

IALSS 2003

Key Policy Research Findings

Presented by

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Note: Preliminary analysis, some data may change

Key policy research questions for literacy policy and programming

- What is the level of literacy proficiency in Canada across provinces and territories? What are the implications?
- How do provinces compare nationally and internationally?
- How proficient are Canadians in different component skills?
- Since the proportion with low literacy did not change for Canada, were there changes in performance among the provinces?

Measurement of adult competencies

IALS

- **Conducted in 1994**
- **Domains:**
 - Prose
 - Document
 - Quantitative
- **Participating regions:**
Atlantic, Québec, Ontario, Western Canada (including British Columbia)
- **In Canada, 4500 respondents aged 16-65 representing 18,450,260 adults**

IALSS

- **Conducted in 2003**
- **Domains:**
 - Prose
 - Document
 - Numeracy (modified)*
 - Problem solving*
- **Participating provinces:**
All provinces and territories
- **In Canada, 20,000 respondents age 16-65 representing 21,360,683 adults**

Literacy proficiency: the ability to *understand* and *employ* printed information in daily activities, at home, at work and in the community. It is not about whether or not one can read but how well one reads.

4 Domains, measure skills at five levels :

- **Prose:** The knowledge and skills needed to understand and use information from texts including editorials, news stories, brochures and instruction manuals.
- **Document:** The knowledge and skills required to locate and use information contained in various formats, including job applications, payroll forms, transportation schedules, maps, tables, and charts.
- **Numeracy:** The knowledge and skills required to apply arithmetic operations, either alone or sequentially, to numbers embedded in printed materials, such as balancing an account, figuring out a tip, completing an order form or determining the amount of interest on a loan from an advertisement .
- **Problem Solving:** Involves goal-directed thinking and action in situations for which no routine solution procedure is available. The understanding of the problem situation and its step-by-step transformation, based on planning and reasoning constitute the process of problem solving. (Only four proficiency levels)

Prose, document and numeracy scale

- Level 1 0 - 225 points
- Level 2 226 -275 points
- Level 3 **276-325 points***
- Level 4 326 -375 points
- Level 5 376 -500 points

* Proficiency level for modern economy and knowledge-based society

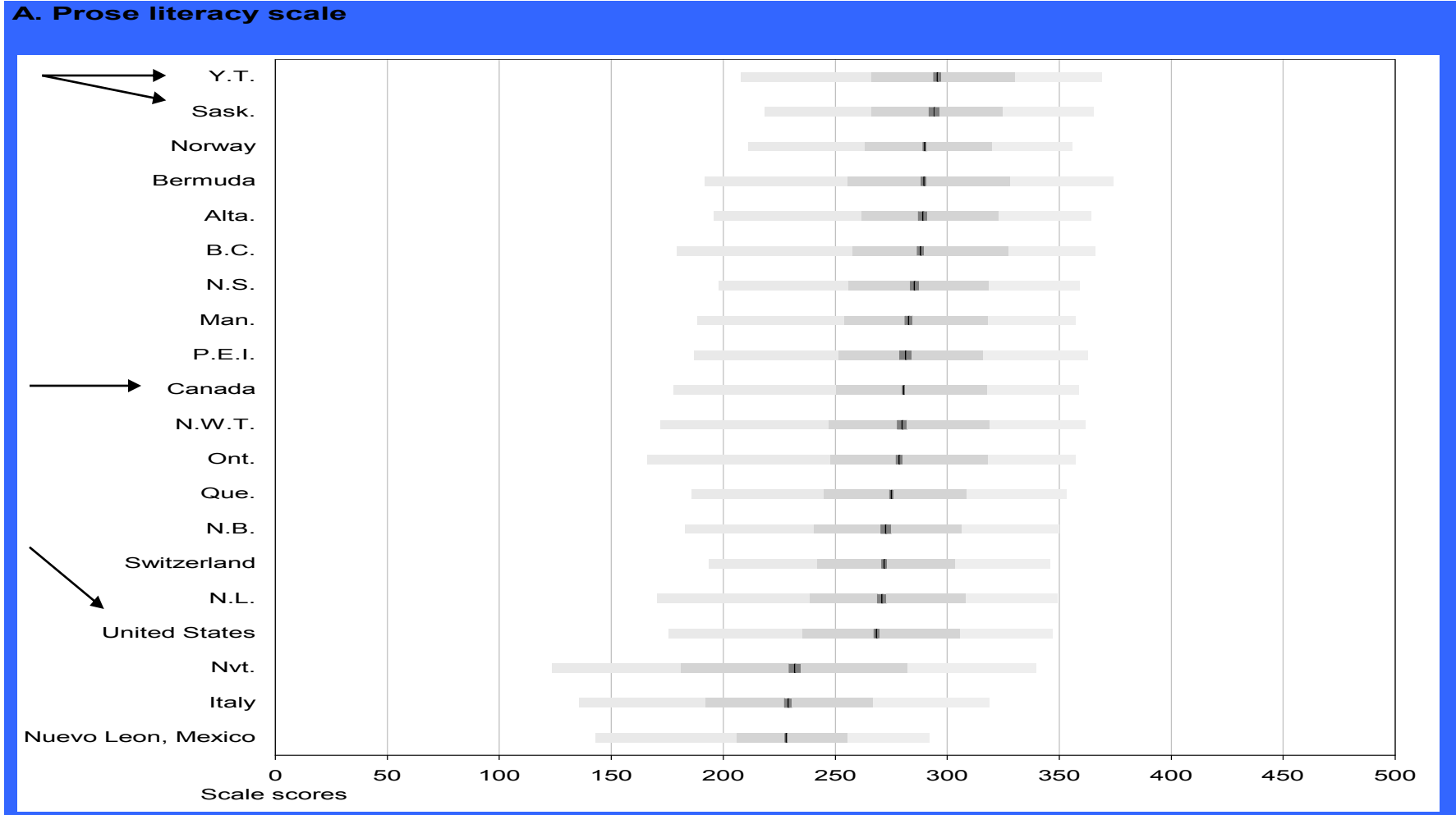
Key Indicators of Literacy Performance and their Implications

- **The Average Score for the Population:** Ideally the average score should be level 3, above 276 points. This indicates that the population as a whole has a literacy level appropriate for working in a modern economy.
- **The Average Score for Each Domain:** The average score for Prose and Document Literacy and Numeracy should be above level 3. The standard is not as clear for Problem Solving. If the average for one of literacy or numeracy is below level 3, it can affect the types of jobs that can be supported in the economy and future growth.
- **The Relative Standing in National Comparison:** If provincial averages are below the national average and if their average is lower than that of adjacent provinces, there could be labour movement out of the province.
- **Change between 1994 and 2003:** If there is no significant improvement, it will be necessary to re-examine the current levels of expenditure, the types of programming and the people targeted.
- **The Distribution of the Population among Levels:** If there are more people at lower levels compared to higher levels of literacy and numeracy, there are likely to be a higher distribution of lower income jobs and higher expenditures for social programs

Some provinces and territories performed as well as, or even better than, the best performing countries participating in the ALL/IALSS

Mean scores with .95 confidence interval and scores at the 5th, 25th, 75th, and 95th percentiles on proficiency scales ranging from 0 to 500 points, population aged 16 to 65, 2003

A. Prose literacy scale



Comparisons of provinces and territories based on average scores

Prose, population 16 and older, 2003

Jurisdiction	Y.T.	Sas.	Alta.	B.C.	N.S.	N.W. T	Man.	P.E.I.	Can.	Ont.	Que.	N.B.	N.L.	Nvt
Yukon Territory	Black	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
Saskatchewan	Green	Black	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
Alberta.	Green	Yellow	Black	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
British Columbia	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Black	Yellow	Yellow	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
Nova Scotia	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Black	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
Northwest Territories	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Black	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
Manitoba	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Black	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
Prince Edward Island	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Black	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Grey	Grey
Canada	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Black	Yellow	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
Ontario	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Black	Yellow	Yellow	Grey	Grey
Quebec	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Black	Yellow	Yellow	Grey
New Brunswick	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Black	Yellow	Grey
Newfoundland and Labrador	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Black	Grey
Nunavut	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Black

Grey	Mean proficiency significantly higher than comparison jurisdiction
Yellow	No statistically significant difference from comparison jurisdiction
Green	Mean proficiency significantly lower than comparison jurisdiction

Average literacy scores in provinces and territories varied by literacy domain. Overall, average literacy scores (population 16-65) were higher in Yukon and Western provinces.

16-65 age	Prose literacy	Document literacy	Numeracy	Problem solving
Canadian average	281	281	272	274
Performed better than Canada average	Yukon(296), Saskatchewan(294), Alberta(289), British Columbia(288)	Saskatchewan(294), Yukon(293), Alberta(290), British Columbia(290)	Saskatchewan (284), Yukon(283), Alberta(281), British Columbia(279)	Yukon(285), Saskatchewan(284), Alberta(281), British Columbia(281),
Same as Canada average	Nova Scotia(286), Manitoba(283), Prince Edward Island (282), Northwest Territories(280), Ontario(279)	Nova Scotia(284), Manitoba(283), Northwest Territories(280), Prince Edward Island(281), Ontario(279)	Nova Scotia(272), Manitoba(271), Ontario(270), Prince Edward Island (269), Quebec(269), Northwest Territories(269)	Nova Scotia (276), Manitoba(275), Prince Edward Island(271), Ontario(271), Quebec(271), Northwest Territories(269)
Lower than Canada average	Quebec(275), New Brunswick(273), Newfoundland and Labrador(271), Nunavut(232)	Quebec(273), New Brunswick(270), Newfoundland and Labrador(269), Nunavut(234)	New Brunswick (262), Newfoundland and Labrador(257), Nunavut(220)	New Brunswick (265), Newfoundland and Labrador(262), Nunavut(227)

Source: IALSS, 2003

Figures in brackets: average scores

Average Provincial Scores in Document and Prose Literacy and Numeracy (population 16-65)

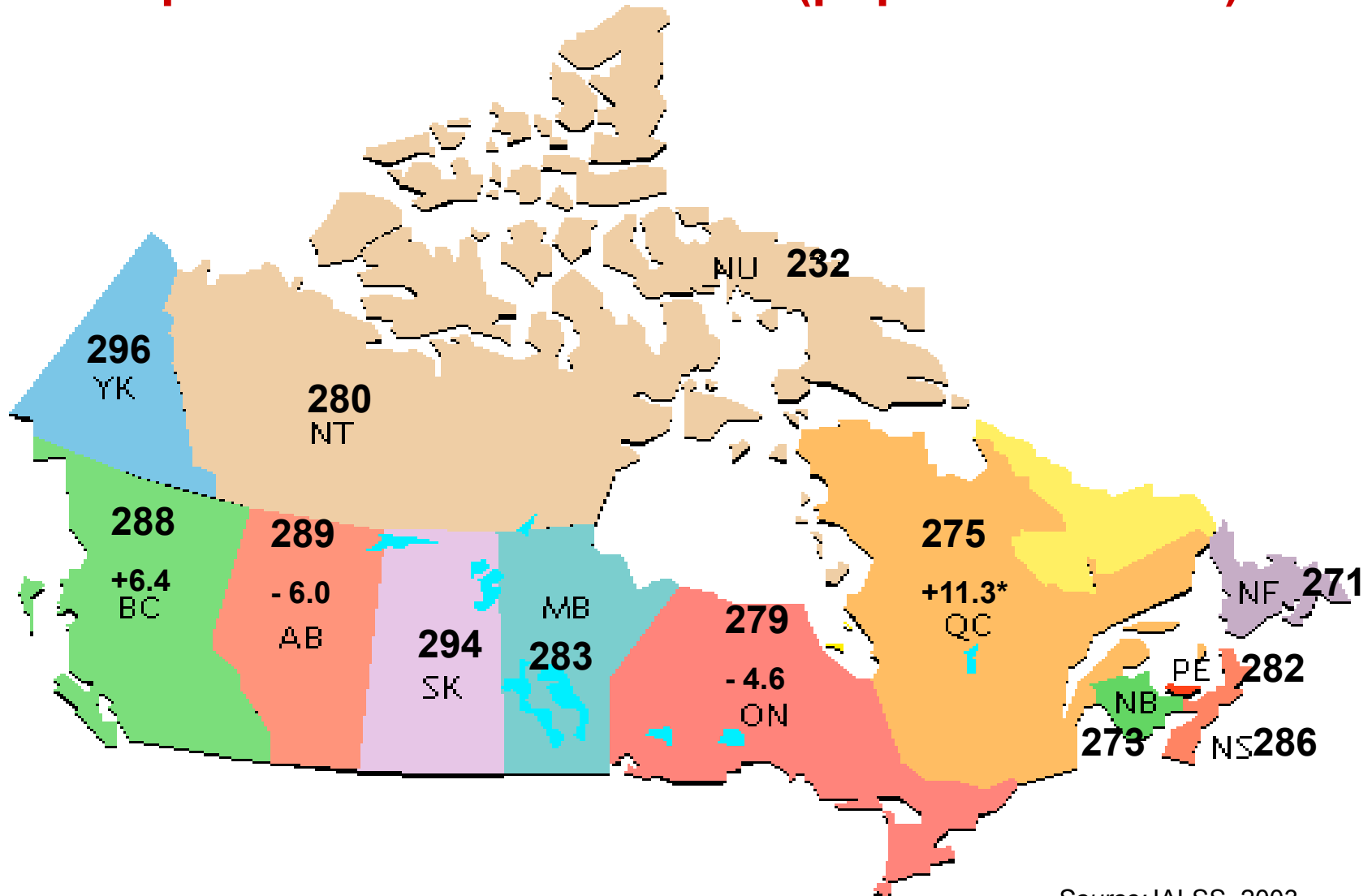
Province or Territory	Document literacy	Prose literacy	Numeracy
Newfoundland and Labrador	269	271	257 ←
Prince Edward Island	281	282	269 ←
Nova Scotia	284	286	272 ←
New Brunswick	270	273	262 ←
Quebec	273	275	269 ←
Ontario	279	279	270 ←
Manitoba	283	283	271 ←
Saskatchewan	294	294	284
Alberta	290	289	281
British Columbia	290	288	279
Nunavut Territory	234	232	220 ←
Northwest Territory	280	280	269 ←
Yukon Territory	293	296	283

→ Below level 3 in 3 domains

→ Below level 3 in Numeracy but not in literacy.

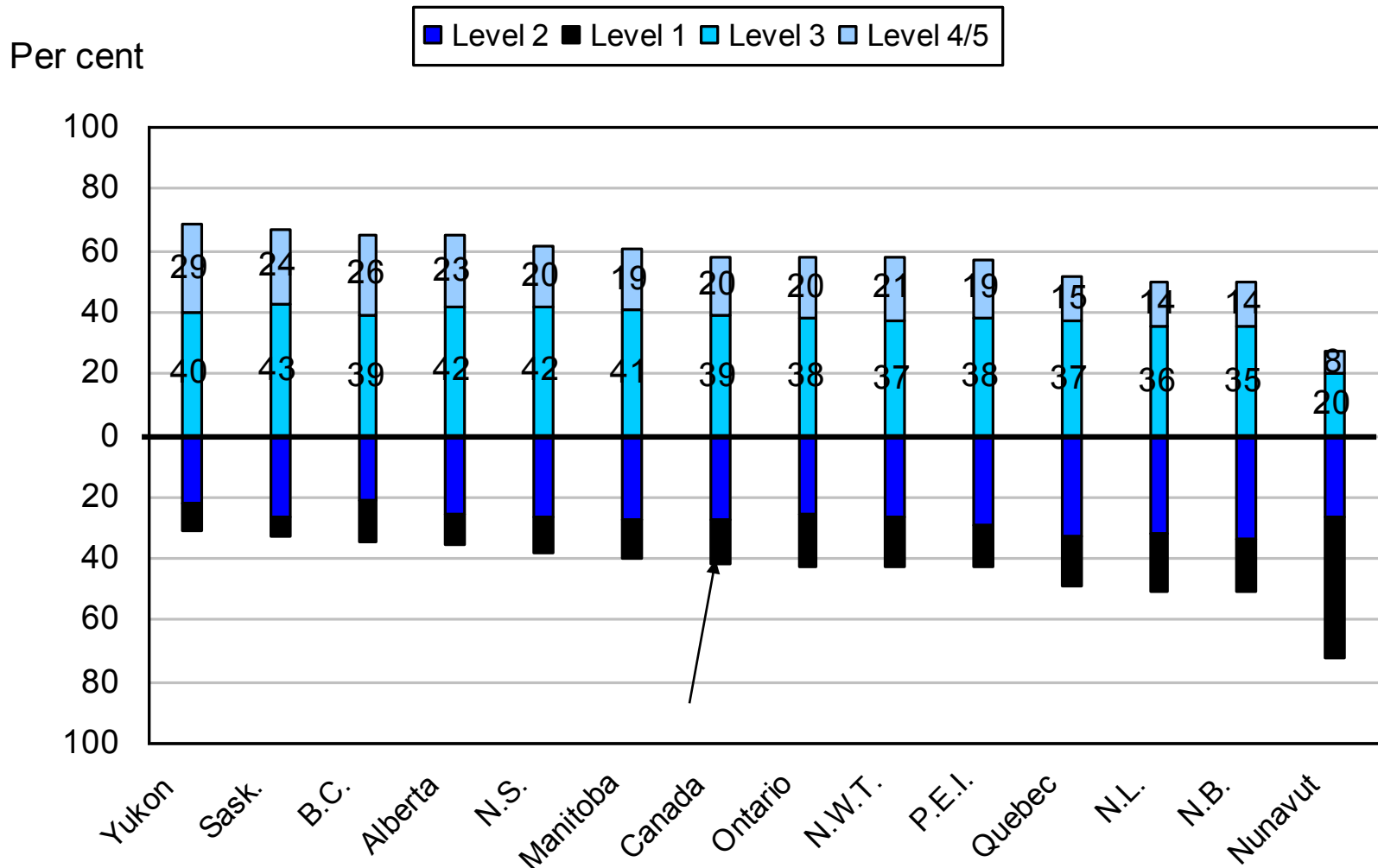
Figures in red – average score at level 2

The average provincial prose literacy scores in Canada and potential for labour flows (population 16-65)



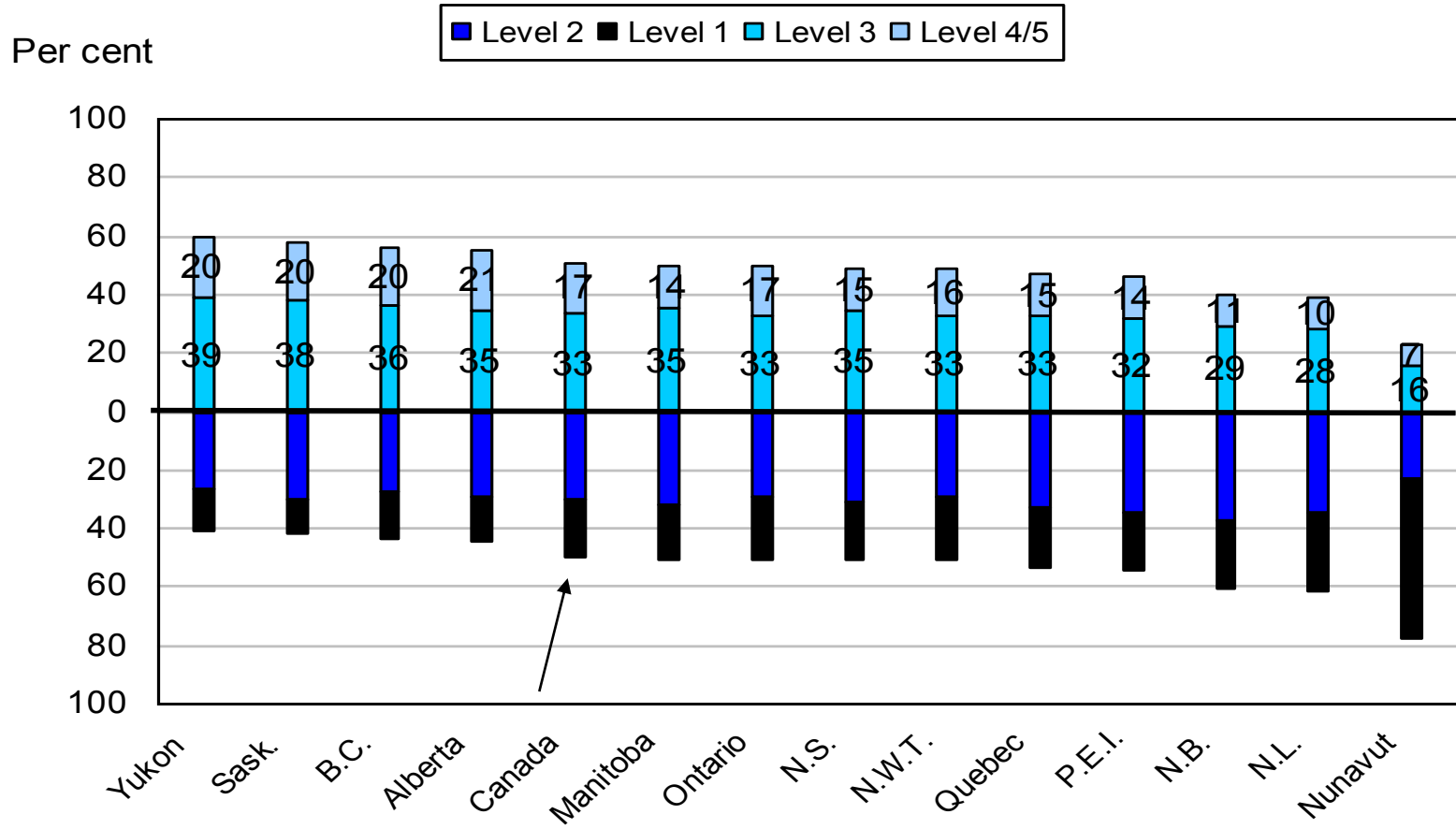
Yukon had the lowest proportion overall and among provinces, AB, SK and BC had the lowest proportion of the working-age population (population 16-65) with prose literacy below level 3.

Percent of population 16 to 65 at each prose level by provinces and territories, 2003



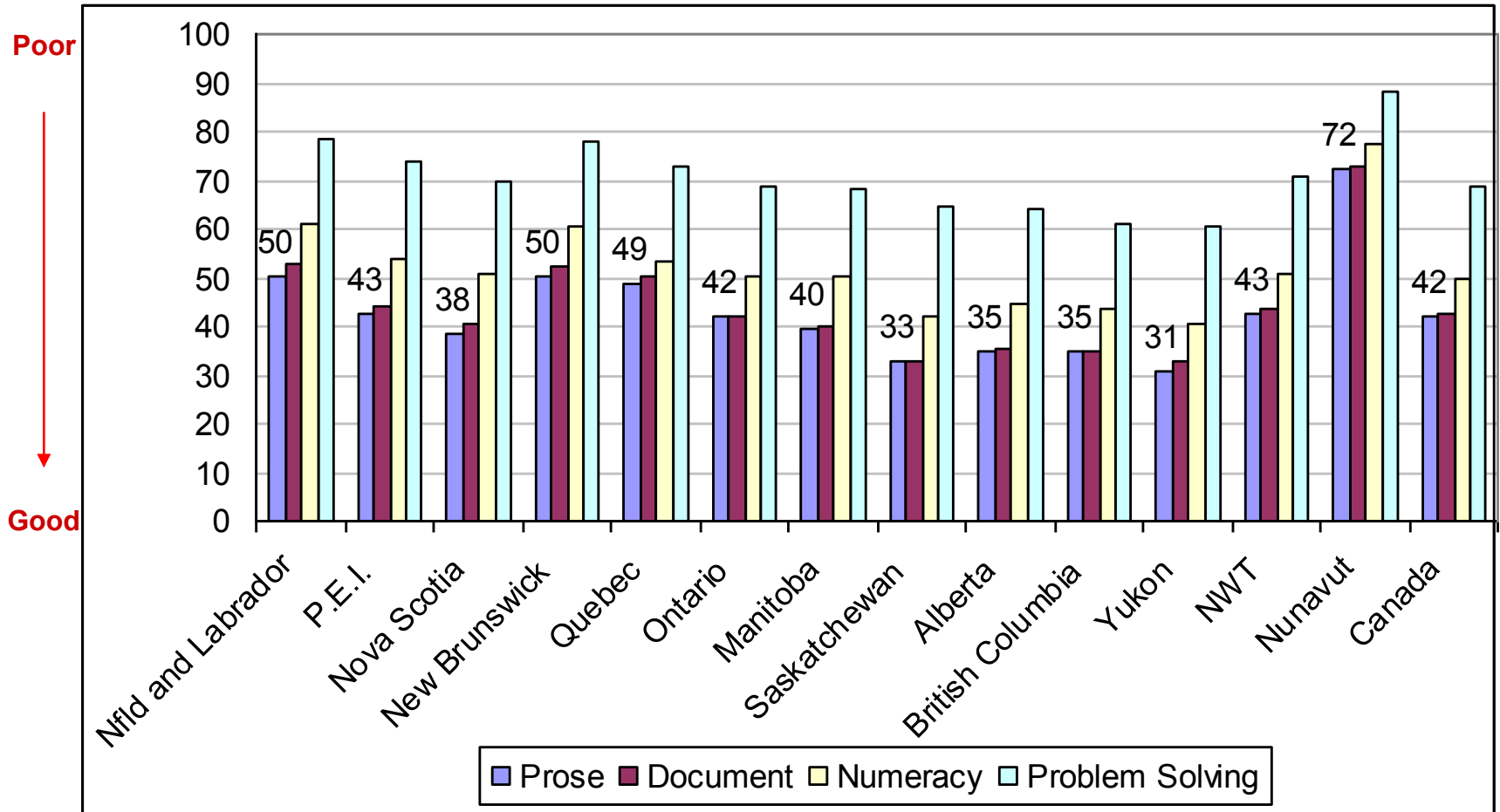
Yukon, Saskatchewan, BC and Alberta had the lowest proportion of working-age adults below level 3 in numeracy

Percent of population 16 to 65 at each numeracy level by provinces and territories, 2003



The proportion of Canadians 16-65 performing at levels 1 and 2 varied across domains and provinces

Per cent of adult populations 16-65 performing at levels 1 and 2 in IALSS 2003



Source: IALSS, 2003

Rough estimate of burden and required level of effort to combat low literacy (population aged 16 to 65)

Prose	Level 1		Level 2		Total	
	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number
Newfoundland and Labrador	18.8	70,000	31.6	119,000	50.4	189,000
Prince Edward Island	14.0	13,000	28.8	27,000	42.8	40,000
Nova Scotia	11.9	75,000	26.5	168,000	38.4	243,000
New Brunswick	16.6	85,000	33.8	173,000	50.4	258,000
Quebec	15.6	800,000	33.0	1,700,000	48.6	2,500,000
Ontario	16.2	1,300,000	26.0	2,100,000	42.2	3,400,000
Manitoba	12.7	90,000	27.0	200,000	39.7	290,000
Saskatchewan	6.6	41,000	26.4	162,000	33.0	203,000
Alberta	9.7	200,000	25.3	500,000	35.0	700,000
British Columbia	13.8	400,000	20.9	600,000	34.7	1,000,000
Yukon	9.0	2,000	21.9	4,000	30.9	6,000
Northwest Territory	16.5	4,000	26.1	7,000	42.6	11,000
Nunavut	45.8	6,000	26.4	3,000	72.0	9,000

Total 8,849,000

Rough estimate of burden and required level of effort to combat low numeracy (population 16-65)

	Numeracy level 1		Numeracy level 2		Total	
	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number
Newfoundland and Labrador	26.8	0.1m	34.3	0.1m	61.1	200,000
Prince Edward Island	19.2	18,000	34.8	33,000	54.0	50,000
Nova Scotia	19.7	0.1m	30.9	0.2m	50.6	300,000
New Brunswick	23.1	0.1m	37.2	0.2m	60.3	300,000
Quebec	20.0	1.0m	33.1	1.7m	53.1	2,700,000
Ontario	21.3	1.8m	29.1	2.4m	50.4	4,200,000
Manitoba	18.2	0.1m	32.1	0.2m	50.3	400,000
Saskatchewan	11.8	73,000	30.2	0.2m	42.0	300,000
Alberta	15.1	0.3m	29.3	0.6m	44.4	1,000,000
British Columbia	16.7	0.5m	27.0	0.8m	43.7	1,200,000
Yukon	14.1	3,000	26.4	5,000	40.5	8,000
Northwest Territory	22.0	6,000	29.0	7,000	51.0	13,000
Nunavut	54.7	7,000	22.6	3,000	77.3	10,000

Source: IALSS, 2003

Total 10,681,000

The hidden problem: although the same people often have low literacy and low numeracy, some have low scores in only one domain (population aged 16 to 65)

Document	Numeracy	Estimates
Level 1	Level 1	2,700,000
Level 1	Level 2	570,000
Level 1	Level 3 and above	40,000
Level 2	Level 1	1,300,000
Level 2	Level 2	3,400,000
Level 2	Level 3 and above	1,100,000
Level 3 and above	Level 1	140,000
Level 3 and above	Level 2	2,600,000

No change in average prose scores of Canadians aged 16 to 65 in regions between 1994 and 2003

Regions	Province	Level 3 range	IALS 1994	IALSS 2003	Diff.
Canada		276 - 325	278.8	280.8	1.9
Atlantic		276 - 325	274.0	277.9	3.9
	New Brunswick	276 - 325	272.6	272.7	0.1
Québec		276 - 325	264.1	275.3	11.3*
Ontario		276 - 325	283.3	278.7	- 4.6
Western		276 - 325	287.6	288.6	0.9
	Alberta	276 - 325	295.3	289.3	- 6.0
	British Columbia	276 - 325	281.8	288.2	6.4

* Change from 1994 is statistically significant.

Sources: IALSS, 2003 ; IALS, 1994.

No change in average document scores of Canadians regions between 1994 and 2003

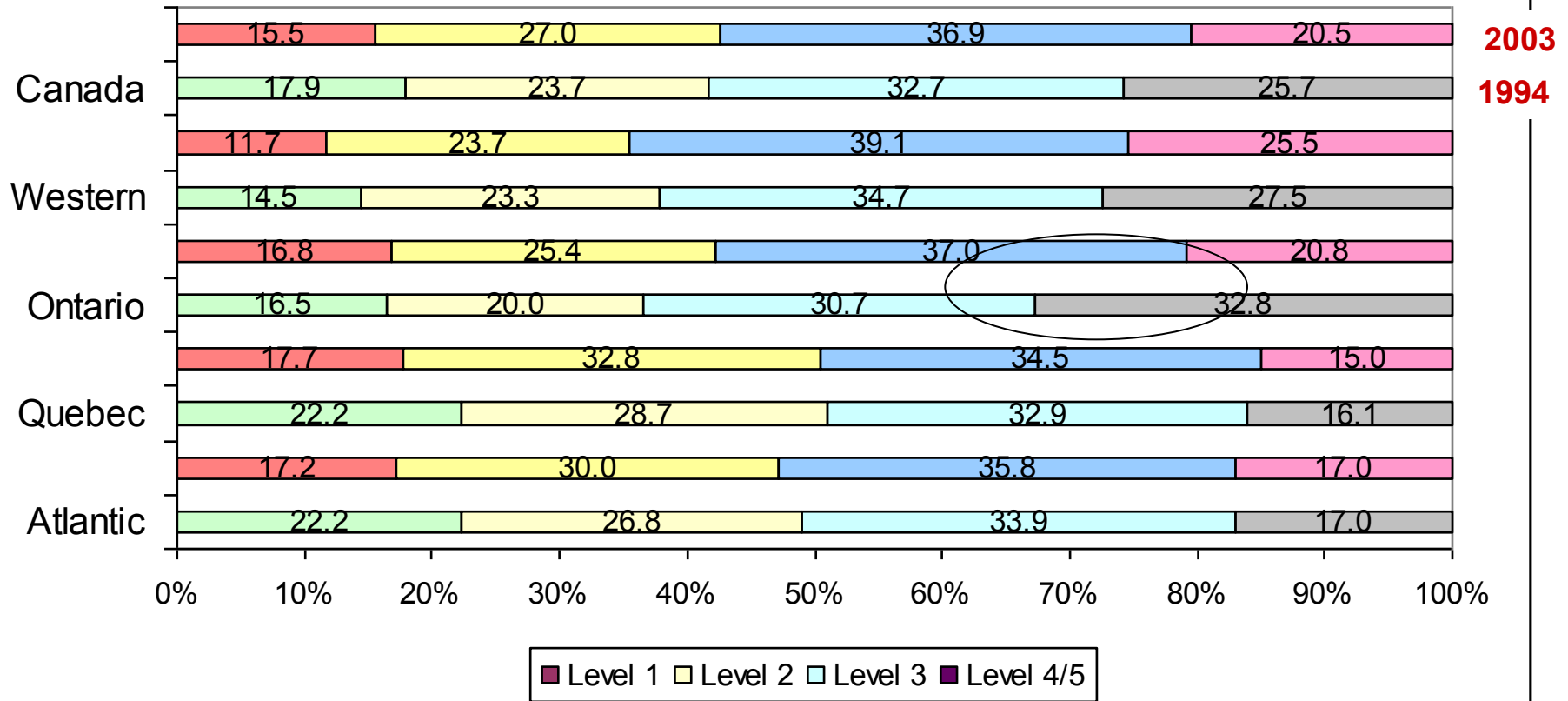
(population 16 to 65)

Document	Regions	Level 3 range	IALS 1994	ALL 2003	Diff.
Canada		276 - 325	279.3	286.6	1.3
Atlantic		276 - 325	269.4	276.2	6.7*
	New Brunswick	276 - 325	270.2	270.5	0.2
Québec		276 - 325	266.0	273.2	7.2
Ontario		276 - 325	285.9	279.2	- 6.7
Western		276 - 325	285.5	289.7	4.2
	Alberta	276 - 325	290.7	290.2	- 0.5
	British Columbia	276 - 325	281.7	289.9	8.2

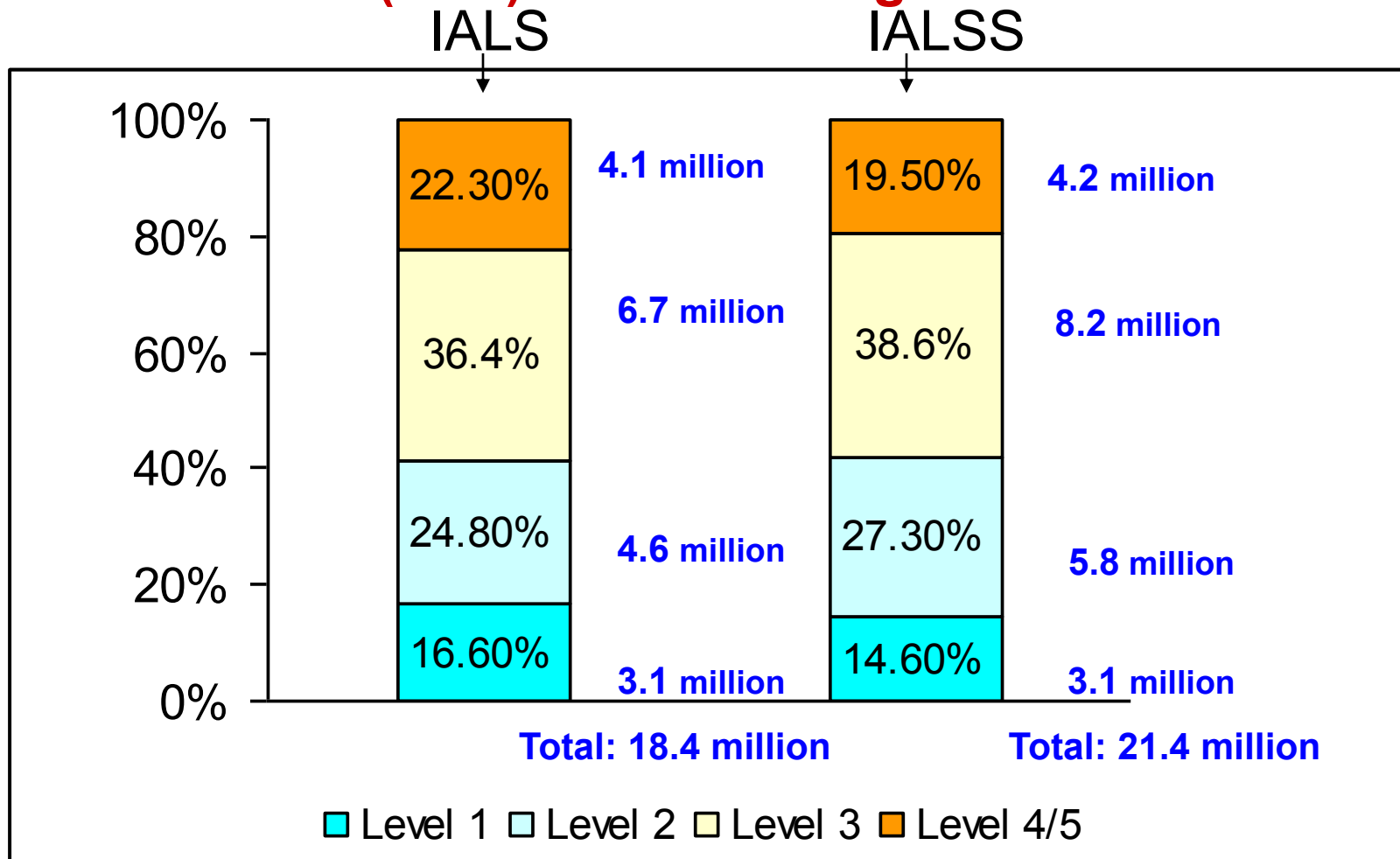
* Change from 1994 is statistically significant.

In Ontario the number of people at Levels 4 and 5 in document literacy dropped from 1994 to 2003

Proportion of population 16 to 65 performing at levels 1,2 ,3 and 4/5 in document,
Canada and regions, 1994 and 2003

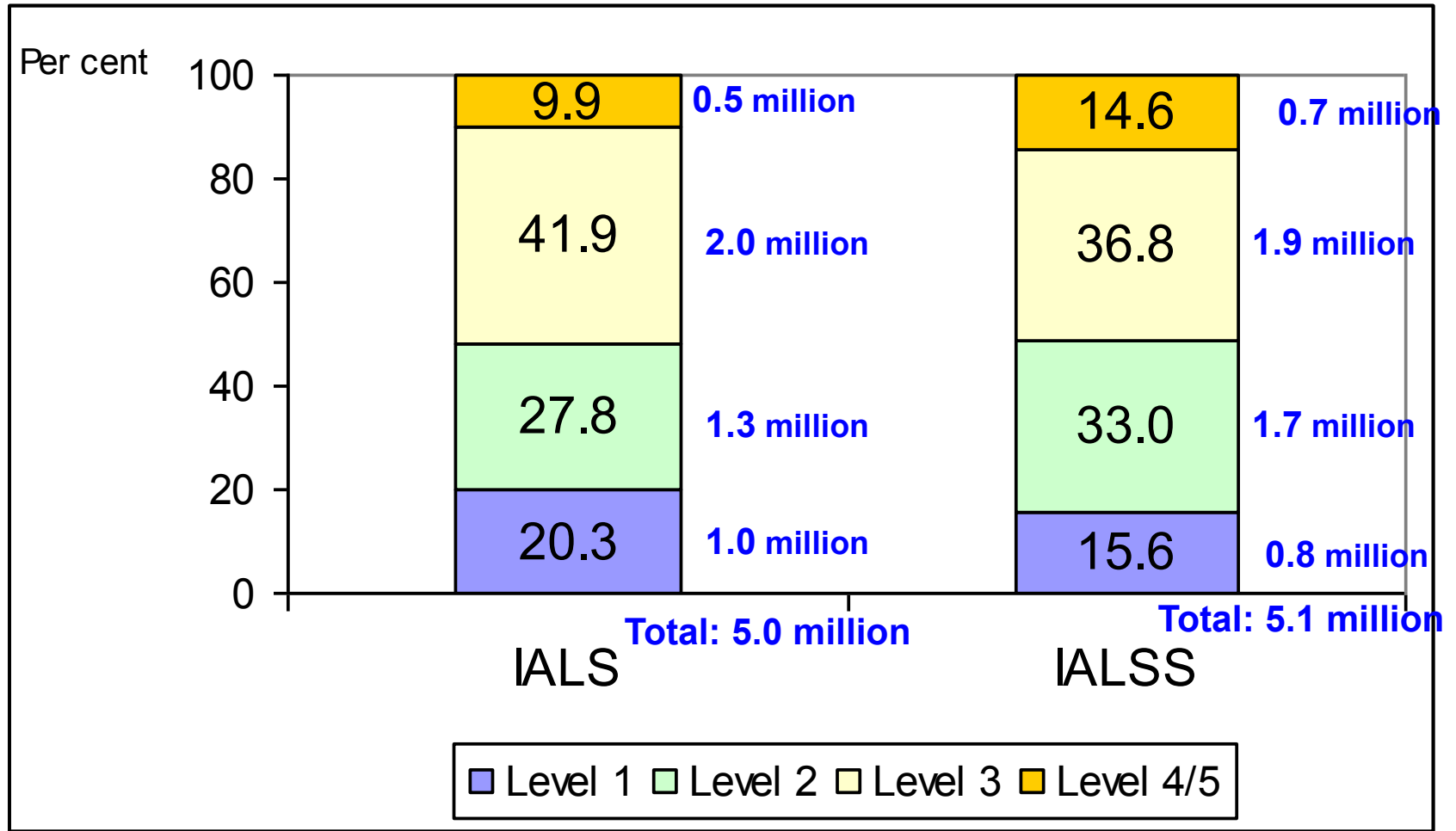


The number of persons (16 to 65) with low literacy rose from 8 m in 1994 to 9 m in 2003 though the percentage (42%) did not change



* Differences at each level between IALS and ALL are not statistically significant

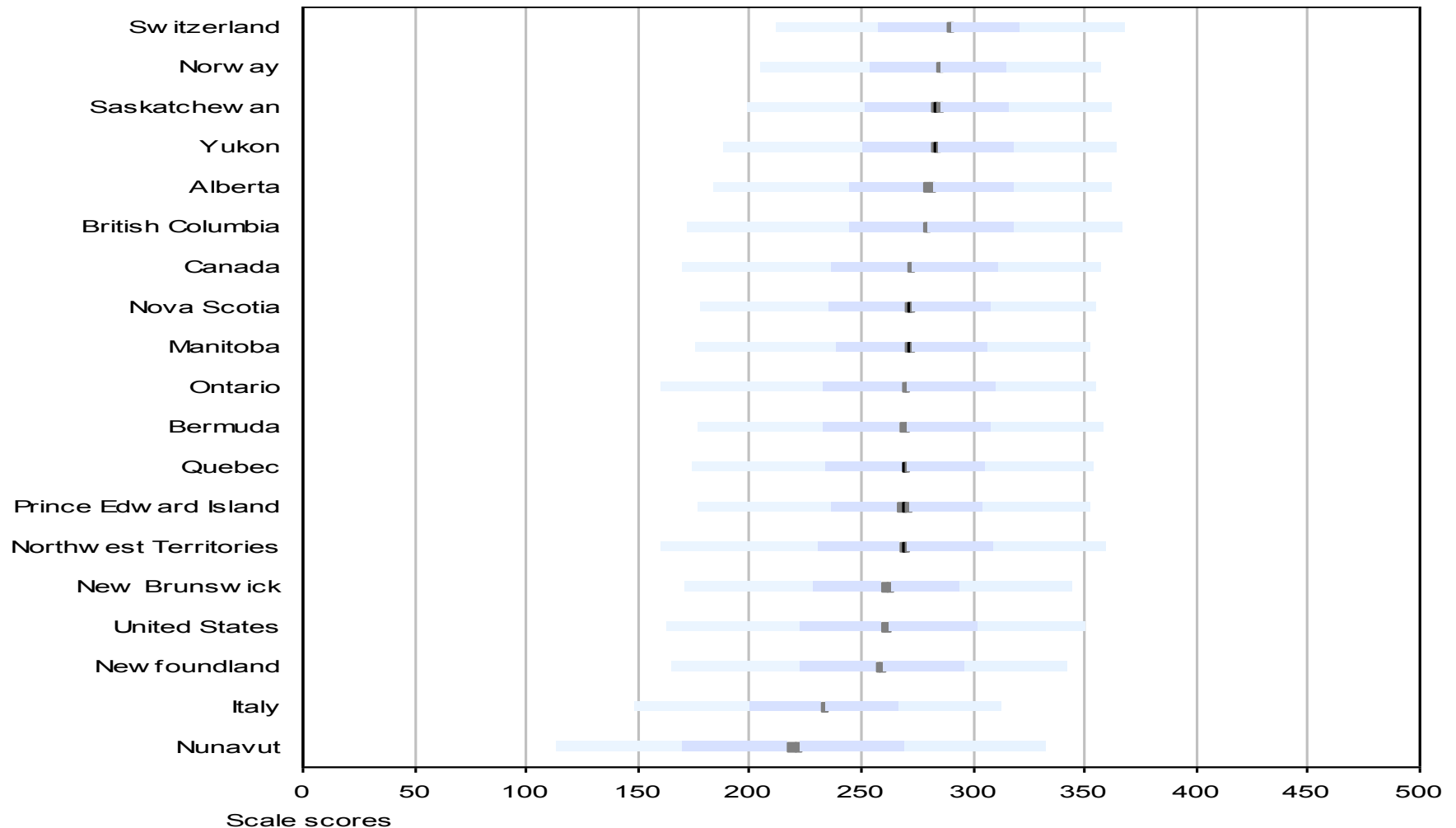
Percent of Quebec population (16 to 65)
at each prose literacy level, in IALS and IALSS



* Differences at each level between IALS and IALSS are not statistically significant

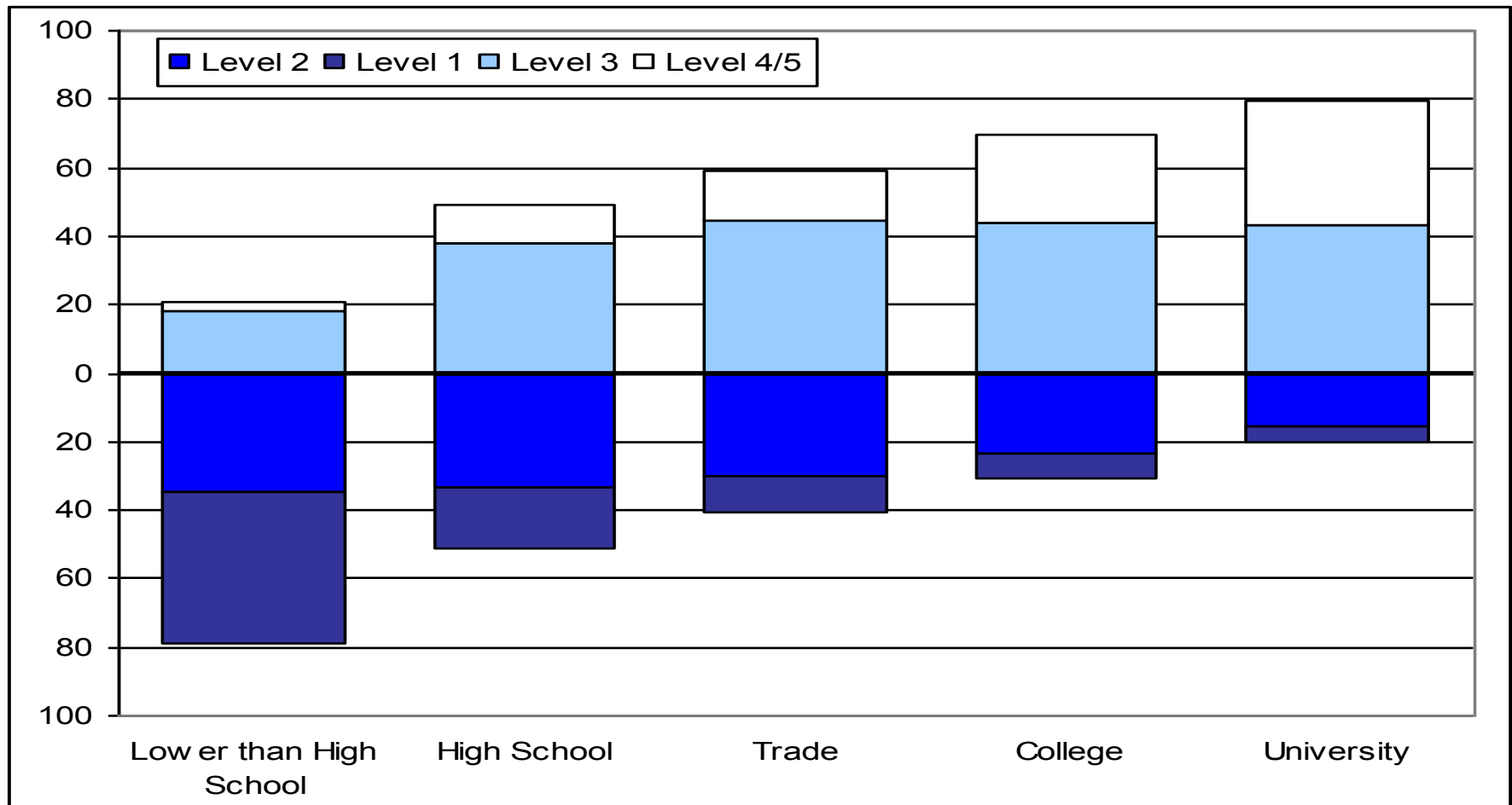
Provinces such as Saskatchewan and New Brunswick had less inequity than other provinces in the distribution of numeracy scores.

Mean scores with .95 confidence interval and scores at the 5th, 25th, 75th, and 95th percentiles on numeracy proficiency scales ranging from 0 to 500 points, population aged 16-65, 2003



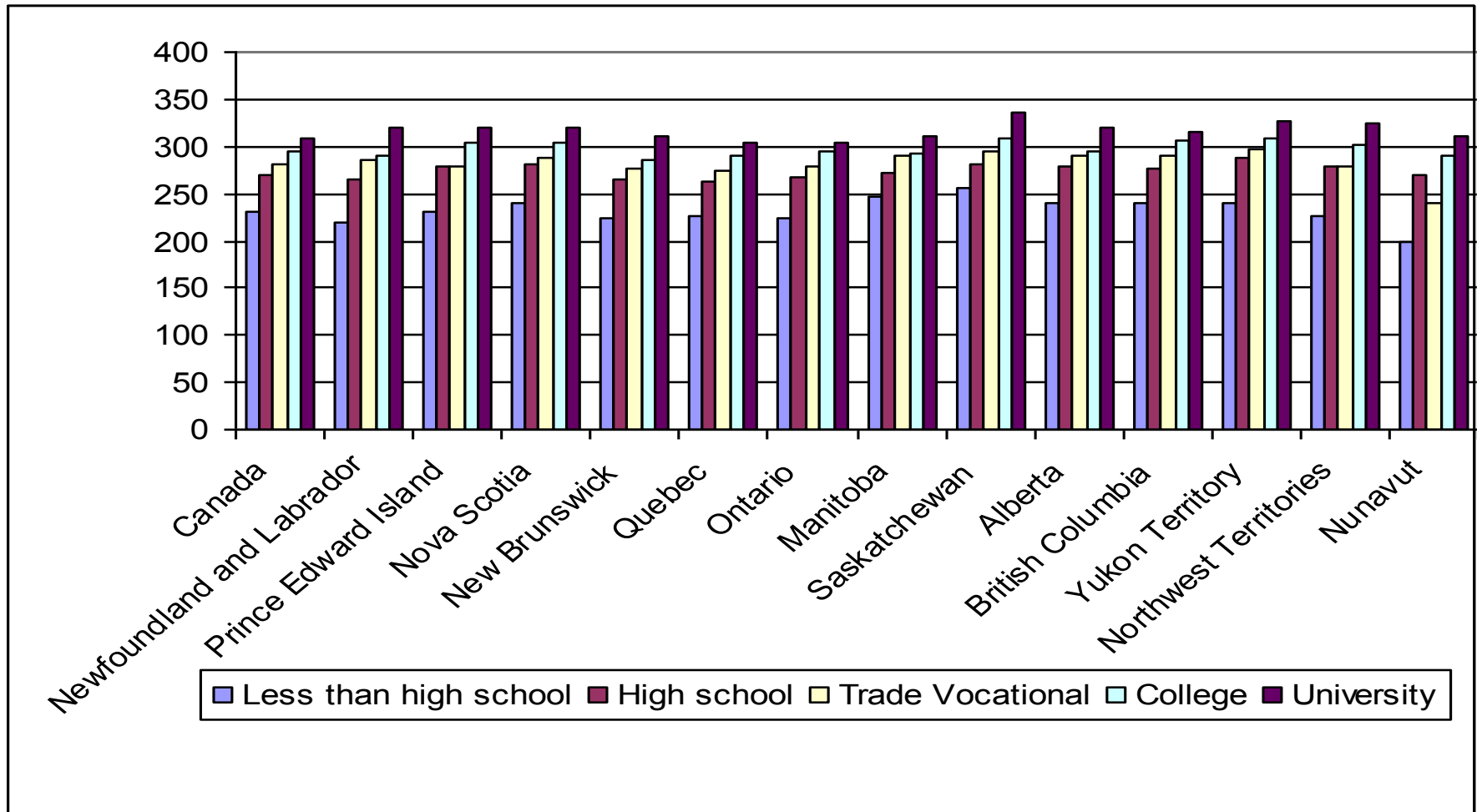
Higher levels of education are associated with higher levels of Prose proficiency

Prose literacy levels by educational attainment, population aged 26-65 years, Canada, 2003



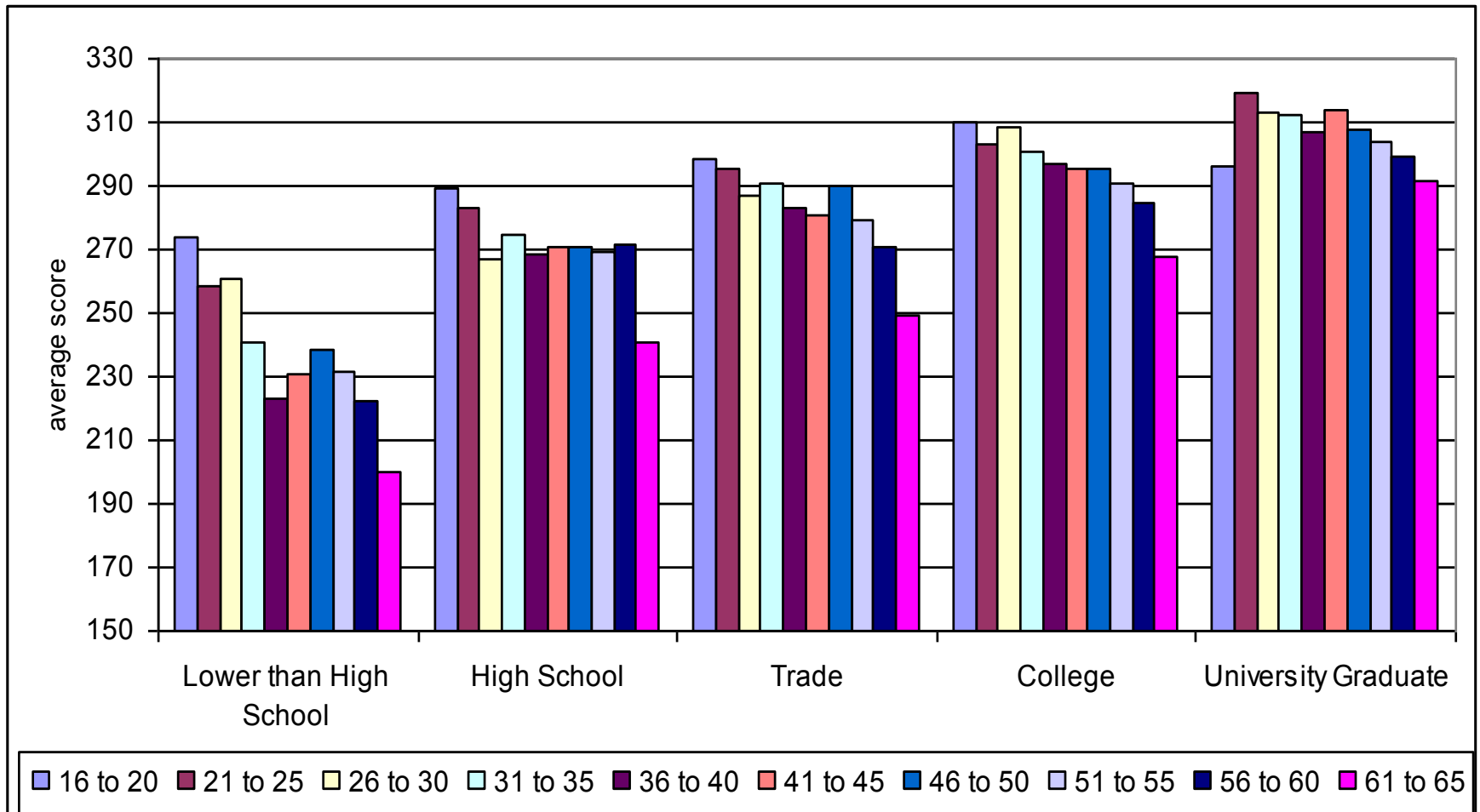
In prose, higher levels of education are associated with higher levels of proficiency (16 and over)

Prose proficiency by educational attainment, Canada, 2003



Younger Canadians with the same education have higher literacy proficiency than older Canadians but the difference is moderated by degree of education

Mean prose literacy scores by educational attainment and age group, Canada 2003



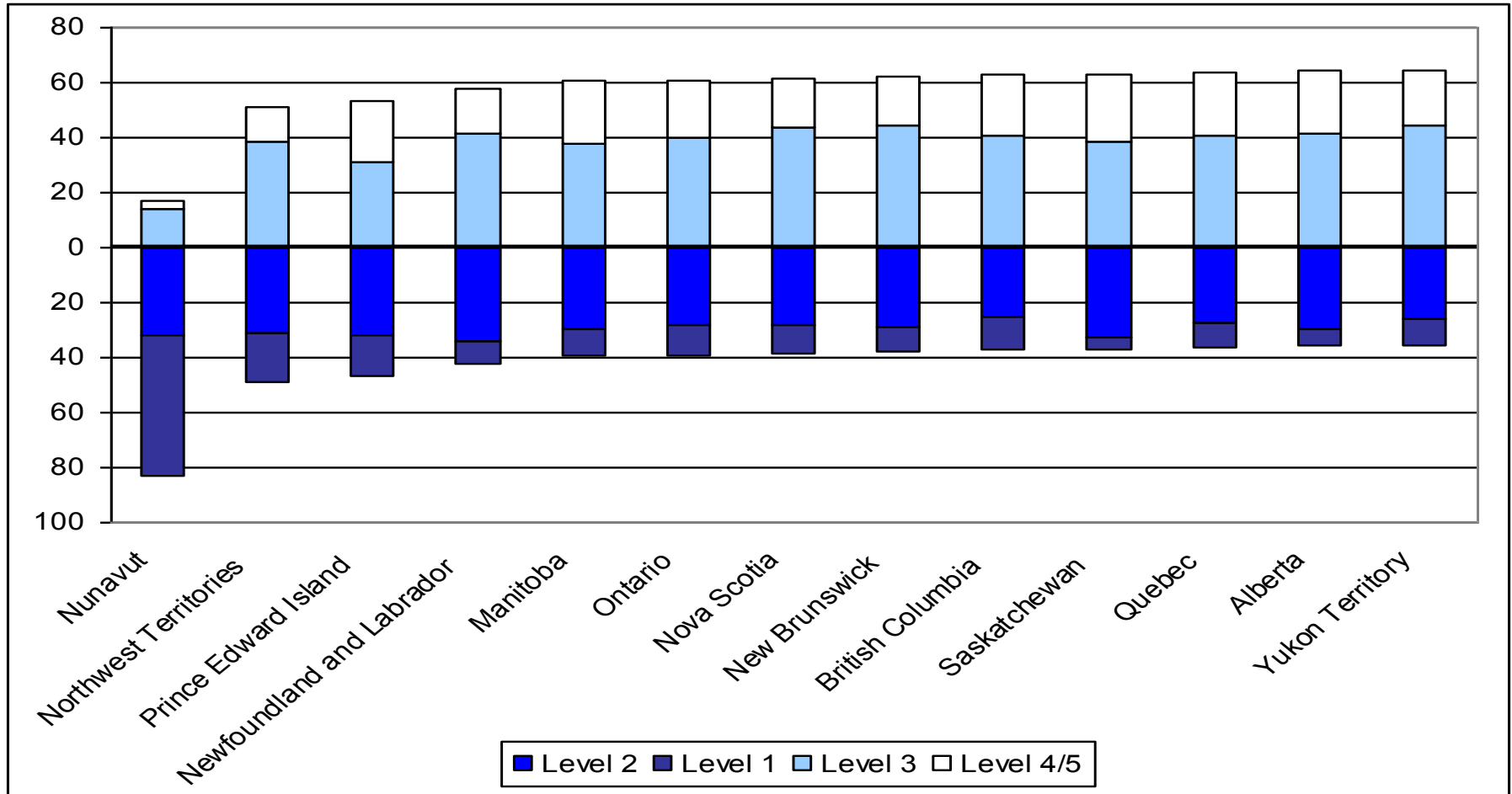
Prose literacy proficiency by educational attainment in the provinces and territories

Mean prose proficiency scores by education level, population 16 and over,
Canada and jurisdictions, 2003

	Less than		High school		Trade		College		University	
	high school		High school		vocational		College		University	
	Mean	S.E.	Mean	S.E.	Mean	S.E.	Mean	S.E.	Mean	S.E.
Newfoundland and Labrador	219	(3.4)	265	(4.0)	286	(3.8)	290	(5.1)	321	(3.9)
Prince Edward Island	230	(6.8)	280	(5.5)	279	(5.5)	303	(5.5)	319	(7.9)
Nova Scotia	241	(4.4)	281	(4.2)	288	(3.2)	305	(3.5)	319	(4.2)
New Brunswick	223	(4.6)	265	(5.1)	276	(7.1)	286	(4.5)	311	(7.2)
Quebec	227	(2.0)	262	(2.3)	275	(2.1)	290	(2.2)	305	(2.5)
Ontario	223	(4.9)	268	(3.9)	279	(3.9)	295	(4.1)	303	(3.1)
Manitoba	246	(5.5)	273	(3.4)	291	(4.4)	293	(3.4)	312	(4.4)
Saskatchewan	256	(6.2)	282	(7.0)	294	(3.3)	309	(4.3)	336	(5.2)
Alberta	241	(7.1)	279	(4.5)	290	(3.8)	295	(4.0)	319	(4.2)
British Columbia	239	(4.8)	277	(4.8)	290	(3.4)	306	(4.3)	316	(4.4)
Yukon	241	(7.5)	288	(5.6)	297	(4.5)	308	(4.7)	326	(4.7)
Northwest Territories	227	(6.3)	280	(7.6)	280	(3.6)	301	(4.0)	324	(6.3)
Nunavut	199	(6.1)	269	(7.8)	241	(8.5)	290	(12.3)	311	(6.2)
Canada	230	(1.8)	270	(1.8)	282	(1.7)	296	(1.8)	309	(2.0)

In most provinces and territories, the majority of youth have prose literacy proficiency at Level 3 or above

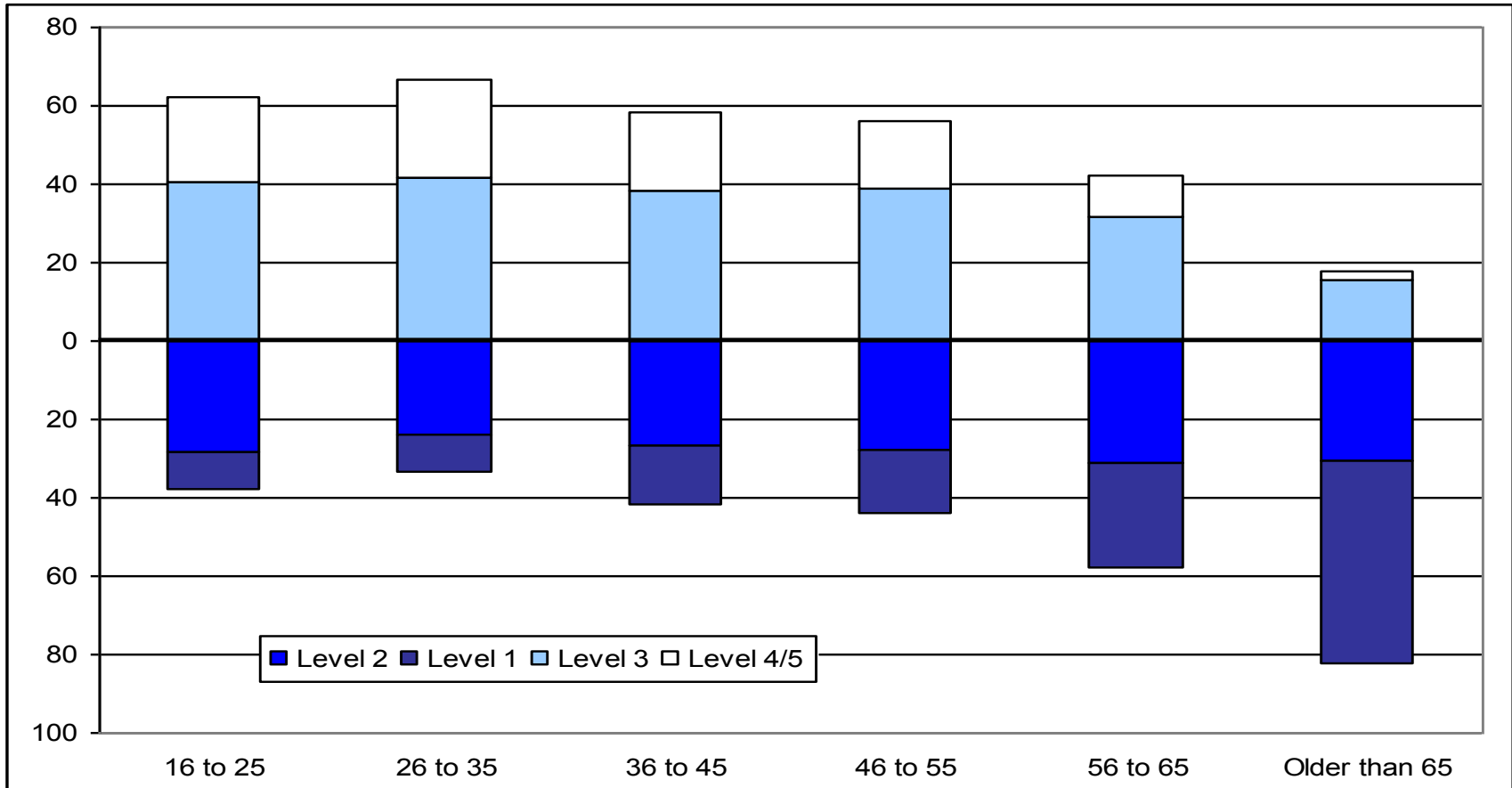
Distribution of proficiency level on the prose literacy scale for youth age 16-25, Canada, 2003



Source: IALSS, 2003

More than 80% of seniors had prose literacy at levels 1 and 2

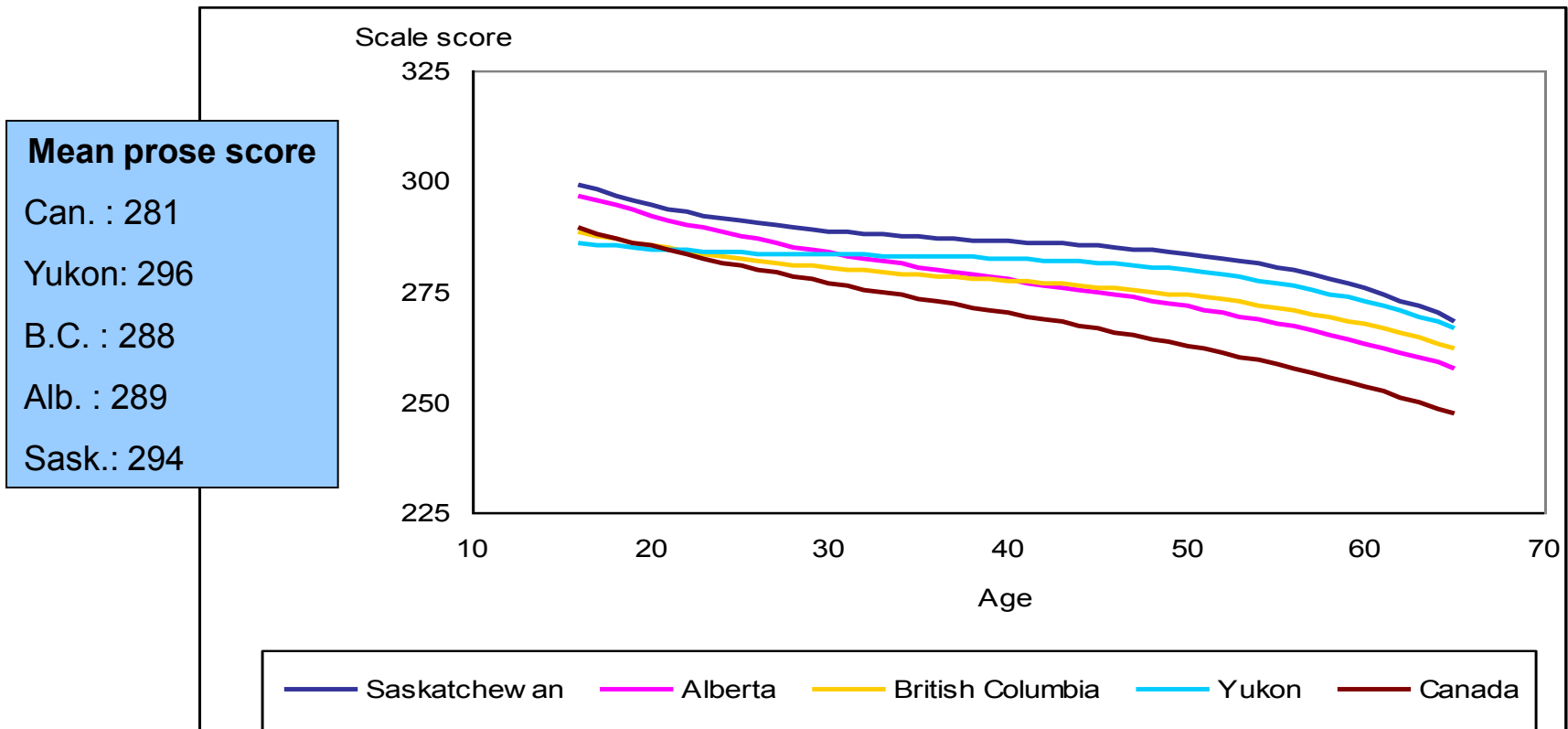
Distribution of proficiency level on the prose literacy scale, Canada, 2003



Source: IALSS, 2003

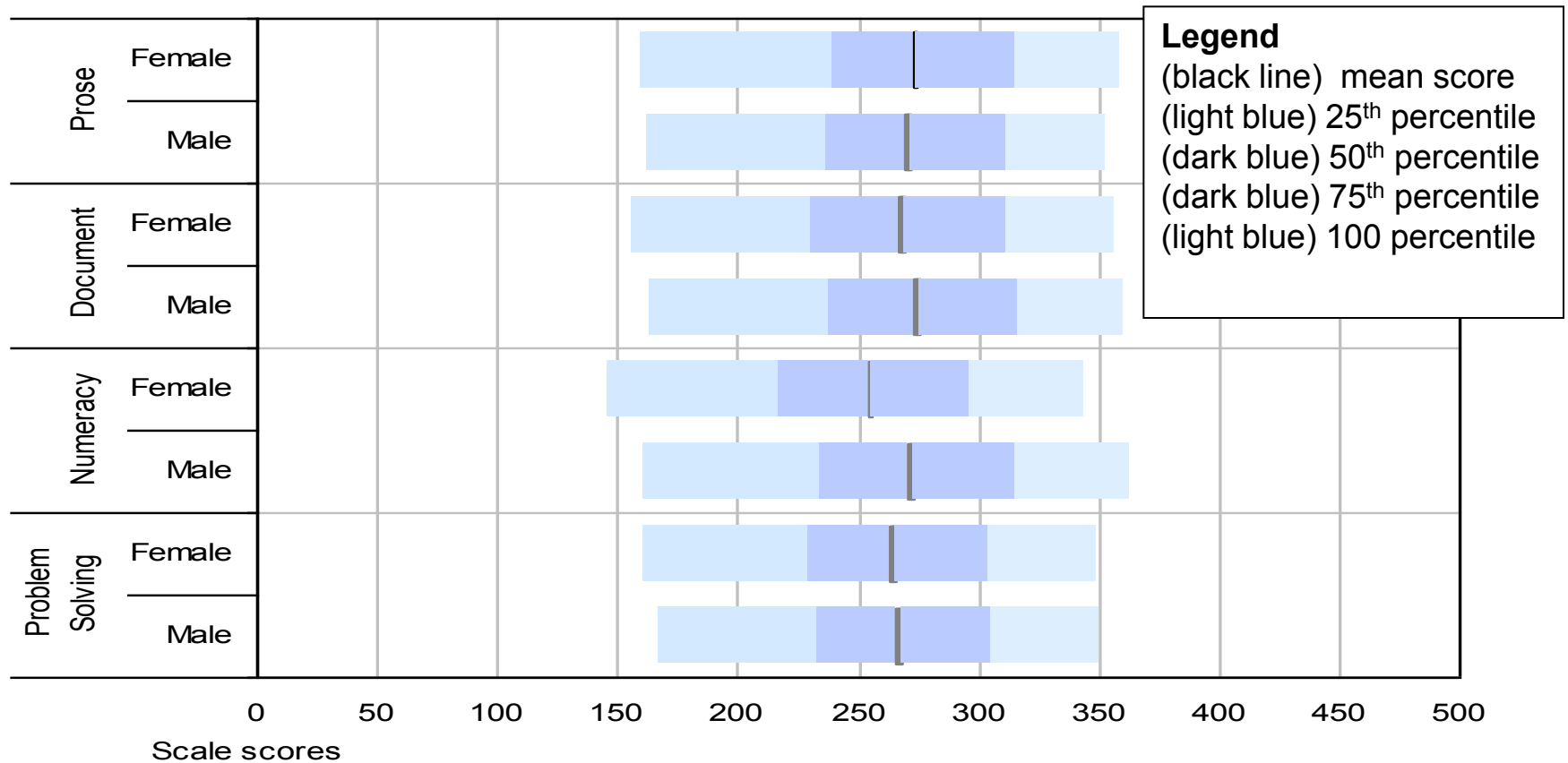
Educational attainment appears to moderate and even delay a decline in proficiency as Canadians age

Average scores by age, controlling for educational attainment, Canada and Western provinces, 2003



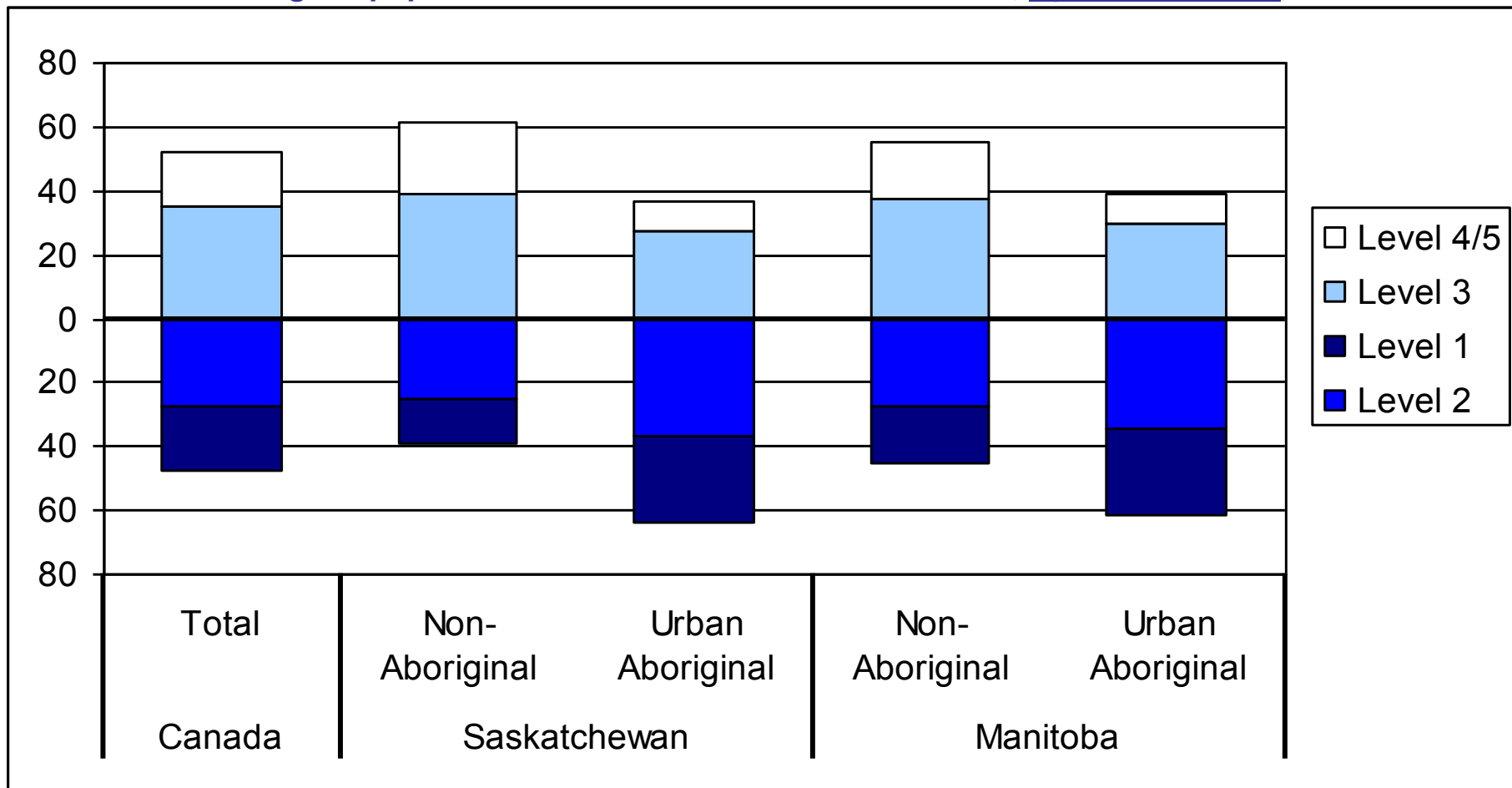
Significant gender differences in average scores are evident for document literacy and for numeracy

Average Proficiency by domain and gender, population 16 and over, Canada, 2003



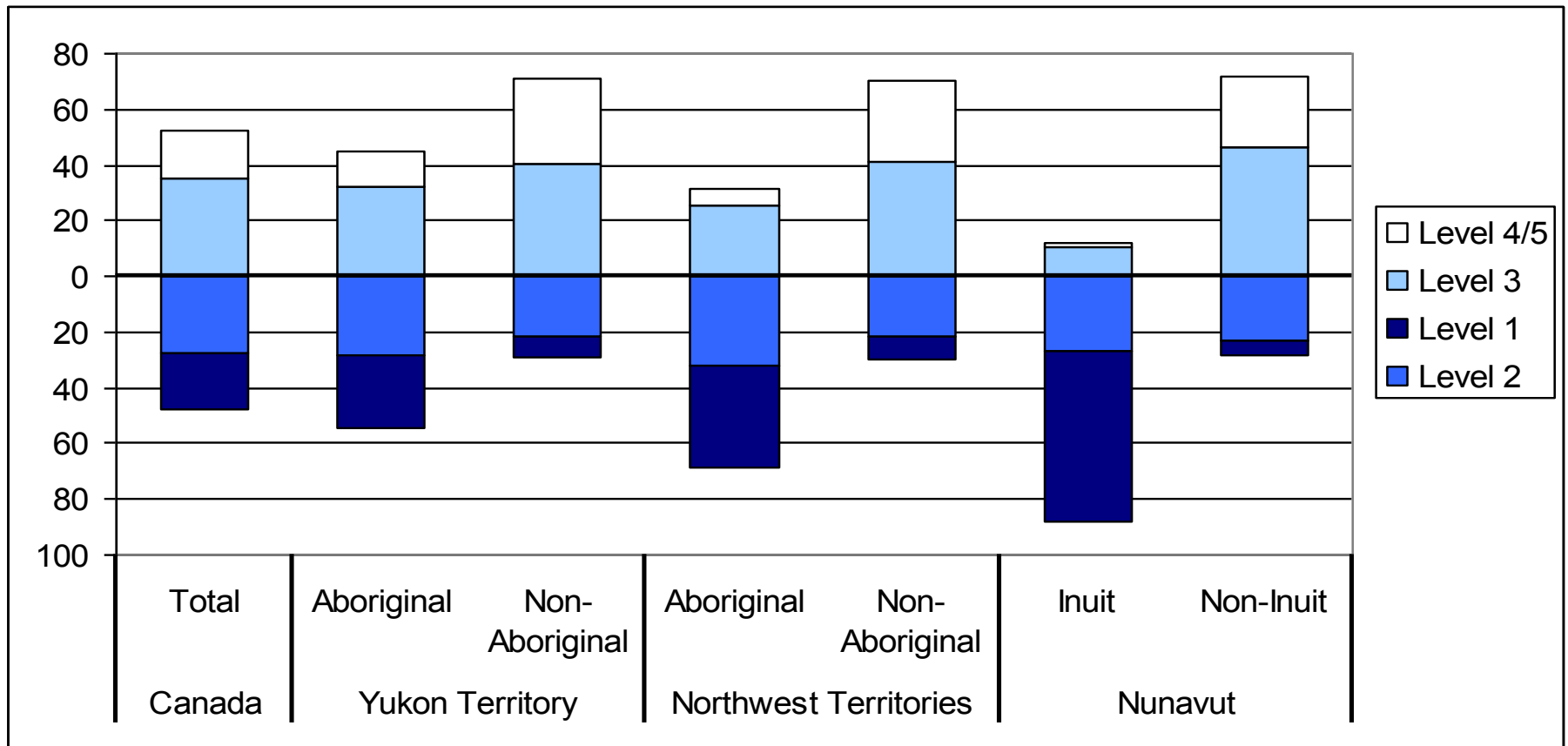
The prose literacy performance of the urban Aboriginal populations, 16 and over, is lower than that of non-aboriginals in Saskatchewan and Manitoba

Comparative distributions of prose literacy proficiency by level, per cent of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, aged 16 and over, 2003

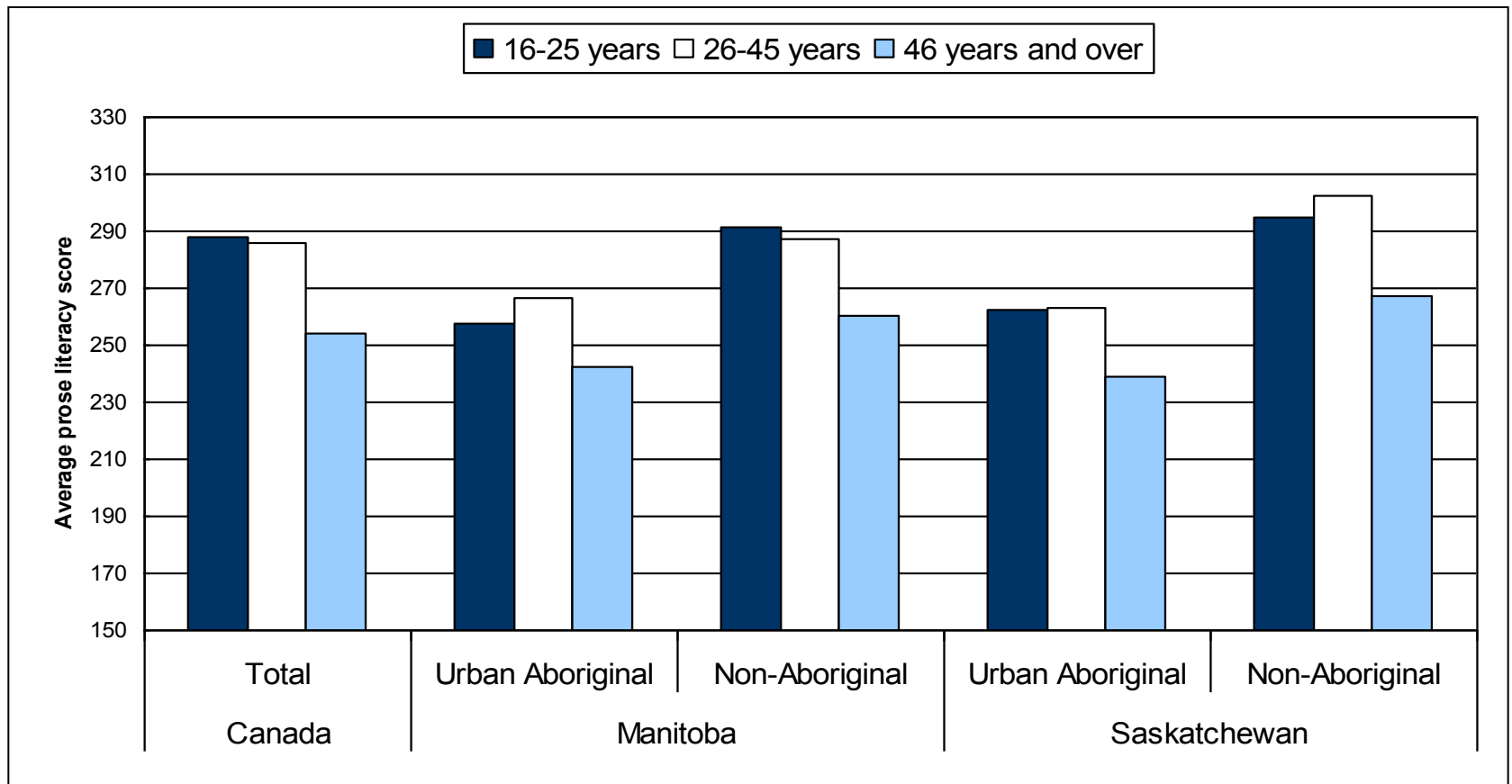


Over half of the Aboriginal people in the Yukon, 69 percent of the Aboriginal people in the Northwest Territories and 88 per cent of Inuit in Nunavut scored below level 3 in prose literacy

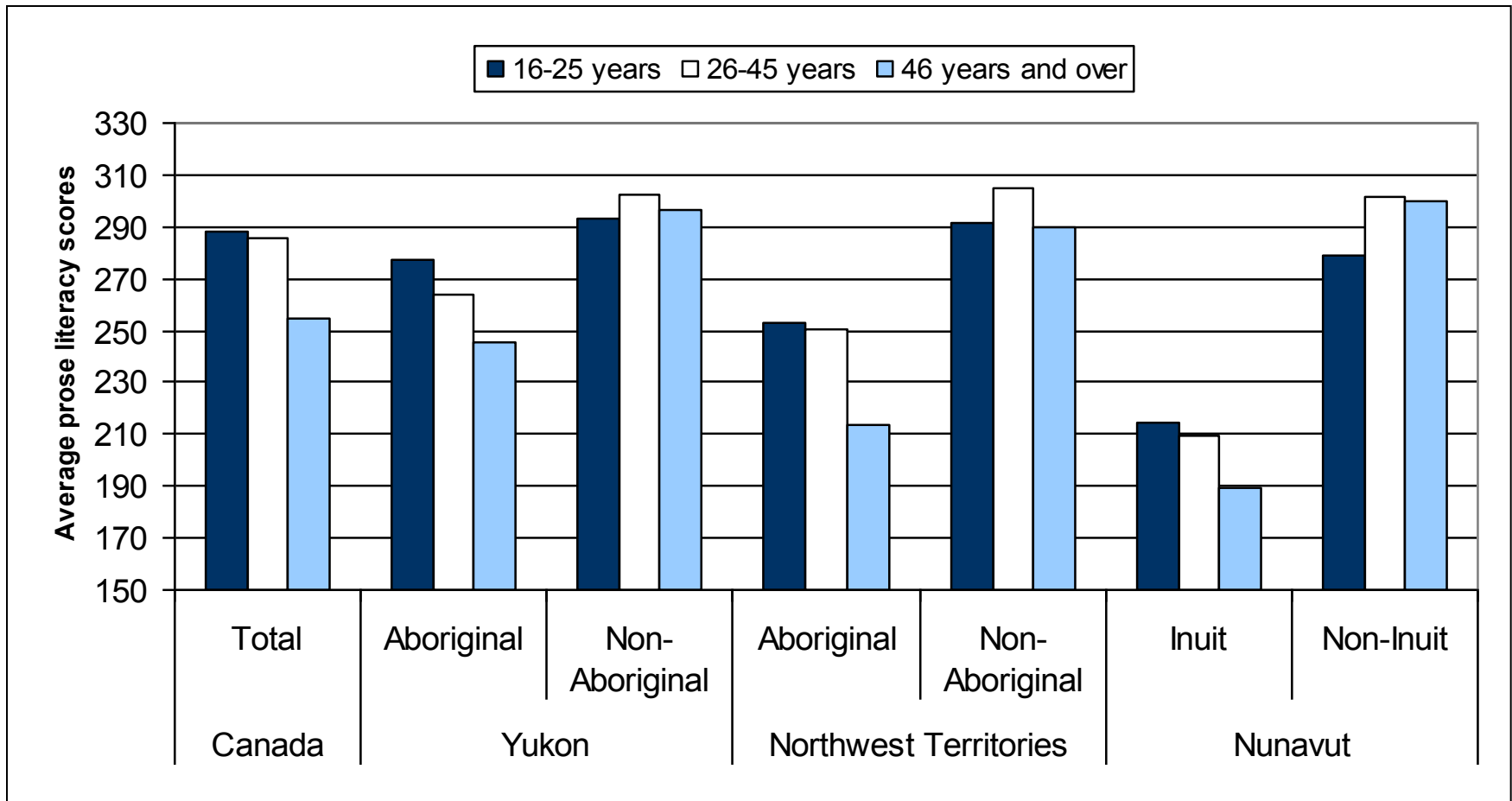
Comparative distributions of prose literacy proficiency by level, per cent of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations in the Northern Territories, aged 16 and over, 2003



For each age group in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, the average scores for non-aboriginal people is higher than those of urban aboriginal people (population 16 and over)



Average prose literacy proficiency by age groups, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations in Territories, aged 16 and over, 2003



Literacy performance of Francophones (population 16 and over) opting to take the test in English

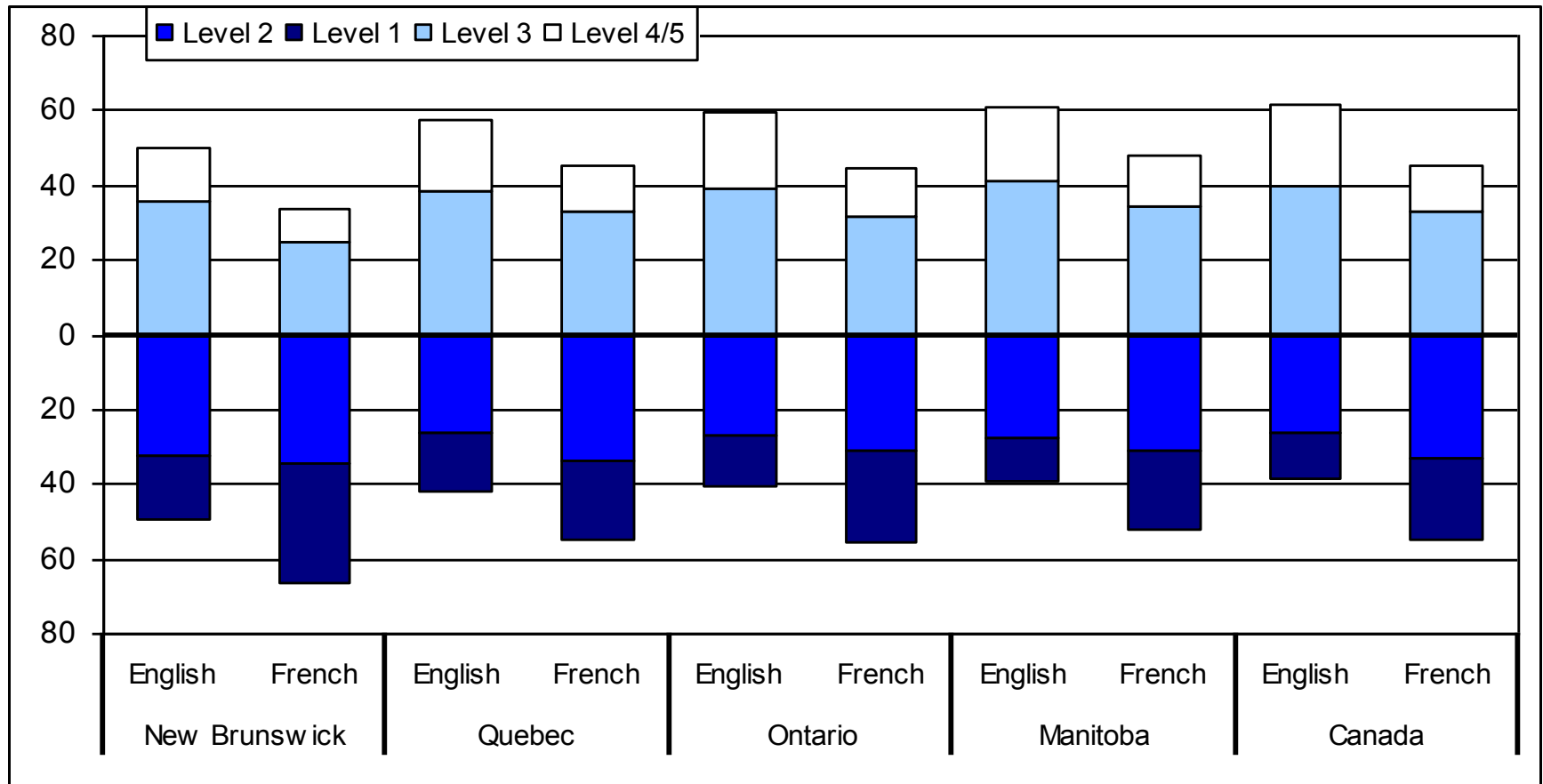
- Outside of Quebec, approximately 65% of Francophones were assessed in English.
- In New Brunswick 33%, in Ontario 64% and Manitoba 84% of Francophones took the assessment in English.
- Francophones who were assessed in English have higher average prose literacy than those who were assessed in French.
- 53% of Francophones living outside of Quebec who took the test in English scored below level 3 in prose literacy compared to 61 per cent of those who took the test in French.

Literacy performance of Anglophones (population 16 and over) opting to take the test in French

- Outside Québec, 99.9% of Anglophones were assessed in English.
- In Quebec, approximately 19% of Anglophones were assessed in French.
- They represent about 89,000 out of the 470,000 Anglophones in Québec.
- An equal share of Allophones were assessed in French and in English in Quebec.
- In Quebec, there are no significant differences in prose literacy proficiency between Francophones and Anglophones at the same level of educational attainment.

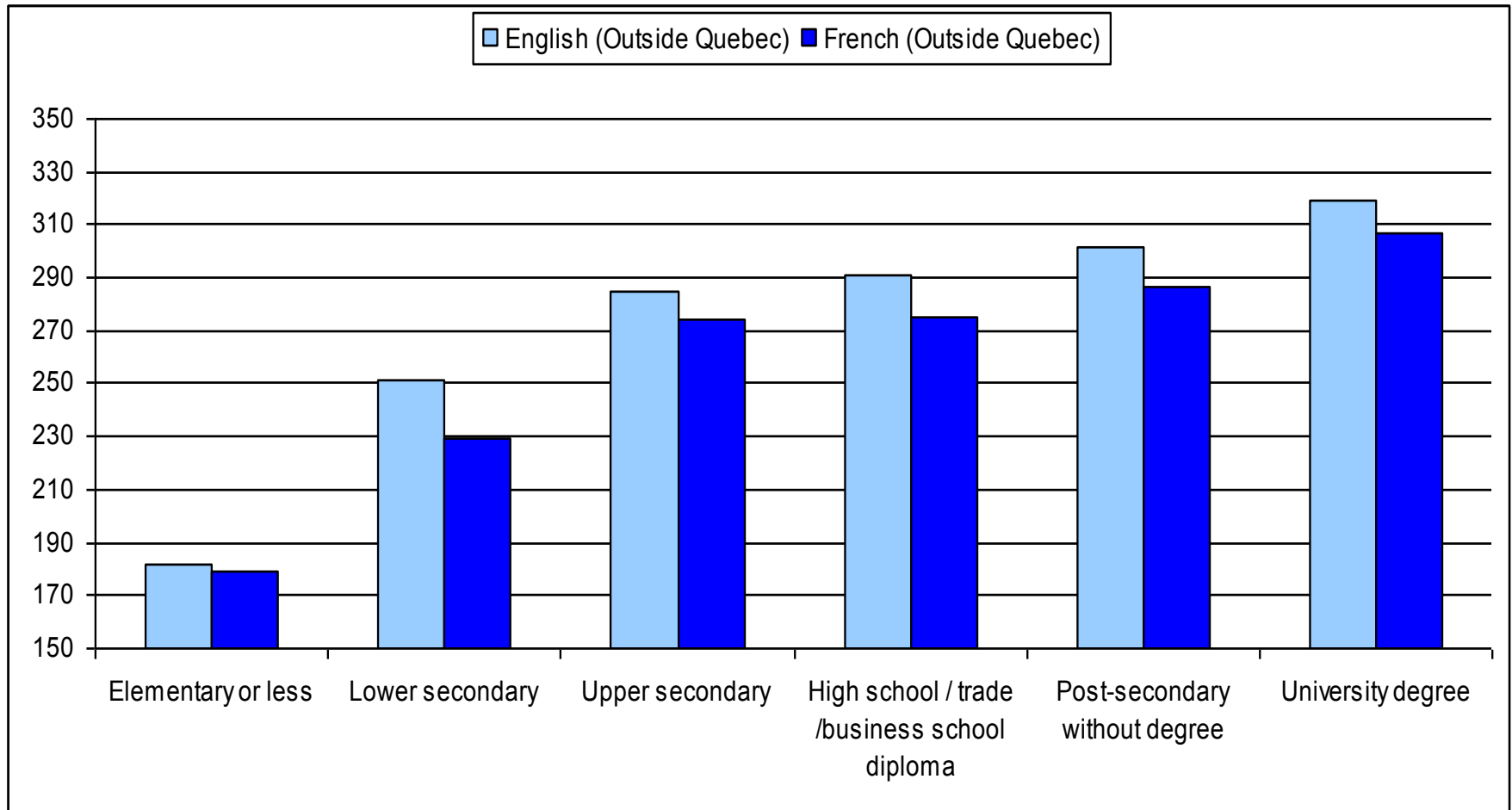
The proportion of Francophones scoring below level 3 is higher than the proportion of Anglophones

Distribution of the population (16 and over) by mother tongue and prose literacy proficiency level, Quebec, New-Brunswick, Ontario and Manitoba, 2003



Average prose scores by mother tongue and highest level of educational attainment, Canada minus Québec

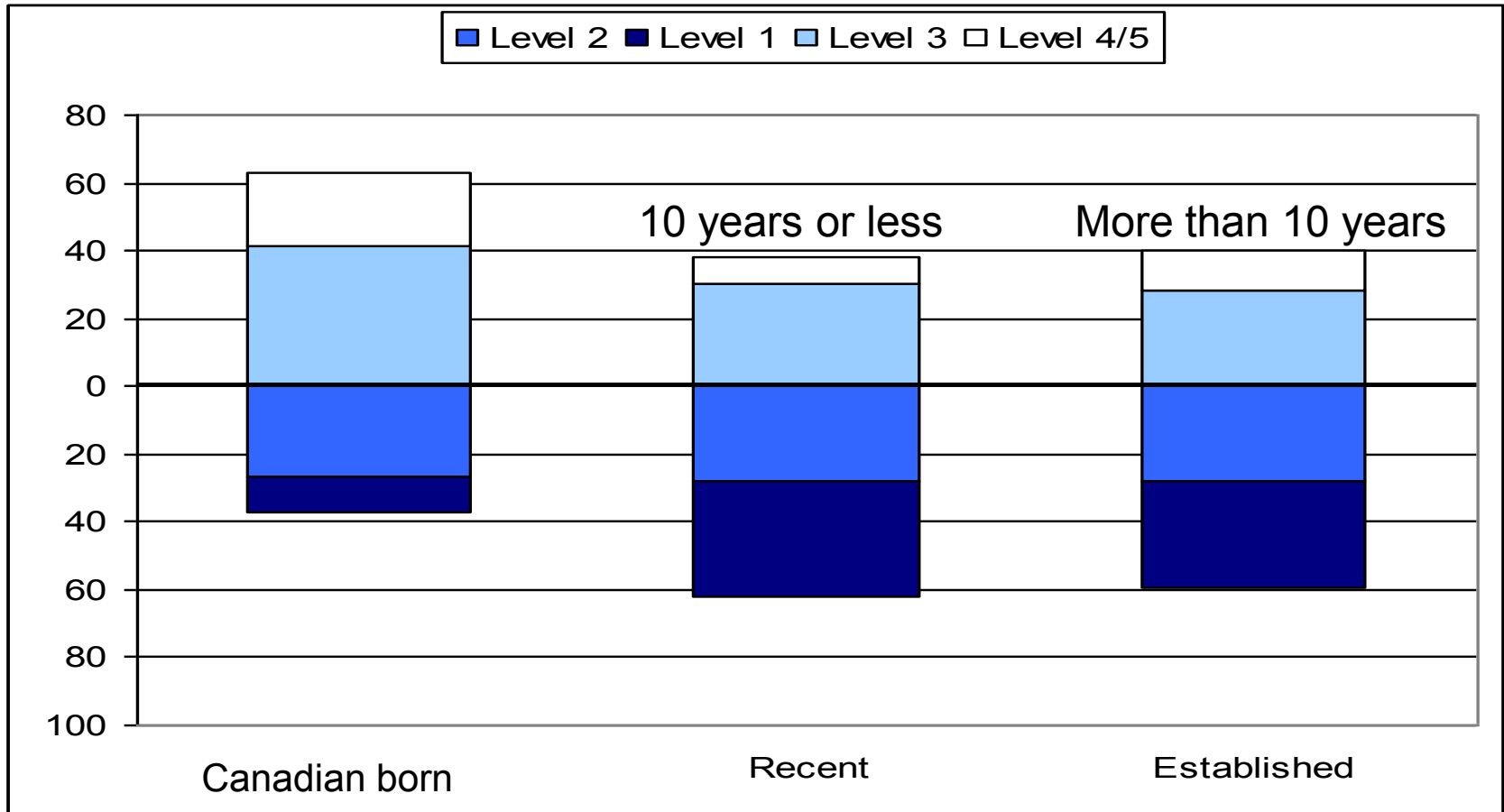
Distribution of the population by mother tongue and highest level of education and average prose scores, Canada minus Québec, population 16 and over, 2003



*Difference at elementary or less level is not significant

A significantly higher proportion of immigrants have low literacy compared to their Canadian-born counterparts, and the proportion does not vary by their length of stay in Canada

Distribution of recent immigrant, established immigrant and native born populations by level of Prose performance, ages 16-65, Canada, 2003



The literacy performance of immigrants was higher among those with mother tongue the same as the language of test

	Prose	Document	Numeracy	Problem solving
Immigrant status	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean
Canadian born	280	278	269	273
Immigrants - mother tongue same as test language	269	269	259	257
Immigrants - mother tongue different from test language	234	238	235	230

Main characteristics of people at level 1 and 2 in prose IALSS (population 16-65)

Level 1

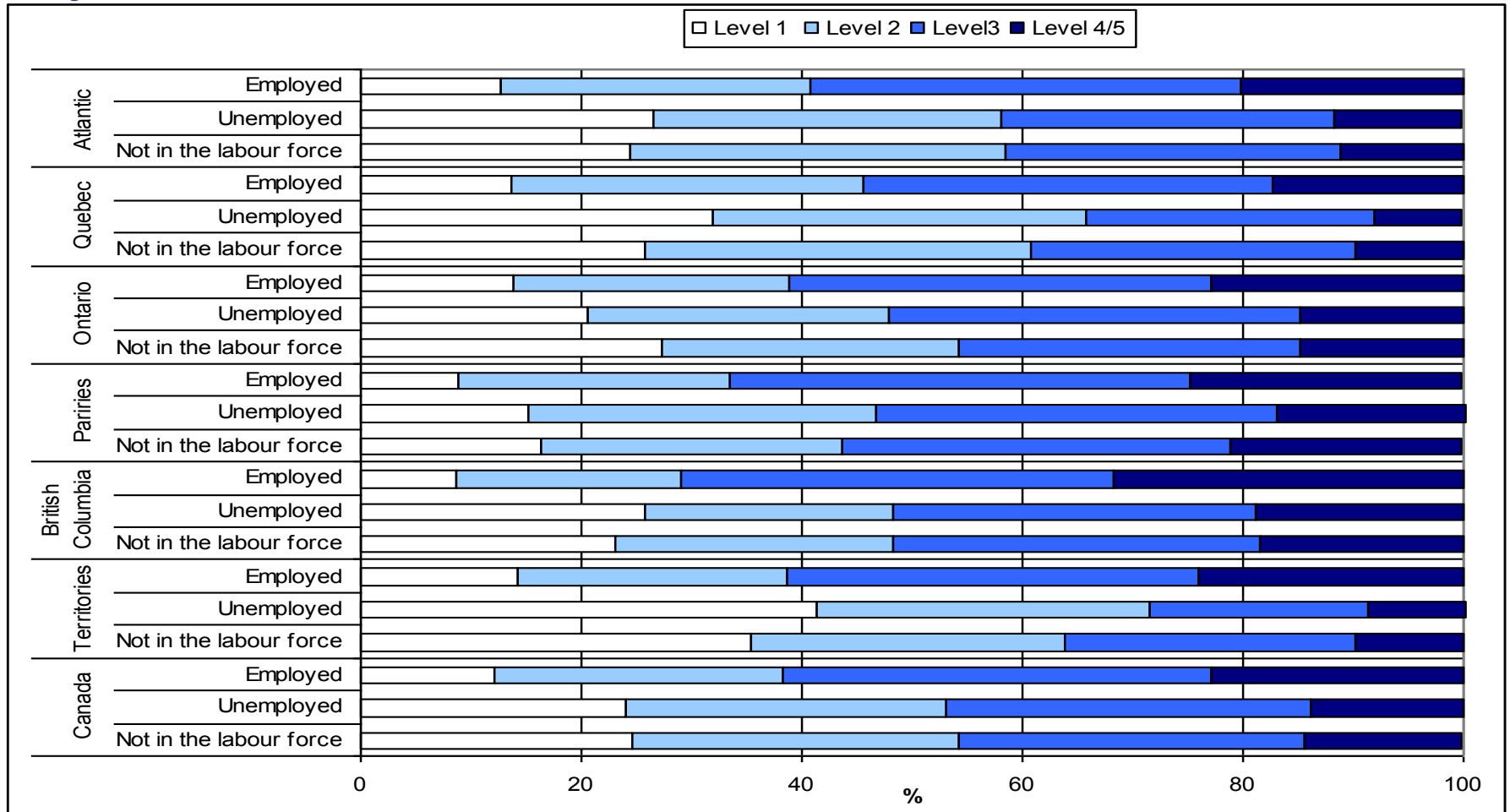
- 3.1 million
- 1.4 million were immigrants
- 54% were male and 46% female
- 60% were employed
- 12% were unemployed
- Education:
 - 50% less than high school;
 - 30% had completed high school
 - 20% had post-secondary education

Level 2

- 5.8 million
- 1.2 million were immigrants
- 52% were male and 48% female
- 70% were employed
- 8% were unemployed
- Education:
 - 28% less than high school;
 - 37% had completed high school
 - 35% had post-secondary education

62% of employed Canadians have document proficiency scores at level 3 or above.

Per cent of labour force population by document literacy levels, population 16 to 65, Canada and Regions, 2003



Knowledge intensive sectors hire workers with higher average scores in the four domains

Average scores in the four literacy domains, labour force 16-65 years, by industry, Canada, 2003

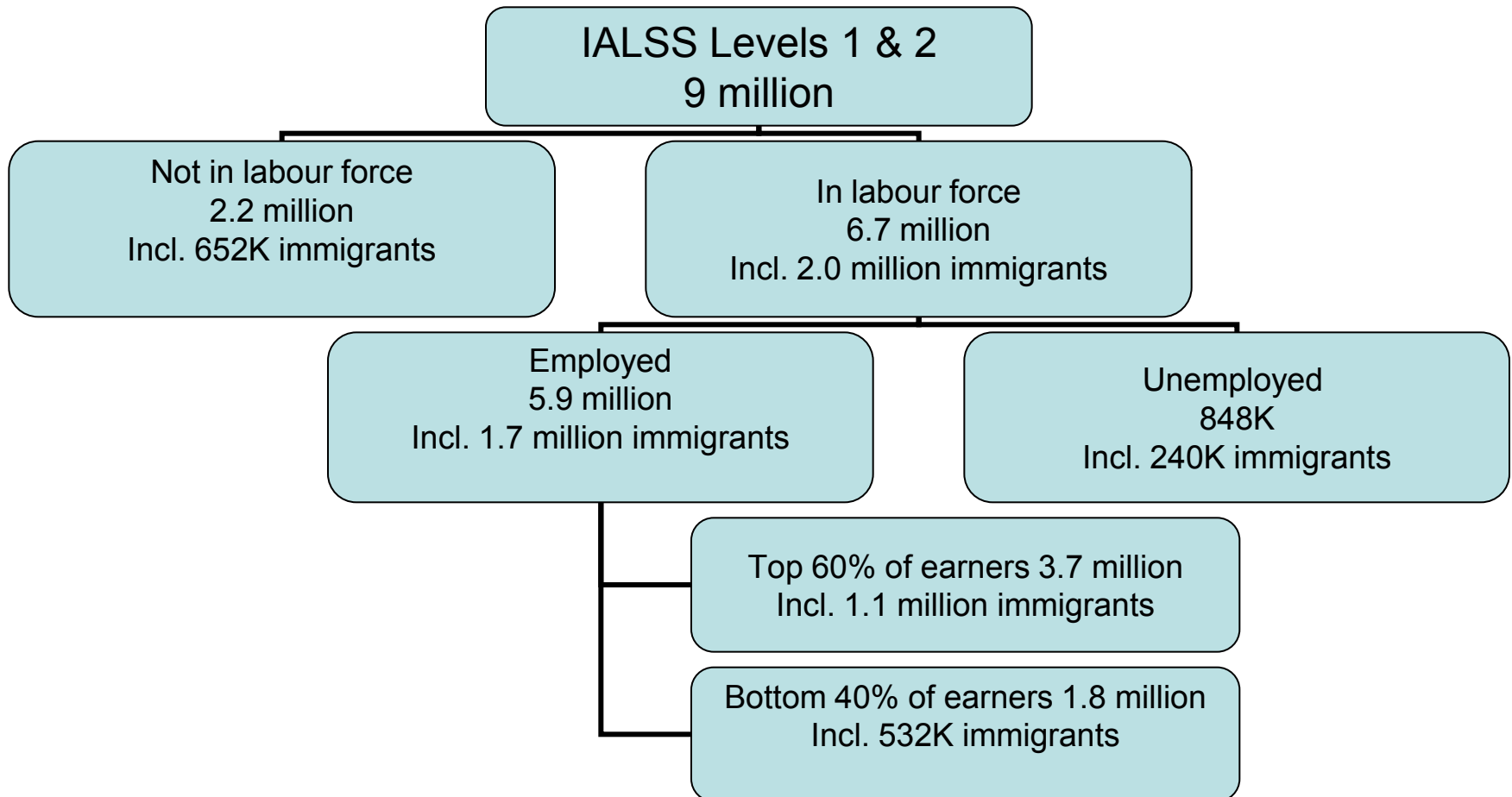
	Prose	s.e	Document	s.e	Numeracy	s.e	Problem solving	s.e
Knowledge-intensive market service activities	296.6	(1.9)	298.0	(2.1)	292.0	(2.4)	288.1	(2.0)
Public administration, defense, education and health	302.8	(1.3)	299.9	(1.4)	287.3	(1.3)	291.3	(1.5)
Other community, social and personal services	286.2	(3.1)	287.0	(3.5)	276.7	(4.2)	278.7	(2.9)
High and medium-high-technology manufacturing industries	282.6	(4.2)	286.8	(5.3)	284.7	(5.2)	277.1	(4.8)
Low and medium-low-technology manufacturing industries	265.0	(2.8)	267.3	(2.7)	262.2	(2.6)	261.0	(2.8)
Utilities and Construction	273.6	(2.3)	278.3	(2.7)	273.5	(2.8)	268.6	(2.7)
Wholesale, retail, hotels and restaurants	276.2	(2.2)	276.6	(2.2)	267.3	(2.3)	271.1	(2.5)
Transport and storage	280.5	(3.1)	282.1	(3.7)	277.0	(3.7)	274.2	(4.2)
Primary industries	271.1	(4.1)	272.6	(4.3)	269.4	(3.8)	267.0	(3.9)

Source: IALSS, 2003

**IALSS evidence can be used to make choices and set priorities
(Canada population 16-65)**

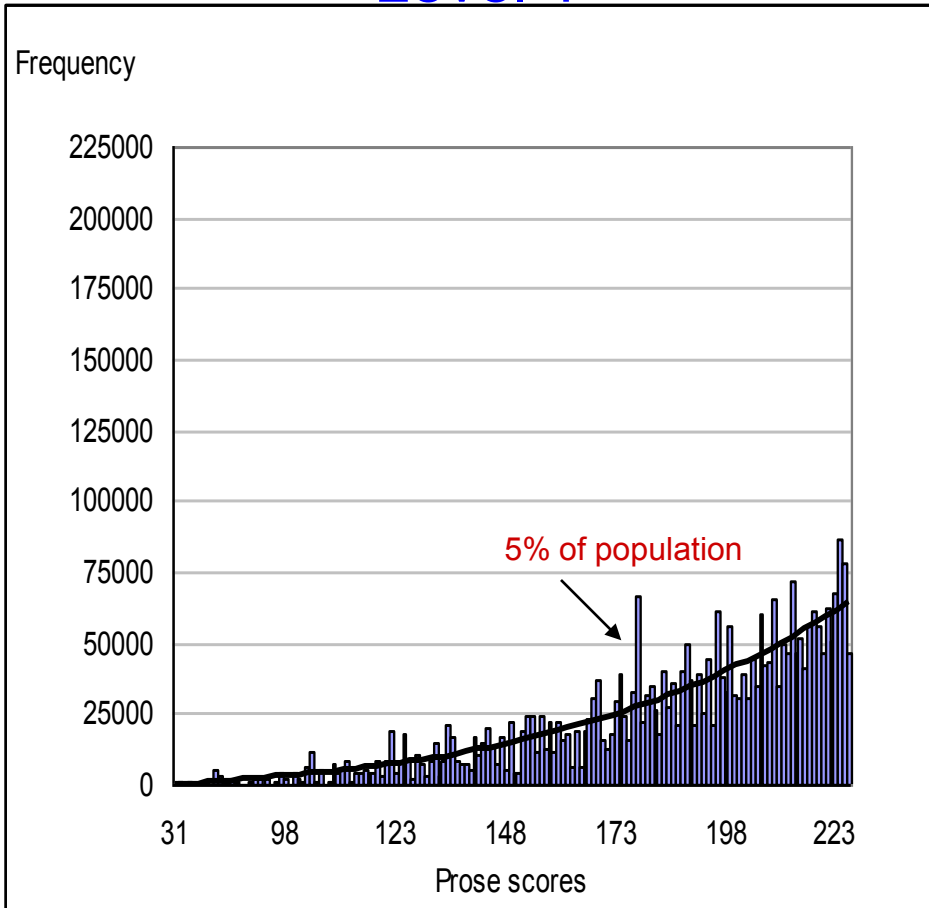
6.3 million Canadians at levels 1&2

2.6 million immigrants at levels 1&2

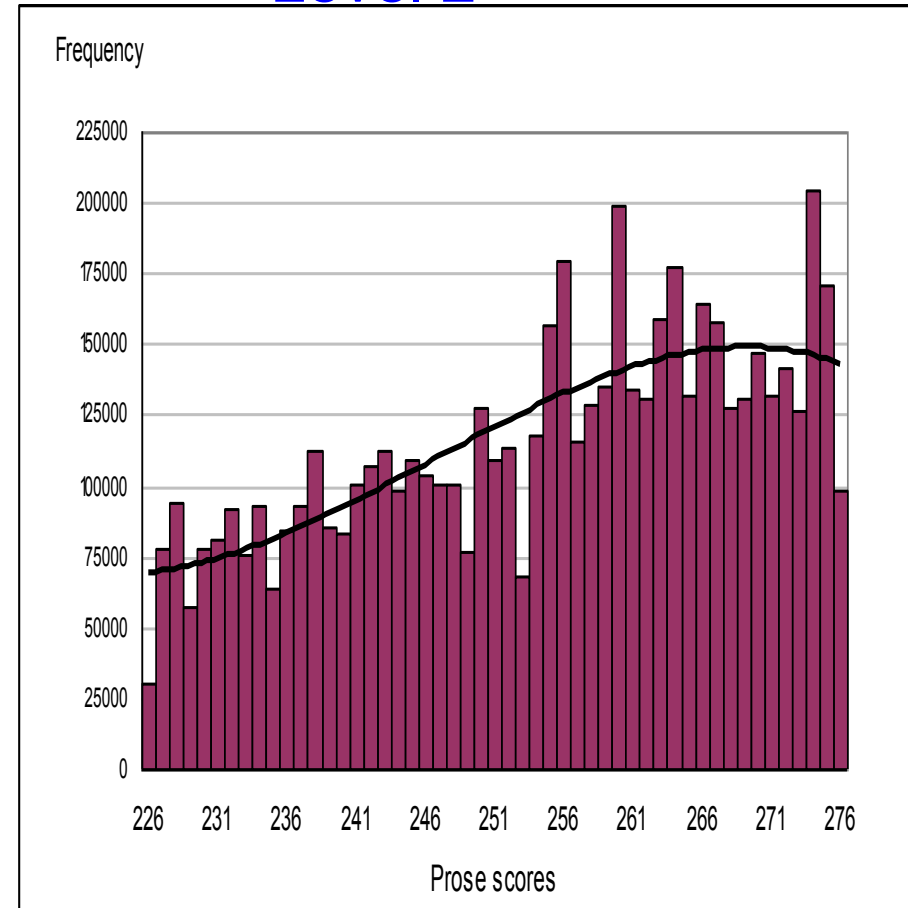


About 9 million Canadians (aged 16 to 65) scored at levels 1 and 2 in prose literacy in IALSS 2003

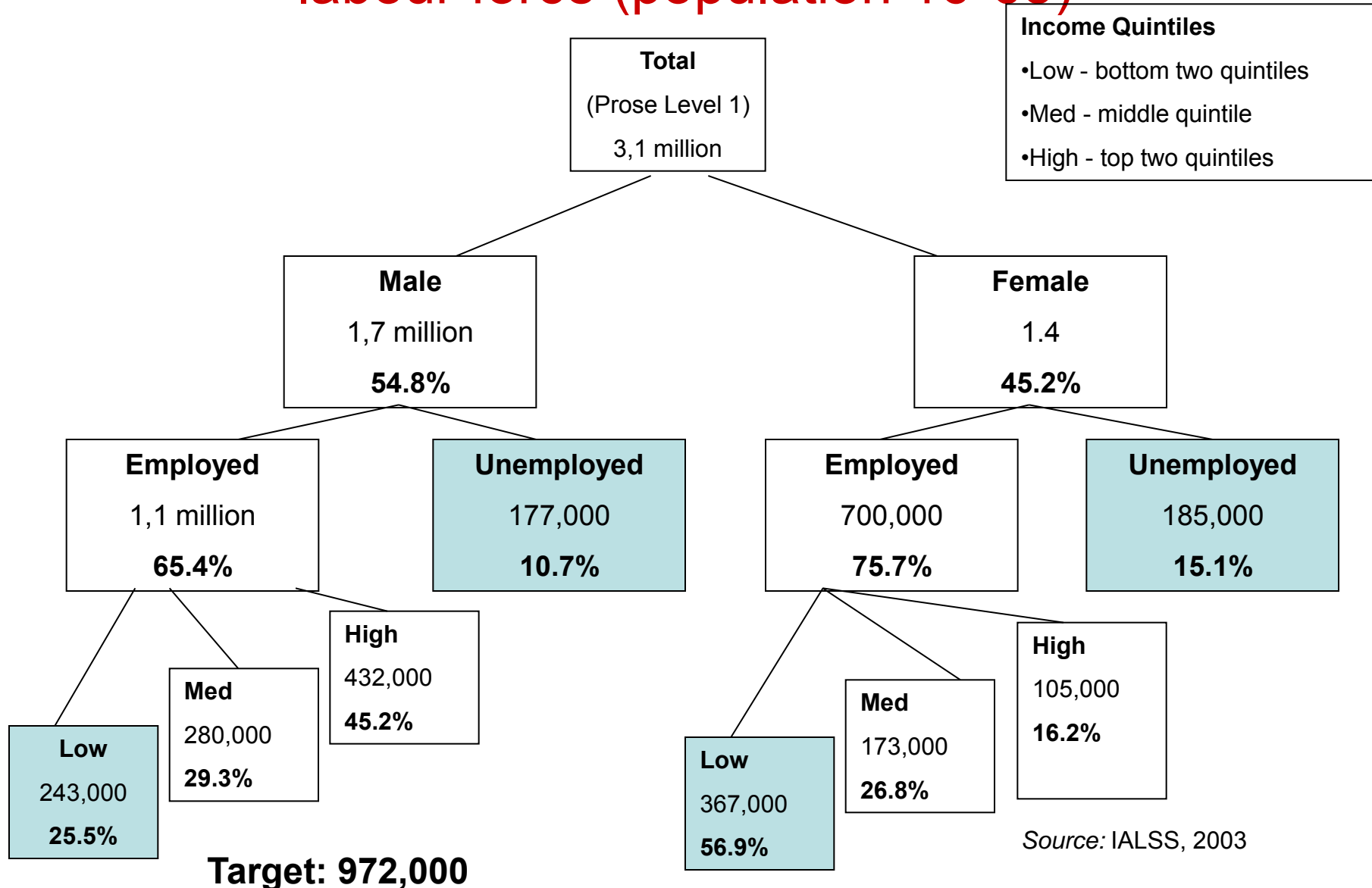
Level 1



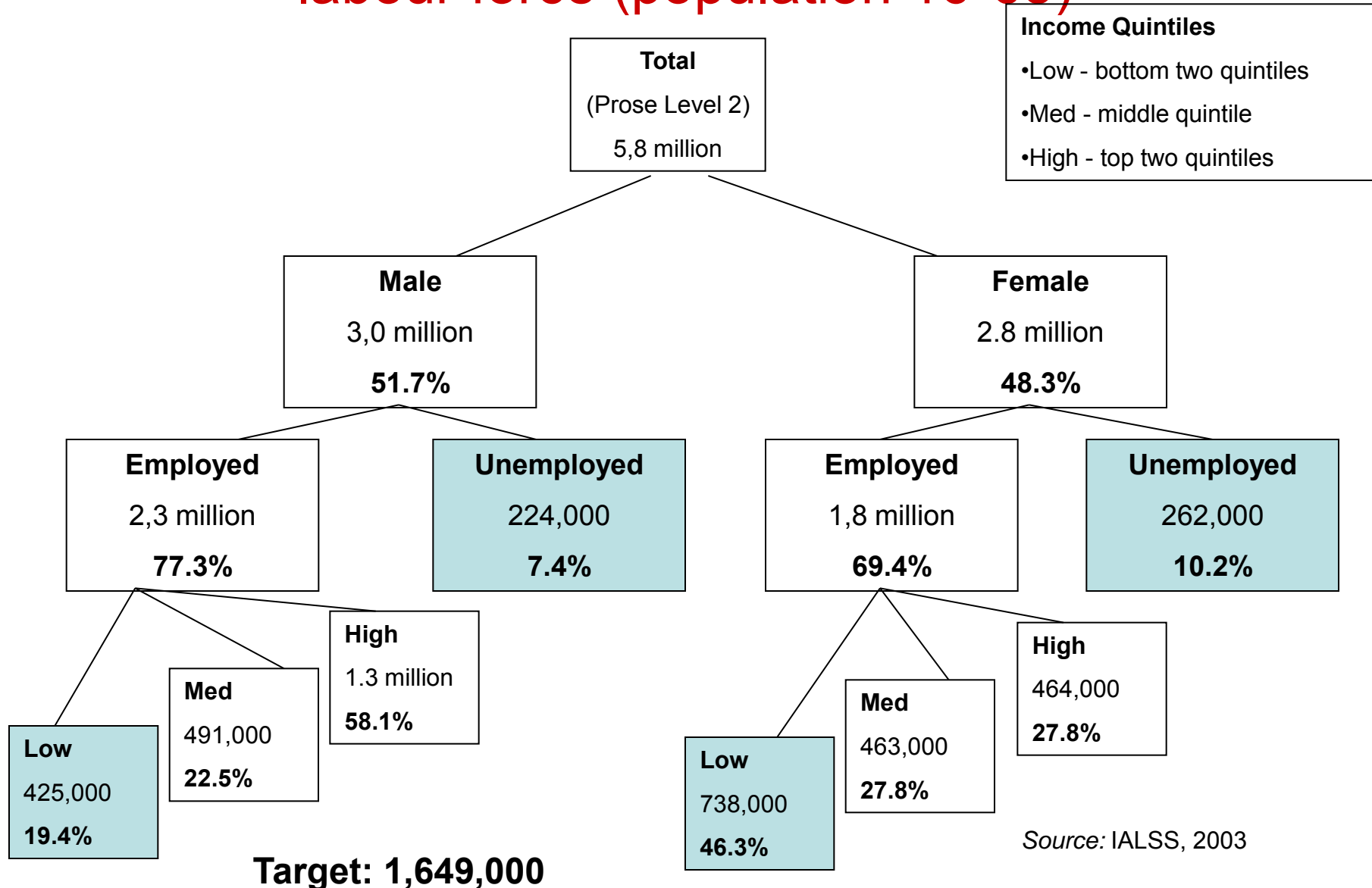
Level 2



Working age Canadians with Level 1 literacy in the labour force (population 16-65)



Working age Canadians with Level 2 literacy in the labour force (population 16-65)



HIGHLIGHTS

- Canadian provinces and territories performed well in the international comparison. All provinces with the exception of New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Nunavut had average scores higher than the United States in prose literacy.
- The average prose scores for Yukon, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and Nova Scotia were not different from the average scores for Norway and Bermuda, the top scoring countries in 2003.
- The number of people 16- 65 with low literacy rose from 8 m in 1994 to 9 m in 2003 though the percentage (42%) did not change.
- There was no change in the average literacy scores for the working age population except for an increase in the average prose literacy score in Quebec and in the average document literacy score in the Atlantic.
- The average literacy scores of all provinces were at level 3, except for Quebec, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador and Nunavut. The average numeracy scores for all provinces were at level 3, except for New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Nunavut.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Four provinces and territories have averages at level 2 on all three domains (prose, document and numeracy) – Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Quebec and Nunavut. However, except for Nunavut, the averages are very close to the cut off for level 3.
- 5 provinces and territories have averages scores for Numeracy at level 2 though their average scores for literacy are at level 3. These are Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba and Northwest Territory.
- Yukon had the lowest proportion overall and among provinces, AB, SK and BC had the lowest proportion of the population with prose literacy below level 3.
- 9 out 13 jurisdictions have about 50 % their population with numeracy below level 3.
- Three provinces, Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia, have 7 m of the 9 m persons with low literacy.
- Two and a half million people had both literacy and numeracy below level 3.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Provinces such as Saskatchewan and New Brunswick had less inequity than other provinces in the distribution of numeracy scores.
- Across all four domains, higher levels of education are associated with higher levels of proficiency
- In most provinces and territories, the majority of youth have prose literacy proficiency at Level 3 or above.
- More than 80% of seniors scored at levels 1 and 2 in prose literacy.
- Proficiency in prose literacy tends to decrease with age.
- Educational attainment appears to moderate and even delay a decline in proficiency but the patterns are different across provinces.
- The prose literacy performance of the Aboriginal populations surveyed is lower than that of the Canadian population.
- Younger aboriginal people have higher scores than older ones but all age groups score lower than non aboriginal persons.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The proportion of Francophones scoring below level 3 is higher than the proportion of Anglophones.
- In Quebec, there are no significant differences in prose literacy proficiency between Francophones and Anglophones at the same level of educational attainment.
- Anglophones outside of Quebec have slightly higher average scores than Francophones at every educational level except elementary schooling.
- Overall immigrants of working age performed significantly below the Canadian born population. The average prose literacy score for Canadians excluding immigrants is roughly 8 points higher, which places Canada at the level of the highest performing countries such as Norway and Bermuda.
- Recent immigrants (10 years or less) and established immigrants (more than 10 years) have the same average score in all four domains and have the same proportion scoring below level 3 in all four domains.
- Immigrants whose mother tongue was neither English nor French have lower average scores in all four domains compared to immigrants whose mother tongue is one of the two official languages.

HIGHLIGHTS

- A higher percentage of men than women have proficiency levels below level 3
- About 62 per cent of employed Canadians have average document literacy scores at Level 3 or above. In contrast, over half of unemployed Canadians have document literacy scores below Level 3
- Knowledge intensive sectors hire workers with higher average scores in the four domains
- There are 972,000 Canadians at level 1 who are either unemployed or employed but earning low income. There are 1,649,000 at level 2 who are either unemployed or employed but earning low income. Together they total 2,621,000 Canadians who are in the most need of literacy assistance.