

SDGs: HOW ARE WE MEASURING UP IN BC?

Canada has committed to implementing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs are a global call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. The federal government has called for reliable data to assess progress towards the goals. Data from the 2018 BC Adolescent Health Survey provides some examples of how the health of youth aged 12–19 in the province measures up against 9 of the 17 SDGs.

1 NO POVERTY



END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

In 2018, 12% of BC youth did not participate in extracurricular activities because they could not afford it (a decrease from 15% in 2013). Also, 8% did not have the clothes or equipment they needed to participate in extracurricular activities.

One in 10 BC youth did not have lunch for school or money to buy a lunch, and 6% did not have money for school supplies, trips, or activities.

Across BC, 1% of youth did not have access to the Internet and 5% did not have a cell phone, smartphone, or other portable electronic device.

2 ZERO HUNGER



END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY & IMPROVED NUTRITION & PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

In the past year, 1 in 10 BC youth went to bed hungry because there was not enough money for food at home at least sometimes. This was an increase from 7% in 2013.

On school days, 38% of youth always ate three meals, whereas 17% never ate breakfast, 5% never ate lunch, and 1% never ate dinner.

On the day before completing the survey, 93% of students ate fruit and/or vegetables, 77% ate sweets, 47% ate fast food, 41% ate traditional foods from their culture or background, and 16% ate food grown or caught by their family.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES & PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES

Most BC youth (81%) rated their physical health as good or excellent and 73% rated their mental health as good or excellent. However, these percentages were lower than in 2013.

In the past year, 8% missed out on medical care that they needed and 18% missed out on mental health care. The percentage who missed out on needed mental health care increased from 11% in 2013.

In the past week, 18% of students aged 12–17 met the Canadian physical activity guidelines for their age group.

In total, 79% felt they had a good life, 73% felt their life was going well, 59% had what they wanted in life, and 18% wished they had a different life.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



ENSURE INCLUSIVE & EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION & PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

Overall, 73% of BC youth felt safe at school (76% of males, 71% of females, and 47% of non-binary students). This was a decrease from 78% in 2013.

In 2018, 87% of youth planned to finish high school and 83% planned to go on to post-secondary education. Both these percentages were lower than in 2013.

In the past month, 14% of youth missed school due to family responsibilities, 5% missed school because they had no transportation, 4% because they were being bullied, and 4% because they had to work.

5 GENDER EQUALITY



ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY & EMPOWER ALL WOMEN & GIRLS

In the past year, 14% of female youth reported they had been discriminated against because of their gender.

Half of all female students had been verbally sexually harassed in the past year (an increase from 46% in 2013) and 31% had been physically sexually harassed (an increase from 26%).

Also, 17% of females had been physically abused and 17% had been sexually abused. Both of these percentages were higher than in 2013.

Females were more likely than males to have experienced discrimination, sexual harassment, and abuse.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE & SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL & PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT & DECENT WORK FOR ALL

A third of youth worked at a paid job in the past school year (an increase from 29% in 2013). This included 3% who worked in excess of 20 hours a week. In BC, youth under 16 years of age are not allowed to work in excess of 20 hours during a school week, yet 1% of those aged 15 and under worked 21 or more hours a week.

In the past 12 months, 5% of youth sustained a work place injury that was serious enough to require medical attention, and 3% sustained a concussion while they were working.

Four percent of youth missed school in the past month because they had to work.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN & AMONG COUNTRIES

In the past year, 23% of BC youth experienced discrimination because of the way they looked; 16% because of their weight; 14% because of their race, ethnicity, or skin colour; 8% because of their family's income; 5% because of their sexual orientation; and 3% because of a disability they had.

Non-binary youth were the most likely to experience violence and discrimination, and the least likely to feel safe in their schools and communities.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



MAKE CITIES & HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT & SUSTAINABLE

Overall, 91% of students often or always felt safe in their neighbourhood in the daytime and 65% felt this way at night. Males were the most likely to feel safe.

Also, 65% of students felt there was an adult in their neighbourhood or community who cared about them and 42% felt quite a bit or very much connected to their community. Both of these percentages were higher than in 2013.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



PROMOTE PEACEFUL & INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL & BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE & INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS

Within the past year, 38% of students had been teased, 39% had been socially excluded, and 8% had been physically attacked at school or on the way to or from school. In total, 53% had experienced at least one of these forms of bullying in the past year (a rise from 50% in 2013).

Youth who lived in poverty or experienced deprivation were less likely to plan to finish high school or attend post-secondary.