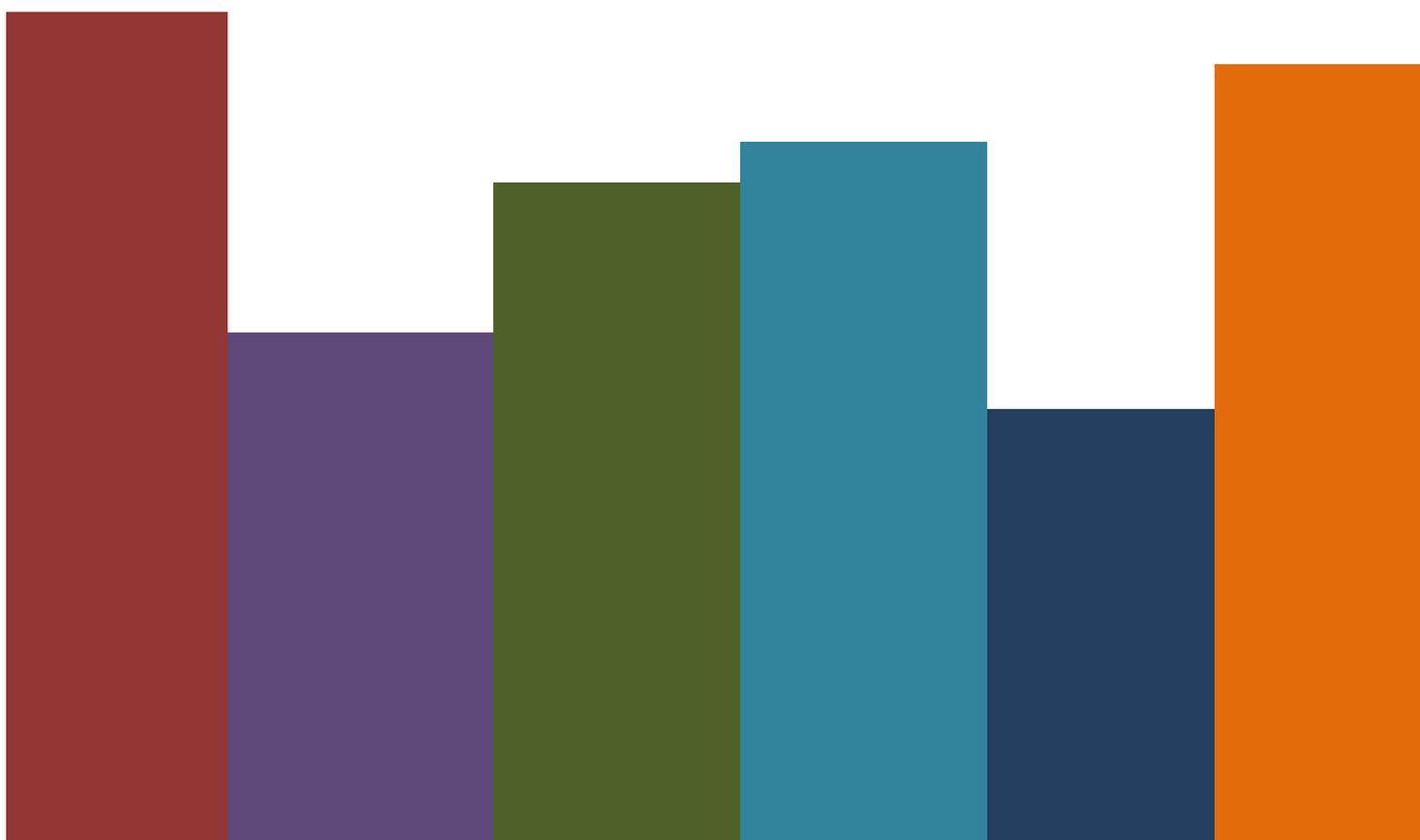


A Profile of Youth in Surrey

July
2012

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Key Facts about Youth in Surrey

All youth need opportunities to belong, be cared about, contribute and develop competencies.

The majority of youth in Surrey are healthy, thriving and successfully transitioning to adulthood.

Youth in Surrey

Surrey is a young city. A quarter of Surrey's population is under 19 years, and Surrey has the largest number of youth of all BC municipalities.

- There are 57,560 youth aged 10-18 years.
- There are 37,440 youth aged 19-24 years.
- Surrey has one quarter of all youth (age 10-18 years) in Metro Vancouver.

Family Connections

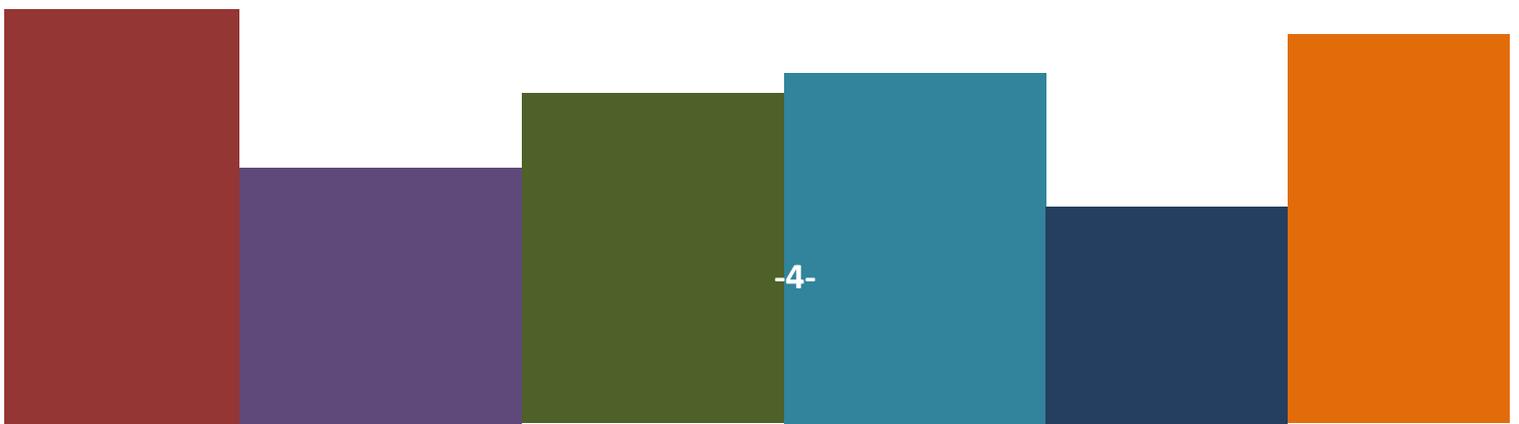
The diversity of Surrey is reflected in its families.

- Half of Surrey youth speak a language other than English at home.
- 19,424 new immigrants settled in Surrey between 2007-2009, 22% were under 19, and 15% were aged 19-24 years.

School Connections

The Surrey School District is the largest district in British Columbia. The district grows by approximately 800 students a year.

- There are over 70,000 students enrolled in the Surrey School District in the 2011/2012 school year.
- There are 31,825 students in grades 8-12.
- The majority of students report feeling safe at school.



Community Connections

Youth are actively volunteering, working and participating in their communities.

- 60% of youth had done some sort of volunteer work in the last year.
- A third of youth work during the school year.

Healthy Development

The physical and emotional health of youth in the Fraser Region is similar to provincial rates.

- Having input into the activities that they are involved in promotes youth's health.
- Only 24% of males and 11% of females exercised every day, while 7% of males and 10% of females do not exercise at all. These rates are similar to provincial rates.
- The majority of youth in the Fraser Region report high self-esteem, similar to elsewhere in BC.
- 49% of students in grade 7 to 12 in the Fraser Region have tried more than just a few sips of alcohol (54% provincially). Alcohol use increases with age.
- 80% of students in grades 7 to 12 in the Fraser Region report never having had sexual intercourse. This was identical for males and females, and was consistent with the provincial rates.
- 14% of students experienced racial discrimination in the past year, slightly above the provincial rate of 12%.
- 17% of students in grades 7 to 12 in the Fraser Region reported that they had been physically abused, and 8% reported that they had been sexually abused (similar to provincial rates).

Transitions to Adulthood

The majority of Surrey youth are transitioning to adulthood successfully.

- Approximately 77% of 18-24 year olds in Surrey live at home.
- The number of Surrey high school students who immediately transition to post secondary education is increasing (58%), but below the regional average (60%).
- Most young adults in Surrey are working.

Special Youth Populations

Some populations of youth benefit from targeted support.

- Surrey is home to many Aboriginal children and youth. There are 1,473 Aboriginal students in grades 8-12. The Surrey School District has the highest number of Aboriginal students in the lower mainland.
- Surrey is a primary destination for Government Assisted Refugees (GARs) arriving in BC. Half of GARS coming to Surrey are under age 19.
- Surrey is home to 672 children in the government care system, of which 305 are aged 13-18 years.
- 40 homeless youth were counted in 2011.
- Approximately 9% of students in the Surrey School District have a disability.

Introduction

Surrey is home to over 100,000 children and youth, and these numbers continue to grow.

The City of Surrey is committed to being a community in which all children and youth thrive. In 2010, Mayor and Council affirmed this commitment by adopting a *Child and Youth Friendly City Strategy*. The Strategy includes a vision, goals and recommended actions to promote the healthy development of young people. Among the Strategy's recommendations is that the City "*prepare a profile of children and youth in Surrey that includes demographic and other relevant information that will provide an evidence-base for policy and program development.*"

In 2009, the Surrey/White Rock Office of Early Childhood Development, Learning and Care released *A Demographic Profile of Children and Families in Surrey and White Rock*. This youth profile complements the children's profile by providing information on Surrey's youth population.

About this Profile

The Future Lives Here: A Profile of Youth in Surrey is intended to provide a snapshot or key information that will help in planning policies and programs to support youth in Surrey. The profile compiles information that is publically available from a variety of sources.

Using existing data has limitations:

- different data sources often use different geographic boundaries and age categories to report information; and
- much of the information is based on the 2006 census data, and so does not reflect Surrey's high population growth in the past 5 years.

Throughout the report, the data sources are noted. A reference list and additional Information on the data sources is available on page 29.

Of note is the definition of "youth". This profile includes information on young people as young as 10 years and as old as 24 years, depending on the section of the report and data source.

Healthy Youth Development

Research shows that adolescence is a critical developmental stage in the life cycle. Key competencies developed during adolescence require that youth have opportunities to:

- Participate as citizens, as household members, as workers, as responsible members of society;
- Gain experience in decision making;
- Interact with peers, and acquire a sense of belonging;
- Reflect on self, in relation to others, and to discover self by looking outward as well as inward;
- Discuss conflicting values and formulate one's own value system;
- Experiment with one's own identity, with relationships to other people, with ideas; to try out various roles without having to commit oneself irrevocably;
- Develop a feeling of accountability in the context of a relationship among equals; and
- Cultivate a capacity to enjoy life

Protective Factors, Resilience, and Healthy Youth Development, Resnick (2000)

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Youth in Surrey

“I believe it is important to see that young people are resources to nurture, not problems to solve.”

–Cynthia Bhourji

Surrey Youth

About 60,000 young people between the ages of 10 and 18 years resided in Surrey in 2011.

- This represents 12% of Surrey’s total population of 468,250.
- Children and youth aged 0-18 years make up 25% of the total population of Surrey.
- 37,440 Surrey residents are aged 19-24 years, a critical stage between adolescence and adulthood.

(Statistics Canada, 2011 Census)

Youth and Young Adults in Surrey, Metro Vancouver, and Vancouver (2011 census)			
Age group	Surrey	Metro Vancouver	Vancouver
0-18	115,520	469,750	94,170
10-18	57,560	240,175	46,995
19-24	37,440	188,975	50,560
Total pop.	468,250	2,313,325	603,500

(Statistics Canada, 2011 Census)

Surrey has more children and youth than any other city in British Columbia.

- Surrey has almost one quarter, (24%), of all 10-18 year olds in Metro Vancouver.
- Surrey has 57,560 youth aged 10-18 years, followed by the City of Vancouver with 46,995 youth aged 10-18.

(Statistics Canada, 2011 Census)

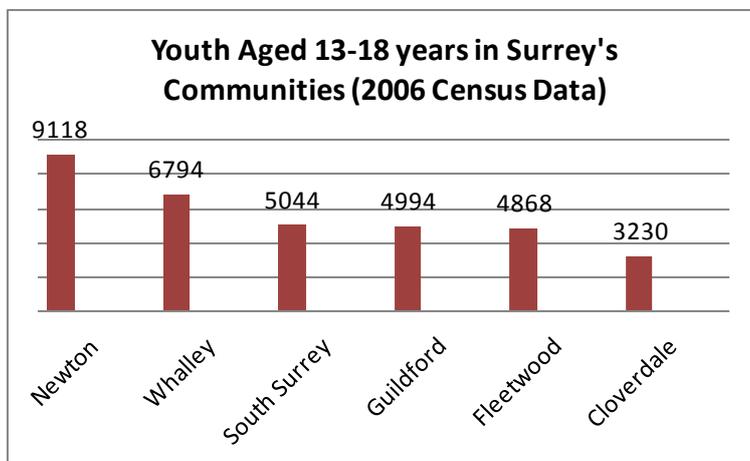
- Like most Canadian cities, Surrey’s population is aging. The proportion of the population that are children and youth is declining, however, in absolute numbers it continues to increase.

(City of Surrey, Population Fact Sheet)

Newton has the largest number of youth.

- According to the 2006 census, there are 9,118 youth aged 13-18 years in Newton (26% of all youth in Surrey).
- Despite differences in total numbers, the proportion of the youth population in each community is similar (between 8-10%).

(Demographic Profile of Children and Families in Surrey and WhiteRock, OEDLC)



(Demographic Profile of Children and Families in Surrey and WhiteRock, OEDLC)

2 Family Connections

Parents have perhaps the most influential role on their children. Although adolescence is often a time of gaining independence from one's family, research suggests that adolescents want close relationships with their parents and rely on them for support and guidance. Strong bonds between parents and adolescents protect youth from engaging in health risk behaviors, particularly when parents recognize, value, and reward prosocial behaviours.

Michael Resnick

–Adolescent Health: Understanding and Preventing Risk Behaviors

Living in Surrey has enabled me to see things differently. Despite living in a typical suburban neighborhood, the diversity of Surrey has let me experience different types of cultures. A City as varied as Surrey helps youth understand the different points of view on life. I have been so grateful because hearing stories of struggle from my neighbors and my peers has made me realize that I should be thankful that this city has let my family settle in a secure and beautiful community.

–Bianca Ongkeko, Surrey Youth

Family Structure

Fifteen percent of families in Surrey are headed by a lone parent.

- 12% of Surrey families are female-headed, and 3% are headed by a single male parent.

(BC Stats, 2006 census profile)

Mobility

Frequent moving can negatively impact young peoples' healthy development.

- 17% of students in the Fraser Region reported moving once in the last year, 6% moved twice, and 6% reported moving 3 or more times.

(McCreary Centre Society, A Picture of Health: Fraser South/Fraser East)

Immigration

Surrey has many recent immigrants.

- In 2006, Surrey had over 29,000 residents who are considered recent immigrants (arrived in Canada between 2001 and 2006).
- In Guildford and Newton, 10% of residents are new immigrants.

(City of Surrey, Citizenship and Immigration Fact Sheet)

Many new immigrants to Surrey are children and youth.

- 19,424 new immigrants settled in Surrey between 2007-2009.
- Of these newcomers, 22% were under 19 years, and 15% were aged 19-24.

(BC Stats, School District 36 – Surrey Statistical Profile)

Language

Half of students in Surrey speak a language other than English at home.

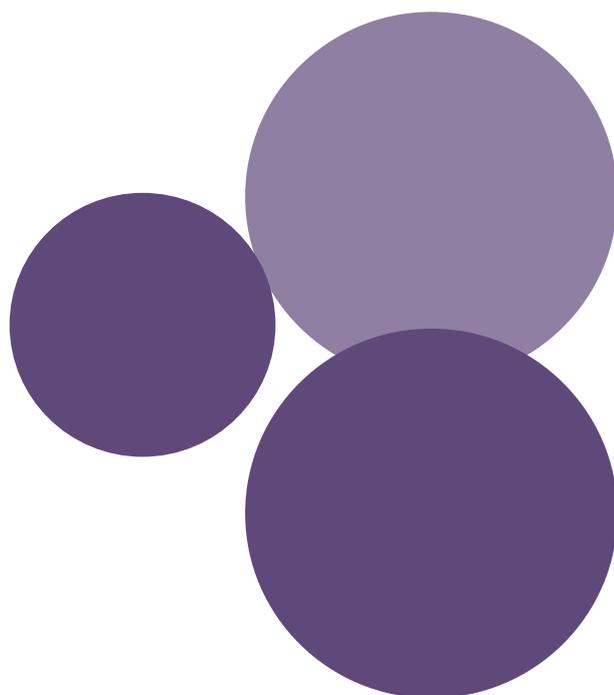
- 50% of students speak English at home.
- 22% of students speak Punjabi at home, 3% speak Hindi, 3% speak Tagalog and 3% speak Mandarin.

(BC Ministry of Education, SD36 Student Statistics)

Recent Immigrants (2001-2006) by Community

	Number of recent im-migrants	% of community that are recent immigrants
Cloverdale	950	3%
Fleetwood	2,970	6%
Guildford	5,135	10%
Newton	10,785	10%
South Surrey	1,850	3%
Whalley	7,540	9%
Surrey	29,230	7%

City of Surrey, Citizenship and Immigration Fact Sheet



Language Spoken at Home Among Surrey Students in K-12

Language	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
English	57%	56%	52%	50%
Punjabi	20%	20%	21%	22%
Hindi	3%	3%	3%	3%
Tagalog	2%	2%	3%	3%
Mandarin	2%	2%	2%	3%

BC Ministry of Education, SD36 Student Statistics

3 School Connections

Along with the family, schools are where most adolescents are socialized into adulthood. Kids enter middle school and high school representing a wide developmental range. They are tall or short, young or old for their grade. Many come with enormous encouragement from home. Others come with great family burdens. Still others come hungry, abused, or depressed. No matter what their background, middle and high school students all need to accomplish the same developmental tasks. They all need to successfully navigate adolescence and the transition to adulthood. By default or design, many behaviors and attitudes that are learned and cultivated in schools have consequences that survive into adulthood.

Blum, McNeely and Rinehart

–Improving the Odds: The Untapped Power of Schools to Improve the Health of Teens

Enrolment

Surrey School District (#36) is the largest school district in British Columbia.

- There are over 70,000 students enrolled in School District 36 in the 2011/2012 school year.
- The district reports growth of approximately 800 students a year.

(SD36 enrolment numbers)

- For the 2011/12 school year, there were over 31,825 students in grades 8-12 in SD 36.

(BC Ministry of Education, SD36 Student Statistics)

Liking School

Liking and feeling connected to school is linked to better physical and emotional health, and to reduced risk taking behaviours (such as alcohol and drug use, fighting etc.)

- Among students in grade 7 to 12 in the Fraser Region, females are more likely than males to report liking school “very much” (23% of females vs. 18% of males).

(McCreary Centre Society, A Picture of Health: Fraser South/Fraser East)

- In the Surrey School District, 91% of grade 7 students, 69% of grade 10 students and 76% of grade 12 students report that 2 or more adults at their school care about them.

(BC Ministry of Education, SD36 Satisfaction Survey)

Skipping school increases with age.

- 28% of students in grades 7-12 in the Fraser Region report skipping at least one full day of school in the past month (a rate similar to the provincial average).
- Skipping school increases with age, from 11% of grade 7 students to 48% of students in grade 12.
- The McCreary report shows that youth who skip school feel less connected to school, and had more trouble getting along with teachers and peers, as compared to students who do not skip school.

(McCreary Centre Society, A Picture of Health: Fraser South/Fraser East)

Graduation

The majority of Surrey students complete high school.

- 83% of students in the Surrey School District graduate within 6 years of first entering grade 8.

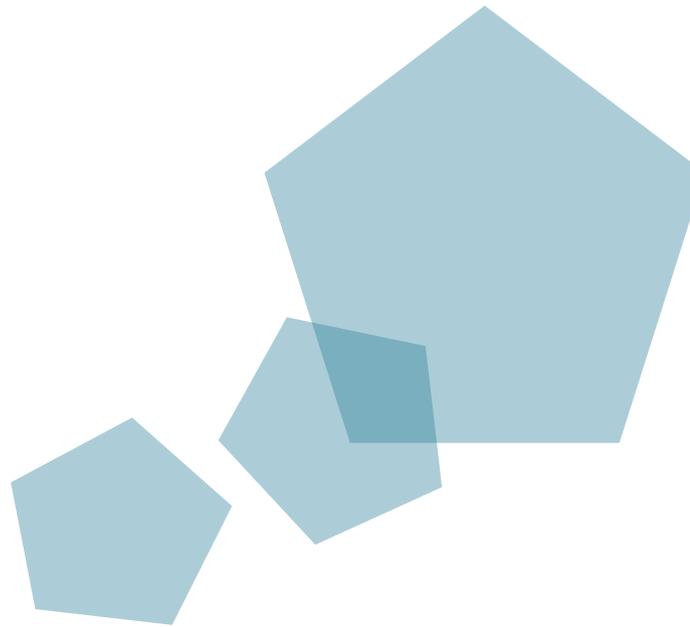
(Superintendent’s Report on Student Achievement 2011/12)

Feeling Safe at School

The majority of Surrey students feel safe at school.

- 86% of grade 7 students, 74% of Grade 10 students and 74% of grade 12 students report feeling safe at school “many times” or “all the time”.
- 7% of grade 7 students, 8% of grade 10 students, and 9% of grade 12 students report being bullied, teased, or picked on “many times” or “all the time”.

(BC Ministry of Education, SD36 Satisfaction Survey)



4 Community Connections

Young people don't grow up in programs, they grow up in communities.

Karen Pittman

Forum for Youth Investment

Volunteering

The majority of youth volunteer.

- 60% of youth in the Fraser Region report having done some form of volunteer work in the past year, including babysitting or helping a charity.
- 27% of these youth reported volunteering once a week or more.

(McCreary Centre Society, A Picture of Health: Fraser South/Fraser East)

Employment

A third of youth work during the school year.

- 38% of high-school students in the Fraser Region work at a paid job during the school year.
- Of these students, 27% work less than 5 hours a week, 57% work 5 to 19 hours, and 17% work 20 hours or more each week.

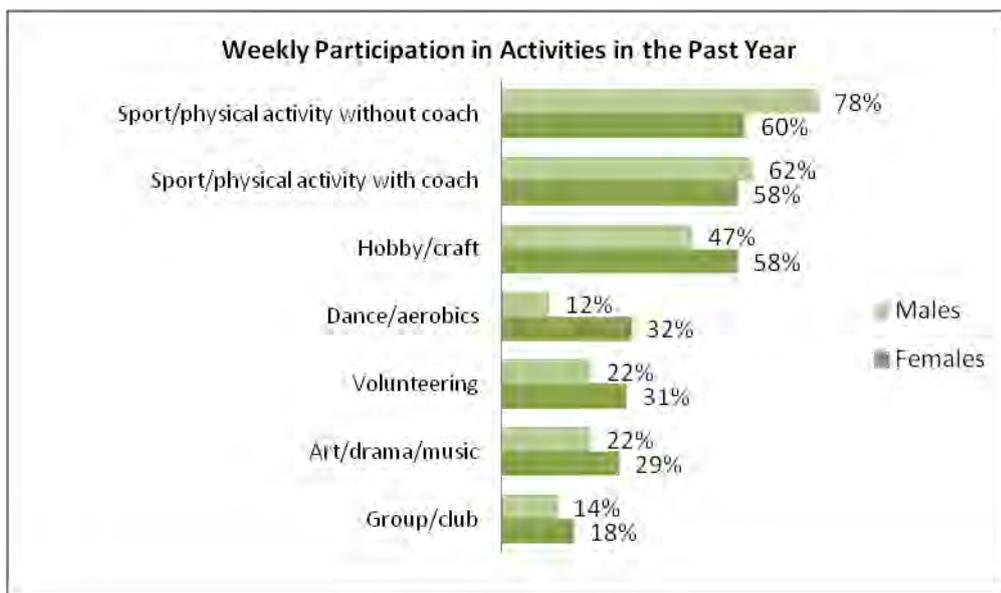
(McCreary Centre Society, A Picture of Health: Fraser South/Fraser East)

Recreation

Males and females take part in different types of recreation.

- Participation in sports with a coach is similar among males (62%) and females (58%).
- Males in the Fraser Region are more likely than females to report having participated in sports without a coach in the past year (78% of males versus 60% of females).
- Rates of participation in sports with and without a coach in the Fraser Region are similar to the provincial average.
- Females are more likely than males to have participated in hobbies, crafts, dance or aerobics.

(McCreary Centre Society, A Picture of Health: Fraser South/Fraser East)



A Picture of Health: Fraser South/Fraser East

Being a volunteer in my city really gave me a sense of understanding of all the different aspects that make Surrey such a beautiful and welcoming city. I was given the opportunity to be a part of all the wonderful things that were going on and I was given a sense of belonging by being a part of so many different community based projects and events. I got to know the beautiful city I live in and appreciate all the different cultures and people that surround me. I was given the confidence and guidance I needed as a youth by being encouraged to share my thoughts and opinions while knowing that someone was actually interested in what I had to say. Becoming a volunteer in my city was one of the greatest decisions I have ever made in my life.

-Sarah Auguste, Surrey Youth

5

Healthy Development

The Circle of Courage is an Aboriginal model of adolescent health. All four parts of a young person's "circle" must be intact in order to have a balanced and successful life. A lack of strength in any of the four areas of development can result in emotional and behavioural difficulties.

- **Belonging:** feeling loved and cared for by others, feeling like a valued part of a group.
- **Mastery:** skilled in many areas (mental, physical, social, spiritual), striving for personal best not perfection.
- **Independence:** making decisions, setting goals, having self-discipline, owning your successes and failures.
- **Generosity:** wanting to help and give to others, feeling good about making a contribution.

Dr. Martin Brokenleg

-Reclaiming Youth At Risk

Connections Matter

Family Connections

Family connectedness scores among youth in this region are comparable to youth in other parts of BC.

- Family connectedness refers to youths' feelings of closeness, caring, warmth, satisfaction and understanding toward their parents and family.
- The family connectedness score for youth in the Fraser Region is the same as the provincial average (7.9 out of 10).

Feeling connected to one's family makes a positive difference.

- Students who feel highly connected to their family report having better physical and emotional health, and are less likely to engage in risky behaviours, as compared with youth with low family connectedness.
- For example, among students with high family connectedness only 5% report poor/fair health, as compared to 37% of students with low connectedness.

School Connections

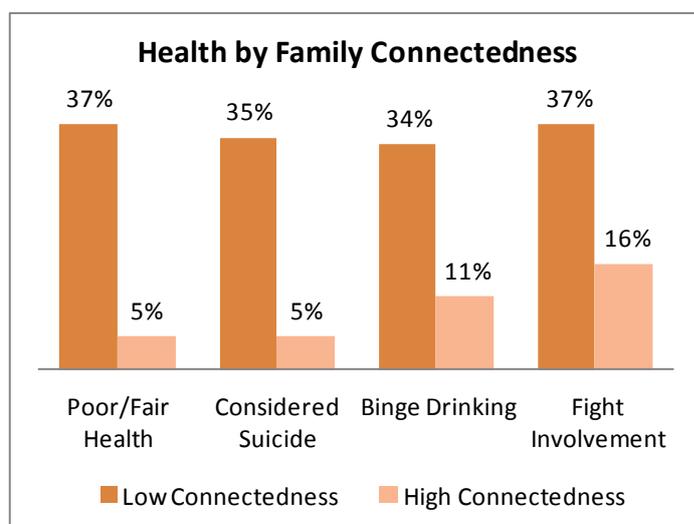
School connectedness scores in this region are slightly higher as compared to the provincial average.

- School connectedness refers to students' relationships with their teachers and their sense of belonging at school.
- The school connectedness score for youth in the Fraser Region is 7.0 as compared to the provincial average of 6.8. (A higher score indicates higher levels of connectedness.)

Feeling connected to school makes a positive difference.

- Students who report being highly connected to their school have lower rates of poor/fair health, binge drinking, suicidal ideation, and fighting involvement, as compared to youth who feel less connected to school.

This section is based on information from McCreary Centre Society's 2008 Adolescent Health Survey – Fraser South/Fraser East regional results. The survey was completed by students in grades 7 to 12.

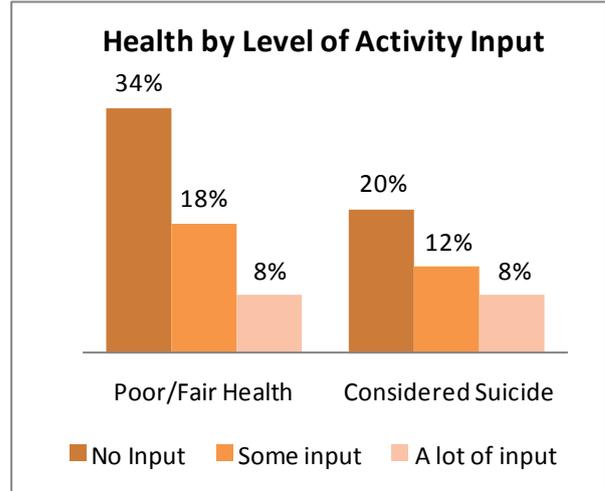


McCreary Centre Society, A Picture of Health: Fraser South/Fraser East

Engagement

Opportunities to have input into the extracurricular activities that they are involved in promotes youths' health.

- Youth were asked to rate how meaningful their extracurricular activities were to them, and how much they were listened to and their input was acted upon.
- Youth who have a lot of input into the activities they were involved in are less likely to report poor/fair health or consider suicide as compared to youth who report having no input.
- For example, youth who report having “a lot of input” into activities are less likely to report having considered suicide (8%) as compared to youth who report having “no input” (20%).



McCreary Centre Society, A Picture of Health: Fraser South/Fraser East

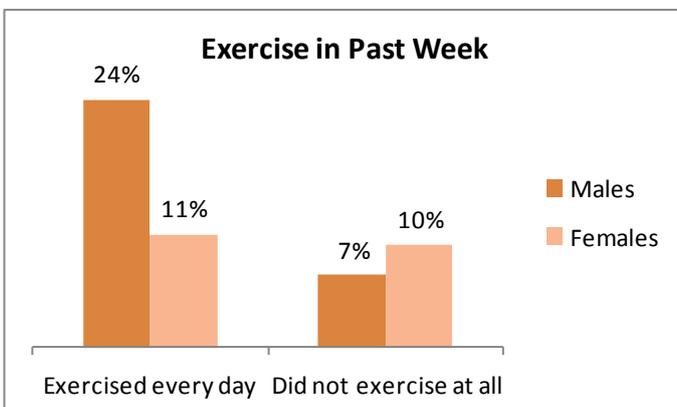
Health & Behaviours

Physical Health

- 84% of youth in the Fraser Region report that their health is good or excellent.
- More males than females rate their health as excellent (38% vs. 22%).
- Ratings of health in the Fraser Region are similar to those in the Province as a whole.

Exercise

- Only 24% of males and 11% of females exercise every day, while 7% of males and 10% of females do not exercise at all. These rates are similar to provincial rates.
- On average, youth in Grades 7 to 10 exercise more often than those in Grades 11 and 12.



A Picture of Health: Fraser South/Fraser East, 2008

Nutrition

- 46% of youth in the Fraser Region eat the recommended daily servings of fruit and vegetables (compared to 50% provincially). 33% reported eating only one or no portions of fruit or vegetables on the day before completing the survey.
- 51% of youth always eat breakfast on school days (males were more likely than females to always eat breakfast). 15% of youth never eat breakfast.

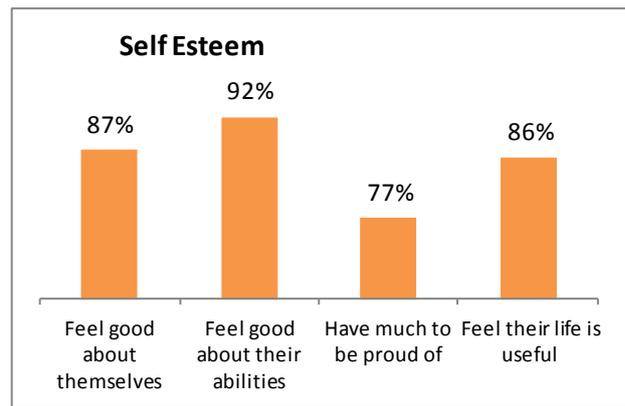
Injuries

- In the past year 27% of youth were injured to the point of needing medical attention (provincial rate is 29%).
- Most injuries happened at a sports facility or field or during other recreation activities (57%).

Mental Health

Self Esteem

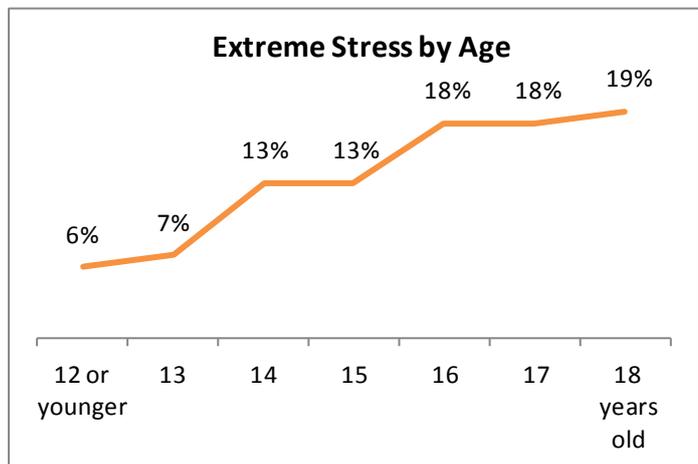
- The majority of youth in the Fraser Region report high self-esteem, similar to elsewhere in BC.
- 87% of youth feel good about themselves, 92% feel good about their abilities, 77% feel they have much to be proud of, and 89% feel their life is useful.



McCreary Centre Society, A Picture of Health: Fraser South/Fraser East

Stress

- 82% of youth report feeling some level of stress in the past 30 days. 13% report a level of stress almost more than they could take (comparable to the provincial rate).
- Girls are more likely than boys to report extreme levels of stress in the past month (17% vs. 10%).
- Stress levels increase with age. Only 6% of students 12 years or younger feel extreme stress. Among 18 year olds, 19% feel extreme stress.



McCreary Centre Society, A Picture of Health: Fraser South/Fraser East

Suicide

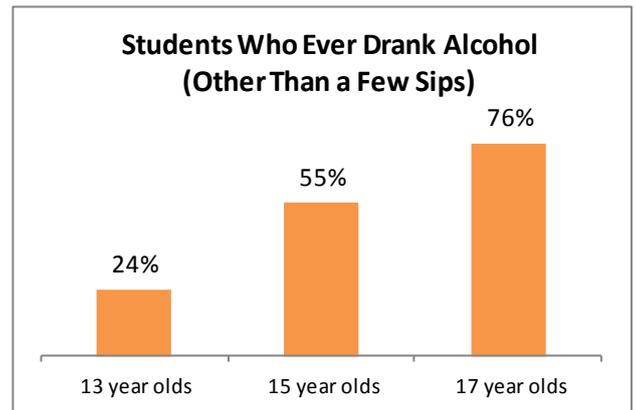
- 11% of youth in the Fraser Region seriously considered suicide in the past year.
- Females are twice as likely as males to have attempted suicide in the past year (6% vs 3%). (Note - more males actually die of suicide)

Substance Use

Alcohol Use

- 49% of youth in the Fraser Region have tried more than just a few sips of alcohol (54% provincially). Alcohol use increases with age.
- Of students who have tried alcohol, 41% binge drank* in the past month (similar to provincial average). Males and females are equally likely to have binge drank in the past month.
- 19% of students report having been a passenger in a vehicle in the past month with a driver who had been drinking (22% females, 16% males).

*Binge drinking is defined as having five or more drinks within a couple of hours.



McCreary Centre Society, A Picture of Health: Fraser South/Fraser East

Drug Use

- 27% of youth in the Fraser Region have tried marijuana, similar to the provincial rate.
- Among youth who have tried marijuana, almost half (46%) were aged 13-14 years when they first tried.
- Of students who have tried marijuana, 56% used it in the past month and 9% used it 20 or more days in the past month (3% of all students).
- The percentage of youth in the Fraser Region who have used substances other than alcohol or marijuana is similar to the provincial rates (for example, 7% had used ecstasy, 1% had used crystal meth).

Sexual Behaviour

- 80% of youth in the Fraser Region report never having had sexual intercourse. This was identical for males and females, and was consistent with the provincial rates.
- Among youth who have had sex, 63% report using a condom the last time they had sex and 45% used birth control pills.

Violence

Fighting

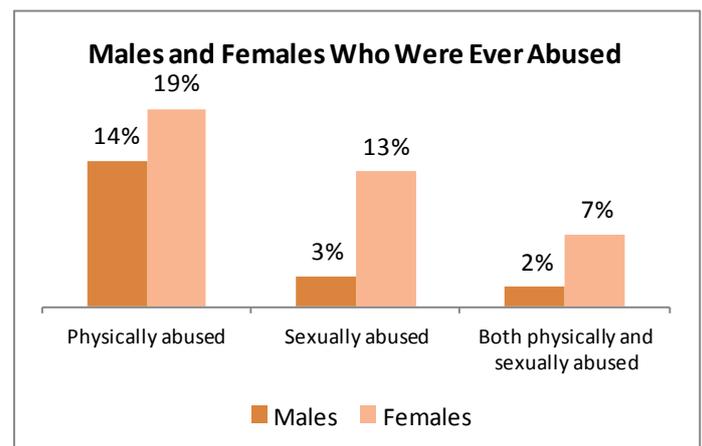
- 24% of students in the Fraser Region were involved in a physical fight in the last year (similar to the provincial rate).
- Male youth were more than twice as likely as females to be in a fight (33% vs. 15%).

Discrimination

- Similar to the provincial rates, 18% of students had been discriminated against because of physical appearance and 4% had experienced discrimination because of their sexual orientation in the past year.
- 14% of students experienced racial discrimination in the past year, slightly above the provincial rate of 12%.

Abuse

- 17% of youth in the Fraser Region reported that they had been physically abused, and 8% reported that they had been sexually abused (similar to provincial rates).
- Females are more likely than males to report that they had been abused.

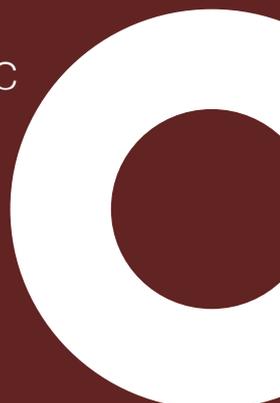


McCreary Centre Society, A Picture of Health: Fraser South/Fraser East

6 Transitions to Adulthood

No matter what the age of majority, the transition between adolescence and adulthood announces new opportunities and challenges both to emerging adults and to those who surround them. Research shows, however, that when asked if they have reached adulthood, most of today's youth respond "in some respects yes, in some respects no."

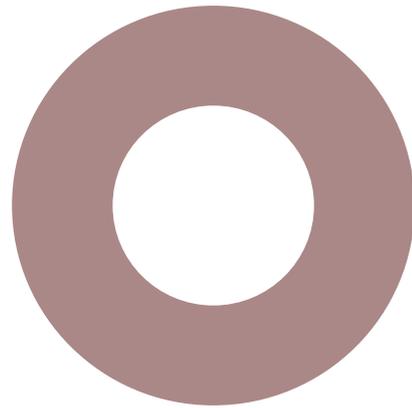
Listening to Vulnerable Youth:
Transitioning to Adulthood in BC



Many households in Surrey have adult children living at home.

- Approximately 77% of 18 to 24 year olds in Surrey live at home.

(City of Surrey, Families Fact Sheet)



The number of Surrey students transitioning to post secondary education is increasing.

- The percentage of SD 36 Grade 12 graduates who immediately attend post-secondary education the year after graduation has increased to 58% in 2008/2009 from 51% in 2004/2005.

Surrey has a lower proportion of young people transitioning directly to post secondary education as compared to most other Metro Vancouver districts.

- The proportion of Surrey high school graduates who immediately transfer to post secondary education (58%) is higher than the provincial rate (52%), but lower than the Kwantlen College region (60%) in which Surrey is located. *(data for the 2008/09 graduation cohort)*
- Of Surrey students who graduated grade 12 and transitioned to post secondary education over a 3 year period, 38% went to Kwantlen Polytechnic University, 19% attended SFU, 13% went to UBC and 8% went to Douglas College. *(3 year summary of Grade 12 Graduates of 2006/2007 graduating cohort)*

(BC Ministry of Education, Transition Statistics)

Percentage of Grade 12 Graduates who go on to post-secondary the year after graduation (2008/09 grade 12 graduation cohort).	
Surrey School District	58%
Richmond School District	76%
Vancouver School District	67%
Burnaby School District	67%
Langley School District	46%

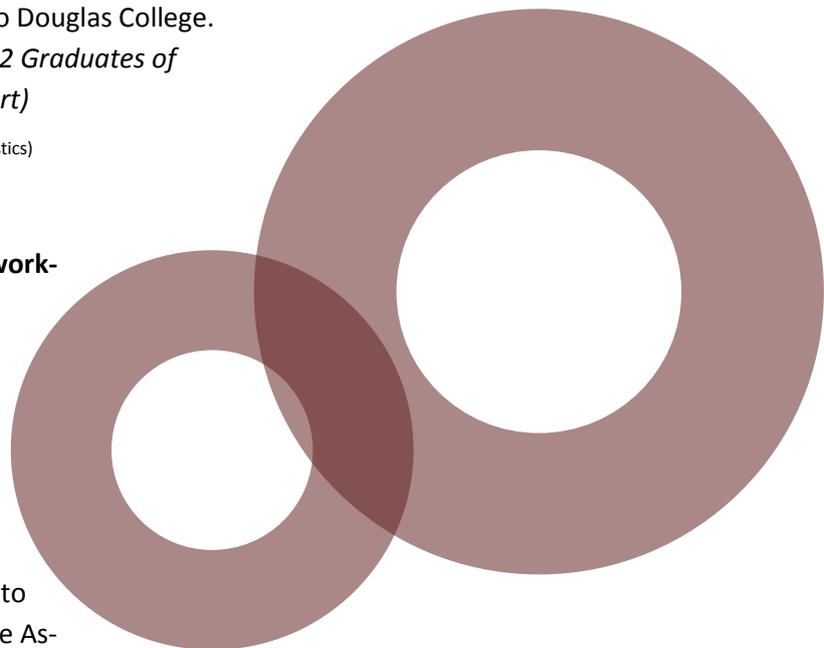
(BC Ministry of Education, Transition Statistics)

Most young adults in Surrey are working.

- 64% of youth aged 15-24 years participate in the labour force (similar to the provincial average).
- 5% of young adults aged 19 to 24 years are BC Basic Income Assistance and Employment Insurance beneficiaries (2.5% Income Assistance, and 2.8% Employment Insurance).

(BC Stats, 2006 census profile)

(BC Stats, Community Facts Surrey)



7 Special Youth Populations

Protective factors can reduce the likelihood of experiencing negative outcomes even for vulnerable youth. Building protective factors can assist youth, even those who are vulnerable, to overcome negative experiences, can help young people to make healthier choices and can contribute to more positive health outcomes.

McCreary Centre Society
Adolescent Health Survey

“Protective factors” refers to the events, opportunities and experiences that promote confidence and competence, and protect young people from harm.

Aboriginal Youth

The Surrey School District has more Aboriginal students compared to other districts in Metro Vancouver.

- There are 3,240 Aboriginal students enrolled in the Surrey School District in K-12. 1,473 of these students are in grades 8 to 12.
- In comparison, the Vancouver School District has 2,126 Aboriginal students in K-12; 923 of these Aboriginal students are in grades 8 to 12.

(BC Ministry of Education, Student Statistics - 2011/2012)

Aboriginal Students in Surrey School District

Total Elementary (K-7)	1,767
Total Secondary (8-12)	1,473
Total	3,240

BC Ministry of Education, Student Statistics - 2011/12

Whalley and Newton have the highest numbers of Aboriginal people.

- In the 2006 census, 7,630 Surrey residents identified themselves as Aboriginal (2% of the total population).
- Whalley and Newton have the highest numbers of Aboriginal residents.

(City of Surrey, Aboriginal Population Fact Sheet)

- In the 2006 census, 40,000 individuals living in Metro Vancouver identified themselves as Aboriginal. Surrey has the second highest number of Aboriginal people after Vancouver.

(Metro Vancouver, Census Data)

Individuals who identified as Aboriginal in Surrey (all ages)

Whalley	2,255
Newton	1,815
South Surrey	910
Fleetwood	905
Guildford	895
Cloverdale	850
Total	7,630

City of Surrey, Aboriginal Population Fact Sheet

The Aboriginal population is younger than the non-Aboriginal population.

- 29% of the Aboriginal population is under 15 years, compared to 19% of the non-Aboriginal population.
- Aboriginal youth aged 15 to 19 years represent 12% of the total Aboriginal population; in the non-Aboriginal population, youth represent 7%.

(BC Stats, Statistical Profile of Aboriginal Peoples)

Provincial research shows that family and school connections make a positive difference to the healthy development of Aboriginal youth. Aboriginal youth who are highly connected to their school and family have better mental health, are less likely to report being victimized, and engage in fewer risky behaviours as compared to Aboriginal youth who do not feel connected.

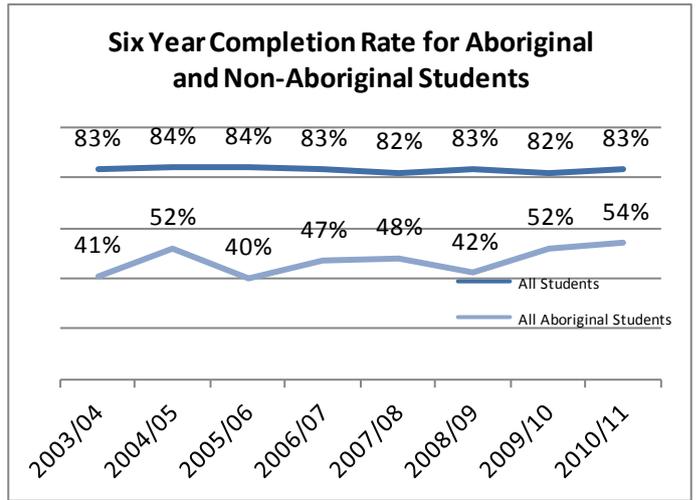
Raven's Children, McCreary Centre Society

Aboriginal students still face barriers in the education system.

- 54% of Aboriginal students completed high school within six years of entering grade 8 in 2010/2011. This compares with a completion rate of 83% for non-Aboriginal students.
- Aboriginal graduation rates have ranged from 40% to 54% over the past 6 years.
(SD 36, Superintendent’s Report on Student Achievement 2010/11 and 2011/12)

Too many Aboriginal youth and young adults struggle with mental health issues.

- In the Fraser Health Authority region in 2001-2005, the youth suicide rate for Status Indians aged 15-24 was 3.2 per 10,000 compared to a rate of 0.7 for other young people.
(Fraser Health, Profile of Aboriginal People in the Fraser Health Region 2010)



(SD 36, Superintendent’s Report on Student Achievement/11 and 2011/12)

Government Assisted Refugees

Surrey is one of the top destinations for Government Assisted Refugees (GARs) settling in BC.

- Between 2005 and 2011, 1,536 GARs settled in Surrey, representing 29% of all GARs (5,217) that settled in Metro Vancouver in this period.
- On average, about 160-210 GARs arrive in Surrey each year.
(ISSofBC, Changing Faces, Changing Neighbourhoods & GAR Resettlement Assistance Program statistics)

Government Assisted Refugees in Surrey, 2005-2011

Age	Number arrived in Surrey in 2005-2011
5 years or under	201
6 to 12 years	306
13 to 18 years	252
19 to 64 years	749
65 + years	28
total	1,536

ISSofBC GAR Resettlement Assistance Program statistics

What does it mean to be a Government Assisted Refugee?

GARs are identified by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees as being among the world’s most desperate people in need of protection and resettlement when there is no other solution or no effective protection available to them.

GARs resettling in Canada have often been forced to flee their home country because of extreme hardship. In some cases, they have lived in refugee camps for many years, and may have been victims of trauma or torture, and require special support services. Government Assisted Refugees (GARs) arrive in Canada with the right to permanent residence.

from Citizenship and Immigration Canada

GARs in Surrey are young.

- Half of the refugees that settled in Surrey between 2005 and 2011 are 18 years or younger.
- 16% of GARs are between the ages of 13 and 18.

(IssofBC, GAR RAP Statistics)

Refugee families tend to be concentrated in a few neighbourhoods.

- GAR families tend to be clustered in neighbourhoods within: Whalley (128 St. and 96th Ave., and King George and 108 Ave.); Guildford (152 St. and 104 Ave); and central Newton.

(IssofBC, Changing Faces, Changing Neighbourhoods)

Youth in Care

8,183 children in British Columbia are in the care of the government.

- 3,693 of these are youth in care aged 13-18 years.

There are 385 youth living in Surrey in the care of the government or on youth agreements.

- In Surrey there are 672 children in care (aged 0-18 years)
- Of children in care in Surrey, 305 are youth in care aged 13-18 years.
- 80 youth in Surrey are on Youth Agreements (26 of these are Aboriginal).

(Ministry of Children and Family Development)

Aboriginal children and youth are overrepresented among young people in government care.

- 46% of youth in care in Surrey are Aboriginal. This is similar to the regional average.

(Ministry of Children and Family Development)

Youth people in the care system are more at risk.

- When compared to youth who had never been in care, youth who have been in government care in the past year are almost three times more likely to say they have no expectations of postsecondary education.
- Youth who had been in care in the past year are nearly three times more likely to consider suicide as compared to their peers who have never been in care, and nearly six times more likely to have attempted suicide at least once.

(Representative for Children and Youth in BC, Growing up in BC)

Homeless Youth

The number of homeless youth counted in Surrey declined between 2008 and 2011.

- 40 homeless youth (under age 25) were counted in Surrey in 2011, down from 53 homeless youth counted in 2008.
- 349 homeless youth were counted in the Metro Vancouver region in 2011.

(Metro Vancouver Homeless Count 2011)

Homeless counts are known to be an under representation of actual numbers; youth research indicates that youth are disproportionately over represented among the “hidden homeless”.

8% of youth in the Fraser Region have run away.

- 8% of students in grades 7-12 in the Fraser Region reported having run away from home in the past year.
- Youth who ran away in the past year were more likely to have experienced extreme stress, despair, and to have attempted suicide in the past year.

(McCreary Centre Society, A Picture of Health: Fraser South/Fraser East)

What Does “Youth in Care” Mean?

A youth (13-18 years) under the care of the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), and who is temporarily or permanently living in a group or foster home

What Does “Youth Agreement” Mean?

An agreement between MCFD and a youth (who has no one to take care of them and/or cannot return home for reasons of safety) between the ages of (16-18 years) to live independently with support from the Ministry of Children and Family Development while fulfilling mutually agreed upon responsibilities

Ministry of Children and Family Development Website

Children in care are regularly identified as a population experiencing less success in areas of health, child learning, child safety and child behaviour.

-Growing Up in BC

Youth with Disabilities

Approximately 9% of students in the Surrey School District have a disability.

Students in SD36 With a Disability (K-12)

1,745	Learning disability
1,962	Behavioural disability
663	Autism spectrum disorder
837	Physical disability
157	Sensory disability

BC Ministry of Education, SD36 Student Statistics

Almost 1 in 10 youth report a debilitating health condition or disability.

- Nine percent of youth in the Fraser South/ Fraser East region reported a debilitating health condition or disability.
- The most common conditions were a long-term illness (such as diabetes or asthma) experienced by 4% of youth and a mental or emotional condition (such as depression or eating disorder) reported by 3% of youth.
- Among youth with a health condition or disability, 29% took daily medication and 6% missed a lot of school due to their condition.

(McCreary Centre Society, A Picture of Health: Fraser South/Fraser East)

Families with Low Income

Many families in Surrey live in poverty.

- 16% of families with children under 18 live in poverty (16,100 families).

(Vibrant Surrey)

About one-third of female-led single parent families live in poverty.

- Female lone-parents are more likely than male lone-parents to live in poverty (35% of female lone-parents vs. 21% of male lone-parents).
- In 2006, there were almost 4,000 female-led single parent families in Surrey living in poverty (535 male-led single parent families living in poverty).

(Vibrant Surrey)

Poverty impacts the community participation of youth.

- Living in poverty limits youth's participation in some extracurricular activities such as weekly organized sports. Only 43% of BC youth who report going to bed hungry play organized sports and 55% play informal sports, compared to 60% and 69%, respectively, who did not go to bed hungry.

(A Picture of Health: BC adolescent Health Survey Highlights)

Life in Surrey can be good, or it can be a nightmare. It depends on which side of the poverty line you live on. Being on the low side of it, it's been difficult, if not at times almost impossible, just to have necessities. Somewhere to live, food for my in-school siblings, and even having clean clothes has been a challenge. Rents are outrageous, prices are horrendous, and I don't know if it will get better, or if that line will just separate people farther and farther apart.

-Ruby, Surrey Youth

Sources

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Notes on Data Sources

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- The boundaries for this statistical profile include White Rock. 2006 census data found there are 894 youth aged 13-18 in White Rock, or 2.5% of the total 13-18 youth population when Surrey and White Rock are combined.

A Picture of Health: Fraser South/Fraser East. Results of the 2008 British Columbia Adolescent Health Survey

- School districts included in the Fraser South/Fraser East include: Langley, Surrey, Delta, Mission and Fraser Cascades. Surrey students made up 55% of the data.

Profile of Aboriginal People in the Fraser Health Region 2010

- Cited information is for Health Service Delivery Area 23 which includes: Surrey, White Rock, Langley and Delta.

Prepared by Planning & Development, City of Surrey

This report and other information on Surrey's Child and Youth Friendly City Strategy is available online at www.surrey.ca/social-planning

