

Post-secondary students in Alberta

Child and Youth Data Laboratory (CYDL)

Report for *Experiences of Albertan Youth Project*

Key findings

This report profiles 113,154 youth (aged 17 to 24 years) who were enrolled in Alberta's post-secondary institutions in 2008/09.

Credential types for post-secondary programs include bachelor/applied/graduate programs (also called degree-granting), certificate/diploma programs, and programs with no credential received upon completion. *Enrolment status* refers to full-time or part-time enrolment. Youth enrolled in apprenticeship programs were not available in this study.

Age, gender, region of residence, socio-economic status, mental health status, health service use, credential type, enrolment status, receipt of maltreatment-related intervention services, and receipt of income support are detailed. Comparisons are made with youth of the same ages who were not post-secondary students.

- 24% of all youth 17 to 24 years old were attending post-secondary institutions, with the highest rate (35%) for 20 year olds.
- More females than males were pursuing a post-secondary education. Females were also more likely than males to be enrolled in degree-granting programs.
- Post-secondary students, especially those enrolled in degree-granting or full-time programs, were more likely to be living in the highest socio-economic status neighborhoods than youth not enrolled in post-secondary institutions. Youth not enrolled in post-secondary studies were more likely to have visited an emergency room or to have been hospitalized at least once during the year, and were more likely to have five or more physician visits during the year.
- Post-secondary students enrolled part-time or in *no credential* programs were more likely than those enrolled full-time or in credential programs to have a mental health condition or to have been hospitalized at least once during the year.
- Youth receiving maltreatment-related intervention services or income support were over-represented in *no credential* programs and part-time programs compared to other post-secondary students.



Contents

<i>Key findings and Context</i>	1 to 2
<i>Data analyses</i>	3 to 10
<i>Tables</i>	11 to 18
<i>Definitions and Notes</i>	19 to 20
<i>Data sources</i>	21
<i>References</i>	21
<i>About CYDL</i>	23



Post-secondary students in Alberta

Context

The benefits of a post-secondary education have been well documented at both individual and societal levels. In addition to securing a higher income on average, individuals with an advanced education can look forward to greater employment opportunities¹. Almost two-thirds of jobs opening in Canada over the next ten years will require a post-secondary education¹. In addition, people with a post-secondary education are more likely to experience greater levels of job satisfaction and long-term employment, and benefit from positive health and well-being outcomes.¹

According to Human Resources and Skill Development Canada, between 2003/04 and 2005/06, 23% of Canadian youth and 17% of Albertan youth aged 18 to 24 years old were enrolled in university, with a further 15% of Canadian youth and 14% of Albertan youth enrolled in colleges or trades programs. Enrolment rates were higher for females than for males, and for youth in large urban centres compared with rural areas.²

Contact with health services for mental health issues appears to be on the rise among Canada's post-secondary students.³ Adequacy of income is also an issue; post-secondary students comprised 4.8% of those visiting food banks in Alberta between 2001 and 2011.⁴

The service use patterns of post-secondary students in other areas are less well documented. This report provides new data on service use for post-secondary students, including health services, intervention services, and income support.

The project

The current project, **Experiences of Albertan Youth**, is focused on basic understanding of the experiences of Albertan youth within and across ministries, as they relate to key indicators (age, gender, socio-economic status, educational achievement, and mental health status). It is the first project in a planned series that will link and analyze administrative data on children and youth in Alberta to inform policy, programs, and research.

List of reports for the project

Socio-economic status of Albertan youth

Educational experiences of Albertan youth

Mental health status of Albertan youth

Family Support for Children with Disabilities services received by Albertan youth

Maltreatment-related investigations among Albertan youth

Maltreatment-related intervention services received by Albertan youth

Physician visits by Albertan youth

Emergency room visits by Albertan youth

Hospitalizations of Albertan youth

Offence charges among Albertan youth

Corrections involvement among Albertan youth

Post-secondary students in Alberta

Income support among Albertan youth

Educational experiences of Albertan youth with income support activity

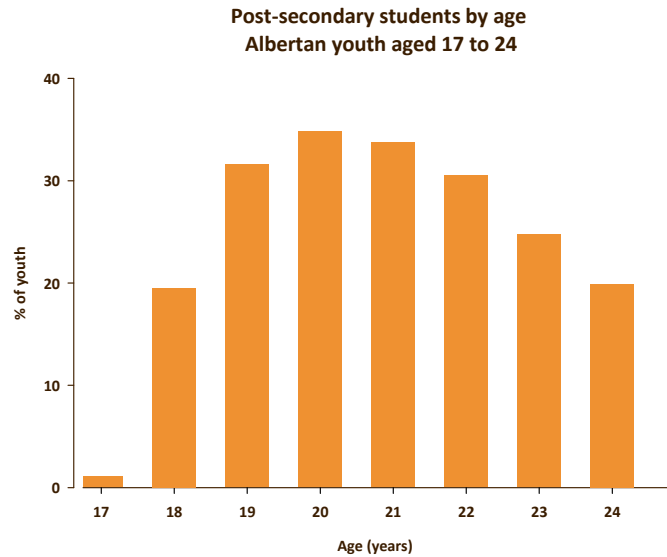
Least advantaged and most advantaged Albertan youth

Post-secondary students in Alberta

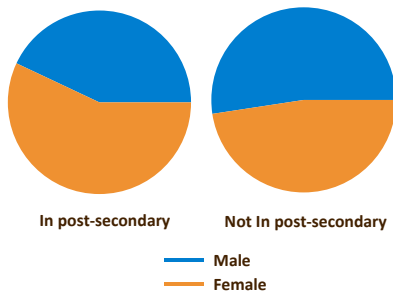
Post-secondary status by age (Table 1)

This analysis considers youth (aged 17 to 24 years) who were registered in post-secondary institutions in Alberta in 2008/09.

- Students between 19 and 22 years were the most likely to be enrolled in post-secondary studies, with more than 30% of students in this age group enrolled in a post-secondary program.
- Enrolment climbed from 1% for 17 year olds to 20% for 18 year olds, peaked at 35% for 20 year olds, and declined to 20% by age 24.



Post-secondary status by gender
Albertan youth aged 17 to 24



Post-secondary status by gender (Table 2)

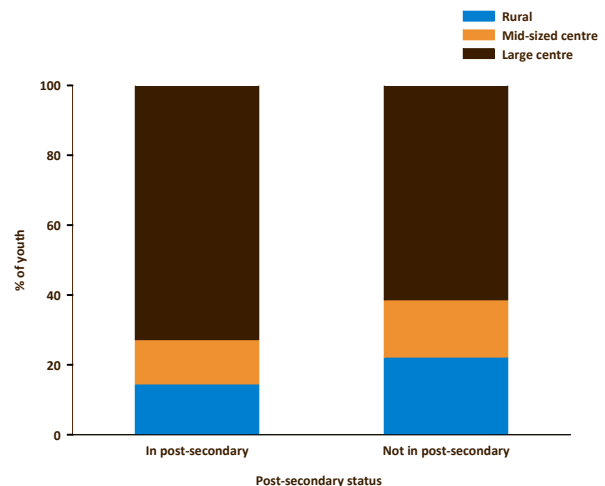
This analysis and the following four analyses include youth (aged 17 to 24 years) enrolled in post-secondary studies in 2008/09, compared with youth not enrolled.

- A greater proportion of females (57%) compared to males (43%) were enrolled in post-secondary institutions.

Post-secondary status by region of residence (Table 3)

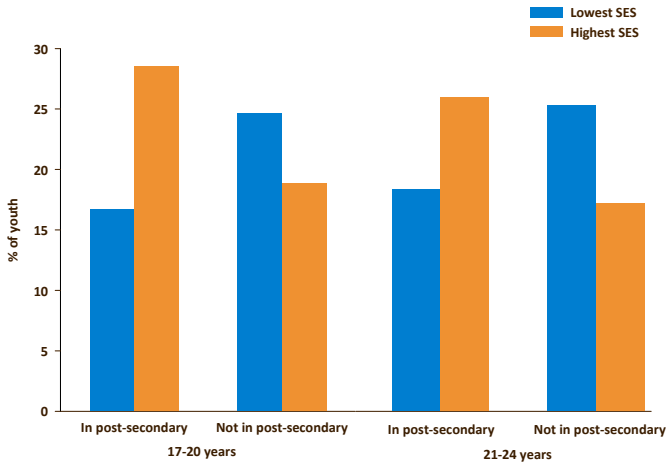
- Post-secondary students were more likely to live in large urban centres (Edmonton and Calgary) than youth not enrolled in post-secondary studies.
- Conversely, youth not pursuing post-secondary studies were more likely to be living in mid-sized centres or rural regions across Alberta.
- These findings may be partially due to the concentration of post-secondary institutions in larger centres.

Post-secondary status by region of residence
Albertan youth aged 17 to 24



Post-secondary students in Alberta

Post-secondary status by socio-economic status (SES) and age
Albertan youth aged 17 to 24



Post-secondary status by socio-economic status and age (Table 4)

Socio-economic status (SES) captures the social and material environments in which youth lived. In this report, “lowest socio-economic status” refers to the lowest socio-economic status group, while “highest” refers to the highest group. See *Definitions and Notes* (p. 19).

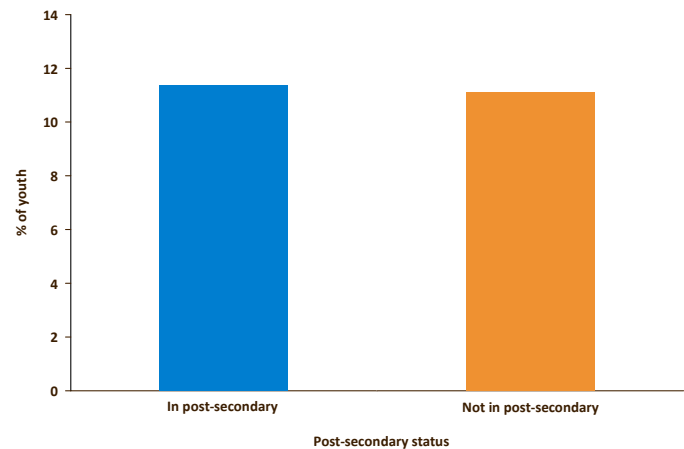
- Youth enrolled in post-secondary institutions were more likely to live in the highest socio-economic status neighbourhoods and less likely to live in the lowest than youth not enrolled in post-secondary institutions.
- This effect was more pronounced for the 17 to 20 year olds than the 21 to 24 year olds. A greater proportion of younger students may have lived with their parents.

Post-secondary status by mental health condition (Table 5)

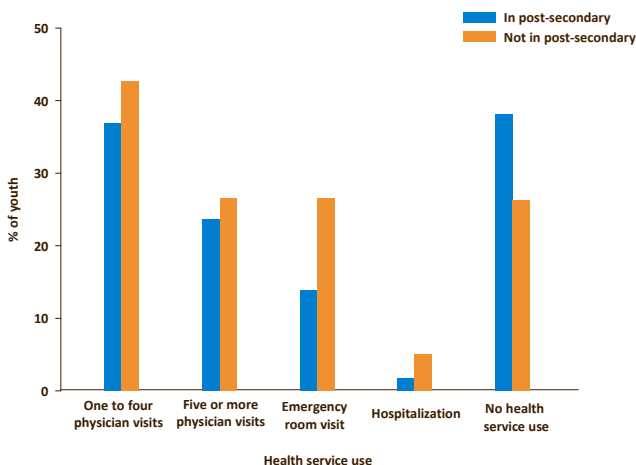
Mental health conditions are defined as receipt of services related to mental health conditions; that is, receipt of services is used here as a proxy for confirmed presence of a mental health condition. See *Definitions and Notes* (p. 20).

- The vast majority of youth (almost 90%) between 17 and 24 years old did not have a mental health condition during 2008/09.
- Whether they were enrolled in post-secondary studies or not, the percent of youth with a mental health condition during 2008/09 was between 11 and 12%.

Post-secondary status by mental health condition
Albertan youth aged 17 to 24



Post-secondary status by health service use
Albertan youth aged 17 to 24



Post-secondary status by health service use (Table 6)

This analysis considers youth (aged 17 to 24 years) registered in the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan in 2008/09.

- A lower percentage of health services use was evident among post-secondary students than non-students.
- Post-secondary students were less likely to visit physicians, visit emergency rooms, or be hospitalized, than those not attending post-secondary institutions.
- Among post-secondary youth, 38% had not used any health service during the year, compared to 26% of youth not enrolled in a post-secondary institution.

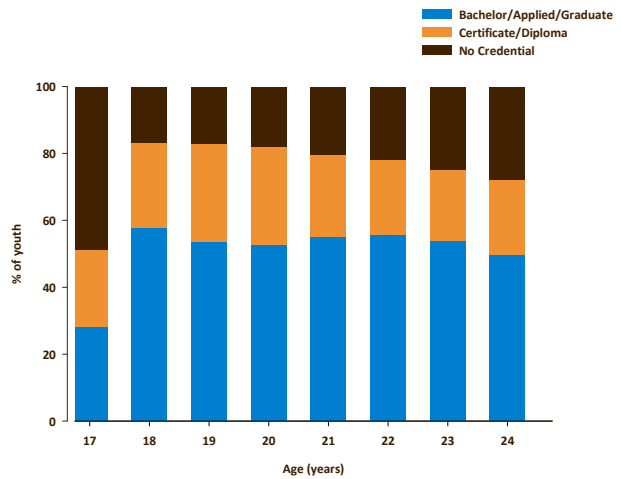
Post-secondary students in Alberta

Credential type by age (Table 7)

This analysis and the following five analyses consider the credential type pursued by youth (aged 17 to 24 years) in Alberta post-secondary institutions in 2008/09.

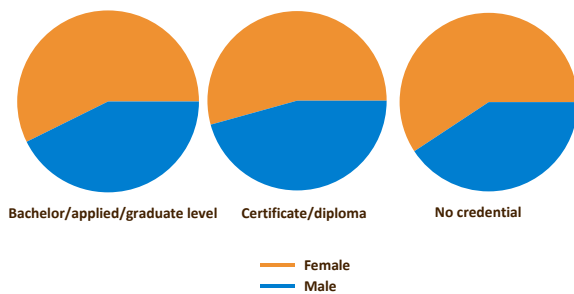
- 50 to 57% of youth 18 to 24 years old were enrolled in *bachelor/applied/graduate level* programs.
- 49% of 17 year old youth were in *no credential* programs, perhaps due to attending high school upgrading programs or enrolling in post-secondary programs during the summer after high school.
- The percentage of youth 18 and older enrolled in *no credential* programs, such as Open Studies, increased with age.

Credential type by age
Albertan youth aged 17 to 24



Credential type by gender (Table 8)

Credential type by gender
Albertan youth aged 17 to 24

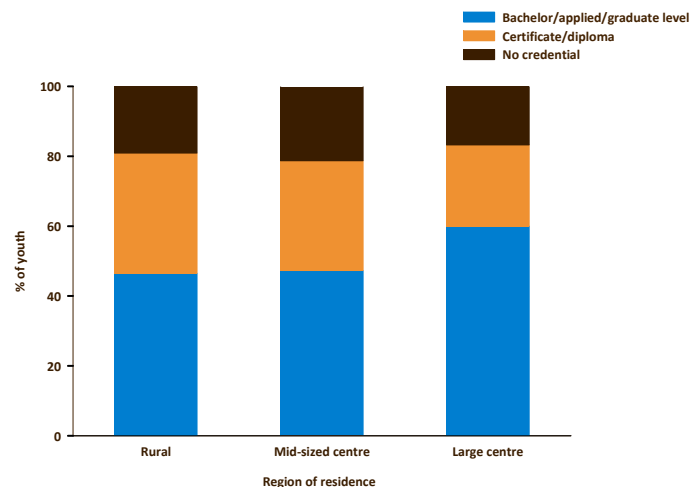


- Females made up a higher percentage of post-secondary students than males, across all credential types.
- The gender difference was greatest in non-credential programs, in which 59% of students were females, compared with 57% in degree-granting (*bachelor/applied/graduate level*) programs and 54% in *certificate/diploma* programs.

Credential type by region of residence (Table 9)

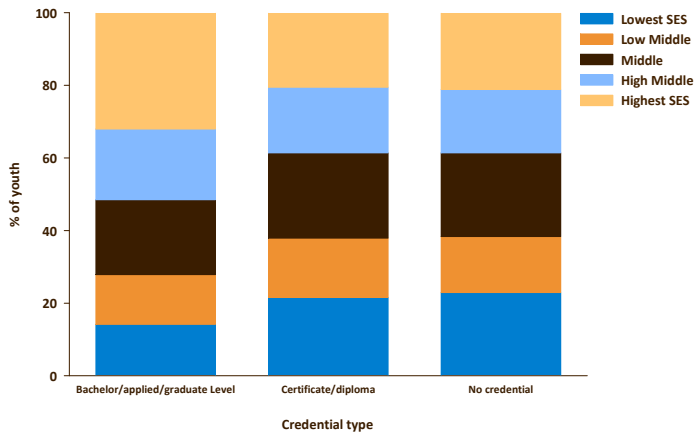
- A greater percentage of students living in large centres (Edmonton and Calgary) were enrolled in *bachelor/applied/graduate level* programs than in other regions. This pattern reflects the concentration of degree-granting institutions in these centres.
- 34% of students in rural regions were enrolled in *certificate/diploma* programs, compared with 31% and 23% in mid-sized and large centres, respectively.
- *No credential* programs captured 19%, 21%, and 17% of students in rural, mid-sized, and large centres, respectively.

Credential type by region of residence
Albertan youth aged 17 to 24



Post-secondary students in Alberta

Credential type by socio-economic status (SES)
Albertan youth aged 17 to 24



Credential type by socio-economic status
(Table 10)

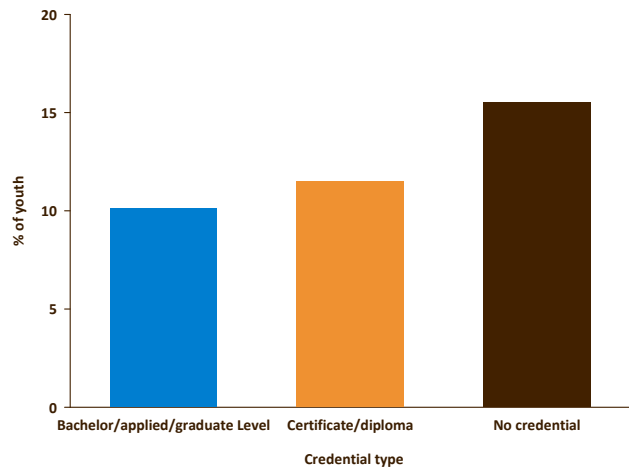
- Students in degree-granting programs lived in higher socio-economic status neighbourhoods on average than other post-secondary students.
- 52% of students in degree-granting programs were living in the high middle or highest socio-economic status neighbourhoods, compared with 39% in each of *certificate/diploma* and *no credential* programs.
- 28% of students in degree-granting programs and 39% in each of *certificate/diploma* and *no credential* programs were living in the low middle or lowest socio-economic status neighbourhoods.

Credential type by mental health condition
(Table 11)

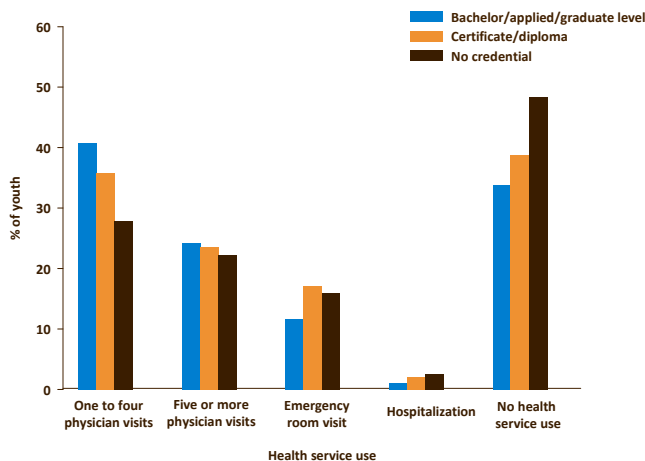
Mental health conditions are defined as receipt of services related to mental health conditions; that is, receipt of services is used here as a proxy for confirmed presence of a mental health condition. See *Definitions and Notes* (p.20).

- Students enrolled in *no credential* programs were more likely than students pursuing credentials to have a mental health condition.
- 16% of students in a *no credential* program had a mental health condition.

Credential type by mental health condition
Albertan youth aged 17 to 24



Credential status by health service use
Albertan youth aged 17 to 24



Credential type by health service use
(Table 12)

- Among youth not pursuing a credential, 48% had not used a health service during the year, compared to 38% of youth enrolled in *certificate/diploma* programs, and 34% of youth enrolled in *bachelor/applied/graduate level* programs.
- Hospitalizations were more common among youth enrolled in *no credential* programs than the other types of programs.
- Among youth enrolled in *bachelor/applied/graduate* programs, 41% visited a physician between one and four times, compared to 28% of youth not enrolled in a credentialed program.

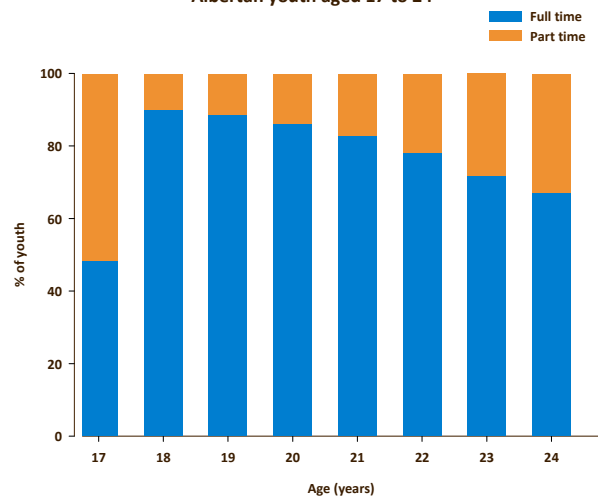
Post-secondary students in Alberta

Enrolment status by age (Table 13)

This analysis and the following five analyses consider the full- and part-time enrolment status of youth (aged 17 to 24 years) who were pursuing a post-secondary education in Alberta in 2008/09.

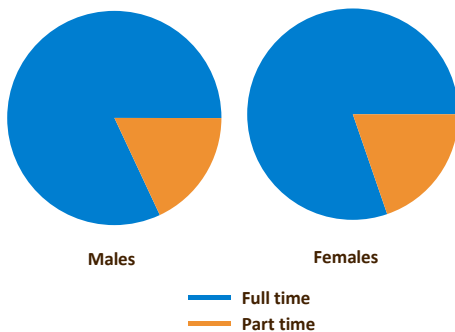
- For students aged 18 to 24 years, the percentage of students who were enrolled in full-time programs decreased with increasing age.
- 17 year old youth were much more likely to be enrolled in part-time programs than older youth. This may be because they attended high school upgrading programs or enrolled in post-secondary programs during the summer after high school.

Enrolment status by age
Albertan youth aged 17 to 24



Enrolment status by gender (Table 14)

Enrolment status by gender
Albertan youth aged 17 to 24

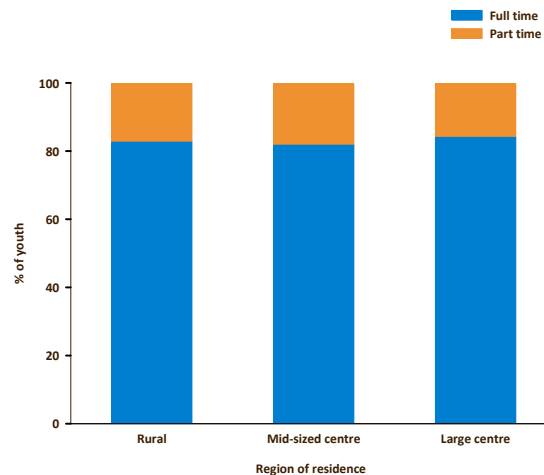


- Males and females had similar proportions of full- and part-time post-secondary enrolment status.

Enrolment status by region of residence (Table 15)

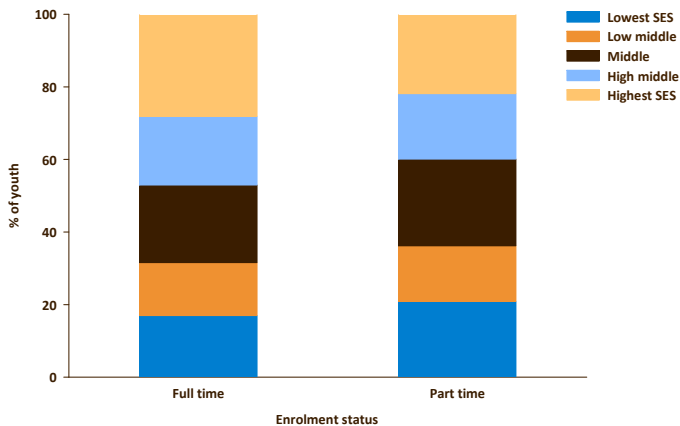
- Full- and part-time enrolment status did not vary substantially by region of residence.
- Rural, mid-sized, and large centres had similar proportions of part-time post-secondary students (17%, 18% and 16%, respectively).

Enrolment status by region of residence
Albertan youth aged 17 to 24



Post-secondary students in Alberta

Enrolment status by socio-economic status (SES)
Albertan youth aged 17 to 24



Enrolment status by socio-economic status
(Table 16)

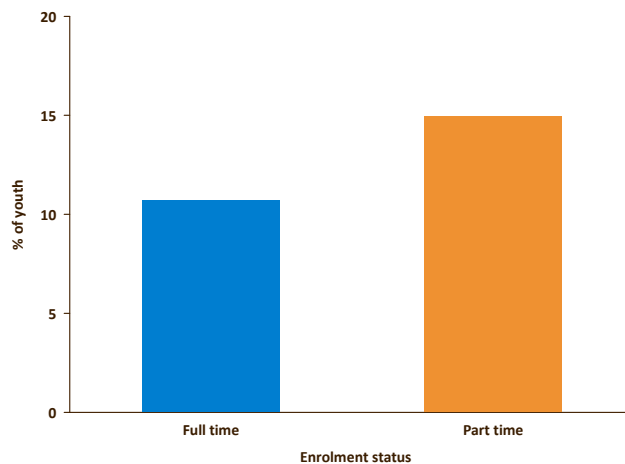
- In general, full-time students had higher socio-economic status than part-time students.
- Among full-time students, 47% were living in the high middle or highest socio-economic status neighbourhoods, compared to 41% of part-time students.
- Among part-time students, 36% were living in the low middle or lowest socio-economic status neighbourhoods, compared to 32% of full-time students.

Enrolment status by mental health condition (Table 17)

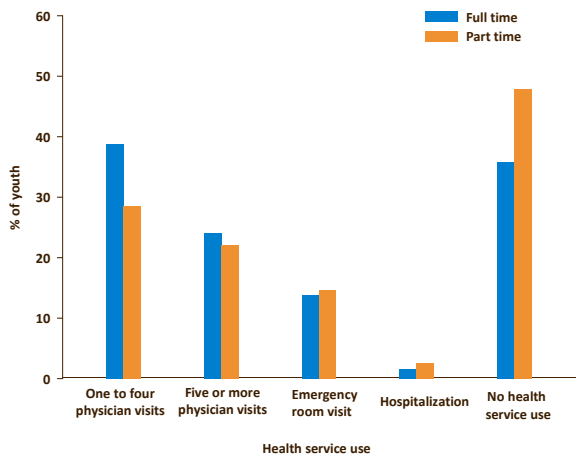
Mental health conditions are defined as receipt of services related to mental health conditions; that is, receipt of services is used here as a proxy for confirmed presence of a mental health condition. See *Definitions and Notes* (p.20).

- Among full-time post-secondary students, 11% had a mental health condition in 2008/09, compared to 15% of part-time post-secondary students in the same period.

Enrolment status by mental health condition
Albertan youth aged 17 to 24



Enrolment status by health service use
Albertan youth aged 17 to 24

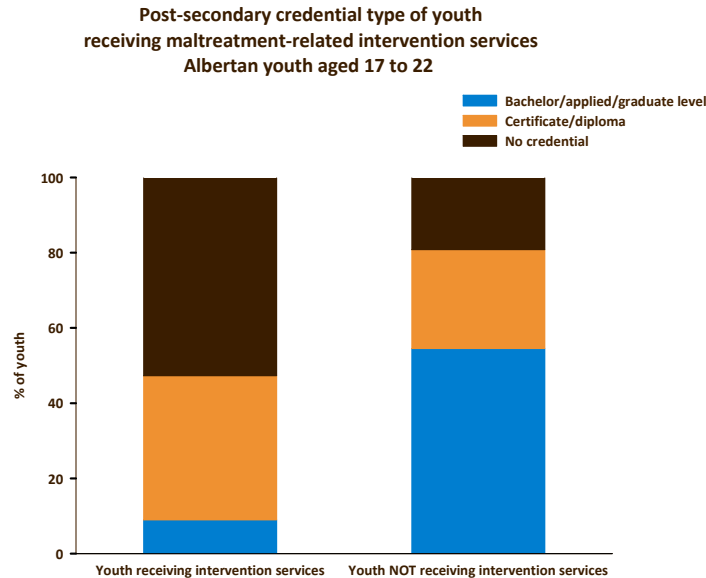


Enrolment status by health service use
(Table 18)

- Among part-time post-secondary students, 48% had not used a health service during the year, compared to 36% of full-time students.
- Emergency room visits and hospitalizations were more common among part-time than full-time students. In contrast, physician visits were more common among full-time students.

Post-secondary students in Alberta

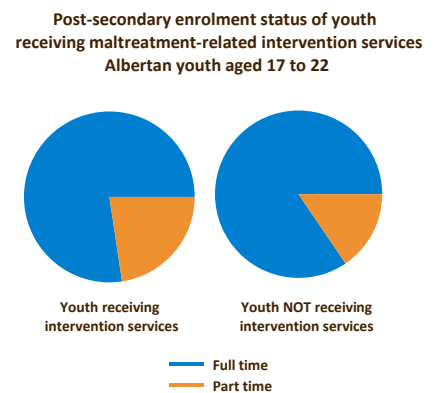
Credential type of youth receiving maltreatment-related intervention services (Table 19)



This analysis and the one below include youth (aged 17 to 22 years) enrolled in post-secondary institutions in 2008/09 and receiving maltreatment intervention services. Students who were aged 23 and 24 years were excluded because intervention services are only provided up to age 22. Note that 6% of youth receiving intervention services were attending post-secondary institutions (133 youth).

- Over half (53%) of post-secondary students receiving intervention services were enrolled in *no credential* programs. In contrast, over half (55%) of students not receiving such services were enrolled in degree-granting programs.
- 38% of students receiving intervention services were pursuing a certificate or diploma, compared with 26% of those not receiving intervention services.

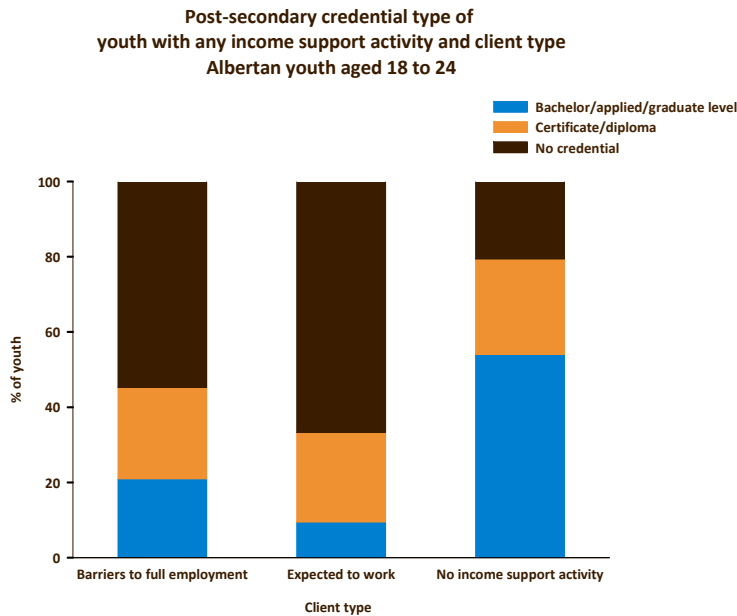
Enrolment status of youth receiving maltreatment-related intervention services (Table 20)



- 77% of students aged 17 to 22 years old who were receiving maltreatment-related intervention services and were enrolled in post-secondary programs were full-time students.
- 85% of students not receiving intervention services were attending post-secondary institutions full-time.

Post-secondary students in Alberta

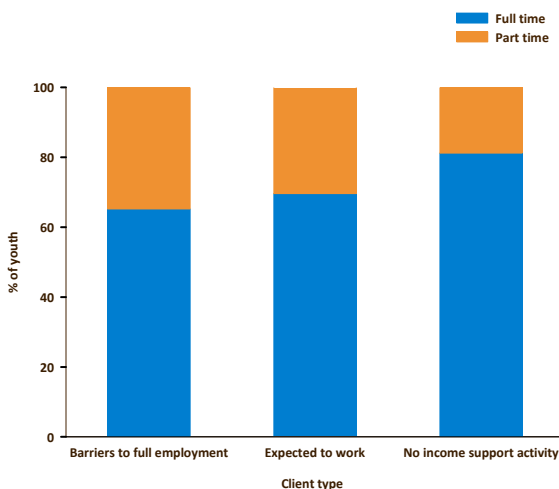
Credential type of youth with any income support activity by client type (Table 21)



This analysis and the one below include youth (aged 18 to 24 years) enrolled in post-secondary institutions with any income support activity during 2008/09. Youth with any income support activity are classified as *expected to work* or *barriers to full employment* in Human Services' income support system. For context, note that 6% of youth with any income support activity were attending post-secondary institutions, compared with 28% of post-secondary youth in the same age group with no income support activity.

- Among youth with any income support activity, youth experiencing *barriers to full employment* were more likely to be enrolled in degree-granting programs (21% of students) than youth *expected to work* (10%). Conversely, youth experiencing *barriers to full employment* were less likely to be enrolled in *no credential* programs (55% of students) than youth *expected to work* (67%).

Enrolment status of youth with any income support activity and client type
Albertan youth aged 18 to 24



Enrolment status of youth with any income support activity by client type (Table 22)

- Part-time status was more prevalent among post-secondary students with any income support activity than among students with no income support activity.
- Among students with any income support activity and *experiencing barriers to full employment*, 35% were enrolled in part-time programs, compared to 30% of students *expected to work* and 19% of students with no income support activity.

Post-secondary students in Alberta

Tables

Table 1. Number and percent of youth by post-secondary status and age, Albertan youth aged 17 to 24 years, 2008/09

	Post-secondary status	Age in years								
		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	Total
Number of youth	In post-secondary	634	11,208	18,035	19,565	19,067	17,831	14,722	12,092	113,154
	Not in post-secondary	57,123	46,201	39,041	36,629	37,484	40,564	44,943	48,632	350,617
	Total	57,757	57,409	57,076	56,194	56,551	58,395	59,665	60,724	463,771
Percent of youth	In post-secondary	1.1	19.5	31.6	34.8	33.7	30.5	24.7	19.9	24.4
	Not in post-secondary	98.9	80.5	38.4	65.2	66.3	69.5	75.3	80.1	75.6
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 2. Number and percent of youth by post-secondary status and gender, Albertan youth aged 17 to 24 years, 2008/09

	Gender	Pursuing post-secondary education		
		Yes	No	Total
Number of youth	Females	64,450	166,943	231,393
	Males	48,678	183,674	232,352
	Total	113,128	350,617	463,745
Percent of youth	Females	57.0	47.6	49.9
	Males	43.0	52.4	50.1
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 3. Number and percent of youth by post-secondary status and region of residence, Albertan youth aged 17 to 24 years, 2008/09

	Region of residence	Pursuing post-secondary education		
		Yes	No	Total
Number of youth	Rural	14,021	77,525	91,546
	Mid-sized centre	12,336	57,270	69,606
	Large centre	70,404	215,169	285,573
	Total	96,761	349,964	446,725
Percent of youth	Rural	14.5	22.2	20.5
	Mid-sized centre	12.7	16.4	15.6
	Large centre	72.8	61.5	63.9
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 4. Number and percent of youth by post-secondary status and socio-economic status (SES) and age, Albertan youth aged 17 to 24 years, 2008/09

	Socio-economic status (SES)	Pursuing post-secondary education		
		Yes	No	Total
Number of youth, 17 to 20 years	Lowest SES	7,261	42,839	50,100
	Highest SES	12,424	32,791	45,215
	Total (all quintiles)	43,521	173,687	217,208
Percent of youth, 17 to 20 years	Lowest SES	16.7	24.7	23.1
	Highest SES	28.6	18.9	20.8
Number of youth, 21 to 24 years	Lowest SES	9,648	41,904	51,552
	Highest SES	13,624	28,443	42,067
	Total (all quintiles)	52,451	165,349	217,800
Percent of youth, 21 to 24 years	Lowest SES	18.4	25.3	23.7
	Highest SES	26.0	17.2	19.3

Post-secondary students in Alberta

Tables (continued)

Table 5. Number and percent of youth by post-secondary status and mental health status, Albertan youth aged 17 to 24 years, 2008/09

	Mental health status	Pursuing post-secondary education		
		Yes	No	Total
Number of youth	Any mental health condition	9,330	37,292	46,622
	No mental health condition	72,641	275,776	348,417
	Total	81,971	313,068	395,039
Percent of youth	Any mental health condition	11.4	11.9	11.8
	No mental health condition	88.6	88.1	88.2
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 6. Number and percent of youth by post-secondary status and health service use, Albertan youth aged 17 to 24 years, 2008/09

	Health service use*	Pursuing post-secondary education		
		Yes	No	Total
Number of youth	One to four physician visits	41,646	149,583	191,229
	Five or more physician visits	26,801	93,311	120,112
	Emergency room visit	15,762	93,026	108,788
	Hospitalization	1,890	17,520	19,410
	No health service use	43,096	92,293	135,389
	Total	113,154	350,617	463,771
Percent of youth	One to four physician visits	36.8	42.7	41.2
	Five or more physician visits	23.7	26.6	25.9
	Emergency room visit	13.9	26.5	23.5
	Hospitalization	1.7	5.0	4.2
	No health service use	38.1	26.3	29.2
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

*Health service use categories are not mutually exclusive

Table 7. Number and percent of youth enrolled in a post-secondary institution in Alberta by credential type and age, Albertan youth aged 17 to 24 years, 2008/09

	Credential type	Age (years)								Total
		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
Number of youth	Bachelor/applied/graduate level	179	6484	9641	10324	10,461	9,942	7,930	6,001	60,962
	Certificate/diploma	146	2833	5297	5695	4,727	4,013	3,136	2,719	28,566
	No credential	309	1891	3097	3546	3,879	3,876	3,656	3,372	23,626
	Total	634	11208	18035	19565	19,067	17,831	14,722	12,092	113,154
Percent of youth	Bachelor/applied/graduate level	28.2	57.9	53.5	52.8	54.9	55.8	53.9	49.6	53.9
	Certificate/diploma	23.0	25.3	29.4	29.1	24.8	22.5	21.3	22.5	25.3
	No credential	48.7	16.9	17.2	18.1	20.3	21.7	24.8	27.9	20.9
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Post-secondary students in Alberta

Tables (continued)

Table 8. Number and percent of youth enrolled in post-secondary institution in Alberta by credential type and gender, Albertan youth aged 17 to 24 years, 2008/09

	Gender	Credential type			Total
		Bachelor/ applied/ graduate level	Certificate/ diploma	No credential	
Number of youth	Female	34,945	15,515	13,990	64,450
	Male	26,016	13,048	9,614	48,678
	Total	60,961	28,563	23,604	113,128
Percent of youth	Female	57.3	54.3	59.3	57.0
	Male	42.7	45.7	40.7	43.0
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 9. Number and percent of youth enrolled in a post-secondary institution in Alberta by credential type and region of residence, Albertan youth aged 17 to 24 years, 2008/09

	Credential type	Region of residence			Total
		Rural	Mid-sized	Large	
Number of youth	Bachelor/applied/ graduate level	6,522	5,839	42,217	54,578
	Certificate/Diploma	4,820	3,874	16,297	24,991
	No credential	2,679	2,623	11,890	17,192
	Total	14,021	12,336	70,404	96,761
Percent of youth	Bachelor/applied/ graduate level	46.5	47.3	60.0	56.4
	Certificate/Diploma	34.4	31.4	23.2	25.8
	No credential	19.1	21.3	16.9	17.8
	Region of residence	Credential type			Total
		Bachelor/applied/ graduate level	Certificate/diploma	No credential	
Number of youth	Rural	6,522	4,820	2,679	14,021
	Mid-sized centre	5,839	3,874	2,623	12,336
	Large centre	42,217	16,297	11,890	70,404
	Total	54,578	24,991	17,192	96,761
Percent of youth	Rural	12.0	19.3	15.6	14.5
	Mid-sized centre	10.7	15.5	15.3	12.7
	Large centre	77.4	65.2	69.2	72.8
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Post-secondary students in Alberta

Tables (continued)

Table 10. Number and percent of youth enrolled in a post-secondary institution in Alberta by credential type and socio-economic status (SES), Albertan youth aged 17 to 24 years, 2008/09

	Socio-economic status	Credential type			Total
		Bachelor/applied/ graduate level	Certificate/ diploma	No credential	
Number of youth	Lowest SES	7,666	5,339	3,904	16,909
	Low middle	7,429	4,048	2,625	14,102
	Middle	11,186	5,824	3,917	20,927
	High middle	10,545	4,472	2,969	17,986
	Highest SES	17,353	5,093	3,602	26,048
	Total	54,179	24,776	17,017	95,972
Percent of youth	Lowest SES	14.2	21.6	22.9	17.6
	Low middle	13.7	16.3	15.4	14.7
	Middle	20.7	23.5	23.0	21.8
	High middle	19.5	18.1	17.5	18.7
	Highest SES	32.0	20.6	21.2	27.1
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 11. Number and percent of youth enrolled in a post-secondary institution in Alberta by credential type and mental health status, Albertan youth aged 17- 24 years, 2008/09

	Mental health status	Credential type			Total
		Bachelor/applied/ graduate level	Certificate/ diploma	No credential	
Number of youth	Any mental health condition	4,831	2,357	2,142	9,330
	No mental health condition	42,898	18,093	11,650	72,641
	Total	47,729	20,450	13,792	81,971
Percent of youth	Any mental health condition	10.1	11.5	15.5	11.4
	No mental health condition	89.9	88.5	84.5	88.6
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Post-secondary students in Alberta

Tables (continued)

Table 12. Number and percent of youth by post-secondary credential type and health service use, Albertan youth aged 17 to 24 years, 2008/09

	Health service use*	Credential type			Total
		Bachelor/applied/ graduate level	Certificate/ diploma	No credential	
Number of youth	One to four physician visits	24,858	10,222	6,566	41,646
	Five or more physician visits	14,812	6,733	5,256	26,801
	Emergency room visit	7,090	4,894	3,778	15,762
	Hospitalization	701	571	618	1,890
	No health service use	20,607	11,087	11,402	43,096
	Total	60,962	28,566	23,626	113,154
Percent of youth	One to four physician visits	40.8	35.8	27.8	36.8
	Five or more physician visits	24.3	23.6	22.2	23.7
	Emergency room visit	11.6	17.1	16.0	13.9
	Hospitalization	1.1	2.0	2.6	1.7
	No health service use	33.8	38.8	48.3	38.1
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

*Health service use categories are not mutually exclusive

Table 13. Number and percent of youth enrolled in a post-secondary institution in Alberta by enrolment status and age, Albertan youth aged 17 to 24 years, 2008/09

	Enrolment status	Age in years								Total
		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
Number of youth	Full time	308	10,080	15,993	16,838	15,814	13,935	10,556	8,122	91,646
	Part time	326	1,128	2,042	2,727	3,253	3,896	4,166	3,970	21,508
	Total	634	11,208	18,035	19,565	19,067	17,831	14,722	12,092	113,154
Percent of youth	Full time	48.6	89.9	88.7	86.1	82.9	78.2	71.7	67.2	81.0
	Part time	51.4	10.1	11.3	13.9	17.1	21.8	28.3	32.8	19.0
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 14. Number and percent of youth enrolled in a post-secondary institution in Alberta by enrolment status and gender, Albertan youth aged 17-24 years, 2008/09

	Enrolment status	Gender		
		Female	Male	Total
Number of youth	Full time	51,732	39,903	91,635
	Part time	12,718	8,775	21,493
	Total	64,450	48,678	113,128
Percent of youth	Full time	80.3	82.0	81.0
	Part time	19.7	18.0	19.0
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Post-secondary students in Alberta

Tables (continued)

Table 15. Number and percent of youth enrolled in a post-secondary institution in Alberta by enrolment status and region of residence, Albertan youth aged 17 to 24 years, 2008/09

	Enrolment Status	Region of residence			
		Rural	Mid-sized	Large	Total
Number of youth	Full time	11,626	10,110	59,320	81,056
	Part time	2,395	2,226	11,084	15,705
	Total	14,021	12,336	70,404	96,761
Percent of youth	Full time	82.9	82.0	84.3	83.8
	Part time	17.1	18.0	15.7	16.2
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 16. Number and percent of youth enrolled in a post-secondary institution in Alberta by enrolment status and socio-economic status (SES), Albertan youth aged 17 to 24 years, 2008/09

	Socio-economic status	Enrolment status		
		Full time	Part time	Total
Number of youth	Lowest SES	13,656	3,253	16,909
	Low middle	11,713	2,389	14,102
	Middle	17,206	3,721	20,927
	High middle	15,182	2,804	17,986
	Highest SES	22,636	3,412	26,048
	Total	80,393	15,579	95,972
Percent of youth	Lowest SES	17.0	20.9	17.6
	Low middle	14.6	15.3	14.7
	Middle	21.4	23.9	21.8
	High middle	18.9	18.0	18.7
	Highest SES	28.2	21.9	27.1
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 17. Number and percent of youth enrolled in a post-secondary institution in Alberta by enrolment status and mental health status, Albertan youth aged 17 to 24 years, 2008/09

	Mental health status	Enrolment status		
		Full time	Part time	Total
Number of youth	Any mental health condition	7,420	1,910	9,330
	No mental health condition	61,797	10,844	72,641
	Total	69,217	12,754	81,971
Percent of youth	Any mental health condition	10.7	15.0	11.4
	No mental health condition	89.3	85.0	88.6
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Post-secondary students in Alberta

Tables (continued)

Table 18. Number and percent of youth by post-secondary enrolment status and health service use, Albertan youth aged 17 to 24 years, 2008/09

	Health service use*	Enrolment status		
		Full time	Part time	Total
Number of youth	One to four physician visits	35,525	6,121	41,646
	Five or more physician visits	22,042	4,759	26,801
	Emergency room visit	12,615	3,147	15,762
	Hospitalization	1,355	535	1,890
	No health service use	32,817	10,279	43,096
	Total	91,646	21,508	113,154
Percent of youth	One to four physician visits	38.8	28.5	36.8
	Five or more physician visits	24.1	22.1	23.7
	Emergency room visits	13.8	14.6	13.9
	Hospitalization	1.5	2.5	1.7
	No health service use	35.8	47.8	38.1
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

*Health service use categories not mutually exclusive

Table 19. Number and percent of youth enrolled in a post-secondary institution in Alberta by credential type and receipt of maltreatment-related intervention services, Albertan youth aged 17 to 22 years, 2008/09

	Credential type	Receiving child intervention services		
		Yes	No	Total
Number of youth	Bachelor/applied/graduate level	12	47,019	47,031
	Certificate/diploma	51	22,660	22,711
	No credential	70	16,528	16,598
	Total	133	86,207	86,340
Percent of youth	Bachelor/applied/graduate level	9.0	54.5	54.5
	Certificate/diploma	38.3	26.3	26.3
	No credential	52.6	19.2	19.2
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 20. Number and percent of youth enrolled in a post-secondary institution in Alberta by enrolment status and receipt of child intervention services, Albertan youth aged 17-22 years, 2008/09

	Enrolment status	Receiving child intervention services		
		Yes	No	Total
Number of youth	Full time	103	72,865	72,968
	Part time	30	13,342	13,372
	Total	133	86,207	86,340
Percent of youth	Full time	77.4	84.5	84.5
	Part time	22.6	15.5	15.5
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Post-secondary students in Alberta

Tables (continued)

Table 21. Number and percent of youth enrolled in a post-secondary institution in Alberta by credential type and income support activity and client type, Albertan youth aged 18 to 24 years, 2008/09

	Credential type	Client type			No income support activity
		Barriers to full employment	Expected to work	Total	
Number of youth	Bachelor/applied/graduate level	44	16	60	60,723
	Certificate/diploma	51	40	91	28,329
	No credential	115	112	227	23,090
	Total	210	168	378	112,142
Percent of youth	Bachelor/applied/graduate level	21.0	9.5	15.9	54.1
	Certificate/diploma	24.3	23.8	24.1	25.3
	No credential	54.8	66.7	60.1	20.6
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 22. Number and percent of youth enrolled in a post-secondary institution in Alberta by enrolment status and income support activity and client type, Albertan youth aged 18 to 24 years, 2008/09

	Enrolment status	Client type			No income support activity
		Barriers to full employment	Expected to work	Total	
Number of youth	Full time	137	117	254	91,084
	Part time	73	51	124	21,058
	Total	210	168	378	112,142
Percent of youth	Full time	65.2	69.6	67.2	81.2
	Part time	34.8	30.4	32.8	18.8
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Definitions and Notes

- The study population for this project consisted of all Albertan youth who were registered with the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan in 2008/09 or who received selected services from one or more of the participating ministries in 2008/09. “All Albertan youth” refers to this study population.
- The study year was fiscal year 2008/09. With the exception of Education and Enterprise and Advanced Education data, all data were for services provided between April 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009, with age determined on March 31, 2009.
 - Data for Enterprise and Advanced Education were for services provided between September 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009, with age determined on March 31, 2009.
 - Data for Education were for services provided to youth who were 12 to 19 years old on September 30, 2008. As a result, youth turning 12 between October 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009 *were not* included in the Education data but were included in other ministries’ data. This resulted in the number of 12 year olds in the Education data being lower (approximately 50% lower) than that of 13 to 17 year olds.
 - Furthermore, although Education only provides services to youth who are under 20, the provision of services is defined by age at September 30. Youth who turned 20 between October 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009 *were* included in the Education data, resulting in the inclusion of 20 year olds in some analyses of Education data.
- The study population inclusion criteria for the Enterprise and Advanced Technology population include “active learner” youth up to 25 years (as of March 31, 2009) who were enrolled in or completed a credit program in publicly funded post-secondary credit program institutions in Alberta (excluding Taylor University College and Seminary) in the 2008/09 academic year. An academic year constitutes the full year (i.e., all sessions offered by an institution during a year). The study population excludes students who completed an apprenticeship program or enrolled in a university transfer program.
- **Cross-ministry analyses included only youth that were linked across the relevant ministries.** This means that not all youth in the project were represented in every analysis. As well, only youth with a value for a given indicator were included in analyses involving that indicator (i.e., **missing values** were excluded).
- Age, gender, and postal code (translated into Statistics Canada dissemination areas) were provided for each individual by each participating ministry. In the case of discrepancies between ministries, the most common value for an indicator was chosen. In the event of two or more most common values, the value for the indicator was chosen randomly from the most common values.
- Dissemination areas of residence were used by CYDL to determine **region of residence**. Urban areas included large centres with urban core populations greater than 100,000 (i.e., Edmonton and Calgary metropolitan areas) and mid-sized centres with urban cores greater than 10,000; all other areas were categorized as rural.
- **Socio-economic status (SES)** captures the social and material environments in which youth live. A youth was assigned a socio-economic status via an index based on the Statistics Canada dissemination area in which he or she resided⁵. Six indicators were included in the index: percent without a high school diploma, the employment ratio, average income, percent of single families, percent of persons living alone, and percent of persons separated, divorced, or widowed. Socio-economic status values fell into five quintiles. In this report, “lowest socio-economic status” refers to the lowest quintile of socio-economic status, while “highest” refers to the highest quintile.

Definitions and Notes

- **Mental health status** was defined by the presence or absence of mental health diagnosis codes in Health’s databases (Inpatient—Discharge Abstract Database, Ambulatory Care, and Practitioner Payments), or in the Family Support for Children with Disabilities Information System. Only youth who were registered with Health for the full fiscal year were included in the mental health analyses. **Mental health service use is a proxy for presence of a mental health condition:** Some youth with mental health conditions may not have accessed mental health services in Alberta during the year, and some mental health service use may have occurred for youth who did not in fact have mental health conditions.
 - **Mental health conditions** were grouped based on The Johns Hopkins ACG® Case-Mix System (version 8.2)⁶. Mental health conditions were *mood/anxiety* (anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, etc.), *behavioural* (attention-deficit disorder, regulatory disorder, mental or behavioural problems due to substance use, etc.), *neurodevelopmental* (autism, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, cerebral palsy, etc.), or *schizophrenia/psychoses* (schizophrenia, psychosis, delusional disorder, etc.). Conditions were not mutually exclusive; a youth could have a diagnosis in more than one category.
- Participation in **post-secondary** education refers to enrolment in a post-secondary institution in Alberta. Youth enrolled in apprenticeship programs were not included.
- **Credential types** for post-secondary programs include bachelor/applied/graduate programs (also called degree-granting), certificate/diploma programs, and programs with no credential received upon completion.
- **Enrolment status** consists of full-time (students who enrolled in at least 60% of a full course load in at least one session in the academic year) or part-time (students who were enrolled in less than 60% of full course load in all sessions attended for the academic year).
- **Physician visits** reflect fee claims made by physicians when patients visit their offices. In this report, multiple claims by a given physician for a given patient on the same day were counted as a single visit.
- **Emergency room visits** refer to visits to emergency departments for assessment or treatment.
- **Hospitalizations** refer to admissions to hospital for assessment or treatment.
- **Maltreatment-related interventions** occur when the safety or well-being of a youth is threatened. Categories of intervention include *in care services* (the youth is taken into care, and placed in a foster home, with family, in a group home, etc.), and *out of care services* (the youth remains in the home and the family receives support services).
- **Income support** refers to financial benefits provided to individuals and couples who cannot meet their basic needs. The **client types** for income support clients are *expected to work* (clients who are looking for work, working, or unable to work in the short term) and *barriers to full employment* (clients who have difficulty working because of a chronic mental or physical health problem or because of multiple barriers to employment).

Post-secondary students in Alberta

Data sources

Ministry	Database	Use in this report
Enterprise and Advanced Education	Learner Enrolment Reporting System (LERS)	Post-secondary education enrolment
Health	Inpatient – Discharge Abstract Database (DAD)	Hospitalization data
Health	Ambulatory Care (ACCS)	Emergency room visit data
Health	Practitioner Payments (SESE)	Physician visit data
Health	Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan Population	Population registry
Human Services	Child Youth Information Module (CYIM)	Maltreatment and intervention data
Human Services	Central Client Directory (CCD)	Income support data

References

1. Torjman, S. (2010). *The power of post-secondary education*. Ottawa: The Caledon Institute of Social Policy.
2. Human Resources and Skill Development Canada. (2011). *Indicators of Well-Being in Canada*. Retrieved from <http://www4.hrsdc.gc.ca/.3ndic.1t.4r@-eng.jsp?iid=29>
3. MacKean, G. (2011). *Mental health and well-being in postsecondary education settings: A literature and environmental scan to support planning and action in Canada*. Kingston, ON: Canadian Association of College and University Student Services.
4. Food Banks Canada. (2011). *HungerCount: A comprehensive report on hunger and food bank use in Canada, and recommendations for change*. Canada.
5. Pampalon, R., Hamel, D., Garnache, P., Raymond, G. (2009). A deprivation index for health planning in Canada. *Chronic Diseases in Canada*, 29(4), 178-91.
6. The Johns Hopkins University (2008). *The Johns Hopkins ACG® System Reference Manual, Version 8.2*. Johns Hopkins University: Baltimore.

Post-secondary students in Alberta

Post-secondary students in Alberta

The Child and Youth Data Laboratory

The **Child and Youth Data Laboratory** (CYDL) links and analyzes administrative data from child- and youth-serving ministries in the Government of Alberta. The ministries participate in research design and provide data elements that contribute to answering research questions.

The CYDL's research provides groundbreaking opportunities to understand relationships between critical factors in the lives of children and youth in Alberta. The research results can be used to inform policy and program development and evaluation, both within and across ministries, and to inspire further research.

The CYDL is managed by the **Alberta Centre for Child, Family and Community Research** (ACCFRC). The Centre has evolved over its eight year history as a public-sector, innovative resource for evidence. The Centre develops, supports and integrates research across sectors and disciplines to provide a strong, evidence-based foundation for identifying and promoting effective public policy and service delivery to improve the well-being of children, families, and communities in Alberta, Canada, and internationally.

Our partners

This project was carried out on behalf of six ministries of the Government of Alberta. Each ministry collaborated extensively with the CYDL on this project, and their dedication to the project is gratefully acknowledged:

Enterprise and Advanced Education
Education
Health
Human Services
Aboriginal Relations
Justice and Solicitor General

Suggested citation

Child and Youth Data Laboratory (2012). *Post-secondary students in Alberta*. Edmonton: Alberta Centre for Child, Family and Community Research.

Contact CYDL

www.research4children.com

Click on "Data"

Xinjie Cui, Director
780 944 8631
xcui@research4children.com

Leslie Twilley, Senior Scientist
780 408 8734
ltwilley@research4children.com

Navjot (Jo) Lamba, Research Scientist
780 408 8735
jlamba@research4children.com



**Government
of Alberta ■**