

Annual Report

Youth Monitor

2019

Summary

.	Data not available
*	Provisional figure
**	Revised provisional figure
x	Publication prohibited (confidential figure)
-	Nil
-	(Between two figures) inclusive
0 (0.0)	Less than half of unit concerned
empty cell	Not applicable
2018-2019	2018 to 2019 inclusive
2018/2019	Average for 2018 to 2019 inclusive
2018/19	Crop year, financial year, school year, etc., beginning in 2018 and ending in 2019
2016/17-2018/19	Crop year, financial year, school year, etc., 2016/17 to 2018/19 inclusive

Due to rounding, some totals may not correspond to the sum of the separate figures.

Colophon

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Introduction

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The National Youth Monitor has been presenting figures on young people in the Netherlands for years. While this instrument initially dealt mainly with national figures, over the years figures at the municipal level have increasingly been added. As municipalities have been responsible for providing youth care since 1 January 2015, the Monitor also presents figures on the use of youth assistance as well as youth protection and juvenile rehabilitation for the municipalities.

An important objective of the National Youth Monitor is to consider the situation of young people in the light of the use of youth assistance, nationally but certainly also at municipal level. The results of this work serve to help civil servants, administrators, providers of youth assistance, clients, and interested citizens to deal with questions and to provide facts to inform the discussion on the effect of youth assistance provision. To this end, social indicators have been defined which we know are linked to the use of youth assistance.¹⁾

An important conclusion of this 2019 Annual Report is that the use of youth care rose in 2018, while by far the majority of scores for social indicators show a positive development. At the same time, we learn from the interviews by Jaap van Sandijk that many municipalities find the data in the National Youth Monitor to be too general. They say that they need more detailed information on the use of youth assistance and associated factors, in order to be in a position to plan the range of youth assistance services. This raises two questions. The first is whether the social indicators included in the National Youth Monitor have been well-chosen, or whether, in view of the developments in the use of youth assistance that have been outlined, there is something else going on. This could be a subject of discussion for all those interfering with youth assistance. The second question is how we can provide municipalities with adequate information. In order to answer the questions and conduct the discussion, it is important first of all to examine the scores for the social indicators at national level.

¹⁾ Significant, Regionale verschillen in gebruik van jeugdhulp met verblijf, 2018 [*Significant, regional differences in use of residential youth assistance, 2018*]. https://jeugdmonitor.cbs.nl/sites/default/files/2018-06/J-178142%20D_0.pdf.

1.1.1 Youth care and society indicators

Youth care



10 in 100

young people under 23 years
have received youth care

Living and growing up



7 in 100

minors live in families
on income support

School



52 in 100

third-year secondary general
students enrolled in VMBO

Work



67 in 100

15 to 26-year-olds
have a job

Crime



2 in 100

young people aged 12 to 24 years
are crime suspects

Alcohol consumption



59 in 100

young people aged 12 to 24 years
occasionally drink alcohol



Chapter 2 presents the hard figures on young people. This chapter shows that not only the number of young people is declining but also their proportion in relation to adults. This last development is partly due to the fact that elderly people are living longer. The use of youth care (Chapter 3) rose from 9 to 10 percent of young people between 2017 and 2018, with substantial differences being measured between municipalities. In most municipalities in the Zaanstreek, the percentage was under 7 percent, but in many municipalities in central Limburg and north-eastern

Groningen, it was above 12 percent.²⁾ Fourteen percent of all youth assistance is provided by the district team and more than 8 percent of this is residential youth assistance. Chapter 4 states that the most important indicator linked to the use of youth assistance³⁾ – the number of children growing up in a family on income support – has again decreased. In Year 3 of secondary general education, students in prevocational secondary education (VMBO) constitute a small majority, at 52 percent. This has not changed much in comparison with 2017. The percentage of young people (15 to 26 years) in employment rose by 2 percentage points to 67 percent (Chapter 6). As regards lifestyle, the figures show that highly educated urban young adults were more likely to use drugs than the rest of their contemporaries (Chapter 7). They also smoked more often, though usually not on a daily basis. Compared to the rest of their contemporaries, relatively few urban young adults with low or medium levels of education consumed alcohol, though the number who smoked daily was higher. The number of young people suspected of a crime (Chapter 8) continued to decline in 2018. A quarter of young people came into contact with the police in their own place of residence. The reason for this contact was more often enforcement in this group than for those aged 25 years and above.

Because the scores for social indicators differ from one municipality to another, in 2019 Statistics Netherlands (CBS) published revised reports that make it possible to compare the scores for social indicators of different municipalities. In this way, CBS, commissioned by the Ministry of Security and Justice (VenJ) and the Ministry of Public Health, Welfare and Sport (VWS), is trying to make the available information related to the use of youth assistance more accessible. It still needs to be shown whether this information is what municipal officials and other civil servants are looking for.

For this reason, Jaap van Sandijk travelled around municipalities to ask them about their data needs and the extent to which the National Youth Monitor, among other publications, provides the required data. It appears that municipal officials need data that are as detailed and specific as possible. This hunger for data is politically driven, particularly in municipalities that are struggling with financial shortfalls. Officials of municipalities with deficits are seeking increasingly detailed data. They use CBS data, which they sometimes supplement or combine with data of their own. When CBS receives data from a youth assistance provider, it sends that provider a 'spiegelrapport' ('mirror report') – a uniform overview of the youth care and assistance provided to the young people for whom the relevant municipality was

2) <https://www.cbs.nl/nl-nl/nieuws/2019/18/428-duizend-jongeren-in-jeugdzorg>.

3) Significant, Regionale verschillen in gebruik van jeugdhulp met verblijf, 2018 [*Significant, Regional differences in use of residential youth assistance, 2018*]. https://jeugdmonitor.cbs.nl/sites/default/files/2018-06/J-178142%20D_0.pdf.

responsible. Municipal officials value these reports⁴⁾, although they are often not quickly released by providers. However, municipal officials also indicate that they need performance data. For performance, national outcome data are formulated. However, subjective quality assessments, such as client satisfaction and the extent to which clients can manage further without help, are not suitable for organising management at client level – and that is what many officials want. There is a smaller group of municipalities (including Alphen aan den Rijn, Utrecht, Hollands Kroon, Lelystad and, from 1 January 2019, also Heerlen) that practise task-focused funding and opt for lump-sum funding and outline agreements with a principal provider. In these municipalities, the need for information is more general. Disregarding the pros and cons of this form of implementation, the CBS benchmark data show that when this model has been implemented in these municipalities, there is a reduction in residential youth assistance, while non-residential youth assistance predominantly increases.

It is advisable for every municipality and region to examine how the use of youth assistance relates to the scores for social indicators. These scores can be found on the National Youth Monitor site. If there is a mismatch, with positive scores for social indicators accompanied by a rise in the use of youth assistance, it will be necessary to consider why this is happening. And one will also have to consider whether a more detailed study of data on youth assistance, with the associated administrative burden, will provide the solution for the problem of focus and direction.

4) CBS processes source data from providers and these providers remain owners, because CBS may not deliver these reports directly to municipalities.

Summary

1. Young people in the Netherlands (Chapter 2)

At the beginning of 2019, there were nearly 4.9 million young people under the age of 25 years in the Netherlands. This represents 28 percent of the population, a share that is projected to decline to 27 percent in 2029. Among other reasons, this is because elderly people are living longer. Among the young people, 27 percent had a migration background, of whom two-thirds had a non-western origin. Nearly 8 out of 10 young people with a non-western migration background were born in the Netherlands and therefore belong to the second generation. Among young people with a western migration background, 64 percent were born in the Netherlands. According to the population forecast, the number of young people with a migration background will continue to grow over the coming decade, although it is projected that the number of second-generation young people with a non-western background will decline after 2022. In 2018, more babies were born to mothers aged 35 or over than was the case 20 years ago. People in their twenties in particular are currently less likely to have a child. The number of children born to teenage mothers also fell. Furthermore, it is increasingly common for children to have parents who do not live together. In 2017, this applied to 21 percent of all minors. Two-thirds of them had no stepparents.

2. Youth care and the road to adulthood (Chapter 3)

If young people have problems while growing up or if there are parenting problems, they can receive youth care. In 2018, 428,000 young people up to the age of 23 years received youth care in the Netherlands. That is nearly one young person in 10. Youth care consists of youth assistance, youth protection and juvenile rehabilitation. As the assistance and care needs of young people receiving youth assistance and youth protection have more in common with each other than with the needs of young people in juvenile rehabilitation, this last group will not be considered any further in this report. In 2018, 417,000 young people received youth assistance and/or youth protection. Youth assistance and youth protection are intended for young people up to the age of 18 years, but this does not mean that young people do not need any care later on. In the last two years, the number of young people in receipt of extended youth assistance rose. This was the case specifically for the youth assistance provided by the municipality's district and neighbourhood team, and for residential youth assistance. Young people who received youth care two years prior to their

18th birthday more often received adult care later, were less often economically independent, and more often came into contact with crime. Many young people in youth care received follow-up care, but it often took a few months before this started.

3. Growing up on income support (Chapter 4)

At the end of 2018, 6.5 percent of all children under the age of 18 years were in families with at least one adult who was dependent on income support. This is a group of nearly 217,000 minors. The figure fell for the second year in a row. Although the total number of children in income support families declined further, the number of such children with a Syrian migration background rose again. However, this number rose less than it did between 2016 and 2017. At the end of 2018, more than 13 percent of children in income support families had a Syrian migration background. This made it the largest group after children with a native Dutch background (28 percent). Income support families have less disposable income than other families and nearly always belong to the 20 percent of least prosperous households in the Netherlands. More than 95 percent of income support families lived in a rental property. Income support families spent a larger share of their income on housing costs than other families. The younger the children, the less disposable income an income support family has and the more often the family's debts are greater than their possessions. Nearly 9 in 10 of the youngest income support families run the risk of falling into poverty.

4. School (Chapter 5)

More than half of students in Year 3 of secondary general education were in prevocational secondary education (VMBO) in the 2018/19 academic year. VMBO comprises four programmes: the basic vocational programme (VMBO-b), the middle management-oriented programme (VMBO-k), the combined programme (VMBO-g), and the theoretical programme (VMBO-t). In Year 3 of VMBO, pupils with a migration background who were born in the Netherlands (second generation) attended VMBO-b less often than pupils with a migration background who were not born in the Netherlands (first generation). Of all pupils in secondary general education who sat the final examinations in 2017/18, around 92 percent graduated. At 94 percent, the pass rate is highest among VMBO pupils, especially among pupils in the basic and middle management-oriented vocational programmes. The pass rate was lowest in senior general secondary education (HAVO), at 88 percent. In every type of education, the percentage of pupils sitting final examinations who obtained a

diploma is highest among pupils with a native Dutch background or a western migration background. The pupils with a non-western migration background who sit final examinations lag behind, specifically those who are first-generation immigrants. A VMBO diploma does not provide a basic qualification, and nearly all pupils with a VMBO diploma therefore continue in education in the following academic year. Of the VMBO-b/k/g graduates from the 2017/18 academic year, 93 to 98 percent attended secondary vocational education (MBO) in the 2018/19 academic year. After completing VMBO-t, 81 percent chose secondary vocational education, while 17 percent went on to senior general secondary education (HAVO).

5. Work (Chapter 6)

In 2018, the share of young people in work rose and youth unemployment declined further, taking it to its lowest point in the last 10 years. Two-thirds of young people aged 15 to 26 years – more than 1.7 million individuals – were in paid employment. A large proportion of these young people were still at school or were studying. On average, school pupils and students in employment worked 14 hours per week, while the average for young people not in education was 34 hours per week. School pupils and students more frequently had a flexible contract (73 percent) than young people not in education, of whom 40 percent were in flexible employment. The majority of young people in education with a flexible contract were on-call (standby) or replacement workers. Among young people not in education, a temporary contract with prospects for permanent employment was most common for those with a flexible employment contract. In 2018, 77 percent of young employees were satisfied or very satisfied with their work. This percentage is more or less as high as the satisfaction rate for employees aged 27 years and over, and it is similar to the percentage in previous years. The percentage of 15 to 26-year-old employees with work-related problems of mental fatigue has risen in recent years from 10 percent in 2014 to 15 percent in 2018, and nearly a third of young employees said that they frequently or always experienced a high workload.

6. Lifestyle differences between young adults (Chapter 7)

Lifestyle is a broad concept that is strongly connected with health. A healthy lifestyle consists, for example, of a healthy diet, not smoking, drinking little or no alcohol, and taking sufficient exercise. The lifestyle of young adults aged 18 to 24 years in the Netherlands deviates from that of other age categories, specifically in the area of substance use. For example, relatively many of them state that they have used drugs

and they also drink a lot relatively often. There are also differences within the young adults group. This chapter divides the group of young adults into four subgroups, based on the degree of urbanisation of the municipality of residence (urban or non-urban) and the education level (high or not high). For example, highly educated urban young adults used drugs more often than their contemporaries. A relatively large proportion of them also smoked, though mostly not on a daily basis. Members of this group relatively often ate sufficient fruit and vegetables as well as meeting guidelines on exercise, and a fairly small share of the group were overweight. Urban young adults who were not highly educated drank relatively little alcohol, but most often smoked daily. Around a quarter of the less highly educated young adults were overweight. Among their highly educated contemporaries, the share was nearly one-fifth. As regards excess weight, there is no difference in relation to the degree of urbanisation. The four groups of young adults differ in more areas than just lifestyle. There were also differences in aspects such as participation in education, participation in the labour market, household composition and migration background, which could all be connected with the differences in lifestyle.

7. Crime (Chapter 8)

More than 50,000 young people were registered as crime suspects in 2018. This represents 1.7 percent of young people aged between 12 and 24 years. The share of young people registered as crime suspects declined steadily between 2009 and 2018. The share of registered suspects is significantly higher among boys than girls. For boys, this share was highest among 18-year-olds in 2018, while for girls this peak was somewhat earlier – at 17 years – and considerably lower. The highest share of registered suspects among boys and girls in all age categories is in the category of property crime. This includes crimes such as shoplifting, bicycle theft and fraud. In addition to being crime suspects, young people can also come into contact with the police in other ways. In 2017, 26 percent of young people aged 15 to 24 years came into contact with the police on one or more occasions in their own municipality. For 30 percent of them, this contact involved giving information to the police or reporting an offence. For 25 percent of young people, it involved a contact related to enforcement, such as being given a fine or a warning, or being stopped and checked. Most frequently (45 percent), there was a different reason for the contact, such as asking for advice or help, or having a chat. Of the young people aged 15 to 24 years who had contact with the police in their municipality of residence, 61 percent were satisfied or very satisfied with their last contact. The level of satisfaction among young people regarding contact with the police has increased since 2012.

8. Caribbean Netherlands (Chapter 9)

At the start of 2018, there were 7,000 young people aged up to 25 years living on Bonaire, Saba or St Eustatius. They constituted 28 percent of the overall population. The share of young people in the overall population did not differ much from one island to another, but on each island there were differences according to the neighbourhood. For example, the neighbourhoods with the most young people were Amboina on Bonaire, The Bottom on Saba and Bay Brow on St Eustatius. A little over a quarter of young people in the Caribbean Netherlands lived with one parent and a little more than half with two parents. The rest lived independently or as an additional member of another family. More than 9 in 10 of the young people who lived with one or both of their parents had at least one parent in employment. This was true of both young people in single-parent families and those living with both parents. Of the 15 to 24-year-olds, 44.5 percent were in paid employment. Participation in the labour market was highest on Bonaire, at 46 percent, followed by Saba (44.5 percent) and St Eustatius (35.4 percent). It is much less common for young people in education in the Caribbean Netherlands to have a part-time job in addition to their studies, compared with young people in the European Netherlands. Therefore, a large share of the young people in the Caribbean Netherlands were not in work and gave the fact that they were in training or studying as the reason for not being able to work.

9. Well-being of young people (Chapter 10)

Young adults in the age category 18 to 24 years are generally happy. However, the share has declined somewhat over the past 20 years, from 91 percent reporting that they were happy in 1997 down to 86 percent in 2018. Young men and women are more or less equally happy, and there are few differences in relation to the highest level of education achieved. However, there are differences in relation to migration background and housing situation. Among young people with a native Dutch background, 90 percent were happy, while for those with a western or non-western migration background, the share was 80 percent. Young people who live with a partner are most often happy. Personal well-being was also often high among young people, with 70 percent of them enjoying a high degree of personal well-being in 2018. Young people relatively frequently gave themselves a score of 7 or higher for their education or profession, their health and their social life. They were also often satisfied with their safety and their neighbourhood, but less satisfied with their financial future and trust in institutions. The majority of young people also thought that the Netherlands was heading in the right direction and they did not see issues such as crime, the multicultural society, population density and the mentality in the

Netherlands as major problems. However, environmental pollution was relatively often felt to be a big problem.

10. Young people and the internet (Chapter 11)

The internet has become an indispensable part of the daily lives of young people. In particular, smartphones with fast internet connections enable young people to use the internet virtually always and everywhere. In 2018, 95 percent of young people aged 12 to 24 years used the internet every day. The most common internet activity of young people is communicating online. In 2012, 67 percent of them used social networks to send text messages (for example through WhatsApp). This rose to 94 percent in 2018. The popularity of social networks such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat was undiminished at 87 percent. Furthermore, increasing numbers of young people are active in a professional network, such as LinkedIn. Among young people, 78 percent used the internet to look up information about goods and services online, and 59 percent searched for information about health and lifestyle. Online shopping is also becoming increasingly important to young people. They purchase goods online increasingly frequently and spend more money on these purchases. In 2018, 82 percent of young people made purchases online, compared to 70 percent in 2012. Clothing or sports equipment were the most frequent online purchases in 2018, at 63 percent, followed by tickets for events (49 percent) and travel and holiday packages (39 percent). The sums that young people spend on online purchases have increased since 2015. In 2018, more than 3 out of 10 purchases were for goods costing less than 100 euros. Over a quarter of young people made purchases for between 100 and 500 euros, and 8 percent bought something for 500 euros or more.