

A Portrait of Canadian Youth



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Today's **YOUTH**
are unlike
any generation
before!

They are **MORE...**

diverse **connected**
socially engaged
educated

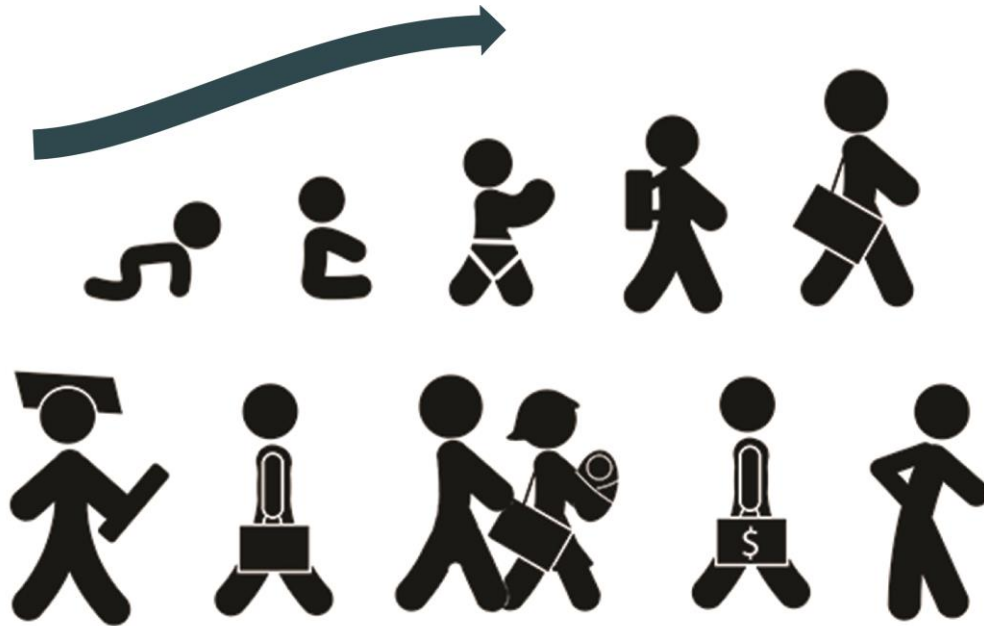


Many youth are reaping the BENEFITS but others face CHALLENGES

such as...

- ✓ finding a full time job
- ✓ social exclusion
- ✓ cyberbullying
- ✓ mental health challenges and addiction
- ✓ higher risk of being obese

Also important to think about today's youth within the entire life course



It is important to remember that today's youth will become Canada's future parents, prime-age workers, and seniors. Their early experiences and vulnerabilities can shape their outcomes later in life.

Who are Canadian youth and where do they live?



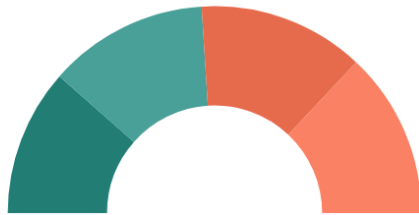
Canadian youth in numbers

There are

9 million

youth across the country,
aged **15 to 34**

Proportion of Canadian youth, by age group, 2016



■ 15-19 (23%) ■ 20-24 (25%) ■ 25-29 (26%) ■ 30-34 (26%)

They currently represent – and will continue to represent – about **one-quarter** of the country's population...compared with well over one-third in the 1970s.

Between 2006 and 2016, the **number** of youth aged 25 to 34 increased the most. The number of youth aged 15 to 19 declined.



Did you know?

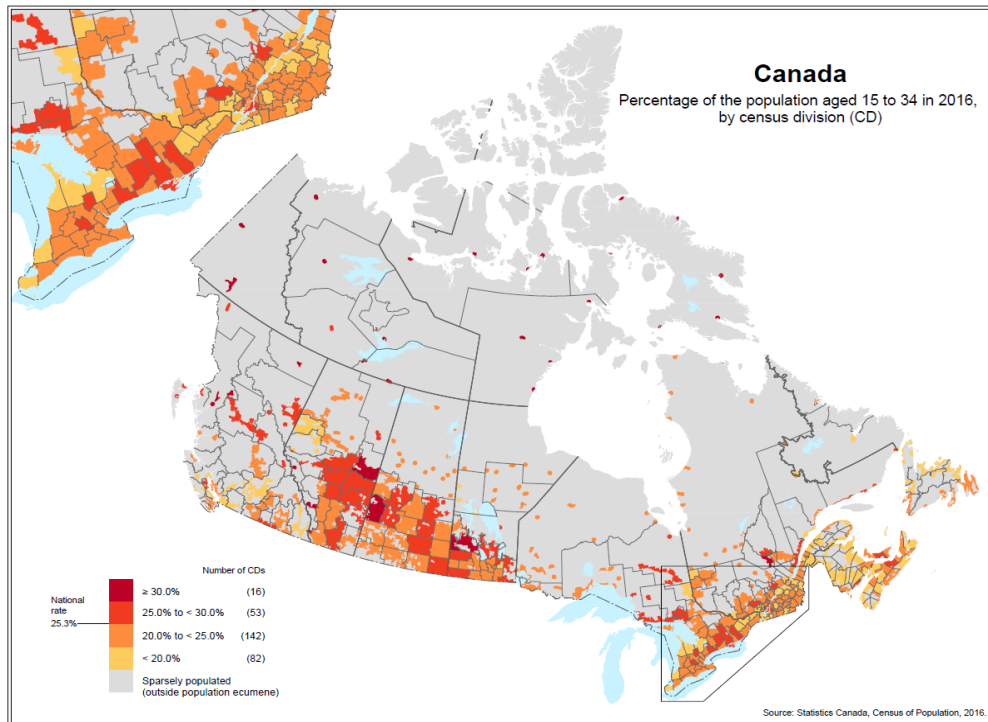


Similar to other countries, Canada's youth represent a smaller share of the population than in the past.

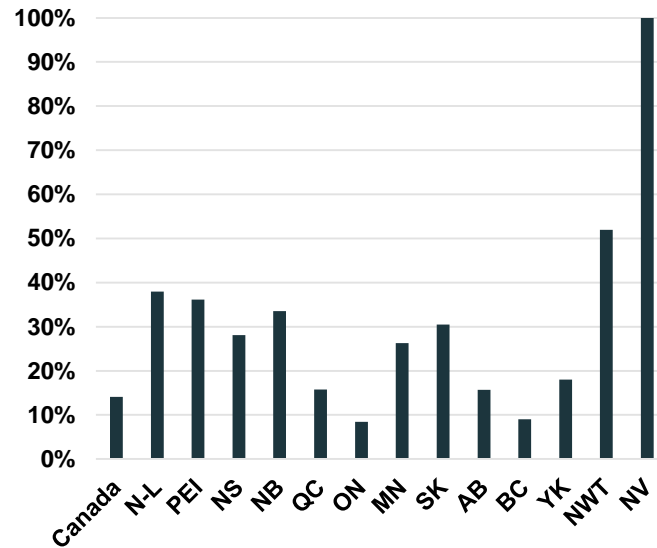
Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 and 2016
Census; Population Projections for Canada,
Provinces and Territories.



Youth's share of the population highest in Western Canada and the North



% of youth aged 15 to 34 who do not live in a town¹ or large urban centre², by province, 2016



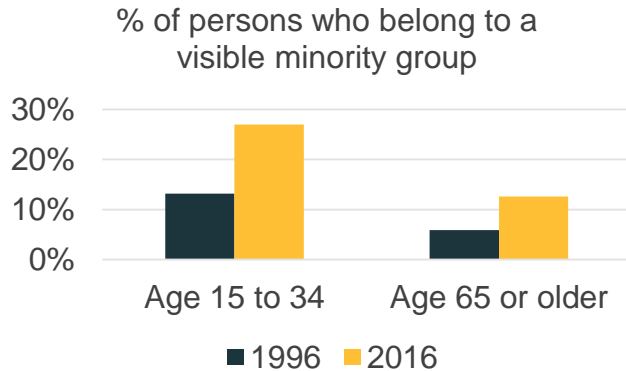
¹ Census agglomeration or ² Census metropolitan area

Youth are highly diverse...

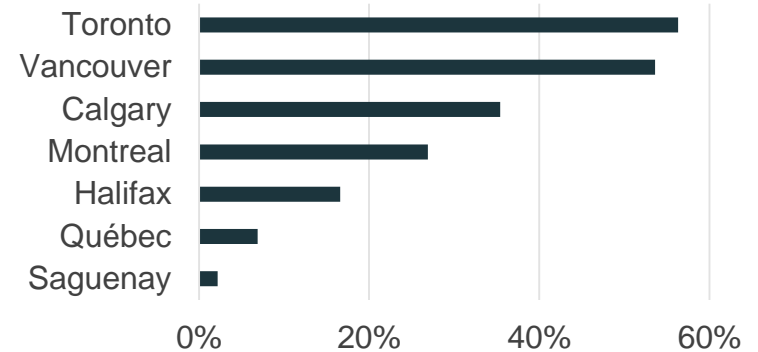
In 2016



of youth aged 15 to 34 identified themselves as a member of a visible minority group, compared with 13% in 1996



Proportion of youth aged 15 to 34 who belong to a visible minority group, selected CMAs, 2016



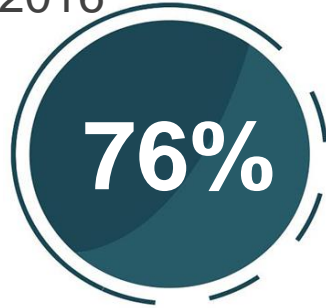
Did you know?

Almost 75% of youth have friends from another ethnic group.



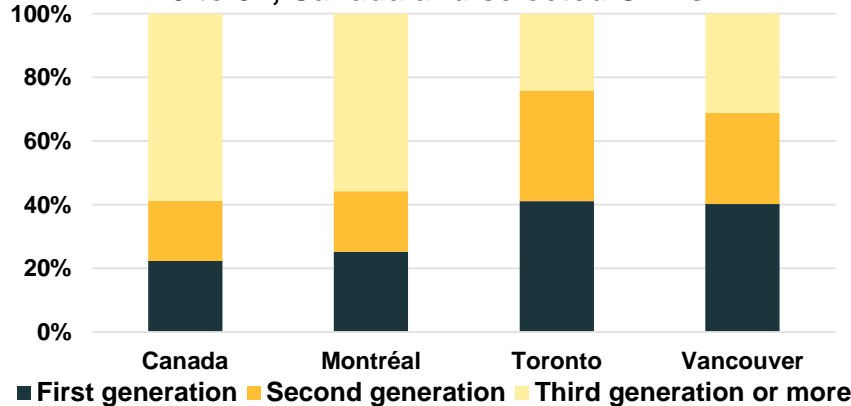
...along many dimensions

In 2016

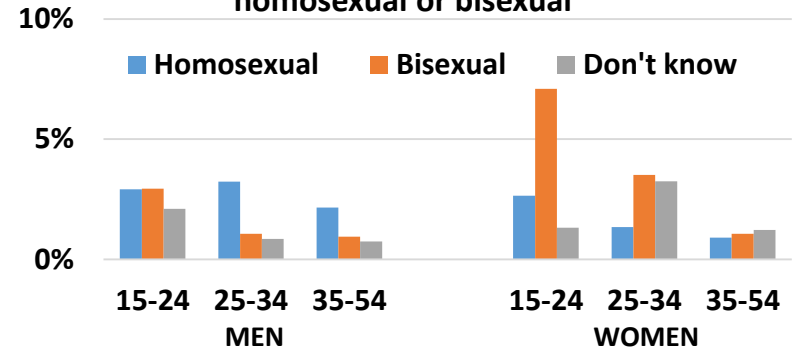


of youth in Toronto were immigrants (1st generation) or had at least one parent who is an immigrant (2nd generation)

The generational status of youth aged 15 to 34, Canada and selected CMAs



About 4% to 10% of Canadian youth consider themselves to be either homosexual or bisexual

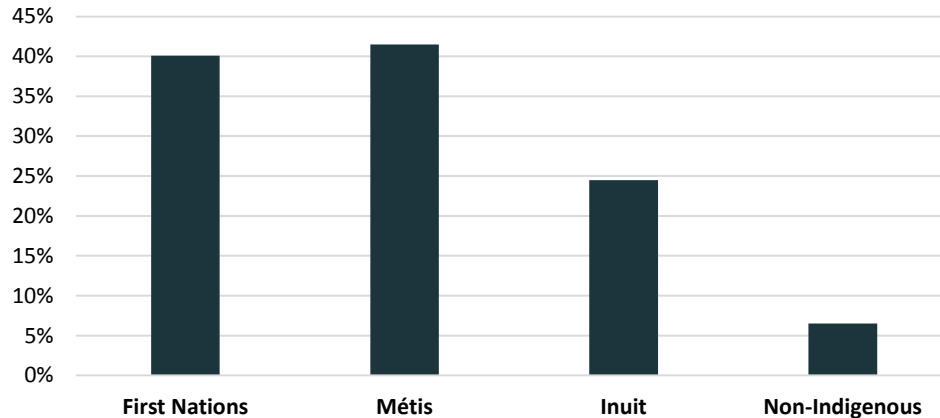


433,880 youth aged 15 to 34 – or **4.8%** – report that they have a disability

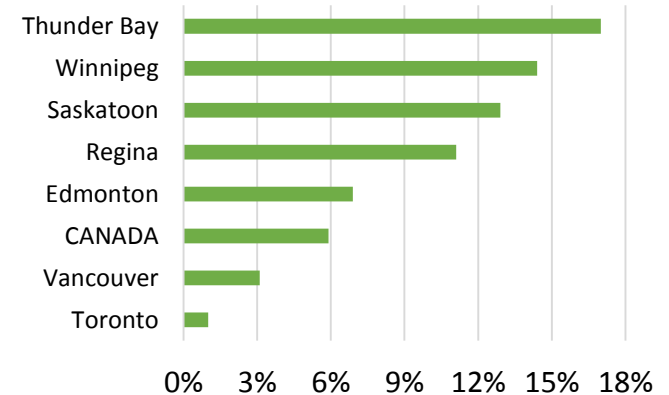
The number of young Indigenous people is growing

From 2006 to 2016, the number of First Nations, Métis and Inuit youth aged 15 to 34 increased by 39%, compared to just over 6% for non-Indigenous youth.

Percent increase in number of youth, aged 15 to 34, by Indigenous identity, 2006 to 2016



Proportion of youth aged 15 to 34 who are First Nations, Métis or Inuit, selected CMAs, 2016



Note: "Indigenous identify" refers to whether a person identified with the Aboriginal peoples of Canada. This includes those who are First Nations (North American Indian), Métis or Inuk (Inuit) and/or those who are Registered or Treaty Indians (that is, registered under the *Indian Act of Canada*), and/or those who have membership in a First Nation or Indian band.

Sources: Statistics Canada, 2006 and 2016 Census.

More youth are living with their parents

In 2016, **35%** of young adults, 20 to 34, were living with their parents, up from 31% in 2001. The increase was largest for youth aged 25 to 29.

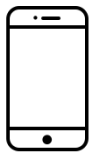


Toronto	47.4%
Hamilton	44.5%
Vancouver	38.6%
CANADA	34.7%
Montréal	33.1%
Calgary	28.5%
Québec	23.8%

What are Canadian youth doing?



Youth are more **CONNECTED** than any other generation



Nearly 100% of youth aged 15 to 24 use the Internet on a daily basis or own their own smartphone – broadly similar across all provinces and across all household income groups.



More than **three quarters** of youth aged 15 to 34 use the Internet to follow news and current affairs – more than twice the rate among older Canadians

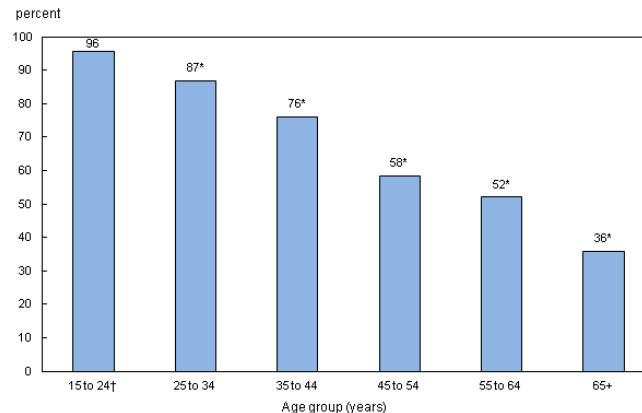


One half of youth aged 25 to 34 conduct transactions on the Internet at least weekly – almost twice that of older Canadians



Nearly half of 16 to 24 year olds participate in real-time discussions on the Internet, compared with less than 10% of older Canadians.

Virtually all youth aged 15 to 24 use social networking sites



† reference category

*significantly different from reference category

Note: Includes only those that reported using the Internet.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2013.



But higher technology use also brings new challenges

of youth aged 15 to 24 said they were cyberbullied or cyberstalked in the past 5 years

Youth are less likely to vote but are still socially and civically ENGAGED

Giving, volunteering and participating



69% of 15 to 24 years olds are members of a group, organization or association, compared with 65% for the overall Canadian population.



66% of youth aged 15 to 19 volunteer, as do 42% of youth aged 20 to 34

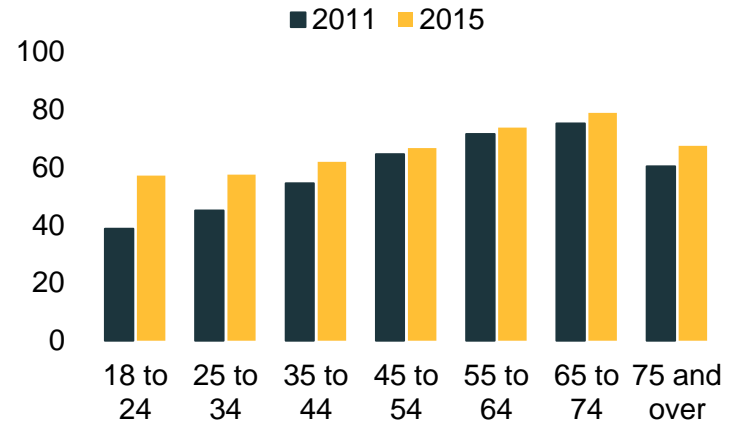


81% of those aged 25 to 34 said they gave to a charitable or non-profit organization.



Youth have confidence in public institutions – 50% of youth aged 15 to 24 have confidence in Canadian Parliament, compared with 37% for the general population.

Voting rates in federal elections by age group, 2011 and 2015



Did you know?

The proportion of young people aged 15 to 34, who stated that they rarely or never followed news and current affairs, almost doubled, from 11% in 2003 to 21% in 2013.

Youth aged 15 to 34 contribute 29% of all volunteer hours in Canada.



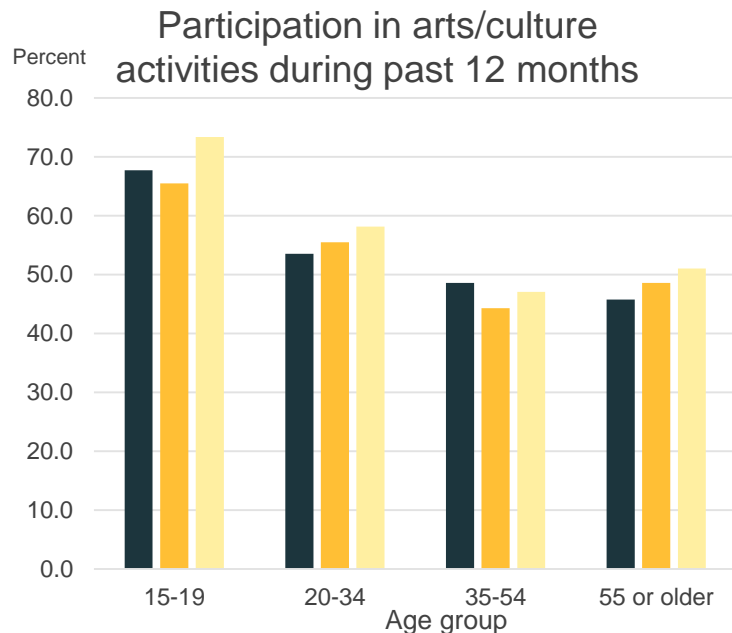
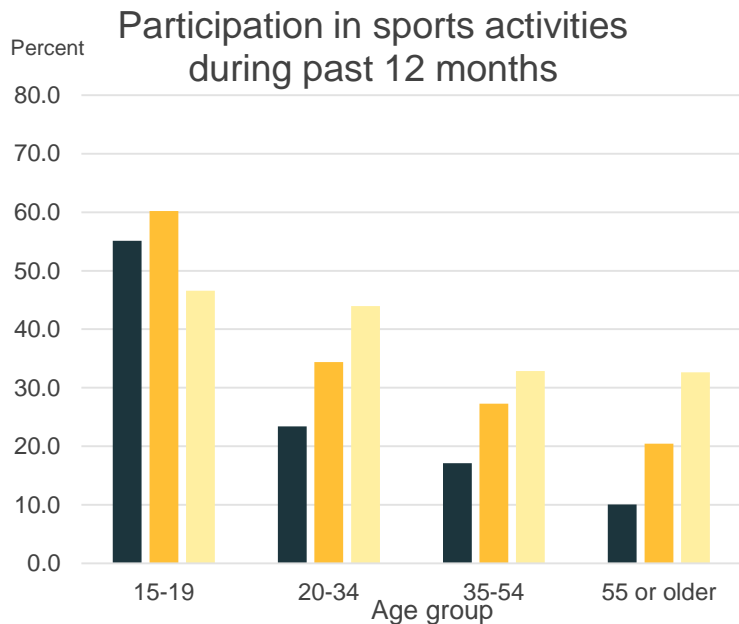
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Sources: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey on Giving, Volunteering and Participating, 2013; General Social Survey on Social Engagement, 2003; General Social Survey on Social Identity, 2013; Elections Canada, Estimation of Voter Turnout by Age Group and Gender at the General Election, 2011 and 2015

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Youth participate actively in sports, arts and cultural activities



Low household income (<\$60,000)

Moderate household income (\$60,000 to \$139,999)

High household income (\$140,000 or more)

Sources: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey on Canadians at Work and Home, 2016



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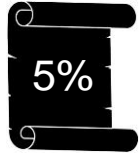
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Youth are more EDUCATED than ever



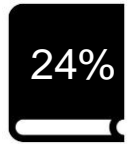
97%

of 15 year olds attend school



5%

of 21 year olds enroll in apprenticeship programs



24%

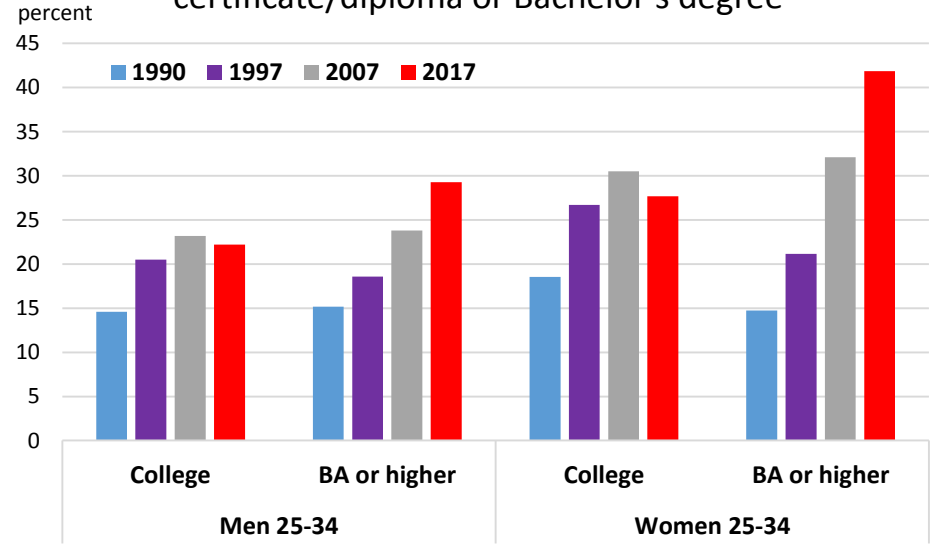
of 19 year olds in college



36%

of 21 year olds at university

Percentage of youth, 25-34, with a college certificate/diploma or Bachelor's degree



Did you know?

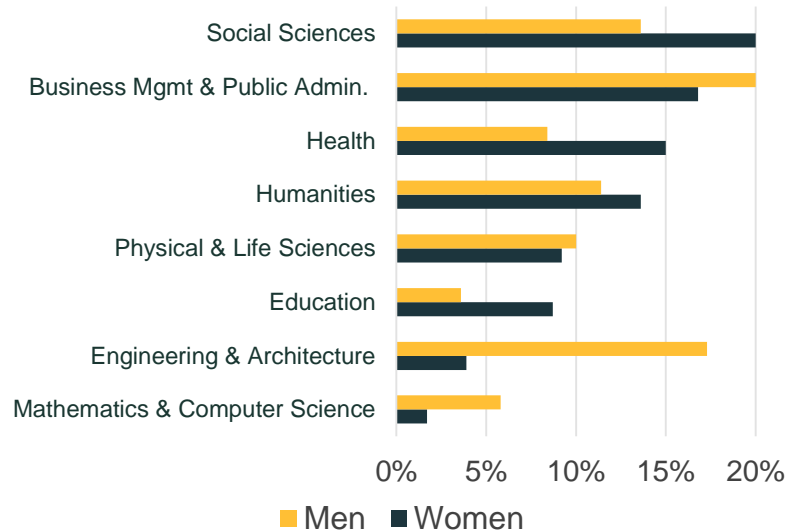
A large gap in postsecondary enrolment remains between youth from lower and higher income families. Non-financial factors, such as academic performance and parental education, play a significant role.

In 2016, 9% of men and 5% of women aged 25 to 34 had not completed high school, compared to 22% and 19%, respectively, in 1990. In 2011, 31% of Indigenous men and 25% of Indigenous women had not completed high school.

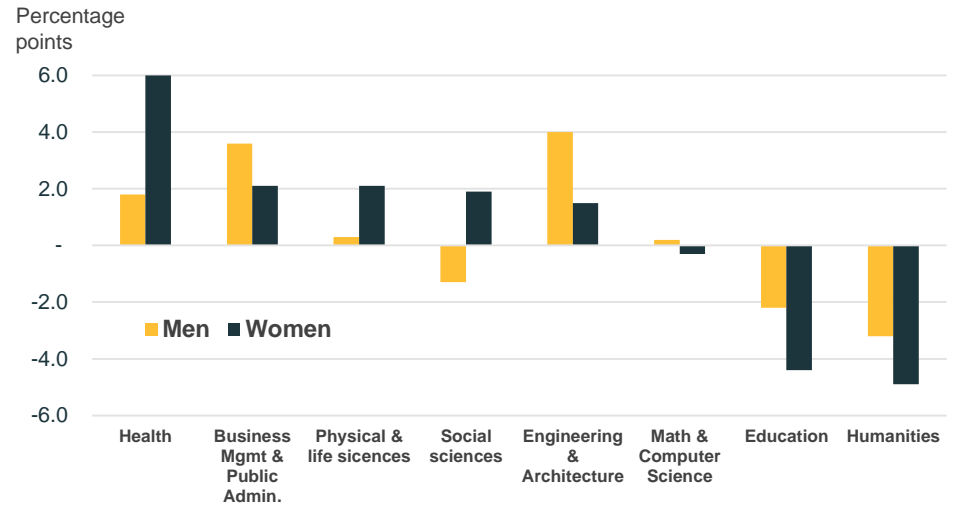


Young men and women continue to enter different types of programs and fields of study

Selected major field of study among university students, 2014/2015



Change in major fields of study undertaken by university students, 1992/93 to 2014/2015



Did you know?

Literacy and numeracy scores are higher among 25 to 34 year olds than any other age group.



Sources: Statistics Canada, Postsecondary Student Information System, 2014-2015. Statistics Canada, Postsecondary Student Information System, 1992/93 and 2014/15; Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies, 2012

Lifetime earnings vary considerably across educational attainment and fields of study



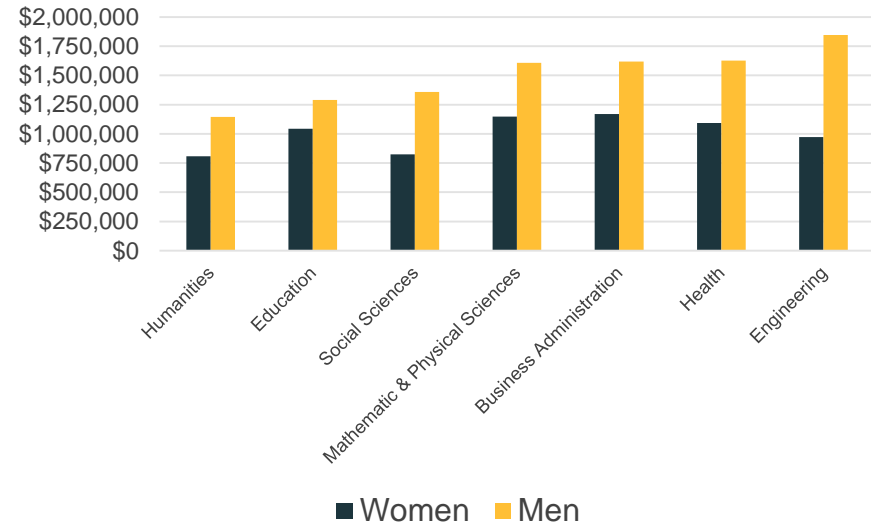
Among youth from the early 1990s, average cumulative earnings through their thirties and forties were **over \$700,000** higher among men with a bachelor's degree than among men with a high school diploma.

Among women, the difference was **\$442,000**.

These results varied significantly by field of study:

- Men with an engineering degree made over **50%** more than men with a degree in the humanities.
- Women in mathematics, physical sciences and business administration made **25%** more than women in the social sciences.

Median cumulative earnings over 20 years among an early 1990s cohort of bachelor degree holders, by sex and selected fields of study



Sources: Statistics Canada, Longitudinal Worker File and 1991 Census.

Costs of education have increased and many graduates continue to be burdened with debt



Tuition fees for full-time undergraduate students increased faster than the rate of inflation over the last decade.

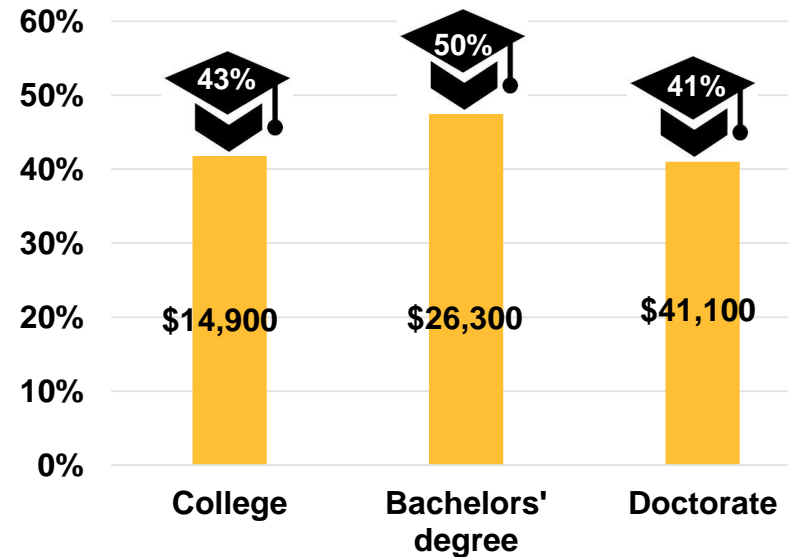


Average tuition fees for full-time Canadian undergraduate students are lowest in Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador and highest in Prince Edward Island and Ontario.



50% of youth graduating with a bachelor's degree have student debts, similar to the early 2000s.

Percentage of graduates with student debts and average debt at graduation among those with debt



Sources: Statistics Canada, Tuition and Living Accommodation Costs, 2006/2007 to 2016/2017; National Graduates Survey, 2013, class of 2009/10; and National Graduate Survey of 2002, class of 2000.

How are Canadian youth doing?

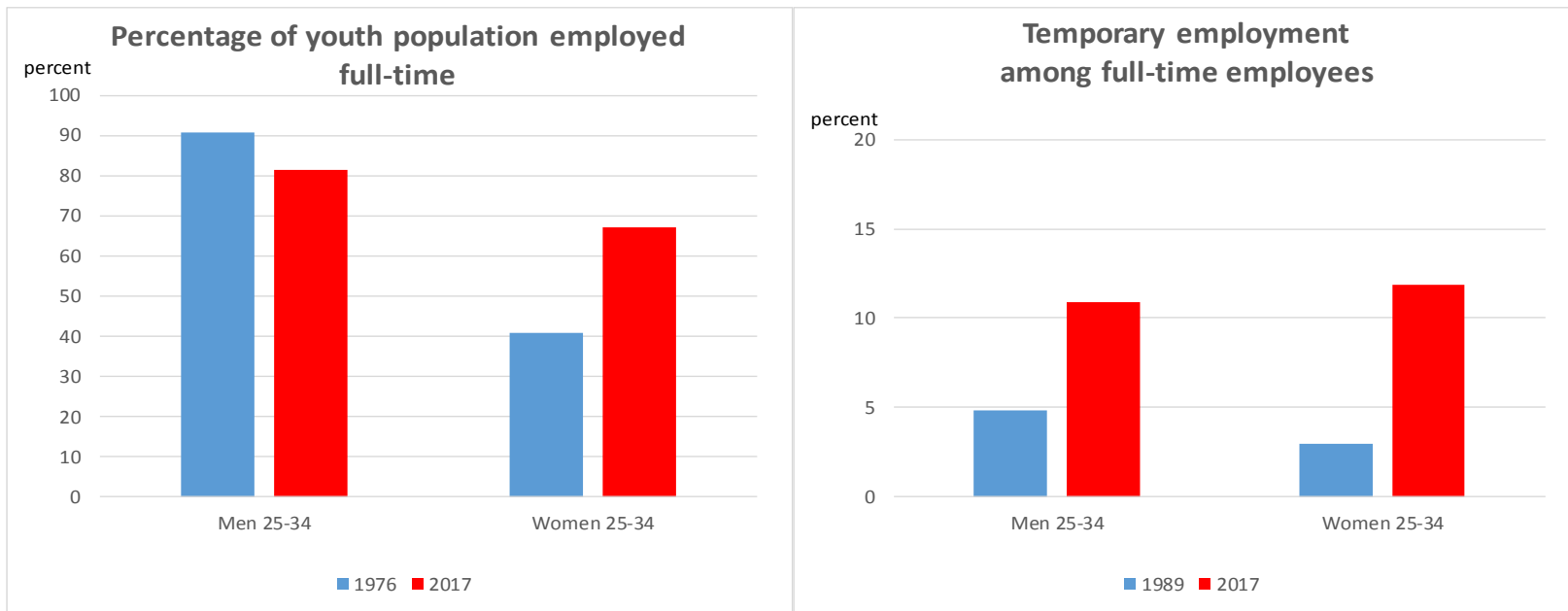


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Fewer young men in full-time or permanent JOBS...



Note: Full-time students excluded. Full-time employment refers to 30 hours of work or more per week.

Source: General Social Survey of 1989 and Labour Force Survey (March and September files)



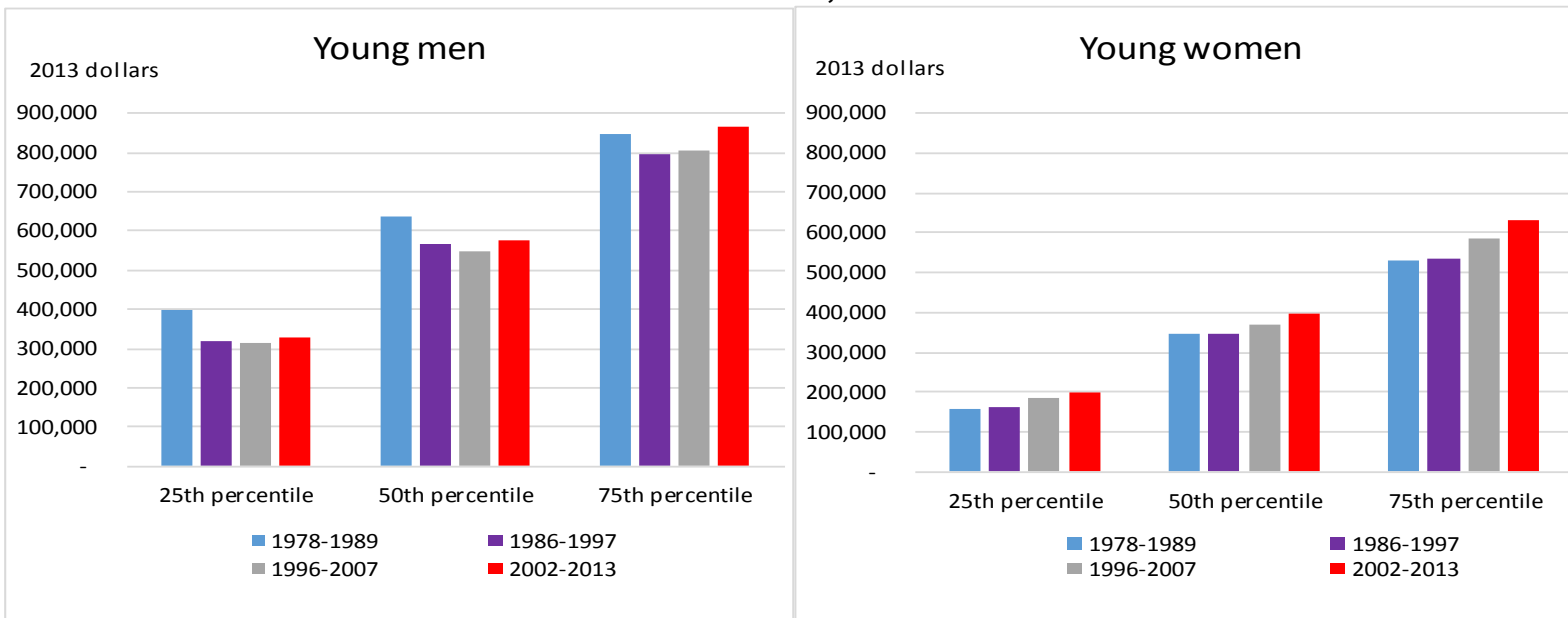
Did you know?

The percentage of young women employed full-time rose because of their growing labour force participation.



...resulting in lower earnings at the middle and lower end of the EARNINGS distribution

CUMULATIVE EARNINGS FROM AGE 28 TO AGE 39, SELECTED COHORTS



Did you know?

Young men and women at the top of the earnings distribution are faring better than ever.



Did you know?

In contrast to young men, young women have significantly increased their annual hours of work and moved to better-paid occupations, resulting in higher cumulative earnings.⁵



Some of the OCCUPATIONS in which youth are working

Among employed women aged 25 to 34 ...

... about **30%** work in professional occupations, such as nurses, teachers and accountants

... about **15%** work in technical and paraprofessional occupations, such as paralegals and health technicians

... about **17%** work in administrative occupations, such as office administrators

... and about **19%** work in personal and customer service occupations, such as food and beverage servers and information services representatives

Among employed men aged 25 to 34 ...

... about **20%** work in professional occupations, such as computers & IT professionals, accountants, and engineers

... about **10%** work in technical and paraprofessional occupations, such as computer tech support, firefighters and police officers

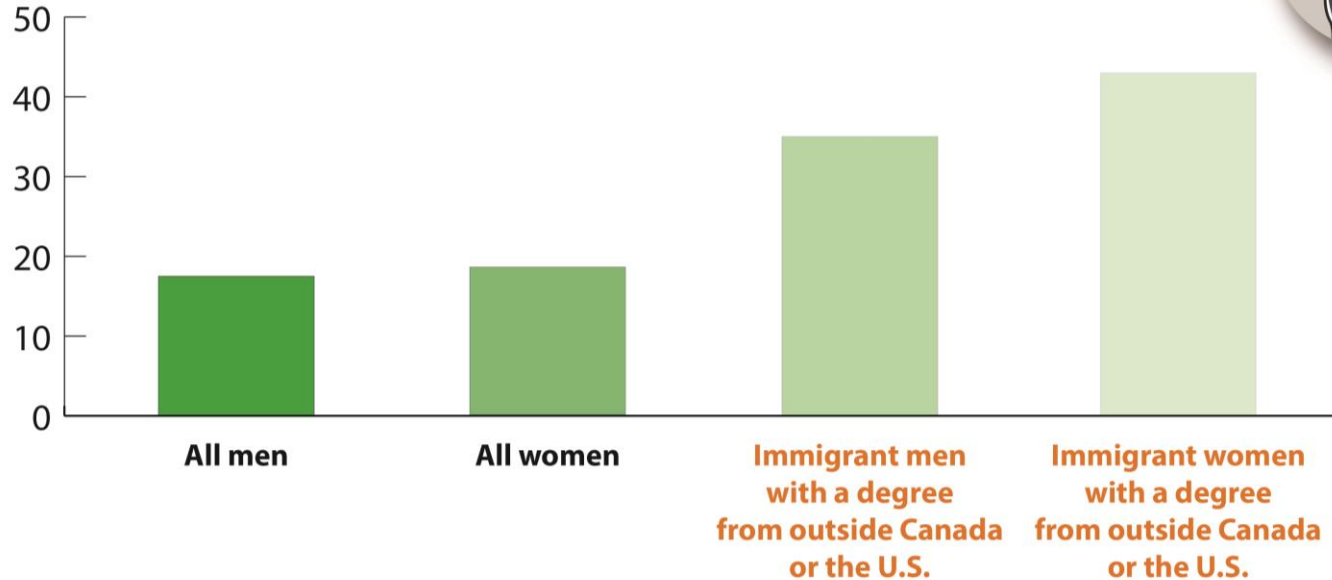
... about **18%** work in industrial and construction occupations, such as electricians, carpenters & mechanics

... and about **11%** work in personal and customer service occupations, such as cooks and food and beverage servers



Some groups are more likely to be overqualified than others

Proportion of youth aged 25 to 34 with a university degree working in occupations requiring high school education or less



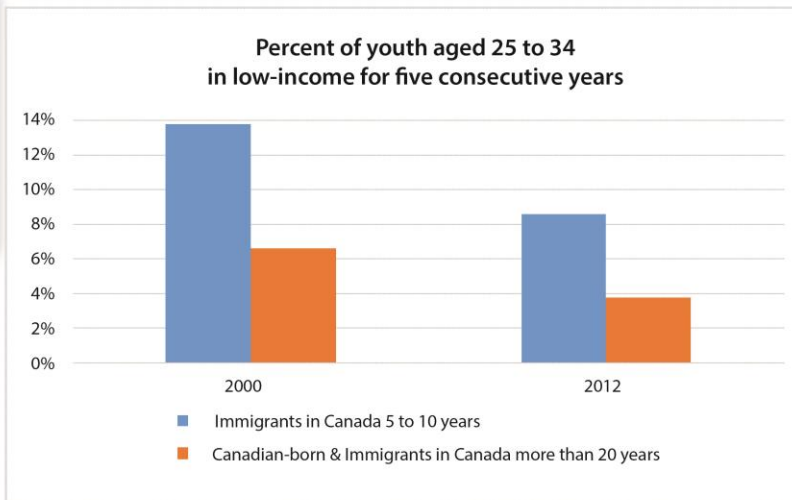
Low-income rates among Canadians aged 25 to 34

Persons aged 25 to 34

Total	12.7%
Not residing with any family members	20.4%
Aboriginal people off-reserve	24.3%
With a disability	29.4%

“Did you know?”

In 2014, **10.5%** of young Canadians aged 25 to 34 and **4.8%** of Canadians aged 15 to 24 reported that they had ever temporarily lived with family, friends, in their car, or anywhere else because they had nowhere else to live—a situation referred to as ‘hidden’ or ‘concealed’ homelessness.



Note: Results are based on the low income measure after tax (LIM-AT).

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Income Survey, 2015; General Social Survey on Canadians' Safety (Victimization), 2014; Longitudinal Immigration Database.



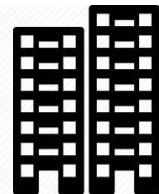
HOMEOWNERSHIP among youth recently declined for the first time in 20 years



Homeownership among younger adults aged 20 to 34 remained significantly lower than for older Canadians.

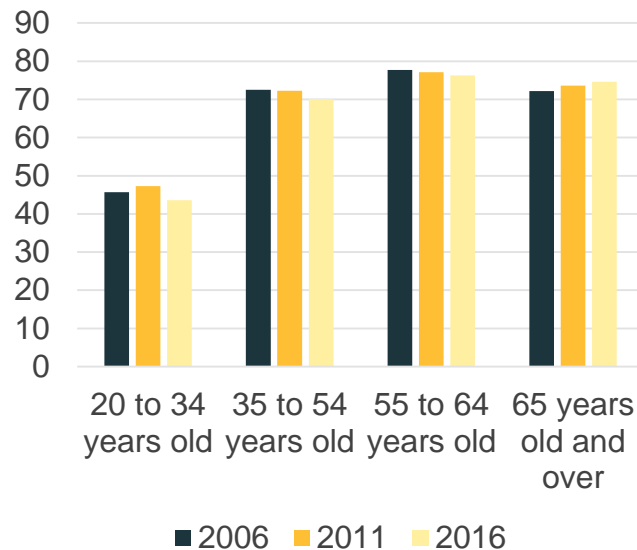


Between 2006 and 2016, homeownership rates across all age groups, except for those aged 65 years old and over declined. This follows several decades of gradual increase. The decline was largest for younger adults, particularly over the past 5 years.



Coincides with other broader trends such as the rising share of youth who are living with their parents, delays in starting a family, and the increase in housing costs.

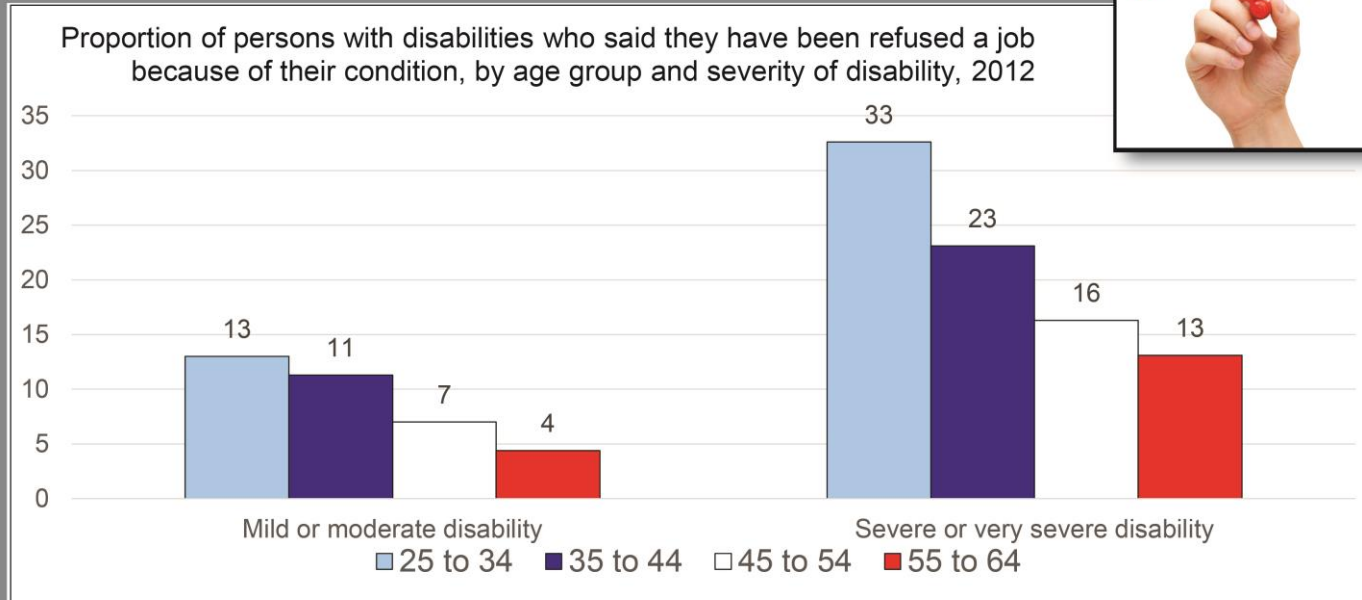
Homeownership rates by selected age groups, 2006 to 2016



Sources: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011; Census of Population, 2006 and 2016.

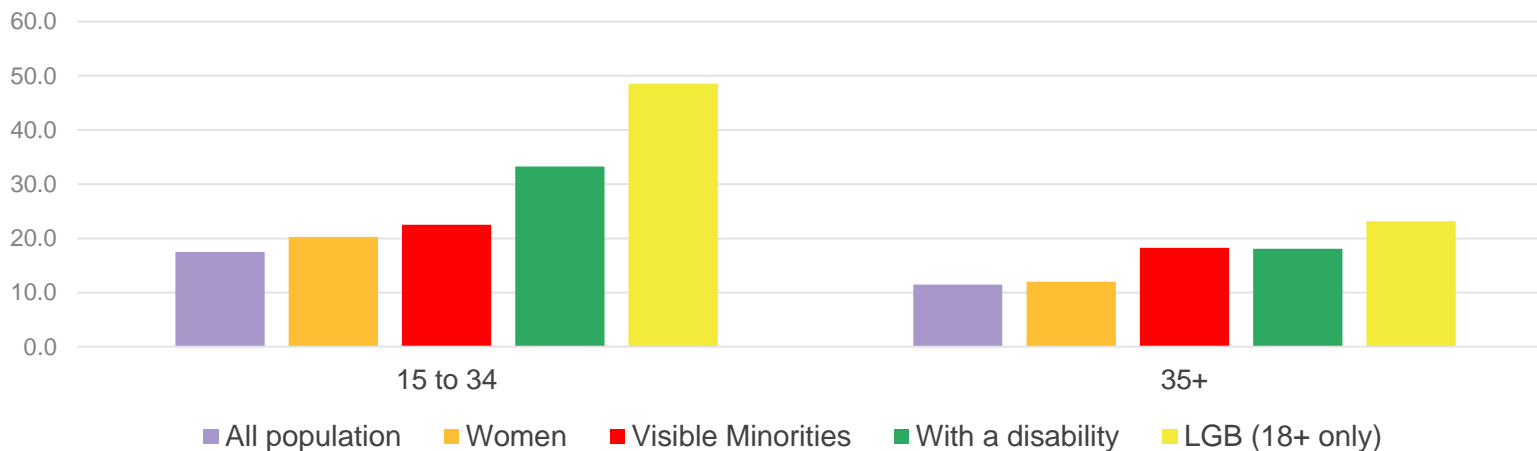


One-third of youth with a severe disability say they have been refused a job because of their condition



Youth aged 15 to 24 are more likely to report that they experienced discrimination

Proportion of individuals who reported that they experienced discrimination in the past 5 years, 2014



Note: Numbers for the LGB population are based on respondents aged 18 and older.



Did you know?

In 2016, 16% of young men and 12% of young women reported experiencing at least one aspect of social isolation. Results were broadly similar across all youth and compared with adults aged 35 to 55.





Some **young men and women** face serious mental health problems

- Rates of mood disorder are highest among youth aged **15 to 24** compared to other age groups: young women in particular have the highest rate (**10%**)
- Approximately **50%** of youth who have experienced mood disorder have also had suicidal thoughts in their lifetime
- **Suicide** is the second leading cause of death among youth aged 15 to 24
 - **14.7** deaths per **100,000** for young **men**
 - **5.8** deaths per **100,000** for young **women**
- **Less than half** of youth with depression or suicidal thoughts have sought professional support

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey Mental Health, 2012; Vital Statistics, 2014.

Indigenous youth are particularly at risk for poor mental health

- **11.0%** of off-reserve First Nations and **7.8%** of Métis youth report having a mood disorder
- Rates of acute-care hospitalizations for intentional self-harm are high among Indigenous youth aged **10 to 19**
 - **42 per 100,000** for First Nations youth living **on** reserve
 - **26 per 100,000** for First Nations youth living **off** reserve
 - **20 per 100,000** for Métis youth
 - **101 per 100,000** for Inuit youth living in Inuit Nunangat



Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey, 2011-2014; Census of Population, 2006; CIHI Discharge Abstract Database, 2006-2009.



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High rates of obesity and physical inactivity put youth at risk for heart disease later in life

The share of youth **18-34** who are overweight or obese increased significantly since the late 1970s—from **29% to about 45%** in the early 2000s. The share has remained stable over the last decade.

Youth are also not meeting physical activity guidelines—only **1 in 6** are meeting the recommended **150** minutes of physical activity per week.

Only **25%** of young men and **37%** of young women (**aged 18-34**) consume the recommended 5 servings of fruits and vegetables per day.

These factors are potentially putting youth at risk of cardiovascular disease later in life.

Based on a new CanHeart Index which measures risk factors for heart disease including diet, weight and physical activity, approximately **1 in 4 youth aged 20-29** rank as having poor heart health.



Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey; Canadian Health Measures Survey.

Drinking, smoking, and cannabis use by young people have generally declined ... but new challenges are emerging



Smoking rates for both young men and women have dropped significantly since the early 2000s.



Heavy drinking by young men has also declined, but has increased for young women.



While cannabis use is still generally higher among youth compared to older Canadians, it has generally decreased for youth.



Today's youth are dealing with the challenges of new drugs and addictions

Opioid-related hospitalization rates rise fastest among youth.

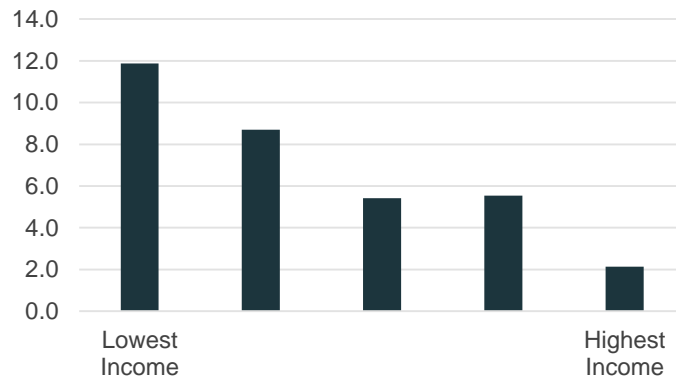
Rate of hospital based opioid events increased by 53% over the last decade – most of the increase in the last 3 years (CIHI, 2017).

Rates of opioid related hospitalizations are up to 7 times higher among Indigenous youth and 5 times higher among lower income households.



Opioid hospitalizations by income

Rate of opioid hospitalizations (per 100,000) among youth aged 15 to 19 by level of household income, 2006-2008



Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey; Canadian Tobacco Use Monitoring Survey, 2004-2012; Canadian Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey, 2013-2015; Census of Population, CIHI Discharge Abstract Database.



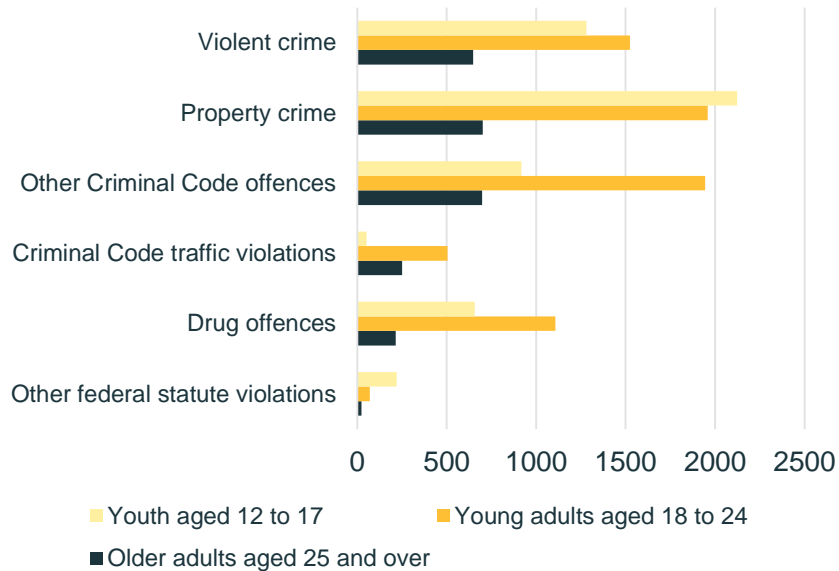
Did you know?

Daily or occasional smoking dropped from over one third of young men aged 18 to 34 in 2003 to about one quarter in 2016. For young women, about 18% reported smoking in 2016 compared to 27% in 2003. Heavy drinking for males aged 20 to 34 was 35% in 2016, down from almost 40% in 2003. Heavy drinking for young women increased from 17% in 2003 to 23% in 2016.

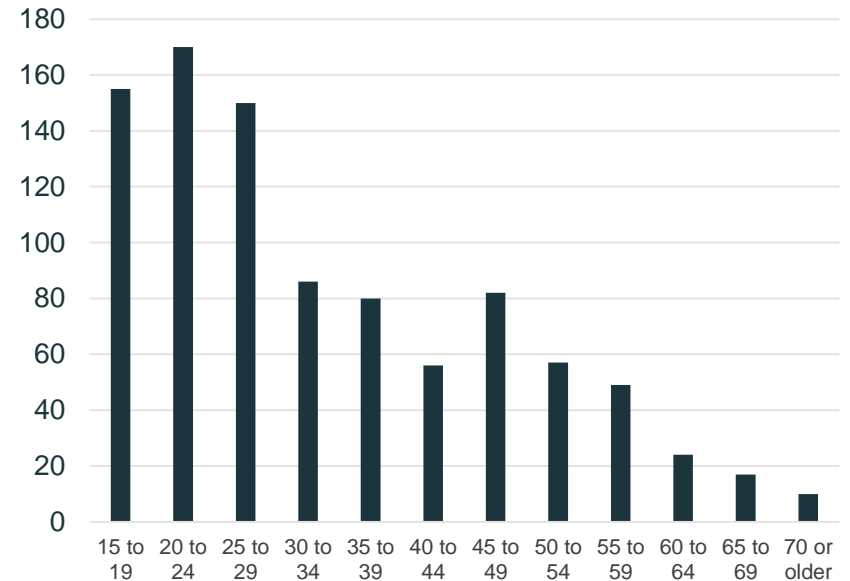


Youth are more likely to commit crimes...but also more likely to be victims of violent crimes

Rate of persons per 100,000 population accused of selected offences, by age group of accused and offence type



Rate of violent victimization per 1,000 population, by age group of victim, 2014



Note: Violent victimization includes sexual assault, robbery and physical assault.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, 2014. General Social Survey (Victimization), 2014.

What's next?



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Not the end of the story...let's TALK

- Canada's youth continue to be a large and important group within the Canadian population.
- In many ways they are very different from younger generations before them...and from their parents and grandparents today.
- They are more diverse, educated, and connected and socially engaged than past youth, and in many ways are well positioned to succeed in today's complex global society.
- But not all young people are sharing these benefits. Some youth are unemployed or are in temporary jobs. Some are struggling with mental health challenges, addictions, and homelessness. And not everyone feels included.
- Statistics Canada wants to hear from you:
 - Did we get this portrait of Canada's youth right? Are there parts of the story that are missing or more complicated?
 - Contact us to share your thoughts and ideas to help us provide the information needed to make good decisions.