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.