

# SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS

## INDICATOR #32 Community Connectedness Rate

### DEFINITIONS

The original established indicator is the percentage of BC youth age 15 to 19 who report a strong sense of community involvement. In the interest of more fully understanding community connectedness among youth, this indicator will be explored here and in future reports as three measures, specified below as Indicators 32A, 32B, and 32C.

**INDICATOR #32A** — Percentage of BC students in grades 7–12 who report they felt like part of their community either “quite a bit” or “very much”.

**INDICATOR #32B** — Percentage of BC students in grades 7–12 who report they felt safe in their neighbourhood either “often” or “always” during the daytime.

**INDICATOR #32C** — Percentage of BC students in grades 7–12 who report they felt safe in their neighbourhood either “often” or “always” at night.

### KEY MESSAGES

- ▶ Family, friends, and a feeling of belonging to a community give people the sense of being part of something larger than themselves. Satisfaction with self and community, problem-solving capabilities, and the ability to manage life situations can contribute to better overall health.<sup>1</sup>
- ▶ The extent to which people participate in their community and feel that they belong can positively influence their long-term physical and mental health.<sup>2</sup>
- ▶ Students who feel most connected to their communities are more likely to see themselves engaged in their community in five years. They are also more likely to see only positive future outcomes for themselves, to think they are really good at something, and to report feeling happy all or most of the time.<sup>3</sup>
- ▶ **Community connectedness** is a general sense of being part of or belonging to a community.<sup>3</sup>
- ▶ Figure 32A.1 shows that about 40 per cent of students reported that they felt connected to their community. While not shown here, other data sources that monitor community connectedness suggest that the level of community connectedness in students has fluctuated, without a clear upward or downward trend over time.<sup>4</sup>
- ▶ Evidence shows that community connectedness has a direct correlation to feeling safe in your neighbourhood;<sup>3</sup> as such, this concept is examined through analyses of both the perception of community connectedness, and the feeling of being safe in one’s neighbourhood. As shown in Figure 32B.1, the majority (91.3 per cent) of youth felt safe in their neighbourhoods during the daytime, while a lower percentage (64.7 per cent) felt safe in their neighbourhoods at night (shown in Figure 32C.1). These figures also show that males felt somewhat safer in their neighbourhoods than females during the daytime and substantially safer than females at night.

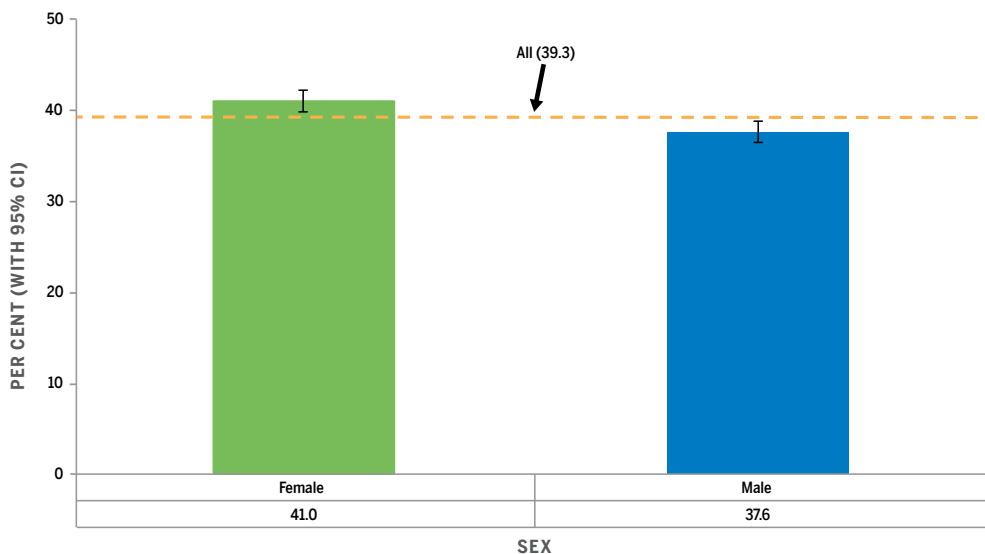
► Figure 32A.2 to 32C.3 present geographic differences in community connectedness by health authority and health service delivery area. A higher percentage of students in Interior and Island Health Authorities felt safe in their neighbourhoods during the daytime (Figure 32B.2) and at night (Figure 32C.2) than in Fraser Health. However, a higher percentage of students reported feeling like they were part of their community in Vancouver Coastal Health than in other health authorities (Figure 32A.2).

*“Technology and social media may contribute to a disconnected situation. The community is now online and unintentionally promotes segregation. Through social media it is easier to feel a sense of belonging than face-to-face.”*

*“Kids our age are working to be efficient. We are not trying to connect. We just want to finish things, go to the computer and move on.”*

*“We are not living in the moment anymore.”*

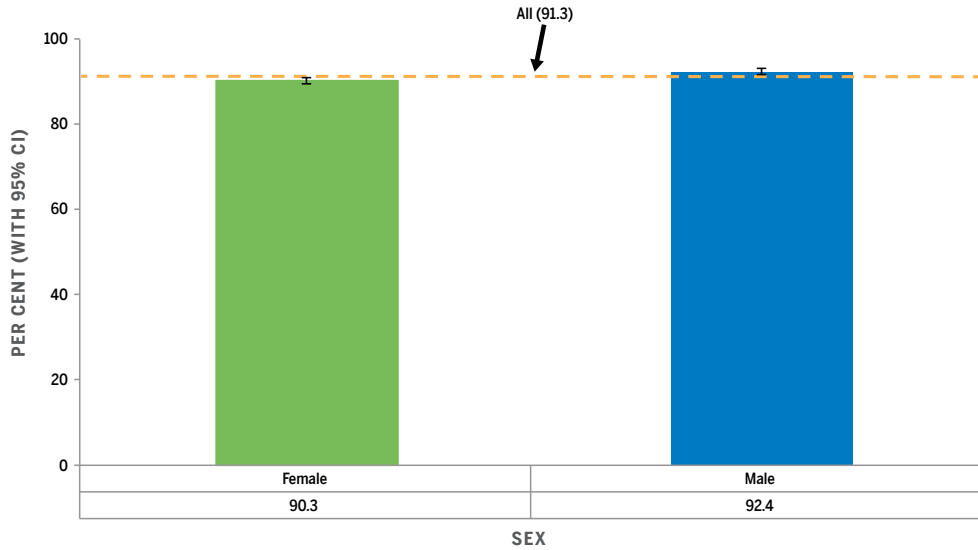
**FIG 32A.1** Percentage of Students in Grades 7-12 Who Reported Feeling Like a Part of Their Community, by Sex, BC, 2013



**Notes:** "Reported feeling like a part of their community" means youth reported they were either "quite a bit" or "very much" a part of their community. See Appendix B for more information about this data source.

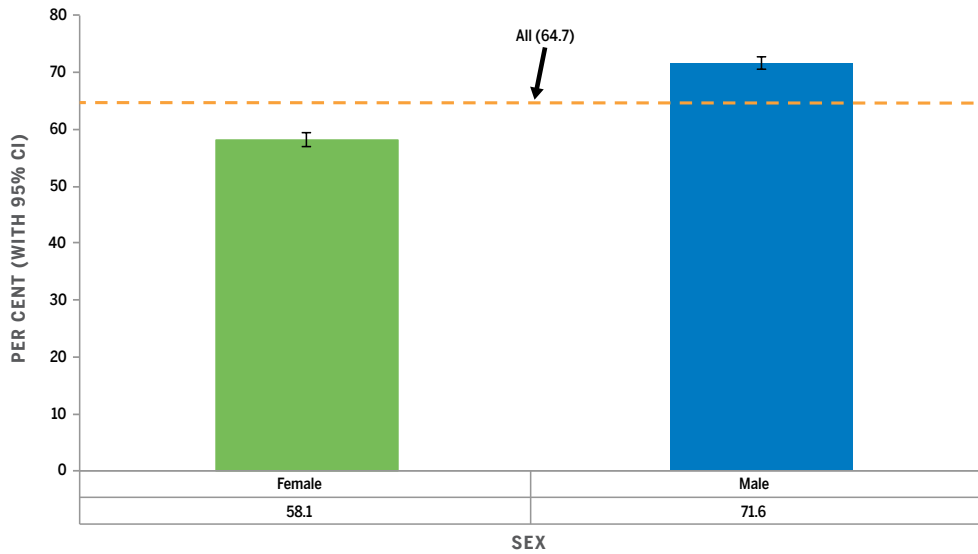
**Source:** McCreary Centre Society, BC Adolescent Health Survey, 2013. Prepared by the Surveillance and Epidemiology Team, BC Office of the Provincial Health Officer, 2016.

**FIG 32B.1** Percentage of Students in Grades 7-12 Who Reported Feeling Safe in Their Neighbourhood during the Daytime, by Sex, BC, 2013



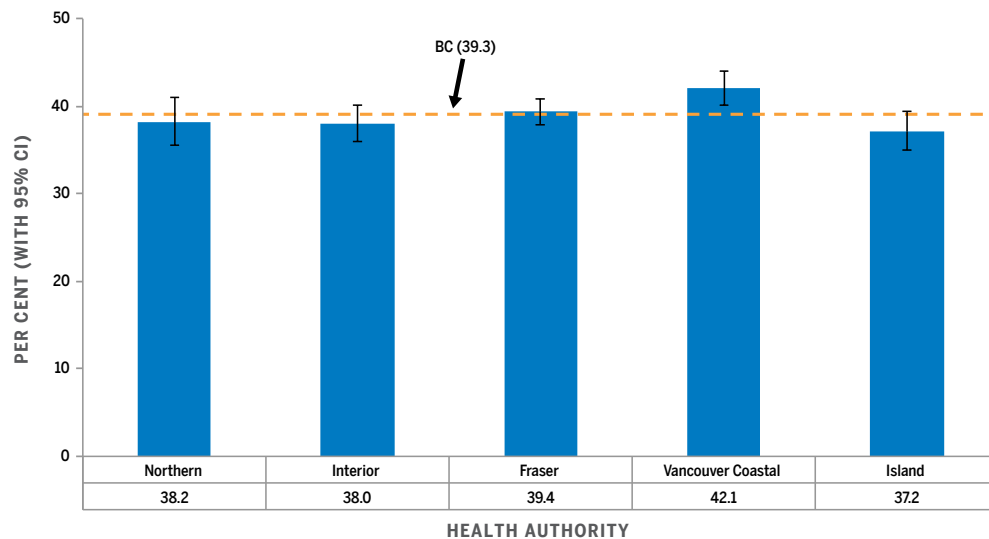
**Notes:** "Reported feeling safe" means youth reported feeling safe "often" or "always". See Appendix B for more information about this data source.  
**Source:** McCreary Centre Society, BC Adolescent Health Survey, 2013. Prepared by the Surveillance and Epidemiology Team, BC Office of the Provincial Health Officer, 2016.

**FIG 32C.1** Percentage of Students in Grades 7-12 Who Reported Feeling Safe in Their Neighbourhood at Night, by Sex, BC, 2013



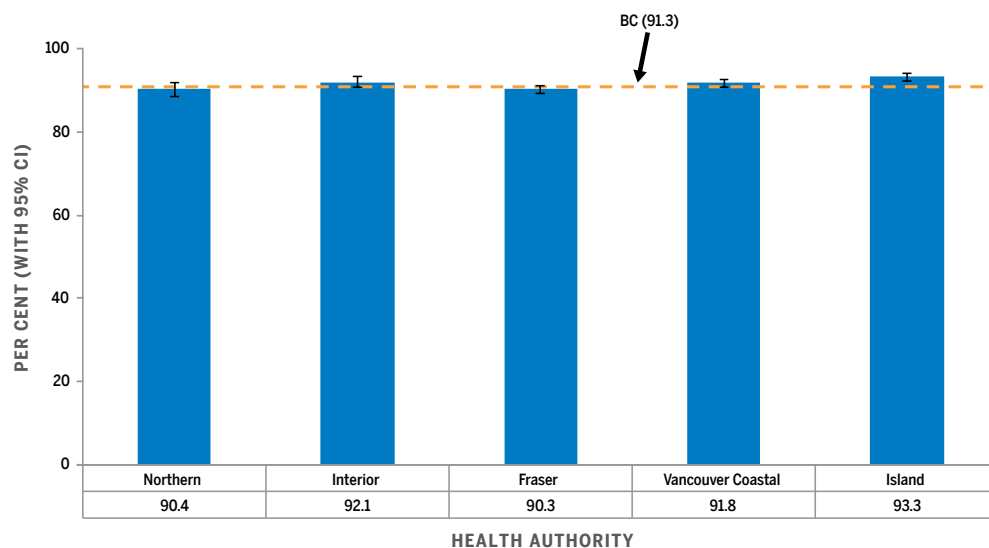
**Notes:** "Reported feeling safe" means youth reported feeling safe "often" or "always". See Appendix B for more information about this data source.  
**Source:** McCreary Centre Society, BC Adolescent Health Survey, 2013. Prepared by the Surveillance and Epidemiology Team, BC Office of the Provincial Health Officer, 2016.

**FIG 32A.2** Percentage of Students in Grades 7-12 Who Reported Feeling Like a Part of Their Community, by Health Authority, BC, 2013



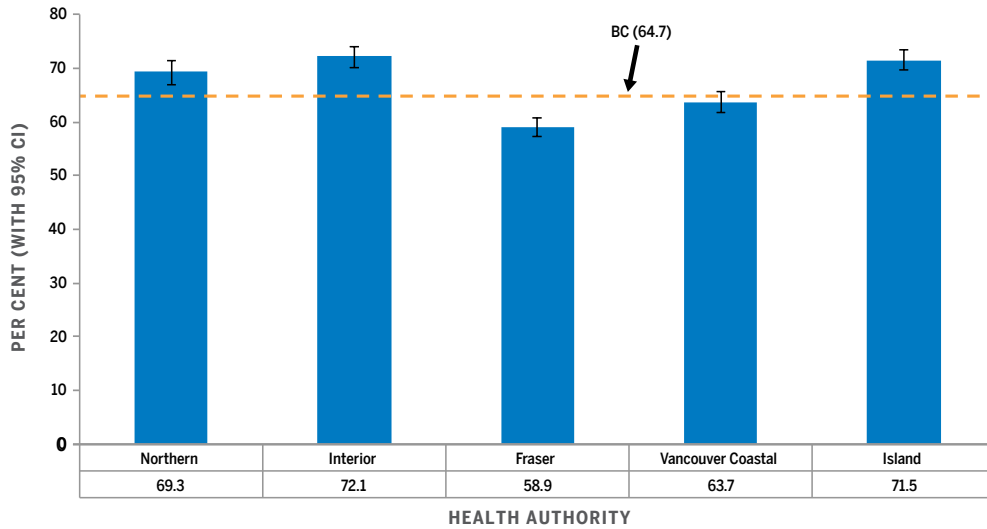
**Notes:** "Reported feeling like a part of their community" means youth reported they were either "quite a bit" or "very much" a part of their community. Health authority is based on the location of the school. See Appendix B for more information about this data source.  
**Source:** McCreary Centre Society, BC Adolescent Health Survey, 2013. Prepared by the Surveillance and Epidemiology Team, BC Office of the Provincial Health Officer, 2016.

**FIG 32B.2** Percentage of Students in Grades 7-12 Who Reported Feeling Safe in Their Neighbourhood during the Daytime, by Health Authority, BC, 2013



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**Source:** McCreary Centre Society, BC Adolescent Health Survey, 2013. Prepared by the Surveillance and Epidemiology Team, BC Office of the Provincial Health Officer, 2016.

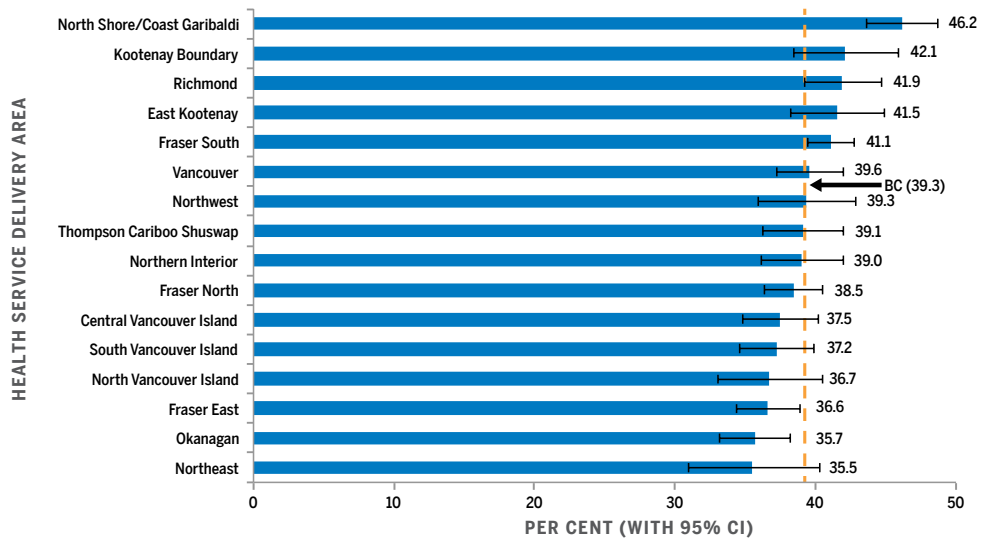
**FIG 32C.2** Percentage of Students in Grades 7-12 Who Reported Feeling Safe in Their Neighbourhood at Night, by Health Authority, BC, 2013



**Notes:** "Reported feeling safe" means youth reported feeling safe "often" or "always". Health authority is based on the location of the school. See Appendix B for more information about this data source.

**Source:** McCreary Centre Society, BC Adolescent Health Survey, 2013. Prepared by the Surveillance and Epidemiology Team, BC Office of the Provincial Health Officer, 2016.

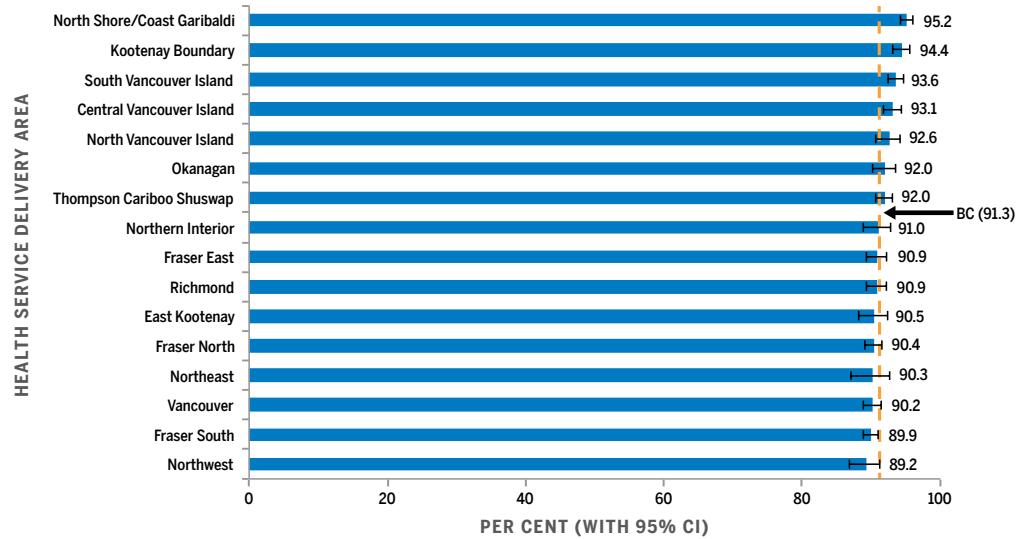
**FIG 32A.3** Percentage of Students in Grades 7-12 Who Reported Feeling Like a Part of Their Community, by Health Service Delivery Area, BC, 2013



**Notes:** "Reported feeling like a part of their community" means youth reported they were either "quite a bit" or "very much" a part of their community. Health service delivery area is based on the location of the school. See Appendix B for more information about this data source.

**Source:** McCreary Centre Society, BC Adolescent Health Survey, 2013. Prepared by the Surveillance and Epidemiology Team, BC Office of the Provincial Health Officer, 2016.

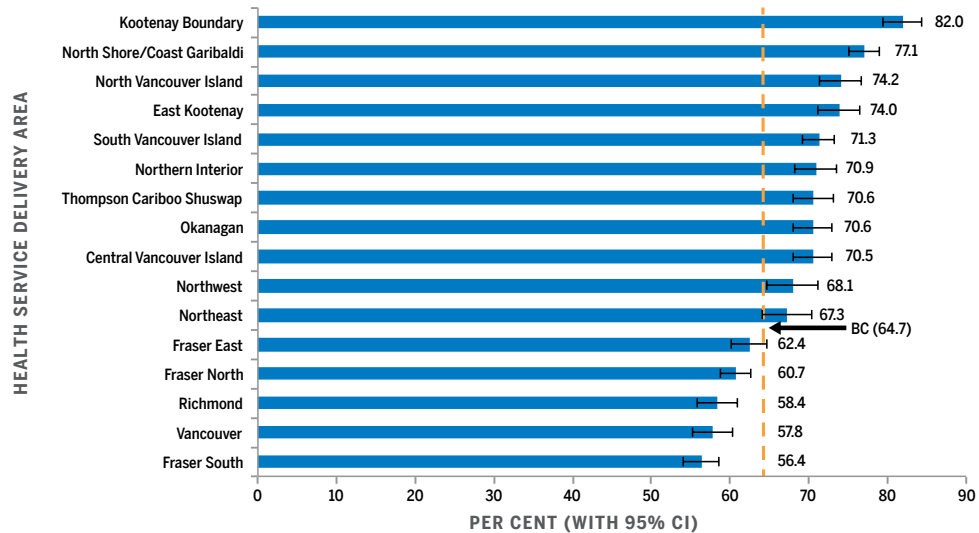
**FIG 32B.3** Percentage of Students in Grades 7-12 Who Reported Feeling Safe in Their Neighbourhood during the Daytime, by Health Service Delivery Area, BC, 2013



**Notes:** "Reported feeling safe" means youth reported feeling safe "often" or "always". Health service delivery area is based on the location of the school. See Appendix B for more information about this data source.

**Source:** McCreary Centre Society, BC Adolescent Health Survey, 2013. Prepared by the Surveillance and Epidemiology Team, BC Office of the Provincial Health Officer, 2016.

**FIG 32C.3** Percentage of Students in Grades 7-12 Who Reported Feeling Safe in Their Neighbourhood at Night, by Health Service Delivery Area, BC, 2013



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**Source:** McCreary Centre Society, BC Adolescent Health Survey, 2013. Prepared by the Surveillance and Epidemiology Team, BC Office of the Provincial Health Officer, 2016.

## REFERENCES

- <sup>1</sup> Federal, Provincial and Territorial Advisory Committee on Population Health. Toward a healthy future. Second report on the health of Canadians. Charlottetown, PE: Federal, Provincial and Territorial Advisory Committee on Population Health; 1999.
- <sup>2</sup> Chief Public Health Officer. Report on the state of public health in Canada 2008. Addressing health inequalities. Ottawa, ON: Minister of Health; 2008 [cited 2016 Feb 26]. Available from: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/cphorsphc-respcacsp/2008/fr-rc/pdf/CPHO-Report-e.pdf>.
- <sup>3</sup> Smith A, Stewart D, Poon C, Peled M, Saewyc E. From Hastings Street to Haida Gwaii: provincial results of the 2013 BC Adolescent Health Survey. Vancouver, BC: McCreary Centre Society; 2014.
- <sup>4</sup> Statistics Canada. Table 105-0501 Health indicator profile, annual estimates, by age group and sex, Canada, provinces, territories, health regions (2013 boundaries) and peer groups, occasional (table). CANSIM (database). Ottawa, ON: Statistics Canada; 2016 [cited 2016 Apr 6]. Available from: <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&retrLang=eng&id=1050501&&pattern=&stByVal=1&p1=1&p2=-1&tabMode=dataTable&csid>.