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RESEARCH

Experiences of Albertan Youth

2008/2009

Child and Youth Data Laboratory



CYDL Link Analyze Inform

CYDL Project One

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CYDL Project One

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Committees and Working Groups

The Deputy Ministers Committee
The Assistant Deputy Ministers Committee
The Coordinating Committee
The Research Working Group
The Data/Technical Working Group
The Legal/Privacy Working Group

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CYDL Project One Overview

Overview of the CYDL initiative and Project One

The **Child and Youth Data Laboratory (CYDL)** analyzes and interprets linked administrative data from child- and youth-serving ministries in the Government of Alberta. The data are linked across ministries, at the level of the individual child or youth. Ministry involvement at all stages ensures policy relevance.

CYDL's research projects provide groundbreaking opportunities to understand relationships between many of the factors critical to children's lives, in broad-use areas such as health and education as well as more specialized services such as justice system contact or receipt of income support. The research results make unique contributions to the knowledge base on the well-being of children and youth, and can be used for enriched policy and program development and evaluation.

Project One is focused on basic understanding of the experiences of Albertan youth 12 to 24 years old in 2008/09. Service use data were provided by the ministries, and individuals receiving services from different ministries were linked by an anonymous process. A series of 15 short reports on policy-relevant topics has been produced (e.g., "Mental health status of Albertan youth", "Maltreatment-related investigations among Albertan youth", "Corrections involvement among Albertan youth", etc.).

It is expected that the results of Project One will generate further research questions, to be explored in subsequent projects. The second planned project extends Project One by looking at the experiences of youth in Alberta over a six-year time period, so that we can begin to develop more detailed insight into the factors that shape our youth as they develop. Future projects will be shaped by these two projects.

Some notes on the data

Administrative data are collected as part of the administration of ministries' services, such as organizing payments to physicians or tracking student enrolment data or classifying categories of income support recipients. Constructs useful for research purposes must be derived from indicators captured in administrative data and are therefore proxies for the underlying constructs. Validation of the data at source will vary across indicators, and will be dependent on administrative need for validation rather than on research need for accuracy and completeness.

On the other hand, administrative data provide richness that is absent from more traditional types of research. Administrative data used by CYDL are population-wide, allowing us to investigate virtually all of Alberta's youth. The level of detail collected for administrative purposes can be high, enabling in-depth investigation in many cases.

The linkage process employed by the CYDL preserves privacy while enabling this exciting and unprecedented opportunity to understand so many diverse facets of the lives of Albertan children and youth. However, analyses resulting from the linkage process must be interpreted with the understanding that some false matches (both incorrect matches and missed matches) will occur in the data, although they are thought to be relatively rare. Thus, the population of Albertan youth being considered in each short report (those that use ministry services, and could be linked with the software) is a subset of all youth.

CYDL Project One Report Summaries

Socio-economic status of Albertan youth

Socio-economic status of Albertan youth is an overview of the socio-economic status of 680,043 Albertan youth in 2008/09. Pampalon et al.'s neighbourhood deprivation index¹ was used to determine the social and material environments in which youth lived. Six indicators were included in the index: percent without a high school diploma, the employment ratio, average income, percent of single parent families, percent of persons living alone, and percent of persons separated, divorced, or widowed.

The report contains analyses of the relationships between socio-economic status and age, gender, region of residence, educational achievement, mental health status, health service use, and interactions with Enterprise and Advanced Education, Human Services, and Justice and Solicitor General.

- The most socio-economically advantaged environments were experienced more often by youth who were younger, living in large urban centres, or achieving above educational expectations. Youth who pursued a post-secondary education were also more likely to live in higher socio-economic status neighbourhoods. The most socio-economically advantaged youth were less likely to visit emergency rooms or be hospitalized than youth living in the lowest socio-economic neighbourhoods.
- Youth facing challenges, such as receiving maltreatment-related intervention services, receiving Family Support for Children with Disabilities services, being charged with an offence, being involved with corrections, or receiving income support, were more likely to be living in low socio-economic neighbourhoods than youth not facing these challenges.

Educational experiences of Albertan youth

Educational experiences of Albertan youth is an overview of the educational experiences of 272,588 Albertan youth aged 12 to 20 years registered in Alberta's K-12 education system in 2008/09. Educational achievement was categorized as above, meeting, or below expectations for a student's age and grade. School authority types included public, separate, Francophone, charter, private, and other. No data were available for students who attended schools on First Nations reserves or in Lloydminster.

The report describes how educational achievement and school authority type varied by age, gender, region of residence, socio-economic status, mental health status, and health service use. The cross-ministry service use of youth registered in K-12 education was also studied.

- 79% of youth 12 to 17 years old and 17% of youth aged 18 to 20 were registered in the K-12 education system. 68% of students were meeting educational expectations, 19% were below expectations, and 11% were exceeding expectations.
- Overall, most students were meeting or above educational expectations. Students performing below educational expectations were more likely to be male, to live in a lower socio-economic status neighbourhood, to have received services for a mental health condition, to visit an emergency room, or to be hospitalized during the year.
- Poor educational performance was associated with receiving maltreatment-related intervention services, receiving Family Support for Children with Disabilities services, being charged with an offence (particularly multiple charges), being involved in corrections (particularly custody), or receiving income support at some point during the year 2008/09.
- 73% of youth were registered in public schools, and 22% in separate schools. School authority type varied with age, region of residence, socio-economic status, educational achievement, mental health status, and emergency room use.
- Students facing challenges, such as receiving intervention services, being charged with an offence, or receiving income support, were more likely to be registered in public schools than any other school authority type.

Mental health status of Albertan youth

Mental health status of Albertan youth is an overview of 66,792 Albertan youth (12 to 24 years) who received services for mental health conditions in 2008/09. Mental health status refers to presence or absence of a mental health condition. Mental health conditions are defined as receipt of services related to mental health conditions; that is, receipt of services is used here as a proxy for confirmed presence of a mental health condition.

The relationships between mental health status and age, gender, region of residence, socio-economic status, educational achievement, and health service use were considered. The cross-ministry service use of youth who received services for mental health conditions was also studied.

- 11% of Albertan youth received services for mental health conditions in 2008/09.
- *Mood/anxiety* and *behavioural* disorders were the most common mental health conditions, with *mood/anxiety* conditions generally more common in females and *behavioural* conditions more common in males. The percentage of youth with mental health conditions increased with age for females, but was stable across age for males.
- There was little effect of region of residence or socio-economic status on mental health status.
- The rate of mental health conditions was higher for youth who performed below educational expectations, who visited physicians five or more times, who visited emergency rooms, or who were hospitalized (youth with *schizophrenia/psychoses* were particularly likely to be hospitalized).
- Youth who received maltreatment-related intervention services, were charged with an offence, were involved in corrections, were enrolled in a part-time post-secondary program, or received income support were more likely to have received services for a mental health condition than youth who did not have these ministry service involvements.

Family Support for Children with Disabilities services received by Albertan youth

Family Support for Children with Disabilities services received by Albertan youth provides a profile of 3,764 Albertan youth (aged 12 to 18 years) who received Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD) program services from Human Services in 2008/09. Service categories include *family support* services, *child-focused* services, *specialized* services and *out of home* services. In addition, FSCD assists with some of the extraordinary costs of raising a child with a disability. To receive FSCD services, medical documentation must be provided confirming that the child has a disability or is awaiting a diagnosis; primary diagnoses categories are derived from these medical diagnoses. Not all eligible families choose to access the FSCD program and there are additional health and education programs that support children with disabilities. As such, there are more children with disabilities in the province than those who receive FSCD services.

Youth are described by FSCD service category, primary disability diagnoses, age, gender, region of residence, socio-economic status, school authority type, educational achievement and health service use. The report also provides an overview of cross-ministry service use for these youth

- 1.0% of Albertan youth aged 12 to 18 received FSCD services in 2008/09.
- Overall, the majority of youth receiving FSCD services received *child-focused* services and had a primary diagnosis of a developmental impairment.
- Compared to youth not receiving FSCD services, youth who received FSCD services were more likely to be male, younger than 15 years of age, to live in low middle socio-economic status neighbourhoods, to perform below educational expectations, and to have higher use of health services.
- Youth receiving FSCD services were more likely than youth not receiving FSCD services to be enrolled in Alberta's K-12 education system, to receive maltreatment-related intervention services or to receive income support.

Maltreatment-related investigations among Albertan youth

Maltreatment-related investigations among Albertan youth provides a profile of 7,029 Albertan youth (aged 12 to 17 years) who were the subjects of investigations into possible maltreatment by a parent/guardian in 2008/09. In investigated cases where intervention is not needed, the file is closed (*no intervention needed*). Cases where maltreatment is found to have occurred can lead to interventions that include services within the family home (*out of care services*), or that require the youth to be removed from their home and placed *into care*.

Youth are described in terms of the outcome of the investigation and their Aboriginal status by age, gender, region of residence, socio-economic status, educational achievement, mental health status and health service use. The report also provides an overview of cross-ministry service use for these youth. Comparisons are made to youth of the same ages who were not the subjects of investigations.

- For most investigations, the outcome was *no intervention needed*. 29% of youth investigated were Aboriginal.
- Compared to those not investigated, youth who received a maltreatment-related investigation were more likely to be non-Aboriginal, female, younger than 15 years of age, living in a rural area (*in care youth only*), living in the lowest socio-economic status neighbourhoods, performing below educational expectations, and to have used services for a mental health condition or to have high use of health services.
- Youth who were the subject of an investigation were more likely to be receiving Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD) services, to be charged with an offence, or to be involved in corrections, than youth not investigated.
- Aboriginal youth receiving investigations were more likely than non-Aboriginal youth to receive *in care* services, to live in rural areas or the lowest socio-economic status areas, or to be performing below educational expectations. They were less likely to have received services for a mental health condition, and were less likely to have had five or more physician visits.
- Aboriginal youth receiving investigations were more likely than non-Aboriginal youth to have been charged with an offence or involved with corrections, and less likely to be enrolled in the K-12 education system or to be receiving FSCD services.

Maltreatment-related intervention services received by Albertan youth

Maltreatment-related intervention services received by Albertan youth provides a profile of 6,400 Albertan youth (aged 12 to 17 years) who received intervention services in 2008/09 as a result of maltreatment. Depending on the situation, intervention services may be provided while the youth remains in the home (*out of care services*), or the youth may have to be removed from the home and placed *in care* because of ongoing and serious safety concerns.

Youth are described in terms of the type of intervention services they received and their Aboriginal status, by age, gender, region of residence, socio-economic status, educational achievement, mental health status and health service use. They are compared with youth not receiving intervention services. The report also provides an overview of cross-ministry service use for youth receiving intervention services.

- 2.1% of Albertan youth received intervention services; of these 62% were *in care*, and almost half were Aboriginal.
- Compared to youth not receiving intervention services, youth who received intervention services were more likely to live in the lowest socio-economic status neighbourhoods, to perform below educational expectations, to have a mental health condition (particularly mood or behavioural conditions), or to have five or more physician visits, an emergency room visit, or a hospitalization.
- Compared to youth not receiving interventions, youth receiving intervention services for maltreatment were over-represented in Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD) and the justice and correctional systems, and were slightly more likely to be in the K-12 education system.
- Among youth receiving intervention services, Aboriginal youth were more likely to be *in care*, living in rural settings or the lowest socio-economic status neighbourhoods, or performing below educational expectations, compared to non-Aboriginal youth. Aboriginal youth were also less likely to have received services for a mental health condition, to have had five or more physician visits, and were slightly less likely to be hospitalized.
- Aboriginal youth receiving intervention services were less likely to be receiving FSCD services or to be registered in the K-12 education system than non-Aboriginal youth.

Physician visits by Albertan youth

Physician visits by Albertan youth is an overview of 2,361,770 physician visits by 496,787 Albertan youth (12 to 24 years) in 2008/09. Physicians were grouped into two types of providers: specialists and general practitioners. Youth not registered with the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan in 2008/09 were excluded.

The report contains analyses of the relationships between number of physician visits as well as type of physician with region of residence, socio-economic status, age, gender, educational achievement and mental health status. The cross-ministry service use of youth who visited physicians was also described.

- 49% of youth had one to four physician visits and 26% had five or more physician visits, while 24% of youth had no physician visits. 64% of visits were with a general practitioner and 36% were with a specialist.
- Number of physician visits increased with age for females and decreased with age for males. Youth who were performing above educational expectations or who received services for a mental health condition were more likely to visit a physician.
- About two thirds of visits were to general practitioners; visits to specialists were less common among visits for older youth and females. Visits to specialists were more common among visits by youth who were performing above educational expectations than those below, or among those who had *neurodevelopmental* or *schizophrenia/psychoses* conditions than those with other mental health conditions.
- Socio-economic status and region of residence were unrelated to number of physician visits or to provider types.
- Making five or more physician visits in the study year was more common for youth on income support, youth receiving Family Support for Children with Disabilities services, youth who received maltreatment-related intervention services, and youth who were enrolled in a post-secondary institution, compared to the whole population of youth registered with Alberta Health Care.

Emergency room visits by Albertan youth

Emergency room visits by Albertan youth is an overview of 326,685 visits to emergency rooms by 163,411 Albertan youth (aged 12 to 24) in 2008/09. Reasons for emergency room visits were derived from primary diagnostic codes. Youth not registered with the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan in 2008/09 were excluded.

The relationships between emergency room use and age, gender, region of residence, socio-economic status, educational achievement, and mental health status were analyzed, as was the cross-ministry service use of youth who visited emergency rooms.

- 15% of youth had a single emergency room visit and a further 10% had multiple emergency room visits. The most common reason for visit was *injury or poisoning*.
- The number of emergency room visits increased with age to about 19 years, then decreased. Females aged 16 and older were more likely to have multiple emergency room visits than males of those ages. Youth living in rural areas and those living in the lowest socio-economic status neighbourhoods had higher rates of emergency room use than those living in urban areas or in the highest socio-economic status areas. Performing above educational expectations and absence of a mental health condition were associated with lower rates of emergency room use.
- Visits for *injury or poisoning* were most likely for youth aged 12 to 20 while emergency room visits for *other* reasons were most likely for youth aged 21 to 24. Visits for males were most often for *injury or poisoning* whereas visits for females were most likely for *other* reasons. Visits by youth performing below educational expectations were more likely to be for *mental or behavioural* reasons and less likely to be for *injury or poisoning* than visits by youth meeting or above expectations.
- Youth receiving income support were most likely to make multiple emergency room visits and those enrolled in post-secondary education were least likely to do so. Single emergency room visits were most common among youth with offence charges or involved in corrections and least common among post-secondary students.

Hospitalizations of Albertan youth

Hospitalizations of Albertan youth is an overview of 29,676 hospitalizations of 24,067 Albertan youth (12 to 24 years) in 2008/09. Type of service was determined from main service codes. Youth not registered with the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan in 2008/09 were excluded.

The relationships between hospitalizations and age, gender, region of residence, socio-economic status, educational achievement and mental health status were considered. The cross-ministry service use of youth who were hospitalized was also studied.

- 3.1% of youth were hospitalized once and 0.6% had multiple hospitalizations. The most common services were pregnancy-related, surgery or procedures, and general medicine.
- Males and females had similar rates of hospitalization when pregnancy-related hospitalizations for females were excluded.
- Hospitalized youth tended to live in rural or mid-sized regions or in low socio-economic status areas, perform below educational expectations, or receive services for a mental health condition (youth with *schizophrenia/psychoses* were particularly likely to be hospitalized).
- Most hospitalizations for youth aged 17 and under were for a surgery or procedure or for general medicine. Hospitalizations for youth aged 18 and older or youth living in the lowest socio-economic status neighbourhoods were most often pregnancy-related. Youth performing below educational expectations were more likely to have pregnancy-related or psychiatric hospitalizations than youth doing better in school. Hospitalizations among youth with mental health conditions were more likely to be for *psychiatric* services and less likely for *surgery or general procedures* than hospitalizations among youth without mental health conditions.
- Hospitalization rates were highest for youth who received maltreatment-related intervention services, were charged with an offence, were involved in corrections, received Family Support for Children with Disabilities services, or received income support.
- Psychiatric hospitalizations were most common among hospitalizations for youth receiving intervention services or involved in justice or corrections.

Offence charges among Albertan youth

Offence charges among Albertan youth is an overview of 6,311 Albertan youth (12 to 17 years) charged with offences in 2008/09. Youth with offence charges include those charged with criminal offences or administrative offences related to criminal offences (e.g., failure to appear in court, breach of probation, etc.). Number of offences in the study year was available, but individual incidents were not available. This means that youth charged with multiple offences may have had multiple charges in a single incident, or they may have been charged in multiple incidents.

The relationships between number of charges and age, gender, region of residence, socio-economic status, educational achievement and mental health status were considered. Youth charged with offences in the study year were compared to youth of the same ages not charged with offences in the study year. The cross-ministry service use of youth with offence charges was also studied.

- 2.1% of youth were charged with an offence in the study year. Of these, 44% had one charge in the year, 29% had two or three charges, and 27% had four or more charges.
- Offence charges were most common among youth aged 16 to 17.
- Males were more than twice as likely as females to be charged with offences, particularly multiple offences.
- Youth charged with offences were more likely than youth not charged with offences to live in lower socio-economic status neighbourhoods, to perform below educational expectations, to receive services for a mental health condition, or to visit an emergency room or be hospitalized.
- Youth with offence charges, particularly those with four or more charges, were more likely to receive maltreatment-related intervention services than youth without offence charges.

Corrections involvement among Albertan youth

Corrections involvement among Albertan youth is an overview of 5,178 Albertan youth (2% of youth aged 12 to 17 years) who were involved in corrections in 2008/09. Youth with corrections involvement have appeared before the Court or a Justice of the Peace for an offence charge and have been remanded in custody or placed under pre-trial supervision in the community awaiting further court dates, or have been found guilty and sentenced to a community disposition (in which the sentence is served in the community) or custody (in which the sentence is served in a young offender facility).

Type of corrections involvement and Aboriginal status of youth involved in corrections were considered, along with age, gender, region of residence, socio-economic status, educational achievement, and health service use. Youth involved in corrections were compared to youth not involved in corrections. The cross-ministry service use of youth involved in corrections was also studied.

- 1.7% of Albertan youth were involved in corrections in 2008/09; 18% of these were in custody at some point in the year.
- Youth involved in corrections were primarily older teenagers who were male. One in four youth involved in corrections was Aboriginal.
- Compared to youth not involved in corrections, youth involved in corrections were more likely to live in the lowest socio-economic status neighbourhoods, to perform below educational expectations, to receive services for a mental health condition, to visit an emergency room, to be hospitalized, or to receive maltreatment-related intervention services. All of these effects were larger for youth in custody than for youth with community sentences or pre-trial supervision.
- Aboriginal youth involved in corrections were more likely than non-Aboriginal youth involved in corrections to live in rural regions or the lowest socio-economic status neighbourhoods, to visit emergency rooms, to be hospitalized, or to receive maltreatment-related intervention services. They were less likely to meet or exceed educational expectations.

Post-secondary students in Alberta

Post-secondary students in Alberta profiles 113,154 youth (aged 17 to 24 years) who were enrolled in Alberta's post-secondary institutions in 2008/09. *Credential types* for post-secondary programs include bachelor/applied/graduate programs (also called degree-granting), certificate/diploma programs, and programs with no credential received upon completion. *Enrolment status* refers to full-time or part-time enrolment. Youth enrolled in apprenticeship programs were not available in this study.

Age, gender, region of residence, socio-economic status, mental health status, health service use, credential type, enrolment status, receipt of maltreatment-related intervention services, and receipt of income support are detailed. Comparisons are made with youth of the same ages who were not post-secondary students.

- 24% of all youth 17 to 24 years old were attending post-secondary institutions, with the highest rate (35%) for 20 year olds.
- More females than males were pursuing a post-secondary education. Females were also more likely than males to be enrolled in degree-granting programs.
- Post-secondary students, especially those enrolled in degree-granting or full-time programs, were more likely to be living in the highest socio-economic status neighborhoods than youth not enrolled in post-secondary institutions. Youth not enrolled in post-secondary studies were more likely to have visited an emergency room or to have been hospitalized at least once during the year, and were more likely to have five or more physician visits during the year.
- Post-secondary students enrolled part-time or in *no credential* programs were more likely than those enrolled full-time or in credential programs to have a mental health condition or to have been hospitalized at least once during the year.
- Youth receiving maltreatment-related intervention services or income support were over-represented in *no credential* programs and part-time programs compared to other post-secondary students.

Income support among Albertan youth

Income support among Albertan youth provides a profile of 6,599 Albertan youth (aged 18 to 24 years old) who received income support at any point in 2008/09. Human Services provides financial benefits to individuals and families who do not have the resources to meet their basic needs, such as food, clothing and shelter. Client types are those with *barriers to full employment* and those *expected to work*. Youth who received income support while upgrading or training (*learners*) were excluded. Household types are singles or couples, with or without children.

The report looks at the relationships between income support client type and household type and age, gender, region of residence, socio-economic status, educational achievement, mental health status, and health service use for youth who received income support. These youth are compared with youth who did not receive income support. An overview of cross-ministry service use for youth receiving income support is also included.

- 1.6% of youth received income support at some point in 2008/09. 54% of these were *barriers to full employment* clients and 46% were *expected to work* clients. 60% were *singles*.
- Females were over-represented among income support clients who were *singles* with children or *expected to work*; males were predominant among *singles* without children.
- Income support clients were more likely than youth (aged 18 to 20 years) not receiving income support to live in mid-sized centres, to live in low to middle socio-economic status neighbourhoods, to perform below expectations in high school, to receive services for a mental health condition, and to have high health service use or no health service use.
- Compared to youth who did not receive income support, income support clients were less likely to be in the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP) registry or enrolled in a post-secondary institution, but were more likely to be receiving maltreatment-related intervention services. *Barriers to full employment* clients or *singles* without children were more likely than youth who did not receive income support to be enrolled in high school.

Educational experiences of Albertan youth with income support activity

Educational experiences of Albertan youth with income support activity is an overview of the educational experiences of 2,445 Albertan youth (aged 18 to 24 years old) who at any point in 2008/09 received income support. Human Services provides financial benefits to individuals and families who do not have the resources to meet their basic needs, such as food, clothing and shelter. Client types are those with *barriers to full employment* and those *expected to work*. Youth who received income support while upgrading or training (*learners*) were excluded. Household types are singles or couples, with or without children. For high school students, school authority type is considered. For post-secondary students, institution type, credential type, and enrolment status are considered. *Youth were not necessarily simultaneously receiving income support and attending high school or post-secondary institutions.*

The report describes client types and household types of youth with any income support activity who were enrolled (not necessarily at the same time) in an educational program, as well as relationships with age, gender, region of residence, socio-economic status, mental health status, and health service use. These youth were compared to youth enrolled in high school or post-secondary programs but not receiving income support.

- 549 Albertan youth (aged 18 to 20) who had any income support activity were registered in high school, and 378 Albertan youth (aged 18 to 24) who had any income support activity were enrolled in post-secondary institutions at some point in 2008/09.
- Youth with any income support activity who were registered in high school were most likely to be clients with *barriers to full employment*, single, female, living in large city centres, living in the lowest socio-economic status neighbourhoods, receiving services for a mental health condition, having a high rate of health service use, and performing below educational expectations.
- Youth with any income support activity who were enrolled in post-secondary institutions were likely to be clients with *barriers to full employment*, female, single, part-time students, enrolled in community or independent institutions and enrolled in *no credential* programs.

Least advantaged and most advantaged Albertan youth

Least advantaged and most advantaged Albertan youth provides a profile of the 2,281 least and 7,517 most advantaged Albertan youth between 12 and 17 years who were receiving provincial government services in 2008/09. *Least advantaged* is defined here as youth who were performing below educational expectations in the K-12 education system, who had a mental health condition, and who were living in the lowest socio-economic status neighbourhoods. Conversely, *most advantaged* youth performed above educational expectations, did not have a mental health condition, and lived in the highest socio-economic status neighbourhoods.

The relationships between advantage status and age, gender, region of residence, and health service use are examined for least and most advantaged youth, in comparison to remaining Albertan youth. The cross-ministry service use of least and most advantaged youth is also considered. The report concludes with a look at the educational achievement of youth experiencing challenges.

- 1.1% of Albertan youth were least advantaged, and 3.6% were most advantaged.
- The least advantaged youth were more likely than the remaining youth to be male, live in rural areas, be hospitalized, visit an emergency room, or receive maltreatment-related services; most advantaged youth were less likely than remaining youth to have these characteristics.
- Additionally, least advantaged youth were more likely than the remaining youth to visit physicians five or more times, to receive Family Support for Children with Disabilities services, to be charged with an offence, or to be involved in corrections. *Psychiatric* or *pregnancy-related* hospitalizations and *mental or behavioural* emergency room visits were more common among hospitalizations and emergency room visits for least advantaged youth than for the remaining youth.
- Additional analyses looked at challenged youth (such as youth involved in corrections or receiving maltreatment-related services), and found that, despite the challenges they faced, some youth performed well in school. Better educational outcomes were associated with being female, living in a higher socio-economic status neighbourhood, not having a mental health condition, and lower rates of health service use.

CYDL Project One Short Reports

Key report components and how to use them

Key findings

Each report begins with descriptions of the population of youth being studied, the concepts appearing in the report, and the kinds of analyses that were done. Following that are key findings from the various analyses, which serve as a high-level summary of the report.

Context

The context section of each report, on the second page, provides a short review of the relevant literature, intended as background for the report.

Analyses sections

Several pages of each report consist of analyses of the relevant indicators for the population being studied. There are two or three analyses sections on each page.

The first (non-bulleted) paragraph of each section describes the population being studied, including the number of youth and the percentage of the entire study population that this population represents. In subsequent analyses, if the population being analysed changes in any way (i.e., if only a portion of the overall report population is analysed), then the first (non-bulleted) paragraph of that section describes this population.

Bullets in each section describe, briefly, the findings of the analysis. Interpretations of the data are provided only in those cases where chance of misinterpretation was deemed to be high.

A graph accompanies each analysis, providing a visual of the data. Tables in the back of the report provide the numbers that appear in the graph. Each analysis section has a title, which includes the page numbers for the relevant data tables.

Tables

Following the analyses sections are tables. These tables contain all values appearing in the graphs, and sometimes provide additional data not appearing in the graph or the bullets of the analysis section.

Definitions and notes

Definitions and notes follow the tables. These provide information critical to the interpretation of the findings in the report, and should be carefully read before conclusions are reached.

Data sources

The table of data sources provides information on the administrative databases which were the source of data for the project.

References

Any literature cited in the Context or Definitions and notes sections is referenced here.