

Income support among Albertan youth

Child and Youth Data Laboratory (CYDL)

Report for *Experiences of Albertan Youth Project*

Key findings

This report provides a profile of 6,599 Albertan youth (aged 18 to 24 years old) who received income support at any point in 2008/09. Human Services provides financial benefits to individuals and families who do not have the resources to meet their basic needs, such as food, clothing and shelter. Client types are those with *barriers to full employment* and those *expected to work*. Youth who received income support while upgrading or training (*learners*) were excluded. Household types are singles or couples, with or without children. See *Definitions and Notes* (p.21) for details.

The report looks at the relationships between income support client type and household type and age, gender, region of residence, socio-economic status, educational achievement, mental health status, and health service use for youth who received income support. These youth are compared with youth who did not receive income support. An overview of cross-ministry service use for youth receiving income support is also included.

- 1.6% of youth received income support at some point in 2008/09. 54% of these were *barriers to full employment* clients and 46% were *expected to work* clients. 60% were *singles*.
- Females were over-represented among income support clients who were *singles* with children or *expected to work*; males were predominant among *singles* without children.
- Income support clients were more likely than youth (aged 18 to 20 years) not receiving income support to live in mid-sized centres, to live in low to middle socio-economic status neighbourhoods, to perform below expectations in high school, to receive services for a mental health condition, and to have high health service use or no health service use.
- Compared to youth who did not receive income support, income support clients were less likely to be in the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP) registry or enrolled in a post-secondary institution, but were more likely to be receiving maltreatment-related intervention services. *Barriers to full employment* clients or *singles* without children were more likely than youth who did not receive income support to be enrolled in high school.



Contents

<i>Key findings and Context</i>	1 to 2
<i>Data analyses</i>	3 to 9
<i>Tables</i>	10 to 19
<i>Definitions and Notes</i>	20 to 21
<i>Data sources</i>	22
<i>References</i>	22
<i>About CYDL</i>	23



Income support among Albertan youth

Context

Income support is one of a broader suite of social programs provided by the various levels of government; other programs include supports for the elderly, the disabled, families, and the unemployed. Expenditures on income supports in Canada (known as *social assistance* in many jurisdictions) are the second largest of such programs, next to old age security programs.¹

A 2006 Albertan study found the largest proportion of income support clients was 20-29 years old (31%), while 9% of income support clients were 0-19 years old. The majority of individuals on income support who were working and *expected to work* were single parents (62%).² International literature suggests that youth are more likely to be on income support if they grew up in a family that relied on income support.^{3,4}

Key barriers to permanent employment for individuals who are able to work include mental health and addiction problems, lack of affordable childcare, lack of transportation, and poor skills in areas such as stress and conflict management or problem solving. The most common barriers to leaving income support include lack of work experience, health problems, child care issues, lack of a high school diploma, and lack of self-confidence.² Single parents and clients who have not graduated from high school are most likely to return to income support after leaving it.⁵

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.

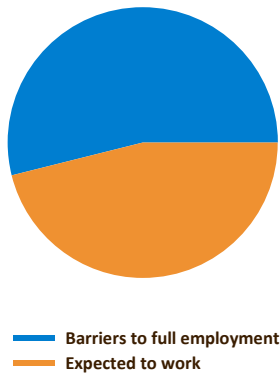
List of reports for the project

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

Income support among Albertan youth

Income support client type
Albertan youth aged 18 to 24



Income support client type (Table 1)

These analyses look at Albertan youth (aged 18 to 24 years) who received income support at any point in 2008/09 by income support client type.

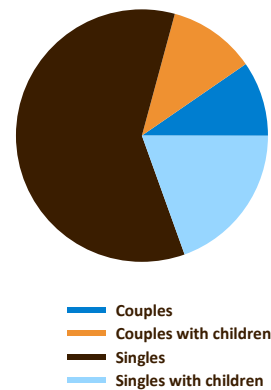
- 6,599 youth received income support services in 2008/09, representing 1.6% of 406,014 Albertan youth (aged 18 to 24 years).
- 54% of youth who received income support services were *barriers to full employment* clients, and 46% were *expected to work* clients.

Income support household type (Table 2)

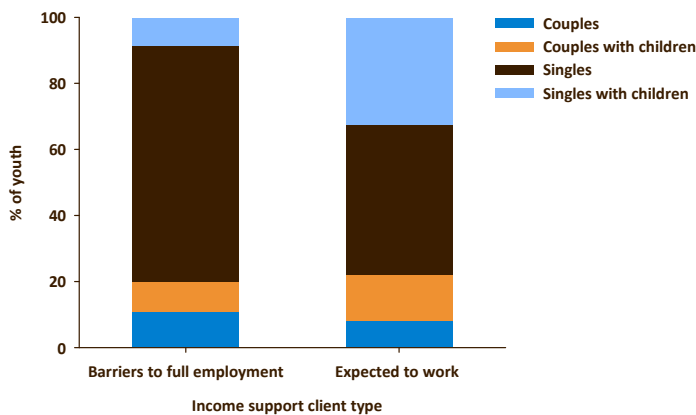
Household type refers to the family composition of income support clients (aged 18 to 24 years).

- 60% of youth who received income support services were *singles*, followed by *singles with children* (19%), *couples with children* (11%) and *couples* (10%).

Income support household type
Albertan youth aged 18 to 24



Income support client type by income support household type
Albertan youth aged 18 to 24



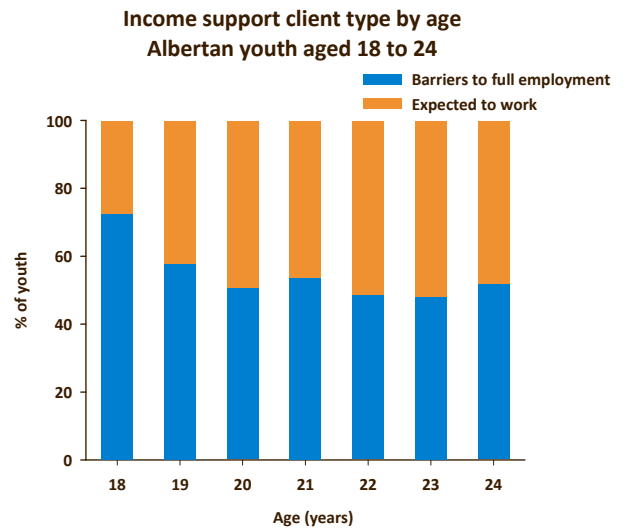
Income support client type by household type (Table 3)

- Youth with *barriers to full employment* were more likely to be *singles* (72%) than youth *expected to work* (46%).
- Among youth *expected to work* there were more *singles with children* (32%) than among youth with *barriers to full employment* (8%).

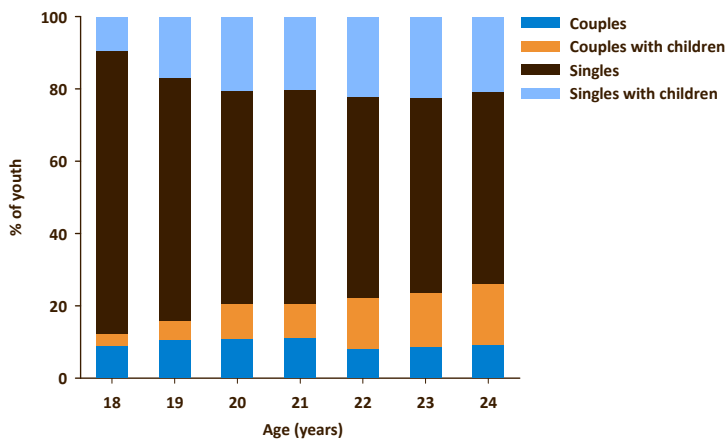
Income support among Albertan youth

Income support client type by age (Table 4)

- At age 22 and 23 years, more youth were classified as *expected to work* than with *barriers to full employment*.
- In contrast, across all other ages there were more youth with *barriers to full employment*. The highest percentage (72%) of youth with *barriers to full employment* was among 18 year olds.



Income support household type by age
Albertan youth aged 18 to 24

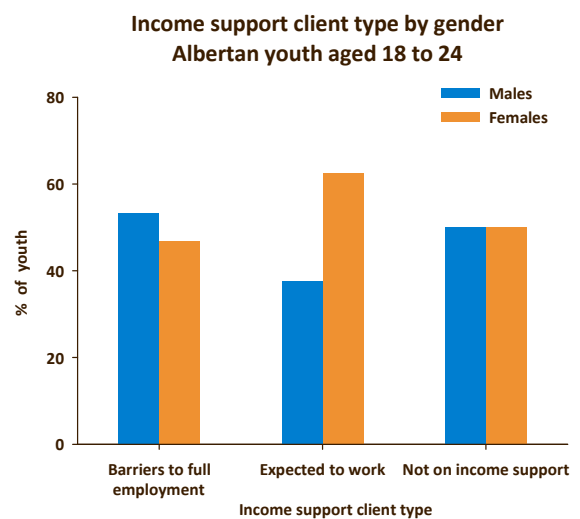


Income support household type by age (Table 5)

- The percentage of youth who were *singles* without children was highest among 18 year olds (78%). The percentage of *singles* without children decreased as youth got older.
- Conversely the percentage of youth who were *couples with or without children* increased as youth got older.
- The percentage of youth on income support who were *singles with children* varied slightly across the age range for 19 to 24 year olds.

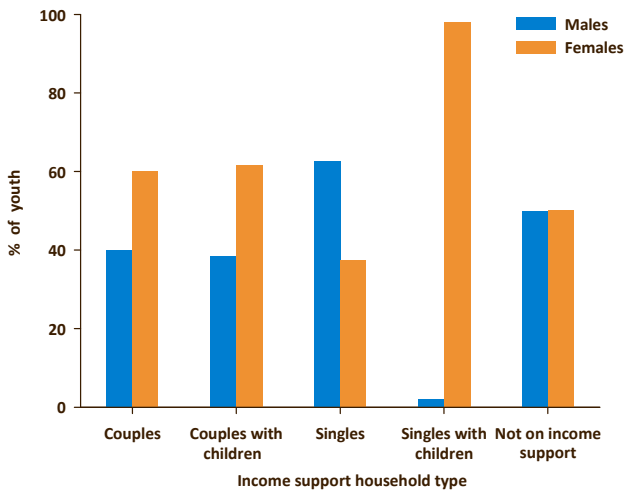
Income support client type by gender (Table 6)

- There were considerably more females (63%) than males among youth *expected to work*.
- There were slightly more males (53%) than females among youth with *barriers to full employment*.
- There were no gender differences for youth who did not receive income support.



Income support among Albertan youth

Income support household type by gender
Albertan youth aged 18 to 24



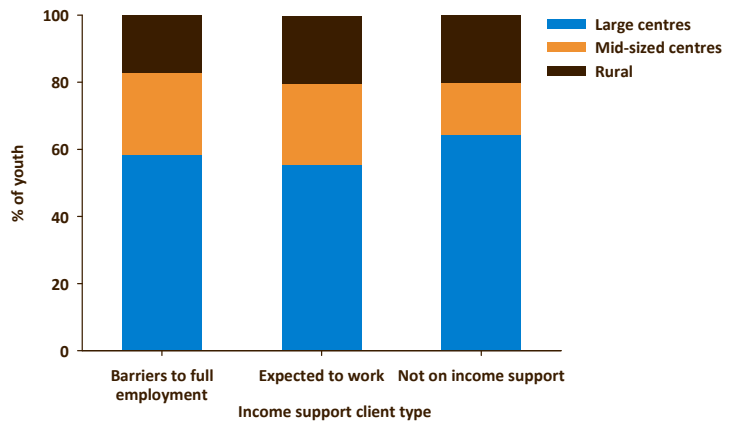
Income support household type by gender
(Table 7)

- *Singles with children* were overwhelmingly female (98%), while *singles* without children were predominantly male (63%).
- Female clients comprised a higher percentage of *couples with children* (60%) and *couples* without children (62%) than male clients (40% and 39% respectively).
- The percentage of females and males was equal among youth who did not receive income support.

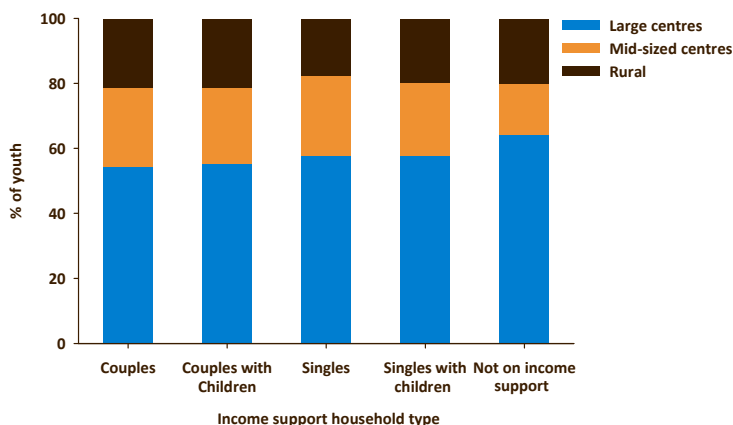
Income support client type by region of residence (Table 8)

- Nearly a quarter of youth who received income support (whether *expected to work* or *with barriers to full employment*) lived in mid-sized centres, compared to 16% of youth who did not receive income support.

Income support client type by region of residence
Albertan youth aged 18 to 24



Income support household type by region of residence
Albertan youth aged 18 to 24



Income support household type by region of residence (Table 9)

- Youth who received income support were more likely to live in mid-sized centres than youth who did not receive income support.
- Region of residence varied only slightly across the different household types.

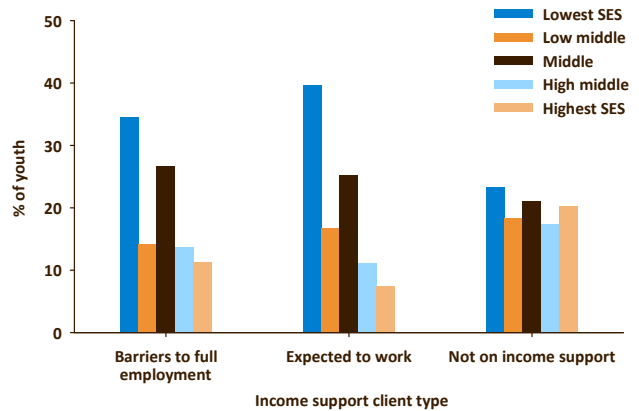
Income support among Albertan youth

Income support client type by socio-economic status (Table 10)

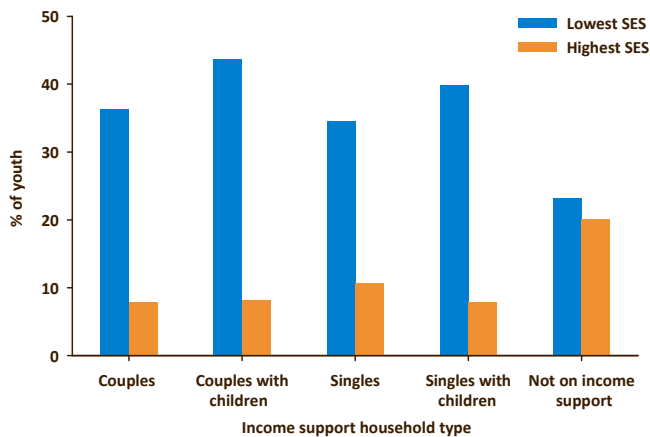
Socio-economic status captures the social and material environments in which youth live. See *Definitions and Notes* (p.20).

- Youth who received income support (*with barriers to full employment and expected to work*) were more likely to live in the lowest or middle socio-economic status neighbourhoods than youth who did not receive income support.

Income support client type by socio-economic status (SES)
Albertan youth aged 18 to 24



Income support household type by socio-economic status (SES)
Albertan youth aged 18 to 24



Income support household type by socio-economic status (Table 11)

Only the highest and lowest socio-economic status groups are shown in this analysis. See *Definitions and Notes* (p.20).

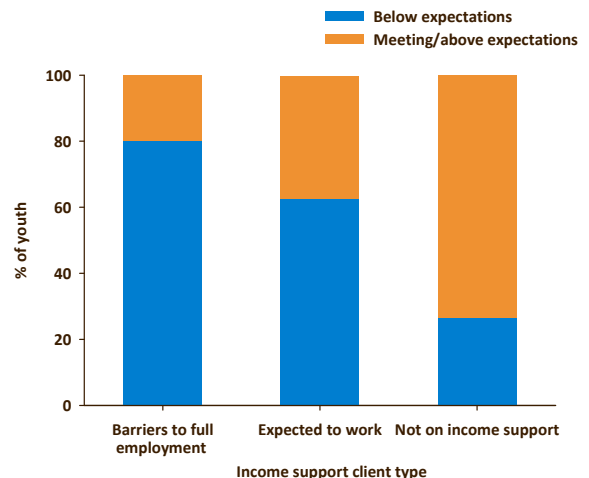
- Youth who received income support tended to live in lower socio-economic status neighbourhoods than youth who did not, regardless of household type.
- Singles* without children tended to live in slightly better socio-economic status neighbourhoods than *singles with children*, *couples*, and *couples without children*.

Income support client type by educational achievement (Table 12)

This analysis describes youth (aged 18 to 20 years) who received any income support and were registered in Alberta's K-12 education system (not necessarily simultaneously) in 2008/09 and had educational achievement information available.

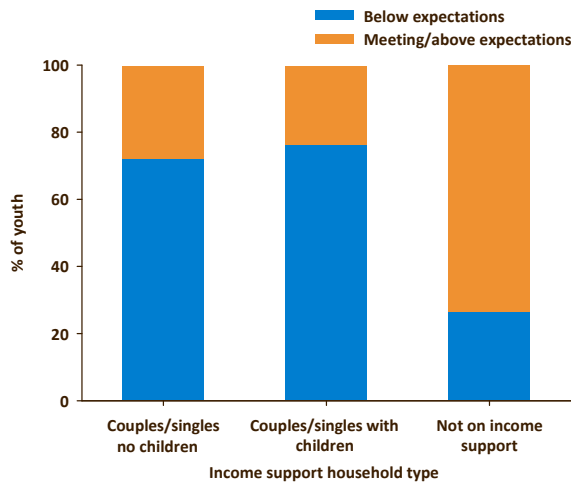
- 20% of youth with *barriers to full employment* and 37% of youth who were *expected to work* at some point in the year met or exceeded educational expectations. In contrast, 74% of youth who had not received income support at any time in the year met or exceeded educational expectations.

Income support client type by educational achievement
Albertan youth aged 18 to 20



Income support among Albertan youth

Income support household type by educational achievement
Albertan youth aged 18 to 20



Income support household type by educational achievement (Table 13)

Due to small numbers, household types were re-grouped into two categories; according to presence of children in the household.

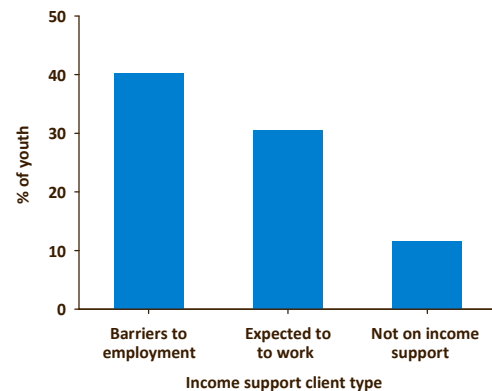
- Youth who received income support at any point in the year were less likely to meet or exceed educational expectations than youth who had not received income support, regardless of household type.
- *Couples and singles without children* who received income support at any point in the year were slightly more likely to have met or exceeded educational expectations (26%) compared to *singles and couples with children* (24%).

Income support client type by mental health status (Table 14)

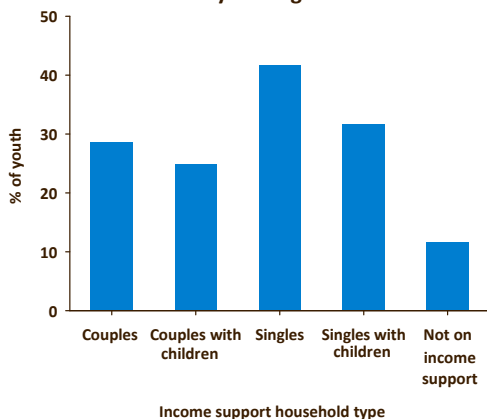
Mental health status refers to presence or absence of a mental health condition. Mental health conditions are defined as receipt of services related to mental health conditions; that is, receipt of services is used here as a proxy for confirmed presence of a mental health condition. See *Definitions and Notes* (p.21).

- Service use for mental health conditions was more common among youth who received income support than youth who did not.
- The highest rate of service use for mental health conditions (40%) was among youth who received income support with *barriers to full employment*, compared with 31% among youth *expected to work*, and 12% among youth who did not receive income support.

Income support client type by presence of a mental health condition
Albertan youth aged 18 to 24



Income support household type by presence of a mental health condition
Albertan youth aged 18 to 24



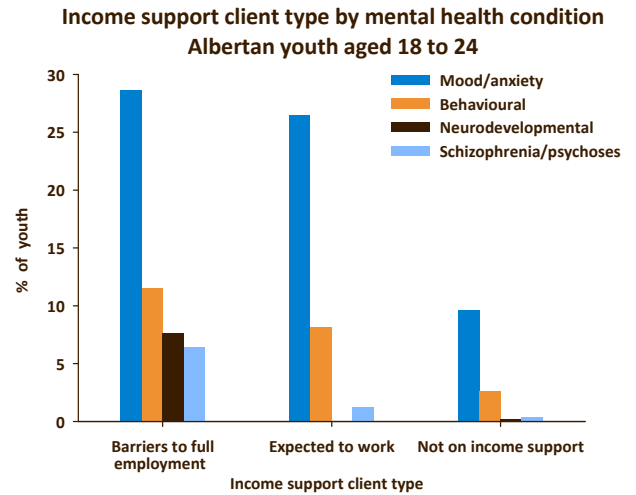
Income support household type by mental health status (Table 15)

- Service use for mental health conditions was higher among youth who received income support than among youth who did not.
- The highest rate (41%) was among *single* youth who received income support, compared with 32% among *singles with children*, 29% among *couples*, 25% among *couples with children* and 12% among youth who did not receive income support.
- Service use for mental health conditions was higher among *singles* with or without children, and lower among *couples* with or without children.

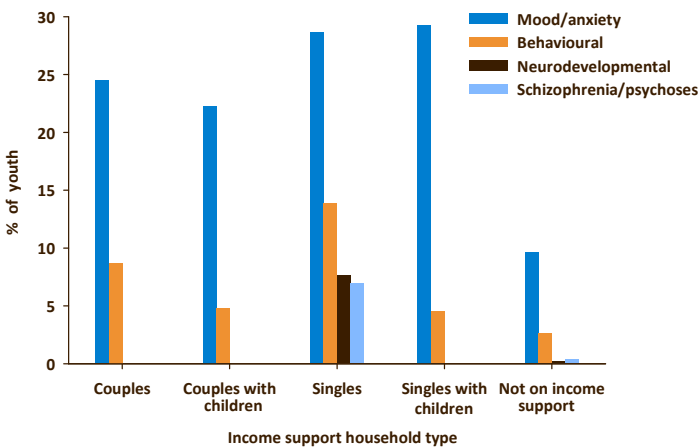
Income support among Albertan youth

Income support client type by mental health conditions (Table 16)

- All types of mental health conditions were most common among youth who received income support with *barriers to employment*.
- *Mood or anxiety* mental health conditions were almost three times higher among youth with *barriers to full employment* (29%) and those *expected to work* (27%) than among youth who did not receive income support (10%).



Income support household type by mental health condition (Table 17)



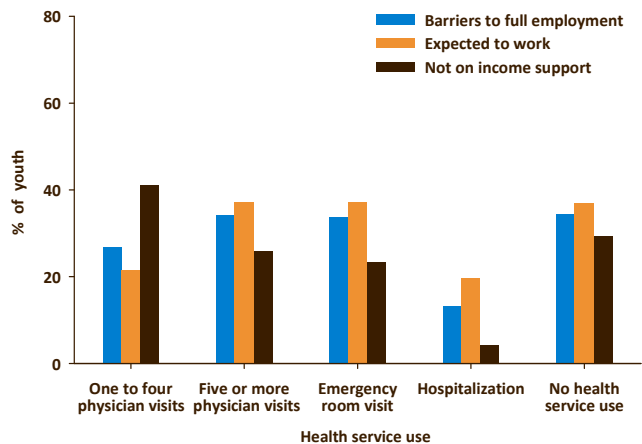
Income support household type by mental health condition (Table 17)

- All types of mental health conditions were most common among *singles* who received income support than among other groups, with the exception of mood/anxiety.
- The percentage of *mood or anxiety* mental health conditions among youth who received income support (range from 22% to 29%) was more than twice that of youth who did not receive income support (10%).
- *Singles* had the highest rate of *behavioural* conditions (14%), compared with 5% to 9% of other income support groups and 3% of youth who did not receive income support.

Income support client type by health service use (Table 18)

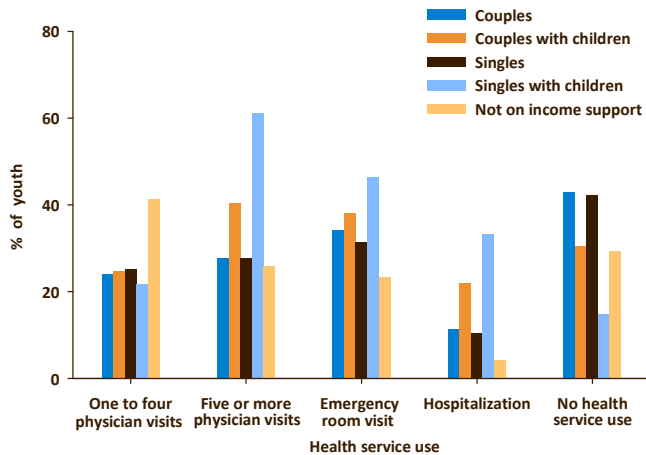
- Emergency room visits, hospitalizations and five or more physician visits were highest among youth *expected to work* than any other group.
- Youth *expected to work* were also more likely to have used no health services than any other group.
- Youth who did not receive income support had a higher percentage of one to four physician visits that youth who received income support.

Income support client type by health service use (Table 18)



Income support among Albertan youth

Income support household type by health service use
Albertan youth aged 18 to 24



Income support household type by health service use (Table 19)

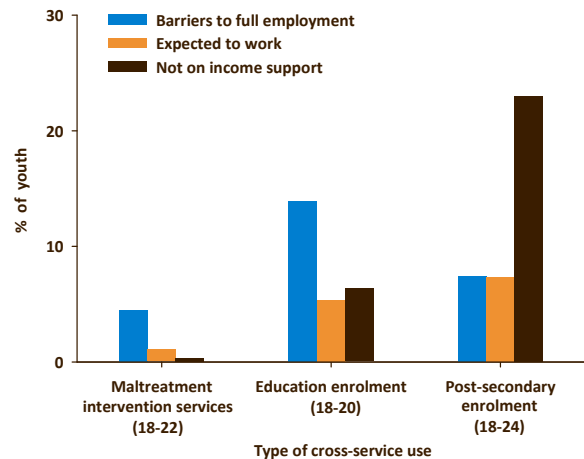
- *Singles with children* were more likely to have five or more physician visits, to have had an emergency room visit, or to have been hospitalized than any other group.
- *Couples* and *singles* were more likely to have no health service use than any other group.
- Youth who did not receive income support were more likely to have one to four physician visits than all other groups.

Income support client type by cross-service use (Table 20)

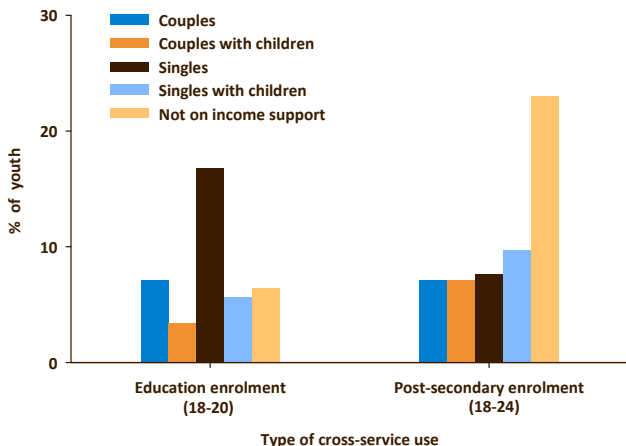
Youth were considered in this analysis if they were registered with the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP; See *Definitions and Notes* (p.20). The effects should be interpreted with caution; they cannot be generalized to youth not registered with AHCIP (28% of youth who received income support were not registered with AHCIP).

- Youth who received income support with *barriers to full employment* were more likely to have received maltreatment-related intervention services and to be enrolled in the K-12 education system (not necessarily simultaneously) than youth *expected to work* and those that did not receive income support.

Income support client type by cross-service use
Albertan youth aged 18 to 24



Income support household type by cross-services use
Albertan youth aged 18 to 24



Income support household type by cross-service use (Table 21)

- *Singles* who received income support in 2008/09 were more likely to have enrolled in Alberta's K-12 education system (not necessarily simultaneously) than all other income support household groups, including youth who did not receive income support.
- More *singles with children* who received income support in 2008/09 were enrolled in post-secondary institutions (not necessarily simultaneously) than any other income support household group.

Income support among Albertan youth

Tables

Table 1. Number and percent of youth by income support client type, Albertan youth aged 18 to 24 years, 2008/09

	Income support client type	Total
Number of youth	Barriers to full employment	3,557
	Expected to work	3,042
	Any income support	6,599
	Not on income support	399,415
	Total (aged 18 to 24 years)	406,014
Percent of youth	Barriers to full employment	0.9
	Expected to work	0.7
	Any income support	1.6
	Not on income support	98.4
	Total (aged 18 to 24 years)	100.0
Percent of youth on income support	Barriers to full employment	53.9
	Expected to work	46.1
	Total (aged 18 to 24 years)	100.0

Table 2. Number and percent of youth by income support household type, Albertan youth aged 18 to 24 years, 2008/09

	Income support household type	Total
Number of youth	Couples	632
	Couples with children	740
	Singles	3,941
	Singles with children	1,286
	Any income support	6,599
	Not on income support	399,415
	Total (aged 18 to 24 years)	406,014
Percent of youth	Couples	0.2
	Couples with children	0.2
	Singles	1.0
	Singles with children	0.3
	Any income support	1.6
	Not on income support	98.4
	Total (aged 18 to 24 years)	100.0
Percent of youth on income support	Couples	9.6
	Couples with children	11.2
	Singles	59.7
	Singles with children	19.5
	Total (aged 18 to 24 years)	100.0

Income support among Albertan youth

Tables (continued)

Table 3. Number and percent of youth by income support client type and income support household type, Albertan youth aged 18 to 24 years, 2008/09

	Household type	Client type		
		Barriers to full employment	Expected to work	Total
Number of youth	Couples	386	246	632
	Couples with children	320	420	740
	Singles	2,551	1,390	3,941
	Singles with children	300	986	1,286
	Total	3,557	3,042	6,599
Percent of youth	Couples	10.9	8.1	9.6
	Couples with children	9.0	13.8	11.2
	Singles	71.7	45.7	59.7
	Singles with children	8.4	32.4	19.5
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 4. Number and percent of youth by income support client type and age, Albertan youth aged 18 to 24 years, 2008/09

	Client type	Age (years)							Total
		18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
Number of youth	Barriers to full employment	507	510	439	511	505	521	564	3,557
	Expected to work	193	370	426	441	531	560	521	3,042
	Total	700	880	865	952	1,036	1,081	1,085	6,599
Percent of youth	Barriers to full employment	72.4	58.0	50.8	53.7	48.7	48.2	52.0	53.9
	Expected to work	27.6	42.0	49.2	46.3	51.3	51.8	48.0	46.1
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Income support among Albertan youth

Tables (continued)

Table 5. Number and percent of youth by income support household type and age, Albertan youth aged 18 to 24 years, 2008/09

	Household type	Age (years)							Total
		18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
Number of youth	Couples	62	92	94	106	83	95	100	632
	Couples with children	24	48	85	91	148	162	182	740
	Singles	547	592	508	561	574	581	578	3,941
	Singles with children	67	148	178	194	231	243	225	1,286
	Total	700	880	865	952	1,036	1,081	1,085	6,599
Percent of youth	Couples	8.9	10.5	10.9	11.1	8.0	8.8	9.2	9.6
	Couples with children	3.4	5.5	9.8	9.6	14.3	15.0	16.8	11.2
	Singles	78.1	67.3	58.7	58.9	55.4	53.7	53.3	59.7
	Singles with children	9.6	16.8	20.6	20.4	22.3	22.5	20.7	19.5
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 6. Number and percent youth by income support client type and gender, Albertan youth aged 18 to 24 years, 2008/09

	Gender	Income support client type			
		Barriers to full employment	Expected to work	Total	Not receiving income support
Number of youth	Female	1,665	1,902	3,567	199,888
	Male	1,892	1,140	3,032	199,501
	Total	3,557	3,042	6,599	399,389
Percent of youth	Female	46.8	62.5	54.1	50.0
	Male	53.2	37.5	45.9	50.0
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Income support among Albertan youth

Tables (continued)

Table 7. Number and percent youth by income support household type and gender, Albertan youth aged 18 to 24 years, 2008/09

	Gender	Income support household type					Total	Not receiving income support
		Couples	Couples with children	Singles	Singles with children			
Number of youth	Female	379	455	1,471	1,262	3,567	199,888	
	Male	253	285	2,470	24	3,032	199,501	
	Total	632	740	3,941	1,286	6,599	399,389	
Percent of youth	Female	60.0	61.5	37.3	98.1	54.1	50.0	
	Male	40.0	38.5	62.7	1.9	45.9	50.0	
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	

Table 8. Number and percent of youth by income support client type and region of residence, Albertan youth aged 18 to 24 years, 2008/09

	Region of residence	Income support client type			Total	Not receiving income support
		Barriers to full employment	Expected to work			
Number of youth	Rural	606	618	1,224	77,230	
	Mid-sized centres	850	730	1,580	59,282	
	Large centres	2,052	1,678	3,730	246,359	
	Total	3,508	3,026	6,534	382,871	
Percent of youth	Rural	17.3	20.4	18.7	20.2	
	Mid-sized centres	24.2	24.1	24.2	15.5	
	Large centres	58.5	55.5	57.1	64.3	
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	

Income support among Albertan youth

Tables (continued)

Table 9. Number and percent of youth by income support household type and region of residence, Albertan youth aged 18 to 24 years, 2008/09

	Region of residence	Income support household type					Total	Not receiving income support
		Couples	Couples with children	Singles	Singles with children			
Number of youth	Rural	133	157	682	252	1,224	77,230	
	Mid-sized centres	150	174	966	290	1,580	59,282	
	Large centres	339	404	2,246	741	3,730	246,359	
	Total	622	735	3,894	1,283	6,534	382,871	
Percent of youth	Rural	21.4	21.4	17.5	19.6	18.7	20.2	
	Mid-sized centres	24.1	23.7	24.8	22.6	24.2	15.5	
	Large centres	54.5	55.0	57.7	57.8	57.1	64.3	
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	

Table 10. Number and percent of youth by income support client type and socio-economic status (SES), Albertan youth aged 18 to 24 years, 2008/09

	Socio-economic status	Income support client type			Total	Not receiving income support
		Barriers to full employment	Expected to work			
Number of youth	Lowest SES	1,183	1,151		2,334	86,429
	Low middle	489	487		976	68,133
	Middle	915	729		1,644	77,924
	High middle	469	324		793	64,886
	Highest SES	386	217		603	75,012
	Total	3,442	2,908		6,350	372,384
Percent of youth	Lowest SES	34.4	39.6		36.8	23.2
	Low middle	14.2	16.7		15.4	18.3
	Middle	26.6	25.1		25.9	20.9
	High middle	13.6	11.1		12.5	17.4
	Highest SES	11.2	7.5		9.5	20.1
	Total	100.0	100.0		100.0	100.0

Income support among Albertan youth

Tables (continued)

Table 11. Number and percent of youth by income support household type and socio-economic status (SES), Albertan youth aged 18 to 24 years, 2008/09

	Socio-economic status	Income support household type					Total	Not receiving income support
		Couples	Couples with children	Singles	Singles with children			
Number of youth	Lowest SES	219	314	1,298	503	2,334	86,429	
	Low middle	94	114	570	198	976	68,133	
	Middle	174	166	973	331	1,644	77,924	
	High middle	70	69	520	134	793	64,886	
	Highest SES	47	59	397	100	603	75,012	
	Total	604	722	3,758	1,266	6,350	372,384	
Percent of youth	Lowest SES	36.3	43.5	34.5	39.7	36.8	23.2	
	Low middle	15.6	15.8	15.2	15.6	15.4	18.3	
	Middle	28.8	23.0	25.9	26.1	25.9	20.9	
	High middle	11.6	9.6	13.8	10.6	12.5	17.4	
	Highest SES	7.8	8.2	10.6	7.9	9.5	20.1	
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	

Table 12. Number and percent of youth by income support client type and educational achievement, Albertan youth aged 18 to 20 years, 2008/09

	Educational achievement	Income support client type			Total	Not receiving income support
		Barriers to full employment	Expected to work			
Number of youth	Below expectations	336	77	413	7,506	
	Meeting/above expectations	84	46	130	20,929	
	Total	420	123	543	28,435	
Percent of youth	Below expectations	80.0	62.6	76.1	26.4	
	Meeting/above expectations	20.0	37.4	23.9	73.6	
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	

Income support among Albertan youth

Tables (continued)

Table 13. Number and percent of youth by income support household type and educational achievement, Albertan youth aged 18 to 20 years, 2008/09

	Educational achievement	Income support household type			
		Couples and singles	Couples and singles with children	Total	Not receiving income support
Number of youth	Below expectations	353	60	413	7,506
	Meeting/above expectations	109	21	130	20,929
	Total	462	81	543	28,435
Percent of youth	Below expectations	76.4	74.1	76.1	26.4
	Meeting/above expectations	23.6	25.9	23.9	73.6
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 14. Number and percent of youth by income support client type and mental health status, Albertan youth aged 18 to 24 years, 2008/09

	Mental health status	Income support client type			
		Barriers to full employment	Expected to work	Total	Not receiving income support
Number of youth	Any mental health condition	966	592	1,558	39,792
	No mental health condition	1,441	1,339	2,780	302,972
	Total	2,407	1,931	4,338	342,764
Percent of youth	Any mental health condition	40.1	30.7	35.9	11.6
	No mental health condition	59.9	69.3	64.1	88.4
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 15. Number and percent of youth by income support household type and mental health status, Albertan youth aged 18 to 24 years, 2008/09

	Mental health status	Income support household type					
		Couples	Couples with children	Singles	Singles with children	Total	Not receiving income support
Number of youth	Any mental health condition	105	135	981	337	1,558	39,792
	No mental health condition	263	408	1,380	729	2,780	302,972
	Total	368	543	2,361	1,066	4,338	342,764
Percent of youth	Any mental health condition	28.5	24.9	41.6	31.6	35.9	11.6
	No mental health condition	71.5	75.1	58.4	68.4	64.1	88.4
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Income support among Albertan youth

Tables (continued)

Table 16. Number and percent of youth by income support client type and mental health condition, Albertan youth aged 18 to 24 years, 2008/09

	Mental health condition*	Income support client type			
		Barriers to full employment	Expected to work	Total	Not receiving income support
Number of youth	Mood/anxiety	688	511	1,199	32,953
	Behavioural	276	157	433	9,026
	Neurodevelopmental**	184	–	–	673
	Schizophrenia/psychoses	154	23	177	1,210
	Total (income support category)	2,407	1,931	4,338	342,764
Percent of youth	Mood/anxiety	28.6	26.5	27.6	9.6
	Behavioural	11.5	8.1	10.0	2.6
	Neurodevelopmental**	7.6	–	–	0.2
	Schizophrenia/psychoses	6.4	1.2	4.1	0.4

*Mental health condition categories are not mutually exclusive

**Due to small cell numbers neurodevelopmental conditions are not shown for some income support client types

Table 17. Number and percent of youth by income support household type and mental health condition, Albertan youth aged 18 to 24 years, 2008/09

	Mental health condition*	Income support household type					Total	Not receiving income support
		Couples	Couples with children	Singles	Singles with children	Total		
Number of youth	Mood/anxiety	90	121	676	312	1,199	32,953	
	Behavioural	32	26	327	48	433	9,026	
	Neurodevelopmental**	–	–	180	–	–	673	
	Schizophrenia/psychoses**	–	–	164	–	–	1,210	
	Total (income support category)	368	543	2,361	1,066	4,338	342,764	
Percent of youth	Mood/anxiety	24.5	22.3	28.6	29.3	27.6	9.6	
	Behavioural	8.7	4.8	13.9	4.5	10.0	2.6	
	Neurodevelopmental**	–	–	7.6	–	–	0.2	
	Schizophrenia/psychoses**	–	–	6.9	–	–	0.4	

*Mental health condition categories are not mutually exclusive

**Due to small cell numbers neurodevelopmental and Schizophrenia/psychoses conditions are not shown for some household types

Income support among Albertan youth

Tables (continued)

Table 18. Number and percent of youth by income support client type and health service use, Albertan youth aged 18 to 24 years, 2008/09

	Health service use*	Income support client type				
		Barriers to full employment	Expected to work	Total	Not receiving income support	
Number of youth	One to four physician visits	950	653	1,603	164,376	
	Five or more physician visits	1,214	1,131	2,345	103,136	
	Emergency room visit	1,195	1,130	2,325	93,095	
	Hospitalization	471	600	1,071	16,820	
	Any health service use	2,333	1,917	4,250	282,675	
	No health service use	1,224	1,125	2,349	116,740	
	Total health service use	3,557	3,042	6,599	399,415	
Percent of youth	One to four physician visits	26.7	21.5	24.3	41.2	
	Five or more physician visits	34.1	37.2	35.5	25.8	
	Emergency room visit	33.6	37.1	35.2	23.3	
	Hospitalization	13.2	19.7	16.2	4.2	
	Any health service use	65.6	63.0	64.4	70.8	
	No health service use	34.4	37.0	35.6	29.2	

*Health service use categories are not mutually exclusive

Table 19. Number and percent of youth by income support household type and health service use, Albertan youth aged 18 to 24 years, 2008/09

	Health service use*	Income support client type					Total	Not receiving income support
		Couples	Couples with children	Singles	Singles with children			
Number of youth	One to four physician visits	152	183	989	279	1,603	164,376	
	Five or more physician visits	175	298	1,087	785	2,345	103,136	
	Emergency room visit	216	281	1,232	596	2,325	93,095	
	Hospitalization	71	162	412	426	1,071	16,820	
	Any health service use	361	514	2,280	1,095	4,250	282,675	
	No health service use	271	226	1,661	191	2,349	116,740	
	Total health service use	632	740	3,941	1,286	6,599	399,415	
Percent of youth	One to four physician visits	24.1	24.7	25.1	21.7	24.3	41.2	
	Five or more physician visits	27.7	40.3	27.6	61.0	35.5	25.8	
	Emergency room visit	34.2	38.0	31.3	46.3	35.2	23.3	
	Hospitalization	11.2	21.9	10.5	33.1	16.2	4.2	
	Any health service use	57.1	69.5	57.9	85.1	64.4	70.8	
	No health service use	42.9	30.5	42.1	14.9	35.6	29.2	

*Health service use categories are not mutually exclusive

Income support among Albertan youth

Tables (continued)

Table 20. Number and percent of youth by income support client type and cross-service use, Albertan youth aged 18 to 24 years, 2008/09*

	Type of cross-service use	Income support client type			
		Barriers to full employment	Expected to work	Total	Not receiving income support
Number of youth	Maltreatment intervention services	119	20	139	1,213
	Education enrolment	423	126	549	28,931
	Post-secondary enrolment	210	168	378	112,142
	Health registry	2,611	2,120	4,731	365,896
Percent of youth	Maltreatment intervention services	4.6	0.9	2.9	0.3
	Education enrolment	16.2	5.9	11.6	7.9
	Post-secondary enrolment	8.0	7.9	8.0	30.6
	Health registry	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

*Only youth registered in the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan were included in this analysis

Table 21. Number and percent of youth by income support household type and cross-service use, Albertan youth aged 18 to 24 years, 2008/09*

	Type of cross-service use	Income support client type					Total	Not receiving income support
		Couples	Couples with children	Singles	Singles with children	Total		
Number of youth	Education enrolment	29	20	436	64	549	28,931	
	Post secondary enrolment	29	42	197	110	378	112,142	
	Health registry	409	593	2,598	1,131	4,731	365,896	
Percent of youth	Education enrolment	7.1	3.4	16.8	5.7	11.6	7.9	
	Post secondary enrolment	7.1	7.1	7.6	9.7	8.0	30.6	
	Health registry	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	

*Only youth registered in the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan were included in this analysis

Income support among Albertan youth

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.
- **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 resided⁶. 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.
- **Educational achievement** was computed by Alberta Education using age, grade, school type, special education codes, provincial achievement test scores, home education status, number of high school credits earned, number of higher level courses taken, average grade in higher level courses, possession of an Alberta Education certificate or diploma, and Alexander Rutherford scholarship eligibility. Educational achievement was categorized as *above, meeting, or below expectations* for a student’s age and grade. An educational achievement rating was not available for 12 to 14 year old youth without scores on provincial achievement tests, for youth in ‘other’ schools (accredited post-secondary institutions offering high school courses for credit to adults; most youth in these schools were between 18 and 20 years), and for home-schooled high school youth with no credits.

Income support among Albertan youth

Definitions and Notes (continued)

- **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 the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan 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)⁷. 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.
- **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). *Use this note only if you use client type in your analyses.*
- **Household types** include singles (one adult in the household) with or without children, and couples (two adults in the household) with or without children.
- **Physician visits** reflect fee claims made by physicians for services provided 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. Reasons for physician visits were not available for this project.
- **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.
- Participation in **education** refers to enrolment in the kindergarten to grade 12 education system in Alberta.
- Participation in **post-secondary** education refers to enrolment in a post-secondary institution in Alberta. Youth enrolled in apprenticeship programs were not included.
- New and returning Alberta residents, if they are eligible, must register for **Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan** coverage to receive insured health services. Youth in the "**health registry**" refers to all youth who are insured in Alberta. This includes any eligible youth who is a permanent resident of Alberta, living at least 183 days per year in the province. Members of the Canadian Armed Forces, Royal Canadian Mounted Police and federal penitentiary inmates are not eligible (they receive coverage from the federal government), but dependents of these non-eligible residents, who reside in Alberta, are eligible. *Use this note only if you have an analysis subset to those in the registry.*

Income support among Albertan youth

Data sources

Ministry	Database	Use in this report
Enterprise and Advanced Education	Learner Enrolment Reporting System (LERS)	Post-secondary education enrolment data
Education	Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW)	Primary and secondary education achievement data
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 Registry (AHCIP registry)	Population registry
Human Services	Child Youth Information Module (CYIM)	Maltreatment and intervention data
Human Services	Family Support for Children with Disabilities Information System (FSCDIS)	Family Supports for Children with Disabilities data
Human Services	Central Client Directory (CCD)	Income support data
Justice and Solicitor General	Justice Online Information Network (JOIN)	Offence data
Justice and Solicitor General	Alberta Community Offender Management System (ACOM)	Corrections data (community)
Justice and Solicitor General	Correctional Offender Management Information System (CoMIS)	Corrections data (custody)

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Income support among Albertan youth

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

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