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ABSTRACT

Education is part of a complex and dynamic system in which family, social, economic, and other factors have a tremendous influence on students. This environmental scanning report for Alberta, Canada is intended to draw attention to societal trends and issues that may be relevant to educators and to disseminate information that will support educational planning and decision making. The report is organized into three sections. Section 1, "Demographic Profile," covers: (1) population characteristics; (2) youth mobility; (3) fertility/mortality; and (4) aboriginal children. Section 2, "Childhood," discusses: (1) children and families; (2) child care; and (3) children at risk. The third, and final, section, "Adolescence," reports on: (1) values, attitudes and issues; (2) time use patterns; (3) labor force participation; (4) sexual activity; (5) youth crime; (6) substance abuse; and (7) transition to adulthood. Highlights of the findings reported include the following: (1) youth aged 0-19 as a percentage of Alberta's population is declining; (2) the rate of child poverty in Alberta was 19.8 percent in 1993; and (3) teen pregnancies have been falling since 1991 in Alberta. Contains 11 data tables and 29 references. (AJH)

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Highlights

Demographic Profile

Shrinking youth population

- Youth age 0-19 as a percentage of Alberta's population (29.9% in 1994) is declining. In the future, youth may face increased competition for scarce public resources as service needs for an aging population increase. Under low, medium and high projections respectively, the youth population would constitute 22.6%, 24.6% or 26.7% of the population by the year 2016.

Mobility

- Annual interprovincial migration of 15-19 year-olds to Alberta has been consistently positive, even when total migration was negative. Large inflows of 15-19 year-olds from other provinces who don't enter the school system may skew educational indicators based on a percentage of the population (e.g., participation rates, graduation rates).
- About three to four of every 100 school age Albertans (age 5-19) arrive from another province or country each year. More than half of school age Albertans in 1991 had changed their residence in the last five years (nearly half of these moves were within the province).

Births/fertility

- Total annual births in Alberta declined from 43,927 in 1984 to 38,050 in 1994. Fertility rates, which bottomed out in the mid-1980s, have since risen slightly in Alberta.

Mortality

- Mortality rates for Alberta youth are declining. The leading causes of death for 0-19 year-olds are birth trauma and congenital anomalies (for infants), and motor vehicle accidents and suicide (for teens).

Aboriginal children

- Aboriginal children account for 9.8% of all children age 0-15 in Alberta, compared to 6.4% for all of Canada.

Immigrants

- The major sources of immigrants to Alberta in 1990 were Asia/Pacific (51%), Europe (23%) and Africa/Middle East (12%.). In 1990, about 70% of Alberta immigrants age 0-19 did not speak English.

Childhood

Family characteristics

- In 1991, 81% of Albertans age 0-19 lived in traditional two-parent families. The percentage of lone parent families in Alberta (13.9%) is just below the national average (14.2%). About seven percent of Canadian families include at least one stepchild.
- In 1991, Albertans have the second highest average family income in Canada. In constant dollars, Canada's average family income declined in the early 1980s, rose in the late 1980s, and declined again in the early 1990s.
- Between 1970 and 1990, the percentage of two-parent families in Canada with children under age 19 that had both parents working increased from 30% to 70%.

- The number of licensed child care spaces in Alberta increased from about 16,000 in 1981 to more than 51,000 in 1993.

Child care

- In 1993, the rate of child poverty in Alberta was 19.8%, slightly below the Canadian average and down from 23.3% in 1992.

Child poverty

- The incidence of missing children is slightly lower for Alberta (25 per 100,000) than for Canada as a whole (28 per 100,000). Parental abductions account for less than one percent missing children.

Missing children

- In 1991, about 7.2% of Canadians age 0-19 had some form of disability. Of all child disabilities, 85% are classified as mild, 11% as moderate, and 4% as severe. Learning disabilities are the most common disability among children. Boys are twice as likely to have a learning disability as girls.

Children with disabilities

Adolescence

- In a 1992 survey, Canadian youth (age 15-19) reported that what they wanted most out of life were freedom, being loved, having choices and success in what you do.
- Today's teens have experienced a quality of life unmatched in Canadian history. Most expect to continue to do so, and to improve on the experiences of their parents.

Values, attitudes and issues.

- Today's teens are the best informed in Canadian history, largely due to increased exposure to television, technology and travel.
- Today's teens are more likely than those of the early 1980s to see problems. The concerns cited most often in a 1992 survey were AIDS, the environment, child abuse, drugs and teen suicide.
- A primary concern of Edmonton and area teens is that getting an education no longer ensures success in an uncertain future. Other concerns include increasing social and economic pressures on families and increasing parental pressure to achieve, especially in school.
- Among Canadian teens age 15-19, males spend substantially more time than females at television viewing and active sports, while females spend substantially more time than males at unpaid work, and education and related activities.

Time use patterns

- Alberta 15-19 year-olds consistently experience high labour force participation rates and low unemployment rates, relative to most other provinces.

Labour force participation

- After increasing steadily for decades, teen pregnancies have been falling since 1991 in Alberta. Since 1989, the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases among Alberta teens has also declined.

Teen pregnancies

Youth crime

- Males account for about 80% of all youth crimes each year in Alberta; however, the proportion committed by females is gradually increasing. As a proportion of all youth crimes in Canada, violent crimes have increased from 9% in 1986 to 17% in 1993.

Substance abuse

- A 1993 survey found that annual rates of substance use for Alberta teens were: alcohol - 64%, tobacco - 40%, hashish/ marijuana - 16%, hallucinogens - 9% and amphetamines - 7%. Teens' peer and social relationships were significantly related to their substance use.

Life prospects

- Current demographic and economic conditions have combined to limit the life prospects of young people. Young people are having difficulty obtaining career oriented jobs, and more are living with their parents longer and/or delaying family formation.

School-work transitions

- School-work transitions are becoming more a process than an event, having many components and lengthy timelines. Students are staying in school longer, often mixing studies with a job. School-work transitions are now found throughout life, not just among youth.

Social assistance

- From July, 1993 to January, 1995, caseloads of Alberta teens receiving social assistance to live independently decreased from 6,418 to 2,208.

Educational attainment and life prospects

- People with higher education levels fare much better in the workplace than those with lower levels of education. However, the proportion of well educated people who are unemployed or living in poverty is increasing.

Foreword

Education does not occur in isolation. It is part of a complex and dynamic system in which family, social, economic and other factors have a tremendous influence on the students in our classrooms.

Alberta Children and Youth: Trends and Issues 1995 is an environmental scanning report. Its purpose is to draw attention to societal trends and issues that may be relevant to educators in providing the best possible education to students.

This report is intended to disseminate timely information that will support educational planning and decision making. It reviews characteristics of children and youth as well as demographic, family and social trends which may influence educational outcomes.

This report is organized into three sections:

- Demographic Profile,
- Childhood, and
- Adolescence.

The *Demographic Profile* provides population characteristics of Alberta children and youth, as well as trend data on youth mobility, fertility and mortality, and on aboriginal children.

The section on *Childhood* reviews characteristics of Alberta children and families, child care trends, and "children at risk".

The section on *Adolescence* examines youth values and attitudes, time use patterns, labour force participation, and the transition to adulthood. Some factors which place adolescents at risk, such as youth crime, substance abuse and sexual activity are also examined.

Alberta Children and Youth: Trends and Issues 1995 was prepared in the Policy and Planning Branch. Readers are invited to submit comments on this report and suggestions for any future environmental scanning reports to the address below.

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Section One: Demographic Profile

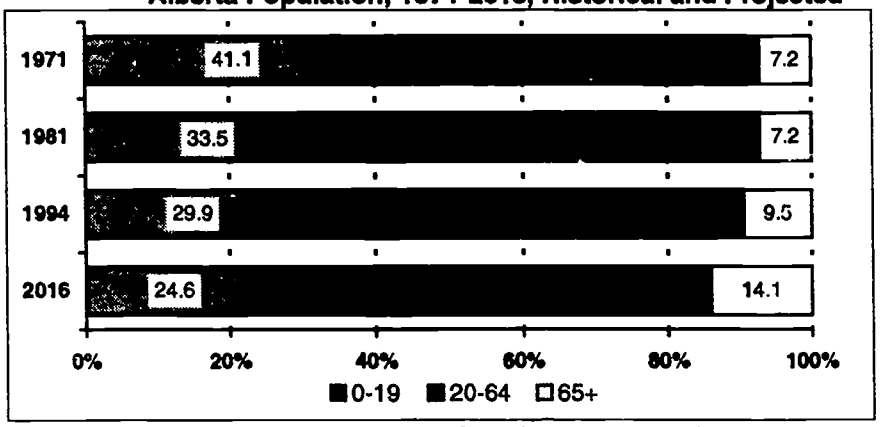
Population Characteristics

Proportion of Youth (Age 0-19) in the Alberta Population

Alberta's youth population as of July 1, 1994 was 813,200. As shown in Figure 1.1, this age group dropped from 41.1% of Alberta's population in 1971 to 29.9% in 1994, and is projected to drop further to 24.6% (medium projection series) by the year 2016. Figure 1.2 shows projected growth for Alberta's population age 0-19 to the year 2016 under low, medium and high growth scenarios.

As a proportion of Alberta's total population, the youth sector has been shrinking for several decades.

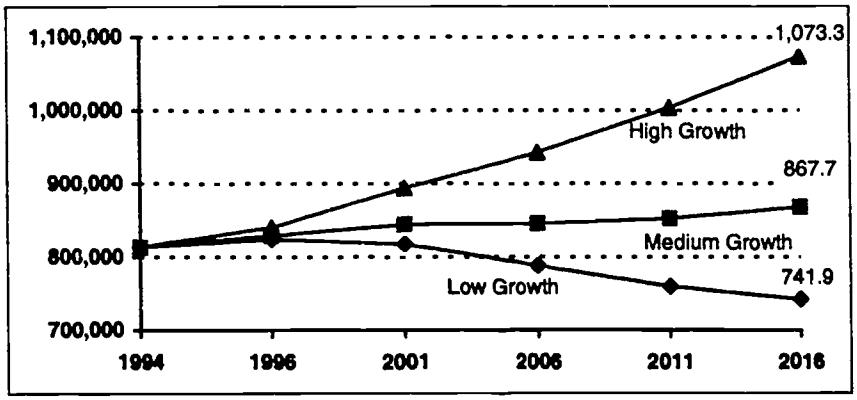
Figure 1.1: Youth (Age 0-19) and Elderly (Age 65+) as a Proportion of Alberta Population, 1971-2016, Historical and Projected



Sources: 1971 - 1991: Statistics Canada Cat. #91-537, "Revised Intercensal Population and Family Estimates, July 1, 1971-1993"; **1994:** Statistics Canada, unpublished data; **2016 (Projected):** Statistics Canada Cat. #91-520, "Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1993-2016".
Note: Projections for 2016 are Series #2 (Medium Growth).

Under low, medium and high population projections respectively, Alberta's youth population would constitute 22.6%, 24.6%, or 26.7% of Alberta's total population in the year 2016.

Figure 1.2: Population Projections: Albertans Age 0-19, 1994-2016



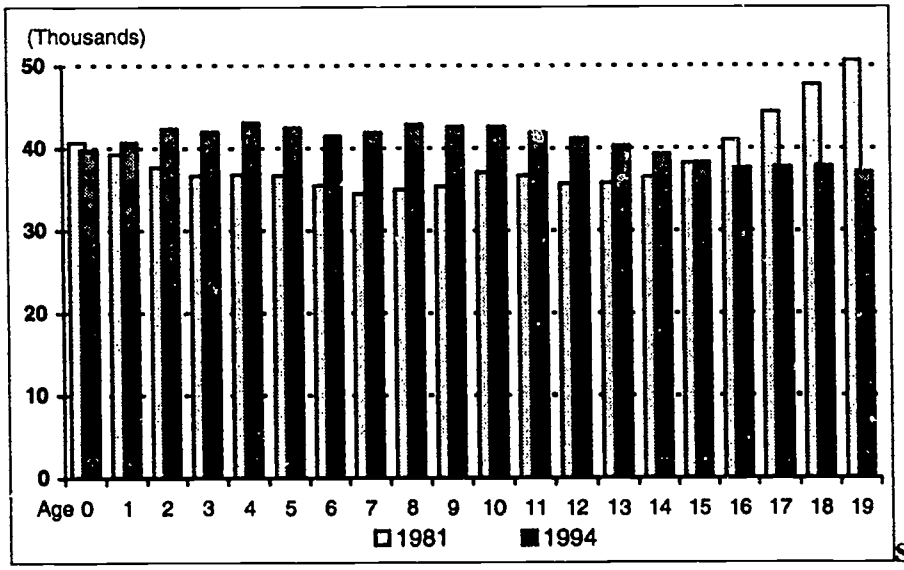
Sources: 1994: Statistics Canada, unpublished data; **1996-2016:** Statistics Canada Cat. #91-520, "Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1993-2016".

Appendices 1.1 and 1.2 (page 38) provide detailed data on youth as a proportion of population over time and population projections for Alberta's youth.

Age Distribution of Alberta's Youth Population

A gradual decline in birth rates and volatile interprovincial migration have combined to produce shifting distributions of Alberta's youth population over time. Figure 1.3 shows that, for most ages, the youth population was somewhat higher in 1994 than in 1981, but the 16-19 year old population was significantly lower.

Figure 1.3: Distribution of Alberta Population Age 0-19, 1981, 1994



Source: 1994: Statistics Canada: unpublished data; **1981:** Statistics Canada Cat. #91-537, Revised Intercensal Population & Family Estimates, July 1, 1971-1991.

Fluctuation in the school age population creates challenges for school staffing and facilities planning.

Youth Mobility

Interprovincial Migration

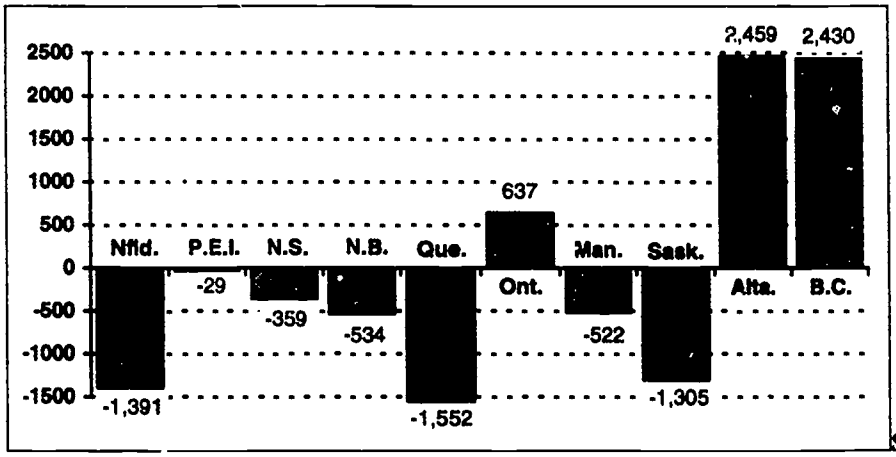
Traditionally, three provinces (Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta) experience net gains from interprovincial migration of 15-19 year olds. As a proportion of population age 15-19, the impact has been greatest in Alberta.

Due to the uncertainties of a resource-based economy, population growth in Alberta is strongly influenced by interprovincial migration, particularly the 15-19 age group. While most young interprovincial migrants move with their families, many older teens come to Alberta due to perceived labour force opportunity. Figure 1.4 shows that Alberta, B.C. and Ontario gained 15-19 year olds from interprovincial migration in 1992/93. This has been the case for most of the past two decades. Since the mid-1970s, annual interprovincial migration has increased Alberta's 15-19 year old population, even in years when the province had overall net out-migration.

Appendices 1.3 and 1.4 (page 39) illustrate the differential impact of interprovincial migration on various youth age groups in Alberta over time. For example, the Alberta 14 year-old population of 1976 (39,400) increased to 50,600 19 year-olds by 1981; over the same period, other ages had much smaller gains. The 14 year old population of 1986 (35,200) became a larger 19 year old population by 1991 (37,300), even though most other youth cohorts were stable or even declined, and Alberta experienced net out-migration overall.

Figure 1.4: Net Interprovincial Migration Age 15-19, 1992/93

Large inflows of 15-19 year olds from other provinces can skew educational indicators based on a percentage of population (e.g., participation rates, graduation rates).



Source: Statistics Canada Cat. #91-213, *Annual Demographic Statistics*, 1993
Note: Preliminary data indicate that net migration of 15-19 year olds to Alberta dropped sharply in 1993/94 to about zero; these data need to be verified.

Immigration

Each year, about 5,000 immigrants age 0-19 arrive in Alberta; most settle in Edmonton or Calgary.

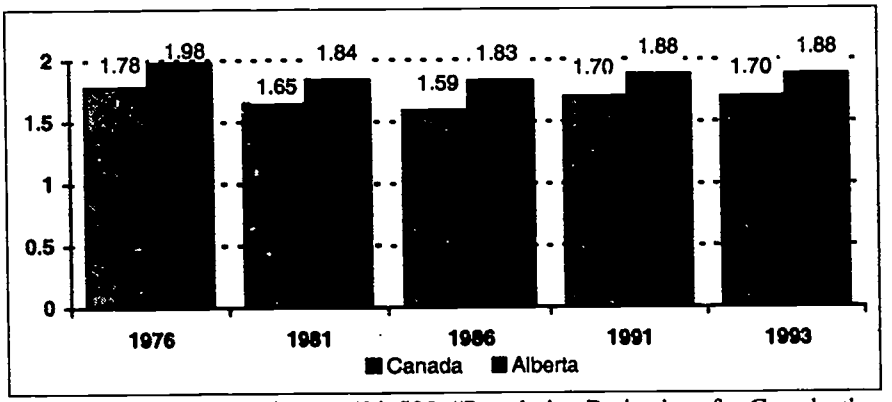
Each year, about 5,000 immigrant children (age 0-19) arrive in Alberta; most of them settle in Edmonton or Calgary. Annually, Edmonton receives about 4% of all immigrant children to Canada and Calgary 3%. Toronto (40%), Montreal (16%) and Vancouver (10%) are the leading destinations, while Edmonton is fourth and Calgary sixth (Canadian Social Trends: A Canadian Studies Reader, *Canada's Immigrant Children*, Volume 2, 1994). Page 7 provides additional information on immigrants.

Fertility/Mortality

Births/Fertility Rates

The annual number of births in Alberta declined gradually from 43,927 in 1984 to 42,123 in 1992, and then sharply in the past two years to 38,050 in 1994 (Alberta Health-Vital Statistics, 1993; Alberta Registries-Vital Statistics, 1995). Fertility rates, which had declined for several decades, bottomed out in the mid-1980s and have since risen slightly. Figure 1.5 shows historical fertility rates for Alberta and Canada.

Figure 1.5: Total Fertility Rate, Canada and Alberta, 1976-1993



Source: Statistics Canada Cat. #91-520, "Population Projections for Canada, the Provinces and Territories, 1993-2016".
Note: The total fertility rate is the number of children a woman would have in her lifetime if she were to follow the fertility patterns of the time.

Statistics Canada attaches a high degree of uncertainty to projections of future fertility rates.

Mortality

Overall, youth mortality rates have been declining for several decades. The highest rate is for the first year of life. For 1992, the mortality rate for Albertans less than one year old was 6.8 per thousand. The Canadian rate was 6.4 per thousand. Rates for age 1-14 are extremely low (about 0.2 - 0.3 per thousand). The rates for 15-19 year-olds are notably higher (0.9 per thousand for Alberta, and 0.7 per thousand for Canada. (Statistics Canada Cat. #91-213, "Annual Demographic Statistics, 1993"). Table 1.1 shows that mortality rates are consistently higher for males than females.

The leading causes of death among Albertans age 0-19 are birth trauma and congenital anomalies (for infants) and motor vehicle accidents and suicide (for teens).

Table 1.1: Alberta Deaths Age 0-19, by Gender, 1994

Age →	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	Total
Male	184	18	20	97	319
Female	131	9	15	40	195
Total	315	27	35	137	514

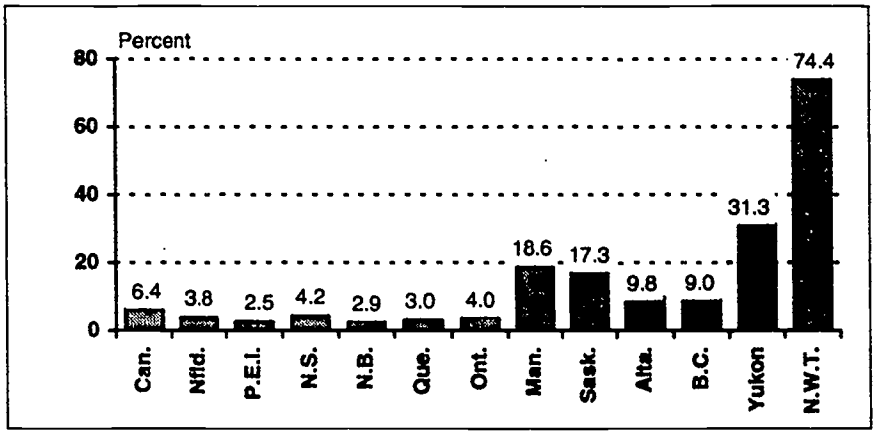
Source: Alberta Registries, Vital Statistics (1995), unpublished data.

Aboriginal Children

Aboriginal peoples are a diverse group. They are the original occupants of Canada, and have distinct social, cultural and linguistic heritages. The 1991 census counted just over 360,000 children of aboriginal identity under age 15 in Canada. Of these, 78% were of Indian background; 22% were Metis and 5% were Inuit (percentages add to more than 100% because respondents could identify with more than one aboriginal group). Aboriginal children account for 9.8% of all children age 0-15 in Alberta compared to 6.4% for all of Canada. Figure 1.6 illustrates the proportion of aboriginal children age 0-15 by province for 1991.

Nine percent of Indian mothers are under age 18, compared to one percent in the total Canadian population.

Figure 1.6: Aboriginals as a Proportion of all Children Age 0-15, 1991



Source: Statistics Canada, Age and Sex, Aboriginal Data, 1991 (cited in *"The Health of Canada's Children: A CICH Profile"*, Canadian Institute of Child Health, 1994).

The Canadian Institute of Child Health (1994) identified the following additional characteristics of aboriginal children in Canada:

- There has been steady improvement in the educational attainment level of aboriginal peoples in recent years. However, they still have less education, on average, than non-aboriginal Canadians. In 1991, 33% of aboriginal peoples had some post-secondary education, compared to 43% of all Canadians.
- The birth rate for Indian and Inuit women is twice that of the overall Canadian female population. About 55% of Indian mothers are under age 25 and 9% are under age 18. Comparable figures for the non- aboriginal population are 28% under age 25 and 1% under age 18.
- The mortality rate for Indian infants declined from 20.1 per 1,000 live births for 1980 to 1984, to 13.8 per 1,000 live births for 1986 to 1990. However, the rate is still almost twice that for all Canadian infants.
- The rate of deaths from injuries among 15-19 year-old Indians in 1991 was 176 per 100,000, compared to 48 per 100,000 among all Canadians age 15-19.

Did You Know . . .

- Among the provinces, Saskatchewan (31.5%), Newfoundland (31.4%) and Alberta (30.5%) had the highest proportions of youth age 0-19 in the total population in 1992. British Columbia (26.5%), Quebec (26.8%) and Ontario (27.0%) had the lowest.

  Saskatchewan Education Indicators Report: "K-12 Schooling: How Are We Doing?", Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment; February, 1994.

- The primary sources of immigrants to Alberta in 1990 (all ages) were Asia/Pacific (51%), Europe (23%), and Africa/Middle East (12%). Of immigrants to Alberta in 1990 age 0-19, about 70% had no knowledge of English.

  Alberta Career Development and Employment, "Immigration to Alberta: Decade in Review", January 1992.

About 70% of immigrants age 0-19 to Alberta in 1990 had no knowledge of English.

- Over the last decade, about three to four of every 100 school age Albertans (age 5-19) arrived from another province or country each year. The rate varied from 4.5% in 1982/83 to 3.2% in 1992/93.

  Statistics Canada Cat. #91-210 "Postcensal Annual Estimates of Population by Marital Status, Age, Sex and Components of Growth for Canada, Provinces and Territories" (Annual, Vol. 1-10)"; Statistics Canada Cat. #91-213, "Annual Demographic Statistics, 1993".

- More than half of school age Albertans (age 5-19) in 1991 had changed their residence in the past five years. Their origins were as follows:
  - ⇒ Within same municipality: 30.0%
  - ⇒ From elsewhere in Alberta: 13.6%
  - ⇒ From another province: 7.0%
  - ⇒ From another country: 3.3%
  - ⇒ **Total: 53.9%**

  Statistics Canada Cat. #93-322, "Mobility and Migration"

High student mobility has implications for schooling and for the interpretation of indicators of schooling outcomes.

- The proportion of low birth weight babies (below 5.5 pounds) born in Canada has declined over the past three decades. Rates are higher for teen mothers than for those age 20+, but are falling more rapidly (from 11.3% in 1961 to 7.3% in 1990).

  Statistics Canada, "The Daily", November 29, 1994

The proportion of Alberta's population living in urban centres has increased from 16% in 1901 to 80% in 1991.

In 1901, just prior to becoming a province, Alberta's population was 73,000, of which 84% was rural and 16% was urban. Ninety years later, those percentages have nearly reversed, with the urban population now constituting 80% and rural 20% of Alberta's total population. ... In 1991, two-thirds (66%) of Alberta's population lived in one of the province's 16 cities; more than half (52%) lived in Edmonton and Calgary. ... Between 1986 and 1991, Edmonton and Calgary grew by 7.4% and 11.6% respectively. During the same period, the surrounding towns of Beaumont, Stony Plain, Cochrane and Okotoks all grew in excess of 25%.

ABS Probe (Alberta Bureau of Statistics), September, 1992

Over 87% of Albertans age 45 and over have had one or more children by birth. Nearly 6% of Albertans over age 18 have raised one or more step-children, and about 5% have raised one or more adopted children (1990).

Facts on Alberta Families (1995 Edition)
The Premier's Council in Support of Alberta Families

Section Two: Childhood

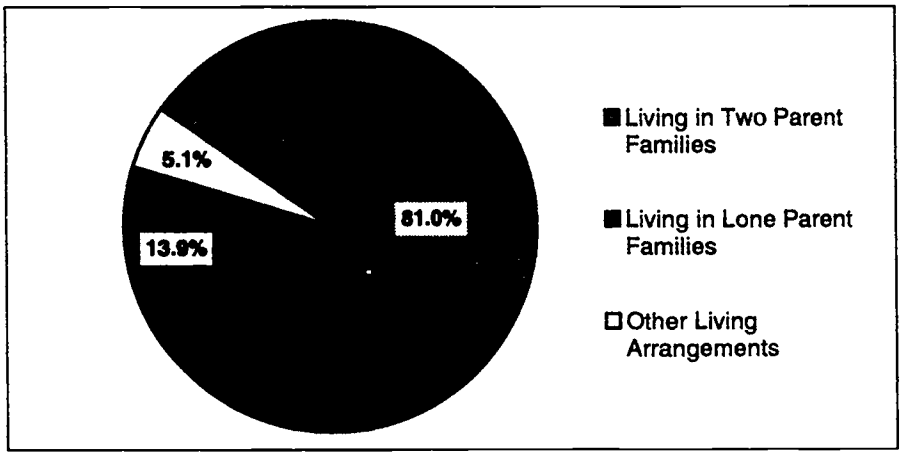
Children and Families

Family Status

The majority of Alberta children live in traditional two-parent families. Figure 2.1 below illustrates, that, among Albertans age 0-19 in 1991, 81.0% lived in two-parent families, 13.9% lived in lone parent families, and 5.1% lived in other non-traditional arrangements. Figure 2.2 illustrates that the percentage of lone parent families in Alberta is slightly below the national average.

In 1991, 81.0% of Albertans age 0-19 lived in traditional, two-parent families.

Figure 2.1 Albertans Age 0-19 by Family Status, 1991

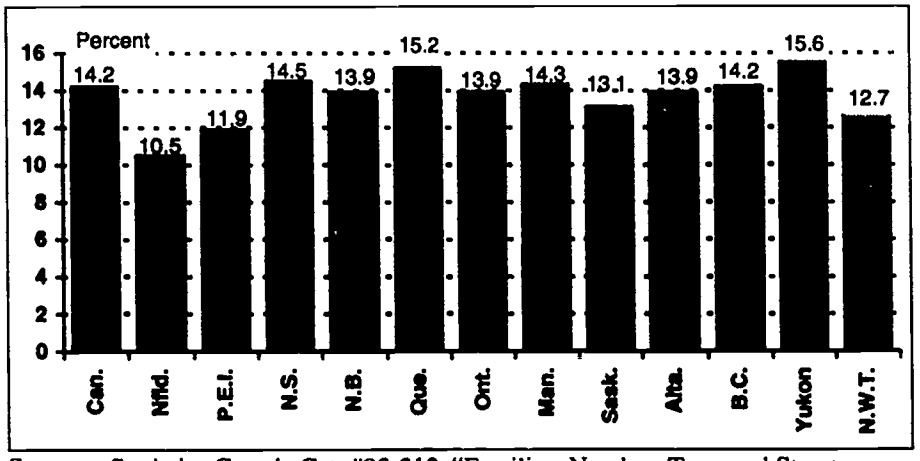


Source: Statistics Canada Cat. #93-312, "Families: Number, Type and Structure, (1991 Census); July, 1992.

Note: "Other Living Arrangements" includes: those living with relatives or non-relatives in family households (2.7%), those living in non-family households (1.5%) or those having their own family (0.9%).

The proportion of Albertans age 0-19 in lone parent families is slightly below the national average.

Figure 2.2: Population Age 0-19 in Lone Parent Families, Canada and Provinces, 1991

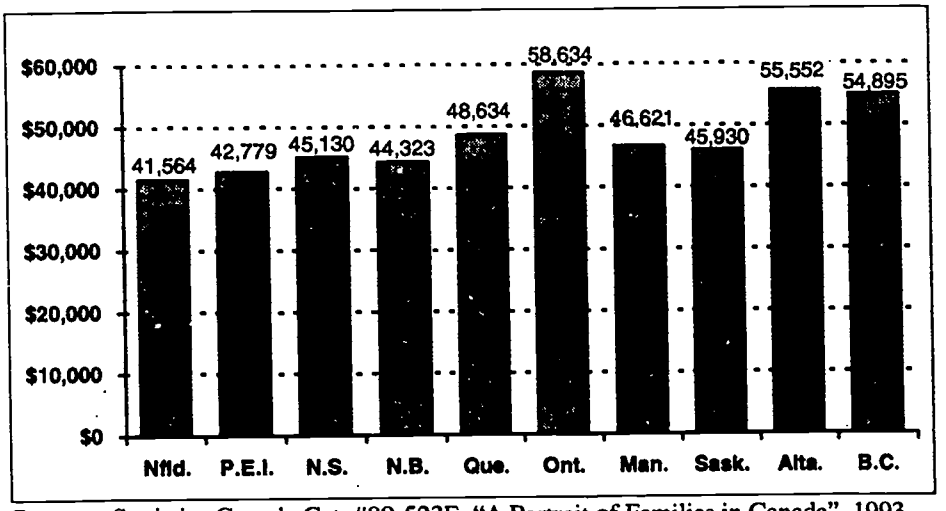


Source: Statistics Canada Cat. #93-312, "Families: Number, Type and Structure, (1991 Census), July 1992.

Family Income

In constant dollars, average family incomes declined in the early 1980's, rose in the late 1980's, and fell again during the early 1990's. In 1991, nearly one million Canadian families (949,000) had incomes below Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-off (includes families that usually spend 56.2% or more of their income on food, shelter and clothing; limits vary by size of family and area of residence). Figure 2.3 provides interprovincial comparisons of average family income in Canada for 1991.

Figure 2.3: Average Family Income by Province, 1991



Source: Statistics Canada Cat. #89-523E, "A Portrait of Families in Canada", 1993.

Albertans have the second highest average family income in Canada. In 1991, Alberta's average family income was $55,552, second only to Ontario.

Other Family Characteristics

Other changes in family structure have occurred in recent decades which may have an impact on child rearing. Families are generally smaller and are more likely to have the mother working outside the home. Between 1971 and 1994, Alberta families underwent the following changes (Facts on Alberta Families - 1995 Edition, Premier's Council in Support of Alberta Families.)

- The average number of persons per family dropped from 3.7 to 3.2.
- The percentage of the population who were children under age 15 decreased from 32% to 25%.
- Labour force participation of married females rose from 43% to 68%.

"Blended families" - married or common law couples with at least one step-child, have been increasing as a proportion of all families in recent decades. In 1990, blended families represented 7% of all families raising children in Canada. As well, families move around more, so children have to change schools and lose friends. They may no longer have the support of extended family, such as uncles and aunts, grandparents and other traditional support networks. (The Vanier Institute of the Family, "Profiling Canada's Families", 1994; Canadian Institute of Child Health, "The Health of Canada's Children: A CICH Profile", 2nd Edition, 1994).

About 343,000 - or seven percent of all Canadian families raising children - include at least one stepchild.

Child Care

Working Mothers and Child Care Arrangements

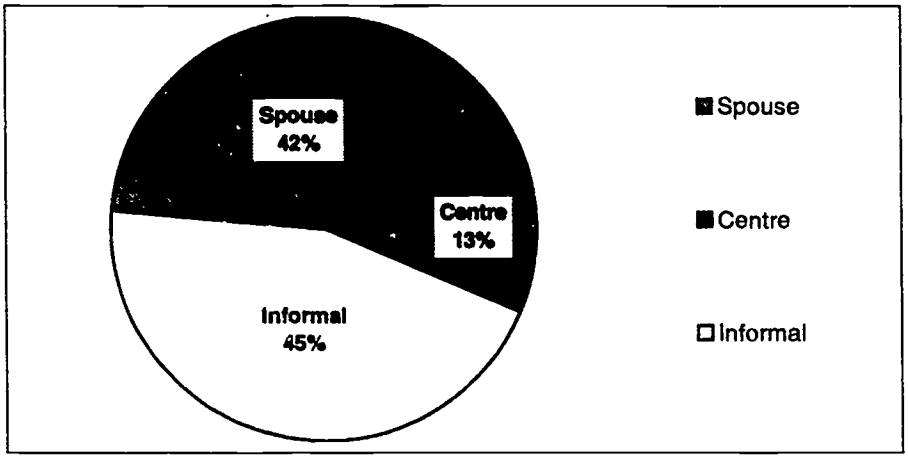
Facts on Alberta Families (1995 Edition) by the Premier's Council in Support of Alberta Families provided the following information on working mothers in Alberta for 1994.

- Of all mothers with children under age 16 living at home, 48% were working full-time and 21% were working part-time.
- Of all mothers with pre-school children (under age 6), 40% were employed full-time and 21% were employed part-time.
- Over 56% of mothers of children under 3 years old were employed.

About 60% of Alberta mothers with pre-school children are employed either full-time or part-time. Thus, about 60% (or 150,000) Alberta pre-schoolers require full-time or part-time non-parental child care.

Alberta's pre-school population (under age 6) in 1994 was 250,000. About 60% of these (or 150,000) require non-parental child care (full-time or part-time). Figure 2.4 shows child care arrangements by type for Alberta in 1991.

Figure 2.4: Child Care Arrangements for Families with Children Age 0-5, Alberta, 1991



Source: Premier's Council in Support of Alberta Families, *Facts on Alberta Families* (1995 Edition).

Note: "Spouse" means one parent at home; "Centre" means government regulated daycare or family dayhome service; "Informal" includes all other arrangements, such as care by a relative or friend.

Licensed Day Care Spaces

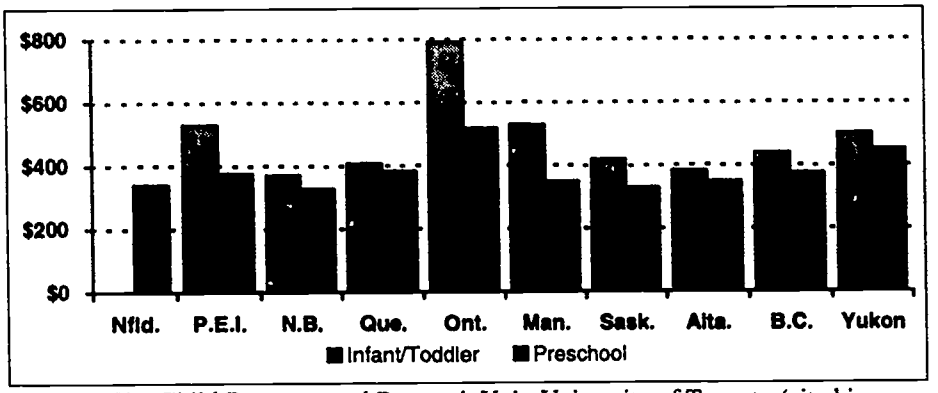
The number of licensed child care spaces in Alberta has increased from about 16,000 in 1981 to more than 51,000 in 1993.

In 1993, there were 1,091 licensed child care centres providing a total of 51,731 child care spaces in Alberta (up from about 16,000 spaces in 1981). Of these spaces, 8,116 (or 15.7%) were in Family Day Homes and 43,615 (or 84.3%) were in Day Care Centres. Of the 43,615 Centre spaces, 70.5% were in Commercial Centres and 29.5% were in Non-Profit Centres. Nationally, about 70% of Day Care Centre spaces were in Non-Profit Centres and 30% were in Commercial Centres in 1993 (Human Resources Development Canada, "Status of Day Care in Canada 1993"). In May, 1995 the capacity utilization rate in Alberta Day Care Centres was 72% in Commercial Centres and 80% in Non-Profit Centres (Alberta Family and Social Services).

Cost of Child Care

In 1992, the estimated average monthly fees for preschool children in licensed day care centres ranged from $327 in New Brunswick to $518 in Ontario. Average fees for infants/toddlers were significantly higher, ranging from $382 in Alberta to $792 in Ontario. Figure 2.5 provides a comparison of rates by province for 1992. Data for all provinces are listed in Appendix 2.1 (page 40).

Figure 2.5: Estimated Average Monthly Day Care Fees, Licensed Centres, 1992



Source: The Child Resource and Research Unit, University of Toronto (cited in Maclean's magazine, May 31, 1993).
Notes: There were no licensed infant/toddler centres in Newfoundland in 1992. Data were not available for Nova Scotia or the Northwest Territories.

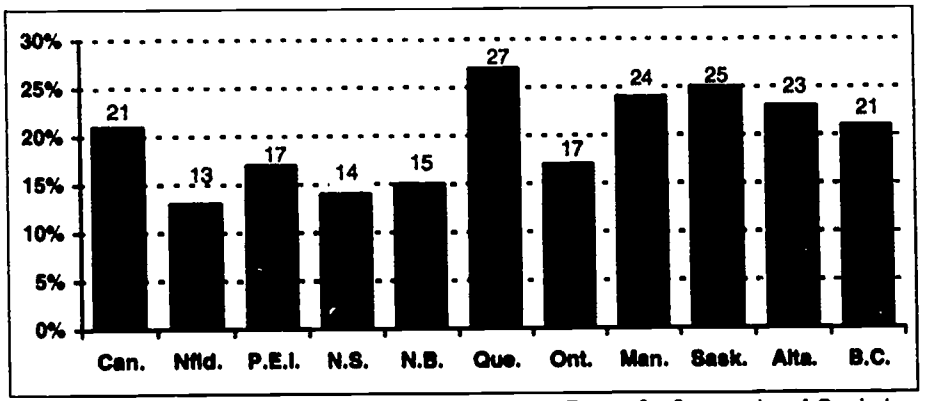
A family with two preschool children in day care may have to pay more in child care costs than for their mortgage.

"Latch-Key" Children

The National Child Care Study (1988) estimated that over 320,000 Canadian children age 6-12 (or about one in five) spent some time alone while their parents were at work or at school. Almost 30% of these were age 6-9. Rates ranged from 13% in Newfoundland to 23% in Alberta and 27% in Quebec.

In 1988, about one in five Canadian children and one in four Alberta children age 6-12 spent some time alone while their parents were at work or at school.

Figure 2.6: Proportion of Latch-Key Children, Age 6-12, 1988



Source: Canadian Council on Social Development-Centre for International Statistics on Economic and Social Welfare for Families and Children; July, 1993 Newsletter (cited in "The Health of Canada's Children: A CICH Profile", 2nd Edition, 1994).

Children at Risk

Child Poverty

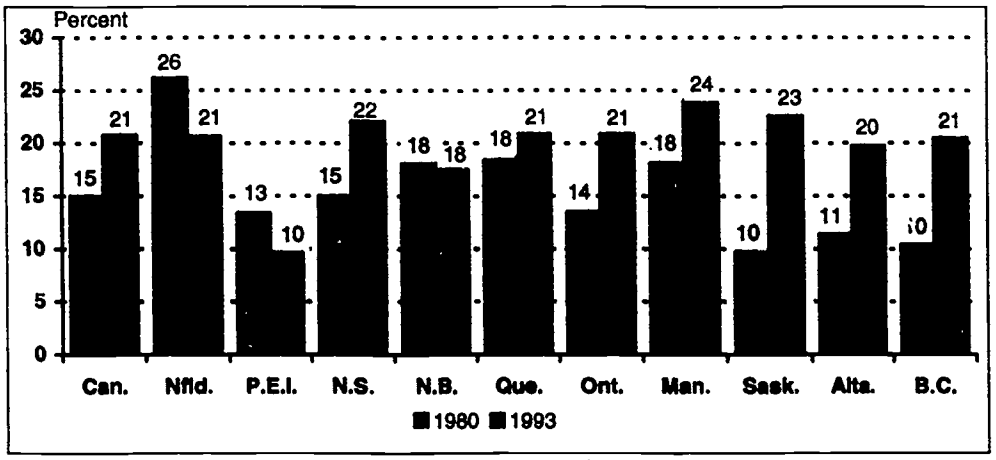
Based on Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-offs, the rate of child poverty in Alberta in 1993 was 19.8%. This was slightly below the Canadian average, and down from 23.3% in 1992.

Methods for defining and measuring poverty are highly controversial (see notes to Figure 2.7). Estimates of the number of Canadians living in poverty range from about four million (Canadian Council on Social Development, 1994) to about one million (Sarlo, 1992, 1994). Most definitions are relative to overall societal wealth and some are ideologically driven, so interpretation of rates is best limited to comparisons over time and among jurisdictions.

Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-offs are the most commonly used indicator of poverty in Canada. By this measure, child poverty rates have increased in most provinces and for Canada overall since 1980. Alberta's rate for 1993 was slightly below the national average. Figure 2.7 illustrates changes in child poverty rates for Canada and the provinces from 1980 to 1993. Appendix 2.2 (page 40) provides annual poverty rates for children under age 18 for Canada and the provinces from 1980 to 1993.

Children living in poverty are more likely to suffer from poor health or nutrition. They are more likely to have difficulties in school, and are less likely to finish high school, go on to post-secondary education, or to obtain meaningful employment.

Figure 2.7: Rate of Poverty for Children Under Age 18, Canada and Provinces, 1980 and 1993



Source: The National Council of Welfare, Minister of Supply and Services Canada, "Poverty Profile 1993", (Spring, 1995).

Notes: 1. The poverty figures cited here are based on Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-Offs (LICO's), which are produced annually and are set at the level of gross income below which families must spend disproportionate amounts of their income on food, clothing and shelter. The cut-offs are adjusted for family size, size of community, and regional variations in prices. **While there is some debate as to whether falling below Statistics Canada's LICO's constitutes a valid definition of poverty, the data are most useful for comparisons over time and among provinces.**

2. For a review of definitions of poverty and comparisons of poverty rates by various methodologies, see *The Canadian Fact Book on Poverty* (Ross, Shillington and Lochhead, Canadian Council on Social Development, 1994). As well, *Poverty in Canada* (Christopher Sarlo, The Fraser Institute 1992) discusses alternative approaches to defining and measuring poverty.

The Health of Canada's Children: A CICH Profile (Canadian Institute of Child Health, 1994) identified several socio-economic characteristics that are associated with high incidence of child poverty. Some observations about poverty rates for children under age seven in Canada (1991) follow.

- The incidence of child poverty is highest in families headed by a single mother, never married (89%). The rate for two-parent families is 13%, and the rate for families headed by a single father is 38%.
- The incidence of child poverty is highest in large urban centres with populations of 500,000 or more (25%). Rates generally are lower in smaller urban centres, and are lowest in rural areas and urban centres with populations under 2,500 (14%).
- The incidence of child poverty is 37% when the family head has less than high school completion, compared to 11% when the family head has at least some post-secondary education.
- The level of income provided by social assistance falls well below the poverty line. For single parent families in 1992, social assistance levels as a proportion of "poverty line" incomes ranged from 55% in New Brunswick and 57% in Alberta to 80% in Ontario.

The incidence of child poverty is highest in families headed by a single mother, in families where the head has a low education level, and in families in large urban centres.

The CICH report also made several observations about the characteristics of Canadian children of growing up in poverty.

- The incidence of low birth weight and infant death rates in 1986 were higher among the poor.
- For 16 and 17 year old Canadian youth in 1991, school dropout rates were 13% among the poor, compared to 5% for the non-poor.
- Injury death rates for Canadian youth under age 20 (1986) were 22% among the poor, compared to 17% among the non-poor.
- Among youth in Ontario, those in families receiving social assistance had higher incidences of chronic health problems, poor school performance, and low self-esteem than those in families not receiving social assistance.

Missing Children

Approximately 61,000 cases of missing children were recorded in Canada in 1990. The total number of missing children at the end of each year has increased from about 1,300 cases in 1986 to about 1,900 in 1990.

Runaway children account for about three-quarters of all missing children cases handled by police. In 1990 there were almost 45,000 runaway cases reported to police departments across the country, up from about 41,000 in 1987. These numbers are somewhat inflated by repeat cases. *Of all runaway children 77% return home in less than a week.*

Runaway children account for about three-quarters of all missing children cases. About 77% of all runaway children return home within a week.

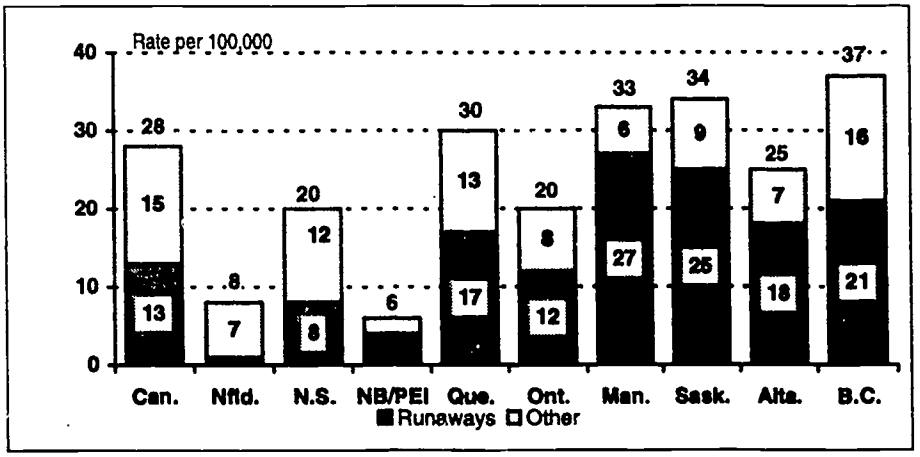
Parental abductions accounted for less than one percent of total cases each year. The majority of children abducted by parents are under age 10. Abductions by strangers is one of the smallest categories of missing children. Children are kidnapped less often by complete strangers than by family members and people known to the family and victim.

Most missing children are between the ages of 12 and 17, and are slightly more likely to be girls than boys. The highest incidence of missing children cases is for 14 and 15 year olds. In this age group, the incidence is almost twice as high for girls as for boys.

Western provinces generally have missing children rates higher than the rest of the country. The highest rate for 1990 was in British Columbia (37 per 100,000 children), while New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island had the lowest rate (6 per 100,000 children). Alberta's rate was 25 per 100,000 children. Figure 2.8 illustrates provincial rates for runaways and other missing children for 1990.

The incidence of missing children is slightly lower in Alberta (25 per 100,000 children) than for Canada as a whole (28 per 100,000 children).

Figure 2.8: Missing Children Cases, Canada and Provinces, 1990



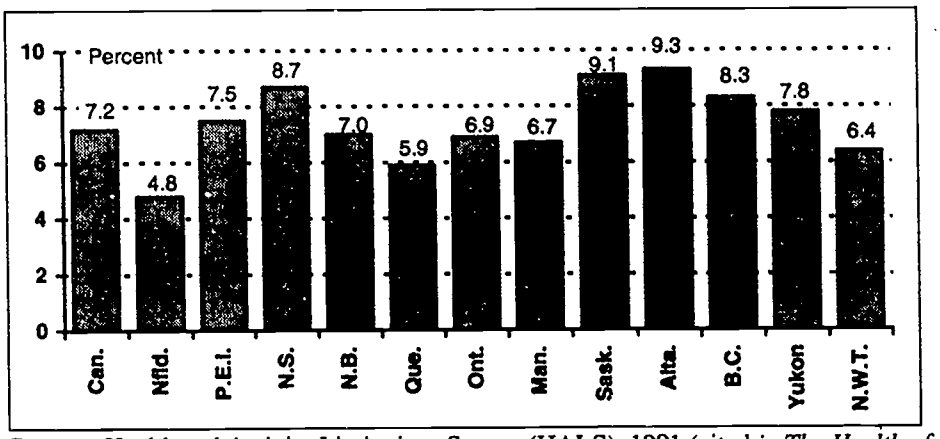
Source: Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Missing Children's Registry, 1990 (cited in *Canadian Social Trends: A Canadian Studies Reader*, Volume 2, 1994, "Missing Children", pp 213-216)

Children with Disabilities

While most children are born with and take for granted their good health, about 7.2% of Canadians age 0-19 have some form of disability, be it chronic illness, physical or developmental disability, psychological/mental health conditions, or educational or behavioral problems. In 1991, disability rates were slightly higher for boys (7.9%) than for girls (6.3%). Among youth age 0-19, disability rates were lowest for 0-4 year olds and highest for 10-14 year olds. Among the provinces, disability rates for 0-19 year olds in 1991 varied. Newfoundland had the lowest rate (4.8%) and Alberta the highest (9.3%).

Children with disabilities have needs that are multiple and complex, and they may require special support from school, family services, specialized diagnostics and therapeutic care, and support services in the community.

Figure 2.9: Disability Rates, Age 0-19, Canada and Provinces, 1991

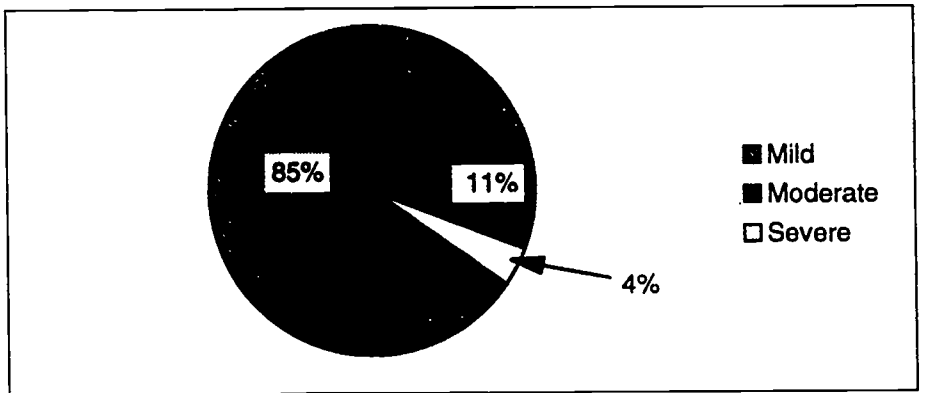


Source: Health and Activity Limitations Survey (HALS), 1991 (cited *in The Health of Canada's Children: A CICH Profile*, 2nd Edition, Canadian Institute of Child Health, 1994).

In Statistics Canada's Health and Activity Limitations Survey (HALS) (1991), a scale was developed to divide respondents with disabilities into three severity categories - mild, moderate and severe. Figure 2.10 shows the proportions of all respondents with disabilities (534,430) in each category.

Of children with disabilities in Canada, 85% are classified as mild, 11% are classified as moderate and 4% are classified as severe.

Figure 2.10 Distribution of Children Age 0-19 With Disabilities, by Severity of Disability, Canada, 1991



Source: Health and Activity Limitations Survey (HALS), 1991 (cited in "The Health of Canada's Children: A CICH Profile", 2nd Edition, Canadian Institute of Child Health, 1994).

The most common form of long-term disability among children age 0-14 is learning disabilities. Nearly 100,000 Canadian children in this age group are learning disabled. Boys are more than twice as likely to have a learning disability as are girls. The rate among boys is 23.2 per 1,000 population; among girls it is 11.1 per 1,000. Table 2.1 lists the most common long-term disabilities among 0-14 year old Canadians and their incidence, by gender.

The incidence of learning disabilities for males is more than double the rate for females. The incidence of behavioral/emotional disorders for males is nearly three times the rate for females.

Table 2.1: Rates per 1,000 of Reported Long-Term Conditions for Age 0-14, Canada, by Gender, 1991

Condition	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Learning Disability	23.2	11.1	17.3
Behavioral/Emotional	12.1	4.4	8.4
Mental Handicap	7.8	5.8	6.9
Heart Disease	5.9	4.7	5.3
Epilepsy	2.6	2.1	2.4
Cerebral Palsy	2.3	2.3	2.3
Kidney Disease	2.7	1.7	2.2
Other Lung Disease/Condition	2.5	0.9	1.7
Missing Limbs	1.5	1.4	1.4
Diabetes	1.5	0.8	1.1
Arthritis or Rheumatism	1.0	1.2	1.1
Paralysis of any kind	1.0	1.1	1.1
Spina Bifida	0.7	0.8	0.8
All Other	9.6	7.0	8.3

Source: Health and Activity Limitations Survey (HALS), 1991 (cited in "The Health of Canada's Children: A CICH Profile", 2nd Edition, Canadian Institute of Child Health, 1994).

Note: One person may report more than one long-term condition.

The Handicapped Children's Services program in Alberta provides support to families to meet some of the extraordinary demands that result directly from their child's disability. This includes specific benefits, information, referral and coordination of required services. In 1994 an average of 6,039 children and their families were served through Handicapped Children's Service Agreements.

Alberta Children with Protection Needs

Alberta Family and Social Services (Child Protection Services) receives referrals from the community regarding children who might need protection, determines whether a child does need protection, and provides the services needed to ensure that the child is protected. In 1994, Child Protection Services staff completed investigations on 27,708 child protection matters. Child protection services may be provided only if the family enters a voluntary agreement or a Court orders the services. In 1994, an average of 7,589 children received services each month.

The available services range along a continuum from counseling or parenting training for a parent whose child remains at home, through temporary removal of a child while the child and the parent receive help, to permanent removal and adoption of a child whose parent cannot provide appropriate protection for the child within a reasonable time. The 1994/95 child welfare budget includes funding for referrals and investigations, for services provided in family homes, and for services provided in the community.

In 1994, an average of 7,589 children received child protection services from Alberta Family and Social Services each month.

Out-of-Home Care provides placement resources for children receiving protective services who need to be placed out of the family home. The available services include the following:

- **Foster Care** provides a child with placement in the private home of the foster family. A foster family is approved, trained, supported, reimbursed and matched with appropriate children, either directly by department staff or through agencies under contract. During 1994, an average of 2,521 children were in foster care at any given time.
- **Group Care** provides a child with a placement in a small community - based home operated by professional child care staff. During 1994, an average of 218 children were in group care at any given time.
- **Residential Treatment** provides a child with a programmed placement in a structured setting which is closely supervised by professional interdisciplinary staff who give the child intensive treatment. During 1994, an average of 440 children were in residential care at any given time.
- **Secure Treatment** provides a child, who has been admitted through a legal process, with intensive assessment and treatment in a specialized secure setting. Alberta Family and Social Services has 40 secure treatment beds.
- **Supported Independent Living** provides a youth with an opportunity to make the transition to independence.

Did You Know . . .

Between 1970 and 1990, the proportion of two-parent families with children under age 19 that had both parents working increased from 30% to 70%.

- **The Cost of Raising Children**

  On average, middle income families with two children in the Prairies (Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba) will spend about 17% of gross income to meet child rearing costs over their children's growing years. This includes expenditures for food at home, clothing, transportation, utilities, education, household operation and health care. It does not include additional spending for child care, housing, or durable goods such as vehicles, household appliances, furniture, appliances and recreational equipment. Parents meet these additional expenditures in various ways, including increasing their incomes (usually by one or both working longer hours), reallocating previous expenditures to child goods, or by decreasing their savings. Typically, when children arrive, less is spent on food away from home, recreation, adult goods such as tobacco and alcohol, parental clothing, and gifts in order to meet child rearing costs.

  The Cost of Raising Children in Canada; Douthitt, Robin A.; and Fedyk, Joanne; Butterworths, Canada Ltd., 1990, Vancouver, B.C.

- **Family Time**

  In an Angus-Reid poll on Canadians' attitudes about the family, parents reported on the amount of time they spent doing selected activities with their children each week as follows:

Activity	Hours/Week
⇒ Watching television	6.3
⇒ Playing sports or games	6.0
⇒ Reading	2.8
⇒ Taking kids to a lesson or meeting	2.4
⇒ Helping with homework	2.1
⇒ Teaching religious or spiritual beliefs	1.2

  Maclean's, June 20, 1994

- **Both Parents Working**

  Between 1970 and 1990, the proportion of two-parent families with children under age 19 that had both parents working increased from 30% to 70%. The implications of this trend for children are a source of lively social debate in Canada.

  "Profiling Canada's Families", Vanier Institute of the Family, 1994).

- **National Longitudinal Survey of Children (NLSC)**

  Statistics Canada is undertaking a Canada-wide long-term study of factors influencing child development and well-being. The study will gather data every two years for 20 years on a representative sample of 25,000 children now aged 0-11. It will monitor demographics, socio-economic background, family functioning and parenting, child health and development, behavior, relationships, education, literacy and physical activities.

  Education Quarterly Review, (Volume 2, Number 1) Spring, 1995
  Statistics Canada Cat. #81-003 (Quarterly)

Section Three: Adolescence

To look at teenagers is to see the kind of young people our country is turning out. In a very real sense, they are at the leading edge of our culture. Through the media and the school, they are being exposed to our dominant cultural ideas. Consequently, they are not just kids going through a phase. Young people provide us with an invaluable mirror of who we are, as well as offer us something of a window on what we are becoming. (Bibby & Posterski, 1992)

Values, Attitudes and Issues

In 1992, Reginald Bibby, a University of Lethbridge sociologist, and Donald Posterski, a Toronto writer, surveyed about 4,000 Canadians age 15-19 and published the findings in *Teen Trends, A Nation in Motion.* The findings provide extensive information on characteristics of Canadian high school students age 15-19, as well as comparative data from similar surveys done in 1984 and 1988. The following are some key observations from *Teen Trends* about changes from 1984 to 1992 in youth's values and attitudes, and the issues facing them. Except where noted, these observations focus on youth at the national level, as regional findings were reported only in selected areas.

Between 1984 and 1992, the percentage of Canadian teens (age 15-19) who felt that "working hard" was very important declined from 69% to 49%. In addition to shifting values, this decline may reflect perceptions about reduced life prospects for today's youth.

Five Old Patterns that are Changing

- **Relationships:** Canada's teens continue to place a high value on relationships, but not to the extent previously. Between 1984 and 1992, the percent of teens who said friendship was very important dropped from 91% to 84%; the percent who felt love was very important dropped from 87% to 80%.
- **Values:** Regarding what teens want out of life, freedom (85.6%), friendship (84%) being loved (80%), having choices (79%) and success in what you do (76%) were most frequently cited. Only about 25% of teens rated "being popular" and "recognition" as very important. Some long standing interpersonal values have declined in importance. From 1984 to 1992, ratings of "very important" declined as follows: honesty (85%-70%), cleanliness (79% to 72%), working hard (69% to 49%), forgiveness (66% to 59%) and politeness (64% to 53%).
- **Marriage and Parenthood:** In spite of the increase in divorces, the percent of teens who planned to marry (85%) was unchanged from 1984; 86% of these expected to stay married to the same person for life. The percent who expected to have children declined from 92% to 84%. In 1992, 88% felt it was OK for unmarried couples to live together, and 70% felt it was all right to have children without being married (this may reflect respondents' tolerance, rather than personal preference).
- **Sexuality**: About 55% of teens were sexually active. Regional variations were minor; rates were highest in the Atlantic region (57%) and lowest in the west (50%). While 87% of teens said they approved of sex before marriage *when people love each other*, approval dropped to only 64% *when people like each other*.
- **Religion:** Although 80% of teens identified with various religious groups in 1992, only 18% attended religious services on a weekly basis, down from 23% in 1984. While teens' active participation in organized religion has fallen, interest in things religion traditionally focuses on (spirituality, meaning, morality, ethics, the supernatural) increased. About six in ten teens agreed that "how we live influences what happens after we die".

Five New Patterns that are Emerging

- **Information:** Today's teens are much better informed than previous generations, due to what Bibby and Posterski call the "three t's" - television, technology and travel. *Television* has revolutionized teens' perceptions - an endless array of cable channels puts them in contact with the world. *Technology* has contributed such innovations as VCRs, CDs, FAX machines and computers. *Travel* is also a factor - in 1992, nine of ten Canadian 15-19 year-olds had been outside their home province.

- **Problems:** Today's teens are far more likely than those of the early 1980s to see problems everywhere. The concerns cited most often by teens in 1992 were (where available, percentages from 1984 follow in brackets): AIDS - 77%, the environment - 69% (37%), child abuse - 64% (50%), drugs - 64% (46%), and teen suicide 59% (41%). As Table 3.1 indicates, their concern is based on reality as well as perceptions.

Television, technology and travel have helped to make today's Canadian teenagers the best informed in history. When it comes to basic awareness of what's happening in the world, they leave their counterparts of the past three generations in the dust. (Bibby & Posterski, 1992).

Table 3.1: Knowledge of Select Behaviors by Region, Gender, 1992

"Apart from what you read in the papers and see on TV, do you yourself know anyone who ..." (Percent 'Yes')

Responses by Region, Gender →	Can	BC	PR	ON	Que.	Atl.	M	F
Has been physically abused at home	42	46	47	44	33	42	29	54
Has been sexually abused at home	39	41	39	39	35	43	27	50
Has a severe alcohol or drug problem	60	56	61	56	65	67	53	67
Has attempted suicide	58	60	67	53	58	58	48	68

Source: *Teen Trends, A Nation in Motion*, Bibby & Posterski, 1992.

- **Choices:** Today's teens have almost unlimited choices in almost every sphere of their lives, be it use of time, purchases, media, lifestyle or values. In 1992, almost 80% placed a high value on having choices, and 65% agreed that "right-wrong is a matter of personal opinion".

- **Just Society:** Today's teens have grown up with the ideals of equality, bilingualism and multiculturalism, and have little use for the racism, bigotry and inequality that were once widespread. Increasing concern for a wide range of issues was a natural consequence of increased awareness.

- **Expectations:** Today's teens have experienced a quality of life unmatched in Canadian history. Most of them expect to continue to do so, and to improve on the experiences of their parents. Table 3.2 provides regional and gender comparisons of Canadian teens' expectation levels.

Today's teens have experienced a quality of life unmatched in Canadian history. Most of them expect to continue to do so.

Table 3.2: Teen Expectations by Region, Gender, 1992

"Do You Expect To ...?" (Percent 'Yes')

Responses by Region, Gender →	Can	BC	PR	ON	Que.	Atl.	M	F
Get the job you want when you graduate	83	75	76	83	92	77	84	82
Own your own home	96	95	96	96	96	77	96	95
Be more financially secure than parents	77	77	78	80	73	77	81	74
Have to work overtime to get ahead	41	49	40	41	37	71	43	39
Travel extensively outside Canada	73	77	70	70	78	71	69	75
Stay with the same partner for life	86	81	87	87	88	85	84	89

Source: *Teen Trends: A Nation in Motion*, Bibby and Posterski, 1992.

Trends, Issues and Concerns of Edmonton and Area Youth

In February 1995, the Edmonton Social Planning Council released *Tracking the Trends: Future Directions for Human Services in Edmonton and the Surrounding Region, Special Feature on Youth.* To gather information for this report, focus groups were held with youth from the Edmonton and surrounding area, and with members of agencies and organizations that work with youth. These focus groups identified the perceptions of participants as to the major trends, issues and concerns facing youth today.

This project focused on the Edmonton area, so the findings may not be relevant to all Alberta youth. The following are the trends, issues and concerns emerging from the focus groups ***(these are the opinions and perceptions of the focus group participants, and may not be consistent with actual conditions).*** The source document provides a thorough discussion of possible implications of these perceived trends, issues and concerns for youth, and for the organizations providing youth services.

Trends, Issues and Concerns Facing Edmonton and Area Youth as Identified by Focus Group Participants

The current system of education is increasingly seen as unable to assure individuals that success in school secures success in an uncertain future.

Economic:

- "Economic uncertainty, technological development and changing work requirements will continue, making it increasingly difficult for youth to compete in the job market."
- "Support systems at all levels - family, community, agency, institutions - are being challenged by economic pressure as government cuts, redistribution and initiatives to privatize human services continue at a rapid pace."
- "There is a growing disparity between the rich and the poor."

School:

- "Reduced funding for education will reduce the kinds of programs that support youth, especially those youth who have fewer financial resources."
- "The current system of education is increasingly seen as unable to assure individuals that success in school secures success in an uncertain future."
- "In certain pockets of Edmonton and surrounding areas, there is a sense that youth are encountering more threats to personal safety."
- "As more cutbacks in the education system occur, youth will have fewer opportunities to pursue their educational interests through complementary courses and extra-curricular activities."

Parental Relationships:

- "Family structure is changing, with increasing numbers of single parents, teen parents, blended and "non-traditional" families. Less family support is available both within the family unit and from the community."

- "Increasing pressure on the family due to economic and social conditions is eroding family (parent/child) relationships. Parental energy is being directed toward issues such as employment rather than family issues."
- "Youth increasingly feel parental pressure to achieve, particularly in school, which conflicts with their perception of future opportunities, creating stress and discouragement."

Peer Relationships:

- "Peers are increasingly taking on the functions of helping with problem-solving and giving both advice and information to youth."

Peers are increasingly taking on the functions of helping with problem-solving and giving advice and information to youth.

Self Image:

- "Increasing sense of stress in youth (centered around issues such as education, employment and family)."
- "Youth are being devalued by the community and perceived as trouble makers."

Behavior:

- "Society's popular image of youth remains less than positive; youth are seen as problems or liabilities rather than a resource in the community. This image of youth has led adults to become more reactionary in their responses to youth, and policy changes to be based on misconceptions."
- "As young peoples' living arrangements diverge from two-parent and single parent families to 'other living arrangements', the perceived and real difficulties accompanying their home, school and community participation will increase."

Time Use Patterns

In 1992, Statistics Canada's General Social Survey asked Canadians teens age 15-19 about how they utilized their daily time. Adults were asked the same questions about time utilization to provide comparison data. It was found that teens age 15-19 spent less time each day than the total population on productive activities[1]; they also had more free time and spend more time sleeping. The 15-19 year-olds spent an average of 6.5 hours a day engaged in productive activities compared to 7.8 hours for all persons age 15+.

As might be expected, educational activities accounted for the largest share of the productive time of teens (an average of 3.6 hours per day). For all persons, 0.6 hours per day were allocated to educational activities. In contrast, teens spent less time on work activities. In 1992, teens age 15-19 averaged 1.5 hours per day on paid work, and 0.4 hours on unpaid work. Both figures were less than half those for the total population.

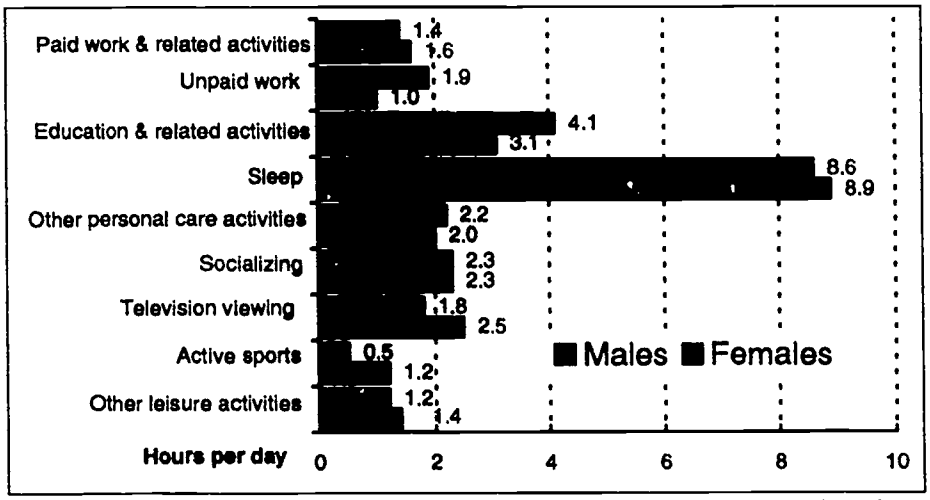
On average, Canadian teens age 15-19 spend more than twice as much time per day watching television as in active sports.

Young people also have more free time than the total population. In 1992, teens age 15-19 averaged 6.7 hours of free time per day, compared to 5.7 hours per day for the total population age 15+. Teens spent most of their free time socializing or watching television, averaging more than two hours a day on each of these. While teens spent about a half hour more a day socializing than the total population, they spent about the same time watching television.

Figure 3.1 compares time use patterns for Canadian males and females age 15-19 in 1992. Appendices 3.1 and 3.2 (page 41) provide more data on time use patterns of Canadian teens, with male-female and teen-adult comparisons.

Among Canadians age 15-19, males spend more time than females at television viewing and active sports. Females spend more time than males at unpaid work, and education and related activities.

Figure 3.1: Time Use Patterns, Canadians Age 15-19, by Gender, 1992



Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1992 (cited in Statistics Canada Cat. #89-511E, *Youth in Canada*, 2nd Edition, 1994).

1. Productive activities include: paid work and related activities, unpaid work activities such as domestic work and child care, shopping and services, organizational and volunteer work, and educational activities.

Labour Force Participation

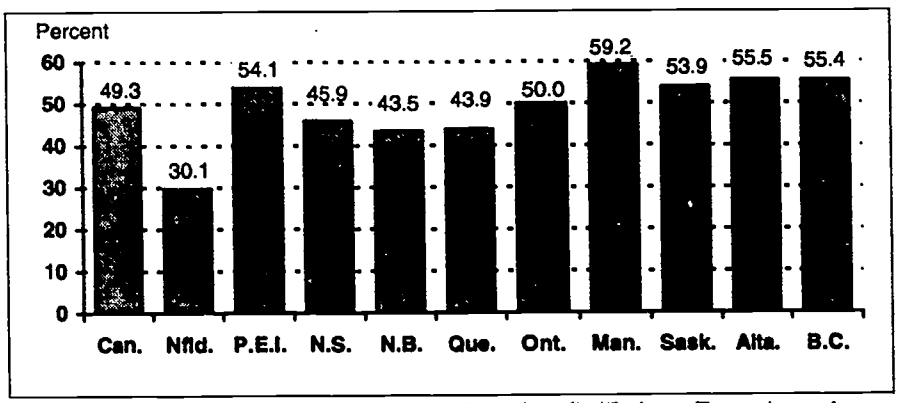
Labour Force Participation and Unemployment

Over the past decade, labour force participation rates for Alberta 15-19 year-olds have been consistently higher than in most other provinces. Alberta's rate in 1994 was 55.5%, compared to the Canadian average of 49.3%.

Unemployment rates are traditionally higher for youth than for adults. Among Alberta 15-19 year-olds, unemployment rates have been consistently lower than the Canadian average. In 1994, Alberta's rate was 15.4%; only Saskatchewan (13.0%) had a lower rate. Provincial labour force participation and unemployment rates (age 15-19) are compared in Figures 3.2 and 3.3. Appendices 3.3 and 3.4 (page 42) provide trend data over time.

Alberta 15-19 year olds consistently experience high labour force participation rates and low unemployment rates, relative to most other provinces.

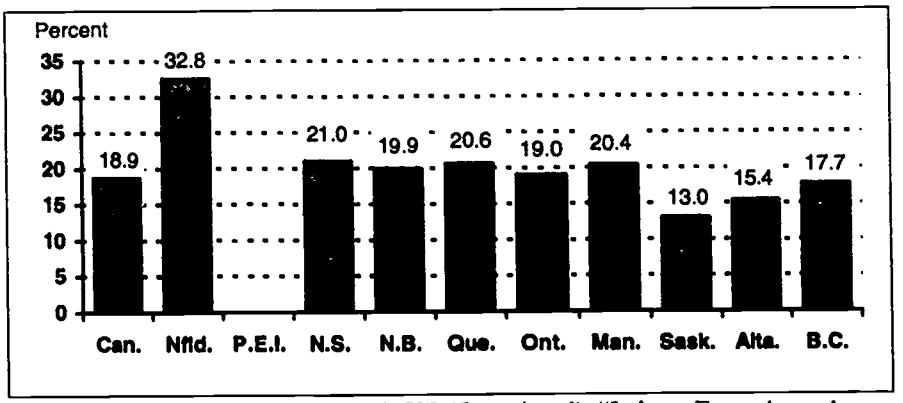
Figure 3.2: Labour Force Participation Rates, All Persons Age 15-19, Canada and Provinces, 1994 (Annual Average)



Source: Statistics Canada, Cat. #71-529 (Occasional), "Labour Force Annual Averages", 1989-1994.

Favorable labour force conditions for youth appear to affect participation and completion rates for secondary schooling in Alberta.

Figure 3.3: Unemployment Rates, All Persons Age 15-19, Canada and Provinces, 1994 (Annual Average)



Source: Statistics Canada, Cat. #71-529 (Occasional), "Labour Force Annual Averages", 1989 - 1994.

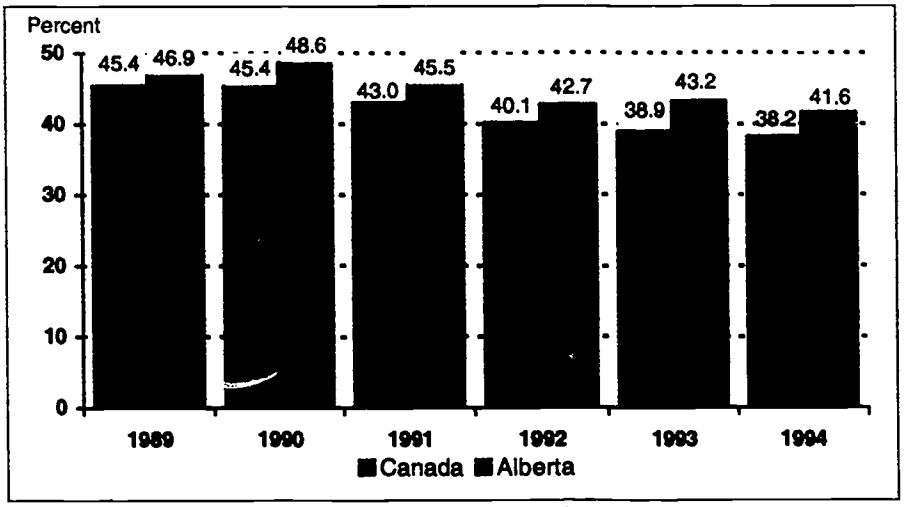
Note: Data for Prince Edward Island were not available.

Labour force participation rates are somewhat lower for full-time students age 15-19 than the rates for all 15-19 year-olds. As well, rates for full-time students have been declining in recent years. In 1994, the labour force participation rate for full-time students age 15-19 in Alberta was 41.6%, compared to 55.5% for all Alberta 15-19 year-olds.

Labour participation rates for full-time students age 15-19 in Alberta have been consistently among the highest in Canada in recent years. Figure 3.4 compares the Alberta and Canadian rates from 1989 to 1994. Appendix 3.5 (page 42) provides comparisons between Alberta and other provinces from 1989 to 1994.

In spite of improving economic conditions in recent years, labour force participation rates for full-time students age 15-19 have been declining in most provinces.

Figure 3.4: Labour Force Participation Rates of Full-time Students Age 15-19, Canada and Alberta, 1989 - 1994 (8 Month Average for January to April and September to December)



Source: Statistics Canada Cat. #71-529 (Occasional), Labour Force Annual Averages, 1989 -1994

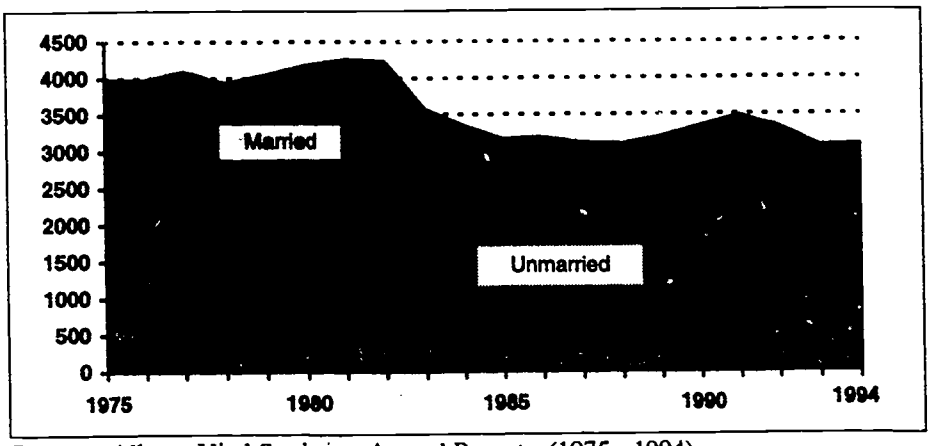
Note: Full-time students age 15-19 are primarily high school students, but also include some post-secondary students.

Sexual Activity

Teen Pregnancies

While the overall incidence of teen pregnancies in Alberta has decreased since the early 1980s, all of the decrease up to 1991 could be accounted for by births to married teens. As Figure 3.5 indicates, births to unmarried teens had been increasing steadily up to 1991. However, from 1991 to 1994, births *decreased* for both married teens (from 554 to 402) and unmarried teens (from 2,923 to 2,683), while the female population age 15-19 in Alberta *increased* (from 88,900 to 92,200). Births to mothers under age 20 accounted for 7.7% of all births in Alberta in 1994, down from 12.5% in 1975.

Figure 3.5: Alberta Teen Pregnancies, 1975-1994



Source: Alberta Vital Statistics, Annual Reports. (1975 - 1994).

The decrease in births to unmarried teens in Alberta since 1991 is a reversal of a long term trend, which occurred in spite of an increasing popuiation of females age 15 - 19.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Consistent with trends in the overall population, the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) is down among Alberta 15-19 year olds. Table 3.3 shows that, for Alberta 15-19 year-olds between 1989 and 1994, cases of gonorrhea dropped from 624 to 133, cases of chlamydia dropped from 2,562 to 1,809, and cases of NGU/MPC[1] dropped from 676 to 531. As of September 30th, 1995 there were only eight confirmed cases of AIDS reported among Albertans age 19 or under.

Nurse educators from Alberta Health held 274 STD/HIV/AIDS education sessions in Alberta schools in 1994, up from 254 in 1989. Total student participants in these sessions fell from 8,442 in 1989 to 7,319 in 1994. About 50% of the presentations were in junior high schools.

Table 3.3: Cases of Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Albertans Age 15-19, 1989 and 1994

	1989			1994		
Disease	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**
Gonorrhea	172	452	624	41	92	133
Chlamydia	344	2,218	2,562	225	1584	1,809
NGU/MPC[1]	314	362	676	300	231	531
Syphilis	0	2	2	0	0	0

Source: Alberta Health, Sexually Transmitted Disease Control, Statistical Reports (1989, 1994).

Note: 1. NGU/MPC is non-gonococcal urethritis/mucopurulent cervicitis.

Youth Crime

Alberta Youth Court Statistics (1986/87 - 1993/94)

Because of changes in police crime reporting procedures and policies on charging offenders, changes in crime statistics over time must be interpreted with caution. Table 3.4 shows trends in total charges, cases and persons (age 12-17) appearing in Alberta Youth Courts from 1986/87 to 1993/94. While the number of persons appearing increased only 15% over this period, the number of cases and charges increased by nearly 40%. Of all cases heard in Alberta Youth Court in 1993/94, property offences (mostly theft under $1,000 and breaking and entering) accounted for 50.6%; violent offences (about half of which were minor assaults) accounted for 16.5%, and drug offences for 1.6%. Only three murder/manslaughter charges were heard in Alberta Youth Court in 1993/94.

Males account for about 80% of all youth crime each year in Alberta. However, the proportion of all youth crimes committed by females is gradually increasing.

Table 3.4: Charges, Cases and Persons Heard in Alberta Youth Courts

Year	Charges[1]	Cases[2]	Persons[3]
1986/87	23,128	13,843	9,002
1987/88	23,712	14,237	9,075
1988/89	26,747	15,613	9,610
1989/90	26,747	15,831	9,688
1990/91	29,112	17,059	10,153
1991/92	33,825	19,650	11,199
1992/93	34,274	19,882	10,408
1993/94	32,348	19,240	10,383
% Change: 86/87-93/94	**+39.9%**	**+39.0%**	**+15.3%**

Source: Statistics Canada Cat. #85-522 (Annual), Youth Court Statistics, 1994

Notes:
1. A charge is a formal accusation involving a federal statute offence against a young person which has been fully processed in court.
2. Case counts include one or more charges against the same young person which are first presented in court on the same date.
3. The person unit count is defined as a young person having one or more charges (or cases adjudicated during the fiscal year).
4. Case and person counts are categorized by the most serious charge, so less serious offences in multiple charge cases are under-represented.

Canadian Youth Crime Statistics (1986 - 1994)

In 1994, youths accounted for 15% of all persons charged with violent crimes in Canada, up from 10.5% in 1986. Over the same period, youth as a percent of all persons charged with property crimes remained stable at about 30%.

As a proportion of all youth crimes in Canada, violent crimes have increased from 9% in 1986 to 18% in 1994.

As a proportion of all youth crimes, violent crimes increased from 9% in 1986 to 18% in 1994. Consistent with past years, about half of Canadian youth charged with violent crimes in 1994 were charged with minor assaults. Property crimes (mostly theft, motor vehicle theft, and breaking and entering) accounted for 58% of young persons charged in 1994 (Statistics Canada Cat. #85-002, Vol. 15, No. 12, *Canadian Crime Statistics 1994*, August, 1995).

Substance Abuse

Prevalence of Adolescent Substance Abuse

In 1993, The Premier's Council in Support of Alberta Families, in cooperation with the Canadian Institute for Law and the Family, conducted a survey of adolescent substance use in Alberta. Responses were obtained from 2,118 Alberta junior and senior high students age 12 to 18. Participants were from Calgary, Edmonton, Red Deer, St. Paul and Peace River.

Alcohol, tobacco and marijuana/hashish are the drugs of choice for Alberta adolescents.

Overall, nearly two out of three adolescents in the study had used alcohol in the past year; two of five had used tobacco, and one in six had used marijuana. One in ten drank frequently (one or more times per week), one in seven smoked frequently (six or more times per week) and only three in a hundred used marijuana frequently (20 or more times per year).

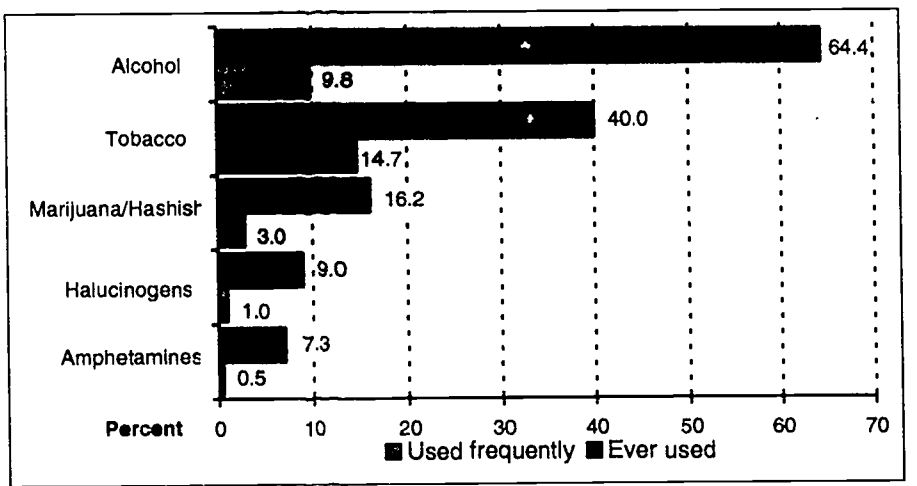
Only a small percentage of adolescents reported the use of other drugs. The percentages who had used other drugs in the past year were as follows: amphetamines/stimulants: 7.3%, barbiturates/tranquilizers: 4.3%, glue/solvents: 3.4%, cocaine/crack: 2.6%, and narcotics: 2.1%.

Positive, stable family environments appear to be a significant factor in preventing or reducing adolescent drug use.

Girls were more likely than boys to have ever used tobacco (56% vs. 45%), alcohol (81% vs. 78%) and stimulants (12% vs. 6%). There was little difference in usage patterns by gender for other drugs. Figure 3.6 provides additional data on drug use by Alberta students in 1993.

Adolescents' peer and social relationships are significantly related to their reported substance use.

Figure 3.6: Drug Use by Alberta Junior and Senior High School Students Age 12-18 in Past Year, 1993



Source: Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission, "Profile: Adolescent Alcohol and Drug Use in Alberta", (May, 1994).

Notes: For alcohol, "frequent" means drank one or more times per week in the past 12 months. For tobacco, "frequent" means smoked six or more times in the past week. For other drugs, it means 20 or more times in the past 12 months. "Ever used" means "used at least once in the past twelve months".

Factors Related to Substance Use

The survey also asked students about factors related to the use of alcohol and other drugs. It found that students from strong, positive and stable families had lower rates of use. The influence of peers was related to usage rates as well; students whose peers used drugs were more likely to be users themselves. Students who felt positive about their school performance and their school's environment were less likely to use drugs. As well, students who reported more problems in mental well-being were more likely to use substances.

National School Survey on Drugs and Sport

In 1993, the Canadian Centre for Drug-free Sport (CCDS) surveyed Canadian students' attitudes about the use of substances (drugs or other) to enhance athletic performance. Over 16,000 junior and senior high school student athletes between the ages of 11 and 18, including nearly 1,700 in Alberta, were surveyed. Table 3.5 compares reported rates of usage for various performance enhancing substances and methods in Alberta to the national rates.

More than half of Alberta student athletes responding to a national survey reported using one or more substances in the previous twelve months to enhance athletic performance. The most frequently used substances were protein supplements, caffeine and painkillers.

Table 3.5: Students' Reported Use of Substances and Methods to Enhance Athletic Performance in the Past Twelve Months, Alberta and Canada, 1993

Substance	Alberta	Canada
Protein Supplements	34.5%	27.0%
Caffeine	33.4%	25.7%
Painkillers	14.1%	8.9%
Alcohol	7.9%	8.4%
Stimulants/Speed	4.7%	3.1%
Anabolic Steroids	1.9%	1.5%
Doping Methods	2.5%	2.3%
Beta Blockers	1.1%	1.0%
Diuretics	0.9%	0.9%
% Using One or More of the Above	**54.1%**	**44.5%**

Source: Canadian Centre for Drug Free Sport (CCDS), "National School Survey on Drugs and Sport", (cited in "Profile", Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission, May, 1994).

Use of nearly all performance enhancing substances was higher in Alberta than for all of Canada. Of particular concern, because of reported health risks, is the use of steroids among high school athletes. Among the reasons given for using anabolic steroids, 54% of Canadian students said they used them to do better in sports, while 47% reported using steroids to improve their physical appearance. Among the steroid users, 70% were male and 30% were female.

Transition to Adulthood

The Postponed Generation

Susan Littwin's 1986 book, *THE POSTPONED GENERATION: Why American Youth are Growing Up Later,* drew attention to one of the most significant trends affecting young people in the United States in recent decades. The trend of delayed attainment of the opportunities and benefits of adulthood is as relevant in Canada and Alberta in the 1990s as it was in the United States in the 1980s.

Littwin says that "It now takes another decade to grow up in our culture ... Our children, now in their twenties, are not yet beginner adults". Littwin describes the growing numbers of post-secondary graduates who are under-unemployed, or not employed at all, and living at home with their parents because they cannot afford to establish their own household.

Current demographic and economic conditions have combined to place severe constraints on the opportunities and life prospects of young people.

For these young people, the prospects for secure, career oriented employment are limited. They are more likely to be found in low paid, menial jobs in the service sector, or drifting between temporary jobs and unemployment. They are finding that a post-secondary degree no longer guarantees entry to a meaningful career. This is even more true today, in an era of corporate downsizing and an increasingly competitive global economy.

The prospects for marriage and family appear even more distant, in the absence of the economic security that most people want to have before taking on the responsibilities of a marriage and a family.

Littwin also sees a sense of entitlement as characteristic of "the postponed generation". Born and raised in the affluent 1970s, these young people feel entitled to interesting, fulfilling and financially rewarding work. At the same time, they don't seem to have any realistic notion of how to attain those goals.

Littwin concludes by offering some suggestions to young people that may improve their prospects in an era of diminished opportunities:

- In educational pursuits, strive for an appropriate balance between personal development and skills that make them useful, employable.
- Be realistic about expectations, and the efforts required to attain high expectations.
- Recognize that choice is limited. You cannot do everything and be everything in one life. Focus and commitment are necessary for success. Nothing is as immobilizing as the need to have everything.
- Recognize that "life is tough" and that no-one is entitled to special treatment. Those who have had practice in struggle often find it to be their most valuable asset.
- In an era of changing and uncertain societal values, be clear about what your own values are, and then live by them.

School-Work Transitions

In 1993, Graham Lowe and Harvey Krahn of the Department of Sociology, University of Alberta, prepared a discussion paper, *Policy Responses to the Changing School-Work Transition* for Alberta Advanced Education and Career Development. The paper's observations on school-work transitions are based in part on longitudinal studies of Edmonton and area high school and university graduates during the 1985-1992 period. Following are key findings noted in the Executive Summary of that paper about changing school-work transitions for Alberta youth (cited in "YOU CAN HELP - a School Dropout Information Package" prepared by the Intergovernmental Task Force on Dropouts, June, 1994).

The federal government has initiated a Youth Internship Program to enhance school-work transition opportunities for young Canadians.

- The following socio-economic trends have influenced patterns of school-work transitions for Alberta youth:
  - ⇒ Significant growth in the service economy, characterized by a polarization of high skill ("knowledge workers") and low skill jobs, and a decline in middle skill (traditional) jobs. While education levels for entry-level jobs are, on average, rising, many new jobs require no post-secondary education.
  - ⇒ Higher levels of unemployment in most sectors of the economy.
  - ⇒ Corporate and public sector downsizing with consequent social and service delivery costs.
  - ⇒ More part-time and temporary jobs relative to full time employment.
  - ⇒ Significant regional and urban-rural economic imbalances.

In Alberta, the Registered Apprenticeship Program, the Integrated Occupational Program, and Career and Technology Studies have been implemented to enhance the school-work transition experiences of Alberta secondary school students.

- The school-work transition process for secondary and post-secondary graduates is becoming longer, more complex and more difficult. It is affecting the transition to adult status, often meaning that transition to full adulthood is significantly delayed.
- School-work transitions now begin at an earlier age, given widespread part-time student employment. Young people are staying in school longer, often mixing studies with a job. The distinction between student and worker is increasingly blurred. The traditional three-stage model of an individual's life course - school, work, then retirement - is obsolete.
- School-work transitions are now found throughout life, not just among youth (i.e., people can expect to have a number of transitions from school to work ,to unemployment, to retraining and so on).
- School-work transitions are a process, not an event, and thus have many components and lengthy timelines.
- The skilled trades and technical/vocational training are an important part of the transition process, although traditionally, these areas have received less attention and recognition than academic programs.
- Partnerships between the public and private sector and the education system are needed to ensure the resulting school-work transition process is more effective.

Alberta Teens on Social Assistance

Since 1993, eligibility requirements for social assistance in Alberta have been revised. Now, Albertans age 19 and under can qualify for social assistance to live independently only under very strict conditions. Since these changes were implemented, Supports for Independence caseloads for Albertans age 19 and under have fallen dramatically, from 6,418 in July, 1993 to 1,916 in October, 1995. Table 3.6 illustrates the decline in Supports for Independence caseloads for independent Albertans age 19 and under by family type since July, 1993.

Table 3.6: Supports for Independence Caseloads by Family Type, Albertans Age 19 and Under (July, 1993 - October, 1995)

Family Type	July 1993	January 1994	July 1994	January 1995	October 1995
Single	4,450	1,906	1,608	1,347	1,111
Single Parent	1,513	915	921	679	616
Couples, no children	165	88	79	64	51
Couples with children	290	179	143	118	138
Total	**6,418**	**3,088**	**2,751**	**2,208**	**1,916**

Source: Alberta Family and Social Services, unpublished data, 1995.
Note: Each case may include more than one person (e.g., a single parent case will include one or more children as well as the parent).

Social assistance to teens for independent living has declined significantly in the past two years.

Educational Attainment and Life Prospects

Recent statistics on poverty and unemployment in Canada suggest that, although getting an education is critical to improving employment and career prospects for young people, high education levels no longer guarantee a secure and financially rewarding career. Two indicators support this conclusion:

- The proportion of poor households in Canada where at least one adult had a post-secondary degree, certificate or diploma has increased from 13.0% in 1981 to 28.9% in 1991. Table 3.7 provides detailed data on this trend.

Table 3.7: Percentage of Poor Households in Which at Least One Adult Had a Post-secondary Credential, Canada; 1981, 1986, 1991

Year	University Degree	Other Post-secondary	Total
1981	4.8%	8.2%	13.0%
1986	5.2%	9.5%	14.7%
1991	6.5%	22.4%	28.9%

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Consumer Finances (cited in "The Canadian Fact Book on Poverty", Canadian Council on Social Development, 1994).

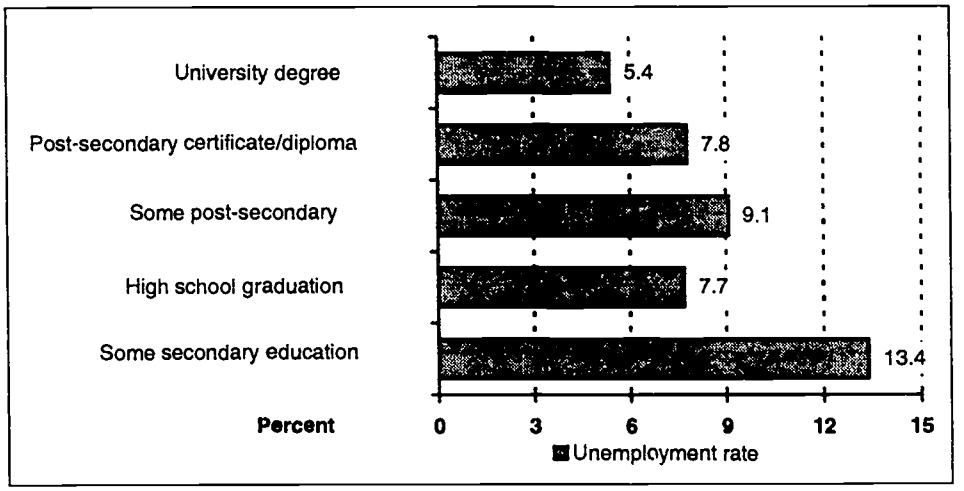
The proportion of poor people in Canada who have post-secondary education or training is increasing.

- The unemployment rate for Albertans with a university degree increased from 3.5% in 1990 to 5.4% in 1994. Over this period, the rate for Canada increased from 3.7% to 5.4% (Statistics Canada Cat. #71-529, "Labour Force Annual Averages, Occasional", 1989-1994).

Nevertheless, those with higher education levels continue to do much better in the labour market than those with lower levels. Figure 3.7 shows that, in 1994, annual unemployment rates by highest educational attainment level for Albertans ranged from 13.4% for those with only some secondary education, to 5.4% for those whose highest level of education was a university degree.

While getting an education does not guarantee success in the workplace, those with higher education levels still fare much better than those with lower levels.

Figure 3.7: Annual Unemployment Rates by Educational Attainment Level, Alberta, 1994



Source: Statistics Canada Cat. #71-529, "Labour Force Annual Averages, 1989-1994", Occasional, 1995.

Appendices: Data Tables

Alberta's youth population has increased gradually since 1971, even though it has decreased as a proportion of the total population.

Appendix 1.1: Alberta's Youth (Age 0-19) and Elderly (Age 65+) Population, Historical and Projected, 1971 - 2016

Year	Age 0-19 (000's)	%	Age 20-64 (000's)	%	Age 65+ (000's)	%	Total (000's)
			(Historical)				
1971	687.5	41.1	863.6	51.7	120.8	7.2	1,671.9
1976	705.0	37.6	1,030.0	55.0	139.3	7.4	1,874.3
1981	771.8	33.5	1,366.7	59.3	165.3	7.2	2,303.8
1986	758.9	31.1	1,486.0	60.9	193.8	7.9	2,438.7
1991	792.3	30.5	1575.4	60.6	232.6	8.9	2,600.3
1994	813.2	29.9	1,645.0	60.8	258.0	9.5	2,716.2
	Projected (Series #2: Medium Growth, Neutral Migration)						
2001	844.5	28.4	1,820.4	61.1	312.6	10.5	2,977.5
2016	867.7	24.6	2,163.0	61.3	496.6	14.1	3,527.3

Sources: 1971-1991: Statistics Canada Cat. #91-527, "Revised Intercensal Family and Population Estimates, July 1, 1971-1991; **1994:** Statistics Canada, unpublished data; **2001-2016:** Statistics Canada Cat. #91-520, "Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1993-2016".

Note: Projections are Series 2 (Medium Growth, Neutral Migration).

Due to the volatile nature of interprovincial migration, there is greater uncertainty for population projections at the provincial level than at the national level.

Appendix 1.2: Population Projections for Alberta Youth, 1994-2016, High, Medium and Low Growth Scenarios

Age	Actual 1994	Projected Population (000's) 1996	2001	2006	2011	2016
	Series #1 (Low Growth, Eastern Interprovincial Migration)					
0 - 4	208.0	203.5	182.9	179.0	182.9	187.2
5 - 9	211.4	212.4	205.1	184.9	180.2	183.7
10 - 14	205.3	211.0	212.7	205.5	185.2	180.5
15 - 19	188.5	196.8	216.4	218.0	210.8	190.5
Total	813.2	823.7	817.1	787.4	759.1	741.9
	Series #2 (Medium Growth, Neutral Interprovincial Migration))					
0 - 4	208.0	207.9	201.4	204.8	214.4	223.3
5 - 9	211.4	212.6	210.7	205.1	208.4	217.3
10 - 14	205.3	211.2	214.4	213.3	208.0	210.9
15 - 19	188.5	197.0	218.0	221.9	221.4	216.2
Total	813.2	828.7	844.5	845.1	852.2	867.7
	Series #3 (High Growth, Western Interprovincial Migration)					
0 - 4	208.0	213.6	226.3	242.5	263.2	282.4
5 - 9	211.4	214.4	221.3	235.1	251.5	271.6
10 - 14	205.3	213.1	221.1	229.5	243.9	259.8
15 - 19	188.5	198.9	225.1	235.0	244.8	259.5
Total	813.2	840.0	893.8	942.1	1,003.8	1,073.3

Source: Statistics Canada Cat. #91-520, "Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1993-2016".

Note: For a detailed discussion of the methods and assumptions underlying these projections, see pp. 5-59 of Statistics Canada Catalogue #91-520, "Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1993 - 2016".

Appendix 1.3: Alberta Youth Population, Age 0-19 by Single Year of Age, 1971-1994 (Thousands)						
Age	**1971**	**1976**	**1981**	**1986**	**1991**	**1994**
0	30.6	31.9	40.7	42.7	42.1	39.8
1	30.9	31.0	39.3	42.1	43.4	40.7
2	30.2	30.2	37.7	41.9	42.4	42.4
3	30.7	30.8	36.7	41.4	41.4	42.0
4	31.7	31.1	36.8	40.2	42.0	43.1
0-4	**154.1**	**155.1**	**191.2**	**208.3**	**211.3**	**208.0**
5	32.9	33.2	36.7	39.2	42.7	42.5
6	35.4	33.4	35.5	38.2	42.6	41.5
7	37.6	32.3	34.5	37.1	42.4	41.9
8	38.8	32.5	35.0	36.2	41.7	42.9
9	38.1	33.6	35.4	36.4	40.7	42.6
5-9	**182.7**	**164.9**	**177.1**	**187.2**	**210.1**	**211.4**
10	38.1	34.2	37.1	36.2	39.7	42.6
11	38.0	36.5	36.7	35.1	38.6	41.9
12	36.8	38.7	35.7	34.1	37.4	41.2
13	36.2	39.8	35.8	34.9	36.7	40.3
14	35.2	39.4	36.5	35.2	36.8	39.3
10-14	**184.4**	**188.5**	**181.7**	**175.5**	**189.2**	**205.3**
15	35.3	40.1	38.2	37.4	36.8	38.3
16	34.7	39.7	41.0	37.1	36.0	37.6
17	33.3	38.5	44.4	36.4	35.3	37.7
18	32.1	38.6	47.7	37.4	36.3	37.8
19	30.7	39.5	**50.6**	39.6	**37.3**	37.1
15-19	**166.3**	**196.5**	**221.8**	**187.9**	**181.7**	**188.5**
Total	**687.5**	**705.0**	**771.8**	**758.9**	**792.3**	**813.2**

Sources: 1971-1991: Statistics Canada Cat. #91-527, "Revised Intercensal Family and Population Estimates, July 1(1971-1991)"; **1994:** Statistics Canada-unpublished data.
Note: Shaded cells and arrows indicate change in cohort size over time.

Alberta's youth population (and especially 15-19 year olds) experienced significant gains from interprovincial migration in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Appendix 1.4: Net Interprovincial Migration, Age 5-19 and All Ages, Alberta, 1979/80-1992/93				
Year	**Age 5-9**	**Age 10-14**	**Age 15-19**	**All Ages**
1979/80	2,235	1,958	5,723	42,242
1980/81	2,792	2,441	6,850	45,991
1981/82	1,614	1,360	9,791	30,914
1982/83	**-1,172**	**-749**	4,911	**-14,276**
1983/84	**-3,699**	**-2,692**	222	**-33,579**
1984/85	**-2,919**	**-2,054**	2,033	**-19,484**
1985/86	**-1,350**	**-818**	4,545	**-5,131**
1986/87	**-3,624**	**-2,622**	2,322	**-32,444**
1987/88	**-2,306**	**-1,640**	2,872	**-18,752**
1988/89	**-1,139**	**-26**	3,096	**-1,308**
1989/90	**-372**	535	3,420	9,159
1990/91	**-169**	651	3,592	8,045
1991/92	**-608**	292	2,894	2,750
1992/93	**-920**	31	2,459	**-1,349**

Sources: Statistics Canada: 1979/80, 1980/81: Cat. #91-208 (Annual), 1981/82-1990/91: Cat. #91-210 (Volumes 1-10), 1991/92, 1992/93: Cat. #91-213 (1993).
Note: Shaded cells indicate net out-migration.

Among school age youth, interprovincial migration has had the greatest impact on 15-19 year olds.

Among the provinces, average monthly day care fees were highest in Ontario and lowest in New Brunswick in 1992.

Appendix 2.1: Estimated Average Monthly Day Care Fees by Province, (Licensed Centres), 1992		
Province/Territory	**Infant/Toddler**	**Preschool**
Newfoundland	--	$340
Prince Edward Island	$530	$375
Nova Scotia	n/a	n/a
New Brunswick	$370	$327
Quebec	$407	$382
Ontario	$792	$518
Manitoba	$529	$348
Saskatchewan	$418	$328
Alberta	$382	$348
British Columbia	$438	$374
Yukon	$500	$450
Northwest Territories	n/a	n/a

Source: The Child Care Resource and Research Unit, University of Toronto (cited in Maclean's Magazine, May 31,1993).

Notes: 1. Newfoundland had no licensed infant/toddler centres as of 1992.
2. "n/a" means data not available.

Between 1980 and 1993, child poverty rates rose in Canada. From 1992 to 1993, rates rose in seven provinces, but declined in Alberta, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland.

Appendix 2.2: Poverty Rates for Children Under Age 18 for Canadian Provinces, 1980 - 1993 (Percent)										
Year	**Nfld**	**P.E.I**	**N.S.**	**N.B.**	**Que.**	**Ont.**	**Man**	**Sask**	**Alta.**	**B.C.**
1980	26.2	13.4	15.0	18.2	18.4	13.5	18.1	9.7	11.4	10.4
1981	20.5	20.9	17.0	22.6	18.1	13.3	19.0	17.1	10.0	12.8
1982	24.4	17.5	20.9	25.4	20.1	15.8	23.2	16.6	12.2	17.3
1983	31.1	11.1	20.9	25.3	20.5	16.8	22.0	19.6	17.9	16.3
1984	27.1	16.3	19.4	25.7	22.9	15.1	19.9	22.0	21.7	20.4
1985	25.1	13.0	20.1	19.6	20.1	15.3	20.8	20.3	17.4	20.4
1986	23.8	12.2	17.8	18.0	19.0	12.8	21.7	23.8	16.0	20.4
1987	24.0	14.6	16.9	19.6	19.4	11.9	21.2	17.8	19.1	18.0
1988	20.0	12.4	14.2	16.8	18.1	11.9	19.1	20.8	17.0	15.2
1989	17.9	13.5	15.7	16.4	16.1	11.0	21.2	20.0	17.3	13.6
1990	19.6	13.7	16.5	17.1	18.1	14.7	22.0	20.4	18.3	16.9
1991	20.3	14.5	20.2	18.1	19.7	17.0	26.9	21.0	18.7	14.5
1992	25.4	12.9	19.7	15.5	17.5	15.8	22.4	21.7	23.3	18.7
1993	20.7	9.7	22.1	17.5	20.9	20.9	24.1	22.6	19.8	20.5

Source: The National Council of Welfare, Minister of Supply and Services Canada, "Poverty Profile 1993", (Spring, 1995).

Appendix 3.1: Average Daily Time Use, Age 15-19 by Gender, Age 15+, 1992

Activity (Hours per day)	Persons Age 15-19: Male	Female	Total	Age 15+
Productive activities:				
- Paid work and related activities	1.6	1.4	1.5	3.6
- Unpaid work	1.0	1.9	1.4	3.6
- Education and related activities	3.1	4.1	3.6	0.6
Total productive activities	5.7	7.4	6.5	7.8
Sleep	8.9	8.6	8.7	8.1
Other personal care activities	2.0	2.2	2.1	2.4
Free time activities:				
- Socializing	2.3	2.3	2.3	1.8
- Television viewing	2.5	1.8	2.2	2.2
- Reading & other passive leisure	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6
- Movies, sports & other entertainment	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.1
- Active sports	1.2	0.5	0.9	0.4
- Other active leisure	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.5
Total free time activities	7.4	5.8	6.7	5.7
Total time	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1992 (cited in Statistics Canada Cat. #89-511-E, "Youth in Canada", 2nd Edition, 1994).

On average in 1992, Canadians age 15 to 19 spent more time each day at educational activities, sleep and free-time activities than the total population age 15 and over.

Appendix 3.2: Average Daily Time Use, Age 15-19 by Gender, Employed and Students, 1992

Activity (Hours per day)	Employed: Male	Female	Students: Male	Female
Productive activities:				
- Paid work and related activities	4.6	5.8	0.8	0.8
- Unpaid work	0.9	2.0	0.9	1.4
- Education and related activities	--	0.3	4.9	5.6
Total productive activities	5.4	8.1	6.5	7.9
Sleep	9.0	8.1	8.7	8.4
Other personal care activities	2.1	2.4	1.9	2.2
Free time activities:				
- Socializing	2.6	2.6	1.9	2.1
- Television viewing	2.6	2.6	1.9	2.1
- Reading & other passive leisure	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.5
- Movies, sports & other entertainment	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.4
- Active sports	1.3	0.6	1.3	0.5
- Other active leisure	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.4
Total free time	7.4	5.4	6.9	5.4
Total time	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1992 (cited in Statistics Canada Cat. #89-511-E, "Youth in Canada", 2nd Edition, 1994).

On average in 1992, Canadian students age 15 to 19 spent nearly an hour per day at paid work.

Appendix 3.3: Labour Force Participation Rates, All Persons Age 15-19, Canada and Provinces, 1989 - 1994 (Annual Averages)						
	1989	**1990**	**1991**	**1992**	**1993**	**1994**
Canada	58.7	57.5	55.0	52.1	50.0	49.3
Newfoundland	32.8	34.0	32.7	31.0	28.8	30.1
P.E.I.	54.8	53.9	51.7	51.9	52.8	54.1
Nova Scotia	50.5	51.0	48.7	44.6	44.8	45.9
New Brunswick	47.9	47.4	45.1	46.4	45.2	43.5
Quebec	51.8	50.8	48.9	44.4	43.3	43.9
Ontario	64.4	62.8	58.6	55.4	52.6	50.0
Manitoba	62.0	63.0	59.7	58.1	56.2	59.2
Saskatchewan	55.0	55.7	52.7	53.4	54.1	53.9
Alberta	**61.9**	**61.8**	**59.3**	**56.9**	**52.4**	**55.5**
British Columbia	64.3	60.9	60.8	59.9	53.5	55.4

Source: Statistics Canada, Cat. #71-529 (Occasional), Labour Force Annual Averages, 1989 - 1994.
Note: "n/a" indicates data not available.

Appendix 3.4: Unemployment Rates, All Persons Age 15-19, Canada and Provinces, 1989 - 1994 (Annual Averages)						
	1989	**1990**	**1991**	**1992**	**1993**	**1994**
Canada	13.0	14.2	16.8	19.8	20.0	18.9
Newfoundland	24.4	24.7	29.8	31.4	32.0	32.8
P.E.I.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Nova Scotia	16.2	16.9	19.3	21.5	24.8	21.0
New Brunswick	20.5	20.9	19.6	20.0	20.6	19.9
Quebec	15.2	16.4	19.9	21.3	23.0	20.6
Ontario	9.8	12.1	15.5	20.3	19.6	19.0
Manitoba	14.3	14.4	16.1	18.9	18.0	20.4
Saskatchewan	13.2	13.6	14.1	15.5	15.7	13.0
Alberta	**13.6**	**12.6**	**13.8**	**16.9**	**17.7**	**15.4**
British Columbia	15.1	14.5	15.8	17.9	17.2	17.7

Source: Statistics Canada, Cat. #71-529 (Occasional), Labour Force Annual Averages, 1989 - 1994.
Note: "n/a" indicates data not available.

Variations among provinces in labour force trends for 15-19 year olds may influence participation rates and completion rates for secondary schooling.

Appendix 3.5: Labour Force Participation Rates, Full-time Students Age 15-19, Canada and Provinces, 1989 - 1994 (8 Month Average for January to April, September to December)						
	1989	**1990**	**1991**	**1992**	**1993**	**1994**
Canada	45.4	45.4	43.0	40.1	38.9	38.2
Newfoundland	14.0	16.3	15.7	14.8	13.9	14.9
P.E.I.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Nova Scotia	38.0	39.3	37.7	32.3	32.4	34.4
New Brunswick	30.8	31.9	30.8	31.3	30.5	30.1
Quebec	36.1	36.7	35.1	32.5	32.4	32.7
Ontario	54.1	53.6	49.3	45.7	44.0	41.4
Manitoba	48.8	50.2	47.8	47.0	44.2	47.0
Saskatchewan	40.0	41.0	43.3	39.3	41.5	40.6
Alberta	**46.9**	**48.6**	**45.5**	**42.7**	**43.2**	**41.6**
British Columbia	48.9	45.8	47.4	45.1	39.9	41.8

Source: Statistics Canada, Cat. #71-529 (Occasional), Labour Force Annual Averages, 1989 - 1994.
Note: "n/a" indicates data not available.

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