
LEARNING

INDICATOR TYPE: Social

DOMAIN: Learning / Formal Schooling

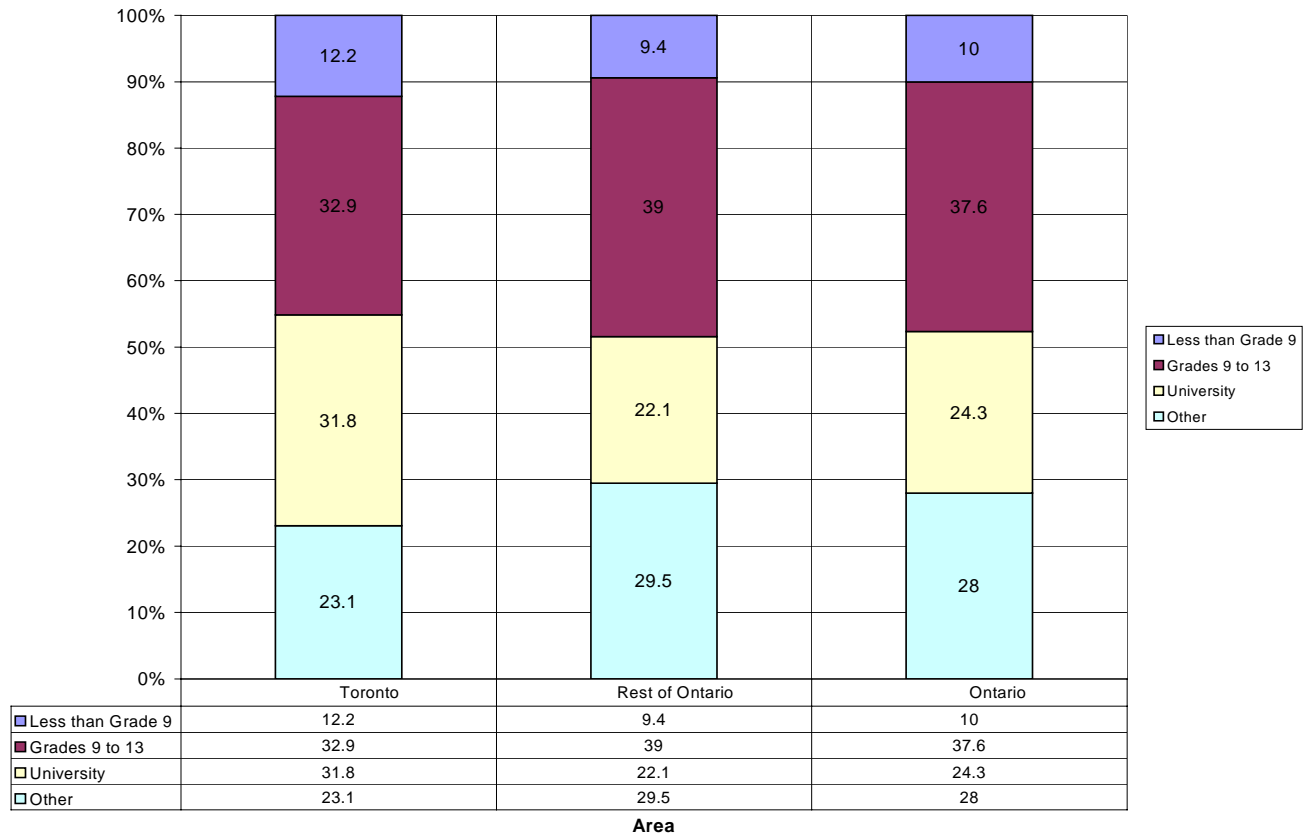
Learning is an important part of human development. Learning occurs in a variety of settings such as at home, in school with ones friends or via mass media. In general, the term “formal schooling” refers to enrollment within an institution for which accreditation is granted. The importance of formal schooling as an indicator lies in the fact that with higher levels of education there is a corresponding rise in one’s earning power. In fact, a study conducted by Community College Research Center (CCRC) at Columbia University, New York, in the fall of 1993, found that 75 percent of college freshmen cited vocational reasons for attending college, up from 50 percent in 1971 (Higher Education Research Institute, 1994). While this was an American study parallels can be drawn between American collage students and students in the GTA. Along with the important intellectual and political purposes of formal schooling, its economic value has also come to be central. The concept of human capital--of investing in education for the economic benefits it will generate in the future--has long dominated state and national policy in the United States. This view has led to an unquestioning acceptance of all schooling and training as routes to individual and collective advancement a process, which has already begun here in Canada.

[<http://www.tc.columbia.edu/~iee/ccrc/PAPERS/Briefs/Brief02.htm>]

When we track the education levels throughout the GTA as of 1996 by the highest level of formal schooling. One finds that the highest concentration of individuals with university education (both male and female) was in the downtown regions. The two exceptions to this were Mississauga and Oshawa on the east and west of the city and Newmarket and Richmond Hill to the north. These exceptions have less to due with employment or access to education than with housing cost and urban sprawl.

*According to the Educational Improvement Commission, in the 1998-1999 school year, the new Toronto District school Board served more than 27,300 students in more that 560 schools. These figures substantially exceed those involved in other amalgamations in the provinces. By way of comparison, the Peel District school Board, which served approximately 101,000 students in 176 schools, and Toronto Catholic District School Board, which served approximately 96,000 students in 222 schools over the same period are the second and third largest school boards in Ontario. The other District School Boards in the Ontario province are Thames Valley, York and Ottawa-Carleton. Each serve fewer students, employ fewer teachers, and have smaller education budgets than the new Toronto board.
[<http://eic.yy.net/eicroot/english/board/prog/allboards/Toronto/main.asp>]

Educational Level of Population (aged 15 +) - 1996



Source: Toronto District Health Council, Toronto Profile III

Difficulties: One of the primary difficulties with this variable is that the educational break down can be skewed by the actual location of the institutions themselves. If we look at the location of York University for example, the area immediately surrounding the institution would house a high proportion of the student body and thus have a disproportional high concentration of university students and graduates. Unfortunately, for data collection purposes it has been lumped with the Jane Finch corridor, which has a high concentration of first generation immigrants, individuals who are unlikely to have post secondary education. The resulting problem is that since the data collection is not sufficiently refined to catch these subtle shifts in educational demographics, it appears that the GTA is relatively uniform in its educational distribution. This can lead to misleading generalizations about the educational breakdown of communities.

Future Prospects: In future it would be nice to be able to ascertain the level of education in minority communities as the correlation between education and employability and economic success is believed to be significant. It would also be useful to ascertain the level of residents with multiple post secondary degrees or postgraduate education as well as their areas of concentration or specialization.

Education is a useful indicator of socioeconomic status. Research has demonstrated a relationship between lower levels of education (i.e. less than nine years of formal education) and the following conditions: unskilled jobs, high unemployment, unfavourable living conditions, and a greater occurrence of disability and health problems. For this reason tracking the proportion of population 15 years and over with less than Grade 9 Education 1996 is a useful gauge of the Quality of Life of the residents of the GTA.

Description: This indicator compares the proportion of people 15 years and over who left school before the ninth grade to the total non-institutionalized population 15 years and over.

TRENDS: Toronto has higher levels of education than the rest of Ontario and Ontario as a whole. It also has the highest percentage of residents with less than a grade nine education. School performance is one of the best and most stable predictors of adult offending. Poor school performance and a weak bond to school will increase the probability of misbehavior in school, and this in turn provokes disciplinary reactions. This escalates through elementary and secondary school, leading to a higher level of adolescent delinquency and eventually to adult offending.

Educational attainment and income

There is a close relationship between education attainment and income level. It is also apparent that in terms of personal income, Ontario residents fair better than the national average at all levels of education. While it is obvious that residents of Ontario make more than the national average, what is unclear is whether they actually have more disposable income at the end of the day given the high cost of living in Toronto versus the cost of living in other large urban centers. What is also unclear from the data is whether or not most individuals with comparable level of education are being paid the same sum or if one or two percent of the population is pulling the average up or down.

Average Personal Income
By Educational Attainment and Age
Ontario and Canada - 1995

	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69
Canada											
No Degree, Certificate or Diploma	\$ 12,766	\$ 18,596	\$ 25,978	\$ 29,995	\$ 32,835	\$ 35,058	\$ 36,177	\$ 36,369	\$ 33,698	\$ 32,570	\$ 28,061
High School Graduate	\$ 12,560	\$ 18,635	\$ 26,509	\$ 30,615	\$ 33,832	\$ 35,650	\$ 37,158	\$ 38,234	\$ 37,888	\$ 37,317	\$ 36,800
Post-Secondary Certificate or Diploma	\$ 15,972	\$ 20,610	\$ 28,614	\$ 34,182	\$ 37,906	\$ 39,192	\$ 40,185	\$ 41,142	\$ 39,859	\$ 38,561	\$ 35,476
University Bachelor's Degree	\$ 42,886	\$ 23,054	\$ 33,243	\$ 43,495	\$ 51,982	\$ 55,095	\$ 56,560	\$ 58,688	\$ 60,266	\$ 61,202	\$ 72,133
University Masters' Degree	\$ 36,443	\$ 22,905	\$ 36,524	\$ 49,158	\$ 59,070	\$ 64,406	\$ 65,541	\$ 69,929	\$ 66,565	\$ 60,258	\$ 62,409
University Doctoral Degree	\$ 66,806	\$ 15,121	\$ 33,055	\$ 43,511	\$ 55,829	\$ 66,031	\$ 71,450	\$ 79,566	\$ 80,339	\$ 79,097	\$ 71,908
University Professional Degree	\$ 12,941	\$ 25,936	\$ 48,762	\$ 81,612	\$ 101,678	\$ 107,810	\$ 114,096	\$ 120,558	\$ 114,334	\$ 114,105	\$ 115,876
All Categories	\$ 13,181	\$ 19,551	\$ 28,769	\$ 34,837	\$ 38,909	\$ 41,164	\$ 42,717	\$ 43,521	\$ 41,018	\$ 39,165	\$ 37,788
Ontario											
No Degree, Certificate or Diploma	\$ 13,070	\$ 19,793	\$ 27,744	\$ 32,054	\$ 35,215	\$ 37,350	\$ 38,772	\$ 38,910	\$ 36,288	\$ 36,091	\$ 32,431
High School Graduate	\$ 13,061	\$ 19,560	\$ 27,713	\$ 32,254	\$ 35,803	\$ 37,821	\$ 39,556	\$ 40,976	\$ 40,638	\$ 38,366	\$ 40,272
Post-Secondary Certificate or Diploma	\$ 18,612	\$ 21,912	\$ 29,993	\$ 36,345	\$ 40,059	\$ 41,220	\$ 42,517	\$ 43,895	\$ 42,302	\$ 40,491	\$ 38,609
University Bachelor's Degree	\$ 34,977	\$ 23,876	\$ 34,447	\$ 46,240	\$ 55,526	\$ 58,024	\$ 60,547	\$ 62,982	\$ 64,714	\$ 66,125	\$ 70,952
University Masters' Degree	\$ 51,791	\$ 26,313	\$ 39,071	\$ 52,325	\$ 64,511	\$ 69,504	\$ 70,199	\$ 74,658	\$ 70,344	\$ 63,920	\$ 73,934
University Doctoral Degree	\$ 70,762		\$ 30,897	\$ 45,241	\$ 58,509	\$ 68,339	\$ 76,592	\$ 82,011	\$ 85,694	\$ 79,862	\$ 70,667
University Professional Degree		\$ 22,115	\$ 52,061	\$ 88,274	\$ 110,415	\$ 116,392	\$ 122,392	\$ 131,369	\$ 128,987	\$ 122,400	\$ 122,750
All Categories	\$ 13,796	\$ 20,641	\$ 30,217	\$ 37,204	\$ 41,808	\$ 43,955	\$ 45,927	\$ 46,912	\$ 44,224	\$ 42,234	\$ 41,971

Source: 1996 Canada Census

Supporting Data/Information: Toronto profile III Part 1 (pg. 67-69)
Ontario Universities – 1998 Resource Document 9 (Section 9) [available at:
www.cou.on.ca/publications/briefs_reports/online_pubs/resdoc98.pdf]

