

Educational Attainment, NEET Rates and Future Outlook in Newfoundland and Labrador by Sex/Gender

Objective

To compare educational attainment, youth not in employment, education or training (NEET), and future outlook in Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) and Canada by sex/gender.

Practice Points

1. Educational attainment refers to the highest level of education that a person has successfully completed. People with higher levels of education tend to have better health outcomes. Level of education is highly correlated with other social determinants of health (SDH) such as level of income, employment security, and working conditions. Being well-educated also leads to greater health literacy, a wider understanding of the implications of unhealthy behaviour and an increased ability to access health services and health information.
2. The proportion of young people (aged 15 to 29 years) who are NEET is a well-established indicator that has been regularly published by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and by Statistics Canada. 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.
3. Future outlook is based on how hopeful people feel about their future. Having a hopeful outlook is important because it is positively associated with key well-being indicators, such as life satisfaction, sense of meaning and purpose, and mental and general health.
4. Quality of Care NL acknowledges that gender expression exists on a spectrum and not as a binary. Due to limited data availability on gender as well as privacy concerns, this sex/gender-based analysis is limited to male/female or men/women. Please note, the use of the terms sex, gender, male/female and men/women in this analysis correspond with the original data sources.

Methods

1. Data on educational attainment were obtained from Statistics Canada (Census data) and compared over time in NL and Canada by gender (2006 to 2021) and between provinces by gender (2021).
2. Data on young people who are NEET were obtained from Statistics Canada. Sex differences in the prevalence of young people who are NEET was compared over time in NL and Canada (2018-2023) and between provinces (2023).
3. Data on future outlook were obtained from Statistics Canada. Future outlook was categorized into always or often has a hopeful outlook, sometimes has a hopeful outlook and rarely or never has a hopeful outlook. Future outlook was compared over time for NL and Canada by gender (Q3 2021-Q2 2024) and between provinces by gender (Q2 2024).

Results

Educational Attainment

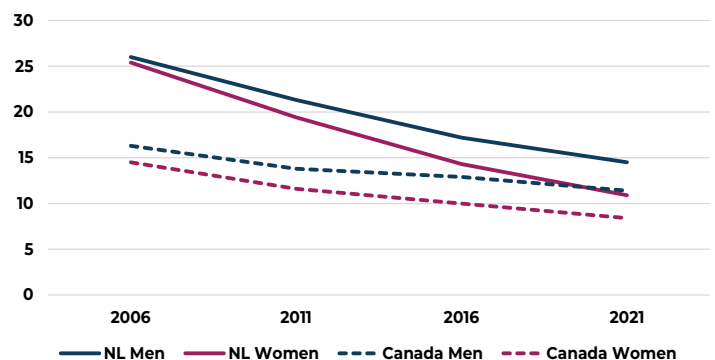


Figure 1. Proportion of Individuals with No High School Diploma in NL and Canada by Gender (25-64 years) (%), 2006 to 2021

- Overall, from 2006 to 2021, the proportion of men and women (aged 25-64 years) without a high school diploma decreased in both NL and across Canada.
- In 2021, the proportion of individuals without a high school diploma was 27% higher for men in NL compared to men in Canada and 30% higher for women in NL compared to women in Canada.

- From 2006 to 2021, the proportion of individuals without a high school diploma was higher for men compared to women in both NL and across Canada.

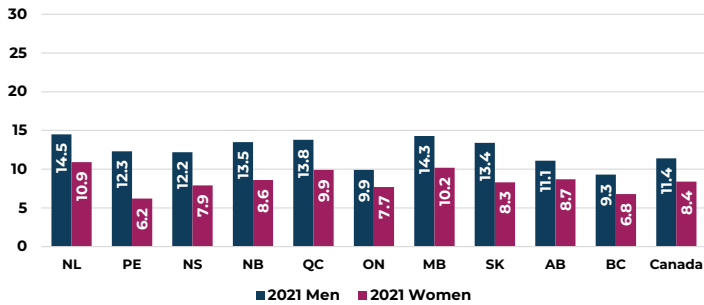


Figure 2. Proportion of Individuals with No High School Diploma by Province and Gender (25-64 years) (%), 2021

- In 2021, men and women in NL ranked tenth among the Canadian provinces for the proportion of individuals aged 25-64 years without a high school diploma (1=best and 10=worst).

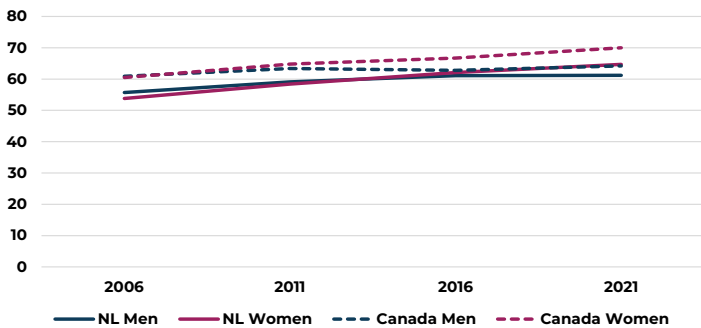


Figure 3. Proportion of Individuals with a Postsecondary Certificate, Diploma or Degree in NL and Canada by Gender (25-64 years) (%), 2006 to 2021

- Overall, from 2006 to 2021, the proportion of men and women (aged 25-64 years) with a postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree has increased slightly in both NL and across Canada. However, proportions in NL remain lower than across Canada.
- In 2021, the proportion of individuals with a postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree was 5% lower for men in NL compared to men in Canada and 8% lower for women in NL compared to women in Canada.

- From 2006 to 2021, the proportion of individuals with a postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree has increased more for women than men in both NL and across Canada.

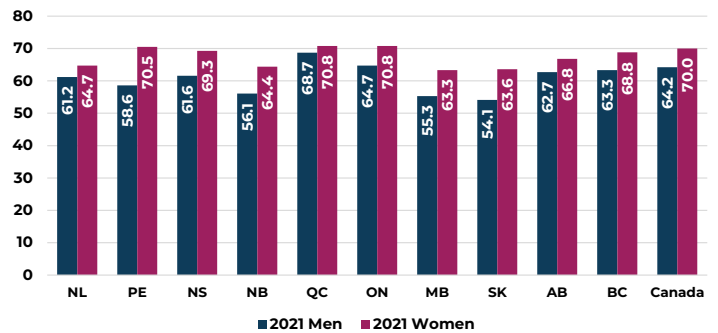


Figure 4. Proportion of Individuals with a Postsecondary Certificate, Diploma or Degree by Province and Gender (25-64 years) (%), 2021

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.

- In 2021, men in NL ranked sixth among the Canadian provinces for the proportion of individuals aged 25-64 years with a postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree and women ranked seventh (1=best and 10=worst).

Youth Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

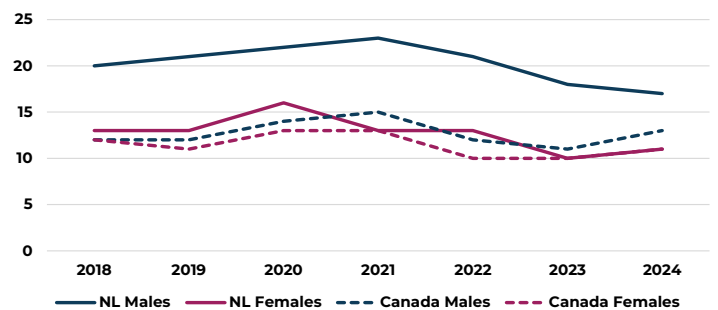


Figure 5. Youth Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) in NL and Canada by Sex (aged 15-29 years) (%), 2018 to 2024

- From 2018 to 2024, the percentage of youth who were NEET was higher for males compared to females in both NL and across Canada. The gap between males and females was much larger for NL compared to Canada.

- In 2024, the proportion of young people who were NEET was 31% higher for males in NL compared to males in Canada. For females, percentages in NL and Canada were the same.

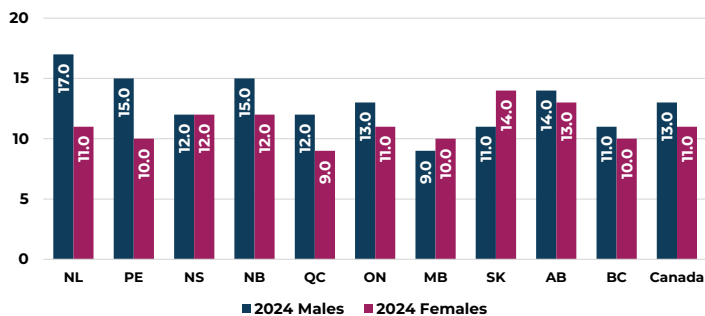
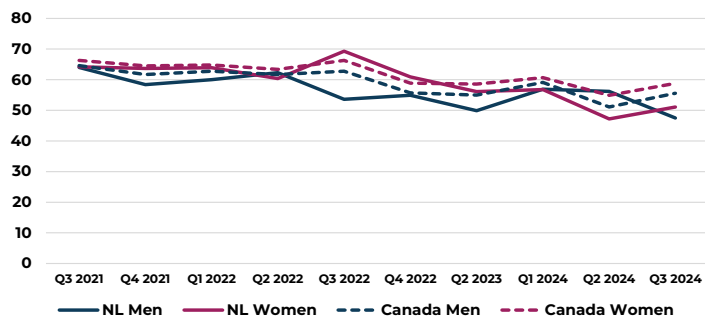


Figure 6. Youth Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) by Province and Sex (aged 15-29 years) (%), 2024

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, 2018 to 2024).

- In 2024, males in NL had the highest percentage of youth who were NEET (rank 10) among the Canadian provinces and females in NL ranked fifth (tied with ON) (1=best and 10=worst).

Future Outlook



*Data not available for Q1 2023, Q3 2023 and Q4 2023

Figure 7. Proportion of Individuals with a Hopeful View of the Future (Always or Often Hopeful) in NL and Canada by Gender (aged ≥ 15 years) (%), Q3 2021 to Q3 2024

- Overall, from Q3 2021 to Q3 2024, the proportion of men and women with a hopeful view of the future has decreased in both NL and Canada.

- From Q3 2021 to Q3 2024, having a hopeful view of the future decreased by more than 25% for men and more than 20% for women in NL (corresponding proportions for Canada were 14% for men and 11% for women).
- Having a hopeful view of the future has generally been higher for women compared to men in both NL and Canada (with a few exceptions).

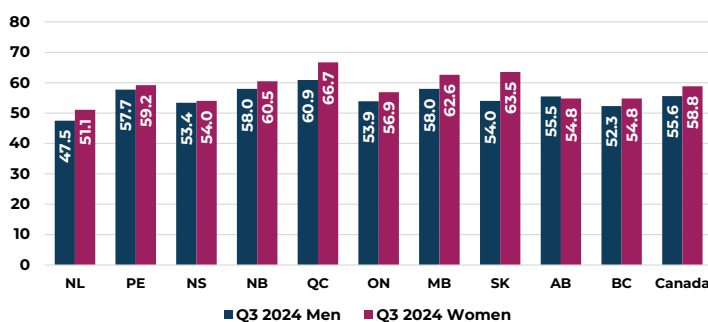


Figure 8. Proportion of Individuals with a Hopeful View of the Future (Always or Often Hopeful) by Province and Gender (aged ≥ 15 years) (%), Q3 2024

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 13-10-0848-01 Future outlook by gender and other selected sociodemographic characteristics; Canadian Social Survey (CSS), Q3 2021 to Q3 2024.

- In Q3 2024, NL had the lowest proportion of both men and women with a hopeful view of the future (rank 10) among the Canadian provinces (1=best and 10=worst).

Conclusions

- Among the Canadian provinces, NL has the highest proportion of both men and women without a high school diploma.
- In both NL and Canada, men are more likely than women to not have a high school diploma. In 2021, approximately one in seven men in NL and one in nine women in NL did not have a high school diploma. Comparable figures for Canada were one in nine for men and one in twelve for women.
- Men and women in NL are less likely to have a postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree compared to their Canadian counterparts.

4. The percentage of youth who were NEET has been higher for males compared to females in both NL and across Canada. This gap has been much larger for NL.
5. In 2024, approximately one in six males in NL were NEET compared to one in eight males in Canada. Rates for females were similar in NL and Canada at one in nine.
6. Both men and women in NL and across Canada are finding it harder to remain hopeful about their future.
7. Future outlook in NL (for both males and females) has decreased more rapidly than across Canada. In Q3 2024, NL had the lowest proportion of individuals (males and females) with a hopeful view of the future amongst the Canadian provinces.