



Summary

Annual Report Youth Monitor

2018



Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport

Annual Report

Youth Monitor

2018

Summary

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
2017-2018	2017 to 2018 inclusive
2017/2018	Average for 2017 to 2018 inclusive
2017/'18	Crop year, financial year, school year, etc., beginning in 2017 and ending in 2018
2015/'16-2017/'18	Crop year, financial year, etc., 2015/'16 to 2017/'18 inclusive

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

Colophon

Publisher

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

Prepress: Textcetera, The Hague, The Hague
Design: Edenspiekermann
Photography: Hollandse Hoogte

Information

Telephone +31 88 570 70 70
Via contact form: www.cbs.nl/infoservice

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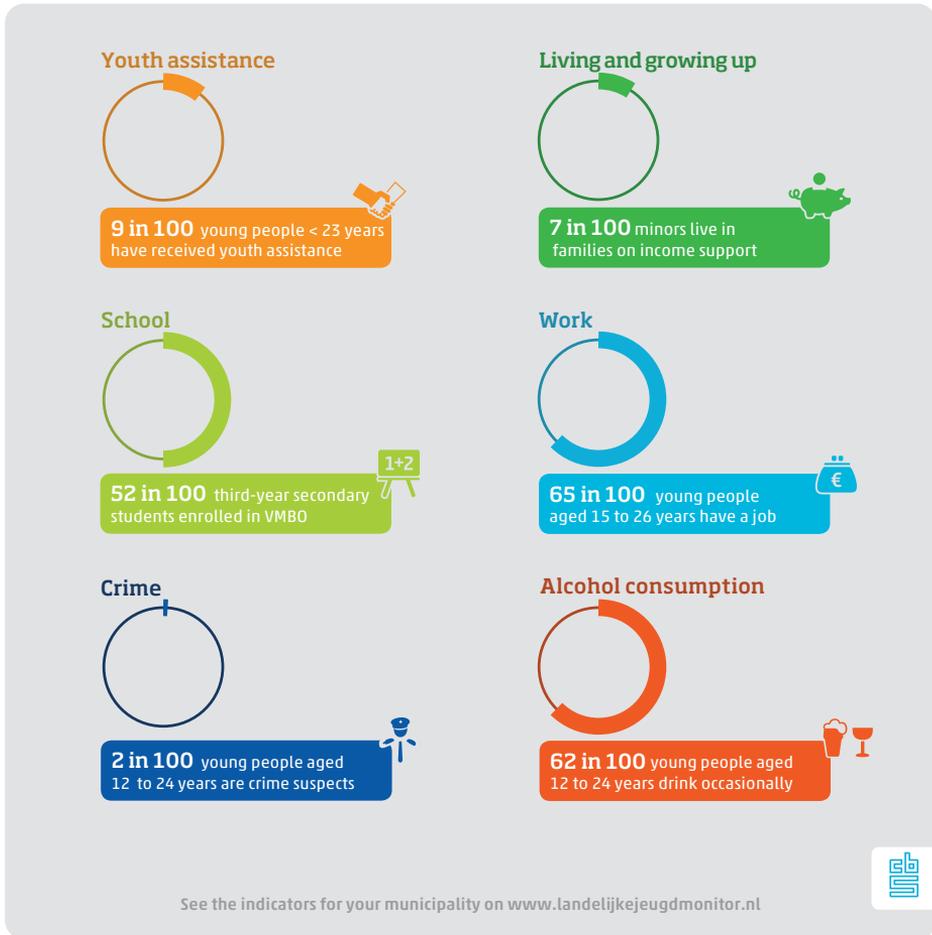
Introduction

The 2017 Annual Report of the National Youth Monitor cited a survey by Dutch domestic governance magazine Binnenlands Bestuur and leading news organisation NOS, in which city council members said that they did not have a good grasp of youth assistance due to a lack of information. Nearly one year later, in September 2018, the Netherlands Court of Audit noted in a report on monitoring the social domain that there is a superfluity of data available on this domain¹⁾. In Chapter 11, Dutch journalist Jaap van Sandijk comes to a similar conclusion after his annual tour of municipalities to gauge the use of data from the National Youth Monitor. Policy officers are increasingly familiar with the Youth Monitor and do consult it, but they are drowning in the wealth of data and would like that data to be more specific to individual localities. It is apparent that, three years after the Youth Act came into force, the time has come for civil servants to deepen their understanding of the available information. And anyone who seeks information is overwhelmed by its abundance, leading to a need to organise data, preferably at the local level.

In actual fact, municipal policy workers, council members and administrators are very well catered for. Fact sheets about local use of youth assistance in 2017 (Dutch only) have been available since 30 April 2018 and municipal registries have been informed about them. However, none of the municipal civil servants visited by Van Sandijk knew of these local reports, which compare the use of youth assistance and the associated referrals with a regional and national average. This suggests that the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (VWS), the Ministry of Justice and Security (JenV), Statistics Netherlands (CBS) and the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG) face quite a communication task to raise awareness of these local reports on the use of youth assistance, and also of the VNG app (Dutch only), with which users can see the differences in the use of youth assistance between the various 'youth regions' into which the country has been divided. Figures are also maintained on society indicators, and the highlights are summarised each year in the Annual Report, of which this is the latest edition. This year, the report pays additional attention to the income of young people. More information can be found on [the Youth Monitor site](#).

1) <https://www.rekenkamer.nl/publicaties/rapporten/2018/09/13/advies-decentralisatie-sociaal-domein> (Dutch only)

Youth assistance and society indicators



The Youth Monitor and this Annual Report therefore respond to the need of municipal civil servants for a selection from the mass of data of items that are related to the use of youth assistance. In the Annual Report, information on the most relevant society indicators is incorporated into maps by municipality. These are figures relating to children who grow up in families on income support; young people enrolled in prevocational secondary education (VMBO); young people who are crime suspects; and young people aged 15 to 26 years who work. On the Youth Monitor site, it is now possible, in the [benchmark for youth assistance](#) (Dutch only), to place two maps of the Netherlands side by side. This not only makes the regional connections visible, but also the correlation between, for example, the use of youth assistance and the most relevant society indicators, such as children in families on income support or

young registered crime suspects²⁾. Such a comparison does not answer any questions, but does enable those who look at the information to ask the right questions.

What is the current situation of young people in the Netherlands? Chapter 2 says that the percentage of young people in society is continuing to decline. It was expected that the number of births would increase if the economy picked up. However, this did not happen. This is because women need more time to become settled and they have children later. They stay in education longer, need more time to find a permanent job in today's flexible society, and are older before they marry or live together with a partner.

The most important indicator that correlates with the use of youth assistance is the percentage of children in families that depend on income support³⁾ (Chapter 4). This figure declined in 2017 for the first time in years. In total, this concerns 7 percent of all minors and those with a non-Western migrant background are overrepresented. Crime rates are another important indicator. On this front, Chapter 8 in particular offers good news, as there are fewer young crime suspects and also fewer young victims of crime.

Chapter 7 tells us that alcohol consumption among young adults has remained more or less unchanged from previous years. Drinking alcohol is connected with smoking and drug use, and it is mainly highly educated young adults who drink. There is no relationship between alcohol consumption and exercise and only for teenagers there is a relationship between alcohol consumption and being overweight. Chapter 5 mentions that non-western children are more likely than those without a migration background to attend secondary education at a higher level than that advised in the school recommendation made in the eighth year of primary school. This recommended level is on average lower than the level recommended for children without a migration background. In this regard, girls outperform boys. The share of third-year VMBO students has dropped slightly to 52 percent.

In the Caribbean region, half of young people are not available for work, often because they are in education or training (Chapter 9). In the European Netherlands, many school pupils and students do have a part-time job and their studies or training appear to be less of an obstacle to work. Increasing numbers of young people aged

2) <https://jeugdmonitor.cbs.nl/sites/default/files/2018-04/161216-239-Eindrapportage-Zorglandschap-jeugd-def-concept-22-12.pdf> (Dutch only)

3) <https://jeugdmonitor.cbs.nl/sites/default/files/2018-04/161216-239-Eindrapportage-Zorglandschap-jeugd-def-concept-22-12.pdf> (Dutch only)

15 to 26 years have a job. Some pupils and students earn so much money that they fall outside the statistical categories of 'pupil' and 'student' (Chapter 10). Many young people in work have the advantage that they are part of a social network, and this can reduce the problems of the transition from the under 18 to the over 18 age group. If they are working, they can ask colleagues for advice. In the four largest cities, labour market participation among young people was lowest in Rotterdam and The Hague. Youth unemployment fell further in 2017, according to Chapter 6.

In summary, a large majority of the society indicators that can have an influence on the use of youth assistance are positive. Things are going well for children and young people in the Netherlands, but not everywhere and not for everyone. In 2017, there was a rise in the use of youth assistance (Chapter 3), while a decline could be observed in the first half of 2018. The next few years will make it clear whether this decline is due to increased deployment of preventive or home-based front-line youth assistance, the benefits of which only become visible later; whether there will continue to be substantial demand; or whether it will be a case of fluctuating demand.

Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (VWS)

Summary

1. Young people in the Netherlands (Chapter 2)

At the beginning of 2018, there were 4.9 million children and young people under the age of 25 years in the Netherlands. This represents 28 percent of the population. The expectation is that the number of young people will fall by nearly 100,000 over the next 10 years. However, the number of young people with a migration background will continue to grow. This group currently makes up just over one-quarter of young people in the country. These are young people with a Moroccan or Turkish migration background, but also from Germany or Poland. The family situation of children is undergoing change. For example, more children are currently born to mothers aged 35 and older than was the case around the year 2000. In addition, the proportion of 15-year-olds who do not live with both parents has increased over this period. In the vast majority of cases, this is the result of the parents divorcing. Children of divorced parents mainly live with their mothers (70 percent). A growing number of children live in a single-parent family from birth. In 2017, there were 15,000 such children.

2. Youth care, three years later (Chapter 3)

The number of young people receiving youth assistance has increased over the past three years. This is principally because district and neighbourhood teams in municipalities have helped more young people. Virtually all municipalities deploy district and neighbourhood teams. In 2017, this form of youth assistance reached 82,000 young people, while in 2015, the number was 37,000. Young people with a migration background and those living in single-parent families are relatively more likely to make use of youth assistance provided by the district and neighbourhood team. This is particularly true of the four largest municipalities. Municipalities not only offer help through district or neighbourhood teams, but also refer young people further in cases where a different kind of youth assistance is needed. In 2017, 28 percent of youth assistance procedures – 151,000 out of a total of 550,000 – were referred on by the municipality. In 2015, the share of youth assistance procedures referred on by the municipality was still just 13 percent.

3. Living and growing up (Chapter 4)

At the end of 2017, close to 7 percent of all children under the age of 18 in the Netherlands were living in families that were dependent on income support. This was a group of 228,000 minors. This was the first time since 2009 that the figure had fallen. Between 2009 and 2016, the number of children in income support families actually grew, first as a consequence of the economic crisis and subsequently due to the refugee crisis. The number of children in income support families with a Syrian background rose sharply. At the end of 2017, more than 12 percent of children in income support families had a Syrian background. This makes it the largest group after Dutch children (30 percent). Children growing up in income support families nearly always live in rental properties. In 2015, more than 40 percent of income support families were dissatisfied with their housing, and more than 20 percent definitely wanted to move within two years. Families with children and having to manage on income support had, on average, just over 22,000 euros to spend in 2016. This is less than half the disposable income of households with children and not on income support. An income support family is often a single-parent family with a mother as breadwinner. Income support families with young children have the lowest disposable incomes and relatively often have debts that are greater than their assets. They run an 87-percent risk of falling into poverty.

4. School (Chapter 5)

More than half of students in the third year of secondary education were in prevocational secondary education (VMBO) in the 2017/'18 academic year. The share of third-year VMBO students has fallen slightly in the last 10 years. Students with a non-western migration background are relatively more often in VMBO education than students with a Dutch or other western background. Three-quarters of students in the third year of secondary school are studying at a level in line with the recommendation made in the eighth year of primary school. This is not the case for the others: 11 percent are studying at a lower level and 13 percent at a higher level than was recommended. More girls than boys follow an educational track at a higher level than the school's recommendation. This also occurs more frequently among students with a non-western migration background than among those without a migration background. The vast majority of VMBO students continue on to intermediate vocational education (MBO). Girls then choose a healthcare and welfare track more often than boys, while boys more often choose an education track in construction, finishing or technology.

5. Work (Chapter 6)

In 2017, 65.4 percent of young people aged 15 to 26 years had work and the youth unemployment rate was 8.0 percent. This means that unemployment is not quite down to the level in 2008, when 7.4 percent of the young working population were unemployed. Participation in the labour market is higher among young people not in education at 81.0 percent than among pupils and students (58.2 percent). Of those young people not in education but in work, nearly 50 percent had a permanent job and nearly 60 percent worked full-time. In contrast, pupils and students who worked were relatively often in a flexible labour relationship, and more than half (57 percent) worked less than 12 hours a week. Delivering newspapers, working behind a bar, working as a waiter or waitress, or in the kitchen, stacking shelves and working on the checkout are typical jobs for young people. At least half of them are pupils or students and under 27 years. In their work, young people also face problems of mental fatigue (burnout complaints). Of those young people who were not in education but were working in 2017, 17 percent regularly felt mentally fatigued. Among young people in education and with a job, the proportion was 9 percent. Pressure of work and a lack of autonomy at work play a role in this.

6. Alcohol consumption and health (Chapter 7)

In the period 2015/2017, an average of 6 out of 10 young people in the Netherlands reported that they had consumed alcohol in the previous year. Of teenagers (12 to 17 years old), 34 percent said they occasionally drank alcohol, while 86 percent of young adults (18 to 24 years old) reported doing so. Young people who drink also more often smoke and more often use drugs than their non-drinking contemporaries. Compared with 10 years ago, alcohol consumption among young people has declined, most strongly among teenagers. There are hardly any differences between boys and girls, but differences do exist between young people with differing backgrounds. Alcohol consumption was most common among young people with a Dutch background (68 percent). Young people with a non-western migration background had the lowest level of alcohol use, at 34 percent. Highly educated young adults drink more than contemporaries with a low level of education. Alcohol consumption among young people is more common in rural areas than in urban areas.

7. Crime (Chapter 8)

The share of young people aged between 12 and 24 years registered as crime suspects in 2017 was 1.8 percent. The percentage of suspects in this group was significantly higher among young men than young women. Young people are principally suspected of property offences, such as theft. Of those young people registered as suspects, one in three had also been registered as a suspect during the two previous years. This rate of reoffending has declined slightly since 2012. Among young people, both the share of registered suspects and the share of young people who indicated that they had been victims of crime have declined. In 2017, 19.5 percent of young people aged 15 to 24 years indicated they had been victims of traditional crime (property offences, violence or vandalism) and 17.3 percent said they had been victims of cyber crime. There was no significant difference between the number of young men and young women who had been victims of traditional crime. However, there was a gender difference in relation to cyber crime, with girls aged 15 to 17 years in particular being more likely than boys to be victims of cyber bullying.

8. Caribbean Netherlands (Chapter 9)

At the beginning of 2018, the population of the Caribbean Netherlands (Bonaire, Saba and St Eustatius) included 7,000 young people up to the age of 24 years. Most of them live on Bonaire. On Bonaire and Saba, 60 percent of minors live in two-parent families, while on St Eustatius, this share is significantly smaller at 44 percent. On the islands, it is much more usual than in the European Netherlands for children to live not with their parents, but with other relatives, such as an aunt or uncle, or grandparents. This is the case for a relatively large share of children aged 0 to 3 years, with 18 percent not living with their own parents. On the islands, an average of 235 children are born each year. This represents 41 children per 1,000 women of childbearing age. Fertility is relatively low on Saba, compared with Bonaire and St Eustatius. This is linked to the fact that a relatively large proportion of women of childbearing age are students who have come to the island for educational reasons.

Nearly 1,000 of the 0 to 24-year-olds who were born in the former Dutch Antilles emigrated to the European Netherlands between 2011 and 2017. In the same period, 500 young people with this background emigrated in the opposite direction. Therefore, more young people moved to the European Netherlands than returned to the islands. A relatively large number of young people leave the islands between the ages of 18 and 24 years, for example to study in the European Netherlands. After finishing their studies, or sometimes after working in the European Netherlands for a

few years, these young people return to the Caribbean Netherlands. Nearly 60 percent of young people on the islands are in education or training, with Saba in particular having many young people who are studying. Around a third of young people have paid work.

9. Income (Chapter 10)

Nine out of 10 young people aged 15 to 24 years had their own independent income at the beginning of 2016. They had an average personal annual income of 10,400 euros. Between 2008 and 2014, young people saw their incomes decline – a trend that was connected with the economic crisis. Young people earn more the older they get, and the incomes of young men are higher on average than those of young women. This discrepancy is linked to differences in working hours, among other things. In the 2016/2017 period, 71 percent of young adults were satisfied with their household's financial situation. This meant that young adults were slightly less often happy with their financial situation than the average, which is 74 percent. More than half of young adults have no concerns about their future finances. Young people were therefore somewhat less often worried about their finances in the future than the population as a whole, of which 48 percent expressed no concern on this point. A quarter of young adults frequently worry about their future finances. The more they earned, the less they were concerned. Those who had paid work also worried less than those who did not. Furthermore, girls are more often concerned about their financial future than boys, and young people with a low or medium-level education worry more often than the highly educated.