

TOP 10 THREATS TO CHILDHOOD 2022

Inequity and the Impacts of COVID-19

Threat #2 Poor Mental Health

In Canada, **52% of youth** (aged 12-18) **experience depression** and **39% face anxiety**.

Source: Craig et al., 2022



Threat #5 Vaccine-Preventable Illnesses

25% of children who contract SARS-CoV-2 will develop **long-COVID**.

Source: Lopez-Leon et al., 2022

National average of children with **two doses** of a COVID-19 vaccine:

Ages 5 - 11 **42%**
Ages 12 - 17 **84%**

Source: Statistics Canada Vaccine, 2022



Approximately **1 in 4** children in Canada are **behind in their routine vaccinations**.

Source: Community Pharmacies & 19 to Zero, 2021

Threat #8 Bullying

In Canada, approximately **1 in 3** youth experience **bullying**.¹

Evidence shows **rates of bullying are higher among children from minority groups** (2SLGBTQIA+, immigrants, refugees, and Indigenous youth).²

1. Canadian Health Behaviour in School-aged Children Survey, 2018
2. Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter & Project 1907, 2022; Guo et al., 2019



Cross-Cutting Theme #1 Disruption to Education

On average, **learning losses** were equivalent to roughly **1/2 a year's** worth of learning.

Source: Patrinos, Vegas & Carter-Rau, 2022



Reference the **Raising Canada 2022** report for list of sources.

Threat #1 Unintentional and Preventable Injuries

Unintentional injuries were the #1 cause of death to children in Canada in 2020.

108,225 falls

25,235 sports injuries

21,606 transport injuries

The above figures represent number of emergency department visits.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022; Parachute, 2021



Threat #3 Systemic Racism and Discrimination

Indigenous children are 12 times more likely to be **taken out of their homes** and placed in foster care than non-Indigenous children.

Source: Fallon et al., 2021

Transgender adolescents (aged 15-17) are **7.6 times** as likely to have **attempted suicide** compared to their peers.

Source: Kingsbury et al., 2022



Threat #4 Child Abuse

1 in 3 Canadians report experiencing some form of **child abuse by the age of 15**. This statistic is **higher among Indigenous populations (40%)**.

Source: Burczycka, 2017; Afifi et al., 2014



1 in 4 children surveyed experienced **sexual harassment or assault in schools** by Grade 7.

Source: Marcoux, 2019

Threat #6 Poverty and Food and Nutritional Insecurity

Over 1.3 million children in Canada (or about 1 in 5 children) **live in poverty**.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2020; Campaign 2000, 2021

In 2021, approximately

1 in 5 children lived in **food insecure households**.

Source: Statistics Canada Food Insecurity, 2022

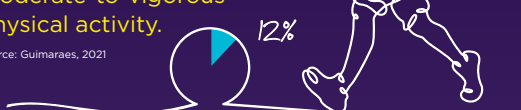


Threat #9 Limited Physical Activity and Play

Physical activity and play deteriorated throughout the COVID-19 pandemic:

Only 12% of respondents aged 12 to 17 met the guidelines for **moderate-to-vigorous physical activity**.

Source: Guimaraes, 2021



Threat #10 Climate Change



Child acute bronchitis related to wildfires has more than **doubled**. **Asthma symptom days** for children aged 5 to 19 have followed **a similar trend**.

Source: Egyed et al., 2022; Munoz-Alpizar et al., 2017

Cross-Cutting Theme #2 Access to Health Care and Other Social Services

Wait times for accessing pediatric surgical services are **up to 2.5 years beyond clinically accepted timelines**.

Source: Hospital News, 2020



Cross-Cutting Theme #3 Youth Representation

Less than 25% of the interventions studied **involved children and youth in the decision-making process**.

Source: Larrson et al., 2018

