parents and are still in school. However, it is also an age when many people leave home, enter the labour market for the first time, and begin to encounter many of the challenges usually associated with adult life. Indeed, young people currently have the highest unemployment rate of any age group in the country; they make up relatively large shares of both those who commit crime and who are crime victims; and those who live alone or head their own families have very low incomes.

These and other characteristics of young people are described in this report which documents and traces many of the trends affecting youth in Canada today. The information has been integrated from a variety of Statistics Canada sources to provide a comprehensive portrait of the demographic characteristics, family situation, health, education, work and volunteer activity, income, time use and criminal activity and victimization of people aged 15 to 19. As well, certain characteristics of both Aboriginal and immigrant young people are highlighted where possible.

This report is primarily national in scope and most of the statistics were assembled from published sources. A number of series, though, include previously unpublished data from sources such as the Census of Canada, the National Population Health Survey, the General Social Survey, and the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics. However, while efforts have been made to describe the situation of youth in Canada as comprehensively as possible, this report is not exhaustive, and inevitably certain data gaps exist. One such data gap is illicit drug use among young people, for which there is little current national data. Those seeking more information or who have questions about data comparability and data quality should consult the source publications directly or contact the Target Groups Project at Statistics Canada.

Questions or comments pertaining to this report should be addressed to Target Groups Project, Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division, Statistics Canada, 7th Floor, Jean Talon Building, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0T6, or by calling (613) 951-5979, faxing (613) 951-0387, or by e-mail at hfsslf@statcan.ca.

Chapter 1: Population Characteristics

Youth population declining

Youths make up a substantial portion of the Canadian population. In 2001, there were an estimated 2.1 million people aged 15 to 19 in Canada, representing 6.7% of the total population. (Table 1.1)

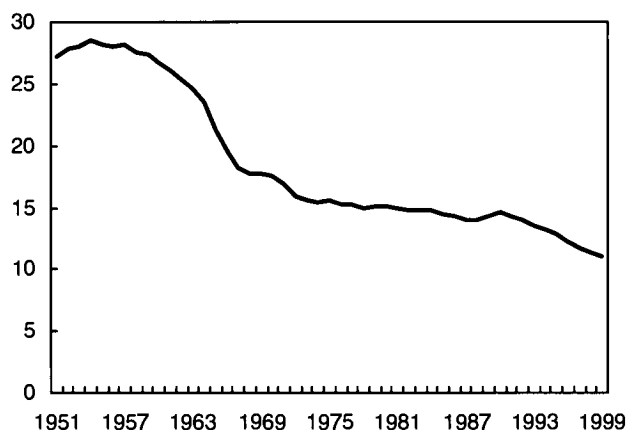
The share of the population accounted for by youths, however, has been declining steadily over the past several decades. Between 1976 and 2001, for example, the total number of people in Canada aged 15 to 19 dropped 13% from 2.4 million to 2.1 million. In the same period, the share of the overall population accounted for by 15- to 19-year-olds declined from just over 10% in 1976 to the current figure of under 7%.

The decline in the size of the youth population reflects long-term changes in the birth rate since the middle of the last century. People who were aged 15 to 19 in 1976 were born during the baby-boom years after the Second World War, when the birth rate in Canada reached highs of over 28 births per 1,000 population. In contrast, people aged 15 to 19 in 2001 were born during the early 1980s, when the birth rate had fallen to 15 per 1,000 population. (Chart 1.1)

Chart 1.1

Live birth rates, 1951 to 1999

Per 1,000 population



Sources: Statistics Canada, Catalogue nos. 84-204-XPB and 84-214-XPE, and Health Statistics Division.

As well, the share of the population accounted for by youths is expected to continue to fall over the course of the next several decades. Statistics Canada has estimated that the share of the population accounted for by 15- to 19-year-olds will drop to 5.3% by 2021, and that by 2051 youths will represent only about 5% of the total population. Indeed, by 2051, it is projected there will only be about 1.8 million people

aged 15 to 19 in Canada. In contrast, the share of the population accounted for by seniors is expected to double during this period, jumping from just under 13% in 2001 to over 25% in 2051. (Table 1.1)

Among young people in Canada, males slightly outnumber their female counterparts. In 2001, 51% of Canadians aged 15 to 19 were male, while 49% were female. This contrasts sharply with age groups over 50, among which women outnumber men. The distribution of the youth population by gender is not expected to change over the coming decades.

Young people across the country

Young people currently account for a fairly consistent share of provincial populations right across the country. In 2001, people aged 15 to 19 as a proportion of the total provincial population ranged from just under 8% in Saskatchewan to slightly more than 6% in Quebec. (Table 1.2)

The youth component of the population in the territories is generally higher than that in the rest of the country. In 2001, 9% of the population of Nunavut was aged 15 to 19, while the figure was 8% in both the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

As with the overall population, however, youths are concentrated in the four most populous provinces. In fact, in 2001, 84% of all people aged 15 to 19 in Canada lived in Ontario, Quebec, Alberta or British Columbia. That year, 38% lived in Ontario, while 22% lived in Quebec, 13% in British Columbia and 11% in Alberta. At the same time, 8% of youths lived in the Atlantic provinces and another 8% lived in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, while the territories were home to less than 1% of all youths that year.

A largely urban population

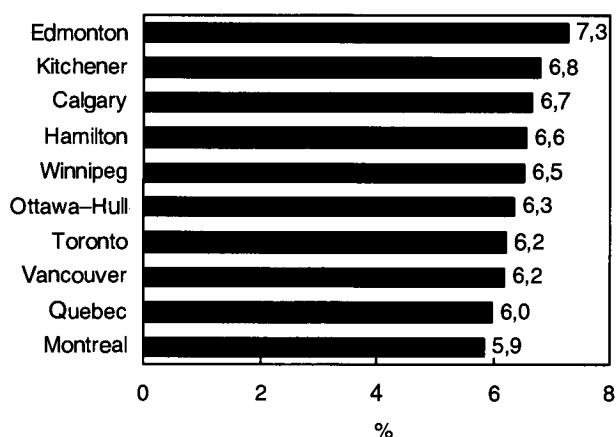
Like the overall population, most youths live in an urban area. In 1996, three-quarters of all people aged 15 to 19 lived in an area classified as urban: 55% lived in a census metropolitan area (CMA), that is, an urban area with over 100,000 population,¹ while 7% lived in cities with populations between 10,000 and 100,000, and 13% lived in smaller urban centres. At the same time, 25% of youth lived in an area classified as rural. (Table 1.3)

The youth population, however, is actually somewhat under-represented in major urban areas. In 1996, 55% of people aged 15 to 19 lived in one of Canada's CMAs, compared with 58% of the overall population. In contrast, youths tend to be over-represented in rural areas. That year, 25% of youth lived in a rural setting, compared with just 22% of the total population.

There is also some variation in the share of the population accounted for by young people in the different CMAs across the country. In 2001, for example, youths accounted for 7% of the population of urban areas such as Edmonton, Kitchener, Calgary, Hamilton, and Winnipeg, whereas they made up just 6% of people living in Ottawa–Hull, Toronto, Vancouver, Quebec and Montreal. (Chart 1.2)

Chart 1.2

People aged 15 to 19 as a percentage of the population in selected census metropolitan areas, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

Migrant youths

Youths are about as likely as the overall population to make a residential move. In 1996, 15% of people aged 15 to 19 had moved in the previous year, the same figure as for all Canadians. It should be noted, though, that these moves include those made by 15- to 19-year-olds as part of their family. (Table 1.4)

In fact, most youths move as part of their family; a small number, however, do move on their own. In 1995, 11% of people aged 15 to 19 reported that they had moved on their own during the past 10 years.²

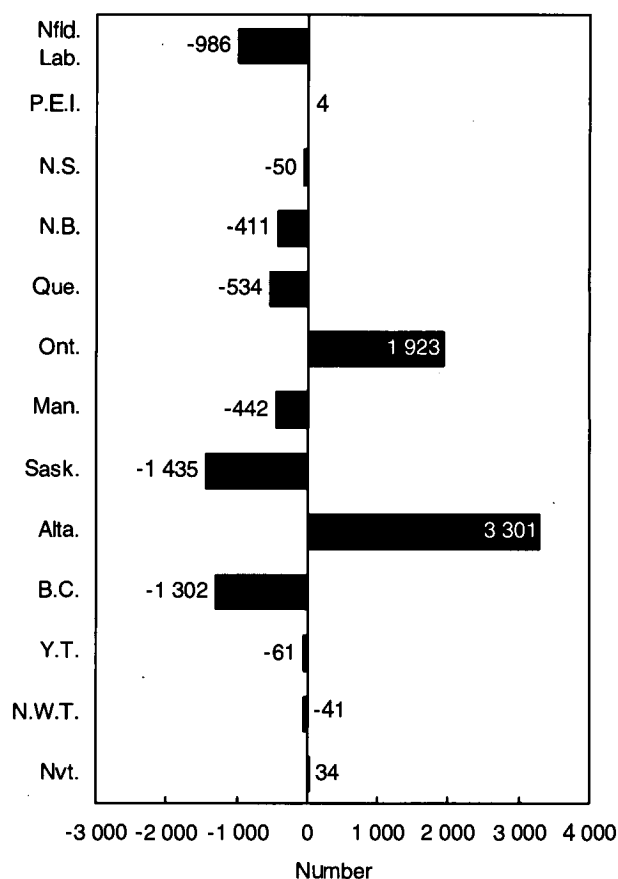
Among youths, young women are more likely to move than young men. In 1996, 17% of females aged 15 to 19, versus 14% of their male counterparts, had moved in the previous year. (Table 1.4)

As with the overall population, most moves made by youths are made within the same province. In 1996, 86% of all moves made by youths were either within the same urban area or were from city to city within the same province. In contrast, only 14% of youth migrants either moved from one province to another (7%) or had emigrated to Canada from another country (7%).

Among youths who do move from one province to another, the largest net flows are currently into Alberta and Ontario. In 1999–2000, Alberta had a net gain of 3,300 people aged 15 to 19, while Ontario had a net gain of 1,900. In contrast, Saskatchewan (-1,400), British Columbia (-1,300) and Newfoundland and Labrador (-1,000) had substantial net losses of people aged 15 to 19, while Quebec lost over 500 and Manitoba and New Brunswick each lost over 400. (Chart 1.3)

Chart 1.3

Migration¹ of the population aged 15 to 19, by province or territory, 1999–2000



¹ Refers to in-migrants less out-migrants.

Source: Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

Immigrant youths

People aged 15 to 19 make up a relatively small share of all immigrants currently arriving in Canada. In 2000, 15,000 immigrants aged 15 to 19 arrived in Canada, representing only 7% of all immigrants that year.³

As a result of this trend, immigrants also make up a relatively small share of the youth population currently living in Canada. In 1996, there were close to 200,000 immigrants aged 15 to 19 residing in Canada, representing 10% of the overall youth

population. In contrast, that year, immigrants accounted for 17% of the total population of Canada. (Table 1.5)

In addition, in 1996, just under 15,000 people aged 15 to 19 were living in Canada as non-permanent residents, that is, they were holding student or employment authorisations, Minister's permits, or they were refugee claimants at the time of the Census. These people represented less than 1% of the youth population, about the same share as in the overall population.

The young immigrant population reflects the increasing diversity of sources for Canada's immigrants.⁴ In fact, the youth immigrant population is far more likely than the overall immigrant population to come from Asia and other non-European regions. For instance, almost three-quarters (72%) of immigrants aged 15 to 19 living in Canada in 1996, compared with 47% of all immigrants, were born in Asia, Central or South America, the Caribbean, Bermuda or Africa. At the same time, only 23% of 15- to 19-year-old immigrants, less half the figure for all immigrants, were born in European countries. (Table 1.6)

The largest share of immigrant youths is from Asia. Of all immigrants aged 15 to 19 living in Canada in 1996, almost half (49%) were born in Asia. At the same time, 10% were born in Central or South America, 7% were from the Caribbean or Bermuda, and 6% came from Africa. In contrast, only 5% of immigrant youths living in Canada that year were born in the United Kingdom, while 18% were born in other European countries and 4% came from the United States.

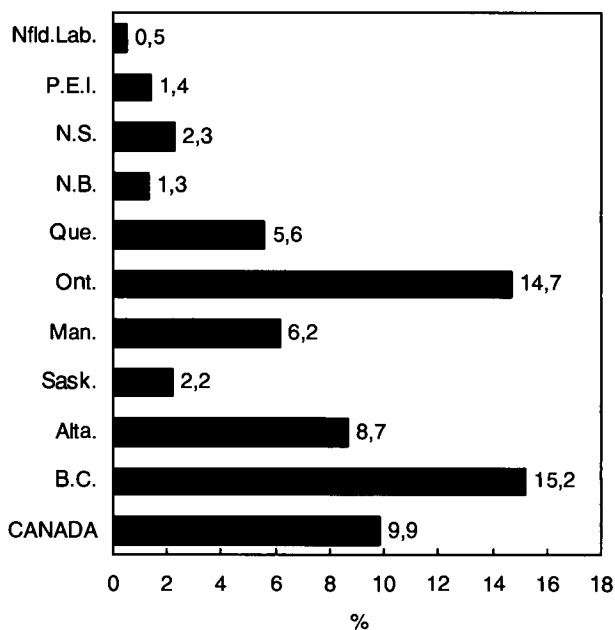
As with the overall immigrant population, immigrant youths tend to be concentrated in Ontario and British Columbia. In fact, immigrants made up 15% of all young people aged 15 to 19 in both British Columbia and Ontario. Immigrant youths also made up 9% of the population aged 15 to 19 in Alberta, while the figure was around 6% in both Quebec and Manitoba. In contrast, immigrants made up 2% or less of the youth populations in the remaining provinces. (Chart 1.4)

In fact, over half of all immigrant youths currently living in Canada reside in Ontario. In 1996, 53% of all immigrants aged 15 to 19 living in Canada were residents of Ontario, while 19% were in British Columbia, 14% were in Quebec, and 9% were in Alberta, while the remaining provinces accounted for the other 5%.⁵

Further, within Ontario and British Columbia, immigrant youths tend to be concentrated in Toronto and Vancouver. Indeed, in 1996, over one-quarter of all young people in both Toronto (28%) and Vancouver (27%) were immigrants. Immigrant youth also made up 14% of the total youth population in Calgary, 12% in Montreal, 11% in Edmonton and Hamilton, 10% in Ottawa-Hull and London, and 9% in Winnipeg. In contrast, immigrants made up just 5% of youths in Halifax and only 2% of those in Quebec that year. (Chart 1.5)

Chart 1.4

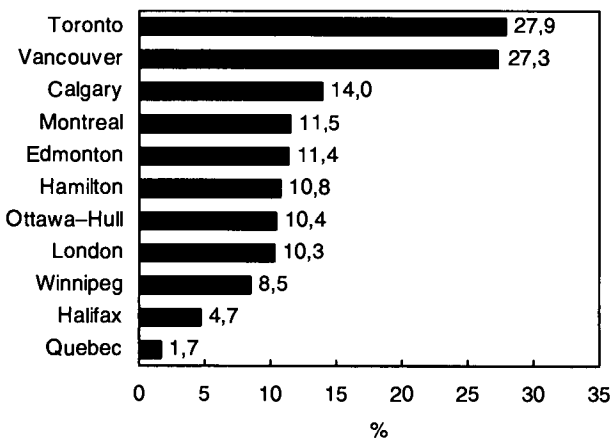
Immigrants as a percentage of the population aged 15 to 19, by province, 1996



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Chart 1.5

Immigrants as a percentage of the population aged 15 to 19 in selected census metropolitan areas, 1996



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Youths in visible minority groups

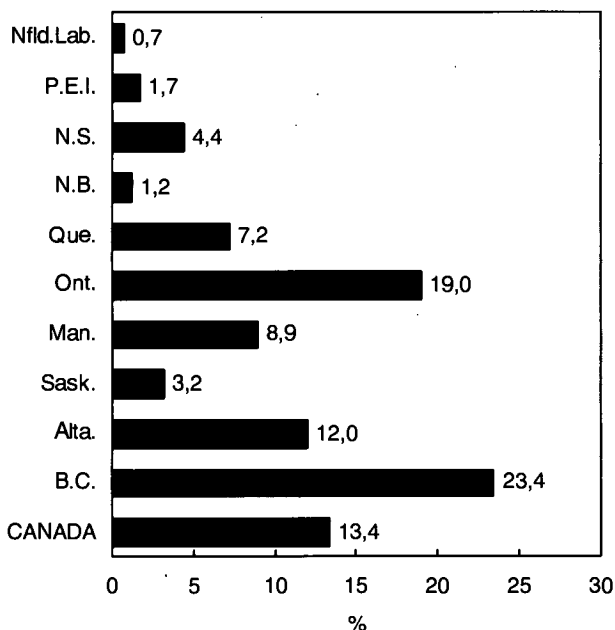
While youths make up a relatively small share of the immigrant population, they account for a somewhat disproportionate share of the population belonging to visible minority groups. In 1996, 13% of people aged 15 to 19 were part of the visible minority population, whereas persons in a visible minority made up only 11% of the total Canadian population. (Table 1.7)

Youths are also over-represented among the major visible minority groups in Canada. In 1996, for example, people aged 15 to 19 made up 12% of the overall Korean population in Canada, 10% of Pacific Islanders, 9% of both Latin Americans and Blacks, 8% each of Chinese, Filipinos, and South Asians, and 7% of both Japanese and West Asians or Arabs.

As with the immigrant population, visible minority youths tend to be concentrated in Ontario and British Columbia. In fact, in 1996, persons in a visible minority made up 23% of all youths in British Columbia and 19% of those in Ontario. At the same time, people in a visible minority aged 15 to 19 made up 12% of the total youth population in Alberta, 9% of that in Manitoba and 7% in Quebec, whereas in the remaining provinces, the figure was 4% or less. (Chart 1.6)

Chart 1.6

People in a visible minority group as a percentage of the population aged 15 to 19, by province, 1996



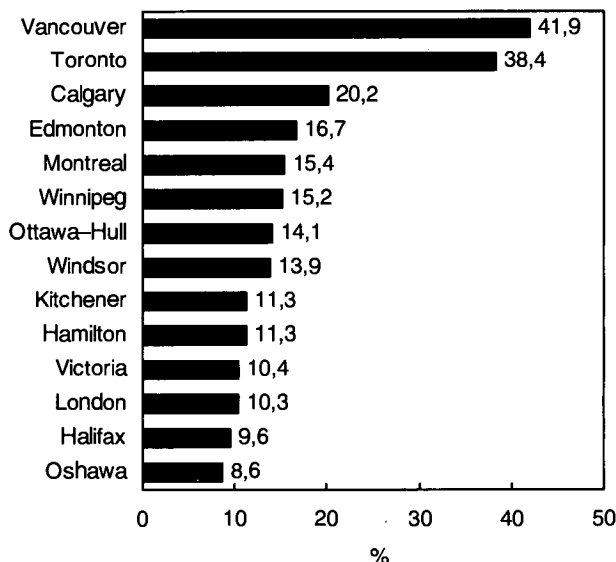
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Again, within Ontario and British Columbia, visible minority youths are concentrated in Vancouver and Toronto. Indeed, in 1996, 42% of all youths in Vancouver and 38% of those in Toronto were part of a visible minority. At the same time, one

in five people aged 15 to 19 in Calgary (20%) were part of a visible minority, as were 17% of those in Edmonton, 15% in both Montreal and Winnipeg, and 14% in the national capital region of Ottawa–Hull. (Chart 1.7)

Chart 1.7

People in a visible minority group as a percentage of the population aged 15 to 19 in selected census metropolitan areas, 1996



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Aboriginal youth

Youths also account for a relatively large share of the Aboriginal population.⁶ In 1996, people aged 15 to 19 represented 9% of the total population identifying themselves as Aboriginal, whereas, that year, youths accounted for 7% of the overall Canadian population. That year, there were a total of just under 75,000 people in Canada aged 15 to 19 who identified themselves as being Aboriginal; together, they made up 4% of all people in this age range in Canada. (Table 1.8)

As well, unlike their counterparts in the overall population of Canada, young people are expected to continue to make up a relatively large share of the total Aboriginal population in the next several decades. A study done for the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples⁷ projected that, by 2016, youth with Aboriginal identity will make up 8% of the total population with Aboriginal identity, down only slightly from the current figure.

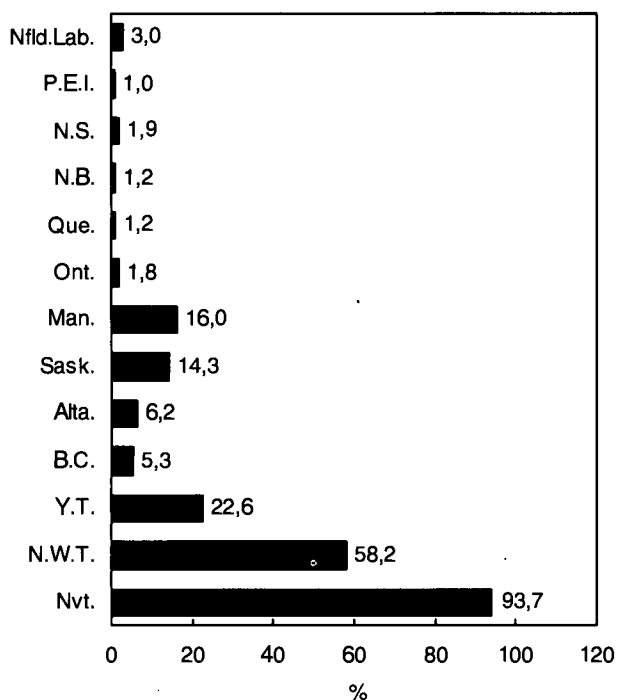
Youths also make up relatively large shares of the population in the respective Aboriginal groups in Canada. In 1996, 10% of both the Inuit and Métis populations were aged 15 to 19, while the figure was 9% among those who identified as North American Indian.

As with the overall Aboriginal population, though, North American Indians make up the majority of the Aboriginal youth population. In 1996, 66% of all youths who identified themselves as Aboriginal were North American Indian, while 26% were Métis and 5% were Inuit.⁸

The largest concentrations of Aboriginal youth are found in the western provinces. In 1996, Aboriginal youth aged 15 to 19 made up 16% of all those in this age range in Manitoba, along with 14% in Saskatchewan, 6% in Alberta and 5% in British Columbia. In contrast, in the remaining provinces, the share of the youth population accounted for those identifying themselves as Aboriginal ranged from only 3% in Newfoundland and Labrador to just 1% in Prince Edward Island. (Chart 1.8)

Chart 1.8

Aboriginal people as a percentage of the population aged 15 to 19, by province or territory, 1996



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Aboriginal youths also make up large shares of the youth populations in the territories. Indeed, in 1996, 94% of the population aged 15 to 19 in Nunavut was Aboriginal, while the figures were 58% in the Northwest Territories and 23% in the Yukon.

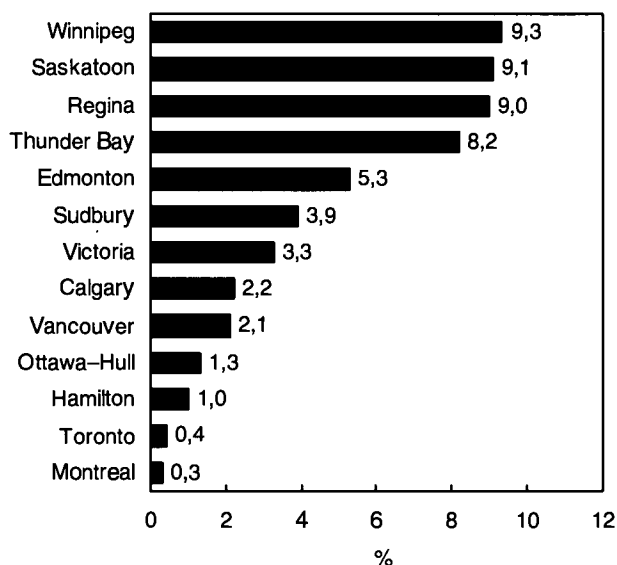
As with the overall Aboriginal population, most Aboriginal youth live off-reserve. In 1996, 69% of Aboriginal people aged 15 to 19 lived off-reserve, while 31% lived on a reserve.⁹

Aboriginal youth, though, are slightly more likely than the overall Aboriginal population to live on a reserve. That year, 31% of all Aboriginal people aged 15 to 19 lived on a reserve, compared with 29% of the total Aboriginal population. In contrast, Aboriginal youth were a little less likely than the overall Aboriginal population to live off-reserve: 69% versus 71%.

There are particularly large concentrations of Aboriginal youth in Winnipeg, Regina and Saskatoon. In 1996, 9% of all those aged 15 to 19 in each of these urban areas were Aboriginal people, as were 8% of those in Thunder Bay. Aboriginal youth also account for relatively large shares of the overall youth populations in Edmonton (5%), Sudbury (4%) and Victoria (3%), while the figure was 2% in both Calgary and Vancouver. In contrast, Aboriginal youth made up much smaller shares of the total youth populations in most eastern urban areas. In both Toronto and Montreal, for example, Aboriginal people represented less than 1% of the city's total youth population, while the figure was 1% in both Ottawa-Hull and Hamilton. (Chart 1.9)

Chart 1.9

Aboriginal people as a percentage of the population aged 15 to 19 in selected census metropolitan areas, 1996



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Language characteristics of the youth population

As with the overall population, the vast majority of people aged 15 to 19 speak either, or both, of Canada's official languages. In 1996, 75% of all youth were able to converse in either English (61%) or French (14%), while 24% were bilingual. In contrast, less than 1% were not able to speak either of the official languages. (Table 1.9)

In fact, young people aged 15 to 19, along with people aged 20 to 24, are the age group most likely to be bilingual. In 1996, 24% of those in both these age ranges were bilingual, compared with 19% of people aged 25 to 44, 18% of those aged 45 to 64 and 13% of seniors aged 65 and over.

At the same time, young people aged 15 to 19 are the least likely age group not to be able to converse in either English or French. In 1996, just 0.2% of people aged 15 to 19 were not able to speak one of the official languages, while the figure in older age groups ranged from 0.4% among those aged 20 to 24 to 4% among those aged 65 and over.

As well, the large majority of immigrant youth are also able to speak one of Canada's official languages. In 1996, 98% of people aged 15 to 19 born outside Canada could speak English, French, or both, while only 2% could not. Similarly, almost all Aboriginal youth (99.7%) can speak either English, French, or both official languages. In contrast, a relatively small share of Aboriginal youth can speak a Native language: 25% in 1996.⁹

Religious affiliation of youths

As with the overall population, most young people report some kind of religious affiliation. In 1999, close to three-quarters of all 15- to 19-year-olds reported that they were associated with some religious group.¹⁰ That year, 43% were Roman Catholic, 12% belonged to a Protestant denomination, and 6% were affiliated with non-Christian religion such as Judaism or Islam. (Table 1.10)

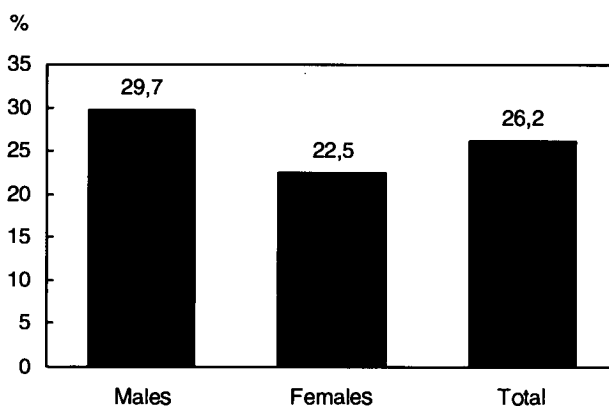
At the same time, however, a substantial share of all youths report that they have no religious affiliation at all. In 1999, 26% of people in this range said they were not affiliated with any formal religion, whereas this was the case for 18% of those aged 20 to 64 and only 8% of seniors.

Among people aged 15 to 19, young men are more likely than young women to have no religion. In 1999, 30% of males aged 15 to 19 reported no religious affiliation, compared with 23% of their female counterparts. (Chart 1.10)

As well, only a minority of young people attend religious functions on a regular basis. In 1999, only 17% of 15- to 19-year-olds said that they attended religious services at least once a week, about the same figure as for those between the ages of 20 and 64 (18%), but below that for seniors (34%). In fact, less than half (46%) of all youths attended religious activities more than once a year. (Table 1.11)

Chart 1.10

Percentage of the population aged 15 to 19 reporting no religious affiliation,¹ by gender, 1999



¹ Includes only those who responded to the question.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

¹ At the time of the 1996 Census there were 25 census metropolitan areas in Canada. In 2001, however, Kingston and Abbotsford passed the 100,000 population mark, bringing the total number of CMAs that year to 27. Also note that as of January 1, 2002, the name of Ottawa–Hull changed to Ottawa–Gatineau.

² Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

³ Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

⁴ In recent decades, a growing share of immigrants arriving in Canada have come from countries in Asia, the Middle East, Central and South America and Africa, whereas in the 1950s the large majority of immigrants had come from the United Kingdom and other European countries.

⁵ Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

⁶ It should be noted that the Aboriginal population has been defined in a number of ways and that the definition that is used will affect the total population count. The Census, for example, identifies Aboriginal people as those persons who reported that they identified with at least one Aboriginal group, i.e. North American Indian, Métis or Inuit (Eskimo) and/or those who reported being a Treaty Indian or a Registered Indian as defined by the Indian Act of Canada and/or who were members of an Indian Band or First Nation.

⁷ Source: Projections of the Population with Aboriginal Identity in Canada, 1991–2016, by Mary Jane Norris, Don Kerr and François Nault, Statistics Canada, May 1995.

⁸ The population that identified themselves as Aboriginal in the 1996 Census also included people of other and multiple Aboriginal origins.

⁹ Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

¹⁰ Includes only those who answered the question.

Table 1.1
Population aged 15 to 19, 1921 to 2001 and projections to 2051

	Population aged 15-19			As a % of the total population
	Males	Females	Total	
	000s			
1921	404.6	399.9	804.5	9.2
1931	525.6	514.4	1,040.0	10.0
1941	565.3	554.8	1,120.1	9.7
1951	532.2	525.7	1,057.9	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	1,100.2	1,064.0	2,164.2	9.9
1976 ¹	1,217.8	1,171.3	2,389.1	10.2
1981 ¹	1,211.2	1,158.0	2,369.2	9.5
1986 ¹	1,020.8	967.0	1,987.8	7.6
1991 ¹	991.2	936.8	1,928.0	6.9
1996 ²	1,035.0	978.0	2,013.0	6.8
2001 ²	1,071.0	1,014.0	2,085.0	6.7
Projections³				
2011	1,117.7	1,057.3	2,175.0	6.5
2016	1,001.3	944.1	1,945.5	5.7
2021	963.9	909.0	1,873.0	5.3
2026	977.3	921.0	1,898.4	5.2
2031	998.3	940.5	1,938.9	5.3
2036	1,011.2	952.3	1,963.5	5.3
2041	1,001.7	943.3	1,944.9	5.2
2046	972.1	915.2	1,887.2	5.1
2051	948.5	893.0	1,841.3	5.0

¹ Adjusted for net census undercoverage and non-permanent residents.

² Adjusted for net census undercoverage.

³ Projections based on assumptions of medium population growth.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Catalogue nos. 91-213-XPB and 93-310-XPB, and Demography Division.

Table 1.2
Population aged 15 to 19, by province or territory, 1976 and 2001

	Population aged 15-19				As a % of the total population aged 15-19
			As a % of the total provincial/ territorial population		
	1976	2001	1976	2001	
	000s				
Newfoundland and Labrador	63.1	39.7	11.2	7.4	1.9
Prince Edward Island	12.9	10.4	10.9	7.5	0.5
Nova Scotia	87.3	64.2	10.4	6.8	3.1
New Brunswick	74.8	51.2	10.9	6.8	2.4
Quebec	680.4	466.3	10.6	6.3	22.4
Ontario	824.5	783.9	9.8	6.6	37.6
Manitoba	101.3	81.9	9.8	7.1	3.9
Saskatchewan	97.8	78.3	10.4	7.7	3.8
Alberta	196.1	227.1	10.4	7.4	10.9
British Columbia	244.2	273.8	9.6	6.7	13.1
Yukon	2.2	2.4	9.9	8.0	0.1
Northwest Territories	4.4	3.2	10.1	7.8	0.2
Nunavut ¹	...	2.6	...	9.3	0.1
Canada	2,389.1	2,085.0	10.2	6.7	100.0

¹ Nunavut was established April 1, 1999. Before that date, it was included in the Northwest Territories.

Source: Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

Table 1.3
Population, by urban/rural status, 1996

	Population aged 15-19		As a % of the population in the region	% distribution of the total population
	000s	%		
Urban				
Census metropolitan area	1,069.3	54.7	6.4	58.0
Census agglomeration	144.4	7.4	7.2	7.0
Other urban area	261.1	13.3	7.2	12.8
Total urban	1,474.8	75.4	6.6	77.8
Rural				
Rural farm	72.4	3.7	9.4	2.7
Rural non-farm	408.9	20.9	7.3	19.5
Total rural	481.3	24.6	7.6	22.2
Total population¹	1,956.1	100.0	6.9	100.0

¹ Figures not adjusted for net census undercoverage and non-permanent residents.
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 1.4
Distribution of the population, by mobility status, 1996

	Population aged 15-19			Total population aged 1 and over
	Males	Females	Total	
	%			
Non-movers	86.2	83.4	84.8	84.5
Movers				
Intraprovincial	11.8	14.4	13.0	13.6
Interprovincial	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Immigrants	1.1	1.2	1.1	0.8
Total movers	13.8	16.6	15.2	15.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total population (000s)¹	1,007.8	947.9	1,955.7	28,155.2

¹ Figures not adjusted for net census undercoverage and non-permanent residents.
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 1.5
Population, by immigration status, 1996

	Population aged 15-19		Total population	
	000s	%	000s	%
Immigrants	192.9	9.9	4,971.1	17.4
Non-permanent residents	14.8	0.8	166.7	0.6
Non-immigrants	1,748.4	89.4	23,390.3	82.0
Total population¹	1,956.1	100.0	28,528.1	100.0

¹ Figures not adjusted for net census undercoverage and non-permanent residents.
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 1.6
Place of birth of immigrants, 1996

	Immigrants aged 15-19		All immigrants		Immigrants aged 15-19 as a % of all immigrants
	000s	%	000s	%	
Place of birth					
Asia					
West Asia and Middle East	15.3	7.9	210.9	4.2	7.3
Eastern Asia	38.0	19.7	589.4	11.9	6.4
Southeast Asia	26.8	13.9	409.0	8.2	6.6
Southern Asia	14.4	7.4	353.5	7.1	4.1
Total Asia	94.6	49.0	1,562.8	31.4	6.1
Europe					
United Kingdom	10.0	5.2	655.5	13.2	1.5
Other Northern and Western Europe	7.3	3.8	514.3	10.3	1.4
Eastern Europe	18.1	9.4	447.8	9.0	4.0
Southern Europe	9.1	4.7	714.4	14.4	1.3
Total Europe	44.4	23.1	2,332.1	46.9	1.9
Caribbean and Bermuda	13.3	6.9	279.4	5.6	4.8
Central and South America	19.8	10.2	273.8	5.5	7.2
Africa	11.1	5.7	229.3	4.6	4.8
United States	7.5	3.9	244.7	4.9	3.1
Oceania and Other	2.1	1.1	49.0	1.0	4.3
Total ¹	192.9	100.0	4,971.1	100.0	3.9

¹ Figures not adjusted for net census undercoverage and non-permanent residents.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 1.7
Visible minority population aged 15 to 19, 1996

	Population aged 15-19			People in a visible minority as a % of the total population
	Number	As a % of the visible minority group	As a % of the total population aged 15-19	
Visible minorities				
Chinese	68,545	8.0	3.5	3.0
South Asian	52,370	7.8	2.7	2.4
Black	49,945	8.7	2.6	2.0
Filipino	18,160	7.8	0.9	0.8
Arab/West Asian	18,130	7.4	0.9	0.9
Latin American	16,285	9.2	0.8	0.6
Southeast Asian	13,920	8.1	0.7	0.6
Korean	7,550	11.6	0.4	0.2
Japanese	5,040	7.4	0.3	0.2
Pacific Islander	760	9.5	0	0
Total visible minorities ^{1,2}	261,290	8.2	13.4	11.2

¹ Figures not adjusted for net census undercoverage and non-permanent residents.

² Includes those reporting multiple visible minority origins.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 1.8
Aboriginal population aged 15 to 19, 1996

	Population aged 15-19		
	Number	As a % of the Aboriginal group	As a % of the total population aged 15-19
Aboriginal peoples			
North American Indian	49,215	9.3	2.5
Métis	19,490	9.5	1.0
Inuit	3,975	9.9	0.2
Total Aboriginal peoples^{1,2}	74,760	9.4	3.8

¹ Figures not adjusted for net census undercoverage and non-permanent residents.

² Includes those reporting multiple and other Aboriginal origins.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 1.9
Distribution of the population, by knowledge of official languages, 1996

	People aged					
	Under 15	15-19	20-24	25-44	45-64	65 and over
	%					
English only	69.5	61.1	64.9	67.4	65.9	68.5
French only	19.1	14.3	10.4	12.2	14.1	14.2
Both English and French	9.6	24.4	24.1	19.4	17.9	12.8
Neither English nor French	1.8	0.2	0.4	0.8	2.1	4.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total population (000s)¹	5,899.2	1,956.1	1,892.9	9,324.3	6,175.8	3,279.8

¹ Figures not adjusted for net census undercoverage and non-permanent residents.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 1.10
Distribution of the population, by religious affiliation¹ and age, 1999

	People aged			Total
	15-19	20-64	65 and over	
	%			
Roman Catholic	43.2	44.0	40.8	43.5
Protestant	12.0	23.3	40.1	24.6
Other ²	12.3	9.9	9.3	10.1
Non-Christian	6.2	4.7	2.2	4.5
None	26.2	18.0	7.6	17.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total population (000s)	1,976.3	17,539.5	3,099.1	22,614.9

¹ Does not include those who did not respond to the question.

² Includes Eastern Orthodox, Pentecostal and Ukrainian Catholic, as well as other responses.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Table 1.11
Percentage of the population attending religious activities, by frequency, 1999

	People aged			Total
	15-19	20-64	65 and over	
			%	
Once a week	16.5	18.1	33.9	20.3
Once a month	11.7	10.4	9.9	10.5
A few times a year	18.0	19.4	12.6	18.3
Once a year	10.4	7.4	4.7	7.3
Never	14.4	21.4	18.4	20.4
Other ¹	28.9	23.2	20.4	23.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total population (000s)	2,052.3	18,650.4	3,557.7	24,260.3

¹ Includes those with no religious affiliation as well as not stated.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Chapter 2: Family and Living Arrangements

Most live in families

The vast majority of young people live at home with their parents. In 2001, 90% of people aged 15 to 19 lived with one or both of their parents.¹ Indeed, 74% of all people in this age range were part of a two-parent household that year. At the same time, though, 16% of all 15- to 19-year-olds lived in a one-parent household, with the large majority of these living with a lone mother. (Table 2.1)

As well, most youths who live in a two-parent household live with one or both of their biological or adoptive parents. In fact, in 1995, 88% of 15- to 19-year-olds living in a two-parent family resided with their biological or adoptive parents, while 12% were part of a step- or blended family.^{2,3}

On the other hand, relatively small shares of the population aged 15 to 19 either live with other relatives or are spouses or lone parents in their own right. In 2001, 2% of people aged 15 to 19 lived with members of their extended family, such as grandparents, aunts or uncles or siblings, while another 3% were either married or living common-law or were a lone-parent themselves. Similarly, only a small proportion of the youth population does not live with its family. That year, 3% of all 15- to 19-year-olds lived with non-relatives, while just 1% lived alone.⁴

Not surprisingly, young people aged 15 to 17 are more likely than older youths to live with their parents, while those aged 18 to 19 are more likely to either live alone or to have their own families. In 2001, 97% of 15- to 17-year-olds lived with their parent or parents, while this was the case for 81% of 18- to 19-year-olds. In contrast, 6% of those aged 18 to 19 were already a spouse or a lone parent, whereas the number was too small to be expressed for their counterparts aged 15 to 17. Young people aged 18 to 19 are also more likely than younger youths to live alone. Still, just 3% of people aged 18 to 19 lived alone, while the number was too small to be expressed for 15- to 17-year-olds.⁴

As well, young men are slightly more likely than young women to live with one or both of their parents. In 2001, 92% of 15- to 19-year-old males lived with their parents, compared with 88% of females in this age range. In contrast, 5% of young women aged 15 to 19, compared with only 1% of their male counterparts, were either living with a marital or common-law spouse or were lone parents.⁴

Most of the differences in the family situations of males and females aged 15 to 19 occur among older youths. Indeed, almost all of both males (97%) and females (96%) aged 15 to 17 lived with their parent or parents in 2001, whereas

among those aged 18 to 19, 84% of young men still lived at home, as opposed to 77% of their female counterparts. In contrast, 9% of females aged 18 to 19 were living with a spouse or were lone parents, versus only 3% of their male counterparts.⁴

Young people heading their own families

As indicated previously, while most young people still live with their parents, a small proportion have started their own families. In 2001, 1.9% of all 15- to 19-year-olds were living with a common-law spouse, while just 0.7% were lone parents and only 0.3% were married.^{3,4}

Almost all lone parents aged 15 to 19 are female. Indeed, in 2001, 1.4% of all females in this age range were lone parents, whereas the number was too small to be expressed for their male counterparts. Young women aged 15 to 19 were also considerably more likely than males in this age range to be living with either a common-law or marital spouse: 3% versus 1%.^{3,4}

There are also differences in the likelihood of young people across the country heading their own families. Young people in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, along with those in Alberta, for example, are more likely than their counterparts in the other provinces to be either married or living in a common-law relationship. In 1996, about 3% of 15- to 19-year-olds in each of the three Prairie provinces were living with a marital or common-law spouse, while the figure in the remaining provinces ranged from just over 2% each in New Brunswick and Quebec to just over 1% each in Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia. (Chart 2.1)

Young people living in the territories, however, are the most likely to be either married or living in a common-law relationship. In fact, in 1996, 10% of people aged 15 to 19 living in Nunavut resided with a partner, as did 5% of those in the Northwest Territories and 4% of those in the Yukon.

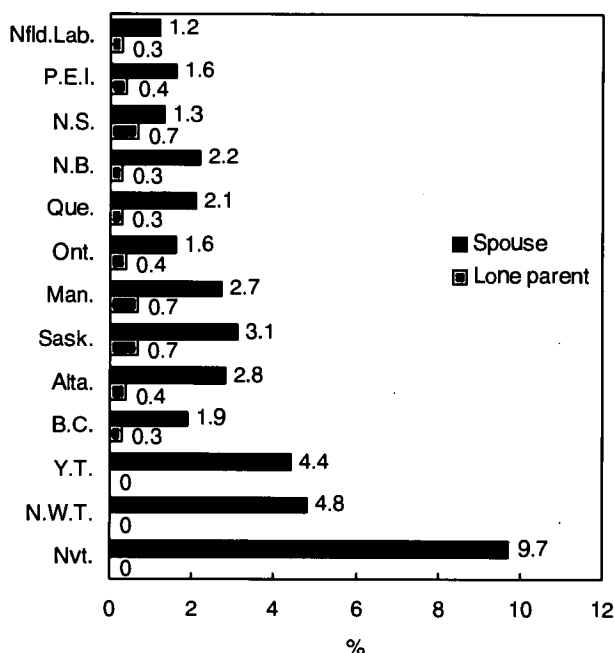
At the same time, people aged 15 to 19 living in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, along with those in Nova Scotia, are somewhat more likely than their counterparts in other provinces to be a lone parent. In 1996, 0.7% of all 15- to 19-year-olds in each of these three provinces was a lone parent, compared with under 0.5% in all other provinces.

Most Aboriginal youths live in families

As with the overall population, most Aboriginal young people live with their families. In 1996, 93% of people aged 15 to 19 who identified themselves as Aboriginal lived in a family

Chart 2.1

Percentage of people aged 15 to 19 living as a spouse¹ or lone parent, by province or territory, 1996



¹ Includes married couples as well as those living common-law.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

situation. This was just slightly below the figure for non-Aboriginal people in this age range, 96% of whom lived in some form of family setting. (Table 2.2)

While the large majority of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal youths live in a family setting, there are considerable differences in the particular family arrangements of young people depending on their Aboriginal status. In 1996, for example, 77% of Aboriginal youths lived with their parent or parents, while this was the case for 92% of non-Aboriginal youth. Indeed, only about half (52%) of all Aboriginal people aged 15 to 19 lived in a two-parent household, versus three-quarters of their non-Aboriginal counterparts. At the same time, one in four Aboriginal people aged 15 to 19 (25%) lived with a lone parent, compared with 17% of non-Aboriginal people in this age range.

Aboriginal youth are also more likely than their non-Aboriginal contemporaries to live with members of their extended family. In 1996, 8% of Aboriginal young people, as opposed to just 2% of comparable non-Aboriginals, lived with relatives other than their immediate family (such as grandparents, aunts, uncles or siblings).

Aboriginal young people are also about twice as likely as their non-Aboriginal counterparts to live with non-relatives. In 1996, 6% of Aboriginal people aged 15 to 19, versus just

3% of non-Aboriginals in this age range, lived with unrelated people. At the same time, however, there was little difference in the shares of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal young people living alone. That year, about 1% of each group lived on their own.

Aboriginal young people are also considerably more likely than their non-Aboriginal counterparts to have started their own families. In 1996, 8% of Aboriginal people aged 15 to 19 were either married or living in a common-law relationship or were lone parents, compared with only 2% of non-Aboriginal people in this age range.

Young Aboriginal women are particularly likely to either be living with a spouse or to be a lone parent. In 1996, 13% of all Aboriginal females aged 15 to 19 were either married or living in a common-law situation or parenting alone, compared with 4% of non-Aboriginal females and 3% of Aboriginal males in this age range.

There are also differences in the living arrangements of Aboriginal youth depending on whether they live on- or off-reserve, although the majority of both groups live with at least one of their parents. In 1996, 79% of Aboriginal people aged 15 to 19 living off-reserve lived with at least one of their parents, as did 75% of those on-reserve. (Table 2.3)

A relatively large share of Aboriginal young people living with their families off-reserve, however, are part of a lone-parent household. In 1996, 28% of all Aboriginal people aged 15 to 19 living off-reserve lived in a lone-parent family, compared with 19% of those living on-reserve. In contrast, Aboriginal people aged 15 to 19 living on-reserve were more likely than their off-reserve counterparts to be living in a two-parent family that year: 55% versus 51%.

Aboriginal young people living on-reserve are also more likely than those residing off-reserve to live in an extended family setting. In 1996, 12% of on-reserve Aboriginal people aged 15 to 19 lived with other relatives, double the figure for their off-reserve counterparts (6%). In contrast, Aboriginal young people living off-reserve were more likely than those on-reserve to live with non-relatives. That year, for example, 7% of Aboriginal people aged 15 to 19 residing off-reserve lived with non-relatives, compared with only 3% of those on-reserve. At the same time, 1% of Aboriginal young people living off-reserve lived alone, versus less than a half per cent of those on-reserve.

Immigrant young people in families

As with the overall youth population, almost all immigrant young people live with their families. In 1996, 97% of immigrants aged 15 to 19 lived in a family situation. That year, 91% lived with their parents, 4% lived with members of their extended family, and 2% lived with families that they had started themselves. At the same time, 2% of immigrant youths lived with non-relatives, while less than 1% lived alone. (Table 2.4)

In fact, there are very few differences in the family status of immigrant and non-immigrant youths. In 1996, 97% of immigrant young people lived with their family, while the figure was 96% among their non-immigrant counterparts. In addition, about three out of four of both immigrant and non-immigrant youths lived in a two-parent family that year, while just over 17% of both groups lived with a lone parent.

Immigrant youth, though, are somewhat more likely than their non-immigrant counterparts to live in an extended family setting with relatives such as grandparents, aunts, uncles or siblings. In 1996, 4% of immigrant youths lived with other relatives, twice the figure for non-immigrants in this age range, only 2% of whom lived with extended-family members. On the other hand, there are few differences in the likelihood of immigrant and non-immigrant youths to live alone. There is also little difference in the shares of these two groups either living with a marital or common-law spouse or as a lone parent.

As with the overall youth population, however, young immigrant women are more likely than their male counterparts to either live with a spouse or as a lone parent. In 1996, 4% of female immigrants aged 15 to 19 were either married, living common-law, or raising children on their own, compared with less than 1% of male immigrants in this age range. The share of immigrant females aged 15 to 19 who have started their own families, though, is about the same as the figure for non-immigrant females in this age category.

Youths living in institutions

While the overwhelming majority of young people live in a private household, a small number live in institutions. In 1996, less than 6,000 people aged 15 to 19, or 0.3% of all people in this age range in Canada, lived in some kind of institution. (Table 2.5)

Young people, in fact, are about as likely as other non-seniors to live in an institution. In 1996, 0.3% of all people aged 15 to

19 lived in an institution, roughly the same figure as for people between the ages of 20 and 54. In contrast, over 7% of people aged 65 and over lived in an institution that year, with the number rising to almost one in three among those 85 and over. As a result, youths made up only 2% of the total population in institutions in Canada in 1996, whereas they constituted close to 7% of the overall population.⁵

Just over half of all young people living in an institution are in a correctional or penal institution. In 1996, 51% of all youths in an institution lived in a facility for young offenders. At the same time, 24% of young people living in an institutional setting were in a children's group home, while another 23% lived in a hospital or chronic care home and 2% were in a religious institution. (Table 2.5)

Among the youth population, males are almost twice as likely as their female counterparts to be in an institution. In 1996, 0.4% of males aged 15 to 19 were in an institution, compared with only 0.2% of females in this age group. That year, there were over 4,100 young men in this age range in an institution, versus only about 1,600 females.

Young men are particularly more likely than their female counterparts to be in a correctional or penal institution. Indeed, in 1996, males accounted for 82% of all 15- to 19-year-olds in such a facility. Males, however, also accounted for the majority of people aged 15 to 19 living in either a hospital (65%) or children's group home (60%) that year.⁵

¹ Refers to never-married children living with their parent(s).

² A stepfamily is a family in which at least one of the children is from a previous relationship of one of the parents. A blended family is one which includes the couple's biological or adoptive children, along with children from one or both partners from a previous relationship.

³ Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2001.

⁴ Some data in this paragraph should be interpreted with caution because of the small size of the sample. Please refer to Table 2.1 for details.

⁵ Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 2.1
Living arrangements of people aged 15 to 19, 2001

	People aged								
	15-17			18-19			Total		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Living with family	%								
With parents									
Two-parent family	81.8	77.4	79.7	65.4	66.0	65.7	75.1	72.6	73.9
Lone-parent family									
Male-headed	5.2E	4.3E	4.8E	6.0E	F	4.3E	5.4	3.7E	4.6
Female-headed	10.3	14.7	12.4	12.9	9.5E	11.2	11.4	12.4	11.9
Total in lone-parent family	15.5	18.6	16.9	18.9	11.4E	15.2	16.8	15.5	16.2
Total with parent(s)	97.3	96.0	96.6	84.3	77.4	80.9	91.9	88.1	90.1
With other relatives	F	F	1.7E	F	4.4E	3.6E	2.1E	2.8E	2.4E
As a spouse ¹ or lone parent	0.0	F	F	3.2E	8.6E	5.7E	1.3E	4.8E	2.9
Total living with family	99.0	99.4	99.2	90.3	90.4	90.2	95.3	95.6	95.4
Not living with family									
Living with non-relatives	F	F	F	6.9E	6.3E	6.6E	3.4E	3.0E	3.2
Living alone	F	0.0	F	F	3.4E	3.1E	F	1.4E	1.4E
Total not living with family	F	F	F	9.9E	9.8E	9.7	4.6E	4.4E	4.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total population (000s)	631	580	1,211	433	430	863	1,064	1,010	2,074

¹ Includes married couples as well as those living common-law.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Table 2.2
Living arrangements of people aged 15 to 19, by Aboriginal status, 1996

	Aboriginal			Non-Aboriginal		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Living with family	%					
With parents						
Two-parent family	55.4	48.8	52.2	76.4	73.7	75.1
Lone-parent family						
Male-headed	5.2	3.6	4.4	4.0	3.0	3.5
Female-headed	20.7	20.9	20.8	13.6	13.7	13.7
Total in lone-parent family	25.9	24.4	25.2	17.6	16.7	17.2
Total with parent(s)	81.4	73.3	77.4	93.9	90.4	92.2
With other relatives	9.0	6.8	7.9	2.0	1.9	2.0
As a spouse ¹ or lone parent	3.4	12.8	8.0	0.7	3.8	2.2
Total living with family	93.9	92.9	93.4	96.7	96.1	96.4
Not living with family						
Living with non-relatives	5.2	6.1	5.7	2.6	3.1	2.9
Living alone	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.7	0.8	0.7
Total not living with family	6.2	7.1	6.6	3.3	3.9	3.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total population (000s)	38.0	36.5	74.4	965.1	907.2	1,872.3

¹ Includes married couples as well as those living common-law.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 2.3
Living arrangements of Aboriginal people aged 15 to 19, by on-/off-reserve status, 1996

	Aboriginal people aged 15-19					
	On-reserve			Off-reserve		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Living with family	%					
With parents						
Two-parent family	57.6	53.2	55.4	54.4	46.9	50.7
Lone-parent family						
Male-headed	5.3	3.8	4.6	5.2	3.4	4.3
Female-headed	14.3	14.9	14.6	23.6	23.5	23.6
Total in lone-parent family	19.6	18.7	19.2	28.8	27.0	27.9
Total with parent(s)	77.2	71.9	74.7	83.3	73.9	78.6
With other relatives	13.9	10.6	12.4	6.7	5.1	5.9
As a spouse ¹ or lone parent	5.0	14.2	9.4	2.8	12.2	7.4
Total living with family	96.1	96.8	96.4	92.8	91.2	92.0
Not living with family						
Living with non-relatives	3.4	3.0	3.2	6.0	7.5	6.8
Living alone	0.4	F	0.3	1.2	1.3	1.3
Total not living with family	3.8	3.2	3.6	7.2	8.9	8.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total population (000s)	11.9	11.1	23.0	26.0	25.4	51.4

¹ Includes married couples as well as those living common-law.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 2.4
Living arrangements of people aged 15 to 19, by immigration status, 1996

	Immigrant			Non-immigrant		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
	%					
Living with family	%					
With parents						
Two-parent family	75.1	72.7	73.9	75.9	73.1	74.5
Lone-parent family						
Male-headed	3.0	2.4	2.8	4.2	3.1	3.6
Female-headed	14.6	14.4	14.5	13.8	14.0	13.9
Total in lone-parent family	17.6	17.0	17.3	17.9	17.1	17.5
Total with parent(s)	92.7	89.7	91.3	93.9	90.1	92.1
With other relatives	4.1	3.9	4.0	2.0	1.8	1.9
As a spouse ¹ or lone parent	0.6	3.6	2.0	0.8	4.2	2.4
Total living with family	97.4	97.2	97.3	96.7	96.1	96.4
Not living with family						
Living with non-relatives	2.0	2.2	2.1	2.6	3.1	2.9
Living alone	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.7
Total not living with family	2.6	2.8	2.7	3.3	3.9	3.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total population (000s)	100.3	91.8	192.2	896.3	845.5	1,741.8

¹ Includes married couples as well as those living common-law.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 2.5
Percentage of the population in institutions, by age and type of institution, 1996

	Percentage ¹ of the population living in				Total population in institutions	Institutional residents as a % of the total population
	Hospitals ²	Children's group homes ³	Penal institutions	Religious institutions		
	%				000s	
People aged						
15-17						
Males	17.1	24.3	58.4	F	100.0	2.6
Females	20.6	37.9	39.9	F	100.0	1.2
Total	17.9	28.4	52.8	F	100.0	3.9
18-19						
Males	27.2	11.7	57.6	F	100.0	1.4
Females	52.9	25.3	12.6	F	100.0	0.4
Total	33.1	14.8	47.1	4.4	100.0	1.9
Total aged 15-19						
Males	20.9	19.6	58.2	1.3	100.0	4.1
Females	28.6	34.7	33.1	3.6	100.0	1.6
Total	23.0	23.9	51.0	2.1	100.0	5.7
20 and over						
Men	79.8	0.4	15.2	4.6	100.0	122.9
Women	90.9	0.2	0.3	8.6	100.0	211.2
Total	86.8	0.3	5.8	7.1	100.0	334.1
Total of all age groups⁴						
Males	77.2	1.6	16.8	4.4	100.0	128.8
Females	90.1	0.6	0.7	8.5	100.0	213.8
Total	85.3	1.0	6.7	7.0	100.0	342.6

¹ As a percentage of the total population living in institutions.

² Includes general and psychiatric hospitals, as well as special care homes.

³ Includes institutions providing accommodation to orphans or children who are wards of the court.

⁴ Includes people under age 15.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Chapter 3: Health

Self-reported health status

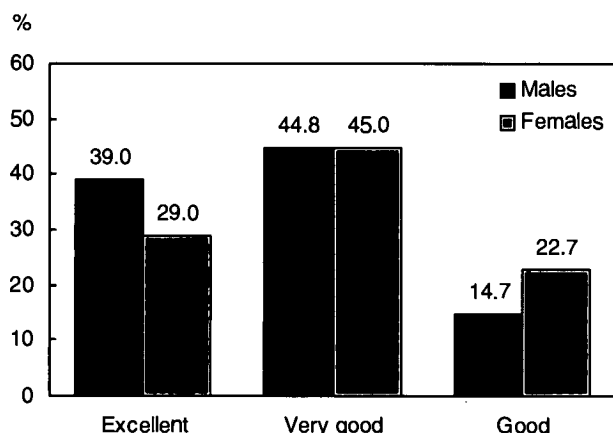
Young people living in Canada generally report they are healthy. In 1998–99, 34% of people aged 15 to 19 reported that their health was excellent, while 45% said their health was very good, and 19% considered it good. In contrast, only a small share of 15- to 19-year-olds categorized their health as either fair or poor that year. (Table 3.1)

The overall self-reported health status of young people is similar to that of individuals between the ages of 20 and 54, while young people tend to be healthier than those aged 55 and over. In 1998–99, 98% of all 15- to 19-year-olds reported their health was good to excellent, while the figure was 95% for those aged 20 to 34 and 92% for those aged 35 to 54. In contrast, among those aged 55 and over, the percentage reporting their health excellent, very good, or good was 85% or less.

Young men report somewhat better health status than their female counterparts. In 1998–99, 39% of males aged 15 to 19 said that their health was excellent, compared with 29% of their female counterparts. At the same time, only small percentages of both males and females in this age range reported their health was just fair or poor. (Chart 3.1)

Chart 3.1

Percentage of people aged 15 to 19, by self-reported health status, 1998–99



Source: Statistics Canada, National Population Health Survey.

Psychological well-being

While people aged 15 to 19 generally report they are in good health, people in this age range are somewhat less likely than those in older age groups to score well on measures of psychological well-being, which is conducive to coping successfully with stressors. In 1998–99, for example, 41% of people aged 15 to 19 were considered to have high self-esteem, which refers to the general sense of self-worth as a person. This was low compared with 46% of those aged 20 to 24 and around half of those between the ages of 25 and 64. (Table 3.2)

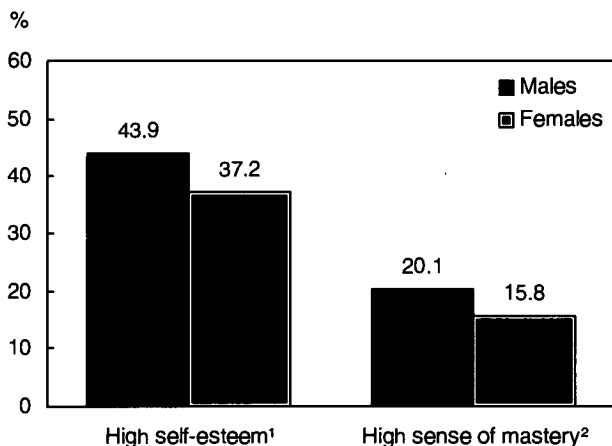
Similarly, in 1998–99, just 18% of 15- to 19-year-olds had a high sense of mastery, which measures the extent to which individuals feel their life is under their own control. This compared with over 20% of those between the ages of 20 and 54. Young people also report generally low levels of coherence, which refers to the view of the world that events are comprehensible, challenges are manageable, and life is meaningful. That year, only 5% of people aged 15 to 19 scored high on this measure, whereas in groups over age 20 the figure ranged from 16% among those aged 20 to 24 to around 40% among seniors.

Among people aged 15 to 19, males are more likely than their female counterparts to have high levels of both self-esteem and a sense of mastery. For example, in 1998–99, 44% of males aged 15 to 19, compared with 37% of females that age, reported high self-esteem. At the same time, 20% of males aged 15 to 19, compared with 16% of their female counterparts, reported that they felt their lives were under control. (Chart 3.2)

While young people tended to score lower on these measures of psychological well-being, they are also generally less likely than people in most older age ranges to experience episodes of clinical depression.¹ In 1998–99, just 4% of the population aged 15 to 19 exhibited symptoms of depression, compared with 7% of those aged 20 to 24, 6% of those aged 25 to 34, and 5% of people aged 35 to 44. Young people, though, were more likely than those aged 55 and over to have had a depressive episode. (Chart 3.3)

People aged 15 to 19 are also somewhat less likely than their older counterparts to be hospitalized for a mental disorder. In 1998–99, there were 622 hospital separations² for mental disorders for every 100,000 youths aged 15 to 19, while in groups over age 20, the figure ranged from 639 for those aged 20 to 24 to 964 among the senior population. (Chart 3.4)

Chart 3.2

Percentage of people aged 15 to 19, by selected measures of psychological well-being, 1998-99

¹ Self-esteem refers to the general sense of self-worth as a person.

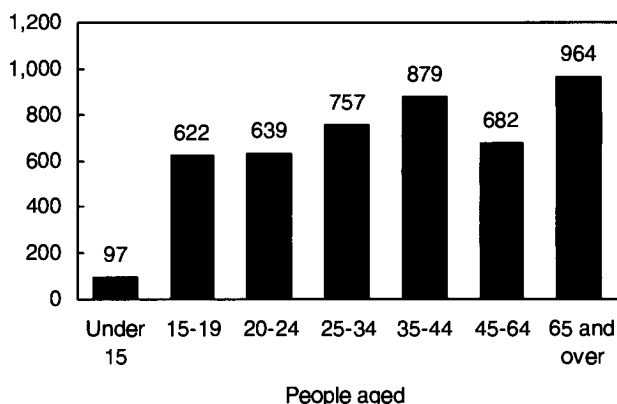
² Mastery measures the extent to which individuals feel their life is under their own control.

Source: Statistics Canada, National Population Health Survey.

Chart 3.4

Hospital separations¹ for mental health reasons, by age, 1998-99

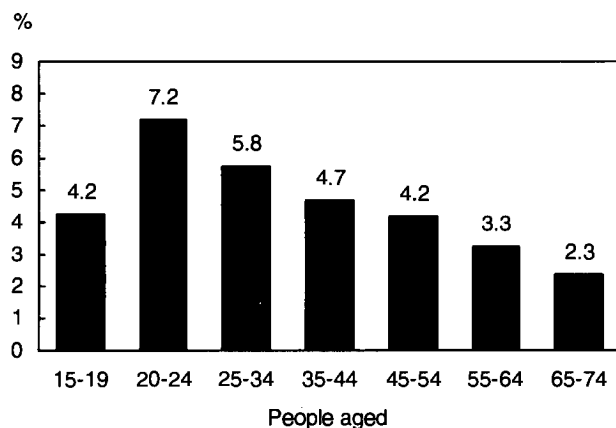
Per 100,000 population



¹ A hospital separation refers to the discharge or death of an in-patient. The number of separations does not equal the number of patients, since an individual may be hospitalized more than once.

Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information.

Chart 3.3

Percentage of the population experiencing an episode of clinical depression, by age, 1998-99

Source: Statistics Canada, National Population Health Survey.

Low mortality rates among young people

As would be expected, people aged 15 to 19 generally have a lower death rate than those in older adult age ranges. In 1998, there were 51 deaths for every 100,000 people aged 15 to 19, whereas among age groups between the ages of 20 and 49, the figure ranged from 64 deaths per 100,000 population to 192. At the same time, there were 481 deaths per 100,000 people aged 50 to 59, while the figure was 3,678 among those aged 60 and over. (Chart 3.5)

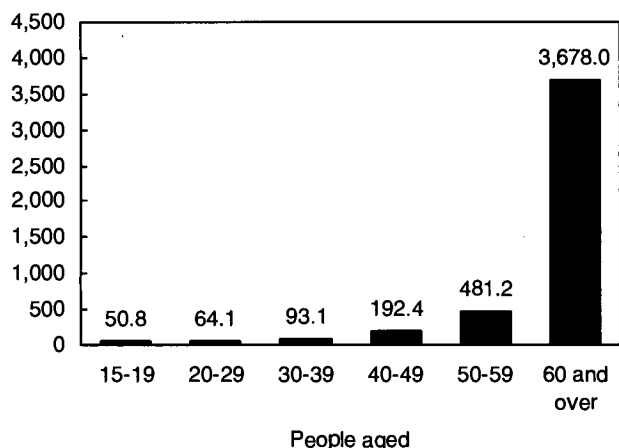
As well, the death rate among young people has declined in the last decade. In 1998, there were 51 deaths per 100,000 people aged 15 to 19, down 26% from 1991, when there were 68 deaths per 100,000 population in this age range.³

Among young people, death rates are considerably higher among males than females. In 1998, there were 69 deaths for every 100,000 males aged 15 to 19, more than twice the figure for their female counterparts, among whom there were only 31 deaths per 100,000 population. (Table 3.3)

Chart 3.5

Death rates, by age, 1998

Per 100,000 population



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 84F0209XPB.

There has, however, been a particularly sharp decline in the death rate among young men in the last decade. In 1998, there were 69 deaths per 100,000 males in this age range, down 28% from almost 100 in 1991. In the same period, the death rate among young women dropped 19% from 39 deaths per 100,000 population in 1991 to 31 in 1998.

Accidents account for almost half of all deaths of young people. In 1998, there were 23 accidental deaths for every 100,000 people aged 15 to 19, representing 45% of all deaths of people in this age range.

Young people are particularly at risk of being killed in a motor vehicle accident. In 1998, there were 16 motor vehicle deaths per 100,000 people aged 15 to 19, the highest rate for any age group. Among other adult age groups, for example, the motor vehicle accident death rate ranged from 15 per 100,000 people aged 20 to 29 to just eight among both 40- to 49- and 50- to 59-year-olds. (Chart 3.6)

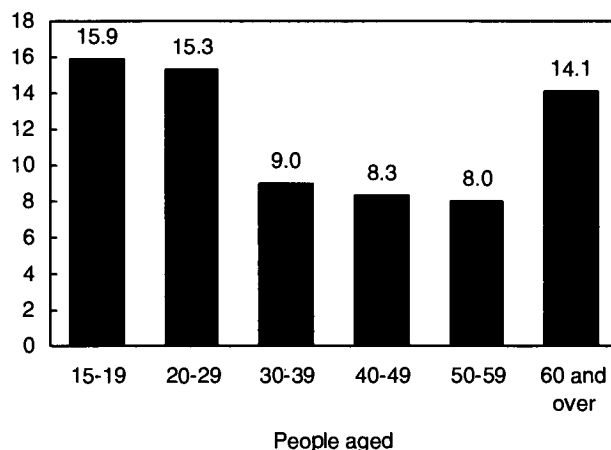
Among young people, males are at much greater risk of being a motor vehicle accident fatality than females. In 1998, there were 21 motor vehicle accident deaths for every 100,000 males aged 15 to 19, almost twice the figure for females in this age range, among whom there were 11 motor vehicle deaths per 100,000 population. (Table 3.3)

The motor vehicle death rate among both young men and women, though, has fallen sharply over the course of the past decade. Indeed, the motor vehicle death rate among males aged 15 to 19 in 1998 was 39% lower than it had been in 1991, while there was an 18% decline in the number of motor vehicle deaths per 100,000 females in this age range in the same period.

Chart 3.6

Motor vehicle accident death rates, by age, 1998

Per 100,000 population



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 84F0209XPB.

Deaths from accidents other than motor vehicle accidents also account for a relatively large share of all deaths of young people. Young people, however, are generally at less risk from non-motor vehicle accidents than people in older age groups. In 1998, there were seven deaths from other types of accidents per 100,000 people aged 15 to 19, whereas in older age groups the figure ranged from 10 per 100,000 people among those 20 to 29 years old to 30 among those aged 50 and over.³

Suicides also account for a relatively large share of all deaths of people aged 15 to 19. The suicide rate among young people, however, is lower than that among older age groups. In 1998, there were 12 suicides per 100,000 people aged 15 to 19, while figures in other adult age groups ranged from just under 14 per 100,000 people among those aged 50 and over to 17 among those aged 40 to 49. (Chart 3.7)

Among young people, males are almost three times more likely to take their own lives than females. In 1998, there were 18 suicides per 100,000 males in this age range, compared with just six among their female counterparts. (Table 3.3)

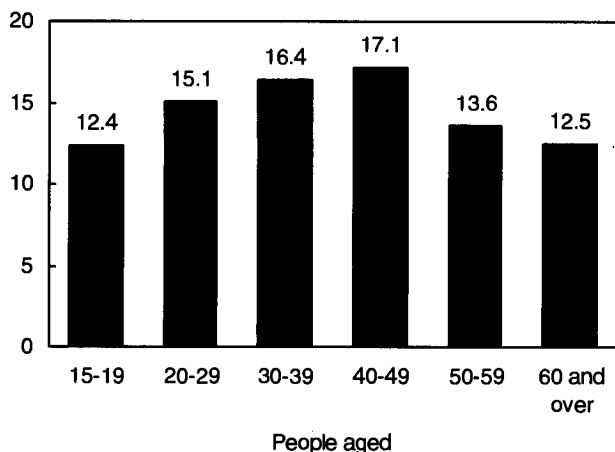
However, while the suicide rate among young men declined somewhat during the 1990s, it increased among young women. There were six suicides per 100,000 females aged 15 to 19 in 1998, up from four in 1991. In contrast, the suicide rate among males in this age range declined from 23 per 100,000 population in 1991 to 18 in 1998.

The suicide rate is also much higher among Aboriginal youth than their non-Aboriginal counterparts. Studies, in fact, have indicated that the suicide rate among Aboriginal people aged 15 to 19 is as high as five to six times that of non-Aboriginal

Chart 3.7

Suicide rates, by age, 1998

Per 100,000 population



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 84F0209XPB.

people in this age range. In addition, suicide rates within the Aboriginal youth population are higher in isolated northern communities than in the rest of the country.⁴

High rates of sexually transmitted diseases

Youths have a particularly high risk of contracting certain types of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Indeed, females aged 15 to 19 have the highest rate of gonorrhea infection of any age group in the country. In 1999, there were 80 reported cases of gonococcal infections for every 100,000 females aged 15 to 19, compared with 63 for women aged 20 to 24 and 28 for those aged 25 to 29. At the same time, there were 32 cases of gonococcal infections reported for every 100,000 males aged 15 to 19, less than half the figure for females in this age group. (Table 3.4)

Young women also report the highest rate of chlamydia infections. In 1999, there were 1,139 cases of this disease per 100,000 females aged 15 to 19, compared with 1,066 for women aged 20 to 24, 384 for those aged 25 to 29 and 95 among women aged 30 to 39. As well, the rate of chlamydia infection among females aged 15 to 19 was over six times greater than that for males in this age range, among whom there were 187 cases per 100,000 population.

These sexually transmitted diseases are particularly harmful to women, who are likely to suffer long-term health problems after contracting one of these types of infections. For example, STDs can cause pelvic inflammation, which can seriously damage a woman's reproductive organs. They may lead to scarring of the Fallopian tubes and increased risk of ectopic pregnancy or tubal sterility. It is also important to note that the data on sexually transmitted diseases probably understates the actual incidence, since the diseases are

asymptomatic, especially in women. Consequently, infected persons often do not seek treatment, and the disease is therefore not diagnosed.

The incidence of both gonococcal and chlamydia infections, however, has declined sharply among young people in the last several years. Between 1991 and 1999, for example, the number of reported cases of gonorrhea among females aged 15 to 19 declined 30% from 115 cases per 100,000 population to 80, while the figure for chlamydia fell 27% from 1,550 cases per 100,000 population to 1,139 in the same period.

In contrast to gonococcal and chlamydia infections, young women have a relatively low rate of syphilis. In 1999, there were 0.8 reported cases of this disease for every 100,000 females aged 15 to 19. This was below the figure for women in their 20s, among whom there was around one case for every 100,000 women. Again, however, the incidence of syphilis among females aged 15 to 19 was greater than among males in this age range. As with the other STDs, though, the incidence of syphilis declined among females aged 15 to 19 in recent years, falling from 1.2 cases per 100,000 population in 1993 to 0.8 in 1999.

AIDS

While relatively large numbers of young people have contracted other sexually transmitted diseases, to date, few youths have contracted AIDS. In fact, as of June 2000, only 58 AIDS cases, just 0.3% of all cases, involved 15- to 19-year-olds. (Table 3.5)

As well, there are currently very few new cases of AIDS being reported among young people. Indeed, there were only two new cases of AIDS involving 15- to 19-year-olds reported in the period from 1998 through the middle of 2000, with no new cases reported in the first six months of 2000. While the total number of new cases of AIDS among youth remains low, it is still too early to say whether the number of cases reported in the past several years represents a genuine decline or has occurred as a result of underreporting.

Most AIDS cases involve men. Of the 58 AIDS cases involving 15- to 19-year-olds reported as of June 2000, 47 involved males, while only 11 involved females. However, since men generally are much more likely to contract AIDS than women, males aged 15 to 19 actually account for a smaller share of all men with AIDS (0.3%) than do their female counterparts, who make up 0.8% of all women with AIDS.⁵

Most AIDS cases among young men, however, were reported prior to 1995. Indeed, since 1996, there have only been four new cases of AIDS reported among males aged 15 to 19, the same number as for young women. In contrast, there were 43 new AIDS cases reported for 15- to 19-year-old males between 1989 and 1995, versus only seven among their female counterparts in the same period.

It is possible, though, that because the interval between infection with HIV and the development of AIDS can be 10 years or more, the number of reported cases of AIDS may not necessarily accurately portray the extent of the problem, that is, they do not include the number of youths with HIV who are likely to contract the disease. As with the overall numbers of new AIDS cases, however, the number of newly reported HIV-positive cases involving youth is relatively small. In the period from 1995 through the middle of 2000, there were 173 new HIV-positive cases reported among those aged 15 to 19. This represented only about 1% of all newly diagnosed positive cases in this period.

Between 1995 and the mid-point of 2000, young women made up a somewhat larger share of youth diagnosed with new HIV cases than young men. Of the new HIV-positive cases identified among people aged 15 to 19 for which the gender of the victim was known, 83 were female, while 68 were male.

Again, the overall figures for new HIV-positive cases among young people could understate the actual prevalence of HIV infections in this age group because only a small proportion of youths have taken an HIV screening test at some point in their lives. As of 1996–97, for example, just 11% of all youths aged 18 to 19 reported that they had been tested. In comparison, 22% of people aged 20 to 24 had undergone this screening test, twice the rate of those aged 18 to 19, while the figures were 25% among people aged 25 to 34, and 18% for those aged 35 to 44. (Table 3.6)

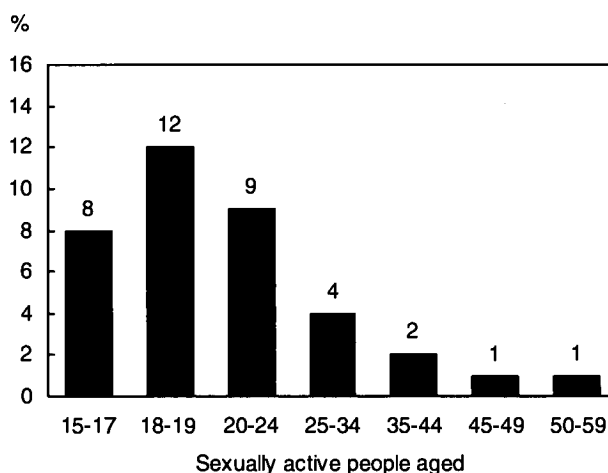
Among young people, females are somewhat more likely to have been tested for HIV infection than their male counterparts. As of 1996–97, 12% of females aged 18 to 19, compared with 9% of their male counterparts, had been tested.

One reason for the relatively high incidence of sexually transmitted diseases among young people is that many of those in this age range engage in risky sexual behaviour. Of those who were sexually active in 1996–97, for example, 12% of sexually active people aged 18 to 19 said they had had at least three different partners in the 12 months preceding the survey, as did 8% of those aged 15 to 17. These figures were similar to those for 20- to 24-year-olds, 9% of whom also said they had had at least three different partners in the past year, whereas this was the case for just 4% of those aged 25 to 34, 2% of those aged 35 to 44 and 1% of those aged 45 to 59. (Chart 3.8)

As well, among sexually active young people, males are generally much more likely than their female counterparts to report having had three or more sexual partners in the past year. In 1996–97, 16% of sexually active males aged 18 to 19, twice the figure (8%) for sexually active females in this age range, had had three or more partners within the year preceding the survey.⁶

Chart 3.8

Percentage of sexually active people with three or more partners in the last year,¹ by age, 1996–97



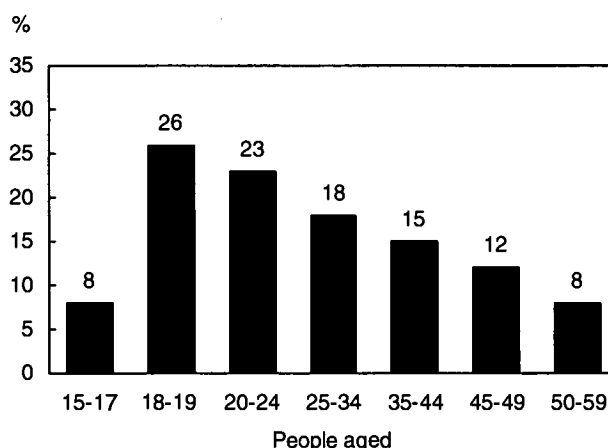
¹ The rate of non-response was 12%.

Source: Statistics Canada, National Population Health Survey.

At the same time, about a quarter of young people who reported having had at least one sexual partner did not use a condom the last time they had sexual intercourse. In 1996–97, 26% of people aged 18 to 19 said they had had sexual intercourse with a partner of less than 12 months without the protection of a condom. This compared with figures of 23% among those aged 20 to 24 and less than 20% among those in older age groups. (Chart 3.9)

Chart 3.9

Percentage of sexually active people with a partner of less than 12 months not using a condom the last time they had sexual relations, by age, 1996–97



Source: Statistics Canada, National Population Health Survey.

Pregnancy among young women

There has been a decline in the birth rate among young women in the past quarter century. In 1998, there were 20 live births for every 1,000 females aged 15 to 19, almost a third the rate in 1961, when there were 58 births for every 1,000 females in this age range. (Table 3.7)

Much of the decline in the birth rate among young women, however, took place in the 1960 and 1970s. Between 1961 and 1981, for example, the birth rate among young women fell by over 50% from 58 live births per 1,000 females aged 15 to 19 to just 26. In contrast, the live birth rate among females in this age range was very stable from the early 1980s through the mid-1990s. In the past few years, though, the live birth rate among young women again dipped sharply, falling from 25 live births per 1,000 females aged 15 to 19 in the period 1993 to 1995 to just 20 in both 1997 and 1998.

Not surprisingly, the birth rate is higher among older females than among their younger counterparts. In fact, in 1998, there were 33 live births reported for every 1,000 females aged 18 to 19, three times the figure among females aged 15 to 17, among whom there were only 11 births per 1,000 population that year.⁷

Fertility rates among young women tend to be highest in Manitoba and Saskatchewan and lowest in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia. In 1998, there were close to 40 live births per 1,000 females aged 15 to 19 in both Manitoba (39) and Saskatchewan (38), compared with rates of well under 20 in Quebec (15), British Columbia (16) and Ontario (17). In the remaining provinces, the figure ranged from 21 live births per 1,000 females aged 15 to 19 in Newfoundland and Labrador to 30 in Prince Edward Island. (Chart 3.10)

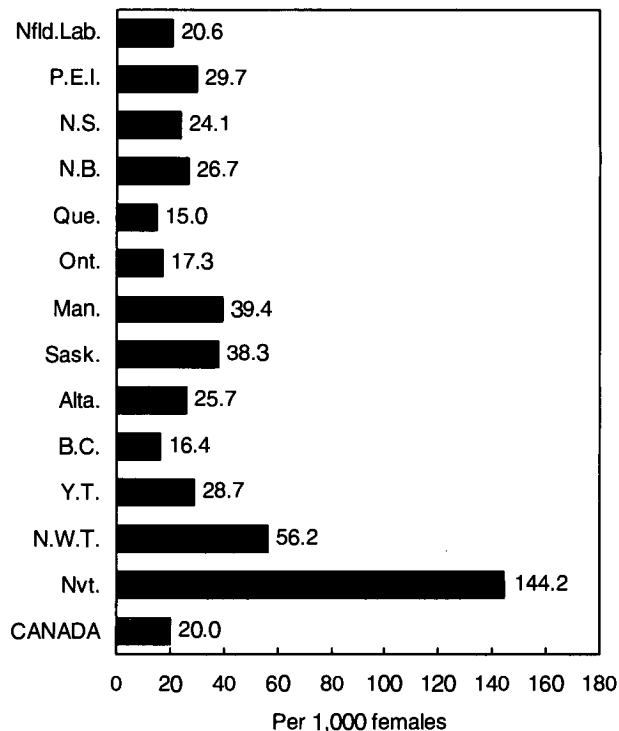
The birth rate among young women is also relatively high in the territories. In fact, in 1998, the number of live births per 1,000 females aged 15 to 19 was well above the national average in both Nunavut (144) and the Northwest Territories (56). In contrast, the figure in the Yukon, where there were 29 such births per 1,000 females aged 15 to 19, was similar to that in the rest of the country.

Abortion among young women

While the live birth rate among young women has generally declined in the past decade, the abortion rate among females in this age range is currently higher than it was in the late 1980s. In 1998, there were 21 abortions for every 1,000 females aged 15 to 19, up from 16 in 1987. All the increase in the abortion rate among young women, though, occurred in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Indeed, the abortion rate among females in this age range has been very stable since 1993. (Chart 3.11)

Chart 3.10

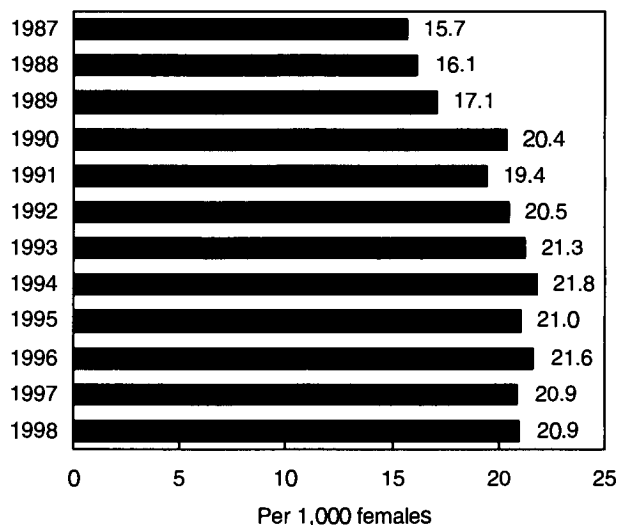
Live birth rates of females aged 15 to 19, by province or territory, 1998



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 91-213-XPB.

Chart 3.11

Therapeutic abortions, females aged 15 to 19, 1987 to 1998



Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information, Therapeutic Abortion Survey.

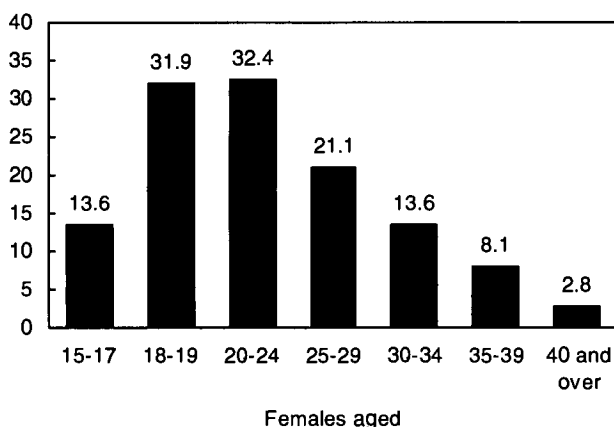
It is also significant to note that the abortion rate among females aged 15 to 19 is now actually slightly higher than current live birth rate among females in this age range. In 1998, there were 21 abortions per 1,000 females aged 15 to 19, compared with 20 live births for every 1,000 females in this age range.⁷

Among young women, those aged 18 to 19 are over twice as likely as their younger counterparts to have had an abortion. In 1998, there were 32 abortions for every 1,000 females aged 18 to 19, versus 14 among those aged 15 to 17. The abortion rate among females aged 18 to 19, though, was almost exactly the same as that for women aged 20 to 24, while it was higher than that among those in older age ranges. (Chart 3.12)

Chart 3.12

Therapeutic abortion rates, by age, 1998

Per 1,000 females



Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information, Therapeutic Abortion Survey.

Chronic health conditions

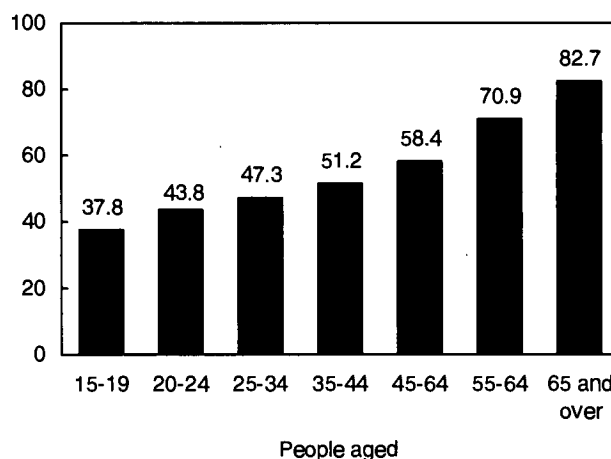
While the large majority of young people report that they are in good health, a substantial number report they are affected by a chronic or degenerative health condition. In 1998–99, 38% of people aged 15 to 19 reported suffering from some form of chronic illness, that is, a disorder that had been diagnosed by a health care professional and had lasted, or would normally last, at least six months. (Chart 3.13)

Young people, though, are much less likely than older adults to suffer from chronic health conditions. In 1998–99, 38% of those aged 15 to 19 reported suffering from some form of chronic illness, whereas the figure in older age ranges ranged from 44% for those aged 20 to 24 to over 80% among seniors.

Chart 3.13

Percentage of the population diagnosed with at least one chronic health condition, by age, 1998–99

%



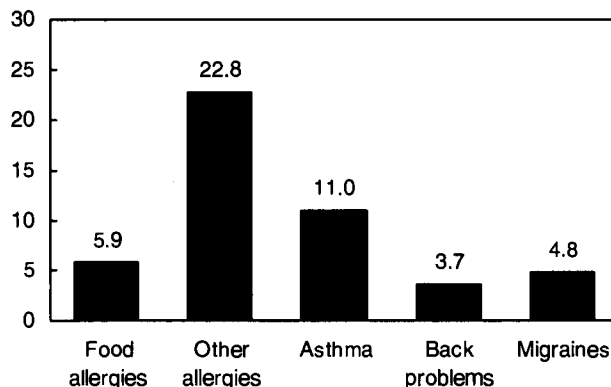
Source: Statistics Canada, National Population Health Survey.

Allergies and asthma are the most common chronic health conditions affecting young people. In 1998–99, 23% of people aged 15 to 19 said they had non-food allergies, while another 6% reported food allergies. At the same time, 11% of those in this age range suffered from asthma. In addition, 5% suffered from migraines and 4% had back problems. (Chart 3.14)

Chart 3.14

Percentage of people aged 15 to 19 diagnosed with selected chronic health conditions, 1998–99

%

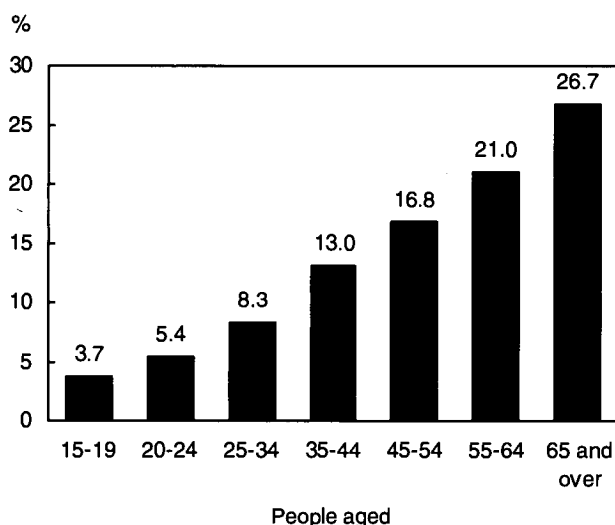


Source: Statistics Canada, National Population Health Survey.

Meanwhile, a small proportion of youth suffer from chronic pain. In 1998–99, 4% of people aged 15 to 19 said they suffered from chronic pain. Young people, though, are less likely than people in older age groups to suffer from chronic pain. That year, for example, the share of those suffering from chronic pain ranged from 5% of 20- to 24-year-olds to 27% of seniors aged 65 and over. (Chart 3.15)

Chart 3.15

Percentage of the population experiencing chronic pain, by age, 1998–99



Source: Statistics Canada, National Population Health Survey.

Demands on the health care system

Because young people are generally healthy, they place relatively few demands on the health care system. People aged 15 to 19, for example, are one of the least likely age groups to be hospitalized. In 1998–99, there were just over 5,000 hospital separations² for every 100,000 people aged 15 to 19, whereas among other adult age groups the figure ranged from just under 8,000 for 20- to 24-year-olds to almost 30,000 for seniors. (Chart 3.16)

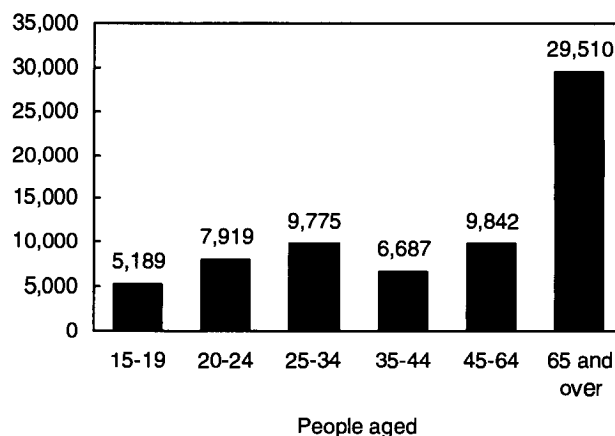
Among young people, females are somewhat more likely to be hospitalized than males, although this difference is accounted for largely by pregnancy-related hospital visits. In 1998–99, there were 7,155 hospital separations for every 100,000 females in this age range, versus 3,300 for males.⁸

Almost all young people, though, visit at least one health care professional in the course of a year. In 1998–99, 93% of young people aged 15 to 19 reported that they had consulted with a health care professional at least once in the preceding 12 months. This is, in fact, higher than the figure for adults

Chart 3.16

Hospital separations,¹ by age, 1998–99

Per 100,000 population



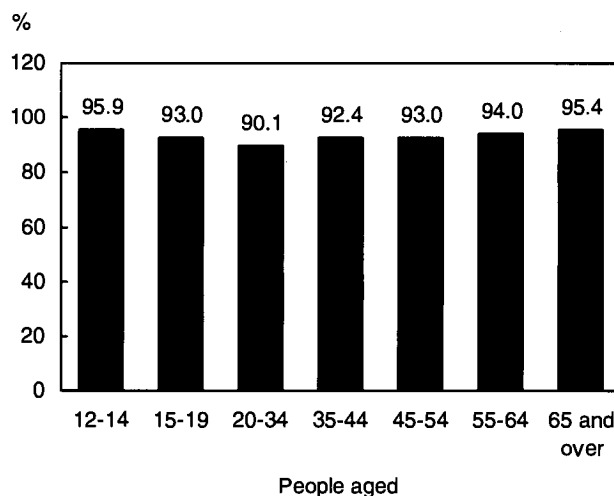
¹ A hospital separation refers to the discharge or death of an in-patient. The number of separations does not equal the number of patients, since an individual may be hospitalized more than once.

Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information.

between the ages of 20 and 34, around 90% of whom saw a health care professional that year, but slightly lower than totals for younger children, as well as those aged 65 and over. (Chart 3.17)

Chart 3.17

Percentage of the population who consulted at least one health care professional, by age, 1998–99



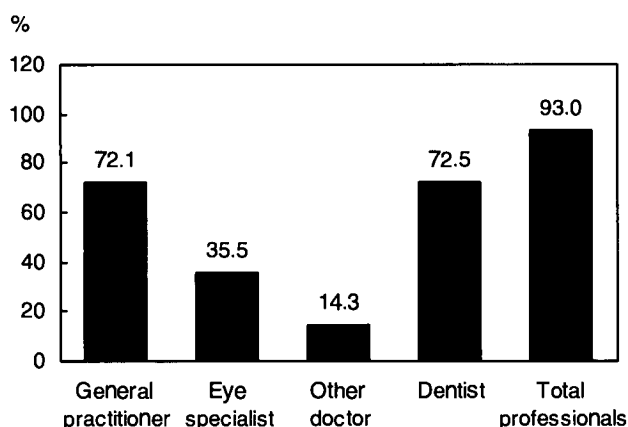
Source: Statistics Canada, National Population Health Survey.

Young women are slightly more likely than young men to consult a health care professional. In 1998–99, 95% of females aged 15 to 19 reported they saw a health care professional in the past 12 months, compared with 91% of their male counterparts.⁶

Most youth visit a general practitioner in the course of a year, but many also consult a dentist or an eye specialist. In 1998–99, 72% of people aged 15 to 19 saw a general practitioner at least once, while a similar share (73%) went to a dentist. At the same time, 36% consulted an eye specialist, while 14% consulted with another type of doctor. (Chart 3.18)

Chart 3.18

Percentage of people aged 15 to 19 consulting selected health care professionals, 1998–99



Source: Statistics Canada, National Population Health Survey.

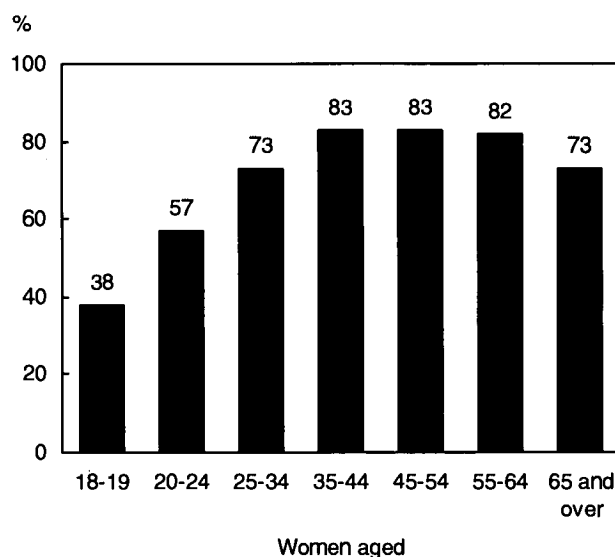
Preventative health measures

As the Canadian Cancer Society recommends only that women aged 50 to 69 have a mammogram every two years for early detection of breast cancer, relatively few young women undergo this routine procedure. Still, in 1996–97, 38% of females aged 18 to 19 reported having had a breast examination, although this is well below figures for other women, among whom the percentage having breast examinations ranged from 57% of those aged 20 to 24 to over 80% of those between the ages of 35 and 64. (Chart 3.19)

At the same time, close to half of females aged 18 to 19 have undergone a Pap test at some point in their lifetime. In 1998–99, 43% of females in this age range had undergone a Pap test at some point in their lives, although this was below rates in older age groups among whom the figure ranged from 72% of those aged 20 to 24 to 95% of those aged 45 to 54. (Chart 3.20)

Chart 3.19

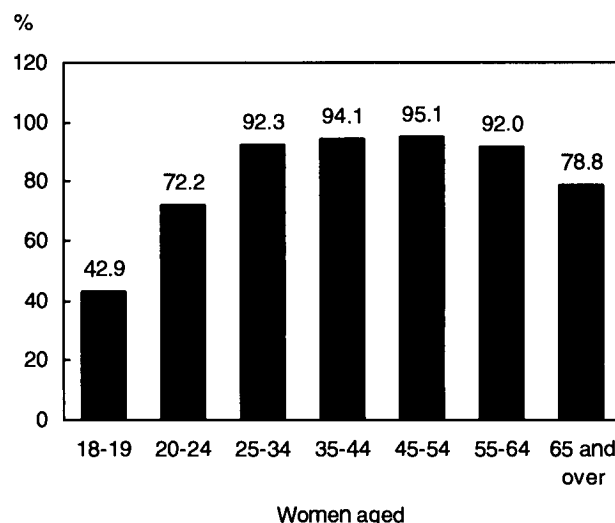
Percentage of women who have ever had a breast examination by a health professional, by age, 1996–97



Source: Statistics Canada, National Population Health Survey.

Chart 3.20

Percentage of women who have ever received a Pap smear test, by age, 1998–99



Source: Statistics Canada, National Population Health Survey.

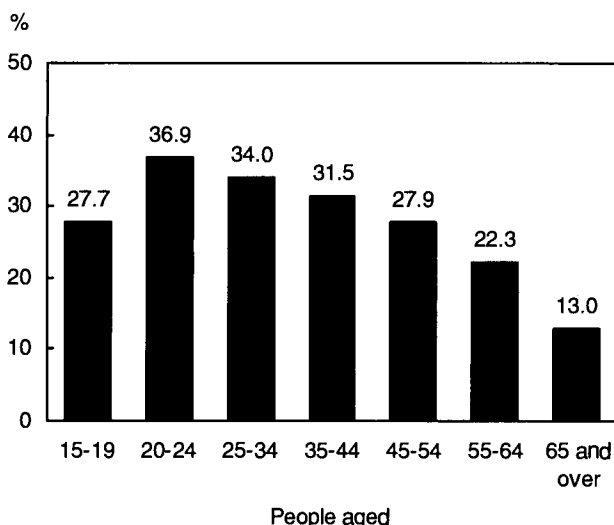
Smoking

Despite all the known health risks of smoking, over one in four Canadians aged 15 to 19 is a current smoker. In 1998–99, 28% of all people in this age range were smokers. Of these, 22% were regular smokers, that is, they smoked daily, while another 6% smoked occasionally.⁶

Young people, though, are still less likely to smoke than their counterparts in groups between the ages of 20 and 44. In 1998–99, 28% of people aged 15 to 19 were either daily or occasional smokers, compared with 37% of those aged 20 to 24, 34% of 25- to 34-year-olds and 32% of those aged 35 to 44. (Chart 3.21)

Chart 3.21

Percentage of the population who are current smokers, by age, 1998–99



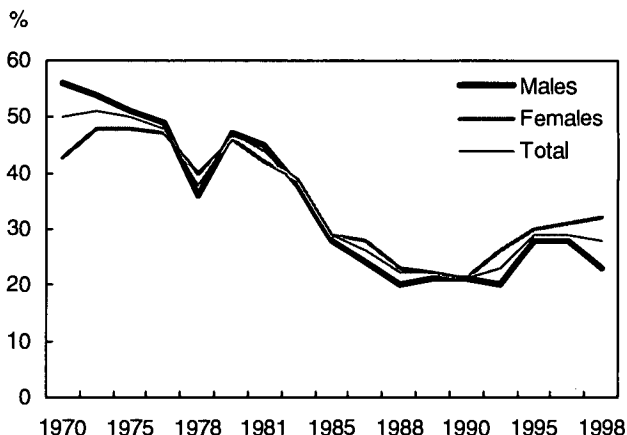
Source: Statistics Canada, National Population Health Survey.

The share of young people who smoke, though, is down sharply from levels of three decades ago. In 1998, 28% of people aged 15 to 19 were either daily or occasional smokers, whereas half of all people in this age range smoked in 1970. (Chart 3.22)

The overall decline in smoking rates among people, however, masks the fact that all of this drop had occurred by the late 1980s and that the incidence of smoking among people aged 15 to 19 has actually been on the rise again in the past decade. Indeed, the proportion of those aged 15 to 19 who smoked had fallen to a low of just over 20% in 1990, but had climbed back to 28% by 1998.

Chart 3.22

Percentage of people aged 15 to 19 who smoke, 1970 to 1998

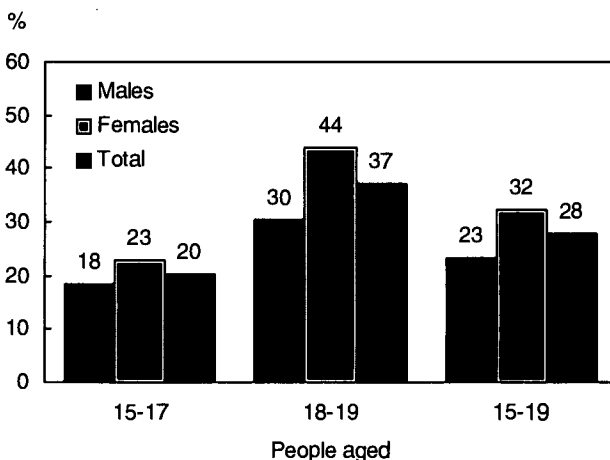


Sources: Statistics Canada, National Population Health Survey, and General Social Survey; and Health and Welfare Canada, Health Promotion Survey.

The overall smoking rate among young people also masks considerable variation within this age range. In fact, people aged 18 to 19 have the highest smoking rate. In 1998–99, 37% of all 18- to 19-year-olds smoked regularly, while the figure was 20% among those aged 15 to 17. (Chart 3.23)

Chart 3.23

Percentage of people aged 15 to 19 who smoke, 1998–99



Source: Statistics Canada, National Population Health Survey.

Young women are also much more likely than their male counterparts to smoke. In 1998–99, 32% of females aged 15 to 19, compared with 23% of males that age, smoked either on a daily basis or occasionally. There is an even wider gap in the smoking rates of males and females aged 18 to 19. Indeed, 44% of all females in this age range smoked either daily or occasionally that year, compared with 30% of males in this age range. Females aged 15 to 17 were also more likely than their male counterparts to smoke, although the gap was not as large: 23% for females versus 18% for males.

As well, most of the recent increase in the smoking rate among young people has been accounted for by females. Between 1990 and 1998, for example, the share of female 15- to 19-year-olds who smoke rose by over ten percentage points from 21% to 32%. In contrast, the proportion of males aged 15 to 19 smoking rose by only two percentage points in the same period, climbing from 21% to 23%. In fact, females aged 15 to 19 are now considerably more likely to smoke than their male counterparts whereas the opposite was the case in the early 1970s. (Chart 3.22)

Drinking

Close to half of all young people consume alcohol on a regular basis, that is, they have at least one drink per month. In 1998–99, 48% of people aged 15 to 19 were regular drinkers. The proportion of young people who drink, though, is generally below that of older age groups. Indeed, the percentage of young people aged 15 to 19 who drink regularly was the lowest of all age groups except individuals aged 65 and over. That year, for example, 68% of 20- to 24-year-olds drank on a regular basis, as did 60% or more of those between the ages of 25 and 54 and 55% of those aged 55 to 64. (Chart 3.24)

In contrast to smoking, where young women are more likely than their male counterparts to smoke, young men are more likely than young women to drink regularly. In 1998–99, 51% of males aged 15 to 19 drank at least one drink per month, compared with 44% of females in this age range.⁶

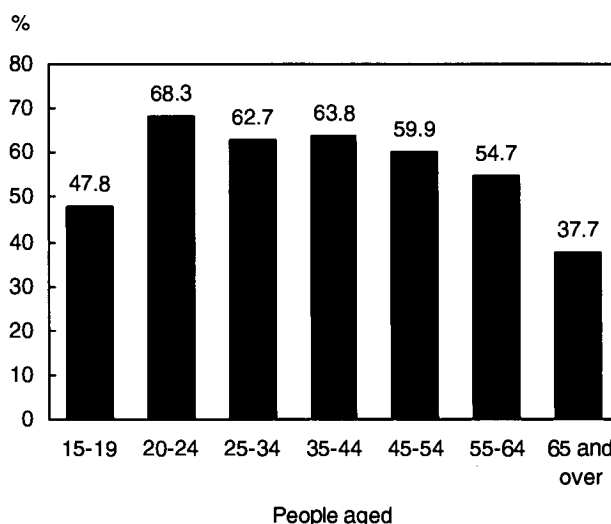
While relatively few young people drink regularly, a substantial share of people in this age range drink heavily. In fact, in 1998–99, 5% of all 15- to 19-year-olds averaged over two drinks per day. Indeed, that year, almost one in 10 (9%) of males in this age range were classified as a heavy drinker.

Leisure-time physical activity

Young people tend to be more physically active than those in older age ranges. In 1998–99, 39% of people aged 15 to 19 were considered active, compared with 29% of those aged 20 to 24, and around 20% or less of those in groups over the age of 25. (Chart 3.25)

Chart 3.24

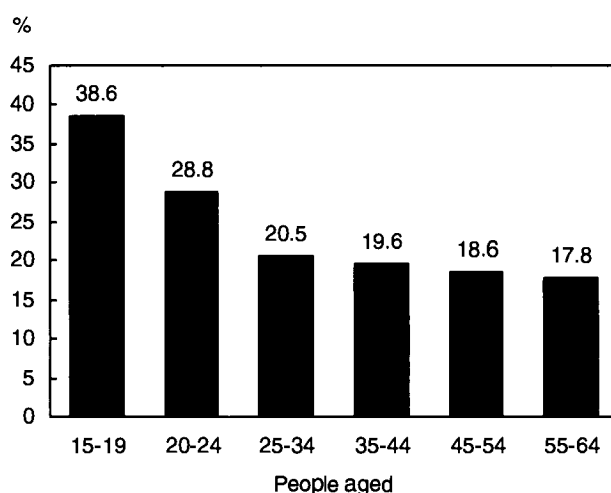
Percentage of the population consuming alcohol at least once a month, by age, 1998–99



Source: Statistics Canada, National Population Health Survey.

Chart 3.25

Percentage of the population reporting high levels of leisure-time physical activity, by age, 1998–99

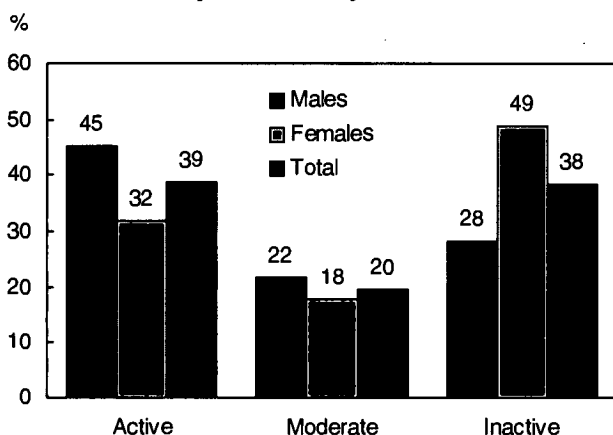


Source: Statistics Canada, National Population Health Survey.

While young people are generally more active than their older counterparts, about as many young people are characterized by very low levels of leisure-time physical activity as are physically active. In 1998–99, 39% of youths aged 15 to 19 were active, 38% were considered inactive, while 20% were moderately active. (Chart 3.26)

Chart 3.26

Percentage of people aged 15 to 19 by level of leisure-time physical activity, 1998–99



Source: Statistics Canada, National Population Health Survey.

As well, young men are more likely than their female counterparts to be active in their leisure time. In 1998–99, 45% of males aged 15 to 19 were active, compared with 32% of females of that age. In fact, almost half of all 15- to 19-year-old females (49%) were considered physically inactive that year.

¹ Depression scores were based on direct responses to 27 questions and a scoring algorithm that established the probability of the subject having suffered a major depressive episode. Individuals were classified as depressed if they had a 90% probability of having experienced such an episode.

² A hospital separation refers to the discharge or death of an in-patient. The number of separations does not equal the number of patients, since an individual may be hospitalized more than once.

³ Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 84E0209XPB.

⁴ Source: First Nations and Inuit Regional Health Survey, National Report, 1999.

⁵ Source: Health Canada, Division of AIDS/HIV Epidemiology.

⁶ Source: Statistics Canada, National Population Health Survey.

⁷ Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 91-213-XPB.

⁸ Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information, Hospital Morbidity Database.

Table 3.1
Percentage of the population, by self-reported health status and age, 1998–99

	Self-reported health status					Total
	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor	
	%					
People aged						
Under 15	60.8	27.8	10.2	1.0	F	100.0
15-19	34.4	44.9	18.6	F	F	100.0
20-34	31.2	42.5	21.7	3.9	F	100.0
35-54	25.7	40.8	25.6	6.2	1.6	100.0
55-65	18.7	34.4	31.4	11.9	3.6	100.0
65-74	12.0	34.1	34.4	15.3	4.2	100.0
75-84	10.5	27.9	32.9	20.3	8.4	100.0
65 and over	11.0	31.0	35.0	17.0	6.0	100.0
85 and over	F	21.6	48.4	15.0	F	100.0
Total	31.9	37.2	23.0	6.2	1.7	100.0

Source: Statistics Canada, National Population Health Survey.

Table 3.2
Percentage of the population, by selected measures of psychological well-being and age, 1998–99

	Percentage reporting		
	High self-esteem ¹	High sense of mastery ²	High sense of coherence ³
	%		
People aged			
12-14	35.9	7.1	
15-19	40.7	18.0	4.6
20-24	46.4	22.6	15.5
25-34	50.5	24.5	23.9
35-44	52.7	22.9	27.2
45-54	53.6	22.8	30.1
55-64	48.8	19.3	33.4
65-74	46.7	17.0	43.3
75 and over	44.1	15.9	38.5
Total	48.6	20.7	25.3

¹ Self-esteem refers to the general sense of self-worth as a person.

² Mastery measures the extent to which individuals feel their life is under their own control.

³ Sense of coherence refers to the view of the world that events are comprehensible, challenges are manageable, and life is meaningful.

Source: Statistics Canada, National Population Health Survey.

Table 3.3
Death rates of people aged 15 to 19, by cause, 1991 and 1998

	Males		Females		Total	
	1991	1998	1991	1998	1991	1998
Per 100,000 population						
Causes of death						
Accidents						
Motor vehicle accidents	34.1	20.7	13.2	10.8	23.9	15.9
All other accidents	15.1	11.2	3.8	2.7	9.6	7.1
Total accidents	49.2	31.9	17.0	13.6	33.5	23.0
Suicides	23.0	18.2	4.0	6.4	13.8	12.4
Neoplasms	5.3	4.1	3.9	2.7	4.6	3.4
Respiratory diseases	1.6	1.1	1.1	0.7	1.4	0.9
Diseases of the circulatory system	2.3	1.3	1.8	1.6	2.1	1.4
Congenital anomalies	1.7	1.6	0.7	0.6	1.2	1.1
All other causes	13.6	11.0	10.0	5.5	11.9	8.3
Total	96.8	69.4	38.5	31.1	68.4	50.8
Total deaths	913	730	345	310	1,258	1,040

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 84F0209XPB.

Table 3.4
Reported sexually transmitted diseases, by age, 1991 to 1999

	Males						Females					
	Gonococcal infections		Chlamydia infections		Syphilis ¹		Gonococcal infections		Chlamydia infections		Syphilis ¹	
	1991	1999	1991	1999	1993	1999	1991	1999	1991	1999	1993	1999
Per 100,000 population												
People aged												
15-19	58.5	31.8	235.5	186.7	0.3	0.1	115.0	79.5	1,550.0	1,138.9	1.2	0.8
20-24	106.8	70.0	480.2	446.9	1.8	1.2	92.0	63.1	1,386.7	1,066.0	2.2	1.2
25-29	69.9	55.8	208.8	237.3	1.4	1.0	36.4	28.1	430.5	387.1	1.0	1.3
30-39	33.4	42.3	66.0	86.4	1.0	1.4	13.0	7.7	109.5	94.9	0.6	0.8
40-59	10.7	12.6	13.6	17.5	0.9	1.0	2.9	1.7	16.8	14.8	0.3	0.5
60 and over	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.2	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.1	2.5	0.7	0.2	0.1

¹ Refers to infectious syphilis, which includes early symptomatic, both primary and secondary, and early latent syphilis. Data for syphilis only available for 1993.
Source: Health Canada, Health Protection Branch, Division of STD Control/BCDE/LCDC.

Table 3.5
New cases of AIDS, by age and year of diagnosis, 1989 to 2000

	1989-90	1991-95	1996-97	1998-2000 ¹	Total	As a % of all cases
People aged						
0-14	72	91	27	7	197	1.1
15-19	29	21	6	2	58	0.3
20-29	1,275	1,244	189	97	2,805	16.3
30-39	2,655	3,705	773	412	7,545	44.0
40-49	1,521	2,310	473	324	4,628	27.0
50 and over	644	921	243	124	1,932	11.3
Total	6,196	8,292	1,711	966	17,165	100.0

¹ The number of AIDS cases diagnosed between January 1, 2000 and June 30, 2000 exclude cases for the province of Ontario due to unavailability of data at the time of going to press. Data by age and sex were not available for the province of Alberta for the first six months of 2000 and are not included.
Source: Health Canada, Division of AIDS/HIV Epidemiology.

Table 3.6
Percentage of the population who have ever been tested for HIV or AIDS, by age, 1996–97

	Men	Women	Total
	%		
People aged			
18-19	9	12	11
20-24	20	25	22
25-34	22	28	25
35-44	19	18	18
45-54	12	10	11
55-64	7	6	7
65-74	5	3	4
75 and over	3	1	2
Total	15	15	15

Source: Statistics Canada, National Population Health Survey.

Table 3.7
Live birth rates, by age, 1961 to 1998

	Per 1,000 females aged						
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49
1961	58.2	233.6	219.2	144.9	81.1	28.5	2.4
1962	55.0	231.6	214.6	143.1	77.1	27.6	2.1
1963	53.1	226.0	210.6	140.3	75.8	25.9	2.1
1964	50.2	212.8	203.1	134.9	72.0	25.1	2.1
1965	49.3	188.6	181.9	119.4	65.9	22.0	2.0
1966	48.2	169.1	163.5	103.3	57.5	19.1	1.7
1967	45.2	161.4	152.6	91.8	50.9	15.9	1.5
1968	43.0	152.6	148.7	86.3	44.8	13.8	1.4
1969	42.2	147.7	149.8	85.0	42.6	12.5	1.1
1970	42.8	143.3	147.2	81.8	39.0	11.3	0.9
1971	40.1	134.4	142.0	77.3	33.6	9.4	0.6
1972	38.5	119.8	137.1	72.1	28.9	7.8	0.6
1973	37.2	117.7	131.6	67.1	25.7	6.4	0.4
1974	35.3	113.1	131.1	66.6	23.0	5.5	0.4
1975	34.8	108.4	128.8	64.2	21.4	4.8	0.4
1976	33.0	104.5	126.4	63.8	20.9	4.3	0.3
1977	31.5	102.9	125.5	65.4	20.2	3.6	0.3
1978	29.3	98.9	123.3	65.5	18.8	3.5	0.3
1979	27.4	97.5	125.4	67.1	19.1	3.3	0.2
1980	27.0	95.2	124.1	66.6	19.0	3.0	0.2
1981	25.9	91.4	123.2	66.7	19.1	3.2	0.2
1982	26.1	90.5	120.4	67.3	19.9	3.1	0.2
1983	24.6	88.1	119.9	69.1	20.2	3.0	0.2
1984	24.0	84.9	121.1	71.5	21.2	2.9	0.1
1985	23.3	81.5	120.7	72.4	21.6	3.0	0.1
1986	23.0	78.7	119.0	72.5	22.3	3.1	0.1
1987	22.8	76.1	116.7	73.2	23.2	3.3	0.2
1988	23.0	76.6	117.8	75.5	24.7	3.6	0.2
1989	24.6	78.5	119.4	79.6	26.0	3.7	0.1
1990	25.5	79.2	122.6	83.5	27.7	3.8	0.1
1991	26.0	77.5	120.3	83.6	28.3	3.9	0.2
1992	25.7	75.0	119.4	85.3	28.9	4.2	0.1
1993	24.9	73.0	114.7	84.9	29.5	4.4	0.2
1994	25.1	72.2	114.0	86.0	30.4	4.7	0.1
1995	24.5	70.5	109.7	86.8	31.3	4.8	0.2
1996	22.3	68.4	109.1	87.0	32.6	5.1	0.2
1997	20.2	64.1	103.9	84.4	32.5	5.2	0.2
1998	20.0	63.2	101.6	84.6	32.8	5.2	0.2

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 91-213-XPB.

Chapter 4: Education

Most young people in school

The large majority of youth in Canada are going to school, that is, they are either in elementary or secondary school or are attending a postsecondary institution such as a university or college.¹ In 1998–99, 74% of all 15- to 19-year-olds were enrolled in some form of educational program on a full- or part-time basis. (Table 4.1)

As well, the share of people aged 15 to 19 currently enrolled in some form of educational institution is about the same as at the beginning of the 1990s, when 73% of people in this age range were in school. This overall stability, however, masks considerable fluctuation in enrolment rates among young people over the course of the past decade. In particular, the proportion of young people enrolled in an educational program has been falling since the mid-1990s. Indeed, the share of people aged 15 to 19 enrolled in some form of educational program declined from a high of 78% in the 1995–96 academic year to 74% in 1998–99. This occurred after enrolment rates among young people rose rather dramatically in the early part of the decade.

The large majority of youth going to school are enrolled on a full-time basis. In 1998–99, 73% of all 15- to 19-year-olds were full-time students, while less than 1% were registered part-time. Again, there has been little overall change in these figures since the early 1990s, although there was considerable fluctuation in the intervening years. The proportion of people aged 15 to 19 enrolled full-time rose from 73% in 1990–91 to a high of 77% in 1995–96, before dropping back to 73% again by 1998–99.²

Among 15- to 19-year-olds, those of younger ages are more likely than their older counterparts to be enrolled in some form of educational program. Indeed, almost all those aged 15 (94%) or 16 (91%) in 1998–99 were enrolled in some form of educational program, whereas this was the case for only about half of those aged 19. That year, just 47% of 19-year-olds were either full- or part-time students in some formal education program, while the figures were 58% among those aged 18 and 79% among 17-year-olds. (Table 4.2)

As well, the large majority of youths are enrolled at the elementary or secondary level. In 1998–99, 60% of all those aged 15 to 19 were in elementary or secondary school, while 8% were in college and 6% attended university.

Not surprisingly, though, the type of institution in which young people are enrolled varies depending on their age. In 1998–99, virtually all those aged 15 (94%) or 16 (91%) were attending either elementary or secondary schools, as

were the majority of 17-year-olds (70%). In contrast, the largest shares of 19-year-olds in school were enrolled in either university (20%) or college (18%) programs, although 9% were still at the non-postsecondary level.

Young women more likely than men to be in school

Young women are somewhat more likely than their male counterparts to be enrolled in an educational institution. In 1998–99, 75% of females aged 15 to 19, versus 72% of males in this age range, were in school on either a full- or part-time basis. (Table 4.1)

As well, the gap between the school attendance rates for young women and men has increased in the past decade. Indeed, the share of females aged 15 to 19 attending school was almost two percentage points higher in 1998–99 than in 1990–91, whereas the figure for young men declined by almost a percentage point in the same period.

Almost all the difference between the overall enrolment rates of male and female youths, however, is accounted for by those in older age ranges. In 1998–99, for example, 52% of females aged 19, compared with 43% of males this age, were enrolled in some form of educational institution on a full- or part-time basis. Females aged 18 were also somewhat more likely than males at that age to be in school (60% versus 56%), while there was little difference in the enrolment rates of females and males aged 15 to 17. (Table 4.2)

The difference in the enrolment rates of male and female youths, particularly among those in older age ranges, reflects the fact that females in this age range are considerably more likely than their male counterparts to be attending a postsecondary institution. For example, in 1998–99, 45% of all 19-year-old females, versus just 32% of comparable males, were full- or part-time students at either a university or college. Indeed, 17% of all 15- to 19-year-old females were in either university or college that year, compared with only 12% of their male counterparts.

Enrolment rates vary across the country

Young people aged 15 to 19 in Ontario, Quebec and the Atlantic provinces are generally more likely than their counterparts in the Western provinces to be enrolled in some form of educational program. In 1996, 86% of people aged 15 to 19 in Quebec were either in full- or part-time studies, while the figure was 84% in both Ontario and Nova Scotia, 80% in both Newfoundland and Labrador and Prince Edward Island, and 79% in New Brunswick. In contrast, the share of

youth enrolled in an educational program in the four Western provinces ranged from 78% in British Columbia to 75% in Manitoba. (Table 4.3)

People in this age range in the territories are also somewhat less likely than their counterparts in the rest of the country to be enrolled in an educational program. In 1996, 74% of those aged 15 to 19 living in the Yukon, along with 73% of those in the Northwest Territories and just 61% of those in Nunavut, were either full- or part-time students, compared with a national figure of over 80%.

As well, among those aged 15 to 19, females are somewhat more likely than males to be enrolled in some form of educational program in all provinces. In contrast, males aged 15 to 19 living in the territories are more likely than their female counterparts to be in school.

Fewer early school leavers

While the large majority of 15- to 19-year-olds will eventually graduate from at least high school, over one in 10 will drop out; that is, by the time they reach the age of 20, they will neither have completed high school nor be currently working to complete their high school education. As of 1999, 12% of all 20-year-olds fell into this category. (Table 4.4)

It is significant to note, though, that a small proportion of those officially classified as drop-outs or early school leavers (that is, those who have neither completed high school nor are currently working to complete their high school education) are actually enrolled in a postsecondary program, including university, CEGEP or community college, or trade or vocational programs. Indeed, almost one in 10 of 20-year-olds categorized as an early school leaver in 1999, was enrolled in some type of postsecondary educational program.³ What this suggests is that the high school drop-out rate is fluid, decreasing over time as individuals pursue second chance opportunities in the education systems across the country.

The proportion of young people currently classified as early school leavers, though, is considerably lower than it was in the early 1990s. In 1999, 12% of all 20-year-olds were no longer in school and had not completed high school, down from 18% in 1991.

Males are substantially more likely than females to leave school early. As of 1999, 15% of 20-year-old males, compared with only 9% of their female counterparts, had not completed high school and were no longer in school. The proportions of both male and female youths who are early school leavers, though, are both currently substantially less than in 1991 when the figures were 22% for 20-year-old males and 14% for females.

The share of young people who leave school early also varies significantly across the country. In 1999, 16% of 20-year-olds in both Prince Edward Island and Quebec had neither

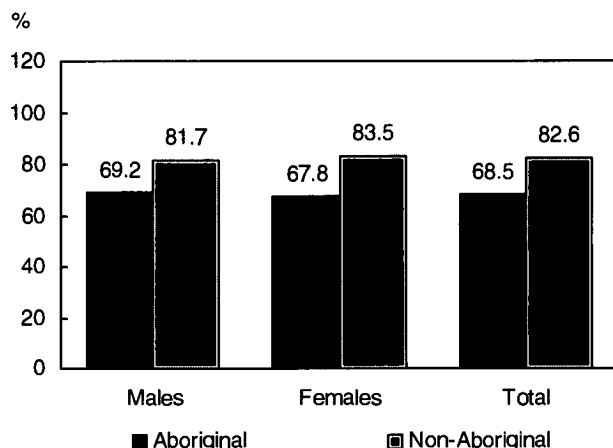
completed high school nor were enrolled in any educational program, while the figure was 15% in Manitoba and 13% in both Alberta and British Columbia. In contrast, in the remaining provinces, the figure ranged from 11% in Newfoundland and Labrador to just 7% in Saskatchewan.

Aboriginal youth less likely to be in school

Young Aboriginal people aged 15 to 19 are less likely than their non-Aboriginal counterparts to be registered in some form of educational program. In 1996, just 69% of those aged 15 to 19 identifying themselves as North American Indian, Métis, or Inuit were attending school on a full- or part-time basis, compared with 83% of the rest of the population in this age range. (Chart 4.1)

Chart 4.1

Enrolment rates¹ of people aged 15 to 19, by Aboriginal status, 1996



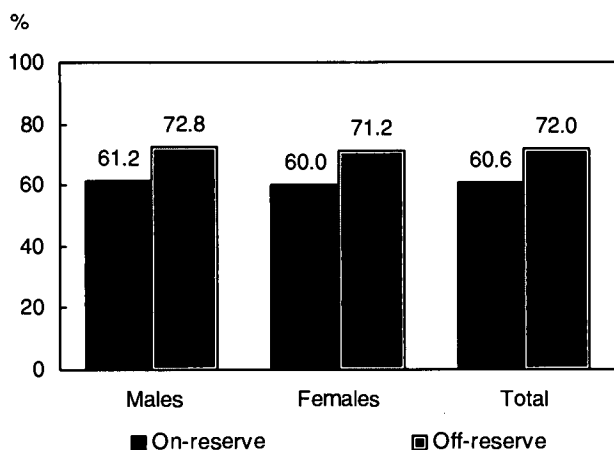
¹ Includes full- and part-time enrolments at elementary/secondary, college and university levels, but excludes enrolments in trade/vocational and apprenticeship programs.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

In contrast to the overall youth population, however, Aboriginal males aged 15 to 19 are somewhat more likely than their female counterparts to be in school. In 1996, 69% of Aboriginal males aged 15 to 19 were enrolled in some form of education program, versus 68% of Aboriginal females in this age group. Both Aboriginal males and females aged 15 to 19, however, are considerably less likely than their non-Aboriginal counterparts to be in school.

As well, Aboriginal youth living in an off-reserve setting are considerably more likely to be going to school than those living on-reserve. In 1996, 72% of Aboriginal people aged 15 to 19 living off-reserve were registered in some form of educational program, compared with just 61% of those living on-reserve. (Chart 4.2)

Chart 4.2

Enrolment rates¹ of Aboriginal youth aged 15 to 19, by on/off-reserve status, 1996

¹ Includes full- and part-time enrolments at elementary/secondary, college and university levels, but excludes enrolments in trade/vocational and apprenticeship programs.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

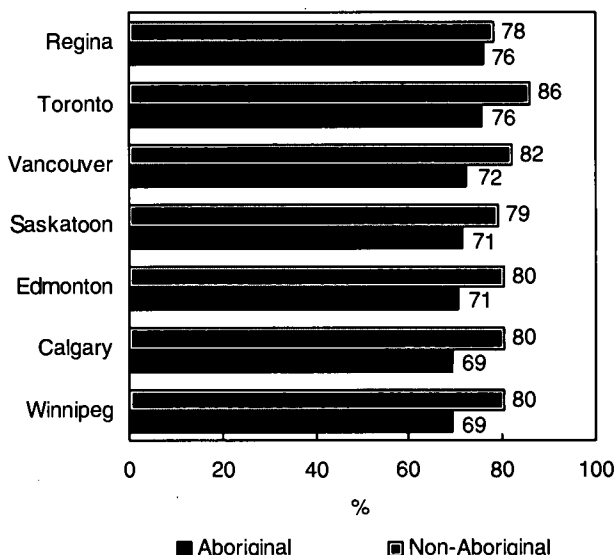
Aboriginal youth living in the Prairie provinces and Quebec are somewhat less likely than those residing in other provinces to be in school. In 1996, just 63% of Aboriginal people aged 15 to 19 in Manitoba were enrolled in some formal educational program, as were 67% of those in Alberta, and 68% in Saskatchewan and Quebec. At the same time, the enrolment rate among Aboriginal youth was relatively low in Nunavut (60%), but was higher in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories, in both of which 72% of Aboriginal youth were enrolled in some form of educational program. (Table 4.5)

Aboriginal young people living in a number of major urban areas are somewhat more likely than their counterparts living elsewhere to be in school. In 1996, 76% of Aboriginal people aged 15 to 19 in both Toronto and Regina, 72% of those in Vancouver and 71% of those in Saskatoon and Edmonton were in school on either a full- or part-time basis. This compared with less than 70% of Aboriginal youth in all other parts of Canada. Aboriginal people aged 15 to 19 living in these metropolitan areas, though, were considerably less likely than their non-Aboriginal counterparts to be enrolled in some form of educational program. (Chart 4.3)

Many school leavers among Aboriginal youth

A relatively large proportion of Aboriginal people aged 15 to 19 are considered early school leavers. In 1996, for example, 27% of all Aboriginal youth in this age range were early school leavers,¹ compared with only 12% of the non-Aboriginal population in this age range. (Chart 4.4)

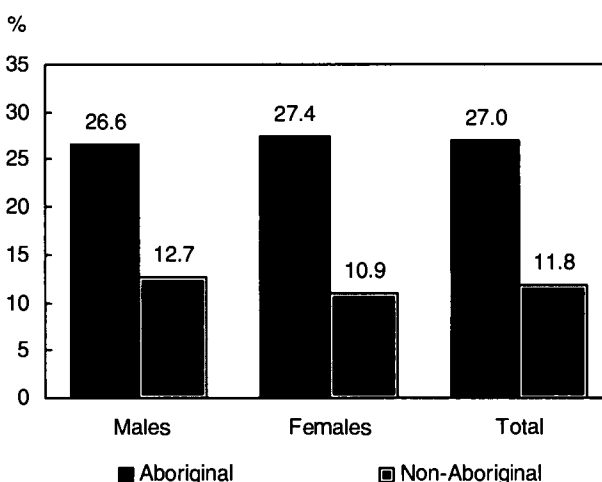
Chart 4.3

Enrolment rates¹ of people aged 15 to 19 in selected urban areas, by Aboriginal status, 1996

¹ Includes full- and part-time enrolments at elementary/secondary, college and university levels, but excludes enrolments in trade/vocational and apprenticeship programs.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Chart 4.4

Early school leavers¹ as a percentage of people aged 15 to 19, by Aboriginal status, 1996

¹ Includes those who have not completed high school and are no longer in high school, but may be in a post-secondary educational program.

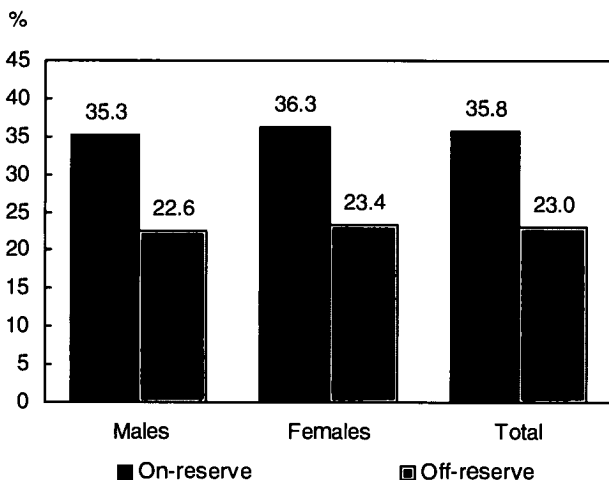
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

In contrast to the overall youth population, among whom males have a higher drop-out rate than females, Aboriginal females aged 15 to 19 are slightly more likely than Aboriginal males in this age range to be early school leavers. Both Aboriginal males and females aged 15 to 19, though, are considerably more likely than their non-Aboriginal counterparts to not have completed high school and not to be currently enrolled in school.

Early school leaver rates among Aboriginal youth are particularly high among those living on-reserve. In 1996, 36% of all Aboriginal people aged 15 to 19 living on-reserve had neither completed high school nor were enrolled in some form of educational program, compared with 23% of those living off-reserve. (Chart 4.5)

Chart 4.5

Early school leavers¹ as a percentage of Aboriginal people aged 15 to 19, by on/off-reserve status, 1996



¹ Includes those who have not completed high school and are no longer in high school, but may be in a post-secondary educational program.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

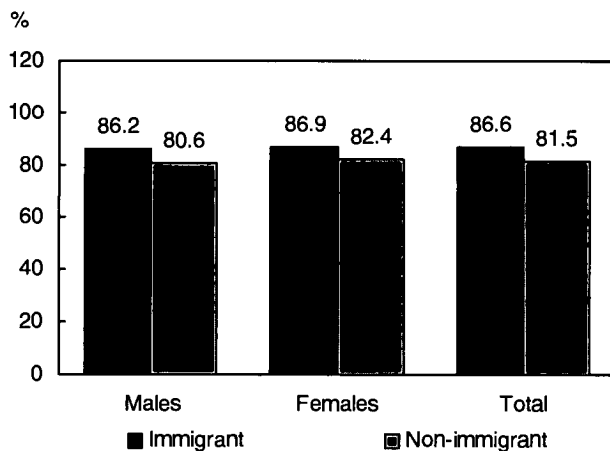
Enrolment rates high among immigrant youth

Immigrant youths are relatively more likely than youth born in Canada to be enrolled in some form of educational program. In 1996, 87% of immigrants aged 15 to 19 were attending school on either a full- or part-time basis, versus 82% of their Canadian-born counterparts. (Chart 4.6)

As with the overall youth population, immigrant females aged 15 to 19 are somewhat more likely than their male counterparts to be attending school. The difference between the enrolment rates of immigrant females and males aged 15 to 19 in 1996, though, was less than half that for non-immigrant

Chart 4.6

Enrolment rates¹ of people aged 15 to 19, by immigration status, 1996



¹ Includes full- and part-time enrolments at elementary/secondary, college and university levels, but excludes enrolments in trade/vocational and apprenticeship programs.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

females and males in this age range. Both immigrant males and females aged 15 to 19, however, are considerably more likely than their non-immigrant counterparts to be going to school.

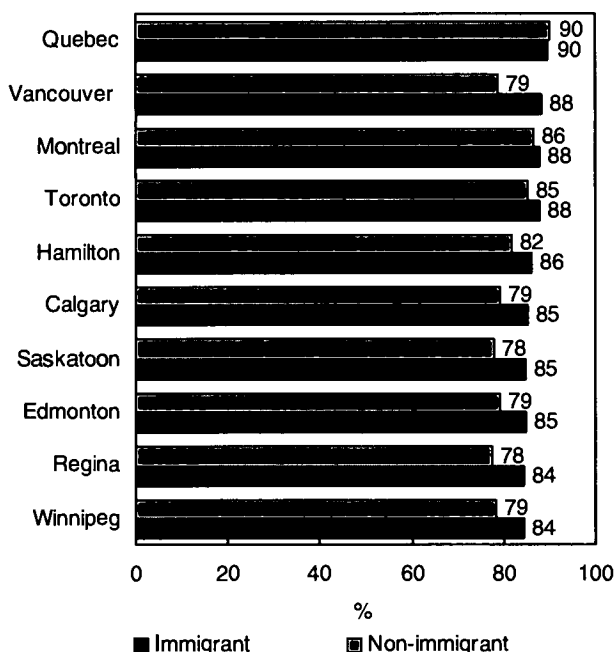
Among immigrant youth, those in Quebec, Ontario or British Columbia are the most likely to be registered in some form of educational program. In 1996, 88% of young people aged 15 to 19 living in Quebec and 87% of those in both Ontario and British Columbia were attending school either full-time or part-time, while the figure in the remaining provinces ranged from 86% in Newfoundland and Labrador to 80% in Manitoba. (Table 4.6)

Even larger shares of immigrant youths living in most large metropolitan areas are attending school. In fact, in 1996, 90% of all immigrants aged 15 to 19 in Quebec were registered in some form of educational program, as were 88% in the metropolitan areas of Vancouver, Montreal and Toronto, 86% in Hamilton and 85% in Calgary, Edmonton and Saskatoon. (Chart 4.7)

Not surprisingly, given their high enrolment rates, relatively few immigrant youth are classified as school drop-outs. In 1996, just 9% of immigrant young people aged 15 to 19 had neither graduated from high school nor were enrolled in some educational program, compared with 13% of their Canadian-born counterparts.⁴ As with non-immigrant youth, though, immigrant males aged 15 to 19 were more likely to have dropped out of school than immigrant females in this age range. (Chart 4.8)

Chart 4.7

Enrolment rates¹ of people aged 15 to 19 in selected urban areas, by immigration status, 1996

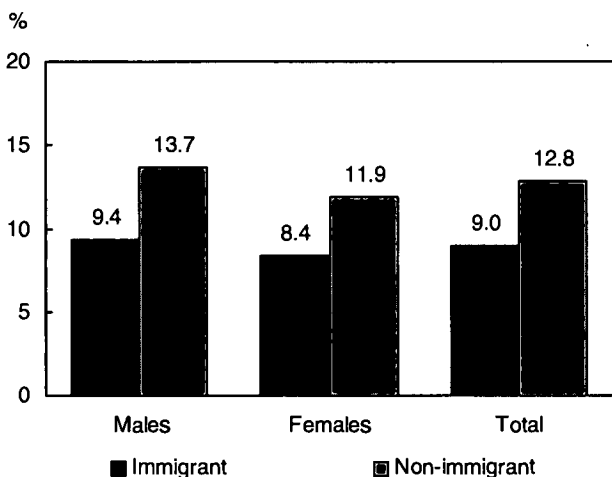


¹ Includes full- and part-time enrolments at elementary/secondary, college and university levels, but excludes enrolments in trade/vocational and apprenticeship programs.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Chart 4.8

Early school leavers¹ as a percentage of people aged 15 to 19, by immigration status, 1996



¹ Includes those who have not completed high school and are no longer in high school, but may be in a post-secondary educational program.

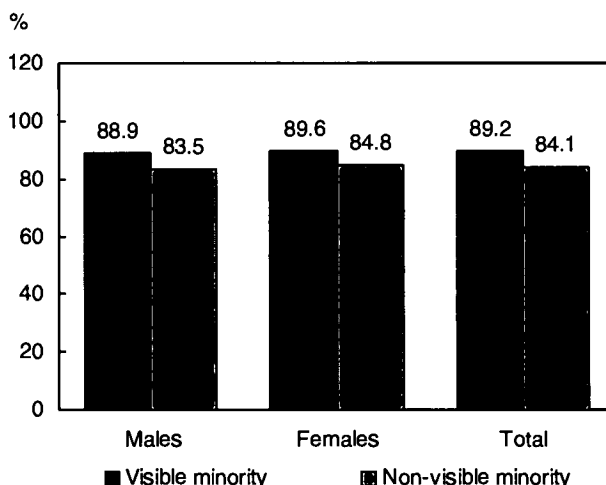
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Relatively large majority of visible minority youth in school

Young people who are part of the visible minority community in Canada are also relatively more likely than other youth to be enrolled in some form of educational program. In 1996, 89% of visible minority youth were attending school either full- or part-time, versus 84% of their counterparts in the rest of the population. (Chart 4.9)

Chart 4.9

Enrolment rates¹ of people aged 15 to 19, by visible minority status, 1996



¹ Includes full- and part-time enrolments at elementary/secondary, college and university levels, but excludes enrolments in trade/vocational and apprenticeship programs.

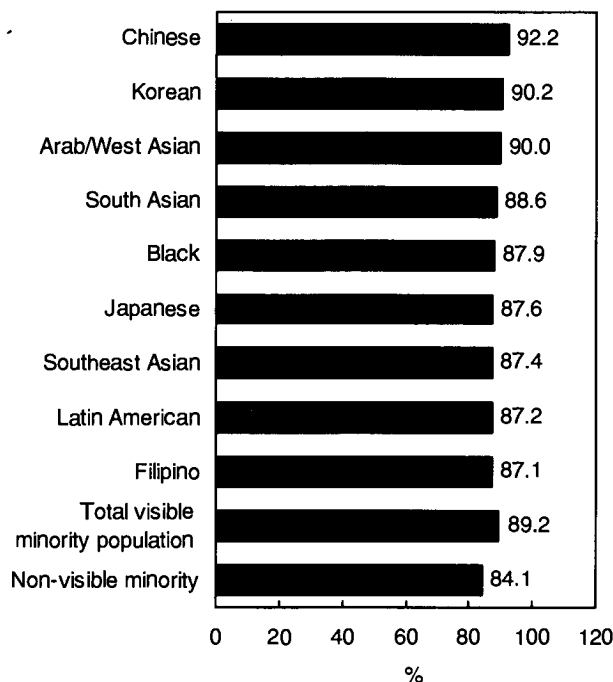
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Enrolment rates are also relatively high among all major visible minority groups in Canada. In 1996, 92% of all Chinese youth aged 15 to 19 were attending school either full- or part-time, while the figures for the other major visible minority groups ranged from 90% among both Korean and Arab or West Asian youth to 87% among Latin American, Filipino and Southeast Asian young people. (Chart 4.10)

Computer usage

Not surprisingly, young people in Canada are generally more likely to use a home computer than their older counterparts. In fact, in 2000, almost all 15- to 19-year-olds used a home computer at least once. That year, 96% of all those aged 15 to 19 had used a home computer in the 12 months prior to the survey, whereas among groups over age 20, the figure ranged from 91% of those aged 20 to 24 to just 13% among seniors. (Chart 4.11)

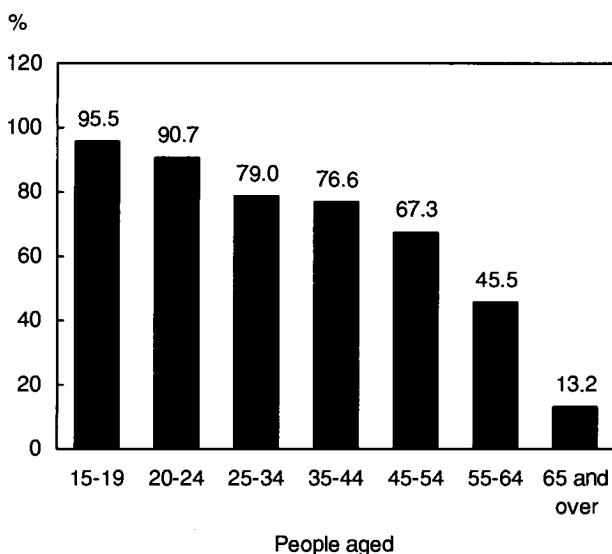
Chart 4.10

Enrolment rates¹ of visible minority people aged 15 to 19, by group, 1996

¹ Includes full- and part-time enrolments at elementary/secondary, college and university levels, but excludes enrolments in trade/vocational and apprenticeship programs.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Chart 4.11

Percentage of the population who used a home computer, by age, 2000

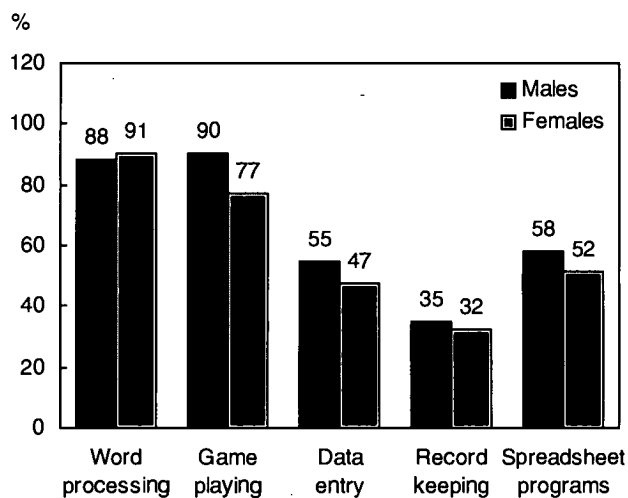
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

One reason for the high rates of computer usage among people aged 15 to 19 is that most of those in this age range have access to a computer either at home or at school. In 2000, 67% of all 15- to 19-year-olds had a computer in their home, while 89% reported they used a computer at school within the 12 months prior to the survey.⁵

There is surprisingly little variation between the shares of young women and men who use a computer. Indeed, in 2000, female youth aged 15 to 19 were actually slightly more likely than their male counterparts to have used a computer in the 12 months prior to the survey: 96% versus 95%.

There are, however, differences in the types of computer activities engaged in by male and female youth. Young men, for example, are much more likely than their female counterparts to report using computers to play games, to do data entry or to work on spreadsheet programs. In 2000, for example, 90% of male computer users aged 15 to 19 used the computer to play games, compared with 77% of their female counterparts. At the same time, 55% of male computer users in this age range, versus 47% of females, did data entry. On the other hand, female computer users aged 15 to 19 were slightly more likely than their male counterparts to use a computer for word processing that year: 91% versus 88%. (Chart 4.12)

Chart 4.12

Percentage of computer users aged 15 to 19, by type of computer activity, 2000

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

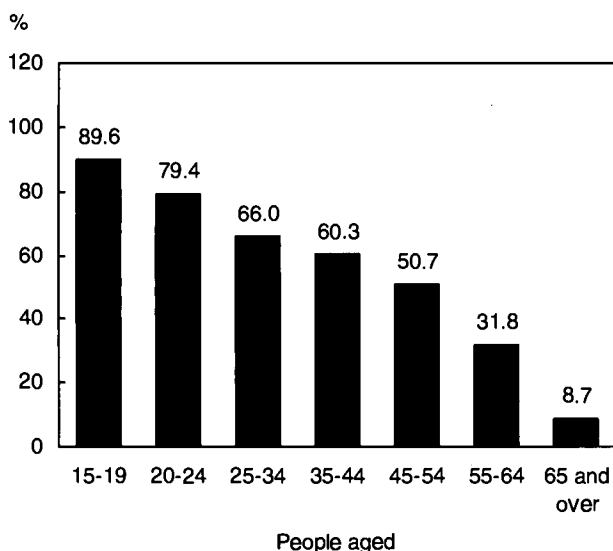
Overall, computer users aged 15 to 19 are considerably more likely than those in older age groups to do word processing and to play computer games. In contrast, young computer users are somewhat less likely than their older counterparts to do data entry or record keeping.⁵

Young people also heavy Internet users

Young people aged 15 to 19 are also generally more likely than those in older age ranges to use the Internet. In fact, in 2000, 90% of all those aged 15 to 19 said they used the Internet either at home or somewhere else in the previous 12 months, whereas figures in older age groups ranged from 79% of those aged 20 to 24 to just 9% among seniors. (Chart 4.13)

Chart 4.13

Percentage of the population who used the Internet, by age, 2000



Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

As with overall computer use, females and males aged 15 to 19 are about as likely to use the Internet. Indeed, in 2000, 90% of both females and males aged 15 to 19 used the Internet in the 12 months prior to the survey. This contrasts with older age ranges, where men are somewhat more likely than women to be Internet users.⁵

Young people also generally spend more time on the Internet than people in older age groups. In 2000, 19% of youth aged 15 to 19 reported they spent 14 hours or more in the week prior to the survey on the Internet. This was the same figure reported by those aged 20 to 24 and well above figures for those in groups over age 25. (Table 4.7)

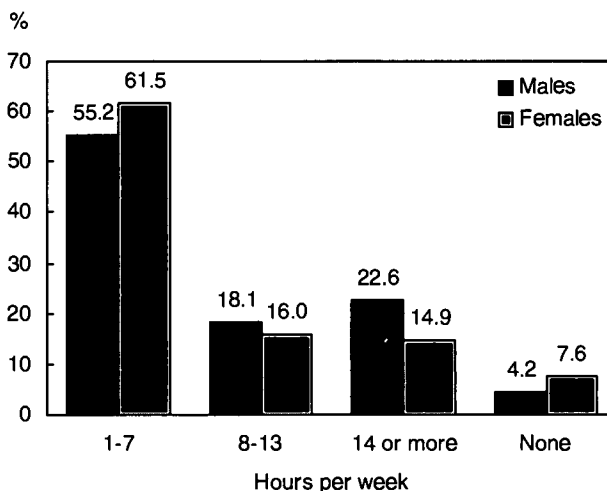
At the same time, though, the majority of young people still spend between one and seven hours per week on the Internet. In 2000, 58% of youths aged 15 to 19 spent seven hours or less on the Internet in the week prior to the survey, while 17% averaged between 8 and 13 hours per week.

Among people aged 15 to 19, though, males tend to spend, on average, considerably more time on the Internet than

females. In 2000, for example, 23% of male Internet users aged 15 to 19 averaged over 14 hours per week on the Internet, compared with only 15% of their female counterparts. The majority of both male (55%) and female (62%) Internet users in this age range, though, averaged seven hours or less a week on the Internet. (Chart 4.14)

Chart 4.14

Internet users aged 15 to 19, by average hours per week spent on the Internet, 2000



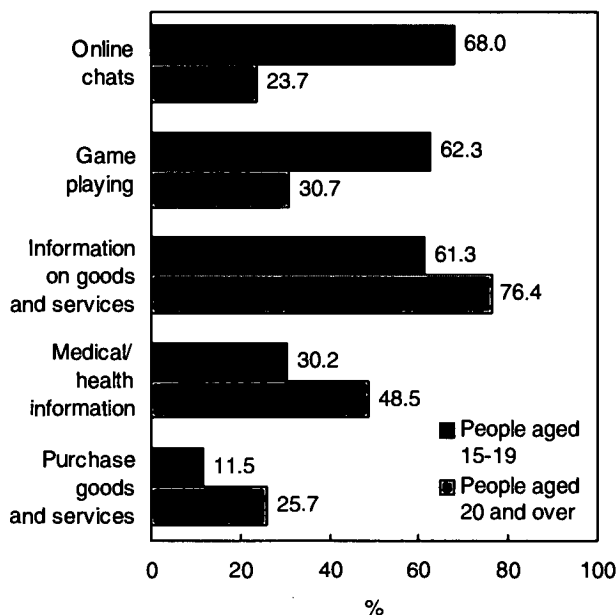
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Online chats and game playing are the Internet activities young people engage in most often. In fact, in 2000, 68% of all Internet users aged 15 to 19 participated in online chats, while 62% played games. At the same time, 61% accessed information on goods and services, while 30% got information on health and 12% actually made online purchases. (Chart 4.15)

The Internet usage pattern of young people, in fact, differs quite substantially from that of people in older age groups. Indeed, in 2000, Internet users aged 15 to 19 were more than twice as likely to chat online and to play games as were those over the age of 20. In contrast, young Internet users were less likely to get their information online or to make purchases electronically.

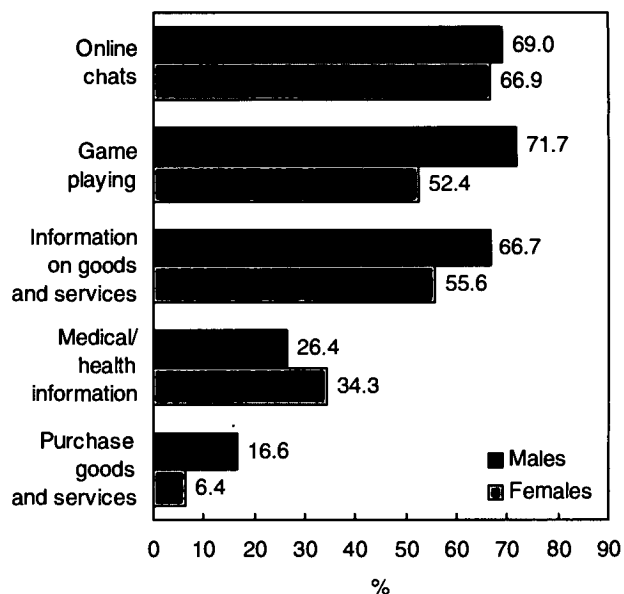
There are also differences in the ways male and female youth use the Internet. In 2000, young male Internet users were more likely than their female counterparts to play games, access information on goods and services, and purchase goods. Young women, on the other hand, were more likely to access health information. At the same time, there was almost no difference in the shares of young men and women participating in online chats. (Chart 4.16)

Chart 4.15

Internet users, by type of activity, 2000

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Chart 4.16

Internet users aged 15 to 19, by type of activity, 2000

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

¹ Those in vocational or trade schools or in apprenticeship programs are not included.

² Source: Statistics Canada, Centre for Education Statistics.

³ Source: Statistics Canada, Youth in Transition Survey. For more information on this survey, see Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 81-591-XIE.

⁴ Note that these data differ from the national school drop-out figures reported previously. The national figures cited previously are from Statistics Canada's Youth in Transition Survey conducted in 1999, while these data are from the 1996 Census.

⁵ Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Table 4.1
Enrolment rates¹ of people aged 15 to 19, 1990–91 to 1998–99

	Males	Females	Total
		%	
1990–91	72.6	73.6	73.1
1991–92	74.9	77.4	76.2
1992–93	73.3	76.0	74.8
1993–94	73.6	76.2	75.8
1994–95	72.3	75.2	74.5
1995–96	75.0	77.1	77.6
1996–97	72.8	75.2	75.0
1997–98	72.4	75.2	75.1
1998–99	72.1	75.4	73.7

¹ Includes full- and part-time enrolments at elementary/secondary, college and university levels, but excludes enrolments in trade/vocational and apprenticeship programs.

Source: Statistics Canada, Centre for Education Statistics.

Table 4.2.
Enrolment rates¹ of people aged 15 to 19, by level, 1998–99

	Elementary/ secondary	College	University	Total
			%	
Males aged				
15	93.8	93.8
16	90.0	0.2	...	90.2
17	71.9	6.2	0.3	78.5
18	36.8	12.4	6.8	56.0
19	10.7	16.1	15.9	42.7
Total	60.4	7.0	4.7	72.1
Females aged				
15	94.8	94.9
16	91.9	0.2	0.0	92.1
17	68.8	9.1	0.5	78.4
18	32.2	17.9	10.2	60.4
19	7.1	20.9	23.9	51.9
Total	58.7	9.7	7.0	75.4
Total aged				
15	94.3	94.3
16	90.9	0.2	...	91.2
17	70.4	7.7	0.4	78.5
18	34.6	15.1	8.5	58.2
19	8.9	18.4	19.8	47.2
Total	59.6	8.3	5.8	73.7

¹ Includes full- and part-time enrolments at elementary/secondary, college and university levels, but excludes enrolments in trade/vocational and apprenticeship programs.

Source: Statistics Canada, Centre for Education Statistics.

Table 4.3
Enrolment rates¹ of people aged 15 to 19, by province or territory, 1996

	Males	Females	Total
		%	
Newfoundland and Labrador	78.8	82.0	80.3
Prince Edward Island	79.2	81.1	80.2
Nova Scotia	83.3	84.7	84.0
New Brunswick	78.2	80.8	79.4
Quebec	84.8	87.9	86.3
Ontario	83.3	84.0	83.6
Manitoba	74.0	75.9	74.9
Saskatchewan	74.1	77.1	75.6
Alberta	76.4	77.1	76.7
British Columbia	77.2	79.2	78.2
Yukon	75.1	72.7	73.7
Northwest Territories	74.6	72.7	73.4
Nunavut	63.2	59.0	61.2
Canada	81.2	82.9	82.0

¹ Includes full- and part-time enrolments at elementary/secondary, college and university levels, but excludes enrolments in trade/vocational and apprenticeship programs.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 4.4
Early school leavers¹ as a percentage of 20-year-olds, by province, 1999

	Males	Females	Total
		%	
Newfoundland and Labrador	15.2E	5.7E	10.5E
Prince Edward Island	22.3E	9.2E	16.4E
Nova Scotia	14.5E	5.0E	10.1E
New Brunswick	11.7E	3.7E	7.6E
Quebec	19.9	12.0	16.0
Ontario	11.2	7.8	9.5
Manitoba	15.7E	13.9E	14.8
Saskatchewan	9.9E	4.5E	7.3
Alberta	13.8E	11.1E	12.5
British Columbia	16.7E	8.9E	12.9
Canada	14.7E	9.2	12.0

¹ Includes those who have not completed high school and are no longer in high school, but may be in a postsecondary educational program.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 81-591-XIE.

Table 4.5
Percentage of people aged 15 to 19 attending school,¹ by Aboriginal status and province or territory, 1996

	Males		Females		Total	
	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal
	%					
Newfoundland and Labrador	67.3	79.2	70.5	82.2	69.1	80.7
Prince Edward Island	66.7	79.4	90.9	80.9	85.0	80.2
Nova Scotia	77.7	83.4	74.4	84.9	75.5	84.1
New Brunswick	70.2	78.4	71.8	80.9	71.4	79.6
Quebec	67.9	85.0	69.2	88.1	68.4	86.5
Ontario	74.4	83.5	71.9	84.2	73.1	83.8
Manitoba	64.1	75.8	61.9	78.6	63.1	77.1
Saskatchewan	69.2	74.9	66.6	78.9	68.0	76.8
Alberta	68.0	76.9	66.6	77.8	67.4	77.4
British Columbia	70.3	77.6	70.4	79.7	70.3	78.6
Yukon Territory	73.9	74.9	72.9	72.8	72.3	73.9
Northwest Territories	72.5	76.1	70.9	74.6	72.0	76.2
Nunavut	61.0	86.7	57.1	83.3	59.8	82.1
Canada	69.2	81.7	67.8	83.5	68.5	82.6

¹ Includes full- and part-time enrolments at elementary/secondary, college and university levels, but excludes enrolments in trade/vocational and apprenticeship programs.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 4.6
Enrolment rates¹ of people aged 15 to 19, by immigration status and province, 1996

	Immigrant			Non-immigrant		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
	%					
Newfoundland and Labrador	83.3	84.6	86.4	78.8	81.9	80.3
Prince Edward Island	88.2	70.0	81.4	79.2	81.1	80.2
Nova Scotia	83.3	86.0	84.4	83.3	84.6	83.9
New Brunswick	84.2	86.2	85.1	78.1	80.8	79.4
Quebec	88.2	87.7	88.0	84.6	87.9	86.2
Ontario	86.8	87.4	87.1	82.7	83.4	83.1
Manitoba	77.5	82.3	79.7	73.6	75.3	74.5
Saskatchewan	80.5	87.0	83.5	73.9	76.9	75.4
Alberta	82.8	84.4	83.5	75.7	76.4	76.1
British Columbia	86.3	86.8	86.6	75.3	77.7	76.5
Canada	86.2	86.9	86.5	80.6	82.5	81.5

¹ Includes full- and part-time enrolments at elementary/secondary, college and university levels, but excludes enrolments in trade/vocational and apprenticeship programs.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 4.7
Average hours per week users spent on the Internet, by age, 2000

	Hours per week on the Internet				Total
	1-7	8-13	14 or more	None	
	%				
People aged					
15-19	58.1	17.2	19.1	5.8	100.0
20-24	54.7	19.3	19.3	6.7	100.0
25-34	61.6	15.5	13.9	9.1	100.0
35-44	66.3	13.5	11.2	9.1	100.0
45-54	69.7	10.6	9.1	10.6	100.0
55-64	71.5	12.6	7.7	8.5	100.0
65 and over	67.6	14.4	11.2	7.2	100.0
Total	63.9	14.5	13.1	8.5	100.0

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

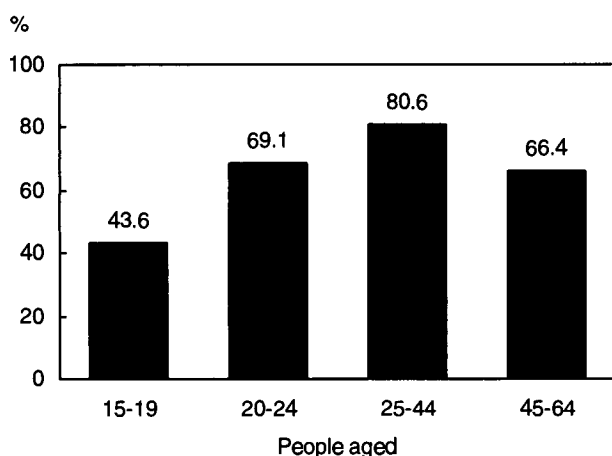
Chapter 5: Paid and Unpaid Work

Employed youths

While most young people are enrolled in some form of educational program, a substantial number also participate in the paid work force. In 2001, 44% of people aged 15 to 19 had jobs. (Chart 5.1)

Chart 5.1

Percentage of the population employed, by age, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

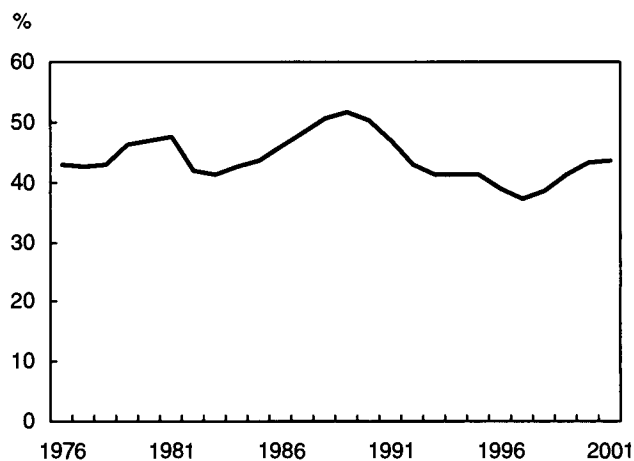
Youths, though, are generally much less likely than people in older age groups to have jobs. In 2001, 44% of people aged 15 to 19 had paid employment, compared with 69% of those aged 20 to 24, 81% of 25- to 44-year-olds, and 66% of people aged 45 to 64. In fact, that year, youths made up just 6% of all employed Canadians.

There has also been little overall change in the share of young people with jobs in the past quarter century. In 2001, 44% of 15- to 19-year-olds were part of the paid work force, almost the same figure as in 1976, when 43% of youths had paying jobs. (Chart 5.2)

The fact that there has been little overall change in the percentage of young people with jobs in the past quarter century, however, masks considerable ups and downs in their employment rate during this period. There were, for example, sharp declines in the share of people aged 15 to 19 with jobs during the recessions in both the early 1980s and 1990s. Between 1989 and 1993, the share of 15- to 19-year-olds with jobs dropped over 10 percentage points from 52% in 1989 to 41% in 1993. Much the same pattern occurred in the

Chart 5.2

Percentage of people aged 15 to 19 employed, 1976 to 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

early 1980s, when the proportion of employed youths fell from 48% to 41%.

As well, the employment level among the youth population was slow to recover after the recession in the early 1990s. Indeed, by 2001, after almost a decade of economic growth, the youth employment rate had recovered to just 44%, still well below the pre-recessionary high of 52% recorded in 1989. In particular, the youth employment rate actually continued to decline well into the latter part of the 1990s, dropping to a low of 37% in 1997, and only began to rebound in the past few years.

The employment rate of the youth population has also generally been affected much more by economic downturns than workers in older age groups. For instance, the percentage of employed youths dropped over 10 percentage points, or over 20% of the total, from 1989 to 1993, whereas for people in older age ranges the employment rate fell 12% among those aged 20 to 24, 5% among those aged 25 to 44, and just 2% among workers aged 45 to 64 in the same period.¹

Gender differences in youth employment

Among youth, employment rates are about the same for females and males. In 2001, 44% of females aged 15 to 19 had jobs, compared with 43% of males in this age group. (Table 5.1)

In the quarter century since 1976, however, the share of young women with jobs has risen somewhat, while that of their male counterparts has fallen slightly. In 2001, 44% of females aged 15 to 19 were employed, up from 41% in 1976. In contrast, the share of males in this age range with jobs fell from 45% to 43% in the same period.

Youth employment across the country

Youth employment rates are relatively high in Ontario and most of the Western provinces, while they are below the national average in Quebec and most of the Atlantic provinces. In 2001, over half of 15- to 19-year-olds were employed in Manitoba (54%) and Alberta (52%), while 46% of those in both Ontario and Saskatchewan also had jobs. In contrast, only 41% of young people aged 15 to 19 in New Brunswick, 40% of those in both British Columbia and Nova Scotia, 38% in Quebec, and just 24% in Newfoundland and Labrador were part of the paid work force that year. Prince Edward Island, where 45% of young people were employed, was the only exception to this pattern. (Table 5.2)

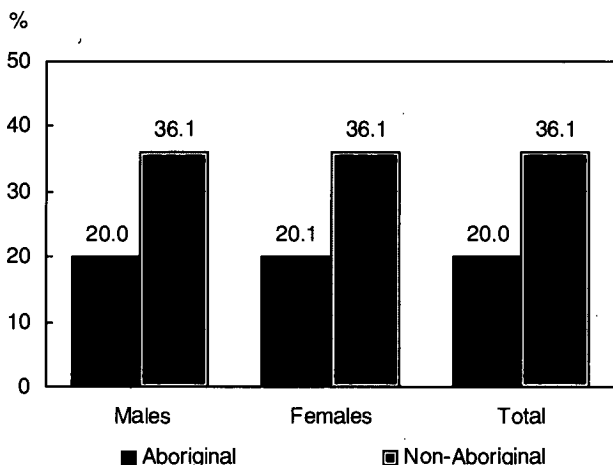
Young women are also generally more likely than their male counterparts to be employed in most provinces. The exceptions in 2001 were Quebec, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, where males aged 15 to 19 were somewhat more likely than females in this age range to be part of the paid work force. In all other provinces, though, a greater percentage of female youth than males were employed.

Relatively few Aboriginal youth employed

Aboriginal youth are generally less likely than non-Aboriginal youth to be employed. In 1996, only 20% of 15- to 19-year-old people who identified themselves as Aboriginal were employed, compared with 36% of their non-Aboriginal counterparts. (Chart 5.3)

Chart 5.3

Percentage of people aged 15 to 19 employed, by Aboriginal status, 1996



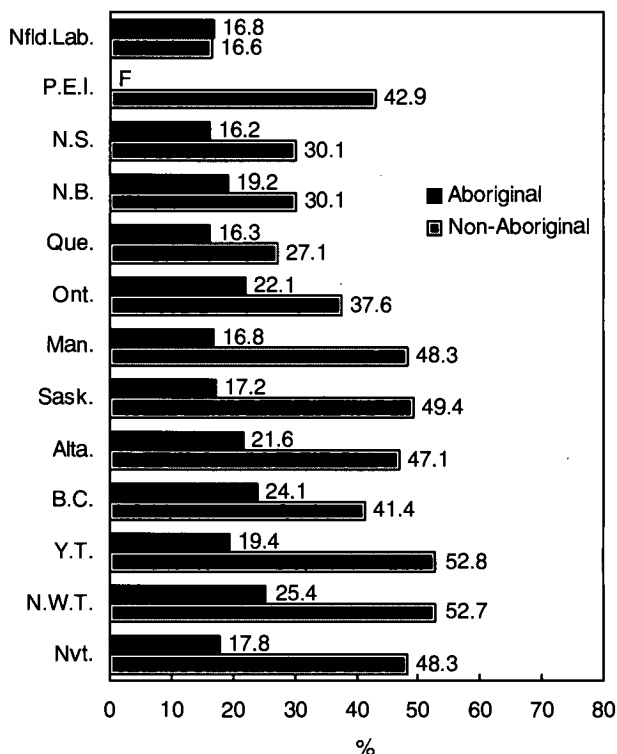
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Among the Aboriginal youth population, males and females are about equally likely to be employed. In fact, in 1996, there was almost no difference in the employment rates of Aboriginal males and females aged 15 to 19. Both Aboriginal males and females in this age range, though, were considerably less likely than their non-Aboriginal counterparts to be employed.

Aboriginal youth in British Columbia, Alberta or Ontario are somewhat more likely than their counterparts in other provinces to be employed. In 1996, 24% of Aboriginal people aged 15 to 19 living in British Columbia and 22% of those in each of Alberta and Ontario had jobs, whereas the figures in the remaining provinces ranged from 19% in New Brunswick to 16% in Nova Scotia and Quebec. In all provinces, however, Aboriginal youth are considerably less likely than non-Aboriginal people aged 15 to 19 to be part of the paid work force. (Chart 5.4)

Chart 5.4

Percentage of people aged 15 to 19 employed, by province or territory and Aboriginal status, 1996



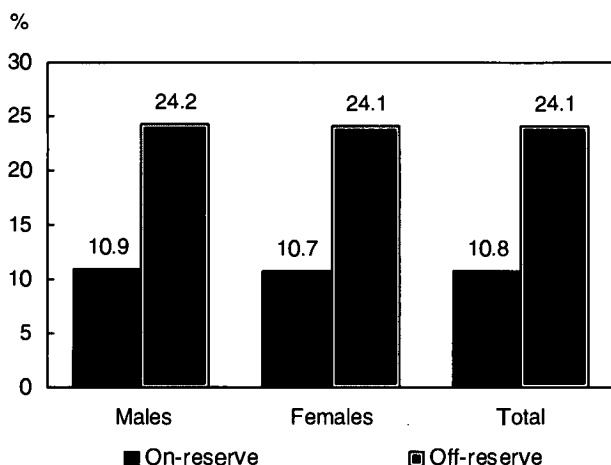
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Young Aboriginal people in the Northwest Territories have a relatively high employment rate compared with Aboriginal youth across the country. In 1996, 25% of Aboriginal people aged 15 to 19 living in the Northwest Territories were part of the paid work force, while the figure was 19% in the Yukon and 18% in Nunavut.

There are also substantial differences in the likelihood of Aboriginal youth being employed depending on whether they live on- or off-reserve. In fact, in 1996, just 11% of all Aboriginal young people aged 15 to 19 living on-reserve were employed, compared with 24% of those living off-reserve. (Chart 5.5)

Chart 5.5

Percentage of Aboriginal people aged 15 to 19 employed, by on/off-reserve status, 1996



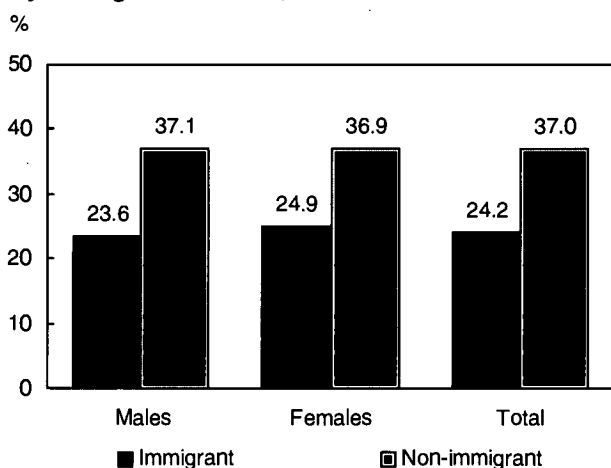
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Low employment rate among immigrant youth

Immigrant youth are less likely to be employed than their non-immigrant counterparts. In 1996, 24% of 15- to 19-year-old immigrants were employed, compared with 37% of non-immigrants in the same age range. (Chart 5.6)

Chart 5.6

Percentage of people aged 15 to 19 employed, by immigration status, 1996



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Among young immigrants, females are slightly more likely than their male counterparts to be employed. In 1996, 25% of immigrant females aged 15 to 19 were part of the paid work force, while the figure for males was 24%. Both immigrant female and male youths, though, were considerably less likely than their non-immigrant counterparts to have jobs.

Many employed part-time

A substantial majority of youths with jobs work part-time. In 2001, 71% of employed 15- to 19-year-olds had part-time jobs, compared with 27% of those aged 20 to 24, and just 13% of people aged 25 and over. In fact, that year, young people made up almost one-quarter (23%) of all part-time workers in Canada, whereas they represented just 6% of all people with jobs. (Table 5.3)

Among young people, females are somewhat more likely than their male counterparts to be working part-time. In 2001, 77% of employed females aged 15 to 19 worked part-time, versus 65% of males in this age range. Both young women and men, though, were far more likely than older workers to have part-time jobs.

Younger people are especially likely to work part-time. In 2001, 89% of people aged 15 or 16 with jobs were working part-time, compared with 65% of 17- to 19-year-olds. As well, in both age groups, young women were more likely than young men to work part-time.

Most young people who work part-time do so because they are going to school. In 2001, 83% of part-time workers aged 15 to 19 were also going to school. At the same time, though, over one in 10 part-time employees aged 15 to 19 works part-time because they cannot find a full-time job, while 4% said they did not want full-time work, and less than 1% were working part-time because of personal or family responsibilities, or for other reasons. (Table 5.4)

Not surprisingly, young people are also far more likely to be working part-time because they are still in school than those in older age groups. In 2001, 83% of part-time workers aged 15 to 19 were still in school, compared with just 15% of part-time workers aged 20 and over. In contrast, part-time workers aged 15 to 19 were considerably less likely than those aged 20 and over to report they could not find full-time jobs: 12% versus 30% in 2001. Young part-time workers were also considerably less likely than their older counterparts to work part-time either because they didn't want full-time work or for other reasons.

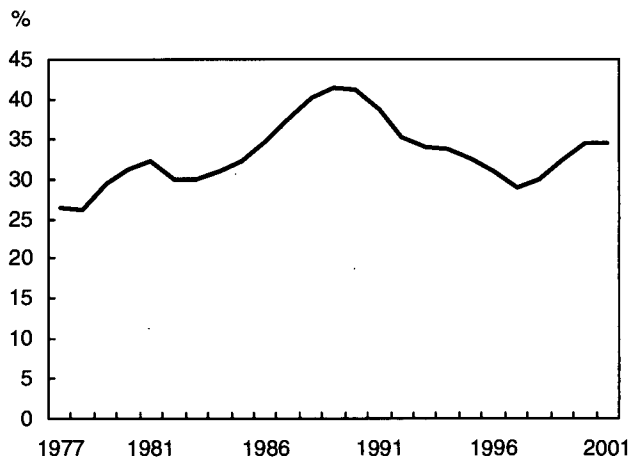
Work and school attendance

As indicated in the section on part-time work, many young people work while they are going to school. In fact, in 2001, 34% of all full-time students aged 15 to 19 worked during the school year. As well, the share of full-time students currently with jobs is up from around 30% in the 1996 to 1998 period, but down from the highs recorded in the late 1980s when

over 40% of students in this age range also had jobs. (Chart 5.7)

Chart 5.7

Percentage of full-time students aged 15 to 19 employed during the school year, 1977 to 2001



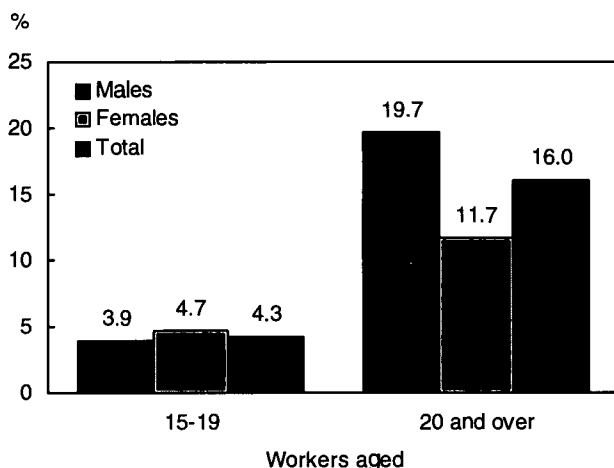
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Few self-employed

The vast majority of young people who participate in the paid work force are paid employees in either the private or public sectors; a small number, however, work for themselves. In 2001, over 38,000 people aged 15 to 19, 4% of all employed youths, were self-employed. (Chart 5.8)

Chart 5.8

Percentage of employed people self-employed, by age, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

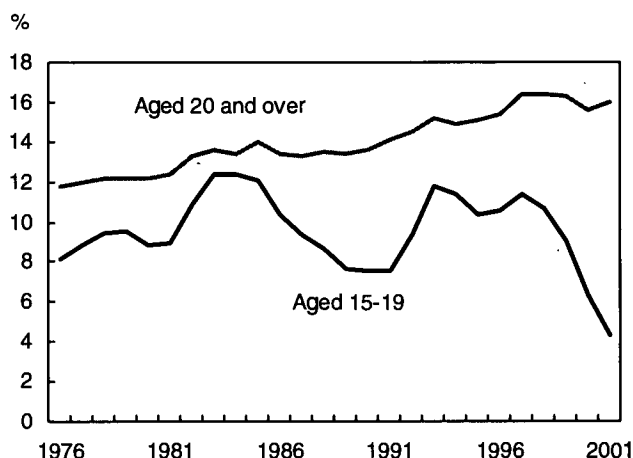
Young workers, though, are considerably less likely to be self-employed than people in older age groups. In 2001, 4% of employed 15- to 19-year-olds were self-employed, as opposed to 16% of workers aged 20 and over.

Among young workers, females are somewhat more likely to be self-employed than males. In 2001, 5% of employed females aged 15 to 19 worked for themselves, compared with 4% of employed males in this age range. This contrasts with the work force aged 20 and over, among whom men were far more likely to be self-employed than women.

The proportion of employed young people who are self-employed is also currently very low compared with previous years. In 2001, 4% of employed people aged 15 to 19 worked for themselves, down from highs of around 10% recorded during the recessions in both the early 1980s and much of the 1990s. In contrast, the self-employment rate among people aged 20 and over has increased fairly steadily in the past quarter century, rising from 12% in 1976 to 16% in 2001. (Chart 5.9)

Chart 5.9

Percentage of employed people self-employed, by age, 1976 to 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Concentrated in sales and service jobs

The majority of employed young people work in sales and service jobs, occupations that, in general, do not require extensive education or experience. In 2001, 68% of youths with jobs worked in sales and service jobs, while 9% were in business, finance and administrative positions, most of which are clerical jobs, 8% were in trades, transport and construction occupations, 5% were in primary occupations, 4% were in manufacturing jobs, and another 4% had jobs in arts, culture, recreation and sport. At the same time, 1% or less of employed youth worked in one of management, natural and applied sciences, health or social sciences and government occupations. (Table 5.5)

Young people are considerably more likely than older workers to be employed in sales and service jobs. In 2001, 68% of workers aged 15 to 19 worked in these areas, compared with 39% of workers aged 20 to 24 and just 21% of those aged 25 or over. Young workers were also somewhat more likely than their older counterparts to be employed in primary occupations and in jobs in the arts, culture, recreation and sport. In contrast, young people were less likely than older workers to have jobs in all other occupations.

Indeed, young people make up a relatively large share of workers in the sales and service sector. In 2001, people aged 15 to 19 comprised 16% of the sales and service work force, whereas they represented just 6% of the total employed work force in Canada. Workers aged 15 to 19, though, also accounted for 9% of total employment in the fields of art, culture, recreation and sport, as well as 8% of that in primary occupations, whereas they made up 3% or less of workers in other occupations.

As with the overall work force, there are differences in the occupational distribution of young male and female workers. In 2001, for instance, 78% of all female workers aged 15 to 19 worked in sales and service jobs, while this was the case for just 58% of comparable males. In contrast, employed males in this age range are more likely than comparable females to be employed in either primary occupations, trades, transport and construction jobs, or those in processing, manufacturing and utilities. That year, for example, 14% of employed males in this age group worked in trades, transport or construction jobs, while this was the case for just 1% of their female counterparts. Similarly, 8% of employed males aged 15 to 19, versus 2% of comparable females, worked in primary occupations, while 7% of employed young men, as opposed to 2% of young women, worked in manufacturing jobs. (Table 5.6)

Unemployment among youths

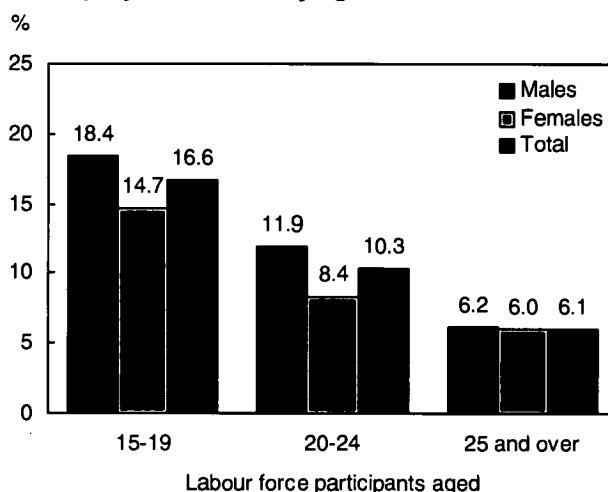
Young people generally have the highest unemployment rate of any age group in Canada. In 2001, close to 177,000 people aged 15 to 19, 16.6% of all labour force participants in this age range, were unemployed. This compares with 10.3% of those aged 20 to 24 and just 6.1% of those over age 25. (Chart 5.10)

The youth unemployment rate, though, has declined in recent years. In 2001, 16.6% of labour force participants aged 15 to 19 were unemployed, down from a high of 21.2% in 1997. The unemployment rate among young people, however, is still higher than it was in the late 1980s, when less than 13% of 15- to 19-year-old labour force participants lacked jobs. (Chart 5.11)

Among young workers, unemployment is generally higher for males than females; indeed, males aged 15 to 19 have the highest unemployment rate of any age group in Canada. In 2001, 18.4% of male labour force participants aged 15 to 19

Chart 5.10

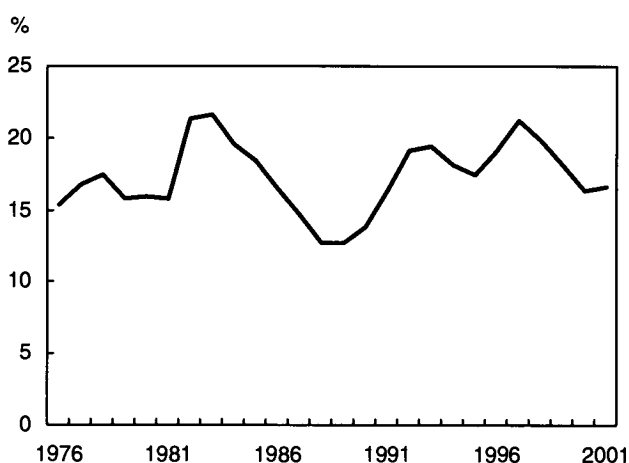
Unemployment rates, by age, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Chart 5.11

Unemployment rates of people aged 15 to 19, 1976 to 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

were unemployed, compared with 14.7% of their female counterparts. (Chart 5.10)

Both males and females aged 15 to 19, however, are substantially more likely than their older counterparts to be unemployed. In 2001, 18.4% of male labour force participants aged 15 to 19 were unemployed, compared with 11.9% of men aged 20 to 24 and just 6.2% for those aged 25 or over. Similarly among female labour force participants, 14.7% of those aged 15 to 19 were unemployed that year, compared with 8.4% of 20- to 24-year-olds and 6.0% of those aged 25 or over.

Provincial differences in youth unemployment

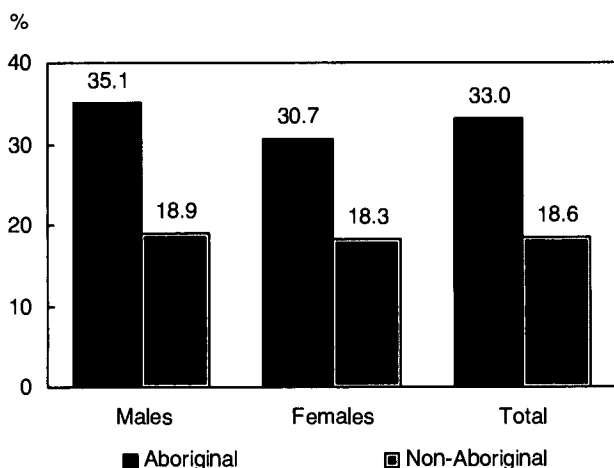
As with the overall labour force, unemployment rates among youth are generally higher in the Atlantic provinces and Quebec than they are in the other regions of the country. In 2001, 27.1% of people aged 15 to 19 in Newfoundland and Labrador were unemployed, as were 20.8% of those in both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, 18.6% of those in Quebec, and 17.2% in Prince Edward Island. In contrast, the unemployment rate among 15- to 19-year-olds in the remaining provinces that year was 13.2% in Manitoba, 13.3% in Alberta, 14.7% in Saskatchewan, and 16.0% in Ontario. The one exception to this pattern was British Columbia, where 17.5% of labour force participants aged 15 to 19 were unemployed. (Table 5.7)

High unemployment among Aboriginal youth

Unemployment rates are particularly high among Aboriginal youth. In 1996, 33.0% of Aboriginal youth aged 15 to 19 were unemployed, compared with 18.6% of their non-Aboriginal counterparts. (Chart 5.12)

Chart 5.12

Unemployment rates of labour force participants aged 15 to 19, by Aboriginal status, 1996



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

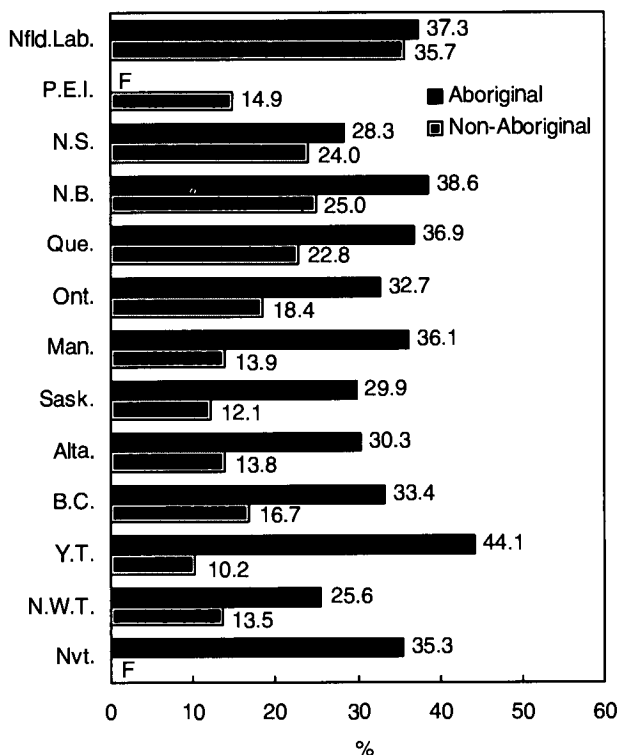
As with the overall population, Aboriginal males aged 15 to 19 were more likely to be unemployed than their female contemporaries. In 1996, 35.1% of male Aboriginal labour force participants aged 15 to 19 were unemployed, compared with 30.7% of Aboriginal females. Both young Aboriginal men and women, however, were far more likely than their non-Aboriginal counterparts to be unemployed.

There are also substantial differences in the unemployment rate among Aboriginal youth across the country. For example, in 1996, close to four out of 10 Aboriginal labour force participants aged 15 to 19 in New Brunswick (38.6%), Newfoundland and Labrador (37.3%), Quebec (36.9%) and

Manitoba (36.1%) were officially classified as unemployed, while the figure in the remaining provinces ranged from 33.4% in British Columbia to 28.3% in Nova Scotia. In all provinces, however, Aboriginal youth are considerably more likely than non-Aboriginal people aged 15 to 19 to be unemployed. (Chart 5.13)

Chart 5.13

Unemployment rates of labour force participants aged 15 to 19, by province or territory and Aboriginal status, 1996



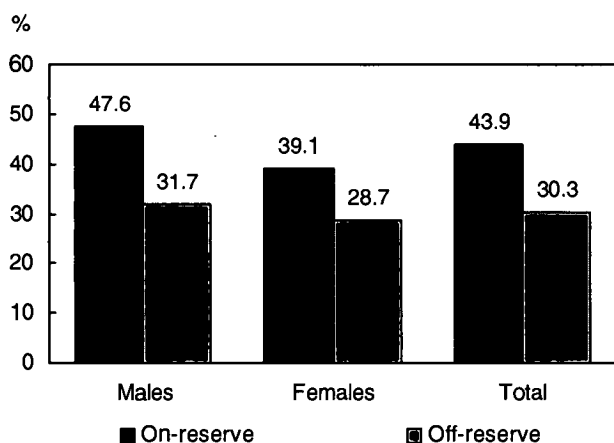
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Aboriginal young people in the Yukon also have a high unemployment rate. In fact, in 1996, 44.1% of Aboriginal labour force participants aged 15 to 19 living in the Yukon were unemployed, as were 35.3% of those in Nunavut. In contrast, relatively few Aboriginal youth in the Northwest Territories are unemployed. That year, only 25.6% of Aboriginal labour force participants aged 15 to 19 in the Northwest Territories were unemployed. However, that was still almost twice the figure for non-Aboriginal people in this age range, just 13.5% of whom were unemployed.

There are also substantial differences in the likelihood of Aboriginal youth being unemployed depending on whether they live on- or off-reserve. In 1996, 43.9% of all Aboriginal labour force participants aged 15 to 19 living on-reserve were unemployed, compared with 30.3% of those living off-reserve. (Chart 5.14)

Chart 5.14

Unemployment rates of Aboriginal labour force participants aged 15 to 19, by on-/off-reserve status, 1996



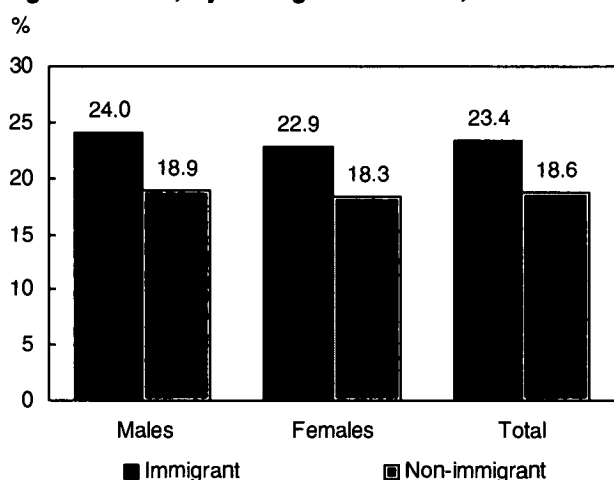
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Unemployment among immigrant youth

Immigrant young people are also more likely to be unemployed than their non-immigrant counterparts. In 1996, 23.4% of immigrant 15- to 19-year-olds were unemployed, compared with 18.6% of non-immigrant youth. (Chart 5.15)

Chart 5.15

Unemployment rates of labour force participants aged 15 to 19, by immigration status, 1996



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

As with the overall youth population, unemployment rates among immigrant youth are somewhat higher among males than females. In 1996, 24.0% of male immigrant labour force participants aged 15 to 19 were unemployed, compared with 22.9% of females. Both immigrant male and female labour

force participants aged 15 to 19, though, were more likely than their non-immigrant counterparts to be unemployed that year.

Most unemployed youth new workers

New labour force entrants who have never worked make up the largest share of unemployed youth. In 2001, 42.0% of unemployed people aged 15 to 19 were new job seekers. At the same time, though, over one in four (26.2%) unemployed youth had either lost their job or had been laid off, while another 17.3% had left their last job to return to school. (Table 5.8)

Unemployed labour force participants aged 15 to 19 are generally more likely than their counterparts aged 20 or over to be either new labour force entrants or to have left their last job to return to school, while they are less likely to have been laid off from, or lost, their last job. Indeed, in 2001, only about half as many unemployed people aged 15 to 19 (26.2%) as those aged 20 or over (50.6%) had been laid off from, or had lost, their last job. In contrast, 17.3% of unemployed youth, compared with just 2.7% of unemployed people aged 20 or over, had left their last job to return to school.

Among unemployed young people, males are more likely than their female counterparts to have lost their job or been laid off. In 2001, 29.2% of unemployed males aged 15 to 19 had lost their job or been laid off, whereas this was the case for only 22.0% of comparable females. On the other hand, unemployed young women were far more likely than their male contemporaries to be new labour force entrants: 46.8% versus 38.4% that year.

Wage rates

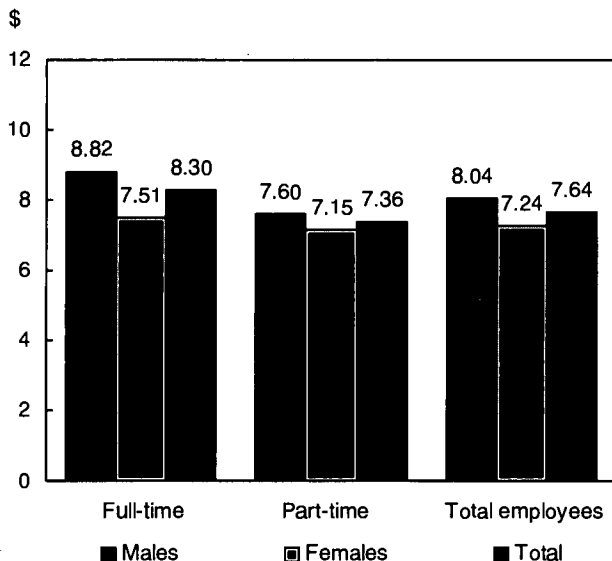
Young workers generally earn far less than those in older age groups. In 2001, workers aged 15 to 19 earned an average of \$7.64 an hour, only 43% that paid to people aged 20 and over, who made an average of almost \$17.86 per hour.¹

As with the overall labour force, young people employed part-time earn less than those that have full-time jobs. In 2001, a part-time worker aged 15 to 19 made, on average, \$7.36 an hour, compared with \$8.30 for those in this age range that worked full-time. (Chart 5.16)

Again, as with the overall labour force, young women are generally paid less than their male counterparts. In 2001, female workers aged 15 to 19 made an average of \$7.24 an hour, as opposed to \$8.04 for their male counterparts.

The wage gap between young male and female workers persists for both full- and part-time workers, although the difference tends to be less pronounced among part-time employees. In 2001, young female workers employed full-time averaged \$7.51 per hour, 85% the figure for young men, who averaged \$8.82. At the same time, among those

Chart 5.16

Hourly wage rates of workers aged 15 to 19, by employment status, 2001

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

employed part-time, young women made an average of \$7.15 an hour, just under 95% the figure for their male counterparts (\$7.60).

Unionization rates low

Very few employed young people belong to a union. In 2001, 9% of workers aged 15 to 19 belonged to a union, as opposed to 32% of those aged 20 and over.¹

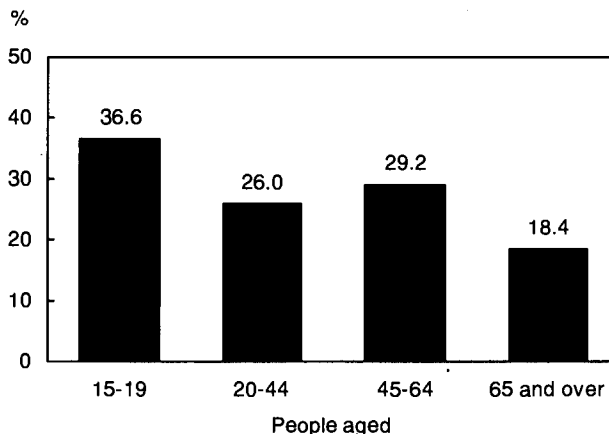
Union membership rates, though, are increasing among young workers. In 2001, 9% of youths with jobs belonged to a union, up from 6% in 1997. This is in contrast to workers in older age groups, among whom union membership rates have been declining over the same period.

Many young people volunteer

In addition to participating in the paid work force, many young people also contribute to their communities through formal and informal volunteer activities. In 2000, close to three-quarters of a million (744,000) Canadians aged 15 to 19, 37% of the total youth population, contributed their time to a charitable or non-profit organization. (Chart 5.17)

In fact, young people are more likely than those in older age ranges to perform community service on behalf of a non-profit organization or group. In 2000, 37% of 15- to 19-year-olds, versus 26% of those aged 20 to 44, 29% of 45-

Chart 5.17

Percentage of the population participating in formal volunteer activities, by age, 2000

Source: Statistics Canada, National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating.

to 64-year-olds, and 18% of seniors, participated in formal volunteer activities. It should be noted, though, that in some provinces, students are required to take part in community service groups or organizations in order to fulfil school credits.

Among young people, females and males are about as likely to take part in formal volunteer activities. There are differences, though, in the types of volunteer activities that female and male youth engage in. In 2000, for example, young men were more active than their female counterparts in helping with driving, assisting in the maintenance, repair and building of facilities, and in helping with first aid, fire fighting or search and rescue activities. Female youth volunteers, on the other hand, were more likely to participate in canvassing, campaigning or fundraising, helping with office work, and providing care and assistance to self-help groups, hospitals and senior citizens' homes.²

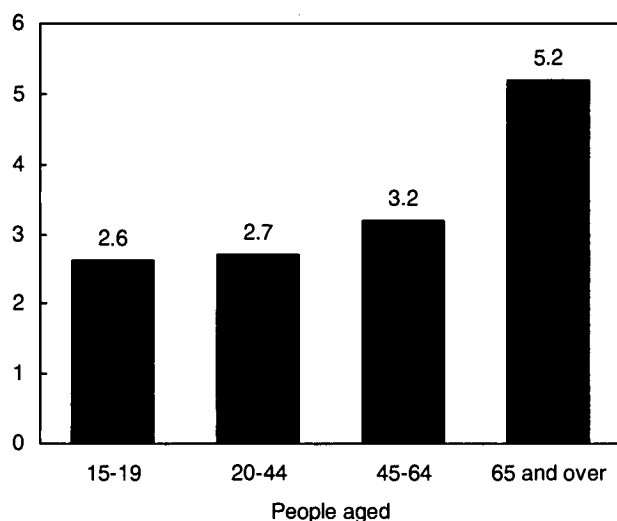
Overall, young volunteers aged 15 to 19 spent an average of 2.6 hours per week working on behalf of non-profit groups or organizations in 2000. This was about the same as that recorded by people aged 20 to 44, but was lower than figures recorded among people in older age groups. That year, for example, seniors spent, on average, 5.2 hours per week on these activities, while those aged 45 to 64 contributed an average of 3.2 hours. (Chart 5.18)

Among young volunteers, males spend somewhat more time, on average, than their female counterparts on formal volunteer work. In 2000, males aged 15 to 19 devoted a weekly average of 2.8 hours to these activities, compared with 2.4 for females.²

Chart 5.18

Average number of hours per week volunteers devoted to formal volunteer activities, by age, 2000

Number of hours



Source: Statistics Canada, National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating.

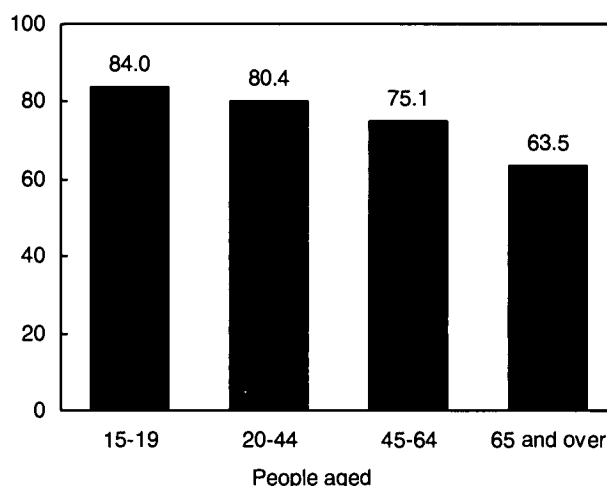
The large majority of youth also participate in informal volunteer activities outside their own household, such as helping with housework, yard or maintenance work, caring for or supporting the sick or elderly, and unpaid babysitting and child care. In 2000, 84% of people aged 15 to 19 participated in these activities. (Chart 5.19)

Again, young people were somewhat more likely than their older counterparts to participate in informal volunteer activities. In 2000, 84% of youths helped others outside their home, compared with 80% of those aged 20 to 44, 75% of 45- to 64-year-olds, and just 64% of seniors.

Chart 5.19

Percentage of the population participating in informal volunteer activities, by age, 2000

%



Source: Statistics Canada, National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating.

Among young people, females are somewhat more likely than males to participate in informal volunteer activities. In 2000, 85% of young women helped others outside their home, compared with 83% of their male counterparts.²

Youth volunteers are more likely than volunteers in other age groups to help out by doing housework, yard or maintenance work, or teaching or coaching on their own. At the same time, though, they are less likely than older volunteers to contribute by caring for sick people or by visiting the elderly.

¹ Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

² Source: Statistics Canada, National Survey on Giving, Volunteering and Participating.

Table 5.1
Percentage of people aged 15 to 19 employed, 1976 to 2001

	Males	Females	Total	As a % of total employed
		%		
1976	44.7	40.9	42.8	10.3
1977	45.2	40.0	42.6	10.1
1978	45.5	40.5	43.0	10.0
1979	48.7	43.6	46.2	10.3
1980	48.9	45.0	46.9	10.1
1981	49.3	45.8	47.6	9.8
1982	41.6	42.1	41.9	8.6
1983	41.3	41.3	41.3	8.0
1984	43.3	42.1	42.7	7.8
1985	43.5	43.8	43.7	7.4
1986	46.3	45.5	45.9	7.4
1987	49.0	47.6	48.4	7.5
1988	50.8	50.3	50.5	7.6
1989	52.2	51.0	51.6	7.5
1990	51.0	49.4	50.2	7.2
1991	46.7	46.8	46.8	6.8
1992	42.5	43.5	43.0	6.3
1993	40.8	41.7	41.2	6.1
1994	41.0	41.5	41.2	6.0
1995	40.7	41.5	41.1	6.0
1996	38.6	39.3	39.0	5.7
1997	37.3	37.0	37.1	5.4
1998	38.0	39.2	38.6	5.4
1999	40.8	41.5	41.1	5.7
2000	42.7	44.0	43.4	5.9
2001	42.8	44.4	43.6	5.9

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Table 5.2
Percentage of people aged 15 to 19 employed, by province, 2001

	Males	Females	Total
		%	
Newfoundland and Labrador	22.5	26.2	24.3
Prince Edward Island	44.2	47.1	45.2
Nova Scotia	38.0	42.3	40.1
New Brunswick	37.9	44.5	41.0
Quebec	39.9	35.6	37.8
Ontario	44.1	48.0	46.0
Manitoba	54.8	52.6	53.7
Saskatchewan	46.4	45.9	46.2
Alberta	50.8	52.6	51.7
British Columbia	38.1	42.6	40.3
Canada	42.8	44.4	43.6

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Table 5.3
Percentage of employed people working part-time, by age, 2001

	Males	Females	Total
	%		
People aged			
15-16	86.4	91.3	88.9
17-19	57.8	71.5	64.5
Total 15-19	64.6	76.5	70.5
20-24	20.6	34.6	27.4
25 and over	5.8	22.4	13.4
Total	10.4	27.1	18.1
Total number of people aged 15-19 employed part-time as a % of total part-time employment (000s)	34.3 289.3	17.9 337.3	22.9 626.6

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Table 5.4
Reasons for part-time work, 2001

	Males aged		Females aged		Total aged	
	15-19	20 and over	15-19	20 and over	15-19	20 and over
	%					
Going to school	83.3	23.8	82.4	11.8	82.9	14.9
Could only find part-time work	12.2	36.3	12.4	27.4	12.3	29.8
Did not want full-time work	3.9	32.2	4.2	31.3	4.1	31.6
All other reasons ¹	0.6	7.7	0.9	29.4	0.7	23.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total employed part-time (000s)	289.3	554.7	337.3	1,550.3	626.6	2,105.0

¹ Includes those working part-time because of personal or family responsibilities, as well as all other reasons.

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Table 5.5
Occupational distribution, by age, 2001

	Workers aged			Youths as % of occupation group
	15-19	20-24	25 and over	
	%			
Management	0.4	2.6	10.3	0.3
Business, finance and administrative	8.5	16.8	18.9	2.8
Natural and applied sciences	0.8	6.0	7.1	0.7
Health	0.6	3.1	5.9	0.7
Social science, education, government service and religion	0.7	3.9	7.6	0.6
Art, culture, recreation and sport	4.2	3.9	2.6	8.7
Sales and service	67.7	39.4	21.0	15.6
Trades, transport and construction	7.7	12.8	14.8	3.2
Primary	4.9	3.3	3.5	8.1
Processing, manufacturing and utilities	4.4	8.2	8.3	3.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	5.9
Total employed (000s)	888.3	1,425.1	12,763.3	...

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Table 5.6
Occupational distribution of people aged 15 to 19, 2001

	Employed		Total
	Males	Females	
		%	
Management	0.6	F	0.4
Business, finance and administrative	7.6	9.4	8.5
Natural and applied sciences	1.1	0.4	0.8
Health	F	1.0	0.6
Social science, education, government service and religion	0.4	0.9	0.7
Art, culture, recreation and sport	3.1	5.3	4.2
Sales and service	57.6	77.9	67.7
Trades, transport and construction	14.4	0.9	7.7
Primary	7.8	2.0	4.9
Processing, manufacturing and utilities	7.0	1.9	4.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total employed (000s)	447.5	440.8	888.3

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Table 5.7
Unemployment rates of people aged 15 to 19, by province, 2001

	Males	Females	Total
		%	
Newfoundland and Labrador	29.9	22.7	27.1
Prince Edward Island	20.7	14.3	17.2
Nova Scotia	23.1	18.2	20.8
New Brunswick	23.0	18.0	20.8
Quebec	19.1	18.0	18.6
Ontario	18.3	13.7	16.0
Manitoba	13.1	12.9	13.2
Saskatchewan	16.3	12.9	14.7
Alberta	15.2	11.2	13.3
British Columbia	20.3	14.8	17.5
Canada	18.4	14.7	16.6

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Table 5.8
Unemployed, by reason for leaving last job, 2001

	Males aged		Females aged		Total aged	
	15-19	20 and over	15-19	20 and over	15-19	20 and over
				%		
Going to school	18.1	2.8	16.1	2.5	17.3	2.7
Lost job or laid off	29.2	55.8	22.0	43.7	26.2	50.6
Have not worked in last year/ never worked	38.4	26.7	46.8	35.6	42.0	30.6
All other reasons ¹	14.3	14.7	15.2	18.1	14.5	16.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total unemployed (000s)	101.0	558.5	75.9	434.1	176.9	992.6

¹ Includes those unemployed because of own illness or disability, personal or family responsibilities, retired, and other reasons.

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

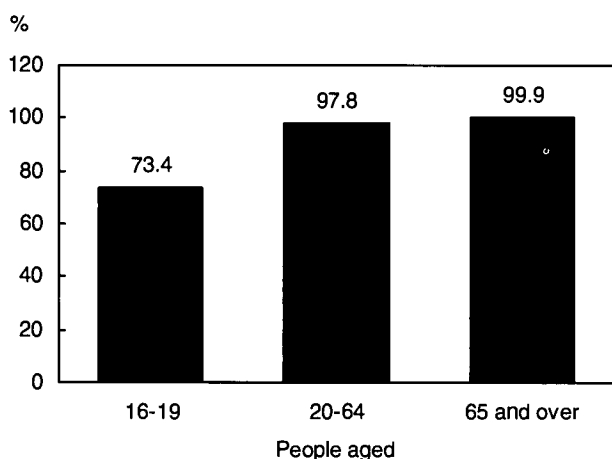
Chapter 6: Income

Most young people have some income

The majority of young people have some income. In 1999, 73% of all those aged 16 to 19¹ had some income from at least one source. The share of young people with income, though, is well below that of older adults. Indeed, that year, 98% of those between the ages of 20 and 64 and almost 100% of all seniors had some income. (Chart 6.1)

Chart 6.1

Percentage of the population with some income, by age, 1999



Source: Statistics Canada, *Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics*.

As well, those young people with income generally have lower incomes than older adults. In 1999, people aged 16 to 19 with at least some income had an average income of just \$5,900, less than half the figure for those aged 20 to 24, who had an average income of almost \$14,000 that year. The average income of young people was also only about a quarter of the average income of seniors, who averaged about \$22,000 per person. It was also only about a sixth that of people in the prime earning years between the ages of 35 and 54. (Table 6.1)

The comparison of the average income of all individuals aged 16 to 19 with that of older age groups, though, is distorted by the fact that a large proportion of the youth population still lives at home with their parents and will have, in one fashion or another, access to the overall family income. The overall income disparities between young people and the adult population remain, however, when only families headed by those aged 16 to 19 or unattached individuals in this age range are considered.

Average income of young people across the country

Young people in the Western provinces tend to have higher average incomes than their counterparts in the rest of the country. In 1999, the average incomes of people aged 16 to 19 with some income living in one of the four Western provinces were all well over \$6,000. That year, people in this age range in Manitoba had an average income of almost \$6,700, while the figures were \$6,500 in British Columbia, \$6,300 in Alberta and \$6,200 in Saskatchewan. In contrast, in the remaining provinces, average incomes of young people ranged from \$6,000 in Quebec to only \$4,000 in Newfoundland and Labrador. (Table 6.2)

Incomes of young families

Families headed by young people also have very low incomes relative to other age groups. In 1999, the average income of families whose major income earner was aged 16 to 19 was \$26,900, less than half that recorded for all families (\$63,800). In fact, the average income of families whose major earner was aged 16 to 19 was more than \$10,000 below the average income of families whose major income earner was aged 20 to 24, and almost \$20,000 less than that of families headed by people aged 65 and over. (Chart 6.2)

The incomes of families whose major income earner is female are much lower than those of their male counterparts. In 1999, families headed by a female aged 16 to 19 had an average income of just \$16,000, well over \$20,000 less than the figure for families headed by a male in this age range (\$38,200). Indeed, the average income of families whose major income earner was a female aged 16 to 19 was only 31% the average income of all other female-headed families that year. In contrast, the average income of families headed by 16- to 19-year-old males was 55% that of all families whose major income earner was a man aged 20 and over. (Chart 6.3)

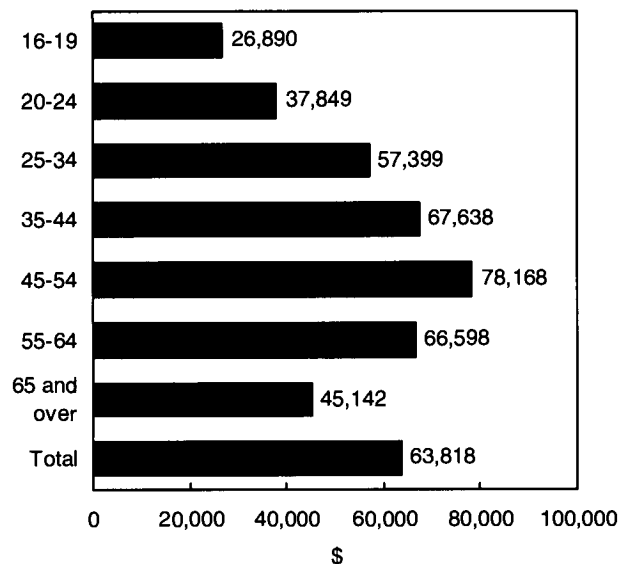
Incomes of unattached individuals

Unattached young people also have incomes that are well below those of comparable older people. In 1999, unattached youth, that is, those who lived alone or with unrelated people, had, on average, an income of just over \$7,000, well below that of their counterparts in older age groups. Indeed, that year, the average income of 16- to 19-year-olds was less than half the figure of their counterparts aged 20 to 24 and less than one-fifth that of unattached individuals aged 35 to 44. The average income of unattached people aged 16 to 19 was also only about a third that of unattached seniors, who are generally considered to be one of the groups with the lowest income in Canadian society. (Chart 6.4)

Chart 6.2

Average family income,¹ by age of major income earner, 1999

Major income earner aged

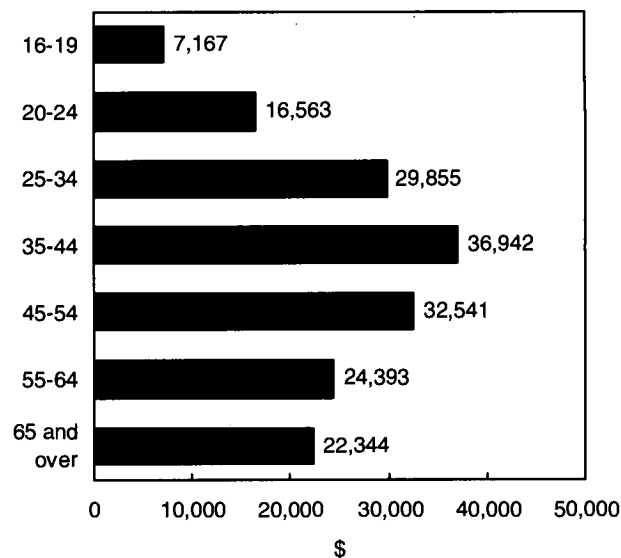
¹ Includes only families with some income.

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics.

Chart 6.4

Average income of unattached individuals,¹ by age, 1999

Unattached individuals aged

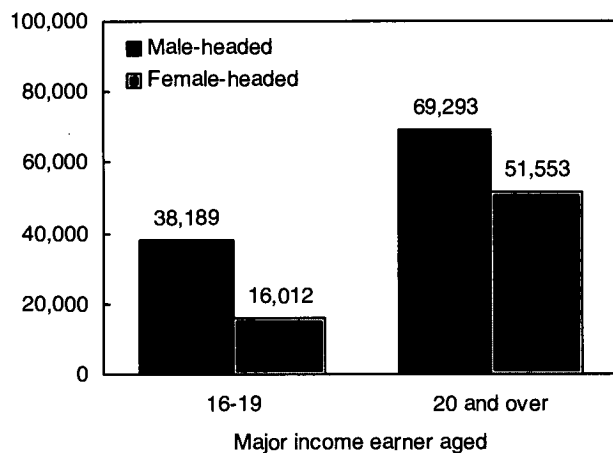
¹ Includes only those with some income.

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics.

Chart 6.3

Average income of male- and female-headed families,¹ by age of major income earner, 1999

\$

¹ Includes only families with some income.

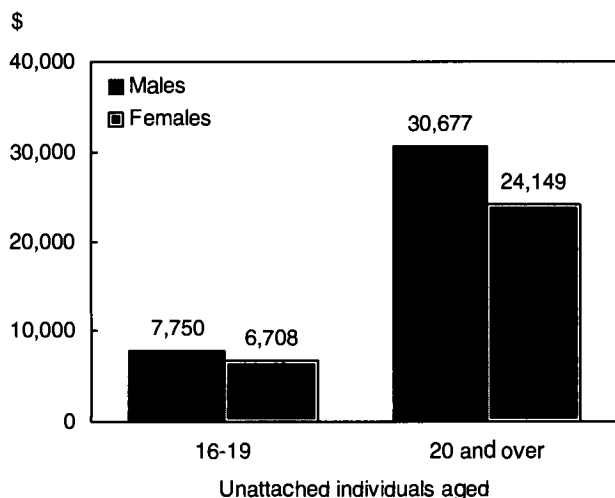
Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics.

Among unattached young people, males have higher incomes than their female contemporaries. In 1999, unattached males aged 16 to 19 had an average income of close to \$7,800, while the figure for their female counterparts was just \$6,700. The average incomes of both unattached male and female youths, however, were well below comparative figures for unattached individuals in older age ranges that year. The gap between the average income of males and females aged 16 to 19 either living alone or with unrelated people (16%), though, was considerably smaller than that for all unattached men and women (27%). (Chart 6.5)

Incomes of Aboriginal youth

The average incomes of Aboriginal youth are somewhat lower than those of their non-Aboriginal counterparts. In 1995, Aboriginal people aged 15 to 19 had incomes² of \$3,500, 17% below the figure for their non-Aboriginal contemporaries, who had an average income of just over \$4,100 that year. The gap in income between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people aged 15 to 19, however, is much smaller than it is among their counterparts in older age groups. That year, for example, the incomes of Aboriginal people aged 20 and over were 57% lower than their non-Aboriginal counterparts. (Chart 6.6)

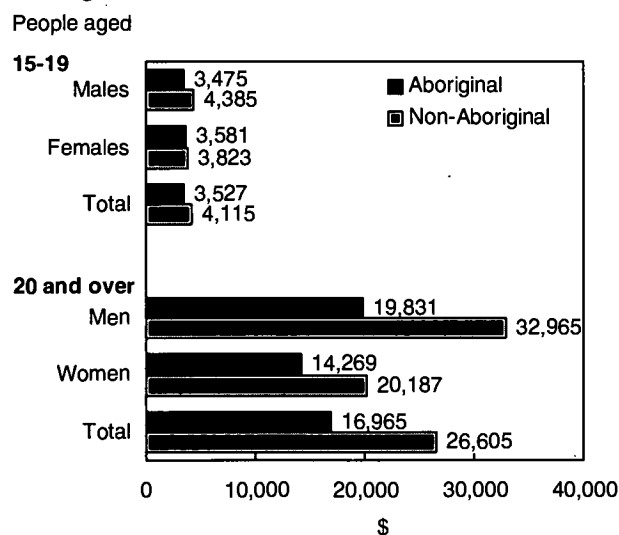
Chart 6.5

Average income of unattached males and females,¹ by age, 1999

¹ Includes only those with some income.

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics.

Chart 6.6

Average income of the population,¹ by age and Aboriginal status, 1995

¹ Includes only those with some income.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996.

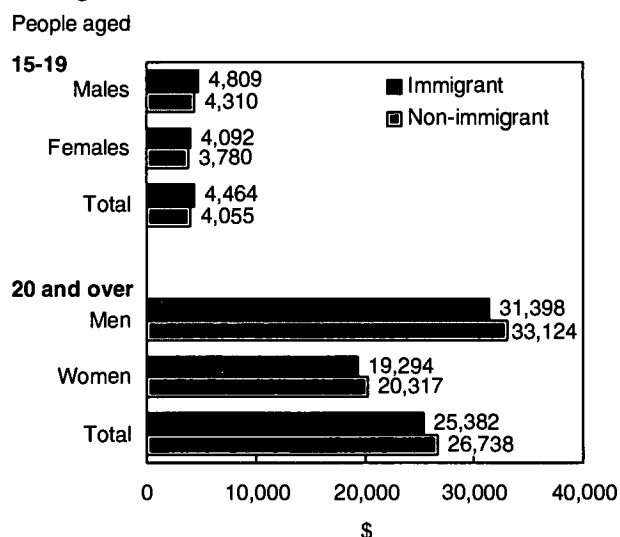
In contrast to young people in the overall population, however, young Aboriginal women have higher incomes than their male counterparts. In 1995, Aboriginal females aged 15 to 19 had an average income of \$3,600, slightly higher than that of their male counterparts who averaged \$3,500. Both female and

male Aboriginal people aged 15 to 19, however, had somewhat lower average incomes than their non-Aboriginal counterparts.

Incomes of immigrant youth

Immigrant youths³ generally have somewhat higher incomes² than their non-immigrant counterparts. In 1995, immigrants aged 15 to 19 had an average income of \$4,500, compared with \$4,100 for their non-immigrant contemporaries. This is in sharp contrast with the situation in older age groups, among whom immigrants had lower incomes than those of people who were born in Canada. (Chart 6.7)

Chart 6.7

Average income of the population,¹ by age and immigration status, 1995

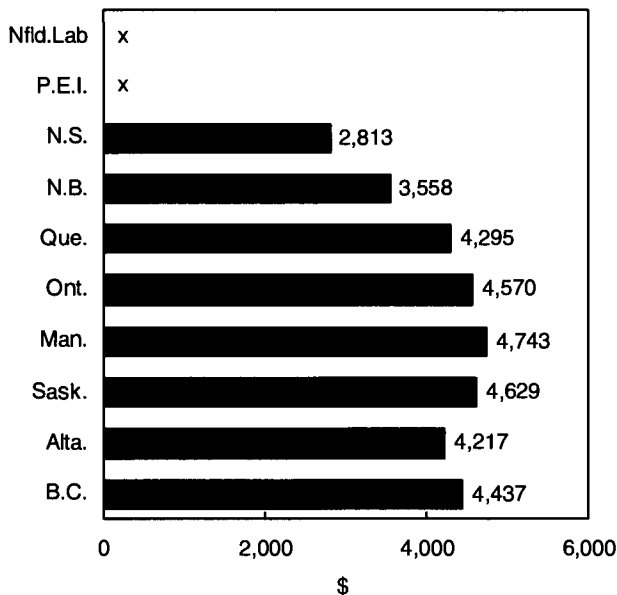
¹ Includes only those with some income.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996.

As with the overall youth population, young immigrant men have higher incomes than their female counterparts. In 1995, 15- to 19-year-old immigrant males had an average income of \$4,800, as opposed to just \$4,100 among comparable females. Both immigrant males and females aged 15 to 19, though, had higher averages than their non-immigrant counterparts.

Also, as with the overall population, the incomes of immigrant youths are higher in central Canada and the Western provinces than they are in other provinces. In 1995, for example, immigrant youths had an average income of over \$4,700 in Manitoba and \$4,600 in Saskatchewan and Ontario, while the figures were \$4,400 in British Columbia, \$4,300 in Quebec, and \$4,200 in Alberta. In contrast, in the rest of the provinces, this figure ranged from \$3,600 in New Brunswick to just \$2,800 in Nova Scotia. (Chart 6.8)

Chart 6.8

Average income of immigrants aged 15 to 19,¹ by province, 1995

¹ Includes only those with some income.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996.

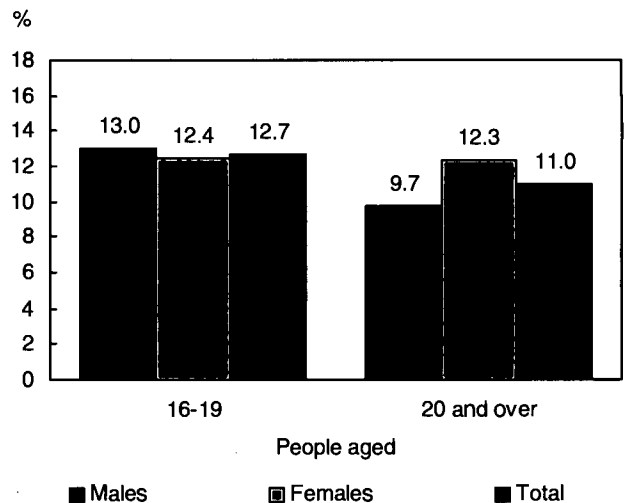
Young people in low-income situations

Over one in 10 young people in Canada lives in a low-income situation.⁴ In 1999, close to 210,000 youths, 13% of all people aged 16 to 19, including those living with their parents, as well as those heading their own families or living alone or with unrelated people, lived in a household in which the after-tax household income fell below Statistics Canada's low income cut-offs.⁵ In fact, young people are somewhat more likely than people in older age groups to live in a low-income situation; that year, 11% of those aged 20 and over lived in a low-income situation. (Chart 6.9)

Unlike the overall population, however, in which females make up a disproportionate share of the low-income population, young men are slightly more likely than comparable females to live in a low-income situation. In 1999, 13% of male youths, versus 12% of their female counterparts, lived with low after-tax incomes.

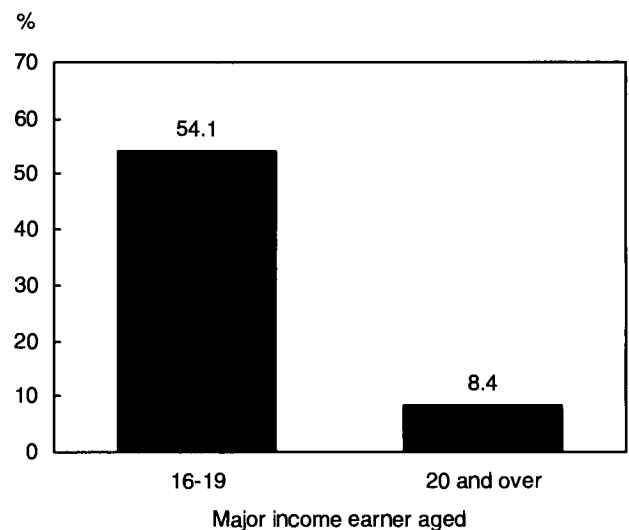
As well, a large proportion of young people lead families that have incomes that fall below Statistics Canada's low income cut-offs. In fact, in 1999, over half of all families headed by someone aged 16 to 19 were classified as having low incomes. That year, 54% of families in which the primary earner was aged 16 to 19, as opposed to just 8% of all families, had after-tax incomes that fell below the low income cut-offs. Because of the small number of young families, however, they made up only about 2% of all low-income families that year. (Chart 6.10)

Chart 6.9

Percentage of the population living in a household with low income after tax, by age, 1999

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics.

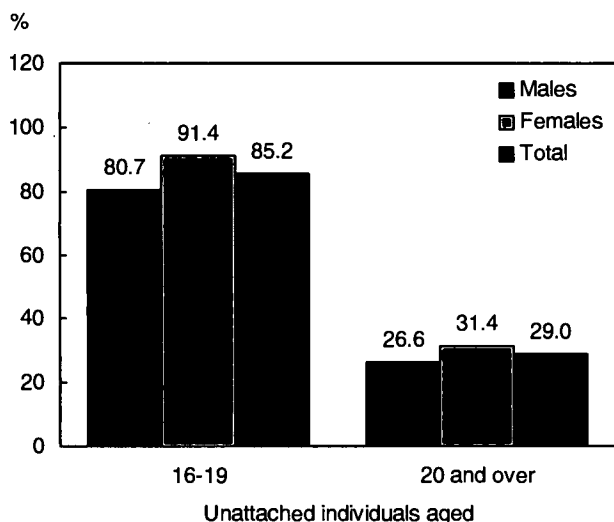
Chart 6.10

Percentage of families with low income after tax, by age of major income earner, 1999

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics.

An even greater share of unattached youths have low incomes. Indeed, in 1999, more than four out of five (85%) 16- to 19-year-olds who either lived alone or with unrelated people had after-tax incomes that fell below the low income cut-offs. In comparison, less than 30% of unattached people aged 20 and over were classified as having low incomes that year. (Chart 6.11)

Chart 6.11

Percentage of unattached individuals with low income after tax, by age, 1999

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics.

Among unattached young people, females are more likely than their male counterparts to have low incomes. In 1999, 91% of unattached females aged 16 to 19, versus 81% of comparable males, were classified as having low incomes.

In contrast to their contemporaries who head families, or who live alone or with unrelated people, young people still living with their family are much less likely to live in a low-income situation. In 1999, just 8% of families with children aged 16 to 19 living at home were classified as having low after-tax incomes.⁶

Aboriginal youths living in a low-income situation

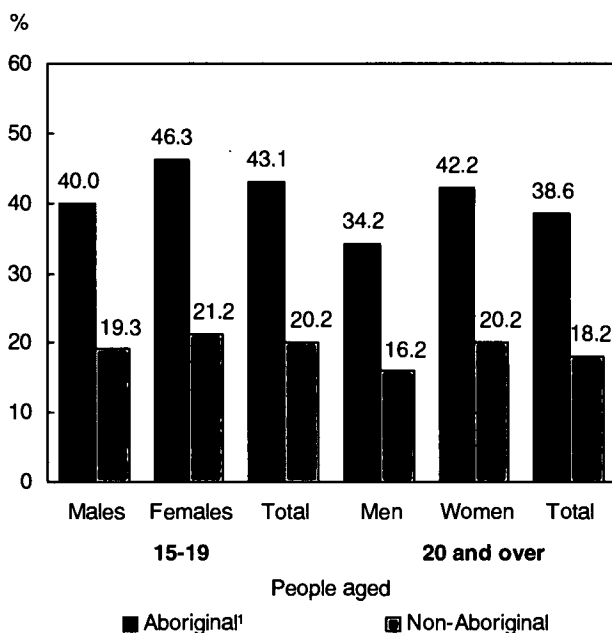
A relatively large proportion of Aboriginal youth live in a low-income situation. In fact, Aboriginal youth are more than twice as likely as their non-Aboriginal counterparts to live with low incomes. In 1995, 43% of Aboriginal people aged 15 to 19 had low incomes, compared with just 20% of non-Aboriginal people in this age range.² (Chart 6.12)

Young Aboriginal women are more likely than their male equivalents to live with low incomes. In 1995, 46% of Aboriginal females aged 15 to 19, versus 40% of their male counterparts, lived in a low-income situation. Both Aboriginal females and males in this age range, though, were considerably more likely than their non-Aboriginal counterparts to live in a low-income situation.

Many immigrant youths live with low incomes

A relatively large share of immigrant youth also lives with low income. In 1995, 43% of young immigrants, as opposed to

Chart 6.12

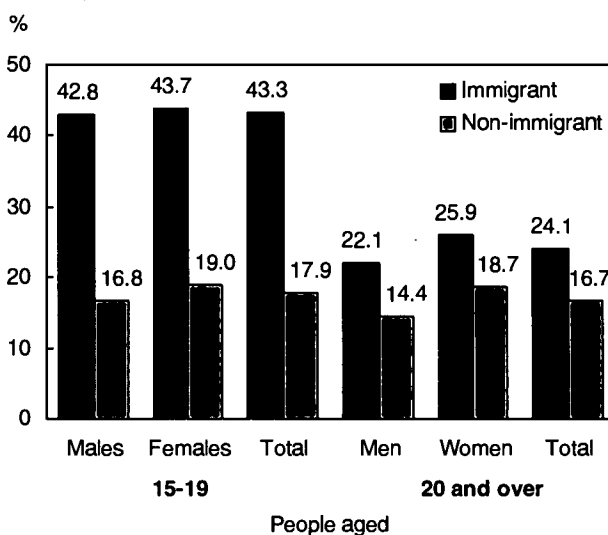
Percentage of the population living in a low-income situation, by age and Aboriginal status, 1995

¹ Does not include those living on-reserve or in the territories.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996.

only 18% of comparable non-immigrants, had low incomes.² (Chart 6.13)

Chart 6.13

Percentage of the population living in a low-income situation, by age and immigration status, 1995

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996.

Immigrant youth are also almost twice as likely to have low incomes as those in older groups. In 1995, 43% of immigrant 15- to 19-year-olds had low incomes, compared with just 24% of those aged 20 and over. In both cases, however, immigrants were more likely than those born in Canada to have low incomes that year.

Among immigrant youth, males and females are almost equally likely to live with low incomes. In 1995, 43% of male immigrant youths had low incomes, as did 44% of their female counterparts. Both immigrant males and females in this age range, though, were considerably more likely than their non-immigrant counterparts to live in a low-income situation.

Sources of income

Income from earnings provides, by far, the largest share of the total income of young people. Indeed, in 1999, 87% of the overall income of 16- to 19-year-olds came in the form of wages and salaries or net income from self-employment. That year, 82% of all income of people in this age range was earned as wages or salaries, while 4% was net income from self-employment. At the same time, 8% of the total income of the youth population came from transfer payments,⁷ while 3% was investment income and another 3% was other money income from sources such as scholarships, alimony and child support payments, annuities and superannuation. (Table 6.3)

In fact, the distribution of income of young people is roughly similar to that for people in their primary working years between the ages of 20 and 64. On the other hand, young people get a much larger share of their income from wages and salaries or net income from self-employment than do people aged 65 and over. Young people are also less dependent on transfer payments than seniors, a large proportion of whose income comes in the form of pension benefits.

Families led by young people, however, are relatively dependent on transfer payments. In 1999, 23% of the income of families headed by a 16- to 19-year-old came from these sources. This was well above the figure for families in which the major earner was someone between the ages of 20 and 64 (7%). The share of the income of young families coming from transfers, though, was well below that of families in which the major earner was over the age of 65. (Table 6.4)

Young people living on their own also receive a somewhat larger share of their income from transfer payments than do unattached adults between the ages of 20 and 64. In 1999, 12% of the income of people aged 16 to 19 either living alone or with non-relatives came from transfer payments, compared with 8% of that of unattached people aged 20 to 64. Unattached individuals aged 16 to 19, however, get a much smaller share of their income from these programs than unattached seniors, over half (54%) of whose total income comes in the form of transfer payments, again primarily public pensions. (Table 6.5)

The actual dollar value of the transfer payments received by young unattached people, however, is considerably less than that going to comparable older people. In 1999, unattached people aged 16 to 19 received an average of just under \$900 in transfer payments, versus almost \$2,400 for unattached people between the ages of 20 and 64 and \$12,200 for seniors.

Sources of income of Aboriginal youth

As with the overall youth population, the largest share of the revenue of Aboriginal youth comes from earnings. Transfer payments, however, account for a relatively large proportion of the income of Aboriginal people aged 15 to 19. In 1995, over one-third (34%) of the income of Aboriginal people in this age range came from transfer payments, while 62% came from earned sources. These figures contrast with those among non-Aboriginal youth, among whom only 9% of income came from transfer payments, while 83% from earnings that year. (Table 6.6)

Sources of income of immigrant youth

The primary sources of income of immigrant youth roughly parallel those of their non-immigrant counterparts. In 1995, for instance, 79% of the income of immigrant 15- to 19-year-olds came from wages, salaries or self-employment, while 12% came from government transfers. Among non-immigrant youths, these figures were 83% and 10%, respectively. (Table 6.6)

¹ Data from the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics include only those aged 16 and over.

² Note that the data for Aboriginal and immigrant youth differ somewhat from that in other sections of this chapter. These data are from the Census whereas the other data are from the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID). The Census data are for 1995 while the SLID data are for 1999. As well, the Census data for young people include those aged 15 to 19, whereas the SLID data only includes those aged 16 to 19. In addition, the Census data on low incomes refer to pre-tax incomes, while the data from SLID refer to after-tax income.

³ Immigrants aged 15 to 19 include only people in this age range who were born outside Canada and came to this country either with their families or by themselves. They do not include people born in Canada to immigrant parents.

⁴ Families or individuals are classified as having low income if they spend, on average, at least 20 percentage points more of their post-tax income than the average Canadian on food, shelter and clothing. Using 1992 as the base year, families and individuals with incomes below the low income cut-offs usually spend more than 54.7% of their income on these items and are considered to be in straitened circumstances. The number of people in the family and the size of the urban or rural area where the family resides are also taken into consideration. Note, however, that Statistics Canada's low income cut-offs are not official poverty lines. They have no officially recognised status as such, nor does Statistics Canada promote their use as poverty lines.

⁵ Data for the low income cut-offs include people with and without income that year. The low-income population includes young people living with their parents, as well as those who head their own families or live alone.

⁶ Source: Statistics Canada, *Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics*.

⁷ Government transfer payments include all social welfare payments from federal, provincial, and municipal governments, including Child Tax Benefits, Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplements, Spouse's Allowances, Canada and

Quebec Pension Plan benefits, Employment Insurance, worker's compensation, training allowances, veteran's pensions, social assistance, and pensions to the blind and persons with disabilities. Refundable tax credits and Goods and Services Tax Credits are included as income.

Table 6.1
Average income of individuals,¹ by age, 1999

	Males	Females	Total
		\$	
People aged			
16-19	6,341	5,445	5,901
20-24	15,388	12,214	13,826
25-34	33,507	22,328	27,917
35-44	43,868	26,812	35,399
45-54	46,813	26,766	36,992
55-64	38,640	19,933	29,617
65 and over	28,019	17,635	22,155
Total	35,117	21,308	28,150

¹ Includes only those with some income.

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics.

Table 6.2
Average income of people aged 16 to 19,¹ by province, 1999

	Males	Females	Total
		\$	
Newfoundland and Labrador	4,395	3,598	4,042
Prince Edward Island	5,427	5,359	5,394
Nova Scotia	6,478	4,225	5,244
New Brunswick	5,462	4,456	4,969
Quebec	6,740	5,107	6,005
Ontario	5,744	5,500	5,618
Manitoba	7,123	6,163	6,650
Saskatchewan	6,858	5,452	6,231
Alberta	6,790	5,798	6,311
British Columbia	7,079	5,996	6,541
Canada	6,341	5,445	5,901

¹ Includes only those with some income.

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics.

Table 6.3
Sources of income of individuals, by age, 1999

	Individuals aged					
	16-19		20-64		65 and over	
	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%
Wages and salaries	4,860	82.4	24,578	79.8	926	4.2
Net income from self-employment	245	4.1	2,093	6.8	488	2.2
Investment income	189	3.2	817	2.7	2,821	12.7
Transfer payments	445	7.5	2,070	6.7	11,050	49.9
Other money income	161	2.7	1,249	4.0	6,870	31.0
Total	5,901	100.0	30,806	100.0	22,155	100.0
Total number (000s)	1,201	...	18,314	...	3,653	...

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics.

Table 6.4
Sources of income of families, by age of major income earner, 1999

	Major income earner aged					
	16-19		20-64		65 and over	
	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%
Wages and salaries	15,587	58.0	52,818	78.8	3,688	8.2
Net income from self-employment	3,503	13.0	4,550	6.8	1,639	3.7
Investment income	1,446	5.4	1,850	2.8	5,988	13.4
Transfer payments	6,108	22.7	4,820	7.2	19,520	43.5
Other money income	246	0.9	2,952	4.4	14,010	31.2
Total	26,890	100.0	66,990	100.0	44,845	100.0
Total number (000s)	29	...	7,210	...	1,098	...

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics.

Table 6.5
Sources of income of unattached individuals, by age, 1999

	Unattached individuals aged					
	16-19		20-64		65 and over	
	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%
Wages and salaries	5,649	77.3	23,703	80.8	620	2.8
Net income from self-employment	501	6.9	1,767	6.0	67	0.3
Investment income	62	0.9	573	2.0	3,030	13.5
Transfer payments	869	11.9	2,357	8.0	12,202	54.4
Other money income	226	3.1	936	3.2	6,509	29.0
Total	7,306	100.0	29,335	100.0	22,428	100.0
Total number (000s)	66	...	3,033	...	1,135	...

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics.

Table 6.6
Sources of income of people aged 15 to 19, by Aboriginal and immigration status, 1995

	People aged 15-19			
	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Immigrant	Non-immigrant
	%			
Wages and salaries	60.7	80.9	76.8	80.7
Net income from self-employment	1.2	2.1	2.4	2.0
Investment income	0.6	4.2	3.9	4.1
Transfer payments	34.4	9.3	12.3	9.9
Other money income	3.1	3.6	4.4	3.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number (000s)	44.3	1,082.9	82.6	1,040.3

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996.

Chapter 7: Other Quality of Life Measures

Less work, more play plus lots of sleep

Young people generally spend their time somewhat differently than older adults. In particular, people aged 15 to 19 devote less time than older adults to productive activities,¹ including paid and unpaid work as well as educational activities, while they have more free time and spend more time sleeping.

In 1998, youths spent an average of 6.3 hours a day engaged in productive activities. That, however, was over one and a half hours a day less than the total for people aged 20 and over who averaged just under 8 hours per day on these types of activities. (Table 7.1)

As might be expected, education and related activities account for a relatively large share of the productive time of youths. In 1998, people aged 15 to 19 averaged 3.3 hours per day on educational activities, compared with an average of less than half an hour for people aged 20 and over.

In contrast, young people spend much less time than older Canadians on work activities. In 1998, people aged 15 to 19 spent an average of 1.5 hours per day on paid work and another 1.5 hours on unpaid work. Both figures were considerably less than half those for older adults, who averaged almost 4 hours per day each on paid and unpaid work activities.

At the same time, young people generally get more sleep than older adults. In fact, in 1998, people aged 15 to 19 averaged 8.8 hours of sleep a day, close to a full hour more than the figure for people aged 20 and over, who averaged 8.0 hours per day sleeping.

Young people also tend to have more free time than older adults. In 1998, people aged 15 to 19 averaged 7.0 hours per day of free time, as opposed to 5.7 hours for people aged 20 and over.

Like older adults, youths spend most of their free time socializing and watching television. Indeed, in 1998, people aged 15 to 19 spent close to three hours a day socializing with friends, over an hour more than the figure for people aged 20 and over. At the same time, people aged 15 to 19 averaged just over two hours per day watching television. Young people, though, actually spend about the same amount of time watching television as their older counterparts.

Young people, though, do not spend much time engaged in other passive leisure activities, such as reading for pleasure. In 1998, people aged 15 to 19 averaged less than half an hour either reading or engaged in other passive leisure

activities, somewhat less than the figure for the older population.

Young people also spend considerable amounts of time playing sports and engaging in other active leisure activities. In 1998, people aged 15 to 19 averaged an hour and a half per day participating in active leisure pursuits, compared with less than an hour per day for people aged 20 and over. That year, people aged 15 to 19 averaged almost an hour per day on sporting activities and over half an hour per day on other active leisure pursuits.

Among young people, females generally devote somewhat more time than their male counterparts to productive activities. In 1998, females aged 15 to 19 spent 6.4 hours per day on these activities, as opposed to 6.1 hours for males in this age range. That year, among 15- to 19-year-olds, females spent around a half an hour per day more than males on unpaid work and on educational activities. In contrast, young men devoted more time to paid work, averaging 1.9 hours per day, as opposed to 1.1 for their female counterparts.

Young men also generally have more free time than young women. In 1998, males aged 15 to 19 had an average of 7.2 hours of free time per day, as opposed to 6.7 hours for females in this age range. Almost all this difference was accounted for by time devoted to active sports. In 1998, male youths spent a half an hour per day more than their female counterparts on sports and other active leisure activities.

Students have less free time

As might be expected, the time use patterns of young people vary depending on whether their main activity is work or school. In particular, students spend more time on productive activities and have less free time than employed youths. In 1998, 15- to 19-year-olds whose primary activity was going to school devoted 6.5 hours per day to productive activities, almost a half hour more than the figure for employed youths, who averaged 6.1 hours per day on these activities. (Table 7.2)

The time allocation patterns of young people whose primary activity is going to school differ from those of their counterparts whose main activity is work, in part because many students also work.² In 1998, students aged 15 to 19, who averaged 4.4 daily hours on their educational activities, also spent close to an hour a day on paid work activities. In contrast, employed youths, who averaged 4.3 hours per day on paid work, spent just under half an hour a day on education and related activities.

Young people whose main activity is work have more free time than their counterparts whose main activity is school. In 1998, people aged 15 to 19 whose main activity was working in the paid labour force had an average of 7.2 hours per day of free time, compared with 6.8 hours for students.

Students and employed youths also generally spend their free time in different ways. For example, employed young people devoted close to four hours a day to socializing in 1998, over an hour more per day than students.

On the other hand, young people whose main activity is school tend to watch more television than their counterparts whose primary activity is work. In 1998, students aged 15 to 19 spent an average of 2.2 hours per day watching television, over a half an hour more per day than employed people in this age range, who averaged 1.5 hours per day watching television. Students also devoted somewhat more time than working youths to participation in sports, as well as reading and other passive leisure. At the same time, though, employed youths spent more time attending movies, sports events and other entertainment activities.

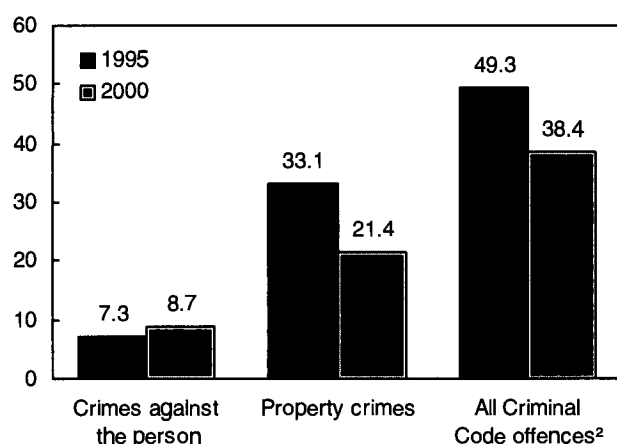
Youth crime rates down³

The overall crime rate among young people has been falling in recent years. Based on data from selected police services across Canada, there were 38 Criminal Code violations, other than traffic charges, per 1,000 people aged 15 to 19 in 2000, down over 20% from 49 such violations per 1,000 population in 1995. (Chart 7.1)

Chart 7.1

Crime rates¹ among people aged 15 to 19, by type of offence, 1995 and 2000

Charges per 1,000 population



¹ Data are from a database of 106 police services covering 41% of the national volume of crime.

² Excluding traffic offences.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

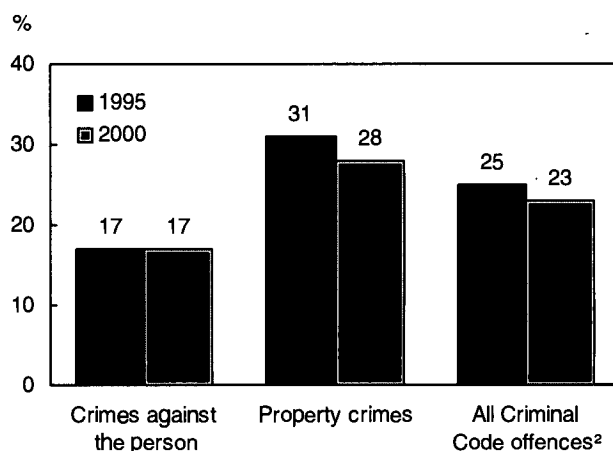
The decline in the overall crime rate among young people, however, masks an increase in the incidence of violent crimes committed by people aged 15 to 19. In 2000, for example, there were nine charges of crimes against the person for every 1,000 people in this age range, up from seven in 1995.

In contrast, the property crime rate among young people has dropped sharply in the past five years. In 2000, there were 21 crimes against property reported for every 1,000 people aged 15 to 19 in the survey area, down 35% from 33 such charges per 1,000 population in 1995.

Despite the decline in the overall incidence of crime among young people, those aged 15 to 19 continue to account for a disproportionate share of crime activity in Canada. In 2000, people aged 15 to 19 made up 23% of all people charged with non-traffic Criminal Code violations in the areas covered by the special survey of police services across the country, whereas 15- to 19-year-olds made up only 7% of the total population. The share of all crimes currently being committed by young people, however, is down slightly from 25% in 1995. (Chart 7.2)

Chart 7.2

Percentage of criminal charges¹ accounted for by people aged 15 to 19, by type of offence, 1995 and 2000



¹ Data are from a database of 106 police services covering 41% of the national volume of crime.

² Excluding traffic offences.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

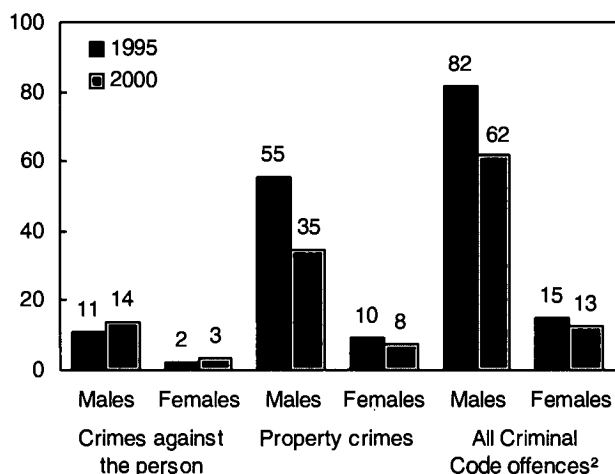
At the same time, though, while the violent crime rate among young people has risen in the past few years, the share of all violent crimes accounted for by people aged 15 to 19 has not changed. In 2000, people in the 15 to 19 age range made up 17% of all those charged with crimes against the person, the same figure as in 1995. In contrast, the share of all property crimes accounted for by young people declined from 31% to 28% in the same period.

Among young people, males are considerably more likely than females to be involved in criminal activity. In 2000, there were 62 charges against the Criminal Code for every 1,000 males aged 15 to 19, compared with only 13 per 1,000 females in this age range. (Chart 7.3)

Chart 7.3

Crime rates¹ among people aged 15 to 19, by type of offence, 1995 and 2000

Charges per 1,000 population



¹ Data are from a database of 106 police services covering 41% of the national volume of crime.

² Excluding traffic offences.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

The overall crime rate among young men, however, has dropped sharply in the past five years. In 2000, there were 62 Criminal Code charges for every 1,000 males aged 15 to 19, down 25% from 82 such charges per 1,000 population in 1995. The total crime rate among young women also declined in the same period, falling from 15 Criminal Code charges per 1,000 females aged 15 to 19 in 1995 to the current figure of 13.

There was a particularly sharp drop in the property crime rate among young men in the past few years. In 2000, there were 35 charges for crimes against property for every 1,000 males aged 15 to 19, down almost 40% from 55 such charges per 1,000 population in 1995. In contrast, the violent crime rate among males in this age range rose 26%, from 11 charges for crimes against the person for every 1,000 males aged 15 to 19 in 1995 to 14 in 2000. There were similar patterns among female youth, with the violent crime rate rising and the property crime rate falling. For both types of crimes, however, the rate for males remained well above that for their female counterparts.

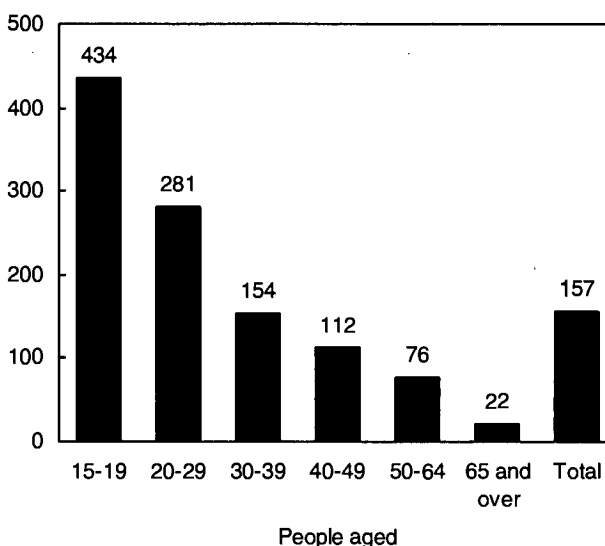
Young people as the victims of crime

While young people generally continue to account for a disproportionate share of criminal activity in Canada, youths are also more likely than adults to be the victim of a crime. In 1999, there were 434 incidents of personal crime victimization for every 1,000 people aged 15 to 19, almost three times the rate for the overall adult population; that year, there were 157 such criminal victimizations per 1,000 total population in Canada. (Chart 7.4)

Chart 7.4

Criminal victimization rates, by age, 1999

Per 1,000 population



Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

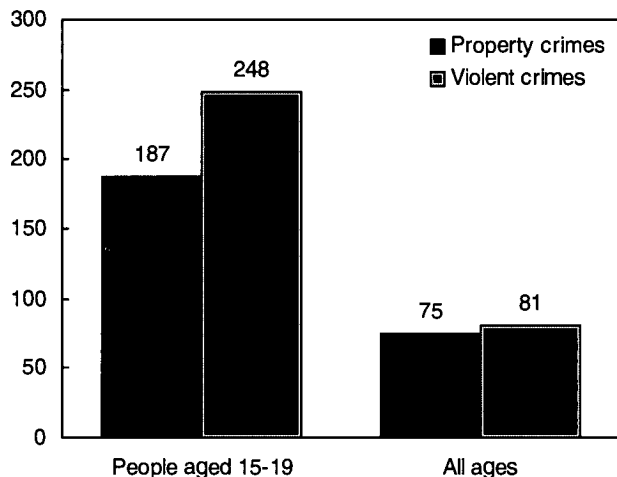
Indeed, people aged 15 to 19 have by far the highest criminal victimization rate of any age group in Canada. In 1999, there were 434 incidents of personal criminal victimization for every 1,000 people aged 15 to 19, while the figure among other adult age groups ranged from 281 for those aged 20 to 29 to just over 20 among seniors.

Young people are particularly likely to be the victim of a violent crime. In 1999, there were 248 incidents of violent crimes for every 1,000 people aged 15 to 19, three times the national rate of 81 such incidents per 1,000 population. At the same time, there were 187 incidents of personal property crimes for every 1,000 people aged 15 to 19, two and a half times the national property crime victimization rate of 75 per 1,000 population. (Chart 7.5)

Chart 7.5

Property and violent criminal victimization rates, by age, 1999

Per 1,000 population



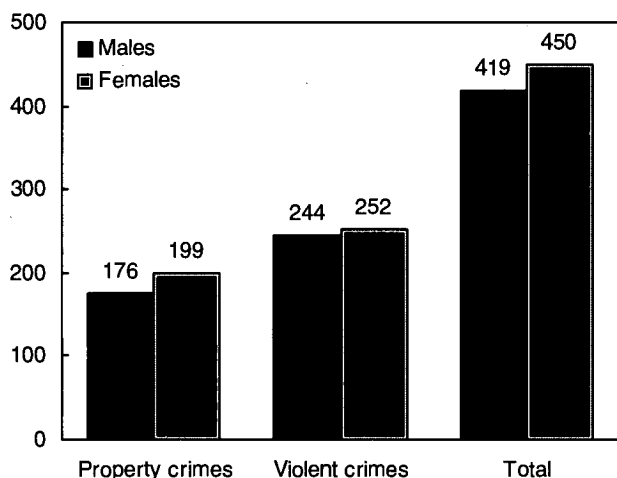
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

While young men are considerably more likely than their female counterparts to engage in criminal activity, young women are somewhat more likely to be the victim of a crime. In 1999, there were 450 criminal victimizations for every 1,000 females aged 15 to 19, compared with 419 for males in this age range. (Chart 7.6)

Chart 7.6

Criminal victimization rates against people aged 15 to 19, by type, 1999

Per 1,000 population



Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Young women are also more likely than their male counterparts to be victims of both property and violent crimes. In 1999, there were 199 incidents of property crimes for every 1,000 females aged 15 to 19, compared with 176 for every 1,000 males in this age range. Similarly, there were 252 violent criminal victimizations for every 1,000 females aged 15 to 19, versus a figure of 244 for their male counterparts.

The overall violent criminal victimization rates among young women and men, however, mask some major differences in the types of crimes committed against these two groups. In 1999, for example, young women were much more likely than their male counterparts to be the victim of a sexual assault, whereas males in this age range were considerably more likely than females to be the victims of other types of assaults.⁴

¹ Productive activities include paid work and related activities such as travel to and from work, and meal and other breaks; unpaid work activities such as domestic work, childcare, shopping and services, and organisational and volunteer work; and educational activities.

² For more information on the labour force characteristics of youth, see Chapter 5.

³ Data in this section are from a database of 106 police services from across Canada which account for 41% of the national volume of crime. The police services involved in this database include almost all urban police services, plus the Sûreté de Québec, which covers rural areas of that province.

⁴ Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Table 7.1
Average time spent on selected activities, 1998

Type of activity	People aged					
	15-19			20 and over		
	Males	Females	Total	Men	Women	Total
	Hours per day ¹					
Productive						
Paid work and related activities	1.9	1.1	1.5	4.8	2.9	3.8
Unpaid work	1.2	1.8	1.5	2.9	4.6	3.8
Education and related activities	3.1	3.5	3.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Total productive activities	6.1	6.4	6.3	7.9	7.9	7.9
Sleep	8.9	8.8	8.8	7.9	8.1	8.0
Other personal care	1.8	2.1	1.9	2.3	2.5	2.4
Free time						
Socializing	2.9	2.8	2.9	1.8	1.9	1.8
Watching television	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.4	2.0	2.2
Reading and other passive leisure	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6
Attending movies, sports events and other entertainment events	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1
Sports participation	1.1	0.6	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.4
Other active leisure	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5
Total free time	7.2	6.7	7.0	5.9	5.5	5.7
Total time	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0

¹ Averaged over a seven-day week.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Table 7.2
Average time spent on selected activities for people aged 15 to 19, by main activity, 1998

Type of activity	Employed			Students		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
	Hours per day ¹					
Productive						
Paid work and related activities	5.0	3.4	4.3	1.1	0.5	0.8
Unpaid work	1.1	1.7	1.4	0.9	1.6	1.3
Education and related activities	0.3	0.6	0.4	4.3	4.5	4.4
Total productive activities	6.4	5.7	6.1	6.3	6.7	6.5
Sleep	9.0	9.1	9.1	8.7	8.7	8.7
Other personal care	1.5	1.9	1.7	1.8	2.2	2.0
Free time						
Socializing	3.6	3.8	3.7	2.7	2.4	2.6
Watching television	1.7	1.3	1.5	2.2	2.2	2.2
Reading and other passive leisure	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.4
Attending movies, sports events and other entertainment events	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.2
Sports participation	0.8	0.6	0.7	1.2	0.6	0.9
Other active leisure	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5
Total free time	7.1	7.2	7.2	7.2	6.4	6.8
Total time	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0

¹ Averaged over a seven-day week.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

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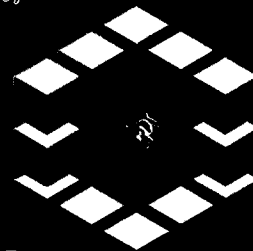
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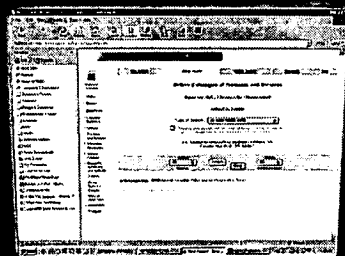
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