

Economic Disadvantage

AS YOUNG PEOPLE

The current circumstances of young people in economic disadvantage reflected in the Youth Survey align with findings from other research.

They highlight that some young people are missing out on the essentials of life, and that this has implications for their engagement with education and employment, their experience of fair treatment, their mental health and wellbeing and their family relationships.



AS ADULTS

- Less likely to finish school
 - Less likely to go on to study at university
- More likely to be unemployed
- More likely to earn lower wages
 - More likely to live in poverty
 - More likely to live in social housing
- More likely to experience poorer health and mental health

Economically disadvantaged	Economically advantaged
Education	
78% studying full-time	88% studying full-time
56% satisfied with their studies	68% satisfied with their studies
51% planned to go to university	66% planned to go to university
18% planned to travel/gap year	24% planned to travel/gap year
42% confident in achieving their study/work goals	49% confident in achieving their study/work goals
Employment	
28% working part-time	42% working part-time
43% looking for work	34% looking for work
Financial concerns	
31% could not pay bills due to money concerns	10% could not pay bills due to money concerns
30% experienced family conflict/violence due to money concerns	14% experienced family conflict/violence due to money concerns
29% sought financial help from family or friends due to money concerns	11% sought financial help from family or friends due to money concerns
49% had gone without a holiday with family	28% had gone without a holiday with family
35% had gone without a meal out with family once a month	16% had gone without a meal out with family once a month
33% had missed out on going out with friends	15% had missed out on going out with friends
27% concerned about financial security	14% concerned about financial security
Unfair treatment	
36% experienced unfair treatment	26% experienced unfair treatment
22% experienced unfair treatment due to financial background	8% experienced unfair treatment due to financial background
38% experienced unfair treatment due to mental health	25% experienced unfair treatment due to mental health
Mental health and wellbeing	
43% feel happy with their lives	60% feel happy with their lives
44% feel positive about the future	57% feel positive about the future
38% experience psychological distress	26% experience psychological distress
Family relationships	
25% concerned about family conflict	15% concerned about family conflict
15% concerned about domestic/family violence	7% concerned about domestic/family violence
38% rated their family's ability to get along positively	56% rated their family's ability to get along positively

Young people from economically disadvantaged backgrounds have much to offer and have high aspirations for their futures.

More such young people can thrive and realise their potential if barriers to their progress can be removed.

If we don't take action to improve circumstances for economically disadvantaged young people – including the recommendations of this report – their current experiences of deprivation and exclusion may lead to a greater likelihood of negative outcomes in the future.



These outcomes have significant social and economic implications and are an unacceptable cost to these young people and to the community.