



PART III

High School Indicators



Chapter 9: Early School Leavers

While the majority of high school students graduate, some will not. This chapter will look at this group of young people who leave school before graduating using two different indicators - the early school leaver rate (a provincial measure) and the dropout rate (a national measure). While these two rates measure the same concept, they are calculated differently and may not result in the same value.

Early School Leaver Rate defined

The Early School Leaver Rate (ESLR) is calculated by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and is based on high school enrolment. Once a school registers a student for his/her first high school course, s/he is recorded in the high school certification system. Each student is then tracked until he/she either graduates, or does not show up in a subsequent year in the high school certification system. A list of students who did not graduate and are not registered for high school courses is sent to each school in the province. The principal is asked to identify the status of these students – if they dropped out of school, moved out of the province, etc. This information is used to calculate the ESLR for a given year by following this formula:

$$\text{ESLR} = \frac{\text{Number of students identified by principals as having dropped out of school}}{\text{Total number of students registered in high school}} \times 100\%$$

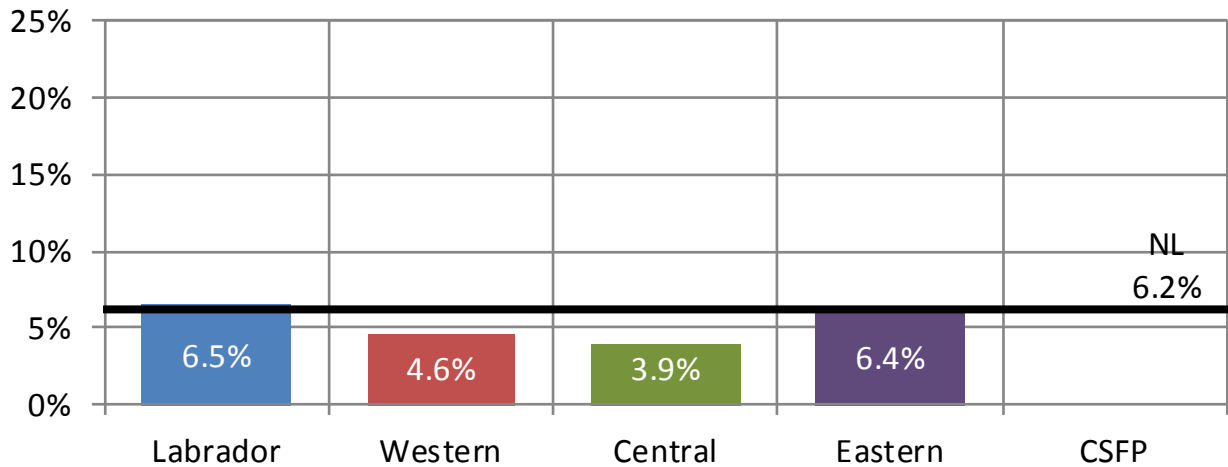
The dropout rate is determined by Statistics Canada using information collected from the monthly Labour Force Survey. It is calculated by dividing the number of young people between 20 and 24 years of age who do not have a high school diploma and are not attending school, by the total number of all 20 to 24 year olds.



Provincial Early School Leaver Rate

In 2013/14¹, the provincial ESLR was 6.2% down from 6.9% in 2012/13. At the district and regional levels, the ESLR ranged from 3.5% in the Western region to 6.5% in the Labrador region (see figure 32). In terms of gender, the male ESLR was higher than the female rate (6.5% vs. 5.9%).

Figure 32: Early School Leaver Rate (2013/14)



(Source: Table 32)

1 This is the most recent year available at the time of publication.

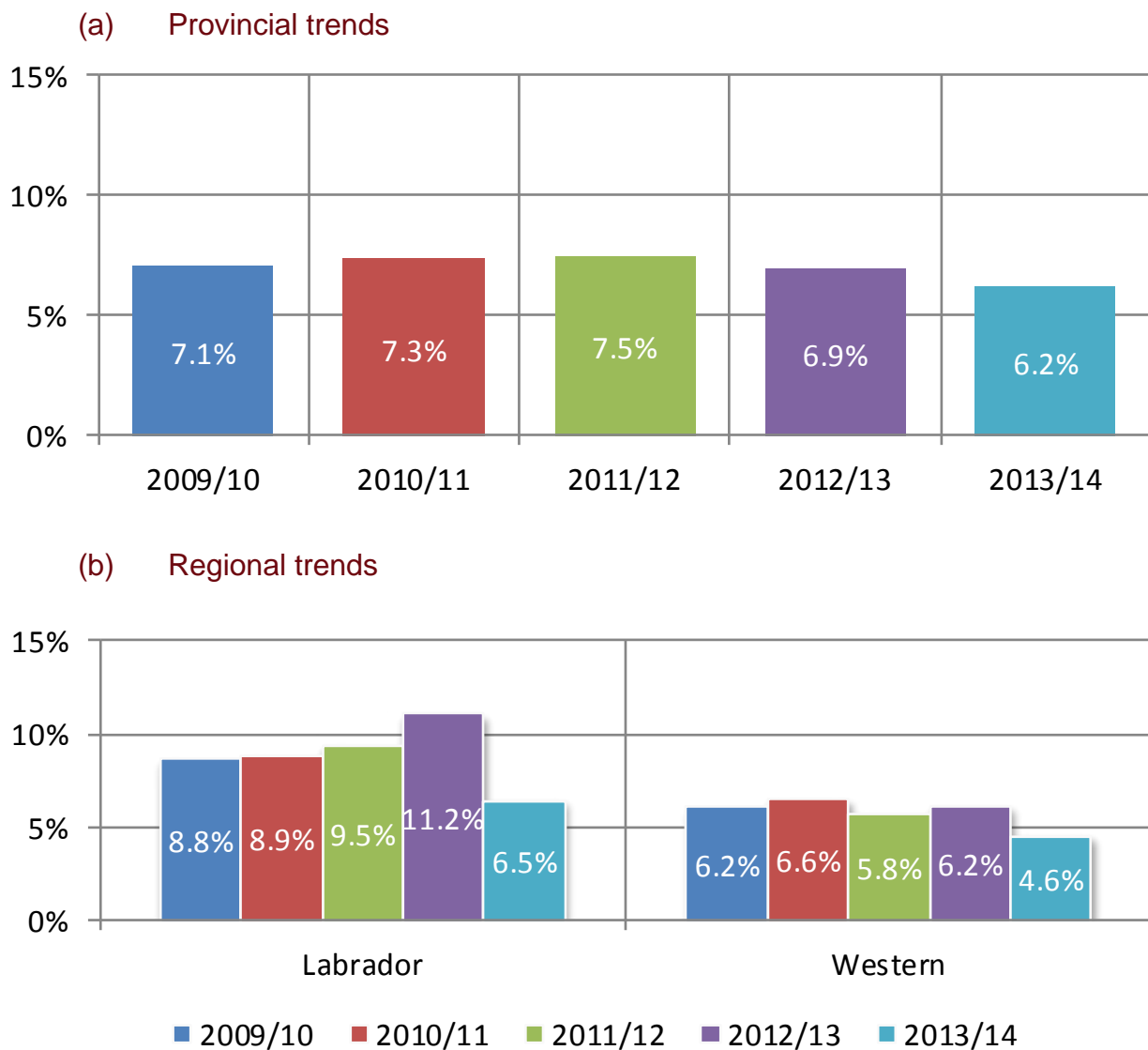


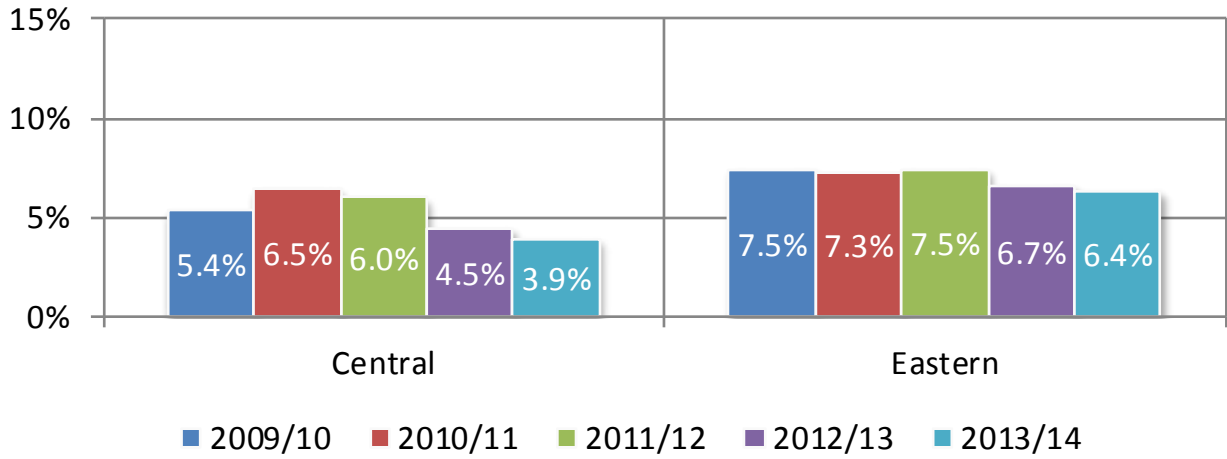
Trends in the Early School Leaver Rate

After increasing slightly between 2009/10 and 2011/12, the ESLR declined over the next two years from 7.5% in 2011/12 to 6.2% in 2012/13 (see figure 33a). With the exception of the Labrador region, a similar downward trend was seen at the regional level. In Labrador, the ESLR rate increased slightly each year and peaked at 11.2% in 2012/13 before declining sharply to 6.5% in 2013/14 (see figure 33b). While the CSFP ESLR rate is not reported due to small numbers of early school leavers, it is reported in table 33 in Appendix A.

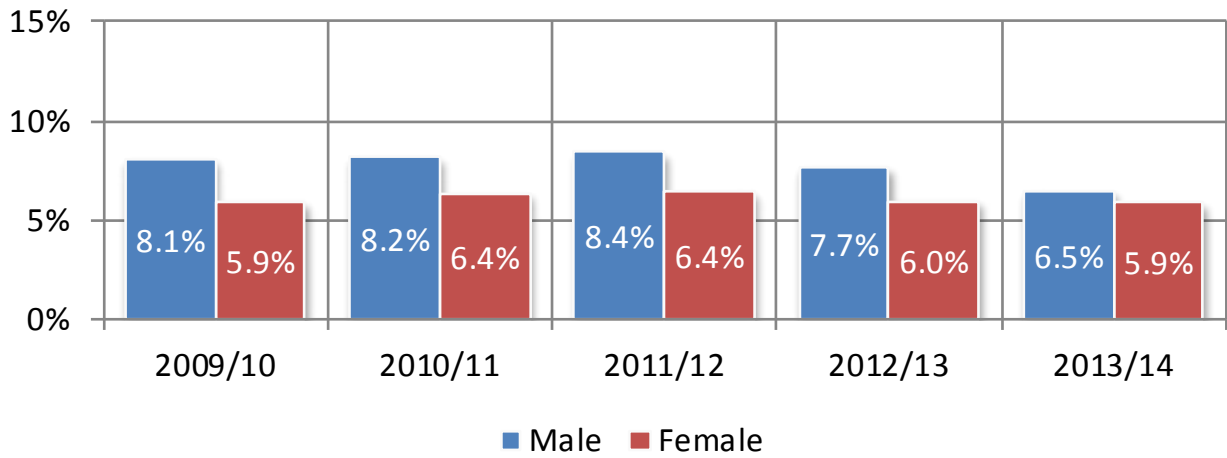
In terms of gender, the male ESLR was consistently higher than the female rate but this difference is narrowing. While the female rate remained fairly stable between 2009/10 and 2013/14, the male rate has been on the decline. By 2013/14, less than one percentage point separated the male and female ESL rate (see figure 33c).

Figure 33: Trends in the Early School Leaver Rate (2009/10 – 2013/14)





(c) Gender trends



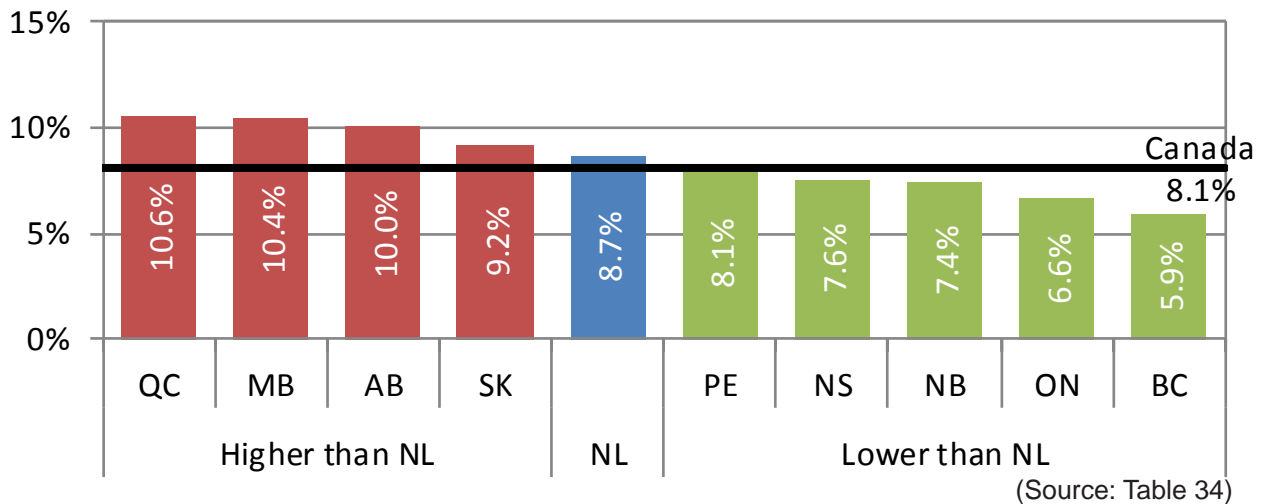
(Source: Table 33)



Dropout rate across Canada

In 2012², the dropout rate³ ranged from 5.9% in British Columbia to 10.6% in Quebec. In Newfoundland and Labrador, the rate was 8.7% which was higher than the Canadian rate of 8.1%. There were four provinces with a higher dropout rate than Newfoundland and Labrador and five with a lower dropout rate (see figure 34).

Figure 34: Dropout rates across Canada (2012)



2 Information on the Canadian and jurisdictional dropout rates is provided from Statistics Canada. 2012 is the most recent data available at the time of publication.

3 The dropout rates provided in this section are based on a three-year moving average. Academic years are from September to April and are recorded to reflect the end of the academic period under examination (e.g., the 2012 dropout rate is based on the average for 2009/10 to 2011/12).