

Annual report 2009
National Youth Monitor

Explanation of symbols

.	= figure not available
*	= provisional figure
**	= revised provisional figure
x	= publication prohibited (confidential figure)
–	= nil
–	= (between two figures) up to and including
0 (0,0)	= less than half of unit concerned
(blank)	= not applicable
2008–2009	= 2008 to 2009 inclusive
2008/2009	= average of 2008 up to and including 2009
2008/'09	= crop year, financial year, school year etc. beginning in 2008 and ending in 2009
2006/'07–2008/'09	= crop year, financial year, etc. 2006/'07 to 2008/'09 inclusive

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

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Foreword

This is the second edition of the annual report of the National Youth Monitor, which is published jointly by the Ministry for Youth and Families and Statistics Netherlands. The report is intended for everyone interested in young people in the Netherlands, professionally or otherwise. The contents of the annual report are based on the data on the website of the National Youth Monitor: www.landelijkejeugdmonitor.nl.

Just as the previous edition, this year's report presents results on young people and family, health, education, social participation, employment and security. Each of these themes is examined with respect to the situation of people under 25 years. The summary describes the main conclusions, and for the first time a table of key figures on young Dutch people has been included.

Some new topics have been added this year. The theme young people and family pays special attention to children who experience their parents' divorce, and information is also presented on the sexual behaviour and employment careers of young people. The theme social participation comprises other aspects than last year; this year it also includes information about contacts with family and friends, religious denomination and worship, and political interest.

A few of the findings in this report:

- every year some 33 thousand underage children experience their parents' divorce;
- one quarter of girls aged 15–24 years say they have experienced sexual abuse at some time; for boys this is 4 percent;
- more than half of people aged over 18 are in education;
- almost all young people aged 12–24 years speak to friends and acquaintances at least once a week;
- young men in particular are unemployed in times of economic crisis;
- fewer teenage offenders were referred to the Halt scheme.

Statistics Netherlands compiled the annual report 2009 of the National Youth Monitor in close cooperation with various organisations. The Netherlands Institute of Mental Health and Addiction (Trimbos) and the Dutch Expert Centre on Sexuality (Rutgers Nisso Groep), for example, both contributed. In addition, the Ministries of Justice; Education, Culture and Science; Health, Welfare and Sport; Social Affairs and Employment; and Youth and Families reviewed the contents of the book.

The Director-General of Statistics
G. van der Veen

Preface

With nearly 5 million children and young adults in the Netherlands, reliable information about this group is essential. This was the reason that the Ministry for Youth and Family asked Statistics Netherlands to develop National Youth Monitor. The annual reports of the National Youth Monitor present information about all issues concerning young people. The first annual report was published last year and used by many policymakers and the media to describe the situation of young people in the Netherlands. I sincerely hope that this year's report, too, will be widely used.

The topics in this report correspond with the themes of my policy programme. The report shows that the vast majority of children and young people in the Netherlands are still doing well. More youngsters are in higher education, for example, and fewer young people smoke. But there are also areas for concern. The number of young people with a Wajong disability benefit rose further. And there is still a growing demand for assistance from the youth welfare services. The increasing number of overweight children is also cause for concern.

The Cabinet is working hard alongside municipalities, provinces and professionals to tackle these and other problems. Partly as a result of the economic crisis, young people from more vulnerable groups are finding it increasingly difficult to get a job. This group deserves special attention. Young people with a low level of education and those in the youth welfare system, can count on extra help to find work.

The National Youth Monitor is still in development, and will be expanded to include a number of family indicators next year. It will also be developed into an even better instrument for municipalities to compare findings. This and clear graphical data presentation will improve the use and accessibility of the website further.

I hope you enjoy the 2009 annual report on young people in the Netherlands. I would like to thank Statistics Netherlands and everyone who has contributed to the book in any way.

The Minister for Youth and Families
A. Rouvoet

Young people in the Netherlands

Introduction

Today's children hold the future in their hands. All children and young people in the Netherlands should have the opportunity to grow up and develop their talents. The Ministry for Youth and Family has set five conditions to enable them to do this. Youngsters should be able to grow up in a healthy and safe environment, they must be able to contribute to society, have the opportunity to develop their talents, enjoy life, and prepare themselves for the future. The National Youth Monitor, which was set up to determine how Dutch youngsters are doing on these issues, is the basis for this 2009 annual report.

The summary below describes the main findings of the report. Six chapters then examine each theme further. The first chapter presents a demographic picture of young people aged 0–24 years and the families in which they grow up. Subsequent chapters describe children and young people in respect to health, education, social participation, employment and security. The publication ends with a brief description of the website and a glossary.

As the National Youth Monitor also includes information at municipal level, the various chapters in this report also look at the municipal perspective.

Summary

Young people and families

Nearly 5 million people aged 0–24 years live in the Netherlands in 2009, slightly more than in 2000. However, Statistics Netherlands' population forecast expects this number to decrease by 139 thousand to 2020. Twenty-three percent of the 0–24 year-olds have an immigrant background. This share is expected rise slightly in the next ten years, with Moroccans becoming the largest non-western group.

Although most youngsters live at home with their parents, every year nearly a quarter of a million leave home to live independently. Girls generally do this a slightly younger ages than boys. Girls are also younger when they marry or cohabit. When asked, most young people said they want to live together first and then get married.

More and more children living at home live with just one parent, usually after the divorce of their parents or the death of one of them. Every year, 33 thousand underage children experience their parents' divorce. More than half of them are younger than ten. The number of ex-couples opting for co-parenting after divorce has risen since the end of the last century.

Young people and health – growing up healthily and safely

The vast majority of young people are positive about their own health. However, one in seven 2–24 year-olds were overweight in the period 2006–2008. These youngsters are generally less positive about their health than those who are not overweight. Not all young people lead equally healthy lifestyles. Many teenagers experiment with smoking, alcohol or cannabis, for example. On the positive side: the number of children aged 10–19 years who have never smoked has increased in the last ten years.

In their teens, young people discover and explore their sexuality. For many teenagers, this takes place step by step. Just over half of youngsters first have intercourse when they are just over 17. Girls are generally younger than boys in this respect, but around their 21st birthday boys and girls are equally experienced in the area of sex. Not all sexual experiences are positive: in 2009, just under a quarter of 15–24 year-old girls and women and 4 percent of boys and men said they experienced sexual abuse. The majority of offenders were known to the victim.

Although many young people grow up in a healthy and safe environment, unfortunately not all of them do. Some children themselves are difficult to bring up because of deviant behaviour, while others have parents who cannot cope. The number of young people for whom assistance is requested from the youth welfare services has increased in recent years. Also, many youngsters suffer from abuse: over 53 thousand people contacted the Child Abuse Reporting Agency (AMK) in 2008 to report suspected child abuse.

Young people and school – developing talents and preparing for the future

Almost all Dutch children aged 4–17 years go to school: 99 percent of 4–11 year-olds and 94 percent of 12–17 year-olds in school year 2007/'08. This is not surprising, as children in the Netherlands are required to attend school from their fifth birthday, although many start a year earlier, to the end of the school year in which their sixteenth birthday falls. For those who do not have a basic qualification when they are sixteen, this is extended to their eighteenth birthday. Over half of over-18s were still in education in 2007/'08. The number of those in higher education has increased in recent years, especially the number of women.

Not all pupils pass through the education system equally quickly or along the same route. Some pupils slow down their school careers by repeating a class, or by moving up from senior secondary general (havo) to pre-university education (vwo) and redoing the same year at a higher level. Many pupils have difficulties with year 4 of havo and vwo. From school year 2006/'07 to 2007/'08, 14 percent redid havo year 4, 4 percent moved down from vwo year 4 to havo year 4, and 6 percent repeated year 4 of vwo.

Most young people with a diploma in pre-vocational education (vmbo) move on to senior secondary vocational education (mbo). Both school types are based on four sectors: agriculture, economics, engineering and technology, and health and social care. From 2005/'06 to 2006/'07 fourth-year vmbo pupils in the sectors economics,

engineering and technology and health and social care often chose an mbo programme in the same sector. Children in the agriculture sector of vmbo were less faithful to their sector in mbo. Most children with a havo diploma (78 percent) move on to higher professional education (hbo), and most students with a vwo diploma go on to university (72 percent).

Some children already fall behind their peers in primary school. Schools receive additional funding for these underprivileged pupils, which they can use for remedial teaching. A total 240 thousand primary school pupils were classified as underprivileged in school year 2008/09; 154 thousand of these children fall under the new scheme of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science. There are relatively more underprivileged pupils in the large cities than in smaller municipalities.

Young people in society – they do their bit and have fun

Social contacts are important. Almost all young people aged between 12 and 25 years speak with friends and acquaintances at least once a week, according to a study held in 2008. Many young people are also active in the community. Eight out of ten young people aged 18–24 years belonged to a club or organisation in 2008, more than half to a sports club. Fewer youngsters belong to a faith or church: half of 12–24 year-olds in 2008. Worshipping in a church, mosque or other religious meeting place is even less common: more than three-quarters of youngsters said they almost never went, while one in ten worshipped every week.

Young people are not only active in society through clubs and church. They also do voluntary work and provide informal care and help. In 2008, four in ten 18–24 year-olds did voluntary work, and three in ten helped others on an informal basis; some youngsters did both.

The participation of young people in society is expressed by among other things their interest in politics. In the general election of 2006, 71 percent of 18–24 year-olds voted, compared with a national turnout rate of 81 percent. After the election a survey was conducted to measure how much people trust each other and whether they trust ten national institutions. Some 60 percent of 18–24 year-olds said that in general most people can be trusted. However, they did not trust the press and civil servants in particular.

So young people are very involved in society. This is expected to have a positive effect on their welfare and wellbeing; indeed more than 90 percent of people aged 12–24 years said they were happy or very happy in 2008. More than 90 percent also said they were satisfied with their lives.

Young people and employment – developing talents and preparing for the future

Four percent of all young people (12–22 years) who left school in school year 2006/07 did so without a basic qualification, i.e. a diploma in senior secondary general education (havo), pre-university education (vwo) or senior secondary vocational education (mbo) level 2. The highest drop-out rate (9 percent) was in

mbo. Most of the 1.7 percent of pupils who left secondary education without a basic qualification were pupils who had repeated a year, and those with learning or behavioural difficulties. More boys than girls and more pupils with a foreign background than native Dutch pupils drop out of school. Living in an urban area and growing up in a one-parent or low income family also increases the risk of leaving school prematurely.

Young people who leave school without a basic qualification are less likely to find a job than those who do have a relevant diploma. This is very clear in times of economic crisis: in the second quarter of 2009, one in six 15–22 year-olds were unemployed; for those with a basic qualification the rate was only half this. It is mainly young men who cannot find jobs.

Tens of thousands of young people neither work nor go to school. This is an important social problem. Young people should be able to be active and participate fully in society and not sidelined at an early age. In 2008 a total of 70 thousand people aged 15–24 years were claiming a benefit, most of them for disability or illness. Since 1998, this number has increased by 87 percent. Almost all disability benefits for young people are paid under the Wajong scheme for disabled young people.

Opposite this large group of youngsters who are not active at all, many young people already become acquainted with the labour market through part-time work while they are still in school. Nearly 40 percent of pupils and students had a job of less than 12 hours per week in 2008. Most of them worked in shops and restaurants.

Young people and security – growing up safely

Relatively many young people aged 15–24 years are crime victims. Most cases of them are affected by property offences such as bicycle theft. Relatively many young people also do not feel safe sometimes. This is certainly the case for girls: twice as many girls as boys feel unsafe sometimes.

The number of young people aged 12–24 years who came into contact with the police or justice system in connection with a criminal offence rose annually between 2000 and 2007, but seems to have taken a slight positive turn in 2008. Fewer children were referred to the Halt scheme for example. Also, the number of cases involving youngsters under 25 settled by the public prosecution services decreased slightly and the number of cases going to court rose only slightly. More girls and young women are arrested for property crimes, while boys and young men are more likely to be involved in vandalism, crimes against public order and violent offences. The share of girls and young women referred to the Halt scheme, the public prosecutor and appearing court is slowly increasing.

Over 3 percent of 12–24 year-olds were interviewed by the police as suspects. This percentage varies considerably between municipalities. In most municipalities, the proportion of young people with a foreign background held on suspicion of crime was higher than the proportion of native Dutch youngsters held on similar charges.

Key figures

Key figures on young people in the Netherlands¹⁾

	Unit	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008
Young people and families						
Number of young people (0–24 years)	1,000	4,829	4,957	4,940	4,923	4,918
Children growing up in a one-parent family (0–17 years)	1,000	495	590	601	608	616
Children experiencing parents' divorce (0–17 years) ²⁾	1,000	33	34	33	33	33
Teenage mothers (15–19 years)	1	3,968	4,129	3,598	3,226	3,153
Young people and health						
Positive assessment of health (0–24 years)	%	91	92.1	92.3	91.6	91.9
Overweight children and young people (2–24 years)	%	12.5	13.2	13.6	13.1	15.1
Teenagers who have never smoked (10–19 years)	%	49	56	56	58	58
Teenagers who have ever drunk alcohol (12–18 years)	%	.	.	.	79.0	.
Teenagers who have ever smoked cannabis (12–18 years)	%	.	.	.	16.7	.
Young people and school						
Education participation (0–24 years) ^{3) 4)}	1,000	.	3,422	3,451	3,474	.
Underprivileged pupils 0.30 ⁴⁾	1,000	.	.	39	68	91
Underprivileged pupils 1.20 ⁴⁾	1,000	.	.	24	44	63
Young people and society						
Members of sports clubs (18–24 years)	%	.	.	54.0	.	.
Weekly contact with relatives (12–24 years) ⁵⁾	%	.	.	78.3	.	.
Weekly contact with friends (12–24 years) ⁵⁾	%	.	.	97.8	.	.
Belongs to a religion (12–24 years)	%	.	.	50.4	.	.
Voluntary work and informal assistance (18–24 years)	%	61.4	.	.	57.1	57.9
Young people and the labour market						
School drop-outs (12–22 years) ³⁾	1,000	.	54	53	49	.
Employed young people (15–22 years)	1,000	.	221	225	231	231
Unemployed young people (15–22 years)	1,000	.	37	28	23	22
Young people claiming unemployment benefit or income support (under 25 years) ²⁾	1,000	34	40	27	19	19
Young people claiming Wajong benefit (18–24 years) ³⁾	1,000	25	33	38	44	49
Young people and security						
Crime victims (15–24 years)	1,000	.	.	806	762	769
Feelings of insecurity (15–24 years)	1,000	.	.	553	537	438
Halt referrals ²⁾	1,000	.	22	21	23	21
Cases settled by public prosecutor and in going to court (12–17 years)	1,000	27	35	36	37	38
Cases settled by public prosecutor and in going to court (18–24 years)	1,000	47	56	59	58	59
Young people interviewed by the police (12–24 years) ³⁾	1,000	50	80	83	.	.

¹⁾ This table contains no figures for 2009 as these were only available for two topics at the time of publication.

²⁾ These figures will probably be included in the National Youth Monitor in the fourth quarter of 2009.

³⁾ The figures for the most recent year are provisional.

⁴⁾ These figures refer to school years. For example 2005 is school year 2005–06.

⁵⁾ 2006 is the average of the years 2006–2008.

1. Young people and families

The number of people under the age of 25 in the Netherlands peaked in 2005, at 4.96 million. This number is expected to drop to 4.8 million in 2020. Nearly one quarter of young people have a non-native background, although most of them were born in the Netherlands. Four out of ten 18–24 year-olds have left home. A minority of them are cohabiting, but most of them expect to cohabit and/or marry eventually. More and more children living at home live in a one-parent family, mostly following the divorce of their parents. In 2008, the parents of 33 thousand underage children divorced. Most children subsequently stay with their mother, although more and more former couples are opting for co-parenting.

1.1 Young people

Fewer 4–11 year-olds

On 1 January 2009, 4.9 million people under the age of 25 lived in the Netherlands, accounting for one third of the overall population. Boys and men in this age group outnumbered girls and women by 100 thousand. Although the number of young people was 100 thousand higher than in 2000, in 2005 it was even higher at a record number of 4.96 million. The increase was mainly in the age group 15–17 years, as a result of higher birth rates in the early 1990s.

Table 1.1
Young people (under 25 years) by age

	2000	2005	2009	2015	2020
<i>x 1,000</i>					
Total	4,829	4,957	4,930	4,869	4,791
0–3 yrs	790	803	739	713	726
4–11 yrs	1,583	1,595	1,599	1,496	1,448
12–14 yrs	573	611	587	613	559
15–17 yrs	546	589	605	602	601
18–24 yrs	1,337	1,360	1,401	1,446	1,457
<i>2000=100</i>					
Total	100	103	102	101	99
0–3 yrs	100	102	93	90	92
4–11 yrs	100	101	101	95	92
12–14 yrs	100	107	102	107	98
15–17 yrs	100	108	111	110	110
18–24 yrs	100	102	105	108	109

Source: National Youth Monitor, CBS Population statistics and CBS Population forecast 2008.

Statistics Netherlands' population forecasts expect the number of young people to decrease in the next decade, to 4.8 million in 2020. This would be 139 thousand fewer than in 2009. The decrease will be in the age group 4–14 years in particular, as birth rates were down substantially at the beginning of the century. The decrease in the number of births is expected to continue to 2012. As a result, the number of primary school children will decrease; the number of 4–11 year-olds will fall by 151 thousand from 2009, to 1.4 million in 2020.

One quarter of young people have a foreign background

At the beginning of 2009, 23 percent of the 4.9 million young people in the Netherlands were of foreign descent. Three-quarters of these 1.1 million young people were born in the Netherlands (second generation), but one or both of their parents were born abroad. The remaining quarter of young people with a foreign background were themselves born abroad (first generation).

The share of young people with a foreign background is expected to rise to 25 percent in 2020. Young people with a western foreign background as well those with as a non-western foreign background will contribute to this increase. On 1 January 2009, 349 thousand young people with a western foreign background lived in the Netherlands. The most common countries of origin in this group were Germany (60 thousand), Indonesia (50 thousand), Belgium (29 thousand) and the United Kingdom (26 thousand). In recent years many youngsters have arrived from former Yugoslavia (28 thousand), Poland (21 thousand) and the former Soviet Union (20 thousand). The number of young people with a European background will rise in the future, while the number of Indonesian descent will halve.

Nearly 800 thousand young people with a non-western foreign background were living in the Netherlands on 1 January 2009, 16 percent of the total number of young people. Twenty percent of this group have a Turkish background, another twenty percent a Moroccan background. In the future Moroccan youngsters will outnumber other ethnic groups; they have been having relatively more children than other ethnic groups in the last few decades (Garssen and Nicolaas, 2006), although the fertility of Moroccan women has decreased substantially. The number of Turkish and Surinamese young people will probably drop sharply as immigration from these countries is decreasing and fertility has also fallen (Garssen and van Duin, 2009). In addition to Turkish, Moroccan, Surinamese, Antillean and Aruban youths, there is a large group of young people with very diverse non-western countries of origin. This includes Afghan and Iraqi youngsters, for example. The share of the group of young people with other countries of origin in the group with a non-western foreign background will rise from 35 percent in 2009 to 40 percent in 2020.

Moroccans dominant young ethnic group in Amsterdam and Utrecht

Relatively many young people with a Moroccan background live in the four large cities Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague and Utrecht. Moroccans account for the

Table 1.2
Young people (under 25 years) by ethnic origin

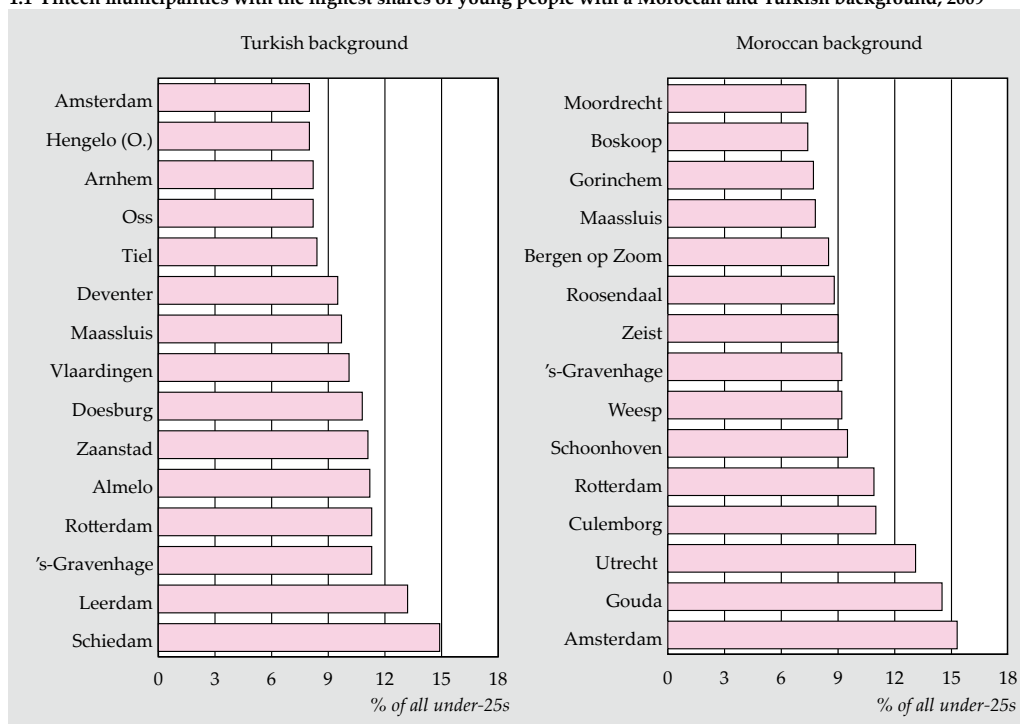
	2000	2005	2009	2015	2020
	<i>x 1,000</i>				
Total	4,829	4,957	4,930	4,869	4,791
Native Dutch	3,804	3,817	3,786	3,699	3,608
Foreign background	1,025	1,141	1,144	1,169	1,183
Western	336	341	349	366	385
Non-western	689	799	795	803	798
of whom:					
Morocco	144	163	167	171	165
Turkey	157	171	166	157	140
Suriname	128	133	125	110	97
Netherlands Antilles/Aruba	53	62	61	65	68
Other non-western	207	271	276	300	328
	<i>%</i>				
Total	100	100	100	100	100
Native Dutch	78.8	77.0	76.8	76.0	75.3
Foreign background	21.2	23.0	23.2	24.0	24.7
Western	6.9	6.9	7.1	7.5	8.0
Non-western	14.3	16.1	16.1	16.5	16.7
of whom:					
Morocco	3.0	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.4
Turkey	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.2	2.9
Suriname	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.3	2.0
Netherlands Antilles/Aruba	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.4
Other non-western	4.3	5.5	5.6	6.2	6.8

Source: National Youth Monitor, CBS Population statistics and CBS Population forecast 2008.

largest ethnic group of youngsters in Amsterdam (15 percent). Eight of the fifteen municipalities with the largest shares of Moroccan youngsters are in the province South Holland. Bergen Op Zoom and Roosendaal have surprisingly large shares of young Moroccans. Most young Turks in relative terms live in Rotterdam and surrounding area, especially in Schiedam, with a share of 15 percent. Municipalities with relatively large numbers of young people with a Turkish background are less concentrated. They are located in a broad strip from the coast (The Hague and Rotterdam and surroundings) via the centre of the country (Tiel, Oss and Doesburg) to the German border (Hengelo and Almelo).

Many municipalities in the north and the southwest of the Netherlands in particular have very small shares of young Turks and Moroccans. Twenty municipalities even have no young Moroccans at all, and there are no young Turks in eighteen municipalities.

1.1 Fifteen municipalities with the highest shares of young people with a Moroccan and Turkish background, 2009



Source: National Youth Monitor, CBS Population statistics.

1.2 Families

Most youngster still live with their parents

Most young people still live with their parents (87 percent). A small share, 6 percent, have left home and were living alone at the beginning of 2009. Four percent were living with a partner. The remainder of young people were living with foster parents, with a single parent or in an institution such as a children's home. Obviously, the living situation depends strongly on age. In 2009 nearly all children below 15 years of age were living with one or both parents.

Some 27 thousand of them did not live with their biological parents, but with a foster family or in a home.

Nearly a quarter of a million young people leave home every year. A minority do so before their eighteenth birthday, but most move out in their early twenties. Some move to a bed-sit in a university city, others move for work purposes, and others again move in with a partner. Four out of ten 18–24 year-olds have left home. Girls leave their parents at younger ages than boys.

Table 1.3
Young people by position in household, 1 January 2009

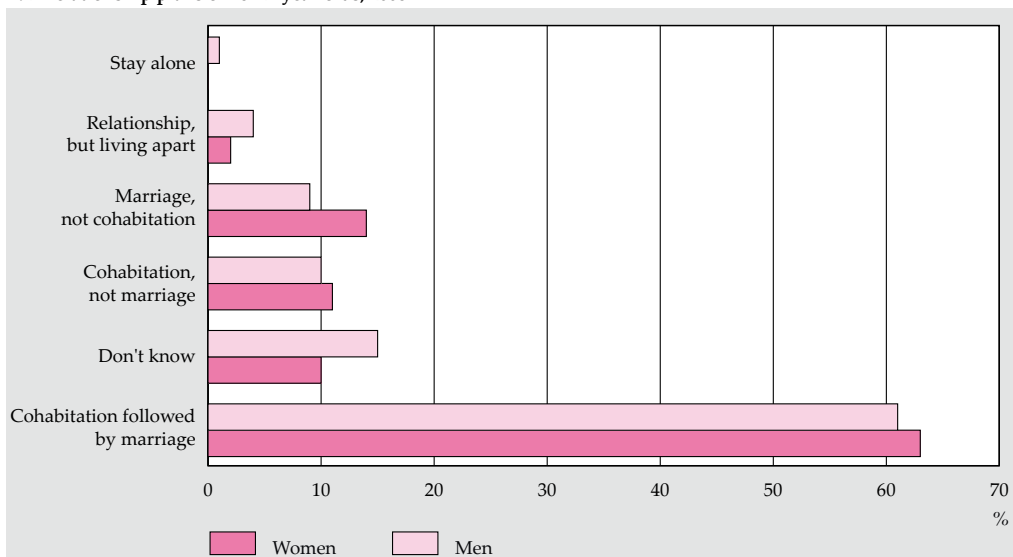
	Total	Living with parents		Single	Cohabiting	Single parent	Other member of household	Living in an institution	
		Total	of whom: one-parent family two-parent family						
<i>x 1,000</i>									
Total	4,930.4	4,291.6	627.5	3,653.3	302.2	219.3	12.2	82.4	22.7
0–14 yrs	2,923.1	2,895.6	365.7	2,519.2				21.4	6.0
15–17 yrs	605.2	587.0	107.4	479.6	7.1	1.5	0.2	4.3	5.2
18–24 yrs	1,402.2	809.1	154.5	654.6	295.1	217.8	12.0	56.7	11.5
<i>%</i>									
Total	100	87	13	74	6	4	0	2	0
0–14 yrs	100	99	13	86				1	0
15–17 yrs	100	97	18	79	1	0	0	1	1
18–24 yrs	100	58	11	47	21	16	1	4	1

Source: CBS Population statistics.

Most young people want to live together, then marry

One in six boys aged 18–24 years lived with a partner or was married in 2008. More women than men in this age group live together. Just over half of young people aged 18–24 years still live with their parents and one in five live alone (see

1.2 Relationship plans of 18–24 year-olds, 2008



Source: CBS Fertility survey 2008.

table 1.3). Young people who were not living with a partner were asked what their relationship plans were for the future. And young people who were living together, but were not married were asked whether they planned to marry. Seventy percent of young men expect to marry eventually, of whom a very large share want to cohabit first. For young women the tendency to marry was seven percent points higher. More women than men want to marry directly, without living together first. One in ten young people choose to live together, but not to marry. Only few young people said they wanted to stay on their own.

Divorce affects 33 thousand children a year

Just over 3.7 million children under the age of 25 lived in a family with two parents in 2009. This is 85 percent of all children living at home. However, more and more children are growing up in a one-parent household. In 2009, 628 thousand children under the age of 25 lived with a single mother or father; 15 percent of all children under the age of 25 living at home. In 2000 this share was still 12 percent. One-parent families are mostly the result of divorce or death. Only few are parents who consciously choose to bring up a child on their own.

In recent years, around 33 thousand underage children a year are affected by their parents' divorce. Nearly one fifth of them were younger than five, and one third were aged between five and ten years at the time of the divorce. In the early 1990s, the number of children whose parents divorced was around 25 thousand a year.

Table 1.4
Divorces and underage children of divorced couples

Year of divorce	Total number of divorces	Of which couples with underage children	Total number of underage children whose parents divorced
	x 1,000	%	x 1,000
1995	34.2	44.8	28.0
2000	34.7	51.8	33.0
2001	37.1	53.0	36.3
2002	33.2	56.3	34.7
2003	31.5	58.1	33.9
2004	31.1	58.1	33.6
2005	31.9	57.4	33.9
2006	31.7	56.9	33.3
2007	32.0	56.2	33.1
2008	32.2	56.4	33.3

Source: CBS Population statistics.

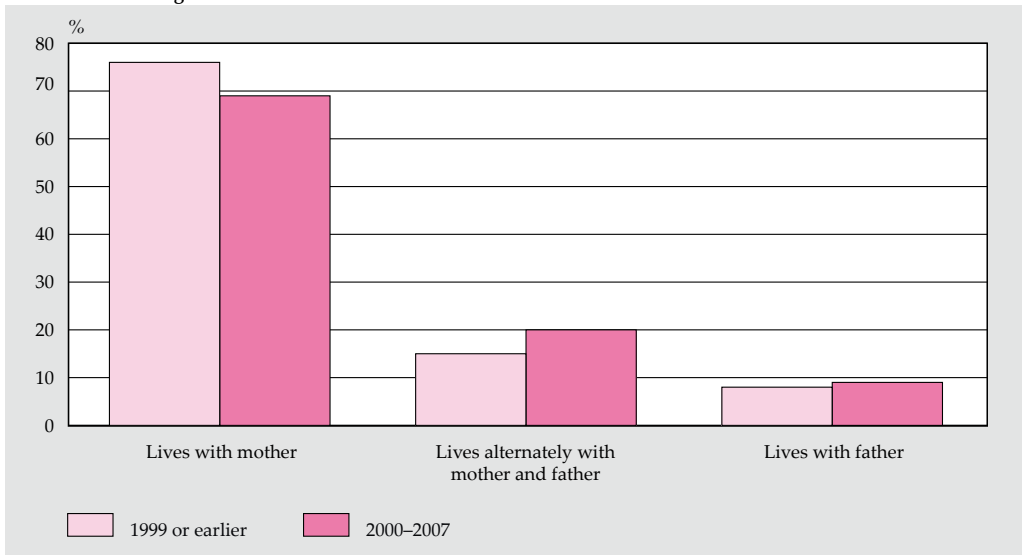
The increase is not only the result of the increase in the number of divorces, but also of the increase in the number of divorcing couples with children. The latter is the consequence of many cohabiting couples getting married when they have children. The share of divorces of couples with children rose from 45 percent in the mid-1990s to just over 56 percent in 2008.

The total number of children whose parents separate is more than 33 thousand, as some couples with children were not married, or were married but got a flash divorce (De Graaf, 2005).

Divorced parents increasingly opt to co-parent

Not only the contact between child and parents changes after a divorce. The new family composition also affects the wellbeing of children. This is even more so when divorced parents remarry or cohabit with a new partner. Most children live with their mother after a divorce, 70 percent in recent years. Ten percent lived with their father. One in five divorced couples choose a co-parenting option, where the children live alternately with their father and their mother. A few children live independently after their parents’ divorce. Compared with the post-divorce situation of children at the end of the last century, more and more former couples are now opting for co-parenting.

1.3 Children’s living situation after divorce



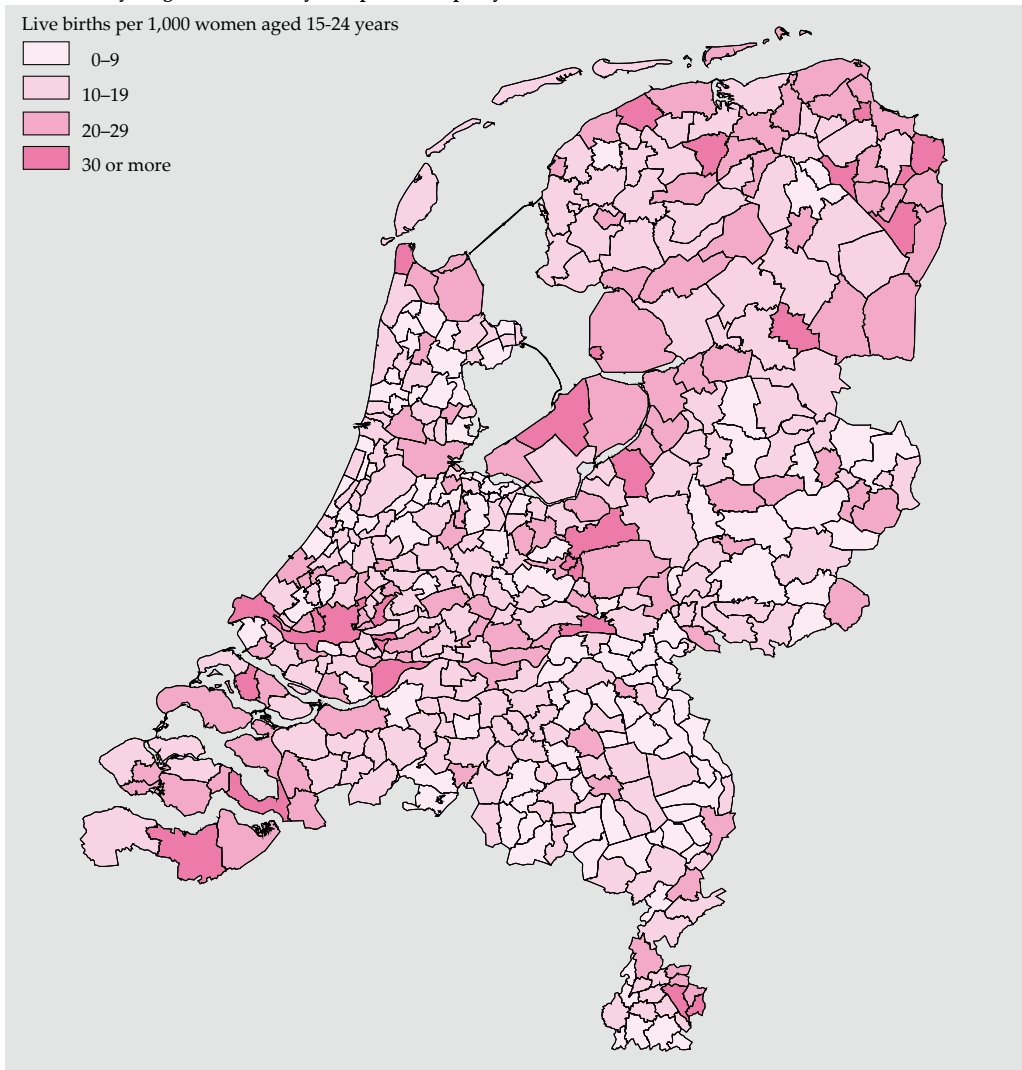
Source: CBS Fertility survey 2008.

1.3 Young mothers

Urk has most young mothers

Some 185 thousand children were born in the Netherlands in 2008. By far most of the mothers of these babies were aged between 25 and 40 years when they gave birth. One in ten were younger than 25 years. There are large regional differences in the share of young women who have a baby. In 2008 this varied between 0 and 60 per thousand women aged under 25. Urk had the highest share of young

1.4 Births to young women (15–24 years) per municipality, 2008



Source: CBS Population statistics.

mothers in 2008, followed by Reiderland in Groningen and Reimerswaal in Zeeland. A number of municipalities that score relatively high on the list are in the so-called Bible Belt, which runs from the southwest to the northeast of the Netherlands. Reimerswaal, Renswoude and Neder-Betuwe are all in this strip. In a number of municipalities in east Groningen, women under 25 years of age also have high fertility rates.

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Garssen, J. and C. van Duin, 2009, Allochtonenprognose 2008–2050: naar 5 million allochtonen. *Bevolkingstrends* 57(2), pp. 14–21, CBS, Voorburg/Heerlen.

2. Young people and health

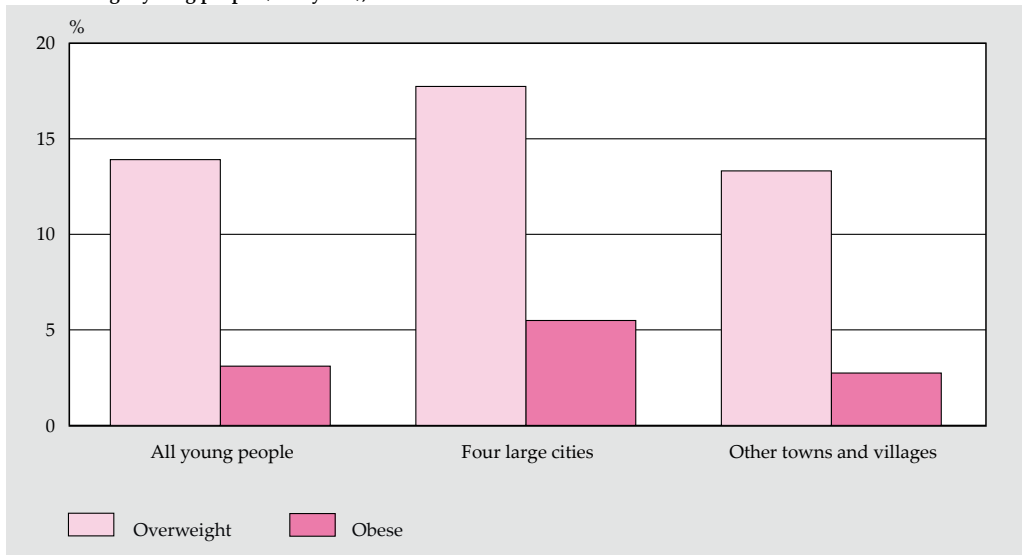
One in seven 2–24 year-olds in the Netherlands is overweight. In the four large cities this is even as many as 18 percent. Overweight children feel less healthy than children who are within the normal weight range. The number of children who have never smoked has risen, to 58 percent of 10–19 year-olds. The percentage of youngsters (12–15 years) who have ever drunk alcohol and the percentage who have smoked cannabis hardly differ between school types. But of the pupils who do drink, those in the lowest education streams drink more often and drink more per session. Pupils in pre-university education (vwo) are less likely to smoke cannabis than those in lower education levels. Youngsters with lower education levels have sex at younger ages than their peers in higher levels of education, and a shockingly high number of young people have suffered acts of sexual violence, often from the hands of someone they know. More and more children who experience problems growing up or whose parents have difficulties bringing them up are being referred to the youth welfare services.

2.1 Being overweight and feeling healthy

Nearly 14 percent of young people overweight

Obesity is a major problem in today's society and in the Netherlands, too, too many children are overweight. More than 14 percent of boys and men aged 2–24 years

2.1 Overweight young people (2–24 years), 2006/2008



Source: National Youth Monitor, CBS Permanent Life Situation Survey (POLS).

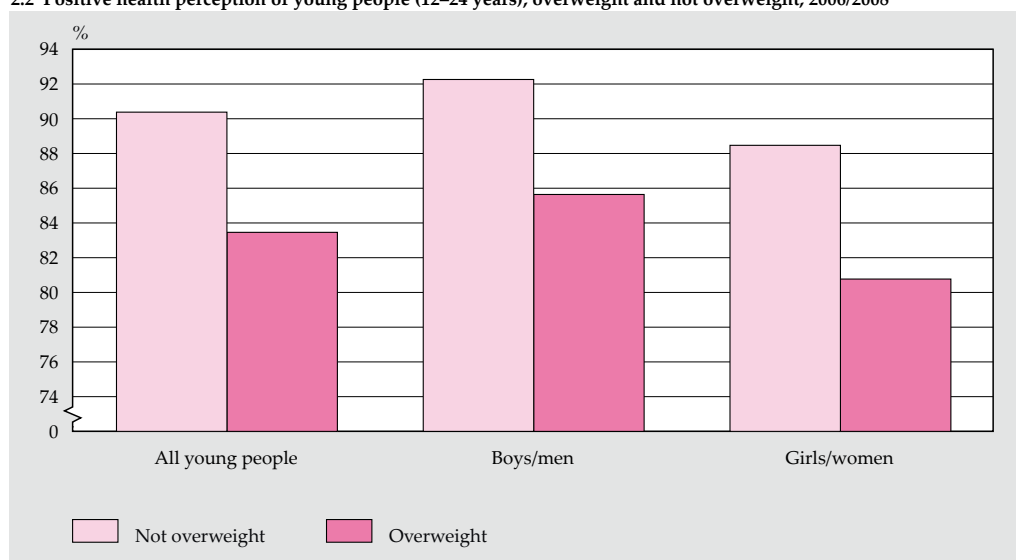
were overweight in the period 2006–2008. For girls and young women this was just over 13 percent. More than 3 percent of boys were seriously overweight. Young people aged over 18 are more likely to be overweight than younger children. Nearly 19 percent of 18–24 year-olds were overweight, that is significantly higher than the just over 10 percent for 12–17 year-olds and just under 13 percent for 2–11 year-olds.

Obesity is more common in the four large cities (Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague and Utrecht) than in smaller towns and cities. In the four large cities nearly 18 percent of 2–24 year-olds were overweight in 2006–2008, compared with just over 13 percent in the rest of the country. The percentage of youngsters who were seriously overweight (5.5 percent) was even twice the percentage in other towns and cities (2.7 percent).

Overweight youngsters less healthy

Most people in the Netherlands younger than 25 years are positive about their health; in the period 2006–2008, 92 percent said they felt healthy. The older the child, however, the less positive this opinion is. Overweight 12–24 year-olds are more negative about their health than those who are not overweight. Just over 92 percent of male 12–24 year-olds who were not overweight were positive about their health, compared with just over 83 percent of overweight boys and men of the same age. For women and girls of the same age, those who were not overweight were also more positive about their health. There was no difference in opinions on health between overweight children aged 0–11 years and those within the normal weight range.

2.2 Positive health perception of young people (12–24 years), overweight and not overweight, 2006/2008



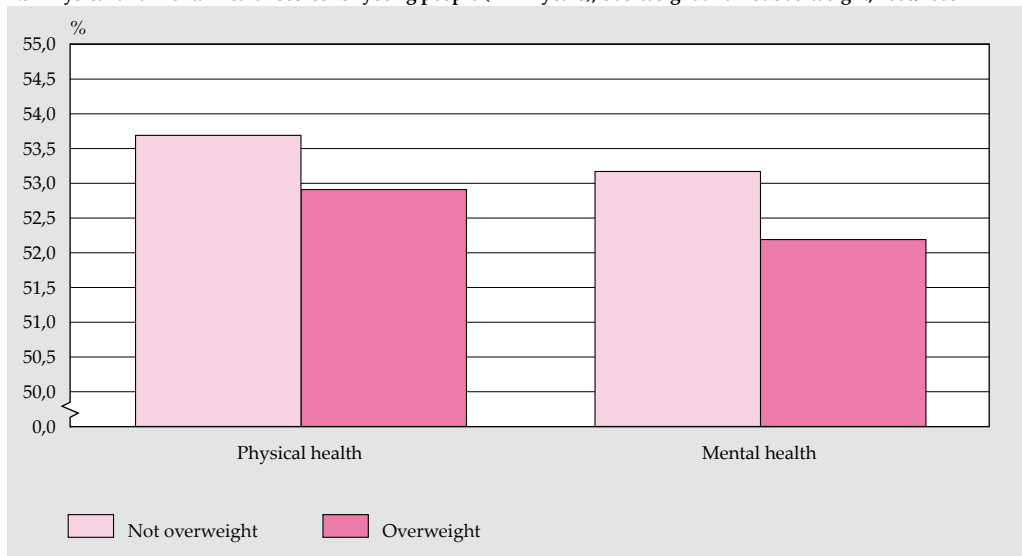
Source: National Youth Monitor, CBS Permanent Life Situation Survey (POLS).

Overweight youngsters both physically and mentally less healthy

In addition to feeling less healthy, overweight youngsters score less well on the measures used establish physical and mental health than their peers with normal weight. These scores for physical and mental health are based on 12 multiple choice questions (SF-12) about different aspects of health: functional status (physical and social performance and physical and emotional limitations), wellbeing (mental health, vitality and pain) and the general assessment of their own health. The SF-12 questionnaire is an often used international standard of general health and was developed in the United States by Ware et al. (1995).

The scores for both physical and mental health were significantly lower for 12–24 year-olds who were overweight than for those who were not. For physical health this difference was mainly observed among 12–17 year-olds, while for mental health the difference was for the over-18s. In addition, the differences for both physical and mental health were larger for men than for women.

2.3 Physical and mental health scores for young people (12–24 years), overweight and not overweight, 2006/2008



Source: CBS Permanent Life Situation Survey (POLS).

Overweight youngsters exercise the same amount as those with normal weight

One often cited cause of obesity is too little physical exercise. The Norm for Healthy Exercise is used as a measure for physical exercise. According to this norm, young people aged 12–17 years should carry out intensive physical activity, such as aerobics or running, for at least one hour every day. Those aged 18 and older

should get at least half an hour of intensive physical activity on at least five days a week. In both age categories, young people who are overweight and those with normal weight comply with this norm to the same extent.

According to the Dutch health survey, the number of minutes of physical activity per week was nearly the same for overweight and normal weight youngsters in the period 2006–2008. However, there is a difference between low intensive, moderately intensive and very intensive physical activity. It is the latter two that have beneficial effects for health. Therefore it is more interesting to look at how many minutes per week overweight and normal weight youngsters spend on moderately and very intensive physical activity. For the whole group of 12–24 year-olds, there is no difference between the number of minutes per week overweight and normal weight youngsters spend on moderately and very intensive physical activity. However, 12–17 year-olds who were not overweight spent more time on moderately and very intensive physical activity in 2006–2008 than those who were overweight (550 minutes versus 438 minutes per week). For 18–24 year-olds this was the other way around: overweight people in this age group spent more time on moderately and very intensive physical activity than those who were not overweight (754 minutes versus 855 minutes per week). 18–24 year-olds are also more active than 12–17 year-olds, while the weight problems are more serious in the older group. The questions on bodyweight and activity are put to the respondents at the same time. It is therefore possible that overweight youngsters used to exercise less and started to exercise more to lose weight. And other factors also contribute to obesity, such as unhealthy eating habits (RIVM, 2008).

Young people aged 12–24 years in the four large cities exercise less than their peers in smaller towns and cities. In the four large cities, young people spent nearly 500 minutes on average a week on moderately and very intensive physical activity in 2006–2008, compared with 682 minutes per week for youngsters living in smaller towns and cities. Although young people in the large cities exercise less and are more likely to be overweight than youngsters in rural areas, in the cities overweight people do not exercise less than normal weight people; this is true for the whole age group 12–24 years and for both the 12–17 and 18–24 year-olds.

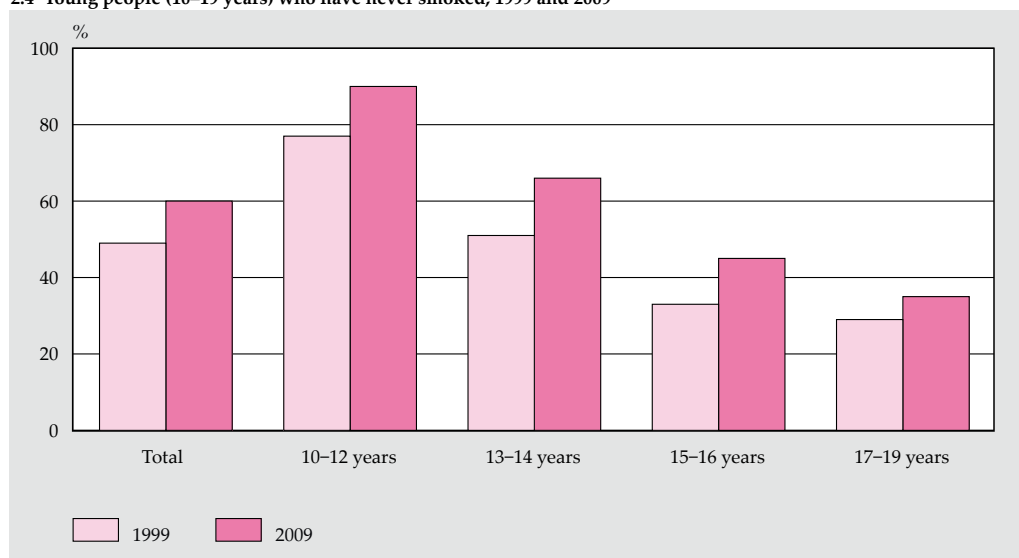
2.2 Lifestyle: smoking, alcohol and drugs

Six in ten youngsters have never smoked

The percentage of young people who have never smoked has increased in recent years. While half of 10–19 year-olds had never lighted up in 1999, ten years later this had risen to 60 percent. The shares of 10–12 year-olds and 13–14 year-olds in particular rose, by 13 and 15 percent points respectively. The increase was smaller for older teenagers. The percentage of 17–19 year-olds who had never smoked rose by only 6 percent points.

In 2009, one in five 10–19 year-olds had smoked in the four weeks preceding the survey. This is slightly less than ten years ago, when 28 percent said they had smoked. Youngsters who do smoke favour cigarettes (74 percent); shag tobacco is much less popular (8 percent). One in five young people smoke both cigarettes and self-rolled cigarettes. Smoking is not only bad for their health, it is also addictive.

2.4 Young people (10–19 years) who have never smoked, 1999 and 2009



Source: Stivoro.

Youngsters who start smoking cannot always easily stop. Half of them tried to stop in 2009. However, it is a well-known fact that many who do stop start again (Kleinjan, 2009).

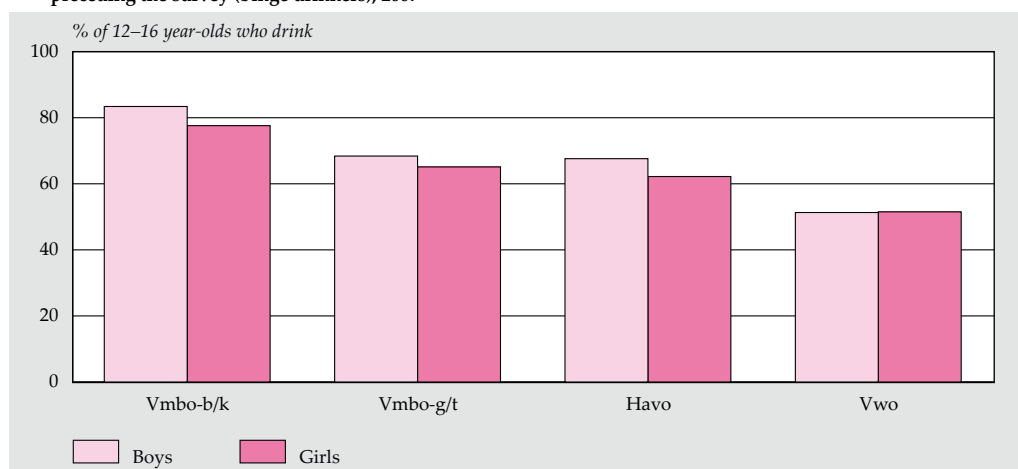
Lower educated youngsters drink more

In 2007, 78 percent of teenagers aged 12–16 years had ever drunk alcohol. This is less than the 84 percent in 2003. The decrease is completely accounted for by the age group 12–14 years, as there is no decrease in alcohol consumption among 15 and 16 year-olds. Young people who do drink still drink to much and too often. This is also true of 12–14 year-olds.

The percentage of young people who have ever drunk alcohol or who had had a drink in the month preceding the survey hardly differs between the various school levels. However, if they drink, youngsters in the lowest education levels – mainly

the two lower streams of prevocational education (vmbo-b/k), drink more often and drink more. In 2007, 80 percent of drinkers in these levels of education said they had had 5 or more units of alcohol in one session (binge drinking) in the previous four weeks, compared with 67 percent in the two highest levels of prevocational education (vmbo-g/t), 65 percent of pupils in senior secondary general (havo) and 51 percent in pre-university education (vwo). The differences between school types are the same for boys and girls.

2.5 Pupils in secondary education (12–16 years¹⁾) who had drunk 5 or more units of alcohol in one session in the month preceding the survey (binge drinkers), 2007



¹⁾ As not all school levels have the same number of years, for a more reliable comparison only 12–16 year-olds are included in the analyses.

Source: National Youth Monitor, Trimbos Institute.

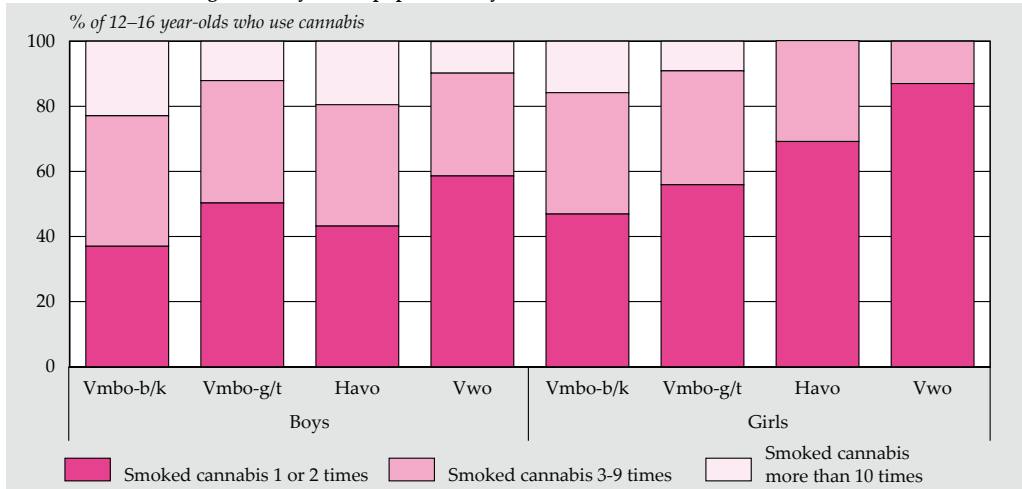
Lowest cannabis use for vwo pupils

Cannabis use among school pupils peaked in 1996 but has been decreasing gradually since then. In 2007, 14 percent of 12–16 year-olds said they had ever smoked cannabis, 7 percent had done so in the previous month.

Just as for alcohol, school level has hardly any effect on the numbers of pupils using cannabis. Pre-university (vwo) pupils smoke cannabis less than children in other school levels, especially compared with the lower streams of pre-vocational education (vmbo-b/k). In 2007, for example, 5 percent of vwo pupils who smoked cannabis did so ten times or more in the month preceding the survey. This compares

with 19 percent of pupils in vmbo-b/k. The higher use in vmbo-b/k is for both boys and girls in these schools. None of the girls in havo and vwo who smoke cannabis are frequent users (more than 10 times a month), compared with 16 percent in vmbo-b/k.

2.6 Cannabis use among secondary school pupils (12–16 years¹⁾, 2007



¹⁾ As not all school levels have the same number of years, for a more reliable comparison only 12-16 year-olds are included in the analyses.

Source: National Youth Monitor, Trimbos Institute.

Twenty-two percent of children in vmbo-b/k who used cannabis in 2007 said they smoked on average three or more joints in one session, compared with 5 percent of cannabis users in vwo. In vwo the percentage of girls who smoke three or more joints on average is negligible, while this did occur among girls in other school levels (16 percent in vmbo-b/k, 15 percent in vmbo-g/t and 13 percent in havo).

Vwo pupils experiment less with ecstasy and cocaine

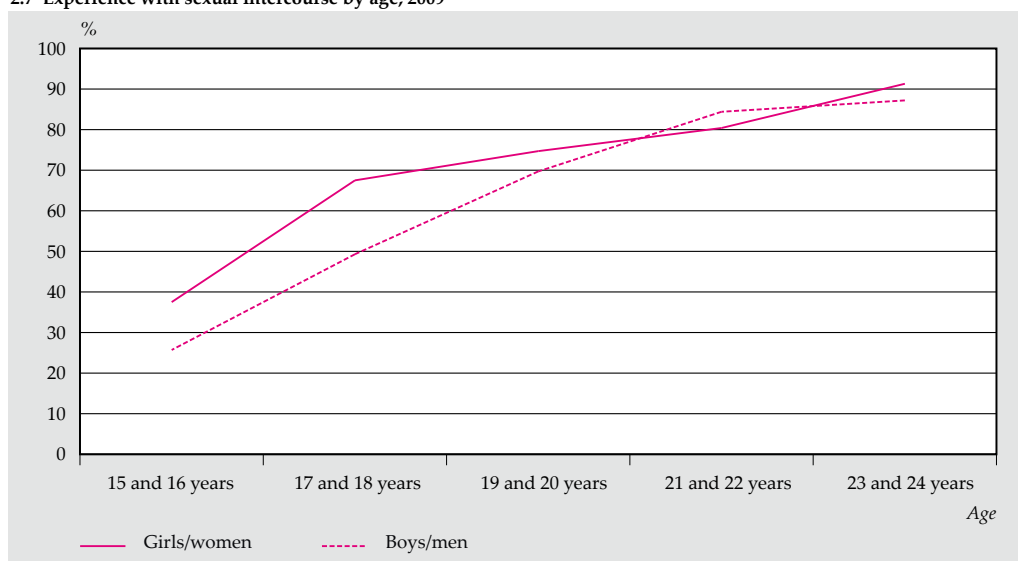
In 2007, 3.4 percent of youngsters aged 12–16 years had ever used hard drugs such as ecstasy, amphetamines, cocaine or heroin). Those who had had mostly taken ecstasy (1.9 percent). Pupils in vwo seem to have the least experience with ecstasy and cocaine, although the differences with other school types are not significant. The exception to this is the significantly higher number of vmbo-b/k pupils who have used ecstasy, compared with vwo pupils.

2.3 Sexual behaviour

Half of 17 year-olds have sexual experience

For most youngsters, their sexual activity develops step by step. In 2009, half of 15 year-olds have petted inside each other's clothing, and one and a half years later half have experienced naked petting. At an average age of 17.4 years, half of youngsters have had sexual intercourse. Girls are on average six months younger than boys when they have intercourse for the first time. 26 percent of 15 and 16 year-old boys had had intercourse in 2009, compared with 38 percent of girls of the same age. By ages 17 and 18 these percentages have nearly doubled. Boys catch up with girls around their 21st birthday: from that age boys and girls are equally experienced (Bakker et al., 2009).

2.7 Experience with sexual intercourse by age, 2009



Source: National Youth Monitor, Rutgers Nisso group.

Lower education levels have sex at younger ages

Educational level, ethnic origin and religion are important determinants of teenage sexual behaviour. Pupils in prevocational (vmbo) and senior secondary vocational education (mbo) are more likely to have sexual experience than pupils in senior secondary general (havo) and pre-university (vwo), higher professional (hbo) or university education. Within the group of 17 and 18 year-olds, for example, 63 percent of boys and 82 percent of girls in lower levels of education had had sex

in 2009, compared with 36 percent and 56 percent of their peers with higher education levels. Moreover, boys and girls with a Moroccan and Turkish background have less sexual experience than boys and girls with a native Dutch, Surinamese or Antillean background. Lastly, religious 15–24 year-olds have less sexual experience than youngsters who are not religious (Bakker et al., 2009).

Most young people have a steady relationship with their last sex partner

In 2009, 18 percent of 15–24 year-old boys and 21 percent of 15–24 year-old girls had had one sex partner. Another 35 percent of boys and 40 percent of girls had had two to five partners, while one in five boys and one in six girls had had more than five different sexual partners. Within the groups of young people with sexual experience, 73 percent of boys and 84 percent of girls had a steady relationship with their most recent sexual partner. In the six months preceding the survey, 46 percent of boys and 60 percent of girls had had one sexual partner, and 14 percent of boys and 11 percent of girls had two or more different sexual partners. Some young people did not have sex at all in this period: 40 percent of boys and 29 percent of girls. Moreover, 7 percent of boys and 8 percent of girls had had sex with someone of the same sex; 3 percent of both boys and girls in the six months preceding the survey (Bakker et al., 2009).

Many young people with different sexual partners have unsafe sex

Dutch young people are more likely to use reliable contraceptive methods than youngsters in other countries. In a survey of contraceptive use among 15 year-olds in 24 different countries in 2002, the Netherlands topped the list (Godeau et al., 2008). In 2009, 43 percent of boys and 61 percent of girls aged 15–24 years who had had sexual intercourse used the pill or another contraceptive the last time they had sex. Condoms were used by 21 percent of boys and 10 percent of girls, and 24 percent of boys and 19 percent of girls went Double Dutch (i.e. a condom and another form of contraception). Girls and boys who have sex with non-steady partners more often did not use any form of contraception, although they more often used condoms with these partners than with steady partners. For sex outside steady relationships, 57 percent of boys and 43 percent of girls aged 15–24 years with sexual experience used a condom, compared with 41 and 26 percent of boys and girls who had sex with a steady partner (Bakker et al., 2009).

Sexual abuse occurs surprisingly often

In 2009, 23 percent of all 15–24 year-old girls and 4 percent of boys reported that they had experienced sexual abuse at some time in their lives. When asked about specific forms of sexual abuse, the percentages increase even further; 46 percent of girls and 20 percent of boys have experienced abuse varying from offensive touching to rape. One in ten girls, for example, and nearly one in twenty boys aged 15–24 years had ever been forced to undress, and nearly one in five girls and one in twenty boys had been touched under their clothes against their will. Seven percent

of girls and 4 percent of boys had at some time been forced to perform or undergo oral sex. And 7 percent of girls and 3 percent of boys had even been raped. Most perpetrators are known to their victims. For boys who suffered sexual abuse, the offenders were just as often boys and men as girls and women. Partners, ex-partners, neighbours, co-students, colleagues and friends and acquaintances are often named as offenders. For girls with experience of sexual abuse, the offenders were nearly all men and boys and relatively often partners, ex-partners, friends, acquaintances or neighbours (Bakker et al., 2009).

2.4 Youth welfare and child abuse ¹⁾

More children reported to youth welfare services

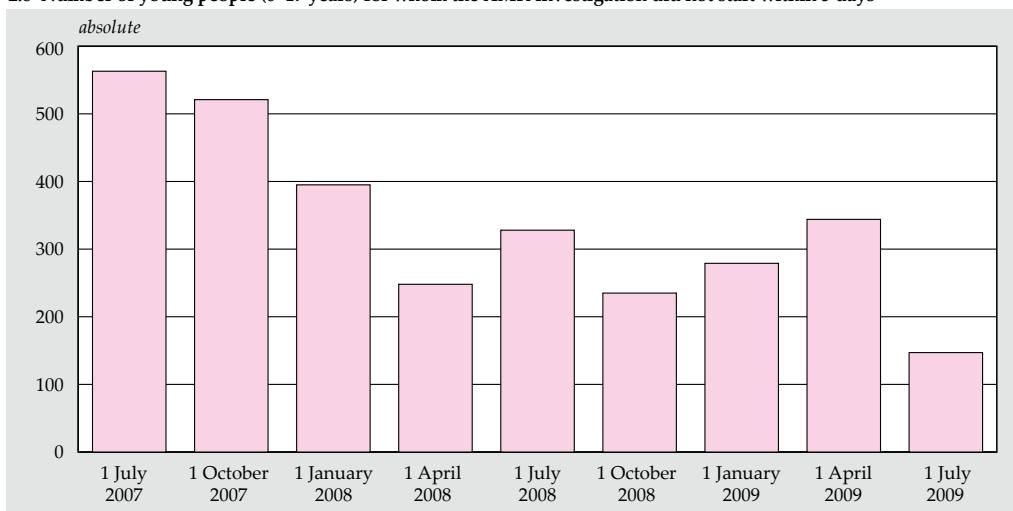
Many Dutch youngsters grow up in a healthy and safe environment. Unfortunately this is not the case for all of them. Some have serious difficulties with growing up and problems in their upbringing. A special law provides in a legal entitlement to help from the youth welfare services (see box). The access to the system is through the local youth welfare offices.

The number of reports to youth welfare services show that there has been an increasing demand for youth welfare in recent years. According to the umbrella organisation for youth and welfare work, MOgroep, more than 88 thousand reports were received in 2008, up from 84 thousand in the previous year. This is an increase of around 5 percent (MOgroep Jeugdzorg 2009). The number of decisions to help, however, fell slightly: from 55 thousand in 2007 to 54 thousand in 2008. One of the possible explanations the MOgroep gives for this is that the preliminary procedures, which include simple peripatetic care, have improved. The areas in which these preliminary procedures are applied are school, social work and the police. The local youth welfare offices can refer children to these preliminary procedures and thus be more critical with respect to who they accept (MOgroep Jeugdzorg 2009).

Fewer children on AMK waiting list

In addition to its role as gateway to help and assistance, the youth welfare services are also legally responsible for the Child Abuse Reporting Agency (AMK). According to the MOgroep (2009), in 2008 around 53 thousand reports of suspected child abuse were submitted to the AMK. Under the law on youth welfare, following the report of a suspected case of child abuse, a decision must be taken within five days on whether to investigate the report. And if this decision is affirmative, the investigation must start within five days. If the investigation is not started within five days, the child to whom the report refers is counted as being on a waiting list. The number of young people on the waiting list fell between 1 July 2007 and 1 July 2009, from 563 to 147.

2.8 Number of young people (0–17 years) for whom the AMK investigation did not start within 5 days



Source: House of Representatives, Letter of the Minister for Youth and Families, The Hague, 13 August 2009. TK 31839 no. 11 and en Tweede Kamer, House of Representatives, Letter of the Minister for Youth and Families, The Hague, 4 February 2008. TK 29815 and 31015 no. 124.

Youth welfare act

The new youth welfare act (*Wet op de jeugdzorg*) came into effect on 1 January 2005. In this act, the client and his/her request for help is the central point in the procedures. Clients are children who show difficulties with growing up, and their parents or guardians who have problems bringing them up.

The new act aims to make youth welfare more consistent and request-oriented.

- Children and parents are entitled to youth welfare.
- The local youth welfare offices are the gateway to national welfare services.
- The care must be given as close to the child as possible, must be as brief as possible, and must be as limited as possible.
- Each province receives money from central government. The provinces fund the welfare services from this money, and thus fund the gateway to youth assistance, mental health care for children, child protection and youth probation.
- The provinces purchase care for children and parents from the youth welfare institutions.
- The provinces draw up result-oriented agreements with municipal authorities concerning their responsibility towards children with problems.

<http://www.bureaujeugdzorg.info>

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Notes

¹⁾ The data are from MOgroep; they are not included in the National Youth Monitor.

3. Young people and education

Nearly all children aged 4–17 years in the Netherlands go to school. More than half of young people aged over 18 are also still in education. Not all pupils pass through the education system with the same speed or via the same route. Nearly half of unqualified pupils in pre-vocational education (vmbo) go on to senior secondary vocational education (mbo). Most pupils who have to repeat a year do so in the fourth year of senior secondary general education (havo) or pre-university education (vwo). Four out of five pupils with a diploma in senior secondary general education (havo) move on to higher professional education (hbo); more than seven in ten pupils with a pre-university education (vwo) diploma go to university.

There are relatively more special needs pupils in the large cities than in smaller municipalities. Changes in the numbers of primary school pupils also differ significantly between municipalities. In central regions of the country this number is increasing, but in the south (southern Limburg) the numbers are declining.

3.1 Participation in education

Nearly all 4–17 year-olds go to school

In school year 2007/08, 3.47 million people in the Netherlands younger than 25 years of age participated in some form of government-funded education. Nearly half of them (48 percent) were in primary education, and special needs primary education, and just over a quarter (27 percent) in secondary education. Of the remainder (25 percent), half were in senior secondary vocational education (mbo), and the other half in higher education.

Children in the Netherlands are required to go to school from their fifth birthday to the end of the school year in which they turn sixteen. Since school year 2007/08, they are also required to have a basic qualification before they may leave school. This means that they may not leave school before they turn eighteen if they do not have a basic qualification, i.e. a diploma in senior secondary general education (havo), pre-university education (vwo) or senior secondary vocational education (mbo) level 2. Most 4–17 year-old children are still in school: 99 percent of the 1.6 million 4–11 year-olds, and just over 94 percent of the 1.2 million 12–17 year-olds.

Number of primary school pupils decreasing in southern Limburg

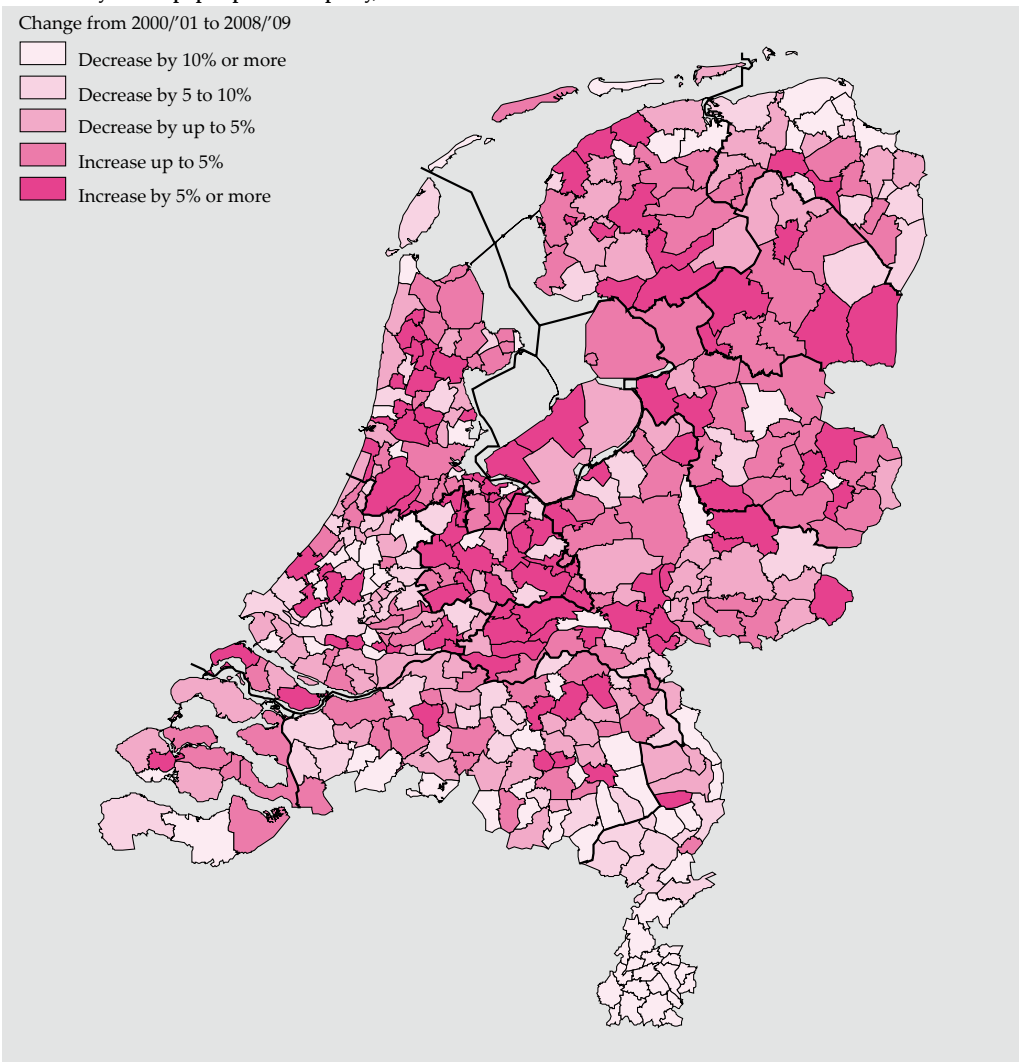
The 1.55 million children in Dutch primary schools in school year 2008/09 was 0.4 percent more than in 2000/01. In spite of this increase, the number of primary school pupils has decreased in more than half (53 percent) of municipalities in the last eight years. In 75 of the 443 municipalities it even fell by 10 percent or more. In southern Limburg the number of primary school pupils dropped sharply, not only

in the large cities like Heerlen and Maastricht, but in all municipalities. The main reason for this is the drop in the number of 4–11 year-olds in this part of the country. In eastern Brabant, the ‘green heart’ regions in the mid-west of the country and in a number of municipalities in Groningen and Friesland, too, the number of primary school pupils fell substantially.

Increase in central regions

In most municipalities in the province of Utrecht the number of children in primary schools increased in the same period. There, too, demographic developments play

3.1 Primary school pupils per municipality, 2000/01–2008/09



Source: National Youth Monitor, CBS Education statistics.

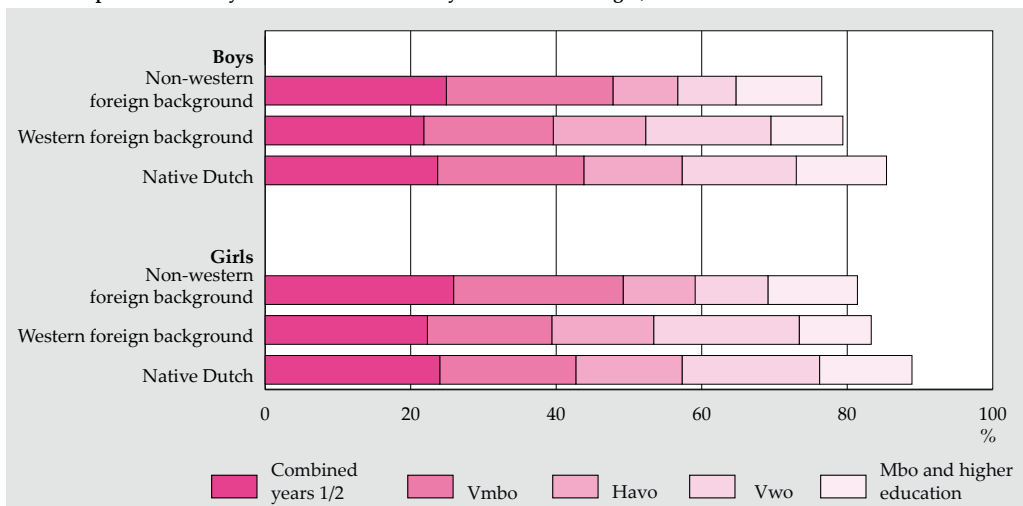
a significant role. The strong increase in the number of primary school children in Amersfoort and Utrecht is an accurate reflection of the increase in the number of 4–11 year-olds in these municipalities. The same is true for a relatively large number of municipalities in the Betuwe region and in the provinces North Holland, Flevoland, Friesland and Drenthe. There, too, the number of children in primary education has risen by 5 percent or more in the last eight years.

One in five teenagers in pre-vocational education (vmbo)

Nearly three-quarters of teenagers aged 12–17 years were in secondary education in 2007/08. Nearly one quarter of children in this age group are in a combined first or second year class, 20 percent are in pre-vocational education (vmbo), just over 13 percent in senior secondary general education (havo) and 16 percent in pre-university education (vwo). A small, but quickly rising number of teenagers are in special needs education. The number of these children has risen by 37 percent in recent years, to just over 24 thousand in 2007/08. The main reason for this is the substantial rise in the number of children with behavioural problems and learning difficulties. In addition to the large percentage of teenagers in secondary education, 11 percent of 12–17 year-olds are in senior secondary vocational education (mbo); nearly all of these students are 15 or older. Only a small percentage (1 percent) of 12–17 year-olds are already in higher education.

In school year 2007/08, 73 percent of native Dutch boys and just over 76 percent of native Dutch girls in the age group 12–17 years were in secondary education. These

3.2 Participation of 12–17 year-olds in education ¹⁾ by sex and ethnic origin, 2007/08*



¹⁾ Excluding primary, practice-based and adult education.

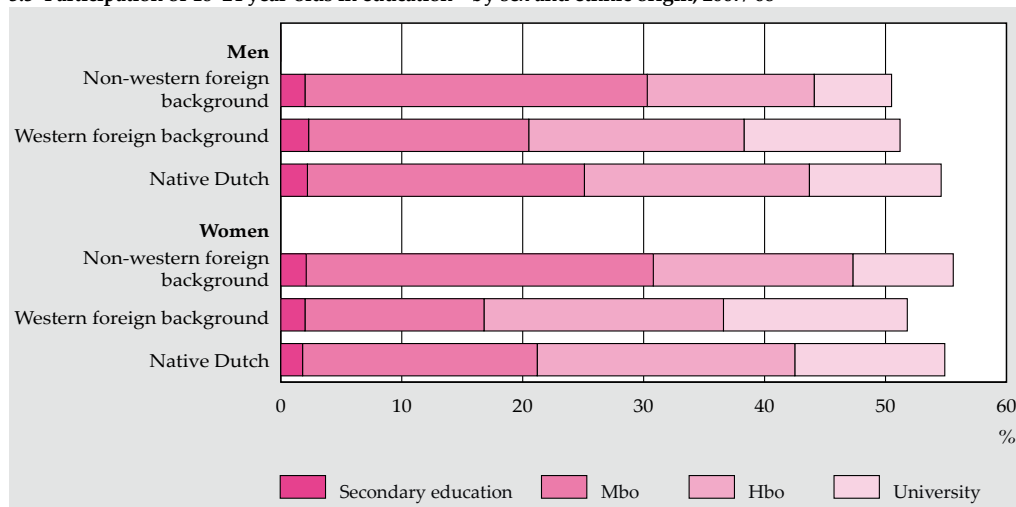
Source: National Youth Monitor, CBS Education statistics.

percentages were significantly lower for boys and girls with a non-western foreign background: 65 and 69 percent respectively. These teenagers were also usually in lower levels of education than children with a native Dutch or western foreign background. For boys, for example, 23 percent of teenagers with a non-western foreign background were in pre-vocational education (vmbo) and 8 percent in pre-university education (vwo), while for native Dutch teenagers 20 percent were in pre-vocational education (vmbo) en nearly 16 percent in pre-university education (vwo). For girls, this difference is even slightly larger: 23 percent of girls with a non-western foreign background were in pre-vocational education (vmbo) and 10 percent in pre-university education (vwo), compared with 19 percent in pre-vocational education (vmbo) and also 19 percent in pre-university education (vwo) for their native Dutch peers.

Over half of over-18s still in education

Most young people aged 18 years and older have completed secondary education. Depending on the level, they can then go on to senior secondary vocational education (mbo), higher professional education (hbo) or university. More than half (56 percent) of the 1.4 million 18–24 year-olds were in one of these forms of education in 2007/08. Just over one in five were in mbo: 23 percent of men and 21 percent of women in this age group. Just over 31 percent of 18–24 year-olds were in higher education, up substantially from the 26 percent in 2000/01. The number of female students in particular rose in this period, from 27 to 33 percent. For men participation rose from 25 to 29 percent.

3.3 Participation of 18–24 year-olds in education ¹⁾ by sex and ethnic origin, 2007/08*



¹⁾ Excluding primary, practice-based and adult education.

Source: National Youth Monitor, CBS Education statistics.

In 2007/08 participation of 18–24 year-olds in higher education varied from 20 percent for men with a non-western foreign background to 35 percent for women with a western foreign background. Just under 34 percent of native Dutch women were in higher professional education (hbo) or university. For both men and women with a non-western foreign background aged 18 years and older, they were more likely to be in senior secondary vocational education (mbo) than in higher education. The opposite is true for their peers with a western foreign and native Dutch background.

3.2 *School careers*

Year 4 of havo stumbling block for many pupils

Not all pupils pass through the education system equally quickly or along the same route. Some pupils slow down their school careers by repeating a class or for example by moving across from senior secondary general education (havo) to pre-university education (vwo) and redoing the same year at a higher level. From school year 2006/07 to school year 2007/08, 6 percent of pupils suffered some sort of delay. Pupils in senior secondary general education (havo) are the most likely to repeat a class: no less than 14 percent stayed down in year 4 of havo. The fourth year of pre-university education (vwo) is also a difficult obstacle to surmount for many pupils. Four percent of pupils in this year moved down to year 4 of senior secondary general education (havo) and 6 percent redid the fourth class of vwo. Fewer pupils repeat classes in pre-vocational education (vmbo) overall: 5 percent of pupils in the third class of vmbo had to stay down a year.

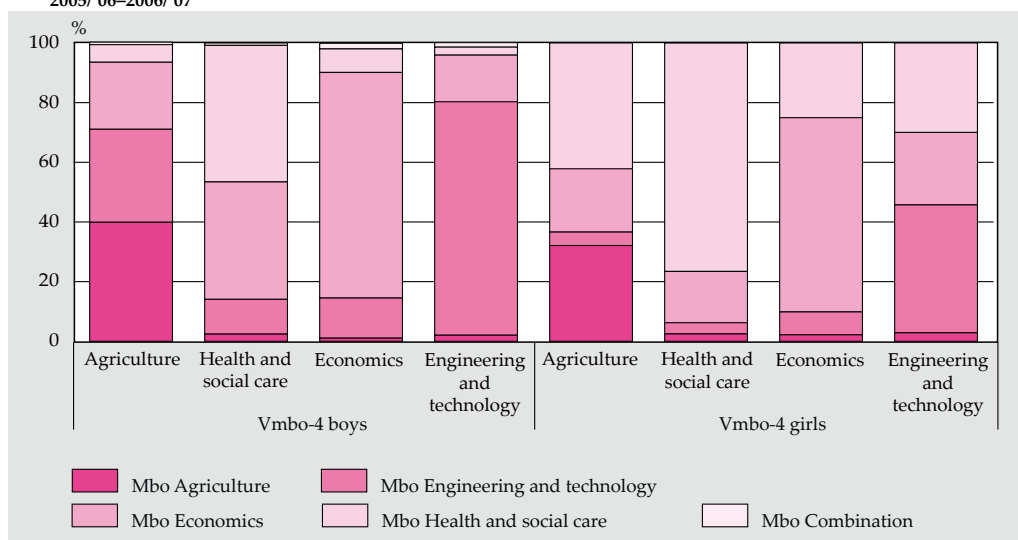
Nearly half of failed vmbo pupils go on to mbo

Once they have done their final exams, pupils have a number of options for further education. A large number of pupils in senior secondary general education (havo) and pre-university education (vwo) who failed their exams in 2006/07 stayed in school and resat them a year later. Nearly half of pupils who failed their havo exams resat them the next year, one quarter went on to adult secondary general education. For pupils who failed the pre-university education (vwo) exam these percentages were 36 and 33 respectively. Only one third of pre-vocational education students (vmbo) who did not pass their exams in 2006/07 remained in secondary education. Nearly half of these unqualified children made use of the option to move on to senior secondary vocational education (mbo) without their vmbo diploma, the so-called 'no-threshold' transition.

Within pre-vocational education (vmbo) (with the exception of the theoretical stream) and senior secondary vocational education (mbo), four sectors can be distinguished: agriculture, economics, engineering and technology, and health and social care. In pre-vocational education (vmbo) these education programmes have

a relatively fixed subject structure. To see how pre-vocational education (vmbo) links up with senior secondary vocational education (mbo), the sector choices of pupils can be compared. The link between the sector in vmbo and the sector in mbo differs. From school year 2005/06 to school year 2006/07, fourth-year vmbo pupils in (with and without a diploma) doing the sectors economics, engineering and technology or health and social care often chose an mbo programme in the same sector. In these sectors, on average less than 30 percent of students changed sector. Boys did differ from girls in this respect. In health and social care, more than boys than girls changed sector, and in engineering and technology more girls than boys switched. Children in the agriculture sector of vmbo were less faithful to their sector in mbo: only 36 percent chose this option in mbo. Most girls switched to health and social care, most boys to engineering and technology.

3.4 Sector choice in the move from pre-vocational education (vmbo) to senior secondary vocational education (mbo), 2005/06–2006/07*



Source: National Youth Monitor, CBS Education statistics.

There are also regional differences in the sector links between pre-vocational education (vmbo) and senior secondary vocational education (mbo). In 2006 half of vmbo pupils in the provinces Gelderland, Overijssel and North Brabant stayed in the agriculture sector in mbo. In the provinces Groningen, North Holland and South Holland this was less than 30 percent. For the sector economics in vmbo, it is noticeable that pupils in Friesland more often switch to another sector than other pupils. More than 15 percent of them opted for engineering and technology in mbo.

Thirteen percent of vwo pupils go on to hbo

Pupils with a senior secondary general education (havo) diploma can move on to pre-university education (vwo), senior secondary vocational education (mbo) or higher professional education (hbo). From school year 2006/07 to school year 2007/08, 78 percent of pupils with a havo diploma went on to hbo. Nearly 5 percent moved to vwo. This percentage was highest in the northern provinces: 7 percent. Senior secondary vocational education (mbo) was the least popular option for pupils with a havo diploma (4 percent). Just over 13 percent interrupted their education career in government-funded education for at least a year and did a course at a private institution or took a gap year to work or travel after their school exams. This was a very popular option for pupils with a havo diploma in Utrecht and Amsterdam (27 and 25 percent respectively).

Thirteen percent of pupils with a pre-university education (vwo) diploma moved into higher professional education (hbo) in 2007, and 72 percent went to university. The remainder did a course at a private institution or took a gap year to work or travel after their school exams. More girls than boys went into higher professional education, more boys went on to university.

3.3 Underprivileged pupils in primary education

240 thousand underprivileged pupils in primary education

In school year 2008/09 there were 240 thousand underprivileged pupils in Dutch primary education. This is 15 percent of the total number of pupils in Dutch primary schools. Some 154 thousand of these pupils were covered by the new regulation for underprivileged pupils of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (see box). This group can be divided into more than 91 thousand 0.30-pupils and nearly 63 thousand 1.20-pupils. Parents of 0.30-pupils both have a low education level, while for 1.20-pupils both have a very low education level, or one has a low and the other a very low level. Both the groups comprise just as many boys as girls.

The number of underprivileged pupils (under the old and the new regulation) in primary education has more than halved since school year 1995/96, when there were 581 thousand, i.e. 39 percent of the total number of children in primary schools. The decrease is the result of higher parental education levels.

Underprivileged primary school pupils

Underprivileged pupils are pupils who, according to the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, belong to a category of underprivileged children, and for whom the school receives extra funding. They include children whose parents have a low level of education.

Up to and including school year 2005/06, four categories of underprivileged pupils were distinguished, based on ethnic origin and parental occupation. From school year 2009/10, two categories are distinguished based solely on parental education levels. The intervening school years (2006/07–2008/09) were a transitional period, for which – depending on the child's age – the old or the new criteria are applied.

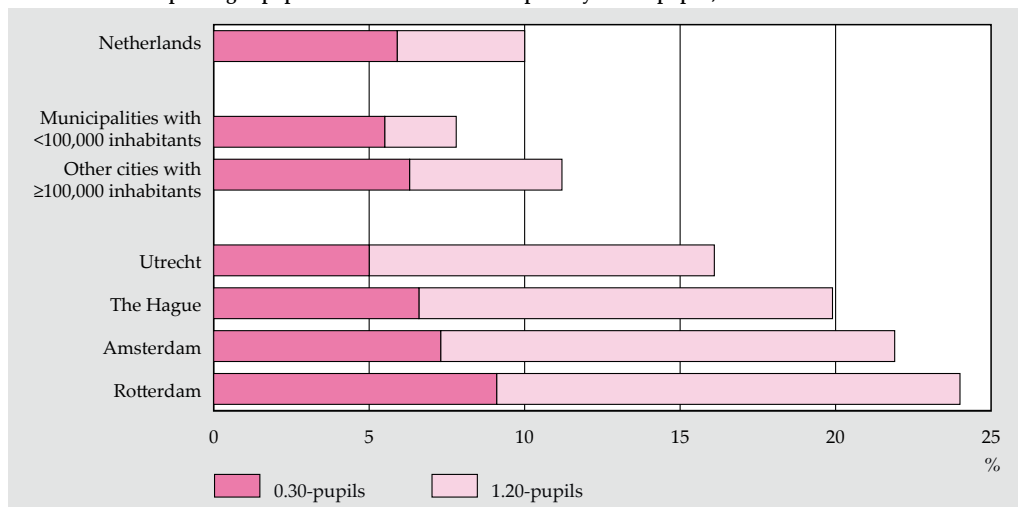
The two categories of underprivileged pupils under the new regulation are indicated as 0.30 and 1.20-pupils (the numbers indicate the amount of extra funding the schools receive for these pupils).

The underprivileged children referred to in this chapter are nearly all those defined according to the new criteria. In school year 2008/09 the new regulation applied to all 4–9 year-olds. Underprivileged pupils aged 10 and older in 2008/09 fall under the old regulation.

Underprivileged pupils concentrated in large cities

In 2008/09, pupils classified as underprivileged under the new regulation of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science account for nearly 10 percent of the total number of primary school pupils. Only in the provinces North and South Holland is this percentage higher (10.4 and 13.0 percent respectively). The lowest numbers in relative terms are in primary schools in Friesland (5.9 percent) and Drenthe (7.9 percent). The more urbanised a region is, the higher the percentage of underprivileged pupils; and moreover the more 1.20-pupils compared with 0.30-pupils it has. This is probably the result of strong concentrations of people with a foreign background and often a low education level in the large cities. In primary schools in Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague and Utrecht together, for example, 21 percent of children come from a underprivileged background. Two-thirds of these children are 1.20-pupils. Of the four cities, Rotterdam has the most underprivileged pupils in relative terms. In other cities with more than 100 thousand inhabitants just over 11 percent of primary school pupils are underprivileged, of whom 44 percent are 1.20-pupils. In smaller municipalities, on the other hand, less than 8 percent of children comply with the criteria of the new regulation, and 'only' 29 percent of these children are 1.20-pupils.

3.5 Share of underprivileged pupils¹⁾ in the total number of primary school pupils, 2008/'09



¹⁾ Only pupils classified as deprived under the new regulation (see box).

Source: National Youth Monitor, CBS Education statistics.

4. Young people and society

Young people in the Netherlands are very socially involved. Nearly everyone meets with friends at least once a week. Many of them are members of clubs, and they do volunteer work as just as often as older people. Activities for sport clubs are particularly popular, certainly among men. Fewer young people than people over 25 say they belong to a faith. They attend church, mosque and other religious meetings relatively infrequently. Young people with a foreign background are more likely to be active worshippers than their native Dutch peers. Not only do young people participate extensively in society, they also have a relatively high degree of trust in institutions such as judges, the police and parliament. Most of them also say that most people can be trusted.

4.1 Contacts with friends and family

Almost all young people have frequent contact with friends

Old and young people have frequent contact with people in their direct vicinity. Young people favour contacts with their friends, while older people prefer relatives. In the period 2006–2008, nearly everyone aged 12–24 years kept in touch with their friends at least once a week, either face-to-face, by phone, email or letter. The over-25s contacted their friends considerably less often: just over three-quarters had such frequent contacts with friends.

Table 4.1
Contacts with family and friends by age and sex, 2006/2008

	Contacts with relatives			Contacts with friends and acquaintances		
	once a week	once/twice a month	rarely/never	once a week	once/twice a month	rarely/never
	%					
Total	86	10	4	80	15	5
12–17 yrs	78	18	4	99	1	0
18–24 yrs	82	14	4	96	3	1
25 yrs and older	88	9	3	77	18	6
Men	83	13	4	79	16	5
12–17 yrs	76	20	4	99	0	0
18–24 yrs	77	18	5	97	2	1
25 yrs and older	84	11	4	74	19	6
Women	90	8	3	82	14	4
12–17 yrs	80	16	4	99	1	1
18–24 yrs	86	11	3	94	5	2
25 yrs and older	91	6	2	79	16	5

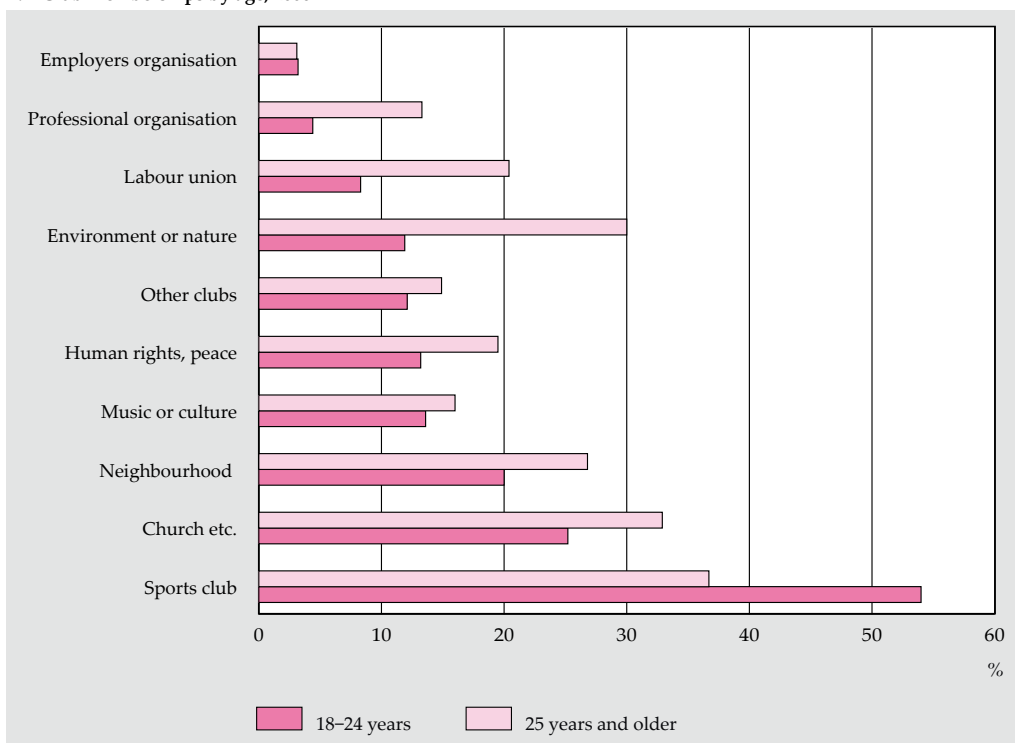
Source: CBS Permanent Life Situation Survey (POLS).

The opposite was the case for contacts with relatives: 78 percent of 12–17 year-olds contacted a relative outside their own family once a week, versus 82 percent of 18–24 year-olds and 88 percent of over-25s.

Little difference between boys and girls

Boys and girls aged 12–17 years hardly differ in the extent to which they keep in touch with family and friends. Among the over-25s, women tend to have most contacts. In terms of contact with relatives there is little difference between young people with native and immigrant backgrounds. There is a difference in contacts with friends though. Non-western youngsters had less frequent contacts with friends than native Dutch youngsters. In 2006–2008 some 97 percent of native Dutch 18–24 year-olds contacted friends weekly, as opposed to 90 percent of their immigrant peers. Among 12–17 year-olds the figures were 100 and 97 percent respectively.

4.1 Club memberships by age, 2006



Source: CBS National Voters Survey.

4.2 Participation in organisations

Many young people belong to a club

Young people not only have many social contacts, they are also rather active in clubs. The 2008 Annual Report of the National Youth Monitor showed that three-quarters of under-16s belonged to a club for leisure activities. Young people aged 18–24 years are also often club members: some 80 percent in 2006. Sports clubs are particularly popular; over half of young people were members of a sports club, substantially more than membership among the over-25s. Young people are less likely to join other kinds of organisations, such as environmental or human rights organisations, labour unions, professional organisations or church and neighbourhood clubs.

Native Dutch youngsters and men most active in clubs

Nearly seven in ten 12–17 year-olds participated in a club activity at least once a month in the period 2006–2008. This falls to about half for 18–24 year-olds. The over-25s are the least active with around 40 percent. Men are usually more active in clubs than women. Young people with higher levels of education tend to be more involved than those with lower levels.

Young people with a non-western foreign background participate substantially less in club activities than their native Dutch peers. Three-quarters of native Dutch 12–17 year-olds participated in club activities compared with half of non-westerners of the same age. The contrast is also large among 18–24 year-olds: over half of the native Dutch group participated in club activities, versus three in ten youngsters with a non-western background.

Half of young people do not belong to a church

Relatively few young people consider themselves as belonging to a religion compared with people over 25 years. Some 47 percent of the youngest group, aged 12–17 years, said they did not belong to any church or religious group in the period 2006–2008. This rose to 51 percent for 18–25 year-olds. Four in ten people over 25 stated they did not belong to any religious group. More women than men belong to a religion, except among 18–24 year olds.

Just over 20 percent of young people are Roman Catholic, compared with three in ten older people. There is also a difference between age groups among people who belong to the Dutch Reformed Church: 5 percent of young people say they are members, compared with 10 percent of older people.

On the other hand, 9 percent of young people are Muslims, while only 4 percent of older people are. There are no differences among young and old for the other religions, such as the Calvinist Church and the Protestant Church of the Netherlands (PKN), that came into being in 2004.

Table 4.2
Religion and worship by age and sex, 2006/2008

	Total			Men		Women	
	12-17 yrs	18-24 yrs	25 yrs and older	12-17 yrs	18-24 yrs	12-17 yrs	18-24 yrs
	%						
Religious denomination							
None	47	51	41	49	51	45	51
Roman Catholic	23	22	30	21	21	24	23
Dutch Reformed Church	5	5	10	4	5	6	4
Calvinist	5	5	4	5	5	5	5
Protestant Church of the Netherlands	5	4	6	5	4	6	4
Islam	9	8	4	9	8	9	8
Other	6	6	5	6	6	5	6
Worship							
Once a week or more	13	9	11	14	10	12	9
2-3 times a month	3	2	4	3	3	3	2
Once a month	3	3	4	3	3	4	2
Less than once a month	7	6	9	6	5	9	6
Rarely or never	73	80	72	73	79	73	81

Source: CBS Permanent Life Situation Survey (POLs).

Relatively few young people also actually go to a place of worship, especially among 18–24 year-olds. In 2006–2008, some 80 percent of young people never or hardly ever went to a church, mosque, temple, synagogue or other religious meeting. This share is smaller among 12–17 year olds, namely 73 percent which is comparable to the share of over-25s. Non-western youngsters worship more often than their native Dutch peers. Just over one third of 12–17 year-olds with a non-western background went to a religious meeting at least once a month in 2006–2008, as did a quarter of 18–24 year-old with the same background. The figures for the native Dutch youngsters were 16 and 12 percent.

Young men often volunteer in sports clubs

In 2008, 42 percent of 18–24 year-olds did volunteer work, working for little or no pay for a certain organisation (see box). In 1997 this was 38 percent.

Volunteers work in a wide variety of organisations concerned with youth work and education, care and nursing, sports, hobbies and cultural activities, religion/ideology, labour and politics. Working for a sports or youth club is more popular among young people, with 17 and 6 percent respectively, than among people over 25. On the other hand, young people are less involved in education activities than older people, with only 4 percent. There is little difference in activity between young men and women, with the clear exception of voluntary activities for sports clubs: almost one in four young men get involved in sports clubs, versus one in ten young women.

Table 4.3
Voluntary work and informal help by age and sex, 2008

	Total		Men		Women	
	18–24 yrs	25 yrs and older	18–24 yrs	25 yrs and older	18–24 yrs	25 yrs and older
	%					
Voluntary work	42	42	45	43	39	41
Youth work	6	3	7	3	5	4
School	4	8	4	4	5	11
Care	5	7	2	4	8	10
Sports	17	12	23	16	11	8
Hobby	4	4	5	6	4	3
Cultural	5	4	4	5	6	3
Religious/ideological	7	9	8	8	6	10
Labour organisation	0	2	0	3	0	2
Politics	1	1	1	2	0	1
Social assistance	0	1	0	1	0	1
Home help	1	2	1	3	0	1
Neighbourhood	2	4	2	4	1	4
Other	9	6	8	6	9	6
Informal help	27	31	27	26	27	34
Voluntary work or informal help	58	57	60	56	56	59

Source: National youth monitor; CBS Permanent Life Situation Survey (POLS).

Voluntary work

Statistics Netherlands has been studying involvement in voluntary work since 1997 (POLS). In line with the definition of an official commission on voluntary work (*Interdepartementale Commissie Vrijwilligersbeleid*) in 1982, voluntary work is: ‘organised work for the benefit of other people or for society, that is not compulsory, and for which the worker receives no remuneration’. Care for elderly parents, sick relatives or neighbours is not considered to be voluntary work, but informal help.

The POLS survey presents respondents with a list of various kinds of organisations on which they can indicate whether they have done any voluntary work for them. Anyone who has done any voluntary work – even for just one hour – for at least one of these kinds of organisations in the twelve months preceding the survey is counted as a volunteer.

Over one quarter of young people provide informal help

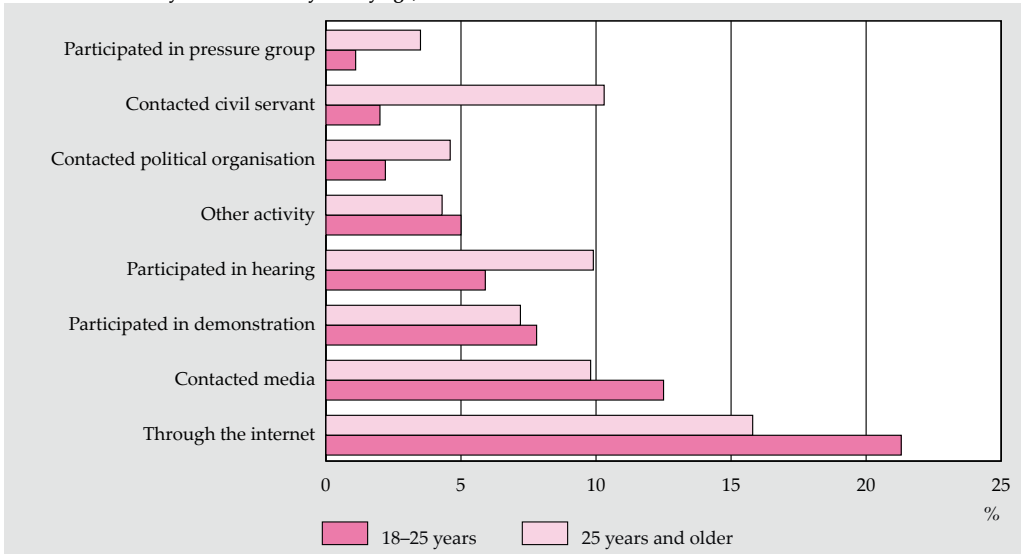
Participation in society is not only expressed in terms of membership of organisations and voluntary work, but also by the extent of informal help provided. This includes care for relatives outside the own family, friends, neighbours and acquaintances. In 2008, some 27 percent of 18–24 year old men and women provided such care in the month preceding the survey. This is hardly less than among the over-25s, of whom women provide most care. Altogether 58 percent of young people provided informal help or did in voluntary work in 2008.

4.3 Political interest

Three in ten young people are not interested in politics

Seventy-one percent of people aged between 18 and 25 years voted in the general election of 22 November 2006. This is below the national turnout of 80 percent. This is also reflected in interest in politics: 29 percent of young people said they were not interested in politics in 2006, versus 23 percent of older people. Political interest can also be expressed in terms of how many people read a newspaper. In the Netherlands 35 percent of young people read a newspaper every day, compared with 57 percent of the over-25s.

4.2 Political activity in the last five years by age, 2006



Source: CBS National Voters Survey.

One third of young people participated in political actions

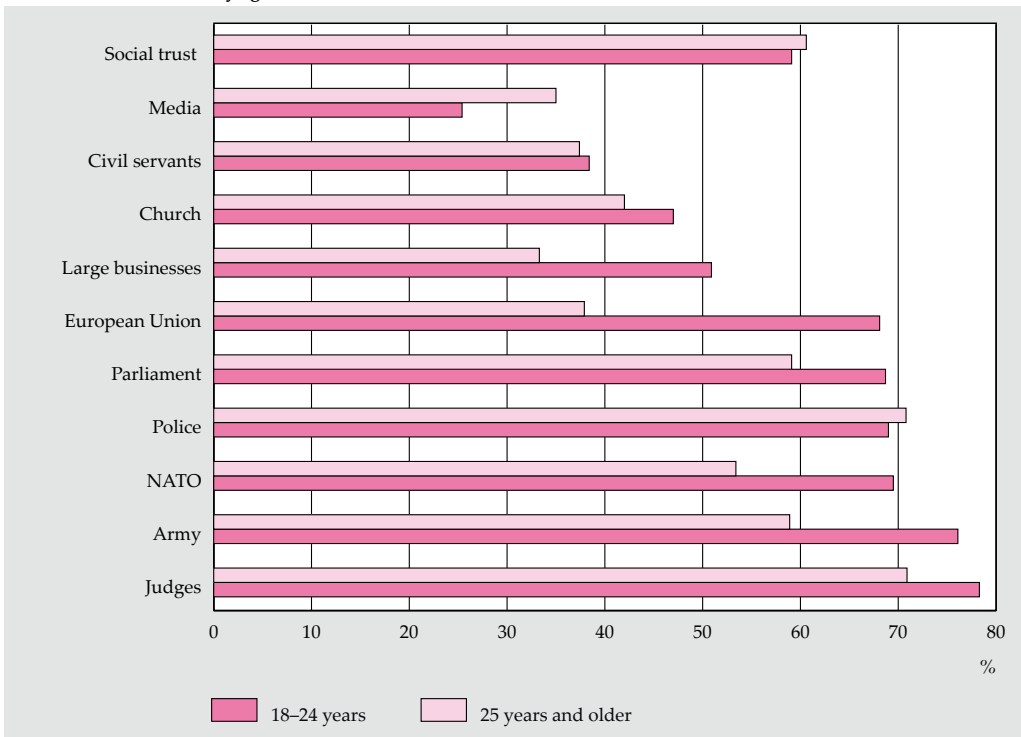
When asked, in 2006 about one third of young people indicated that they had tried to raise a political issue or tried to influence politicians or the government in the previous five years. This is hardly less than the over-25s. Twelve percent of young people used the media, 2 percent contacted a political party, 6 percent participated in discussion meetings and 2 percent contacted a civil servant. A further 1 percent took part in a pressure group, 8 percent went on a protest rally, and 21 percent took part in a political debate or took action via the internet, email or text messages. Young people participate more through the internet than older people. On the other hand, young people did not contact civil servants quite as often.

4.4 Trust and happiness

Young people trust others just as much as people over 25 do

After the general election of 22 November 2006, a study was conducted to determine how much Dutch citizens trust each other and how much they trust ten national institutions. Some 60 percent of young people aged 18–24 felt that ‘in general, most

4.3 Trust in institutions by age, 2006



Source: CBS National Voters Survey.

people can be trusted', while the other 40 percent felt that 'you cannot be careful enough in dealing with other people'. Young people did not differ in this respect from older people.

Furthermore, a clear majority of young people trusted the army, judges, the police, parliament, large businesses, the European Union and NATO. On the other hand they distrusted press and civil servants. In contrast with social trust, there are great differences between young and older people in institutional trust. In 2006 young people trusted the army, judges, parliament, large businesses, the NATO and especially the EU more than older people. There was one exception: young people were more sceptical about the press.

Almost all young people feel happy to very happy

As we have seen above, young people in the Netherlands participate widely in society and generally trust other people and all kinds of institutions; they therefore contribute to social cohesion in the Netherlands. As this is assumed to have a positive effect on the welfare and wellbeing of people, researchers did a study to establish how happy and satisfied with their lives young people are. A large majority turn out to be happy or very happy. No less than 94 percent of 12–17 year-olds and 92 percent of 18–24 year-olds were happy or very happy in 2006–2008, compared with 88 percent of the over-25s. The picture is similar for how satisfied people are with their lives.

Table 4.4
Happiness and satisfaction with life by age and sex, 2006/2008

	Total			Men		Women	
	12–17 yrs	18–24 yrs	25 yrs and older	12–17 yrs	18–24 yrs	12–17 yrs	18–24 yrs
	%						
Happiness							
Very happy	26	25	20	27	25	26	26
Happy	68	67	68	68	67	69	66
Not happy, not unhappy	4	6	9	4	7	5	6
Not very happy	1	1	3	1	1	1	2
Unhappy	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Satisfied with life							
Extremely satisfied	12	9	7	12	9	11	8
Very satisfied	42	40	33	42	40	41	40
Satisfied	42	43	47	42	44	42	42
Fairly satisfied	4	7	9	4	6	4	8
Not so satisfied	1	2	4	1	2	1	2

Source: CBS-Permanent Life Situation Survey (POLS).

5. *Young people and the labour market*

Every year about 4 percent of 15–22 year-olds leave vocational education (mbo or vmbo) without a basic qualification. The drop-out rate is especially high among first generation immigrant boys. Young people who had left school without a basic qualification have been hit hardest by the recent economic crisis. And it is young men rather than young women in this group who cannot find a job. Tens of thousands of young people do not work and are no longer in education. Most young people in this position on social security receive a disablement benefit. The first work experience of many youngsters is in part-time jobs they do alongside school or studies.

5.1 *School drop-outs*

Four percent of pupils leave school without a basic qualification

Current government policy stresses the importance of the knowledge economy in the Netherlands. The fourth Balkenende cabinet explicitly stated in its coalition agreement and policy programme that it will invest in reducing school drop-out rates. Most young people in the Netherlands do well in school and complete their education. This improves their chances of finding work, among other things. However, some young people leave school without a basic qualification (see box). A basic qualification is a diploma at the level of senior secondary general education (havo), pre-university education (vwo), or senior secondary vocational training (mbo) level 2.

In school year 2006/07 nearly 1.3 million pupils were in some form of secondary education. one year later (school year 2007/08) nearly 4 percent had left school without a basic qualification: a total of over 50 thousand youngsters, and more boys than girls (4.5 versus 3.2 percent).

The drop-out rate in secondary general education was 1.7 percent in 2006/07. This is lower than the 9 percent the drop-out rate from senior secondary vocational training (mbo). The drop-out rate drop in the first two years of pre-vocational education (vmbo) was relatively high (4.1 percent). These are mainly pupils who had repeated one or more years (6.8 percent) and children with learning difficulties (5.6 percent). Many more students drop-out in the apprenticeship-based (bbl) track of mbo (11.7 percent) than in the school-based (bol) track (8.3 percent). There are also large differences within the various levels of mbo. Level 1 (assistant training) had by far the largest drop-out rate, namely 37.4 percent.

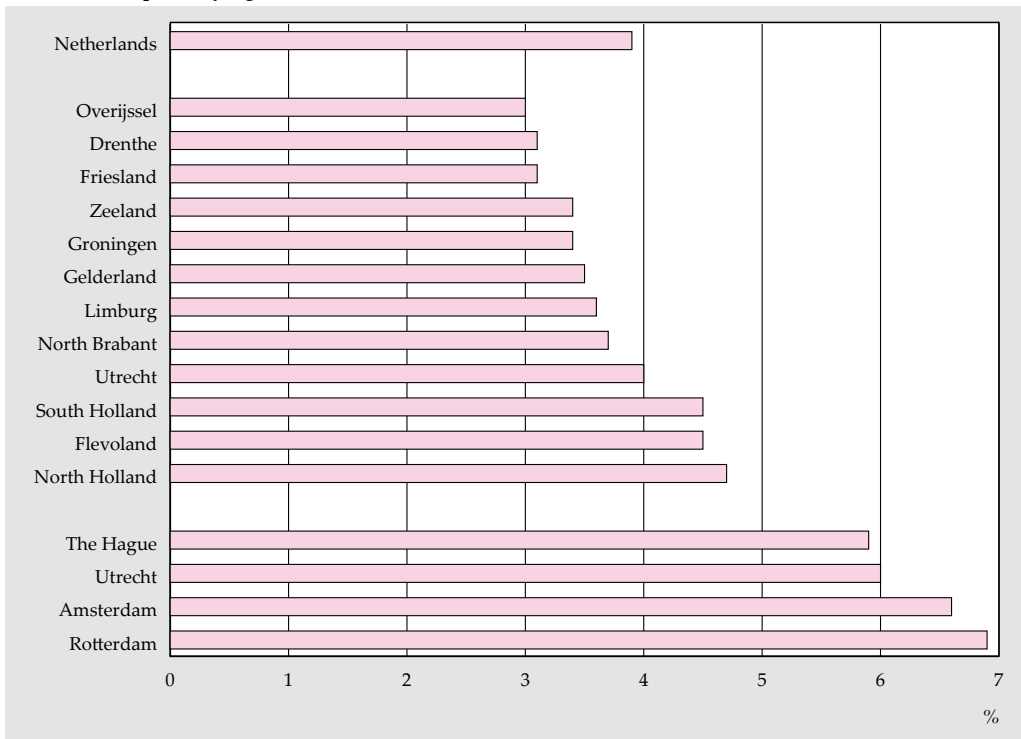
Higher drop-out rates for immigrant students

The share of drop-outs among young people with a non-western foreign background in 2006/07 was higher, 6.6 percent, than that among their native Dutch peers (3.3

percent). First generation youngsters with a non-western foreign background in particular were more likely to leave school without a qualification (8.9 percent). The drop-out rate was a lot lower for the second generation: 5.7 percent.

The province North Holland had the highest school drop-out rate in school year 2006/07, with 4.7 percent. This is substantially higher than the national average. South Holland and Flevoland also had more drop-outs than average: 4.5 percent. Drop-out rates in North and South Holland are highest in the large cities: Amsterdam (6.6 percent), Rotterdam (6.9 percent) and The Hague (5.9 percent). These high rates are related to the large shares of students with a non-western foreign background in these cities. Although the fourth largest city, Utrecht, also had a 6.0 percent drop-out rate, the province of Utrecht was close to the national average with 4.0 percent. Overijssel had the lowest drop-out rate with 3.0 percent.

5.1 Share of drop-outs by region, 2006/07*



Source: National Youth Monitor, CBS Education statistics, Social Statistics Database.

Children in one-parent families are more likely to leave school prematurely than those in two-parent families. The rate for children in one-parent families – 6.3 percent – was twice that of children in two-parent families. The drop-out rate of the small group of children who live alone was highest of all, at 13.2 percent.

Also, children in higher income households are less likely to drop out of school than those in low income households.

School drop-outs

Drop-outs are children who have left secondary general and secondary vocational education on 1 October of the following school year without having attained a basic qualification (i.e. a havo, vwo or mbo level 2 diploma).

The results on drop-outs in this section provide an insight into their background characteristics. These are drop-outs younger than 23 years of age recorded in the municipal population register. The results are not intended to reflect the total number of school drop-outs in the Netherlands, which is compiled by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science. The figures compiled by the ministry are also presented in the National Youth Monitor as the indicator 'School drop-outs, total figure according to the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science'.

5.2 Unemployed young people

More youngsters without a basic qualification unemployed

In 2008, 12.2 percent of young people (aged 15–22 years) who had left school without a basic qualification were unemployed. Unemployment among young people with a basic qualification was about half this rate (6.0 percent).

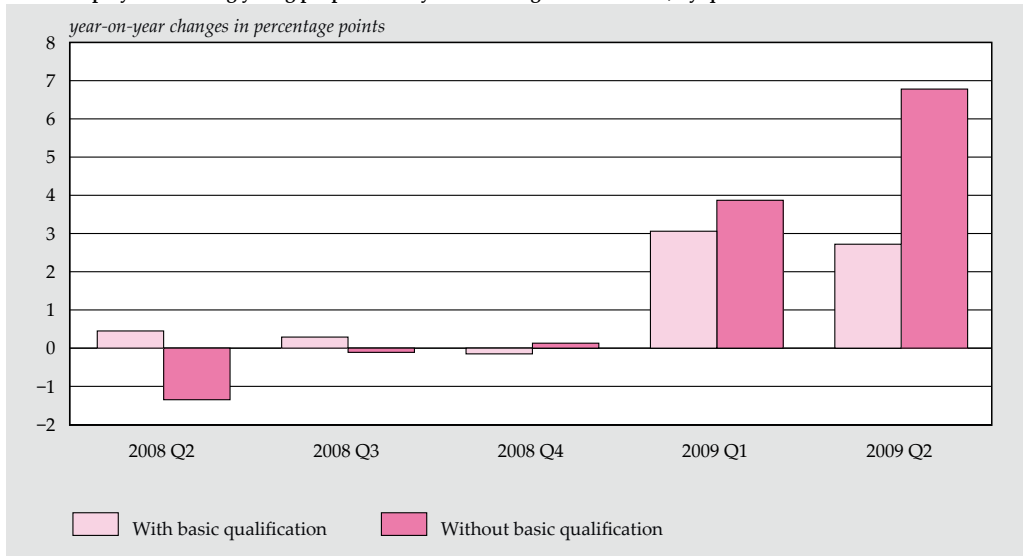
Since the economic recession started in the third quarter of 2008, unemployment among young people has risen sharply. While youth unemployment in the second quarter of 2008 was 7.9 percent, it had reached 11.9 percent one year later. Young people (15–22 years) who were no longer in school and did not have a basic qualification were hit hardest by the economic crisis. In the second quarter of 2009, 17.2 percent of them were unemployed, nearly 7 percent points more than one year before. Unemployment among young people who had left school with a qualifications was 8.4 percent in the second quarter of 2009, up 2.4 percent points on the year before.

5.2 Unemployment among young people (15–22 years) no longer in education



Source: National Youth Monitor, CBS Labour force survey.

5.3 Unemployment among young people (15–22 years) no longer in education, by qualification



Source: CBS Labour force survey.

Unemployment especially higher among young men

Young men were particularly affected by the recession. In the second quarter of 2009 the unemployment rate among 15–22 year-old men was 12.9 percent; up 5.5 percent

points on the year before. The unemployment rate among young women increased by only 1.4 percent points to 10.7 percent in the second quarter of 2009, which meant relatively fewer women than men were unemployed. The difference in unemployment between men and women is based on the business cycle (Kösters and Den Boer, 2009). Young men often work in sectors sensitive to economic fluctuations, such as the manufacturing industry, ICT and construction, whereas young women tend to work more in less sensitive sectors such as care, government, and education.

Young women without a basic qualification were more often unemployed than young men without a basic qualification. In the second quarter of 2009, unemployment among women without a basic qualification was 21.2 percent. The rise in unemployment from the second quarter of 2008 to the second quarter of 2009 was almost equal for the two groups, nearly 6 percent points.

The situation was different for young people with a basic qualification. Unemployment among qualified young men rose faster than for young women between the second quarter of 2008 and the second quarter of 2009.

5.3 Social benefits

As many young people as possible in jobs or in school

The fact that tens of thousands of young people neither have a job nor are in education is a major social problem. It is important for young people to participate in society actively and to their full capacity. Various socio-economic and other scientific studies have indicated that early labour market experiences have far-reaching effects on the rest of a person's career (OECD, 2008). Youth unemployment is detrimental to a person's career and long-term income (Mooi-Reci, 2008). Inactivity of young people is therefore high on the political agenda. For instance, on 25 March 2009 the Dutch government decided to spend an extra 250 euro million to improve the job market for young people. An action plan for youth unemployment was launched in April 2009, aiming to find efficient instruments to get young people into jobs, to keep them there, and to obtain the funds to organise all this (Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment). The ministry has also presented advanced plans to keep young people off social security by providing them with job education offers. At present, young people who are not in some form of education and have no job, or do not have enough income to buy the basic necessities may qualify for benefits.

Benefits paid to young people

In the period 1998–2008 the number of social benefits paid to youngsters aged 15–24 years fluctuated between 65 and 86 thousand. The fluctuations are caused by the state of the economy and changes in regulations. Dutch social benefits are based on the legislation on unemployment (WW), income support (WWB) and disablement (WIA, WAO, Wajong or WAZ).

The share of young people receiving a benefit in 1998–2008 as a percentage of the total population aged 15–24 years fluctuated between 4.4 (31 December 2004 and 2005) and 3.3 (31 December 2007). The percentage of young women was higher than that of young men in each of these years.

Table 5.1
Benefits paid to young people (15–24 years), 1998–2008 (31 December)

	Total	Men	Women	Income support	Unemployment	Disablement
	<i>x 1,000</i>					
1998	80	39	41	36	17	27
1999	69	32	37	30	10	29
2000	65	29	35	26	8	31
2001	65	29	36	26	7	32
2002	72	34	38	28	11	33
2003	85	41	44	33	18	34
2004	86	42	44	33	18	35
2005	76	37	39	27	13	36
2006	67	33	34	20	7	40
2007	65	33	32	15	4	45
2008	70	37	33	13	6	50

Source: National Youth Monitor, CBS Social security statistics.

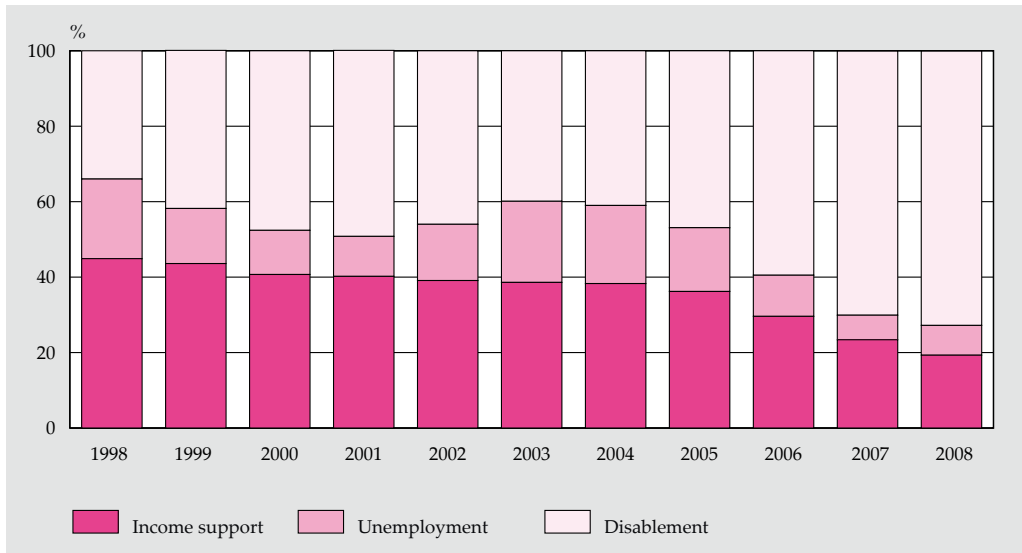
The composition of the various benefits paid to young people has changed drastically over the years. In 2008, some 72 percent were disablement benefits; this proportion has more than doubled since 1998, when 34 percent were disablement benefits. The steady decrease in the number of income support benefits paid to under-25s since 2004 has also had an effect on this.

Few young people claim unemployment or income support benefit

Under certain conditions young people who are unemployed and not in education may qualify for unemployment benefit or income support. As young people usually have little work experience, few qualify for an unemployment benefit (WW). From 1998 to 2008 their number fluctuated between 4 thousand in 2007 and 18 thousand in 2003 and 2004. The increase and decrease in the number of unemployment benefits in the period 1998–2008 is related to economic developments in those years.

Changes in the number of income support benefits paid to young people also depend on the economic situation, although legal measures are also involved. On 1 January

5.4 Benefits paid to young people (15–24 years) by type, 1998–2008 (31 December)



Source: National Youth Monitor, CBS Social security statistics.

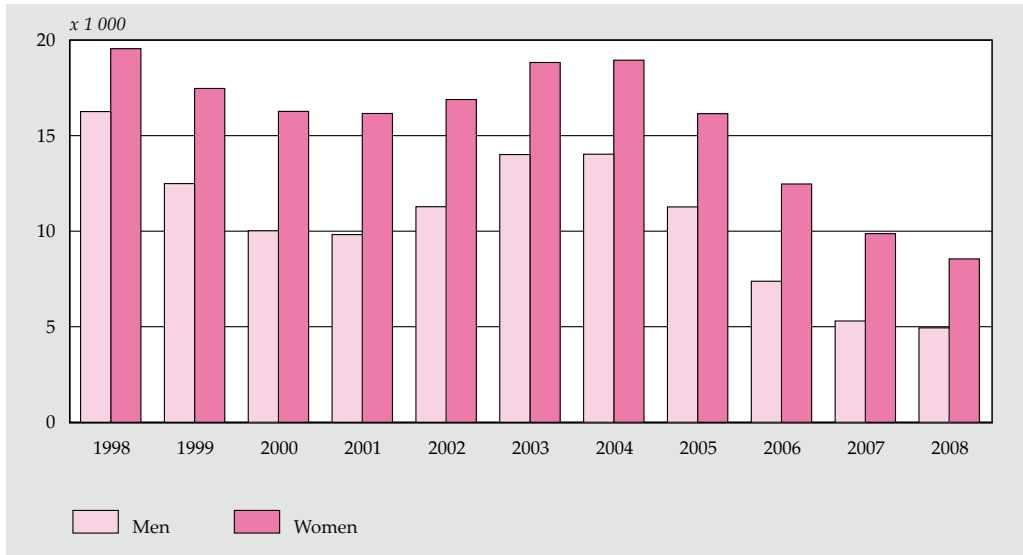
2004, a new law came into effect under which the responsibility for income support benefits was transferred to the municipalities. As of that date, municipalities receive a predetermined budget from central government. Overspending on income support has to be compensated from the municipal budget, while if the income support paid is less than the budget, the municipality may spend the surplus on something else. Therefore municipalities benefit financially from keeping the number of income support benefits in their municipality to a minimum. One consequence of this was that municipalities examined the group income support claimants critically to see who was eligible for other benefits instead of income support, such as the Wajong benefit for young disabled people.

More young women than young men claimed income support in the period 1998–2008. Most of them were single mothers with one or more children. Most young men on income support are single.

Many young people claim Wajong benefits

Most young people aged 15–24 years who receive a benefits do so because of illness or disability. The number of young people on disablement benefits has increased steadily from 27 thousand in 1998 to over 50 thousand at the end of 2008: an increase of 87 percent. The number of young men receiving such benefits even doubled in this period.

5.5 Income support benefits paid to young people (15–24 years) by sex, 1998–2008 (31 December)



Source: National Youth Monitor, CBS Social security statistics.

5.6 Disablement benefits paid to young people (15–24 years), 1998–2008 (31 December)



Source: National Youth Monitor, CBS Social security statistics.

Nearly all disablement benefits paid to under-25s in December 2008 were benefits especially for disabled young people, namely the Wajong benefits. These totalled some 49 thousand. Young people qualify for Wajong benefit if they are disabled to such an extent that they cannot work on the day they turn 17, or they become disabled before their 30th birthday and were in education for at least six months in the year before they became disabled. In 2008, more than 98 percent of the Wajong benefits were full benefits (for young people who were 100 percent disabled). These young people often remain outside the labour market for the rest of their lives.

Changes in legislation are one of the causes of the relative and absolute increase in the number of Wajong recipients. No new cases were accepted under the WAZ (for self-employed) from 1 August 2004, and at the end of 2005 the WIA replaced the WAO (the old general disablement provision). It has become more difficult for young people to qualify for other disablement provisions because of stricter eligibility criteria. Other causes are the above-mentioned municipal actions to transfer claimants to other benefits where possible after the introduction of the new regulations for income support in 2004, and more precise diagnoses of old and new diseases.

Rural provinces have relatively most claimants

As young people and employment opportunities are not equally distributed across the country, there are clear regional differences in benefits claimants. In 2008, 3.5 percent of the total population aged 15–24 years received either income support, unemployment benefit, or a disablement benefit. In the provinces Drenthe, Groningen, Friesland and Limburg these percentages were much higher, at 5.3, 4.8, 4.6 and 4.5 respectively. Utrecht had the lowest number of young benefit claimants, namely 2.7 percent.

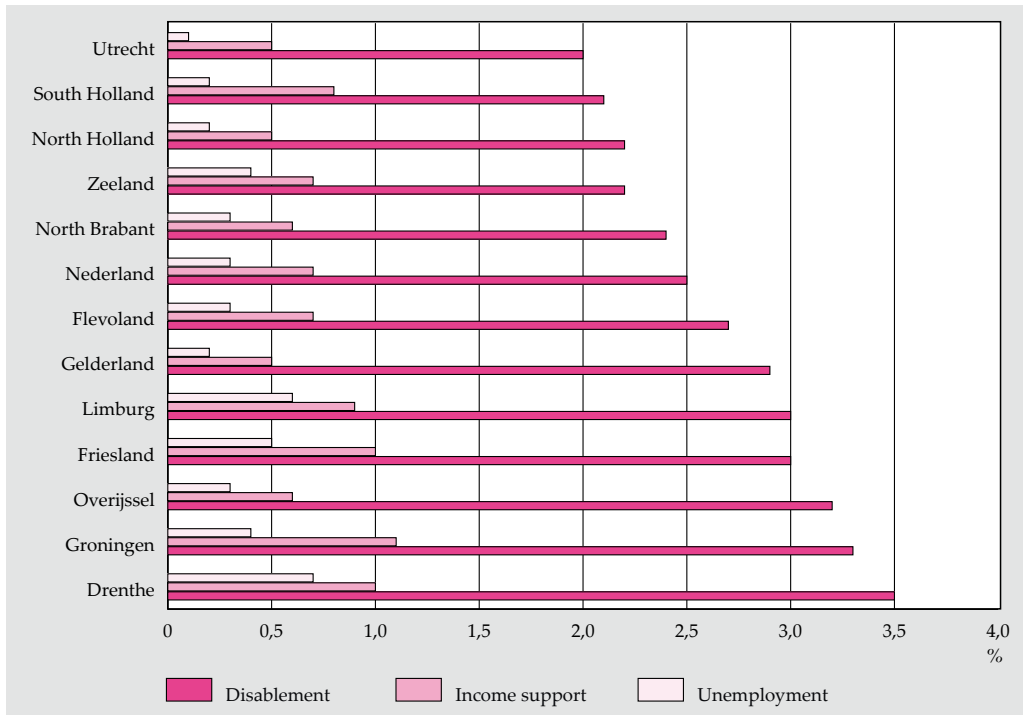
At the end of 2008, in relative terms the fewest income support, unemployment and disablement benefits were paid in North Holland (income support), Utrecht (unemployment) and South Holland (disablement). The highest shares of young people on benefits were found in Groningen (income support and disablement) and Drenthe (unemployment). The percentages fluctuated in the period 1998–2008, but most benefits were consistently paid in the three northern provinces and Limburg. Until 2006 the province of Utrecht had the lowest share of young benefit claimants, since 2006 this has been North Holland.

5.4 Young people combine work with school

One third of youngsters worked while at school

The first work experience of many young people is in a part-time job of less than 12 hours a week. In 2008 this was true for nearly one third of youngsters aged 15–22 years (32 percent). Young people who are still in education in particular work for extra cash: over 38 percent of them worked part-time alongside their studies. Only

5.7 Young people (15–24 years) receiving benefits per province as a percentage of the total population aged 15–24 years (31 December 2008)



Source: CBS Social security statistics.

4 percent of young people who are no longer in school had such a small part-time job. The share of young people with a small part-time job has hardly increased in recent years. One third of these youngsters work in shops: stacking shelves, as shop assistants or behind the till. Waiting table in restaurants and cafes, delivering newspapers, magazines and leaflets, and cleaning are also all popular jobs that can be easily combined with studying.

Young people with a small part-time job often have flexible contracts: 61 percent in 2008¹⁾. They mostly work as standby workers, replacement workers or for temp agencies. Fewer young people who work for 12 hours a week or more have flexible contracts: 31 percent.

Table 5.2
Top ten part-time jobs among young people (15–22 years) with a part-time job ¹⁾, 2008

	%
Shop assistant	14
Stacking shelves	13
Waiting table	9
Newspaper, magazine etc. delivery	8
Window cleaner, cleaner	8
Check out	6
Horticultural work	3
Buffet, bartender	3
Mail delivery	2
Loading, unloading, moving, warehouse work	2

¹⁾ Less than 12 hours a week.

Source: CBS Labour force survey.

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Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment: <http://www.szw.nl>.

Notes

¹⁾ In some cases people have more than one job. The figures only refer to the first job in which young people work.

6. Young people and security

Relatively many young people have been the victim of a criminal offence, although the number has fallen in recent years. The number of young people referred to the Halt scheme decreased in 2008. The number of cases settled by the public prosecution services also decreased slightly, while the number under-25 who had to appear in court was slightly up in 2008. Studies show that the percentages of young people interviewed by the police on suspicion of a crime differed substantially between municipalities in 2006. In most municipalities the share of young suspects with an immigrant background is higher than the share of their native Dutch peers.

6.1 Crime victims and feelings of insecurity

Young people are relatively often crime victims

Crime has affected fewer people in the Netherlands in recent years. The number of victims of common crime continued to fall, and people did not feel less safe (CBS, 2009). This trend ¹⁾ also applies to young people.

Table 6.1
Young crime victims and feelings of insecurity (15–24 years)

	National safety monitor (VMR) ¹⁾			Integrated safety monitor (IVM) ¹⁾
	2006	2007	2008	2008
	%			
Crime victims	42.0	39.3	39.0	35.8
Sometimes does not feel safe	28.8	27.7	22.8	32.4

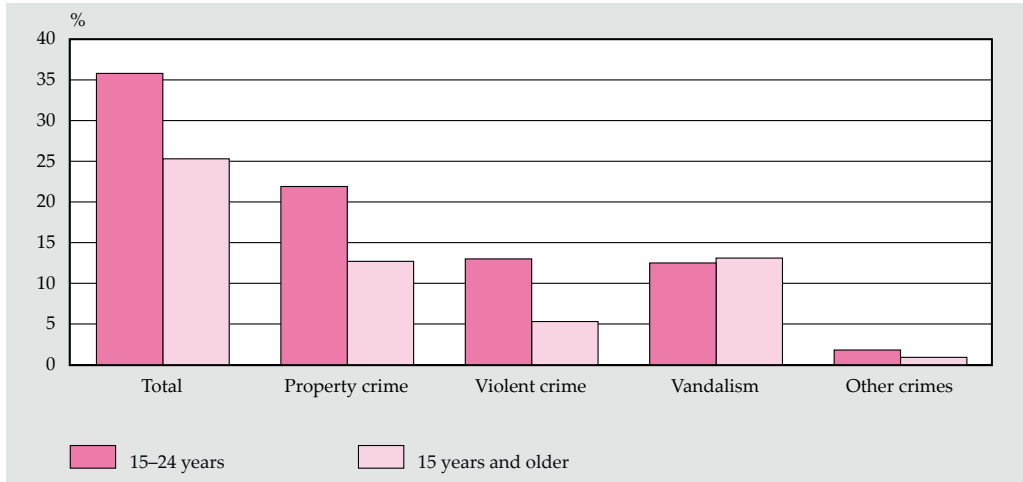
¹⁾ The introduction of the Integrated safety monitor comprised the start of a new series (see also the note in the text), which cannot be compared directly with the National safety monitor. For developments in the period 2006–2008 please use VMR.

Source: National Youth Monitor, VMR and IVM.

Just over one third of young people (36 percent, JVM) reported that they had been the victim of one or more criminal offences in 2008. By comparison, one quarter of the Dutch population aged 15 years and older had been the victim of a crime. People in the age group 15–24 years were mostly affected by property crime, such

as bicycle theft. About one in eight (13 percent) experienced a violent crime, mostly threatening behaviour. Vandalism also affected one in eight young people. Just as many boys as girls are affected by crime, although slightly more boys experienced violent offences.

6.1 Victims by offence¹⁾, 2008



¹⁾ The percentages of victims do not add up to the total as young people may have fallen victim to more than one crime.

Source: CBS IVM Integrated safety monitor.

Many young people also say they don't feel safe sometimes. In December 2008 just over three in ten young people aged 15–24 years said they sometimes didn't feel safe, twice as many girls as boys. Two in ten young people sometimes didn't feel safe in their own neighbourhood.

Most young people think there is only a small risk that they will actually be the victim of burglary, abuse or having their purse stolen: about seven percent said they run a high risk of having their purse stolen, just over five percent said the same for burglary and just under two percent for abuse.

6.2 Young offenders

Increase in young offenders slowing down

The number of 12–24 year-old crime suspects interviewed by the police and appearing in court rose every year from 2000 to 2007. However, 2008 seems to have been a turning point. Fewer young people were referred to the Halt scheme in

2008, and the number of cases involving young suspects settled by the public prosecution service and in court increased only very slightly.

This section examines the number of young offenders referred to the Halt scheme, those whose case was settled by public prosecution service, and those summoned to appear in court, between 2000 and 2008. As the penal code distinguishes between youngsters aged 12–17 years and aged 18–24 years (see box), the two groups are treated separately and called ‘minors’ and ‘young adults’.

Minors and adults according to the penal code

The Dutch penal code treats young offenders who were older than 12 and younger than 18 when they committed the offence as minors, and those who were older than 18 at the time as adults. When minors under the penal code commit a crime, the police can opt to refer them to the Halt scheme. This scheme is intended to offer first offenders a possibility to rectify their offence, without the intervention of the criminal justice system. Young offenders can carry out an appropriate activity through the Halt bureau, usually doing community service for a number of hours, or participating in a special learning activity. The aims of a Halt measure are norm awareness, retribution, victim compensation and behavioural adjustment.

To be referred to the Halt scheme, the offender must admit to committing the offence and the offence may not be too serious. Furthermore the offender may not have been referred to the Halt scheme more than once before, and if he/she has been in the scheme previously this must have been at least one year before. Minors suspected of a serious criminal offence or not complying with the other criteria for the Halt scheme are referred to the public prosecution service. This service then decides either to bring the case to court, or to settle the case itself. Cases concerning minor offences committed by young adults under the penal code may be settled by the police, for example by imposing a fine. More serious offenders in this group are referred to the public prosecution service.

6.2.1 Minors

Fewer cases referred to Halt and public prosecution service in 2008

Just over 22 thousand cases involving minors were referred to the Halt scheme in 2008. This is 8 percent less than in 2007. From 2001 to 2007 the number of Halt referrals had increased every year (Annual reports Halt Nederland).

The number of cases settled by the public prosecution service involving 12–17 year-old offenders also fell from 2007 to 2008: by nearly 300 to 24.3 thousand cases. This number, too, had risen yearly between 2000 and 2007.

The number of minors appearing in court did increase from 2007 to 2008, by nearly 5 percent. to 13.5 thousand.

In all stages of the justice system, the share of girls is increasing slowly. The highest percentage in 2008 was in the Halt referrals (one quarter). In addition, 20 percent of cases settled by the public prosecution service involved girls, and 15 percent of minors appearing in court were girls.

Table 6.2
Cases involving minors and young adults (12–24 years) referred to the Halt scheme, settled by the public prosecution and going to court, 2000–2008

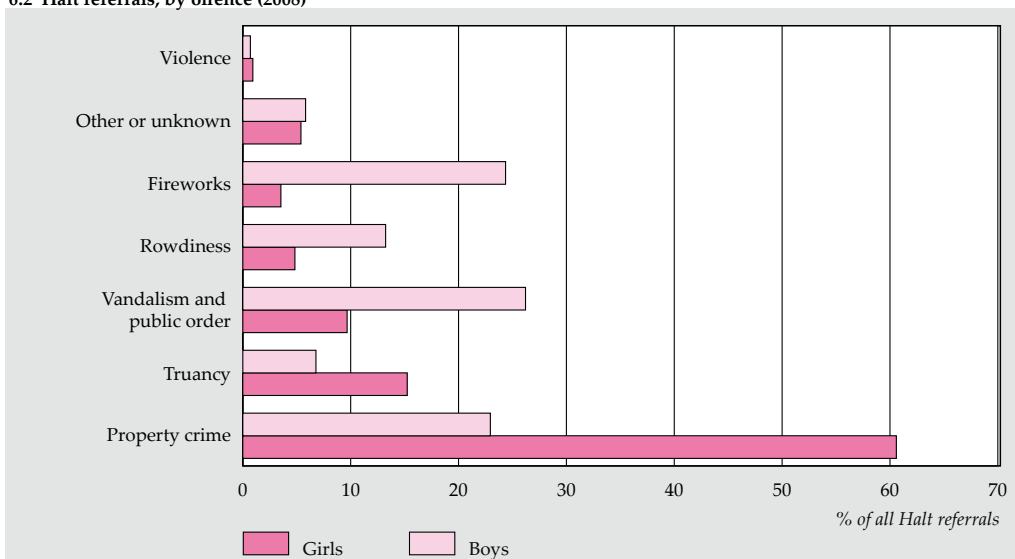
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	<i>x 1,000</i>								
Minors									
Halt referrals									
Boys	.	.	13.7	15.7	15.2	17.2	16.4	17.6	15.8
Girls	.	.	3.7	3.8	4.0	4.9	4.9	5.5	5.4
Settlement by public prosecutor									
Boys	15.0	15.8	16.1	16.7	17.5	18.8	19.3	19.5	19.5
Girls	2.4	2.9	3.3	3.5	3.6	4.3	4.6	5.1	4.8
Appearance in court									
Boys	8.0	7.9	8.7	9.2	10.3	10.7	10.7	11.0	11.4
Girls	1.0	1.0	1.3	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.9	2.0
Young adults									
Settlement by public prosecutor									
Men	20.3	18.8	19.7	21.6	22.2	21.7	23.2	23.2	23.2
Women	2.5	2.4	2.6	3.0	3.3	3.4	3.9	4.1	4.0
Appearance in court									
Men	22.1	22.7	23.7	27.2	27.0	27.2	28.2	27.4	28.0
Women	2.4	2.6	2.8	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.5	3.5	3.6

Source: National Youth Monitor, Halt Nederland, CBS Court statistics.

The types of offences committed differ substantially between boys and girls aged under 18. In 2008, 26 percent of boys referred to Halt had committed acts of vandalism or disturbed public order, 24 percent had committed fireworks offences, and another 23 percent property offences such as theft and fencing. Property offences accounted for 61 percent of referrals of girls to the Halt scheme, while truancy accounted for another 15 percent.

Most settlements by the public prosecution service involving boys were for vandalism and public order offences (33 percent), followed closely by crime against

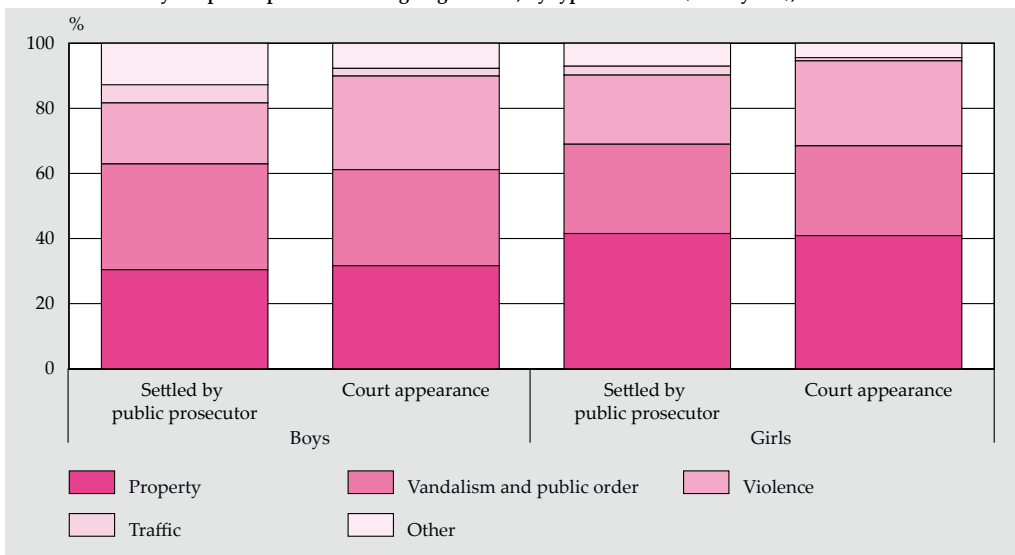
6.2 Halt referrals, by offence (2008)



Source: Halt Nederland, CBS Court statistics.

property (30 percent); nearly 20 percent concerned violence. For girls aged 12–17 years, 42 percent of cases settled by the public prosecution service concerned property crime, 27 percent vandalism and 21 percent violent crime.

6.3 Cases settled by the public prosecutor and going to court, by type of offence (12–17 years), 2008



Source: National Youth Monitor, CBS Court statistics.

Cases coming to court usually concern more serious crime than those settled by the public prosecution service. This is reflected in the percentages of violent offences coming to court. While violent crime accounted for around 20 percent of settlements by the public prosecutor for both boys and girls, in court it accounted for 29 percent of cases for boys and 26 percent for girls.

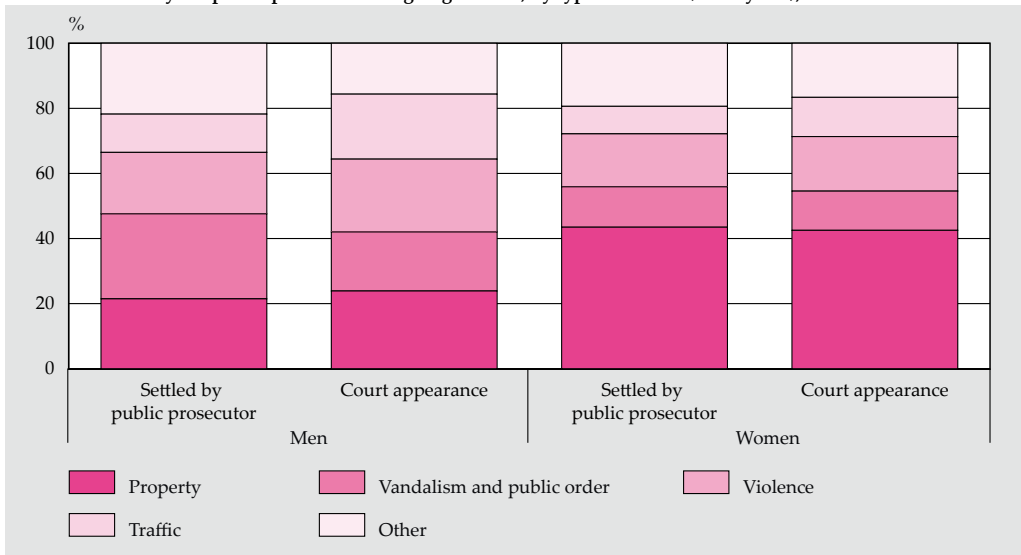
6.2.2 Young adults

Number of cases disposed of stable

The number of cases settled by the public prosecution service involving 18–24 year-olds was quite stable in 2006, 2007 and 2008: around 27 thousand a year. Between 2001 and 2004 the number had increased each year. The number of cases involving young adults going to court has also been stable in recent years, and amounted to 31.6 thousand in 2008. The number of cases involving female offenders is rising slowly.

Just as in the younger age group, young women commit other crimes than young men. In 2008 most cases involving men aged 18–24 years settled by the public prosecutor concerned vandalism and public order crimes (over 25 percent). In court 24 percent of cases with male offenders concerned property crime, and nearly as many concerned violence. Relatively many young men were summoned to appear in court in 2008 for traffic offences (20 percent), often drink-driving. Over

6.4 Cases settled by the public prosecutor and going to court, by type of offence (18–24 years), 2008



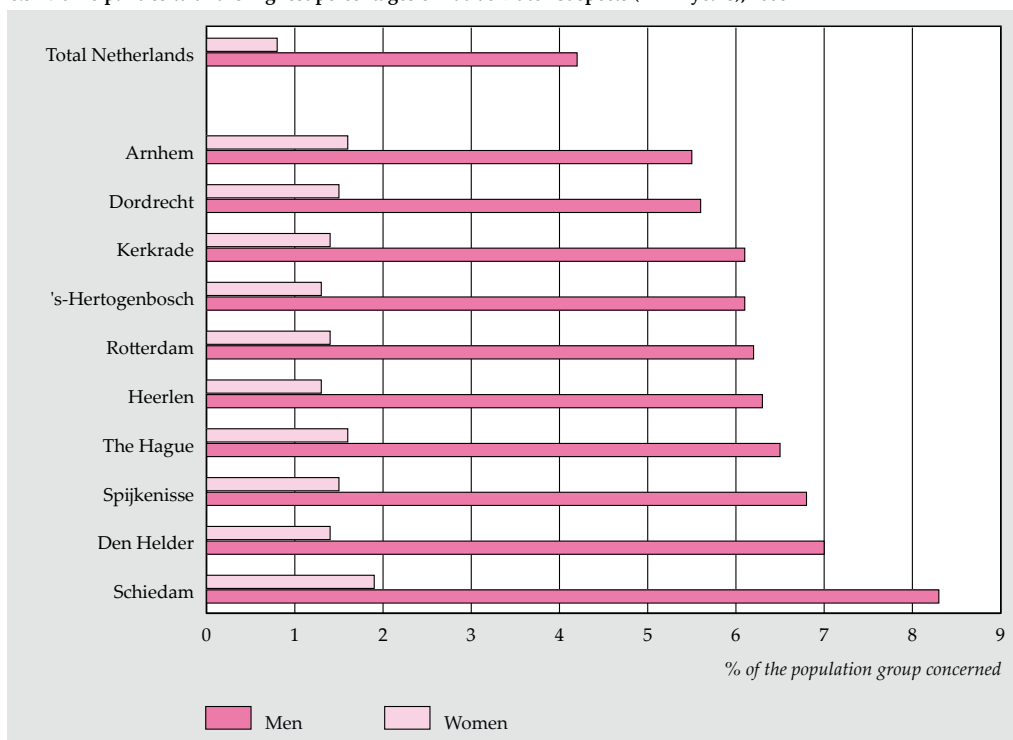
Source: National Youth Monitor, CBS Court statistics.

40 percent of cases involving women aged 18–24 years settled by the public prosecutor and going to court concerned property crimes.

6.3 *Young suspects per municipality*

Figures from the police registration (Herkenningsdienstsysteem or HKS) for 2006 show that the police arrested just over 3 percent of 12–24 year-olds in connection with a criminal offence, mostly boys and young men. Information is available for the 25 largest municipalities in the Netherlands on the number of arrested suspects aged 12–24 years living in the municipality compared with all young residents of the same age. The percentages vary considerably: from 1.8 percent in Barneveld to 6.3 percent in Schiedam. Municipalities with higher percentages of juvenile suspects are often those with a high percentage of people with an immigrant background. To compare the municipalities, we look at the proportion of suspects with an immigrant background in the total number of youngsters with an immigrant background, and the proportion of young native Dutch suspects in the total number of native Dutch youngsters in a municipality.

6.5 Municipalities with the highest percentages of native Dutch suspects (12–24 years), 2006



Source: CBS Police registration statistics (HKS).

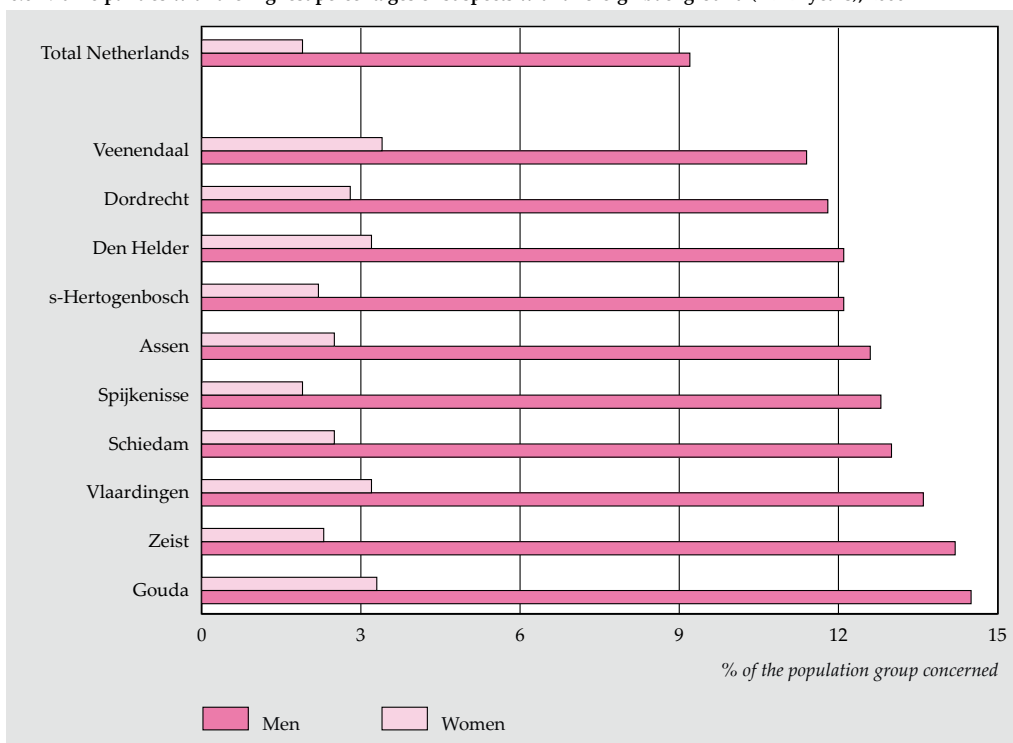
Most native Dutch suspects in Schiedam

Relatively speaking, most native Dutch 12–24 year-olds were arrested in Schiedam. The national average proportion of native Dutch boys and men aged 12–24 years arrested by the police was 4.2 percent in 2006. In Schiedam this was 8.3 percent, almost twice as high. The share of native Dutch women aged 12–24 years arrested in Schiedam (1.8 percent) was also twice as high as the national average of 0.9 percent.

Largest share of young immigrant suspects in Gouda

Youngsters with a foreign background are arrested relatively more often than native Dutch youngsters. In the Netherlands as a whole, 9.2 percent of men aged 12–24 years with an immigrant background were arrested by the police in connection with an offence in 2006. In Gouda this was 14.5 percent. Gouda also had the highest share of female suspects aged 12–24 years with a foreign background: 3.5 percent, compared with a national average of 1.9 percent in 2006. In Vlaardingen, Spijkenisse and Assen just over 3 percent of young immigrant women were arrested by the police in connection with a criminal offence.

6.6 Municipalities with the highest percentages of suspects with a foreign background (12–24 years), 2006



Source: CBS Police registration statistics (HKS).

In most municipalities where police arrest relatively many native Dutch youngsters, they also arrest relatively many youngsters with a foreign background. The exceptions to this rule are Kerkrade, Heerlen and Arnhem, where the percentage of suspects with an immigrant background is below the native Dutch average. Surprisingly, the four largest cities – Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Utrecht and The Hague – are not in the top ten municipalities with the highest percentage of arrested suspects with a foreign background.

The Hague and Rotterdam are in the top ten cities with the highest percentages of arrested young native Dutch suspects, however, and the percentage of young suspects with a foreign background is above the national average there.

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Halt Nederland (2009). *Jaarbericht Halt-sector 2008*. Leiden: Halt Nederland.

Notes

- ¹⁾ The integrated safety monitor (*Integrale Veiligheidsmonitor* or *IVM*) was published for the first time in 2008. It replaces the national safety monitor (*Veiligheidsmonitor Rijk* or *VMR*). For a number of reasons, the survey design of the IVM differs from that of the VMR, which makes breaks in series inevitable. Results from the two monitors therefore cannot be compared straightforwardly. Developments in time at the national level can only be presented on the basis of the VMR results. The VMR and the IVM were both carried out in 2008, the VMR in the first and the IVM in the fourth quarter.

National Youth Monitor website

Purpose and background

This annual report for 2009 sums up the main recent developments in the indicators on the National Youth Monitor website (www.landelijkejeugdmonitor.nl). The website shows how children and young people aged 0–24 years in the Netherlands are doing. It looks at the whole life course of these youngsters, in terms of various aspects of their life and the relationships between these aspects. To be able to present a consistent picture of young people in the Netherlands, existing data collections are presented alongside each other. The collected data make it possible to determine any important developments or changes. Are young people doing better, or not? Are the changes favourable? Have targets been met? The information in the National Youth Monitor is mainly intended to support policymakers and government in their work, both at national and local level.

The National Youth Monitor describes the situation of young people in the Netherlands on the basis of indicators. These indicators cover the domains population, health, education, labour, society and justice. In addition to the indicators, the National Youth Monitor also comprises the statistics on which they are based (in Dutch only). These are stored in the Youth Database, which can be accessed online via the website of the National Youth Monitor; users can make their own specific tables by selecting the data required at the level of detail required. In addition to the annual report, the quarterly reports are also published on the website. These examine a different selection of data in the youth database every quarter (see: www.landelijkejeugdmonitor/publicaties) and contain articles on the newest developments, placing them in a broader perspective. The National Youth Monitor further contains references to organisations which publish results of research in the area of children and young people.

As the Ministry for Youth and Families wants to meet the requirements of users as much as possible, family indicators will be added to the monitor at the end of 2009 or the beginning of 2010.

Who compiles the National Youth Monitor?

The National Youth Monitor is compiled at the request of the Ministry for Youth and Families. It is produced and published by Statistics Netherlands.

The data are from the following sources:

- Department for Youth Custodial Institutions (DJI)
- Dutch Expert Centre on Sexuality (Rutgers Nisso Groep)
- Foundation for a smoke-free future (STIVORO)
- Institute for Employment Benefit Schemes
- Intomart GfK

- Ministry of Education, Culture and Science
- Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport
- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations
- Ministry for Youth and Families
- Municipal population registration (GBA)
- National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM)
- National Police Services Agency (KPLD)
- Netherlands Institute for Social Research (SCP)
- Netherlands Institute of Mental Health and Addiction (Trimbos)
- Research and Documentation Centre (WODC)
- Statistics Netherlands (CBS)
- TNO Research

Topics in the National Youth Monitor

The National Youth Monitor comprises data on all aspects of Dutch children and young people from the year 2000. Where possible, the figures are broken down by sex, age, ethnic origin and region. The lowest regional level is the municipality. For each topic, both absolute numbers and percentages are given where possible. The National Youth Monitor is frequently updated, and new topics are regularly added.

At the time this report was published, the following topics are included:

- Alcohol consumption
- Basic qualifications
- Bodyweight
- Campaigning and demonstrating
- Child abuse
- Childcare
- Children in one-parent families
- Children under supervision order
- Club membership
- Courses and company training
- Crime (offenders and victims)
- Diplomas
- Drugs
- Employment situation
- Feelings of insecurity
- Guardianship
- Help with parenting
- Industrial accidents
- Infant Mortality
- Mental-social wellbeing

- Number of children and young people
- Participation in education
- Perceived health
- Perception of parenting
- Perinatal mortality
- Physical exercise
- Preventive health care
- School drop-outs
- Sickness absence
- Smoking
- Social security benefits
- Teenage mothers
- Unaccompanied foreign minors and guardianship
- Underprivileged pupils
- Victims
- Voluntary social work placements
- Voluntary work and informal assistance
- Youth custodial institutions
- Youth probation
- Youth unemployment
- Youth welfare services

The statistics on young people described in this report can all be found on the website. Some topics include extra information not published as an indicator on the website. These are mostly more details of existing indicators, and can be identified by the source quoted below the tables and graphs. If a statistic is included in the National Youth Monitor, the National Youth Monitor is quoted as the source. If a figure used is not on the website, only the source of that figure is quoted.

Glossary

Abbreviations of education levels

- vwo = pre-university education
- havo = senior general secondary education
- mavo = junior general secondary education
- vmbo = preparatory secondary vocational education
- mbo = senior secondary vocational education
- hbo = higher vocational education
- wo = university education

Alcohol, binge drinkers

The percentage of young people (aged 12-18 years) who drank five or more glasses of an alcoholic beverage on one occasion in the month preceding the survey.

Alcohol use

The percentage of young people (aged 12-18 years) who have ever drunk alcohol. This is a life-time prevalence measure, i.e. it measures whether a child has drunk alcohol at least once in its life.

Basic qualification

The number or percentage of young people (aged 18-24 years) in education or with a basic qualification.

A basic qualification is defined as a qualification at level 2 or higher of the qualification structure of the on Education and Vocational Education Act (*Wet Educatie en beroepsonderwijs* or WEB). In brief this means that students completing preparatory vocational secondary education (vmbo; formerly vbo and mavo) must complete an advanced vocational course of at least two years. Senior secondary general education (havo) and pre-university education (vwo) diplomas are also considered to be basic qualifications.

The basic qualification is determined with the aid of the attained level of education. Everyone with completed education at level 4.1 or higher of the Standard Education Classification (*Standaard Onderwijsindeling* or SOI) is deemed to have a basic qualification.

Benefits, income support

Number or percentage of young people (aged 15-22 years) claiming income support benefit.

Bodyweight: overweight

The percentage of young people (aged 2-24 years) who are overweight.

Bodyweight is expressed in terms of the Body Mass Index (BMI). The BMI is calculated by dividing bodyweight in kilograms by the square of height in metres (kg/m²). It is a generally accepted measure for the determination of overweight and underweight adults aged 18 years and older. People with a BMI of 25 or higher are overweight, those with a BMI of 30 or higher are severely overweight (obese).

There are no fixed BMI threshold values to determine whether growing children are overweight or obese. In addition, BMI differs between boys and girls: the values for girls are slightly higher on average than for boys. In 2000 the International Obesity Task Force of World Health Organisation proposed criteria to determine obesity in children, based on six international growth studies (including a 1997 study for the Netherlands). The criteria were chosen in such a way that they correspond with the accepted values for people aged over 18 years. For ages younger than 18 years cut-off points for the BMI were determined for each age and separately for boys and girls, above which children are considered to be overweight or obese.

Child Abuse Reporting Agency (AMK)

The AMK advises the person reporting a suspected case of child abuse. The advice given is counted as one single contact between the AMK and the informant.

The National Youth Monitor presents both the number of cases of advice given and the number of children concerned.

Crime victims

The number or percentage of young people (aged 15-24 years) who have been a victim of a crime at least once.

Criminal offences

These are classified according to the standard classification used at Statistics Netherlands.

This report includes four types of criminal offence:

- Violent offences
- Property offences
- Vandalism and public order offences
- Other criminal offences

Disablement benefits

The WAO, WAZ and Wajong are laws providing for the financial consequences of long-term disablement. The benefits are paid periodically

Drugs: recent use of cannabis

The percentage of young people (aged 12-18 years) who had used cannabis in the month preceding the survey.

Drugs: use of hard drugs

Young people (12-18 years) who have ever used one or more hard drugs. In this report hard drugs include ecstasy, amphetamine, heroin or cocaine. The indicator refers to lifetime prevalence, i.e. whether a person has ever used hard drugs in his/her life.

Employed labour force

Young people (aged 15-22 years) resident in the Netherlands, not in education, who have a paid job for at least 12 hours a week. The percentage of employed young people is calculated as the percentage of young people in this age group not in education.

Feelings of insecurity

The percentage of young people (aged 15-24 years) who do not feel safe sometimes.

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.

Guardianship

Authority over underage children not exercised by the parents but by someone else. A guardian (one or two persons aged 18 year or older, or an institution) is appointed by a judge specialising in juvenile law. The guardian is responsible for the care and education of the child, is its legal representative and is responsible for its finances. Guardianship lasts until the child reached the age of 18 years.

A guardian is appointed if:

- both parents are dead;
- the parents are incompetent (e.g. an underage mother);
- parental authority has been withdrawn;
- the child is an unaccompanied foreign minor.

Halt scheme

Halt is an abbreviation of Het Alternatief (The Alternative). Halt is a scheme intended to offer first offenders a possibility to rectify their offence. The Halt procedure is not preceded by a judge's verdict and is therefore not a penalty in legal terms.

The Halt procedure may be imposed for the following offences: destruction of public property, minor vandalism (including graffiti), minor arson (with minor

damage), theft/embezzlement without breaking and entering, and subsequent fencing of stolen goods (up to a maximum amount of money or value of goods), changing price labels, public disorderly conduct, letting fireworks off outside the times and places legally permitted, and fare dodging.

To be referred to the Halt scheme, the suspect must admit to committing the offence and agree to the terms of the scheme. Juveniles with serious background problems, juveniles who re-offend within one year after their referral to the Halt scheme and children under 12 years of age are not eligible for the scheme. For children aged under 12 the Stop-reactie scheme was introduced on a national scale in 2001. This is a preventive and pedagogic programme for under-12s who have committed one of the above-mentioned offences.

Interviewed by the police

The number or percentage of young people (aged 12-24 years) interviewed as a suspect by the police in connection with a criminal offence. For children aged 12-17 years settlements via the *Halt* scheme are not included in these figures.

The number of young people is the number registered in Dutch municipalities. Young people charged with an offence outside the Netherlands are not included.

Native Dutch

A native Dutch person is a person of whom both parents were born in the Netherlands.

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.

Perceived health

Young people aged 15 up to and including 24 years who describe their health as good or very good. The figures refer to answers to the question 'How would you describe your general state of health?' The answer categories vary from very good to very poor. Perceived health, also called subjective health or experienced health, reflects a person's personal assessment of his or her own health. Experienced health is a summary measure of all health aspects relevant for the person concerned.

Physical exercise: complies with combined norm

Percentage of children (12-17 years) who comply with either the Fit norm or the Dutch healthy exercise norm in summer and winter. At least 20 minutes of heavy intensive activity at least three times a week (summer and winter).

Physical activity: light, moderate and intensive

People doing light physical activity will often not have a higher heart or breathing rate. People doing moderate physical activity have a higher heart rate, become warm and have a higher breathing rate. People doing intensive physical activity will start to sweat and get out of breath.

School drop-outs

The number of school dropouts within the total number of pupils in the survey population group, calculated as non-rounded absolute figures.

School dropouts are children who have left school on 1 October of school years t+1 without having attained a basic qualification. They are younger than 23 years and recorded in the municipal population registration.

The results of the number of school dropouts give an insight into their background characteristics compared with children who complete their education. The results are not intended to reflect the total number of school dropouts in the Netherlands. The figures calculated for this by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science are estimated to be higher. These figures are also presented in the National Youth Monitor: indicator "School dropouts: total figures from the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science".

Smoking, smoked recently

The percentage of young people (aged 10-19 years) who smoked in the four weeks preceding the interview.

Social Statistics Database

The purpose of the Social Statistics database (SSB) is to obtain microdata to provide a consistent integrated description of a number of aspects of the Dutch population. The database links registrations (including those of the tax administration, benefits administration, and student grants administration) at the level of individual persons to the municipal population registration. In addition to these registrations, the results of household surveys are also linked to the SSB. As a result individual information on all inhabitants of the Netherlands, among other things on demographic characteristics, type of household, work, benefits and income, becomes available.

Supervision orders

The total number of young people (aged 0-17 years) under a supervision order on 31 December of the year concerned.

A supervision order restricts parental authority. The child's parents receive help and support from a family guardian of the youth welfare services, or a national

institution for (family) guardianship. The child may either continue to live with its parents, or may be moved to foster care or a home, but the parents retain parental authority. They are obliged to carry out the instructions of the family guardian.

Teenage mother

Total number of girls aged 19 years or younger on 31 December of the year concerned who had a baby in that year.

Underprivileged pupil; extra funding factor 1.20

The number of underprivileged pupils in primary education who have been assigned an extra funding factor of 0.30 or 1.20. Primary schools receive extra funding from the government on the basis of these assigned weights.

Underprivileged pupils with an extra funding factor of 1.20 are pupils of whom:

- one of the parents has an education level no higher than primary education or primary/secondary education for children with severe learning difficulties ((v) so-zmlk),
- and the other parent has an education level no higher than lower secondary vocational education (lbo), preparatory vocational education (vbo), practical education, or one of the practical streams of preparatory secondary vocational education (vmbo), or attended another form of secondary education for a maximum of two years directly after primary school, e.g. basic technical school, lower vocational technical school (lts), domestic science school.

Underprivileged pupils with an extra funding factor of 0.30 are pupils of whom:

- the education level of both parents is not higher than lower secondary vocational education (lbo), preparatory vocational education (vbo), practical education, or one of the practical streams of preparatory secondary vocational education (vmbo).
- or both parents attended another form of secondary education for a maximum of two years directly after primary school, e.g. basic technical school, lower vocational technical school (lts), domestic science school.

Unemployed labour force (aged 15-22 years)

The number of unemployed young people (aged 15-22 years) not in education. Unemployed young people do not have a job or have a job of less than 12 hours a week, actively sought a job of at least 12 hours a week in the four weeks preceding the interview, and are available to start work immediately.

Unemployment benefit

Number or percentage of young people (aged 15-22 years) claiming unemployment benefit.

Voluntary work and/or informal assistance

The number of young people (aged 18-24 years) who do voluntary work. This includes

informal help and assistance. Voluntary work is organised unpaid work for one or more organisations. For example, youth work, sports clubs and religious groups. Informal help and assistance is done outside organisations, for example helping people outside the own household such as caring for ill people, helping neighbours, relatives or friends.

Wajong benefits

The number of young people (aged 18-24 years) claiming a benefit under the disablement provision act for people disabled from an early age (Wajong) on 31 December of the year under review.

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.

Young people

Young people aged 0-24 years. The age selection may differ per topic, depending on the source of the information.

Young people in one-parent families

Young people (aged 0-24 years) living in a one-parent family. A one-parent family is a private household with one parent.

Youth welfare services

This is the gateway to youth welfare. There are 15 offices of the youth welfare services in the Netherlands, one in each province and one in each large urban agglomeration.

The office of the youth welfare services is responsible for official designation of :

- care financed by the provinces;
- mental care for children and young people;
- placing children and young people in custodial institutions on civil law grounds.

Contributors to this report

Authors

Young people in the Netherlands

Francis van der Mooren (CBS).

1. Young people and families

Arie de Graaf (CBS).

2. Young people and health

Kim Knoops (CBS): being overweight and feeling healthy.

Karin Monshouwer (Trimbos): alcohol and drugs.

Hanneke de Graaf (Rutgers Nisso Groep): sexual behaviour.

Francis van der Mooren (CBS): smoking, youth welfare services and child abuse.

3. Young people and school

Theo van Miltenburg (CBS): participation in education and underprivileged pupils.

Lieke Stroucken (CBS): school careers.

4. Young people and society

Hans Schmeets (CBS) and Saskia te Riele (CBS).

5. Young people and the labour market

Lieke Stroucken (CBS): school drop-outs.

Astrid Pleijers (CBS): unemployed young people.

Ton van Maanen (CBS): benefits.

6. Young people and security

Francis van der Mooren (CBS): crime victims and feelings of insecurity.

Cecile Schut (CBS): offenders and suspects at municipal level.

Editors

Francis van der Mooren (CBS)

Astrid Pleijers (CBS)

Jos Schiepers (CBS)

Editor-in-chief

Annelies Boerdam (CBS)

Translators

Rita Gircour (CBS)

Lieneke Hoeksma (CBS)