The State of Youth in Toronto

The complete set in one volume — the scorecard, the brief, the study, the Toronto Youth Alignment Plan, the companion, and the technical appendix.

Swabir Shariff
Toronto, Canada

November 2026
Compiled from published sources, November 5, 2026

01 The conditions · 02 The response · 03 The accountability gap

Contents

1	The Scorecard	3
2	The Brief — the state of Toronto's youth, in brief	4
3	The Study — The State of Youth in Toronto	8
4	The Plan — The Toronto Youth Alignment Plan	37
5	The Companion — What a youth scorecard would need	70
6	Technical Appendix	71

Page numbers are the pages of this combined volume. Each part keeps its own title page and its own internal section numbering; cross-references inside a part are to that part's own pages in this volume.

The State of Youth in Toronto — Scorecard

Swabir Shariff · Toronto, Canada · November 2026

Toronto cannot say whether its young people are better off, because the numbers are published in pieces that don't add up. Where they do add up, most are moving the wrong way.

HOW TO READ THIS PAGE **Then** = the earliest published figure. **Now** = the latest. **WORSE** = moved the wrong way. **CAN'T TELL** = no fair comparison exists. **MIXED** = some better, some worse — or better overall, with the youth share unknown.

AREA	THEN	NOW	RATING
MONEY **1 in 4 Toronto children lives in a low-income household** Children in low income, ages 0 to 17, Toronto — census family low-income measure, after tax	**16.8%** 2020	**25.3%** 2022 — 117,890 children Median income, ages 15 to 24: **$20,500** (2020) → **$14,100** (2024) (Toronto CMA, constant 2024 $)	**WORSE** The 2020 figures include temporary pandemic transfers.
HOME **People counted homeless on a single night — all ages, and most are adults** People counted experiencing homelessness, Toronto — the city's street needs count	**7,347** Apr 2021	**15,418** Oct 2024 Latest count: **12,196** (Oct 2025)	**CAN'T TELL** The counts were taken in different months and conditions; the 2024 count included 6,350 refugee claimants.
FOOD **About 1 in 3 children lives in a home that struggles to afford food** Children in food-insecure households, under 18, Toronto — each figure combines two years	**28.4%** 2019–2020, combined	**32.0%** 2023–2024, combined	**WORSE** Combined figures are not a trend; rated worse at low confidence — every combined window sits higher than the last on the same measure. No single-year Toronto rate is published.
HEALTH **More than 1 in 3 students say their mental health is fair or poor** Youth reporting fair or poor mental health, grades 7 to 12, Toronto	**27.1%** 2019	**37.0%** 2023	**WORSE** Two points from the same survey — the cleanest comparison in the study.
SCHOOL **87 in 100 TDSB students graduate within five years** Five-year graduation rate, Toronto District School Board	— no like-for-like earlier rate	**87.4%** cohort that began Grade 9 in 2019–20; Catholic board 91.5%, Ontario 89.5%	**CAN'T TELL** Earlier rates appear in other publications on different bases; none matches this one closely enough to call a trend.
SAFETY **Shootings and homicides both fell in 2025** Shootings and firearm discharges · homicides, all ages, Toronto	**462 · 85** 2024	**263 · 45** 2025	**MIXED** No victim-age breakdown is published — how much of the improvement reached young people is unknown.
WORK **Nearly 1 in 5 young people looking for work can't find a job** Unemployment rate, ages 15 to 24, Toronto and surrounding area	**12.3%** 2019	**18.0%** 2025	**WORSE** The survey table was replaced in 2025 — a break in the series, marked in the study; Toronto publishes no series for young people who are not in work, school or training.

THE RESPONSE **More money, spent in silos.** SafeTO alone was funded at **$43 million in 2025**. No published total for youth exists.

Prepared from published sources only. Figures as published in *The State of Youth in Toronto* (November 2026) and its Technical Appendix. This page may be circulated on its own. **Sources:** 2021 Census of Population; Census Family Low Income Measure, After Tax (taxfiler data); City of Toronto Street Needs Assessment, 2021, 2024 and 2025; Public Health Ontario (Canadian Income Survey, pooled two-year estimates); Toronto Public Health student survey; TDSB and TCDSB Student Achievement Plans; Toronto Police Service; Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

A DECISION BRIEF FOR CITY STAFF AND COUNCILLORS

The State of Youth in Toronto — in brief

The published record on Toronto's young people: the conditions, the response, and what the record does not contain.

Swabir Shariff · Toronto, Canada · November 2026

Toronto can't tell whether its young people are better off, because the numbers don't add up across systems. Where they do, most are moving the wrong way. The absence of published data is itself a finding.

581,210 residents aged 5 to 24 — Toronto, 2021 Census	**20.8%** of the city's population — Toronto, 2021 Census	**25.3%** of children aged 0 to 17 in low income — Toronto, 2022	**37.0%** of youth in grades 7 to 12 report fair or poor mental health — Toronto, 2023	**18.0%** unemployment, ages 15 to 24 — Toronto area (CMA), 2025	**10%** of people surveyed in the 2024 homelessness count (a sample of those counted) were aged 16 to 24 — Toronto, 2024

THE SEVEN AREAS, AT A GLANCE

4 areas are worse — Money · Food · Health · Work

1 is mixed — Safety: the counts fell, but the record cannot say whether young people shared in it

2 cannot be told — Home · School: no fair comparison exists

Seven areas were rated. Four moved the wrong way: more children in low-income households (1 in 4 in 2022), more children in homes that struggle to afford food (about 1 in 3), more students reporting fair or poor mental health (more than 1 in 3), and more young people who cannot find work (nearly 1 in 5 of those looking). Shootings and homicides fell — but the record cannot say whether young people shared in that, because police publish no breakdown by victims' ages. For housing and for graduation, no fair comparison exists at all: the counts were taken in different seasons, and no earlier graduation rate is published.

The one-page scorecard carries every rating; this brief explains what sits behind them.

What the ratings rest on

Money — WORSE. 25.3% of Toronto children aged 0 to 17 were in low income in 2022 (the census family low-income measure, CFLIM-AT) — 117,890 children, up from 16.8% in 2020; the 2020 starting point includes temporary pandemic income supports (the 2020 income year included temporary pandemic transfers), which the source prints as a reason 2020 is not directly comparable with adjacent years. The median income of Torontonians aged 15 to 24 who had income was $14,100 in 2024, down in real terms from $20,500 in 2020 (the figures are for the Toronto CMA, in constant 2024 dollars).

Home — CAN'T TELL. The City's point-in-time counts found 7,347 people experiencing homelessness on a single night in April 2021, 15,418 in October 2024, and 12,196 in October 2025 — counts in different seasons; not a like-for-like trend. The 2024 count included 6,350 refugee claimants in shelters.

Food — WORSE. A Toronto rate for children and youth was published once: 18.5%, ages 1 to 17, in 2019. Public Health Ontario now publishes Toronto child values only as pooled estimates — each figure combines two years of surveys: the pooled estimates stood at 28.4% (2019–2020) and 32.0% (2023–2024); pooled estimates are not a trend. No annual Toronto child rate exists. Why WORSE, then, at low confidence: each pooled window sits higher than the one before it on the same measure, and the city's food banks recorded 4,124,313 client visits (attendances, not unique individuals) in the year to March 2025 — the direction is consistent even though the pooled figures cannot prove a year-by-year trend.

Health — WORSE. 37.0% of Toronto youth in grades 7 to 12 reported fair or poor mental health in 2023, up from 27.1% in 2019 — the same Toronto survey, the same question, four years apart.

School — CAN'T TELL. The five-year graduation rate was 87.4% at the Toronto District School Board and 91.5% at the Toronto Catholic board, against 89.5% for Ontario. Earlier rates exist in other publications, on different bases; none matches this record closely enough to compare.

Safety — MIXED (better on the counts; the youth share is not published). Toronto Police Service counted 263 shootings and firearm discharges in 2025, down from 462 in 2024, and 45 homicides, down from 85. The published record contains no victim-age breakdown for either, so it cannot say how much of that improvement reached young people.

Work — WORSE. The Toronto CMA (the city and surrounding area) unemployment rate for ages 15 to 24 was 18.0% in 2025, against 12.3% in 2019 (series break in 2025 — the survey table behind the series was replaced). Ontario's NEET rate — young people not in employment, education or training — was 13% for ages 15 to 29 in 2025. No Toronto NEET series is published.

THE RESPONSE

More money, spent in silos

The problem is not an absence of spending. SafeTO alone was funded at $43 million in 2025. The problem is how the money is arranged: program by program, level of government by level of government, each reporting in its own units — visits, spaces licensed, calls — with no shared measure of what a young person receives, and no published total for youth at all.

Toronto's **≈$236 per resident aged 5–24** is an upper bound: the division's full gross budget, most of it not youth-specific, divided by the 2021 Census count of residents aged 5 to 24. The denominator is the 2021 count held constant, not a 2025 population count. Read against other cities as orders of magnitude, not a ranking: New York's figure is ≈$1,113 per resident on the same basis. Chicago's ≈$2,042 is not like-for-like — its department bundles functions spread across five Toronto divisions. Montreal publishes no figure that can be computed.

Figure 8 — The published response, by level of government and the unit each program reports in

Read the last column: each program reports in a different unit — dollars, visits, calls, spaces — so the rows cannot be added up, and no row reports whether a young person's life improved.

LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT	PROGRAM — AND THE FIGURE IT PUBLISHES	WHAT IT REPORTS — THE UNIT
City of Toronto	**SafeTO** — $43M (2025)	DOLLARS ALLOCATED
	Community Partnership and Investment Program (CPIP) grants — $33.4M (2026)	DOLLARS ALLOCATED
	Youth Hubs (Toronto Public Library) — 129,000 teen visits (Jan–Aug 2025; visits, not unique teens — a returning teen counts again)	VISITS
	Toronto Community Crisis Service — 17,000+ calls (2025)	CALLS
Ontario	**Before/after-school licensing** — 40,943 spaces (Dec 2025)	SPACES LICENSED
	Youth Opportunities Fund — no Toronto total published	NOT PUBLISHED
	Ontario After School Program — Toronto share not published	NOT PUBLISHED
Canada	**Youth Employment and Skills Strategy** — no Toronto figure published	NOT PUBLISHED
	Canada Summer Jobs — no Toronto figure published	NOT PUBLISHED

Where the money overlaps: SafeTO's $5M youth-violence component sits inside the Social Development budget that also carries the CPIP grants, so those two rows share money and cannot be added. The full program table is printed in the Technical Appendix.

No row publishes whether a young person's life improved.

Source: program figures as printed in the text; the full program table is printed in the Technical Appendix.

One finding runs through all three levels of government: the published totals stop one level above youth. Toronto publishes no youth total.

THE ACCOUNTABILITY GAP

What the record does not contain

Each measure below was sought in the published record and not found at the standard the study applies; nothing here has been estimated or modelled.

Victims by age

NOT PUBLISHED

The Toronto Police Service publishes no count of shooting victims by age, and no count of homicide victims by age; its Homicides dataset carries no age field.

A Toronto youth justice series

NOT PUBLISHED

No city-level series for charges, diversion, or custody is published at any stage of the system.

An annual Toronto food-insecurity rate

NOT PUBLISHED

Published once: 18.5% of children and youth aged 1 to 17 in 2019. Public Health Ontario publishes Toronto children-under-18 values only as pooled estimates (32.0% for 2023–2024).

A child poverty rate for Toronto

NOT PUBLISHED

No child-specific Market Basket Measure rate is published for the city or the CMA; no youth core-housing-need rate either (published figure is all-household, 19%, 2021).

A Toronto NEET series

NOT PUBLISHED

None exists at city or CMA level; no Toronto CMA split of the youth labour force into ages 15–19 and 20–24; no Toronto total for Canada Summer Jobs.

The 15,000 jobs paper trail

NOT PUBLISHED

No primary City source: no City release, budget document, or costing publishes it; verifiable only as an October 2026 campaign commitment.

Youth-level response detail

NOT PUBLISHED

No youth slice of CPIP ($33.4M, 2026); no standalone Toronto Community Crisis Service budget; OASP Toronto share and YOF Toronto aggregate not published; Before/After School enrolment not published — licensed capacity (40,943 spaces, December 2025) is the published figure.

Road deaths and injuries under 20

NOT PUBLISHED

The City's Vision Zero reporting publishes no killed-or-seriously-injured figure for any age band under 20.

WHAT THE DATA DOESN'T TELL US

Absence of public reporting is not absence of service or impact. These tiles record what is not published — they say nothing about whether the work is happening. A program can be running, and helping, and still leave no public record a reader can check.

THE COMPANION

A one-page companion — *What a youth scorecard would need* — sets out the four published measures that would let the city answer, each year, whether its young people are better off. It accompanies this brief.

This brief summarises *The State of Youth in Toronto* (November 2026), compiled from published sources only; the full record is in the study and its Technical Appendix. The study makes no recommendations. Swabir Shariff · Toronto, Canada

The State of Youth in Toronto

What Toronto's published record can — and cannot — tell us about its young people

The published record — the state of the city's young people, and the response, in one short read

Swabir Shariff
Toronto, Canada

November 2026
Compiled from published sources, November 5, 2026

01 The conditions · 02 The response · 03 The accountability gap

How to read this

HOW TO READ THIS

Every figure prints its age band, geography, and year — the band, place, and year its source used. Figures are never added together across different bands, places, or years.

Ratings — WORSE / MIXED / CAN'T TELL say what changed and how much weight the comparison can carry. Each carries a confidence note.

Figure numbers and source lines — every chart and table is numbered (Figure 1, Figure 2, …) and carries a source line directly beneath it.

An absence is a finding — where no figure is published at the study's standard, the study says so. Absence of public reporting is not absence of service or impact.

The City of Toronto last published an integrated report card on its children in the early 2000s. No Toronto-wide assessment of young people's condition — across income, housing, health, schooling, safety and work — has been published since.

A note on the title

The State of Youth in Toronto is an independent, published-source assessment of how Toronto's young people are doing, what governments publish about the response, and where the public record falls short. It rates seven areas of young people's lives — money, home, food, health, school, safety and work — using only figures governments and public bodies have themselves published, and it treats what is not published as a finding in its own right.

It is not a youth consultation report, an advocacy platform, or a wellbeing survey, and it makes no recommendations. It differs from Canada's federal *State of Youth Report* (2021), which is national and built from engagement with young people, and from the City of Toronto's own *Toronto Report Card on Children*, the integrated children's report card the City last published in the early 2000s. It complements the City's *Investing in Youth Outcomes* framework (2021): that framework guides how City programs measure themselves internally; this report asks what the published record allows the public to know.

Contents

PART 01 · THE CONDITIONS

The scorecard 4

The state of Toronto's youth, in brief 6

The conditions 7

Body and mind 11

School and safety 14

Work 17

PART 02 · THE RESPONSE

The published response 19
Toronto in the field 22
The City’s own count 24

PART 03 · THE ACCOUNTABILITY GAP

What the record does not contain 27
How this study was compiled 28
What I take from this record 28
About the author 29

PART 01

The conditions

Toronto can't tell whether its young people are better off, because the numbers don't add up across systems. Where they do, most are moving the wrong way. The absence of published data is itself a finding.

PART 01 · THE CONDITIONS

The scorecard

581,210 residents aged 5 to 24 — Toronto, 2021 Census	**20.8%** of the city's population — Toronto, 2021 Census	**25.3%** of children aged 0 to 17 in low income — Toronto, 2022	**37.0%** of youth in grades 7 to 12 report fair or poor mental health — Toronto, 2023	**18.0%** unemployment, ages 15 to 24 — Toronto CMA, 2025	**10%** of people surveyed in the 2024 homelessness count (a sample of those counted) were aged 16 to 24 — Toronto, 2024

Money Children in low income, ages 0 to 17, Toronto (CFLIM-AT)	**16.8%** 2020	→	**25.3%** 2022 — 117,890 children	WORSE **Confidence: moderate.** Same measure both years; the 2020 starting point includes temporary pandemic income supports, which the source prints as a reason 2020 is not directly comparable.
Home People counted experiencing homelessness, all ages, Toronto (Street Needs Assessment)	**7,347 → 15,418** Apr 2021 → Oct 2024	→	**12,196** latest count, Oct 2025	CAN'T TELL **Confidence: none** on a trend. Single-night counts in different months and conditions — not a like-for-like trend; the 2024 count included 6,350 refugee claimants in shelters.
Food Children in food-insecure households, under 18, Toronto (PHO pooled)	**28.4%** 2019–2020, pooled	→	**32.0%** 2023–2024, pooled	WORSE **Confidence: low.** Pooled estimates are not a trend; no annual Toronto child rate is published. The one single-year rate — 18.5%, ages 1–17, 2019, TPH — is a different measure and is never joined to this row.

Health Youth reporting fair or poor mental health, grades 7 to 12, Toronto (TPH)	**27.1%** 2019	→	**37.0%** 2023	**WORSE** **Confidence: high.** The same Toronto survey, the same question, four years apart.
School Five-year graduation rate, Toronto District School Board	— no like-for-like earlier rate	→	**87.4%** cohort that began Grade 9 in 2019–20	**CAN'T TELL** **Confidence: none.** Earlier rates exist in other publications, on different bases that do not match this record closely enough to support a comparison. The Catholic board stands at 91.5% and Ontario at 89.5%.
Safety Shootings and firearm discharges · homicides, all ages, Toronto (TPS)	**462 · 85** 2024	→	**263 · 45** 2025	**MIXED** **Confidence: high** on the counts. **None** on whether young people shared in the improvement: victims' ages are not published for either count.
Work Unemployment, ages 15 to 24, Toronto CMA (LFS)	**12.3%** 2019	→	**18.0%** 2025	**WORSE** **Confidence: high.** The same survey both years; its table was replaced in 2025 (series break in 2025) and the change is marked in the study.

THE RESPONSE

Spending is not the gap — SafeTO alone was funded at **$43 million** in 2025, and Toronto's Social Development figure works out to approximately $236 per resident aged 5 to 24 — an upper bound: the division's full gross budget, most of it not youth-specific, divided by the 2021 Census count of residents aged 5 to 24. What is missing is a shared account of results: each program reports in its own units — visits, spaces, calls, dollars — and no published total for young people exists.

Prepared from published sources only, and may be circulated on its own. The full record behind every figure — sources, methods, and the figures that could not be found — is in *The State of Youth in Toronto* (November 2026) and its Technical Appendix. Swabir Shariff · Toronto, Canada

Sources: 2021 Census of Population; Census Family Low Income Measure, After Tax (taxfiler data); City of Toronto Street Needs Assessment, 2021, 2024 and 2025; Public Health Ontario (Canadian Income Survey, pooled); Toronto Public Health student survey; TDSB and TCDSB Student Achievement Plans; Toronto Police Service; Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

PART 01 · THE CONDITIONS

The state of Toronto’s youth, in brief

Toronto counted **581,210 residents aged 5 to 24** in the 2021 Census — about one in five people in the city. Read line by line, this is what the published data says about how they are doing. Every figure is printed with the age band, place, and year its source used. The rating after each heading — WORSE, MIXED, or CAN'T TELL — says what changed and how much weight the comparison can carry.

Money — WORSE. 25.3% of Toronto children aged 0 to 17 were in low income in 2022, on the Census Family Low Income Measure (CFLIM-AT) — 117,890 children. Within that same measure, the rate rose from 16.8% in 2020 to 25.3% in 2022; the 2020 starting point includes temporary pandemic income supports, which the source prints as a reason 2020 is not directly comparable with adjacent years. The median income of Torontonians aged 15 to 24 who had income was $14,100 in 2024, down in real terms from $20,500 in 2020 (the 2020 income year included temporary pandemic transfers; the figures are for the Toronto CMA, in constant 2024 dollars).

Home — CAN'T TELL. The City's point-in-time counts found 7,347 people experiencing homelessness on a single night in April 2021, 15,418 on a single night in October 2024, and 12,196 on a single night in October 2025 — single-night counts in different seasons and conditions; not a like-for-like trend. The 2024 count included 6,350 refugee claimants accommodated in the shelter system as of the count date. Young people aged 16 to 24 were 10% of those surveyed in 2024.

Food — WORSE. A Toronto rate for children and youth was published once: 18.5% of children and youth aged 1 to 17, on 2019 data. Public Health Ontario now publishes Toronto child values only as pooled estimates: pooled estimates stood at 28.4% (2019–2020) and 32.0% (2023–2024); pooled estimates are not a trend. No annual Toronto child rate exists.

Health — WORSE. 37.0% of Toronto youth in grades 7 to 12 reported fair or poor mental health in 2023, up from 27.1% in 2019 — the same Toronto survey, the same question, four years apart.

School — CAN'T TELL. The five-year graduation rate was 87.4% at the Toronto District School Board and 91.5% at the Toronto Catholic board, against 89.5% for Ontario. Earlier rates exist in other publications, on different bases; none matches this record closely enough to compare, so no direction can be claimed.

Safety — MIXED (better on the counts; the youth share is not published). Toronto Police Service counted 263 shootings and firearm discharges in 2025, down from 462 in 2024, and 45 homicides, down from 85. But the published record contains no victim-age breakdown for either, so it cannot say how much of that improvement reached young people.

Work — WORSE. The Toronto CMA unemployment rate for ages 15 to 24 was 18.0% in 2025 (series break in 2025), against 12.3% in 2019. Ontario's NEET rate — young people not in employment, education or training — was 13% for ages 15 to 29 in 2025. No Toronto NEET series is published.

The response — more money, spent in silos. The problem is not an absence of spending. SafeTO alone was funded at $43 million in 2025. The problem is how the money is arranged: program by program,

level of government by level of government, each reporting in its own units — visits, registrations, spaces licensed — with no shared measure of what a young person actually receives, and no published total for youth at all. The ≈$236 per resident aged 5 to 24 sometimes quoted for Toronto is an upper bound: the division's full gross budget, most of it not youth-specific, divided by the 2021 Census count of residents aged 5 to 24 — read against other cities as orders of magnitude, not a ranking.

So the picture is this: on most of what can be measured twice, Toronto's young people are worse off than they were — and on the rest, the record cannot even say, because nobody publishes it in a form that adds up. What follows is that record, in three parts: the conditions, the response, and the accountability gap.

> *on most of what can be measured twice, Toronto's young people are worse off than they were — and on the rest, the record cannot even say, because nobody publishes it in a form that adds up.*

PART 01 · THE CONDITIONS

The conditions

Who they are. Toronto counted **581,210 residents aged 5 to 24** in the 2021 Census — 20.8% of the city's population, out of a total of 2,794,356. Counting from birth, 704,760 residents were aged 0 to 24, or 25.2% of the city. Children aged 0 to 14 numbered 384,300, or 13.8% of the population, down from 14.6% in 2016. Young people aged 15 to 24 numbered **320,460**, and the largest single band under 25 was ages 20 to 24, at **185,650**. Between the 2016 and 2021 censuses, the population under 25 fell by 33,645. Every figure in this paragraph comes from that one census, counted on Census Day, May 11, 2021. The city's total population of 2,794,356 was 2.3% higher than its 2016 Census count. The sources that follow publish their own age bands and their own geographies — some cover the city, some the wider Toronto census metropolitan area (CMA) — and each figure below keeps the band, place, and year its source used.

581,210 residents aged 5–24 — Toronto, 2021 Census	**25.3% · 117,890** children aged 0–17 in low income (CFLIM-AT) — Toronto, 2022	**15,418 vs 7,347** people counted homeless, Oct 23, 2024 vs Apr 21, 2021 — Toronto	**$1,456 vs $390** monthly bachelor rent vs Ontario Works shelter allowance — 2024

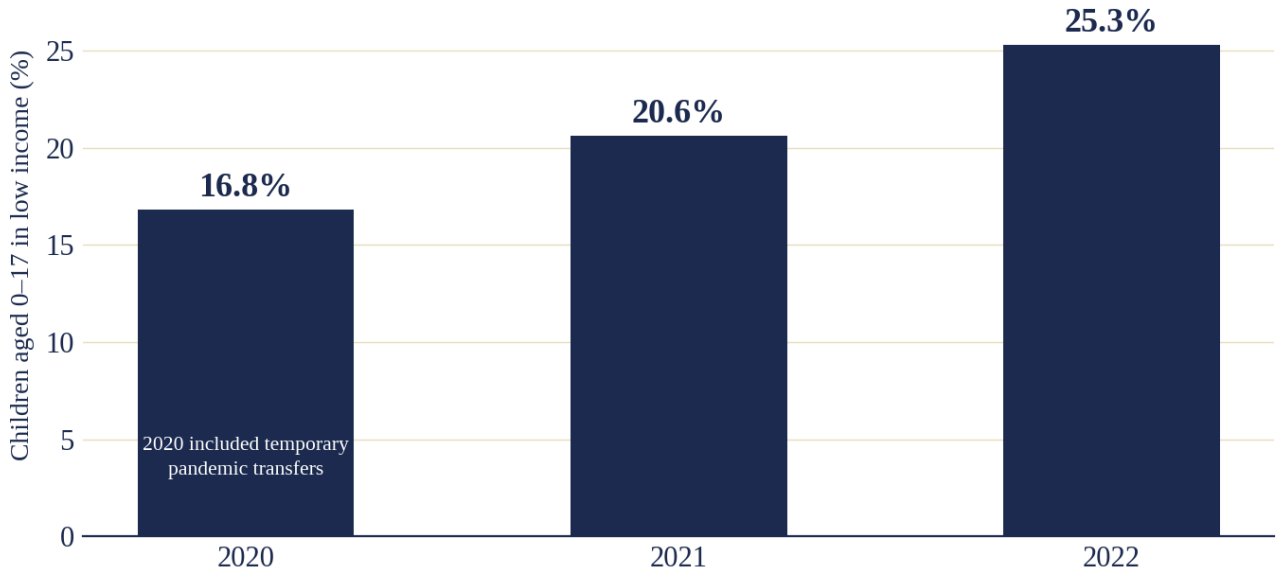
KEY FINDING

Three published measures give three different child low-income values for Toronto — 14.7% (LIM-AT, 2020), 25.3% (CFLIM-AT, 2022) and 10.0% (MBM, Toronto CMA, 2020). They are three measures side by side, not a trend; no one of them continues another.

Money. Toronto has no single child poverty number. Three published measures give three values, and each describes a different measure, population, geography, or year. On the Low Income Measure, After Tax (LIM-AT), 14.7% of Toronto children aged 0 to 17 lived in low-income households in the 2020 income year, as

reported in the 2021 Census; that year included temporary pandemic transfers, which the source prints as a reason 2020 is not directly comparable with adjacent years. On the Census Family Low Income Measure, After Tax (CFLIM-AT — the census-family version of the measure), 25.3% of children aged 0 to 17 were in low income in the 2022 tax year — 117,890 children — on taxfiler data rather than the census. On the Market Basket Measure (MBM), Canada's official poverty line, the rate was 10.0% in 2020, for all ages across the Toronto CMA (the city and surrounding area), not the city alone. These are three measures side by side, not a trend; no one of them continues another. Within its own series, the CFLIM-AT rate rose from 16.8% in 2020 to 20.6% in 2021 and 25.3% in 2022, and children in one-parent families had a CFLIM-AT rate of 50.6% in 2022.

Figure 1 — Child low income, Toronto, Census Family Low Income Measure, After Tax



Children aged 0 to 17 in low income, Toronto, one series only: the Census Family Low Income Measure, After Tax (taxfiler data). The Low Income Measure, After Tax (14.7%, 2020) and the Market Basket Measure (10.0%, 2020, Toronto CMA, all ages) are different measures and are not plotted here — three measures side by side, not a trend.

Source: Census Family Low Income Measure, After Tax (taxfiler data), 2020–2022.

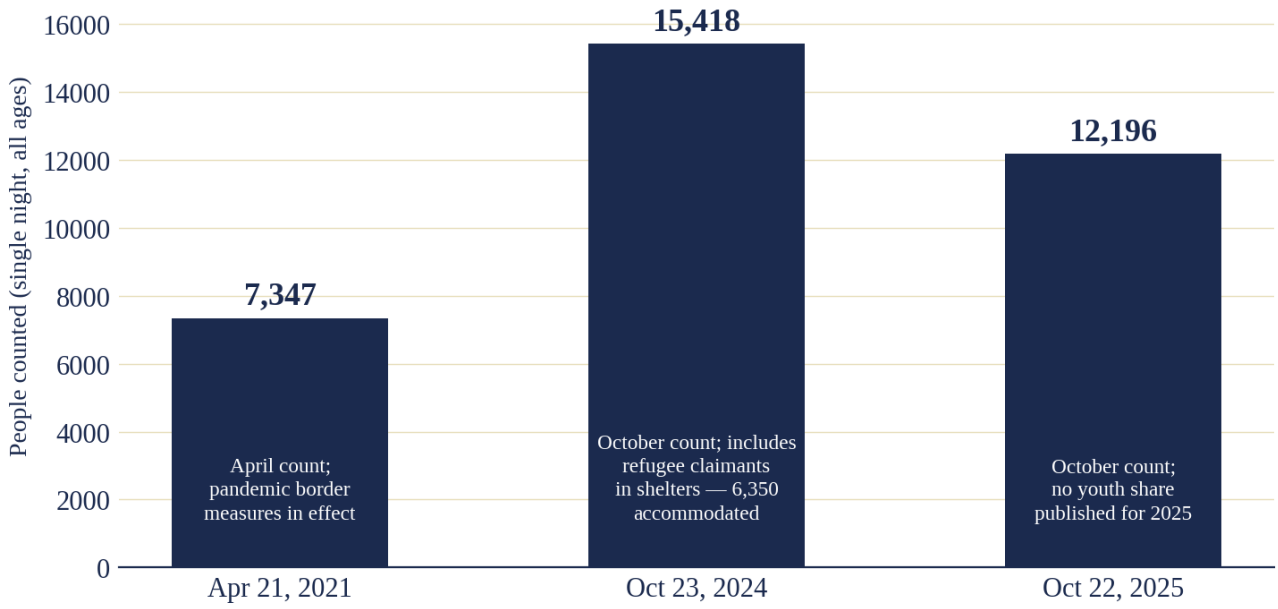
Below city level, and by equity group, the published record is uneven: the one-parent-family rate above (50.6%, 2022) is the deepest published split for child low income. No child-specific Market Basket Measure rate is published for the city or the CMA, and no youth core-housing-need rate is published. **Not published:** a child poverty rate for Toronto on the official (MBM) measure, and any neighbourhood-level child low-income series at this study's standard. Toronto's median total household income was $84,000 for the 2020 income year, the lowest median among the regions of the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area in the City's backgrounder.

Young people's own incomes are published for the Toronto CMA, not the city. Among residents aged 15 to 24 who had income, the median total income was **$14,100** in 2024, in 2024 constant dollars, down in real terms from $20,500 in 2020 — the first year of a series that fell each year, starting from the income year that

included pandemic transfers. Median employment income for the same band was $12,800 in 2024. In Ontario, the general minimum wage is $17.95 per hour from October 1, 2026, and the student minimum wage for students under 18 is $16.90 per hour for the same period. The depth of low income is published by family type: in 2022, the gap between the CFLIM-AT line and the median after-tax income of low-income one-parent families with two children was $15,495. Student debt is published by province of study, not for Toronto: among Ontario bachelor's graduates of the class of 2020 who owed money for their education, the average debt at graduation was $30,800, and 59% of Ontario bachelor's graduates owed debt to some source.

Housing. Toronto's 2024 point-in-time count found **15,418 people** experiencing homelessness on October 23, 2024, more than double the 7,347 counted on April 21, 2021. Both counts are single-night counts from the City's Street Needs Assessment, and they come with the City's own cautions: the 2018 and 2021 counts were held in April and the 2024 count in October; the 2021 count was taken while pandemic border measures were in effect; and the 2024 count included a large number of refugee claimants in the shelter system, 6,350 accommodated as of the count date. On the 2024 count night, 12,304 people were in City-administered sites, 1,615 were outdoors, and 1,499 were in provincially administered institutions. The count does not include hidden homelessness, such as temporarily staying with friends or family. Youth aged 16 to 24 were 10% of people surveyed in the 2024 assessment, and the City estimates that more than 1,500 young people aged 16 to 24 experience homelessness on a given night in Toronto; the City does not publish the basis for this estimate. The 2025 count, held October 22, 2025, found 12,196 people, all ages; the City published no youth share for it.

Figure 2 — People counted experiencing homelessness, single-night counts



People counted experiencing homelessness on a single night, all ages, City of Toronto Street Needs Assessment. Counts only; no rate. The bars are not joined and are not a trend series: the counts were taken in different months and conditions, as annotated on the chart. Youth aged 16 to 24 were 10% of those surveyed in 2024; the City estimates that more than 1,500 young people aged 16 to 24 experience homelessness on a given night, and the City does not publish the basis for that estimate.

Source: City of Toronto, Street Needs Assessment 2021, 2024 and 2025.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Without a youth count on a comparable footing, no one in a city office can say whether youth homelessness is rising or falling — only that the overall count is in the tens of thousands.

Toronto had 25 youth shelters at the end of the third quarter of 2025. Average youth-shelter bed capacity was 699 beds across the first quarter of 2024 to the third quarter of 2025, and 57% of youth were reported as having been unable to access a shelter bed when they tried in the past year. Rents are published for the Toronto CMA: in October 2025, the average rent was $1,761 per month for a one-bedroom apartment and $2,045 for a two-bedroom, with a vacancy rate of 3.0% overall. A separate City-published series prints the average market rent for a bachelor unit in Toronto as **$1,456 per month** in 2024, against a maximum Ontario Works shelter allowance of **$390 per month** for a single person in the same year. Almost one in five Toronto households was in core housing need in 2021 — **215,225 households**, 19% of households examined — including 29% of renter households and 11% of owner households. In the Toronto CMA, 47% of young adults aged 20 to 34 lived in the same household as at least one parent in 2021.

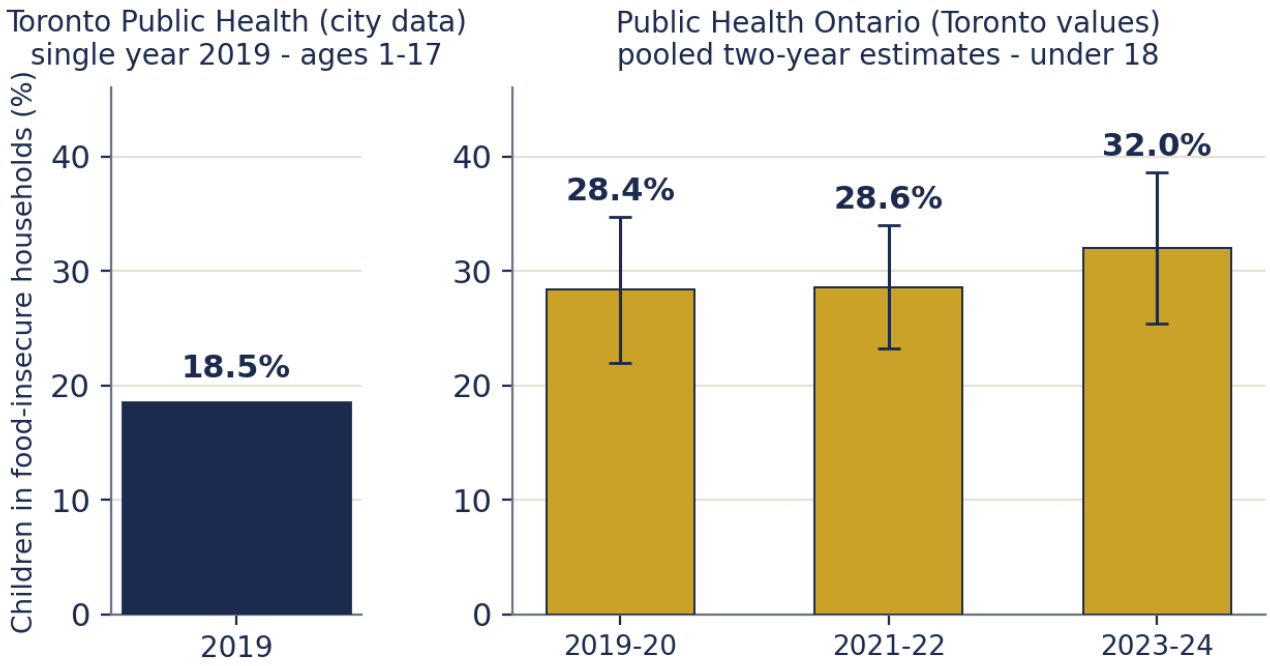
PART 01 · THE CONDITIONS

Body and mind

Food. About one in four Toronto households was food insecure in the most recent published city estimate: **24.9%** of households, over 753,000 people, in the Who's Hungry 2024 report, which cites Statistics Canada's Canadian Income Survey as analysed by PROOF at the University of Toronto. The successor report, Who's Hungry 2025, prints the updated value as 24.7% of Toronto households in 2024. Both rates cover all households and all ages; neither report publishes a Toronto rate for children or youth specifically.

A Toronto rate for children and youth was published once. Toronto Public Health's Population Health Profile (February 2023) prints that 18.5% of Toronto children and youth aged 1 to 17 experienced household food insecurity in the past year, on 2019 data; the figure counts individuals, not households, and includes marginal, moderate, and severe insecurity. Public Health Ontario now publishes Toronto child values only as pooled multi-year estimates, from the Canadian Income Survey: 28.4% for 2019–2020, 28.6% for 2021–2022, and 32.0% for 2023–2024 as two-year combined estimates, and 33.4% for 2023–2025 as a three-year rolling estimate. No annual Toronto child value is published for any single year. The two sources use different surveys and different reference periods, so their figures are not one series and do not show a trend.

Figure 3 — Children and youth in food-insecure households, Toronto



Toronto children and youth living in food-insecure households, in two panels because the two sources measure differently and are not one series. Left — Toronto Public Health (2023): 18.5% for 2019, a single year, ages 1–17. Right — Public Health Ontario (2026): children under 18, published only as pooled two-year estimates — 28.4% (2019–2020), 28.6% (2021–2022), 32.0% (2023–2024); whiskers are the published 95% confidence intervals. No annual Toronto child rate is published for any recent year.
Source: Toronto Public Health (2023); Public Health Ontario (2026), Canadian Income Survey.

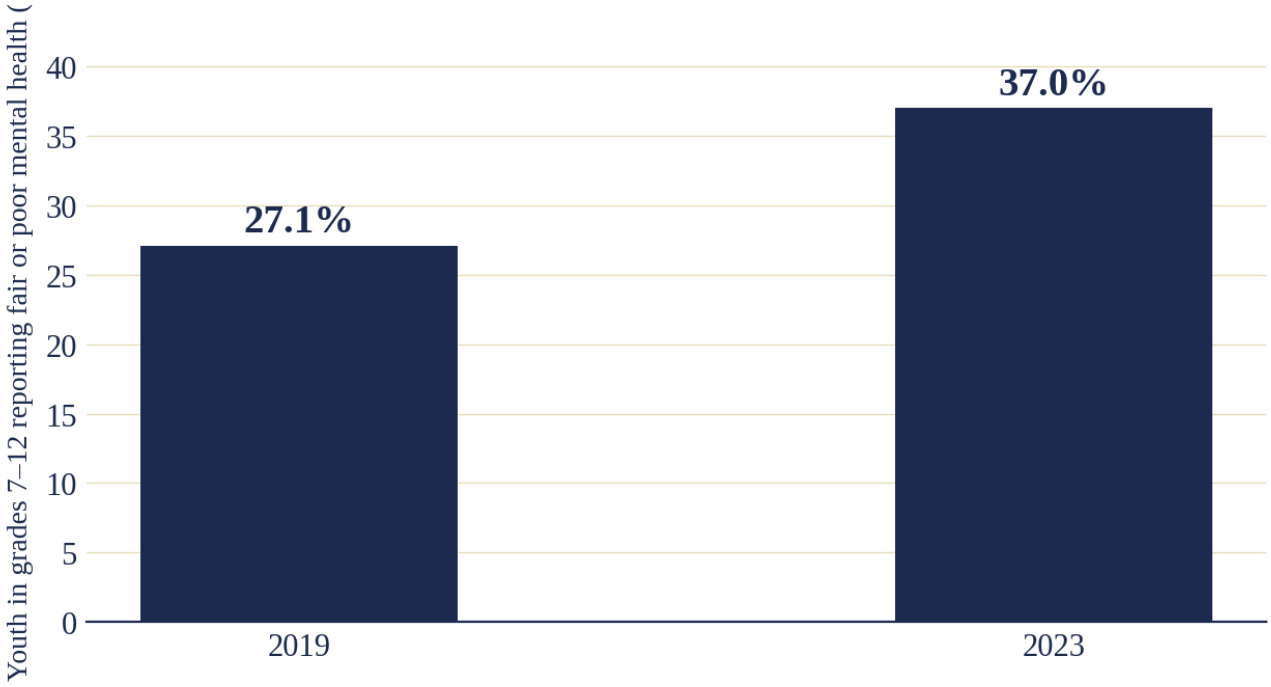
Two sources, two different measures, plotted apart on purpose: the single-year figure on the left and the pooled estimates on the right are not one trend, and the chart does not join them.

Toronto food banks recorded **4,124,313 client visits** in the fiscal year April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025, across the Daily Bread and North York Harvest member agency network — an **18% increase** over the previous year's 3,488,351 visits. Visits count attendances, not unique individuals. Children were **25% of Toronto food bank clients** in 2024–25. The Student Nutrition Program is a coverage record, not a prevalence record: in 2024–25, 819 student nutrition programs receiving municipal funding were located in 620 school communities, and approximately 73% of Toronto's public schools had a community-based student nutrition program. By Phase 1 of the program's expansion (Winter 2025), 686 school communities received funding, which Toronto Public Health states includes reaching 81% of Toronto's public schools.

37.0%	**32.0%**	**4,124,313**	**105 days**
fair or poor mental health, grades 7–12 — Toronto, 2023 (27.1% in 2019)	child food insecurity, PHO pooled — Toronto, under 18, 2023–2024	food bank client visits — Toronto, Apr 1, 2024–Mar 31, 2025	average wait for intensive treatment — Ontario, 2023/24 (in the Technical Appendix)

Mental health. The Toronto series is Toronto Public Health's student survey. Toronto Public Health reports that **37.0%** of Toronto youth in grades 7 to 12 reported fair or poor mental health in 2023, up from 27.1% in 2019. In the same Toronto series, 18.0% of youth in grades 7 to 12 reported in 2023 that they seriously contemplated suicide in the past year, against 16.7% in 2019, a change the source describes as stable.

Figure 4 — Fair or poor mental health, Toronto youth, grades 7–12



Toronto youth in grades 7 to 12 reporting fair or poor mental health, Toronto Public Health student survey. The Ontario CAMH series is a different publisher and a different population, is not plotted here, and appears in the Technical Appendix.

Source: Toronto Public Health, student survey, 2019 and 2023.

The Ontario-wide and national series — CAMH's Ontario student survey, the Ontario opioid figures for ages 15–24, and Ontario treatment waits — appear in the Technical Appendix.

Health care. The clinical record is thinner for Toronto youth specifically, and several of its series are not youth-only. Toronto's rate of emergency department visits for intentional self-harm was **100.3 per 100,000** in 2022, up from 86.9 per 100,000 in 2013 — a series for people aged 10 years and older, not restricted to youth, and no youth-specific Toronto rate is published. Toronto Public Health publishes opioid-toxicity deaths for all ages only: **523 deaths in Toronto in 2023**. No Toronto-specific wait time for child and youth mental health treatment is published. Among Toronto youth in grades 7 to 12, past-year substance use in 2023 was 29.4% for alcohol, described as stable against 31.7% in 2019; 16.4% for cannabis, against 14.6% in 2019; and 2.6% for tobacco in both 2023 and 2019.

Getting around. Children aged 12 and under ride the TTC free, a fare in place since March 1, 2015. Youth aged 13 to 19 pay a concession single fare of $2.35 on a PRESTO card set to the Youth fare type, or $2.40 in cash, against an adult fare of $3.30 on PRESTO. Since September 1, 2026, riders in all fare categories, including youth aged 13–19, stop paying after 47 paid fares in a calendar month under monthly fare capping. The City's Fair Pass Transit Discount Program, the income-based fare discount, is published for Toronto residents aged 20 to 64 years only; no youth eligibility line is published for the program, and Toronto has no operating TTC U-Pass program. On road safety, the City's Vision Zero reporting publishes no killed-or-seriously-injured figure for any age band under 20. In 2025, 39 people were killed on Toronto roads, all ages, and 649 School Safety Zones were completed by the end of 2025. On air exposure, Toronto Public Health's

traffic-related air pollution work records that **50%** of Toronto's child care centres and **43% of Toronto's schools** are located within at least one of its mapped exposure zones. Those are site-location shares — the share of buildings that fall inside a modelled zone — not measurements of any individual child's exposure.

> *The Student Nutrition Program is a coverage record, not a prevalence record*

PART 01 · THE CONDITIONS

School and safety

263	45	87.4%	129,000
shootings and firearm discharges — Toronto, 2025 (462 in 2024)	homicides — Toronto, 2025 (85 in 2024)	five-year graduation rate — TDSB	teen visits (accesses — a returning teen counts again), TPL Youth Hubs — Toronto, Jan–Aug 2025

KEY FINDING

The counts improved sharply in 2025 — 263 shootings and firearm discharges, down from 462 in 2024, and 45 homicides, down from 85 — and the published record contains no victim-age breakdown for either, so it cannot say how much of that improvement reached young people.

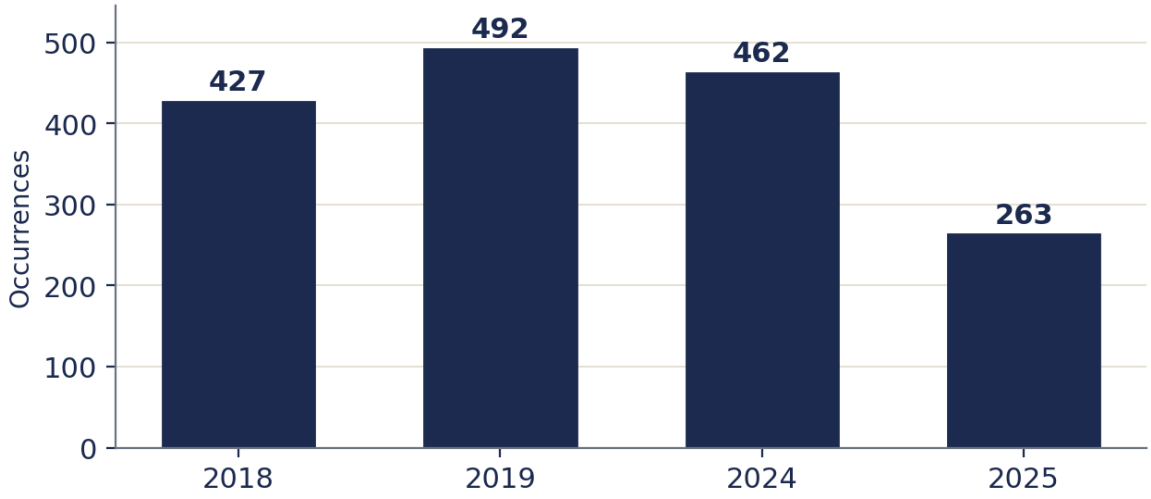
School. In the latest Student Achievement Plans, the five-year graduation rate was **87.4%** at the Toronto District School Board and **91.5% at the Toronto Catholic District School Board**, against **89.5% for Ontario**. The five-year rate is the share of students graduating with an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) within five years of starting Grade 9; those figures are for the cohort that began Grade 9 in 2019–20, measured to 2023–24. The four-year rate counts graduation within four years of starting Grade 9, and for the cohort that began in 2020–21 it was 81.8% at TDSB and 88.4% at TCDSB, against 84.9% for Ontario, as of August 31, 2024. The two rates describe different cohorts. The board boundaries match the City of Toronto, but the figures are enrolment populations, not the city's resident population: some Toronto students attend the French-language boards or private schools, and some board students live outside the city.

Progress through school shows in the credit figures. By the end of Grade 10, the share of students earning 16 or more credits was 73% at TDSB and 85% at TCDSB in 2023–24, against 80% in Ontario. Suspensions run lower in the Toronto boards than across the province: the suspension rate counts students in Grades 4–12 suspended at least once in the data year, and it was 2.13% at TDSB in 2023–24, against 3.84% in Ontario, and 2.86% at TCDSB in 2022–23. Grade 6 results from the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) are the share of students meeting or exceeding the provincial standard: reading 84% and writing 83% at TDSB, and reading 86% and writing 84% at TCDSB, against 86% and 85% for Ontario. Ontario ended Grade 9 streaming from September 2021, so from 2021–22 the academic/applied split in Grade 9 mathematics no longer exists as an enrolment category. What happens after graduation is thinner in the record: the most recent published TDSB-linked transition analysis covers ten Grade 9 cohorts, 2006–2015 starters, each followed five

years (n = 156,580), and of graduates in those cohorts a board-wide average of 16% did not make a direct transition to postsecondary education. The same report prints that 24.5% of graduating students completed no Grade 12 University-preparation course; of those students, 23.1% transitioned to college and 70.9% did not apply to postsecondary at all. Apprenticeship transitions are not measured in this dataset, and no Toronto-level postsecondary participation rate is published.

Violence. Toronto Police Service counted **263 shootings and firearm discharges** in the City of Toronto in calendar year 2025, down in count from 462 in 2024 and below the 492 recorded in 2019, the highest total in the 2015–2025 series. The 2025 total consisted of 95 shootings and 168 firearm discharges, with **101 people non-fatally injured** and **20 people killed**. TPS counted **45 homicides** in 2025 — 20 by shooting, 14 by stabbing, and 11 recorded as other types — against 85 in 2024 and 98 in 2018. The study publishes these figures as counts only and makes no statement about why they changed.

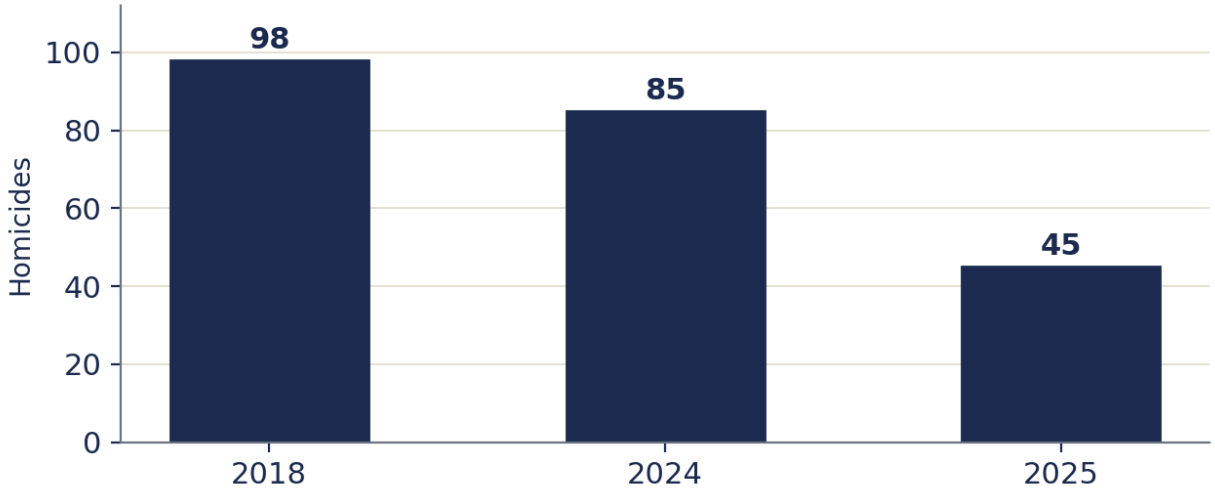
Figure 5 — Shootings and firearm discharges, City of Toronto



Shootings and firearm discharges, total occurrences, City of Toronto, calendar years (Toronto Police Service, 2026). Counts only — the study publishes no rate and no statement about why the counts changed.

Source: Toronto Police Service, 2026.

Figure 6 — Homicides, City of Toronto



Homicides, City of Toronto, calendar years (Toronto Police Service, 2026). Counts only.

Source: Toronto Police Service, 2026.

The age picture inside the violence data is partial, and its two blocks are never combined in this study. Derived from TPS open data, 1,818 persons aged under 18 were recorded as persons arrested and charged in Toronto in 2024, 5.7% of accused persons of all ages; the count was 1,746 in 2019 and 1,698 in 2025. Under the firearm-related subtype, 166 persons aged under 18 were arrested and charged in 2024, and under the murder subtype, 4; a person charged under more than one category or subtype appears in each, so the rows overlap and must not be summed. In the separate victims dataset, which records identified victims of crimes against the person aged 12 to 17, the count was 2,951 in 2024, dividing by subtype into assault 1,412, sexual violation 704, robbery 435, and other 400. That dataset contains no firearm subtype and no homicide subtype, so it cannot be used as a shooting-victim or homicide-victim series. What the record does not contain is a victim-age breakdown for shootings or homicides: the TPS shootings dataset has no victim-age field and no accused-age field, and the homicides dataset's field list contains no age field for victims and no field for accused persons at all. No TPS-published table of homicide victims or accused by age, and no TPS-published table of shooting victims by age, was located. That absence is part of the record.

Justice. *Youth justice — the Ontario and Canada series on charges, diversion, courts and custody — appears in the Technical Appendix. No Toronto city-level series is published at any stage of the system.*

Belonging. *Belonging — Youth Hub accesses, school connectedness and sense of belonging — appears in the Technical Appendix.*

> *That absence is part of the record.*

PART 01 · THE CONDITIONS

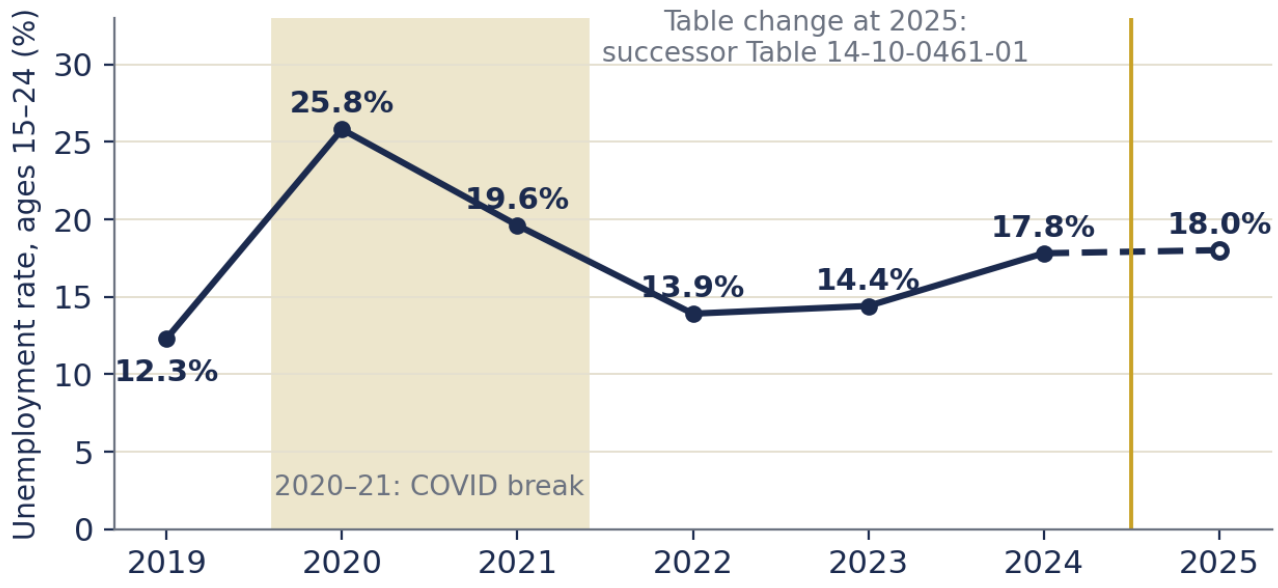
Work

18.0%	13%	10,000
unemployment, ages 15–24 — Toronto CMA, 2025	NEET rate, ages 15–29 — Ontario, 2025 (no Toronto series published)	additional youth to be hired by summer 2026 — City Council motion goal

Jobs. **18.0%** of Toronto CMA's labour force aged 15–24 was unemployed in 2025, against 12.3% in 2019. The employment rate — the share of the population aged 15–24 that is employed — was **44.8% in 2025**, the participation rate **54.7%**, and the population itself **937,900**.

These are Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey annual averages for Toronto CMA, ages 15–24, both sexes. The CMA is the city plus surrounding suburban municipalities, so these are CMA figures, not figures for the central city alone. Values for 2019–2024 come from Table 14-10-0385-01; the 2025 values come from its successor, Table 14-10-0461-01, which carries revised population controls. The two tables' rates for overlapping years reconcile within 0.1–0.2 percentage points, but their population levels differ — the successor table prints 961,600 for the 2024 population, against 1,008,400 in the archived table — and the two are not mixed without saying so.

Figure 7 — Unemployment rate, Toronto CMA, ages 15–24



Unemployment rate, Toronto CMA, ages 15–24, Labour Force Survey annual averages: 2019–2024 from the archived Table 14-10-0385-01 (Statistics Canada, 2025b); 2025 from the successor Table 14-10-0461-01 (Statistics Canada, 2026c), plotted as a dashed segment after the marked table change. 2020–21 shaded: the COVID break, marked, not smoothed.

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Tables 14-10-0385-01 and 14-10-0461-01.

The survey table behind this series was replaced in 2025 (marked); the rate barely moved, but the population counts behind it were revised.

The survey table behind this series was replaced in 2025, and the chart marks the change: 2019–2024 values are from the archived table, the 2025 value from its successor, which carries revised population controls.

The series runs: unemployment 12.3% in 2019, 25.8% in 2020 and 19.6% in 2021 — years the study marks as a break and does not smooth — then 13.9% in 2022, 14.4% in 2023, 17.8% in 2024 and 18.0% in 2025. The employment rate was 50.1% in 2019, fell to 40.1% in 2020, and stood at 44.2% in 2024 and 44.8% in 2025. In the five years before the break, unemployment fell from 15.1% in 2015 to 12.3% in 2019, and the employment rate rose from 48.0% to 50.1%. The population behind the rates moved within the archived table too, from 917,900 in 2023 to 1,008,400 in 2024. The CMA table publishes ages 15–24 only; splits into 15–19 and 20–24 are published at Ontario and Canada level, in a different table.

Not in school or work. **13%** of Ontarians aged 15–29 were not in employment, education or training in 2025. The Canada rate was **12%**.

The NEET rate measures the share of a youth population that is in none of employment, education, or training in the survey reference period. Statistics Canada's standard NEET population here is ages 15–29 — an older band than the 15–24 band above. The series (Table 37-10-0196-01) is published as whole percents: 11% for both Canada and Ontario in 2019; 14% for Canada in both 2020 and 2021, and 14% then 15% for Ontario, in the years marked as a break; from 2022 to 2025 the Canada rate ranged from 11% to 12% and the Ontario rate from 10% to 13%. Ontario's 13% in 2025 is the highest Ontario value of the post-break years shown.

A second measure, NEETEST — NEET measured over a full calendar year from linked administrative data — counts youth who were NEET for a full calendar year, excluding unpaid caregiving. For Canada, ages 20–29, the NEETEST rate was 7.6% in 2022, against a snapshot NEET rate of 12.5% the same year; the article behind it puts NEETEST between 7% and 8% throughout 2017–2022, while the snapshot NEET rate was usually 13% to 14% over those years outside the pandemic. It is a different measure, not a continuation of the series above. No Toronto-level NEET series is published: the table appears at Canada and province level only.

The commitments. **10,000** additional equity-deserving youth, ages 15–24, hired by summer 2026 — that is the goal a City Council motion carried in December 2024, as published by the City of Toronto.

The motion, MM24.2, proposed a Toronto Youth Employment Program strategy with that goal, and was referred to committee with "the target of up to 10,000 additional summer jobs for young people by 2026." A later staff report, EC25.7, "Reducing Barriers to Youth Employment," was adopted by Council on December 16–17, 2025; it directs that the goal of creating new youth employment opportunities be included in the Youth Employment Table's terms of reference, directs the Table to set youth-employment-opportunity targets, and requires annual progress reporting beginning May 5, 2026. The City also publishes that more than 16,000 youth are employed across the City system each year — stated in a City news release dated November 25, 2025, and in the EC25.7 summary for ages 15–29, a different band from the motion's 15–24. The documents do not state whether a young person hired under two programs is counted once or twice; the column's counting basis is not published.

Separately, and labelled as what it is: the commitment to create 15,000 new youth jobs — "Create 15,000 new youth jobs through the Toronto Youth Employment Strategy" — is a campaign commitment, published in

Mayor Olivia Chow's 2026 re-election campaign materials in October 2026, following a campaign announcement on October 15, 2026 — a campaign commitment, October 2026; no City costing published. The campaign text states no completion date and no breakdown of job type — full-time, part-time, summer, or placement. No City of Toronto document, timeframe, or costing for the 15,000 figure is published in the sources recorded.

One warning the study carries: a "2,120 youth hired in 2023" figure in City budget notes is a division-wide measure for Social Development, Finance and Administration, across Social Development youth programs. It is not a Toronto Youth Job Corps figure, and the study does not attribute it to that program, whose published age band in the study's record is 15–30, for youth who are out of school and out of work.

> *It is a different measure, not a continuation of the series above.*

PART 02

The response

PART 02 · THE RESPONSE

The published response

Three levels of government publish a response to the conditions in this study — in their own units, on their own year bases, and with their own verbs. City figures are calendar years; Ontario and federal figures are fiscal years running April 1 to March 31. One finding runs through all three: the published totals stop one level above youth. Toronto publishes no youth total.

$43 million SafeTO funding — Toronto, 2025	**≈$236 vs ≈$1,113** per resident aged 5–24 — Toronto (upper bound) vs New York	**40,943** licensed before- and after-school spaces — Toronto, Dec 2025	**≈$29–35 million/yr** the after-school ledger, modelled total (published components $17.3–22.3M) — Toronto	**≈1,800** guaranteed places (ARC registered places, ages 6–12) — Toronto, 2025

KEY FINDING

Toronto publishes no youth total.

Figure 8 — The published response, by level of government and the unit each program reports in

Read the last column: each program reports in a different unit — dollars, visits, calls, spaces — so the rows cannot be added up, and no row reports whether a young person's life improved.

LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT	PROGRAM — AND THE FIGURE IT PUBLISHES	WHAT IT REPORTS — THE UNIT
City of Toronto	**SafeTO** — $43M (2025)	DOLLARS ALLOCATED
	Community Partnership and Investment Program (CPIP) grants — $33.4M (2026; all services — no youth slice published)	DOLLARS ALLOCATED
	Youth Hubs (Toronto Public Library) — 129,000 teen visits (Jan–Aug 2025; visits, not unique teens — a returning teen counts again)	VISITS
	Toronto Community Crisis Service — 17,000+ calls (2025)	CALLS
Ontario	**Before/after-school licensing** — 40,943 spaces (Dec 2025)	SPACES LICENSED
	Youth Opportunities Fund — no Toronto total published	NOT PUBLISHED
	Ontario After School Program — Toronto share not published	NOT PUBLISHED
Canada	**Youth Employment and Skills Strategy** — no Toronto figure published	NOT PUBLISHED
	Canada Summer Jobs — no Toronto figure published	NOT PUBLISHED

Where the money overlaps: SafeTO's $5M youth-violence component sits inside the Social Development budget that also carries the CPIP grants, so those two rows share money and cannot be added. The full program table is printed in the Technical Appendix.

No row publishes whether a young person's life improved.

Source: program figures as printed in the text; the full program table is printed in the Technical Appendix.

The City. SafeTO, the City's community safety and well-being plan, was funded at **$43 million** in calendar 2025 and **$49 million in calendar 2026**, nominal. Each total includes a $5 million component for youth violence prevention in that year — inside the total, not in addition to it.

Social Development, the division that runs SafeTO and the City's main community grants, had a gross budget of **$157.3 million** in calendar 2026. Inside it, the Community Safety & Well-Being service line was $50.7 million and the Community Partnership and Investment Program — the division's all-services grants total — was **$33.4 million**. The division publishes no youth or after-school slice of that grants program, and the service line is not a youth-only line.

Toronto Public Library's Youth Hubs — staffed drop-in spaces for teenagers — numbered 31 in calendar 2025 and recorded 129,000 teen visits in January–August 2025, alongside 2,330 programs offered and 17,700 program participants. Visits are the published unit: a teenager who comes back is counted again. No total cost for all 31 hubs is published; a modelled figure of about $9.2 million per year, built from a published expansion cost of about $296,000 per hub per year, is labelled in the study as modelled, not as a budget.

The Toronto Community Crisis Service, a non-police mobile crisis response for people aged 16 and older, coordinated by Social Development and delivered by community anchor partners, operating city-wide since July 8, 2024, received more than 17,000 calls in calendar 2025, resulting in over 14,000 dispatches. Its cumulative record from March 2022 to December 31, 2025 was more than 41,000 calls responded to, over 34,000 teams dispatched, over 9,500 referrals, and more than 1,600 individuals (people, not events) connected to case management. It has no standalone published budget; its spending sits inside the service line above. The Toronto Youth Equity Strategy, adopted in 2014 as a five-year strategy with 110 actions for youth aged 13–29, was last accounted for in a January 2020 briefing note — $103.3 million invested over calendar 2015–2019. No standalone reporting was found after that date.

Ontario. Toronto had **40,943 licensed before- and after-school spaces** in December 2025. That is licensed capacity — spaces licensed to exist. It is not registrations and not children enrolled; Ontario publishes no enrolment figure, and no Ontario public budget figure for delivering these programs in Toronto.

The Youth Opportunities Fund, funded by the province and administered by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, carries an Ontario allocation of **$16.8 million per year**. In fiscal 2024–25, $13.4 million was awarded to 38 projects. Allocated and awarded are different published concepts; the two figures are not summed, and the fund publishes no Toronto total.

The Black Youth Action Plan was announced in March 2017 as $47 million over four years, to increase access to supports for 10,800 Black children, youth, and families. For fiscal 2025–26, the only stream figure published is $16.5 million for the Economic Empowerment program, supporting 6 initiatives comprising more than 40 community-based programs. It is one stream in one year, not the plan's total, and no Toronto share is published for it. This is the one program in the published response aimed at a named equity group; no Toronto-level figure for it is published. The Ontario After School Program runs on **$14.6 million per year** province-wide, within $43.9 million over three years, reaching about 13,000 children and youth per year province-wide. Toronto's share — budget, sites, participants — appears nowhere in the published record.

Canada. The Youth Employment and Skills Strategy (YESS), led by Employment and Social Development Canada with 11 other federal departments, agencies and Crown corporations, serves youth aged 15–30. ESDC's own YESS Program activity had planned spending of **$149.910 million** in fiscal 2025–26, with a target of 5,240 youth served by ESDC; delivery partners overall expect to serve approximately 20,000 youth that year. The $149.910 million is one department's portion of one activity, not a whole-of-government total. Total federal funding allocated since the strategy's start on April 1, 2003 is $10,410.36 million — a cumulative figure, not an annual budget. Budget 2025 proposes $307.9 million over two years starting in fiscal 2026–27, labelled in the study as a proposal. No Toronto allocation or participant total for YESS is published.

Canada Summer Jobs, a program under YESS, provides wage subsidies to employers hiring youth aged 15–30. In summer 2025 it recorded more than 75,000 jobs created, Canada-wide. Its budget for fiscal 2025–26 is published on two separate bases, never added: $200.5 million under Budget 2024 to maintain 70,000 job opportunities, plus a $25 million reallocation for up to 6,000 more — 76,000 jobs in that release's own total — and, separately, planned spending of $323.301 million in the departmental plan, with a target of 70,000 youth served. Budget 2025 proposes $594.7 million over two years to support around 100,000 summer jobs in summer 2026. No Toronto total for Canada Summer Jobs is published.

PART 02 · THE RESPONSE

Toronto in the field

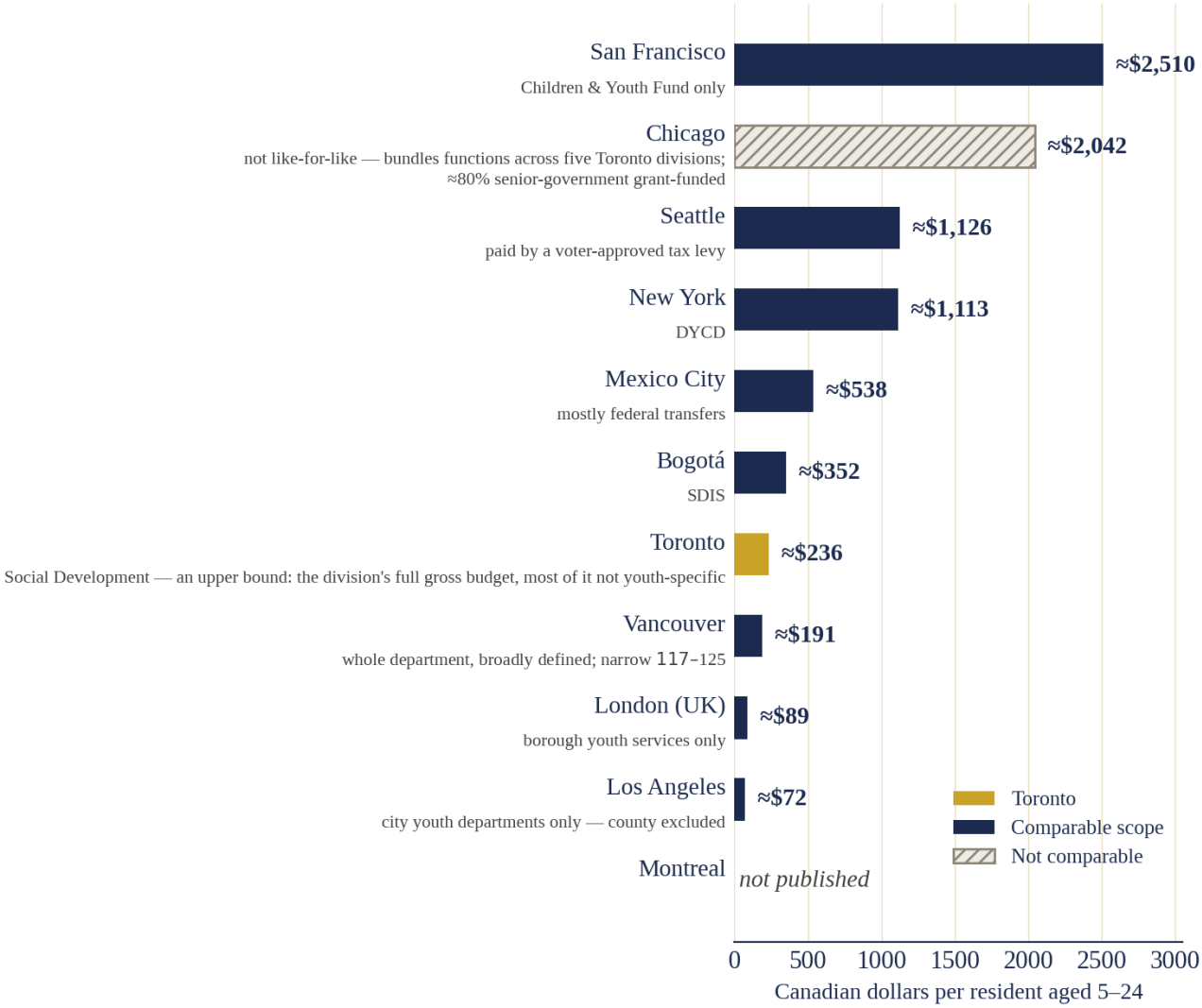
> *Toronto publishes no youth total.*

Toronto's **≈$236 per resident aged 5–24** is an upper bound: the division's full gross budget, most of it not youth-specific, divided by the 2021 Census count of residents aged 5 to 24.

The numerator is the Social Development gross budget of $137.3 million; the denominator is 581,210 residents aged 5–24, City of Toronto, 2021 Census. A later-year budget divided by a 2021 count held constant makes this an upper-bound style figure — the denominator is not a 2025 population count — and the study prints it with that caveat. The division behind it is ≈89–95% City own-source money, and the figure is 0.73% of the City of Toronto operating budget.

Every city in the field is measured the same way: its published youth-serving department or function budget, divided by its residents aged 5–24, converted at US$1 = C$1.40 and £1 = C$1.88 (November 5, 2026) where a figure crosses a border. New York's figure is **≈$1,113 per resident** (Department of Youth and Community Development adopted budget, US$1,514.1M, fiscal 2026; 91.9% City tax levy), on a denominator of 1,904,234 residents aged 5–24. Vancouver's is **≈$191 broad**, or $117–$125 narrow (Social Policy function, $22.262M broad; 116,335 residents aged 5–24, 2021 Census). Los Angeles records ≈$72 — city tier only, since the County runs most social services there. Seattle records ≈$1,126 and San Francisco ≈$2,510 for its Children & Youth Fund only. London (UK) records ≈$89 gross, on a narrower line than the other rows. Bogotá records ≈$352 and Mexico City ≈$538, the second printed with a federal-transfer caveat.

Figure 9 — Published youth budget per resident aged 5–24, Toronto in the field



Published youth-department or function budget per resident aged 5–24, Canadian dollars; Each bar is that department's total published budget from all funding sources combined — city, senior-government and dedicated-levy money together — not municipal own-source dollars only; the funding mix differs by city and is tabled per city in Chapter 20. denominators: residents aged 5–24 (Toronto 581,210, 2021 Census). FX: US$1 = C$1.40, £1 = C$1.88 (November 5, 2026). Chicago hatched — approximately 80% grant-funded, not like-for-like. Montreal: not published. Toronto's figure is an upper bound: the division's full gross budget, most of it not youth-specific. Full table and caveats: Chapter 20 of the Technical Appendix (Study research library, 2026).

Source: published departmental and function budgets as cited in Chapter 20 of the Technical Appendix; 2021 Census denominators.

> The bars are not measured the same way: each city counts a different bundle of services, so read them as orders of magnitude, not a league table.

Chicago's figure, **≈$2,042**, is not like-for-like: its department bundles functions spread across five Toronto divisions and is ≈80% senior-government grant-funded, so it is printed for completeness and not compared

with the other rows. Montreal's figure is not published — its social-development department's budget is not published separately, so no figure can be computed.

The funding source travels with the level. The cities at or above New York's level on comparable scope — Seattle and San Francisco — fund the commitment through dedicated revenue: a voter-approved levy, a charter-mandated set-aside. New York, Toronto and Vancouver fund through annual general-fund appropriation, which re-competes every year. Chicago's scale rests on senior-government grants, and its fiscal 2026 proposed departmental budget fell 32.5% as pandemic grants expired.

The after-school ledger, kept on the same basis, is smaller than any of these totals. Strictly published, like-for-like components total $22.3 million per year — or $17.3 million, because no City document states whether the Summer Safety Plan's $5 million and SafeTO's $5 million youth-violence-prevention component are the same $5 million counted once or two counted separately; the study prints both and presents neither as resolved. Two modelled components sit apart from the published tier: Youth Hubs at approximately $9.2 million per year, and the Toronto share of the Ontario After School Program at $2.2–$3.7 million per year, modelled because no Toronto share is published. With them, the modelled total is approximately **$29–35 million per year**. Of the provision counted in the ledger, about 1,800 places are guaranteed places — the After-School Recreation and Care registered places in 2025, for ages 6–12. Licensed capacity and visits are not converted into places, and are not added to that figure.

PART 02 · THE RESPONSE

The City’s own count

The response, as published, can also be tested against the City's own attempts to count it. Twice — in 2021 and again in 2025 — the City has inventoried its own youth programs, and both documents were read in full for this study. What they contain, and what they leave out, shows how the City itself sees its youth effort.

The 2021 inventory. The Youth Program Inventory, published in June 2021 as part of the Youth Service Review, *Investing in Youth Outcomes*, lists **47 programs and program categories** for young people aged **12 to 29**, across eight divisions, agencies and corporations, from Parks, Forestry and Recreation to the Toronto Police Service. For 46 of the 47 it gives a reach figure — participants served per year — but the figures rest on mixed bases: some count 2019, some 2020, some 2021; some are estimates; some count visits and others contacts, so they cannot be added into a single reach total. Money is another matter. A full reading of the document finds no budget figure in it for any program. Results are absent in the same way: programs are filed under the outcome areas of the Youth Outcomes Framework, but the inventory carries no outcome or results field. It is also a snapshot of one moment — program statuses as of June 1, 2021, mid-pandemic — and by the review's own design it covers only programs the City delivers directly or in partnership, so the grants field sits outside it entirely.

The 2025 inventory. Four years later the City counted again, this time jobs only. The Youth Jobs Inventory, adopted with *Reducing Barriers to Youth Employment* in December 2025, lists **40 youth employment programs** across ten organizations, and its one reach column records more than **16,000** young people

employed in 2025. The documents do not state whether a young person hired under two programs is counted once or twice; the column's counting basis is not published. The pattern repeats: no budget column and no dollar figure in the attachment, no target ages program by program, and no field for outcomes, retention or completion. The staff report carrying it names the underlying problem in its own words — "limited and inconsistent data collection" makes it "difficult to track outcomes, identify who is being left out, and scale what is working." One element is new. Council, by amendment, directed Social Development's Executive Director to report to the Economic and Community Development Committee on the progress and outcomes of the Youth Employment Table on **May 5, 2026**, and annually after that: a standing duty to report outcomes, set by Council itself. The first report under that duty has since arrived, and it can be read against the duty's own words. It came as item 2026.EC29.10, dated **May 26, 2026** — three weeks after the date Council set — bundled with a second subject, the Diversity Youth Fellowship Program, and the committee received it for information on June 9, 2026. For the Table, it reports a **projected 2,800** new opportunities identified across the City and its partners, and counts of activity from January to May 2026: **11** career and job-fair events engaging **1,085** young people, providing **250** job opportunities. No numeric target set by the Table appears in the item's published summary, and no outcomes series — no placements achieved, no retention, no wages — appears in the summary or in the report's case-study attachment. (The report body and its framework attachment could not be retrieved for this study; the absence is stated for the published summary and attachments read.) The first test of the new duty produced a projection and a count of events.

City inventory	Programs counted	Budgets published	Outcomes published
Youth Program Inventory (2021)	47	None	None
Youth Jobs Inventory (2025)	40	None	None

Read the two rows side by side: each inventory counts the programs carefully, then stops at the same two fields — what the programs cost, and what they changed.

The framework. The Youth Outcomes Framework, adopted with the 2021 guide, was built to close the outcomes gap: shared outcome areas and survey-based measures that City youth programs would choose from and report against. Five years on, the published record shows the machinery and not its output — the mentions that exist describe how the framework works, and none reports results from it: no program-by-program measures, no aggregated percentages, no list of the programs applying it. Figures in circulation that credit the framework with application across 23 programs in six divisions, with 2,811 young people providing survey feedback, could not be verified in any published City document.

Outcomes across the register. For this study, the City's youth effort was enumerated program by program — roughly sixty programs and funding streams across the divisions, Toronto Public Library and Toronto Community Housing. Published outcome measures — evidence that a program changed something for the young people in it, rather than a count of money spent or people reached — exist for five of them: the Community Healing Project; the library's Leading to Reading; the Scarborough youth subset of FOCUS Toronto; Toronto Community Housing's Pre-Apprenticeship; and the Toronto Youth Job Corps, whose contract carries targets and a published history. The rest publish budgets, counts, or neither. The full register is printed in the Technical Appendix.

One floor, not a total. The grants program does yield one youth figure from the City's own categories. In the Community Funding Unit's 2024 reporting, the lines the City itself labels youth — its youth services category, its youth grant streams and its youth-led crisis-response projects — sum to **$6,140,520**, or 21.7 per cent of that unit's 2024 allocations. That is a floor for one year of one funding universe. It is not a youth total, and it cannot grow into one: the published recipient lists record organization, ward and amount, with no field for purpose or age, so youth-serving work funded inside all-ages categories stays invisible in them. A total would require the lists to say what the money was for. They do not.

Neither inventory was produced for this study, and neither was built to test it. Each is the City organizing its own youth effort for its own purposes — and each reproduces, inside the City's own paperwork, the pattern the published response shows from outside: programs counted, reach counted in units that cannot be combined, and the money and the outcomes missing. The gap is not an artefact of looking from outside. It sits in the instruments the City wrote for itself.

PART 03

The accountability gap

PART 03 · THE ACCOUNTABILITY GAP

What the record does not contain

Victims by age
NOT PUBLISHED

The Toronto Police Service publishes no count of shooting victims by age, and no count of homicide victims by age; its Homicides dataset carries no age field.

A Toronto youth justice series
NOT PUBLISHED

No city-level series for charges, diversion, or custody is published at any stage of the system.

An annual Toronto food-insecurity rate
NOT PUBLISHED

Published once: 18.5% of children and youth aged 1 to 17 in 2019. Public Health Ontario publishes Toronto children-under-18 values only as pooled estimates (32.0% for 2023–2024).

A child poverty rate for Toronto
NOT PUBLISHED

No child-specific Market Basket Measure rate is published for the city or the CMA; no youth core-housing-need rate either (published figure is all-household, 19%, 2021).

A Toronto NEET series
NOT PUBLISHED

None exists at city or CMA level; no Toronto CMA split of the youth labour force into ages 15–19 and 20–24; no Toronto total for Canada Summer Jobs.

The 15,000 jobs paper trail
NOT PUBLISHED

No primary City source: no City release, budget document, or costing publishes it; verifiable only as an October 2026 campaign commitment.

Youth-level response detail
NOT PUBLISHED

No youth slice of CPIP ($33.4M, 2026); no standalone Toronto Community Crisis Service budget; OASP Toronto share and YOF Toronto aggregate not published; Before/After School enrolment not published — licensed capacity (40,943 spaces, December 2025) is the published figure.

Road deaths and injuries under 20
NOT PUBLISHED

The City's Vision Zero reporting publishes no killed-or-seriously-injured figure for any age band under 20.

WHAT THE DATA DOESN'T TELL US

Absence of public reporting is not absence of service or impact. These tiles record what is not published — they say nothing about whether the work is happening. A program can be running, and helping, and still leave no public record a reader can check.

PART 03 · THE ACCOUNTABILITY GAP

How this study was compiled

This study is compiled from published sources only. Every figure in it was verified in a primary published document, opened during compilation, and is printed with the age band, geography, and year its source used. Where sources disagree, the disagreement is shown rather than resolved silently. Where a publisher changed what it counts — a survey table replaced, a call-count universe widened — the break is marked on the series, never smoothed. Where no figure is published at that standard, the study says so, and treats the absence as a finding. Figures in different units, age bands, or year bases are never added together. The study makes no recommendations. The complete technical record behind this edition — the full source chapters, the methods appendix, and the full references — is published with it as *The State of Youth in Toronto: Technical Appendix*.

The author is the founder and executive director of The Good Guides, a youth non-profit in Scarborough.

In their own words

From where we sit in Scarborough, the gap in this record is not abstract. The young people we work with are not waiting to be consulted — given real authority, they run things: they plan, they decide, they carry the work, with mentors who look like them and come from their own neighbourhoods standing behind them, not in front of them. Nobody is a guest in their own community, and nobody is a passenger.

What the published record cannot do is meet them there. A young person in Scarborough moves through programs funded by different divisions, different levels of government, different organizations — and no one, anywhere, adds it up. Not what was spent on her. Not whether any of it worked. We see the pieces every day. The pieces are real, and some of them are good. But a system that cannot describe its own effort cannot claim to know whether the young people inside it are better off — and on the ground, they can tell the difference.

PART 03 · THE ACCOUNTABILITY GAP

What I take from this record

I started The Good Guides because I watched services that were supposed to help people I grew up with — my friends, my brother — never reach them. Years later, putting this record together, I found the same problem at city scale, in print: the help exists in pieces, the pieces don't connect, and nobody publishes whether the whole of it is working.

That is what I take from this record. It is not that Toronto does nothing for its young people — the spending is real, and some of it is good. It is that Toronto cannot say, from its own published numbers, whether its young people are better off than they were five years ago. Where the numbers do add up, most are moving the wrong way. Where they don't add up, that is not a technical problem. A city that gives young people a seat at the table but keeps the keys — to the budgets, the data, the decisions — has not actually shared anything.

Young people don't need to be counted as guests in their own city. They need the whole house: real authority, real support behind them, and a public record honest enough to say whether any of it worked. Counting is the least of it. We should start there.

PART 03 · THE ACCOUNTABILITY GAP

About the author

Swabir Shariff is the founder and executive director of The Good Guides, a Toronto non-profit he founded in 2020 that has mentored more than 10,000 young people across Scarborough. He advises institutions on youth, mentoring and violence prevention, and was named one of the Queen Elizabeth II Commonwealth Trust's 100 Young Leaders for 2026. This document is his personal work, published independently.

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> *Where no figure is published at that standard, the study says so, and treats the absence as a finding.*

A PLAN FOR TORONTO · NOVEMBER 2026

The Toronto Youth Alignment Plan

A guaranteed after-school system for Toronto, costed — and the first step in aligning the city’s youth spending behind one published record.



Swabir Shariff

Toronto, Canada

November 2026 · Working paper

About this plan

How to read the numbers. Three kinds of numbers run through this plan, and they are never mixed. A guaranteed place is one child promised a spot for the program year, with set hours and set staffing — the strongest promise a city can make. A registration is a sign-up for a course; one child can hold many, and one can last a few hours. A drop-in visit counts a young person once each time they walk through an open door. Most of what Toronto buys today is the second and third kinds.

Money is Canadian dollars unless marked US$. US dollars are converted at US$1 = C$1.3961 (Bank of Canada, November 4, 2026) wherever this plan converts them, and at US$1 = C$1.40 in the published city comparisons, as those sources state. Figures are published, sourced, or labelled as estimates where they appear. The price at the centre of the plan is a model, built line by line in Section 8, and it is called a model every time it appears.

THE TORONTO YOUTH ALIGNMENT PLAN AT A GLANCE

~1,800
guaranteed places Toronto buys today — all in one small City program (2025)

234,408
children aged 5 to 13 in Toronto (2021 Census)

$3,680
modelled price of one guaranteed place, per year (Section 8)

$31.8M
a year for the proposed priority system — 8,643 places (Section 7)

Toronto spends real money on its young people. It just does not spend it as a system. Sixteen streams of funding chase the same effect — supervised, structured programming outside school hours — and between them they guarantee a place to about **1,800 children** in a city with 234,408 children aged 5 to 13.

New York built the system Toronto does not have. Its Department of Youth and Community Development buys after-school places from community organizations by contract — a written specification, a published price, set hours, set ratios, an independent evaluator — and it has run that system, through four mayors, for two decades. New York also got documented things wrong: it pays its providers late, badly; children attend about half the hours their places offer; and its re-bidding rounds have cut loose the neighbourhood organizations the system depends on.

This plan takes the model and designs out the flaws, using fixes Toronto has already proven somewhere in its own system: payment in advance, the way the City already pays its child-care agencies; contract sizes small organizations can hold; a set price with competition on quality; published results as a contract term. It prices the result from Toronto wages and Toronto's school calendar, at three scales, and it states its verdict at exactly the strength the evidence supports — including a section, near the end, on what the plan will not claim.

The companion study, The State of Youth in Toronto (Shariff, 2026), records the conditions this plan responds to. Nothing in this document commits any government.

About the author

Swabir Shariff is the founder and executive director of The Good Guides, a Toronto non-profit he founded in 2020 that has mentored more than 10,000 young people across Scarborough. He advises institutions on youth, mentoring and violence prevention, and was named one of the Queen Elizabeth II Commonwealth Trust’s 100 Young Leaders for 2026. Both documents are his personal work, published independently.

Contents

1. The problem: money without a promise 4
2. Toronto today: four programs, four kinds of promise 10
3. The model: New York buys after-school by the place 13
4. What’s broken in New York 16
5. The five fixes 18
6. Who runs the sites: three honest options 21
7. Three scales 23
8. The price, built in the open 26
9. The ledger and the verdict 29
10. What this plan will not claim 32
11. Sources 33

Page numbers are for this edition; each section also opens on its own page. The companion study, The State of Youth in Toronto, is cited as Shariff (2026).

1. The problem: money without a promise

Per young person, Toronto commits less than New York — and more than Vancouver or Los Angeles publish.

Toronto spends real money on its young people. It just does not spend it as a system. Ask what the city does for young people and you will get a long list: after-school programs, library hubs, recreation, summer jobs, safety grants, youth employment. The list is real. What Toronto does not have is a single system — one buyer, one count, one promise a family can rely on.

The spending that chases one effect — supervised, structured, adult-led programming for school-age young people outside school hours — moves through 16 named streams, at least 10 funding streams, and 8 authorities (City of Toronto, 2025). Each runs its own application cycle, its own eligibility rules, its own reporting format, and its own definition of success. No two streams count the same thing. The honest total is about $29–35 million a year, and only $17–22 million of that can be pointed to in a published figure; the rest rests on two clearly labelled estimates, and two real streams — Toronto Community Housing and the school boards — spend something that cannot be counted at all.

Three kinds of numbers — do not mix them

Almost every argument about after-school care in Toronto goes wrong in the same place: three different kinds of counts get treated as if they were the same thing.

A guaranteed place. One child is promised a spot in a program for the whole program year — a set number of hours, a set number of children per staff member, a program that must exist whether or not any particular child shows up on any particular day. This is the strongest promise a city can make.

A registration. A child signs up for a course or a program — a swimming class, a recreation course. A registration can be a few hours long. One child can hold many registrations.

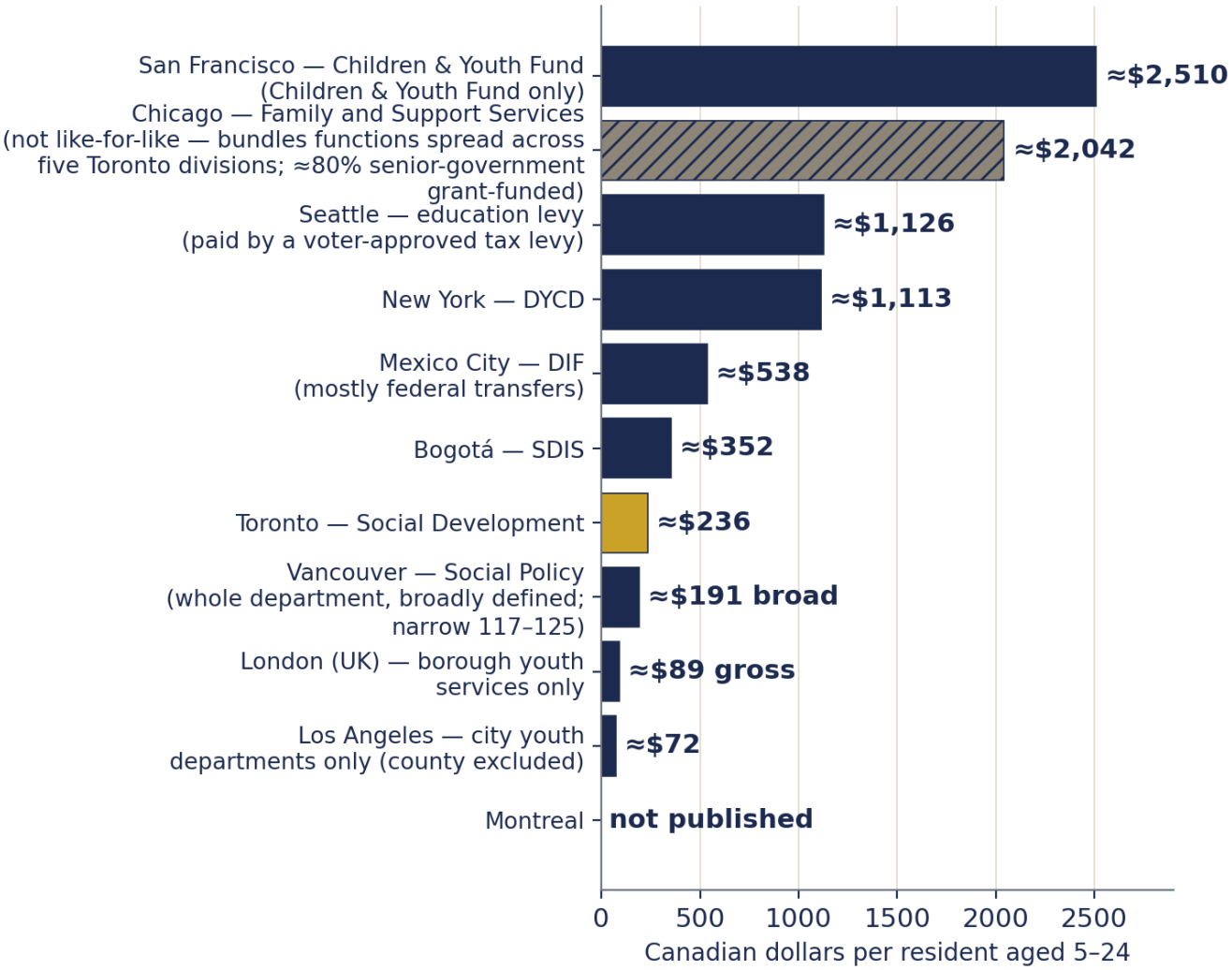
A drop-in visit. A young person walks into a space that is open — a library youth hub, a drop-in centre — and is counted once for that visit. The same teenager, visiting three times a week, is counted three times a week. Nobody was promised anything; the door was open and they came.

> A registration is not a place. A visit is not a place. Only a contracted place — named child, known hours, a staffed ratio, a price — is a promise a family can plan a work schedule around.

Most of what Toronto buys today is the second and third kinds. That is not a criticism of the programs. It is a description of the promise.

Figure 1 — Per young person, Toronto commits ≈$236 — an order of magnitude below New York's ≈$1,113 — in a field each city measures differently

The bars are not measured the same way: each city counts a different bundle of services, so read them as orders of magnitude, not a league table.



Canadian dollars committed per resident aged 5–24, through the department that holds the community/youth mandate. Toronto: Social Development, Finance and Administration, 2025 budget $137.3M over 581,210 residents aged 5–24 (2021 Census). Toronto's figure is an upper bound: the division's full gross budget, most of it not youth-specific. New York: Department of Youth and Community Development, FY2026 adopted budget US$1,514.1M. Vancouver: Social Policy and Projects, 2025, broad definition ($22.3M), narrow $117–$125. Los Angeles: city tier only. Chicago: hatched, not like-for-like, roughly 80% grant-funded. Montreal: not published. Each bar is the department's total published budget from all funding sources combined, not municipal own-source dollars only; funding mixes differ by city. US$1 = C$1.40.

Budget shares can mislead — cities are different sizes, with different numbers of young people. So divide each department's budget by the number of residents aged 5 to 24, and the comparison sharpens. Through the one department that holds the mandate, Toronto commits about $236 per young person — an upper bound (the mandate department's full gross budget over 2021 Census residents) (City of Toronto, 2025; Statistics Canada, 2022). New York commits about $1,113 in Canadian dollars (New York City Department of Youth and Community Development [DYCD], 2026). Vancouver's broad measure and Los Angeles's city-tier figure sit lower than Toronto's; Montreal does not publish a figure at all.

The guarantee gap

Set the money beside the promise it buys. Across the whole envelope, the number of guaranteed places is about **1,800** — the registered places in one small City program that charges fees — in a city with 234,408 children aged 5 to 13 (Statistics Canada, 2022). Everything else buys registrations, drop-in visits, summer engagements, or grants that count young people "reached." No other Toronto program can promise a named child a place next September.

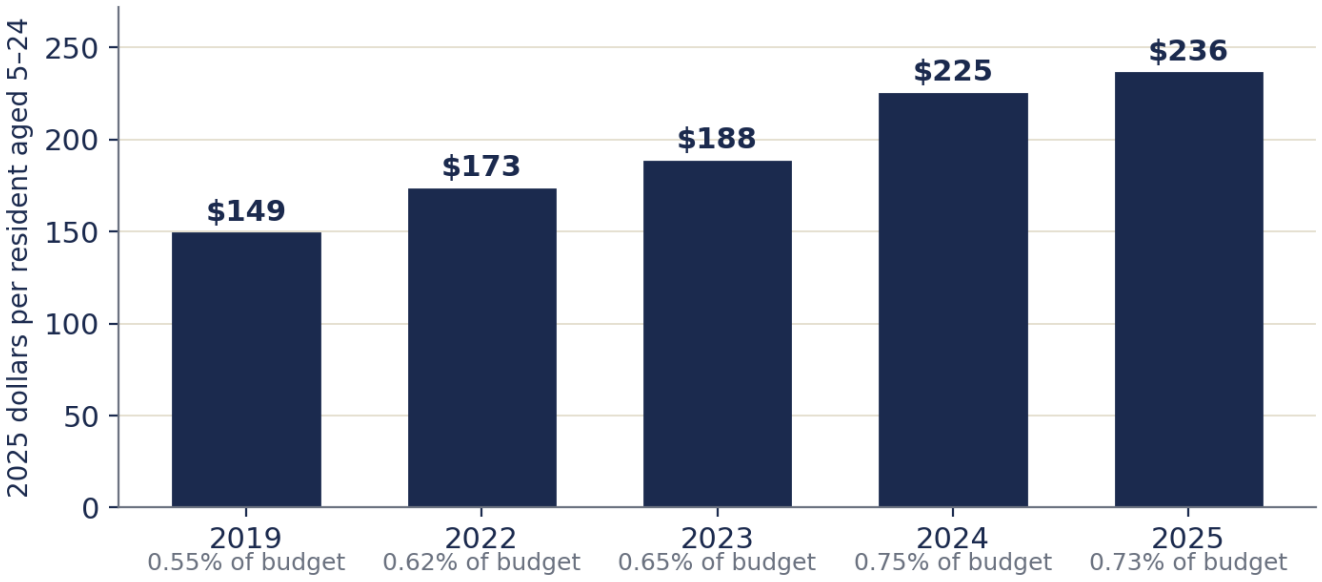
> **~1,800**
>
> guaranteed places in the whole envelope — every one of them in After-School Recreation Care, the City's small fee-charging program, out of 234,408 children aged 5–13 (Statistics Canada, 2022).

Inside Toronto's own budget, the division that holds the youth mandate is the smallest major division there is: Social Development, Finance and Administration (SDFA) takes 0.73% of the City's operating budget (City of Toronto, 2025). New York's DYCD takes 1.31% of its city's budget (DYCD, 2026). The cities that commit the most built one buyer, one price, and one promise; Toronto built sixteen streams and no promise at all.

Fairness requires the other half of the picture. Toronto's commitment per young person is rising — up 58% in real terms from 2019 to 2025, with the division's share of the city budget climbing from 0.55% to 0.73% over the same span (City of Toronto, 2025). Anyone who says the commitment is falling is wrong on the published numbers. Much of the growth is scope rather than youth investment — a machinery transfer in 2020 and the community-safety build-out grew the division around youth work faster than the youth work itself grew. The honest framing is rising, and still far behind.

None of this is a new diagnosis. In 2012, City Council adopted the Middle Childhood Strategy (CD16.2), which called the provision "fragmented" — split across licensed child care, recreation, non-profits, schools, private providers, and informal care, with "no shared standards of quality" (City of Toronto, 2012). The strategy had the language of a system: common standards, shared funder requirements, a central database, coordinated planning. It built none of the machinery that makes those nouns real — no buyer, no price, no contract, no committed funding, no accountable owner. Its tangible delivery outcome was an expansion of the City's own program by eighteen sites. By January 2017, four years after adoption, the coalition that originated the strategy was writing to Budget Committee pleading for one dedicated full-time staff person to oversee implementation. Toronto adopted this diagnosis in 2012 and produced eighteen sites and a plea for one staff person. The difference a real system would make is not the diagnosis. It is the machinery.

Figure 2 — Toronto spends more per young person than it did — $236 in 2025, up from $149 in 2019 in today's dollars — and still far less than New York's $1,113



Social Development, Finance and Administration gross budget per resident aged 5–24, restated in 2025 dollars (Statistics Canada CPI, all-items, Canada, annual average). Labels under each year: the division's share of the City operating budget. Denominators are census counts held between censuses — 2016 Census (602,405 residents aged 5–24) for 2019, 2021 Census (581,210) for 2022–2025 — so the recent years are upper bounds if the youth population has grown since 2021. 2020 and 2021 are not charted: no single published adopted total was located for those years on a consistent basis. Nominal figures: $123 (2019), $159 (2022), $180 (2023), $220 (2024), $236 (2025). Real-terms rise 2019 to 2025: 58%. Source: City of Toronto adopted budgets; the research file behind this plan — per-youth series (PER-YOUTH.md, sections 7–8).

More money. More services. Worse outcomes.

The money rose. The division that holds the youth mandate grew from **$74.3 million** in 2019 to **$137.3 million** in 2025 — from **$149** to **$236** per young person in today's dollars, a real rise of 58%, and from 0.55% to 0.73% of the City's operating budget. SafeTO, the community safety plan, carries **$43 million** in 2025 and **$49 million** in 2026. The division's staff complement roughly doubled over the period, from 170 positions in 2020 to **365** in 2025 (City of Toronto, 2025).

Most of the growth is not youth work. The two biggest step-changes in the series are a machinery transfer — Human Services Integration moved into the division in 2020 — and the community-safety build-out: SafeTO and the Toronto Community Crisis Service, launched in 2022. The division grew around youth work faster than the youth work itself grew. Of the $137.3 million, only about **$10 million** can be identified as youth programming in published lines. The City publishes no youth total at all; that absence is a finding, not a footnote (City of Toronto, 2025).

What grew was the response system. Crisis response, safety programming, grants machinery, and drop-in access all expanded for real: Library Youth Hubs grew from 8 branches in 2017 to **31 branches** in 2025, recording **129,000 teen visits** in the first eight months of 2025 (Toronto Public Library, 2025). But the build-out is reactive, and it is counted in activity — visits, calls, dispatches — not in outcomes. Across the whole system, the number of guaranteed places a family can rely on is still about **1,800**.

Over the same years, the conditions young people live in moved the other way. Child low income on the taxfiler measure (CFLIM-AT) rose from 16.8% in 2020 to **25.3%** in 2022 — **117,890 children**; the

2020 figure includes temporary pandemic income supports, so the rise is read with that caution (Campaign 2000, Family Service Toronto, & Social Planning Toronto, 2024). The share of Toronto youth rating their mental health fair or poor rose from 27.1% in 2019 to **37.0%** in 2023; the share who had seriously contemplated suicide moved from 16.7% to 18.0%, a change Toronto Public Health describes as stable (Toronto Public Health, 2025). **24.9%** of Toronto households were food insecure in 2024 (Daily Bread Food Bank & North York Harvest Food Bank, 2024). The City's one-night homelessness count more than doubled, from 7,347 people in April 2021 to **15,418** in October 2024 — the two counts were taken in different seasons, and the later count includes a large number of refugee claimants (City of Toronto, 2025). Youth unemployment in the Toronto CMA stood at **18.0%** in 2025 (Statistics Canada, 2026).

One thing improved, and it matters. Violence fell hard in 2025: shootings and firearm discharges fell from 462 to **263**, and homicides from 85 to **45** (Toronto Police Service, 2026). It is one year, after a 2024 count that still stood near the 2019 peak of 492, and no published evaluation attributes the fall to any program. The City states that its 2025 efforts "contributed to" a 40% summer reduction in gun violence (City of Toronto, 2025); that claim is the City's, and this plan neither adopts it nor dismisses it. The published record supports neither credit nor blame.

Money grew. Machinery grew. Activity grew. What was never built is a system that promises a young person a place — and reports whether their life improved. That is the gap this plan exists to close.

2. Toronto today: four programs, four kinds of promise

Toronto does not have an after-school system. It has four different answers to the after-school question, owned by four different authorities, counting four different things. Each is a real program doing real work. Read together, they show what a guarantee is — by showing what happens without one.

After-School Recreation Care: the City runs a small version itself

After-School Recreation Care (ARC) is the City's own after-school program, run by City recreation staff in schools and community centres, for children aged 6 to 12, from the end of the school day to 6 p.m., Monday to Friday. Parents pay fees; a City subsidy, the Welcome Policy, reduces the fee for low-income families. ARC began in 2006 as a pilot at 21 sites in priority neighbourhoods. In 2025 it ran **44 programs**, with about **1,800 children** registered (City of Toronto, 2025).

On cost, the record goes quiet. ARC's last published budget figure is from 2013 — $2.3 million gross, and $2,556 per child. Adjusted for inflation, that 2013 figure is about $3,600 in 2026 dollars. The City stopped publishing the program's cost after 2013, and its results are not reported publicly.

What ARC guarantees, it genuinely guarantees. A registered place in ARC is a real place: a named child, a known program, known hours, City staff. It is the closest thing Toronto has to a guaranteed place — and the whole of it fits about 1,800 children. ARC proves Toronto can run a real place, in Toronto schools, with Toronto staff. **It also proves** that a program without a published price and published results stays small and unaccountable, because nothing in its structure requires anything else.

> **Runs it:** The City — City recreation staff, in schools and community centres
> **Ages:** 6 to 12
> **What it counts:** A guaranteed place — a registered place is a real place
> **Scale:** 44 programs, about 1,800 registered places (children registered; City of Toronto, 2025) (2025)
> **Cost:** Last published 2013 — $2.3 million gross, $2,556 per child (about $3,600 in 2026 dollars)
> **The promise:** A real guaranteed place — for about 1,800 children.

Library Youth Hubs: an open door, honestly counted

Toronto Public Library runs Youth Hubs: staffed drop-in spaces for teenagers inside library branches, open weekday afternoons (3:30–7 p.m.) for young people roughly 13 to 19 — homework, computers, programs, or simply somewhere safe and warm. The hubs grew from 8 branches in 2017 to 31 branches in 2025. The library counts use precisely: **129,000 teen visits** between January and August 2025, with 2,330 programs offered and 17,700 program participants (Toronto Public Library, 2025).

The library does not publish a total cost for all 31 hubs. The 2025 expansion shows the unit plainly — three hubs, 7.0 staff positions, $0.887 million a year, roughly $296,000 per hub — and multiplying that published unit across the network gives an estimated $9.2 million a year. An estimate, labelled as one wherever it travels.

A visit is not a place. The 129,000 figure counts visits, and the library, to its credit, says "visits" and means it. Any teenager may come; no teenager is promised a place, a program, or a result, and the hubs

serve teenagers only — they do nothing for the elementary years, when the after-school gap opens first. Notice, though, why the hubs report so well: they were approved the way a contract is approved, as a discrete expansion with a staff count, a budget, and expected visits written down in advance. Given a written expectation, Toronto's own institutions report against it.

Runs it: Toronto Public Library

Ages: Roughly 13 to 19

What it counts: Visits — 129,000 teen visits, not places

Scale: 31 branches (2025), grown from 8 in 2017

Cost: Total not published — about $296,000 per hub (2025 expansion); an estimated $9.2 million a year for the network

The promise: An open door — no teenager is promised a place.

Ontario Before-and-After School Programs: the province sets the duty, parents pay

Provincial law requires school boards to make sure a before- and after-school program is offered for children from junior kindergarten to Grade 6 where parents want one. Licensed child-care operators and school boards deliver the programs, in schools. Licensed capacity in Toronto was **40,943 spaces** in December 2025 (Ontario Ministry of Education, 2025).

Read that number carefully: it is spaces licensed to exist, not children in them. How many children actually hold places is not published. Parents pay the fees, and the fees are expressly unregulated — around Toronto's largest board they run about $26 to $42 per school day, roughly $4,900 to $7,900 over a school year. Toronto administers the child-care fee subsidy that helps some families pay; at December 31, 2025, 16,367 children were on its waitlist, all ages, not just school-age (City of Toronto, 2025). That waitlist is evidence of pressure on the subsidy system. It is not an after-school demand figure, and it should never be quoted as one.

So a program must be offered — but no child is guaranteed a place their family can afford, at a regulated price, to a common standard, with published results. This is the largest after-school "system" Toronto has, and it is mostly a market. It proves demand beyond argument: families are already paying private prices for after-school care. It does not guarantee anything.

Runs it: Licensed child-care operators and school boards, under a provincial duty

Ages: Junior kindergarten to Grade 6

What it counts: Licensed spaces — spaces licensed to exist, not children in them

Scale: 40,943 licensed spaces in Toronto (December 2025); children actually holding places — not published

Cost: Parents pay unregulated fees — about $26 to $42 per school day (roughly $4,900 to $7,900 over a school year)

The promise: A program must be offered — no child is guaranteed a place.

Toronto Youth Job Corps: the contract proof

The Toronto Youth Job Corps (TYJC) is a full-time, paid employment program for young people aged 15 to 30 who are out of school and out of work and facing serious barriers: about five weeks of intensive group

training, then a supported employer placement for up to 16 weeks, then continued support. Participants are paid minimum wage, up to 35 hours a week, in every phase. Community agencies deliver it under contracts awarded by competition — the City buys this program rather than running it.

Because the City buys it by contract, the targets are written down. The 2024–2028 contracts total **$18,036,434** — $15,227,669 from the federal government and $2,808,765 from the City — about $4.51 million a year (City of Toronto, 2025). The contract targets 1,152 young people over four years, of whom 692 are expected to be employed and 230 back in school. And a longer record exists to argue with: for 2009–2023, the City published 4,105 young people trained, 1,947 employed, and 774 returned to school.

The second half of the lesson matters as much as the first, and leaving it out would forfeit the point. Results against the current contract are not published. And the Social Development division's own budget notes print a different figure for the same program — 2,120 "youth hired" in 2023 alone, a number that cannot describe the same program as a contract targeting 1,152 youth over four years. The two City numbers sit side by side in City documents, unexplained and unreconciled. The contract created the target; nothing created the duty to publish against it. Job Corps is youth employment, not after-school programming, and it sits outside the spending totals in this plan. **Its role here is the contract lesson:** targets without published results are half a contract.

Runs it: Community agencies under City contracts awarded by competition — the City buys it, rather than running it

Ages: 15 to 30, out of school and out of work

What it counts: Contract targets — 1,152 young people over four years

Scale: 2024–2028 contracts; 4,105 young people trained over 2009–2023

Cost: $18,036,434 over 2024–2028 — about $4.51 million a year

The promise: Targets are written down — results against the current contract are not published.

3. The model: New York buys after-school by the place

New York City does not run after-school programs. It buys them — the way it buys road repair: a written specification, a published price, a contract, an inspection.

COMPASS: one buyer, one price, one count

The Comprehensive After School System of New York City (COMPASS) is New York's after-school system for children from kindergarten to Grade 8: homework help, sports, arts, science activities, leadership — in a school, a community centre, a place of worship, a public-housing building or a park facility, free to the family, every school day. It is ordinary, developmental programming, not crisis response: supervision and structure in the hours between the end of school and the end of the workday.

The buyer is DYCD, the city department for youth and community programs. DYCD runs no programs itself. It writes the specification, runs a competition — a request for proposals (RFP), a formal process where organizations bid for the work — and signs contracts with community-based organizations to deliver. The current contracts run six years (2026–2032), long enough for a provider to hire staff and plan. To bid, an organization needs at least three years' experience; proposals are scored, with the quality of the program plan worth 40 points. DYCD's own program managers each cover about 20 sites — visiting programs, approving plans and budgets, reviewing attendance and financial reports, and ordering fixes when a provider falls short. One web-based system, DYCD Connect, holds registrations, attendance and invoicing for every provider. DYCD has also hired an outside research firm, the American Institutes for Research (AIR), to evaluate the system independently (DYCD, 2026).

The system began in 2005 as Out-of-School Time, at US$46 million, and was renamed COMPASS in 2014. It now comprises more than 820 programs, at about US$447.6 million a year for **102,104 guaranteed places** (DYCD, 2026). The contracts do not just buy a child's presence. They buy a dose: elementary contracts require 1,020 hours of programming a year, and staff-to-child ratios are set in the contract. Every elementary program runs against a published attendance benchmark — a Rate of Participation of 80% — tracked in the system's own data, so "did children actually show up?" is answered from records, not impressions.

COMPASS, by the contract	Figure
Programs	820+
Guaranteed places	102,104
Funding	~US$447.6M a year
Elementary price	US$4,800 per child (school year)
Middle-school price (School's Out NYC — SONYC)	US$3,900 per child
Elementary contracted hours	1,020 a year
Rate of Participation benchmark (elementary)	80%
Contract term	Six years (2026–2032)

Four mayors carried this system. Bloomberg created it, de Blasio scaled it, Adams funded the expansion, and Mamdani is executing it. That run is the point: a baselined contract system survives elections, because

each successive budget re-enacts it. An envelope of grants, renewed program by program, has no such protection.

SONYC: the middle-school years, treated as their own problem

School's Out New York City (SONYC) is the middle-school model inside COMPASS — Grades 6 to 8, roughly ages 11 to 13. It exists as a separate model because middle school is where after-school usually falls apart: children who attended happily at age 9 vote with their feet at 12. SONYC's answer is to stop running the program like a class. It is structured as clubs — sports, arts, leadership — and young people choose how they spend their time. It launched in 2014 as the centrepiece of the COMPASS expansion, a US$145 million investment. The middle-school contract requires 540 hours of programming a year, a deliberately lighter dose than the elementary 1,020, at a published price of US$3,900 per child (DYCD, 2026). New York reports SONYC inside the COMPASS totals; it does not publish a separate current budget or place count for the middle-school model alone.

AIR evaluated the expansion year independently. Registration went from 18,702 young people to 58,745 in one year, participants attended 13 million hours in total — an average of 236 hours per participant — and program quality was rated high across 2,300 hours of direct observation (American Institutes for Research [AIR], 2016). In the same evaluation, 98% of surveyed parents said their child liked the program. That last figure needs its label: it is perception-grade evidence. It proves families valued the service, which matters for take-up and durability. It proves nothing about outcomes, and satisfaction must never be allowed to stand in for impact.

What the evidence actually shows

Start with what the system-level evidence is: it documents implementation and participation, not test-score impact. Policy Studies Associates (PSA) evaluated the earlier citywide out-of-school-time system with a matched comparison group and found that participants reported strong academic benefits and motivation — but their standardized test-score gains were not significantly different from matched non-participants (Policy Studies Associates [PSA], n.d.). A later PSA study found something a buyer can act on: when DYCD required academic content in after-school programs, program quality and coordination with schools improved (PSA, 2015). Quality, participation and family outcomes are documented. A test-score effect is not.

No evaluation has shown a test-score effect; the proven returns are places delivered, hours attended, quality, family satisfaction, and — for summer jobs — safety.

SYEP: the summer-jobs sibling, and the safety evidence

The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) is DYCD's second flagship: for six weeks each July and August, New Yorkers aged 14 to 24 hold real, paid summer jobs, placed through community organizations under contract, with the city paying the wages. It is not after-school care, and nothing here counts it as any. It belongs in this plan because it carries the strongest causal evidence in the field — places were allotted by lottery, so researchers could compare winners and losers who were alike in everything but luck. SYEP has served more than 100,000 young people every summer from 2022 through 2025 (DYCD, 2026).

Gelber, Isen and Kessler followed 294,580 applications from 2005–2008, linked to tax, incarceration and mortality records (Gelber, Isen and Kessler, 2014). Earnings rose in the program year itself — about $876 net, even after counting the other work participants would likely have done anyway. The study found no effect on college enrolment, and a modest earnings decrease of about $100 a year across the three years after the program year. The durable results were about safety: the probability of incarceration was about

10% lower across all applicants — the much larger figure of about 54% applies only among 19–21-year-olds, and it should never be quoted without that qualifier — and mortality from external causes was about one-fifth lower. Read whole, the study says something precise: the proven long-run return of a guaranteed summer job is safety, not schooling and not earnings. That evidence belongs to paid places for older youth. It is not evidence about after-school places for ten-year-olds, and this plan does not present it as such.

4. What's broken in New York

New York's system works. Its failures are documented too — in its own comptroller's counts, its own evaluations, and its own re-bidding rounds. Toronto's design takes the machinery and designs the failures out. Each one below is a reason the Toronto version is written the way it is.

The city pays late — badly

In 2024, over 90% of New York's human-services contracts were registered late. First payments from DYCD averaged more than a year after the contract started (NYC Comptroller, 2025). Non-profits — organizations whose costs are mostly payroll, paid monthly — borrowed money to make payroll while waiting for the city that hired them. Providers financing the government is not an administrative blemish. It lands hardest on the smallest, most neighbourhood-rooted organizations, the ones a system like this claims to want, and it breaks the staffing chain that quality depends on at its first link. Toronto's counter-design already exists in Toronto: the City's children's-services system pays its agencies in advance — child care monthly in advance, EarlyON quarterly in advance. The Toronto Youth Alignment Plan’s contracts pay quarterly in advance, with the City's own payment record published beside the providers'.

Children attend roughly half the hours offered

A contracted hour is not an attended hour. SONYC's evaluated expansion offered 540 hours and delivered an average of 236 attended hours per participant — 43.7% of the offer (AIR, 2016). Across systems, realized dose runs at roughly 40–60% of contracted hours. New York's 80% Rate of Participation is a site-level fill measure, not a per-child dose: a site can hit its benchmark while the average child receives half the offer. None of this makes the places worthless — 236 attended hours is a real service — but any honest system budgets and reports both numbers: hours contracted, and hours attended, per child. A plan that reports places as if they were doses will be found out by its own evaluation, and the verdict will be that after-school doesn't work, when what actually happened is that the dose was never delivered as described.

> **236 of 540**
>
> hours attended on average in SONYC's evaluated expansion year — 43.7% of the hours the contract offered (AIR, 2016). The contract has to be written for that reality, not for the brochure.

Re-bidding severs relationships

When DYCD re-ran its competitions for the 2026 cycle, long-standing providers lost programs at dozens of schools. In one Manhattan district, 12 programs changed hands from a single provider. Parents campaigned to get "their" organizations back. A contract system treats providers as interchangeable; after-school quality lives in relationships — a staff member who knows a child's life, an organization rooted in a neighbourhood — and a re-bid can cut exactly that. The fix is not to abandon competition. It is to design turnover: tiered contract sizes small organizations can hold, transition protections so a family's registration and records move through the shared data system when a provider changes, and competition rules that weigh rootedness alongside the program plan.

Price discipline: what Toronto adds

New York's price is a published total — the city states what it will pay, and providers compete on the quality of their program rather than on who can promise to do it cheapest. Toronto's design keeps that discipline and states its price differently: built bottom-up, line by line, from Toronto wages and Toronto's school calendar, so every component can be argued with in the open. Toronto also adds two contract terms. The first is indexation: the price adjusts annually with the consumer price index, so a six-year contract does not quietly squeeze providers as costs move — a fixed price held for six years is not saved by anyone; it is spent in turnover and unfilled ratios. The second is a contracted participation benchmark: the 80% Rate of Participation written into the Toronto contract as a term, with attended hours per child published under it, rather than carried as a system description. A published price, on its own, does not protect a contract against time or against the gap between hours offered and hours attended. Toronto's terms are written against both.

Results are published unevenly

New York does evaluate: AIR's independent work on COMPASS and SONYC is the reason this plan can describe the expansion year in attended hours and observed quality at all. But evaluation commissioned for a program is not the same as results published as a standing term — and SONYC's own numbers disappear inside the COMPASS totals, so the hardest-to-serve age group can vanish inside a system-wide average. Toronto does not need to travel to learn this lesson; Section 2’s Job Corps record is the local version of the same failure. So in the Toronto Youth Alignment Plan, publishing is a contract term, not a favour: quarterly publication of registrations, attendance and fill rates from the shared data system, an annual public report against the contracted targets, and an independent evaluation funded as an explicit line item — whether the results flatter the program or not.

5. The five fixes

NEW YORK · FLAW		TORONTO · FIX
The city pays late. Over 90% of human-services contracts were registered late in 2024; first payments averaged more than a year.	→	**Payment in advance.** Quarterly advances, 30-day terms, interest on late City payment — the way Toronto already pays its child-care agencies.
Compliance squeezes out small organizations. Fixed costs fall hardest on the rooted, neighbourhood providers.	→	**Contract sizes they can hold.** Tiered lots, a reserved small-organization share, anchor partners for back office and data.
Cheapest-wins and lock-in. Price competition thins quality; re-bids sever the relationships quality lives in.	→	**A set price, quality competition.** Six-year terms, district caps, a new-entrant reserve, transition protections for families.
Buyer-designed rigidity. A central specification can flatten what local providers do best.	→	**A city floor, provider design.** The contract sets hours, ratios, safety, price, reporting — and nothing above it. A protected grant layer stays beside it.
Results are an afterthought. Targets without published results are half a contract.	→	**Publishing is a contract term.** Quarterly results, an annual public report, independent evaluation funded at 1.5% of contract value — and never pay-by-results.

New York built the machinery Toronto needs. It also showed, in plain sight, how that machinery can hurt the very organizations it depends on. Each fix below starts from a documented New York failure and answers it with a practice Toronto already runs somewhere in its own system. Nothing here is invented from whole cloth.

Fix 1 — Late payment becomes payment in advance, with enforceable terms

New York pays late, badly. In 2024, more than 90% of its human-services contracts were registered late, and a provider's first payment from the Department of Youth and Community Development took, on average, more than a year after the contract started (NYC Comptroller, 2025). Non-profits borrowed money to make payroll while waiting for the city that hired them.

Toronto does not need to invent the answer. Agencies holding a City service agreement in the children's system “may receive payments in advance of delivering services” — child-care funding monthly in advance, EarlyON Child and Family Centre funding quarterly in advance (City of Toronto, 2026). EarlyON is delivered by 50 organizations at 232 locations under City agreements, so the plumbing is not a pilot. It is ordinary practice in one part of the City, missing in another.

The Toronto Youth Alignment Plan’s contracts therefore specify quarterly advances against the schedule of places, 30-day payment terms on reconciliations, and interest owed on late City payment, written into the

agreement itself. Terms a provider can enforce, not courtesies a division can extend. The provider never finances the government.

Fix 2 — The squeeze on small organizations

Fixed compliance costs fall hardest on small, rooted organizations. Track-record minimums, insurance, data systems, audited statements — the bill is much the same whether an organization runs one site or twenty. When New York re-ran its competitions for the 2026 cycle, long-standing providers lost programs at dozens of schools, and parents campaigned to get “their” organizations back.

The design answers with contract sizes small organizations can actually hold. Contracts are let in lots of different sizes — school-cluster lots a single-site organization can hold, district lots for multi-site providers — with compliance requirements scaled to the size of the lot. City procurement rules require open competition above $133,800 and allow invitational processes below it, so lot design works with that structure rather than around it. The City's Social Procurement Program already steers purchases of $3,000 to $100,000 toward certified diverse suppliers (City of Toronto, 2026).

A stated share of places in each district is reserved for organizations under a size threshold, competing among themselves at the same set price. Where a neighbourhood's organizations are all small, one anchor partner holds the contract, the data system and the back office while neighbourhood groups deliver. That is the exact structure of the Toronto Community Crisis Service — five anchor partners, each assigned its area (City of Toronto, 2025).

One warning comes from Ontario's employment-services rebuild, and the design takes it seriously. When an intermediary layer holds the funder relationship, the relationship can drift away from the neighbourhood agency. The counter is direct: delivery contracts and site identity stay with the organizations doing the work. The anchor is their service provider, not their replacement.

Fix 3 — Cheapest-wins and lock-in

The price per child is set by the City from a published cost model. New York already does this — its competitions state the price and award at that price. Providers compete on quality instead. New York scores the program plan at 40 points. The Toronto Youth Alignment Plan scores quality, neighbourhood rootedness and staffing plans, at a fixed price.

Lock-in gets its own machinery. Terms run six years, with a mid-term performance review. No provider can hold more than a capped share within a district. Each re-competition carries a new-entrant reserve. And when a provider does change, a family's registration and records move through the shared data system, so a change of contractor does not orphan families — the harm families felt in New York's 2026 re-bid, designed out in advance.

Fix 4 — Buyer-designed rigidity

A contract can smother the thing it buys if the buyer specifies too much. So this one specifies the floor — hours, ratios, safety, price, reporting — and nothing above it. Curriculum, cultural design and program identity stay with providers. New York's own flexible model shows a buyer can contract for flexibility and still know what it bought.

The system is deliberately a hybrid. A parallel grant stream continues for experimental and hyper-local work that cannot be specified in units — the layer where grants genuinely beat contracts. In Toronto terms, the Community Partnership and Investment Program and the SafeTO youth-violence-prevention grants are not raided to fund this system. They are re-anchored as its innovation layer.

Fix 5 — Publishing results is a contract term, and evaluation is a budget line

Toronto Youth Job Corps carries written targets in its contracts, yet no results against the current contract are published, and its own division's budget notes print numbers that cannot describe the same program. The pattern repeats across the city. Where money leaves by contract or by a formal expansion case, outputs get written down. The standing patchwork reports inputs.

The Toronto Youth Alignment Plan writes the remedy into every contract: quarterly publication of registrations, attendance and fill rates from the shared data system; an annual public report against the contracted targets; and an independent evaluation funded as an explicit line item — 1.5% of contract value, inside the system layer priced in Section 8 — following New York's precedent of contracting the American Institutes for Research to evaluate its system.

Payment is for delivery to specification. Sacramento's Advance Peace contract worked that way: pay for faithful delivery of a defined intervention, evaluate the outcomes separately (City of Sacramento, 2017). The Toronto Youth Alignment Plan does not pay by results for child outcomes. That model's documented failure is the United Kingdom's Troubled Families programme, which paid on self-reported proxy measures, reported 99% “success,” and produced a success rate its own national evaluation could not find (United Kingdom, 2016). That is the clearest warning in the research, and the design heeds it.

The machinery the fixes run on

Fixes need a machine to run on. Three pieces carry the weight.

One named buyer. A dedicated youth services unit inside Social Development, Finance and Administration — the City's social-development division — writes the specification, runs the competitions, holds the price list, employs the monitors, runs the data system and publishes the results. The division already buys rather than delivers: of its $137.3M gross budget, $62.2M is purchased services (City of Toronto, 2025). Contracting with community organizations is its normal way of working.

Two bands, bought to a standard. The elementary band runs at 1 staff member to 10 children for 596 school-year hours. The middle band runs at 1 to 15 for 540 hours, in the club-shaped form older children will actually attend. Both ratios sit deliberately above Ontario's licensed floor of 1 to 13 for kindergarten and 1 to 15 for primary and junior school-age children. The design buys the higher standard and prices the difference openly.

One data system, with a public dashboard. Every provider registers children, records attendance and invoices inside a single City system — the pattern Toronto already requires of shelter providers. City monitors, each covering about 20 sites, visit programs, approve plans and budgets, and direct fixes when a provider falls short. A paid junior-staff layer for local young people aged 16 to 24 adds hands and opens a first-job pipeline. Junior staff never count toward the ratios, and no child is supervised by anyone under 18.

6. Who runs the sites: three honest options

Everything so far assumes one answer to a question worth asking out loud: who employs the people at each site? There are three honest options. They differ in who delivers. They do not differ in what is guaranteed, because the guarantee lives in the layer above delivery — the standards, the hours, the monitors, the data system, and the published results.

Contract — buy

Employs the staff: community organizations, under contract to the City.

Accountability: the contract — competition to lose, terms to enforce.

The guarantee: City layer — standards, hours, monitors, data, published results. This is the model the plan prices.

In-house — build

Employs the staff: Parks, Forestry and Recreation, the way it runs ARC today.

Accountability: management — no competition, no agreement to enforce.

The guarantee: the same City layer, applied to the City's own sites. ARC's record — about 1,800 children, cost unpublished since 2013 — is the caution.

Tandem — share the floor

Employs the staff: shared — the division's space and junior staff layer; community organizations deliver the programming.

Accountability: split — and the split has to be named in advance, or the model fails.

The guarantee: the same City layer across both kinds of site. Same price band as the contract model — the gains are avoided duplication, not a lower price.

The contract model is the base case, and the one priced in this plan. The City buys the whole service from community organizations, as New York does. Providers hire the staff, run the sites, and answer to the contract. Parks, Forestry and Recreation hosts programs where they use its spaces. This model carries two decades of New York evidence behind it.

The in-house model has Parks, Forestry and Recreation run the system with its own staff, the way it runs the After-School Recreation and Care program — ARC — today. No competition, no providers. Accountability runs through management, not contract: there is no competition to lose and no agreement to enforce. ARC's record shows what that has meant in practice. After years of City operation it reaches about 1,800 children, and its cost per child was last published in 2013. Nothing about in-house delivery requires smallness or silence. Nothing in it has prevented either.

The tandem model splits the work. The City buys the guarantee layer. Parks, Forestry and Recreation contributes space at permit prices, and its workforce — roughly 9,000 to 10,000 part-time recreation workers a year, about 80% of them aged 14 to 29 — feeds the junior layer for workers aged 16 to 24. Community organizations deliver the programming itself: the qualified staff who count toward the ratios, the program design, the neighbourhood relationships.

A note on tandem costs, because this is where plans like this usually start to bend. Tandem removes real duplication — paying market rent for rooms the City already owns, paying a contractor to recruit animators the City already employs. But it cannot beat the contract model on headline price, because the base price never charged those duplications in the first place. Space is already costed at permit rates — $200 per child per year in the elementary band, $150 in the middle band, not market rent and not zero. Wages are already benchmarked to the City's own ARC grid. So the gains from tandem are stated in words, never converted into invented dollars: avoided duplication, a ready hiring pipeline, better use of public rooms. No per-place figure below the modelled $3,680 appears in this comparison, and none should be quoted unless it is one day built bottom-up the way Section 8 builds the base price.

Four flags stay attached to tandem, in plain language. Whether guaranteed, ratio-bound program work sits inside existing collective-agreement scope is a determination for City staff and labour relations to make. This document cannot assert it, and the model should not be sold as if it were already settled. If a site fails, the agreements must say in advance whether the provider or the division answers — shared delivery with blurred accountability is worse than either clean model. Rooms and staff redeployed into guaranteed places stop doing something else, and that trade has to be named site by site. And ARC is both the proof of life and the scale warning: City staff can run a real place, and left without a guarantee layer, a real place stayed at 1,800 children.

> The guarantee is the product; who employs the animator is a delivery choice.

7. Three scales

Scale talk goes wrong when the denominator is soft. So the denominator comes first, from the census, and every option that follows is the same coverage rate applied to a different geography.

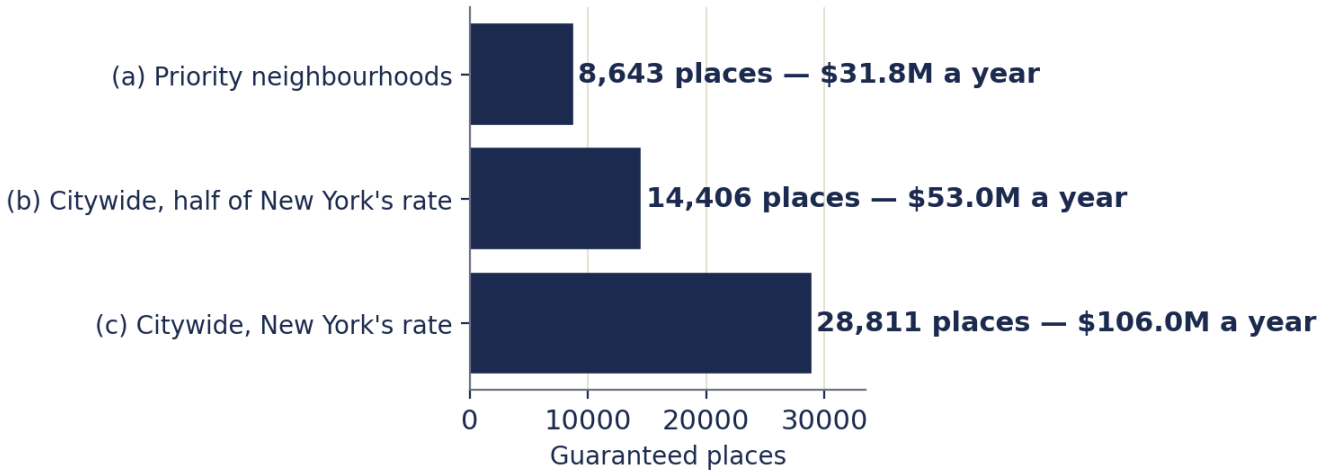
Toronto has 234,408 children aged 5 to 13 (City of Toronto / Statistics Canada, 2022). The count is built from the 2021 Census five-year bands: the 5-to-9 band, 129,040 children, counted in full; plus ages 10 to 13, 105,368 children — four-fifths of the 10-to-14 band. The bands sum exactly to the census backgrounder's published total for ages 0 to 14. Inside the total, elementary ages make up 66.3% and middle ages 33.7%.

New York's transferable number is a rate, not a count. Its 102,104 places against 830,714 resident children aged 5 to 13 (US Census Bureau, 2024) give a coverage rate of 12.29% — about one child in eight. That rate is what “New York-equivalent” means for a smaller city.

Option	Children in scope	Guaranteed places	Sites (modelled)	Cost per year (modelled)
(a) Priority neighbourhoods first	70,322	8,643	~79	$31.8M
(b) Citywide, half-scale	234,408	14,406	~131	$53.0M
(c) Full New York equivalent, citywide	234,408	28,811	~262	$106.0M

Option (a) rests on an assumption, and it is called one every time it appears: that **30%** of Toronto's children aged 5 to 13 live in the priority neighbourhoods. No government publishes that share. The direction is grounded — priority neighbourhoods run higher child shares than the city as a whole — but the number itself is assumed, and option (a) moves in direct proportion to it. At 25%, the priority system is 7,203 places and $26.5M a year. At 35%, it is 10,084 places and $37.1M a year. The first job of a design phase is the census count that replaces the assumption with a count.

Figure 3 — The same guaranteed place at three sizes: 8,643 places for $31.8M a year, 14,406 for $53.0M, or 28,811 for $106.0M

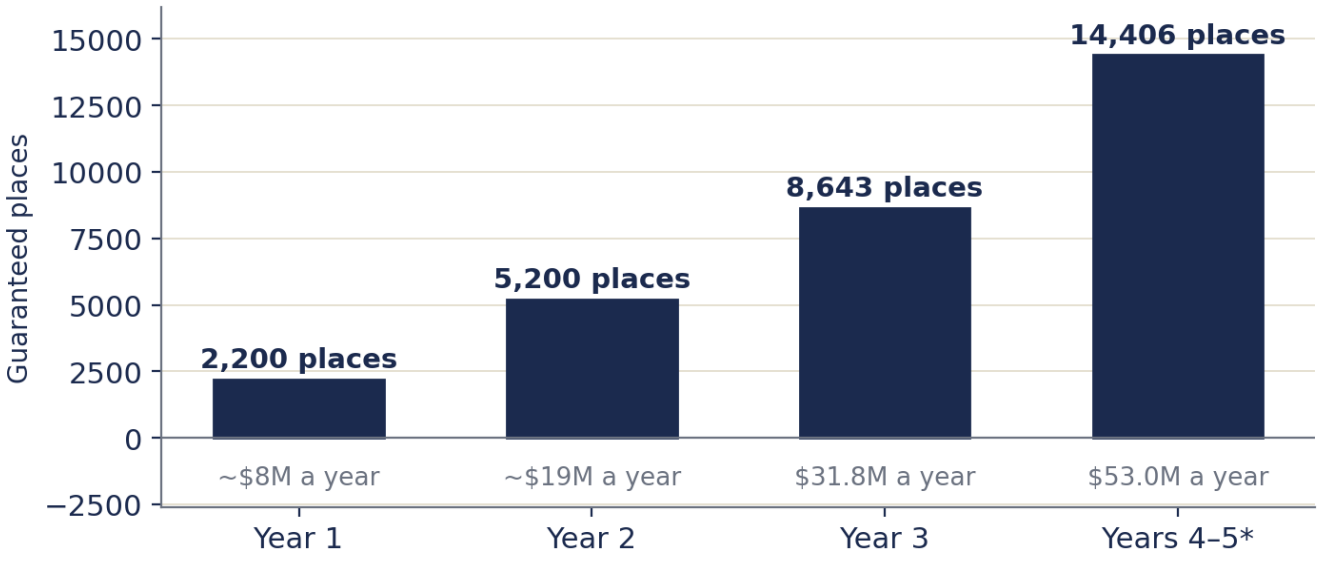


All three options buy places at the modelled blended price of $3,680 per place (Section 8) and at New York's coverage rate of 12.29% of children aged 5–13 within each geography (102,104 places among 830,714 children, American Community Survey 2024). Option (a) is restricted to the priority neighbourhoods; its 70,322 children in scope rest on the stated assumption that 30% of Toronto's 5–13 population lives there — at 25% the option is 7,203 places and $26.5 million, at 35% it is 10,084 places and $37.1 million. Options (b) and (c) use the census count for the whole city: 234,408 children aged 5–13 (2021 Census).

THE PHASE-IN

The phase-in is a ramp, not a switch. Year 1 stands up the buyer unit and the data system and opens about 2,200 places, at roughly $8M. Year 2 reaches about 5,200 places, at roughly $19M, and publishes the first results report. Year 3 completes the priority system at 8,643 places and $31.8M, with the mid-course evaluation published. Years 4 and 5 move to citywide half-scale at $53.0M only if Council chooses — a decision informed by the Year 3 evaluation, not an escalator built into this plan.

Figure 4 — The phase-in: three years to the priority system



Places and cost per year at the full year of each phase, at the modelled blended price of $3,680 per place. Years 1–3 build the priority-neighbourhood system (option (a), Section 7). *Years 4–5 move to citywide half-scale (option (b)) only if Council chooses, on the evidence of the Year 3 evaluation. Source: the design’s phase-in table (Section 9).

8. The price, built in the open

The price in this plan is a model. It is called a model every time it appears, because nobody has tendered it and pretending otherwise would hand critics their easiest win. What a model can do — what this one does — is print every assumption, so anyone can change one and watch the price move.

Assumption	Value	Basis
Front-line pay	$22.00/hr elementary; $23.00/hr middle	The City's own ARC site-coordinator posting rate (City of Toronto, 2026); program leaders post at $19.76
Site coordinator / site director	$30.00/hr / $38.00/hr	Model, benchmarked to City and non-profit postings
Payroll burden	+22%	Model
Paid time beyond program hours	×1.15	Model — set-up, clean-up, planning, training
Food	$1.75 per child per day (snack); $3.50 on summer days	Model
Supplies	$150 per child per year	Model
Space	$200 per child per year elementary; $150 middle	Model — permit rates; cheap, not free
Provider administration	+12%	Model
City system layer	+6%, including the 1.5% evaluation line	Model
Program days	194	Ontario school-year regulation: 187 teaching days, up to 7 PA days

The elementary build is the heart of it. Front-line staffing for 596 hours at 1 to 10 comes to $1,840 per place. Coordination adds $314, direction $132, food $340, and supplies and space $350 — a direct cost of $2,975. Provider administration and the City system layer take it to $3,532 for the school year. A summer block of 240 hours adds $1,389, for a year-round elementary price of $4,921. The middle band, at 540 hours and 1 to 15, prices at $2,604. The high-school bridge prices at $1,325; it is described for completeness and sits outside the three costed options. Blended at 66.3% elementary and 33.7% middle, with half of elementary places taking the summer add-on, the modelled price is **$3,680** per place.

Cross-check	Price	Toronto model
New York elementary, school year	US$4,800 ≈ C$6,701	$3,532
New York elementary, year-round	US$6,800 ≈ C$9,493	$4,921

Cross-check	Price	Toronto model
New York middle school (SONYC)	US$3,900 ≈ C$5,445	$2,604
New York blended	US$4,384 ≈ C$6,120	$3,680 — about 40% below

All conversions use US$1 = C$1.3961 (Bank of Canada, 2026), the daily rate for November 4, 2026. Toronto comes out below New York for stated reasons, none of them magic: fewer mandated hours, Toronto wage levels, and Toronto space costs at permit rates.

One Toronto check matters more than the currency table. ARC — the City's own registered after-school program — last published a cost of $2,556 per child, in 2013. Restated for inflation, that is about $3,600 in 2026 dollars, within roughly 2% of the modelled elementary price. The match is a sanity check on order of magnitude, not a proof of precision, and it always travels with its date attached: 2013, because the City stopped publishing the figure after that year.

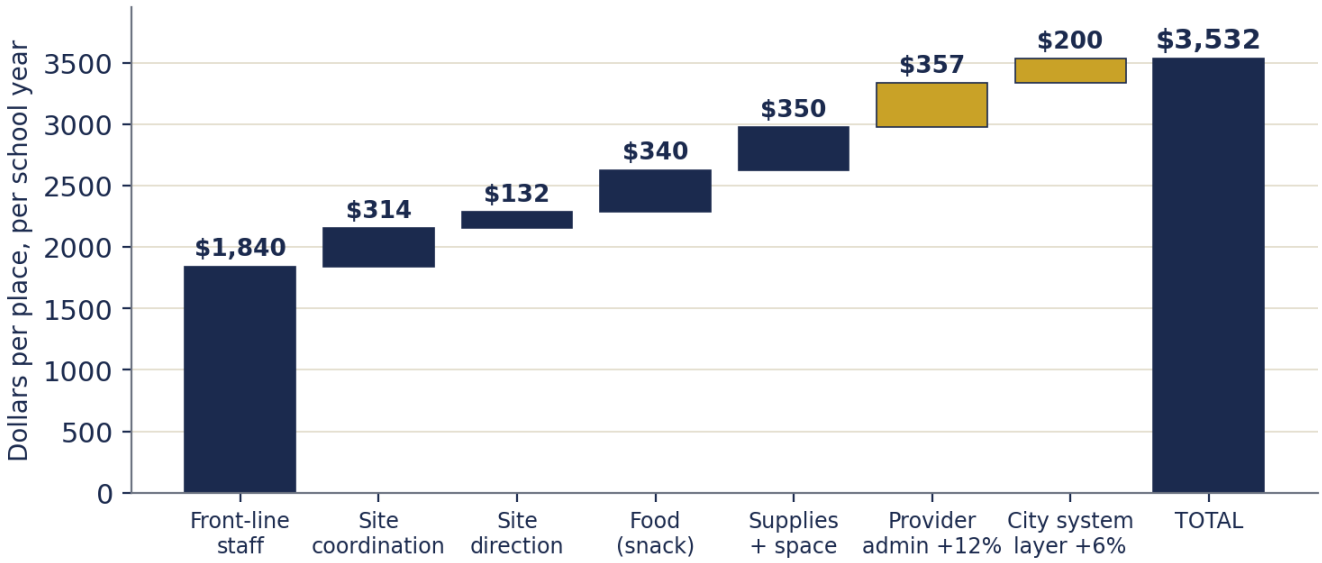
Sensitivity tells Council where its real choices sit. Raising elementary hours toward New York's package, to 800 school-year hours, lifts the elementary price to $4,461 — up 26%. Tightening the ratio to 1 to 8 lifts it to $4,078, up 15%. Paying front-line staff $25 an hour lifts it to $3,830, up 8%.

KEY FINDING

The price is moved by dose decisions — how many hours, how many children per adult — not by overhead assumptions. A council that wants New York’s dose can have it. It should vote for the price that comes with it, in the open.

One number is retired here, on purpose. Dividing Parks, Forestry and Recreation's $289.9M budget by its 483,000 registrations gives roughly “$600.” That figure prices a registration — one course sign-up, often a few hours, for a person of any age — not a child holding 596 guaranteed hours. It appears in this plan only so that nobody uses it as a cost. A registration is not a place.

Figure 5 — How the $3,532 price of one elementary place is built, line by line (school year)

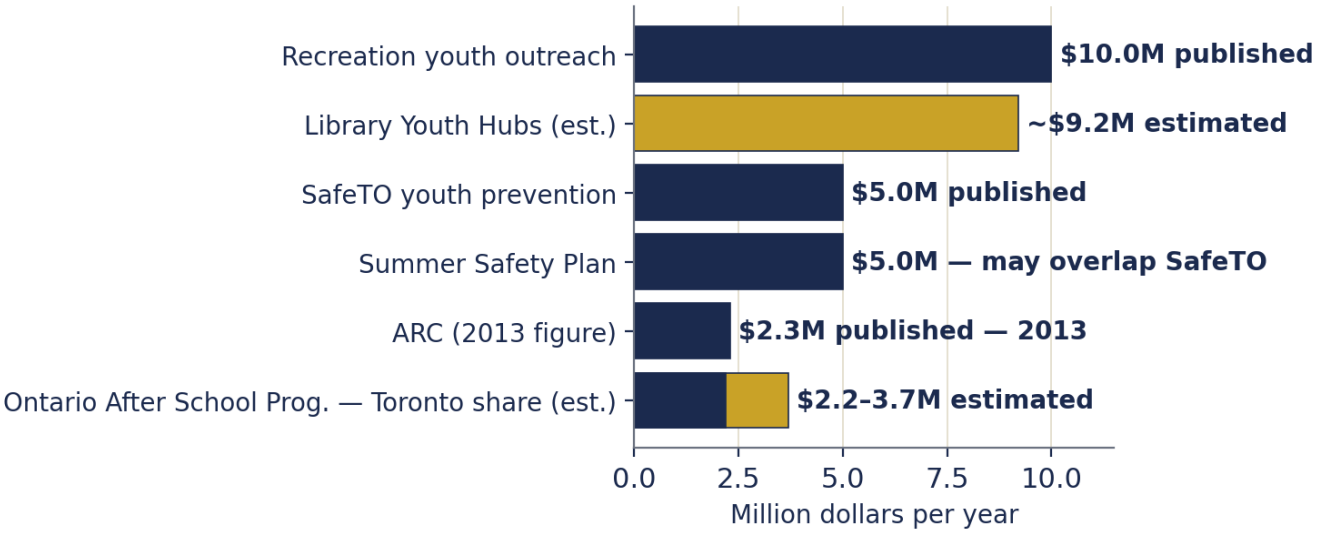


The elementary school-year build, per place: 596 program hours at one staff member to ten children, front-line pay at $22.00 an hour (the City’s ARC site-coordinator posting rate). Direct cost $2,975; provider administration at 12% adds $357; the City system layer at 6% adds $200; the design prints the resulting price as $3,532. Summer add-on $1,389; year-round elementary price $4,921; middle-school place $2,604; blended price $3,680. All figures are model lines from the cost build in this section — a model, stated as one.

9. The ledger and the verdict

Before anyone asks whether Toronto can afford a guaranteed system, count what Toronto already spends chasing the same effect: supervised, structured programming for school-age children outside school hours. The ledger counts only that effect, and it counts in tiers, so nothing rests on a hidden estimate.

Figure 6 — What Toronto already spends each year, stream by stream — the biggest single stream is $10.0M



The largest streams in the ledger, per year. Navy: published figures. Gold: estimates, labelled as in the ledger — the Youth Hubs figure is extrapolated from the published cost of a three-hub expansion ($0.887 million a year for three hubs); the Ontario After School Program's Toronto share is modelled at 15–25% of the province-wide $14.6 million, which the province does not break out by city. ARC is carried at its last published figure (2013). The Summer Safety Plan's $5 million may sit inside SafeTO's wider envelope; the overlap is unresolved in the published sources, which is why the published tier of the ledger is stated as $17–22 million. Two real streams — Toronto Community Housing and the school boards — spend amounts no published source counts, and are not in this figure.

Source line: City of Toronto, Toronto Public Library and Ontario published figures, as itemized in the ledger table in this section; the full stream-by-stream ledger is in the companion record document.

Tier	What goes in	Total per year
Published, like-for-like only	Figures anyone can point to in published documents	$17–22M — the $22.3M and $17.3M pair turns on whether the Summer Safety Plan's $5M sits inside SafeTO's envelope, which published sources do not resolve; both are printed
Published plus two labelled modelled components	Add Library Youth Hubs at ≈$9.2M, extrapolated from a published three-hub expansion unit, and Toronto's share of Ontario's After School Program at $2.2–3.7M, modelled because the province does not publish it	≈$29–35M

Tier	What goes in	Total per year
With ARC restated	ARC at modelled current scale instead of its last published 2013 figure	Toward ~$39M

WHERE THE PRIORITY SYSTEM FINDS ITS MONEY

The spread matters as much as the sum. The ledger names 16 streams, at least 10 funding streams, and 8 authorities. Each runs its own application cycle, eligibility rules, reporting format and definition of a unit. No two rows count the same thing. And across all of it, the number of guaranteed places — a named child promised a defined number of hours at a defined standard next September — is about 1,800.

Where the priority system finds its money

Source	Per year	Honest note
Parks, Forestry and Recreation youth envelope conversion	~$12M	Reallocation candidate — hard. A labour-relations and service-continuity negotiation, not a journal entry. The staff in that envelope are the natural site coordinators and monitors of the new system
Ontario After School Program, formalized Toronto allocation	~$3M	Negotiated transfer. The ask is naming Toronto's share of money the province already spends, not new provincial money
SafeTO and Community Partnership and Investment Program alignment	~$5M	Partial reallocation. Only the after-school-hours portion aligns with places; the rest stays in the protected grant layer
Federal streams	$0 in the base case	Episodic money never bases a standing system. Federal contributions count as acceleration, never as base
New City money — what remains	≈$12M	About 0.06% of the City's $18.9B operating budget (City of Toronto, 2026)

One exclusion is stated flatly. Children's Services' $1,672.5M is not in this stack and cannot be. It is child-care money flowing under federal-provincial rules, and it is not available for a school-age system no matter how large the number looks in a budget book. Any version of this proposal that “finds” its funding there is not being honest.

> Comparable money for categorically more guaranteed output. It is not shown to be cheaper — and the design does not need it to be.

The supports are plain. The envelopes are the same order of money: **$31.8M** for the priority system — at the stated 30% priority-share assumption of Section 7 — against roughly $29–35M identifiably spent now. The outputs are not the same category, which is why “cheaper for the same output” is undefined — the status quo does not produce the output being priced. What the guarantee itself costs, beyond program delivery, is the system layer of about 6%, roughly $1.9M a year at priority scale: the monitors, the data system and the evaluation whose absence is exactly why the current system's results cannot be stated.

Stress the numbers and the verdict bends without breaking. Under a harsh combination — New York-level dose and tighter ratios, with current spending read at its strictly published low end — the priority system rises toward ~$42M against ~$20M of provable spend: roughly double, for a guaranteed system against an unguaranteed patchwork, and the verdict holds in the form printed above. Push both breaks together — the priority share at 35% and the New York dose at once — and option (a) reaches ≈$48–52M, where the honest sentence changes: roughly double to two-and-a-half times provable current spending, for a categorically different product. In no version does consolidation pay for itself. Anyone who claims it does is overclaiming, and this plan does not.

For roughly what Toronto already spends — money that today guarantees a place to 1,800 children — the City can guarantee 8,643 places, publish the attendance, pay the providers on time, and be audited on all of it; the evidence supports exactly that promise, and this proposal makes no promise the evidence doesn't support.

10. What this plan will not claim

A plan earns trust by what it refuses to promise. This closing section states the limits plainly — what the evidence supports, what it does not, and what this proposal therefore does not say.

This plan does not promise test scores. No system-scale evaluation anywhere has shown that after-school provision raises them. New York's own evaluator found participants' test-score gains no different from matched non-participants (Policy Studies Associates, n.d.). What structured programs with trained, stable staff do improve, on the evidence, is engagement, school-day attendance and course progression. Those are the outcomes the funded evaluation will measure and publish.

This plan does not promise a percentage reduction in youth violence from after-school places, because no such estimate exists. What the record does establish is timing. Juvenile violent crime and victimization peak in the risky hours — 3 to 4 p.m. on school days. Supervision in those hours is the intervention aimed at them. Aim is not an effect size, and this plan does not dress it up as one.

The summer-jobs evidence is stronger, and this plan claims it at exactly its strength, and only for older youth. Assignment to a supported summer job cut violent-crime arrests by roughly **two-fifths** over 16 months in the original Chicago trial (Heller, 2014). Later and larger trials found smaller, less certain reductions, and the pooled post-program violence effect across studies is not statistically distinguishable from zero — so the durable claim is the direction, not the size. New York's lottery evidence found incarceration about 10% lower across all applicants — about 54% only among 19-to-21-year-olds, a qualification that travels with the figure every time — and deaths from external causes about one-fifth lower (Gelber, Isen and Kessler, 2014). None of it is evidence about ten-year-olds, and none of it is presented here as if it were.

Attendance is promised at levels that can be proved. Children attend roughly half the hours a place offers — in New York's evaluated middle-school expansion, an average of 236 of 540 hours. So the contract sets an 80% participation benchmark, publishes attended hours, and is judged on them. The arithmetic is honest about the gap between an offer and a dose: $5.60 per contracted hour, and about $7 per attended hour at the benchmark the contract enforces.

This is not a savings claim. Section 9 makes the point once and this section will not belabour it: comparable money, categorically more guaranteed output, and under harsh assumptions roughly double the strictly published spend. The case rests on what the money buys, not on a promise that it costs less.

Two labels stay on, in plain sight. The price is a model — $3,680 per place, built line by line from published wage postings in 2026–27 dollars, not a tendered or observed price. And the 30% priority share is an assumption — no government publishes it, the sensitivities at 25% and 35% are printed in Section 7, and replacing it with a census count is the design phase's first job.

Toronto has adopted this idea before, in words: the 2012 Middle Childhood Strategy named the same patchwork, in the same language, and stopped at eighteen sites (City of Toronto, 2012). What this design adds is not another diagnosis. It is a named buyer, a costed unit, committed money, and an owner whose name is on the results.

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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

TECHNICAL APPENDIX

The State of Youth in Toronto: Technical Appendix

The full technical record behind the study — conditions, work, and the published response, compiled from published sources

Swabir Shariff
Toronto, Canada

November 2026
Compiled from published sources, November 5, 2026

Abstract

This study compiles, from published sources only, a descriptive account of the state of young people in the City of Toronto and of what the City of Toronto, the Government of Ontario, and the Government of Canada publish about their own response. It covers the 581,210 residents aged 5 to 24 counted in the 2021 Census, and it records conditions — income, food, housing, health, education, safety, and work — in each source's own age band, geography, and year, with definitions printed beside the numbers. Every figure was verified in a primary published document opened during compilation; where sources disagree, the disagreement is shown, and where no figure is published at that standard, the study says so. Shootings and firearm discharges fell to **263** in 2025, from 492 in 2019. Homicides fell to **45**, from 98 in 2018. The Toronto CMA youth unemployment rate was 17.8% in 2024 and, in the successor Labour Force Survey table, which carries revised population controls, **18.0%** in 2025, against 12.3% in 2019. Dividing Toronto's published Social Development budget by its 581,210 residents aged 5 to 24 gives approximately **$236 per resident**, within a field of comparable cities. The record's absences are findings in themselves: no published victim-age breakdown for shootings or homicides, no Toronto NEET series, and no Toronto total for several youth programs. The study makes no recommendations.

Keywords: youth; Toronto; after-school programs; youth employment; food insecurity; youth violence; municipal budgets; published data

Suggested citation: Shariff, S. (2026). *The State of Youth in Toronto*. Working paper. Toronto, Canada.

About this appendix

This is the technical appendix to *The State of Youth in Toronto*. The study itself is a descriptive account of two things: the state of Toronto's young people in numbers, and what the three levels of government and the City publish about their own response. It makes no recommendations. No organization publishes or brands it. Every figure in the study can be traced to this appendix, which carries the full source chapters behind it. Every figure is printed with the age band, geography, and year its source used, and is cited in the text to the document it was verified in; the full source list is the References section. Chapter 20's city-comparison figures are carried from the study's research library, as that chapter itself prints.

The study is organized in nine parts. Part I sets the population frame. Parts II to VII record conditions — income, food, housing, health, education, safety, work. Part VIII records the published response of the City of Toronto, Ontario, and Canada, in each government's own units and verbs; it closes with the census — the full register of the City of Toronto's youth programs, funding streams and engagement bodies compiled for this study, entry by entry, in the published units. Part IX places Toronto's published per-resident youth commitment in a field of other cities' published figures. Three appendices follow — the methods used (Appendix A), a one-page register of what is not published (Appendix B), and material carried in this appendix rather than in the main edition (Appendix C) — and a References section lists every source cited.

Three reading rules apply throughout. First, sources code "youth" incompatibly — a police dataset's victims aged 12–17, a labour survey's ages 15–24, a census band of 5–24 — so each figure stands in its source band and figures from different bands are never added, averaged, or ratioed. Second, where a publisher changed what it counts, the break is marked rather than smoothed. Third, where no figure is published at the standard this study applies, the study says so; the absence is part of the record, and Appendix B collects the main instances.

All research was compiled on November 5, 2026, from published documents. Some of those documents were published in 2026 and report on earlier years — for example, the Toronto Police Service's 2025 Chief's Annual Report, published June 2026.

About the author

Swabir Shariff is the founder and executive director of The Good Guides, a Toronto non-profit he founded in 2020 that has mentored more than 10,000 young people across Scarborough. He advises institutions on youth, mentoring and violence prevention, and was named one of the Queen Elizabeth II Commonwealth Trust's 100 Young Leaders for 2026. This document is his personal work, published independently.

Contents

Chapters keep their study numbering throughout. The parts below group the chapters by theme, so the chapter numbers do not always run in order inside a part.

Abstract

About this study

Part I — The frame

Chapter 1 — Who Toronto's young people are

Part II — Money and home

Chapter 2 — Income and poverty

Chapter 3 — Money in young people's own pockets

Chapter 5 — Housing and homelessness

Part III — Food

Chapter 4 — Food

Part IV — Health and belonging

Chapter 6 — Mental health

Chapter 7 — Health: the clinical and system layer

Chapter 13 — Environment and mobility

Part V — Education

Chapter 8 — Education

Part VI — Safety

Chapter 9 — Violence: the city-wide series

Chapter 10 — Young people in the violence data

Chapter 11 — Justice contact beyond violence

Chapter 12 — Belonging and participation

Part VII — Work

Chapter 14 — Youth employment

Chapter 15 — Not in employment, education or training (NEET)

Chapter 16 — The jobs commitments, as published

Part VIII — The response

Chapter 17 — The response: City of Toronto

Chapter 18 — The response: Ontario

Chapter 19 — The response: Canada

The census — the City of Toronto's youth programs, in full

Part IX — Toronto in the field

Chapter 20 — The money in context

Appendices and references

Appendix A — How this study was compiled (methods)

Appendix B — What is not published

Appendix C — Material carried in this appendix

References

Chapter 1 — Who Toronto's young people are

In the 2021 Census, Toronto had **581,210 residents aged 5 to 24**, out of a total population of 2,794,356 (City of Toronto, 2022a).

This chapter sets the population frame for the study. Every figure in it comes from one source: the 2021 Census, counted on Census Day, May 11, 2021, for the City of Toronto. The city's total population of 2,794,356 was 2.3% higher than its 2016 Census count, as published in the City's census backgrounder (City of Toronto, 2022a).

Counting from birth to age 24, Toronto had 704,760 residents aged 0 to 24 in 2021, which is 25.2% of the city's population. That combined total is the sum of the census's published five-year age bands. The five bands were: 123,550 children aged 0 to 4 (4.4% of the population); 129,040 aged 5 to 9 (4.6%); 131,710 aged 10 to 14 (4.7%); 134,810 aged 15 to 19 (4.8%); and 185,650 aged 20 to 24 (6.6%) (City of Toronto, 2022a; see Methods).

The backgrounder also prints two subtotals. Children aged 0 to 14 numbered 384,300, or 13.8% of the city, down from 14.6% in 2016. Young people aged 15 to 24 numbered 320,460 in 2021 (City of Toronto, 2022a).

Between the 2016 and 2021 censuses, the population aged 0 to 24 fell by 33,645, from 738,405 to 704,760. Four of the five bands under age 25 were smaller in 2021 than in 2016: ages 0 to 4 fell 9.2%, ages 5 to 9 fell 4.4%, ages 15 to 19 fell 7.4%, and ages 20 to 24 fell 4.7%. The one band under 25 that grew was ages 10 to 14, up 3.6%. Residents aged 25 to 29 numbered 243,955 in 2021 (8.7%), outside the study's 0 to 24 population (City of Toronto, 2022a).

The 581,210 figure for ages 5 to 24 is the sum of the published bands for ages 5 to 9, 10 to 14, 15 to 19, and 20 to 24, and equals 20.8% of the city's 2021 population (City of Toronto, 2022a; see Methods). Later chapters do not all use these bands or this geography. Each later source publishes its own age band — for example, children aged 0 to 17, youth aged 16 to 24, or students in grades 7 to 12 — and its own geography, which in some sources is the Toronto census metropolitan area rather than the city. Each figure in the chapters that follow is printed with the band, geography, and year its source used.

Chapter 2 — Income and poverty

Three published measures put Toronto child low income or poverty at **14.7%** (City of Toronto, 2022b), 25.3% (Campaign 2000, Family Service Toronto, & Social Planning Toronto, 2024), and **10.0%** (Statistics Canada, 2022a), and each value describes a different measure, population, geography, or year.

Toronto does not have one official child poverty number. It has several, published by different organizations, from different data, using different lines for what counts as low income. This chapter prints the three headline measures side by side (City of Toronto, 2022b; Campaign 2000, Family Service Toronto, & Social Planning Toronto, 2024; Statistics Canada, 2022a). They are a comparison of measures, not a trend, and no one of them continues another.

Measure	Who and where	Year	Rate
Low Income Measure, After Tax (LIM-AT)	Ages 0–17, City of Toronto	2020 income year	14.7%
Census Family Low Income Measure, After Tax (CFLIM-AT)	Ages 0–17, City of Toronto	2022 tax year	25.3% (117,890 children)
Market Basket Measure (MBM), 2018 base	All ages, Toronto census metropolitan area	2020 income year	10.0%

On the first measure, 14.7% of Toronto children under 18 lived in low-income households in the 2020 income year, on the Low Income Measure, After Tax, as reported in the 2021 Census. The same census source prints the all-ages LIM-AT rate for Toronto as 13.2% and the rate for young adults aged 18 to 24 as 15.8%. The LIM-AT line for 2020 was $26,503 for a one-person household. The City's backgrounder notes that the child rate fell 11.6 percentage points from the 2015 income year, and that 2020 incomes include temporary pandemic transfers, which is printed in the source as a reason the 2020 income year is not directly comparable with adjacent years (City of Toronto, 2022b).

On the second measure, 25.3% of Toronto children aged 0 to 17 were in low income in 2022 on the Census Family Low Income Measure, After Tax, a count of 117,890 children. This measure comes from taxfiler data (the T1 Family File), not the census. The same report prints this measure's own series for the city: 16.8% in 2020, 20.6% in 2021, and 25.3% in 2022. In 2022, children aged 0 to 17 in one-parent families in Toronto had a CFLIM-AT low-income rate of 50.6% (Campaign 2000, Family Service Toronto, & Social Planning Toronto, 2024).

On the third measure, the poverty rate on Canada's official poverty line, the Market Basket Measure (2018 base), was 10.0% in 2020. That figure covers all ages, and it covers the Toronto census metropolitan area, not the city of Toronto. The census metropolitan area includes suburban municipalities around the city, and a rate for that wider area reads milder than a city-only rate on the same measure. No child-specific MBM rate for Toronto or the Toronto CMA is printed in the source article (Statistics Canada, 2022a).

The three numbers differ for four reasons stated in the sources (City of Toronto, 2022b; Campaign 2000, Family Service Toronto, & Social Planning Toronto, 2024; Statistics Canada, 2022a). First, the lines differ: LIM-AT is a relative line set at 50% of median adjusted household after-tax income; the MBM is based on the cost of a basket of goods and services; CFLIM-AT applies a LIM-type line to census families rather than households, which produces higher measured rates for children. Second, the years differ: the census figures describe 2020, when temporary pandemic transfers were part of measured incomes, and the taxfiler figure describes 2022, after those transfers ended. Third, the geographies differ, as described above. Fourth, the data differ: census responses in the first and third measures, administrative tax records in the second.

For context, Toronto's median total household income in the 2021 Census was $84,000 for the 2020 income year, the lowest median among the regions of the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area in the City's backgrounder (City of Toronto, 2022b).

Chapter 3 — Money in young people's own pockets

In the Toronto CMA, the median total income of people aged 15 to 24 with income was **$14,100** in 2024 (2024 constant dollars), down in real terms from $20,500 in 2020 (Statistics Canada, 2026b).

Chapter 2 printed rates. This chapter prints levels: recorded incomes, published hourly wages, how far below the low-income line the median low-income family sat, and the student debt and assistance figures published for named cohorts.

The income levels come from Statistics Canada's Canadian Income Survey, which publishes a Toronto census metropolitan area (CMA) line and no City of Toronto line. The medians describe people aged 15 to 24 who had income from the source named; people with no income from that source are outside the median. In 2024 constant dollars, the median total income for ages 15 to 24 in the Toronto CMA fell each year in the published series, from $20,500 in 2020 to $14,100 in 2024. The 2020 value sits in the income year that included temporary pandemic transfers. For 2024, the same table prints median total income of $14,900 for Ontario and $15,700 for Canada, for the same age band (Statistics Canada, 2026b).

Median employment income for ages 15 to 24 in the Toronto CMA was $12,800 in 2024 (2024 constant dollars). The 2024 comparators were $13,000 for Ontario and $13,400 for Canada. The average (mean) employment income for the band in 2024 was $19,200 in the Toronto CMA, higher than the median (Statistics Canada, 2026b).

Hourly wages are published at Canada level only in the source used here. In 2024, the average hourly wage of employees aged 15 to 24 in Canada was $21.88 for men and $20.58 for women (2024 constant dollars), for the main job (Statistics Canada, 2025e). No Ontario or Toronto CMA youth wage level is printed in that article. In Ontario, the statutory general minimum wage is $17.95 per hour from October 1, 2026, and the student minimum wage for students under 18 is $16.90 per hour for the same period (Government of Ontario, 2026).

Two young-adult and family values sit beside the child rates in Chapter 2. In the 2021 Census (2020 income year), 15.8% of Toronto young adults aged 18 to 24 were in low income on the LIM-AT, for the City of Toronto (City of Toronto, 2022b). On taxfiler data, 98.7% of Toronto children under 18 who were not part of a census family were in low income in 2022 on the CFLIM-AT (Campaign 2000, Family Service Toronto, & Social Planning Toronto, 2024), and 98.7% (2,210 children) in 2023 (Social Planning Toronto & Campaign 2000, 2026); the source category covers minors with some reported income who live alone or with people who are not a parent, grandparent, partner, or their own children.

Poverty depth is published for Toronto by family type, for families with children aged 0 to 17. The published gap is the dollar difference between the CFLIM-AT line for the family type and the median after-tax income of low-income families of that type. In 2022, in the City of Toronto, the gaps were $14,346 for a one-parent family with one child, $13,575 for a couple with one child, $15,495 for a one-parent family with two children, and $13,816 for a couple with two children (nominal 2022 dollars) (Campaign 2000, Family Service Toronto,

& Social Planning Toronto, 2024). In 2023, the one-parent family with two children gap was $16,899 and the one-parent family with one child gap was $15,155 (nominal 2023 dollars) (Social Planning Toronto & Campaign 2000, 2026). No published Toronto depth figure for young adults living independently or for a youth age band was located in the sources for this chapter.

Student debt is published by province of study, not for Toronto. Among Ontario bachelor's graduates of the class of 2020 who owed money for their education, the average debt owed to any source at graduation was $30,800; 59% of Ontario bachelor's graduates owed debt to some source, and 50% owed $25,000 or more. Among Ontario college graduates of the class of 2020 who owed money, the average was $16,800; 48% owed debt to some source, and 25% owed $25,000 or more. "Any source" combines government student loans and non-government sources such as bank loans and family or friends.

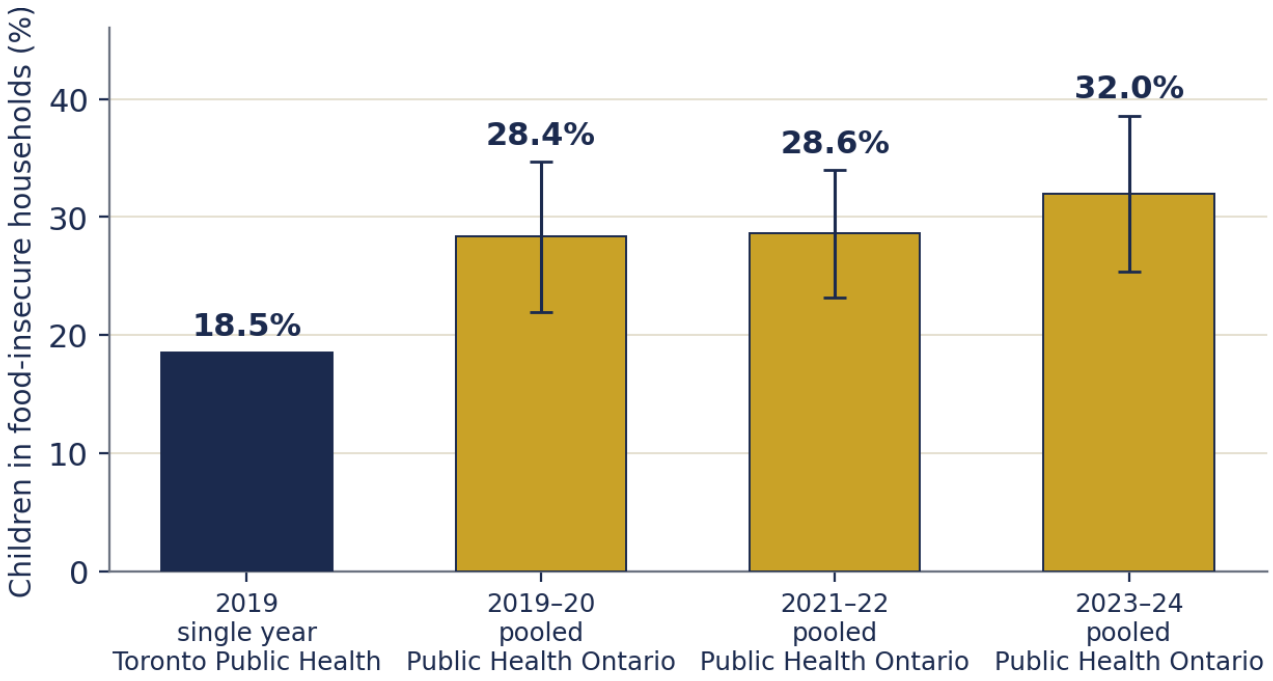
Student assistance reliance is published for one Toronto institution. At the University of Toronto in 2022–23, 47% of all full-time students received OSAP, and 84% of full-time domestic undergraduate students received OSAP; the university recorded about 28,000 OSAP recipients and an average package of about $10,850 per recipient (loans and grants combined). For direct-entry graduates in 2022–23, 61% incurred no OSAP debt, and the average repayable OSAP debt of graduating students was $18,100 (University of Toronto, 2024). The OSAP figure covers government loans at one institution; the survey figures above cover all sources for Ontario graduates — different measures of different populations.

Chapter 4 — Food

About one in four Toronto households was food insecure in the most recent published city estimate: **24.9%**, over **753,000 people** (Daily Bread Food Bank & North York Harvest Food Bank, 2024).

Two sources, two different measures: one counts a single year (2019), the other pools years together — they are not one trend.

That rate covers all households and all ages in the City of Toronto. It is published in Daily Bread Food Bank and North York Harvest Food Bank's Who's Hungry 2024 report, citing estimates from Statistics Canada's Canadian Income Survey as analysed by PROOF at the University of Toronto (Daily Bread Food Bank & North York Harvest Food Bank, 2024). The successor report, Who's Hungry 2025, prints the updated value as 24.7% of Toronto households in 2024 (Daily Bread Food Bank & North York Harvest Food Bank, 2025). Neither report publishes a Toronto rate for children or youth specifically.



Toronto children and youth living in food-insecure households, as published by two sources that measure differently. Toronto Public Health (2023): 18.5% for 2019, a single year, ages 1–17 (Canadian Health Survey on Children and Youth 2019; Canadian Income Survey custom table). Public Health Ontario (2026): children under 18, Canadian Income Survey, published only as pooled two-year estimates — 28.4% (2019–2020), 28.6% (2021–2022), 32.0% (2023–2024); whiskers are the published 95% confidence intervals. The two sources use different surveys and reference periods; the bars are not one series and do not show a trend. No annual Toronto child rate is published for any recent year.

A Toronto rate for children and youth was published once. Toronto Public Health's *Toronto's Population Health Profile* (February 2023) prints, in its Appendix 1 data tables, that 18.5% of Toronto children and youth aged 1 to 17 experienced household food insecurity in the past year, on 2019 data (Toronto Public Health, 2023). The figure counts individuals, not households, and its definition of food insecurity includes marginal,

moderate, and severe household food insecurity; its sources, as the profile prints them, are the Canadian Health Survey on Children and Youth, 2019, and a Canadian Income Survey custom table. No later Toronto Public Health publication found for this study repeats or updates that rate: a Toronto child and youth rate was published once, on 2019 data, and no current annual rate is published.

A second source now publishes Toronto child values in a different form. Public Health Ontario's Household Food Insecurity Snapshot (updated September 8, 2026) publishes estimates for Toronto children under 18 only as pooled multi-year estimates, from the Canadian Income Survey: 28.4% for 2019–2020, 28.6% for 2021–2022, and 32.0% for 2023–2024 as two-year combined estimates, and 33.4% for 2023–2025 as a three-year rolling estimate (Public Health Ontario, 2026). The indicator counts individuals under 18 living in a food-insecure household, with food insecurity defined to include marginal, moderate, and severe insecurity, as in the Toronto Public Health figure above. The snapshot publishes no annual Toronto child value for any single year — its download file contains no annual rows for the children indicator — so the pooled estimates are printed here as pooled periods, not as yearly rates, and they are not joined to the 2019 figure as one series: the two sources use different surveys and different reference periods.

PROOF publishes child rates for Canada and for Ontario — for example, 24.6% of children under 18 in Ontario lived in a food-insecure household in 2022, a person-level rate (PROOF, University of Toronto, 2023) — and Statistics Canada publishes provincial figures. The Toronto figures in this chapter are therefore the all-household rate above, the 2019 child and youth rate, the pooled child estimates, food bank use, and school program coverage — five different kinds of number.

Toronto food banks recorded 4,124,313 client visits in the fiscal year April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025, across the Daily Bread and North York Harvest member agency network. Visits count attendances, not unique individuals. The same report records an 18% increase over the previous year (3,488,351 visits in 2023–24) and 112,554 new clients in the year (Daily Bread Food Bank & North York Harvest Food Bank, 2025).

Children were 25% of Toronto food bank clients in 2024–25, with working-age adults at 65% and seniors at 10% in the client demographic snapshot in Who's Hungry 2025. The report does not print the upper age used for its "children" category in that snapshot, so the category is reported here as the report's own. In the same report's survey of food bank clients, 18% of respondent households with children reported that their children went hungry at least once a week in the past three months, and 54% of respondents reported visiting a food bank three or more times per month (Daily Bread Food Bank & North York Harvest Food Bank, 2025).

The Student Nutrition Program is a coverage record, not a prevalence record: its figures count school communities funded, students receiving meals, and meals provided, from City of Toronto and Toronto Public Health budget documents. **A "school community"** is the program's counting unit for programs delivered in schools by the surrounding community; one school community can host more than one program.

Two published numbers for the program describe different things and are printed together with their definitions. The figure 619 is Toronto Public Health's approved service level: the 2025 budget submissions print 619 school communities as the approved level for both 2024 and 2025 (Toronto Public Health, 2024a). The figure 620 is an actual count: for the 2024–25 school year, 819 student nutrition programs receiving

municipal funding were located in 620 school communities, as printed in Toronto Public Health's 2025 Program Summary (Toronto Public Health, 2025a). An approved level and an actual result, from different documents, differ by one community. The same Program Summary states that in 2024–25 approximately 73% of the public schools in Toronto had a community-based student nutrition program — a share of schools, as printed, not a share of students.

The approved service level for 2025 also carries, by cross-reference, 236,000 children and youth and 44,368,000 meals per year. Those reach figures belong to the approved service level table; they are program counts and are not combined with any other total in this study (Toronto Public Health, 2024a).

By the expansion's Phase 1 (Winter 2025), 686 school communities received Student Nutrition Program funding, which Toronto Public Health states includes reaching 81% of Toronto's public schools (Toronto Public Health, 2025a). The City's stated model in its budget documents is a universal program, and Council's adopted vision, as printed in those documents, is a universal morning meal in all Toronto school communities by the 2026/2027 school year (City of Toronto, 2025g). The documents opened for this study print shares of schools reached; they do not print a share of students covered or a share of food-insecure children covered, and no such share is computed here.

Chapter 5 — Housing and homelessness

Toronto's 2024 point-in-time count found **15,418 people** experiencing homelessness on October 23, 2024, more than double the 7,347 counted on April 21, 2021 (City of Toronto, Toronto Shelter and Support Services, 2025a).

Both counts are single-night counts for the City of Toronto, from the City's Street Needs Assessment. The City's published material notes three features of the series: the 2018 and 2021 counts were held in April and the 2024 count in October; the 2021 count was taken while pandemic border measures were in effect; and the 2024 count included a large number of refugee claimants in the shelter system, 6,350 accommodated as of October 23, 2024. On the 2024 count night, 12,304 of the 15,418 people counted were in City-administered sites, 1,615 were outdoors, and 1,499 were in provincially administered institutions. The count covers people outdoors, in City-administered sites, and in provincially administered sites; per the City's published methodology, it does not include people in hidden homelessness, such as temporarily staying with friends or family (City of Toronto, Toronto Shelter and Support Services, 2025b).

Youth aged 16 to 24 were 10% of people surveyed in the 2024 Street Needs Assessment — the assessment's own youth definition, spanning parts of the 15 to 19 and 20 to 24 age bands (City of Toronto, Toronto Shelter and Support Services, 2025b). The City's estimate is that more than 1,500 young people aged 16 to 24 experience homelessness on a given night in Toronto, as carried in the 2025 Youth Homelessness Summit Summary Report citing City of Toronto (2025) (Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario, 2025). The survey share and the City estimate are printed as published, on their different bases; the count publishes no enumerated youth sub-count, and the study does not apply one figure to the other.

Toronto's 2025 point-in-time count, held October 22, 2025, found 12,196 people experiencing homelessness, all ages. Its components were 9,026 people in the City's base shelter system, 1,446 outdoors including in encampments, and 1,724 in provincially administered settings. The City's Street Needs Assessment results page prints no youth share or count for the 2025 count. The City states the count component is now conducted annually, with the full needs-assessment survey every three years (City of Toronto, 2026e).

The youth shelter system is counted separately from the point-in-time counts. Toronto had 25 youth shelters at the end of the third quarter of 2025. Average youth-shelter bed capacity was **699 beds** across the first quarter of 2024 to the third quarter of 2025, compiled from the City's Daily Shelter & Overnight Service Occupancy & Capacity dataset (City of Toronto, 2026g; BMC Public Health, 2026). The 2025 summit report separately cites up to 740 shelter beds for the youth system (Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario, 2025): a cited maximum, printed beside the 699-bed quarterly average because the two values measure different things. In the summit report, **57%** of youth were reported as having been unable to access a shelter bed when they tried in the past year, a figure the report attributes to the City of Toronto's 2024 Street Needs Assessment (Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario, 2025).

Rent figures in this chapter are for the Toronto census metropolitan area (CMA), as the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation publishes them, from its Rental Market Survey of purpose-built rental apartments each

October. In October 2025, the average rent in the Toronto CMA was $1,491 per month for a studio (bachelor), $1,761 for a one-bedroom, $2,045 for a two-bedroom, and $2,294 for a three-bedroom-or-larger unit. The vacancy rate in October 2025 was 3.0% overall, ranging from 4.2% for studios to 1.8% for three-bedroom-or-larger units (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, 2025). CMHC publishes no renter-age split of these rents. A separate City-published series, not combined with the CMA table above, prints the average market rent for a bachelor unit in Toronto as $1,456 per month in 2024, against a maximum Ontario Works shelter allowance of $390 per month for a single person in the same year (City of Toronto, Toronto Shelter and Support Services, 2025a).

Living arrangements are recorded in the census. In the Toronto CMA, 47% of young adults aged 20 to 34 lived in the same household as at least one parent in 2021, down one percentage point from 2016. Nationally, the share for ages 20 to 34 was 35% in 2021, unchanged from 2016 (Statistics Canada, 2022b).

Almost one in five Toronto households was in core housing need in 2021: 215,225 households, 19% of households examined, in the City of Toronto. By tenure, 29% of renter households and 11% of owner households were in core housing need. A household is in core housing need if its dwelling falls below at least one of the adequacy, suitability, or affordability standards and it would have to spend 30% or more of before-tax income on median-rent alternative local housing. Households led by a person aged 15 to 24 were predominantly renter households in 2021: 81% rented (City of Toronto, 2022c). A youth-specific core housing need rate for Toronto is not published in the City's housing backgrounder, and no published rate for youth-headed households in Toronto (city or CMA) was located in the housing sources for this study; the published youth analysis located is national and ends in 2016.

Chapter 6 — Mental health

In 2023, **38%** of Ontario students in grades 7–12 rated their mental health as fair or poor (Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, 2024).

This chapter prints two series side by side, each in its own geography. The first is an Ontario series from the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH). The second is a Toronto series published by Toronto Public Health. The two series are not combined, and the Ontario trend is not a Toronto trend.

Ontario — CAMH OSDUHS 2023

The Ontario figures come from the Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey (OSDUHS), 2023 cycle, for students in grades 7–12 in Ontario (n = 10,145 students in 235 schools in 46 school boards, data collected November 2022 to June 2023). The survey is school-based. Students not in school, absent, or in schools that did not participate are outside its frame (Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, 2024).

In 2023, 38% of Ontario students in grades 7–12 rated their mental health as fair or poor, up from 11% in 2007, the first year of monitoring for this item, in Ontario, grades 7–12. CAMH prints the increase as statistically significant (Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, 2024).

In 2023, 51% of Ontario students in grades 7–12 indicated a moderate-to-serious level of psychological distress, and 27% indicated a serious level, in Ontario, grades 7–12, 2023. As published, moderate-to-serious distress was 24% in 2013 and 51% in 2023, and serious distress was 11% in 2013 and 27% in 2023. CAMH states that both indicators were stable between 2021 and 2023 after rising over the decade (Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, 2024).

In 2023, 19% of Ontario students in grades 7–12 reported harming themselves on purpose in the past year, in Ontario, grades 7–12, 2023. As published, this item was 15% in 2019, the first year of monitoring, and 19% in 2023 (Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, 2024).

In 2023, 18% of Ontario students in grades 7–12 reported serious thoughts of suicide in the past year, in Ontario, grades 7–12, 2023. As published, this item was 11% in 2001, the first year of monitoring, and 18% in 2023 (Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, 2024).

Toronto — Toronto Public Health

The Toronto figures come from Toronto Public Health, in Attachment 1 to its 2025 progress report on the Our Health, Our City strategy. The attachment prints its population as Toronto youth (grades 7 to 12) (Toronto Public Health, 2025b).

In 2023, 37.0% of Toronto youth in grades 7 to 12 reported fair or poor mental health, in Toronto, grades 7 to 12, 2023, up from 27.1% in 2019, in Toronto, grades 7 to 12, 2019. The attachment prints comparators for 2023 of 38.4% for the rest of Ontario and 37.7% for the rest of the GTA, each described in the attachment as comparable to the Toronto value (Toronto Public Health, 2025b).

In 2023, 18.0% of Toronto youth in grades 7 to 12 reported that they seriously contemplated suicide in the past year, in Toronto, grades 7 to 12, 2023. The attachment prints the 2019 value as 16.7%, in Toronto, grades 7 to 12, 2019, and describes the change as stable (Toronto Public Health, 2025b).

Series	Item, as published	Value
Ontario — CAMH OSDUHS, grades 7–12	Fair or poor self-rated mental health, 2023 (2007: 11%)	38%
Ontario — CAMH OSDUHS, grades 7–12	Moderate-to-serious psychological distress, 2023	51%
Ontario — CAMH OSDUHS, grades 7–12	Deliberate self-harm, past year, 2023	19%
Ontario — CAMH OSDUHS, grades 7–12	Serious thoughts of suicide, past year, 2023	18%
Toronto — Toronto Public Health, grades 7 to 12	Fair or poor mental health, 2023 (2019: 27.1%)	37.0%
Toronto — Toronto Public Health, grades 7 to 12	Seriously contemplated suicide, past year, 2023 (2019: 16.7%, described as stable)	18.0%

The Toronto attachment's printed source notes cite Toronto Public Health's Population Health Status Indicator Dashboard — Child and Youth Health Dashboard (2025) for the youth survey items. No Toronto series beyond the items printed above is published in the attachment for the indicators in this chapter (Toronto Public Health, 2025b).

Chapter 7 — Health: the clinical and system layer

In Toronto, the rate of emergency department visits for intentional self-harm among people aged 10 years and older was **100.3 per 100,000** in 2022, up from 86.9 per 100,000 in 2013 (Toronto Public Health, 2025b).

Scope: this series is for people aged 10 years and older in Toronto — it is not restricted to youth. Toronto Public Health prints it in Attachment 1 to Board of Health item HL29.1, for Toronto, ages 10 years and older, 2013 to 2022, citing its Population Health Status Indicator Dashboard: Mental Health and Substance Use Dashboard. The increase from 86.9 to 100.3 per 100,000, for Toronto, ages 10 years and older, is 15.4% (Toronto Public Health, 2025b). No youth-specific Toronto count or rate for self-harm emergency department visits is printed in the attachment.

The attachment's other hospital volumes are on different bases. In Toronto hospitals, there were 19,601 emergency department visits for conditions entirely caused by alcohol among people aged 15 years and older in Toronto in 2024, and 7,311 hospitalizations among people aged 15 years and older in Toronto in 2024 (Toronto Public Health, 2025b).

For substance use reported by students, Attachment 1 prints past-year alcohol use of 29.4% among Toronto youth in grades 7 to 12 in 2023, described as stable against 31.7% among Toronto youth in grades 7 to 12 in 2019. It prints past-year cannabis use of 16.4% among Toronto youth in grades 7 to 12 in 2023, against 14.6% among Toronto youth in grades 7 to 12 in 2019, and tobacco use of 2.6% among Toronto youth in grades 7 to 12 in both 2023 and 2019 (Toronto Public Health, 2025b).

In Ontario, adolescents and young adults aged 15–24 accounted for 5,401 opioid-related emergency department visits, 711 opioid-related inpatient hospitalizations and 752 opioid-related deaths in total over 2014–2021 in Ontario, ages 15–24. As published, the rate of opioid-toxicity emergency department visits among people aged 15–24 in Ontario more than quadrupled over that period, the rate of deaths among people aged 15–24 in Ontario tripled, and the rate of opioid agonist treatment among people aged 15–24 in Ontario fell by more than half (Ontario Drug Policy Research Network, Public Health Ontario, & Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario, 2023).

Toronto Public Health publishes opioid-toxicity deaths for all ages in Toronto: 523 deaths for all ages in Toronto in 2023, and over 450 confirmed deaths for all ages in Toronto in 2024 (Toronto Public Health, 2025b). No youth or under-25 age cut for Toronto opioid-toxicity deaths, emergency department visits or treatment admissions was located in the Toronto documents opened for the health track.

In the Canadian Institute for Health Information's May 2025 analysis, the rate of children and youth aged 5–24 who visited an emergency department for a mental-health disorder was 1,090 per 100,000 among ages 5–24 in Quebec, Ontario, Alberta and the Yukon in 2023–2024, down 31% from 1,582 per 100,000 among ages 5–24 in those jurisdictions in 2018–2019. The hospitalization rate was 368 per 100,000 among ages 5–24 in all provinces and territories in 2023–2024, against 479 per 100,000 among ages 5–24 in all provinces and

territories in 2018–2019. That analysis excludes self-harm, as printed, and prints no Toronto rate (Canadian Institute for Health Information, 2025).

Kids Help Phone publishes a Toronto percentage change only for overnight texting demand: demand from Toronto rose 19% in the first half of 2026 compared with the first half of 2025, with no Toronto contact count published in that release (Kids Help Phone, 2026).

Ontario's Auditor General reports an average wait for intensive treatment in community child and youth mental health services of 105 days in Ontario in 2023/24, up from 94 days in Ontario in 2022/23 (Office of the Auditor General of Ontario, 2025). Children's Mental Health Ontario publishes 28,000 Ontario children and youth waiting, an average wait of 120 days for counselling and therapy in Ontario, and 105 days for intensive treatment in Ontario, as its own figures (Children's Mental Health Ontario, 2026). No Toronto-specific wait time is published in the report material opened for the health track.

Toronto Public Health's 2019 community-violence attachment prints that, between 2011 and 2015, assault-related mortality was the second leading cause of death among Toronto residents aged 15 to 24.

Chapter 8 — Education

In the latest Student Achievement Plans, the five-year graduation rate was **87.4%** at the Toronto District School Board and 91.5% at the Toronto Catholic District School Board, against 89.5% for Ontario (Toronto District School Board, 2025; Toronto Catholic District School Board, 2025).

TDSB and TCDSB enrolment boundaries correspond to the City of Toronto, but board populations are enrolment populations, not the city's resident population in an age band: some Toronto-resident students attend the city's two French-language boards or private schools, and some board students reside outside the city. Board figures run on the September–August school year.

The five-year rate is the share of students graduating with an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) within five years of starting Grade 9. For the cohort that began Grade 9 in 2019–20, measured to 2023–24, the boards' 2024–2025 Student Achievement Plans (SAPs, OnSIS data) print 87.4% at TDSB, 91.5% at TCDSB and 89.5% in Ontario (Toronto District School Board, 2025; Toronto Catholic District School Board, 2025). The earlier SAP editions print 86.8% at TDSB and 91.4% at TCDSB for the cohort that began Grade 9 in 2018–19, measured to 2022–23 (Toronto District School Board, 2024b; Toronto Catholic District School Board, 2024). Those earlier figures come from a different edition, published on its own basis; this study prints them as published and does not join them to the current rates as a trend — which is why the study's rating for this area is CAN'T TELL rather than a direction.

The four-year rate is the share graduating with an OSSD within four years of starting Grade 9. For the cohort that began Grade 9 in 2020–21, the Ontario Ministry of Education's board-level data file (May 2026 edition) prints 81.8% at TDSB and 88.4% at TCDSB; the provincial rate for the same cohort was 84.9%, as of August 31, 2024 (Ontario Ministry of Education, 2026). The four-year and five-year rates above are for different cohorts.

Credit accumulation by the end of Grade 10 is published in the SAPs as the share of students earning 16 or more credits: 72% at TDSB in 2022–23 and 73% in 2023–24, and 81% at TCDSB in 2022–23 and 85% in 2023–24. The Ontario values in the same SAPs were 78% in 2022–23 and 80% in 2023–24 (Toronto District School Board, 2024b; Toronto District School Board, 2025; Toronto Catholic District School Board, 2024; Toronto Catholic District School Board, 2025).

The SAP suspension rate counts students in Grades 4–12 suspended at least once in the data year: 2.35% at TDSB in 2022–23 and 2.13% in 2023–24, against 4.18% and 3.84% in Ontario (Toronto District School Board, 2024b; Toronto District School Board, 2025). At TCDSB, the rate was 2.86% in 2022–23, against 4.18% in Ontario in that year (Toronto Catholic District School Board, 2024).

Grade 6 EQAO results in the 2024–2025 SAP editions are the share of students meeting or exceeding the provincial standard: reading 84% and writing 83% at TDSB, and reading 86% and writing 84% at TCDSB. The provincial comparators in the same documents were 86% for reading and 85% for writing (Toronto District School Board, 2025; Toronto Catholic District School Board, 2025).

Before de-streaming, Grade 9 mathematics enrolment by course type was as follows (Ministry course-enrolment files; Ontario shares computed from the published counts) (Ontario Ministry of Education, n.d.):

Board / geography	2018–19 — academic / applied / locally developed	2019–20 — academic / applied / locally developed
Ontario	68.0% / 24.3% / 7.7%	68.7% / 23.9% / 7.4%
TDSB	73% / 19% / 8%	79% / 14% / 7%
TCDSB	65% / 27% / 8%	65% / 28% / 7%

Ontario announced in July 2020 that Grade 9 streaming would end, beginning with a single de-streamed Grade 9 mathematics course in September 2021 and the remaining compulsory Grade 9 courses from September 2022. From 2021–22, the academic/applied split in Grade 9 mathematics no longer exists as an enrolment category.

The most recent published TDSB-linked transition analysis covers ten Grade 9 cohorts, 2006–2015 starters, each followed five years (n = 156,580). It links TDSB records to Ontario University Application Centre and Ontario College Application Service confirmations — a student's indication of intention to register at a specific Ontario university or college. Of graduates in those cohorts, a board-wide average of 16% did not make a direct transition to postsecondary education (Jean Augustine Chair in Education, Community and the Diaspora, York University, 2023).

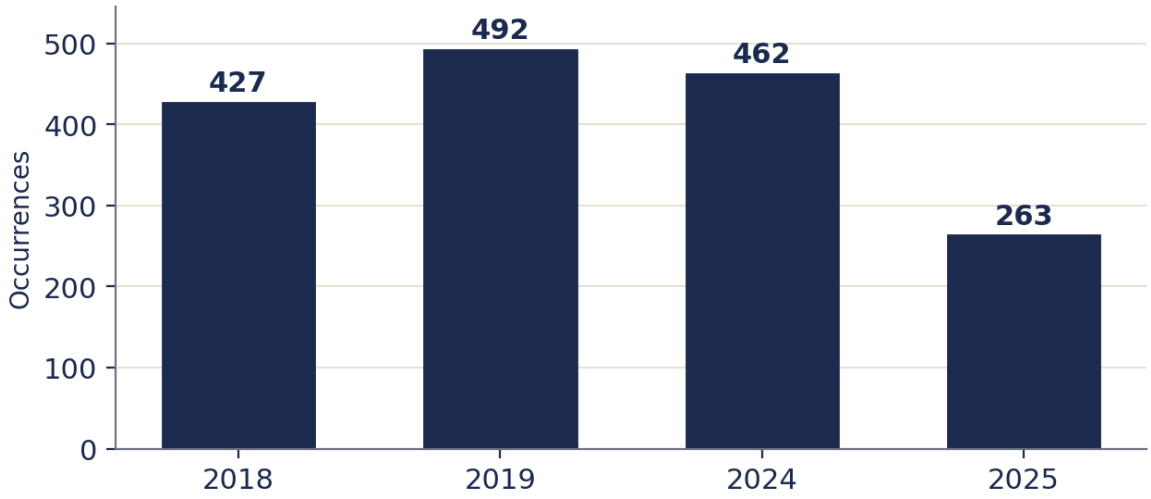
In the same cohorts, the report prints that 24.5% of graduating students completed no Grade 12 University-preparation course; of those students, 23.1% transitioned to college and 70.9% did not apply to postsecondary at all. Apprenticeship transitions are not measured in this dataset, as the report states (Jean Augustine Chair in Education, Community and the Diaspora, York University, 2023).

As provincial context, Statistics Canada prints 52% of Ontario residents aged 18–24 participating in education in 2024/2025, against 49% in Canada for the same age band. The rate covers enrolment in formal education — elementary, secondary, college and university — and is not a postsecondary-only rate; the same release prints Canada-level university participation of 31% and college participation of 14% for ages 18–24 in 2024/2025 (Statistics Canada, 2025c). No Toronto-level postsecondary participation rate is published in the sources opened for this chapter.

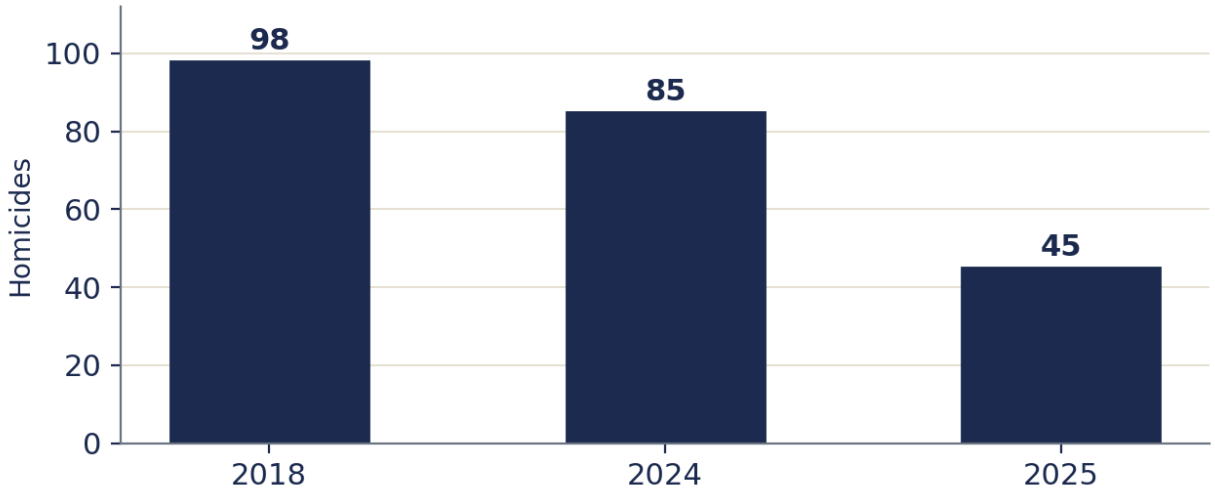
Chapter 9 — Violence: the city-wide series

Toronto Police Service counted **263 shootings and firearm discharges** in the City of Toronto in calendar year 2025 (Toronto Police Service, 2026a).

This chapter prints Toronto Police Service (TPS) published full-year counts for the City of Toronto, in calendar years. The figures are counts. This study publishes no rate per 100,000 for these series, because matching-year population denominators were not verified in the primary population table for every year of the series. The chapter records the counts as TPS publishes them and makes no statement about why the counts changed.



Shootings and firearm discharges, total occurrences, City of Toronto, calendar years (Toronto Police Service, 2026). Counts only — the study publishes no rate and no statement about why the counts changed.



Homicides, City of Toronto, calendar years (Toronto Police Service, 2026). Counts only.

TPS uses two categories for firearm incidents. A "Shooting" is an incident in which a projectile discharged from a firearm injures a person. A "Firearm Discharge" is an incident in which evidence exists that a projectile was discharged and no person was injured by a bullet. Persons injured are persons struck by a bullet, recorded as non-fatal injuries or deaths. The two incident categories, the injury counts, and the death counts are different units and are printed separately in the table below (Toronto Police Service, 2026d).

Year	Shooting occurrences	Firearm Discharge occurrences	Total occurrences	Persons injured (non-fatal)	Persons killed
2018	187	240	427	178	51
2019	224	268	492	240	44
2024	139	323	462	121	43
2025	95	168	263	101	20

The total of 492 occurrences in 2019 is the highest total in the 2015–2025 series printed in the underlying research record. In 2025, the total of 263 consisted of 95 shootings and 168 firearm discharges, with 101 people non-fatally injured and 20 people killed (Toronto Police Service, 2026a).

TPS publishes homicide occurrences for the City of Toronto, all ages, in calendar years. The counts are 98 homicides in 2018, 85 in 2024, and 45 in 2025. In 2025, the 45 homicides consisted of 20 by shooting, 14 by stabbing, and 11 recorded as other types. The homicide count and the persons-killed count in the shootings series are recorded in different TPS datasets; in each year tested in the research record, the shooting-type homicide count equals the persons-killed count in the shootings dataset (Toronto Police Service, 2026a).

TPS publishes the same firearm-incident totals through two counting systems, and the two systems differ by one count for 2024. The *2024 Chief's Annual Report* (June 12, 2025), which is based on the Annual Statistical Report (ASR), prints 461 shootings and firearm discharges and 120 injuries for 2024 (Toronto Police Service, 2025a). The TPS open-data portal prints 462 occurrences and 121 injured persons for the same year, with 43 deaths in both sources (Toronto Police Service, 2026d). TPS states in both Chief's Annual Reports used for this study that its ASR figures — reported by occurrence, including unfounded events — and its Public Safety Data Portal figures — based on an identified victim, excluding unfounded events — "are not comparable" because of differences in extraction methodology (Toronto Police Service, 2025a; Toronto Police Service, 2026a). The difference is printed here as TPS explains it; the two figures are not averaged. For 2025, the two systems agree exactly, at 263 occurrences, 101 injured, and 20 deaths (Toronto Police Service, 2026a). Preliminary and final figures can also differ: a preliminary year-end count of 44 homicides for 2025, reported in January 2026, was superseded by the final published figure of 45 used in this chapter (Toronto Police Service, 2026a).

One City statement about 2025 is recorded here only as a City claim. In a news release dated June 3, 2026, the City of Toronto stated that the 2025 efforts "contributed to a 40 per cent reduction in gun violence." A related City attachment phrases a claim as "a 40% reduction in youth violence across the city" in the summer of 2025 (City of Toronto, 2026c). The two phrasings describe different measures, and neither document publishes a

numerator and denominator table for the claim. The TPS full-year changes for 2025 are a different period and a different measure from the City's summer claim, and this chapter does not use one to verify the other.

Chapter 10 — Young people in the violence data

Derived from TPS open data, **1,818 persons aged under 18** were recorded as persons arrested and charged in the City of Toronto in calendar year 2024 (Toronto Police Service, ASR-ENF-TBL-001; see Methods).

Every table and figure in this chapter is derived from TPS open data. It is not a TPS-published table. Method note: the researchers tabulated the published TPS open datasets on November 5, 2026, by summing the published cells. The derived series were validated against TPS published totals before use: for homicides, the dataset counts show zero difference from the TPS published totals for 2023, 2024, and 2025; for shootings and firearm discharges, the 2025 count is exact, and the 2024 count is off by one occurrence and one injured person, with TPS's ASR-versus-Portal counting explanation printed in Chapter 9.

This chapter prints two separate blocks. The first block counts persons accused — persons arrested and charged. The second block counts persons identified as victims. The two blocks use different age bands, as coded by TPS, and different units. They are presented separately and are never combined, averaged, or ratioed in this study.

Persons accused, aged under 18

The source dataset is the TPS Annual Statistical Report open dataset "Arrested and Charged Persons" (ASR-ENF-TBL-001). The youth band the dataset supports is age cohort "<18," printed as coded. TPS does not code a 12–17 band in this dataset (Toronto Police Service, ASR-ENF-TBL-001; see Methods).

Year	Persons accused, age <18, all offences	Firearm-Related subtype, age <18	Murder subtype, age <18
2019	1,746	156	1
2024	1,818	166	4
2025	1,698	133	3

The all-offences figures are the dataset's own total row. Persons aged under 18 were 1,746 of 24,626 persons arrested and charged at all ages in 2019, 1,818 of 31,889 in 2024 — 5.7% of accused persons of all ages — and 1,698 of 32,487 in 2025 (Toronto Police Service, ASR-ENF-TBL-001; see Methods). The subtype figures count persons arrested and charged under that subtype in the year. A person charged under more than one category or subtype appears in each, so category and subtype rows overlap and must not be summed. The Murder subtype counts persons arrested and charged in the year, which is not the same unit as homicide occurrences in Chapter 9: an occurrence may be uncleared, cleared in a later year, or involve more than one accused person.

Persons identified as victims, aged 12–17

The source dataset is the TPS Annual Statistical Report open dataset "Victims of Crime" (ASR-VC-TBL-001). It records identified victims of crimes against the person, in the age cohort 12 to 17 years. Its subtypes are

Assault, Robbery, Sexual Violation, and Other. It contains no firearm subtype and no homicide subtype, so it cannot be used as a shooting-victim or homicide-victim series (Toronto Police Service, ASR-VC-TBL-001; see Methods).

Year	Persons identified as victims, ages 12–17, all subtypes
2019	2,938
2024	2,951
2025	2,852

For 2024, the 2,951 victims aged 12–17 divide by subtype as follows: Assault 1,412; Sexual Violation 704; Robbery 435; Other 400. The subtype counts sum to the total for the year. For context within the same dataset, victims aged 12–17 were 8.9% of all identified victims of crimes against the person at all ages in 2024 (2,951 of 33,149) and 9.0% in 2025 (2,852 of 31,532) (Toronto Police Service, ASR-VC-TBL-001; see Methods). Those shares describe this victim dataset only; they are not shares of the accused figures above.

What TPS does not publish by age

TPS publishes no victim-age breakdown for shootings or homicides. The TPS Shootings & Firearm Discharges dataset records occurrence date and year, event type, death and injury counts, division, and neighbourhood; it has no victim-age field and no accused-age field (Toronto Police Service, 2026d). The TPS Homicides dataset (ASR-RC-TBL-002) records occurrence date, division, neighbourhood, and homicide type only; its field list, verified by direct inspection on November 5, 2026, contains no age field for victims and no field for accused persons at all (Toronto Police Service, 2026c). No TPS-published table of homicide victims or accused by age, and no TPS-published table of shooting victims by age, was located. This absence is part of the record printed in this study.

Chapter 11 — Justice contact beyond violence

No Toronto city-level youth justice series exists at any stage of the system — charges, diversion, courts, or custody — in the sources published for this study.

This chapter covers the youth justice system after the police counts in Chapter 10: charging outcomes, diversion, courts, and custody. The youth band is 12 to 17 years wherever the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* applies. Five different units appear in the published record — persons charged or not charged, court cases, admissions to correctional services, average counts of persons in custody on a given day, and survey rates — and they are kept separate throughout. Police-reported figures are calendar years. Court and correctional figures are fiscal years, April 1 to March 31, printed as, for example, 2023/2024.

At the police stage, Ontario's youth crime rate was **2,221 per 100,000** population aged 12–17 in calendar year 2024, down 3.8% from 2023. The Canada rate on the same measure was 2,791 per 100,000 in 2024 (Statistics Canada, 2025d). Geography: Ontario and Canada, respectively. No Ontario count split of youth charged and youth not charged is printed in the Daily release or the Justice Canada products opened for this study; the rate above is the Ontario figure those products publish.

For Canada, on the Criminal Code scope excluding traffic, 34,895 youth aged 12–17 were charged in 2024 and 40,530 were not charged (Justice Canada, Research and Statistics Division, 2026). A wider scope — all violations — produces different counts for the same year (36,523 charged and 42,431 not charged in the published table view), so the two scopes are different series and are not blended in this study (Statistics Canada, 2026a).

Of youth aged 12–17 in contact with police in Canada in 2024, 51% were not charged: 26% were diverted by extrajudicial measures and 25% were cleared by other means (Justice Canada, Research and Statistics Division, 2026). Extrajudicial measures, as published, include a verbal warning, a written caution, a referral to a community program, or a referral to an extrajudicial sanctions program. Geography: Canada, calendar year 2024. A discrepancy in the sources is printed rather than resolved: arithmetic on the same Justice Canada document's published counts gives a not-charged share of 53.7% for 2024. The 51% split and the counts come from different Statistics Canada products — a special request and a published table — and do not reconcile exactly. This study prints both with their sources and does not average them. Over 2010 to 2021, an average of 32% of youth in contact with police in Canada were diverted by an extrajudicial measure, and an average of 54% were not charged at all (Justice Canada, n.d.).

In youth courts, the most recent published data are for 2023/2024. In that year, 9% of guilty youth court cases in Canada (546 cases) received a custodial sentence as the most serious sentence, down from 15% (3,405 cases) in 2013/2014. A court case is one or more charges against one accused person disposed of together; it is not a person and not a charge. Youth court and youth corrections data are published for Canada and the provinces only (Justice Canada, Research and Statistics Division, 2026).

On an average-count basis, 614 young persons were in custody in Canada in 2023/2024, down 40% from 1,019 in 2013/2014. Of the 614, 413 young persons — 67% — were in pre-trial detention, not serving a sentence. Total youth admissions to correctional services in Canada were 13,546 in 2023/2024. Admissions cover custody and community supervision together, and one person can be admitted several times in a year, so they are not the same unit as the average count above (Justice Canada, Research and Statistics Division, 2026).

Toronto-level figures could not be printed for any of these stages. Statistics Canada Table 35-10-0177-01, on police-reported crime, and Table 35-10-0026-01, on crime severity, carry Toronto census metropolitan area rows in their structure, including youth charged and youth not charged rows and a Youth Crime Severity Index by census metropolitan area. The Toronto CMA rows of those tables could not be extracted for this study; the table views opened returned the Canada view only (Statistics Canada, 2026a). That is stated here as a publishing and access fact. The Integrated Criminal Court Survey and the correctional surveys publish no Toronto or census metropolitan area geography, and Ontario's published youth justice datasets are organised by province and by former Youth Justice Services Division regions, not by city. No Toronto youth custody or detention count is published in the sources located.

Chapter 12 — Belonging and participation

Toronto Public Library Youth Hubs recorded **129,000 teen accesses** in the City of Toronto from January to August 2025 (City of Toronto, 2026a).

Youth Hubs are staffed after-school drop-in spaces in library branches, open Monday to Friday, 3:30 to 7:00 p.m. Their published target audience is ages 13 to 19 years. The network numbered 31 branches in 2025, up from 28 in 2024, with 31 targeted for 2026 and 32 targeted for 2027. In the same January to August 2025 period, 2,330 programs were offered with 17,700 participants. Accesses, programs offered, and participants are three distinct published units from the same sentence of the source: an access is a visit, and one teenager visiting repeatedly is counted repeatedly. The three units are printed as published and are never summed in this study (City of Toronto, 2026a).

An earlier level is printed for scale, with its limits. Across the 8 Youth Hubs then operating, attendance was 45,221 in January to November 2017. The two periods differ in length (eleven months in 2017; eight months in 2025), the network differs in size (8 hubs; 31 hubs), two of the 2017 hubs operated part-year or part-week, and the source's unit word changed, from "attendance" in 2017 to "accessed" in 2025. The pair is therefore printed as two dated levels, not as a growth rate and not as a per-hub average. The only Toronto-published belonging-adjacent survey for a youth program located for this study is from that earlier period: in a 2016 survey of Youth Hub participants, 71% felt attending increased their feeling of safety, 78% were comfortable asking the coordinator or tutors for help, and 55% agreed they made new friends at the Youth Hub (Toronto Public Library, 2018).

For City recreation, Parks, Forestry & Recreation publishes no youth split of recreation participation. Its 2025 budget notes publish registrations, drop-in program hours, bookings, and Welcome Policy subsidy shares for all ages only; every participation measure in the tables read for this study is an all-ages figure, and no youth age split appears in any measure. For scale, on the all-ages basis as published: community recreation registrations were 421,379 in 2023, and drop-in program hours were 897,724 in 2023 (City of Toronto, 2025a). Those figures include youth but are not youth measures, and no youth share is assigned to them here.

School connectedness is measured for Ontario students. In 2023, among Ontario students in grades 7–12, 77.4% felt close to people at their school, 76.0% felt like part of their school, and 87.0% felt safe at school, while 30.4% liked school very much or quite a lot — down from 36% in 2019 and 42% in 2021 (Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, 2024). Geography: Ontario. Population: students in grades 7–12, 10,145 students surveyed from November 2022 to June 2023.

Digital-life items from the same Ontario survey, grades 7–12, 2023, are as follows. 78.2% of students spent three hours or more per day in front of an electronic screen in their free time, down from 83% in 2021 and up from 55% in 2009. 94% used social media daily; 23.4% spent five hours or more per day on social media; and 8.8% reported symptoms of problematic social media use. 28.1% played video games daily or almost daily, and 18.2% reported symptoms of a video gaming problem. Geography: Ontario, on each item (Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, 2024).

Sense of belonging to the local community is published for Canada, pooled over 2021 to 2024. The share reporting a strong sense of belonging — "somewhat strong" or "very strong," as defined in the study — was 63.1% for ages 15–19, 46.8% for ages 20–24, and 42.5% for ages 25–29; across ages 15–29 the share was 51.1% (Statistics Canada, 2025a). Geography: Canada. No Toronto split is published in the study, and the gradient is printed as a national pattern. The Toronto District School Board's 2023 Student Census publishes its belonging-adjacent results qualitatively only in the board highlights opened for this study: no system-level percentages for belonging, enjoyment, or safety items appear in those highlights (Toronto District School Board, 2024a).

Chapter 13 — Environment and mobility

Children aged 12 and under ride the TTC free in the City of Toronto, a fare in place since March 1, 2015 (Toronto Transit Commission, 2015).

The child fare was eliminated effective March 1, 2015, when it moved from $0.75 cash and $0.60 by ticket or PRESTO to $0.00 in all media (Toronto Transit Commission, 2015). The current published wording is: "Children 12 and under ride free. Each customer age 13 and older must tap their own card, ticket, or device." (Toronto Transit Commission, n.d.) The band is ages 12 and under, as the TTC publishes it. Fare values in this chapter are price points in nominal dollars, with their dates, and are not compared across years as a price index.

Youth aged 13 to 19 pay a concession single fare of $2.35 on a PRESTO card set to the Youth fare type, or $2.40 in cash, against an adult fare of $3.30 on PRESTO or $3.35 in cash, as published on the TTC fares page opened on November 5, 2026. The youth price is not available when paying by Interac debit or credit card, which charges the adult $3.30 price for every fare category. Since September 1, 2026, riders in all fare categories, including youth aged 13–19, stop paying after 47 paid fares in a calendar month under monthly fare capping; the Youth Monthly Pass and Youth 12-Month Pass were discontinued on August 31, 2026 (Toronto Transit Commission, n.d.).

The City's Fair Pass Transit Discount Program, the income-based fare discount, is published for Toronto residents aged 20 to 64 years only. It offers 36% off the adult single fare — $2.10 per ride instead of $3.30 on PRESTO — to residents whose total after-tax family income is below 75% of Statistics Canada's Low-Income Measure, After Tax. No youth eligibility line is published for the program. The program page itself directs readers aged 13 to 19, and readers aged 65 and up, to the TTC fare types for youth, student, and seniors fares. As published, income-based fare relief for a rider aged 13–19 runs through the age-based youth concession only, and for a rider under 13 through the free child fare only (City of Toronto, n.d.).

Toronto has no operating TTC U-Pass program. The TTC fares page opened on November 5, 2026 lists every current fare and pass product — pay-as-you-go fares, fare capping, PRESTO Tickets, the Post-Secondary Monthly Pass, and the Adult 12-Month Pass — and contains no U-Pass product for any Toronto institution (Toronto Transit Commission, n.d.).

On road safety, the City's Vision Zero reporting publishes no killed-or-seriously-injured figures for any age band under 20. That absence is stated here as a fact. In the *Vision Zero Annual Report 2025*, 39 people were killed on Toronto roads in 2025, all ages, and serious-injury collisions were an estimated 255, all ages — 228 provisional collisions as of February 19, 2026, plus an estimated 27 allowed for reporting delay. The report publishes exactly two age shares for killed-and-seriously-injured collisions, for the 2021–2025 period, and neither is a child or youth band: 23% of collisions involved young adults aged 20–29, and 29% of pedestrian collisions involved seniors aged 65 and over. No count or share for any band under age 20 is printed in the report's collision-data section. The City's school-focused measures are published at city-wide scale: 649

School Safety Zones were completed by the end of 2025, of which 38 were completed in 2025 (City of Toronto, Transportation Services, 2025).

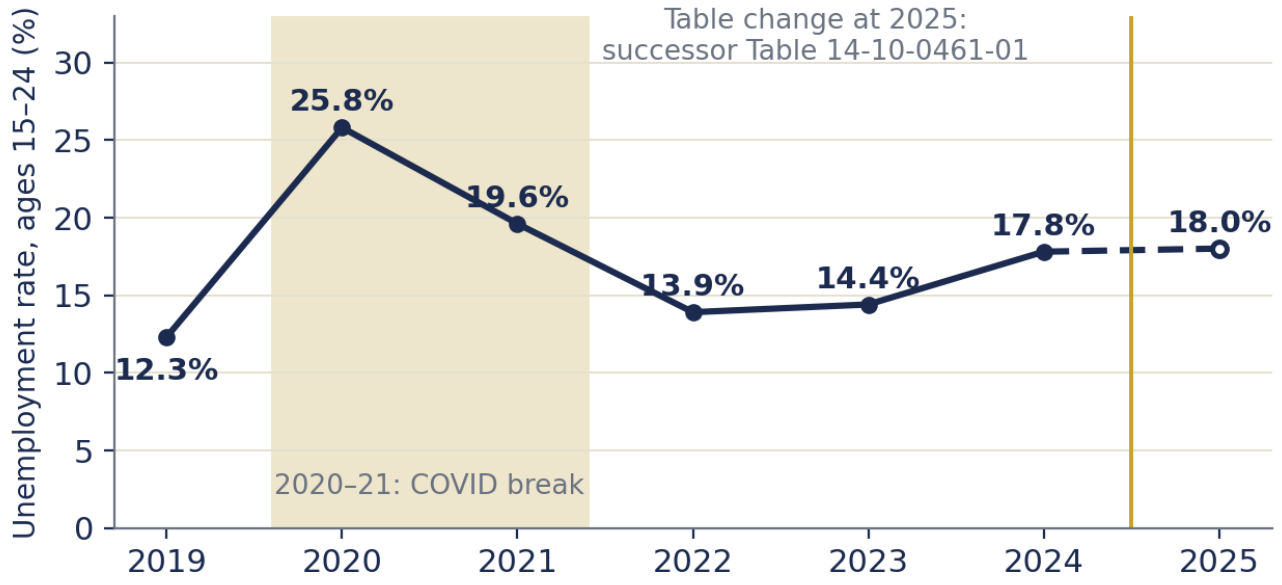
On air exposure, Toronto Public Health's traffic-related air pollution (TRAP) work records where the buildings in which children spend the day are located. **50%** of Toronto's child care centres and **43%** of Toronto's schools are located within at least one of TPH's mapped TRAP exposure zones. 20 schools and 11 child care centres are located in the greatest-exposure category, close to multiple major highways (Medical Officer of Health, Toronto Public Health, 2017). The zones are defined by distance and traffic volume: 500 metres on either side of a highway with an average of 100,000 or more vehicles per day; 150 metres on either side of a highway with 50,000 or more vehicles per day; and 100 metres on either side of a roadway with 15,000 or more vehicles per day (Toronto Public Health, 2017). These are site-location shares — the share of buildings that fall inside a modelled exposure zone — not measurements of any individual child's exposure or health outcome. TPH names children in the same documents as one of the populations more vulnerable to traffic-related air pollution. No child-specific risk ratio or rate is published in those documents.

Chapter 14 — Youth employment

In 2024, the unemployment rate in Toronto CMA for ages 15–24 was **17.8%**, compared with **12.3%** in 2019 (Statistics Canada, 2025b). In 2025, in the successor table described below, the unemployment rate was **18.0%** and the employment rate was **44.8%** (Statistics Canada, 2026c).

The survey table behind this series was replaced in 2025 (marked); the rate barely moved, but the population counts behind it were revised.

The unemployment rate measures the share of the labour force — people employed plus people unemployed — that is unemployed. **The employment rate** measures the share of the population that is employed. **The participation rate** measures the share of the population that is in the labour force.



Unemployment rate, Toronto CMA, ages 15–24, Labour Force Survey annual averages: 2019–2024 from the archived Table 14-10-0385-01 (Statistics Canada, 2025b); 2025 from the successor Table 14-10-0461-01 (Statistics Canada, 2026c), plotted as a dashed segment after the marked table change. 2020–21 shaded: the COVID break, marked, not smoothed.

All figures in this chapter are Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey annual averages for Toronto CMA, ages 15–24, both sexes, not seasonally adjusted monthly values. They are calendar-year annual averages. The values for 2019–2024 are from Statistics Canada Table 14-10-0385-01 (Statistics Canada, 2025b); the 2025 values are from its successor, Table 14-10-0461-01 (Statistics Canada, 2026c), which carries revised population controls. The table change is named wherever the series crosses it, and the two tables are not mixed without saying so (see Methods).

Boundary note: Toronto CMA includes the central city and surrounding suburban municipalities. A rate for Toronto CMA is therefore not a rate for the central city alone, and Toronto CMA figures in this chapter are printed as Toronto CMA figures in every instance.

Year	Unemployment rate, Toronto CMA, ages 15–24 (%)	Employment rate, Toronto CMA, ages 15–24 (%)	Participation rate, Toronto CMA, ages 15–24 (%)	Population, Toronto CMA, ages 15–24
2019	12.3	50.1	57.2	887,200
2020 [break]	25.8	40.1	54.0	896,900
2021 [break]	19.6	43.7	54.3	884,800
2022	13.9	48.3	56.1	880,600
2023	14.4	47.9	56.0	917,900
2024	17.8	44.2	53.8	1,008,400
2025 †	18.0	44.8	54.7	937,900

† Table change: the 2025 row is from the successor Table 14-10-0461-01, which carries revised population controls; all earlier rows are from the archived Table 14-10-0385-01. The successor table prints 961,600 for the 2024 population, against 1,008,400 in the archived table; rates for overlapping years reconcile within 0.1–0.2 percentage points (Statistics Canada, 2025b; Statistics Canada, 2026c).

For 2015–2019, the research record records the unemployment rate for Toronto CMA, ages 15–24, falling from 15.1% in 2015 to 12.3% in 2019, and the employment rate for Toronto CMA, ages 15–24, rising from 48.0% in 2015 to 50.1% in 2019. The participation rate for Toronto CMA, ages 15–24, stayed within 54.4% to 57.2% in that period (Statistics Canada, 2025b).

The years 2020 and 2021 are marked as a break. In 2020, the unemployment rate for Toronto CMA, ages 15–24, was 25.8%, and the employment rate for Toronto CMA, ages 15–24, was 40.1%. In 2021, the unemployment rate for Toronto CMA, ages 15–24, was 19.6%, and the employment rate for Toronto CMA, ages 15–24, was 43.7%. This chapter does not smooth the 2020–2021 break into the years before or after it, and it does not state a single trend across the break (Statistics Canada, 2025b).

For 2022 onward, the unemployment rate for Toronto CMA, ages 15–24, was 13.9% in 2022, 14.4% in 2023, and 17.8% in 2024 (Statistics Canada, 2025b). The employment rate for Toronto CMA, ages 15–24, was 48.3% in 2022 and 44.2% in 2024. The participation rate for Toronto CMA, ages 15–24, was 56.1% in 2022 and 53.8% in 2024 (Statistics Canada, 2025b). In 2025, in the successor table, the unemployment rate was 18.0%, the employment rate was 44.8%, and the participation rate was 54.7% (Statistics Canada, 2026c).

The denominators moved within the archived table. The population for Toronto CMA, ages 15–24, in the archived table was 917,900 in 2023 and 1,008,400 in 2024 (Statistics Canada, 2025b). The research record notes that the denominators of the 2024 rates for Toronto CMA are about 10% larger than the 2023 denominators. The successor table carries revised population controls and prints different levels: 961,600 for 2024 and 937,900 for 2025 (Statistics Canada, 2026c). The rates from the two tables agree closely — the

unemployment rate is identical for 2019–2021 and within 0.1 percentage points for 2022–2024; the employment rate is within 0.1–0.2 percentage points — but the population levels are not interchangeable, and no population level from one table is printed beside a rate from the other (Statistics Canada, 2025b; Statistics Canada, 2026c).

Age splits are not published on the same basis. The annual census metropolitan area table used here offers ages 15–24 only for youth in Toronto CMA; it does not offer 15–19 or 20–24 splits for Toronto CMA. Splits for ages 15–19 and 20–24 are published at Ontario and Canada level only, in a different table (Statistics Canada, 2026e), and are not presented in this chapter as figures for Toronto CMA.

No 2025 youth row for Toronto CMA is published in the archived table, whose published series closes at 2024 (Statistics Canada, 2025b). The 2025 values in this chapter come from the successor table named above (Statistics Canada, 2026c).

Chapter 15 — Not in employment, education or training (NEET)

In 2025, the NEET rate was **12%** for Canada, ages 15–29, and **13%** for Ontario, ages 15–29 (Statistics Canada, 2026d).

The NEET rate measures the share of a youth population that is in none of employment, education, or training in the survey reference period. Statistics Canada's standard NEET population in the table used here is ages 15–29 — a different, older population than the ages 15–24 population in Chapter 14.

The survey series is from Statistics Canada Table 37-10-0196-01, published as whole percents, for the sub-total not in employment, education or training, all education levels (Statistics Canada, 2026d).

Year	Canada, ages 15–29 (%)	Ontario, ages 15–29 (%)
2019	11	11
2020 [break]	14	14
2021 [break]	14	15
2022	11	11
2023	11	10
2024	12	12
2025	12	13

In 2019, the rate was 11% for Canada, ages 15–29, and 11% for Ontario, ages 15–29. In 2020–2021, marked as a break period, the rate was 14% for Canada, ages 15–29, in both years, and 14% in 2020 and 15% in 2021 for Ontario, ages 15–29 (Statistics Canada, 2026d).

In 2022–2025, the rate ranged from 11% to 12% for Canada, ages 15–29, and from 10% to 13% for Ontario, ages 15–29. In 2025, the rate was 12% for Canada, ages 15–29, and 13% for Ontario, ages 15–29 — the highest Ontario value, ages 15–29, of the post-break years shown (Statistics Canada, 2026d).

A different measure: NEETEST

NEETEST is a different measure, printed in its own block. It is not a continuation of the survey series above, and the difference between NEET and NEETEST is not a change over time.

NEETEST measures the share of youth who were NEET for a full calendar year, excluding unpaid caregiving, and is built from linked administrative data (Frenette & Handler, 2026). The comparison NEET rate in the same article is a Labour Force Survey snapshot measure. The geography published for NEETEST is Canada, and the age band published is ages 20–29.

For Canada, ages 20–29, the NEET rate in that article was 19.2% in 2020 and 12.5% in 2022. For Canada, ages 20–29, the NEETEST rate in that article was 7.6% in 2022. The article states that the NEETEST rate for

Canada, ages 20–29, ranged from 7% to 8% throughout 2017–2022, and that the NEET rate for Canada, ages 20–29, was usually 13% to 14% over 2017–2022 outside the pandemic years (Frenette & Handler, 2026).

No Toronto-level NEET series is published. Statistics Canada's NEET table, Table 37-10-0196-01, is published at Canada and province level, and no City of Toronto or Toronto CMA NEET series is published in the sources recorded in the research record (Statistics Canada, 2026d).

Chapter 16 — The jobs commitments, as published

As published by the City of Toronto, a Council motion in December 2024 carried the goal of hiring an additional **10,000 equity-deserving youth**, ages 15–24, by summer 2026 (City of Toronto, 2025d).

This chapter records published commitments. Each figure carries the label of its publisher in the text. City-published figures and campaign-published figures are recorded in separate sections, and no figure in this chapter is placed against another figure in a way that computes a difference between them.

City-published

As published by the City of Toronto, Council Motion MM24.2 (December 2024) proposed a Toronto Youth Employment Program strategy "with the goal of hiring an additional 10,000 equity-deserving youth ages 15-24 by Summer 2026." The band printed in the motion, as published by the City of Toronto, is ages 15–24 (City of Toronto, 2025d).

As published by the City of Toronto, the motion was referred to the Economic and Community Development Committee as item EC18.6, for a report-back including "the target of up to 10,000 additional summer jobs for young people by 2026," as published by the City of Toronto (City of Toronto, 2025d).

As published by the City of Toronto, staff report EC25.7, "Reducing Barriers to Youth Employment," was adopted by City Council on December 16–17, 2025, with amendments. As published by the City of Toronto, EC25.7 directs that the goal of creating new youth employment opportunities be included in the Youth Employment Table's terms of reference, directs the Table to set youth-employment-opportunity targets, and requires annual progress reporting beginning May 5, 2026 (City of Toronto, 2025e).

As published by the City of Toronto, the published summary of EC25.7 states that over 16,000 youth are employed across the City system each year, and specifies ages 15–29 for the City's youth employment. That band — ages 15–29, as published by the City of Toronto in the EC25.7 summary — is different from the motion band above, ages 15–24, as published by the City of Toronto (City of Toronto, 2025e).

As published by the City of Toronto in a City of Toronto news release dated November 25, 2025: "Each year, more than 16,000 youth are employed across the City system." (City of Toronto, 2025b)

Campaign-published

The figure in this section is a campaign commitment in every instance in which it appears in this chapter.

As a campaign commitment, the October 2026 re-election campaign commitment published on the campaign website is to create 15,000 new youth jobs. The wording of the campaign commitment, as published on the campaign website, is: "Create 15,000 new youth jobs through the Toronto Youth Employment Strategy." (Olivia Chow campaign, 2026)

As a campaign commitment, the 15,000 figure was published in Mayor Olivia Chow's 2026 re-election campaign materials in October 2026, following a campaign announcement on October 15, 2026. As a

campaign commitment, the published campaign text states no completion date and no breakdown of job type — full-time, part-time, summer, or placement — for the 15,000 figure (Olivia Chow campaign, 2026).

No City of Toronto document announcing the campaign commitment figure was located in the City publications searched for the research record. No City document, timeframe, or costing for the campaign commitment figure is published in the sources recorded in the research record.

Toronto Youth Job Corps — cross-reference only

Toronto Youth Job Corps figures are carried in this study by cross-reference to the verified library record for that program, and are not restated as a separate series in this chapter. The program's published age band in that record is ages 15–30, for youth who are out of school and out of work.

Standing warning, printed as recorded in the library: a “2,120 youth hired in 2023” figure in City of Toronto budget notes is a division-wide measure for Social Development, Finance and Administration (SDFA), across Social Development youth programs. It is not a Toronto Youth Job Corps figure, and it is not attributed to Toronto Youth Job Corps in this study (City of Toronto, 2024).

Chapter 17 — The response: City of Toronto

As published by the City of Toronto, SafeTO annual investment was **$43 million** in calendar 2025 and **$49 million** in calendar 2026, nominal (City of Toronto, 2025c) (City of Toronto, 2026c).

This chapter records budget and reach figures as published by the City of Toronto. City fiscal years are calendar years, January 1 to December 31. Dollar figures are nominal, as published, and figures from different years are not summed. Reach units — visits, participants, calls, dispatches and referrals — are recorded in their published units and are not added together.

SafeTO

SafeTO is the City's community safety and well-being plan, run by Social Development. As published by the City of Toronto, its budget was $43 million in calendar 2025, nominal, and $49 million in calendar 2026, nominal. Each total, as published, includes a $5 million component for youth violence prevention in that year — $5 million in calendar 2025 and $5 million in calendar 2026 — inside the total, not in addition to it (City of Toronto, 2025c) (City of Toronto, 2026c).

Social Development

Social Development, formerly Social Development, Finance and Administration (SDFA), administers the City's main community grants and community-safety services.

As published by the City of Toronto in its 2026 Operating Budget Notes for Social Development, the division gross budget was $157.3 million in calendar 2026, nominal; the Community Safety & Well-Being service line was $50.7 million in calendar 2026, nominal; and the Community Partnership and Investment Program (CPIP) was $33.4 million in calendar 2026, nominal (City of Toronto, 2026b).

CPIP is the division's all-services grants total, as published; the youth or after-school slice of CPIP is not published. The Community Safety & Well-Being line contains SafeTO implementation and the Toronto Community Crisis Service, below; it is not a youth-only line. Division and service-line figures are not added to program figures that sit inside the division's budget.

Toronto Public Library — Youth Hubs

Toronto Public Library runs Youth Hubs, staffed drop-in spaces for teenagers in library branches. As published, there were 31 hubs in calendar 2025 (City of Toronto, 2026a).

As published in Toronto Public Library's 2026 Budget Notes, as carried in the study library, Youth Hubs recorded 129,000 teen visits in January–August 2025, 2,330 programs offered in the same period, and 17,700 program participants in the same period. The published unit for the 129,000 figure is visits — a teenager visiting repeatedly is counted repeatedly — and visits, programs and participants are not added together (City of Toronto, 2026a).

The total cost for all 31 hubs is not published. The published unit recorded is a 2025 expansion: 7.0 full-time equivalent positions and $0.887 million per year, annualized, nominal, for 3 new hubs, about $296,000 per hub per year. A modelled figure, labelled as modelled, is about $9.2 million per year for 31 hubs, obtained by multiplying the published per-hub expansion cost across the network. That $9.2 million is a modelled estimate, not a published budget (Study research library, 2026).

Toronto Community Crisis Service

The Toronto Community Crisis Service (TCCS) is a non-police mobile mental-health crisis response, coordinated by Social Development and delivered by community anchor partners, operating city-wide since July 8, 2024. As published, it is a service for people aged 16 and older, not a youth-specific service (City of Toronto, 2026b).

No standalone TCCS budget is published in the budget documents recorded in the research record. TCCS spending sits inside the Community Safety & Well-Being service line above; only increments are published as separate figures, and increments are parts of the service, not its total.

As published by the City of Toronto in its Operating Variance Report for the year ended December 31, 2025, TCCS in calendar 2025 received more than 17,000 calls, resulting in over 14,000 dispatches. In the same report, the cumulative record from March 2022 to December 31, 2025 was more than 41,000 calls responded to, over 34,000 teams dispatched, over 9,500 referrals, and more than 1,600 individuals connected to case management (City of Toronto, 2026d).

Definition-drift flag: the publisher's call-count universe changed between City documents. Earlier reporting counted a narrower set — 10,339 calls from March 2022 to December 2024 in the 2026 Budget Notes, described there as 911-source calls — while the variance report's cumulative figure of more than 41,000 calls counts calls from all sources. The two counts are not joined and are not spliced into one trend (City of Toronto, 2026b) (City of Toronto, 2026d).

Toronto Youth Equity Strategy

The Toronto Youth Equity Strategy (TYES) was adopted by City Council on February 19–20, 2014, as a five-year strategy with 110 actions for youth aged 13–29 (City of Toronto, 2014).

As published by the City of Toronto in a budget briefing note dated January 28, 2020, cumulative investment under TYES was $103.3 million over calendar 2015–2019, nominal — $48.6 million City, $41.6 million provincial, and $13.0 million federal, as summarised in that note — and the note states that the five-year mandate was achieved in 2019 (City of Toronto, 2020).

No standalone reporting was found after January 2020. No current standalone TYES progress report, budget line, or outcome series was found in the City sources recorded in the research record; the most recent accounting located is the January 2020 briefing note above.

Chapter 18 — The response: Ontario

As published, Toronto had **40,943 licensed before- and after-school spaces** in December 2025 (Study research library, 2026).

This chapter records figures as published by the Government of Ontario and the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Ontario fiscal years run April 1 to March 31, unless a stock date is stated. Dollar figures are nominal, as published. The verbs attached to money — allocated and awarded — are preserved, and allocated and awarded figures are not summed.

Before and After School Programs

Ontario sets a duty for school boards to ensure before- and after-school programs are offered for junior kindergarten to Grade 6 where parents request them. Programs are delivered by licensed operators and school boards, and are paid for by parents.

As published in the study library, Toronto had 40,943 licensed before- and after-school spaces in December 2025. The published unit is licensed capacity — spaces licensed to exist. It is not registrations and not children enrolled; enrolment is not published. This capacity is not public spending, and no Ontario public budget figure for delivery of these programs in Toronto is published in the library record. The December 2025 figure is a stock at that date and belongs to no single fiscal year (Study research library, 2026).

Youth Opportunities Fund

The Youth Opportunities Fund is funded by the Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services and administered by the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF), an agency of the Government of Ontario, as grants to grassroots groups serving youth and families facing systemic barriers.

As stated by the Government of Ontario, Ontario states an allocation of $16.8 million per year for the Youth Opportunities Fund through the Ontario Trillium Foundation, on an Ontario fiscal-year basis, nominal (Government of Ontario, 2023).

As published by the Ontario Trillium Foundation in its own 2024–25 Annual Report, $13.4 million was awarded to 38 projects in Ontario fiscal 2024–25, nominal (Ontario Trillium Foundation, 2025). Ontario fiscal 2024–25 is April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025.

The $16.8 million allocated figure and the $13.4 million awarded figure are different published concepts, printed separately above; they are not summed and neither is substituted for the other. As published by OTF, no Toronto total for Youth Opportunities Fund grants is published in the OTF sources recorded in the research record.

Black Youth Action Plan

The Black Youth Action Plan is funded by Ontario for Black children, youth, and families.

As originally published by the Government of Ontario in 2017, the commitment was $47 million over four years, announced in March 2017, to increase access to supports for 10,800 Black children, youth, and families (Government of Ontario, 2017a) (Government of Ontario, 2017b). That figure is printed as originally published in 2017; it is a multi-year figure, not an annual figure for a later year.

For Ontario fiscal 2025–26, only one stream figure is published in the sources recorded. As published by the Government of Ontario, $16.5 million in Ontario fiscal 2025–26, nominal — April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026 — is published for the Black Youth Action Plan Economic Empowerment program, supporting 6 initiatives comprising more than 40 community-based programs (Government of Ontario, 2025).

That $16.5 million is one stream in one fiscal year. It is not published as the total Black Youth Action Plan budget for Ontario fiscal 2025–26, and no total for that year was found in the Ontario sources recorded. Toronto's share is not published in those sources.

Ontario After School Program

The Ontario After School Program is funded by the Ontario Ministry of Sport and delivered by municipalities, First Nations, and non-profit sport and recreation organizations for children and youth in kindergarten to Grade 12.

As published in the study library, its budget is $14.6 million per year, province-wide, nominal, within $43.9 million over three years, on an Ontario fiscal-year basis as published, and its reach is about 13,000 children and youth per year, province-wide (Study research library, 2026).

Toronto's share of the Ontario After School Program — its budget, its sites, and its participants — is not published. A modelled Toronto share appears in the study library as an estimate only; it is recorded, labelled as modelled, in Chapter 20, and is not carried here as a published figure.

Chapter 19 — The response: Canada

As published by Employment and Social Development Canada, planned spending for its own Youth Employment and Skills Strategy Program activity was **$149.910 million** in fiscal year 2025–26, with a target of 5,240 youth served by ESDC in that year (Employment and Social Development Canada, 2025b).

This chapter records figures as published by Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC). All federal figures are in federal fiscal years (April 1–March 31), unless a summer year is stated, and each figure carries that label in its line. Federal fiscal 2025–26 is April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026. Federal fiscal-year figures are not blended with City calendar-year figures from Chapter 17. Dollar figures are nominal, as published, and the verbs and bases in the sources — planned, allocated, and proposed — are preserved. Planned, cumulative, and proposed figures are not added together.

Youth Employment and Skills Strategy

ESDC leads the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy (YESS), a horizontal initiative delivered with 11 other federal departments, agencies and Crown corporations, for youth aged 15–30, providing employment supports, work experience and skills development as published (Employment and Social Development Canada, 2025b).

As published by ESDC in its Departmental Plan 2025–2026, ESDC's own YESS Program activity had planned spending of $149.910 million in fiscal year (April 1–March 31) 2025–26, nominal, with a target of 5,240 youth served by ESDC in fiscal year (April 1–March 31) 2025–26. As published by ESDC in the same plan, delivery partners overall expect to serve approximately 20,000 youth in fiscal year (April 1–March 31) 2025–26 (Employment and Social Development Canada, 2025b).

The $149.910 million is ESDC's portion of one activity in fiscal year (April 1–March 31) 2025–26, not a whole-of-government total for that year; no single whole-of-government annual total is stated in the plan section recorded.

Labelled cumulative: as published by ESDC in the same plan, total federal funding allocated since the strategy's start on April 1, 2003 is $10,410.36 million, nominal, cumulative (Employment and Social Development Canada, 2025b). That cumulative allocation since 2003 is not an annual budget, and it is not added to any single-year figure.

Forward item, labelled as a proposal: Budget 2025 proposes $307.9 million over two years starting in fiscal year (April 1–March 31) 2026–27 for the horizontal YESS, to support around 20,000 youth facing barriers annually, as published by ESDC on November 20, 2025 (Employment and Social Development Canada, 2025d). It is not a fiscal year (April 1–March 31) 2025–26 figure. No Toronto allocation or Toronto participant total for YESS is published in the ESDC sources recorded.

Canada Summer Jobs

ESDC delivers Canada Summer Jobs, a program under YESS providing wage subsidies to employers to hire youth aged 15–30 for summer jobs (Employment and Social Development Canada, 2025a).

As published by ESDC on its Canada Summer Jobs program page, in summer 2025 the program recorded more than 75,000 jobs created, Canada-wide (Employment and Social Development Canada, 2025a). The published unit is jobs created, Canada-wide, for summer 2025.

The budget for the same fiscal year is published by ESDC on two separate bases, printed separately below and never added.

First basis, as published by ESDC on June 6, 2025: $200.5 million in fiscal year (April 1–March 31) 2025–26, nominal, under Budget 2024, to maintain 70,000 job opportunities for summer 2025; and a separate $25 million reallocation within ESDC, announced in the same release, for up to 6,000 additional opportunities, bringing the summer 2025 total stated in that release to 76,000 jobs, Canada-wide (Employment and Social Development Canada, 2025c).

Second basis, printed separately: as published by ESDC in its Departmental Plan 2025–2026, Canada Summer Jobs planned spending was $323.301 million in fiscal year (April 1–March 31) 2025–26, nominal, with a target of 70,000 youth served in that fiscal year (Employment and Social Development Canada, 2025b). As recorded in the research record, the first basis is described by ESDC as the Budget 2024 amount for that fiscal year, and the second is the departmental-plan planned-spending figure for the same fiscal year, published on a different basis.

Forward item, labelled as a proposal: Budget 2025 proposes $594.7 million over two years starting in fiscal year (April 1–March 31) 2026–27, to support around 100,000 summer jobs in summer 2026, as published by ESDC on November 20, 2025 (Employment and Social Development Canada, 2025d). It is a two-year, forward-looking proposal, not a summer 2025 result.

No Toronto Canada Summer Jobs total exists in the published record recorded in the research records. ESDC does not publish a Toronto total in the sources recorded there. Canada Summer Jobs is a component under YESS, as published; its figures and the YESS figures above are not added together.

The census — the City of Toronto’s youth programs, in full

The City of Toronto's Youth Engagement & Youth Support — A Census from the Published Record

Compiled November 6, 2026 (addendum same day: the City's own inventories and the Toronto Youth Cabinet's publication record added as §13 and §8.1). Published sources only. Every figure is cited to the document that publishes it. Where the City does not publish a figure, the entry says NOT PUBLISHED — nothing here is estimated, and no unit is ever converted into another.

How to read this census

- **Delivery mode** distinguishes what the City *runs itself* (City staff), what it *funds out* (grants, contracts, purchase-of-service), and what it *administers* (senior-government money flowing through the City).
- **Reach units are kept exactly as published** — registered places, registrations, visits, participants, clients, calls, licensed spaces, beds, jobs. They are not interchangeable and are never added together here.
- **Budget figures carry their year.** City figures are calendar years. A 2013 figure and a 2026 figure are never presented as the same money.
- This census covers the **City of Toronto and its agencies/boards** (Toronto Public Library, Toronto Community Housing). Provincial and federal programs delivered in Toronto by others (Ontario After School Program, Youth Opportunities Fund, Focus on Youth, Canada Summer Jobs) are **not** City programs; they appear only where the City administers the money.

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1. Social Development (Social Development, Finance & Administration — SDFA)

The City's community-development and grants division. 2026 gross budget $157.3M; the youth-relevant service lines are Community Safety & Well-Being ($50.7M gross, 2026) and Community Funding/CPIP ($33.4M, 2026) — neither is a youth-only line. *Source: 2026 Operating Budget Notes — Social Development, City of Toronto, 2026.*

1.1 SafeTO — Community Safety & Well-Being Plan

- **Mode:** City-led plan; delivery mixed City staff + funded community programs. **Ages:** all ages, with a youth-violence component.
- **Budget:** $43M (2025); $49M (2026), each including a $5M youth-violence-prevention component inside the total — *City of Toronto news releases, June 3, 2025 and June 3, 2026.*
- **Reach:** No SafeTO-wide youth participant total published. **Outcomes for youth: NOT PUBLISHED separately** (SafeTO reports against the city-wide plan as a whole).
- **Summer Safety Plan (inside SafeTO's orbit):** $5M (2025); engaged **15,000 youth** and 550 parents/caregivers in summer 2025 — unit: youth engaged — *City of Toronto news release, June 3, 2025;*

CityServeTO Summer Expansion attachment, City of Toronto, 2026. Whether this $5M is the same $5M as SafeTO's youth slice is **not stated in any published source** — the two are never added here.

1.2 Youth Violence Prevention Program — City Manager's Office line

- **Mode:** City Manager's Office program line under SafeTO. **Budget:** $5.0M in 2025 and $5.0M in 2026 (new/enhanced) — *2025 Staff Prepared Operating Budget, Appendix 1.4, City of Toronto, 2025.* **Reach/outcomes: NOT PUBLISHED** with the line. Its accounting relationship to §1.1's youth slice is not stated in published sources.

1.3 CPIP — Community Partnership and Investment Program

- **Mode:** Funded out — grants to non-profit, grassroots and resident-led groups, administered by SDFA's Community Funding Unit (CFU). **Ages:** all ages; youth is one category.
- **Budget:** $33.4065M (2026) — *Final 2026 City Budget analysis, Social Planning Toronto, 2026; 2026 Operating Budget Notes — Social Development.* CFU's own allocation reporting (different universe, 2024): $28,291,048 allocated across its eight grant programs to 225 organizations — *2024 Community Funding Impact Report, CFU, City of Toronto, 2025.*
- **The youth share — what can and cannot be counted:** The published CSP recipient list records organization, ward and amount only — **no purpose or age field** — so no clean CPIP youth total can be counted from the lists. What the City itself labels youth in its 2024 CFU reporting sums to a **floor of $6,140,520** (21.7% of CFU's 2024 allocations): CSP Youth Services category $2,685,578 + Identify 'N Impact $479,690 + Youth Violence Prevention Grant $2,827,153 + CCRF youth-led projects $148,099 — *2024 Community Funding Impact Report, 2025.* This is a floor for 2024 CFU allocations, **not** a share of the 2026 CPIP budget line, and it excludes youth-serving work funded inside all-ages envelopes, which the lists cannot identify.
- **Reach:** CSP reports 2,282,026 unique service users — all ages and programs combined; **youth-only CSP reach: NOT PUBLISHED. Youth outcomes: NOT PUBLISHED.**

1.4 Youth Violence Prevention (YVP) Grant

- **Mode:** Funded out — 13 partnerships of an established non-profit lead + grassroots partner. **Ages:** 10–29, youth most vulnerable to serious violence.
- **Budget:** ~$2.7M/yr announced for 2023–2026 (the grant webpage states the call envelope as ~$2.2M/yr — the discrepancy is in the City's own publications and is flagged, not resolved) — *City of Toronto news release, June 27, 2023; Youth Violence Prevention Grant webpage, City of Toronto.* 2024 allotment: $2,827,153 to 13 groups — *2024 Community Funding Impact Report, 2025.*
- **Reach: 6,291 youth participants engaged** (2024) — unit: participants — *2024 Community Funding Impact Report, 2025.* **Outcome measure: NOT PUBLISHED.**

- Published per-partnership amounts exist in delegated-authority lists (most 2025 partnerships at $215,694) — *Addressing Reconciliation and Equity via Community Funding, City of Toronto, 2025, Appendix 3.* Note: The Good Guides appears in that list as a funded grassroots partner (with Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities, $215,694).

1.5 Identify 'N Impact (INI) Grant

- **Mode:** Funded out to youth-led groups. **Ages:** 15–29.
- **Budget:** $479,690 to 28 groups (2024). **Reach:** 1,124 youth participated (2023); ~2,540 participants projected 2024–25. **Outcomes: NOT PUBLISHED.** — *2024 Community Funding Impact Report, 2025.*

1.6 Community Crisis Response Fund (CCRF)

- **Mode:** Funded out — rapid-response grants after violent incidents. **Ages:** all ages; youth-led projects are a tagged subset.
- **Budget:** $443,616 to 94 groups (2024), of which youth-led projects $148,099 (30 projects). **Reach:** 2,268 community members served (2023, all ages). **Youth outcomes: NOT PUBLISHED.** — *2024 Community Funding Impact Report, 2025.*

1.7 Federal youth-violence money administered by the City (BSCF + CPAF)

- **Mode:** Administered — Government of Canada (Public Safety Canada) contributions to the City, which funds community-led prevention/intervention (named in City budgets: TO Wards Peace, Family Wellbeing Program, parts of FOCUS/Youth Violence Prevention Network). **Ages:** children, youth and young adults at risk of gang involvement.
- **Budget:** Up to $12.3M BSCF to Toronto (2021–2026) — *Public Safety Canada announcement, June 30, 2022.* BSCF + CPAF together provided $16.6M to Toronto since 2023; both end March 31, 2026, leaving a $6.2M gap in the 2026 budget — *2026 Operating Budget Notes — Social Development, City of Toronto, 2026.* Council allocated $6.2M to backfill, federal money first, Tax Stabilization Reserve as fallback — *City Council, Feb 10, 2026 (2026.MPB38.1 amendments); Social Planning Toronto final 2026 budget analysis.*
- **Reach (Toronto, BSCF-specific): NOT PUBLISHED. Outcomes: NOT PUBLISHED.**

1.8 TO Wards Peace

- **Mode:** Mixed — SDFA model delivered with community partners in Northwest Toronto and Scarborough. **Ages:** youth/young adults most vulnerable to violence; Peace Projects micro-grants ages 13–29 (up to $10,000/group).

- **Budget:** $1.5M one-time City investment (2020); $0.8M added (2023); Scarborough component federally funded inside §1.7 — *2021 Operating Budget Briefing Note (BN#16), City of Toronto; Council item 2023.MPB4.1*. **Reach: NOT PUBLISHED. Outcomes: NOT PUBLISHED.**

1.9 Youth Development Unit programs (City-delivered)

The Unit's staff directory names six youth staff (a floor, not a headcount) — *Community Development Officers directory, City of Toronto, current; NUMBERS.md §2.* - **Community Healing Project (CHP):** delivered with Stella's Place and quadrant agencies; federally funded (National Crime Prevention Strategy). Ages: Peer Healers 16–29. Budget: $1,380,300 in the 2020 base; a five-year federal commitment of $6.8M (2019); standalone recent budget NOT PUBLISHED. Reach: **9,717 workshop participants; 250 Peer Healers trained; 33 communities** (2019–Feb 2023). **Outcomes — published (the census's clearest City youth outcome set):** 91% of responses reported increased confidence navigating a mental-health challenge; 35% of respondents employed in a youth/community/peer-support job three months after training (21% at baseline) — *Community Healing Project — Final Evaluation Report, Blueprint ADE for the City of Toronto, December 2023.* - **PEERS (Community P.E.E.R.S):** City-led network of CHP alumni taking paid service requests. **Budget: NOT PUBLISHED. Reach: NOT PUBLISHED. Outcomes: NOT PUBLISHED.** - **Restorative Justice Programs:** City program lead. Budget: $50,000/yr in the 2020–21 TYES legacy base; current budget NOT PUBLISHED. **Reach: NOT PUBLISHED. Outcomes: NOT PUBLISHED.** - **Integrated Supports for Justice-Involved Youth:** City program lead. **Budget, reach, outcomes: NOT PUBLISHED.**

1.10 Toronto Youth Equity Strategy (TYES) and its legacy initiatives

- **Mode:** City-led strategy (2014, 110 actions). **Ages:** 13–29.
- **Money:** $103.3M invested 2015–2019 ($48.6M City / $41.6M provincial / $13.0M federal as printed in Table 1). The 15 legacy initiatives carried $8,355,200 in the 2020 base budget — named, with per-initiative budgets, in Table 2: Community Healing $1,380.3K; Toronto Youth Job Corps $2,460.4K; Specialized YOWs (TYPE) $1,647.0K; Pre-Charge Diversion $745.7K; Project Prosper $516.3K; Youth Violence Intervention (3 CDOs et al.) $454.1K; FOCUS $345.9K; INI Youth Grants $245.0K; Support for Parents $200.0K; Employment and Wellness $115.7K; TYES Table $88.0K; YouthWorx $76.7K; Restorative Justice $50.0K; Frontline Workers' Workshop Series $20.0K; Employment Readiness $10.0K — *2020 Operating Budget Briefing Note (BN#18), SDFA, Jan 28, 2020.* Updated once: $9.0M base in 2021, with outcome pilots (TYJC: 96% enhanced employability skills; 83% employed) — *2021 Operating Budget Briefing Note (BN#16), Jan 28, 2021.* **No legacy-bundle reporting after January 2021: NOT PUBLISHED** — the initiatives disappear as a labelled bundle from published budget documents.

1.11 Toronto Community Crisis Service (TCCS)

- **Mode:** SDFA-coordinated; delivered by community anchor partners. **Ages:** 16+.

- **Budget:** No standalone total published; spending sits inside the Community Safety & Well-Being service line. Published increments only (dispatch +$2.992M, 2026; TCCS–TTC pilot $0.540M in 2025 and $1.803M in 2026) — *2026 Operating Budget Notes — Social Development; staff report, Oct 1, 2025.*
- **Reach:** More than **17,000 calls** and over 14,000 dispatches in 2025; cumulative since March 2022: 41,000+ calls, 34,000+ dispatches, 9,500+ referrals, 1,600+ individuals connected to case management — *Operating Variance Report for the Year Ended December 31, 2025, City of Toronto, July 7, 2026.* **Youth share: NOT PUBLISHED** (the publisher's call universe changed across documents; series must not be spliced).

1.12 Community Crisis Response Program / VISU

- **Mode:** City-delivered (SDFA staff) plus CCRF grants (§1.6). **Ages:** all ages.
- **Budget:** Standalone current budget NOT PUBLISHED (inside the CSWB service line; historical base $799K gross incl. 7 positions, 2020).
- **Reach: 4,600 intervention responses (2024 actual)**; 1,844 critical incidents 2022–2024, 88% responded to within 48 hours — *2026 Operating Budget Notes — Social Development; Council item 2025.EX23.5.* **Youth share: NOT PUBLISHED. Youth outcomes: NOT PUBLISHED.**

1.13 FOCUS Toronto

- **Mode:** City co-delivered multi-agency situation tables (City, Toronto Police Service, United Way GT). **Ages:** all ages.
- **Budget:** Current standalone budget NOT PUBLISHED ($345,900 in the 2020 legacy base).
- **Reach: 1,014 situations received (2024 actual)** — *2026 Operating Budget Notes — Social Development.* The only published youth cut: Scarborough youth (12–29) mental-health situations rose 30 (2016) → 187 (2023), with **86% closed "risk lowered — connected to services" in 2023** — an outcome measure for that subset — *FOCUS Toronto – Scarborough Rapid Evaluation Report, Medow Consulting, June 2024.* **Overall youth share: NOT PUBLISHED.**

1.14 CityServe / CityServeTO

- **Mode:** City programs (Mayoral initiative). **Ages:** 16–24 core; summer expansion ages 14–18.
- **Budget/reach:** Summer expansion: **100 youth, $615,000 total cost**, 20,000+ hours of community service, 12 youth program coordinators — *CityServeTO Summer Expansion attachment, City of Toronto, 2026.* One of the rare City documents publishing participants, staff and cost together.

1.15 Scarborough youth-focused innovation hub

- **Mode:** Economic Development & Culture, with educational stakeholders. **Budget:** +$0.300M in the 2026 operating budget (Council amendment, Feb 10, 2026) — *Council item 2026.MPB38.1*. **Reach/outcomes: NOT PUBLISHED** (new initiative).

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2. Employment — Toronto Youth Job Corps and related

2.1 Toronto Youth Job Corps (TYJC)

- **Mode:** Administered/coordinated by SDFA's Youth Development Unit; delivered by four agencies under contract (Arab Community Centre of Toronto, JVS Toronto, West Scarborough Neighbourhood Community Centre, YES). City-administered since 1983. **Ages:** 15–30, out of school and out of work.
- **Budget:** 2024–2028 contracts up to **$18.036M gross — federal $15,227,669 + City $2,808,765** (~85% federal: senior-government money administered by the City) — *Toronto Youth Job Corps 2024–2028 Contract Authority, City of Toronto staff report, Nov 14, 2023.*
- **Reach/outcomes (contract):** targets 1,152 youth over four years, 692 expected employed, 230 expected to return to school; actuals 2009–2023: 4,105 trained, 1,947 employed, 774 returned to school — *same staff report.*
- ⚠ **Unreconciled conflict in the City's own publications:** SDFA's 2025 Budget Notes performance table reports TYJC "# of youth hired" as 2,120 (2023 actual) and 1,000 (2026 target) — a series that cannot describe the same program the same way as the contract's 1,152 youth over four years. No public document reconciles the two. Both are printed here as published; neither is spliced into the other — *SDFA 2025 Budget Notes, via NUMBERS.md §3.*

2.2 Toronto Employment & Social Services (TESS) — youth streams

- **LEAP (Learning, Earning and Parenting Program):** provincial Ontario Works program delivered by TESS. Ages 16–25 (young parents who have not completed high school; $233/month supplement + $500 completion bursary) — *Ontario Works Child-Related Benefits — LEAP Program, City of Toronto (current page).* **Current caseload: NOT PUBLISHED. Current budget: NOT PUBLISHED.** The only Toronto figures are from implementation in 1999–2000 (projected max ~700 participants/month; $3.29M provincial subsidy approved for 2000) — *City of Toronto Council documents, 1999–2000.*
- **Ontario Works youth caseload: NOT PUBLISHED.** TESS publishes totals only (100,511 average monthly cases, 2025; 147,681 cases / 223,658 individuals served through 14 offices) with no under-25 split — *Operating Variance Report YE 2025; 2026 Budget Notes — TESS.* TESS has no distinct youth employment stream; it referred 46,994 clients (all ages) to Employment Ontario in 2025.
- **Youth Employment Table:** added by Council amendment (not in the staff recommendations) when Council adopted *Reducing Barriers to Youth Employment* (Dec 16–17, 2025): the Executive Director,

Social Development must **report to the Economic and Community Development Committee on May 5, 2026, and annually thereafter, on the progress and outcomes achieved through the Youth Employment Table**, and the Table is directed to *set* youth employment opportunity targets — Council set **no numeric target itself**. The full jobs inventory behind the item is §13.2 — *Council item 2025.EC25.7 (staff report Nov 18, 2025; decision Dec 16–17, 2025).*

2.3 FIFA World Cup 2026 — Community Workforce Development Program

- **Mode:** City program inside the FWC26 envelope, aimed at youth employment for Indigenous, Black and equity-deserving youth (hospitality, tourism, event management), via the Community Benefits Workforce Intermediary — *2025 Budget Notes — FIFA World Cup 2026, City of Toronto.* **Program budget: NOT PUBLISHED (inside the $236.4M FWC26 operating envelope). Reach: NOT PUBLISHED.**

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3. Parks & Recreation (PFR)

Division context: Community Recreation $289.9M gross (2025); division $599.8M gross — *2025 Budget Notes — Parks, Forestry and Recreation, City of Toronto, 2025.* The division employs up to ~10,000 part-time recreation workers a year, ~80% of them youth aged 14–29 — the workforce *is* substantially youth; the service *to* youth is what goes uncounted (see §3.8).

3.1 After-School Recreation & Care (ARC)

- **Mode:** City staff, delivered in schools and recreation centres. **Ages:** 6–12.
- **Reach: ~1,800 registered places across 44 programs** (2025) — the only guaranteed/registered places in this entire census — *Report for Action (Avron snack contract amendment), GM Parks and Recreation, April 28, 2025.* The 2025 budget approved expansion to 200 additional children; no updated total is published.
- **Budget: No program budget newer than $2.3M gross (2013) is published.** The only newer ARC money in print is contract-level snack funding (+$154,000) — not a program budget. **Outcomes: NOT PUBLISHED.**

3.2 Free Centres — dedicated youth outreach

- **Mode:** City staff. **Ages:** all ages; this line is the youth-focused slice.
- **Budget:** 39 Free Centres, $38.9M net (2025), of which **~$10.0M is focused on dedicated youth outreach, programming, development and employment readiness** — *Welcome Policy Program Access — Update, GM Parks & Recreation, September 2, 2025.* **Youth reach inside the Free Centres: NOT PUBLISHED as a youth figure. Outcomes: NOT PUBLISHED.**

3.3 Welcome Policy (recreation fee subsidy)

- **Mode:** City-administered subsidy (credit applied to registrations). **Ages:** all ages; the child/youth credit (to age 24) is $669.65 vs $308.43 for adults (2025).
- **Budget:** $6.8M (2025), up $2.1M from 2024; 2024 actual spend $5.418M — *Welcome Policy Program Access — Update, Sept 2, 2025; Briefing Note 22, Jan 20, 2025.*
- **Reach (2024, all ages):** 78,878 approved clients; 18,913 unique clients who used the subsidy; **over 48,000 registrations supported** — units: clients / registrations — *same documents.* **Youth/child share of clients, registrations or dollars: NOT PUBLISHED** — the only youth-specific published fact is the higher child/youth credit amount. **Outcomes: NOT PUBLISHED.**

3.4 Locally responsive youth programming / Community Youth Nights

- **Mode:** City staff with local agencies animating space, in Neighbourhood Improvement Areas. **Ages:** youth (a TCHC listing for one site states 10–24).
- **Budget:** $2.0M added in the 2024 operating budget; ~$0.2M spent in 2024 (2 locations); $1.5M allocated in 2025 (10 locations planned) — *Response to Administrative Inquiry re: Parks and Recreation Funding Allocation, Interim GM Parks and Recreation, July 22, 2025.*
- **Reach:** 5 Community Youth Nights locations active, 5 more by September 2025; hours 7–11 p.m.; staffing 60 part-time + up to 10 full-time at full launch. **Attendance/participants: NOT PUBLISHED. Outcomes: NOT PUBLISHED.**

3.5 Youth spaces / lounges

- **Mode:** City staff. **Count: 20 enhanced youth spaces (2025)** — *Welcome Policy Program Access — Update, Sept 2, 2025.* (The often-cited 39 lounges date to a 2013 staff report on the older model.) New in 2025: the ~10,000 sq ft Youth Space of Excellence at Regent Park Community Centre, activated July 2025.
- **System-wide hours and attendance for youth spaces: NOT PUBLISHED** (last published: 2012 hours, in the November 2013 report).

3.6 Youth Outreach Workers (City-employed)

- **Mode:** City staff (Parks & Recreation). **Headcount: 32 Youth Outreach Workers (2025)** — alongside 290 Recreation and Youth Programmers and 15 Recreation Liaisons — *Welcome Policy Program Access — Update, Sept 2, 2025.* (Supersedes the last published figure of 29, from 2012–13.)
- **Program budget: NOT PUBLISHED (headcount only). Current referrals/reach: NOT PUBLISHED** (last published: 88,000+ referrals, 2012). **Outcomes: NOT PUBLISHED.**

- *Not to be confused with Ontario's provincial Youth Outreach Worker program, agency-delivered in Toronto — a different employer with a near-identical title.*

3.7 Building Skills Through Recreation (BSTR)

- **Mode:** City staff — free employment-readiness and certification programming. **Ages:** 15–24.
- **Reach: More than 1,000 youth participants annually**; engagement target doubled to 2,000 for 2025–26 — unit: participants — *Welcome Policy Program Access — Update, Sept 2, 2025.* **Budget: NOT PUBLISHED as a line. Outcome rates (completions, employment): NOT PUBLISHED.**

3.8 Recreation registrations and drop-in — the verified negative

- Registrations (all ages): 421,379 (2023 actual); 483,000 (2024 projection); 540,000 (2025 target). Drop-in program hours (all ages): 897,724 (2023). *— 2025 Budget Notes — PFR.*
- **A youth age-band split of registrations is NOT PUBLISHED anywhere current** — verified across the 2025 Budget Notes (registrations appear only as a single all-ages total), the Welcome Policy documents, and Toronto Open Data (which publishes course *offerings* by age, not enrolments). Skate/BMX programming: facility listings exist; **no program-level budget, attendance or participant figure is published.**

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4. Toronto Public Library (TPL)

TPL budget: $268.9M gross (2025); 1,950.8 FTE — *TPL Board budget adoption, Feb 24, 2025.* Structural finding: **TPL does not publish program counts or attendance by age** — its 2024 Public Service Statistics report 39,150 programs and 773,786 attendance by program *type* only — *2024 Public Service Statistics, Trends & Comparisons, TPL Board, May 26, 2025.* There is no overall youth-services budget line; Youth Hubs are the only youth-specific money TPL publishes.

4.1 Youth Hubs

- **Mode:** TPL staff (with volunteers/placement students), in branches. **Ages:** ~13–19; open Mon–Fri 3:30–7 p.m.
- **Count:** 31 hubs (2025); 32 targeted (2027) — *TPL 2026 Budget Notes; appendix belonging block.*
- **Reach (Jan–Aug 2025): 129,000 teen visits (accesses)**; 2,330 programs offered; 17,700 program participants — three distinct published units, never summed — *TPL 2026 Budget Notes, City of Toronto, 2026.* A returning teenager is counted again in visits.
- **Budget:** Total cost of all 31 hubs: **NOT PUBLISHED.** Published unit: the 2025 expansion — 3 hubs, 7.0 FTE, $0.444M in 2025 ($0.887M annualized, ≈$296K per hub per year) — *2025 Operating Budget Update — Service Enhancements, TPL Board, Jan 27, 2025.*

- **Outcomes:** No current outcome measure. The only published one is dated: a 2016 participant survey (71% felt attending increased their feeling of safety; 78% comfortable asking staff for help; 55% made new friends) — *as carried in the study's appendix.*

4.2 Leading to Reading

- **Mode:** TPL staff + volunteers (one-to-one). **Ages:** children in Grades 1–6 reading below grade level.
- **Reach (2025):** 29 locations; 1,092 volunteers; **15,614 one-hour meetings** — unit: meetings (the number of children is not stated and is not derived here) — *2025 Strategic Plan Progress Annual Report, TPL Board, April 20, 2026.*
- **Outcome — published (rare): 78% of participants reported increased confidence in their literacy skills (2025)** — *same report.* **Budget: NOT PUBLISHED.**

4.3 Teen Councils / youth programming beyond hubs

- Teen Councils (ages 13–17) and teen programs are listed in City documents; **no current count of councils, members, programs or attendance is published** (last published YAG figures: 38 groups / 1,400 members / 22,876 volunteer hours — 2010 data). Summer programming figures published are children's (Summer Wonder / TD Summer Reading Club); **teen-specific summer attendance: NOT PUBLISHED.** — *Toronto's 2025 Summer Safety Plan, City of Toronto, 2025; TPL Board report 26-2010; City Librarian's Report, September 2024.*

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5. Children's Services

The City is the **service system manager** for licensed child care to age 12 — funder/manager far more than operator. Division budget 2025: $1,672.5M gross (Delivery $447.7M; System Management $1,224.8M) — *2025 Budget Notes — Children's Services, City of Toronto, 2025.*

5.1 Licensed before/after-school capacity

- **Reach (capacity):** 1,078 licensed centres, 85,054 spaces (Dec 2025), including **School Age 24,607 spaces** and **Before/After Kindergarten 16,336 spaces** (printed as separate components; the Fact Sheet publishes no combined subtotal); **565 centres operate before/after-school programs**; 23 school-board Extended Day Programs — *Toronto Early Learning and Child Care Services Fact Sheet — December 2025, Toronto Children's Services.*
- School-age programs are ~30% of licensed spaces, are **parent-paid** (median $35.56/day, 2025), and are **not eligible for CWELCC fee reduction**. **Enrolment — children actually holding these spaces: NOT PUBLISHED** (capacity is licensed spaces, not registrations).

5.2 CWELCC money administered by the City

- **Mode:** Administered — Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (federal/provincial) funding flows to operators through the City as system manager.
- **A CWELCC-only Toronto dollar total: NOT PUBLISHED as a standalone line.** Published instead: enrolment — 974 of 1,078 centres (88%) participating (Dec 2025), for under-6 spaces only — *Dec 2025 Fact Sheet* — and the published effect measure: fees for under-6 capped at **$22/day from January 1, 2025**. (A ~$2B all-sources total-sector-funding figure for 2025 circulates via secondary citation of the Service Plan; it is not a CWELCC figure and is not carried here.)

5.3 Child care fee subsidy

- **Mode:** City-administered subsidy. **Reach: 30,700 subsidies available**; waiting list **16,367 children** at Dec 31, 2025 — *Dec 2025 Fact Sheet; Toronto's Early Years and Child Care Service Plan 2025–2030.* **School-age share of the caseload: NOT PUBLISHED.**

5.4 EarlyON Child and Family Centres

- **Mode:** Funded out — 50 organizations under City service agreements. **Ages:** 0–6 (context row: below the study's core youth band).
- **Count:** 232 locations (*Dec 2025 Fact Sheet*) — the Service Plan prints 254 sites; both are published and are recorded side by side, not reconciled. **Funding total: NOT PUBLISHED. Attendance: NOT PUBLISHED.**

5.5 Directly operated centres (TELCCS) and home child care

- **Mode:** City staff. **Count:** 39 directly operated centres (1,884 licensed spaces; 1,800+ children) and one City-operated home child care agency (700+ children) — *Community and Social Services — 2025 Budget Presentation, City of Toronto, January 2025; Dec 2025 Fact Sheet.*
- **Census-critical fact:** the 39 City centres hold **0 school-age and 0 before/after-kindergarten spaces** — direct City operation is an under-6 service. School-age care in Toronto is delivered by non-profit/commercial operators and school boards, with the City as funder/manager, not operator.

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6. Toronto Community Housing (TCHC)

TCHC publishes **no youth-program budget line** anywhere found — youth programming sits inside a $566.5M (2024) operating budget by service, not by program or age. Every TCHC dollar below is an event/contract figure published incidentally, not a program budget. — *2025 Q3 Detailed Financial Report, TCHC, Jan 13, 2026.*

6.1 YouthWorx

- **Mode:** TCHC-run summer employment (delivered in communities by paid Community Animators). **Ages:** 14–29.
- **Reach: 105 Youth Community Workers hired (2023)** — unit: youth hired for 8 weeks across ~50 sites; series: 100+ (2019), 100 (2022), 105 (2023). **2024/2025 hires: NOT PUBLISHED.** Cost per youth: $4,000–$5,000 (2019 grant pro-rating; total program budget never published).
- **Outcomes:** TCHC's own 2023 report says there was "no consistent year-over-year data" for YouthWorx — *YouthWorx review and Open Space report, BIFAC:2024-04, written by TCHC staff.* The series' persistence is itself the finding.

6.2 Community Economic Development (CED) portfolio

- **Reach: ~53,000 tenants engaged annually, of which 1,143 were youth-focused engagements** (events, partnerships, programs — e.g., Rookie League, HoopDome, Midnight Madness) — *City of Toronto 2025 Budget Notes: TCHC (2023 data, the latest published).* **Dollars for the youth slice: NOT PUBLISHED. Outcomes: NOT PUBLISHED.**

6.3 Youth Violence Reduction Program (YVRP)

- **Mode:** City-directed, TCHC-executed (Sunrise-based). **Reach:** 8 community coordinators, of whom **4 cover youth 14–24**. Program closed out Feb 2026 — *TSC:2021-04; BSDC meeting material, Feb 9, 2026.* **Budget: NOT PUBLISHED. Outcomes: NOT PUBLISHED.**

6.4 TCHC scholarships

- **Mode:** Funded out (awards). **Investing in Our Diversity Scholarships: 37 students / $148,000 (2025)** — *TCHC Annual Report 2025 (May 28, 2026).* **Revitalization scholarships: 56 awards / $181,000 (2025)** — *TCHC Community Safety Unit and Revitalization email, Oct 29, 2025.* (Both are agency-published figures; no outcome measures attached.)

6.5 Youth Tenant Advisory Committee

- **Mode:** Engagement/advisory body of tenant youth 16–24, expanded 2025 with 18+ months of dedicated staffing — *Committee COVID update, Aug 19, 2025.* **Reach:** 72 applications, **14 members** (2025). **Budget: NOT PUBLISHED.**

6.6 Pre-Apprenticeship Program

- **Mode:** TCHC with community partners; serves youth and adults. **Outcome — published (the only real TCHC outcome figure found): 151 individuals completed training, 14 retained as full-time employees** across 2022–2025 — *Community and Social Services Committee report to City Council, Oct 31, 2025.* **Budget: NOT PUBLISHED; youth share of trainees: NOT PUBLISHED.**

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7. Toronto Public Health (TPH)

TPH is the census's starkest case: **it publishes no youth program budgets at all, and no youth-split reach for any program.** Its published budget is by service aggregate only (2026: $314.2M gross; $157.5M net) — *Toronto Board of Health Briefing Note, Jan 26, 2026.* What follows is staff counts and incidental reach figures.

7.1 School Health Program

- **Mode:** TPH staff delivering mandated activities in elementary and secondary schools. **Reach/staffing:** 7 school health teams incl. a dedicated secondary team (established 2024), 66 liaison public health nurses, 7 dietitians — *Annual Report of Public Health Programs and Services, 2024, TPH; Code of Conduct 2025-26 for Secondary Students, TDSB.* **Budget: NOT PUBLISHED. Youth reach counts: NOT PUBLISHED. Outcomes: NOT PUBLISHED.**

7.2 Healthy Relationships Plus Program

- **Mode:** TPH Facilitators delivering a curriculum to Grade 7–8 students in 30+ TDSB middle schools. **Reach: 410 students (2024–25)** — unit: students — *TDSB Board Report 2025-11-19.* **Budget: NOT PUBLISHED. Outcomes: NOT PUBLISHED.**

7.3 Sexual health clinics and funded independents

- **Mode:** 4 TPH clinics (Scarborough Sexual Health Clinic is youth-dedicated in focus) + 3 funded independent clinics. **Ages:** clinic network serves largely under-30 youth, but no age figure is published.
- **Budget (funding envelope only):** independent-agency contracts $2,833,736 + $578,708 (2026–2027) — *TPH funding agreements, Board of Health, Feb 2026.* **Reach:** ~67,000 clients across the network — **all ages, 2019 data**; **youth split: NOT PUBLISHED.** STI outcome counts by age are surveillance, not program outcomes.

7.4 Substance-use prevention and Nurse-Family Partnership

- **Substance-use prevention:** last published reach is **13,618 youth (2018)** — stale; no current figure. **Budget: NOT PUBLISHED.**
- **Nurse-Family Partnership:** serves pregnant people under 21 (case-finding via high-school guidance) — properly a *parenting* program, not a youth program. **Caseload/budget: NOT PUBLISHED** (only ~50% provincial subsidy noted).

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8. Youth engagement bodies

8.1 Toronto Youth Cabinet (TYC)

- **Mode:** City-convened civic engagement body — created by Council (1998), reaffirmed 2023; supported by the City's Youth Development Unit. **Ages:** 13–24.
- **Budget: NOT PUBLISHED. Support staffing: NOT PUBLISHED. Current membership: NOT PUBLISHED.** (The Community Partnership Strategy that frames TYC's support carries $2.9M for 2024 — an umbrella envelope, **not** a TYC budget.) The 2025 Youth Jobs Inventory (§13.2) lists TYC as an employment program: 16 Executive Leads, part-time (honoraria) — the only current structural figure the City publishes about the body.
- **TYC's publication record** *(verified from TYC's own Documents page and the cited sources, November 2026; TYC's site lists only six items in total — Constitution, Transition Policy, and the four documents below — a small, episodic, working-group-driven output, not a recurring report series):*
- *Young Workers Left Out: The Integration of Toronto Youth in the City's Labour Market* (Toronto Youth Cabinet, 2018) — full consultation report (30+ consultations) from TYC's Equity & Employment Working Group — *catalogued by YouthREX; PDF via youthrex.com.*
- *Snapshots: A Profile of Newcomer Youth and their Civic and Political (Dis)Engagement in Toronto* (Toronto Youth Cabinet, January 2019) — consultation report (3 consultations; Education / Municipal Government / Transit / Community Services), Newcomer Working Group — *thetyc.ca.* (Third-party coverage calls the same document the "Newcomer Consultation Report" — an alias, not a second publication.)
- *Annual Report 2019 Edition* (Toronto Youth Cabinet, 2019) — the **only** TYC annual report in the public record; no 2020–2025 annual report was located.
- Anti-Oppression Resource (Toronto Youth Cabinet, March 2019).
- Earlier, verified through City records and coverage: *Forever Young: A Vision for Urban Planning in Toronto* (December 2001; 61 recommendations; an Official Plan background report); *Catch Us Before We Fall* — TYC Report on Youth Homelessness (2005; news/bibliographic record only, no full text located).

- *TYC Report on Youth Perspectives on Safer Communities* (May 27, 2021) — consultations informing SafeTO — *TYC News, thetyc.ca.*
- *Advocating for a Stronger Youth-Friendly City Budget* — TYC/TDSB/TCDSB joint statement (January 22, 2025; earlier version January 25, 2024) — a **$46.2M** ask across eight areas, incl. $580,000 to establish a Toronto Office of Youth Engagement and a Youth Strategy, $17.5M for youth employment, $3M for 12 Enhanced Youth Spaces and 3 Youth Hubs, $10.17M for youth shelter beds/housing.
- *Youth Employment Postcard Survey Report 2024–2025* (Toronto Youth Cabinet + The Neighbourhood Group Community Services, 2025; launched August 7, 2025 at City Hall) — findings from **7,265 youth** postcards: 64% said a job would reduce dependence on parents; 75% said a meaningful job must align with purpose; 74% cited structural/logistical barriers; nearly 60% cited identity-based barriers/ discrimination. Framed as input to the Toronto Youth Employment Program and the 10,000 additional youth jobs by Summer 2026 commitment. *(Full text located on a TNG staging-domain host; no canonical publisher PDF URL surfaced.)*
- TYC's most frequent output in the Council record is the written communication/deputation (verified examples: Vacant Home Tax 2020; governance 2019; transit 2020 and 2023; 2025 budget) — not the standalone report.
- **Explicit finding — no recurring "State of Youth Report":** after targeted searches (documented in the research register), **no "State of Youth Report," "State of Youth in Toronto," or any other recurring/annual state-of-youth publication by the Toronto Youth Cabinet exists in the public record as of November 2026.** The similarly titled works belong to others: Canada's *State of Youth Report* (Government of Canada / Canadian Heritage) and the historical *Toronto Youth Profile* (a City of Toronto product TYC contributed to, not a TYC publication). Any claim that TYC publishes a recurring state-of-youth report would be inventing a publication.
- **Correction to an earlier draft of this census:** a document cited as "TYC's TOCABUILD policy review via Council item 2025.PH26.5" **does not exist**. Item 2025.PH26.5 is *Our Plan Toronto: Recommendations on the East Harbour Employment Area Conversion Request — Final Report* — "TOC" there means the provincial Transit-Oriented Communities arrangement for East Harbour, and the item's communications list contains no TYC submission. Seven targeted searches found no "TOCabBuild/TOCABUILD" publication by anyone. The census does not cite it.
- City-reported engagement: **TYC + partner bodies engaged 30,000+ youth** on youth employment (period 2019–2023) — *Council item 2025.EC18.6, May 6, 2025.*

8.2 Youth Week Toronto

- **Mode:** City-run (SDFA). Annual May week of youth programming. **Budget: NOT PUBLISHED. Reach: NOT PUBLISHED** — only schedule/catalogue pages exist in the published record.

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9. Shelter & acute youth services

9.1 Youth shelter system (16–24)

- **Mode:** Purchase-of-service — the City operates **no youth shelters directly**; ~42 purchase-of-service providers deliver the Toronto Sheltering & Housing Assistance Program System. — *City Council item 2026.EX28.4, April 8, 2026.*
- **Reach (capacity):** up to **740 youth beds (2025)** against **1,500+ homeless youth (16–24) nightly** — beds: *3269-GM (May) Strategic Plan, City of Toronto, July 16, 2025*; nightly figure: *Ontario Children's Health Coalition Summit presentation, May 15, 2026.* A beds-per-night usage figure (723 avg nightly, Apr 2020) exists but is COVID-era; no current equivalent is published.
- **Youth-specific funding: NOT PUBLISHED** — youth shelters sit inside the TSSHA envelope ($786.1M gross, 2026) with no youth line. (The last full City-published operator-level table: 520 beds / 12 shelters — *Manager, Shelter Support and Housing Administration, July 21, 2014.*)
- **New:** 1615 Dufferin St — 50 youth transitional spaces, operator Covenant House Toronto, "anticipated opening 2028" — *Registered Affordable Housing, City of Toronto (current).*

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10. Cultural and other youth funding (Economic Development & Culture and related)

- **Youth Cultural Incubators Stabilization Initiative:** named in Toronto Arts Council 2026 increases; **program-level dollars: NOT PUBLISHED** (inside TAC's $43.149M 2026 grant budget) — *Toronto Arts Council 2025-2026 Grant Budget Story.*
- **Scarborough hub** — see §1.15.

Already documented in the study (compiled by reference, not re-researched)

- **Ontario Youth Jobs Strategy / York University innovation hub (45,000 students):** City contribution $150K (2016), $850K project total; outcomes "not yet verified" per the 2018 accelerator reporting. The City has no recurring youth-employment grant program today.
- **Youth Grantmakers-in-training:** paid eight-week public board; Community Partnership Strategy support level: standard Community Service Partnership serves youth only where the organization's own mandate is youth.
- Full source citations for these two rows live in the study's response chapter (`~/workspace/state-of-youth-combined-nov5/src/05-response-field.md`, §7).

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11. The City's youth workforce (context — the people, not the programs)

For scale: the City directly employs youth through **PFR recreation seasonals (~10,000 part-time workers/yr, ~80% aged 14–29)**, **TPL Pages at 13 of 16 branches (ages 14–19)**, various municipal internship/graduate

programs, and the Green Bus Driver training program (ages 18+, ~650 over three years, $70M gross budget). These programmes are run and counted — but they are employment channels, not youth *engagement/support services*, and are inventoried in full in the study's workforce record (`~/workspace/city-youth-workforce-nov5/NUMBERS.md`). The Mayor's 15,000-youth-jobs figure remains a campaign commitment only; the City-published figure is 10,000 additional summer jobs by 2026. The City has now also inventoried this workforce itself — see §13.2.

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13. The City's own inventories — the baseline check

The City has twice inventoried its own youth programs, and once built an outcome-measurement framework for them. These three instruments are the strongest possible test of this census — and of the City: **if a program cannot be enumerated from the City's own inventories, it cannot be enumerated at all.** Both inventories were read in full (the legdocs PDFs themselves, not descriptions of them).

13.1 The City of Toronto Youth Program Inventory (June 1, 2021)

- **Document:** Attachment 1 to *Youth Service Review — Investing in Youth Outcomes*, staff report June 16, 2021, Council item 2021.EC23.3, adopted July 14–16, 2021 without amendments (legdocs backgroundfile-168300.pdf; guide = Attachment 2, backgroundfile-168301.pdf; framework implementation plan = Attachment 3, backgroundfile-168302.pdf).
- **Contents — verified:** exactly **47 individual programs and program categories**, ages **12–29**, across the eight named owners — Economic Development & Culture, Parks Forestry & Recreation, SDFA, TCHC, TESS, Toronto Police Service, Toronto Public Health, Toronto Public Library — filed under five of the Youth Outcomes Framework's six outcome areas (Supportive Peers & Adults 3; Physical Health & Mental Wellbeing 6; Life & Social Skills 14; Employment & Entrepreneurship 18; Civic & Community Engagement 6). **Toronto Police Service appears here as a program owner** (ProAction Cops & Kids programs; Life Skills to Succeed) — the only place in this census where TPS is a direct youth-program owner rather than a partner.
- **Fields — what the inventory publishes and what it does not:** every entry carries division/unit, delivery location, eligibility (where target ages live, as text), description, activities, and COVID status. **Reach ("Participants served per year") exists for 46 of 47 entries** — absent for TPL's "Youth Programs at Libraries." **There is NO budget field anywhere: a full-text check of the 45-page document finds no dollar figure for any program. There is NO outcome or results field: the Youth Outcomes Framework is only the filing scheme.** And the reach figures mix 2019, 2020 and 2021 bases, estimates, visits and contacts (e.g., "Over 450,000 youth visits in 2019"; YOWs' "203,695 contacts with youth and 137,443 referrals") — they are reproduced in the research register exactly as printed and are **not additive**, here or there.
- **Caveats printed in the document itself:** statuses are pandemic operating states **as of June 1, 2021** (a COVID-era snapshot, not a service census); the 47 includes **program categories** — grouped families

of similar programs, not only discrete programs; several entries' ages fall outside the inventory's own 12–29 frame. The staff report adds that the City's roles as employer, funder and planner were **beyond the review's scope** — the inventory covers programs the City delivers directly or in partnership, which means the entire grants field (§1.3–§1.6) sits outside the City's own baseline inventory by design.

- **Cross-check against this census:** every program in §§1–11 of this census that existed in 2021 appears in the inventory, and the inventory adds programs this census's division-by-division sweeps did not surface with publishable figures of their own — among them TPS's ProAction Cops & Kids and Life Skills to Succeed; TPH's SHP workshop series (reach as printed in 2021: Healthy Relationships 2,210 youth; STBBI 4,487; General Sexual Health 5,689; Birth Control 447 — §7.3 now has *no* current equivalent), SHP Conversations through Art (149 youth over two years), and TPH's IYE/YHAN/YELL youth-leadership programs (448 / 37 / 249 youth per year as printed); TESS's PAYE (2,350 youth served, 2019), POES (786, 2019), Investing in Neighbourhoods (86 youth, 2019) and Innovative Case Management (88 youth, 2019) — TESS streams §2.2 could otherwise document only as absent; TCHC's Gym Program (300/yr), Midnight Basketball (180/yr), Rookie League LIT (130/yr) and Be.Build.Brand (12/yr); EDC's Cultural Hotspot youth streams (up to 100/yr), xoTO co-op placements (15/yr) and SAGE (10/session); SDFA's TYPE (3,000 youth/yr as printed), ArtWorksTO, Protégée (10/yr) and More Life Skills (789/yr); TPL's Poetry Saved Our Lives (1,119 youth, 2019) and Young Voices (521 submissions, 2020). The full 47-entry table, with every reach figure verbatim, is in the research register (`research/inventories.md` §1.4).
- **What has changed or gone unpublished since the snapshot (2021 → 2026):** Youth Hubs grew 23 → 31 (§4.1); enhanced youth spaces are now counted as 20 against the inventory-era model's 39 (§3.5); Youth Outreach Workers are 32 against the inventory's contact-based reporting (§3.6); BSTR's 2021 inventory entry recorded 159 registered / 71–107 completed, against today's "1,000+ participants" and a 2,000 target (§3.7, §13.2). Several inventory programs have **no post-2021 published trace at all** — including TPH's IYE/YHAN/YELL leadership programs and SHP workshop series (TPH §7 publishes nothing current for any of them) and TCHC's Gym Program and Midnight Basketball (TCHC §6 publishes no current figures). Whether they ended, shrank, or simply stopped being reported **cannot be determined from the published record** — that indeterminacy is the point: the City published one inventory, in a pandemic, and has never published a successor for the general youth portfolio.

13.2 The City of Toronto Youth Jobs Inventory (2025) — the newest official inventory

- **Document:** Attachment 1 to *Reducing Barriers to Youth Employment*, staff report November 18, 2025, Council item 2025.EC25.7, adopted December 16–17, 2025 with amendments (legdocs backgroundfile-260113.pdf; staff report backgroundfile-260112.pdf).
- **Contents — verified:** exactly **40 youth-specific employment programs** across **10 organizations** (CNE, EDC, Parks & Recreation, People & Equity, SDFA, TCHC, TPS, TPL, TTC, Toronto Zoo), covering only **paid employment or paid training** for youth **15–29**. Each row carries one reach field — **"Total Youth Employed in 2025"** — and the printed column sums to **16,389** (the documents

themselves say only "more than 16,000"; the sum is this census's arithmetic on the printed column, and one row — Community Healing Project, 17 — is marked "(TBC)" in the source). Largest rows: P&R Recreation Program & Services 10,000; CNE Summer Hiring 4,000; TPL Page Recruitment 500; BSTR 300; Toronto Zoo Seasonal Hiring 290; People & Equity NextGen 200; TPS Youth in Policing Initiative 150; TTC Summer Janitor 143.

- **Programs this inventory adds to the census record:** CNE Summer Hiring (4,000 youth, 2025); EDC's Young Canada Works (13), Fort York Guard (21), Summer Company (40) and Museums hiring (13); People & Equity's Youth Career Development (25), Indigenous Youth Research Associate (11) and NextGen (200); SDFA's Diversity Youth Fellowships (20) and Indigenous Youth Fellowships (8); TCHC's Pathways to Employment in Fire Services (12), Outreach Fellowship (20), Cleaner Apprentices (12), 37 Kids Youth Summer Initiative (37), Brook Restoration Pre-Apprenticeship (25 — cf. §6.6), Mentors and Leaders (25) and Next Surgeon (15); TPS's Youth in Policing Initiative (150); TTC's Summer Janitor Program (143); Toronto Zoo's CALL Internships (11), TDSB Black and Indigenous Student Summer Leadership (2 + 2), Canada Summer Jobs (15), Breaking Barriers (6), CPRA Green Jobs (1), Postdoctoral Fellows (6) and Seasonal Hiring (290). The full 40-row table is in the research register (`research/inventories.md` §2.3). Some rows overlap programs counted elsewhere in this census as services (CHP, PEERS, Restorative Justice, Integrated Supports, CityServeTO, TYC Executive Leads) — **the 16,389 is a jobs count inside its own inventory and is never added to any service-reach figure here.**
- **Fields — the same absences, five years on: no budget column and no dollar figure anywhere in the attachment; no per-program target ages** (only the inventory-wide 15–29 definition); **no outcome, retention or completion field.** The staff report names the gap itself: "fragmented pathways across divisions and agencies, inconsistent youth definitions, limited and inconsistent data collection, and a lack of program connectivity. These gaps make it difficult to track outcomes, identify who is being left out, and scale what is working."
- **The accountability mechanism (new, and the census's one forward-looking entry):** the annual reporting duty was **added by Council amendment**, not proposed by staff (staff recommended "receive for information" only). As adopted: SDFA's Executive Director must report to the Economic and Community Development Committee **on May 5, 2026, and thereafter annually, on the progress and outcomes achieved through the Youth Employment Table**; the Table is directed to *set* youth employment opportunity targets, but **Council set no numeric target itself** (the only numeric target in the package is BSTR's Summer 2026: engage 2,000, hire 1,000+ net new; the earlier "up to 10,000 additional summer jobs by 2026" survives only as decision history). **Closed November 6, 2026:** the report was filed — as item **2026.EC29.10**, *Update on Reducing Barriers to Youth Employment and the Diversity Youth Fellowship Program*, report dated **May 26, 2026** (three weeks after the directed date), bundled with the Diversity Youth Fellowship subject, and **received for information by the Economic and Community Development Committee on June 9, 2026**. What it reports for the Table is a **projected 2,800** new opportunities identified across the City and Table partners, and activity counts for January–May 2026: **11 career activation and job fair events engaging 1,085 youth, providing 250**

job opportunities and supports to 180 youth. **No numeric target set by the Table appears in the item's published Summary: NOT STATED. No outcomes series for the Table — no placements achieved, retention, wages, or duration: NOT PUBLISHED.** The one attachment carrying outcome-style content (Attachment 2, case studies) states on its first page that the studies "are not program evaluations" and gives single-program, pre-2026 descriptive results only. The first scheduled test of the City's youth reporting thus produced a projection and activity counts. *Scope note: this closure rests on the item's published Summary, Attachment 2 read in full, the June 9, 2026 minutes, and meeting coverage; the report body PDF and Attachment 1 (the Youth Employment Pathways framework) could not be retrieved by text fetch and remain unread pending a live-browser session; full record in the census working papers (MAY5-REPORT-CHECK.md).*

- **A discrepancy inside the item, flagged not reconciled:** the staff report PDF states Toronto's youth unemployment rate as **15.2%** (October 2025 LFS); the same item's agenda summary states **19.7%**. Both stand in the published record for 2025.EC25.7.

13.3 The Youth Outcomes Framework — machinery published, results not

- **What the framework is:** adopted with the 2021 guide (Attachment 2 to 2021.EC23.3) — six outcome areas (supportive peers and adults; physical health and mental wellbeing; life and social skills; employment and entrepreneurship; civic and community engagement; participant reach and satisfaction), each with percentage-based performance measures (e.g., "% of youth who say they met at least one adult through the program that they trust"), measured by pre/post or retrospective end-of-program surveys. Programs **select** the measures relevant to them from a "menu" — there is no single mandatory measure set. Council's 2021 decision directed divisions (and, via their boards, TCHC, TPL and TPS) to implement it, including collection of a defined socio-demographic set (age, gender, postal code, language, immigration, Indigenous identity, race, disability, sexual orientation, education, employment status). The implementation plan promised rollout across all relevant youth programs by Q4 2022 and "a process to analyze and report on the data generated by the Framework at regular intervals."
- **The guide's own admission (2021):** "There is little information about the youth demographic the programs are serving and what impact the programs are having" — and at adoption, baselines and targets **did not yet exist**; the framework was the instrument intended to create them. It is program-level only: it does not track population-level outcomes.
- **The application claim — NOT VERIFIED:** a claim in circulation states that a SafeTO implementation report (City, 2025) reports the framework applied across **23 programs from six divisions/agencies with 2,811 young people providing survey feedback**. This census attempted verification from the City documents themselves: the host report was identified — *2025 Update on SafeTO Implementation*, item 2025.EX23.5 (report April 29, 2025; adopted May 21–22, 2025), whose published agenda record contains **no Youth Outcomes Framework counts** (its Phase 1 achievements are TCCS, Violence Prevention Toronto, CCRP and SCALE figures) — and ~15 targeted searches,

including the exact figures, found **no published City document containing 23 / six / 2,811 in connection with the framework**. The census therefore **does not carry the claim as a finding**: it is recorded here as unverified, with the remaining check being the EX23.5 report body/appendices and the SafeTO Community Report/dashboard products, which require a live-browser session on toronto.ca to reach. *(For the parent: that live-browser check is the one outstanding verification item in this census.)*

- **What is verified about the framework in print:** every published mention located describes the **machinery, never its output** — the Diversity Youth Fellowship reports (2021, 2024) state the program "will" align to / administer the framework's survey; the 2022 SDFA budget notes carry one qualitative line ("the City's first Youth Outcomes Framework"); the City's *Find Youth Services* page points operators to a "Youth Outcomes Framework (YOF) Playbook" of tools. **No publication found reports framework results — no program-by-program measures, no aggregated percentages, no list of applying programs.** Five years after adoption, the published record shows a measurement system that exists and is referenced, and no published measurements from it.

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14. The completeness question — answered honestly

What this census is

Every entry above comes from a published City, agency, or federal document, cited by title and year. Programs were hunted across the budget books and budget notes of every division the task named (SDFA, PFR, Children's Services, TESS, TPH, EDC, City Manager's Office), the Library's and TCH's board documents, Council items and briefing notes, three Open Data sources, and repeated targeted searches for programs that turned out not to exist in publishable form — and then checked against the City's own two inventories (§13), the strongest completeness test available. **On the evidence of these sweeps, this census contains everything the City publishes about its youth engagement and youth support — as programs.** That is a narrower claim than "everything the City does for youth," and the gap between the two is quantifiable only in pieces. Here is the honest accounting, measured against the three yardsticks the task set.

(a) Measured against the City's budget books and service plans

City budgets are organized **by division and service, never by population served**. There is no youth line in any budget book, and no division publishes a youth subtotal of its own spending. What the budget books do yield:

- **Identifiable youth-specific money lines** (named programs or youth-labelled slices): the SafeTO $5M youth component (inside $43M/$49M); the CPIP youth-labelled floor of $6,140,520 (2024, CFU universe); TYJC's $18.036M over four years (85% federal, administered); the Free Centres ~$10.0M youth-outreach slice; Welcome Policy's $6.8M envelope (all ages, youth-dated credit only); Community Youth Nights $2.0M/$1.5M; TCHC scholarships ~$329K (2025); the 2026 sexual-health

agency contracts (~$3.4M envelope); the FOCUS/legacy remnants. Even summed naively — which this census refuses to do, because the lines overlap in year, in universe, and in a few cases possibly in identity (the two $5Ms) — they amount to a small fraction of these divisions' published budgets.

- **Youth work funded inside all-ages envelopes, with no published youth slice:** the entire Community Safety & Well-Being service line ($50.7M gross, 2026) beyond the $5M slice; the whole CSP general pool; recreation programming inside Community Recreation's $289.9M; sexual-health clinics; the entire youth shelter system inside TSSHA's $786.1M; TPH's whole $314.2M. The largest pools of money plausibly serving youth are exactly the ones with no youth figure attached.
- **The structure itself is the finding:** because no budget is organized by population, *no arithmetic on the budget books can produce a City youth total*. This is why the study's headline spine — roughly $236 per resident aged 5–24, computed from SDFA's gross budget alone and labelled an upper bound — remains the most defensible per-resident figure available, and why "no published total for youth exists" survives this census intact.

(b) Measured against published grant recipient lists

The recipient lists were drilled into, as required. The result is a structural negative:

- The flagship CSP list publishes **organization, ward, amount — no purpose, no age field.** A youth-purpose recipient cannot be identified from the list itself; identifying one requires outside knowledge of each organization. The list therefore **cannot generate a youth total**, full stop.
- The one youth-usable published aggregate is the Community Funding Unit's own reporting in the *2024 Community Funding Impact Report*, which labels its categories — Youth Services, INI, YVP, youth-led CCRF. That yields the $6,140,520 floor in §1.3 — a floor for one year of one funding universe, covering perhaps a fifth of CFU's allocations, and structurally incapable of capturing youth-serving work funded under all-ages categories.
- Delegated-authority lists add per-organization amounts for some streams but are not a complete current list (some tranches are CRO-decision lines only; some partnership tranches are not in the package at all).

(d) Measured against the City's own inventories (§13)

The City has twice done this census's job itself, and its own instruments land in the same place. The 2021 inventory — 47 programs across eight owners — publishes **no budget for any program and no outcome for any program**; its reach figures mix years, estimates, visits and contacts and cannot be added. The 2025 jobs inventory — 40 programs, one count each — again publishes **no budget, no per-program ages, no outcomes**, and its own staff report concedes "limited and inconsistent data collection" makes it "difficult to track outcomes [or] identify who is being left out." The Youth Outcomes Framework, built in 2021 precisely to close this gap, has produced **no published results in five years**; and the one application figure in circulation (23 programs / six divisions / 2,811 youth) **could not be verified in any published City**

document (§13.3). The City's own baseline thus confirms the census's verdict from inside the institution: the enumeration failure is not a researcher's problem. It is the published record's condition — including in the documents the City wrote to fix it.

(c) Measured against the study's existing response chapter

This census **corroborates the response chapter's silo table line by line** and adds what the chapter did not carry: TYJC's contract structure and its unreconciled pair of published series; the CPIP youth-labelled floor computed from the CFU's own categories; CHP's published outcome set; the Welcome Policy actuals published in 2025 for 2024 (18,913 unique utilizers; 48,000+ registrations — all ages; youth share absent); the 20 enhanced youth spaces and 32 Youth Outreach Workers superseding 2013/2012 counts; TPL's Jan–Aug 2025 hub visits/participants; TCHC's youth-engagement count (1,143) and its 2025 scholarship figures; the youth shelter capacity gap (740 beds of capacity against an estimated 1,500+ young people experiencing homelessness nightly — the City does not publish the basis for its estimate); and the TYES legacy bundle's disappearance from published budgets after January 2021. Where the census and the chapter differ, the census is newer, not contradictory: e.g., ARC's ~1,800 places/44 programs is the April 2025 published position (the chapter's 1,800 carries the same figure); the study's 39 youth lounges figure is superseded as the *enhanced-model* count by 20 (2025), though the two numbers describe successive models, not a decline that any source asserts.

What remains unenumerable — the categories of the gap

1. **Programs with no program-level line at all.** ARC's budget is unpublished past 2013. TO Wards Peace's reach is unpublished entirely. PEERS, Restorative Justice (current), Integrated Supports for Justice-Involved Youth, the Youth Development Unit itself, TPH youth work, TPL youth services — no budget lines exist in print.
2. **Services with no youth slice.** Recreation registrations (483,000 in 2024 — all ages, one number), Welcome Policy dollars and clients, shelter funding, OW caseloads, TCCS calls, CCRP responses, sexual-health clients, CSP users (2,282,026 — all ages): in every case the City publishes the whole and never the youth part. This is the single largest category of the gap.
3. **Capacity published, enrolment never.** Licensed child care is the extreme case: 85,054 spaces are counted to the space, yet how many children hold school-age spaces is nowhere published. ARC's 1,800 is the lone guaranteed-places figure in the entire census — and even ARC publishes capacity, not filled places over time.
4. **Reach published, outcomes almost never.** Across roughly sixty programs and streams in this register, published youth *outcome* measures exist for: CHP (§1.9), TPL's Leading to Reading (§4.2), the FOCUS Scarborough youth subset (§1.13), TCHC Pre-Apprenticeship (§6.6), and TYJC's contract targets/history (§2.1). Everything else publishes money, counts, or neither. The City built a Youth Outcomes

Framework in 2021 to close exactly this gap; five years on, no results from it are published (§13.3) — and the City's own youth cabinet publishes no recurring state-of-youth report at all (§8.1).

5. **Money that leaves the City untagged.** Federal/provincial youth money administered by the City (TYJC, BSCF/CPAF, CWELCC) is partly visible; money administered by *other* intermediaries in Toronto (Ontario After School Program, Youth Opportunities Fund, Focus on Youth, Canada Summer Jobs) never touches the City's books and is outside this census by definition — but it is part of what a Torontonian experiences as "the response," and no published source assembles it.

The verdict

We found everything published, and "everything published" is not everything that exists. Of the City's youth effort, only a minority share is enumerable from the published record: a handful of youth-labelled money lines, a CPIP floor of $6.1M against a $33.4M grants program whose recipient lists cannot identify youth purpose, one guaranteed-places figure (ARC, ~1,800), capacity counts for child care and shelters, and reach figures in a dozen mutually incompatible units. The balance — youth work inside all-ages envelopes, programs with no published line, enrolments behind capacities, and outcomes almost everywhere — **cannot be enumerated, because the City does not publish it in enumerable form.** That is not a limitation of this census. It is the census's central finding, and it is the same finding the study reached from the other direction: the numbers are published in pieces that don't add up — because, for youth, most of them are never published at all.

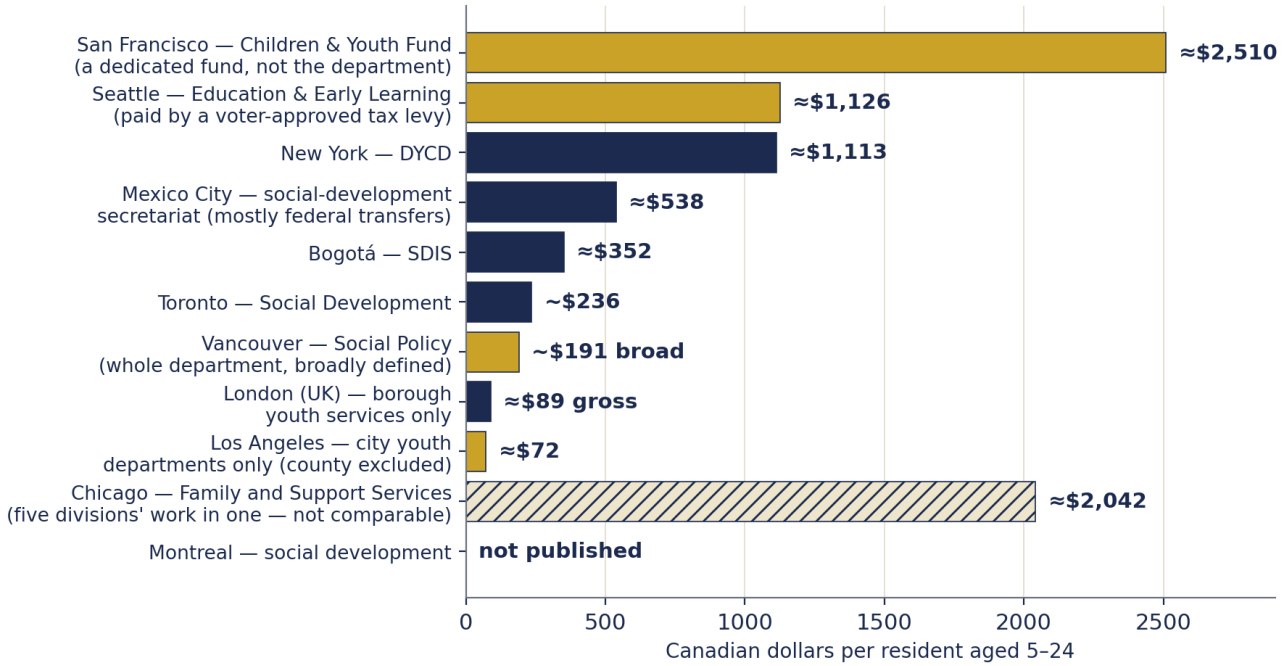
Compiled from: City of Toronto budget notes, staff reports, briefing notes and news releases (2020–2026); the City's own inventories — Youth Program Inventory (Attachment 1 to 2021.EC23.3) and Youth Jobs Inventory (Attachment 1 to 2025.EC25.7), read in full; the 2024 Community Funding Impact Report (Community Funding Unit, 2025); the Community Healing Project Final Evaluation Report (Blueprint ADE, 2023); the FOCUS Toronto – Scarborough Rapid Evaluation Report (Medow Consulting, 2024); Toronto Public Library board reports and statistics (2025–2026); Toronto Children's Services Fact Sheet (December 2025) and Service Plan 2025–2030; TCHC board and Council submissions (2021–2026); the Toronto Youth Cabinet's published record (thetyc.ca; YouthREX catalogue); Public Safety Canada announcements (2022); Social Planning Toronto budget analyses (2026); and the State of Youth in Toronto research baseline. Research register retained at `~/workspace/toronto-youth-census-nov6/research/`*. No study source files were edited.*

Chapter 20 — The money in context

Toronto's published Social Development budget for calendar 2025, divided by the 2021 Census count of residents aged 5–24, is approximately **$236 per resident aged 5–24**.

The bars are not measured the same way: each city counts a different bundle of services, so read them as orders of magnitude, not a league table.

This chapter places that Toronto figure in a field of published figures from other cities, as carried in the study's research library, and records the after-school ledger on the same basis. Levels and funding sources are printed together. Reach units — places, visits, participants, calls, dispatches, jobs and licensed spaces — are recorded in their published units in earlier chapters and are never summed here.



Published youth-department or function budget per resident aged 5–24, Canadian dollars; numerator scope as labelled per row; denominators: residents aged 5–24 (Toronto 581,210, 2021 Census). FX: US$1 = C$1.40, £1 = C$1.88 (November 5, 2026). Chicago hatched — bundles five Toronto divisions' functions, approximately 80% grant-funded, not like-for-like. Montreal: not published. Full table and caveats: Chapter 20 of the study (Study research library, 2026).

The Toronto figure, with its caveat

The Toronto figure is approximately $236 per resident aged 5–24. Its numerator is the Social Development (formerly SDFA) budget for calendar 2025, as carried in the SDFA 2025 Budget Notes through the study library (City of Toronto, 2025f). Its denominator is 581,210 residents aged 5–24, City of Toronto, 2021 Census (City of Toronto, 2022a).

Caveat, printed as the plan carries it: a later-year numerator divided by a 2021 Census denominator held constant makes this an upper-bound style figure. The denominator is not a 2025 population count, and the figure is recorded with that caveat.

The field

The comparison below is the verified per-youth record carried from the research library (PER-YOUTH.md; the hemisphere comparison, verified November 5, 2026) (Study research library, 2026). Every row is the same construction: a city's published youth-serving department or function budget, divided by that city's residents aged 5–24, converted at US$1 = C$1.40 (November 5, 2026) and £1 = C$1.88 where a figure crosses a border. The rows are not like-for-like in what the departments bundle, and the scope labels in the table are part of each figure. The table is not ordered as a ranking: rows with scope limits that prevent comparison are marked and are not read against the others.

City	Published per-resident figure, ages 5–24 (C$)	Numerator scope, as published	Budget year
Toronto	≈$236	Social Development (SDFA) gross budget, $137.3M; ≈89–95% City own-source	Calendar 2025
Vancouver	≈$191 broad; $117–$125 narrow	Social Policy function, $22.262M broad (narrow $13.7–14.5M)	2025
Los Angeles	≈$72	CIFD + Youth Development Department, US$46.44M — city tier only; the County runs most social services	Fiscal 2025–26
New York	≈$1,113	Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) adopted budget, US$1,514.1M; 91.9% City tax levy	Fiscal 2026
Seattle	≈$1,126	Department of Education and Early Learning adopted budget, ≈US$152.9M; funded predominantly by the voter-approved FEPP property-tax levy	2025
San Francisco	≈$2,510 (Children & Youth Fund only)	Children & Youth Fund allocation ≈US$259.6M — a charter-mandated property-tax set-aside. (The full department total, ≈US$392.9M, would give ≈$3,800; it is single-source in the record and is not used.)	Fiscal 2025–26
Bogotá	≈$352	District social-integration secretariat (SDIS), ≈C$810M; predominantly district own revenue	2025
Mexico City	≈$538	Social-development secretariat (SEBIEN), ≈C$1,480M — federal-transfer-heavy numerator; printed with that caveat	2025
London (UK)	≈$89 gross / ≈$74 net (modelled)	33 boroughs' "services for young people" line only (Section 251 outturn £101.4M gross / £84.1M net) — excludes social care, schools and mayoral programmes; narrower than the other rows	Fiscal 2024–25
Chicago	≈$2,042 — NOT LIKE-FOR-LIKE	Department of Family and Support Services, US$937.8M: bundles functions spread across five Toronto divisions and is ≈80% senior-government grant-funded. Printed for completeness; it is not compared with the other rows.	Fiscal 2025
Montreal	Not published	The social-development department's budget is not published separately; no figure can be computed	—

Caption: numerator scope — the published department or function budget named in each row, in the publisher's own scope. Denominator — residents aged 5–24 in each city (census or census-bureau estimates, as carried in the library record: Toronto 581,210, 2021 Census; New York 1,904,234; Vancouver 116,335, 2021 Census). Year — as printed per row; city budget years are calendar years unless marked fiscal. Exchange rates — US$1 = C$1.40 and £1 = C$1.88, November 5, 2026. Budget shares, for the rows that publish both

numbers: Toronto 0.73% of the City of Toronto operating budget; New York 1.31%; Vancouver 0.95% broad; Los Angeles 0.33%, on a city-tier numerator (Study research library, 2026).

Read with the levels, the library record's funding-source finding: the cities at or above New York's per-resident level on comparable scope — Seattle and San Francisco — fund the commitment through dedicated revenue (a voter-approved levy; a charter set-aside), while New York, Toronto and Vancouver fund through annual general-fund appropriation, and Chicago's scale rests on senior-government grants (its fiscal 2026 proposed departmental budget fell 32.5% as pandemic grants expired). Toronto's division is ≈89–95% City own-source money (Study research library, 2026).

Funding source, printed alongside levels

The funding-source finding is printed with the levels above, in the same section: annual general-fund appropriation (New York, Toronto, Vancouver), dedicated revenue (San Francisco's charter set-aside; Seattle's voter-approved levy), and senior-government grants (Chicago; Los Angeles's larger department) behave differently as published — dedicated revenue is set by charter or referendum and does not re-compete annually; grant-funded scale moved when the grants expired. The study records the pattern as the library record states it and draws no further conclusion from it (Study research library, 2026).

The after-school ledger

Strictly published, like-for-like components total $17–22 million per year, as carried in the research library. Recorded more precisely in the library's overlap material, the published tier is $22.3 million or $17.3 million, for the accounting reason stated below; both totals are printed here (Study research library, 2026).

Two labelled modelled components are recorded separately. Modelled: Toronto Public Library Youth Hubs, approximately $9.2 million per year, modelled from the published per-hub expansion cost in Chapter 17 across the 31-hub network. Modelled: the Toronto share of the Ontario After School Program, $2.2–$3.7 million per year, modelled from the province-wide total in Chapter 18, for which no Toronto share is published. With those two modelled components included, the modelled total is approximately $29–35 million per year, as carried in the research library (Study research library, 2026).

Of the provision counted in this ledger, about 1,800 places are guaranteed places, as carried in the research library — the After-School Recreation and Care (ARC) places recorded in the response material, about 1,800 registered places in 2025 for ages 6–12, as published in the study library. Other published units in the wider record, such as licensed capacity and visits, are not converted into places and are not added to the 1,800 figure (Study research library, 2026).

The Summer Safety Plan $5 million / SafeTO $5 million accounting relationship is unresolved in published sources. No City document recorded states in accounting terms whether the Summer Safety Plan $5 million in calendar 2025 is the same $5 million as the SafeTO youth-violence-prevention component of $5 million in calendar 2025, or in addition to it. Ledger totals are therefore printed both ways: $22.3 million in the published tier if the two $5 million figures are counted separately, and $17.3 million in the published tier if

they are the same $5 million counted once. Neither total is presented as the resolved total (City of Toronto, 2025c) (Study research library, 2026).

This chapter meets response money and field figures only as accounting — what is published, in whose units, on which basis — in the one place in the study where they are placed together.

Appendix A — How this study was compiled (methods)

This appendix states the rules the compilers applied to every figure in the study. Where a figure in a chapter departs from a rule, the departure is printed beside the figure.

1. Inflation. Multi-year dollar comparisons are stated in real terms using Statistics Canada CPI all-items, Canada, annual averages (Table 18-10-0005-01; 2020 = 137.0, 2021 = 141.6, 2022 = 151.2, 2023 = 157.1, 2024 = 160.9) as the named deflator. Figures left in nominal dollars are labelled nominal with their dollar-year. A 2013 dollar is never compared to a 2025 dollar unrestated (the After-School Recreation and Care unit cost, $2,556 per child in 2013, approximately $3,600 in 2026 dollars, is the worked example carried in the research record).

2. Currency. Conversions are made only where a figure crosses a border, with rate and date printed beside the figure (US$1 = C$1.40, November 5, 2026; £1 = C$1.88). Toronto-only figures stay in Canadian dollars with the dollar-year stated.

3. Population. Denominators are named with source and vintage. Where the 2021 Census count is held constant against later-year numerators, the result is an upper bound and is printed with that caveat. Per-100,000 rates use matching-year population estimates, one vintage throughout. No rate is derived for the Toronto Police Service violence series in this study, because the population-estimate series behind such a rate (Statistics Canada Table 17-10-0155-01) was not verified year by year; Chapter 9 and Chapter 10 therefore print counts. Rates published by a source itself (for example, the Ontario youth crime rate in Chapter 11) are printed as published.

4. Fiscal vs calendar years. City of Toronto figures are calendar years. Ontario and federal figures are April 1–March 31 fiscal years; school-board figures are September 1–August 31. The misalignment is quantified where series are placed side by side: Ontario/federal fiscal 2025–26 overlaps City calendar 2025 for 9 of 12 months and calendar 2026 for 3; a board year 2025–26 overlaps City 2025 for 4 months and 2026 for 8. No table row mixes year types without printing the offset.

5. Definition drift. Where a publisher changed what it counts, the break is marked on the series, never smoothed: the Toronto Police Service's 2014 records-management change (its series start 2015); the Service's two counting systems (occurrence-based annual-report figures vs victim-based portal figures) are never spliced; Toronto Community Crisis Service call counts changed universe between City documents (911-source vs all-source) and are not joined; Market Basket Measure base-year changes (2018 base vs 2023 base) are different series.

6. Age-band standardization. Sources code "youth" incompatibly: Toronto Police Service victims aged 12–17 vs accused aged under 18; Labour Force Survey ages 15–24 (Toronto CMA) and 15–29 (NEET); program eligibility ages 15–30 (Toronto Youth Job Corps, Canada Summer Jobs); census bands 5–13 and 5–24. The study prints each figure in its source band and never averages, ratios, or totals across bands.

7. CMA-vs-city boundary effects. Labour-market and Market Basket Measure figures for "Toronto" in national tables are Toronto census metropolitan area (CMA) figures — the city plus lower-poverty, lower-unemployment suburbs. CMA rates read systematically milder than city-only rates on the same measure. The study never shortens "Toronto CMA" to "Toronto," and never places a CMA rate beside a city-only rate without the boundary note.

8. COVID-period breaks. 2020–2021 rows are flagged in every series (Labour Force Survey unemployment 25.8% in 2020; Toronto Police Service victims/accused dips; the 2020 census income year embedding temporary pandemic transfers). No trend statement spans 2019→2022 without naming the break; pre-break and post-break statements are kept separate.

9. Derived data. Series built by the researchers from a publisher's open data (the Toronto Police Service age-band series in Chapter 10) are labelled "derived from TPS open data," carry their extraction date (November 5, 2026) and method, and were validated against the publisher's own published totals before use (homicides: zero difference for 2023, 2024, 2025; shootings 2025 exact, 2024 off by one with the publisher's explanation printed). Derived series are never presented as publisher tables.

10. Citations. This edition cites in author–date form in the text — (Toronto Police Service, 2026); (Statistics Canada, 2025b) — keyed to the References section, which lists one full entry for each source document actually cited. Every load-bearing figure and every chapter's key statistics carry at least one citation at the sentence or paragraph they support. Derived figures cite the underlying dataset and this Methods appendix, in the form "(Toronto Police Service, ASR-VC-TBL-001; see Methods)".

11. The two labour-force tables. The Toronto CMA youth labour-force series (Chapter 14) crosses a table replacement. Values for 2019–2024 come from the archived Statistics Canada Table 14-10-0385-01, retrieved November 5, 2026. The 2025 values come from its successor, Table 14-10-0461-01, which carries revised population controls. The successor table prints a 2024 population for ages 15–24 of 961,600, against 1,008,400 in the archived table; the rates for overlapping years reconcile within 0.1–0.2 percentage points. The two tables are never blended silently: the table change is named in the chapter text, printed under the series table, and marked on the chart.

12. Caption methods carried in full (November 2026). The study's figure captions are kept short; the method detail they summarize is held here and in the chapters named. For the food-insecurity chart (Chapter 4): the Toronto Public Health figure comes from the Canadian Health Survey on Children and Youth 2019 and a Canadian Income Survey custom table, and counts individuals aged 1–17, including marginal, moderate, and severe insecurity; the Public Health Ontario figures are Canadian Income Survey estimates for children under 18, published only as pooled two-year estimates, with whiskers at the published 95% confidence intervals; the two sources use different surveys and reference periods and are never joined as one series. For the field chart (Chapter 20): each row's numerator is the published department or function budget named in that row, in the publisher's own scope — Los Angeles is the city tier only, because the county tier does most of the work there; Vancouver's broad figure is its Social Policy and Projects definition, with its narrow definition at $117–$125; Chicago's department bundles functions Toronto splits across five divisions and is roughly 80% grant-

funded; these departments also serve adults, families and seniors, so the figure measures commitment intensity, not spending on youth alone. For the plan's cost model: payroll burden of 22% and paid time of 1.15× are carried in the staffing lines; provider administration at 12% and the City system layer at 6% take the direct cost to the printed price, and the rounded lines foot to $3,533 against the printed $3,532; the pay rate is a Toronto input (the City's own ARC site-coordinator posting), the hours and staffing ratio are the plan's design, and the model's structure follows New York's contract system.

This appendix prints the study's research-phase methods note in full, with items 10 and 11 added for this edition and item 12 added in November 2026; document-level detail is in the References.

Appendix B — What is not published (one page)

The following measures were sought in the published record and not found at the standard this study applies — a primary published source, opened and verified, with year, geography and age band printed. They are recorded here as facts about the published record. Nothing in this list has been estimated or modelled anywhere in the study.

Violence and justice - The Toronto Police Service publishes no count of shooting victims by age, and no count of homicide victims by age; its Homicides dataset carries no age field. - No per-100,000 violence rate is published in this study: the population-estimate series behind such a rate was not verified year by year. - Toronto Police Service year-to-date counts for 2026 are not published in downloadable form; the study's violence series ends at the verified 2025 full-year counts. - No Toronto city-level youth justice series — charges, diversion, or custody — is published at any stage of the system. Toronto CMA rows exist in the structure of Statistics Canada Tables 35-10-0177-01 and 35-10-0026-01 but could not be extracted for this study. - The City's "40% reduction" wording appears in two City documents with two different measures and no published numerator, denominator, or comparison table in either.

Conditions - No annual Toronto child or youth food-insecurity rate is published for any recent year. A single-year rate was published once — 18.5% of children and youth aged 1 to 17 in 2019 (Toronto Public Health, 2023) — and no later Toronto Public Health publication found for this study repeats or updates it. Public Health Ontario's health-unit snapshot (updated September 8, 2026) publishes Toronto children-under-18 values only as pooled estimates (32.0% for 2023–2024, two-year combined), with no annual value for any year (Public Health Ontario, 2026). The remaining current Toronto figures are all-household rates and food-bank client composition. - No child-specific Market Basket Measure poverty rate is published for Toronto (city or CMA); the published CMA figure is all-ages. - No youth core-housing-need rate is published for the city; the published figure is all-household (19%, 2021). - No Toronto-level series for young people's use of mental-health services (for example, emergency-department visits by youth at city level) was verified beyond the survey-based values in Chapter 6 and the ages-10-and-over series in Chapter 7.

Work - No Toronto NEET (not in employment, education or training) series exists at city or CMA level; the published series are Canada and Ontario. - No Toronto CMA split of the youth labour force into ages 15–19 and 20–24 is published; the CMA table's youth band is 15–24 only. - No Toronto total for Canada Summer Jobs is published. - The 15,000 youth jobs figure (Chapter 16) has no primary City source: no City release, budget document, or costing publishes it; it is verifiable only as an October 2026 campaign commitment.

The response - Published response totals stop one level above youth: no youth or after-school slice of the Community Partnership and Investment Program ($33.4M, 2026) is published; the Toronto Community Crisis Service has no standalone published budget; the accounting relationship between the Summer Safety Plan's $5M and SafeTO's $5M youth-violence-prevention component is not stated in any City document located. - The Ontario After School Program's Toronto share (budget, sites, participants) is not published; the Youth Opportunities Fund's Toronto aggregate is not published; enrolment in Before/After School Programs is not

published — licensed capacity (40,943 spaces, December 2025) is the published figure. - The After-School Recreation and Care program's current budget and cost per child: nothing published after 2013 was found. The Toronto Youth Equity Strategy has no standalone City reporting after January 2020 in the record located. - Parks, Forestry and Recreation publishes no youth split of recreation participation. - The City's Vision Zero reporting publishes no killed-or-seriously-injured figures for any age band under 20.

Compiled from the study's gaps register (43 items), condensed to the items a reader of the chapters will meet.

Appendix C — Material carried in the Technical Appendix

Four blocks of the published record sit in this appendix rather than in the main edition of *The State of Youth in Toronto*, by the author's direction: the full silo table (the main edition prints a diagram in its place), the youth-justice block, the belonging block, and the Ontario-wide and national health series. The main edition carries a one-line pointer at each location. The text below is the main edition's own text, moved unchanged; the silo table's only change is that its two province-wide cells are labelled as province-wide figures, so they no longer sit under a Toronto-figure heading as if they were Toronto figures. No number is changed anywhere in this appendix. The underlying Toronto-level records — Chapters 7, 11, 12 and 18 among them — are unchanged and remain the full technical record behind these blocks.

The silo table's silos — the money that lands in this city, program by program

Every row is a program that reaches Toronto. The figure column says whose figure it is: a Toronto figure where one is published, and a province-wide figure — labelled as such — where no Toronto figure exists. Below the table: the two senior-government programs that publish no Toronto number at all.

Program	Runs it	What it does	Its published figure	What it publishes about outcomes
SafeTO	City	Community safety and well-being plan, including a youth-violence component	$43M (2025) — Toronto	SafeTO reports against the city-wide safety plan as a whole; it does not publish results for young people separately
CPIP grants	City	The division's grants to community organizations, all services	$33.4M (2026) — Toronto	No youth or after-school slice is published
Youth Hubs	City — Toronto Public Library	Staffed after-school drop-in spaces for teenagers, in library branches	129,000 teen visits (Jan–Aug 2025) — Toronto	Visits only — a returning teenager is counted again; outcomes not measured in the published record
Toronto Community Crisis Service	City	Non-police mobile crisis response, ages 16+	17,000+ calls (2025) — Toronto	Calls and dispatches; no standalone budget, no youth outcome line
Before/after-school licensing	Ontario	Licensed spaces for school-age children in Toronto	40,943 spaces (Dec 2025) — Toronto	Capacity only — enrolment is not published
Youth Opportunities Fund	Ontario	Grants for youth projects, via the Ontario Trillium Foundation	$16.8M/yr allocated — **province-wide figure; no Toronto total is published**	No Toronto total is published
Ontario After School Program	Ontario	After-school programming, province-wide	$14.6M/yr, ~13,000 children and youth — **province-wide figure; Toronto's share is not published**	Toronto's share — budget, sites, participants — is not published

Where the money overlaps: SafeTO's $5M youth-violence component sits inside the Social Development budget that also carries the CPIP grants, so those two rows share money and cannot be added.

And the federal money does not appear in this table at all, because it publishes no Toronto figure to put in it: the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy (planned spending $149.9M for one department in 2025–26) and Canada Summer Jobs (75,000+ jobs in 2025) publish Canada-wide numbers only — no Toronto allocation, no Toronto participant count.

Read down the last column: that is the silo problem in one view. No row publishes whether a young person's life improved — the units are visits, spaces, calls, and dollars, each counted in its own system, on its own year.

Youth justice

Justice. No Toronto city-level youth justice series exists at any stage of the system — charges, diversion, courts, or custody — in the sources published for this study. The youth band is 12 to 17 years wherever the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* applies, and the published figures are provincial and national; police-reported figures are calendar years, while court and correctional figures are fiscal years, April 1 to March 31. Ontario's youth crime rate was **2,221 per 100,000** population aged 12–17 in calendar year 2024, down 3.8% from 2023, against 2,791 per 100,000 for Canada. For Canada, on the Criminal Code scope excluding traffic, 34,895 youth aged 12–17 were charged in 2024 and 40,530 were not charged. Of youth aged 12–17 in contact with police in Canada in 2024, 51% were not charged: 26% were diverted by extrajudicial measures and 25% were cleared by other means. In youth courts, the most recent published data are for 2023/2024: 9% of guilty youth court cases in Canada (546 cases) received a custodial sentence as the most serious sentence, down from 15% (3,405 cases) in 2013/2014. A court case is one or more charges against one accused person disposed of together; it is not a person and not a charge. On an average-count basis, 614 young persons were in custody in Canada in 2023/2024, down 40% from 1,019 in 2013/2014, and 413 of the 614 — 67% — were in pre-trial detention, not serving a sentence. Total youth admissions to correctional services in Canada were 13,546 in 2023/2024, a unit that covers custody and community supervision together and counts a person each time they are admitted. Toronto-level figures could not be printed for any of these stages: the court and correctional surveys publish no Toronto geography, and no Toronto youth custody or detention count is published in the sources located.

Belonging

Belonging. Toronto Public Library Youth Hubs recorded **129,000 teen accesses** in the City of Toronto from January to August 2025. The hubs are staffed after-school drop-in spaces in library branches, open Monday to Friday, 3:30 to 7:00 p.m., aimed at ages 13 to 19; the network numbered 31 branches in 2025, up from 28 in 2024, with 31 targeted for 2026 and 32 targeted for 2027. In the same period, 2,330 programs were offered with 17,700 participants. An access is a visit, and one teenager visiting repeatedly is counted repeatedly; accesses, programs offered, and participants are three distinct published units and are never summed in this study. The only Toronto-published belonging-adjacent survey for a youth program located for this study is older: in a 2016 survey of Youth Hub participants, 71% felt attending increased their feeling of safety, 78% were comfortable asking the coordinator or tutors for help, and 55% agreed they made new friends at the Youth Hub. For City recreation, Parks, Forestry & Recreation publishes no youth split of participation — every published measure is all-ages; for scale, community recreation registrations were 421,379 in 2023 and drop-in program hours were 897,724 in 2023, figures that include youth but are not youth measures. School connectedness is measured for Ontario students: in 2023, among students in grades 7–12, 77.4% felt close to people at their school, 76.0% felt like part of their school, and 87.0% felt safe at school, while 30.4% liked

school very much or quite a lot, down from 36% in 2019 and 42% in 2021. From the same Ontario survey, 78.2% of students spent three hours or more per day in front of an electronic screen in their free time, 94% used social media daily, and 23.4% spent five hours or more per day on social media. Sense of belonging to the local community is published for Canada only, pooled over 2021 to 2024: the share reporting a strong sense of belonging was 63.1% for ages 15–19, 46.8% for ages 20–24, and 42.5% for ages 25–29, and no Toronto split is published.

Ontario-wide and national health series

Two published series describe young people's mental health — one for Toronto, one for Ontario — and they are not combined. For Ontario as a whole, CAMH's Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey reports that 38% of students in grades 7–12 rated their mental health as fair or poor in 2023, up from 11% in 2007, the first year of monitoring for this item. In 2023, 51% of Ontario students in grades 7–12 indicated a moderate-to-serious level of psychological distress, and 27% a serious level; 19% reported harming themselves on purpose in the past year, and 18% reported serious thoughts of suicide in the past year. CAMH states that the distress indicators were stable between 2021 and 2023 after rising over the decade.

Across Ontario, adolescents and young adults aged 15–24 accounted for **5,401 opioid-related emergency department visits** and **752 opioid-related deaths** in total over 2014–2021; over that period, the rate of opioid-toxicity emergency department visits for that age band more than quadrupled, the rate of deaths tripled, and the rate of opioid agonist treatment fell by more than half. For treatment waits, Ontario's Auditor General reports an average wait of **105 days** for intensive treatment in community child and youth mental health services in Ontario in 2023/24, up from 94 days in 2022/23, and Children's Mental Health Ontario publishes 28,000 Ontario children and youth waiting. No Toronto-specific wait time is published.

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