



The Scotiabank
Young People in the Community Index

Assessing the state of health, well-being and education
of young people across the Americas





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Foreword



Economic growth, inequality and poverty are ever present concerns around the world. Young people, in particular, are keenly affected and are often hit hardest by a lack of jobs or access to education and healthcare; all of which can seriously impact them and the communities where they live. You only have to look within your own community to see how some young people are struggling today.

At Scotiabank, investing in our communities has been a focus for over 180 years – our goal is to help create a better life for the people that we serve around the world. Investing in the health, well-being and education of young people is an investment in the long-term security, stability and growth of both our communities and our business. Scotiabank aims to help young people – our future leaders – by providing them with the necessary skills and resources they need for success. As such, we have been fine-tuning our corporate giving strategy, with a goal to invest 70% of our philanthropic support into organizations that help young people in the community.

A key tool in our efforts has been the development of our Scotiabank Young People in the Community (YPC) Index, which pools together publically available data from around the world to help us determine the current state of youth in North and South America. We see the YPC Index as a guide to help us identify where needs may be greatest. The YPC Index is also a tool to help bring practitioners together to improve or create policies that relate to young people, identify gaps in available data, or simply pin-point problem areas and benchmark progress going forward.

Our sincere hope is that readers will find our YPC Index as useful and insightful as we do. We welcome any feedback on how we can improve the Index going forward and advance the health, well-being and education of young people around the world.

I would like to thank our Advisory Council of highly-esteemed international youth issues experts, who have guided us along the way in developing the YPC Index and producing this report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JP' or similar initials, written in a cursive style.

Jean-François Perrault
Senior Vice President and Chief Economist
Scotiabank

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Background

Scotiabank's goal is to help create a better life for the people that we serve around the world, and we believe that investing in the health, well-being and education of young people is a critical first step on the path to achieving community prosperity.

To maximize our support for young people, we need to have a deeper understanding of the current challenges facing young people across our key geographies. To do so, we have created the Young People in the Community (YPC) Index jointly with the strategy consultancy GlobeScan and an international Advisory Council of leading external experts on youth issues. The YPC Index focuses on two pillars deemed crucial to youth development and success – Health/Well-being and Education – with 19 separate indicators being monitored to evaluate the state of young people today. Our focus currently is on 30 countries across North, Central and South America, which reflects a large portion of Scotiabank's footprint and where we can have the most impact on young people.

Each of these indicators or data points are derived from publically available, reliable and valid data sets¹ from the majority of countries covered in the Index.

> WHY AN INDEX?

The YPC Index will help to align and inform Scotiabank's investments in young people, and, most immediately, it will help youth practitioners and other YPC Index users identify where needs may be greatest for young people in specific countries across the Americas. In this way, the YPC Index can provide a platform for advocacy and engagement with various partners in the youth development space, including governments, businesses and non-profit organizations, in addressing key challenges. As we track the Index over time, we can measure society's progress on tackling important youth challenges.

Another valuable outcome of the Index is to shine a light on best practices and countries that are doing well, to enable countries to potentially achieve progress by learning from one another.

Finally, the YPC Index also serves to identify the areas where gaps in knowledge currently exist when it comes to youth-oriented data.

¹ E.g., sourced from WHO, UNESCO Institute for Statistics, UNICEF, World Bank, etc. For a full list of sources, refer to the Methodology section in Appendix (Table 1, Indicator Description and Data Source).

➤ HOW DID WE DECIDE ON WHICH INDICATORS TO INCLUDE?

Scotiabank and GlobeScan first conducted a broad review of publically available data across numerous dimensions of health, well-being and education. We convened an Advisory Council of ten international experts on youth health, well-being and education to discuss what metrics are deemed crucial when assessing youth development and to identify which publically available indicators would be most useful, valid and reliable to measure – either directly or indirectly – the state of young people today. Gaps in ‘wished-for’ metrics – such as those that the Council would like to have to inform their work, but which are not currently available – were also noted. Advisory Council members were drawn from countries across Latin America, the Caribbean and North America.²

In order to be included in the YPC Index, the indicator had to conform to the following criteria:

- it had to come from a publically available and reliable source,
- it had to be published at least once every two to three years, ideally annually,
- it had to be seen as a valid predictor of youth development by youth experts, and
- it had to be available across most of Scotiabank’s 30 countries of interest across North, Central and South America.

Nineteen robust indicators were selected for inclusion in the YPC Index (see list on page 7; note that certain indicators are combined to form a higher-level indicator – e.g., “digital connectedness” includes internet and mobile phone users).

➤ HOW IS THE INDEX CALCULATED?

The YPC Index is calculated by collating all 19 indicators related to health, well-being and education. The indicators are standardized into one common unit on a scale from zero to 100 (where 100 represents the most desirable state) to allow for easy interpretation and comparison. Some indicators are a composite of a multitude of separate, related indicators (e.g., “Nutrition” comprises metrics related to obesity, stunting, and underweight). The final output is an overall index number and a set of sub-indices for each pillar – Health/Well-being and Education – for each of the 30 countries included in the assessment. Please refer to the Appendix for a more detailed explanation of the methodology.

² Please refer to the Appendix for a detailed list of the Advisory Council members.

List of standardized indicators	Description
Health and well-being	
Delayed pregnancy	Reversal* of women 15-19 years who have given birth
Natal/antenatal care	Composite of pregnant women attended at least once by skilled health personnel and those attended by any provider at least four times
Nutrition	Reversal* of children under five years who are obese, stunted/underheight or underweight (composite)
Immunization	National immunization coverage
Non-smokers	Reversal* of youth 13-15 years using tobacco
Non-drinkers	Reversal* of youth 15-19 years consuming alcohol
Personal safety	Reversal* of intentional homicide rate (total population)
Prison avoidance	Reversal* of youth 17 years and under held in prisons, penal institutions or correctional institutions
Education	
Primary enrolment	Primary school aged children in school
Secondary enrolment	Secondary school aged children in school
Years of schooling	Composite of mean years of education and expected years
Digital connectedness	Composite of internet and mobile phone users (total population)
Employment	Youth aged 15-24 years that are employed
Bank accounts	Youth aged 15-24 years with bank accounts

* To allow for ease of interpretation and comparison, indicators have been standardized into one common unit on a scale from zero to 100 (where 100 represents the most desirable state). As such, within the Index calculation, the data for some indicators have been reversed to aim for the desired positive state. Please see methodology for more details. To download an Excel table listing the source data for each indicator, please see the [Excel spreadsheet in the Downloads tab](#).

➤ WHAT WILL CHANGES IN THE INDEX OVER TIME MEAN FOR SCOTIABANK?

As new data is made available and collected, the YPC Index will change over time. However, Scotiabank understands that the indicators in our YPC Index represent serious challenges facing young people and their communities today, requiring significant investment and societal change for positive, long-term impacts to be witnessed. As such, we do not expect any of the indicators to shift significantly as a result of our investment alone, nor would Scotiabank take credit for any shifts in the Index over time. The YPC Index is truly an independent measure of the state of young people today. However, it will help inform people working in the youth development space – as well as our social investment strategy – on the areas that are in need of particular attention and funding, and the progress that is being made on a country-by-country level. We intend to track the Index over time so we can measure society's progress on tackling important youth challenges.

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Findings from the Scotiabank YPC Index

Overall, the Scotiabank YPC Index finds, not unexpectedly, a fair bit of variation across the Americas in terms of the health, well-being and education of young people.

The map on page 10 shows a summary of the state of young people on the Health and Well-being-related indicators in each of 30 countries. This is followed by a similar map (page 12), showing the country-level differences on the Education-related indicators.

For each indicator, countries were 'tiered' by ranking the countries from highest to lowest according to their scores for that indicator. Countries ranking in the top one-third out of the 30 countries are in the 'highest tier' (shaded light grey). Countries ranked in the middle one-third are considered 'medium tier' (shaded medium grey), while countries ranked in the bottom one-third are in the 'lowest tier' (shaded red).

While this provides a general overview across 30 countries in North, Central and South America, ten country profiles have been detailed, giving a more detailed overview of Scotiabank's main markets of operation. Countries highlighted in bold in the maps below can be selected for additional details on the health, well-being and education parameters for young people in that country. The full Index parameters by country and sources of data can be viewed in the Appendix.³ Note that not all countries of the Americas are included due to limitations in data availability.

➤ OVERVIEW OF THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING SUB-INDEX

On the Health and Well-being Index, there is also a fair bit of difference in the indicators across countries. On the nutrition indicator, Guatemala, Guyana, Bolivia and Belize have some of the lowest scores, far behind countries such as Jamaica and Suriname. On the immunization indicator, however, Jamaica and Suriname are among the lowest tier of countries while Guyana is among the top tier.

For our indicator on alcohol consumption, young people in Canada, the U.S. and Grenada are far more likely to be consumers, while those from El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala are least likely.

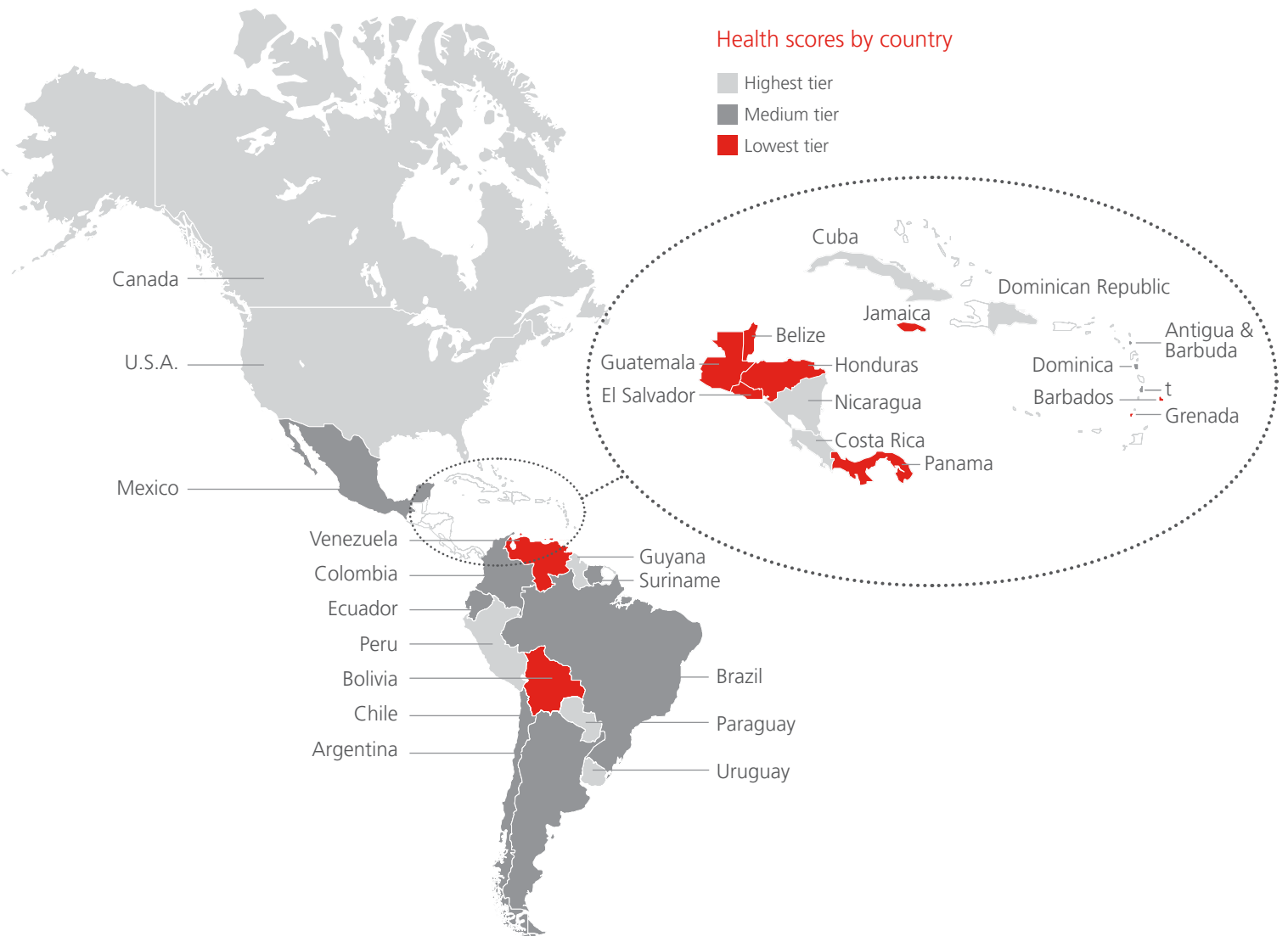
The rates of smoking among young people in Chile are considerably higher than the regional average, followed by Barbados, Ecuador and Mexico. It is lowest among young people in Panama, Suriname, Antigua and Barbuda.

On the indicator related to personal safety, there is considerable variation across countries, with the lowest scores on safety in Honduras, El Salvador and Jamaica. Similarly for the indicator on prison avoidance, there is a wide range of scores, with young people in Barbados, Panama, and El Salvador being far more likely to be in prison than their counterparts in other countries.

³ To download an Excel table listing the source data for each indicator, please see the [Excel spreadsheet in the Downloads tab](#).

Finally, the delayed pregnancy indicator shows high scores with little difference across countries. There is slightly more differentiation on the indicator related to natal and antenatal care, with young women in Guatemala, Ecuador and Suriname being least likely to receive as much care as their peers across the region.

Overall, countries such as Barbados, Guatemala, El Salvador and Jamaica have generally lower than average scores on health and well-being, while young people from the U.S., Costa Rica, Uruguay and Canada enjoy far higher scores on most health and well-being indicators.



➤ OVERVIEW OF THE EDUCATION SUB-INDEX

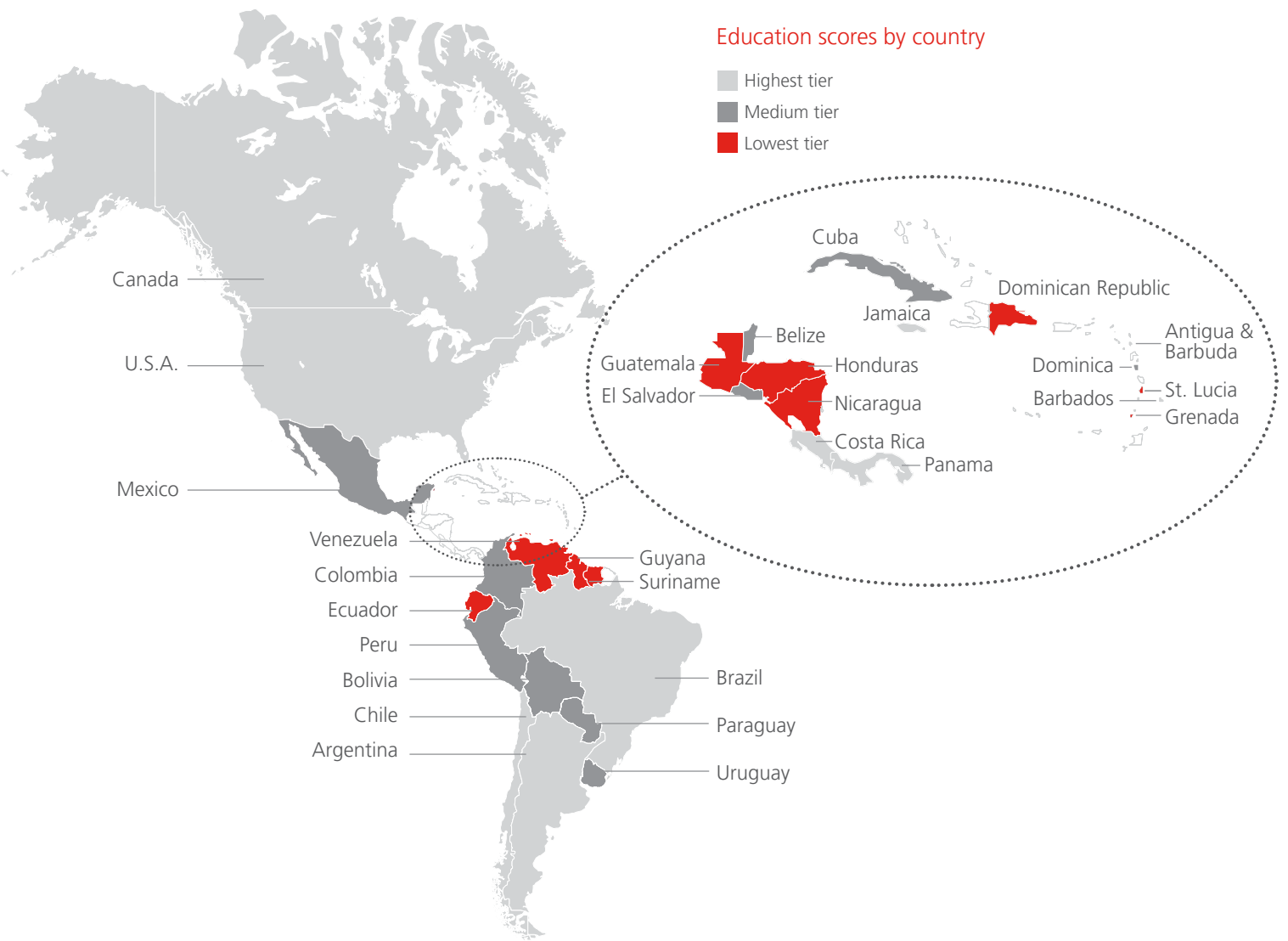
The Education Sub-Index contains a wide range of scores for most indicators, highlighting clear discrepancies from one country to another. In particular, digital connectedness is one indicator where countries such as Cuba, Belize, and Guyana are lagging far behind the regional average. Digital connectedness is also an indicator where low scores are prevalent in both small and large economies, such as Honduras and Mexico.

Another key indicator of youth development through education and training is financial access. Access to banking allows young people to save or invest earnings, helps students to accumulate or access funds for education, avoids the need to rely on high-interest lenders, and helps young entrepreneurs to access loans to start businesses. When it comes to bank account access, there is extensive variation by country, with young people in Nicaragua, Peru and Argentina being far less likely to have a bank account than their peers in other countries. Access to banking is also an indicator where we are seeing low scores in both large and small economies; some small countries do stand out with high scores, such as Jamaica and Costa Rica. Programs or policies in these two countries that have encouraged or made it easier for young people to open bank accounts may be helpful in other smaller countries that have similar socio-economic contexts.

On the employment indicator, young people in smaller nations, such as St. Lucia, Suriname, Grenada and Dominica, are far less likely to have jobs than their counterparts in larger economies. An exception here is Cuba, which has the highest score for employment of young people.

On primary and secondary enrollment rates, results are more consistent, which may signify that goals such as universal primary education are now well within reach for most countries. However, on the years of schooling indicator we see more variation, with countries such as Argentina, Brazil and Honduras trailing the pack.

Overall, countries such as Guatemala, Grenada, Suriname, Guyana, Venezuela and St Lucia appear to fall behind the regional average on most educational indicators and are countries where more support may be needed for young people. Meanwhile, young people from Chile, Costa Rica, Brazil, Canada and the U.S. are generally ahead of most countries on the majority of Education indicators.



➤ USING THE INDEX TO TARGET AND ADDRESS NEEDS

We recognize each country has, and will continue to have, its own unique set of challenges. The goal of the Index is to give a snapshot of how young people are faring within each country, helping to highlight areas that are lagging and where policies and social investments are needed, and to pinpoint examples of progress where certain countries are faring better than others in key areas of youth well-being.

By examining each country separately across all indicators, those looking to help – e.g. governments, non-profit organizations, and private organizations such as Scotiabank – can take actions that target gaps and areas that may need additional support.

Scotiabank supports a number of initiatives focused on improving the health, well-being, and education of young people in our markets across the Americas. Going forward, we will use the YPC Index to help inform our social investment decisions to ensure we target existing needs and achieve impact that helps improve the long-term well-being of youth.

Young People in the Community Index by country

Young People in the Community Index by country

		Sub-index	Education categories						Sub-index	Health and well-being categories								Full index
Region	Country	Education	Primary enrolment	Secondary enrolment	Years of schooling	Digital connectedness	Employment	Bank accounts	Health and well-being	Adolescent fertility	Natal/antenatal care	Nutrition	Immunization	Non-smokers	Non-drinkers	Personal safety	Prison avoidance	Index
North America	United States	86.5	95.8	98.8	78.5	71.4	87.2	87.6	91.5	95.6	99.5	92.7	90.0	83.0	87.9	94.7	88.6	89.0
	Canada	88.4	99.7	98.8	81.9	67.0	85.9	97.4	89.0	98.2	99.5	92.7	79.1	83.0	87.6	98.2	74.0	88.7
Latin America/Caribbean	Antigua and Barbuda	73.7	89.4	96.3	66.2	70.7	83.5	35.8	85.9	92.9	92.8	83.3	73.9	85.9	94.6	89.6	74.2	79.8
	Argentina	72.8	99.3	98.2	54.8	78.7	81.0	24.5	85.2	93.5	94.0	84.9	79.1	72.0	91.2	92.4	74.2	79.0
	Barbados	72.0	93.5	94.0	67.8	70.7	70.4	35.8	75.6	94.5	92.8	83.3	75.9	71.4	92.1	90.6	4.2	73.8
	Belize	68.8	96.6	90.3	77.4	32.1	76.9	39.3	80.6	89.6	89.7	79.4	76.2	81.7	94.2	66.6	67.1	74.7
	Bolivia	71.3	96.3	97.1	62.0	49.7	92.2	30.5	83.2	90.7	78.1	75.5	83.8	79.2	93.7	90.9	73.9	77.3
	Brazil	74.2	94.7	96.2	50.4	67.3	84.1	52.6	86.0	92.2	94.0	88.1	95.6	82.8	91.3	77.1	66.7	80.1
	Chile	79.5	94.9	98.4	64.2	74.4	82.8	62.5	84.7	94.2	92.7	88.8	80.0	64.9	91.1	96.6	69.5	82.1
	Colombia	68.5	96.8	96.8	54.3	57.8	77.4	28.0	84.4	91.2	93.8	87.2	89.1	72.4	92.5	57.5	91.3	76.5
	Costa Rica	78.0	98.4	92.8	60.4	67.8	87.3	61.6	90.3	92.3	94.3	88.6	82.3	85.4	93.7	91.3	94.8	84.2
	Cuba	71.3	97.1	97.0	83.3	18.3	96.1	35.8	88.3	94.7	100.0	87.9	75.8	85.4	94.0	94.7	74.2	79.8
	Dominica	70.3	95.6	93.0	62.1	69.4	66.2	35.8	85.4	93.7	92.8	83.3	74.7	82.8	92.7	89.5	74.2	77.9
	Dominican Republic	65.7	87.4	90.8	57.8	50.1	70.3	37.7	86.6	89.9	96.6	85.0	74.6	85.1	92.8	78.8	90.2	76.2
	Ecuador	68.0	98.0	80.3	53.5	54.4	88.0	33.5	84.6	90.4	74.0	77.3	96.2	71.4	92.0	85.1	90.3	76.3
	El Salvador	68.8	95.6	94.7	53.2	53.3	88.1	28.0	78.3	90.8	88.9	80.7	92.3	81.0	95.5	46.7	50.8	73.6
	Grenada	66.3	96.3	88.8	54.1	56.0	66.7	35.8	82.5	92.4	92.3	83.3	72.8	83.3	85.5	90.4	60.0	74.4
	Guatemala	66.1	92.0	69.3	52.4	52.9	93.5	36.3	77.0	88.6	68.9	64.6	77.5	83.4	94.9	64.2	74.2	71.6
	Guyana	67.5	86.6	87.5	82.9	37.8	74.6	35.8	87.5	91.1	85.2	78.0	96.7	85.1	92.0	82.0	90.2	77.5
	Honduras	62.5	94.6	74.5	49.4	38.3	92.8	25.5	80.3	88.0	85.9	79.9	88.0	79.6	95.1	34.6	91.4	71.4
	Jamaica	75.5	92.7	89.4	78.3	49.7	69.5	73.4	80.2	92.6	92.4	92.0	72.9	80.5	93.8	53.4	63.7	77.8
	Mexico	70.2	97.0	87.9	64.8	48.1	92.8	30.7	86.0	91.5	94.3	82.8	85.4	71.4	92.1	86.5	84.4	78.1
Nicaragua	60.6	94.9	76.0	52.1	42.1	88.5	10.0	88.2	87.9	87.9	79.5	96.6	74.9	94.2	87.7	97.3	74.4	
Panama	71.9	97.2	84.3	70.4	71.5	77.3	30.4	81.5	91.7	89.5	81.6	81.8	91.6	91.7	85.4	38.5	76.7	
Paraguay	69.7	93.5	87.0	64.7	50.3	86.8	35.8	87.7	92.0	93.2	82.5	85.4	83.3	91.7	84.2	89.5	78.7	
Peru	70.6	98.4	96.4	69.0	49.7	90.4	19.5	86.4	93.4	90.6	81.9	86.8	80.6	92.0	91.9	74.2	78.5	
St. Lucia	67.7	94.3	82.8	74.4	53.3	65.9	35.8	84.7	92.5	94.5	91.1	77.0	82.1	88.6	77.8	74.2	76.2	
Suriname	66.4	90.8	85.9	60.3	57.8	67.6	35.8	84.7	93.1	79.0	88.7	69.4	89.5	92.8	90.5	74.2	75.5	
Uruguay	70.9	99.0	87.7	54.5	76.5	78.8	28.6	89.6	93.5	94.8	85.5	84.6	76.8	92.7	93.5	95.2	80.2	
Venezuela	67.7	91.7	86.0	62.6	58.6	79.7	27.6	80.9	90.6	90.6	85.5	75.0	85.2	90.7	55.5	74.2	74.3	

Missing Data: In some instances, a specific Indicator statistic was not available for a country. Missing data for specific Latin American or Caribbean countries were replaced with the regional average across all 28 Latin American/Caribbean countries. If data was missing in Canada, the USA data point was used (and vice versa). For all of these cases, the data points are highlighted in yellow.

Tiering
 Highest tier scores
 Medium tier scores
 Lowest tier scores

Bridging the information gap and the power of collaboration

DATA GAPS AND LIMITATIONS OF THE INDEX

A key finding from our work on the YPC Index is that there is a real lack of publically available data on young people in many countries across the Americas. Data from publically available sources can also be challenging to standardize, as definitions of health, well-being and education can vary considerably from country to country.⁴ The Index flags the need for more and better data collection, and better standardization of the data, to enable benchmarking, the identification of areas of need, and the monitoring of progress. Ultimately, our hope is that the Index will highlight the need to improve the measurement and monitoring of the well-being of youth.

In particular, youth-specific data on mental health, such as suicide rates or spiritual/cultural health, as well as on the prevalence of child abuse, child trafficking and gender-based violence, is difficult to access for many countries. Similarly, limited youth-specific data across multiple markets exists about the formal training of educators, access to transportation to get to school/work, digital education or connectivity, or health/nutritional education. Youth-specific information is also scarce when it comes to physical activity levels, access to green spaces or access to improved sanitation facilities and water sources. These issues are all viewed as important influencers of youth development and data here would be welcomed by practitioners in the youth space.

With this in mind, it is clear that the YPC Index is not a definitive indication of the overall health, well-being and education of young people, but we believe it can be a useful first step for practitioners who are working in the field.

There are many other dimensions to consider such as disparities by gender, age brackets, geography or socio-economic status. Inequality in particular is one of the greatest development challenges in the region, and looking at metrics through this lens would be particularly salient. Unfortunately, data capturing the inequalities within a country on a particular indicator are not frequently available, and as such we are restricted to using country averages which hide the inequalities within a country. In future years, Scotiabank hopes to include some of these dimensions as more publically available and reliable data becomes available.

⁴ To view the indicators that were considered but ultimately had to be rejected from being included in the YPC Index, please refer to the Appendix.

> A CALL TO ACTION

The most eye-opening finding from all of our work on the YPC Index is that there simply is not nearly enough publically available data on young people that allows for consistent comparison from country to country. In order to help young people in our communities in an effective way, we believe that it is crucial to first understand where needs may be greatest in order to have the biggest impact. Much work needs to be done to highlight and fill some of the gaps mentioned previously. We believe that only together can we help to bridge this information gap. It is not only a responsibility of government or multilateral institutions, but all stakeholders including civil society, the private sector and policy makers to work collaboratively to find cost effective ways to measure the state of youth on dimensions that span the entire spectrum of health, well-being and education. Scotiabank is committed to this endeavor and will work towards improving and deepening the YPC Index in future iterations. We also welcome any feedback from practitioners on how we can improve the YPC Index going forward, to make it a valuable tool for other organizations.

Ten country profiles

The following ten country profiles summarize the key challenges and opportunities when it comes to providing support to young people.

Note that the country profiles relay raw data for each of the indicators rather than our standardized calculations, in order to provide readers with the true situation for young people in each country. However, countries are ranked by the standardized indicators in order to help readers understand relative progress. The higher the ranking, the better the situation for that country in the context of all 30 countries considered.

Barbados

	Raw data ⁵	Rank out of 30 countries
Health and well-being		30
Adolescent fertility rate (per 1,000)	48.9	4
Antenatal care coverage for at least four visits (%)	NA	13
Births attended by skilled health personnel (%)	100.0	13
Obesity among those under five years (%)	NA	–
Stunting among those under five years (%)	NA	–
Underweight among those under five years (%)	NA	–
Immunization coverage (%)	75.9	22
Youth tobacco consumption (%)	28.6	29
Youth alcohol consumption (avg. annual litres of pure alcohol)	7.9	17
Intentional homicide rate (per 100,000)	8.8	10
Youth held in prison (per 100,000)	92.2	30
Education		9
Out-of-school children of primary school age (%)	8.5	22
Out-of-school children of secondary school age (%)	1.3	12
Expected years of schooling (yrs.)	15.4	10
Mean years of schooling (yrs.)	10.5	10
Youth unemployment rate (%)	29.6	24
Youth with bank accounts (%)	NA	14
Internet users (%)	75.0	7
Mobile phone users (%)	108.1	7

⁵ Raw data in the country profiles is for the most current year that is available.

Barbados ranks fairly well on most of the standardized education indicators, but ranks among some of the lowest countries on most of the available health and well-being indicators.

Health and well-being

- Adolescent fertility rates are among the lowest across the Americas and care during and after pregnancy is one area where Barbados pulls ahead of most countries examined. However, on immunization coverage, tobacco consumption and alcohol consumption, young people are worse off than their counterparts in most other countries in the Americas.
- The rate of young people held in prison is a key issue for Barbados, as it is the highest rate among all countries in this study.

Education

- Barbados ranks well on secondary school enrolment, mean and expected years of schooling, but is lagging behind most countries on primary school enrolment.
- Youth unemployment is an issue for many of the island nations in the Caribbean, including Barbados where it ranks among the lowest countries.

Indicator raw data by gender (where available)		
	Male	Female
Out-of-school children of primary school age (%)	9.4	7.5
Youth unemployment rate (%)	27.7	31.9
Youth tobacco consumption (%)	34.5	23.2
Youth alcohol consumption (avg. annual litres of pure alcohol)	9.9	5.7
Youth held in prison (per 100,000)	103.6	80.3

Canada

	Raw data ⁵	Rank out of 30 countries
Health and well-being		4
Adolescent fertility rate (per 1,000)	12.6	1
Antenatal care coverage for at least four visits (%)	99.0	3
Births attended by skilled health personnel (%)	100.0	3
Obesity among those under five years (%)	NA	–
Stunting among those under five years (%)	NA	–
Underweight among those under five years (%)	NA	–
Immunization coverage (%)	79.1	17
Youth tobacco consumption (%)	NA	–
Youth alcohol consumption (avg. annual litres of pure alcohol)	12.4	29
Intentional homicide rate (per 100,000)	1.5	1
Youth held in prison (per 100,000)	14.7	21
Education		1
Out-of-school children of primary school age (%)	0.5	1
Out-of-school children of secondary school age (%)	NA	-
Expected years of schooling (yrs.)	15.9	3
Mean years of schooling (yrs.)	13.0	3
Youth unemployment rate (%)	13.5	13
Youth with bank accounts (%)	97.4	1
Internet users (%)	85.8	11
Mobile phone users (%)	78.4	11

⁵ Raw data in the country profiles is for the most current year that is available.

Canada ranks first overall on our standardized education metrics and also places highly on health and well-being indicators. However, despite generally high scores, there are a few areas of concern for young people.

Health and well-being

- According to our standardized indicators, young people in Canada appear to have a good start in life with very high scores on antenatal and post-natal care and nutrition. However, on immunization coverage Canada ranks just below average.
- Alcohol consumption among young people is high relative to almost all other countries and Canadian youth are also more likely to be held in prison than their peers in other countries.

Education

- Canada ranks very highly on most education indicators. Only on employment and digital connectivity does Canada rank among the middle of the pack.

Indicator raw data by gender (where available)		
	Male	Female
Youth unemployment rate (%)	15.1	12.2
Youth alcohol consumption (avg. annual litres of pure alcohol)	18.3	6.3

Chile

	Raw data ⁵	Rank out of 30 countries
Health and well-being		17
Adolescent fertility rate (per 1,000)	50.1	5
Antenatal care coverage for at least four visits (%)	NA	16
Births attended by skilled health personnel (%)	99.9	16
Obesity among those under five years (%)	10.1	5
Stunting among those under five years (%)	1.8	5
Underweight among those under five years (%)	0.5	5
Immunization coverage (%)	80.0	16
Youth tobacco consumption (%)	35.1	30
Youth alcohol consumption (avg. annual litres of pure alcohol)	8.9	25
Intentional homicide rate (per 100,000)	3.6	2
Youth held in prison (per 100,000)	35.6	23
Education		3
Out-of-school children of primary school age (%)	7.5	18
Out-of-school children of secondary school age (%)	3.2	3
Expected years of schooling (yrs.)	15.2	14
Mean years of schooling (yrs.)	9.8	14
Youth unemployment rate (%)	16.1	16
Youth with bank accounts (%)	62.5	4
Internet users (%)	66.5	3
Mobile phone users (%)	134.3	3

⁵ Raw data in the country profiles is for the most current year that is available.

Chile enjoys fairly high rankings on most of our standardized education indicators, but ranks just below average on most health and well-being indicators.

Health and well-being

- Relative to other countries, tobacco and alcohol consumption levels are among the highest for young people in Chile. Young people are also more likely to be held in prison relative to youth in other countries.

Education

- At the primary level of education, young people in Chile are more likely to be out of school than young people in most other countries. However, at the secondary school level, Chile ranks nearly at the top in terms of children enrolled in school.
- Youth unemployment is another challenge for Chile although it is close to the average.

Indicator raw data by gender (where available)		
	Male	Female
Out-of-school children of primary school age (%)	7.5	7.5
Out-of-school children of secondary school age (%)	30	3.4
Youth unemployment rate (%)	13.9	19.2
Youth tobacco consumption (%)	29.8	39.8
Youth alcohol consumption (avg. annual litres of pure alcohol)	13.8	3.8
Youth held in prison (per 100,000)	66.3	3.7

Colombia

	Raw data ⁵	Rank out of 30 countries
Health and well-being		20
Adolescent fertility rate (per 1,000)	85.0	20
Antenatal care coverage for at least four visits (%)	88.6	11
Births attended by skilled health personnel (%)	99.1	11
Obesity among those under five years (%)	4.8	10
Stunting among those under five years (%)	12.7	10
Underweight among those under five years (%)	3.4	10
Immunization coverage (%)	89.1	7
Youth tobacco consumption (%)	27.6	25
Youth alcohol consumption (avg. annual litres of pure alcohol)	7.5	15
Intentional homicide rate (per 100,000)	27.9	26
Youth held in prison (per 100,000)	12.5	5
Education		20
Out-of-school children of primary school age (%)	3.1	10
Out-of-school children of secondary school age (%)	2.7	7
Expected years of schooling (yrs.)	13.5	23
Mean years of schooling (yrs.)	7.3	23
Youth unemployment rate (%)	19.1	20
Youth with bank accounts (%)	28.0	24
Internet users (%)	51.7	13
Mobile phone users (%)	104.1	13

⁵ Raw data in the country profiles is for the most current year that is available.

Overall, Colombia trails behind most countries on both standardized health, well-being and education indicators. However, young people are better off than most of their counterparts on some specific indicators.

Health and well-being

- Adolescent fertility rates are fairly high in Colombia relative to the regional average. However, antenatal/postnatal care and immunization coverage is fairly strong relative to most other countries.
- The intentional homicide rate and youth tobacco consumption are well above average, while Colombian youth sit in the middle of the pack when it comes to alcohol consumption.

Education

- At the primary and secondary school level, young people in Colombia are more likely to be enrolled in school than in most other countries. However, when looking at expected and mean years of schooling, young people in Colombia rank well below the average.
- Youth employment and access to banking are also areas where Colombia ranks well below the 30-country average.

Indicator raw data by gender (where available)

	Male	Female
Out-of-school children of primary school age (%)	3.1	3.2
Out-of-school children of secondary school age (%)	3.2	2.2
Youth unemployment rate (%)	14.6	25.4
Youth tobacco consumption (%)	27.0	27.8
Youth alcohol consumption (avg. annual litres of pure alcohol)	9.9	5.0
Youth held in prison (per 100,000)	20.2	1.0

Costa Rica

	Raw data ⁵	Rank out of 30 countries
Health and well-being		2
Adolescent fertility rate (per 1,000)	66.6	15
Antenatal care coverage for at least four visits (%)	90.2	8
Births attended by skilled health personnel (%)	98.4	8
Obesity among those under five years (%)	8.1	7
Stunting among those under five years (%)	5.6	7
Underweight among those under five years (%)	1.1	7
Immunization coverage (%)	82.3	14
Youth tobacco consumption (%)	14.6	4
Youth alcohol consumption (avg. annual litres of pure alcohol)	6.3	9
Intentional homicide rate (per 100,000)	10.0	8
Youth held in prison (per 100,000)	17.7	3
Education		4
Out-of-school children of primary school age (%)	3.6	4
Out-of-school children of secondary school age (%)	6.0	14
Expected years of schooling (yrs.)	13.9	18
Mean years of schooling (yrs.)	8.4	18
Youth unemployment rate (%)	21.8	10
Youth with bank accounts (%)	61.6	5
Internet users (%)	46.0	9
Mobile phone users (%)	146.0	9

⁵ Raw data in the country profiles is for the most current year that is available.

Overall, our standardized indicators show that Costa Rica is well ahead of nearly all countries on both health, well-being and education indicators.

Health and well-being

- Our standardized indicators show that immunization coverage is one of the areas with the greatest opportunity for improvement among young people in Costa Rica. Adolescent fertility rates are also at the 30-country average.

Education

- Enrollment in primary and secondary education is high; however, mean and expected years of schooling is a bit low relative to other countries in the region.
- Youth unemployment is also an issue for young people, although slightly less pronounced than in most other countries.

Indicator raw data by gender (where available)		
	Male	Female
Out-of-school children of primary school age (%)	3.6	3.6
Out-of-school children of secondary school age (%)	6.1	6.0
Youth unemployment rate (%)	18.8	26.8
Youth tobacco consumption (%)	15.9	13.1
Youth alcohol consumption (avg. annual litres of pure alcohol)	8.1	4.3
Youth held in prison (per 100,000)	32.6	2.2

Dominican Republic

	Raw data ⁵	Rank out of 30 countries
Health and well-being		9
Adolescent fertility rate (per 1,000)	90.0	26
Antenatal care coverage for at least four visits (%)	94.5	4
Births attended by skilled health personnel (%)	98.6	4
Obesity among those under five years (%)	8.3	13
Stunting among those under five years (%)	10.1	13
Underweight among those under five years (%)	3.4	13
Immunization coverage (%)	74.6	26
Youth tobacco consumption (%)	14.9	8
Youth alcohol consumption (avg. annual litres of pure alcohol)	7.2	12
Intentional homicide rate (per 100,000)	17.4	21
Youth held in prison (per 100,000)	9.8	7
Education		28
Out-of-school children of primary school age (%)	14.2	29
Out-of-school children of secondary school age (%)	4.9	15
Expected years of schooling (yrs.)	13.1	20
Mean years of schooling (yrs.)	7.6	20
Youth unemployment rate (%)	31.4	25
Youth with bank accounts (%)	37.7	8
Internet users (%)	46.0	21
Mobile phone users (%)	88.4	21

⁵ Raw data in the country profiles is for the most current year that is available.

Generally, young people in the Dominican Republic are trailing most other countries on our standardized education indicators, but are just ahead of the 30-country average on most health and well-being indicators.

Health and well-being

- Adolescent fertility is among the highest of the countries examined and ante- and post-natal care is also among the highest in the region. However, immunization coverage is one area where further improvements could be made.
- Intentional homicide rates are also fairly high.

Education

- Primary school enrolment is very low in Dominican Republic and youth unemployment is higher than in most other countries in the Americas.
- Young people are also less likely to benefit from opportunities that are afforded due to having digital connectivity, particularly internet use.

Indicator raw data by gender (where available)		
	Male	Female
Out-of-school children of primary school age (%)	13.8	14.6
Out-of-school children of secondary school age (%)	3.9	6.0
Youth unemployment rate (%)	22.2	46.7
Youth tobacco consumption (%)	18.4	11.9
Youth alcohol consumption (avg. annual litres of pure alcohol)	9.2	5.1

El Salvador

	Raw data ⁵	Rank out of 30 countries
Health and well-being		28
Adolescent fertility rate (per 1,000)	63.3	22
Antenatal care coverage for at least four visits (%)	78.3	23
Births attended by skilled health personnel (%)	99.5	23
Obesity among those under five years (%)	5.7	23
Stunting among those under five years (%)	20.6	23
Underweight among those under five years (%)	6.6	23
Immunization coverage (%)	92.3	5
Youth tobacco consumption (%)	19.0	18
Youth alcohol consumption (avg. annual litres of pure alcohol)	4.5	1
Intentional homicide rate (per 100,000)	64.2	29
Youth held in prison (per 100,000)	65.5	28
Education		18
Out-of-school children of primary school age (%)	4.2	16
Out-of-school children of secondary school age (%)	0.6	11
Expected years of schooling (yrs.)	12.3	26
Mean years of schooling (yrs.)	6.5	26
Youth unemployment rate (%)	12.4	8
Youth with bank accounts (%)	27.6	25
Internet users (%)	23.1	17
Mobile phone users (%)	136.2	17

⁵ Raw data in the country profiles is for the most current year that is available.

El Salvador generally ranks among the lowest countries on our standardized health and well-being indicators, and ranks just below average on most education indicators.

Health and well-being

- Antenatal care coverage is one area where El Salvador is trailing behind most other countries. Nutrition among young people, particularly stunting, is another area of concern. However, immunization coverage is higher than most countries.
- The rate of young people held in prison and the intentional homicide rate is also quite high relative to the regional average.

Education

- On primary and secondary school enrolment, young people in El Salvador rank around the 30-country average. However, the ratio of mean vs expected years of schooling is quite low relative to most other countries. Similarly, young people in El Salvador are far less likely to have a bank account than youth in most other countries.

Indicator raw data by gender (where available)		
	Male	Female
Out-of-school children of primary school age (%)	4.4	4.0
Youth unemployment rate (%)	11.8	13.6
Youth tobacco consumption (%)	24.4	15.4
Youth alcohol consumption (avg. annual litres of pure alcohol)	6.2	2.8
Youth held in prison (per 100,000)	115.5	13.6

Jamaica

	Raw data ⁵	Rank out of 30 countries
Health and well-being		27
Adolescent fertility rate (per 1,000)	72.0	12
Antenatal care coverage for at least four visits (%)	85.6	17
Births attended by skilled health personnel (%)	99.1	17
Obesity among those under five years (%)	4.0	3
Stunting among those under five years (%)	4.8	3
Underweight among those under five years (%)	3.2	3
Immunization coverage (%)	72.9	28
Youth tobacco consumption (%)	19.5	20
Youth alcohol consumption (avg. annual litres of pure alcohol)	6.2	8
Intentional homicide rate (per 100,000)	36.1	28
Youth held in prison (per 100,000)	28.5	26
Education		5
Out-of-school children of primary school age (%)	6.8	24
Out-of-school children of secondary school age (%)	17.3	17
Expected years of schooling (yrs.)	12.4	5
Mean years of schooling (yrs.)	9.7	5
Youth unemployment rate (%)	34.0	26
Youth with bank accounts (%)	73.4	3
Internet users (%)	37.8	23
Mobile phone users (%)	100.4	23

⁵ Raw data in the country profiles is for the most current year that is available.

Jamaica ranks very highly on our standardized education indicators, but trails behind the majority of countries on health and well-being indicators.

Health and well-being

- Nutrition is one area where Jamaica is leading nearly all countries; however, the antenatal and postnatal care that young women receive is slightly below average.
- Young people in Jamaica are well behind other countries in terms of immunization coverage. A high ratio of youth are also held in prison and consumption of tobacco is also quite high relative to the average.
- The intentional homicide rate is high for Jamaica, indicating that crime and safety are likely two key issues of concern for young people.

Education

- On primary school enrolment, Jamaica is behind most countries. However, on mean years of education vs expected year of schooling Jamaica surpasses most countries examined.
- Youth unemployment is clearly an area where young people need more support, along with digital connectivity (especially internet access).

Indicator raw data by gender (where available)		
	Male	Female
Out-of-school children of primary school age (%)	7.3	6.2
Out-of-school children of secondary school age (%)	20.2	14.3
Youth unemployment rate (%)	27.1	42.6
Youth tobacco consumption (%)	24.0	15.3
Youth alcohol consumption (avg. annual litres of pure alcohol)	7.8	4.5
Youth held in prison (per 100,000)	47.4	8.8

Mexico

	Raw data ⁵	Rank out of 30 countries
Health and well-being		11
Adolescent fertility rate (per 1,000)	83.5	19
Antenatal care coverage for at least four visits (%)	92.6	7
Births attended by skilled health personnel (%)	96.0	7
Obesity among those under five years (%)	9.0	19
Stunting among those under five years (%)	13.6	19
Underweight among those under five years (%)	2.8	19
Immunization coverage (%)	85.4	11
Youth tobacco consumption (%)	28.6	28
Youth alcohol consumption (avg. annual litres of pure alcohol)	7.9	16
Intentional homicide rate (per 100,000)	15.7	16
Youth held in prison (per 100,000)	25.8	11
Education		16
Out-of-school children of primary school age (%)	2.5	9
Out-of-school children of secondary school age (%)	13.9	19
Expected years of schooling (yrs.)	13.1	12
Mean years of schooling (yrs.)	8.5	12
Youth unemployment rate (%)	9.2	4
Youth with bank accounts (%)	30.7	20
Internet users (%)	43.5	25
Mobile phone users (%)	85.8	25

⁵ Raw data in the country profiles is for the most current year that is available.

Overall, Mexico ranks close to the regional average for both our standardized health, well-being and education indicators. However, there are some specific areas where Mexico is ahead or trailing behind most other countries.

Health and well-being

- Obesity, stunting and tobacco consumption are three areas that stand out as potential focus areas for young people in Mexico.
- The adolescent fertility rate is also fairly high relative to the regional average.

Education

- Mexico falls behind most countries with regards to secondary school enrolment. Young people in Mexico are also less likely to have bank accounts or to be connected to the Internet than their peers in other countries. However, despite these lower metrics, youth unemployment is quite low compared to the regional average.

Indicator raw data by gender (where available)		
	Male	Female
Out-of-school children of primary school age (%)	3.0	2.0
Out-of-school children of secondary school age (%)	14.2	13.6
Youth unemployment rate (%)	8.5	10.5
Youth tobacco consumption (%)	27.8	28.5
Youth alcohol consumption (avg. annual litres of pure alcohol)	12.5	3.2
Youth held in prison (per 100,000)	47.0	3.8

Peru

	Raw data ⁵	Rank out of 30 countries
Health and well-being		10
Adolescent fertility rate (per 1,000)	68.0	9
Antenatal care coverage for at least four visits (%)	94.4	20
Births attended by skilled health personnel (%)	86.7	20
Obesity among those under five years (%)	7.2	21
Stunting among those under five years (%)	18.4	21
Underweight among those under five years (%)	3.5	21
Immunization coverage (%)	86.8	9
Youth tobacco consumption (%)	19.4	19
Youth alcohol consumption (avg. annual litres of pure alcohol)	8.0	19
Intentional homicide rate (per 100,000)	6.7	7
Youth held in prison (per 100,000)	N.A.	19
Education		14
Out-of-school children of primary school age (%)	4.7	5
Out-of-school children of secondary school age (%)	8.4	8
Expected years of schooling (yrs.)	13.1	9
Mean years of schooling (yrs.)	9.0	9
Youth unemployment rate (%)	8.8	6
Youth with bank accounts (%)	19.5	29
Internet users (%)	39.2	24
Mobile phone users (%)	98.1	24

⁵ Raw data in the country profiles is for the most current year that is available.

Peru narrowly sits among the top third of countries in the region when examined by our standardized health and well-being indicators and is just below the top third of countries on education. However, there are some areas where additional support for youth may be needed.

Health and well-being

- Adolescent fertility rates are among the lowest in the region and immunization levels are among the highest; however, care during and after pregnancy is one area where Peru is behind most other countries, although coverage is still fairly high.
- Stunting appears to be another area of focus for Peru, as well as youth tobacco and alcohol consumption.

Education

- Peru ranks highly on primary and secondary school enrolment, but lags behind most countries in the region in terms of access to the internet and bank accounts.

Indicator raw data by gender (where available)		
	Male	Female
Out-of-school children of primary school age (%)	5.1	4.3
Out-of-school children of secondary school age (%)	10.5	7.8
Youth unemployment rate (%)	9.1	9.3
Youth tobacco consumption (%)	16.5	21.5
Youth alcohol consumption (avg. annual litres of pure alcohol)	11.3	4.6

Appendices

Methodology

OVERVIEW

The Scotiabank YPC Index measures youth well-being across 19 Indicators that span two specific domains: Health and well-being and Education. The focus is specifically on countries in the Americas: 28 Latin American and Caribbean countries, as well as Canada and the U.S.

The structure of the YPC Index was developed in close consultation with an Advisory Council comprised of subject matter experts from across Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean. The following sections provide an overview of the process undertaken to construct the YPC Index and to yield the country-level scores.

➤ INDICATOR DESCRIPTION AND DATA SOURCES

Data have been compiled from publicly available data repositories collected by the WHO (World Health Organization), the World Bank, and the United Nations, including UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), UNICEF (United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund), and UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime). The data in the Index was collected from 1990 to 2015, depending on the country.

The scope of the YPC Index is limited by the data available at a country level. To be eligible for inclusion in the Index, the data for each Indicator had to be available from public sources, on a regular basis (ideally annually), and had to cover most markets of the Americas.

For a detailed description of each of the 19 Indicators included in the Scotiabank YPC Index, along with a list of primary sources for each Indicator, please refer to Table 1 “Indicator Description and Data Source.”

Table 1 Indicator Description and Data Source

Indicator	Detailed description/ Definition	Latest data available	Data source
Health and well-being			
Youth alcohol consumption	Total annual alcohol consumption in litres of pure alcohol among youth 15-19 years.	2010	WHO, Global Health Observatory data repository
Youth tobacco consumption	The youth prevalence rate, expressed as a percentage of the total youth population aged 13-15. Refers to the number of current users of any tobacco product per 100 of the youth population.	2010	WHO, Global Health Observatory data repository
Antenatal care coverage for at least four visits	Percentage of women (aged 15-49) attended at least once during pregnancy by skilled health personnel (doctor, nurse or midwife) and the percentage attended by any provider at least four times.	2009-2013 (used most recent year available)	UNICEF State of the World's Children 2015
Births attended by skilled health personnel	Percentage of births attended by skilled health personnel (doctor, nurse or midwife).	2009-2013 (used most recent year available)	UNICEF State of the World's Children 2015
Adolescent fertility rate	The adolescent birth rate or adolescent fertility rate measures the annual number of births to women 15-19 years of age per 1,000 women in that age group.	Average of the rates from 1990-2013	UN Millennium Indicators
Immunization coverage	WHO and UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage. These are official UN estimates for measuring progress toward the MDG indicator for measles-containing vaccine coverage. Total immunization coverage is in percentages and includes the average of different vaccines which vary by country.	2013 ⁶	UNICEF State of the World's Children 2015; WHO
Obesity among those under fives years	Overweight – Moderate and severe: Percentage of children aged 0-59 months who are above two standard deviations from median weight-for-height of the WHO Child Growth Standards.	2009-2013 (used most recent year available)	UNICEF State of the World's Children 2015
Stunting among those under five years	Stunting – Moderate and severe: Percentage of children aged 0-59 months who are below minus two standard deviations from median height-for-age of the WHO Child Growth Standards.	2009-2013 (used most recent year available)	UNICEF State of the World's Children 2015

⁶ Since 2000, the estimates are updated once annually in July, following a consultation process wherein countries are provided draft reports for review and comment. As the system incorporates new empirical data, each annual revision supersedes prior data releases, and coverage levels from earlier revisions are not comparable.

Table 1 Indicator Description and Data Source

Indicator	Detailed description/ Definition	Latest data available	Data source
Underweight among those under five years	Underweight – Moderate and severe: Percentage of children aged 0-59 months who are below minus two standard deviations from median weight-for-age of the World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards.	2009-2013 (used most recent year available)	UNICEF / WHO / The World Bank: Joint child malnutrition estimates – Levels and trends
Intentional homicide rate (total population)	Intentional homicide rate (as opposed to negligent or unintentional) per total country population, per 100,000. Intentional homicide is defined as unlawful death inflicted upon a person with the intent to cause death or serious injury.	Average of rates from 2000-2014	UNODC, Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics
Youth held in prison	Rate per 100,000 juveniles aged 17 or under, held in prisons, penal institutions or correctional institutions on a specified day. This excludes non-criminal prisoners held for administrative purposes (for example, persons held pending investigation into their immigration status or foreign citizens without a legal right to stay).	Average of rates from 2003-2014	UNODC, Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics
Education			
Internet users (total population)	The estimated number of internet users out of the total population. This includes those using the Internet from any device (including mobile phones) in the last 12 months (number per 100 population).	2013	UNICEF; International Telecommunications Union, Geneva
Mobile phone users (total population)	The number of active subscriptions to a public mobile telephone service, including the number of prepaid SIM cards active during the past three months (number per 100 population).	2013	UNICEF; International Telecommunications Union, Geneva
Youth unemployment rate	The proportion of the youth labour force (i.e., young people aged 15-24) that is unemployed. The unemployed comprise all persons above a specified age who, during the reference period, were: (a) without work; (b) currently available for work; and (c) actively seeking work. The unemployment rate is the number of youth unemployed divided by total youth labour force, which is the sum of the number of young persons employed and the number of young persons unemployed.	Average of rates from 1990 to 2014	UN data Millennium Indicators
Expected years of schooling	Number of years of education one can expect to receive if prevailing patterns of age-specific enrolment rates persist throughout the child's life.	2014	UN data Human Development Index (HDI)

Table 1 Indicator Description and Data Source

Indicator	Detailed description/ Definition	Latest data available	Data source
Mean years of schooling	Average number of years of education received by people aged 25 and older, converted from education attainment levels using official durations of each level.	2014	UN data Human Development Index (HDI)
Out-of-school children of primary school age	Percentage of out-of-school children of primary school age. Number of children of official primary school age who are not enrolled in primary or secondary education, expressed as a percentage of the population of official primary school age.	Average of rates from 1999 to 2014	UNESCO Institute for Statistics, Education
Out-of-school children of secondary school age	Percentage of out-of-school adolescents of lower secondary school age. Number of adolescents of official lower secondary school age who are not enrolled in primary or secondary education, expressed as a percentage of the population of official lower secondary school age.	Average of rates from 1999 to 2014	UNESCO Institute for Statistics, Education
Youth with bank accounts	Young adults aged 15-24 with an account at a financial institution (%).	2014	S&P/GFLEC/World Bank Global FinLit Survey (Global Findex)

➤ INDEX STRUCTURE AND DATA ADJUSTMENT/COMPUTATION

The YPC Index is built on two Sub-Indices – Health/Well-being and Education – to which equal weights were assigned. Each Sub-Index contains a series of Indicators, which are aggregated or adjusted to create Aggregated Categories. Within each Sub-Index, equal weights were assigned to all Aggregated Categories.

The Health and Well-being Sub-Index consists of 11 metrics, including avoidance of drinking and smoking among youth, prevalence of natal and antenatal care in the population, adolescent fertility rates, immunization coverage, nutrition, personal security, and staying out of prison.

The Education Sub-Index includes eight metrics, including years of schooling, enrolment rates for primary and secondary school, digital connectedness, youth employment, and youth with bank accounts.

Most categories are comprised of a single Indicator. However, for certain categories, multiple Indicators were aggregated (see Table 2 for more details).

In order to standardize the data, all Indicators were adjusted to 100 points, where 100 indicates the most desirable situation. For some Indicators, the scale was reversed to keep 100 as the most desired state. For example, for tobacco consumption, the statistic available indicates the percentage of young people aged 13-15 who smoke, which could be considered an “undesirable state.” As such, we inverse the scale, so that 100 is now the desired state of having non-smoking youth.

Table 2 “Index Structure and Data Computation” outlines the Index structure, as well as the data adjustments and computation that were performed on each of the 19 Indicators.

Table 2 Index Structure and Data Computation			
Sub-indices	Aggregated category	Indicators	Computation performed
Health and well-being	Non-drinkers	Youth alcohol consumption (ages 15-19)	Rate of alcohol consumption was reversed by subtracting it from 100.
	Non-smokers	Youth tobacco consumption (ages 13-15)	Rate of tobacco smokers was reversed by subtracting it from 100.
	Natal and antenatal care	Antenatal care coverage for at least four visits Births attended by skilled health personnel	Average of antenatal care coverage and births attended by health personnel.
	Delaying pregnancy until after adolescence (reversal of adolescent fertility rate)	Adolescent fertility rate (among women aged 15-19)	Fertility rate was reversed by subtracting it from 100. Since the rate was based on 1000 young women, it was further divided by 10 to adjust the scale to 100.
	Immunization coverage	Immunization coverage	Average of all vaccination types performed in each country.
	Nutrition	Obesity (among those under five years of age) Stunting (low height-for-age among those under five years of age) Underweight (among those under five years of age)	Nutrition was calculated by obtaining the mean score for underweight and stunted children (done in order to avoid any potential double counting of children, as children who are underweight are often stunted as well), added to the score for obesity. This calculation was then reversed by subtracting it from 100.
	Personal security (reversal of homicide rate)	Intentional homicide rate (total population)	Homicide rate for each country was divided by 1000 to adjust the scale to 100. The scale was then reversed by subtracting it from 100.
	Staying out of prison	Youth held in prison (aged 17 or under)	Juvenile prison rate for each country was divided by 1000 to adjust the scale to 100. Looking across all countries, the maximum rate was determined. We divided each country by this maximum rate and multiplied by 100. The scale was then reversed by subtracting it from 100.

Table 2 Index Structure and Data Computation

Sub-indices	Aggregated category	Indicators	Computation performed
Education	Digital connectedness	Internet users Mobile phone users	Because in some cases mobile phone penetration is over 100%, the number of mobile phones in each country was divided by the regional maximum and multiplied by 100 to have a percentage. Then, to obtain a Digital Connectedness rating, we averaged the Internet users % and Mobile phone users %.
	Employment	Youth unemployment rate (ages 15-24)	Unemployment rate was reversed by subtracting it from 100.
	Schooling	Expected years of schooling Mean years of schooling	Mean years are divided by expected years and multiplied by 100 to be expressed in percentage.
	Primary school enrolment	Out-of-school children of primary school age	Rate of out-of-school was reversed by subtracting it from 100.
	Secondary enrolment	Out-of-school children of secondary school age	Rate of out-of-school was reversed by subtracting it from 100.
	Youth with bank accounts	Youth with bank accounts (ages 15–24)	Not adjusted.

Potential indicators excluded from index

The table below summarizes some of the indicators of youth development that were considered by Scotiabank and the Advisory Council but ultimately rejected for a variety of reasons, such as insufficient/non-existent data, data not being youth-specific or data not being an appropriate indicator of youth development.

Potential indicators	Reason for exclusion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers enrolled in formal training programs • Teachers that have academic credentials • Youth enrolled in trainee labour certification programs • Overall physical activity levels among 5 to 17 year olds • Access to green space for youth • Prevalence of child abuse/maltreatment • Prevalence of gender-based violence • Trafficking of youth • Youth in care • Youth prevalence in vulnerable populations (e.g., racial differences, indigenous populations) 	Data not available in many countries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HIV/AIDs education among youth • Access to transportation among youth to get to school/work • Suicide rate among youth • Access to improved sanitation facilities • Access to improved water sources • Nutritional education for youth • Prevalence of non-communicable diseases among youth 	Data available does not focus specifically on young people
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital education • How digital competency leads to employability • Mental, spiritual and cultural health among youth 	Data is not available in many countries and is not youth-specific

Potential indicators	Reason for exclusion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borrowing for education • Borrowing from financial institutions • Savings at financial institution • Government expenditure per primary student • Government expenditure per secondary student • Health expenditure 	<p>Asked to be removed by Advisory Council – not considered a good enough indicator of youth development, as they do not always result in higher quality outcomes</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-primary education • Tertiary education 	<p>Difficult to standardize across countries</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early childhood education 	<p>Available, but published very infrequently</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth literacy 	<p>Youth literacy rates are very high across all participating countries, with little variation, so no value in including</p>

Advisory Council members

Advisory Council Members	Title	Organization
Mr. Asheesh Advani	CEO	Junior Achievement Worldwide
Mr. Ricardo Evangelista	Executive Director	Maria Ayuda, Chile
Dr. Rosa Isela Gluyas Fitch	Director	Fundación Alberto Baillères, Mexico
Mr. Miguel Gonzalez	Consultant of Knowledge Management in Health and Nutrition	UNICEF Latin America and Caribbean
Ms. Jordann Hazelwood	Career Coach	Stk'emlupsemc te Secwepemc Nation, Canada
Dr. Allyson Leacock	Consultant / Executive Director	LIVE UP: The Caribbean Media Alliance
Ms. Tanjina Mirza	Vice President	PLAN Canada
Mr. Gary Rabbior	President and CEO	Canadian Foundation for Economic Education
Mr. Milo Stanojevich	Director	CARE Peru
Mr. Don Tapscott	Professor of Management	Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto, Canada
Mr. Jean-François Perrault	Senior Vice President and Chief Economist	Scotiabank
Ms. Terri Williams	Vice President, Corporate Social Responsibility	Scotiabank
Mr. Chris Coulter	CEO	GlobeScan

For more information on the Scotiabank YPC Index, please contact:

Terri Williams

Vice-President, Corporate Social Responsibility

Terri.Williams@scotiabank.com

Chris Coulter

CEO, GlobeScan

Chris.Coulter@GlobeScan.com

