



Youth and Young Adults

June 2006

Business Planning ● Strategic Services

THE CITY OF
Edmonton COMMUNITY
SERVICES

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

Highlights

- In 2001 64% of Canada's children and youth under 25 lived in Census Metropolitan Areas. In 1996 only 61% lived in our largest cities.
- Twenty percent of Canada's young people under age 18 are immigrants or children of immigrants.
- The proportion of youth and young adults in Edmonton's population is expected to slowly decline over the coming years.
- Edmonton has a slightly greater proportion of teenagers than Calgary and an appreciably higher proportion of young adults than either Calgary or the province.
- Youth may be at risk living within an unstable family structure, especially when their mother cohabits with a man who is not their father. Girls are at risk of being sexually abused.
- Youth living with their mother and cohabiting boyfriend often have lower school performance and more behavioural problems.
- Young people in lone-parent families may be more prone to behaviour problems, problems with the law, poorer school achievement and tendency to leave school at an earlier age, and difficulty with relationships. Many of these same problems appear among children from divorced families.
- Youth and young adults are more likely to be living in poverty than the Canadian population overall.
- Youth and young adults who are Aboriginals, immigrants, visible minorities and persons with activity limitations are all much more likely to be poor than youth and young people not in these categories.
- Young people who participate regularly in sport and recreation activities do better at school than those who are less active.
- Young people from low-income families have lower levels of social support than those from families with higher incomes.
- 9% of Canadian adolescents 12 to 17 were obese in 2004, and 29% were overweight. Both mark significant increases since the late 1970s.
- The rate of teen pregnancy and the rate of births to teenage mothers in the Capital Health region have both declined in recent years.
- The teen birth rate in low income Edmonton communities is Eastwood significantly higher than in more affluent communities.
- 27% of Canadian teens between the ages of 14 and 17 are sexually active.
- One study identified several important factors contributing to teen pregnancy: inadequate sex education, poverty and lack of opportunity, "glamorization" of sex by the media, low self-esteem and self-confidence (particularly among girls), lack of family/adult support, alcohol and drugs, and the intimidating nature of many service centres providing sex counseling and assistance for youth.
- The rate of smoking among young Canadian adolescents (ages 11 to 15) declined by more than half between 1994 and 2002. The majority of these younger adolescents also admit to trying either marijuana or alcohol.

(Over)

- Youth crime has been on a slow decline for the last several years; violent youth crime fell by 2% in 2004 and property crime dropped by 8%.
- Young Canadians, particularly youth, are more often victims of crime than other age groups.
- Driving is a high-risk activity for youth, but there have been substantial improvements in fatality rates over the last two decades. Awareness of the risks of impaired driving among young drivers has improved.
- School drop-out rates across Canada have declined significantly; the majority of drop-outs are males.
- The job outlook for youth and young adults has improved significantly since 1997, but few of those jobs provide stability or good opportunities for advancement. Many provide only part-time or short-term employment.
- The numbers of Aboriginal youth in Alberta are growing faster than for the rest of the youth population. School attendance among Aboriginal youth rose substantially over the past twenty years. Gains were greater for women than men.
- Half of Alberta adolescents between the ages of 12 and 19 are not getting enough physical exercise, even though almost 90% of youth and young adults say they participate in unorganized recreation or sport activities.
- A greater proportion of youth and young adults (15 to 24) volunteered their time than any other age group in 2004. Youth (15 to 19) volunteer at a higher rate than young adults (20 to 24), but the young people in the older group contribute more time, on average.

CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION	1
2.	YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT POPULATION	1
3.	TYPES OF FAMILIES	3
4.	RISK FACTORS AFFECTING YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS	4
	FAMILY STRUCTURE	4
	FAMILY BREAKUP	5
	FAMILY POVERTY	6
	HOUSING	7
	HEALTH	8
	Obesity	8
	Sexual Health Issues for Youth	9
	Adolescent Substance Abuse	11
	CRIME AND VICTIMIZATION	12
	ACCIDENTS	15
5.	EDUCATION	15
6.	EMPLOYMENT	19
7.	ABORIGINAL YOUTH	20
8.	PHYSICAL FITNESS	21
9.	VOLUNTEERISM	22
10.	CITY OF EDMONTON INITIATIVES	23
10.	SOURCES	36

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1:	Proportion of youth (ages 15 to 19) and young adults (20 to 24) in the population and other indicators of “age of the population”, Edmonton, Calgary and Alberta, 2001.....	3
Table 2:	Types of families and number of children per family, Edmonton, 2001	3
Table 3:	Proportion of lone-parent families in the population and size of lone-parent families, Edmonton, Calgary and Alberta, 2001	4
Table 4:	Proportions of youth and young adults living in poverty, as compared to the entire population, Canada, 1996 and 2001.....	6
Table 5:	Youth criminal court cases, Alberta, 2003.	13
Table 6:	High school drop-out rates by gender, Canada, 1990-91 and 2004-05	16
Table 7:	Alberta high school completion, drop-out and returning rates	16
Table 8:	Annual dropout and return rates for students aged 14-18, Edmonton school districts.....	17
Table 9:	University participation rates as a function of parent’s level of education, Canada, 1993-2001.	18
Table 10:	Reasons for not finishing high school among Aboriginal adults, Edmonton CMA, Calgary CMA and Alberta, 2001	20
Table 11:	Motivation for volunteering among youth, young adults, and other adults, Canada, 2004.	23
Table 12:	Types of organizations supported by the volunteer efforts of youth, young adults, and other adults, Canada, 2004.	23
TABLE 13:	2006 FCSS funded programs for youth and young adults and program information	30
TABLE 14:	Organizations providing programs/services for youth and young adults receiving community investment operating grants for 2006	33

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1:	Proportion of youth ages (15 to 19) and young adults (20 to 24) in the Edmonton population, 1991, 1993, 1996, 1999 and 2005.....	2
Figure 2:	Forecast change in proportion of youth (ages 15 to 19) and young adults (20 to 24), Edmonton, 2005-2010	2
Figure 3:	Change in average net worth for Canadian families, 1984-1999.....	6
Figure 4:	Proportion of before-tax household income spent on housing by lone-parent and two-parent Canadian families, 1996	7
Figure 5:	Teen pregnancy rate (pregnancies per 1,000 females aged 15 to 19), Capital Health region, Calgary Health region and Alberta, 1998 and 2000	9
Figure 6:	Teen birth rate (live births per 1,000 females aged 15 to 19), Capital Health region, Calgary Health region and Alberta, 1998, 2000 and 2002	9
Figure 7:	Rate of criminal code charges and alternative measures for individuals aged 12 to 17, Edmonton, 1998-2005	12
Figure 8:	Violence against young Canadians reported to police, by age, Canada, 2003.....	14
Figure 9:	University participation rates as a function of family income, Canada, 1993-2001.....	18
Figure 10:	Physical inactivity among youth ages 12 to 19, all Canadian Provinces, 2002.....	21

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

1. INTRODUCTION

Between 1994 and 2004 the number of youth and young adults aged 15 to 24 in Alberta grew by 25%. In 2001, 64% of Canada's children and youth under 25 lived in our largest cities (Census Metropolitan Areas). This marked an increase from 1996 when 61% lived in our largest cities. Twenty percent of Canada's young people under age 18 are immigrants or children of immigrants¹.

Canada's youth are enjoying somewhat better conditions than they did during the 1990s. As will be seen in the following pages, their employment outlook has improved significantly, particularly here in Alberta, although this is somewhat counterbalanced by rising costs of education.

While youth are more independent than children under 14, they *are* still developing and growing, both emotionally and physically. As such, they still need a stable, nurturing, and supportive home environment if they are to become happy, "complete" adults. Many of the conditions that are critical for the development of young children are still important for youth and even young adults.

In this report, those ages 15-19 are referred to as youth and those 20-24 are termed young adults.

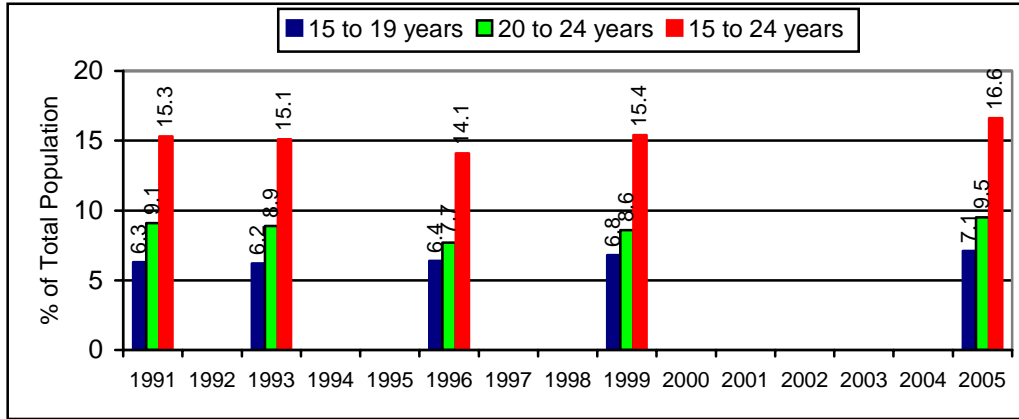
There are numerous instances throughout this report where there are references to "children". This is reflective of the age criteria used in many of the sources researched in preparation of this summary report. Many researchers have chosen to study "children" in the broadest sense, i.e., ages all the way from 0 to 19 (or more). Data focusing on just the 15 to 24 age range are not always available. For the purposes of this report then, references to "children" should be deemed to include youth (15 to 19) and, to a lesser extent, young adults (20 to 24).

2. YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT POPULATION

While Figure 1 shows a modest increase in the proportion of youth and young adults in Edmonton's population over the past decade, Figure 2 suggests that we can expect a slow decline in this proportion over the coming years.

¹ CCSD. 2006.

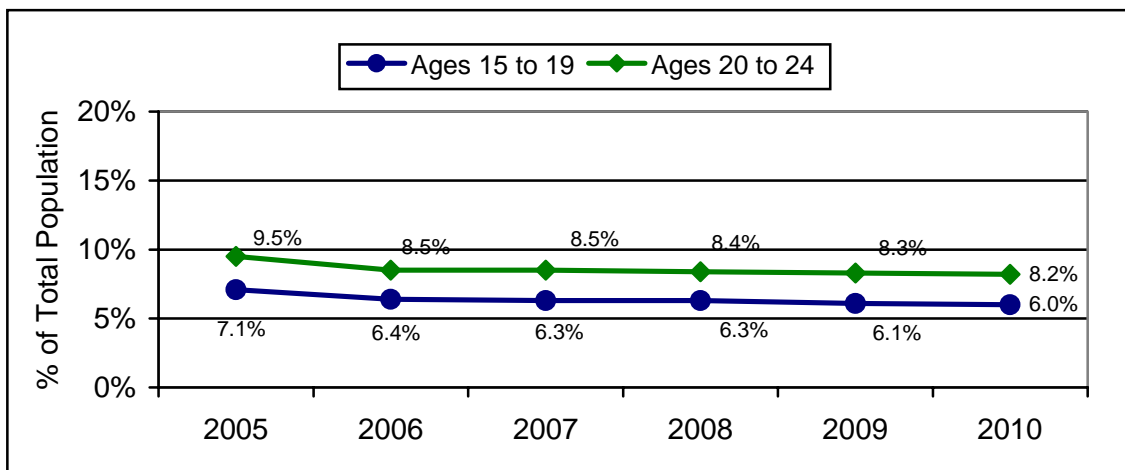
Figure 1: Proportion of youth ages (15 to 19) and young adults (20 to 24) in the Edmonton population, 1991, 1993, 1996, 1999 and 2005



Source: Edmonton Census

The upcoming cohort of young people is smaller than the current one, due to aging of our population and declining birth rates.

Figure 2: Forecast change in proportion of youth (ages 15 to 19) and young adults (20 to 24), Edmonton, 2005-2010



Source: City of Edmonton Forecast Committee, 2005

Although the median age of Edmonton's population is higher than those of Calgary and the province as a whole, Edmonton has a slightly greater proportion of teenagers than Calgary and an appreciably higher proportion of young adults than either Calgary or the province (Table 1). The proportion of children (age 0

to 14) in Edmonton is lower than in Calgary or the province as a whole, again reflecting the somewhat younger populations in these other two jurisdictions.

Table 1: Proportion of youth (ages 15 to 19) and young adults (20 to 24) in the population and other indicators of “age of the population”, Edmonton, Calgary and Alberta, 2001			
	Edmonton	Calgary	Alberta
15 to 19	6.9%	6.8%	7.5%
20 to 24	8.6%	7.6%	7.2%
Median age of population	35.3	34.8	35

Source: Statistics Canada, 2005a

3. TYPES OF FAMILIES

Common-law couples, which make up 12% of families in Edmonton, are less likely to have children than are married couples (Table 2).

Table 2: Types of families and number of children per family, Edmonton, 2001				
	Married Couple Families	Common-law Couple Families	Lone-parent Families	
			Female Parent	Male Parent
No children	39.9%	64.1%		
1 child	21.3%	18.8%	60.0%	67.5%
2 children	26.1%	11.8%	27.9%	25.0%
3 or more children	12.7%	5.4%	12.1%	7.6%
% of Total	59.6%	12%	15.1%	3.3%

Source: Canada Census

In 2004, Alberta had 2,072 births to women age 15-19. Most of these births (91%) were “out-of-wedlock” that is to single mothers. In addition, 4,291 of 7,854 births to those women 20-24 were to single mothers². Similar information on these types of births for Edmonton is not available. Edmonton has an appreciably higher proportion of lone-parent families than Calgary or the rest of the province (Table 3). As will be shown later in this report (see page 5), youth in lone-parent families experience greater difficulties than those from two-parent families, and the relatively high proportion of lone-parent families in Edmonton presents a significant challenge for agencies working to improve the lot of Edmonton’s needy families and youth.

² Alberta Vital Statistics Annual Review 2004

Table 3: Proportion of lone-parent families in the population and size of lone-parent families, Edmonton, Calgary and Alberta, 2001

	Edmonton³	Calgary⁴	Alberta²
Lone-parent families (as % of all families)	18.4%	15.1%	14.4%
Average number of persons in family	2.5	2.5	2.6
Female lone-parent families	15.1%	12.3%	11.4%
Average number of persons in family	2.6	2.5	2.6
Male lone-parent families	3.3%	2.9%	2.9%
Average number of persons in family	2.4	2.4	2.5

Source: Statistics Canada, 2005a

In recent years we have seen an increasing trend for young adults to stay in – or return to – their parental home. In 2002, 60% of young people aged 20 to 24 lived with their parents, compared to 56% in 1992. In 2002, 64% of young men aged 20 to 24 lived with their parents, up from 60% in 1994; among women in this age group, 55% lived at home, up from 51% in 1994⁵.

4. RISK FACTORS AFFECTING YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

FAMILY STRUCTURE

A healthy family environment is an important component for youth, regardless of their parents' marital status. However, healthy family dynamics are more likely to occur in stable home settings. Because of a greater level of long-term commitment, married families are usually more stable than other family types. Ambert⁶ says children may be at risk living within an unstable family structure, especially when their mother cohabits with a man who is not their father. Teenagers and young adults may well face some of these same risks, particularly where the mother is involved with a series of males. Girls, for their part, are at risk of being sexually abused. Young people are more likely to experience family breakup if their parents are just cohabiting or when a single mother cohabits and then marries. Children and youth living with their mother and cohabiting boyfriend often have lower school performance and more behavioural problems⁷.

Children in married two-parent families drop out of school less frequently, get more education, and are less often on welfare than children with only one resident parent or a cohabiting parent. On a percent basis, they are less likely to be involved with juvenile or adult crime than are young people with single or cohabiting parents.

³ Statistics Canada. <http://tinyurl.com/mnura>

⁴ Statistics Canada. <http://tinyurl.com/lftpm>

⁵ CCSD. *op. cit.*

⁶ Ambert. 2005a.

⁷ Ambert. *op. cit.*

A report from the Vanier Institute⁸ documented some of the issues more frequently facing children in lone-parent families than in two-parent families:

- Behaviour problems,
- A record as a young offender,
- Poorer school achievement and tendency to leave school at an earlier age, and
- Difficulty with relationships.

It is not unreasonable to assume that youth in lone-parent families may be more susceptible to some of these same problems.

The Vanier Institute report said that these children, once they were adults, are more likely to:

- Be a parent to a child born outside of marriage (single parenthood),
- Be unemployed,
- Have a lower economic status,
- Have a criminal record of serious offences, and
- Experience marital problems and divorce.

FAMILY BREAKUP

The more often a young person experiences parental changes (death, divorce, separation) the less likely they are to remember their childhood as a happy time⁹. Only 76% of people experiencing one such change remembered their childhood positively. The figure drops to 50% for those who experienced three or more such changes before they were 15.

Parental divorce appears to have a greater impact on children and youth than even the death of a parent. Studies have shown¹⁰ that children from a divorced family are more likely to have emotional and social problems, are more prone to drop out of school or leave home early, and are more likely to end up in a low income situation. Even before the final break-up occurs, children in dissolving families tend to exhibit increased levels of depression and behavioural problems. These levels of depression usually increase even more after the divorce¹¹.

Adults who experienced divorce as a child, more often experience marital instability as well. Given that according to recent trends almost 40% of marriages can be expected to end in divorce by the 30th wedding anniversary¹², this presents a daunting prospect for Canadian young people.

⁸ Ambert. 2006.

⁹ Williams. 2001.

¹⁰ Ambert. 2005a.

¹¹ Statistics Canada. 2005c.

¹² Statistics Canada. 2004a.

FAMILY POVERTY

According to a report on *The Progress of Canada's Children*¹³ some Canadian youth and young adults are more likely than others to be living in poverty. Among Canadian youth and young people, Aboriginals, immigrants, visible minorities and persons with activity limitations are all much more likely to be poor than youth and young people not in these categories. The data shows (Table 4) that youth and young adults as a whole are more likely to be living in poverty than the Canadian population overall.

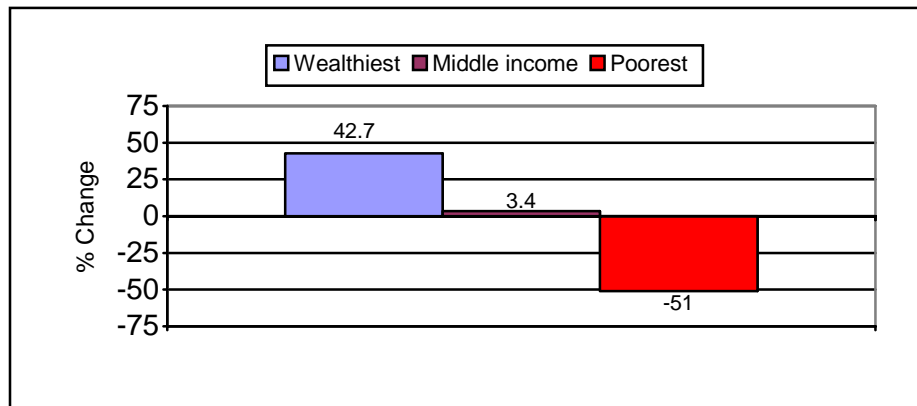
Table 4: Proportions of youth and young adults living in poverty, as compared to the entire population, Canada, 1996 and 2001.

	Youth and Young Adults (15 to 24)		All Canadians	
	1996	2001	1996	2001
Persons with an activity limitation	38%	31%	31%	23%
Persons without an activity limitation	23%	19%	18%	15%
Immigrants	41%	33%	28%	22%
Non-immigrants	21%	17%	18%	15%
Aboriginals	45%	37%	43%	34%
Non-Aboriginals	24%	19%	19%	16%
Visible minorities	39%	32%	36%	28%
Non-visible minorities	22%	17%	18%	14%
All	24%	20%	20%	16%

Source: CCSD, 2006

The gap between rich and poor in Canada is widening, and this has serious ramifications for youth. The following changes took place in average family net worth between 1984 and 1999:

Figure 3: Change in average net worth for Canadian families, 1984-1999



Source: CCSD, 2002

¹³ CCSD. 2006.

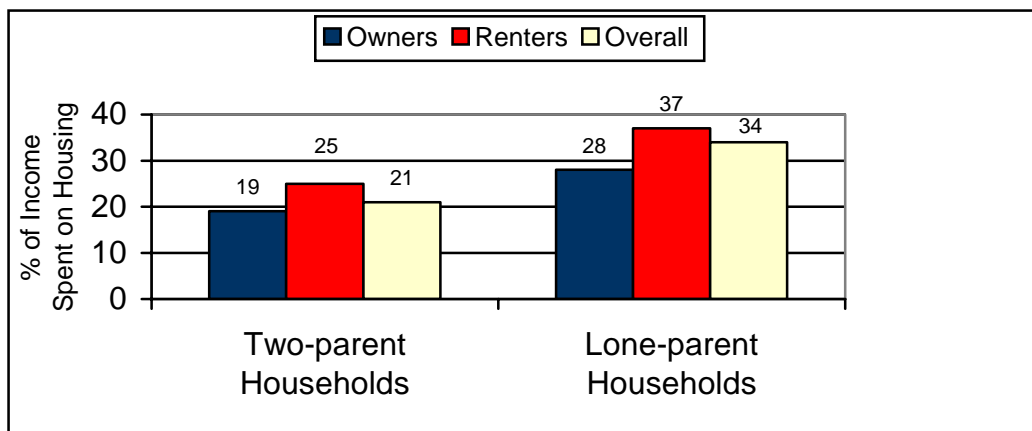
The 2002 CCSD report identified a number of factors that researchers have linked to child poverty. Those relevant to young people are:

- A greater proportion of children who had the opportunity to participate regularly in sport and recreation activities were doing very well at school (48%) than among children who were not similarly active (32%). Other studies have demonstrated a positive correlation between family wealth and access to neighbourhood amenities and participation in sport and recreation;
- 20% of the children in families with income, under-\$20,000, lived in families with low levels of social support (from family and friends), as against only 4% of children from families with incomes over \$80,000; and
- The parents of recent (since 1986) immigrant families are more likely to work more than 50 hours per week, but one-third of recent immigrant children are still living below LICO, as compared to about 20% of non-immigrant children.

HOUSING

An evaluation of data from the 1996 Canada Census¹⁴ showed that most Canadian families had adequate housing. There were noteworthy exceptions, however, as shown in the following:

Figure 4: Proportion of before-tax household income spent on housing by lone-parent and two-parent Canadian families, 1996



Source: CMHC, 2000

In 1996, the majority (88%) of Canadian children lived in adequately-sized housing, but 9% lived in circumstances where the housing was short one

¹⁴ CMHC. 2000.

bedroom to serve the family needs, and 3% had to cope with a two or three-bedroom shortfall.

Most (78%) households with children could find affordable housing, but 15% had to pay in the range of 30-49% of before-tax household income on housing, while 7% of households were spending 50% or more of their household income on housing.

Overall, 15% of Canadian households with children were living in inadequate housing. Those most likely to be in need of better housing are lone-parent families who rent their accommodation — 57% were in inadequate housing in 1996.

Children living in households with poor housing were less likely to score as well as other children on personal development outcome measures, their health was less likely to be rated as “excellent” (72%, compared to 89% of children living in adequate housing), and they were more likely to exhibit aggressive behaviour¹⁵.

HEALTH

Obesity

Obesity rates have increased sharply for Canadians over the last decade and a half. Fortunately, the problem is not quite as severe among children and youth as it is among Canada's adult population¹⁶.

In 1978/79, 3% of Canadian children between the ages of 2 to 17 were obese. By 2004, the proportion had risen to 8%. The proportion of Canadian adolescents 12 to 17 who were obese jumped from 3% to 9%. The proportion of this age group classed as overweight more than doubled, from 14% to 29%. Among Canadian males 12 to 17, 32% were obese or overweight. This compares to 33% for American males of similar age. Of Canadian adolescent females, 25% were overweight or obese, compared to 31% in the United States¹⁷.

The increased incidence of obesity among youth is a concern for the future, since adolescents who are overweight or obese tend to remain so as adults.

Youth consuming a healthy diet were much less likely to be obese than those whose diet was not as well balanced. Young people spending a lot of time at passive activities (TV, video games, etc.) were also more likely to be obese (see also page 21).

¹⁵ CMHC. *op. cit.*

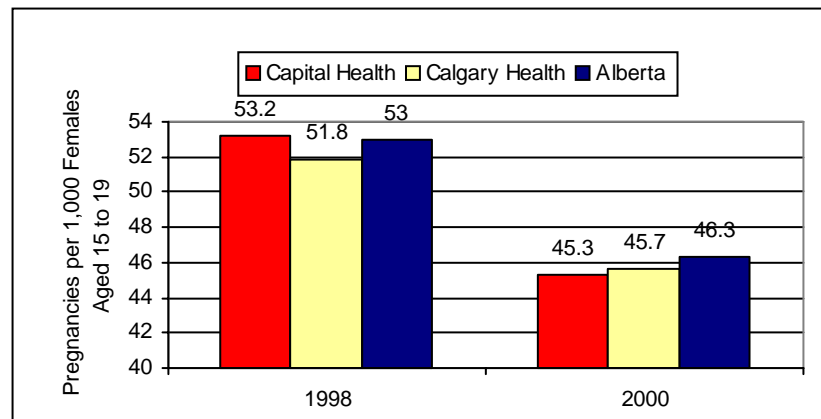
¹⁶ Statistics Canada. 2005b.

¹⁷ Shields. 2005.

Sexual Health Issues for Youth

The rate of teen pregnancy and the rate of births to teenage mothers in the Capital Health region have both declined in recent years, from 53.2 pregnancies per 1,000 females aged 15 to 19 in 1998 to 45.3 in 2000. While the teen pregnancy rate had been higher in the Edmonton area than in the Calgary Health region in 1998, it was very slightly lower than Calgary in 2000.

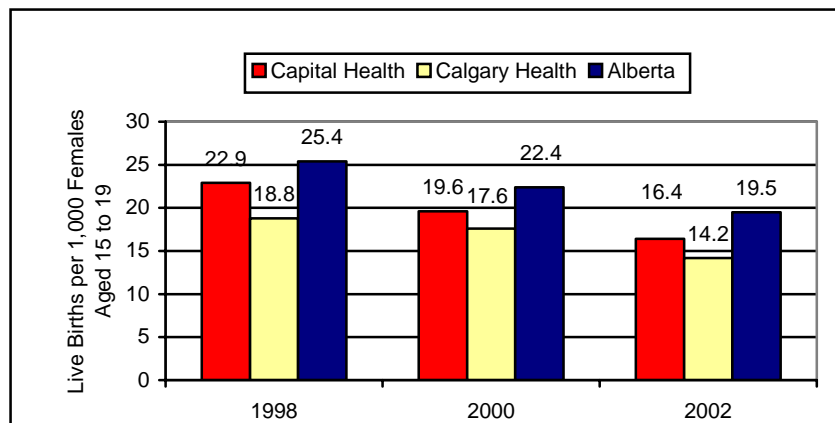
Figure 5: Teen pregnancy rate (pregnancies per 1,000 females aged 15 to 19), Capital Health region, Calgary Health region and Alberta, 1998 and 2000



Source: Predy *et al*, 2004

The rate of births to teenaged mothers has been consistently higher in the Capital Health region than in the Calgary Health region in the most recent years for which data are available, but the Edmonton area rates are lower than for the province overall and the gap has widened slightly.

Figure 6: Teen birth rate (live births per 1,000 females aged 15 to 19), Capital Health region, Calgary Health region and Alberta, 1998, 2000 and 2002



Source: Predy *et al*, 2004

An examination of data for “districts” and several communities within the Alberta Capital Health Region¹⁸ revealed a strong and significant inverse relationship between median family income and teen birth rates. In low income districts/communities such as Eastwood, the teen birth rate was fairly high (42.5 births per 1,000 females aged 15 to 19), but in affluent communities the rates were much lower. In St. Albert, for example, the median family income is twice what it is in Eastwood, and the rate was 5.7 births per 1,000 females aged 15 to 19.

A study released in 2006¹⁹ revealed that 27% of Canadian teens between the ages of 14 and 17 admit to being sexually active and have averaged three sexual partners. Only 20% of fifteen-year-olds say they are sexually active, but the proportion rises to 45% by the age of 17. The results from this study are generally similar to Statistics Canada results from the Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth published in 2005.

Twenty-four percent of the sexually active Canadian teens aged 14 to 17 said they did not use any protection against sexually transmitted infections the last time they had sex.

Overall, the study revealed a general lack of care with respect to their sexual practices and relatively poor awareness about the risks of unsafe sex and sexually-transmitted diseases. This contrasts with the fact that 90% of teens claim to be knowledgeable about sex and sexual health.

The study showed it was difficult for teens to get reliable information about these issues. Surprisingly, a majority of teens consider their parents a good role model for their sexual activity and a good source of knowledge. Generally, parents were not aware how highly their teens depended on them for guidance in sexual matters.

A major cross-Canada survey and policy initiative²⁰ identified several key factors contributing to teen pregnancy. These factors, in decreasing order of importance, were:

1. Inadequate sex education – there is a need for more comprehensive school health and sexual health education programs. Even where good information is available, teens often don't put this information into practice, in part because many have difficulties imagining the full future consequences of their actions.
2. Poverty and lack of opportunity – the study's survey of community program providers revealed a direct relationship between poverty and higher teen pregnancy rates, both because of poor access to information and services, and because the personal/social needs of youth living in poverty are not always satisfactorily met.

¹⁸ Predy *et. al.* 2005.

¹⁹ Ipsos-Reid. 2006.

²⁰ CAPC. 2000.

3. Portrayal of sex by the media – sex is often presented as “normal behaviour” for teens by the media, with little or no attention given to the responsibilities that are associated with it.
4. Low self-esteem and self-confidence, particularly among girls.
5. Lack of supportive family or adult relationships – family and other adults can help by providing good role models, as well as emotional support for youth.
6. Alcohol and drugs – use of these substances may lead to or encourage other risk-taking behaviour, including sex. These behaviours may also be linked to self-esteem and self-confidence of the individuals.
7. Services are available, but are not used as much as they might be – service outlets may seem intimidating, unwelcoming or frightening to youth and should be more sensitive to the needs of young people.

Adolescent Substance Abuse

The rate of smoking among young Canadian adolescents (Grades 5 to 9, ages 11 to 15, more or less) declined by more than half between 1994 and 2002 to just under 3%²¹. The study found that the rate of smoking increased with age, so this behaviour can be expected to continue into later teen years or adulthood for many. Almost 60% of the young people who smoked in 2002 indicated that they did so on a daily basis. Girls are smoking slightly more than boys; 56% of young smokers in 2002 were females.

Almost two-thirds of young smokers said that peer pressure was one of the main reasons for starting smoking; many who reported smoking had close friends who also smoked. Peer pressures were also found to play a large part in early use of alcohol and drugs²². Over two-thirds of young smokers said that their father or mother smoked, but the alcohol and drug study did not find as strong a relationship to parental alcohol and drug use,

One significant finding from the smoking study, particularly for older youth, is that the majority of these younger adolescents also admit to trying either marijuana (75%) or alcohol (92%).

Early drug use appears to lead some youth into brushes with the law. Based upon a study of crime statistics from 2002, young adults aged 18 to 24 had the highest drug-related offence rate (860 offences per 100,000 people), followed by youth aged 12 to 17 (645 offences for every 100,000 people)²³.

²¹ **Statistics Canada. 2003b.**

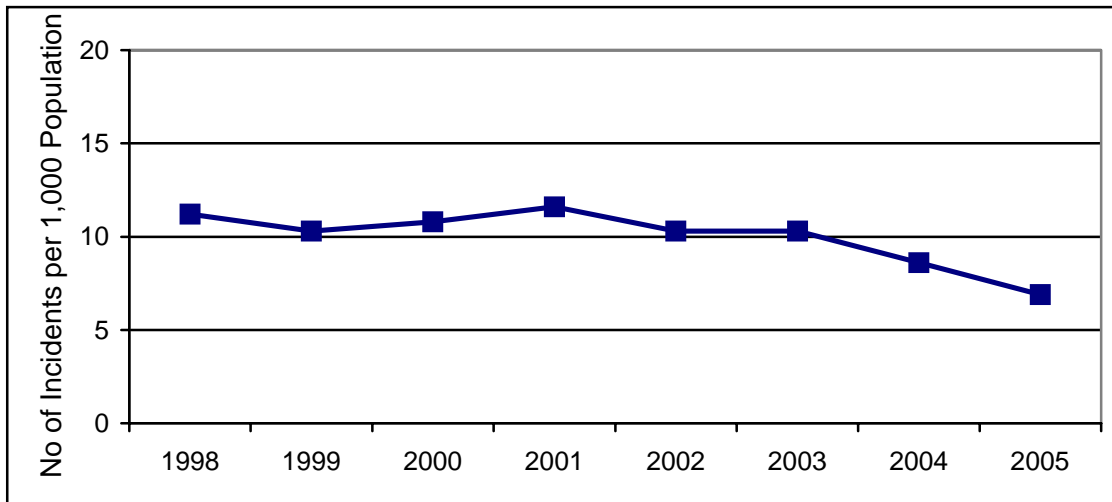
²² **Statistics Canada. 2004b.**

²³ **Statistics Canada. 2004c.**

CRIME AND VICTIMIZATION

Youth crime has been on a slow decline for the last several years. The rates shown in Figure 7 for Edmonton are based on **total** population. The data are not compiled using the same age groupings as census data (i.e., 10 to 14, 15 to 19, etc.), so it is not a simple matter to provide a comparison based on charges per 1,000 youth in the Edmonton.

Figure 7: Rate of criminal code charges and alternative measures for individuals aged 12 to 17, Edmonton, 1998-2005



Source: Edmonton Police Service, unpublished data

Statistics Canada²⁴ reports a 4% decline in the overall youth crime rate across Canada from 2003 to 2004. Specific rate figures were not provided in the sources referenced. The youth crime rate had generally been on the increase between 1999 and 2003.

The rate of violent crime among Canadian youth also fell by 2% in 2004. With the exception of a large jump in 2000, this rate has remained fairly stable for the last decade. Most types of violent crime by youth declined in 2004, including a 30% decrease in the youth homicide rate and a 2% drop in robbery.

The youth property crime rate fell by 8%. The majority of property offences declined, the motor vehicle theft rate was down by 11% and the rate of break-ins showed an 8% decline.

Table 5 provides an outline of the types of youth criminal cases heard in Alberta in 2003.

²⁴ Statistics Canada. 2005j.

Table 5: Youth criminal court cases, Alberta, 2003.

	Total Cases
Total Criminal Code	7,784
Crimes against the person	1,959
Homicide	5
Attempted murder	6
Robbery	271
Sexual assault	102
Other sexual offences	54
Major assaults	426
Common assaults	855
Uttering threats	208
Criminal harassment	5
Other crimes against persons	27
Property crimes	4,012
Theft	1,508
Break and enter	884
Fraud	199
Mischief	662
Possession of stolen goods	703
Other property crimes	56
Administration of justice	1,080
Other Criminal Code offences	543
Criminal Code traffic	190
Impaired driving	118
Other Criminal Code traffic	72
Other federal statutes	1,758
Drug possession	221
Drug trafficking	171
Youth Criminal Justice Act/Young Offenders Act	494
Residual federal statutes	872
Total offences	9,542

Source: Statistics Canada, 2005k

Although children and youth represent just over 20% of the Canadian population, 60% of the sexual assaults reported to police involved a child or youth in 2003. They were also victims of 21% of physical assaults and 17% of other crimes involving violence or the threat of violence reported to police in 2003. One-fifth of all violent crimes reported in 2003 to police services participating in a Statistics Canada study²⁵ were committed against children and youth aged 17 and under²⁶.

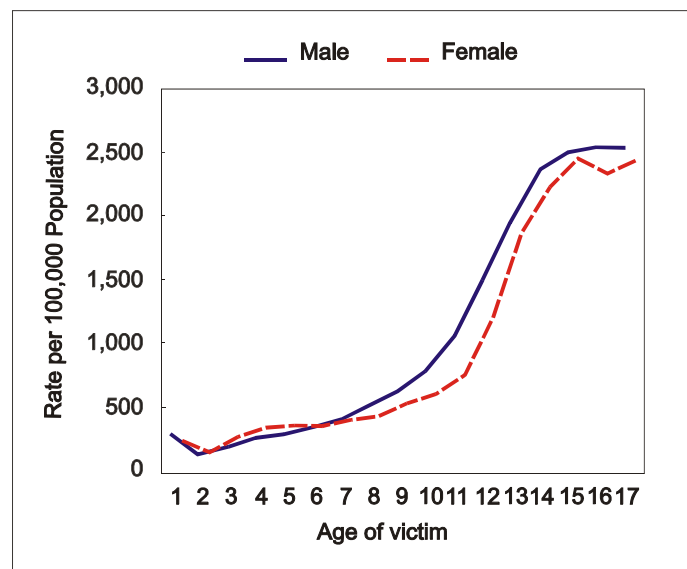
Older children and youth are at much greater risk from violent crime than young children. The rate of victimization for children under 8 years of age is about 500 per 100,000 population. By age 14, the rate jumps to 2,000 per 100,000 population.

²⁵ Statistics Canada. 2005d.

²⁶ Not all police services are represented in this study; as such, the data are not nationally representative.

Whereas violent crimes against younger children are most frequently committed by family members, a family member was involved in only 16% of the assaults on victims between the ages of 14 and 17. Close friends, acquaintances or co-workers physically assaulted more than half of victims 14-to-17-years old, while 20% of violent crimes against youth involved strangers.

Figure 8: Violence against young Canadians reported to police, by age, Canada, 2003



Source: Statistics Canada, 2005d

Children are much less prone to become victims of violence than are youth (Figure 8). As they reach adolescence, the number of people and places young people interact with increases. The location of the assaults and the people who commit them become more varied accordingly. One-fifth of teenaged victims were assaulted at school. Youth between 14 and 17 were more likely to be victims of physical assaults during the afternoon, from noon to 4 p.m.

The majority (61%) of victims of sexual assault recorded during the study were 17 and under, and about four-fifths were female, two-thirds of whom were between 11 and 17 years old. A stranger assaulted one-fifth of the victims in the 14 to 17 age group.

Older youth are more at risk of other crimes involving violence or the threat of violence, such as robbery, extortion and threats. Although the 14 to 17 age group represented only 5% of the population, they were victims of 17% of reported robberies, 14% of extortion cases, and 9% of uttering threat cases. The majority of offenders were close friends, acquaintances or co-workers and strangers.

ACCIDENTS

Young males are more likely to be injured in accidents than females. In 2002/03, 28% of boys aged 12 to 14 suffered injuries during the previous year, compared to 21% of girls. For those aged 15 to 19, 28% of males and 18% of females were injured, and among youth aged 20 to 24, 21% of men and 13% of women were injured.

Driving is a high-risk activity for youth. The highest fatality rates are found among teenaged drivers aged 16 to 19, even though there have been substantial improvements in fatality rates over the last two decades (a decline of two-thirds between 1980 and 2002 for teenaged drivers, and a drop of 62% among those aged 20 to 24). Young drivers are, however, showing an improved awareness of the risks of impaired driving. From 1998 to 2005, the proportion of Canadians who admitted to driving within two hours of drinking during the previous month had improved from 19% to 15%. In 2004, less than 12% of drivers under age 20 said they had driven after consuming alcohol, but the figure was 22% for those aged 19 to 24 and 28% for those aged 25 to 34²⁷.

5. EDUCATION

Among Canadians aged 25 to 44 who did not have a high school diploma the unemployment rate was 12.2% in 2004, compared to 6.8% for those who had completed high school. The unemployment rate continues to drop with additional post-high school education, although not to the same extent²⁸.

Statistics Canada researchers have found a significant correlation between reading proficiency at age 15 and the likelihood a student will graduate from high school and also whether or not he or she will go on to pursue postsecondary education²⁹. In a study using 2004 data from the Youth in Transition Study, students in the two lowest categories of reading literacy skills (using a 1 to 5 scale) were more likely to drop out of high school, or to still be in high school at age 19. Students in the higher categories were more likely to go on to postsecondary education. When figures are examined on a provincial basis, students who dropped out of school had significantly lower reading scores than those who successfully graduated, except in Alberta and British Columbia. The authors suggested the differences for these two provinces could be due to either sampling errors, or to good labour market opportunities open to young people in Alberta and B.C.

Drop-out rates across Canada have declined significantly. During the 1990-1991 school year, 16.7% of 20-to-24-year-olds were neither attending school nor had a high school diploma. By 2004-2005, the drop-out rate among 20-to-24-year-olds had fallen to 9.8%.

²⁷ CCSD. 2006.

²⁸ Bowlby. 2006.

²⁹ Statistics Canada. 2006b.

The Alberta, the high school completion rate is the lowest of the provinces. However, it has been increasing steadily since 2001/02 and conversely, the drop-out rate for 14-18-year-olds dropped to 4.9% from a recent high of 6.1% in 2001/2002.³⁰

In general, high school drop-outs have a harder time finding work than those who have graduated from high school or have gone further. In Alberta, by contrast, drop-outs were more likely to be working than those with a high school diploma in other provinces, largely due to the booming economic conditions in the province.

Table 6: High school drop-out rates by gender,³¹ Canada, 1990-91 and 2004-05		
	1990-91	2004-05
Young men	19.2%	12.2%
Young women	14.0%	7.2%

Source: Bowlby, 2006

Table 7: Alberta high school completion, drop-out and returning rates					
	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
3-year completion rate	65.1%	65.6%	67.8%	69.3%	70.4%
Drop-out rate	6.1%	6.3%	5.5%	5.3%	4.9%
Returning rate	N/A	20.9%	20.8%	23.0%	21.4%

Source: Alberta Education web-site

Edmonton's drop-out rates differ by school district. The Edmonton Catholic district has a drop-out rate similar to that of the Province while the rate for Edmonton Public has been higher than the provincial rate. The differential may be because of special institutions within the Edmonton Public District.

³⁰ **Alberta Education. 2005.**

³¹ Percentage of 20-24-year-olds without a high school diploma and not in school. By the age of 20-24, - most young people will have finished high school, if they are going to. Drop-out rates are typically calculated using this age group; to estimate drop-out rates on any younger group might be to count as a "drop-out" someone on a temporary break from his/her schooling.

Table 8: Annual dropout and return rates for students aged 14-18, Edmonton school districts									
District	Rate	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Edmonton CSS District No. 7	3-yr completion rate	n/a	55%	57%	62%	60%	62%	64%	69%
	Drop-out	5.0%	5.0%	5.5%	3.6%	5.4%	5.2%	4.8%	4.5%
	Return	-	23.1%	23.7%	23.4%	27.7%	26.1%	25.1%	24.5%
Edmonton School District No. 7	3-yr completion rate	n/a	51%	53%	57%	57%	57%	57%	60%
	Drop-out	7.1%	7.1%	7.0%	6.8%	6.9%	7.9%	6.9%	6.8%
	Return	-	20.7%	20.6%	24.1%	24.8%	23.1%	22.0%	25.2%

Source: Alberta Education web-site

As shown in Table 6, the majority of drop-outs are young men. Young men are less likely to be engaged in school and are more likely to leave school early to get a job. In contrast, teenage pregnancy is an important factor in high school drop out for young women³².

The substantial decline in the drop-out rate over the past decade points to the success of the many programs now in place to encourage young people to stay in school until they graduate. This includes programs such as Edmonton's Centre High, designed to give high school drop-outs a second chance.

A significant proportion of young people are taking advantage of opportunities for higher education. Even in the 1990s, more than 60% of young people were achieving levels of education higher than their fathers, and in the case of young women, the figure was 65%³³.

In 2001, one study³⁴ found that the majority (76%) of young people had been involved in some form of post-secondary education by the age of 22. Only 70% of youth had been taking post-secondary studies in 1999.

About 11% of youth had left their advanced studies in 2001 without graduating, but 35% of these returned to their studies within two years. One-third of all young adults had completed at least one post-secondary program by the age of 22 — 13% of them were going on to a subsequent program and 21% had graduated and not gone any further³⁵.

³² Bowlby. *op. cit.*

³³ Corak. 1998.

³⁴ Statistics Canada. 2005h.

³⁵ Statistics Canada. 2004d.

From 1990 to 2000, inflation rose by 20.5%, but university tuition fees increased by 135.4%³⁶. Debt loads accumulated by university and college graduates increased 76% between 1990 and 2000³⁷.

As shown in Figure 9, young people who came from a wealthier family were more likely to attend university. Table 9 shows that young people whose parents have completed university are also more likely to attend university.

Figure 9. University participation rates as a function of family income, Canada, 1993-2001.

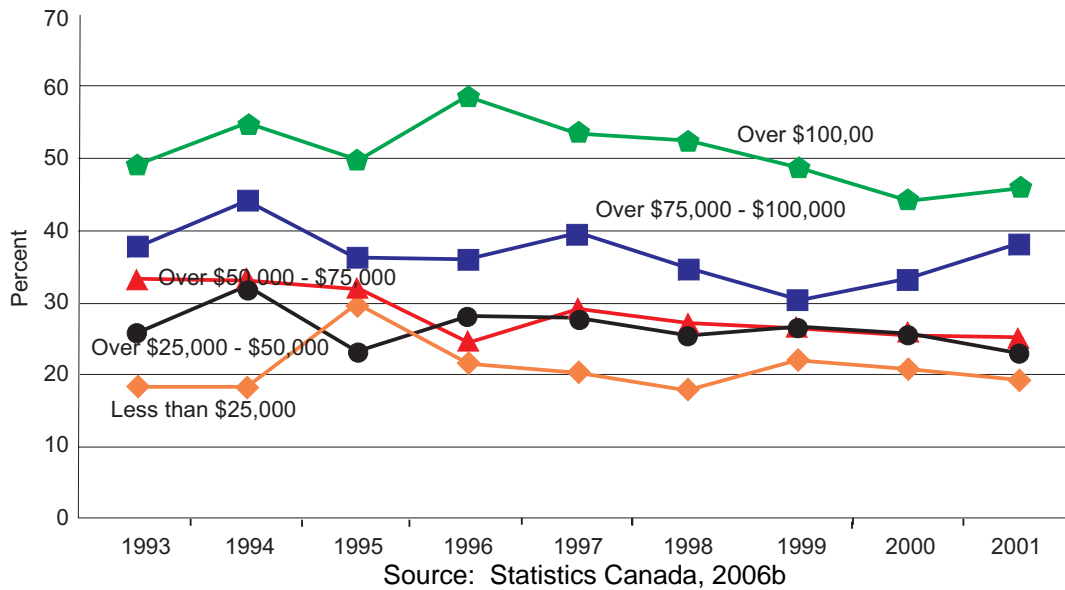


Table 9: University participation rates as a function of parent's level of education, Canada, 1993-2001.

	18 to 24 Year Olds Attending University
Parent's level of education	
University	50%
College	28%
High school or less	17%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2005h

The general relationship among these factors changed little during the 1993 to 2001 period examined by the study. There was a definite gender bias in terms of university attendance; a greater proportion of young women than men went on to university. The difference was not as strong for college attendance.

³⁶ CCSD. 2002.

³⁷ Statistics Canada. 2005h.

Data from the Statistics Canada Youth in Transition Survey³⁸ showed that the drive to excel at university was stronger among Canada's visible-minority immigrant youth than among Canadian-born non-visible minority youths. Seventy-nine percent (79%) of visible minority students said they wanted to obtain at least one university degree, compared with 57% of other students. Visible-minority immigrant students also tended to report higher grades and were more committed to school than Canadian-born students. These educational aspirations were supported and encouraged by their parents — 88% of visible-minority immigrant parents said that they hoped their children would go to university, but only 59% of Canadian-born non-visible minority parents wanted it for their children. Unfortunately, the study report did not indicate if these differences also held true for *Canadian-born* visible-minority youth as well. It would be valuable to understand if these pressures to excel continue as strongly beyond an immigrant family's first generation in Canada.

6. EMPLOYMENT

The job outlook for youth and young adults has improved significantly since 1997, when employment and labour participation rates for these age groups were at their lowest point since the mid-1970s. From 1997 to 2004, the number of jobs for youth and young adults rose by 21%, compared with a growth rate of just under 16% for adults aged 25 and over³⁹. The proportion of new jobs for women in these age groups rose by 24.7%, compared to a 17.7% gain for young men. Growth in jobs for youth 15 to 19 was stronger than for young adults aged 20 to 24. The unemployment rate for youth and young adults declined from 16.3% (1997) to 13.4% (2004) and the proportion of individuals in these two age groups participating in the labour force increased from 61.5% to 67%. During the same period, the employment rate for these cohorts increased from 51.5% to 58.1%. The highest employment rate for youth and young adults was recorded in 1989 (63.3%).

The Statistics Canada *Youth in Transition* study examined the education/work status of young Canadian adults aged 20 in 1999, and checked back with the same people in 2001, when they were 22. In 1999, more than half of the young adults surveyed were still in school, but 27% had left school and were working full-time. A further 10% were neither at school nor working. By 2001, only 44% were still in school, 34% were working full-time, and 14% were neither at school nor working. Of those at school in 1999 and still at school in 2001, 58% were working part-time in 1999 and the proportion had risen to 61% by the time they were 22 (i.e., in 2001). A small proportion of the cohort (3%) were neither working nor at school in both 1999 and 2001; 45% were high school dropouts, 28% had graduated, and 15% had graduated from a postsecondary program.

³⁸ Statistics Canada. 2006a.

³⁹ Statistics Canada. 2005i.

Some of this 3% group were having trouble finding work, but many were travelling, volunteering, or involved in other activities⁴⁰.

While a higher proportion of young people now have jobs, few of those jobs provide stability or good opportunities for advancement. Many provide only part-time or short-term employment.

7. ABORIGINAL YOUTH

The number of Aboriginal youth in Alberta is growing faster than for the rest of the youth population, due largely to higher birth rates among the Aboriginal population^{41,42}.

As shown in Table 10, a significant proportion of Aboriginal adults in both the Edmonton and Calgary CMAs, and in the province as a whole, reported on the 2001 Canada Census that they had not completed high school. The problem is greatest at the provincial level, which includes rural locations. A higher proportion of Aboriginals in the Calgary CMA have completed high school than in the Edmonton area. The table also outlines the most common reasons cited by respondents for not completing their schooling.

Table 10: Reasons for not finishing high school among Aboriginal adults, Edmonton CMA, Calgary CMA and Alberta, 2001			
	Percent		
	Edmonton CMA ⁴³	Calgary CMA ⁴⁴	Alberta
Aboriginal adults who did not finish high school	43	36	44
Wanted to work	15	14	17
Had to work	21	21	21
Bored with school	13	12	12
Pregnancy/taking care of children	11	13	10
Problems at home/To help at home	14	13	13

Source: Statistics Canada, 2004

While these results probably do not accurately reflect the *current* trends among Aboriginal youth in the province, they do give good insights into the issues facing the parents and older siblings of today's Aboriginal youth. There have been a number of programs recently aimed at improving school attendance among Alberta's Aboriginal youth.

School attendance among Aboriginal youth rose substantially over the past twenty years. Gains were greater for women than for men.

⁴⁰ Statistics Canada. 2004d.

⁴¹ City of Edmonton Forecast Committee. 2005.

⁴² CCSD. 2006.

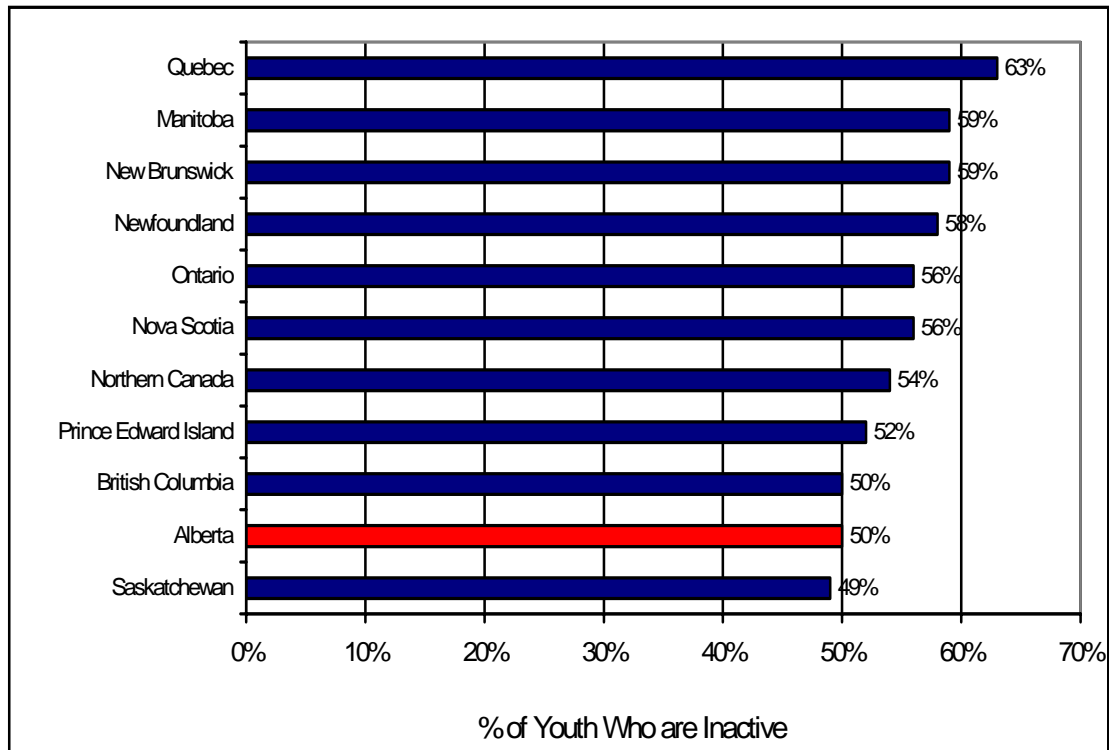
⁴³ <http://tinyurl.com/lf7gt>

⁴⁴ <http://tinyurl.com/nx9z6>

8. PHYSICAL FITNESS

Half of Alberta adolescents between the ages of 12 and 19 are not getting enough physical exercise (Figure 10), based on suggested health guidelines. While Alberta youth are doing better than youth in most of the rest of Canada, this proportion is still alarmingly low, and does not bode well for the health of the coming generation of adult Albertans (see the discussion on obesity, page 8).

Figure 10: Physical inactivity⁴⁵ among youth ages 12 to 19, all Canadian Provinces, 2002



Source: CFLRI, 2004

Notwithstanding the obvious health benefits of a more active lifestyle, the literature in the fields of leisure, recreation and sport are full of references documenting additional benefits to being involved in healthy and active leisure pursuits — positive social interactions and development of social skills, building

⁴⁵ For this study, respondents deemed to be physically inactive were expending less than 3 kilocalories of energy per kilogram of body weight per day (KKD). International guidelines recommend youth should be expending 6-8 KKD, which is equivalent to a hour of team sports, a half hour of running, or walking throughout the day. It should also be noted that the age cohort used for this study differ from the definition of youth used in the balance of this report.

self-esteem, fostering leadership abilities, and creating and maintaining a sense of belonging and community, to name but a few (see also page 7).

Because of sample size and cost limitations, recreation surveys do not often gather information for specific age groups. The 2002/03 Canadian Community Health Survey⁴⁶ and the 2004 Physical Activity Monitor⁴⁷ provide some generalized data on sport and recreation involvement among Canadian youth 15 to 19.

Walking and bicycling are among the two most popular activities for this age group. Adolescent females (12 to 19 years of age) are more likely to walk for exercise than males (74% versus 54%), whereas the males are more likely to cycle for transportation and recreation (56%, versus 38% for females). Cycling is less popular among older adolescents (57% of adolescents 12-14, as compared to 42% of 15 to 19 year-olds), but walking does not significantly decline as teens get older.

Almost 90% of youth and young adults say they participate in unorganized recreation or sport activities. Team sports attract 81% of 15 to 17 year-olds, but only 30% say they participate in individual activities. These latter two figures tend to become reversed towards later adulthood. Sixty-nine percent of 15 to 17 year-olds say they compete in sports at the local level.

Overall, teenage girls tend to be less active than boys, and activity levels decrease for both genders as they reach their later teen years.

9. VOLUNTEERISM

A report from Statistics Canada⁴⁸ provided information on the volunteering activities of youth and young adults.

The percentage of Canadians in the 15 to 24 age group who volunteered their time increased from 29% in 2000 to 55% in 2004. This is a higher rate of volunteering than any other age group.

The rate of volunteering was higher for 15 to 19 year-olds (65%) than for 20 to 24 year-olds (43%), but the older age group volunteered more hours (161 per year, compared to 127 per year for 15 to 19 year-olds). It should be noted, however, that many youth and young adults are *required* to volunteer through school or other activities. Community service is mandatory for 15% of 15 to 19 year-olds and for 9% of 20 to 24 year-olds.

Table 11 outlines *why* youth and young people volunteer their services. The top reasons cited relate to improving their own job opportunities, to explore their own strengths and because their friends are volunteering. The figures show that the

⁴⁶ CFLRI. 2005.

⁴⁷ CFLRI. *op. cit.*

⁴⁸ Statistics Canada. 2006c.

motivations that prompt youth (15 to 19) to volunteer their time are quite different from those of older volunteers.

Table 11: Motivation for volunteering among youth, young adults, and other adults, Canada, 2004.

	Youth (15 – 19)	Young Adults (20 - 24)	Adults (25+)
To improve their job opportunities	65%	44%	13%
To explore their own strengths	65%	62%	45%
Their friends volunteer	54%	47%	41%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006c

The major types of causes youth support with their volunteer efforts are also different from those of older volunteers (Table 12). The 15 to 19 year-olds place a much greater emphasis on volunteering for education and research organizations and for social services causes than do young adults or other adults.

Table 12: Types of organizations supported by the volunteer efforts of youth, young adults, and other adults, Canada, 2004.

	Youth (15 – 19)	Young Adults (20 - 24)	Adults (25+)
Education and research	30%	9%	10%
Social services	18%	11%	11%
Sports and recreation	13%	9%	11%
Religion	10%	7%	10%
Health	6%	6%	6%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006c

10. CITY OF EDMONTON INITIATIVES

The following represents a listing of key initiatives, services, and programs currently endorsed by City of Edmonton Departments for youth and young adults.

The City of Edmonton Youth Council (CEYC)

A new Bylaw for the City of Edmonton Youth Council (CEYC) came into effect in January 2006 establishing CEYC as a committee of City Council that will study and report to City Council on matters within the City's jurisdiction which affect or may affect youth, and in particular:

- advise Council on issues that affect youth in Edmonton;
- forward an Annual Report with recommendations to Council;
- encourage and promote the well-being of youth, youth services, and opportunities available to youth within the City of Edmonton;
- oversee a General Assembly of Youth;
- consult with City departments and outside organizations working on youth initiatives;
- develop and maintain a positive liaison with individuals and organizations that are addressing issues of concern to Edmonton's youth;
- educate youth on City governance, including procedures and policy-making;
- provide networking opportunities for youth within and outside of the City of Edmonton;
- research and write policy proposals for review by Council;
- coordinate community events that profile local youth issues;
- receive referrals from Council and its Standing Committees for review and recommendation; and
- nominate persons for appointment to other Agencies, Boards, and Committees as directed by Council.

Besides the structural change/reform to strengthen the Youth Council's relationship with City Council and to increase its relevance and impact on youth in Edmonton, recent Youth Council activities have included:

- preparing a report presented to the Community Services Committee of Council in June 2006 that described the "membership, selection process, functions and relationships between the Youth Council and the General Assembly of Youth," the 2006 Workplan, and information compiled on the structures and responsibilities of other Canadian Youth Councils;
- attending the Pan-Canadian Conference (the assembly of representatives from Youth Councils in Canada) in Toronto in June 2006.
- working with Intrinsic Design to create a new "look" for the Youth Council;
- creating www.ceyc.ca, the Youth Council's website;
- launching a recruitment campaign involving posters, media appearances, interviews, etc.;
- redrafting the Terms of Reference for the Youth Council;
- designing and implementing a selection process for Youth Council members;⁴⁹ and

⁴⁹ Including composing and designing the application form, reviewing information on all applications, short listing to interviews, interviewing, and making final selections.

- planning the November 4th Orientation Day when new Youth Councillors will meet one another and receive the information needed to fulfill their roles effectively.

The Youth Council consists of approximately thirty members between the ages of 13 and 23 years who comprise the General Assembly. The General Assembly elects seven members to the Executive. The Executive and the General Assembly then work collaboratively to make recommendations to City Council. Terms are one year in length (October to September), and membership requires participation at one meeting of the General Assembly per month.

Edmonton's Next Generation Task Force

In July 2005, Edmonton City Council passed Bylaw 14045, **Edmonton's Next Generation Task Force**, creating a new, temporary committee of Council to advise on how to encourage youth to make Edmonton their home. The Task Force was charged with the following mandate:

- investigate methods to encourage the interest of youth to live and work in Edmonton;
- identify priorities and criteria that are important to youth in their city;
- identify barriers that prevent youth from choosing Edmonton as their home;
- review the practices of other municipalities in attracting youth as a destination of choice or encouraging youth to remain in their municipality; and
- submit a final report to Council by May 31, 2006, with initiatives that would help ensure that Edmonton is a youth-oriented city.

Edmonton's Next Generation Task Force, comprised of up to twenty-two individuals aged 18 to 40 years, submitted its final report, **A Gathering of Energy: The Voice of Edmonton's Next Generation**, to City Council on June 20, 2006. The report contained the following nine recommendations:

Recommendation One: Initiate marketing and education campaigns toward key internal and external audiences to establish Edmonton as a preferred place for young people to live, learn, work, and grow.

Recommendation Two: Establish a city-wide architectural policy, focusing on zones of "urban excellence" in key areas of Edmonton, beginning with the downtown and access to the river valley.

Recommendation Three: Create a wireless internet zone downtown, in Old Strathcona, at the U of A, and in LRT areas, in partnership with a WiFi service provider.

Recommendation Four: Develop a City of Edmonton culture policy.

Recommendation Five: Establish an arts area in Edmonton with affordable studio and residential space as part of neighbourhood and downtown revitalization.

Recommendation Six: Improve sports and recreation opportunities by expanding the mandate of the Edmonton Sports Council to include recreation, and by exploring opportunities for partnerships, creating initiatives to promote active living.

Recommendation Seven: Facilitate the creation of networking and mentoring opportunities that are specifically targeted to young entrepreneurs and professionals.

Recommendation Eight: Develop a virtual, on-line business centre appealing to the next generation to expand networking opportunities, mentorship, and training resources, with links to business information and resources.

Recommendation Nine: Develop a venture capital fund to encourage the growth of new and innovative entrepreneurship in Edmonton.

As follow-up to the report, the Community Services Department created a Next Gen Office in September 2006 to guide the establishment of a new administrative committee, **Edmonton's Next Gen Committee 2006-07**, and to support its work. The committee, comprised of representatives from all six civic departments and community New Gen representatives, reports to Senior City Administration (SMT). Its strategic priorities for action are to support and guide Next Gen recommendations and projects, generate community interest and engagement, coordinate Next Gen networking events, and develop a sustainable committee and initiative.

Edmonton Community Drug Strategy (ECDS)

The 2002 Alberta Youth Experience Survey showed that students in the Edmonton region (31.1%) were more likely to report using cannabis than students in other regions of Alberta. In addition, 54.7% of Edmonton students in grades seven to twelve had consumed alcohol in the previous twelve months. Students in the Edmonton region were more likely than other students to report hazardous or harmful alcohol consumption and were equally as likely as other students in Alberta to show signs of cannabis dependence.

As a result, community leaders and key stakeholder met to find innovative solutions to address the issues and harms related to alcohol and drug use among Edmonton's youth population and initiated the **Edmonton Community Drug Strategy (ECDS)**. ECDS was a call to action to community leaders, agencies, and organizations to develop an Edmonton community drug strategy targeting young people to the age of 24 years, with an emphasis on preventing and reducing the impacts of alcohol and illicit drug use and abuse.

The **Edmonton Community Drug Strategy Task Force** was established as a temporary committee of Council to:

- Plan and support the implementation and sustainability of the Edmonton Community Drug Strategy;
- Facilitate broad community involvement in the planning and implementation of the Edmonton Community Drug Strategy; and
- Provide input and make recommendations to the community and to the three orders of government to ensure a coordinated, collaborative, and long-term community response.

Members of the Task Force are the Mayor of the City of Edmonton; a representative of Edmonton Police Service as appointed by the Chief of Police; four members representing the Province of Alberta (one member appointed by and representing each of Alberta Education, Solicitor General, Edmonton and Area Child and Family Services, and Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission); one member appointed by and representing Health Canada; one member appointed by and representing each of the Edmonton Public School Board, Edmonton Catholic School District, Capital Health Authority, HIV Edmonton, the Salvation Army, and Edmonton Chamber of Commerce; one community representative appointed by and representing the Safer Cities Advisory Committee; one member appointed by Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee, representing the Aboriginal community; and one member appointed by the City of Edmonton Youth Council, representing the youth of Edmonton. The Task Force will be terminated upon Council's receipt of the final report, or June 30, 2007, whichever occurs first.

There are currently three main working groups for the Edmonton Community Drug Strategy:

- The **Advocacy Working Group** hired a consultant to assist them in developing a model for a tolerant shelter with a focus on harm reduction for high-risk youth (under 24 years of age) with concurrent disorders. It is an ongoing concern that youth with dual diagnosis and addiction concerns often fall through the gaps. Partners involved in addition to ECDS are: Boyle Street Co-op, Boys & Girls Club, Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), Clean Scene, Directions for Wellness, Edmonton Coalition on Housing and Homelessness (ECOH), Edmonton Police Service (EPS), Elizabeth Fry Society, George Spady, Health Canada, HIV Edmonton, Inner City Youth Housing Project (ICYHP), Market Drugs Medical, Native Counselling, Nechi (Training & Research Division), Old Strathcona Youth Coop, Prostitution Awareness and Action Foundation of Edmonton (PAAFE), Streetworks, Restorative Justice, University of Alberta, White Elephant Connection, Willingdon Treatment Centre, and the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA).
- The **Coordination Working Group** is preparing informational material with key messaging about drugs and alcohol for hard-to-reach parents⁵⁰ of children 12

⁵⁰ The definition for hard-to-reach parents would include factors that marginalize parents such as poverty, general health, age, previous or present addiction issues, culture, colour, gender, sexuality, religion, housing, transportation, isolation, family violence, and/or language. "Parents" would also include

years of age and younger with the help of a consultant. Partners involved in addition to ECDS are: AADAC Youth Services, Abbottsfield Youth Project, Bissell Centre, Capital Health, Catholic Social Services, Cole's Kids, Edmonton Catholic Schools, Edmonton Police Service (EPS), Elizabeth Fry Society, Henwood Treatment Centre (AADAC), Inner City Youth Housing Project, KARA Family Resource Centre, Millwoods Welcome Centre for Immigrants, and Restorative Justice.

- The **Grow Ops Working Group** is preparing, with the help of consultants, a public awareness package, including speaking notes, PowerPoint presentations, information sheets, and a nomination package for the Minister's Award of Excellence. Since the working group distributed a Grow Ops brochure, EPS has received an increase in the number of tips about local grow ops. Partners involved in addition to ECDS are: ATCO Gas, Capital Health, Edmonton Police Service (EPS), Edmonton Real Estate Board, EPCOR Insurance Bureau of Canada, Real Estate Council of Alberta, and the RCMP.

Edmonton Youth Community Engagement Steering Committee

The **Edmonton Youth Community Engagement Steering Committee** was formed in 2003 to facilitate the collaboration of employment services for youth in the Edmonton area. Members include representatives from federal, provincial, and municipal departments involved in youth programming and representatives from Aboriginal organizations who deliver youth programming under Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreements (AHRDA) with the Government of Canada.

The Committee hired R. A. Malatest & Associates Ltd to conduct a Community Engagement Process to facilitate the collaboration and coordination of services for youth in Edmonton, as well as to identify service gaps and "best practices" (in addition to other goals). The **Edmonton Region Plan for Coordination of Youth Services, 2004-2007: Final Report** proposed the following recommendations to address a broad strategic approach to the findings of the project:

- **Recommendation 1:** The Edmonton Youth Community Engagement Steering Committee could be used as a basis for an ongoing youth employment coordinating body.
- **Recommendation 2:** The Funders Forum should be approached to address the need to implement changes to funding of programs for youth.

guardians, grandparents, mentors, coaches, extended family, members, or other significant adults in the life of the child or youth.

- **Recommendation 3:** The implementation strategy could involve a number of key steps.⁵¹
- **Recommendation 4: An Inventory of Programs Offered for Youth.**

Based on the literature reviewed and the consultations undertaken to prepare the Edmonton Region Plan, the major issues impacting youth employment in Edmonton included the following: unreliable or inconvenient transportation, lack of experience; lack of education or appropriate skills; employer attitudes and behaviours; lack of housing or permanent address; lack of information on career planning or job searching; difficulty accessing or using available employment resources; low self-esteem and unrealistic expectations of youth; funding difficulties for service providers; and coordination of youth services.

Community Services Department

The Community Services department has as its mandate the provision of social, recreational, and cultural opportunities; the development, management, and preservation of recreational and cultural facilities; the development, management, and preservation of parks and open spaces; and the building of community capacity, in addition to the coordination of emergency services; the provision of critical patient care; and the protection of lives and property during a fire or other emergency event.

In order to ensure that Edmontonians on low-income do not face social exclusion from recreation and related departmental services, the **Access to Recreation Strategy for Low-Income Edmontonians** was developed. The resultant **Leisure Access Program** (formerly known as the Fee Reduction Program) provides eligible low-income Edmontonians with access to participating City of Edmonton recreation facilities (including community recreation centres, golf courses, special collection facilities,⁵² and arenas.⁵³

Low-income individuals and/or families living in Edmonton are eligible if they possess a valid **Health Benefits Card** (issued by the Government of Alberta) or fall below the Low-Income Cut-off line. In the former case, the applicant may go to any participating facility and show his/her valid Health Benefits Card and current photo ID. In the latter case, the applicant must complete the Leisure Access Program Application Form that is available

⁵¹ The steps suggested are: a review of the current report's recommendations with all members of the Steering Committee to identify priorities, "next steps," and strategic goals; the Steering Committee should determine if its membership/participation should be adapted or supplemented in order to address strategic goals; preparation of Steering Committee response to recommendations, including which recommendations will be addressed; development of a response structure, including the development of sub-committee to undertake topic-specific activities in response to recommendations; and establish timelines and funding arrangements for implementation of response activities.

⁵² Special Collection Facilities are the City Arts Centre, Fort Edmonton Park, John Janzen Nature Centre, John Walter Museum, Muttart Conservatory, Prince of Wales Armouries, and Valley Zoo.

⁵³ All public skate times are free. Times, as well as free skate and helmet availability, may be accessed by phoning (780) 496-4999.

from (780) 496-4918 or on line at <http://www.edmonton.ca/CommPeople/LeisureAccessApplication.pdf>.

In addition to unlimited, free admission to participating facilities (excluding golf courses),⁵⁴ the **Leisure Access Program** offers three registered programs per year for adults and seniors (no program restrictions) at 25% of cost (and 25% of the cost of materials where applicable) and four registered programs per year for children and youth (no program restrictions) at 25% of the cost (and 25% of the cost of materials where applicable).

Since the inception of the **Leisure Access Program** (January 2006), admissions to facilities have increased more than 100,000 over the same period in 2005 (January 1 to September 30). Also during this period, program registrations more than doubled.

Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) is a joint municipal/ provincial partnership that funds and supports the development and delivery of preventive social service programs in Edmonton. FCSS funding is directed to community-based social service programs that are preventive in nature and promote and enhance the well-being of individuals, families, and communities.

Table 1 shows FCSS funded fifteen programs primarily for youth and young adults in 2006.

Table 13: 2006 FCSS Funded Programs for Youth and Young Adults and Program Information			
Agency	Program	Program Description	Amount
ASSIST Community Services Centre	Towards a New Generation: A Project for Safe and Healthy Asian Youths, Family Services Program	An interactive, preventive program open to immigrant and Canadian-born youth aged 11-15 years of Asian/Oriental descent. Cultivates the academic potentials, social competencies, positive identity and values, and leadership skills of at-risk youths.	\$51,027
Association for Evergreen Youth	Drop-In/Learning Resources Centre Program	Addresses the social, educational, recreational, and developmental needs of children and youth in Evergreen Mobile Home Community and the surrounding agricultural area.	\$66,000

⁵⁴ One round of golf is considered one registered program. Tee times must be booked in advance.

Ben Calf Robe Society	Youth Intervention Program	Provides programming for Aboriginal youth and encouragement to develop skills to avoid the cycle of poverty and abuse. Focuses on culture, relationship building, social skill development, and recreational activities. The Youth Intervention Program highlights youth leadership through the Youth Advisory Committee, special programming and Spring and Summer Day Camps.	\$109,859
Big Brothers Big Sisters Society of Edmonton & Area	Mentoring/Club Connect Program	Provides educational, cultural, recreational, and mentoring programs to the youth who live in the Duggan, Steinhauer, and Sakaw communities.	\$189,771
Boyle Street Community Services	Inner City Outreach & Liaison	Help youth, families, and adults discover personal strengths, improve coping skills, build independence, become members of the community, and enhance their well-being.	\$433,042
Boys' & Girls' Clubs of Edmonton	Youth and Neighbourhood Centres	Six full-time and three part-time community-based Youth & Neighbourhood Centres for children & youth aged 6-17 years and their families. Centres serve as a base for social and recreational services/programs.	\$383,328
	Youth and Family Directions Program	Provides children, youth, and families associated with Youth and Neighbourhood Centres with counselling, advocacy, crisis intervention, parental support, and conflict resolution.	\$241,314
Inner City Youth Development Association	Youth Support Program	Provides youth with the tools, attitudes, and resources needed to change their lives. Provides counselling, meals, and transportation/bus tickets when needed. Uses popular theatre as a strategy.	\$55,000
Islamic Family & Social Services Association	Youth Development & Parenting Education Program	Provides children, youth, and families with education and skills to safeguard against negative influences and behaviour.	\$65,446
Old Strathcona Youth Society	Get Connected Program	Connects youth between the ages of 14 and 24 to appropriate community resources and services.	\$79,492
Partners for Youth Outreach Society of Edmonton	Outreach/Community Youth & Family Support Program	Offers a range of preventive social activities for children, youth and families. Works to reduce family violence, child neglect/abuse, and youth crime and to increase the number of stable families. Provides youth with positive life and leadership development skills and empowers advocating and developing self-help groups.	\$112,500

Terra Association – Meeting the Challenge of Teen Pregnancy	Child & Family Support Centre Program	A licensed on-site child care facility at Braemar School that serves teen parents and their children	\$67,342
	Mentor Program	Provides emotional support to young parents (moms and dads) by linking them to positive role models.	\$33,050
YMCA of Edmonton	Service Learning Program for Aboriginal Youths	Brings leadership skills to Aboriginal youth through a service learning project to provide a positive sense of self-worth and to increase self-confidence and self-esteem.	\$45,750
	Children's Services Program	Provides children/youth with the opportunity to explore their thoughts and feelings, and to develop skills in dealing with life issues. Includes RAINBOWS (parental divorce/separation), Paths of Change (family violence), Time to Talk (death issues), Choices for Positive Youth Relationships (assists young women in developing skills for healthy relationship choices), and Individual Counselling (may include play therapy when appropriate).	\$51,381

Note that programs receiving FCSS funding must be registered not-for-profit organizations that have been incorporated for a minimum of a year. Programs that provide primarily for the recreation needs or leisure pursuits of individuals; offer direct financial assistance, including money, food, clothing, or shelter to an individual or family; are primarily rehabilitative; or duplicate services ordinarily provided by a government or government agency are not funded by FCSS.

The City of Edmonton Community Investment Operating Grant program provides operating assistance to Edmonton's non-profit organizations whose activities result in benefits to the citizens of Edmonton. Organizations are eligible for grants if they are based in Edmonton, if they primarily serve Edmontonians, and if their programs/services have a social, multicultural, or recreation/amateur sport character. Table 2 lists the organizations serving youth and young adults that received Community Investment Operating Grants for 2006.

Table 14 Organizations Providing Programs/Services for Youth and Young Adults Receiving Community Investment Operating Grants for 2006

Organization	Amount
124 th Street Drop-In Association of Edmonton	\$2,008
Aboriginal Youth & Family Well Being & Education Society	\$6,856
ASSIST Community Services Centre	\$15,000
Ben Calf Robe Society	\$15,000
Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society	\$15,000
Boyle Street Community Services	\$15,000
Bushido Karate Association	\$1,493
Cornerstone Counselling Society of Edmonton (The)	\$15,000
Edmonton Jewish Youth Centre	\$15,000
Edmonton Minor Hockey Association	\$15,000
Inner City Youth Development Association	\$15,000
Islamic Family & Social Services Association	\$11,999
Northeast Youth Project Society	\$3,002
Partners for Youth Outreach Society of Edmonton	\$7,088
Terra Ass'n -- Meeting the Challenge of Teen Pregnancy	\$15,000
Uncles & Aunts at Large (Edmonton Area) Society	\$15,000

Organizations requesting grants must be registered (under appropriate provincial or federal legislation) as a non-profit for at least one year and have open membership; should not substantially duplicate the activities of other applicants or other government-supported organizations; and may apply for up to twenty-five percent of their total operating expenditures for the previous fiscal year (to a maximum of \$15,000).

Corporate Services Department

The City's **Human Resources Branch** is in the process of hiring four individuals to help recruit people with diverse backgrounds into the work force – three Human Resource Consultants (for Aboriginal Employment Outreach, Youth Employment Outreach, and Employment Outreach) and an Employment Outreach and Duty to Accommodate Consultant.

The Human Resource Consultant – Youth Employment Outreach will play a key role in attracting, developing, and retaining a diverse, skilled, productive, and engaged workforce. This position will have a primary focus of engaging youth, increasing employment opportunity awareness and fit, and taking the lead on developing non-traditional employment programs.

The individual will provide recruitment advice and coaching to hiring supervisors and Human Resources staff on approaches to engage diverse populations to secure qualified job applicants; build strong external working relationships with post-secondary schools across Canada and other orders of government, particularly fostering partnerships with external associations and organizations that result in attracting qualified job applicants; recommend recruitment and retention strategies to promote sustainable progress towards workforce diversification; develop, coordinate, and implement work experience, training, and placement programs; and source qualified applicants to meet long-term organizational workforce requirements.

It is anticipated that, among other qualifications, the individual will possess 3-5 years progressive human resources experience (recruitment and retention) with a youth outreach focus; demonstrated ability to foster productive relationships within culturally diverse environments; and a proven commitment to building and maintaining an inclusive workforce.

Edmonton Police Service (EPS)

The **Neighbourhood Empowerment Team (NET)** is a multi-disciplined crime prevention and crime reduction program aimed at stabilizing environments within 'at-risk' communities. "Each NET is comprised of an EPS police officer and a Capacity Builder. Together, they foster partnerships in the community and mobilize individuals to take action on community concerns by establishing crime prevention strategies owned and maintained by the residents and supported by police."⁵⁵

Priorities for **NET** are:

- to reduce crime and fear of crime in areas that have suffered from community apathy, neighbourhood decay, and diminished resource support;
- to mobilize those who live, work, and play in identified areas to take action on community concerns by establishing resident driven/police supported crime prevention strategies;
- to foster partnerships that are designed to integrate community resources; to provide customized responses the root causes of crime and reduce the demand for traditional police intervention; and
- to provide multi-disciplined interventions to at-risk populations within the community.

NET programs include AutoSafe: Vehicle Theft Reduction Program, Creating Apartment Safety Together, Safe and Secure Homes, and Safe Squad. Youth –targeted programming includes:

- Bully Busters, a program that promotes a community-wide message that "Bullying is not tolerated here." Program concepts have been successfully implemented, not only in schools, but also in youth organizations, public places, and even in the homes of some children.
- Drop-in Gym Nights;
- First Offence/Community Consequence; and
- Graffiti Patrols.

Other collaborations include: D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education), P.P.P. (Parent Parking Patrol), The Edmonton Safe Parent Association (formerly known as Block Parents), Neighbourhood Watch, and Crime Stoppers.

⁵⁵ <http://www.police.edmonton.ab.ca/Pages/NET/index.asp>.

In addition, the RCMP in the Edmonton area and EPS are the first police agencies in Canada to introduce **Street Legal**, an **EPS Racing Team Program** for Canadian youth.⁵⁶ The objectives of **Street Legal** are:

- to deliver the message of Street Legal by being highly visible in the community. The race teams and their cars make presentations at middle and high schools, trade shows, conventions, shopping malls, community events, and motor sport events.
- to provide a facility where young race enthusiasts can participate in motor vehicle competition in a safe and controlled environment; and
- to develop long-term partnerships among traffic safety stakeholders.

The **EPS Racing Team** is dedicated to:

- enhancing traffic safety by encouraging responsible motoring among youthful drivers;
- motivating youth to stay in school through the practical application of math and sciences to the sport of drag racing;
- delivering positive messages about quality of life without drug and alcohol abuse; and

encouraging self-respect and leadership among youth through teamwork

⁵⁶ The program began in the United States in 1988 and has expanded to include over 120 U.S. police agencies.

10. SOURCES

- Alberta Education. 2005.** *Alberta Education 2004-2005 Annual Report.*
<http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/annualreport/default.asp>
- Ambert, A.-M. 2005a.** *Cohabitation and Marriage: How are They Related?*
Contemporary Family Trends. The Vanier Institute of the Family,
Ottawa. <http://www.vifamily.ca/library/cft/cohabitation.html>
- Ambert, A.-M. 2005b.** *Divorce: Facts, Causes, and Consequences.*
Contemporary Family Trends. The Vanier Institute of the Family,
Ottawa. http://www.vifamily.ca/library/cft/divorce_05.html
- Ambert, A.-M. 2006.** *One Parent Families: Characteristics, Causes,
Consequences, and Issues.* Contemporary Family Trends. The
Vanier Institute of the Family, Ottawa.
<http://www.vifamily.ca/library/cft/oneparent.html>
- Bowlby, G. 2006.** *Provincial Drop-out Rates - Trends and Consequences.*
Statistics Canada, Ottawa.
<http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/81-004-XIE/2005004/drop.htm>
- Canadian Council on Social Development (CCSD). 2001.** *The Progress of
Canada's Children 2001.* Canadian Council on Social
Development, Ottawa.
<http://www.ccsd.ca/pubs/2001/pcc2001/index.htm>
- Canadian Council on Social Development (CCSD). 2002.** *The Progress of
Canada's Children 2002.* Canadian Council on Social
Development, Ottawa. <http://www.ccsd.ca/pubs/2002/pcc02/>
- Canadian Council on Social Development (CCSD). 2006.** *The Progress of
Canada's Children 2006.* Canadian Council on Social
Development, Ottawa. <http://www.ccsd.ca/pccy/2006/tools.htm>
- Canadian Fitness and Leisure Research Institute (CFLRI). 2004.** *2002
Physical Activity Monitor.* Canadian Fitness and Leisure Research
Institute, Ottawa.
<http://www.cflri.ca/cflri/pa/surveys/2002survey/2002survey.html>
- Canadian Fitness and Leisure Research Institute (CFLRI). 2005.** *Local
opportunities for physical activity and sport : Trends from 1999–
2004.* Canadian Fitness and Leisure Research Institute, Ottawa.
<http://www.cflri.ca/eng/statistics/surveys/pam2004.php>
- Community Action Plan for Children (CAPC). 2000.** *A Framework for Action
to Reduce the Rate of Teen Pregnancy in Canada.* Health Canada,
Ottawa. <http://murl.se/9082>

- Corak, M. (ed.). 1998.** *Labour Markets, Social Institutions, and the Future of Canada's Children*. Statistics Canada. Ottawa.
<http://www.statcan.ca/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=89-553-X>
- Costa, R., and A. Siggner. 2005.** *Aboriginal Conditions in Census Metropolitan Areas, 1981-2001*. Statistics Canada, Ottawa.
<http://www.statcan.ca/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=89-613-MIE2005008>
- City of Edmonton Forecast Committee. 2005.** *Edmonton Socio-economic Outlook, 2005-2010*. Edmonton Planning & Development, Edmonton. <http://tinyurl.com/e6mka>
- Human Resources and Skills Development Canada. 2005.** *Canadian Youth: Who are They and What Do They Want?*
<http://www.youth.gc.ca/yoaux.jsp?&lang=en&flash=0&ta=1&auxpageid=846>
- Ipsos-Reid. 2006.** *Sexual Behaviour and Lack of Knowledge Threaten Health of Canadian Teens*. Canadian Association for Adolescent Health, Montreal. <http://www.acsa-caah.ca/ang/pdf/misc/research.pdf>
- Predy G.N., P. Lightfoot, J. Edwards, and N. Fraser-Lee. 2004.** *How Healthy are We? A report of the Medical Officer of Health*. Capital Health, Edmonton. <http://tinyurl.com/k3746>
- Predy G.N., P. Lightfoot, J. Edwards, N. Fraser-Lee and A. Brown. 2005.** *How Healthy are We? A report of the Medical Officer of Health*. Capital Health, Edmonton. <http://murl.se/9177>
- Rotermann, M. 2005.** *Sex, Condoms and STDs Among Young People*. Health Reports 16(3). Statistics Canada, Ottawa. <http://murl.se/9216>
- Shields, M. 2005.** *Measured Obesity - Overweight Canadian children and adolescents*. Nutrition: Findings from the Canadian Community Health Survey, No. 1. Statistics Canada, Ottawa.
<http://www.statcan.ca/english/research/82-620-MIE/82-620-MIE2005001.htm>
- Statistics Canada. 2003a.** *Study: Aboriginal People Living in Metropolitan Areas*. The Daily. Statistics Canada, Ottawa.
<http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/050623/d050623b.htm>
- Statistics Canada. 2003b.** *Youth Smoking Survey*. The Daily. Statistics Canada, Ottawa.
<http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/040614/d040614b.htm>
- Statistics Canada. 2004a.** *Divorces*. The Daily. Statistics Canada, Ottawa.
<http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/040504/d040504a.htm>
- Statistics Canada. 2004b.** *Alcohol and Drug Use in Early Adolescence*. The Daily. Statistics Canada, Ottawa.
<http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/040518/d040518b.htm>

- Statistics Canada. 2004c.** *Trends in Drug Offences and the Role of Alcohol and Drugs in Crime.* The Daily. Statistics Canada, Ottawa. <http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/040223/d040223a.htm>
- Statistics Canada. 2004d.** *Youth in Transition Survey: Education and Market Pathways of Young Adults.* The Daily. Statistics Canada, Ottawa. <http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/040616/d040616b.htm>
- Statistics Canada. 2005a.** *Community Profiles – Edmonton vs. Calgary.* Statistics Canada, Ottawa. <http://tinyurl.com/ntstr>
- Statistics Canada. 2005b.** *Canadian Community Health Survey: Obesity Among Children and Adults.* The Daily. Statistics Canada, Ottawa. <http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/050706/d050706a.htm>
- Statistics Canada. 2005c.** *Study: Divorce and the Mental Health of Children.* The Daily. Statistics Canada, Ottawa. <http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/051213/d051213c.htm>
- Statistics Canada. 2005d.** *Children and Youth as Victims of Violent Crime.* The Daily. Statistics Canada, Ottawa. <http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/050420/d050420a.htm>
- Statistics Canada. 2005e.** *Early Sexual Intercourse, Condom Use and Sexually Transmitted Diseases.* The Daily. Statistics Canada, Ottawa. <http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/050503/d050503a.htm>
- Statistics Canada. 2005f.** *Study: Aboriginal People Living in Metropolitan Areas.* The Daily. Statistics Canada, Ottawa. <http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/050623/d050623b.htm>
- Statistics Canada. 2005g.** *Labour Force Survey: Western Canada's Off-Reserve Aboriginal Population.* The Daily. Statistics Canada, Ottawa. <http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/050613/d050613a.htm>
- Statistics Canada. 2005h.** *Participation in post-secondary education in Canada: Has the role of parental income and education changed over the 1990s?.* Statistics Canada, Ottawa. <http://murl.se/8968>
- Statistics Canada. 2005i.** *Youth and the Labour Market.* The Daily. Statistics Canada, Ottawa. <http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/051123/d051123b.htm>
- Statistics Canada. 2005j.** *Crime Statistics.* The Daily. Statistics Canada, Ottawa. <http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/050721/d050721a.htm>
- Statistics Canada. 2005k.** *Court, youth cases by decision, by province and territory (Alberta).* Statistics Canada, Ottawa. <http://www40.statcan.ca/l01/cst01/legal24j.htm>
- Statistics Canada. 2006a.** *The High Educational Aspirations of Visible-Minority Youth.* The Daily. Statistics Canada, Ottawa. <http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/060404/d060404b.htm>

- Statistics Canada. 2006b.** *Study: Relationship between reading literacy and education outcomes.* The Daily. Statistics Canada, Ottawa. <http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/060607/d060607a.htm>
- Statistics Canada. 2006c.** *Caring Canadians, Involved Canadians: Highlights from the 2004 Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating.* Statistics Canada, Ottawa. <http://murl.se/9182>
- Tremblay, S., S. Dahinten and D. Kohen. 2003.** *Factors Related to Adolescents. Self-perceived Health.* Supplement to Health Reports. Statistics Canada, Ottawa. <http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/82-003-SIE/2003000/pdf/82-003-SIE2003002.pdf>
- Williams, C. 2001.** *Family Disruptions and Childhood Happiness.* Canadian Social Trends, Autumn 2001.