



CSBA High School Completion InfoBackgrounder

This is the first of a series which will culminate in a final High School Completion InfoBackgrounder in the spring of 2007 containing a collection of best practices and recommendations

Statistics Canada Data

Fig 1. High school drop-outs as a % of all 20-24-year-olds, 1990-1991 to 2004-2005

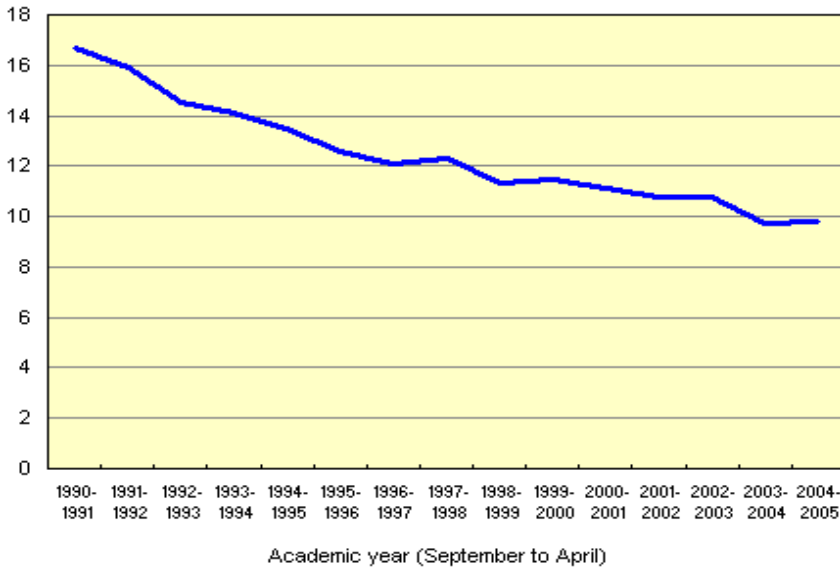
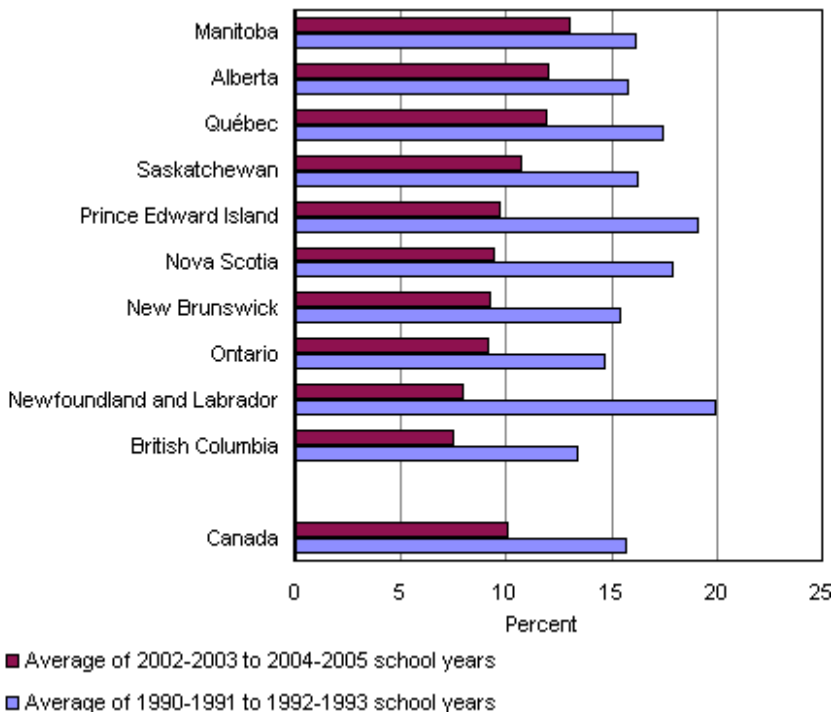


FIG 2. High School Drop outs as a % of all 20-24 year olds - National Comparison



Statistics Canada vs provincial reports

Statistics Canada reports a very positive trend about national drop out rates – from nearly 18% over 15 years ago down to about 10% today.

Provincial governments still report high rates some as much as 30%.

The reason for the difference – provincial governments are measuring completion over a four-year period.

Statistics Canada measures completion by the age of 24 and praises the strength of Canada's education system for its ability to enable youth to find a second chance.

Concerns Remain

Nonetheless, the agency finds higher non-completion rates in rural areas and in small towns than in urban areas - 16.4%, almost double the rate 9.2% found in cities and especially in Quebec, Manitoba and Alberta.

Young males continue to experience a higher likelihood of dropping-out than young females - 12% in 2004-2005 compared to 7%.

And finally, although there is improvement, the rate for aboriginal students remains poor.

1. The Daily, "Youth in Transition Survey" www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/020123/d020123a.htm
2. Provincial Drop-out rates - Trends and Consequences www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/81-004-XIE/2005004/drop.htm#e

The 30 Hour Barrier

Working while dropping out

Students who worked moderate hours during their last year of high school were the least likely to drop out of school.

Those who worked 30 or more hours a week during their last year were the most likely to leave.

www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/020123/d020123a.htm

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Work and Completion Patterns – Alberta

Over the last three years, the employment rate for non-completers in Alberta averaged 68.7%, meaning that drop-outs in Alberta were more likely to be working than those with a high school diploma in other provinces.

Provincial Drop-out rates - Trends and Consequences - www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/81-004-XIE/2005004/drop.htm#e

	2001/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
3 yr rate	65.1%	65.6%	67.8%	69.3%	70.4%
4 yr rate	71.8%	71.8%	72.3%	73.4%	75.1%
5 yr rate	73.9%	75.1%	75.2%	75.5%	77.4%

How Alberta calculates completion rates

Alberta's rates are calculated by tracking Grade 10 students for 3, 4 and 5 years and determining the percentages who have completed high school in each time frame.

Students are considered completers if they have received a diploma or equivalent, or have enrolled in an Alberta post-secondary institution or apprenticeship program within the tracking period.

www.education.gov.ab.ca/k_12/completion/HSComp.asp

US Comparison

Table 4. - High school completion rates, and number and distribution of completers ages 18-24 not currently enrolled in high school or below, by background characteristics: October 2000

Characteristic	Completion Rate	Population (thousands)	Number of completers (thousands)	Percent of all completers
Total	86.5	25,138	21,743	100.0
Sex				
Male	84.9	12,460	10,580	48.7
Female	88.1	12,678	11,164	51.3
Race/ethnicity*				
White, non-Hispanic	91.8	16,502	15,145	69.7
Black, non-Hispanic	83.7	3,582	2,999	13.8
Hispanic	64.1	3,797	2,433	11.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	94.6	1,074	1,016	4.7
Age				
18 - 19	84.0	6,718	5,645	26.0
20 - 21	86.4	7,363	6,359	29.2
22 - 24	88.1	11,057	9,739	44.8
Region				
Northeast	89.1	4,265	3,799	17.5
Midwest	88.9	5,861	5,209	24.0
South	84.4	8,895	7,506	34.5
West	85.5	6,117	5,230	24.1

*Due to small sample sizes, American Indians/Alaska Natives are included in the total but are not shown separately.
NOTE: Because of rounding, detail may not add to totals.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, October 2000.

http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2002/droppub_2001/11.asp

Alberta School Boards Association

Appalled that about 25 per cent of Alberta students do not complete high school within five years of entering Grade 10, ASBA President, Maureen Kubinec, called on Alberta boards to lead change.

Here are ASBA's recommendations obtained from an in-depth set of workshops.

ASBA's top eight factors

1. Early intervention programs.
2. Counselling services; coordinate the delivery of multi-agency and school-based services including exit interviews
3. Societal pressure to reinforce the importance of education.
4. Improve relevancy of curricula and sequencing of high school core courses to ensure that the learning needs and interest of non-university bound students can be addressed. Advocate that post-secondary institutions review and modify if necessary, entry requirements [especially in Math] to fit the level actually needed for success in the area of further study.
5. Financial incentives/disincentives.
6. Ensuring at-risk students have at least one adult in the school who knows them well and will support them in their learning.
7. Cross ministry cooperation – aimed at increasing high school completion.
8. Curriculum and funding are available for schools to work with students to assist them in knowing their interests and abilities and engage in meaningful and timely career development planning with trained career counselors [not necessarily certificated teachers].

www.asba.ab.ca



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Highlights – Offending and high school completion rates

- The risk for youth with less than high school has been increasing since 1990.
- Federal offenders tend to be amongst Canada's most poorly educated.
- 8 of 10 new admissions to federal penitentiaries had less than a high school diploma.
- 5 in 10 had less than grade 10.
- 2 of 10 had less than grade 8.

Unemployment risk trends and the implications for Canadian federal offenders by Roger Boe, Correctional Service of Canada (2000)

Educational attainment of federal male offenders at admission – By Age			
Grade Level	18–24	25 or more	All new admissions
Less than Gr 8	19%	21%	20%
Less than Gr 10	55%	49%	50%
No high school	89%	75%	78%
	7,455	26,063	33,518

CSC Offender Management System (OIA Database), including all male new federal admissions between April 1, 1995 and March 31, 2004.

Highlights - Youth In Transition Survey

- This StatsCan *Survey* shows that youth take a variety of pathways to finishing school.
- In December 1999, 12% of 20-year-olds were no longer in high school and had left without graduating. Two years later, this rate edged down to 11% as some returned to school.
- Some dropouts went on to postsecondary studies without completing their high school diploma. When this was taken into account, by the age of 22, only 9% of youths had dropped out of high school and had not pursued any further education.
- By the age of 22, 76% of youths had some postsecondary experience, up from 70% at age 20.
- As with high school, pathways through postsecondary education are complex. By the age of 22, just over 1 in 10 youths had left their postsecondary studies without graduating, according to YITS.

	School Leavers Survey			Youth in Transition Survey		
	1991			1999		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
BC	16	17	14	12.9	16.7	8.9
ALT	14	16	12	12.5	13.8	11.1
SASK	16	16	16	7.3	9.9	4.5
MAN	19	20	18	14.8	15.7	13.9
ON	17	22	10	9.5	11.2	7.8
QUE	22	26	18	16	19.9	12
NB	20	23	16	7.6	11.7	3.7
NS	22	29	13	10.1	14.5	5.0
PEI	25	33	17	16.4	22.3	9.2
NFLN	24	29	19	10.5	15.2	5.7
Canada	18	22	14	12	14.7	9.2

- In December 1999, just over one-quarter of the 20-year-olds were out of school and working full-time.
- Two years later, the proportion of those out of school and working full-time increased to 34%.
The Daily – The YITS Survey

TABLE 2.2 - A Comparison of High School Dropout Rates Among 20-Year-olds, 1991 and 1999 (Percent)
from *At a Crossroads - First Results for the 18 to 20-year-old Cohort of the Youth in Transition Survey - January 2002*

www11.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/cs/sp/hrsdcrarb/publications/research/2002-000121/page06.shtml



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Reasons for Dropping Out

- High school dropouts had lower grades.
- Male dropouts were more likely to have low grades and repeated a grade in elementary school.
- But - low grades were not the sole reason; 47% of all leavers averaged B or better.
- Dropouts were less engaged - academically and socially.
- They were less likely to have had close friends who pursued further education past high school.
- They were more likely to have engaged in such behaviours as skipping class, drinking alcohol regularly and using drugs frequently.

Other contributing factors.

- Some young men reported that they just wanted to work.
- Some young women cited pregnancy and child-rearing.

Family background influences

- A greater percentage of dropouts (32%) than graduates (16%) lived with a single parent.
- Dropouts were also three times as likely to have parents who had not finished high school (27% versus 9%).
- Parents of graduates were more likely than those of dropouts to work in management, business, finance, government, art, culture or science-related occupations - occupations requiring more education, and offering typically greater economic rewards.

Most youth do pursue postsecondary education

- Most 18 to 20 year old high school graduates and a small proportion who had dropped out had pursued some form of postsecondary education (70% of graduates and 9% of dropouts).
- Most aged 18 to 20 who were no longer in high school (52%) were enrolled in a postsecondary program.
- 4% graduated from postsecondary education and 6% had dropped out of their postsecondary program prior to completion and had not returned at the time of the survey.

*Youth in Transition Survey (1999),
www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/020123/d020123a.htm*

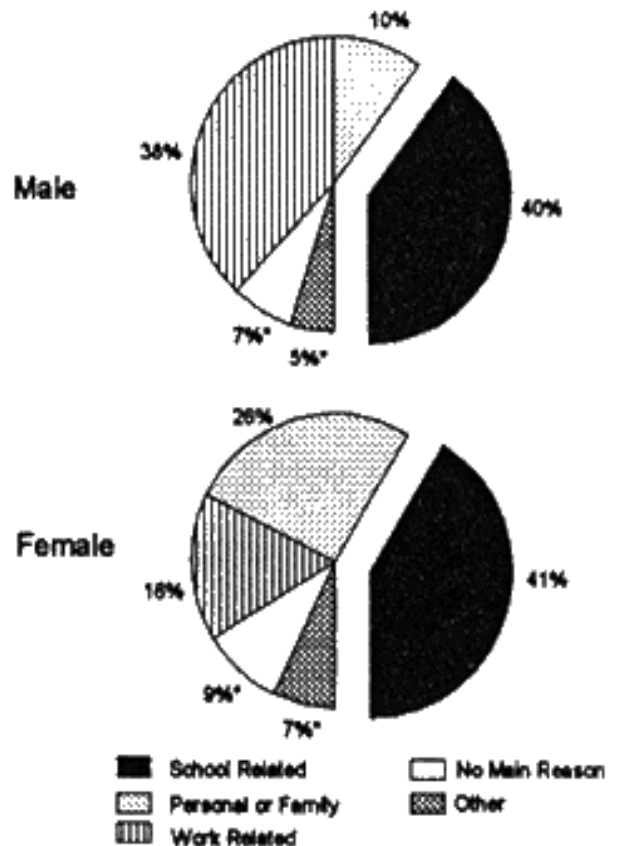
Thank you

Patricia Parulekar, National Director
Ottawa - October 19, 2006

Reasons for Leaving

Statistics Canada School Leavers Survey

- A much higher proportion of leavers than graduates (41% compared with 10%) said they did not enjoy school.
- Leavers expressed more dissatisfaction with various aspects of their program than did graduates.
- Leavers were more likely to feel that their classes were not interesting (41% compared with 21%).
- Especially the case for male leavers, nearly half (46%) of whom were not interested in their classes.
- Over seven times as many leavers (15%) as graduates (2%) reported that they did not get along with their teachers.



Leaving School - Results From a National Survey Comparing School Leavers and High School Graduates 18 to 20 Years of Age - January 1995
www.sdc.gc.ca/asp/gateway.asp?hr=en/cs/sp/hrsd/prc/publications/research/1995-000015/page06.shtml&hs=sxc