

Annual Report 2014

Youth Monitor

Summary

Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport



**Statistics
Netherlands**

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Explanation of symbols

.	Data not available
*	Provisional figure
**	Revised provisional figure (but not definite)
x	Publication prohibited (confidential figure)
-	Nil
-	(Between two figures) inclusive
0	(0.0) Less than half of unit concerned
empty cell	Not applicable
2013-2014	2013 to 2014 inclusive
2013/2014	Average for 2013 to 2014 inclusive
2013/'14	Crop year, financial year, school year, etc., beginning in 2013 and ending in 2014
2011/'12-2013/'14	Crop year, financial year, etc., 2011/'12 to 2013/'14 inclusive

Due to rounding, some totals may not correspond to the sum of the separate figures.

Publisher

Statistics Netherlands
Henri Faasdreef 312, 2492 JP The Hague
www.cbs.nl

Prepress: Textcetera, The Hague and Grafimedia, The Hague
Design: Edenspiekermann

Information

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Introduction

This is the summary of the seventh Annual Report of the National Youth Monitor of the Netherlands. The report describes the living conditions of the five million Dutch 0–24 year-olds in the Netherlands, focusing on a number of current topics. A new item in the 2014 edition is a table with regional social indicators for the current situation of young people. As youth care is set to be decentralised in 2015, these indicators will help municipalities to compare their situation with similar municipalities. Another new feature is – in areas where figures are available – a comparison of Dutch young people with their peers in other countries of the European Union.

Since 2007, the National Youth Monitor of the Netherlands has presented figures about children and young adults under the age of 25 in the Netherlands. The Annual Report 2014 presents a broad overview of the situation of the age group 0–24 years in the Netherlands in five domains: family life, health, education, labour, and safety. In addition to the description of the current situation of young people in these areas, it also addresses the development of various aspects in time, and where possible describes the context of and interrelationships between important facets in the lives of young people. Thus the Annual Report is intended as an indispensable source of information for policymakers to substantiate and develop youth policy at both national and regional level.

The National Youth Monitor and the Annual Report cover the population of the Netherlands aged 0–24 years. The chapter on labour describes the situation for people aged 26 and younger. Not all the statistics in the Youth Monitor are available for the complete age group.

Social indicators for the current situation of young people

On 1 January 2015 a new youth law will come into effect in the Netherlands, under which municipalities will be responsible for the entire area of youth care. To set out a coherent youth policy, and to monitor the system, municipalities and central government need reliable information. They intend to set up a benchmark to enable the comparison of youth welfare services between similar

municipalities. The picture of youth care use can be enriched with information on the 'current situation of young people' in municipalities, based on six social indicators. This current situation can subsequently be compared with use of youth care in each municipality. Use of youth care will be measured at its source: the care provider. These data are collected by Statistics Netherlands (CBS). The video [Policy information youth for municipalities^{1\)}](#) explains how this information is collected.

If there are large differences between for example three municipalities, these can be investigated in more detail to establish underlying causes for the different scores.

The social indicators aim to present a broad image of the 'current situation of young people' in municipalities. They were selected based on the extent to which they relate to wellbeing of young people and on the availability of reliable data. This is a compromise. Although indicator scores give an indication of the situation, further study will always be necessary to get underlying explanations. The social indicator scores will be used to compare the use of youth care in municipalities.

For instance, if a large number of children grow up in households dependent on income support in a certain town, while the costs for youth care are relatively low, it will be interesting to examine what this municipality is doing right, and how other municipalities could benefit.

The six social indicators can be operationalised differently each year, depending on which areas municipal councils or parliament are interested in. But the idea is to repeat this set of indicators every five years, thus creating a longitudinal picture of the 'situation of young people' for municipalities. For 2015, the indicators will be: living and growing up safely, school, labour, substance use, police contacts and child abuse.

Living and growing up safely

It is important that children grow up in a safe environment. To get an idea of whether this is actually the case, the number of minors growing up in a household dependent on income support benefit is presented. The number is presented as the share of the total number of minors living at home.

¹⁾ This video is only available in Dutch.

School

Children in the Netherlands are entitled to attend school and develop themselves optimally, to make use of their talents, and subsequently be successful on the labour market. The indicator used for this purpose is the ratio of the number of pupils in the third year of preparatory vocational secondary education (vmbo) to the number in the third year of senior general secondary education (havo) and pre-university education (vwo). There are considerable regional differences between labour market opportunities of pupils with vmbo and those with a havo or vwo diploma. This implies that this indicator reflects the extent to which children make use of their opportunities.

Labour

Although their education prepares youngsters for the labour market, this does not mean they will find a suitable job immediately after leaving school. Therefore this indicator presents the percentage of 15–26 year-olds with a job. For the municipal level, register information is used instead of the Dutch Labour Force Survey (LFS) which is used for the national level.

Substance use

With respect to the health of the youngsters, a lot of attention is paid to drugs use. However, as no regional data on drugs use are available, figures on smoking are presented: the share of 12–19 year-olds who smoked in the previous year. The figures are based on the Dutch health survey (CBS), and are not available at the level of municipality, but at the level of youth care region. As the survey is based on a sample, the results are subject to random errors caused by among other things sample size: the smaller the sample, the less accurate the figure will be.

Police contacts

Pushing boundaries is part of growing up, and although most young people stay on the right side, some will cross the line and will come into contact with the police or the legal system. This is shown by an indicator defined as the number of arrested suspects younger than 25 years.

Child abuse

Growing up in a safe environment is not a reality for every child. The indicator of the share of children affected by abuse is based on the number of young people aged 0 to 17 years concerning whom the Child Abuse Reporting Agency (AMK) was contacted because of a question about or suspicion of child abuse.

Social indicators for the situation of children and young adults, by province and the four largest cities

	Children in low-income households, 0-17 yrs	Pupils in third year of vmbo compared to havo/vwo	Employed young people (young people with income from labour), 15-26 yrs	Young people who smoke, 12-19 yrs	Arrested by the police, younger than 25 yrs	Children registered at an AMK for whom an investigation was started as a result of suspected abuse, 0-17 yrs ¹⁾
	2011	2013/'14*	2012	2010/2013	2013	2012
The Netherlands	5.6	1.24	63	15	1.9	0.91
Province	%	Ratio	%			
Groningen	7.2	1.47	55	17	1.3	0.87
Friesland	5.0	1.71	61	15	1.5	1.41
Drenthe	5.0	1.58	62	21	1.5	1.10
Overijssel	4.6	1.35	66	14	1.4	0.64
Flevoland	6.5	2.13	62	16	2.3	0.68
Gelderland	4.2	1.19	65	11	1.7	0.48
Utrecht	4.2	0.97	65	14	1.9	0.73
Noord-Holland	6.4	1.10	64	14	1.8	0.81
Zuid-Holland	7.6	1.26	61	14	2.6	1.59
Zeeland	3.7	1.38	68	14	2.0	0.94
Noord-Brabant	4.4	1.23	67	14	1.7	0.62
Limburg	6.0	1.12	61	15	2.1	0.41
Four largest cities						
Amsterdam	14.6	1.15	59	.	2.4	0.40
The Hague	11.1	1.27	54	.	3.6	2.38
Rotterdam	17.7	2.00	54	.	4.0	1.06
Utrecht	7.7	1.16	62	.	2.3	0.86

Source: Statistics Netherlands unless otherwise stated.

¹⁾ Source: Verweij Jonker Instituut: publication "Kinderen in Tel 2014".

For more information

Figures about indicators, mentioned in this chapter and in Table 1, can be found in the [National Youth Monitor](#).

Youth in the Netherlands

Young people and family life

Almost 5 million people in the Netherlands were 24 years or younger on 1 January 2014, the equivalent of three of every ten Dutch inhabitants. The share of young people is quite stable and higher than the average in Europe. Forecasts predict a slight decrease, to 4.77 million in 2025. In the last few years, the number of children aged 4 to 11 years in particular has fallen: it was 5 percent lower in 2014 than in 2010. One quarter of all young people in 2014, 1.2 million in total, had a foreign background in 2014; most of them were born in the Netherlands.

In 2012, over half of all children were born to married parents; in 2000, this was still three-quarters. The number of children born to a single parent increased from 6 to 9 percent in the same period. As a result of over 30 thousand divorces a year, more and more children are growing up in a household with one parent, mostly the mother. In 2014 this was the situation for almost half a million children (15 percent). In the last ten years, the share of young adults living alone increased from 19 to 22 percent. On other hand, only 14 percent of 18–24 year-olds lived with their partner in 2014. At the beginning of this century, this number was still 18 percent.

In 2012, 391 thousand underage children lived in a low-income household. They have a higher risk of poverty, with resulting negative effects on their social life and health. More children grew up with a high poverty risk than in the previous year, namely 45 thousand. The risk of poverty increased to 12 percent, the highest level since 2000, as a result of the sustained economic crisis. Almost 35 percent of children in one-parent families grew up in a low-income situation, compared with 8 percent of children in two-parent households. In the European Union, the share of underage children growing up in a low-income or materially deprived household is monitored, to decrease poverty and social exclusion among children. Compared to the European average of 28 percent, the Dutch share is low (17 percent). Only Scandinavian children grow up with a lower risk of poverty risk or social exclusion.

The number of teenage mothers reached the lowest level in 2013, at 3.9 births per thousand women aged under 20. In the European Union, only Danish teenage girls had a lower risk of having a baby. Girls in the Netherlands with a Turkish or Moroccan background are even less likely than native Dutch girls to have a baby in their teens. Birth rates are still high, however, among teenagers with an Antillean

(21 births per thousand teenage girls) and Surinamese (11 births per thousand teenage girls) background.

Young people and health and welfare

Dutch life expectancy has increased considerably over the years. Boys born in 2013 have a life expectancy of 79 years, six years more than in 1983. For girls, life expectancy is now over 83 years, an extension of only three years from 1983. Not all years will be spent in good health; men can expect to reach 65 years of age in good health, women 64 years. Children of parents with a high education level can expect to live considerably longer than those of parents who only completed primary school. The effect on life expectancy in good health is even stronger: children with high educated parents will live 19 years longer in good health than those with low-educated parents. A comparable effect can be observed in relation to household income. In the European Union, only boys born in Sweden and Spain had a higher life expectancy than Dutch boys in 2012. In a European context, Dutch female life expectancy is about average.

In 2013, 92 percent of 0–24 year-old girls and 94 percent of boys in this age group rated their life as good or very good. Compared to other EU countries, this is just below average. More boys than girls smoked in 2013: 23 versus 18 percent. This is considerably less than in 2001 when nearly 30 percent of children aged 12–24 years smoked. According to a different, European, survey, smoking among Dutch 15 and 16 year-olds was about average compared to children from other European countries. The share of overweight children, however, is relatively low among Dutch children (15 percent) compared to the European average (20 percent). About 3 percent of Dutch 2–24 year-olds are seriously overweight. Obesity has increased slightly among boys in the Netherlands.

In 2013, over 97 thousand children under 18 years received youth care because of problems related to growing up, parenting and behaviour. Their average age was 12 years, and just over half of them were boys. Youth care may be compulsory or voluntary. In 2013, over 55 thousand minors received one or more types of compulsory youth care, while almost 70 thousand 0–17 year-olds received voluntary youth care. Some 20 thousand children were in foster care in 2013, for an average period of ten months. This, too, may be either on a voluntary or compulsory basis. The latter group, who also receive protection, comprised 14 thousand children. Children with a Surinamese or Antillean background are more likely, and those with a Turkish or Moroccan background less likely to be in foster care than native Dutch children.

Young people and education

In school-year 2013/'14, 1.5 million Dutch children were in primary education. One in ten primary school pupils²⁾ fall in the category disadvantaged. Schools receive additional funding for these children, to minimise the effects of language deficiencies and developmental problems. Since school-year 2009/'10, the number of disadvantaged children in primary schools has decreased by nearly 46 thousand. This is in line with the increased level of education of the Dutch population. The four largest cities in the Netherlands account for a quarter of all pupils with special needs. This relates to higher concentrations of inhabitants with a non-western foreign background in these cities.

In school-year 2013/'14, 946 thousand children were in secondary education. In the course of time, more and more pupils have been in higher levels of secondary education. This is clear from the distribution of third year pupils: just under half of the 203 thousand pupils were in the two highest levels (havo or vwo). Ten years previously, this share was about 40 percent. Girls are still overrepresented in havo and vwo, but boys have closed the gap somewhat in the last ten years.

The number of under-25s registered in full-time higher professional education (hbo) and university, increased from 361 thousand in school-year 2003/'04 to 516 thousand in 2013/'14. Numbers of women and students with a non-western background in particular have increased. The number of women with a non-western background has even doubled in this period. Almost half of the students choose administrative, business, and health disciplines. Fewer students – especially women – have enrolled in training for primary school teachers in the last ten years. Fewer men are enrolled in engineering, manufacturing, computer sciences and general economics disciplines. Men are still more likely to choose natural sciences, mathematics and computer sciences than women, although the difference has reduced. Compared to other countries in the EU, relatively few Dutch students (15 percent) are in science disciplines. On average in the EU, one quarter of students in higher education choose a sciences course.

In 2013, 9.2 percent of all 18–24 year-olds left school without a basic qualification. This is a significant drop from school-year 2003/'04, when 14 percent of under-25s had left school without a qualification. Relatively more boys than girls drop out of school: 11 and 7 percent respectively. Early school-leaving also decreased in other EU countries. The EU target for early school-leavers among 18–24 year-olds

²⁾ In the Netherlands, primary education starts at the age of 4 years old. Special needs education is not included.

is 10 percent in 2020. The Netherlands already meets this requirement, but has set itself the target of 8 percent.

Young people and labour

In 2013, 615 thousand Dutch 15–26 year-olds were not in education and had a paid job of 12 hours or more per week. Labour participation increased until 2008, but decreased when the economic situation declined. In 2009 in particular, labour participation fell among young people, as a result of the large share of flexible contracts. Labour participation among young men decreased from 87 percent in 2008 to 75 percent in 2013. The decrease was smaller for young women: from 80 percent in 2008 to 72 percent in 2013. Labour participation among young people with a higher educational level is 90 percent, compared to 57 percent for their peers with a lower educational level. Also, the fall in labour participation since 2008 has been smaller among 15–26 year-olds with a higher educational level.

In 2013, 42 percent of young people not in education and with a paid job of 12 hours or more per week had a flexible contract. This is up from only a quarter of this group in 2003. Compared to the total population of people with a job, relatively more young people have a flexible contract, and relatively more young women than young men: 45 percent and 39 percent respectively. While the number of young women with a flexible contract has risen since 2006, more young men have started their own business.

Unemployment among 15–26 year-olds was 13 percent in 2013. This is a substantial rise from the 5 percent in 2008, and can be accounted by the economic recession. The crisis has pushed up male unemployment in particular, as more young men than young women work in sectors sensitive to economic developments. Some young people are not in education and are not working or looking for a paid job of 12 hours or more per week. This group increased from 11 percent in 2008 to 15 percent in 2013, with health-related reasons accounting for an important part of this inactivity.

For an appropriate comparison between countries of the European Union, all 15–24 year-olds – including those in education – with a job for at least one hour per week are considered as employed. Those without a job, and available and looking for a job of at least one hour per week, are considered as unemployed. In 2013, one in four young people were unemployed in the EU, more than twice as

many as in the Netherlands (11 percent). On the other hand, labour participation in the Netherlands is twice as high.

Since the beginning of the economic crisis in 2008, more young people have been claiming a benefit. In 2007, before the crisis, 6.1 thousand people aged 15–26 years were claiming unemployment benefit. At the end of 2013, this number had risen to 40 thousand. As young people have not yet built up long-term entitlements to unemployment benefit, they are more likely to receive income support. In December 2013, over 38 thousand under-27s received income support: 21 thousand women and 17 thousand men. A special disability benefit for young people (Wajong) was being paid to 86 thousand young people at the end of 2013. This number has also increased in recent years; this is partly connected with the economic climate.

Youth and safety and justice

About 2.5 percent of young people (75 thousand) were arrested by the police in 2012, down from 3.7 percent in 2007. Juvenile delinquents account for a considerable percentage of all arrested people (one third). Four percent of young men were arrested, only one percent of young women. Young people with a non-western background were arrested relatively more often.

For minor offences, youngsters aged 12–17 years interviewed by the police for the first time may be referred to the Halt scheme. In 2012, 17.5 thousand 12–17 year olds were referred to the Halt scheme, almost half the number in 2007. Just over one quarter of all cases dealt with under the Halt scheme concerned girls. Two-thirds of all Halt offences relate to property crime (for instance theft), one quarter to vandalism and public order offences.

More serious offenders under 18 years of age are not referred to the Halt scheme, but arrested and registered. The share of 12–17 year-olds arrested decreased from 2.7 percent in 2007 to 1.5 percent in 2012 (18.5 thousand). This is comparable to the level in 2000. Just over four times as many boys as girls are arrested, while 12–17 year-olds with a Moroccan and Antillean background are more than five times as likely to be arrested. However, the share of arrested minors with a Moroccan background has decreased considerably since the turn of the century.

In 2012, 50.6 thousand 18–24 year-olds were apprehended on suspicion of having committed a crime, 42.2 thousand men and 8.3 thousand women. Since 2007, the share of arrested 18–24 year-olds has decreased by one quarter, which is less than

the decreased among 12–17 year-olds. Traffic and drugs offences are more frequent among 18–24 years-olds than among minors.

More young (15–24 year-olds) than older people (25 years and older) report feelings of unsafety. But there are also differences within the youngest age group: in 2013, 20 percent of 15–17 year-olds and one quarter of 18–24 year-olds said they sometimes did not feel safe in their neighbourhood. This difference was not yet visible in 2012. Twice as many young women as young men reported not feeling safe. Also, more young people with a non-western background than native Dutch young people reported feelings of unsafety. Again, in 2012 these differences were not reported. In 2013, 26 percent of 15–24 year-olds had been victim of a crime. Young men are more likely to be the victim of violence than young women: 5 percent and 3 percent respectively. More women experienced domestic violence. In strongly urbanised areas, more young people feel unsafe and more of them are victims of crime than in less urbanised areas.

From school to work: differences in labour market position by educational level and field of education

The transition from education to the labour market is an important milestone in the lives of young adults. Many factors are known to influence job finding and salary level, most importantly, the level and field of education. But factors like socio-economic background, motivation and intelligence, as well the economic climate and market conditions are also relevant.

In 2011/2013, 650 thousand – three in ten – 15–26 year-olds were no longer in education, over one quarter of whom did not have a basic qualification. A basic qualification is widely used for political and research purposes to identify youths with low education achievement and is associated with less favourable labour market positions.

The educational level of the Dutch population has increased considerably in recent decades, especially for women. Female enrolment in higher professional education (hbo) and university is higher than it is for men: 26 and 16 percent respectively. More young women complete education in the field of health and wellbeing, while their male peers are more technologically oriented. However, the share of female students in science and technology disciplines is increasing.

Over three-quarters of 15–26 year-olds who are not in education work at least for 12 hours a week. Labour market participation is slightly higher for young men and

increases with level of education. A diploma or degree in the fields of technology or healthcare increases the odds of having a paid job. Over half of young people who are no longer in education have a permanent job. The number of flex-workers has increased considerably in recent years, especially since the economic crisis started. Nearly twice as many young men have a full-time job (35 hours or more per week) compared to women: 80 and 44 percent respectively. This is partly accounted for by working young mothers, who care for children alongside their work. But more young women than men have a part-time job because they choose to spend more time on other activities, such as housework.

Young men not in education and working for 12 hours a week or more earn a gross salary of over 24 thousand euros per year. Women aged 15 to 26 years receive an average gross salary of over 21 thousand euros. This is calculated across all levels and fields of education, but the difference is partly caused by the fact that more men work full-time, work in different types of jobs and in different labour market segments.

Smoking and obesity

A healthy lifestyle helps to reduce the risk of disease. Smoking is the most important health risk factor. The younger a person starts to smoke, the higher the risk of addiction. Besides smoking, obesity is accompanied by poor health. Smoking mainly reduces life expectancy, while obesity diminishes life expectancy in good health. Overweight children have a higher risk of health problems, both as a child and at older ages.

Over 22 percent of young people aged 12 to 24 years smoked in 2010/2013. More boys than girls smoke and the share of smokers increases with age. Young women growing up in a low-income household are more likely to smoke than young women growing up in a high-income household: 25 and 17 percent respectively. Fewer young people with a non-western background than young people with a native Dutch background smoke, also when age and household income are taken into consideration.

Fifteen percent of people aged 2 to 24 years in 2010/2013 were overweight, 3 percent seriously overweight. Obesity is more common among children growing up in a low-income household: one in five, compared with one in ten youngsters growing up in the highest-income households. Relatively more young people with a non-western background are overweight (23 percent) than native Dutch 2–24 year-olds (13 percent).

Young who are overweight and young people who smoke are less likely to perceive their health as good or very good. Is there a relationship between smoking and obesity? Among 12–24 year-olds, 22 percent smoked in 2010/2013, while 27 percent of their peers who were overweight smoked. However, when ethnic origin, age and household income are considered in the analysis, there is no relation between smoking and obesity.

Online risks for young people

Young people in the Netherlands are very active on the internet and are ahead of most of their peers in other EU countries. Young people communicate through social media such as Facebook and Twitter and shop online more than older people. This makes them more vulnerable for cyberbullying and internet scams.

In 2013, almost every 15–24 year-old (96 percent) went online daily, compared to 86 percent of people aged 25 years or older. In 2005, only 77 percent of youngsters used the internet almost every day. Most young people use the internet at home, while nine in ten use their smartphone to go online away from home. Only half of over 25-s use their smartphone for this purpose.

Six in ten young men and women frequently shop online. Clothes are the most popular item, especially for women: over 80 percent of them bought clothes online, compared with just under 60 percent of 15–24 year-old men. Young male shoppers purchased more software, hardware and financial products, and took part in online lotteries and gambling more often than their female peers. While 18–24 year-olds more often bought tickets to events, books and study material, 15–17 year-olds more often purchased clothes, electronics and software. Online sales of tickets for events and clothes rose most between 2005 and 2013. In 2013, 5 percent of under-25s were victims of digital purchase scams, compared with 3 percent of over-25s.

Most young people – 95 percent – are active on some kind of social network – like Facebook or Twitter – young women more so than young men. Children aged 15–17 years are especially likely to be victims of cyberbullying (13 percent), girls slightly more than boys. Cyberbullying consists mostly of defamation, for example posting offensive or insulting messages, pictures or videos on Facebook or Twitter. Victims are more likely to be underage than older than 18.

Phishing and pharming on the other hand occur less frequently among 15-24 year-olds than among the over-25s, 0.1 percent and 0.5 percent respectively. The reason for this is probably that young people, especially 15-17 years-olds, use online banking services less than the over-25s.