



FFE Fast Facts: Education levels of FFE Caregivers

Social Determinants of Health: Education

Education contributes to health and prosperity for individuals and families.

Education gives knowledge and skills for problem solving and provides a sense of control and mastery over life situations. Education increases job opportunities, income security and job satisfaction.

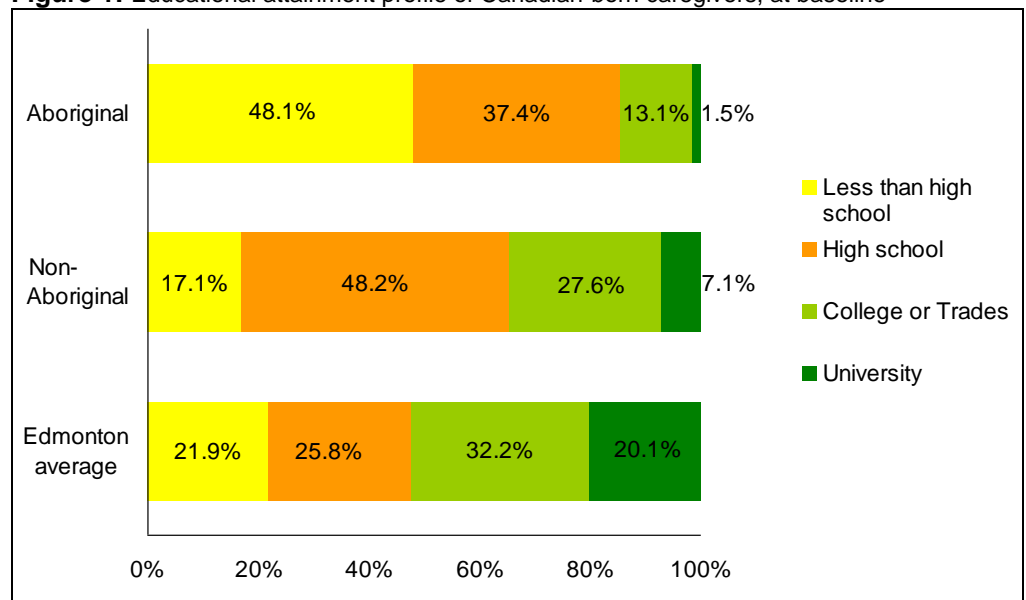
Education improves people's ability to access and understand information to help keep them healthy.¹

Educational attainment is a well recognized social determinant of health. A recent Statistics Canada report shows that citizens who have higher levels of education are also more likely to have better jobs, live in safer homes, and report better physical and mental health.¹

Families First Edmonton caregivers who were born in Canada have lower educational attainment than city averages ...

2006 Canada Census figures show that approximately half of Edmonton citizens who are older than 15 years of age have a college diploma, trades certificate, or university credentials.² Compared to the city average, the Canadian-born caregivers who participated in the *Families First Edmonton* project report lower levels of education. For example, 14.6% of Aboriginal caregivers and 34.7% of non-Aboriginal caregivers report holding post-secondary educational credentials (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Educational attainment profile of Canadian-born caregivers, at baseline



Source: Families First Edmonton³

Families First Edmonton caregivers who were born outside of Canada have high levels of education if foreign credentials are considered ...



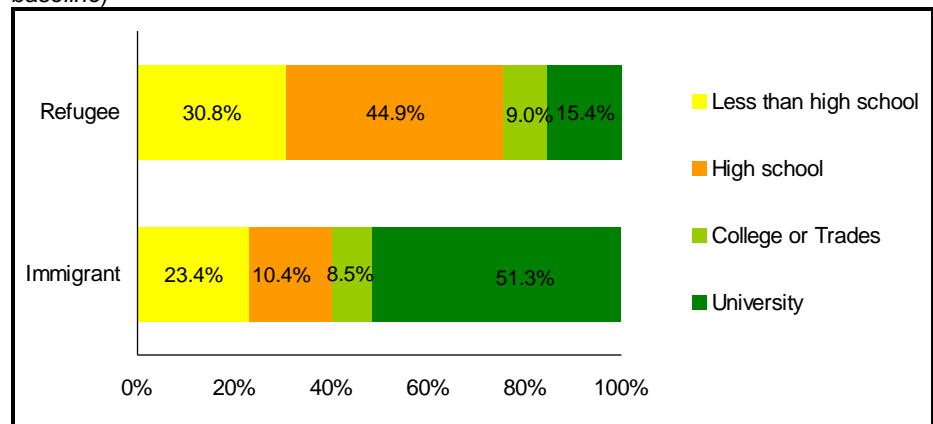
Families First Edmonton

Families First Edmonton is a research project to determine whether delivering health, family support and recreation services in a coordinated way can lead to better outcomes for low-income families.

Very few foreign-born caregivers hold Canadian credentials (62% of immigrant caregivers and 73% of refugee caregivers do not hold Canadian credentials). However, this group does report high levels of educational attainment if credentials earned outside of Canada are considered (Figure 2).

Approximately half of the immigrant caregivers and 15% of the refugee caregivers report holding foreign university credentials (Figure 2). When compared to City of Edmonton statistics, immigrant caregivers are more than twice as likely to hold university credentials as the average Edmonton citizen (20.1%).

Figure 2: Education attainment profile of foreign-born caregivers (*Foreign credentials, at baseline*)



Source: Families First Edmonton³

Two out of every three *Families First Edmonton* caregivers also report previous engagement in training programs that concentrate on employment skills, work experience, or life skills. Overall, refugee caregivers report the most involvement in these programs (90%). Approximately four of five immigrant caregivers have taken a training program, as have approximately 68% of Aboriginal caregivers. Canadian-born caregivers who are non-Aboriginal report the least engagement in training programs (47%).

Things to Consider:

- Can your service/agency provide information about existing training opportunities for low-income adults and children to help them improve their education levels?
- Have you audited the literacy levels of your service's promotional materials? How do you accommodate the needs of families with different educational levels?
- Can you work collaboratively or in partnership with educational institutions to support low-income families?



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Bibliography

¹ Public Health Agency of Canada. *What Makes Canadians Healthy or Unhealthy?* Retrieved April 11, 2011 from: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ph-sp/determinants/determinants-eng.php>

² 2006 Canada Census. Retrieved April 11, 2011 from: <http://www12.statcan.ca/census-recensement/index-eng.cfm>

³ Education/Employment Baseline Data Presentation to FFE Steering Committee, October 8, 2010. www.familiesfirstedmonton.ualberta.ca