COMPANION TO THE STATE OF YOUTH IN TORONTO

What a youth scorecard would need

Four published measures would let Toronto answer, each year, whether its young people are better off.

For city staff and councillors · Swabir Shariff · Toronto, Canada · November 2026

The State of Youth in Toronto (November 2026) reads the published record on the city's young people and finds that, on most of what can be measured twice, they are worse off than they were — and on the rest, the record cannot say, because the figures are published in pieces that do not add up. The study itself makes no recommendations. This page is separate from it: it sets out the four things the published record would need for a youth scorecard to work.

1. A published youth total

One figure, published each year, for what Toronto spends on young people — so the response can be weighed against the conditions it is meant to change. Today the published totals stop one level above youth, and no total exists.

2. Victim-age fields for shootings and homicides

Toronto Police Service counts improved sharply in 2025 — 263 shootings and firearm discharges, down from 462 in 2024; 45 homicides, down from 85 — but neither dataset publishes victims' ages, so the city cannot say whether young people shared in the improvement.

3. A Toronto NEET series

A NEET series is a yearly count, published for one place, of the share of young people in none of employment, education or training — the group that work and school statistics each miss. Ontario publishes one: 13% for ages 15 to 29 in 2025. No Toronto series exists at city or CMA (census metropolitan area) level, so the city cannot count its own.

4. One shared outcome measure across programs

Programs now report in their own units — visits, spaces licensed, calls, dollars allocated — and no row publishes whether a young person's life improved. One shared outcome measure, reported by every funded program, would let results be compared and added up.

None of the four requires a new program. Each is a field, a series, or a total that an existing publisher could add to what it already releases — and each would be published on the same terms as the rest of the record: with its age band, geography, and year printed beside it.

Companion to *The State of Youth in Toronto* (November 2026) and its brief, *The State of Youth in Toronto — in brief*. Figures above are as published in the study. Swabir Shariff · Toronto, Canada