

A profile of Albertans experiencing different client pathways in the Income Support and Income Support Learners Programs

Child and Youth Data Laboratory (CYDL) Longitudinal Project

Introduction

A consideration of the Government of Alberta is to understand who may be at risk for re-entry into or sustained reliance on income support programs offered by the government. This report compares the socio-demographic characteristics and government program involvement of Albertans in 2005/06 (aged 18 to 25 years) who experienced various pathways in their use of two financial support programs: Income Support Learners (ISL) and Income Support (IS).

The ISL program aims to help clients acquire the skills needed to secure employment, and provides financial assistance to meet basic needs and the costs associated with training. The IS program offers financial support only.

In this report, four client pathways are compared:

- *ISL only*: Individuals who only used the ISL program during the study period (2005/06 to 2010/11)
- *IS only*: Individuals who only used the IS program during the study period (2005/06 to 2010/11)
- *ISL to IS ever*: Individuals who were ISL clients in 2005/06 and went on to access IS at some subsequent point during the study period.
- *IS to ISL ever*: Individuals who were IS clients in 2005/06 and went on to access ISL at some subsequent point during the study period.

Among clients using both programs over the study period, it is important to note that the analyses presented in this report are not tracking these clients' actual trajectories. For example, the report does not track whether a client started in the IS program, moved on to the ISL program and then back to IS for the remainder of the study period. Rather, the current analysis offers a look at which program was accessed first, and whether or not either program was subsequently accessed.

Thus, while not tracking re-entry trajectories or sustained reliance, these analyses offer a unique first glance into the movement between financial support programs, and variations in the socio-demographic characteristics and government program involvement patterns of clients represented in each client pathway.

Client pathways may be considered on a continuum. On one end, *ISL only* clients represent the most positive pathway in terms of securing employment and not relying on income support. The *ISL to IS* client pathway falls on the other end of the continuum representing Albertans who are demonstrating greater reliance on income support (see *Background Literature*, p. 4), and who are thus, considered to be potentially at risk for sustained reliance on or re-entry into financial support programs, and/or poorer employment outcomes.



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Findings

In 2005/06:

Compared to individuals not in the Income Support Learners or Income Support programs: both client pathways described above had higher rates of residential mobility; proportionately fewer clients in both pathways were full-time healthcare registrants; about twice as many clients in both pathways received an injury/harm diagnosis; both client types had higher proportions of clients with hospitalizations; both client pathways had higher proportions of clients involved in corrections.

Among clients in the ISL to IS ever pathway: 57% were female; 43% were performing below educational expectations; 72% were living in low socio-economic neighbourhoods; 11% moved two or more times; 14% were high cost health service users; 20% received mental health services; 30% received an injury/harm diagnosis; 12% had hospitalizations; 77% had physician visits; 21% were enrolled in post-secondary studies; 4% had post-secondary student loans; and 12% were involved in corrections.

Among clients in the IS to ISL ever pathway: 72% were female; 77% were performing below educational expectations; 77% were living in low socio-economic neighbourhoods; over one-quarter (27%) moved two or more times; one-quarter (25.7%) were high cost health service users; 33% received mental health services; 28% received an injury/harm diagnosis; 31% had hospitalizations; 68% had physician visits; 5% were enrolled in post-secondary studies; 2% had post-secondary student loans; and 14% were involved in corrections.

Among clients in the ISL only pathway: 48% were female; 77% were performing below educational expectations; 58% were living in low socio-economic neighbourhoods; 7% moved two or more times; 8% were high cost health service users; 13% received mental health services; 21% received an injury/harm diagnosis; 4% had hospitalizations; 46% had physician visits; 21% were enrolled in post-secondary studies; 3% had post-secondary student loans; and 12% were involved in corrections.

Among clients in the IS only pathway: 54% were female; 69% were living in low socio-economic neighbourhoods; 21% moved two or more times; 29% were high cost health service users; 39% received mental health services; 29% received an injury/harm diagnosis; 9% had hospitalizations; 24% had physician visits; 5% were enrolled in post-secondary studies; 1% had post-secondary student loans; and 14% were involved in corrections.

Footnotes

This report is part of the Longitudinal Project by the CYDL in collaboration with partnering Alberta government ministries. Please see the last page for a brief description of the project and go to <https://policywise.com/initiatives/cydl/P2> to access other deliverables.

Ninety-five percent confidence intervals were calculated to enable comparison of statistical differences between groups. The Cochran-Armitage trend test was used to test trends over time. Only effects that apply to a meaningful proportion of the population were noted in the text.

Note to Readers

- Client pathways of **clients in 2005/06 are tracked up to the 2010/11 study year**. Thus, all analyses describe the socio-demographic characteristics and government program involvement of clients in the **2005/06 study year**.
- Some clients accessed ISL and IS in the same year (i.e., in 2005/06). The socio-demographic characteristics and government program involvement of these clients are not considered because **their pathways are unclear**. That is, it is not known which program (ISL or IS) was accessed first in that year.
- Albertans in the *Not in ISL or IS* category represent **the rest of the population** (i.e., those who did not receive either ISL or IS during the course of the study period).

Background Literature

Providing a context for the current report, this section highlights select literature related to reliance on income support programs.

Two main financial supports offered by the Government of Alberta include the Income Support (IS) and Income Support Learners (ISL) programs. The latter program aims to help clients acquire the skills needed to secure employment, and provides financial assistance to meet basic needs and the costs associated with training; the former offers financial support only.

Albertans receiving some form of income assistance tend to be younger, with 9% under 19 years old and 31% between 20-29 years old². In addition, the majority of income assistance recipients who previously worked or were expected to work were single parents (62%)². Furthermore, international literature suggest that youth are more likely to receive income assistance if they grew up in a family that relied on income support^{3,4}.

A central consideration of the Government of Alberta (GoA) is to understand who may be at risk for sustained reliance on or re-entry into the two financial support programs they offer (IS and ISL), particularly the Income Support program (which provides financial support only). Reliance (sustained reliance or re-entry) on such programs implies that the desired outcomes for the individual, family, or program were not achieved.

A large proportion of individuals re-enter income support programs, often within a few years of leaving them⁵. Albertan re-entrants tend to be female, single or single parents, 20 to 39 years old, and without a high school diploma^{5,6}. The most common reasons for remaining on income support are a lack of work experience, health problems, child care challenges, lack of a high school diploma, and lack of self-confidence². Key barriers to securing permanent employment among individuals who can work include mental illness and addictions, lack of affordable childcare, lack of transportation, and poor skills in areas such as stress and conflict management or problem solving skills.

Currently, the GoA lacks an in-depth understanding of Albertans who access both the IS and ISL programs. This report fills this gap by contrasting Albertans who went from the IS to the ISL program to those who went from the ISL to IS program in terms of their socio-demographic characteristics, such as sex, age, socio-economic status and residential mobility. In addition, providing new data, the report characterizes these groups by their government service use. Thus, clients experiencing either of the two pathways (ISL to IS and IS to ISL at any point in the study period) are profiled by considering their use of a range of government services and programs including:

- Health-related services (high cost health service use, mental health service use, injury diagnoses, hospitalizations, and physician visits)
- Education-related services (educational achievement, post-secondary enrolment and student loan status)
- Corrections involvement

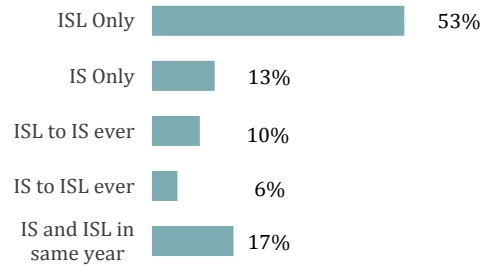
These two pathways are compared with Albertans who accessed only IS or only ISL during the study period.

Income Support Learner (ISL) and Income Support client status (Table 1: p. 10)

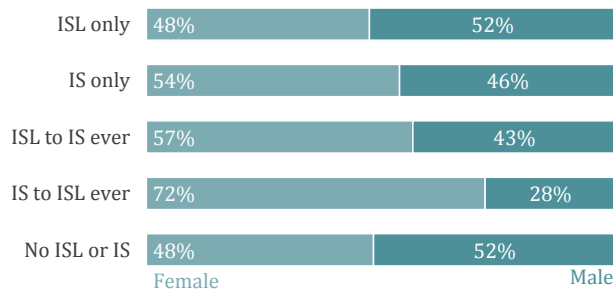
This and the following analyses reflect the socio-demographic characteristics and government service use of clients in 2005/06. Subsequent analyses do not examine the *IS and ISL in the same year* pathway because it is not known which program was accessed first in the year.

- Out of the total number of clients (representing 35,368 unique clients with different client pathways), 10% (3,663) of individuals in 2005/06 were *ISL to IS ever* clients; 6% (2,001) were *IS to ISL ever* clients.

Percentage of Albertans (aged 18 to 25 years) by ISL/IS client pathways in 2005/06



Percentage of Albertans (aged 18 to 25 years) by ISL/IS client pathways and sex in 2005/06



Sex by client pathway (Table 2; p. 11)

- Among clients in the *IS to ISL ever* client pathway, almost three-quarters (72%) were female.

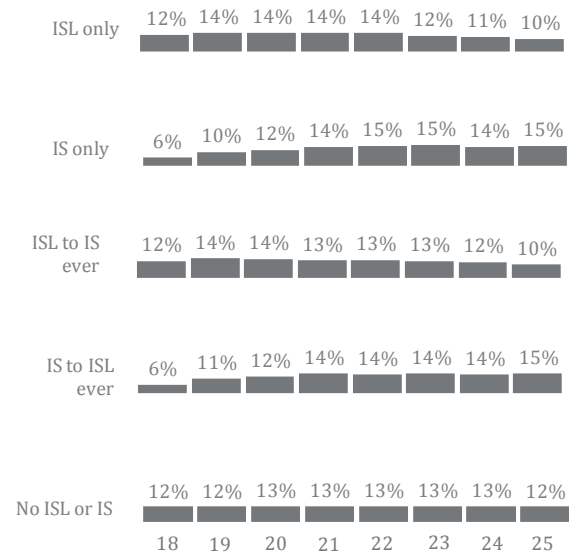
In contrast,

- Among clients in the *ISL to IS ever* pathway, the distribution is less skewed, where 57% of clients were female and 43% were male.

Age groups by client pathway (Table 3a and b; p. 12 and 13)

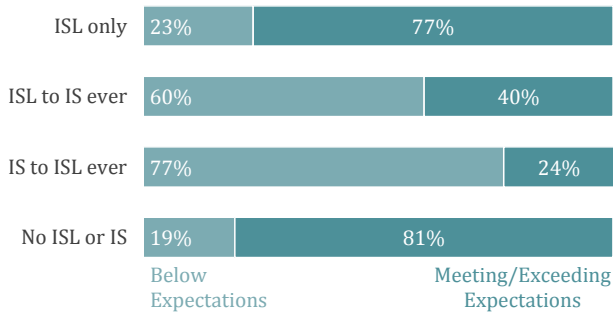
- The proportion of clients represented in the *IS only* and *IS to ISL ever* client pathways increased with age in the 2005/06 study period.

Percentage of Albertans by client pathway and age in years in 2005/06



Income Support Learners and Income Support pathways

Percentage of Albertans (aged 18 to 20 years) by ISL/IS client pathways and educational achievement at Grade 12 in 2005/06



Educational achievement at Grade 12 by client pathway (Table 4; p. 14)

- Among clients in the *IS to ISL ever* pathway, the vast majority (77%) were performing below educational expectations.
- Although proportionately less, a similar pattern was found among clients in the *ISL to IS ever* pathway, where 60% were performing below expectations.
- Clients in the *ISL only* category were most similar to individuals not in the IS or ISL programs, with 77% meeting or exceeding expectations.

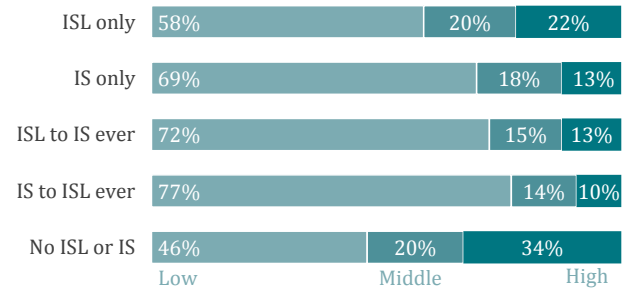
Note: The numbers for IS only clients were too low to report. For the definition of "Educational achievement", see page 27.

Socio-economic status (SES) by client pathway (Table 5a and 5b; pp. 15 and 16)

- Among clients in the *IS to ISL ever* pathway, over three-quarters (77%) were living in low socio-economic status neighborhoods. Similarly, 72% of clients in the *ISL to IS ever* pathway were living in the same lower SES neighborhoods.
- 13% of *ISL to IS ever* clients, 10% of *IS to ISL ever* clients, and 13% of *IS only* clients were living in higher SES neighbourhoods.

For the definition of "Socio-economic status", see page 28.

Percentage of Albertans (aged 18 to 25 years) by ISL/IS client pathways and socio-economic status in 2005/06

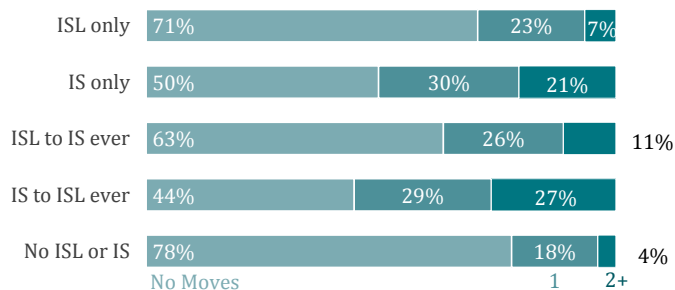


Residential mobility by client pathway (Table 6; p. 17)

- Compared to individuals who were not in the ISL or IS programs, ISL and IS clients - *regardless of pathway* - were more mobile.
- Among clients in all pathways, the greatest residential mobility occurred among clients in the *IS to ISL ever* pathway, with over one-quarter (27%) moving residences 2 or more times.

For the definition of "residential mobility", see page 28.

Percentage of Albertans (aged 18 to 25 years) by ISL/IS client pathways and residential mobility in 2005/06

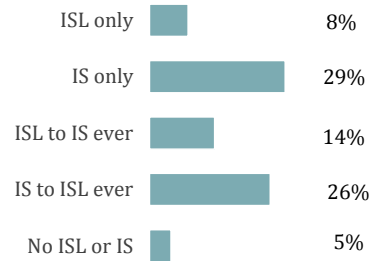


High cost health service use by client pathway (Table 7 p. 18)

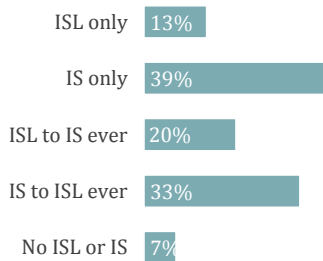
High cost health service users are defined as Albertans who were in the top 5% of estimated costs for their age group and gender (see *Definitions and notes*, p. 27).

- Higher proportions of high cost health service use were found among clients in the *IS only* (29%) and the *IS to ISL ever* (26%) pathway compared to clients in other pathways.
- Among clients in all pathways, high cost health service use was lowest among *ISL only* clients (8%).

Percentage of Albertans (aged 18 to 25 years) by ISL/IS client pathways and high cost health service use in 2005/06



Percentage of Albertans (aged 18 to 25 years) by ISL/IS client pathways and mental health service use in 2005/06



Mental health service use by client pathway (Table 8; p. 19)

- Mental health service use was higher among clients in all pathways compared to individuals not in ISL or IS programs.
- Clients in the *IS only* and *IS to ISL ever* pathways had the highest proportions of mental health service use (39% and 33%, respectively); proportionately fewer (1 in 5) clients in the *ISL to ISL ever* pathway were mental health service users.

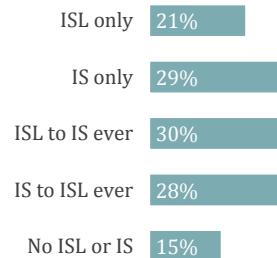
For the definition of “mental health service use”, see page 28.

Injury/harm status by client pathway (Table 9; p. 20)

- Among clients in all pathways, the proportion of clients who had an injury/harm diagnostic code was lowest among *ISL only* clients (21%).
- About twice as many clients in the *IS only* (29%), *ISL to ISL ever* (30%) and *IS to ISL ever* (28%) pathways had an injury/harm diagnosis code compared to individuals not in the ISL or IS programs (15%).

For the definition of “Injury/Harm”, see page 28.

Percentage of Albertans (aged 18 to 25 years) by ISL/IS client pathways and injury/harm diagnosis in 2005/06



Percentage of Albertans (aged 18 to 25 years) by ISL/IS client pathways and hospitalizations in 2005/06



Hospitalizations by client pathway (Table 10; p. 21)

- Hospitalizations were proportionately higher among *IS to ISL ever* clients (31%) compared to *ISL to ISL ever* clients (12%), *IS only* clients (9%), and *ISL only* (4%) clients.

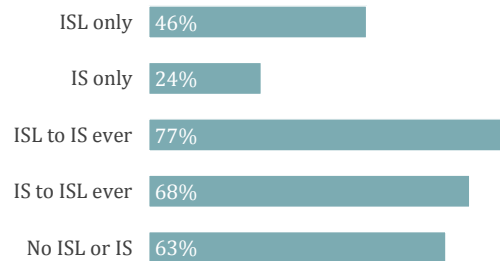
For the definition of “Hospitalizations”, see page 27

Physician visits by client pathway (Table 11; p. 22)

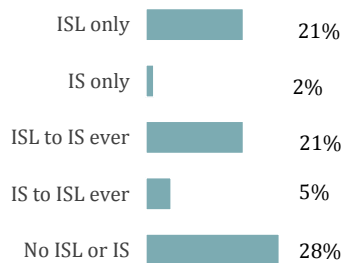
- Proportionately, individuals with at least one physician visit in 2005/06 were lowest among *IS only* clients (24%) and highest among individuals in the *ISL to ISL ever* pathway (77%).

For the definition of “Physician visits”, see page 28

Percentage of Albertans (aged 18 to 25 years) who had at least one physician visit in 2005/06 by ISL/IS client pathways



Percentage of Albertans (aged 18 to 25 years) by ISL/IS client pathways and post-secondary enrolment in 2005/06



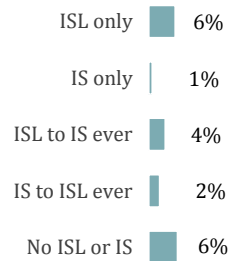
Post-secondary enrolment by client pathway (Table 12 p. 23)

- A greater proportion of individuals not in the ISL or IS programs (28%) were enrolled in a post-secondary institution compared to clients represented in all pathways.
- A greater proportion of *IS only* and *ISL to ISL ever* clients (21% and 21%, respectively) were enrolled in a post-secondary institution compared to *IS only* and *IS to ISL ever* clients (2% and 5%, respectively).

Student loan recipient by client pathway (Table 13; p. 24)

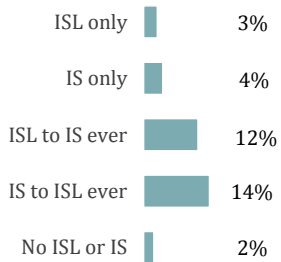
- Compared to individuals not in the ISL and IS programs, the same proportion of clients in the *ISL only* pathway had a student loan (6%).
- The lowest proportion of individuals with a post-secondary student loan were *IS only* clients (1.0%)

Percentage of Albertans (aged 18 to 25 years) by ISL/IS client pathways and post-secondary student loan recipient in 2005/06



For the definition of “student loans”, see page 28

Percentage of Albertans (aged 18 to 25 years) by ISL/IS client pathways and corrections involvement in 2005/06



Corrections involvement by client pathway (Table 14; p. 25)

- Corrections involvement was higher among clients in the *ISL to IS ever* and *IS to ISL ever* pathways (12% and 14%, respectively) compared to individuals not in the ISL or IS programs (2%).

For the definition of “Corrections”, see page 27

Tables

TABLE 1: Number and percentage of Albertans aged 18 to 25 years, by Income Support Learner (ISL) and Income Support (IS) client status in 2005/06

Client Status	Study year
Number of individuals	2005/06
Income Support Learners Only	18,791
Income Support Only	4,762
Income Support Learners to Income Support Ever	3,663
Income Support to Income Support Learners Ever	2,001
Income Support and Income Support Learners in Same Year	6,151
Not in Income Support Learners or Income Support	427,999
Total N (clients)	35,368
Total N (including those not in Income Support Learners or Income Support)	463,367
Percentage of individuals (including client type only)	2005/06
Income Support Learners Only	53.13
Income Support Only	13.46
Income Support Learners to Income Support Ever	10.36
Income Support to Income Support Learners Ever	5.66
Income Support Learners and Income Support in Same Year	17.39
Total %	100
Percentage of individuals (including those not in ISL or IS)	2005/06
Income Support Learners Only	4.06
Income Support Only	1.03
Income Support Learners to Income Support Ever	0.79
Income Support to Income Support Learners Ever	0.43
Income Support and Income Support Learners in Same Year	1.33
Not in Income Support Learners or Income Support	92.37
Total %	100

Tables

TABLE 2: Number and percentage of Albertans aged 18 to 25 years, by sex and ISL/IS client pathways in 2005/06

Client pathways	Sex	Study year
Number of individuals		2005/06
Income Support Learners only	Female	8,920
	Male	9,871
	Total	18,791
Income Support only	Female	2,565
	Male	2,197
	Total	4,762
Income Support Learners to Income Support Ever	Female	2,078
	Male	1,585
	Total	3,663
Income Support to Income Support Learners Ever	Female	1,443
	Male	558
	Total	2,001
Not in Income Support Learners or Income Support	Female	206,970
	Male	221,003
	Total	427,973
Percentage of individuals		2005/06
Income Support Learners only	Female	47.47
	Male	52.53
	Total	100
Income Support only	Female	53.86
	Male	46.14
	Total	100
Income Support Learners to Income Support Ever	Female	56.73
	Male	43.27
	Total	100
Income Support to Income Support Learners Ever	Female	72.11
	Male	27.89
	Total	100
Not in Income Support Learners or Income Support	Female	48.36
	Male	51.64
	Total	100

Tables

TABLE 3a: Number of Albertans aged 18 to 25 years, by age in years and ISL/IS client pathways in 2005/06

Client pathways	Age in years	Study year
Number of individuals		2005/06
Income Support Learners only	18	2,335
	19	2,617
	20	2,641
	21	2,600
	22	2,529
	23	2,238
	24	2,030
	25	1,801
	Total	18791
Income Support only	18	280
	19	493
	20	550
	21	661
	22	697
	23	719
	24	671
	25	691
	Total	4,762
Income Support Learners to Income Support Ever	18	450
	19	524
	20	500
	21	469
	22	479
	23	459
	24	422
	25	360
	Total	3,663
Income Support to Income Support Learners Ever	18	123
	19	210
	20	240
	21	287
	22	277
	23	288
	24	280
	25	296
	Total	2,001
Not in Income Support Learners or Income Support	18	52,033
	19	52,857
	20	53,517
	21	53,951
	22	54,700
	23	54,842
	24	53,761
	25	52,338
	Total	427,999

Tables

TABLE 3b: Percentage of Albertans aged 18 to 25 years, by age in years and ISL/IS client pathways in 2005/06

Client pathways	Age in years	Study year
Number of individuals		2005/06
Income Support Learners only	18	12.40
	19	13.90
	20	14.10
	21	13.80
	22	13.50
	23	11.90
	24	10.80
	25	9.60
	Total	100
Income Support only	18	5.90
	19	10.40
	20	11.50
	21	13.90
	22	14.60
	23	15.10
	24	14.10
	25	14.50
	Total	100
Income Support Learners to Income Support Ever	18	12.30
	19	14.30
	20	13.70
	21	12.80
	22	13.10
	23	12.50
	24	11.50
	25	9.8
	Total	100
Income Support to Income Support Learners Ever	18	6.10
	19	10.50
	20	12.00
	21	14.30
	22	13.80
	23	14.40
	24	14.00
	25	14.80
	Total	100
Not in Income Support Learners or Income Support	18	12.20
	19	12.30
	20	12.50
	21	12.60
	22	12.80
	23	12.80
	24	12.60
	25	12.20
	Total	100

Tables

TABLE 4: Number and percentage of Albertans aged 18 to 20 years, by educational achievement at Grade 12 and ISL/IS client pathways in 2005/06

Client pathways	Educational achievement at Grade 12	Study year
Number of individuals		2005/06
Income Support Learners only	Below Expectations	187
	Meeting or Exceeding Expectations	611
	Total	798
Income Support only	Below Expectations	20
	Meeting or Exceeding Expectations	-
	Total	-
Income Support Learners to Income Support Ever	Below Expectations	107
	Meeting or Exceeding Expectations	72
	Total	179
Income Support to Income Support Learners Ever	Below Expectations	33
	Meeting or Exceeding Expectations	10
	Total	43
Not in Income Support Learners or Income Support	Below Expectations	3,707
	Meeting or Exceeding Expectations	15,318
	Total	19,025
Percentage of individuals		2005/06
Income Support Learners only	Below Expectations	23.43
	Meeting or Exceeding Expectations	76.57
	Total	100
Income Support only	Below Expectations	.
	Meeting or Exceeding Expectations	.
	Total	.
Income Support Learners to Income Support Ever	Below Expectations	59.78
	Meeting or Exceeding Expectations	40.22
	Total	100
Income Support to Income Support Learners Ever	Below Expectations	76.74
	Meeting or Exceeding Expectations	23.26
	Total	100.0
Not in Income Support Learners or Income Support	Below Expectations	19.48
	Meeting or Exceeding Expectations	80.52
	Total	100.0

Note: Numbers and percentages were replaced with "-" and "." if numerators were under 10.

Tables

TABLE 5a: Number of Albertans aged 18 to 25 years, by socio-economic status and ISL/IS client pathways in 2005/06

Client pathways	Socio-economic status	Study year
Number of individuals		2005/06
Income Support Learners only	Lowest	5,489
	Low Middle	3,798
	Middle	3,150
	High Middle	2,124
	High	1,464
	Total	16,025
Income Support only	Lowest	1,955
	Low Middle	1,095
	Middle	798
	High Middle	377
	High	181
	Total	4,406
Income Support Learners to Income Support Ever	Lowest	1,606
	Low Middle	812
	Middle	520
	High Middle	297
	High	127
	Total	3,362
Income Support to Income Support Learners Ever	Lowest	968
	Low Middle	456
	Middle	258
	High Middle	133
	High	44
	Total	1,859
Not in Income Support Learners or Income Support	Lowest	91,789
	Low Middle	82,655
	Middle	77,801
	High Middle	63,042
	High	64,675
	Total	379,962

Tables

TABLE 5b: Percentage of Albertans aged 18 to 25 years, by socio-economic status and ISL/IS client pathways in 2005/06

Client pathways	Socio-economic status	Study year
Percentage of individuals		2005/06
Income Support Learners only	Lowest	34.25
	Low Middle	23.70
	Middle	19.66
	High Middle	13.25
	High	9.14
	Total	100
Income Support only	Lowest	44.37
	Low Middle	24.85
	Middle	18.11
	High Middle	8.56
	High	4.11
	Total	100
Income Support Learners to Income Support Ever	Lowest	47.77
	Low Middle	24.15
	Middle	15.47
	High Middle	8.83
	High	3.78
	Total	100
Income Support to Income Support Learners Ever	Lowest	52.07
	Low Middle	24.53
	Middle	13.88
	High Middle	7.15
	High	2.37
	Total	100
Not in Income Support Learners or Income Support	Lowest	24.16
	Low Middle	21.75
	Middle	20.48
	High Middle	16.59
	High	17.02
	Total	100

Tables

TABLE 6: Number and percentage of Albertans aged 18 to 25 years, by residential mobility and ISL/IS client pathways in 2005/06

Client pathways	Residential mobility	Study year
Number of individuals		2005/06
Income Support Learners only	No moves	7,267
	1 move	2,347
	2 or more moves	682
	Total	10,296
Income Support only	No moves	617
	1 move	372
	2 or more moves	257
	Total	1,246
Income Support Learners to Income Support Ever	No moves	1,781
	1 move	719
	2 or more moves	314
	Total	2,814
Income Support to Income Support Learners Ever	No moves	725
	1 move	478
	2 or more moves	434
	Total	1,637
Not in Income Support Learners or Income Support	No moves	266,820
	1 move	62,982
	2 or more moves	13,099
	Total	342,901
Percentage of individuals		2005/06
Income Support Learners only	No moves	70.58
	1 move	22.80
	2 or more moves	6.62
	Total	100
Income Support only	No moves	49.52
	1 move	29.86
	2 or more moves	20.63
	Total	100
Income Support Learners to Income Support Ever	No moves	63.29
	1 move	25.55
	2 or more moves	11.16
	Total	100
Income Support to Income Support Learners Ever	No moves	44.29
	1 move	29.20
	2 or more moves	26.51
	Total	100
Not in Income Support Learners or Income Support	No moves	77.81
	1 move	18.37
	2 or more moves	3.82
	Total	100

Tables

TABLE 7: Number and percentage of Albertans aged 18 to 25 years, by high cost health service use and ISL/IS client pathways in 2005/06

Client pathways	High cost health service user	Study year
Number of individuals		2005/06
Income Support Learners only	Yes	845
	No	9,451
	Total	10,296
Income Support only	Yes	360
	No	886
	Total	1,246
Income Support Learners to Income Support Ever	Yes	390
	No	2,424
	Total	2,814
Income Support to Income Support Learners Ever	Yes	421
	No	1,216
	Total	1,637
Not in Income Support Learners or Income Support	Yes	15,715
	No	327,186
	Total	342,901
Percentage of individuals		2005/06
Income Support Learners only	Yes	8.21
	No	91.79
	Total	100
Income Support only	Yes	28.89
	No	71.11
	Total	100
Income Support Learners to Income Support Ever	Yes	13.86
	No	86.14
	Total	100
Income Support to Income Support Learners Ever	Yes	25.72
	No	74.28
	Total	100
Not in Income Support Learners or Income Support	Yes	4.58
	No	95.42
	Total	100

Tables

TABLE 8: Number and percentage of Albertans aged 18 to 25 years, by mental health service use and ISL/IS client pathways in 2005/06

Client pathways	Mental health service user	Study year
Number of individuals		2005/06
Income Support Learners only	Yes	1,377
	No	8,927
	Total	10,304
Income Support only	Yes	494
	No	757
	Total	1,251
Income Support Learners to Income Support Ever	Yes	552
	No	2,263
	Total	2,815
Income Support to Income Support Learners Ever	Yes	545
	No	1,096
	Total	1,641
Not in Income Support Learners or Income Support	Yes	23,472
	No	319,566
	Total	343,038
Percentage of individuals		2005/06
Income Support Learners only	Yes	13.36
	No	86.64
	Total	100
Income Support only	Yes	39.49
	No	60.51
	Total	100
Income Support Learners to Income Support Ever	Yes	19.61
	No	80.39
	Total	100
Income Support to Income Support Learners Ever	Yes	33.21
	No	66.79
	Total	100
Not in Income Support Learners or Income Support	Yes	6.84
	No	93.16
	Total	100

Tables

TABLE 9: Number and percentage of Albertans aged 18 to 25 years, by injury/harm diagnosis and ISL/IS client pathways in 2005/06

Client pathways	Injury/harm diagnosis	Study year
Number of individuals		2005/06
Income Support Learners only	Yes	2,118
	No	8,178
	Total	10,296
Income Support only	Yes	361
	No	885
	Total	1,246
Income Support Learners to Income Support Ever	Yes	835
	No	1,979
	Total	2,814
Income Support to Income Support Learners Ever	Yes	464
	No	1,173
	Total	1,637
Not in Income Support Learners or Income Support	Yes	52,637
	No	290,264
	Total	342,901
Percentage of individuals		2005/06
Income Support Learners only	Yes	20.57
	No	79.43
	Total	100
Income Support only	Yes	28.97
	No	71.03
	Total	100
Income Support Learners to Income Support Ever	Yes	29.67
	No	70.33
	Total	100
Income Support to Income Support Learners Ever	Yes	28.34
	No	71.66
	Total	100
Not in Income Support Learners or Income Support	Yes	15.35
	No	84.65
	Total	100

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TABLE 10: Number and percentage of Albertans aged 18 to 25 years, by hospitalizations and ISL/IS client pathways in 2005/06

Client pathways	Hospitalizations	Study year
Number of individuals		2005/06
Income Support Learners only	Yes	832
	No	17,926
	Total	18,758
Income Support only	Yes	412
	No	4,336
	Total	4,748
Income Support Learners to Income Support Ever	Yes	429
	No	3,223
	Total	3,652
Income Support to Income Support Learners Ever	Yes	617
	No	1,374
	Total	1,991
Not in Income Support Learners or Income Support	Yes	16,951
	No	410,180
	Total	427,131
Percentage of individuals		2005/06
Income Support Learners only	Yes	4.44
	No	95.56
	Total	100
Income Support only	Yes	8.68
	No	91.32
	Total	100
Income Support Learners to Income Support Ever	Yes	11.75
	No	88.25
	Total	100
Income Support to Income Support Learners Ever	Yes	30.99
	No	69.01
	Total	100
Not in Income Support Learners or Income Support	Yes	3.97
	No	96.03
	Total	100

Tables

TABLE 11: Number and percentage of Albertans aged 18 to 25 years who had at least one physician visit in 2005/06 by ISL/IS client

Client pathways	Physician visits	Study year
Number of individuals		2005/06
Income Support Learners only	Yes	8,501
	No	9,813
	Total	18,314
Income Support only	Yes	1,134
	No	3,587
	Total	4,721
Income Support Learners to Income Support Ever	Yes	2,434
	No	1,126
	Total	3,560
Income Support to Income Support Learners Ever	Yes	1,504
	No	438
	Total	1,942
Not in Income Support Learners or Income Support	Yes	262,687
	No	151,771
	Total	414,458
Percentage of individuals		2005/06
Income Support Learners only	Yes	46.42
	No	53.58
	Total	100
Income Support only	Yes	24.02
	No	75.98
	Total	100
Income Support Learners to Income Support Ever	Yes	68.37
	No	31.63
	Total	100
Income Support to Income Support Learners Ever	Yes	77.45
	No	22.55
	Total	100
Not in Income Support Learners or Income Support	Yes	63.38
	No	36.62
	Total	100

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TABLE 12: Number and percentage of Albertans aged 18 to 25 years, by post-secondary student status and ISL/IS client pathways in 2005/06

Client pathways	Post-secondary student	Study year
Number of individuals		2005/06
Income Support Learners only	Yes	3,849
	No	14,942
	Total	18,791
Income Support only	Yes	80
	No	4,682
	Total	4,762
Income Support Learners to Income Support Ever	Yes	762
	No	2,901
	Total	3,663
Income Support to Income Support Learners Ever	Yes	108
	No	1,893
	Total	2,001
Not in Income Support Learners or Income Support	Yes	121,633
	No	306,366
	Total	427,999
Percentage of individuals		2005/06
Income Support Learners only	Yes	20.48
	No	79.52
	Total	100
Income Support only	Yes	1.68
	No	98.32
	Total	100
Income Support Learners to Income Support Ever	Yes	20.80
	No	79.20
	Total	100
Income Support to Income Support Learners Ever	Yes	5.40
	No	94.60
	Total	100
Not in Income Support Learners or Income Support	Yes	28.42
	No	71.58
	Total	100

Tables

TABLE 13: Number and percentage of Albertans aged 18 to 25 years, by student loan recipient and ISL/IS client pathways in 2005/06

Client pathways	Student loan recipient	Study year
Number of individuals		2005/06
Income Support Learners only	Yes	1,057
	No	17,734
	Total	18,791
Income Support only	Yes	34
	No	4,728
	Total	4,762
Income Support Learners to Income Support Ever	Yes	128
	No	3,535
	Total	3,663
Income Support to Income Support Learners Ever	Yes	46
	No	1,955
	Total	2,001
Not in Income Support Learners or Income Support	Yes	26,092
	No	401,907
	Total	427,999
Percentage of individuals		2005/06
Income Support Learners only	Yes	5.63
	No	94.37
	Total	100
Income Support only	Yes	0.71
	No	99.29
	Total	100
Income Support Learners to Income Support Ever	Yes	3.49
	No	96.51
	Total	100
Income Support to Income Support Learners Ever	Yes	2.30
	No	97.70
	Total	100
Not in Income Support Learners or Income Support	Yes	6.10
	No	93.90
	Total	100

Tables

TABLE 14: Number and percentage of Albertans aged 18 to 25 years, by corrections involvement and ISL/IS client pathways in 2005/06

Client pathways	Corrections involvement	Study year
Number of individuals		2005/06
Income Support Learners only	Yes	553
	No	18,238
	Total	18,791
Income Support only	Yes	196
	No	4,566
	Total	4,762
Income Support Learners to Income Support Ever	Yes	425
	No	3,238
	Total	3,663
Income Support to Income Support Learners Ever	Yes	281
	No	1,720
	Total	2,001
Not in Income Support Learners or Income Support	Yes	9,506
	No	418,493
	Total	427,999
Percentage of individuals		2005/06
Income Support Learners only	Yes	2.94
	No	97.06
	Total	100
Income Support only	Yes	4.12
	No	95.88
	Total	100
Income Support Learners to Income Support Ever	Yes	11.60
	No	88.40
	Total	100
Income Support to Income Support Learners Ever	Yes	14.04
	No	85.96
	Total	100
Not in Income Support Learners or Income Support	Yes	2.22
	No	97.78

Definitions and notes

- **Age, sex,** and postal code (translated into Statistics Canada **dissemination areas**) were provided for each individual by each participating program. In the case of discrepancies between programs, the most common value for an indicator was chosen. In the event of two or more most common values, the value for the indicator was chosen randomly from the most common values.
- The **Alberta Health Care Registry (also known as the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan Registry)** includes all study participants (aged 0 to 30) who are eligible to receive insured hospital and physician services.
- Youth and young adults 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 (i.e. Fine, Probation, Community Service Work, Deferred Custody) and/or custody (in which the sentence is served in a young offender or adult custodial facility).
- **Cross-ministry analyses included only study participants who were linked across the relevant programs.** This means that not all participants in the project were represented in every analysis. As well, only participants with a value for a given indicator were included in analyses involving that indicator (i.e., missing values were excluded).
- **Educational achievement** was computed by Alberta Education using age, grade 3, 6, and 9, school type, special education codes, provincial achievement test scores, home education status, number of high school credits earned, number of higher level courses taken, average grade in higher level courses, possession of an Alberta Education certificate or diploma, and Alexander Rutherford scholarship eligibility. Educational achievement was categorized as above, meeting, or below expectations for a student's age and grade. An educational achievement rating was not available for youth in 'other' schools (accredited post-secondary institutions offering high school courses for credit to adults; most youth in these schools were between 18 and 20 years), for home-schooled high school youth with no credits, and for students in grades lower than 3.
- **High cost health service use:** Cost estimates per type of service across physician visits (general practitioner or specialist), ambulatory care visits (emergency or other ambulatory care), and hospitalizations (by type of service) were obtained from the Canadian Institute for Health Information. Estimated costs per visit were summed across all visits for each individual. High cost health users were those in the top 5% of estimated costs for their age groups and genders.
- **Hospitalizations** refer to admissions to hospital for assessment or treatment. **Hospital service type** was defined by the main patient service code (the patient service that contributes to the longest portion of a patient's stay; see the Canadian Institute for Health Information's DAD Abstracting Manual 1 for codes). Categories of services were labelled general medicine (patient service codes 01 to 29, 55, 56, 58, 60 to 63, 66 to 76, 82, 91, 96, 99), surgery/procedure (patient service codes 30 to 49, 81, 87), psychiatry (patient service codes 64, 65), or pregnancy-related (patient service codes 51 to 54, 59).⁸
- **Income Support** provides financial assistance to individuals (aged 16 and older) who are unable to meet their basic needs.
- **Income Support Learners** provides assistance to individuals (aged 16 and older) who are in training, including basic costs to maintain their household, supplemental benefits, health benefits, and training benefits.

Definitions and notes (continued)

- **Injury/harm** is defined by the presence or absence of injury diagnostic codes (a single ICD-10CA: V01-Y89.9) in Alberta Health and Wellness' databases (Inpatient-Discharge Abstract Database and Ambulatory care). Only Albertans who were registered with the Alberta Health Care Insurance plan for the full fiscal year were included.
- **Mental health service** is defined by the presence or absence of mental health diagnosis codes (two or more of ICD-9: 290-309.9, 311-314.9, 316, or a single ICD-10CA: F00-F06.9, F09-F69, F84-F99, G31.2, G44.2, R41.0) in Alberta Health databases (Inpatient—Discharge Abstract Database, Ambulatory Care, and Practitioner Payments), or in the Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD) or the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) information systems. Only Albertans who were registered with the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan for the full fiscal year or who had a mental health service with FSCD or AISH were included. Mental health service use is a proxy for presence of a mental health condition; some youth with mental health conditions may not have accessed mental health services in Alberta during the year, and some mental health service use may have occurred for youth who did not, in fact, have mental health conditions.
- **Post-secondary** students are individuals (aged 18 to 25 years) who were enrolled in publicly-funded post-secondary institutions in Alberta and who were registered full time in the Alberta health care registry.
- **Physician visits** reflect fee claims made by physicians for services provided when patients visit their offices. In this report, multiple claims by a given physician for a given patient on the same day were counted as a single visit. Reasons for physician visits were not available for this project.
- **Report population:** For this report, age groups were equated across study years. This means that individuals over the age of 25 years were excluded from analyses by year, because no study participants were older than 25 years in the first study year.
- **Residential mobility** is defined as the number of unique postal codes within the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan registry during the study period. Health care premiums ceased to be collected on January 1st, 2009; addresses in the registry have been updated less often since that time, reducing their accuracy.
- **Socio-economic Status (SES)** captures the social and material environments in which youth lived. A youth was assigned a socio-economic status via an index based on the Statistics Canada dissemination area in which he or she resided⁷. Six indicators were included in the index: percent without a high school diploma, the employment rate, average income, percent of single families, percent of persons living alone, and percent of persons separated, divorced, or widowed. Socio-economic status values fell into five quintiles.
- Student Aid Alberta provides eligible students in Alberta with **student loans** (Alberta and Canada) to meet their basic learning and living costs during their time as post-secondary students.
- **Study population:** The study included individuals with a date of birth between April 1, 1980 and March 31, 2011 and who received services from one of the programs in the study or were registered in the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan between April 1, 2005 and March 31, 2011. The youngest study participants were those born in the last study year. The oldest study participants were 25 years old at the end of the first study year and consequently 30 years old at the end of the last study year.
- **Tables** are shown by fiscal year.

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The Child and Youth Data Laboratory

The Child and Youth Data Laboratory’s (CYDL’s) Longitudinal Project (*Experiences of Albertan Children and Youth over Time, 2005/06 to 2010/11*) is a joint initiative between PolicyWise for Children & Families and participating ministries in the Government of Alberta. The mandate of the CYDL is to link and analyse administrative data from Government ministries, to provide evidence for policy and program development.

The CYDL is managed by **PolicyWise for Children & Families**. PolicyWise is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to develop and integrate evidence to inform, identify and promote effective public policy and service delivery to improve the well-being of children, families and communities in Alberta, Canada and internationally.

This project

The **CYDL Longitudinal Project** focuses on understanding the experiences of Albertan children and youth as they develop. The focus is service use within and across ministries, as it is related to key indicators and to the passage of time. Studying experiences over several years of development adds a valuable level of richness to an already ground-breaking initiative, providing detailed insight into the factors that help to shape our children and youth as they develop.

Our partners

This project was carried out on behalf of seven ministries of the Government of Alberta. Each ministry collaborated extensively with the CYDL on this project, and their dedication to the project is gratefully acknowledged:

- Advanced Education
Community and Social Services
- Education
Indigenous Relations
- Health
- Children’s Services
Justice and Solicitor General

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This study is based in part on data provided by the Government of Alberta. The interpretation and conclusions contained herein are those of the researchers and do not necessarily represent the views of the Government of Alberta. The Government of Alberta does not express any opinion in relation to this study.



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