



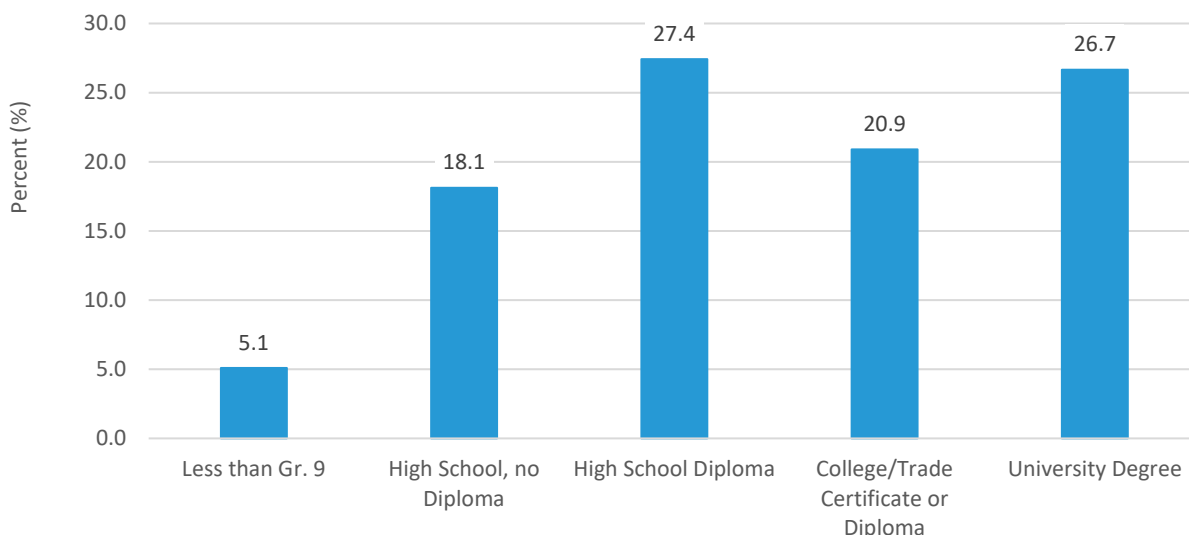
Education 2024 NWT Community Survey

Every five years, the Northwest Territories (NWT) Bureau of Statistics conducts a survey in all NWT communities to collect information on indicators such as education, the labour market, housing conditions, and traditional activities. This report focusses on education-related findings from the 2024 NWT Community Survey.

Highest Level of Schooling

In 2024, 27.4% of the population 15 years and older, or 9,928 out of 36,201 NWT residents, had a high school diploma as their highest level of schooling, closely followed by those with a university degree (26.7%). Females, non-Indigenous persons, persons 25 to 49 years old, and those living in larger NWT communities were more likely to have a high school diploma or higher education levels.

Figure 1: Highest Level of Schooling, Population 15 Yrs. & Older, NWT 2024

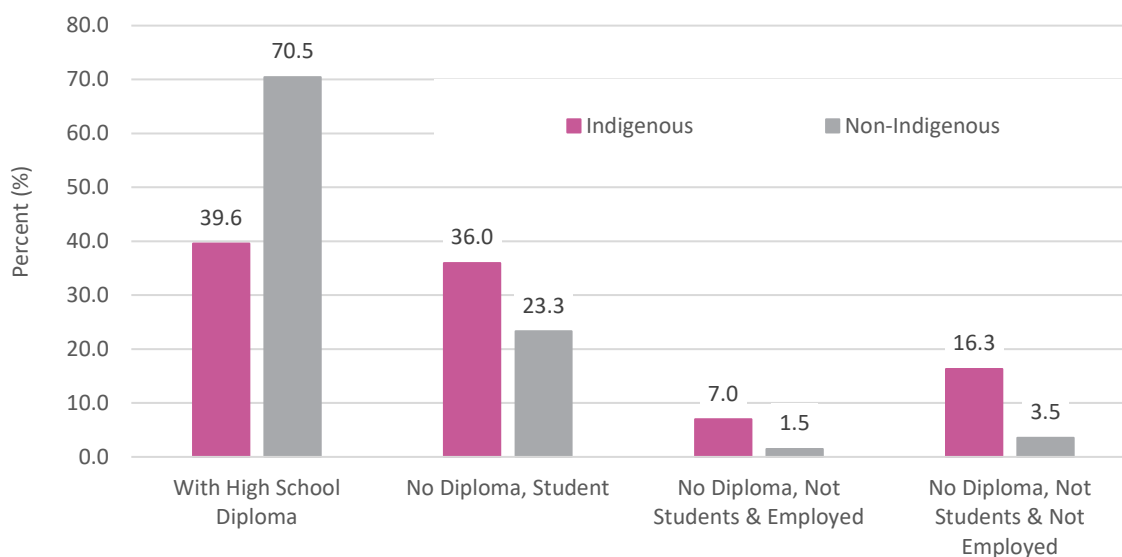


Youth 15-24 Years Old

A high school diploma is a key indicator of employability and income potential. Although the average age of high school graduation is 18 years, education statistics often include individuals from 15 years and older. In 2024, the majority (68.5%) of NWT youth aged 15 to 19 had not yet completed high school.

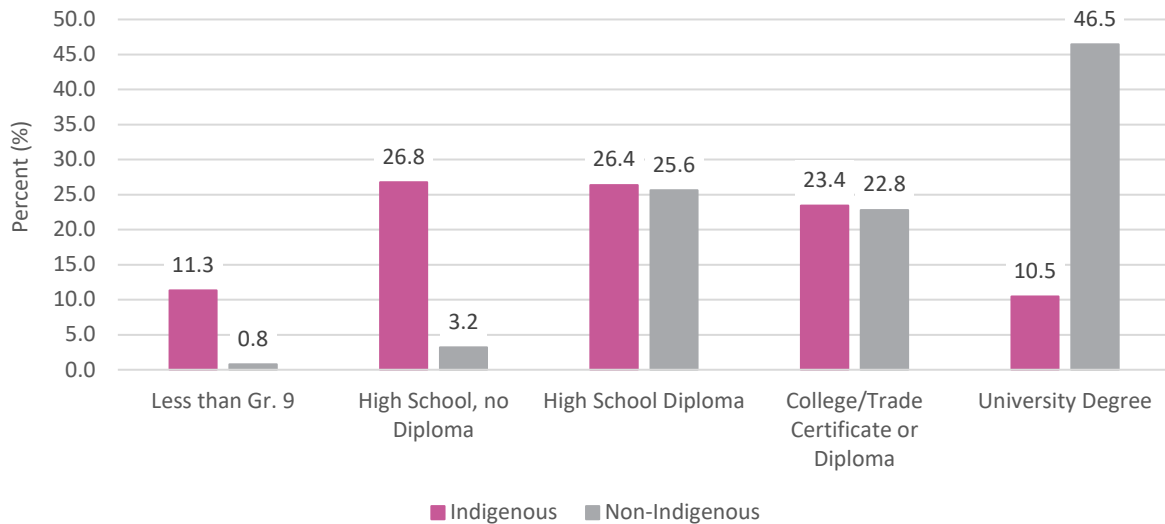
Among Indigenous youth aged 15 to 24, 76% (2,659 out of 3,519) had either completed high school or were enrolled in school, compared to 94% (2,105 out of 2,245) of non-Indigenous youth. Approximately 7% of Indigenous youth were working but did not have a high school diploma, and they were not attending school. About 16% were neither working, attending school, nor completed high school.

Figure 2: High School Diploma Status, Population 15 to 24 Years, NWT 2024



Differences in formal education levels between Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons were consistent across all age categories. Of the population 25 years and older, 38% of Indigenous persons had less than a high school diploma as their highest level of schooling compared to 4% of non-Indigenous persons. Rates of those with high school diplomas or college or trades were similar between the two groups (Figure 3).

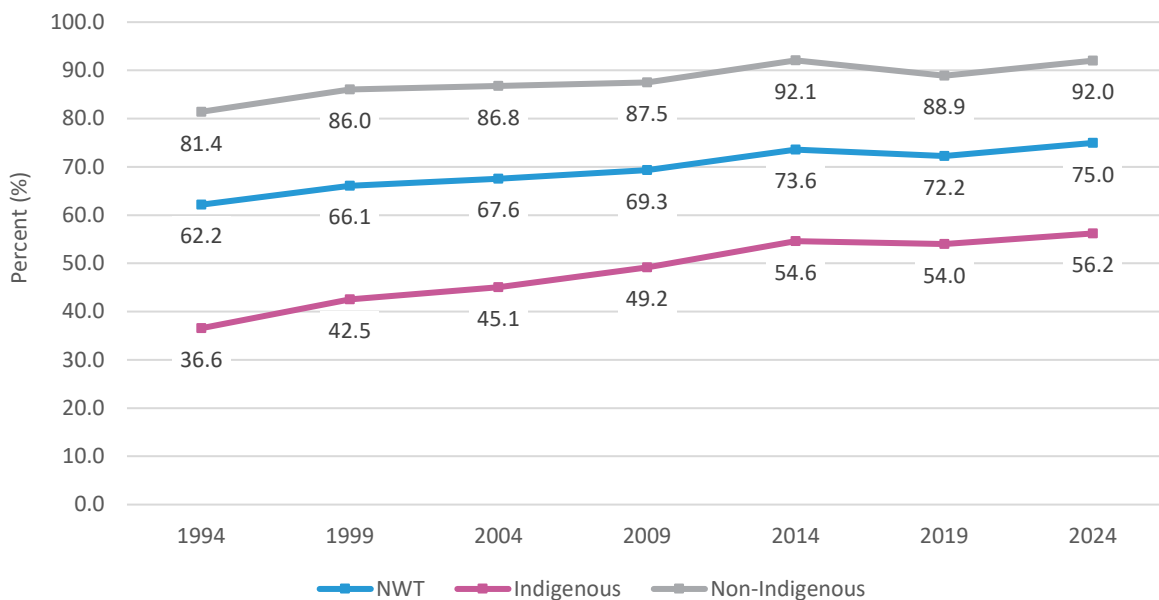
Figure 3: Highest Level of Schooling, Population 25 Years & Older, NWT 2024



Historical Comparisons

Education levels have been increasing in the NWT over the past 30 years. In 1994, 62% of the overall NWT population had a high school diploma, college diploma, trade certificate or a university degree compared to 75% in 2024. Over that time, the share of persons whose highest level of education was a high school diploma or higher increased by 20 percentage points among Indigenous persons and by 10.6 percent points among non-Indigenous persons, reaching 56.2% and 92% in 2024, respectively (Figure 4).

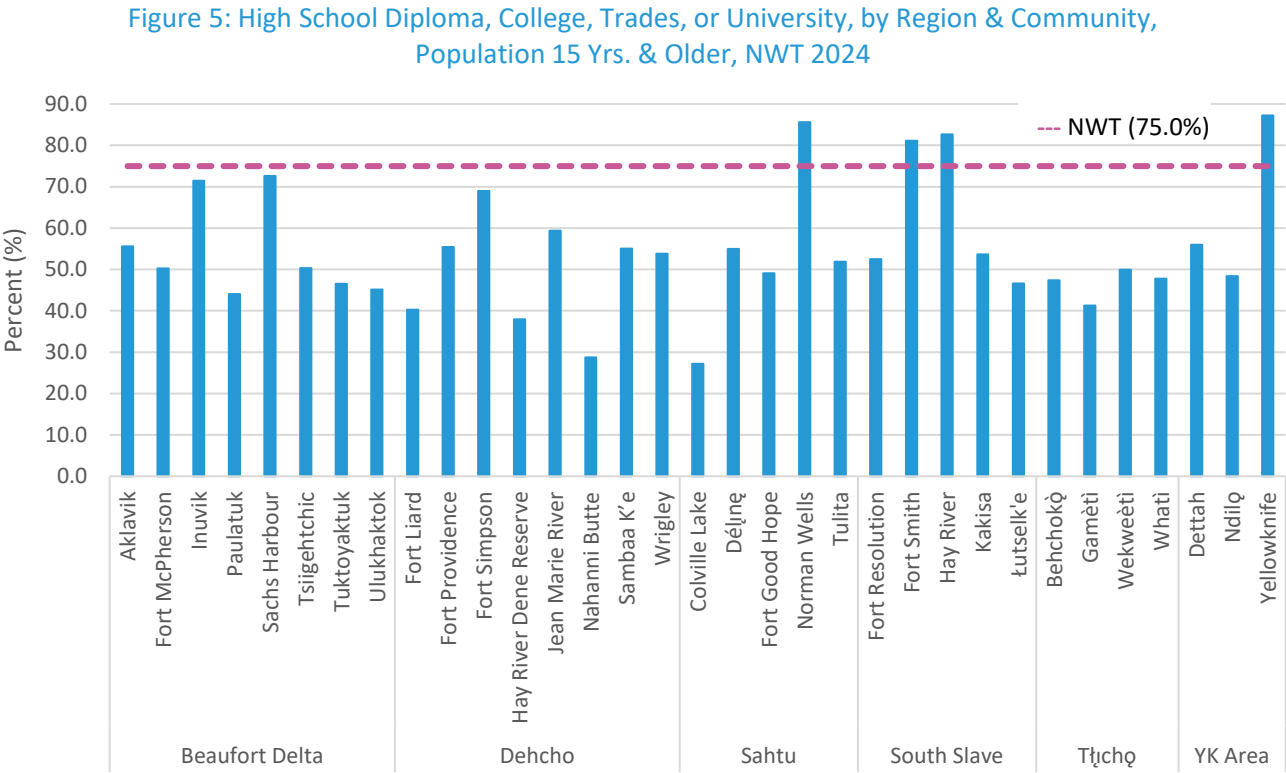
Figure 4: High School Diploma, College, Trades or University, Population 15 Yrs. & Older, NWT 1994 to 2024



In 2024, 77% of all females 15 years and older had a high school diploma or higher compared to 73% of males. The proportion of females with a university degree increased from 14% in 1994 to 32% in 2024. In comparison, 22% of males held a university degree in 2024, with high school diplomas (27%) and completion of college or trades (24%) being more common among males.

Highest Level of Schooling by Community

In general, larger NWT communities had higher levels of formal education compared to smaller communities. This was evident when comparing regional centres to smaller communities within the region, with the exception of the Beaufort Delta and the Tłıchq Regions. In the Beaufort Delta, 72.6% of Sachs Harbour residents had completed high school or higher, slightly surpassing Inuvik at 71.4%. Similarly, in Tłıchq, Wekweètì (49.9%) was slightly higher than the regional centre of Behchokò (47.4%). The rest of the regional centers, Fort Simpson, Norman Wells, Fort Smith, Hay River, and Yellowknife all had higher proportions of residents with education levels of a high school diploma or above compared to the smaller regional communities.

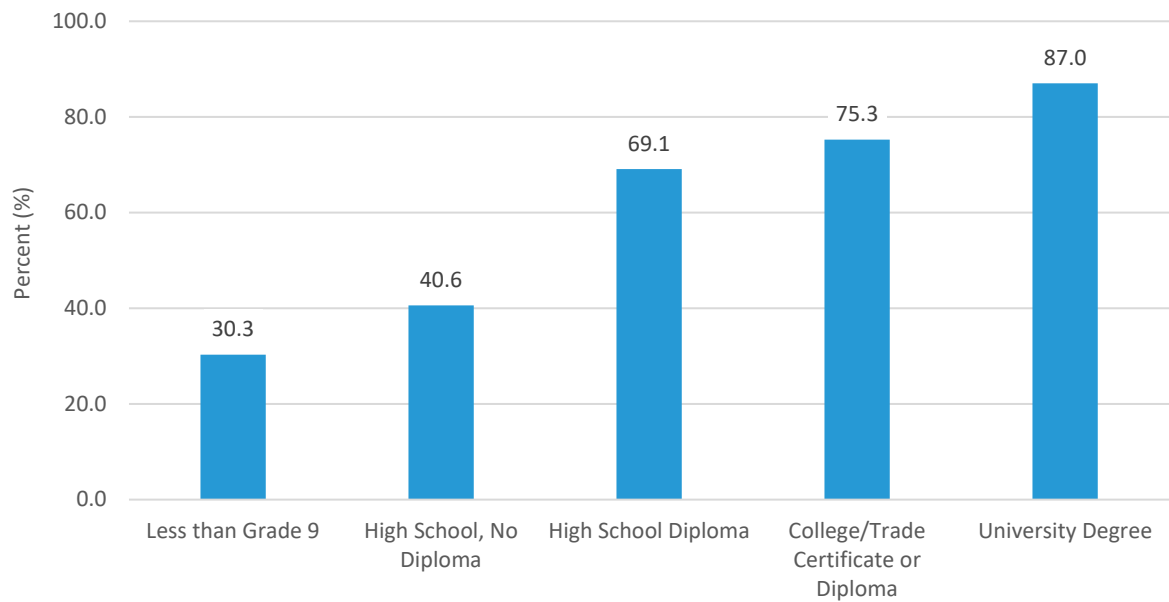


*The community of Enterprise was not included in the 2024 NWT Community Survey due to the impacts of the 2023 wildfires within the community.

Education Levels and Labour Force Activity

Education levels and corresponding employment rates indicated the relationship between formal education and employability. In 2024, NWT employment rates among persons 15 years and older ranged from 30% for those with less than grade 9 as their highest level of education to 87% for university graduates. This pattern of employment rates increasing with rising formal education levels were similar between males and females, Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons, and those aged 25 to 59.

Figure 6: Employment Rates by Highest Level of Schooling, Population 15 Yrs. & Older, NWT 2024



Labour supply looks at people who are not working and who would like a job. Persons with less than a high school education were overrepresented in the labour supply, accounting for 44% (1,495 out of 3,392), despite comprising 23% of the population 15 years and older. Among those with less than high school education who were looking for work, 66% lived in communities other than Yellowknife, Inuvik, Hay River or Fort Smith, 58% were male, and 58% were between the ages of 25 to 59 years.

For additional information on labour force results from the 2024 NWT Community Survey, visit the NWT Bureau of Statistics website at www.statsnwt.ca or call 1-888-STATSNT (1-888-762-8768).