Edmonton Vital Signs® is an annual check-up conducted by Edmonton Community Foundation, in partnership with the Edmonton Social Planning Council, to measure how our community is doing with a focus on a specific topic, this year we are looking at youth. Community foundations across Canada are reporting on how their communities are doing and how Canada is doing over all.

**WHAT IS EDMONTON VITAL SIGNS® 2014?**

**WHO WE ARE?**

Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF) is the fourth largest community foundation in Canada and the largest non-governmental funder in Edmonton. We help stimulate change and community growth by working with donors to grant in the following areas: community and social services; arts, culture and heritage; health and wellness; education and learning; environment; recreation and leisure; and social enterprise.

Edmonton Social Planning Council (ESPC) is an independent, non-profit, non-partisan, social research organization. Established in 1940, ESPC conducts research and analysis into a wide range of topics, particularly in the areas of low income and poverty. The council’s publications and reports provide the public and government with current and accurate information to support informed decision making.

**DEFINITION OF YOUTH**

“Youth” is best understood as the transition from childhood to adulthood. For our purposes, unless otherwise stated, youth refers to those between the ages of 15 and 24 years.

**IF METRO EDMONTON WERE 100 PEOPLE**
EDMONTON’S YOUTH VITAL SIGNS®

70% of youth agreed (49.5%) or strongly agreed (20.5%) with the statement “I feel financially secure in my situation today.”

44% of youth agreed (45%) or strongly agreed (9%) with the statement “I feel a sense of belonging.”

YOUTH AND MONEY

Only 47.9% of youth agreed (32.5%) or strongly agreed (15.4%) with the statement “I feel financially secure in my situation today.”

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

9.4% of youth unemployment rate is double the overall unemployment rate of 4.8% for Edmonton. 14,000 fewer young people are in employed in metropolitan Edmonton in 2012.

CHILDREN DISPROPORTIONATELY POOR

Children under the age of 18 years are more likely to live in poverty than adults. 65,000 children and youth lived in poverty in metropolitan Edmonton in 2012.

ADULT* YOUTH

4.8% 9.4%

LOW WAGE WORK

Youth disproportionately earn low wages. 52.5% of youth aged 15 to 24 in the work force (or 57,700 youth) earn $15/hour or below.

YOUTH AND EDUCATION

TUNITION TRENDS


2013/2014 - $4,670

2014/2015 - $4,730

Children under the age of 15 to 24 in the work force (or 57,700 youth) earn $15/hour or below.

YOUTH OUTLOOK … OPTIMISTIC!

74.4% of youth agreed (52.2%) or strongly agreed (22.2%) with the statement “I am confident that I am on track to achieve my goals.”

VALUE OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

In 2011, 65.3% of people in metro Edmonton between the ages of 25 to 64 had a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree. Of these, 28.5% had a bachelor’s degree or above.

HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION RATE FOR THE EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS (EPS) AND EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS (ECS) DISTRICTS

76.5% EPS, 85.4% ECS (81% combined) – Less than 20% do not complete high school.

For the 2012-13 school year, the 3-year high school completion rate for Aboriginal students (First Nations, Metis and Inuit) for Edmonton Public Schools was 30.3%, compared to 26.2% three years earlier. The 3-year high school completion rate for Edmonton Catholic Schools was 48.8% compared to 39.9% three years earlier.

RAISING HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES

Kyle Busch, 17, says that he would not have graduated without the assistance of the First Nation, Metis, Inuit (PIMN) Graduation Coach program at Archbishop O’Leary High School that provided some extra tutoring and exam preparation courses. “I didn’t think I needed it at first,” said Busch. The tutoring in math allowed him to become more confident for other subjects. “Just because you are interested in the work doesn’t make the work less hard.”

Edmonton’s high school is the second largest Aboriginal population (5.4% per cent) in Canada after Winnipeg. Despite a combined graduation rate of over 80% per cent in both the Public and Catholic school systems - the PIMN graduation rate was only 19% per cent in 2009.

Now, thanks to the new program established by Edmonton Catholic Schools, the graduation rate surpasses the provincial PIMN rate. “In one year, we went from 4.7% per cent and added it is 68.2% per cent,” said Pamela Sparklegyes, Program Manager, Aboriginal Learning Services- Edmonton Catholic Schools.

In addition to traditional academic assistance the program assists the students in any way that it can. “We offer a list of different things, detailed things that are needed. We have some that come to get fed every day and this is the first time we see regular attendance,” says Donna Large, FRAN Grad Coach.

Today four high schools provide the support. In addition to St. Joseph High School that piloted the program in 2009, Archbishop Oscar Romero and St. Francis Xavier High School started programs in 2012-2013, and Archbishop O’Leary High School in 2013-2014.

All of the post-secondary institutions have similar programs. “It works for post-secondary students and I’m sure it will to implement something similar,” said Sparklegyes. The model for the program was copied from one in the United States and because of its success, there is a plenty of interest and in other areas in Canada. “I am still booking visitors who want to come and see what is happening,” says Sparklegyes.

For Busch the program came at the right time. Large noticed that Busch’s grades were not improving and approached him about tutoring. Busch explains that he was reluctant at first “I don’t like to ask for help. I didn’t want to take this away from someone else who may need it more.”

But when his older brother graduated high school, the friendly sibling rivalry gave Busch the extra push he needed to enter the program. “There was no way I wouldn’t get my diploma,” Busch says.

The program provides both educational and social supports. “It is about relationship building. We start the semester with a meet and greet at lunch. This is their first opportunity to meet each other,” says Large. Currently there are 73 Aboriginal students at Archbishop O’Leary that has a student body of 1600. “This cuts down on isolation. We catch those kids right away.” Busch agrees, “It is nice to come here, like having a family here, the same nationality.”

Large also explains that the program crosses over with regular school activities as well. “ Elders and resource people can come in and provide cultural stuff like arts and crafts, and smudge ceremony once a month. We had an Elder join a religion class to do a session and another talk about Indigenous knowledge and how it applies to math and science. They have also taught social studies classes on residential schools. We have even had staff asking for more professional development.”

Busch is grateful to the program for helping him finish his diploma on time. “I am the first one in my family to go to post-secondary. This program is what made it happen.” He is now in the process of applying to schools and has a student at NAIT. “Not sure what I want to do, but I would like to do something with computers.”

Sparklegyes says for her the program’s success is its graduates. “It is its graduates. In the district last year. We watch them throughout the year and then we hold an honouring ceremony for the graduates. When I see them I think ‘This is why we do this. It feels great.’”
EMTONON'S YOUTH VITAL SIGNS® (CONT.)

YOUTH AND HEALTH

YOUTH OBESITY

In 2012, 28% of 19-year-olds self-reported as overweight or obese. This increased to 44.3% for 20- to 34-year-olds.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

64% of kids aged 0 to 11 get 3 hours or less of active play (unstructured/physical activity) per week, including weekends.

Based on parent-reported data, 5 to 17-year-olds are overweight or obese. This increased to 44.3% for 20- to 34-year-olds.

In 2013, 26.3% of 19-year-olds self-reported as overweight or obese. This increased to 44.3% for 20- to 34-year-olds.

ECF VITAL WORK: MULITCULTURAL FAMILY RESOURCES SOCIETY (MPRS)

Drug use increased from 8.4% in 2003 to 16.3% in 2013.

BULLYING

16.3% of youth self-reported being bullied by 16.3% and drugs (8.4%) as the two biggest concerns facing them today.

ECF VITAL WORK: THE TELLING PROJECT

In 2013 ECF provided $40,000 to the Concrete Theatre Society to produce The Bully Project — a project that delivers anti-bullying information to youth through participatory theatre. This approach allows students to engage in identity analysis and analyzing the behavior of bullies while providing them with tools that enable them to choose a different path in life.

EMMONTON'S YOUTH VITAL SIGNS® (CONT.)

YOUTH AND ETHNICITY

ABORIGINAL POPULATION

Metro Edmonton has the second largest Aboriginal population in Canada after Winnipeg at 5.4%. This population is also 10 years younger than the city median age.

EDMONTON VITAL MEDIAN AGE

36.0

0 years 15 years 25 years 35 years

ABORIGINAL MEDIAN AGE

26.3

EDMONTON OVERALL MEDIAN AGE

78.1% of youth agreed with the statement "I think people in greater Edmonton area accept me for who I am".

EMMONTON'S YOUTH VITAL SIGNS® (CONT.)

YOUTH AND ETHNICITY

ABORIGINAL POPULATION

Indians and Inuit population increased by 28.6% from 2013 to 2012.

ECF VITAL WORK: EDF-ABORIGINAL VITAL WORK

10% of the youth in having their 'dreams' happen while they are still in school.

Recent immigrants make Canada and in Edmonton. In 2012, 83.1% of the foreign workers to Canada were 44 years or younger.

Lockedin theLibrary - YEG at Work

Story and photo by Elisabeth Borklins

The funds were used to purchase make-up, food supplies, goodie bag supplies, as well as a pizza dinner for the teens. The eighty-person planning committee was amiring for 150 participants and 200+ more that witnessed the event.

Housch feels that the success of the event was due to the fact that the event was well-organized and well-coordinated.

ECF VITAL WORK: NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS (NPOs)

In Lough's opinion this event did help introduce the library to teens. "I think that the event was a great success and I look forward to doing it again in the future."
WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

Donavin Weatherall, 25, dreams of studying veterinary science but never before thought it would be a reality. Since age 15 he has been living on the streets, in and out of prison, a habitual drug user, and claims to have “been on the run from the law for two-and-a-half years.”

Weatherall felt that the most beneficial part of the program was learning to budget. “I received support after the program. I realized I needed to find supports after the program. Community involvement is 68% of youth feel it is important to be involved in their community

Feeling youth are actually involved in their community

YOUTH INVOLVEMENT WITH THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

There was a decrease in violent crime rates for youth aged 12 to 17 years from 1.01 per 10,000 in 2004 to 0.55 per 10,000 in 2013.

Youth property crime decreased from 2,384 in 2004 to 1,784 per 100,000 in 2013.

69.2% of youth agreed with the statement “I believe technology and social media contributes to improved social connections.” (39.9% strongly agreed and 29.7% agreed)

YOU AND LIFESTYLE

YOUTH AND LIFESTYLE

There is a trend towards a higher proportion of young adults living at home. Nationally, young adults aged 20 to 24 living in the parental home increased from 41.5% in 1981 to 59.3% in 2011.

Percentage of youth voting has dropped by more than half from over 80% in the 1970s and early 1980s to less than 40% in the 2000s (38.8% in 2011 federal election).

In the 2011 federal election, voter turnout nationally was as follows:

In 1991, roughly 9 out of 10 Albertans aged 15 to 24 had a motor vehicle license. In 2012, the percentage dropped to three-quarters. In the younger 14 to 20 age group, the percentage dropped from almost three-quarters in 1991 to less than two-thirds in 2011.

In the younger 14 to 20 age group, the percentage dropped to three-quarters. In 1991, roughly 9 out of 10 Albertans aged 15 to 24 had a motor vehicle license. In 2012, the percentage dropped to three-quarters. In the younger 14 to 20 age group, the percentage dropped from almost three-quarters in 1991 to less than two-thirds in 2011.

Percentage of youth voting has dropped by more than half from over 80% in the 1970s and early 1980s to less than 40% in the 2000s (38.8% in 2011 federal election).

In the 2011 federal election, voter turnout nationally was as follows:

In 1991, roughly 9 out of 10 Albertans aged 15 to 24 had a motor vehicle license. In 2012, the percentage dropped to three-quarters. In the younger 14 to 20 age group, the percentage dropped from almost three-quarters in 1991 to less than two-thirds in 2011.

Percentage of youth voting has dropped by more than half from over 80% in the 1970s and early 1980s to less than 40% in the 2000s (38.8% in 2011 federal election).

In the 2011 federal election, voter turnout nationally was as follows:

In 1991, roughly 9 out of 10 Albertans aged 15 to 24 had a motor vehicle license. In 2012, the percentage dropped to three-quarters. In the younger 14 to 20 age group, the percentage dropped from almost three-quarters in 1991 to less than two-thirds in 2011.

Percentage of youth voting has dropped by more than half from over 80% in the 1970s and early 1980s to less than 40% in the 2000s (38.8% in 2011 federal election).

In the 2011 federal election, voter turnout nationally was as follows:

In 1991, roughly 9 out of 10 Albertans aged 15 to 24 had a motor vehicle license. In 2012, the percentage dropped to three-quarters. In the younger 14 to 20 age group, the percentage dropped from almost three-quarters in 1991 to less than two-thirds in 2011.

Percentage of youth voting has dropped by more than half from over 80% in the 1970s and early 1980s to less than 40% in the 2000s (38.8% in 2011 federal election).

In the 2011 federal election, voter turnout nationally was as follows:

In 1991, roughly 9 out of 10 Albertans aged 15 to 24 had a motor vehicle license. In 2012, the percentage dropped to three-quarters. In the younger 14 to 20 age group, the percentage dropped from almost three-quarters in 1991 to less than two-thirds in 2011.

Percentage of youth voting has dropped by more than half from over 80% in the 1970s and early 1980s to less than 40% in the 2000s (38.8% in 2011 federal election).

In the 2011 federal election, voter turnout nationally was as follows:

In 1991, roughly 9 out of 10 Albertans aged 15 to 24 had a motor vehicle license. In 2012, the percentage dropped to three-quarters. In the younger 14 to 20 age group, the percentage dropped from almost three-quarters in 1991 to less than two-thirds in 2011.

Percentage of youth voting has dropped by more than half from over 80% in the 1970s and early 1980s to less than 40% in the 2000s (38.8% in 2011 federal election).

In the 2011 federal election, voter turnout nationally was as follows:

In 1991, roughly 9 out of 10 Albertans aged 15 to 24 had a motor vehicle license. In 2012, the percentage dropped to three-quarters. In the younger 14 to 20 age group, the percentage dropped from almost three-quarters in 1991 to less than two-thirds in 2011.

Percentage of youth voting has dropped by more than half from over 80% in the 1970s and early 1980s to less than 40% in the 2000s (38.8% in 2011 federal election).

In the 2011 federal election, voter turnout nationally was as follows:

In 1991, roughly 9 out of 10 Albertans aged 15 to 24 had a motor vehicle license. In 2012, the percentage dropped to three-quarters. In the younger 14 to 20 age group, the percentage dropped from almost three-quarters in 1991 to less than two-thirds in 2011.

Percentage of youth voting has dropped by more than half from over 80% in the 1970s and early 1980s to less than 40% in the 2000s (38.8% in 2011 federal election).

In the 2011 federal election, voter turnout nationally was as follows:

In 1991, roughly 9 out of 10 Albertans aged 15 to 24 had a motor vehicle license. In 2012, the percentage dropped to three-quarters. In the younger 14 to 20 age group, the percentage dropped from almost three-quarters in 1991 to less than two-thirds in 2011.

Percentage of youth voting has dropped by more than half from over 80% in the 1970s and early 1980s to less than 40% in the 2000s (38.8% in 2011 federal election).

In the 2011 federal election, voter turnout nationally was as follows:

In 1991, roughly 9 out of 10 Albertans aged 15 to 24 had a motor vehicle license. In 2012, the percentage dropped to three-quarters. In the younger 14 to 20 age group, the percentage dropped from almost three-quarters in 1991 to less than two-thirds in 2011.

Percentage of youth voting has dropped by more than half from over 80% in the 1970s and early 1980s to less than 40% in the 2000s (38.8% in 2011 federal election).

In the 2011 federal election, voter turnout nationally was as follows:

In 1991, roughly 9 out of 10 Albertans aged 15 to 24 had a motor vehicle license. In 2012, the percentage dropped to three-quarters. In the younger 14 to 20 age group, the percentage dropped from almost three-quarters in 1991 to less than two-thirds in 2011.
AVG. RENT

75%

100%

2.7

Bottom 99%

Bottom 50%

TYPICAL EDMONTONIAN

Median family income of $58,750

Median age of 36 – National median was 40.6, youngest of all the major cities

Has a high school diploma – approximately 50% of this population has a high school diploma

Owns their own home - 65% of Edmontonians owned their homes in 2011

Feels their quality of life is good or excellent – 73%

Uses car as their main mode of transportation – 73%

Feels Edmonton is culturally diverse city – 90%

Believes it is important to be involved in the community – 68%

Feels safe in their home – 90%

Would describe themselves as overweight or obese – 42% of 35 to 44 year olds

Has a 50% chance of living in a household with a pet

RELATIVELY YOUTHFUL

With a median age of 36, Edmonton is one of the youngest cities in Canada, and the only one that actually got younger between 2006 and 2011.

IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

In 2013, 12,717 immigrants and refugees settled here, compared to 4,810 in 2003.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

High school completion in Edmonton is steadily improving, with an 81% completion rate within five years of entering.

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

When measured against income levels, Edmonton home prices are considerably more affordable than those in Vancouver, Toronto, and Calgary. At 9.8%, the percentage of households in core housing need (housing that is not affordable, safe, or overcrowded) was the second lowest among Canada’s six largest urban centres. Only Calgary is lower.

SEXUAL ASSAULT

Of the 6 largest urban centres in Canada, Edmonton has the highest rate of sexual assault. In 2013, Edmonton’s sexual assault rate was 74.2 per 100,000 compared to Calgary at 49.5, Vancouver at 44.9, Toronto at 44.1, and Montreal at 41.8.

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

When measured against income levels, Edmonton home prices are considerably more affordable than those in Vancouver, Toronto, and Calgary. At 9.8%, the percentage of households in core housing need (housing that is not affordable, safe, or overcrowded) was the second lowest among Canada’s six largest urban centres. Only Calgary is lower.

GENDER INEQUALITY

75% of men and 65% of women are employed, but only 46% of women hold full-time jobs compared to 66% of men. This is the largest gap among the top 20 cities.

Edmonton also has the largest gap in employment incomes, with women earning nearly $21,000 less per year than their male peers (or 60% of male wages).

POVERTY RATES are higher for women than men. Edmonton also has the largest gap in poverty rates, with women experiencing a 1.7% loss.

SICK’S VITAL WORK - EDMONTON INNER CITY HOUSING

Edmonton Inner City Housing Society (EICHS) received $40,000 in funding to support a part-time, one year internship contract, to work with their current EICHS manager in the area of fund development and stakeholder relations. The mentorship will increase the organization’s internal capacity to build and provide affordable housing in Edmonton with a new focus on forming and developing new alliances within communities outside of the inner city.
**VITAL SIGNS COMMITTEE 2014**

Susan Morrissey, Co-Chair, Executive Director

Carol Watson, Co-Chair, Communications Director

Elisabeth Frenkel, Communications Coordinator

John Kolkman, Research Coordinator

Mark Anielski, Management

Kaya Atkey, Student

Rozanne Fale-Mah, Centre for Race and Culture, Alberta Centre for Child, Family and Community Research

Cassandra Flett, Community Grants Associate, Edmonton Community Foundation

Mack D. Male, Member of Edmonton, City Council

Rob Marvin, College Instructor, NorQuest

Kristen Salacki, Family Specialist, Bosco Homes

**ECF VITAL WORK**

Wecan Food Basket receives $40,000/ year for 3 years for a West End Food Hub Alliance Community Food Animator

**EDMONTON BAN’S FOOD BANK**

Edmonton’s Food Bank served 40,447 different people from April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014 in the form of food hampers. (This does not include meals, snacks and other food programs). Of this number, 6,296 individuals were 15 to 24 years of age.

**EDMONTONIANS SUGGEST:**

When asked what should be top priority for improving food security.

**VITAL SIGNS 2013**

- 2 IN 5 EDMONTONIANS BELIEVE FOOD SECURITY IS A PROBLEM IN EDMONTON

- Nearly three-in-five (57%) Edmontonians agree poverty is a significant problem in Edmonton.

- Opinions are divided on whether there are adequate initiatives in place to reduce poverty (30% disagree, 35% agree).

**DEFINITION OF FOOD SECURITY**

Food security in this report means all people at all times have physical and economic access to adequate amounts of nutritious, safe, and culturally appropriate foods. - World Health Organization

- Two-in-five (43%) Edmontonians agree food security is an important issue.

- 48% increasing opportunities for Edmontonians to grow their own food.

- 2 IN 5 EDMONTONIANS BELIEVE FOOD SECURITY IS A PROBLEM IN EDMONTON

- Nearly three-in-five (57%) Edmontonians agree poverty is a significant problem in Edmonton.

- Opinions are divided on whether there are adequate initiatives in place to reduce poverty (30% disagree, 35% agree).

**Cost of Nutritious Food Basket**

Not surprisingly, young males 14 to 30 could be described as the prime eating years as measured by caloric intake and metabolism rates. In December 2013, males aged 14 to 18 set the family food budget back by an average of $75.26 per week, with males aged 19 to 30 only slightly behind at $72.94

**EDMONTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF) works with donors to support the causes important to them through gifts now and in the future. ECF’s funds are permanently invested for long-term growth. Over the past 25 years ECF’s assets have grown to almost $440 million and we have granted more than $132 million to charities and in scholarships.

**Board Members:**

- Carmen McNary, Chair, Ted Kouri, Vice Chair, David McCalla, Secretary, Liz O’jard, Gary Smith, Germaine Berger, Garmane Bête, Chandra Clarke, Terri Delsmet, John Martin, Alta McLean, Nancy Reynolds, Garth Warner (Martin Gerber-Conrad, CEO, Carol Watson, Elizabeth Bonkink, Andrew Paul, Communications)

**Edmonton Social Planning Council**

Edmonton Social Planning Council (ESPC) is an independent social research and analysis organization operating in Edmonton for more than 74 years. ESPC focuses on analyzing and responding to policy decisions that impact people living in low-income situations, including issues of homelessness, wages and social supports and benefits. ESPC produces Tracking the Trends, a biennial report that analyses current social and economic trends over a 25-30 year time frame.

**Board Members:**

- Varun Chota, President, Doug Meggison, Sumeet Shinde, Jarrod Bayne, Rose Marie Tremblay, Oliver Kamau, Janet Kluthe, Bridget Stirling, Anne Stevenson, Darlene Patterson and Candace Jane Drayton (Susan Morrissey, Executive Director, John Kolkman, Research Coordinator, Tery Jorden, Communications)

**CFC ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

Vital Signs is a community check-up conducted by community foundations across Canada that measures the vitality of our communities, identifies significant trends, and supports action on issues that are critical to our quality of life. Special thanks to the Toronto Foundation for developing and sharing the Vital Signs concept and Community Foundations of Canada for supporting a coordinated national Vital Signs initiative.

**Vital Signs and Edmonton Social Planning Council**

Last year Vital Signs took a look at Food Security in Edmonton. This section is an opportunity to view what (if anything) has changed. For a copy of the 2013 Vital Signs please go to ecfoundation.org.