

Quarterly report National Youth Monitor

1/07



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Explanation of symbols

.	= data not available
*	= provisional figure
x	= publication prohibited (confidential figure)
–	= nil or less than half of unit concerned
–	= (between two figures) inclusive
0 (0,0)	= less than half of unit concerned
blank	= not applicable
2005-2006	= 2005 to 2006 inclusive
2005/2006	= average of 2005 up to and including 2006
2005/'06	= crop year, financial year, school year etc. beginning in 2005 and ending in 2006
2003/'04–2005/'06	= crop year, financial year, etc. 2003/'04 to 2005/'06 inclusive

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

Colofon

The National Youth Monitor is compiled at the request of the Ministry for Youth and Families. Statistics Netherlands is responsible for carrying out the project.

- The data are taken from the following sources:
- Statistics Netherlands (CBS)
- Centre for Work and Income (CWI)
- Department for Youth Custodial Institutions (DJI)
- Municipal population registration (GBA)
- Intomart GfK
- National Police Services Agency (KLPD)
- Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations
- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Education, Culture and Science
- Ministry Health, Welfare and Sport
- Ministry for Youth and Families
- National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM)
- Foundation for a smoke-free future STIVORO
- TNO Research
- Netherlands Institute of Mental Health and Addiction (Trimbos)
- Research and Documentation Centre (WODC)

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Statistics Netherlands

Why a National Youth Monitor?

There is a large amount of information to be had about children and young adults in the Netherlands. Research and studies are conducted in a wide range of areas, and dozens of datasets are available. However, as the definitions they use often vary, different figures may be in use for one and the same topic. And these are the figures ministries use as a basis for government youth policy.

The Dutch cabinet therefore decided that available information about the youth in the Netherlands should be unambiguous, and that it should be easier to correlate it. This will make it possible for ministries to develop a joint framework for youth policy, and on this basis to collaborate in tackling the problems in this area.

To this end, Operation Young was launched in 2004, with the aim of realising a robust and result-oriented youth policy. The Youth Monitor is a product of Operation Young, which revealed the need for a generally accessible website containing all the available information about children and young people in the Netherlands. At the end of 2005 a scientific expert group recommended the development of a National Youth Monitor.

The National Youth Monitor has been developed at the request of the Ministry of Youth and Families. In addition the Ministries of Health, Welfare and Sport, of Education, Culture and Science, of Justice, and of Social Affairs and Employment all contribute to the Youth Monitor.

What is the National Youth Monitor?

The National Youth Monitor presents an overall picture of how children and young adults in the Netherlands are doing. It takes into account all stages in their life course between ages 0 and 24 years, and all aspects of life, as well as the relationships between these aspects. School drop-out rates, for example, are not an isolated problem; they are affected by all sorts of connected factors such as health and level of education.

To be able to present a consistent picture of children and young people, the Youth Monitor links existing datasets. On the basis of the collected information, the Monitor can determine what important developments and changes have occurred. Is the situation improving or not? Have targets been met? The information in the Youth Monitor is mainly intended to assist politicians, policy makers and the government, at both national and local – provincial and municipal – level.

The Youth Monitor illustrates the situation of the youth in the Netherlands with the aid of a set of indicators. These indicators cover the areas education, labour, health and welfare, and justice. The Youth Monitor also contains a database with the statistics underlying the indicators. This database can be accessed via the website of the Youth Monitor; users can make their own tables by selecting the data and level of detail required.

Every quarter, a new selection of data from the Youth database is presented and explained in more detail in the Quarterly Reports. Recent developments are highlighted in articles and are placed in a broader context. The Youth Monitor further contains references to organisations which publish research results in the field of youth.

Indicators in the National Youth Monitor

The National Youth Monitor comprises information on a number of aspects relating to Dutch children and young adults for the period 2000 to 2006. Where possible the information is broken down by sex, age, ethnic background and region. At the moment the lowest regional level for which information is available is the municipality. For each topic, the Monitor aims is to provide both absolute numbers and percentages. The Monitor will be updated annually with the most recent figures and new areas of interest will regularly be incorporated.

At the moment the monitor comprises the following topics:

- Alcohol use
- Basic qualifications and education
- Bodyweight
- Certificates and diplomas
- Child abuse
- Child care
- Courses and company training
- Crime (offenders and victims)
- Drugs
- Employment situation
- Feelings of insecurity
- Infant mortality
- Number of children and young adults
- Participation in education
- Perceived health
- Perinatal mortality
- Physical exercise
- Preventive health care
- School drop-out rates
- Sickness absence
- Smoking
- Social benefits
- Unaccompanied foreign minors and (provisional) guardianship
- Volunteer work
- Work-related accidents
- Youth care and welfare
- Youth detention centres
- Youth probation
- Youth unemployment

Who makes the National Youth Monitor?

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The data are taken from the following sources:

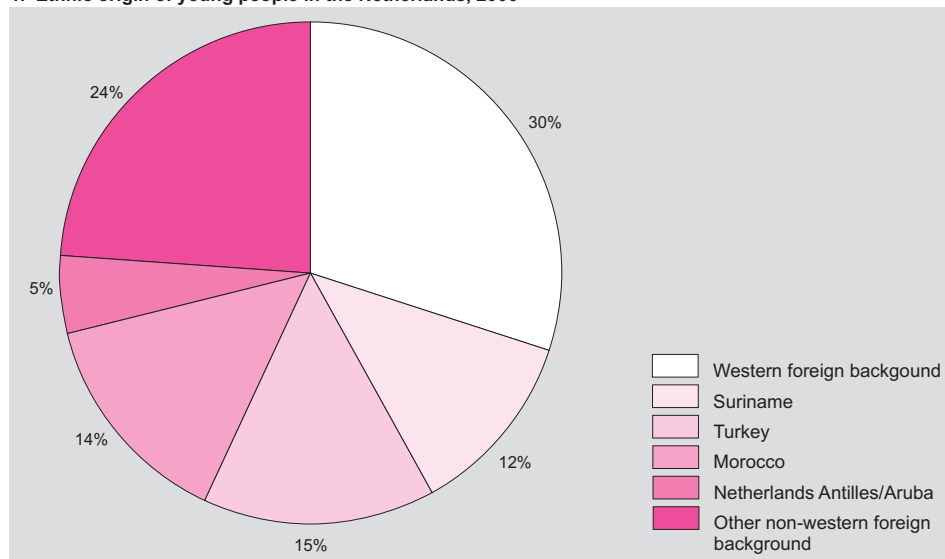
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Nearly 5 million young people in the Netherlands

On 1 January 2006, there were nearly 5 million children and young adults aged 0 to 24 years in the Netherlands. This means that almost one third of the Dutch population of just over 16 million were younger than 25. The number was 111 thousand higher than in 2000, an increase of just over 2 percent. Boys outnumbered girls in this age group by over 100 thousand in 2006. The surplus of male births is not a recent phenomenon: as early as the seventeenth century differences had already been established between the numbers of boys and girls born.

Nearly one quarter of children and young adults in the Netherlands have a foreign background. This group of 1.1 million people is very varied. Seven out of ten of them have a non-western foreign background, for example Turkish, Moroccan, and Surinam young people.

1. Ethnic origin of young people in the Netherlands, 2006



Source: Statistics Netherlands.

One in five children and young adults lived in the province South Holland in 2006. The number living in this province equalled the total number living in provinces Limburg, Friesland, Groningen, Drenthe, Flevoland and Zeeland together.

Definitions

Ethnic group

This characteristic reflects which country a person has an actual relationship with, given their own or their parents' country of birth. The characteristic first distinguishes between foreign background and native Dutch background, and for the former subsequently between western and non-western foreign background. This distinction is based on the large differences in socio-economic and cultural situation of the groups. Within the group of people with a non-western foreign background, four main target groups are distinguished with respect to government minority policy, i.e. people from Turkey, Morocco, Suriname and the Netherlands Antilles/Aruba.

Foreign background

A person with a foreign background is a person of whom at least one parent was born outside the Netherlands. A distinction is made between persons born outside the Netherlands, and those born in the Netherlands. The ethnic group is determined by the country of birth of the person concerned, or his/her mother's country of birth. If the mother was born in the Netherlands, the father's country of birth is taken.

Non-western foreign background

A person who was born, or whose parent(s) were born, in Africa, Latin America, Asia (excl. Indonesia and Japan) or Turkey. On the grounds of their socio-economic and socio-cultural position, people who were born, or whose parent(s) were born, in Indonesia and Japan are considered as people with a western foreign background. These are mostly people born in the former Dutch East Indies and employees of Japanese companies and their families.

Other non-western foreign background

A person with a foreign background is a person of whom at least one parent was born outside the Netherlands. People with an other non-western foreign background have at least one parent who was born in Africa, Latin America, Asia (excl. Indonesia and Japan).

Western foreign background

A person who was born or whose parent(s) were born outside the Netherlands but in Europe (excl. Turkey), North America, Oceania, Indonesia or Japan. On the grounds of their socio-economic and socio-cultural position, people born or of whose parent(s) were born in Indonesia and Japan are considered as people with a western foreign background. These are mostly people born in the former Dutch East Indies and employees of Japanese companies and their families.