



Social Determinants of Health

Education

January 2026

Quality of Care NL is proud to partner
with **Choosing Wisely Canada**



Who We Are



Quality of Care NL is an applied health and social systems research and evaluation program aimed at improving social and health outcomes in Newfoundland and Labrador.



Proud partner of Choosing Wisely Canada  Choosing Wisely NL

Education



People with higher levels of education tend to have better health outcomes. Level of education is highly correlated with other social determinants of health such as level of income, employment security, and working conditions. Being well-educated also leads to greater health literacy, a better understanding of the implications of unhealthy behavior, and an increased ability to access health services and health information.

Future outlook is based on how hopeful people feel about their future. Having a hopeful outlook is positively associated with key well-being indicators, such as life satisfaction, sense of meaning and purpose, and mental and general health.

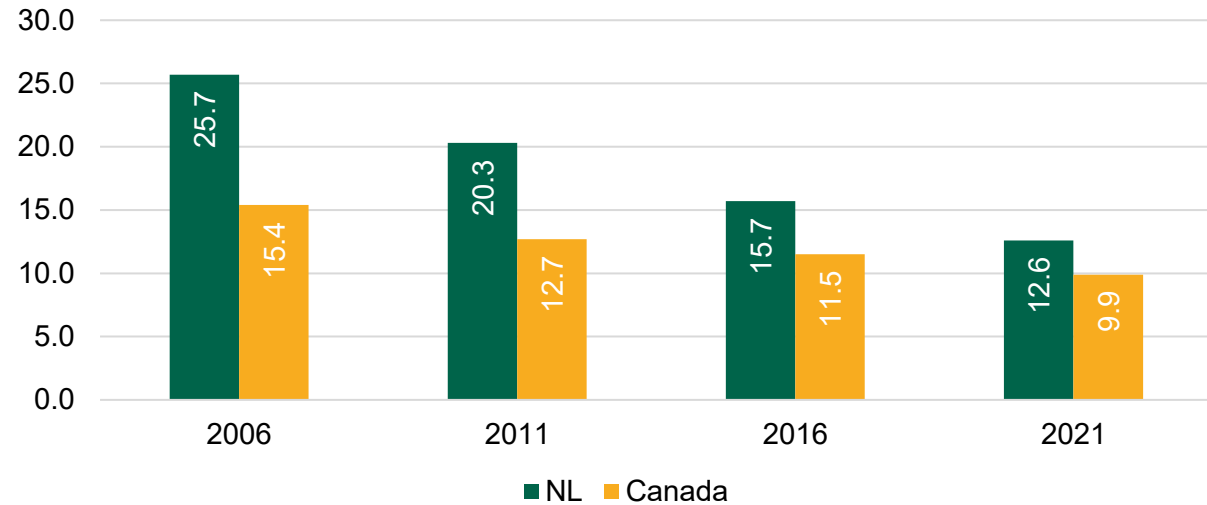


Educational Attainment: No High School Diploma

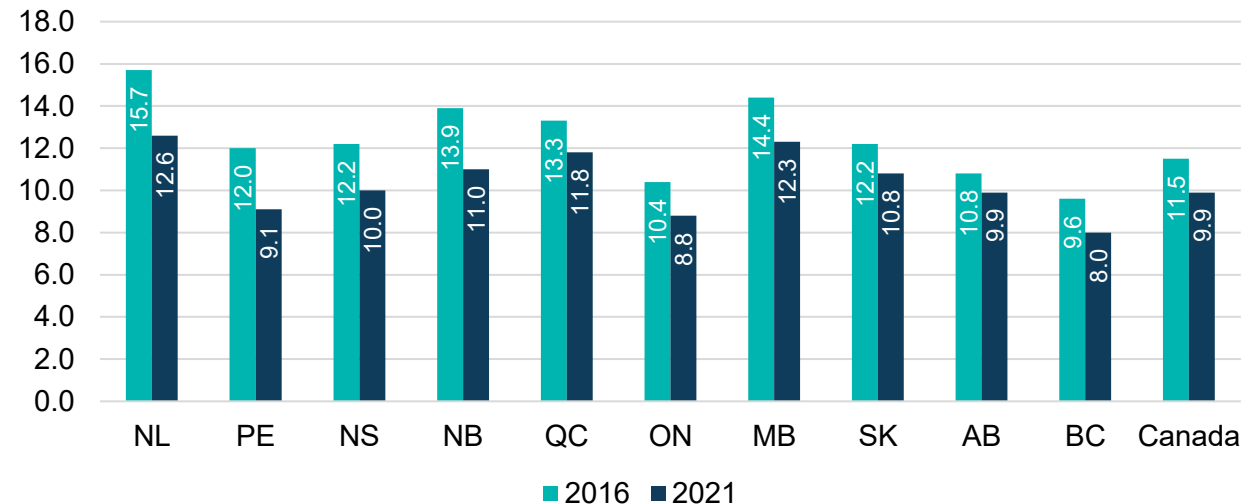
Educational attainment refers to the highest level of education that a person has successfully completed.

- Overall, from 2006 to 2021, the proportion of those aged 25-64 years without a high school diploma has decreased by approximately 35% across Canada.
- Compared to Canada, NL has a higher proportion of individuals aged 25-64 years without a high school diploma.
- In both 2016 and 2021, NL ranked tenth for the proportion of individuals aged 25-64 years without a high school diploma (1=best and 10=worst).

Proportion of Individuals with No High School Diploma in NL and Canada (25-64 years) (%), 2006 to 2021



Proportion of Individuals with No High School Diploma by Province (25-64 years) (%), 2016 and 2021

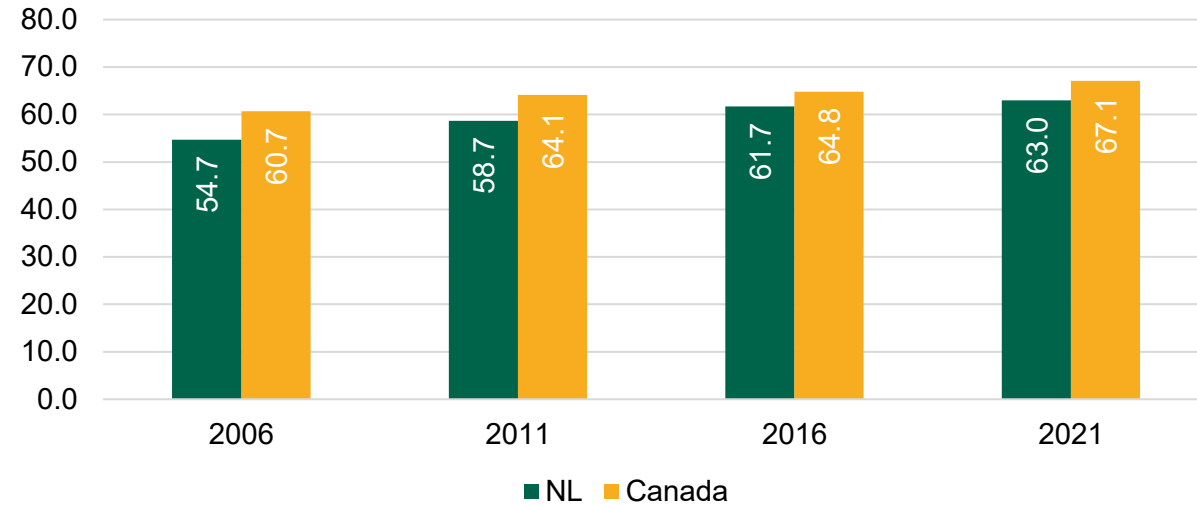


Source: Statistics Canada. Table 98-10-0384-01 Highest level of education by census year: Canada, provinces and territories, census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations; Census of Population, 2006 to 2021

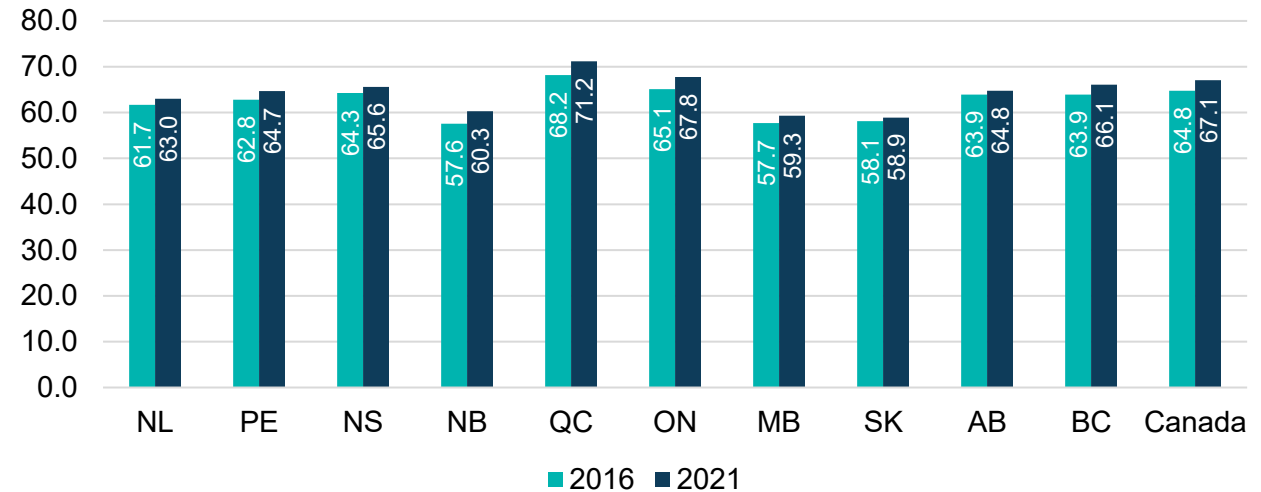
Educational Attainment: Postsecondary Certificate, Diploma or Degree

- Overall, from 2006 to 2021, the proportion of those aged 25-64 years with a postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree has increased by 10% across Canada.
- Compared to Canada, NL has a lower proportion of people with a postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree.
- In both 2016 and 2021, NL ranked seventh for the proportion of individuals aged 25-64 years with a postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree (1=best and 10=worst).

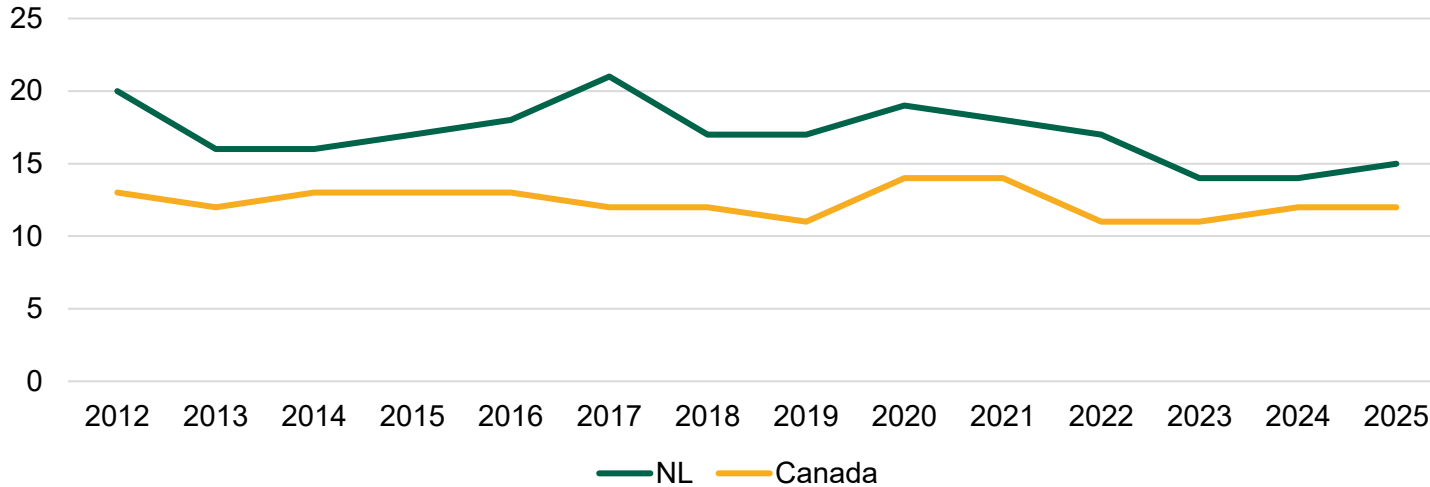
Proportion of Individuals with a Postsecondary Certificate, Diploma or Degree in NL and Canada (25-64 years) (%), 2006 to 2021



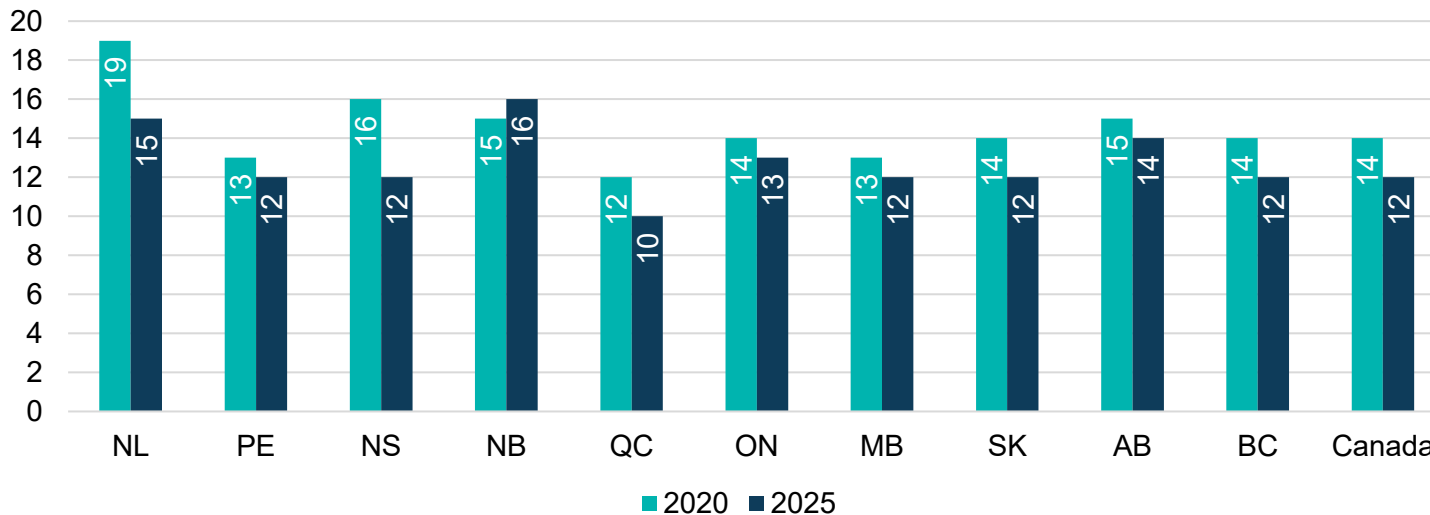
Proportion of Individuals with a Postsecondary Certificate, Diploma or Degree by Province (25-64 years) (%), 2016 and 2021



Youth Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) in NL and Canada (aged 15-29 years) (%), 2012 to 2025



Youth Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) by Province (aged 15-29 years) (%), 2020 and 2025



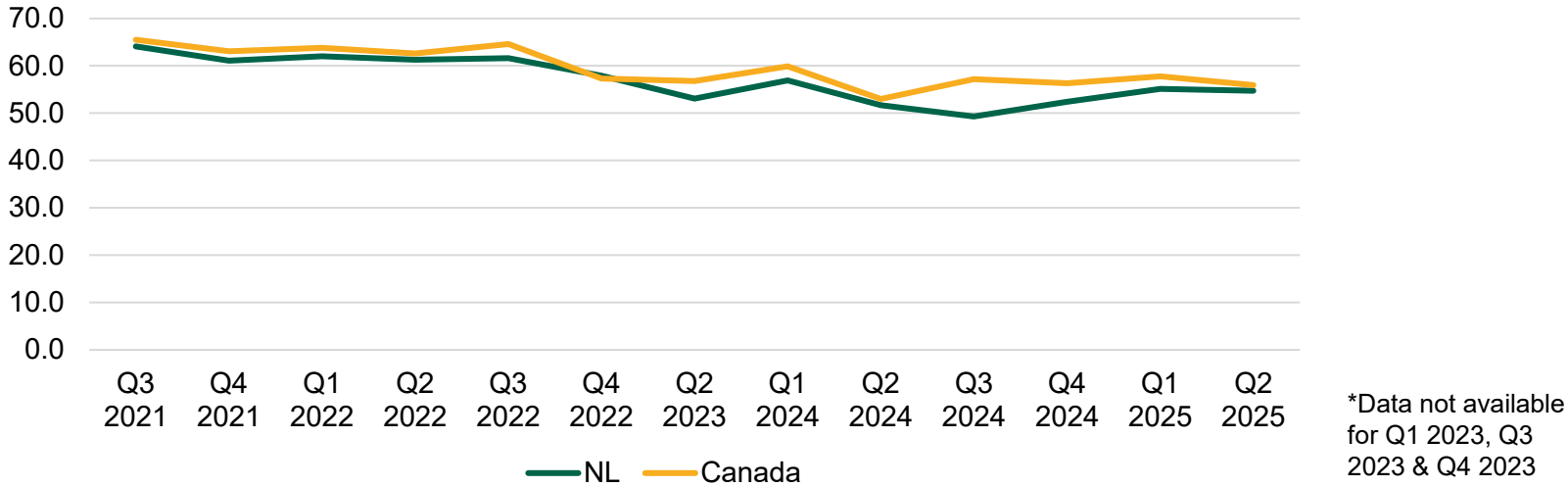
Source: Statistics Canada. Table 37-10-0196-01 Percentage of 15-to 29-year-olds in education and not in education by labour force status, highest level of education attained, age group and sex; Labour Force Survey (LFS), 2012 to 2025

Youth Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

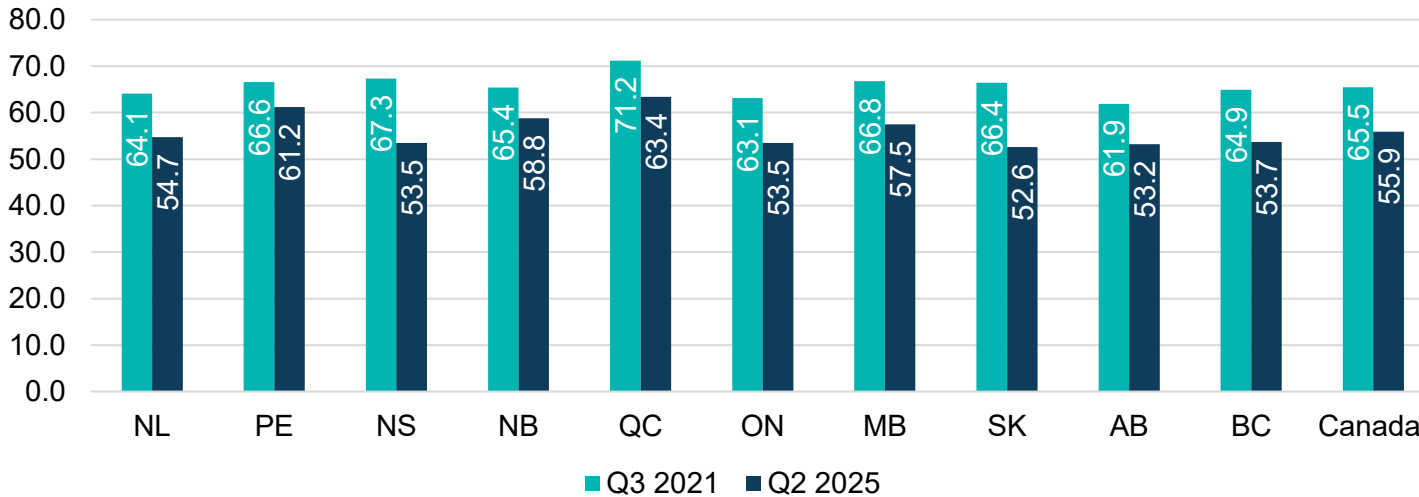
Young people who are NEET may be experiencing difficulties transitioning from school to the labour market, and could be at risk for low income and social exclusion.

- Overall, from 2012 to 2025, the percentage of youth who were NEET decreased by 25% in NL and 8% across Canada.
- From 2012 onwards, the rate of young people who were NEET was consistently higher in NL compared to Canada. In 2025, the rate of young people who were NEET was 25% higher in NL compared to Canada.
- In 2020, NL has had the highest percentage of youth who were NEET (rank 10) among the Canadian provinces and in 2025 NL ranked ninth (1=best and 10=worst).

Proportion of Individuals with a Hopeful View of the Future (Always or Often) in NL and Canada (Aged ≥15 Years) (%), Q3 2021 to Q2 2025



Proportion of Individuals with a Hopeful View of the Future (Always or Often) by Province (Aged ≥15 Years) (%), Q3 2021 and Q2 2025



Source: Statistics Canada. Table 13-10-0847-01 Future outlook by gender and province; Canadian Social Survey (CSS), Q3 2021 to Q2 2025

Future Outlook

Future outlook was measured using the following question: “Thinking about your life in general, how often would you say you have a hopeful view of the future?”. The possible response categories included: always, often, sometimes, rarely and never.

- Across Canada and in NL, having a hopeful view of the future has decreased from Q3 2021 to Q2 2025 for those aged 15 years and older.
- From Q3 2021 to Q2 2025, having a hopeful view of the future has decreased by 15% in both NL and across Canada.
- In Q3 2021, NL ranked eighth among the Canadian provinces for the proportion of individuals having a hopeful view of the future and in Q2 2025 NL ranked fifth (1=best and 10=worst).



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