



Youth Vital Signs 2010 - Research

The Arts Scene

Arts Scene Grows

It is projected that Calgary hosted over 5,800 arts events in 2009 and saw over 450,000 people attend events free of charge, up 78% from the previous year.

Source: [Calgary Arts Development](#)

Careers in the Arts

Over 7,000 students graduate annually from Calgary's four major post secondary institutions with creative industries-related degrees.

Source: Calgary Economic Development, Feb 11th 2010

<http://www.calgaryartsdevelopment.com/node/2070>

Arts Education

In 2008, Calgary arts organizations presented arts education programming to 696,461 children and youth.

Source: [Calgary Arts Development](#)

Going Green

Students are Composting

Since 2007, Green Calgary has introduced 15 composting sites into Calgary's public schools to be maintained by students.

Source: [Green Calgary](#)

Schools becoming EcoSites

In 2009, The Calgary Board of Education launched EcoSites to recognize environmental action. Schools will be rated as Emerging Green, Green, or Leading Green. The target is for all schools to become EcoSites by 2012.

Source: [Calgary Board of Education](#)

Community Gardens

In 2009, Calgary had 49 public and private community gardens, an increase from 12 in 2008. An additional 56 community groups are exploring gardens for the 2010 or 2011 seasons. As gardens become more popular, youth are becoming more involved, especially in the building phase and garden art

Source: [Calgary Horticultural Society](#)

Youth Voice

Youth are getting involved

Each year, Youth Central sees 2300 youth volunteers contribute over 32,000 hours to the Calgary community. In 2009/2010, 310 children and youth enrolled in leadership-specific programs through YMCA Calgary.



Source: [Youth Central](#) & [YMCA Calgary](#)

Learning about Voting

Student Vote combats low voter turnout among 18 – 25 year olds by teaching the democratic process to future youth voters. In the 2008 general election, 130 schools in Calgary participated in a parallel election where 22,436 students cast ballots.

Source: [Student Vote](#)

Youth Spaces

Biggest Free Outdoor Skate Park

Calgary's Shaw Millennium Park is North America's largest free outdoor 24 hour skate park hosting 35,000 visitors annually.

Source: City of Calgary

http://www.calgary.ca/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_0_395_203_0_47/http%3B/content.calgary.ca/CCA/City+Hall/Business+Units/Community+and+Neighbourhood+Services/Children+and+Youth/Calgary+Skate+Parks/Shaw+Millenium+Park/About+Shaw+Millenium+Park.htm

Places to Hang-Out

The City of Calgary provides seven leisure centres and 56 parks and gardens where youth can exercise and socialize.

Source: [City of Calgary](#)

Health and Well-Being

Youth Smoking

Calgary has the lowest rate of youth cigarette smokers (grades 7-12) in Alberta (5.2%), but the highest rate of youth who smoked cannabis in the past year (20.1%)

Source: The 2008 Alberta Youth Experience Survey

http://www.aadac.com/87_490.asp

Screen-time

Calgary's youth, ages 12 to 19, sit in front of their computer or television an average of 18.3 hours a week, compared to the national average of 17.7 hours a week.

Source: Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Institute, June 2009

<http://www.cflri.ca/eng/regionalhealth/documents/ScreentimeCanada.pdf>



Low Activity Rates

In the Calgary Health Region, only 20% of youth are sufficiently active according to national standards.

Source: Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Institute

<http://www.cflri.ca/eng/regionalhealth/documents/activityadultskidsccdaranksJune09.pdf>

High Food Bank Use

The Calgary Food Bank reported that between June and August 2009 almost 700 emergency food hampers were given to youth – a 44 percent increase over the same period a year prior.

Source: United Way of Calgary and Area

<http://www.calgaryunitedway.org/media/features/Stalled%20Transitions.pdf>

Obesity

23.2% of Calgary's youth are considered overweight or obese, compared to the national average of 23.7%.

Source: Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Institute

<http://www.cflri.ca/eng/regionalhealth/documents/activityadultskidsccdaranksJune09.pdf>

Youth Housing and Homelessness

Street-Involved Youth

71% of Calgary's street-involved youth report having experienced neglect or abuse and 45% report being kicked out of school, suspended, or having dropped out of school.

Source: Calgary Youth, Health and the Street – Final Report. (2008) Calgary: University of Calgary.

<http://www.aidsocalgary.org/files/publications/Calgary%20Youth%20Health%20and%20the%20Street.pdf>

Street Drug Use

94% of Calgary's street-involved youth report using tobacco, alcohol or drugs in the past two weeks, while 29% report using alcohol or drugs before turning 12.

Source: Calgary Youth, Health and the Street – Final Report. (2008) Calgary: University of Calgary.

<http://www.aidsocalgary.org/files/publications/Calgary%20Youth%20Health%20and%20the%20Street.pdf>



Average Rent

Average Rent of a two-bedroom unit was \$1,099 per month in October 2009, down from \$1,148 in October 2008.

Source: Annual Rental Market Report – Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporations

<https://www03.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/catalog/productDetail.cfm?lang=en&cat=79&itm=41&sid=578b0db899aa43708882d2f4fdbb76e8&fr=1271362958625>

Homelessness

The 2008 Biennial Homeless Count reported 682 homeless youth under the age of 24, representing 20% of the homeless population.

Source: Calgary Homeless Foundation, Setting the Course: A Blueprint to End Youth Homelessness in Calgary

[http://intraspec.ca/YouthDiscussionPaperDraft\(May609\).pdf](http://intraspec.ca/YouthDiscussionPaperDraft(May609).pdf)

Calgary's homeless youth population is growing at an alarming rate. In particular, both the 17 and under and the 18-24 group grew by 34% and 41% over 2006 respectively.

Source: Calgary Homeless Foundation, Setting the Course: A Blueprint to End Youth Homelessness in Calgary

[http://intraspec.ca/YouthDiscussionPaperDraft\(May609\).pdf](http://intraspec.ca/YouthDiscussionPaperDraft(May609).pdf)

Education and Learning

Higher Tuition Fees

The average cost of post-secondary tuition in Alberta is \$5,520, \$600 higher than the national average.

Source: Statistics Canada, Feb 2010 Average undergraduate and graduate university tuition fees

<http://www40.statcan.gc.ca/l01/cst01/educ50j-eng.htm>

Smaller Class Sizes

In 2009/2010, the average class size for junior and senior public high schools in Calgary was 23.2 and 24.2 students respectively, both less than the Alberta Commission on Learning guidelines of 25 and 27 respectively.

Source: Calgary Board of Education

<http://www.cbe.ab.ca/aboutus/documents/ClassSizeSurveyReport.pdf>

In the 2008/2009 school year, there were 6,287 graduating students in Calgary and 3,234 of these students received scholarships.

Source: Calgary Board of Education



Safety

Youth Offences Decreasing

Youth offences have decreased by almost 25% since 2005.

Source: Calgary Police Service Annual Statistical Report 2005-2009

Gang Related Homicides Decreasing

Gang related homicides have decreased by over 50% since 2008. In 2009, there were seven gang related homicides reported, a rate lower than pre-2005 levels.

Source: Calgary Police Service Annual Statistical Report 2005-2009

Employment and Training

High Level of Student Workers

In 2008/2009, 46% of Alberta's youth, aged 15 to 19, worked while attending primary or secondary school, compared to the national average of 35%.

Source: Statistics Canada

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/81-582-x/2007001/4060517-eng.htm>

Economic downturn affects youth

In October 2009, the unemployment rate for Calgary's youth reached 15.3 % - twice the rate of unemployed adults.

Source: United Way of Calgary and Area, "Stalled Transitions" (Spring 2009)

<http://www.calgaryunitedway.org/media/features/Stalled%20Transitions.pdf>

Student Employment Low

In the summer of 2009, students worked an average of 23.4 hours per week, the lowest amount of hours since 1977.

Source: United Way of Calgary and Area

<http://www.calgaryunitedway.org/media/features/Stalled%20Transitions.pdf>

Transportation

Youth Transit Users

Over 15,000 students, from both private and public schools, use one of Calgary Transit's 29 direct bus routes to get to junior or senior high school on a given day.

Source: Calgary Transit's Route Evaluation Guide



Urban Pathways

With over 700 km of pathways and nearly 290 km of on-street bikeways, Calgary has the most extensive urban pathway and bikeway network in North America.

Source: City of Calgary

Culture: Identity and Belonging

English as a Second Language (ESL) students triple

Between 1988 and 2008, the number of Alberta's ESL students tripled from 14,673 to 48,346. In 2009, 29 % of Calgary's Grade 3 students were ESL students, compared to the provincial average of 13 %.

Source: Coalition for Equal Access to Education, Media Release October 2009

<http://www.eslaction.com/>

Calgary Board of Education, English as a Second Language Achievement Test Results, School Year 2008-2009

http://www.cbe.ab.ca/results/pdf_09/results/-Table%20PAT%20esl_09_checked.pdf

Calgary hosts Multicultural Festivals

The Calgary Multicultural Centre lists [24 prominent annual multicultural festivals](#) and posts hundreds of [smaller events](#) at calgarymulti.com

Source: [The Calgary Multicultural Centre](#)

Recreation and Sports

Calgarians love Sports

Approximately 320,000 Calgarians engage in 85 different sports administered by over 400 organizations. On average, Calgary's Youth between the ages of 13 and 19 participate in at least one sport activity.

Source: Calgary Sport Council

http://www.calgarysportcouncil.ca/images/stories/File/homepage/final_report_sport_facility_strategic_plan_may_23_2008.pdf

Critical Hours

In 2009, Calgary became the first Canadian municipality to coordinate a city-wide approach to after-school programs that offer 193 supervised activities for youth between 3:00 and 6:00 p.m.

Source: City of Calgary

http://www.calgary.ca/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=336&parentname=CommunityPage&parentid=15&mode=2&in_hi_userid=1544&cached=true

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