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- **Injury/harm** is defined by the presence or absence of injury diagnostic codes (a single ICD-10CA: V01-Y89.9) in Alberta Health and Wellness' databases (Inpatient-Discharge Abstract Database and Ambulatory care). Only Albertans who were registered with the Alberta Health Care Insurance plan for the full fiscal year were included.
- **Mental health service** is defined by the presence or absence of mental health diagnosis codes (two or more of ICD-9: 290-309.9, 311-314.9, 316, or a single ICD-10CA: F00-F06.9, F09-F69, F84-F99, G31.2, G44.2, R41.0) in Alberta Health databases (Inpatient—Discharge Abstract Database, Ambulatory Care, and Practitioner Payments), or in the Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD) or the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) information systems. Only Albertans who were registered with the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan for the full fiscal year or who had a mental health service with FSCD or AISH were included. Mental health service use is a proxy for presence of a mental health condition; some youth with mental health conditions may not have accessed mental health services in Alberta during the year, and some mental health service use may have occurred for youth who did not, in fact, have mental health conditions.
- **Post-secondary** students are individuals (aged 18 to 25 years) who were enrolled in publicly-funded post-secondary institutions in Alberta and who were registered full time in the Alberta health care registry.
- **Physician visits** reflect fee claims made by physicians for services provided when patients visit their offices. In this report, multiple claims by a given physician for a given patient on the same day were counted as a single visit. Reasons for physician visits were not available for this project.
- **Report population:** For this report, age groups were equated across study years. This means that individuals over the age of 25 years were excluded from analyses by year, because no study participants were older than 25 years in the first study year.
- **Residential mobility** is defined as the number of unique postal codes within the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan registry during the study period. Health care premiums ceased to be collected on January 1st, 2009; addresses in the registry have been updated less often since that time, reducing their accuracy.
- **Socio-economic Status (SES)** captures the social and material environments in which youth lived. A youth was assigned a socio-economic status via an index based on the Statistics Canada dissemination area in which he or she resided<sup>7</sup>. Six indicators were included in the index: percent without a high school diploma, the employment rate, average income, percent of single families, percent of persons living alone, and percent of persons separated, divorced, or widowed. Socio-economic status values fell into five quintiles.
- Student Aid Alberta provides eligible students in Alberta with **student loans** (Alberta and Canada) to meet their basic learning and living costs during their time as post-secondary students.
- **Study population:** The study included individuals with a date of birth between April 1, 1980 and March 31, 2011 and who received services from one of the programs in the study or were registered in the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan between April 1, 2005 and March 31, 2011. The youngest study participants were those born in the last study year. The oldest study participants were 25 years old at the end of the first study year and consequently 30 years old at the end of the last study year.
- **Tables** are shown by fiscal year.



# The Child and Youth Data Laboratory

The Child and Youth Data Laboratory’s (CYDL’s) Longitudinal Project (*Experiences of Albertan Children and Youth over Time, 2005/06 to 2010/11*) is a joint initiative between PolicyWise for Children & Families and participating ministries in the Government of Alberta. The mandate of the CYDL is to link and analyse administrative data from Government ministries, to provide evidence for policy and program development.

The CYDL is managed by **PolicyWise for Children & Families**. PolicyWise is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to develop and integrate evidence to inform, identify and promote effective public policy and service delivery to improve the well-being of children, families and communities in Alberta, Canada and internationally.

## This project

The **CYDL Longitudinal Project** focuses on understanding the experiences of Albertan children and youth as they develop. The focus is service use within and across ministries, as it is related to key indicators and to the passage of time. Studying experiences over several years of development adds a valuable level of richness to an already ground-breaking initiative, providing detailed insight into the factors that help to shape our children and youth as they develop.

## Our partners

This project was carried out on behalf of seven ministries of the Government of Alberta. Each ministry collaborated extensively with the CYDL on this project, and their dedication to the project is gratefully acknowledged:

Advanced Education Community and Social Services	Education Indigenous Relations	Health	Children’s Services Justice and Solicitor General
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*This study is based in part on data provided by the Government of Alberta. The interpretation and conclusions contained herein are those of the researchers and do not necessarily represent the views of the Government of Alberta. The Government of Alberta does not express any opinion in relation to this study.*

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