

Annual Report

Youth

Monitor 2017

Summary



Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport

Annual Report 2017

Youth Monitor

Summary

Explanation of symbols

Empty cell	Figure not applicable
.	Figure is unknown, insufficiently reliable or confidential
*	Provisional figure
**	Revised provisional figure
2016–2017	2016 to 2017 inclusive
2016/2017	Average for 2016 to 2017 inclusive
2016/'17	Crop year, financial year, school year, etc., beginning in 2016 and ending in 2017
2014/'15–2016/'17	Crop year, financial year, etc., 2014/'15 to 2016/'17 inclusive

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

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Introduction

This is the summary of the tenth Annual Report of the National Youth Monitor. The Annual Report of the National Youth Monitor provides insights into the situation of the nearly 5 million young people in the Netherlands. The report also includes information about young people in the Caribbean Netherlands. The lives of young people are described using various indicators and themes. Topics addressed here include family situation, children in families on income support, education, labour market, alcohol consumption, crime and crime victim rates, youth care and overall satisfaction with life.

Youth Monitor for your data needs regarding youth

On 14 September 2017, a Dutch magazine on domestic governance and premier news site NOS News generated a lot of publicity with the results of a survey among city council members. In the survey, council members had stated they had little grip on youth assistance due to a lack of information, among other reasons. They also sent a signal that 'control buttons' were needed to give guidance to youth assistance. However, a wealth of information on youth assistance is already available at municipalities, as well as from the National Youth Monitor which is managed by Statistics Netherlands (CBS) at the request of the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (VWS). The question is whether this treasure trove contains accurate information, or whether it is merely a matter of looking beyond the tip of one's nose, as they say. Dutch journalist Jaap van Sandijk took field trips to ten different municipalities on behalf of the National Youth Monitor, to discuss with them the availability and usability of the information provided. These discussions revealed that municipalities make their own choice on whether to use information from the Youth Monitor, while others are not aware of the types of information already available on (local) young residents. This is why all interested parties are invited to take cognisance of the Annual Report 2017 and the underlying data, which can be found on www.landelijkejeugdmonitor.nl (Dutch only, summary available in English).

Municipal civil servants who need to advise the city council on purchasing public youth welfare services or council members who need to form an opinion on the council's proposed plans may refer to Chapter 9 (Dutch only). This chapter describes the relation between youth assistance and students in various forms of education. Chapter 3 discusses children who grow up in families dependent on

income support. Research¹⁾ suggests that the use of youth assistance correlates most strongly with children who grow up in families on income support. The share of children living in families living on income support is largest in Rotterdam. As for the use of youth assistance, this is discussed in Chapter 8 (Dutch only).

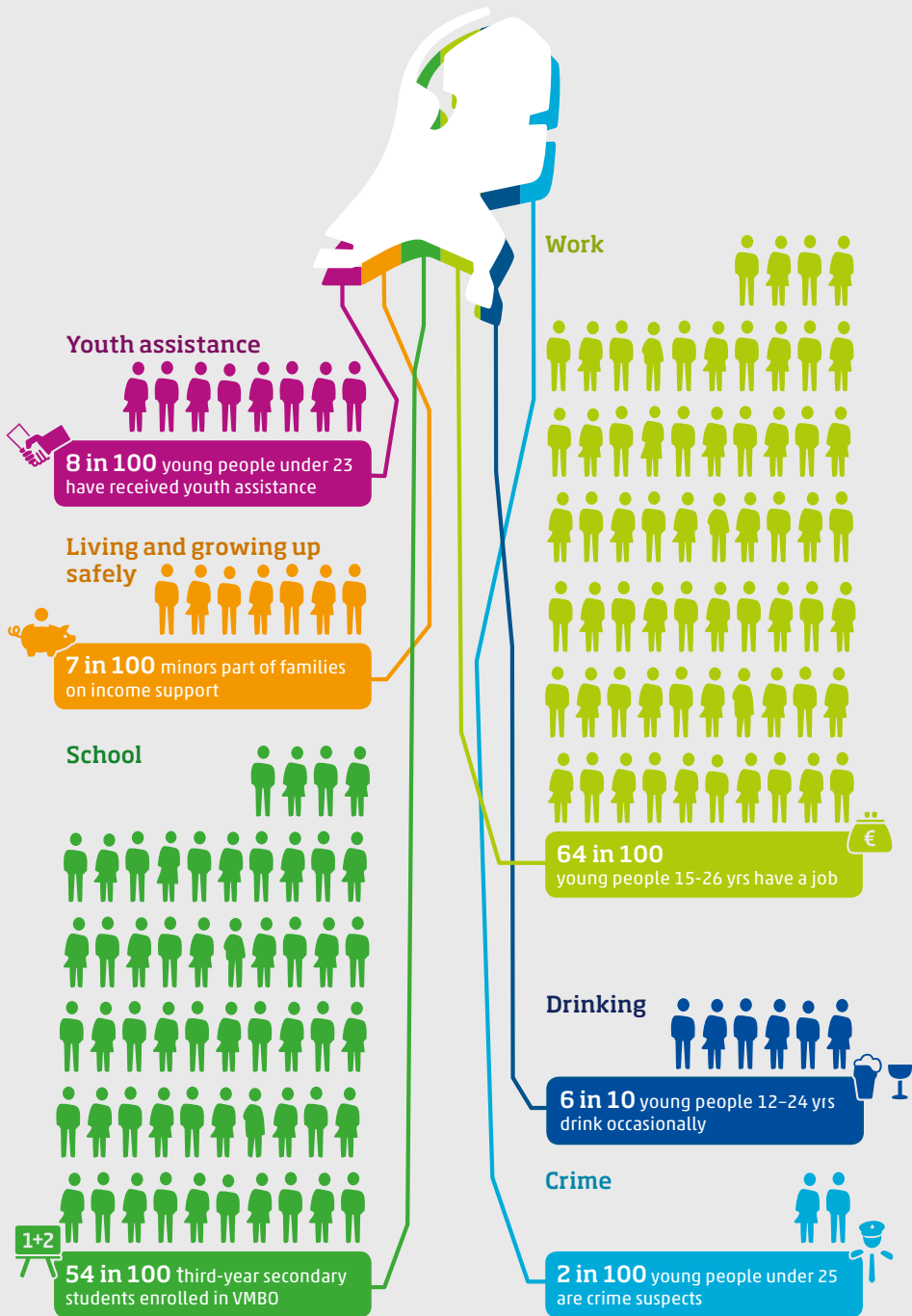
This Annual Report also includes other youth-related topics. For example, Chapter 11 provides information on young people in the Caribbean Netherlands. Chapter 10 demonstrates that overweight is an important factor in young people's negative ideas about their own physical health. In general, however, young people themselves are quite satisfied with their physical health. They are even more satisfied with their own mental health. Furthermore, the majority are positive about their own social life (85 percent). Young people, boys in particular, more often experience positive emotions than adults. The scores on various aspects may vary by municipality, age category or target group. Young adults with disabilities are less satisfied with their own physical health, while 1 in 50 young adults suffer from severe loneliness.

The problem with information on youth tends to lie in the excessive amounts of available data, rather than any lack of data. This means a selection must be made of the most relevant applicable data. The National Youth Monitor is intended to try and limit the information circulating in the first instance to the actual use of youth assistance as well as six society indicators which are generally assumed to have a possible impact on the use of such youth assistance (see figure 1.1). An exploratory study has been carried out which focuses on the connection between the use of youth assistance and these society indicators²⁾. The study indicates that the strongest links are present with children who grow up in families on income support, the share of criminal suspects per thousand juveniles, and the presence of (specialist) youth assistance services. The next question is whether there is a causal link aside from a connection, which may be influenced by (municipal) policies. For instance, does the number of juvenile suspects correlate to a regional crisis and youth unemployment, or has it been an ongoing regional phenomenon determined by cultural background? The answer in this quest for causal links may be different for each municipality. The Annual Report 2017 and the underlying data in Youth Monitor StatLine do not, however, provide answers to all these questions, but do offer structure to the discussion or debate on youth welfare issues at the local, regional and national level.

¹⁾ <http://jeugdmonitor.cbs.nl/media/220822/161216-239-Eindrapportage-Zorglandschap-jeugd-def-concept-22-12.pdf>.

²⁾ <http://jeugdmonitor.cbs.nl/media/220822/161216-239-Eindrapportage-Zorglandschap-jeugd-def-concept-22-12.pdf>.

Youth assistance and society indicators



Summary

1. Young people in the Netherlands (Chapter 2)

At the beginning of 2017, 29 percent of the Dutch population were under the age of 25. This is a group of 4.9 million young people. According to the most recent demographic forecast, the share of young people will fall below 27 percent around 2030. Just over one-quarter of this group of young people have a migration background. The number of young people with a migration background is expected to continue growing as there will be more and more young people with a western (migration) background. The number of young people with a non-western background is expected to decline gradually until 2030. However, there has been a peak in the number of young people with a first-generation, non-western background over the past two years. This is related to the large influx of asylum seekers, mainly from Syria. In 2016, these formed the largest group of migrants.

The number of births declined from 207 thousand in 2000 to 173 thousand in 2016. This decline was due in part to the fact that women postpone motherhood. In 2016, more children were born to mothers over the age of 35 and fewer were born to young mothers than was the case around the year 2000. The average age of first-time mothers now lies at 31.2 years. Fathers are on average three years older than mothers during the birth of their children. Over 4 in 5 young people aged 18 to 22 years expect to have their own children in the future. Young men express more doubt than young women in this case. A family with two children is still considered to be the ideal.

There has been a shift in the family situation for many children. More and more, children grow up in single-parent families. In 2017, this applied to 16 percent of all minors. Higher educated mothers are less likely to live as single parents with their child(ren) than medium and lower educated mothers. In addition, the share of single mothers has been stable through the generations among the higher educated group, but has increased over the younger generations of women with lower educational attainment levels. Highly educated women start living with a partner and have children at a later age, which means they also become single mothers at a later age than lower educated women.

The age at which young people leave the parental home and start living on their own has increased from 23.6 years in 2006 to 24.6 years in 2016. Most young people in their twenties want to get married at some point. Around 70 percent

of young people in their 20s who cohabit with a partner (unmarried) wish to get married in the future. The wish to get married is also present among more than half of the group who do not cohabit in a relationship. Slightly more young women harbour this wish than young men. The age at which they do get married has increased over time, however.

2. Living and growing up safely (Chapter 3)

At the end of 2016, close to 7 in every 100 children under the age of 18 were growing up in families with at least one member who was dependent on income support. This is a group of 230 thousand minors in income support families. This group has grown steadily since 2009, initially as a result of the economic crisis and more recently due to the refugee crisis. Year-on-year growth from 2015 to 2016 was entirely attributable to an increase in the number of income support families with a Syrian background.

An average family on income support with minor children had a gross annual income of 26,500 euros in 2015. This included 54 percent in income support benefits. The net income of families on income support with children is not much lower than their gross income. After deduction of contributions and taxes, their net disposable income stood at 1,810 euros per month. On average, this amount is sufficient to cover their net expenses of 1,600 euros per month. On the other hand, families on income support without children have a net disposable income which is lower than their average net expenses.

In 2015, half of total expenditure by families on income support with minor children went to fixed costs. For households with children and not on income support, fixed costs represented only one-third of their expenses. After fixed costs and food, the highest expenditure by households is on transport and on leisure activities. However, going away on holidays is not something taken for granted by children in families on income support. In 2015, over 8 in 10 families on income support with children stated that a single one-week holiday per year was out of the question. Furthermore, nearly 7 in 10 families on income support with children said they could not afford to buy new clothes regularly.

For families on income support, obtaining credit for when they temporarily need more money is not an easy matter. Over half of the families on income support with children have no private debts. One-quarter have debts up to an amount of one thousand euros. These are mostly the result of an overdraft. Families

with children and not on income support generally have better access to higher credit levels. On 1 January 2015, 20 percent of these families had private debts amounting to 5 thousand euros or more.

3. School (Chapter 4)

In the academic year 2016/'17, there were over 204 thousand students in Year 3 of secondary education. More than half (54 percent) were in prevocational secondary education (VMBO). In recent years, the share of third-year VMBO students has dropped slightly, in particular the share of students opting for the basic vocational track (VMBO-B). Another 22 percent of Year 3 students were enrolled in senior general secondary education (HAVO) and a similar share in pre-university secondary education (VWO). A minor share of students were in a general track that year.

Most VMBO students sit for their final examinations in Year 4. HAVO students take their final exam in Year 5 and VWO students in Year 6. In the academic year 2015/'16, more than 198 thousand secondary students sat for their final examinations. The pass rate was 93 percent. The pass rate was highest among VMBO students. At 89 percent, the share of students obtaining their diploma was lowest among HAVO students. For the past ten consecutive years, pass rates at HAVO level have been lower than at VMBO and VWO level. At VWO level, students in the Gymnasium educational track (which includes ancient Latin and Greek, tr.) have had a higher pass rate than those in the Atheneum track. The pass rates have seen little variation over the past decade.

In the academic year 2015/'16, the male/female ratio of secondary school graduates was virtually equal. However, differences can be observed among the different migration backgrounds. Students with a non-western background had a lower pass rate in final examinations than other students. This discrepancy is most significant at HAVO and VWO level. Among HAVO students with a non-western background, the pass rate was 9 percentage points lower than among native Dutch HAVO students; at VWO level, the difference was 11 percentage points. The pass rate was particularly low among students with a Turkish background. Finally, students living in smaller municipalities (with fewer than 100 thousand inhabitants) are relatively more successful in obtaining secondary school diplomas than students in larger municipalities.

4. Work (Chapter 5)

In 2016, there were 24 thousand more young people in employment than in the previous year. The labour participation rate among young people was therefore up, from 64.0 to 64.3 percent. Of the group not in education, 80.6 percent were working. The group in education had a labour participation rate of 56.5 percent. Although the youth labour participation rate has inclined since 2014, it is still not at the level of 2008, the year at the end of which the economic crisis set in.

In 2016, the unemployment rate among people aged between 15 and 27 was 9.8 percent, significantly higher than among the over-27s (5.1 percent). The youth unemployment rate has been falling since 2013, however. It is still relatively high among young people in education. For them, it stood at 11.3 percent in 2016. Unemployment stood at 7.6 percent among young people not in education. It is also higher among young people without basic qualifications. Despite a relatively high youth unemployment rate, relatively few young unemployed (4 percent) were WW (unemployment) benefit recipients in 2016. This is related to the fact that the young unemployed often have not yet accumulated sufficient labour years to qualify for this benefit.

The number of young people in flexible employment has risen further. In 2016, flexible employment conditions applied to 60 percent of young people in work between the ages of 15 and 27. This was still only 40 percent back in 2005. In comparison with people in work over the age of 27, relatively few young people work with a permanent or self-employed status. In 2016, one-third of young people were in permanent employment while 6 percent were self-employed. Flexible employment has been more common among secondary and tertiary students as opposed to school-leavers. Typical jobs for young people are newspaper deliverer, bar tender, waiter, shelf stacker, kitchen assistant and supermarket cashier.

In 2016, three-quarters of young employees were either satisfied or very satisfied with their job and with their working conditions. This applied to young people in education as well as those not in education. Aspects they were most satisfied with included the commuting distance, employment terms and the possibility to work part-time; they were least satisfied with study/training opportunities, the salary and the possibility to work from home.

5. Crime (Chapter 6)

The percentage of young people registered as crime suspects has halved over the past ten years, from 4.5 percent in 2007 to 2.0 percent in 2016. This decline was more pronounced among the underaged than among older age groups. The share of suspects is relatively high among young people in comparison with older age groups, and substantially higher among young men than among young women. The most common crime suspect in 2016 was the 18 to 19-year-old male. As for female suspects, the group of 15 to 18-year-olds occupied the largest share.

The type of offence committed by young suspects differs according to their age and gender. The most frequently committed offence among both male and female suspects was the property offence, for instance theft. Among young male suspects, there were higher shares of drugs-related offences, firearm offences, vandalism and public order offences than among young women. Furthermore, traffic and drugs offences were more prevalent among young adults than among under-aged crime suspects.

The share of young people (15–24 years) who indicated they had been victims of common crime declined between 2007 and 2016, from 38 to 22 percent. The most common crime young people fell victim to in 2016 was the property offence, followed by vandalism and violence. Aside from traditional crime, people may also fall victim to cyber crime. The share of young cyber crime victims has declined in recent years: from 20 percent in 2012 to 16 in 2016. The cyber crime affecting young people most frequently in 2016 was cyber bullying, followed by hacking and online shopping fraud. Both traditional and cyber crimes affect young people more than average.

In 2016, 41 percent of young people felt unsafe at times. This is a higher percentage than the average among the total population, which stood at 35 percent. The share of young women (15–24 years) who felt unsafe at times was almost twice as large at 54 percent than the share of men (28 percent). Young people in extremely urbanised municipalities felt unsafe more often than those in non-urban municipalities. There is no substantial difference between the unsafety perceptions of young people of different origins.

6. Alcohol consumption and health (Chapter 7)

Over the past decade, alcohol consumption among young people has decreased: the share of teenagers (aged 12 to 16 years) who drink has nearly halved. Alcohol consumption among young adults has hardly changed over the past decade. In the period 2014–2016, over 60 percent of young people in the Netherlands reported they had consumed alcohol in the previous twelve months. More than one-third of teenagers and 86 percent of young adults indicated they occasionally took alcoholic drinks.

There is hardly any difference between boys and girls but there is a marked difference between young people from different migration backgrounds. In 2014–2016, alcohol consumption among young people (12 to 24 years) over the previous twelve months was highest among those with a native Dutch background, namely 70 percent. This was followed by young people with a western migration background at 62 percent. Alcohol consumption was lowest among young people with a non-western background, namely 40 percent.

Generally speaking, higher educated young people consume more alcohol than lower educated young people. The Dutch National School Survey on alcohol and other drugs (compare ESPAD, tr.) 2015 showed that especially binge drinking (i.e. 5 or more glasses on one occasion) among youth aged 12 to 16 years was more common among VMBO than among VWO students. Young urban dwellers are less likely to drink than young rural dwellers. In highly urbanised areas in the period 2014–2016, 22 percent of teenagers stated that they had drunk alcohol. In non-urbanised areas, the percentage was almost twice as high. This pattern is similar for young adults.

Young people who drink are also more likely to combine this habit with smoking cigarettes or taking drugs, compared to those who do not drink. A remarkable fact is that young adult men (18 to 24 years) who do not drink alcohol are more often found to be overweight than those who drink. This is partly due to their migration background; young male adults with a non-western background do drink less, but are more often overweight. There is no difference between drinking and not drinking teenagers and young men in terms of their compliance with official Dutch physical activity guidelines. As for young women (18–24 years) who drink, they are more likely to comply with physical activity guidelines than young women who do not drink.

7. Youth care (Chapter 8)

In 2016, altogether 392 thousand young people came into contact with some form of youth care. More than 377 thousand young people up to age 23 used youth assistance. Youth assistance can be with or without residence at an institution. An additional almost 40 thousand young people received youth protection, while nearly 11 thousand young people went through juvenile rehabilitation.

A young person may receive multiple forms and types of youth care within one particular year. These care and support programmes may be organised either concurrently or consecutively: the so-called confluence therapy. On 31 December 2016, one frequently seen combination in youth assistance with residence was stay at a closed institution while receiving ambulatory youth assistance at the location of another provider. This was the case for 4 out of 10 young people residing in closed institutions. Compared to young people in foster care or family-oriented rehabilitation, those residing at closed institutions were, at the same time, also more likely to be placed under compulsory custody (excl. temporary custody), supervision and guidance as well as youth aid among these youngster's networks. Custody arrangements involving foster families, on the other hand, went together more often with guardianship measures which would revoke all parental authority of the biological parents. In the case of youth care without residence, confluence therapies are least common.

More than half of young people who began receiving (temporary) supervision in the latter half of 2016 were initially placed in other youth care programmes. This was most often the case for youth assistance without residence. The majority of young people (4 out of 5) who were placed under guardianship in the latter half of 2016 initially started out in a different youth care programme, in particular youth assistance with residence.

The question arises whether young people continue to receive youth care after having been placed in a youth protection programme. One-third of young people with a completed (temporary) supervision track did not receive any youth care in the six months after completion. Two-thirds were still taking part in one or several youth care tracks, mainly in youth assistance with or without residence. Nearly one-quarter of young people who had been placed under guardianship no longer received youth assistance in the six months after termination of this guardianship. Those still receiving youth assistance afterwards were mainly in youth assistance programmes with residence.

8. Students receiving youth assistance (Chapter 9)

For some children, following education is not an easy matter. They may struggle with learning or have behavioural problems which make following education more difficult. The Dutch education system provides for such students. This extra support may be provided through mainstream or through special education. It is usually education-oriented, but in some cases students need extra support for their learning abilities and not specifically for their school situation. For such students, youth assistance can provide the necessary support.

In the academic year 2016/'17, there were over 1.4 million pupils in primary education (PO). Almost 34 thousand pupils followed special primary education. Another 29 thousand pupils took primary education at special schools. Special education students received significantly more youth assistance than students in mainstream education. For example, in 2016, well over half (58 percent) of pupils at special schools were receiving youth assistance versus slightly less than half of pupils in special primary education (47 percent). As for mainstream primary students, 1 in 10 were receiving youth assistance.

There are more boys than girls in special primary education and at special schools. The ratio of boys receiving youth assistance is therefore higher in both types of education. The boy-girl ratio is virtually equal in mainstream primary education, although even here, boys were slightly more often in contact with youth assistance providers than girls. Pupils with a non-western migration background are slightly overrepresented in special primary education and special education compared to native Dutch pupils. In both types of education, however, they are less likely to receive youth assistance than native Dutch pupils. The same applied to pupils with a western migration background.

Primary education is followed by secondary (VO) or secondary special education (VSO). In VSO as well, students are relatively more often in contact with youth assistance providers: in this type of education in 2016/'17, 60 percent of all 15-year-olds received some form of youth assistance. At 27 percent, their share was relatively high in practical education. As for VMBO students, basic and advanced vocational track students were more likely to receive youth assistance than those in the combined and theoretical track. At pre-university (VWO) level, the share was lowest with 6 percent.

In 2016, the ratio of boys among the 15-year-olds who received youth assistance was somewhat higher than that of girls, 13 and 12 percent respectively. Secondary special education and practical education - where relatively many students receive youth assistance - had relatively more male than female students in 2016'17. However, in both types of education, more girls than boys at the age of 15 received youth assistance in 2016. A similar situation is seen in VMBO, HAVO and VWO, but there the differences are smaller. Just as in primary education, students with a non-western migration background at the age of 15 received less youth assistance than students with a native Dutch or western migration background.

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

Young adults (18 to 24 years) are in a turbulent period of their lives from an emotional, societal as well as social perspective. At 85 percent, the overwhelming majority were satisfied with life in 2016. This share is equal to the average among the overall Dutch population. In recent years, this is a picture which has hardly changed. From 2013 to 2016, average life satisfaction declined somewhat as these young people grew up, although only slightly. The difference was more closely linked to their highest attained level of education. Of young people with low education levels, whether completed or not, 79 percent were satisfied with life. This was 88 percent among students in senior vocational (HBO) and university (WO) education. Another contributing factor was someone's living situation. Most satisfied were young people who were living independently with a partner and those who were still living with both of their parents.

In 2016, more than 75 percent of 18 to 24-year-olds were satisfied with their physical health; 85 percent were satisfied with their mental health. Young men were more satisfied with their health than young women, while young people living with both parents were more satisfied than those living with one parent or living on their own. Satisfaction with one's own health is closely related to lifestyle as well. Between 2013–2016, young people who did not smoke, took regular exercise and were neither underweight or overweight were happier about their own physical and mental health. Alcohol consumption did not affect young people's level of self-perceived health.

In 2016, most young adults (85 percent) expressed satisfaction with their own social life. This share has remained stable over the past few years. Young people were just as positive about their social life as the average Dutch person. Young adults who were in regular contact with friends or relatives as well as those

participating in association activities had a more positive view on their social life on average than young people who did not have such regular contact. The degree to which young people felt lonely was related to the view they held of their social life. In 2015, 2.2 percent of young adults felt extremely lonely.

The majority of 18 to 24-year-olds (63 percent) in 2016 stated they had frequent positive emotions; negative emotions are much less frequently felt. The overwhelming majority of young people seldom experienced negative emotions. Young women stated they occasionally suffered from negative emotions, more often than young men. In comparison with the overall Dutch population, young adults were relatively more likely to experience positive emotions. The prevalence of negative emotions among the young adult group was similar to the overall population. The most frequently stated positive emotion is happiness. As for negative emotions, fatigue is the most commonly stated feeling. Two other relatively common negative emotions stated by young people were stress and anxiety.

10. Young people in the Caribbean Netherlands (Chapter 11)

At the beginning of 2017, the population of the Caribbean Netherlands included 7 thousand young people under the age of 25. They constitute over 28 percent of the overall population. This share is similar to the share of young people in the European part of the Netherlands. On Saba, the share of young adults is higher than on the other islands. This is partly due to the fact that Saba has a medical university, attracting relatively many young students from the United States and Canada. Seventy-three percent of young people on both Bonaire and St Eustatius were originally born in the former Dutch Antilles and Aruba. On Saba, this share was lower with 60 percent.

For women in the Caribbean Netherlands, motherhood tends to start earlier than for women in the European Netherlands. In the years 2012–2016, the share of teenage births was considerably higher at 7 versus 1 percent. One-quarter of young people lived in a single-parent family in 2016. This share was higher as well than in the European Netherlands. On St Eustatius, the share of young people living in a single-parent family was even one-third. Minors living in single-parent families lived in lesser prosperity than minors living in two-parent families.

In the academic year 2016/'17, nearly 4.4 thousand students were enrolled in publicly funded primary, secondary or intermediate vocational education. The highest pass rate in secondary education that year was on Bonaire among students in pre-vocational secondary education (VMBO), while the lowest pass rate was seen among examination candidates in senior general secondary education (HAVO). On St Eustatius, the pass rate was 100 percent at both HAVO and VMBO-basic vocational track. As the final examinations on Saba are different from the other two islands, results cannot be compared interchangeably. In publicly funded education, there were 593 students taking intermediate vocational education (MBO) of whom 570 were on Bonaire. These MBO students on Bonaire included 176 students following Economics.

Young people aged 15 to 24 years in the Caribbean Netherlands were less likely to have paid work than their peers in the European Netherlands (35 versus 61 percent). This is partly due to the fact that young people in education in the Caribbean Netherlands are much less often working as well. Sixty-five percent of young people did not have paid work. A minor share are unemployed while the majority are not included in the labour force. Of those not included in the labour force, the overwhelming majority are young people who have not looked for work and who are not available for work. The main reason for this is being enrolled in education.