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Aboriginal Peoples in Canada: First Nations People, Métis and Inuit

2011 National Household Survey (NHS)

Social and Aboriginal Statistics

September 16, 2013



■ **Main analytical document**

Aboriginal Peoples in Canada: First Nations People, Métis and Inuit

- Part 1: Diverse groups living across the country
- Part 2: The Aboriginal population is young
- Part 3: Living arrangements of Aboriginal children

■ **NHS in Brief**

Aboriginal peoples and language

The educational attainment of Aboriginal peoples in Canada



Part 1: Diverse groups living across the country



Aboriginal people numbered 1.4 million in 2011

- New data from the National Household Survey (NHS) show that 1,400,685 people had an Aboriginal identity in 2011, representing 4.3% of the total Canadian population
- Aboriginal people accounted for 3.8% of the population enumerated in the 2006 Census, 3.3% in the 2001 Census and 2.8% in the 1996 Census



Aboriginal identity concept

'Aboriginal identity' refers to whether the person reported being an Aboriginal person, that is, First Nations (North American Indian), Métis or Inuk (Inuit) and/or being a Registered or Treaty Indian, (that is, registered under the *Indian Act* of Canada) and/or being a member of a First Nation or Indian band.



The Aboriginal population is diverse

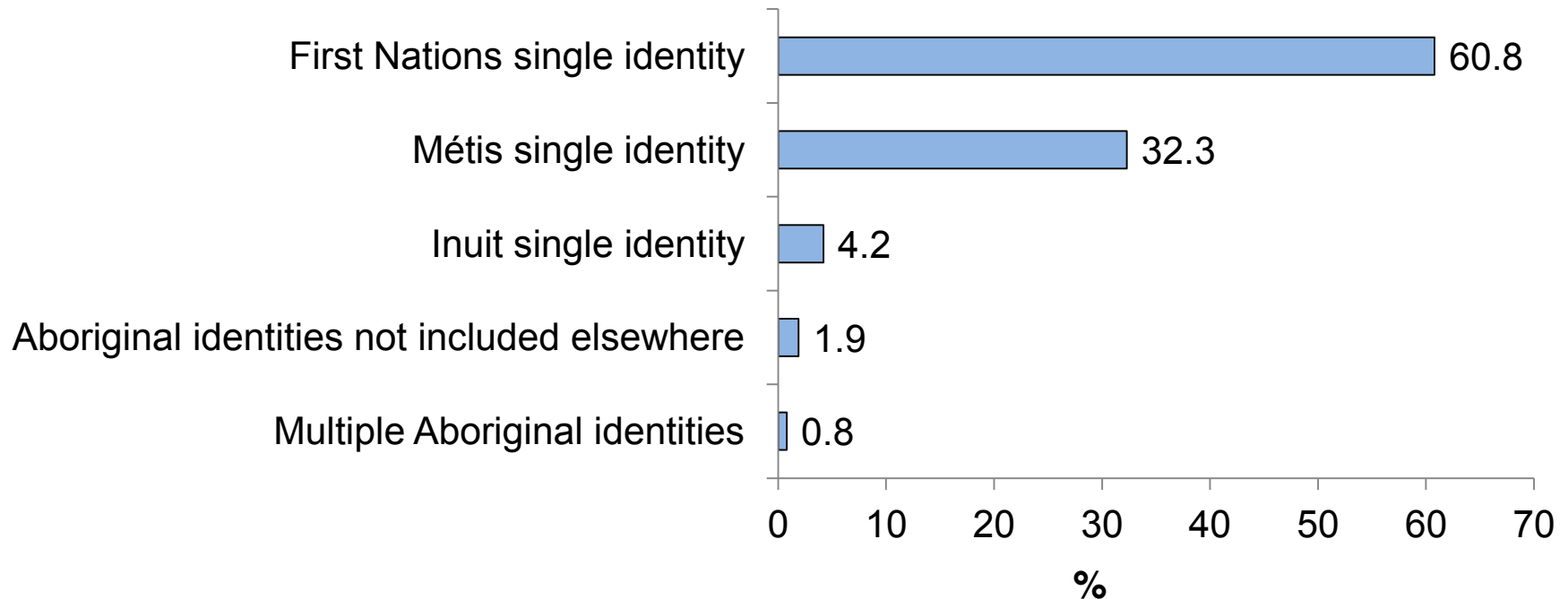
Aboriginal identity	Number	Percent
Total Aboriginal identity population	1,400,685	100.0
First Nations single identity	851,560	60.8
First Nations single identity (Registered or Treaty Indian)	637,660	45.5
First Nations single identity (not a Registered or Treaty Indian)	213,900	15.3
Métis single identity	451,795	32.3
Inuit single identity	59,445	4.2
Multiple Aboriginal identities	11,415	0.8
Aboriginal identities not included elsewhere	26,475	1.9

Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.



About six Aboriginal people in ten are First Nations people

Aboriginal identity population, Canada, 2011

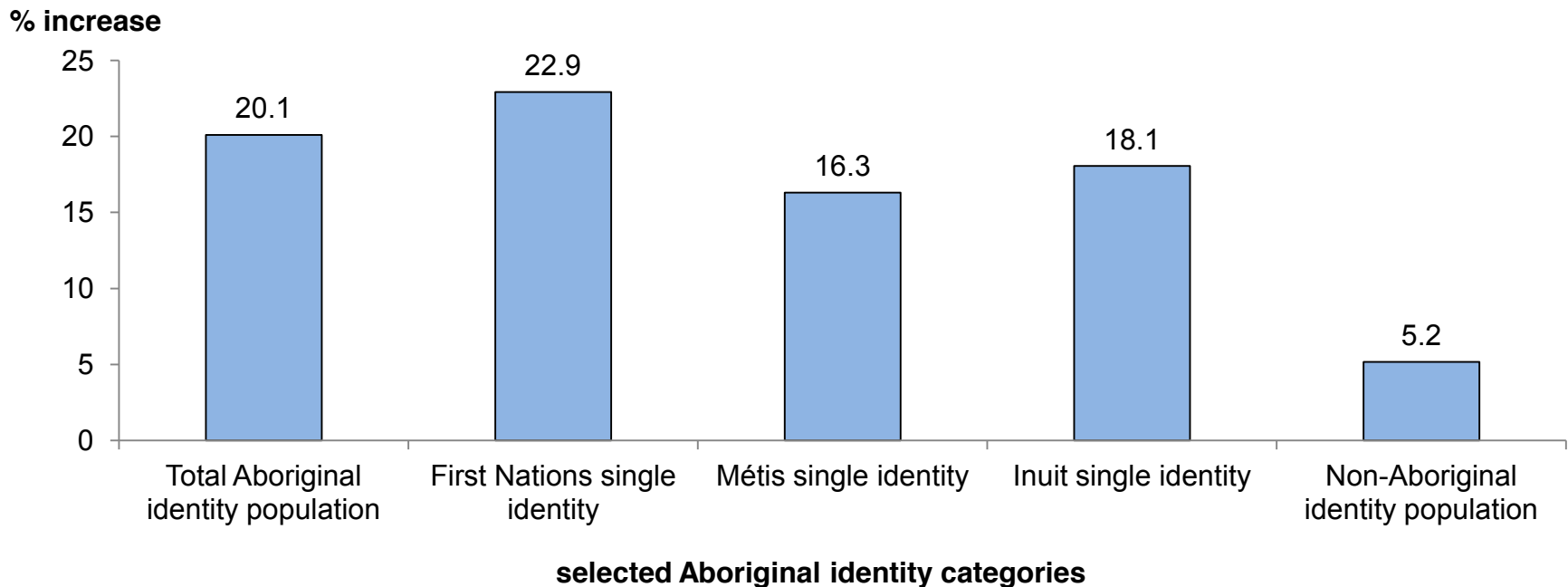


Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.



The Aboriginal population increased at a faster pace than the non-Aboriginal population

Percent increase of the population, Canada, 2006 to 2011



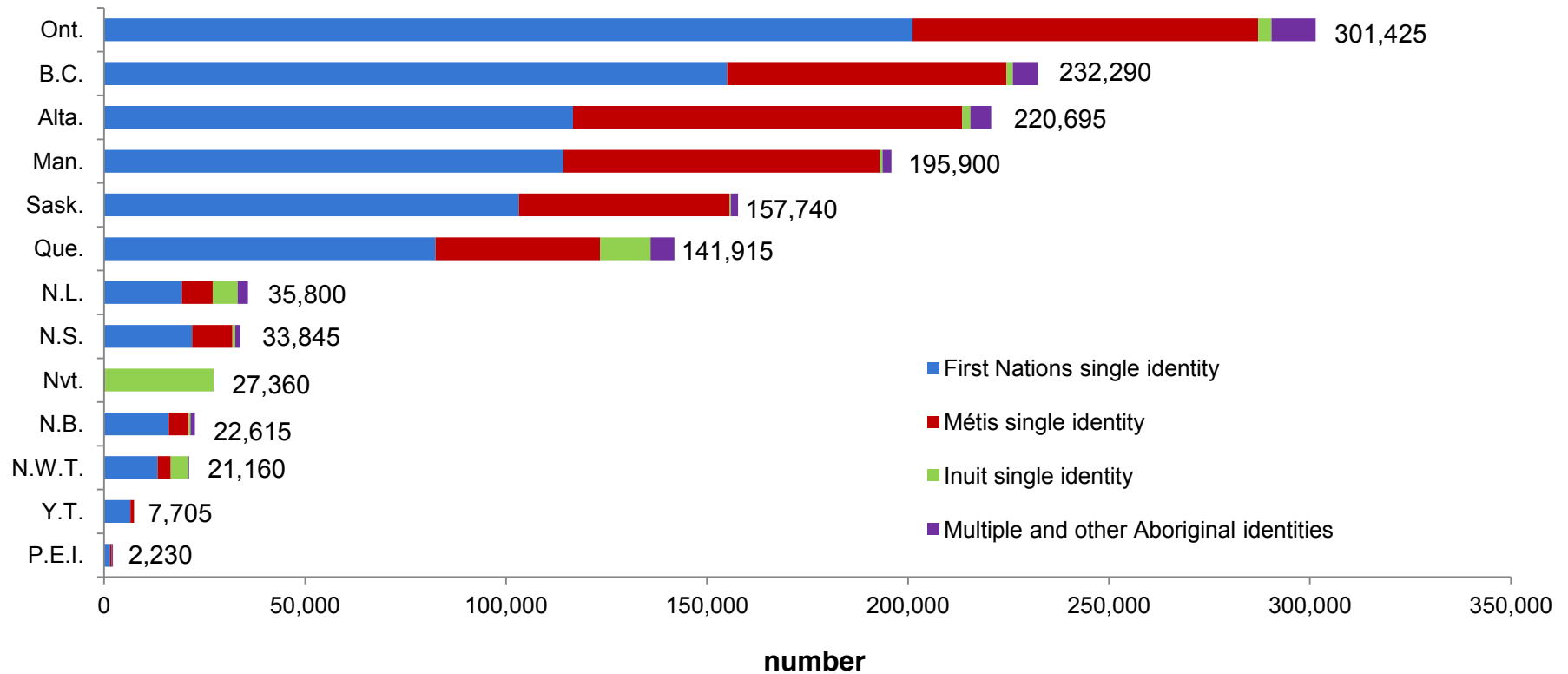
Note: Data have been adjusted to account for incompletely enumerated Indian reserves and Indian settlements in 2006 and/or 2011; 2006 Census data have been adjusted to the same universe used for the 2011 NHS (population in private households).

Sources: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011, Census of Population, 2006.



Ontario is the province with the largest number of Aboriginal people

provinces and territories



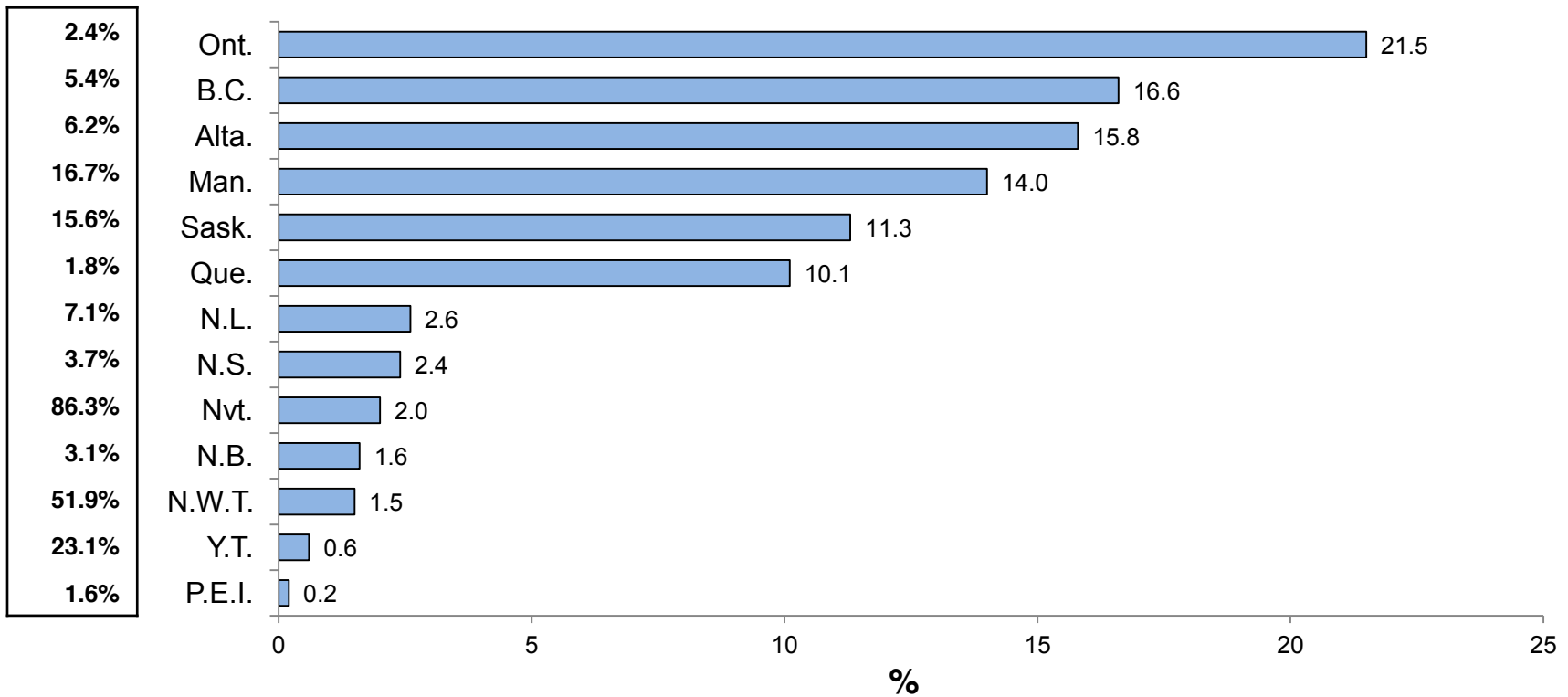
Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.



Most Aboriginal people live in Ontario and the western provinces

Aboriginal people as a % of the total population in each province and territory

% distribution of Aboriginal people in the provinces and territories



Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.



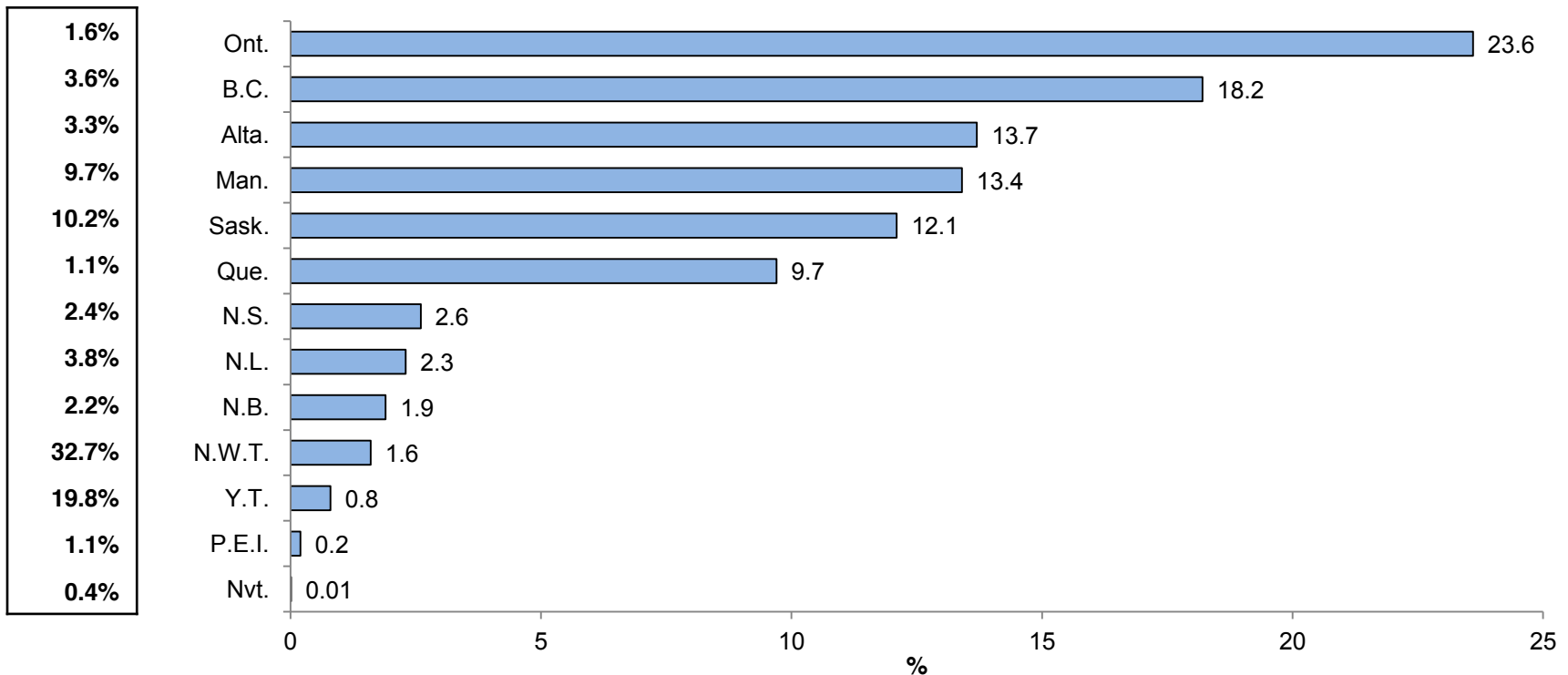
First Nations People



Most First Nations people live in Ontario and the western provinces

First Nations people as a % of the total population in each province and territory

% distribution of First Nations people in the provinces and territories



Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.



Nearly half of First Nations people with registered Indian status live on a reserve

- Of the 637,660 First Nations people who reported being Registered Indians, nearly one-half (49.3%) lived on an Indian reserve or Indian settlement. This proportion varied across the country
- In Quebec, nearly three-quarters (72.0%) of First Nations people with registered Indian status lived on reserve, the highest proportion among the provinces
- The lowest proportion of First Nations people with registered Indian status living on a reserve (35.1%) was in Newfoundland and Labrador



Winnipeg is the CMA with the largest population of First Nations people with registered Indian status living off reserve

- There were 323,290 First Nations people with registered Indian status who did not live on a reserve
- The census metropolitan areas with the largest populations of First Nations people with registered Indian status who lived off reserve were Winnipeg (25,970), Edmonton (18,210) and Vancouver (15,080)



First Nations people without registered Indian status represented one-quarter of the First Nations population

- First Nations people who were not Registered Indians (also known as non-Status Indians) represented 25.1% (213,900) of the total First Nations population in Canada
- The census metropolitan areas with the largest populations of First Nations people without registered Indian status were Toronto (14,505), Vancouver (13,635), Montréal (10,540), and Ottawa - Gatineau (Ontario part) (6,495)



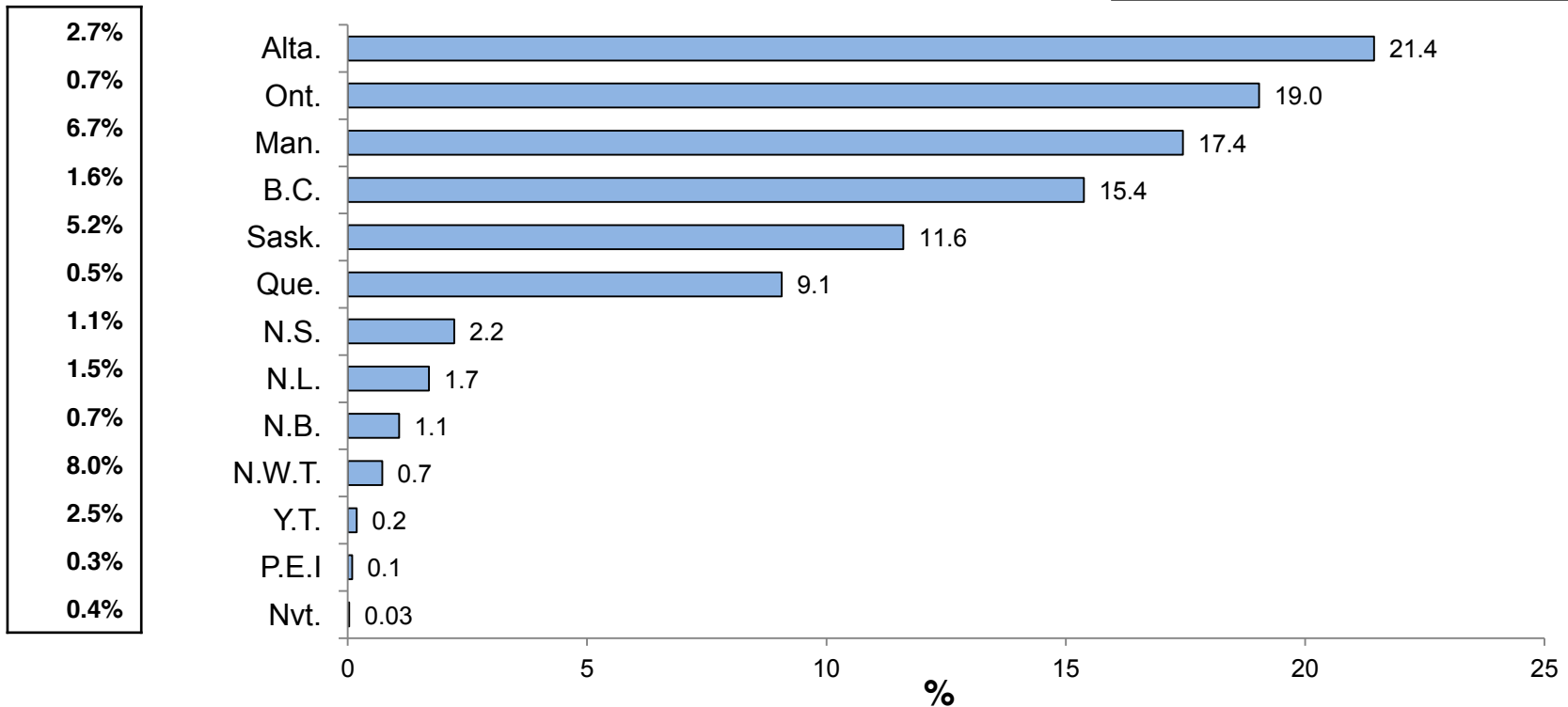
Métis



Most Métis live in the western provinces and Ontario

Métis as a % of the total population in each province and territory

% distribution of Métis in the provinces and territories

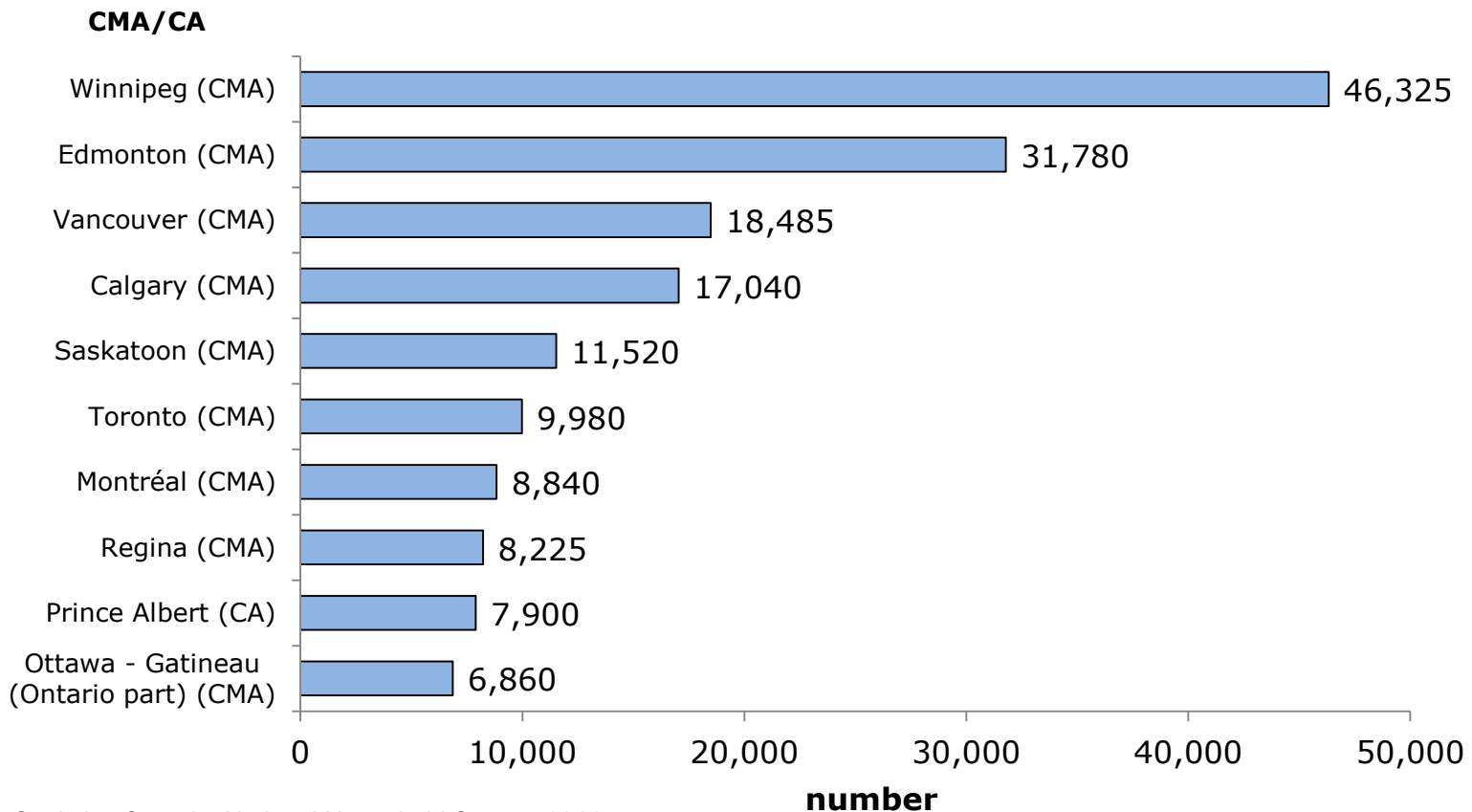


Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.



Winnipeg is the CMA with the largest Métis population

Census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations with the largest Métis populations, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.

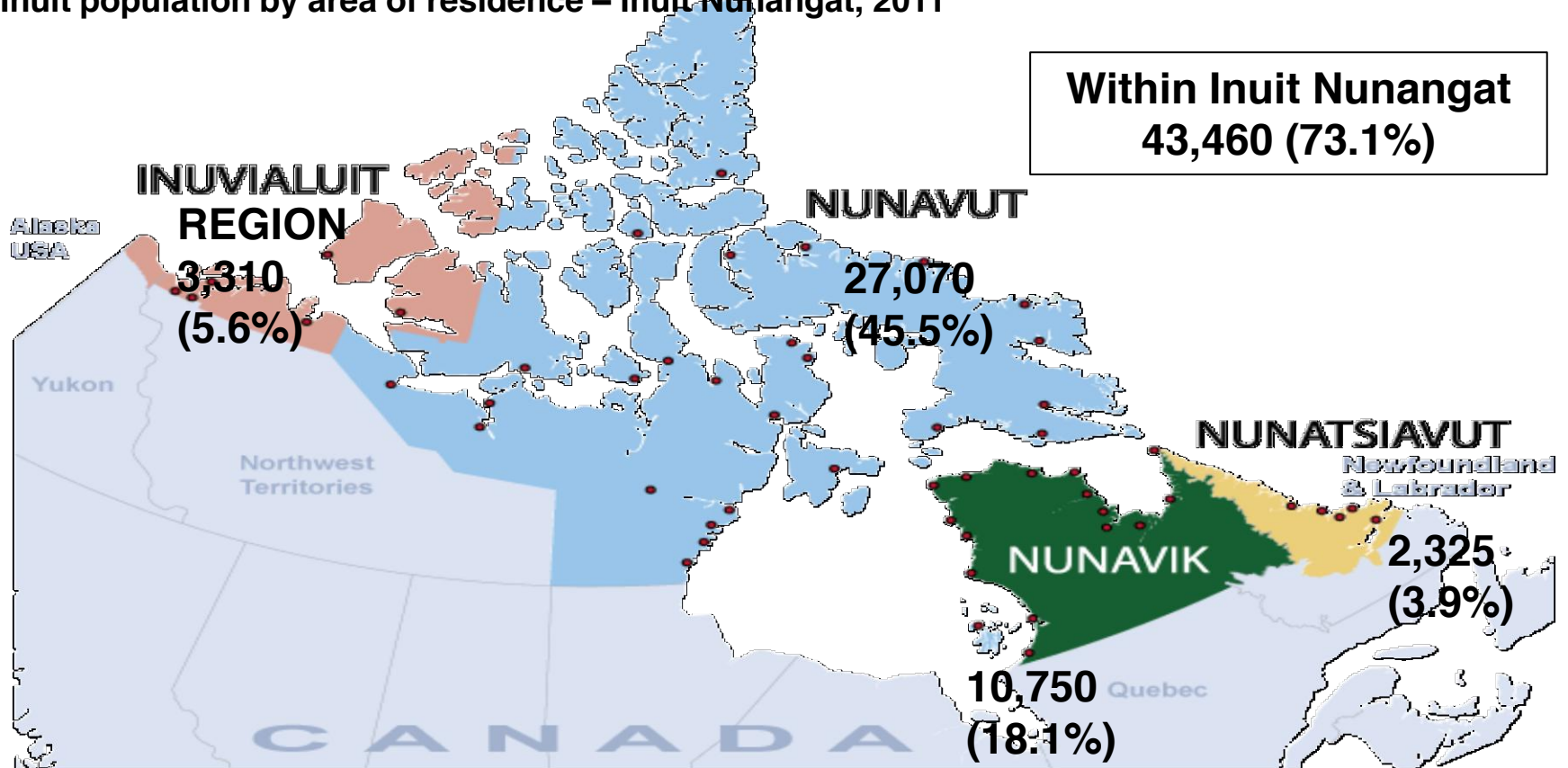


Inuit



Nearly three-quarters of Inuit live in Inuit Nunangat 'traditional homeland'

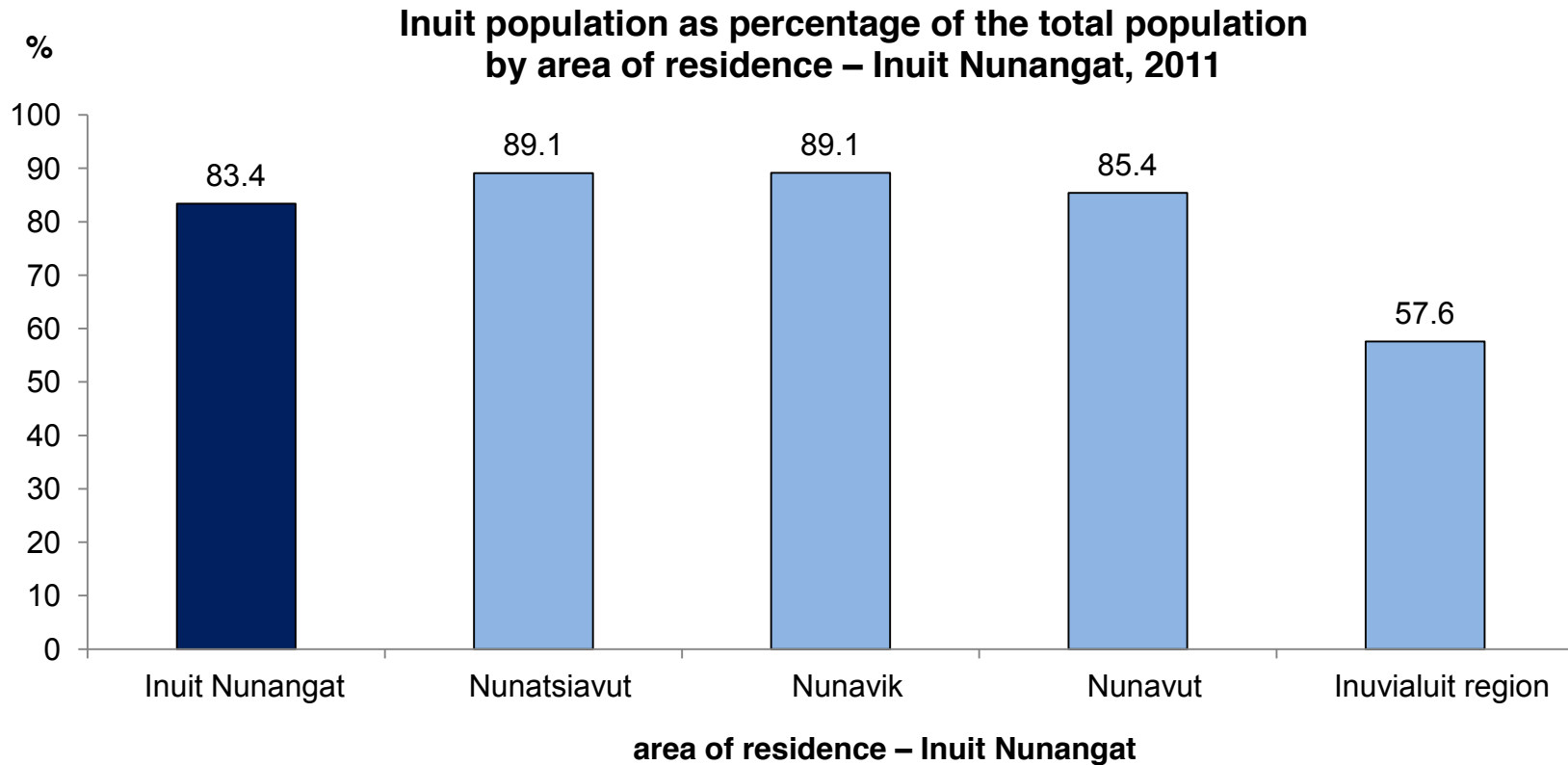
Inuit population by area of residence – Inuit Nunangat, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.



Nearly nine in ten people in Nunatsiavut and Nunavik are Inuit



Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.

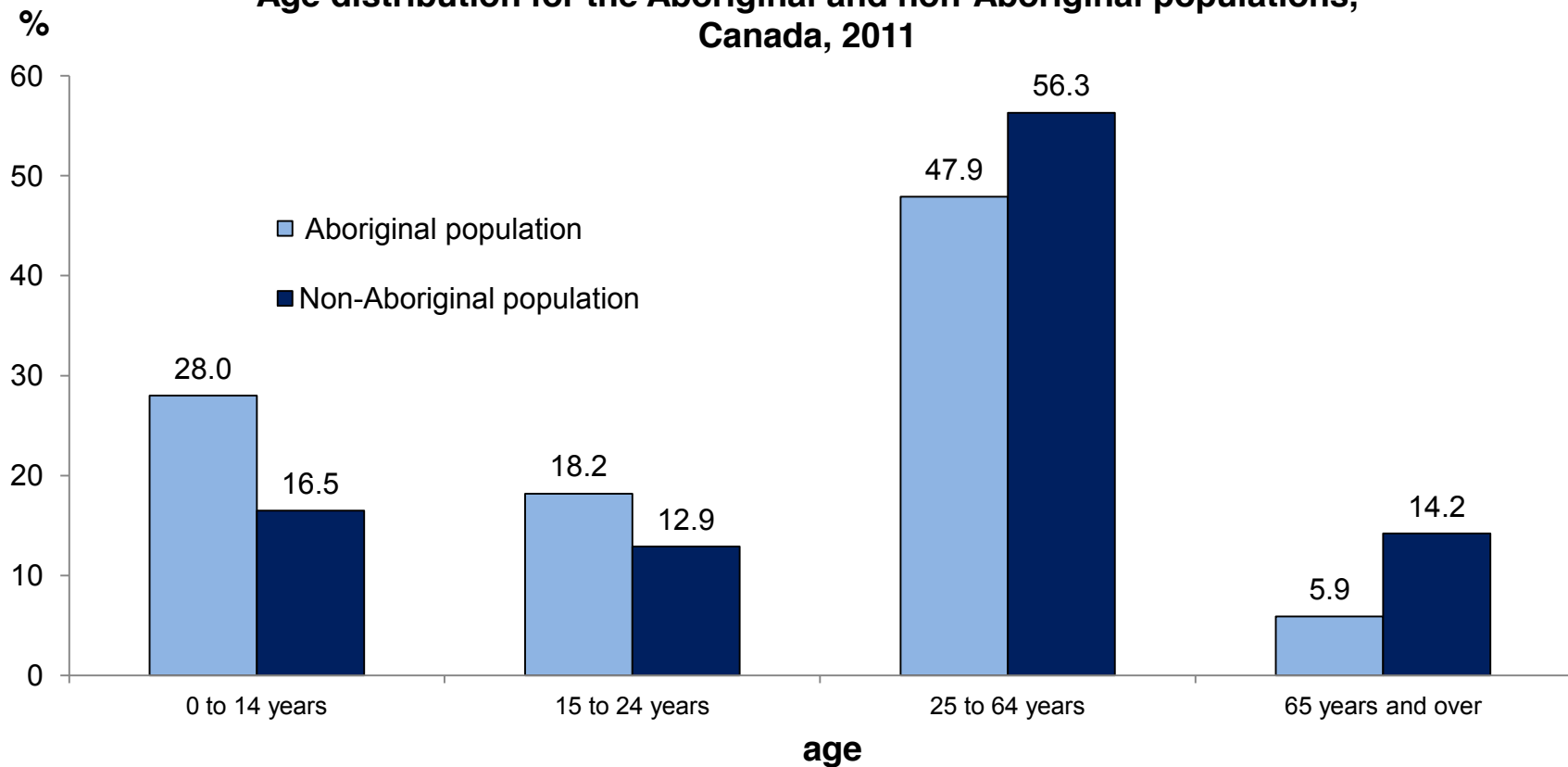


Part 2: The Aboriginal population is young



The Aboriginal population is younger than the non-Aboriginal population

Age distribution for the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations, Canada, 2011



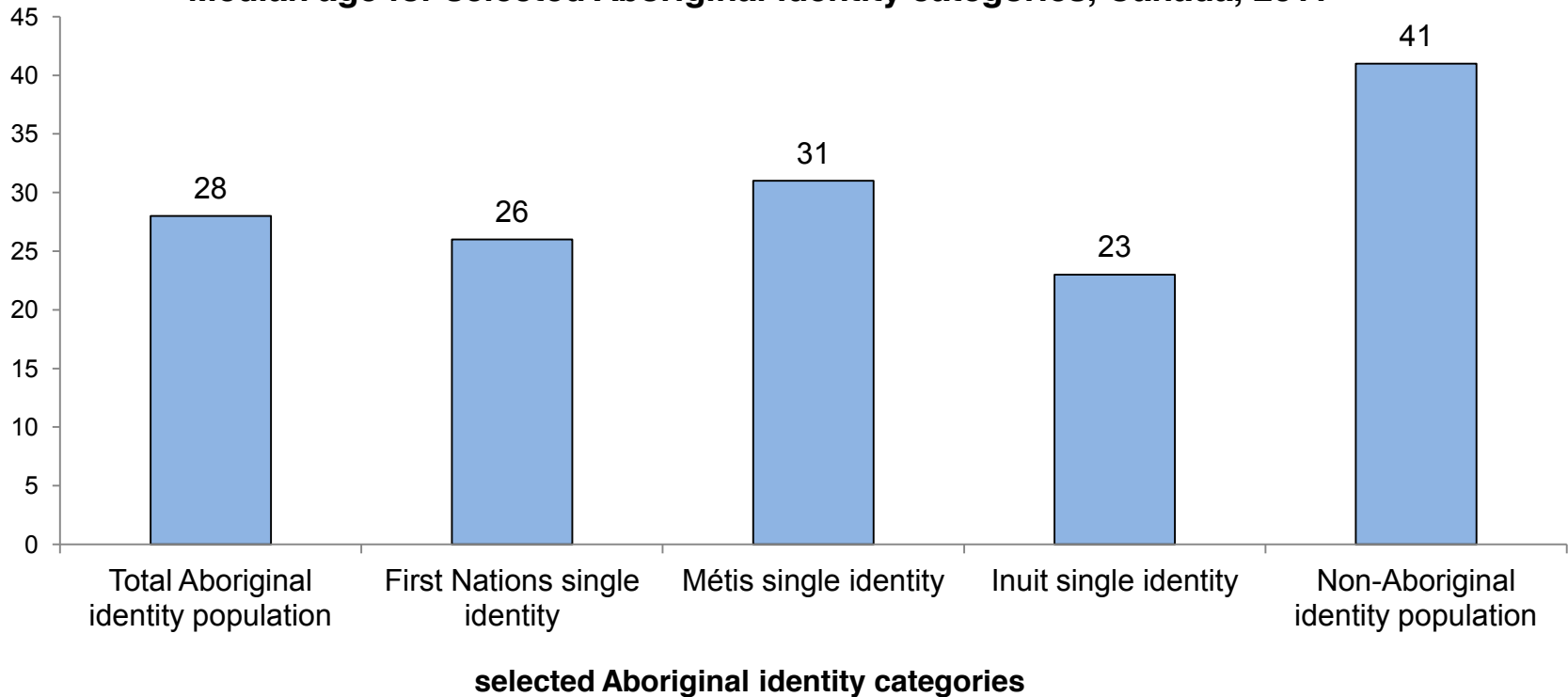
Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.



Inuit are the youngest of the three Aboriginal groups

median age (years)

Median age for selected Aboriginal identity categories, Canada, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.

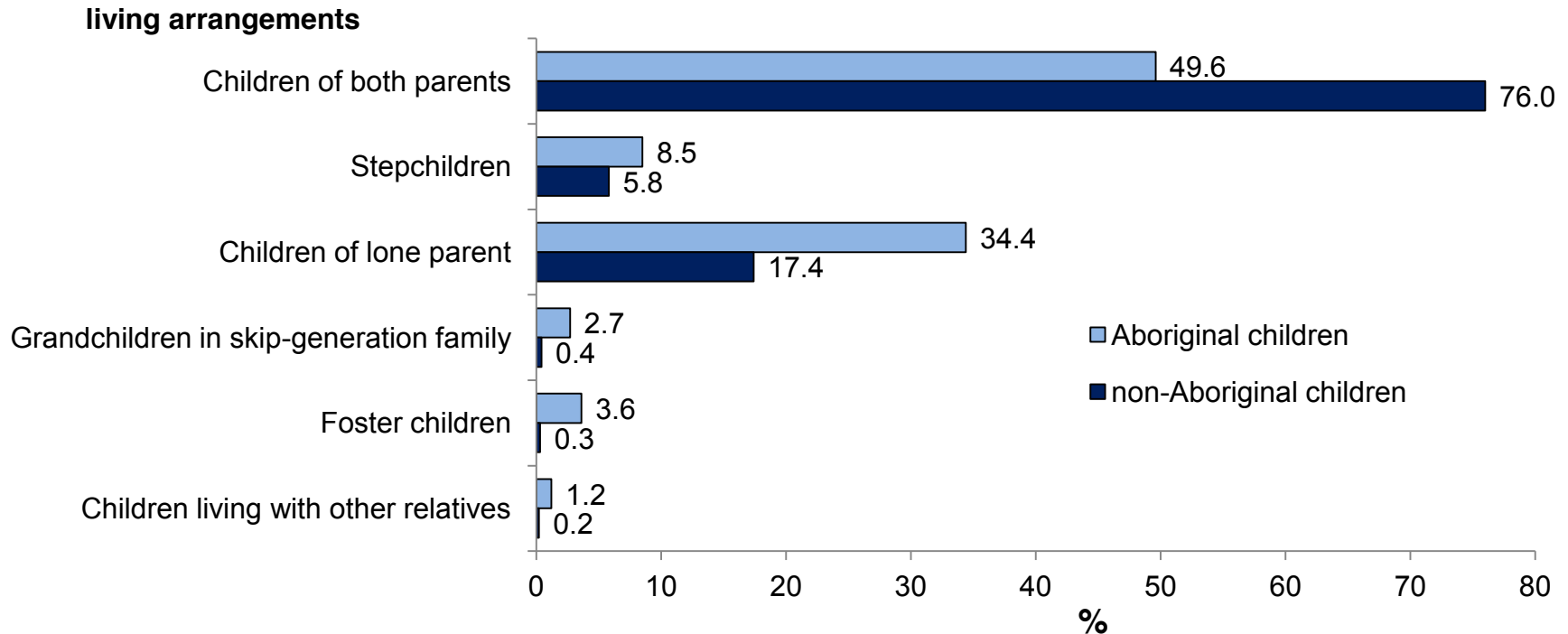


Part 3: Living arrangements of Aboriginal children



Diverse living arrangements among Aboriginal children

Distribution of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children aged 14 and under by living arrangement, Canada, 2011

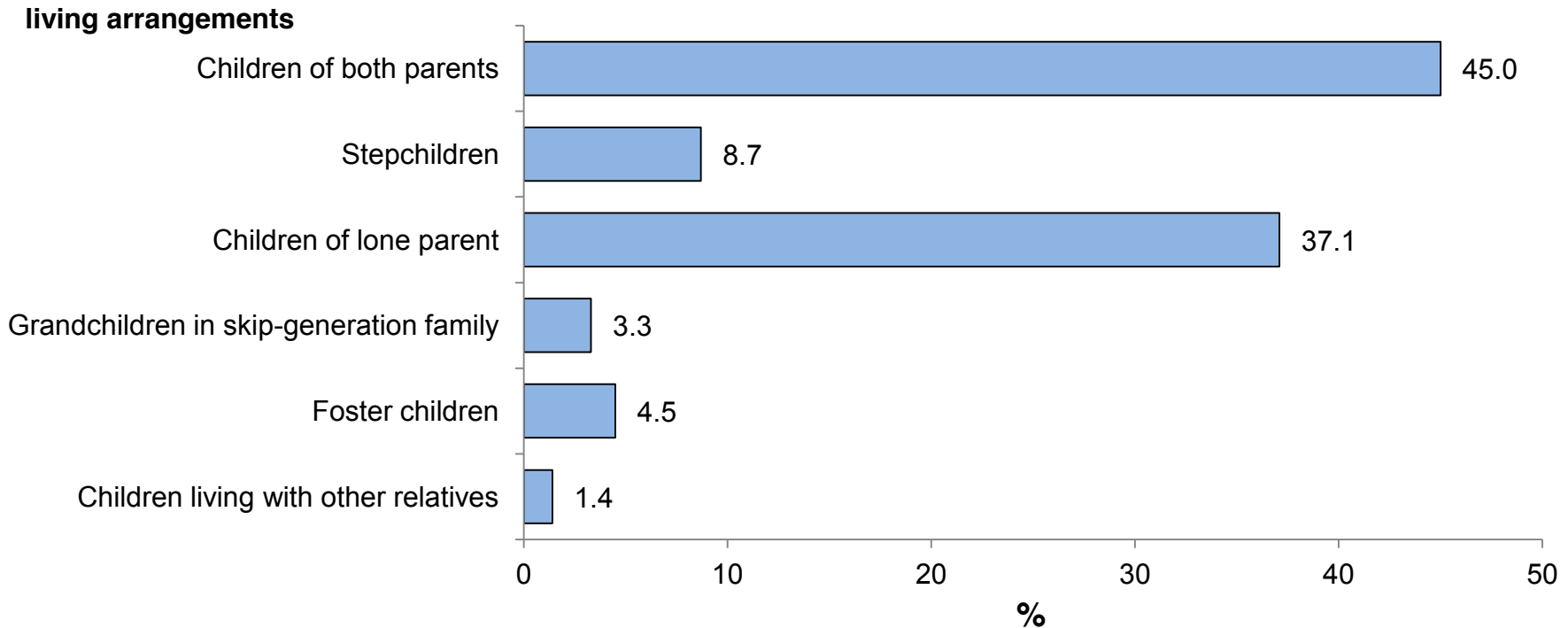


Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.



Less than half of First Nations children live with both parents

Distribution of First Nations children aged 14 and under by living arrangement, Canada, 2011



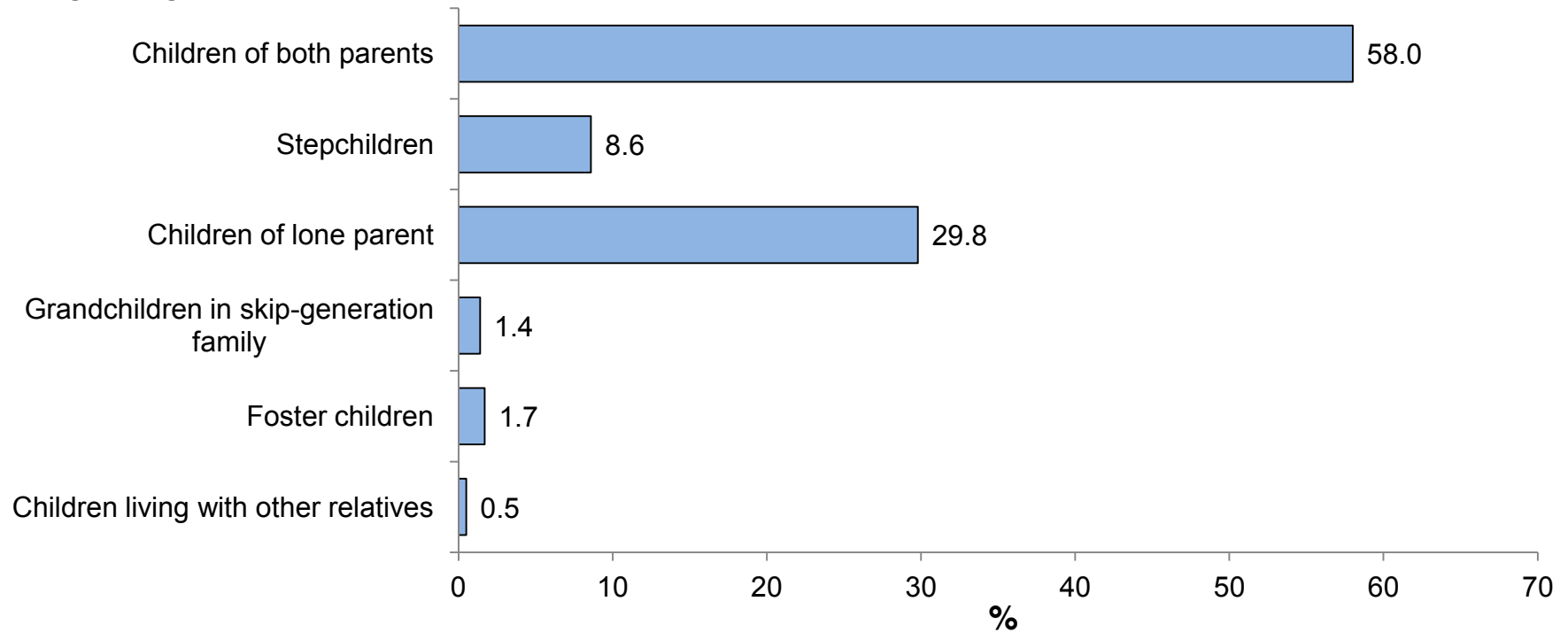
Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.



More than half of Métis children live with both parents

Distribution of Métis children aged 14 and under by living arrangement, Canada, 2011

living arrangements

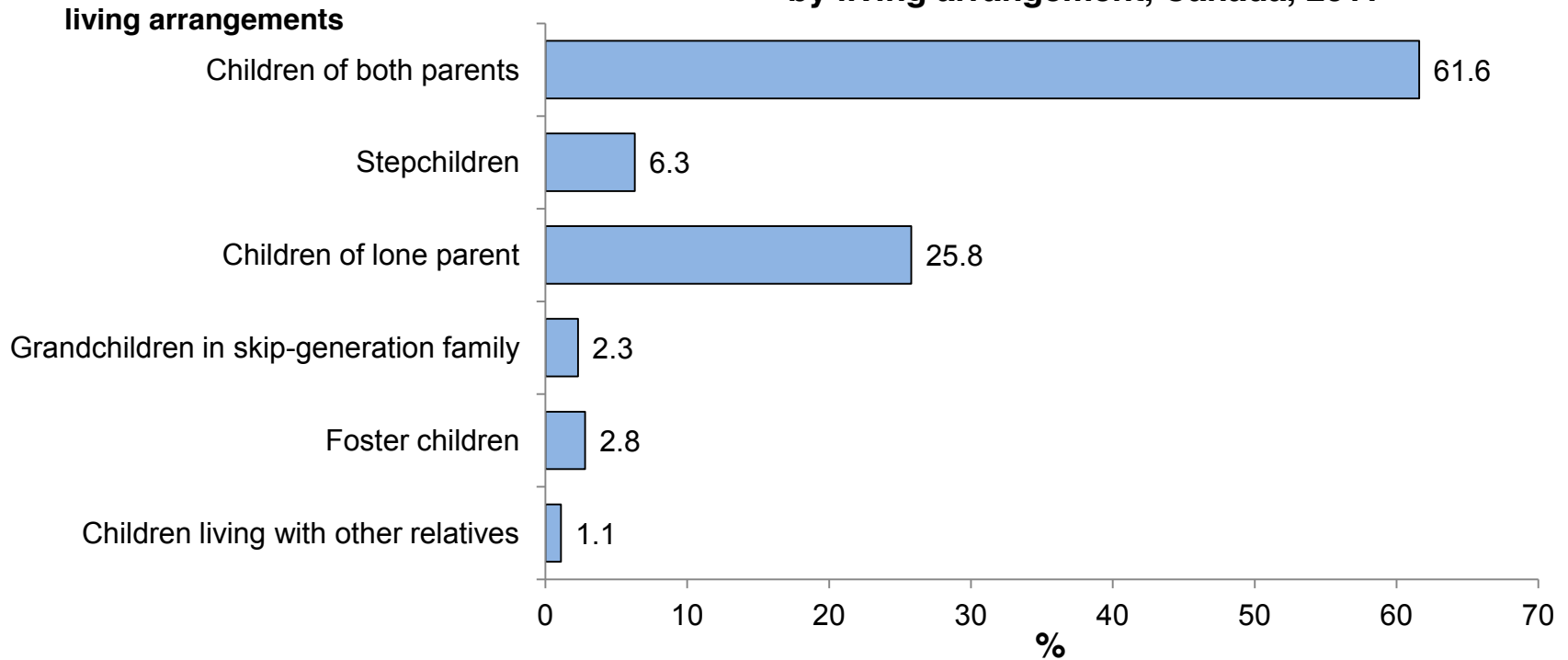


Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.



About six in ten Inuit children live with both parents

Distribution of Inuit children aged 14 and under by living arrangement, Canada, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.



NHS in Brief:

Aboriginal peoples and language



About one in six Aboriginal people can converse in an Aboriginal language

- Just over 240,800 Aboriginal people reported that they were able to conduct a conversation in an Aboriginal language, representing about one in six Aboriginal people (17.2%)
- The proportion of Aboriginal people who were able to conduct a conversation in an Aboriginal language declined from 21.0% to 17.2% between 2006 and 2011

Note: The proportions showing the changes between 2006 and 2011 have been adjusted to account for incompletely enumerated Indian reserves and Indian settlements in 2006 and/or 2011. Moreover, the 2006 Census data have been adjusted to the same universe used for the 2011 NHS (population in private households).



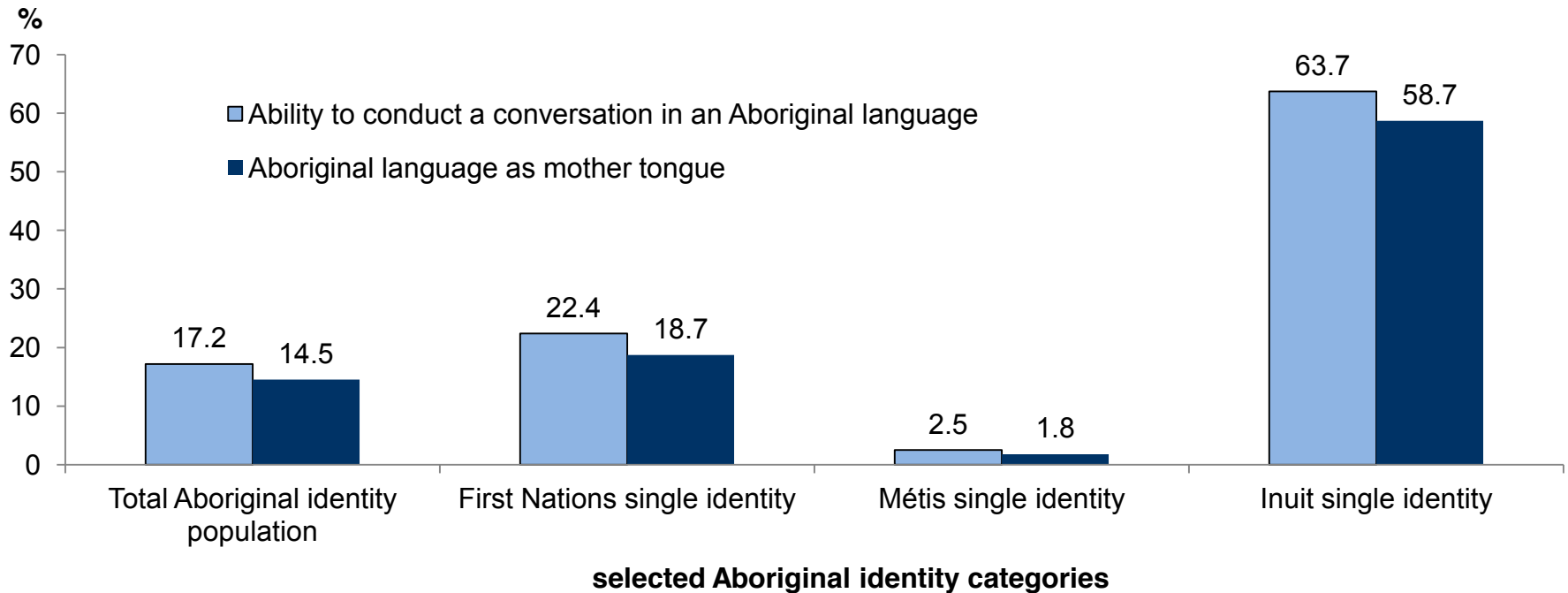
The ability to converse in an Aboriginal language is highest among Inuit

- Nearly two in three Inuit (63.7%) reported that they were able to conduct a conversation in an Aboriginal language
- Among First Nations people, the proportion was 22.4%, and among Métis, 2.5%
- The Aboriginal languages spoken by the largest number of:
 - **Inuit:** Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun and Inuvialuktun
 - **First Nations people:** Cree languages, Ojibway and Innu/Montagnais
 - **Métis:** Cree languages, Dene and Michif



More Aboriginal people reported that they were able to conduct a conversation in an Aboriginal language than reported an Aboriginal language as mother tongue

Proportion of the population with an ability to conduct a conversation in an Aboriginal language and proportion of the population with an Aboriginal language as mother tongue, for selected Aboriginal identity categories, Canada, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.



Some Aboriginal people acquiring an Aboriginal language as a second language

- Among the 240,815 Aboriginal people who reported being able to conduct a conversation in an Aboriginal language, 52,275, or 21.7%, reported a different language, such as English or French, as mother tongue
- This implies that these individuals have acquired an Aboriginal language as a second language
- The proportion varied from 35.3% for the Métis, 23.1% for First Nations people to 10.2% for Inuit



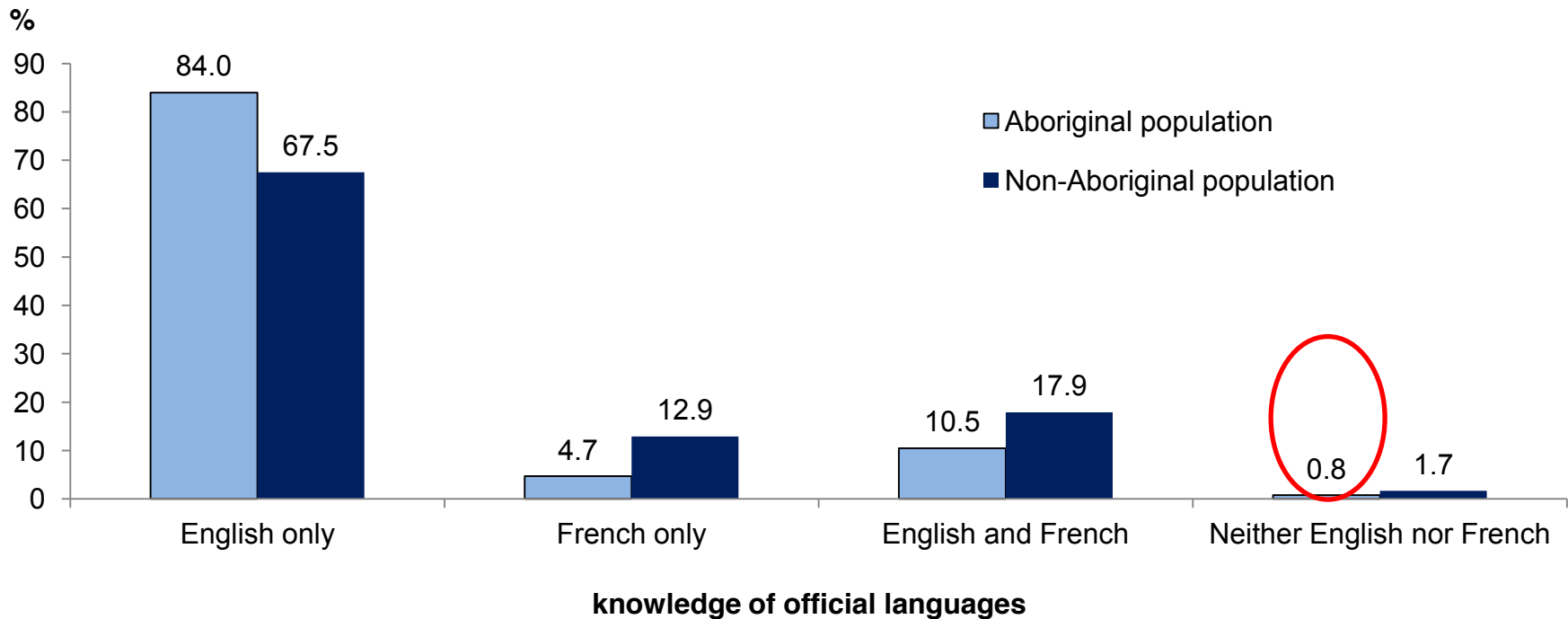
Less than one in ten of the Aboriginal people who reported an Aboriginal mother tongue have lost their ability to converse in that language

- Among the 202,495 Aboriginal people who reported an Aboriginal language as mother tongue, 13,955 or 6.9% could no longer conduct a conversation in this language, despite the fact that they still understand it
- The proportion varied from 12.0% for the Métis, 7.6% for First Nations people to 2.5% for Inuit



Almost all Aboriginal people can conduct a conversation in English or French

Percentage distribution of the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations by knowledge of official languages, Canada, 2011

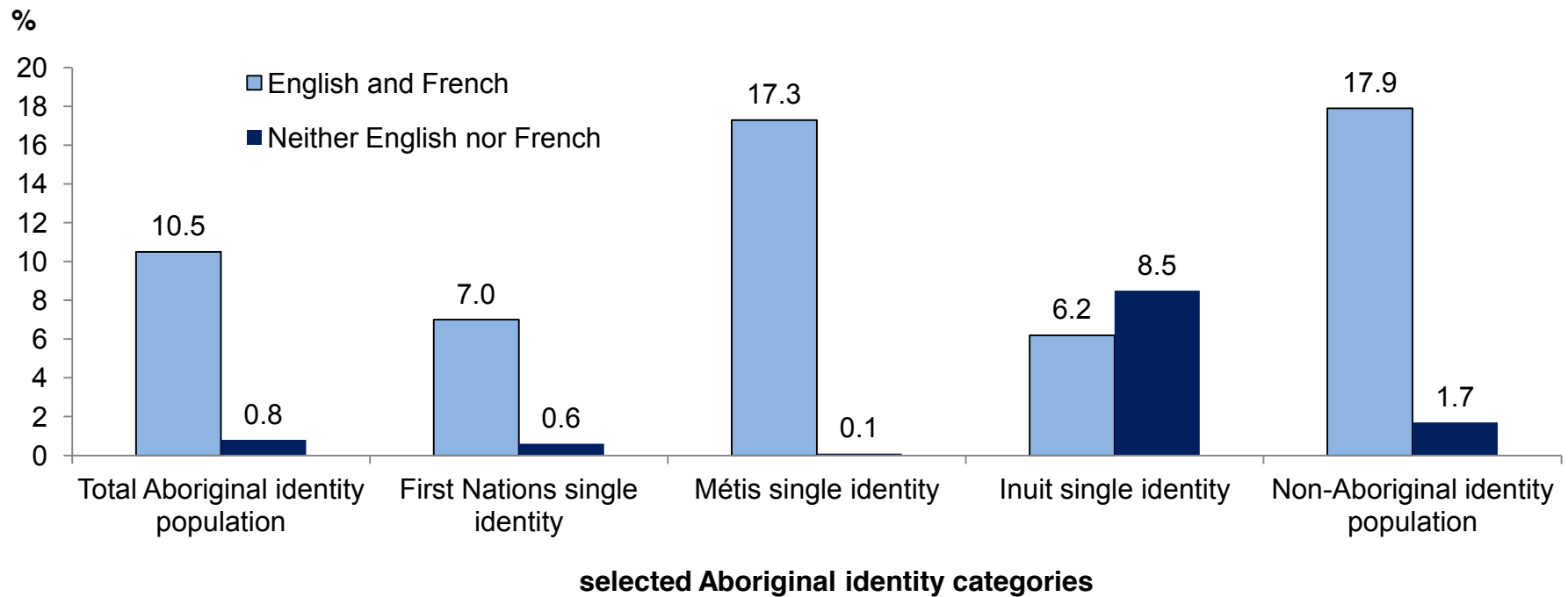


Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.



The Métis have the highest English-French bilingualism rate of the three Aboriginal groups

Proportion of the population with an ability to conduct a conversation in both English and French and proportion of the population with knowledge of neither English nor French, for selected Aboriginal identity categories, Canada, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.



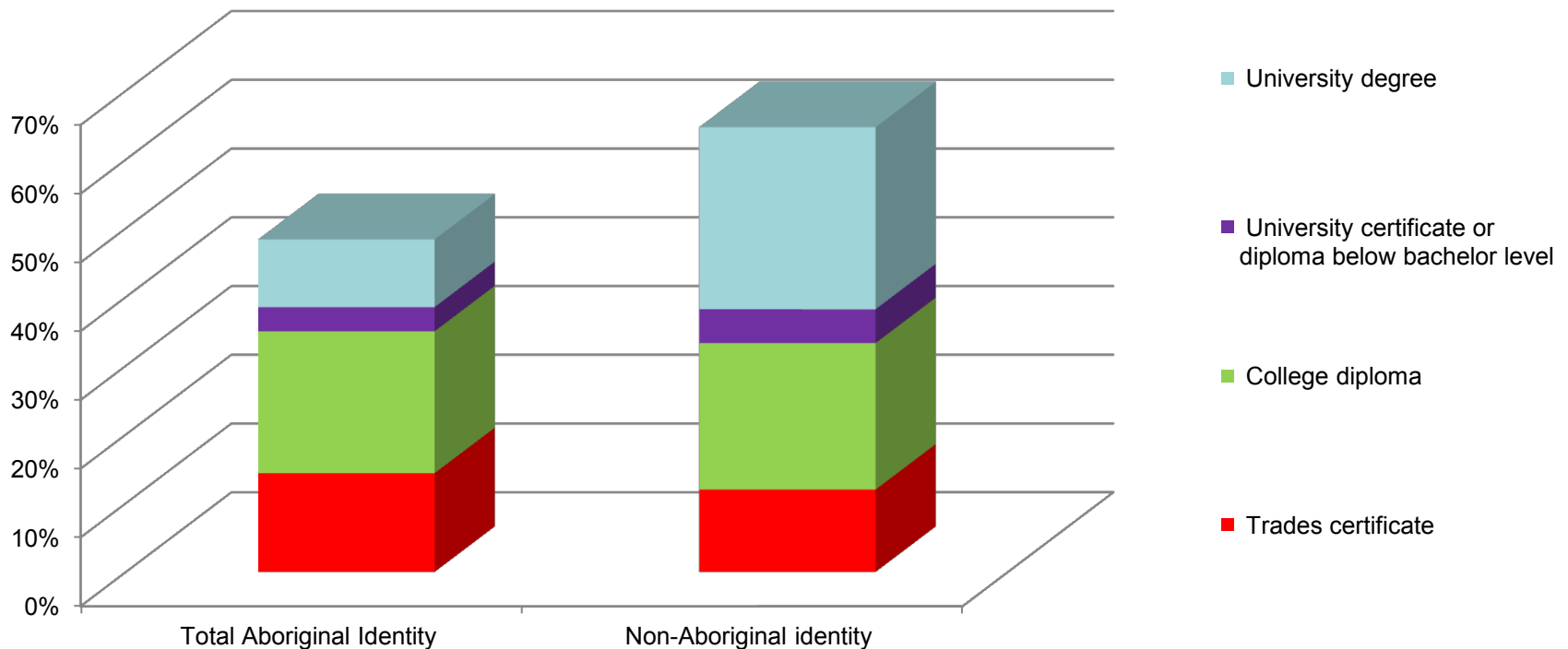
NHS in brief:

The educational attainment of Aboriginal peoples in Canada



Almost half of Aboriginal people aged 25 to 64 had a postsecondary qualification

Proportion of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people aged 25 to 64 by selected levels of educational attainment, Canada, 2011

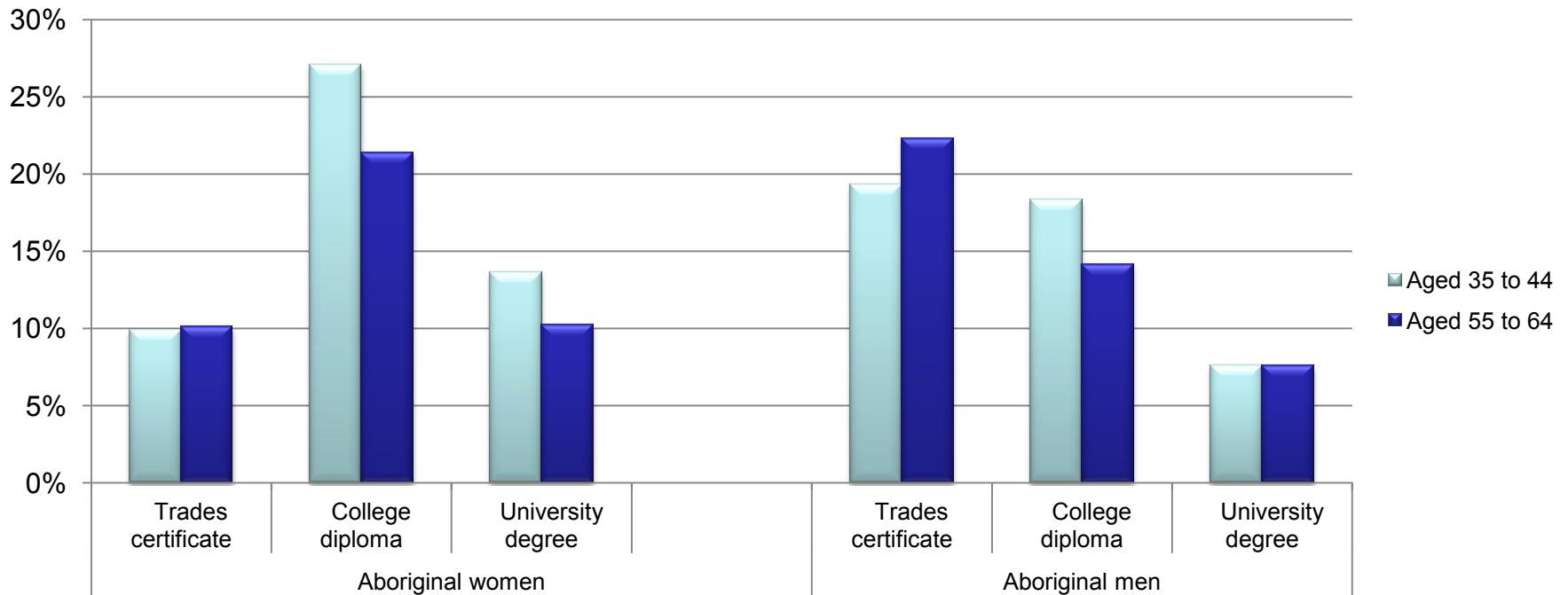


Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.



Younger Aboriginal women and men were both more likely to have college diplomas than their older counterparts

Proportion of Aboriginal people by selected levels of educational attainment, sex and age group, Canada, 2011

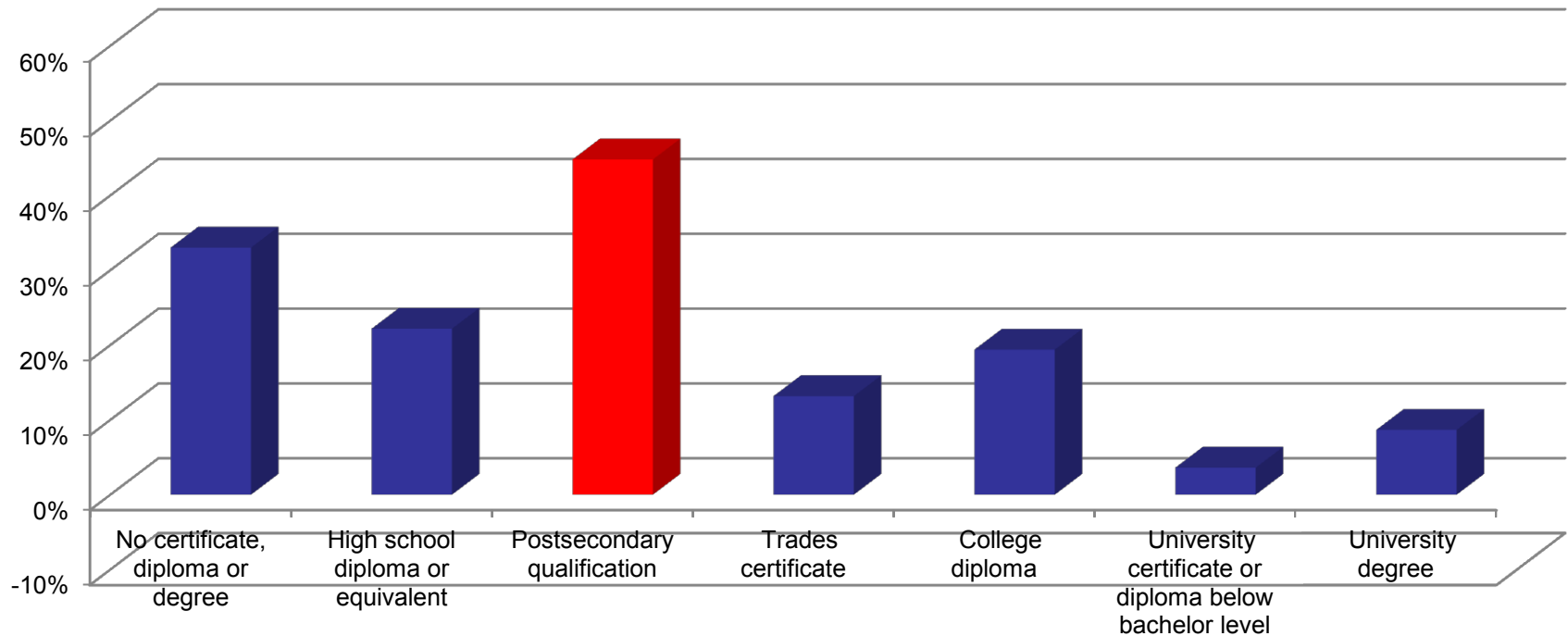


Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.



More than 4 in 10 First Nations people aged 25 to 64 had a postsecondary qualification

Proportion of single identity First Nations people aged 25 to 64, by highest level of educational attainment, Canada, 2011

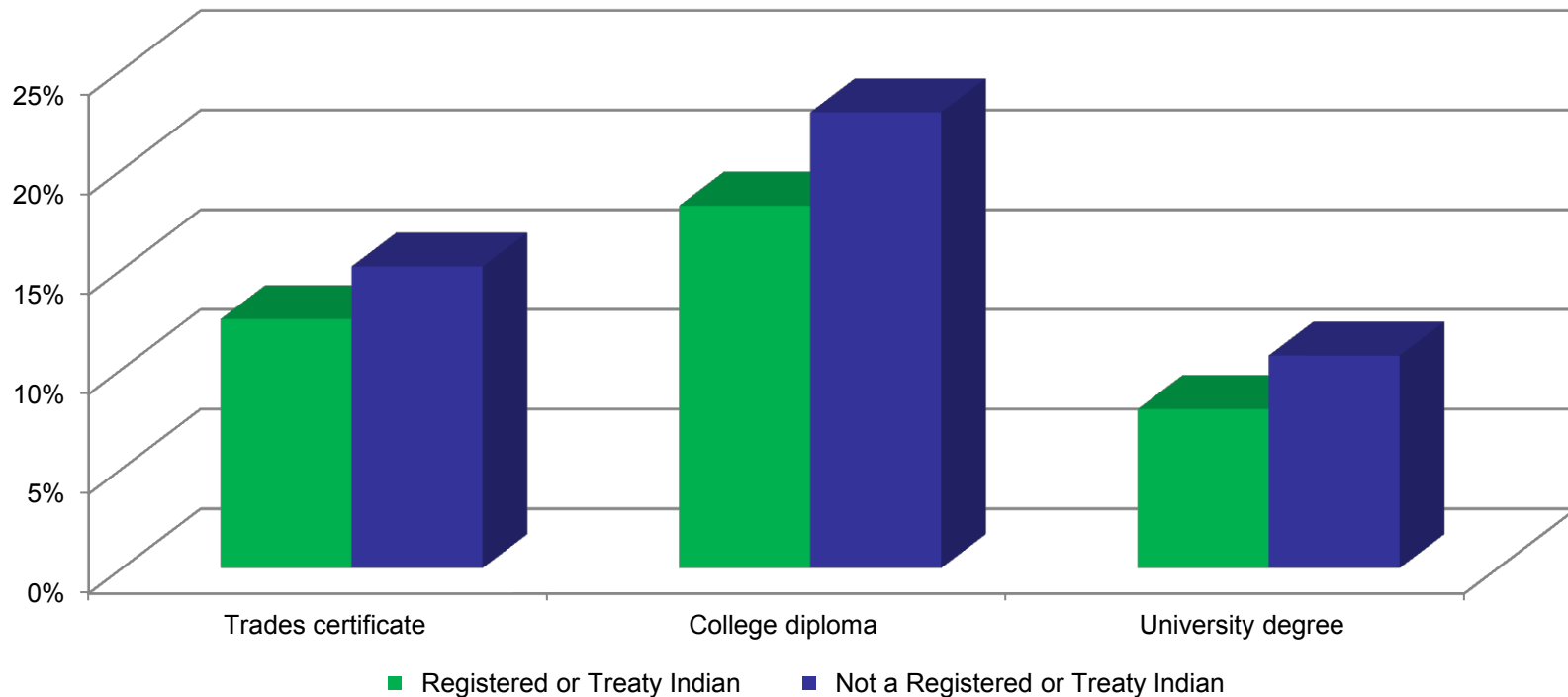


Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.



The proportion of postsecondary graduates among First Nations people was higher among those without registered Indian status

Proportion of First Nations people aged 25 to 64 by registered Indian status and by highest level of educational attainment, Canada, 2011

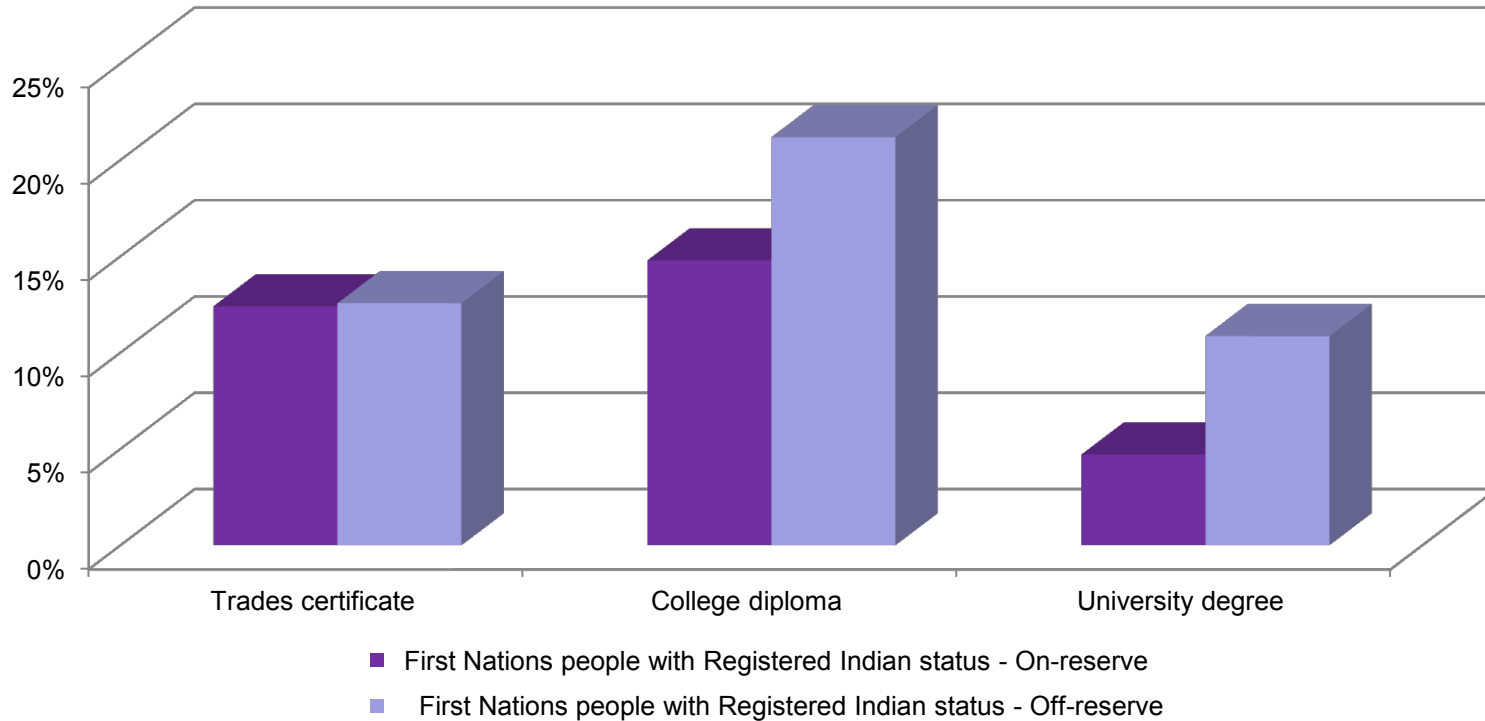


Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.



The proportion of postsecondary graduates among First Nations people with Registered Indian status was higher for those living off reserve than on reserve

Proportion of First Nations people aged 25 to 64 by Registered Indian status living on- or off-reserve and by highest level of educational attainment, Canada, 2011

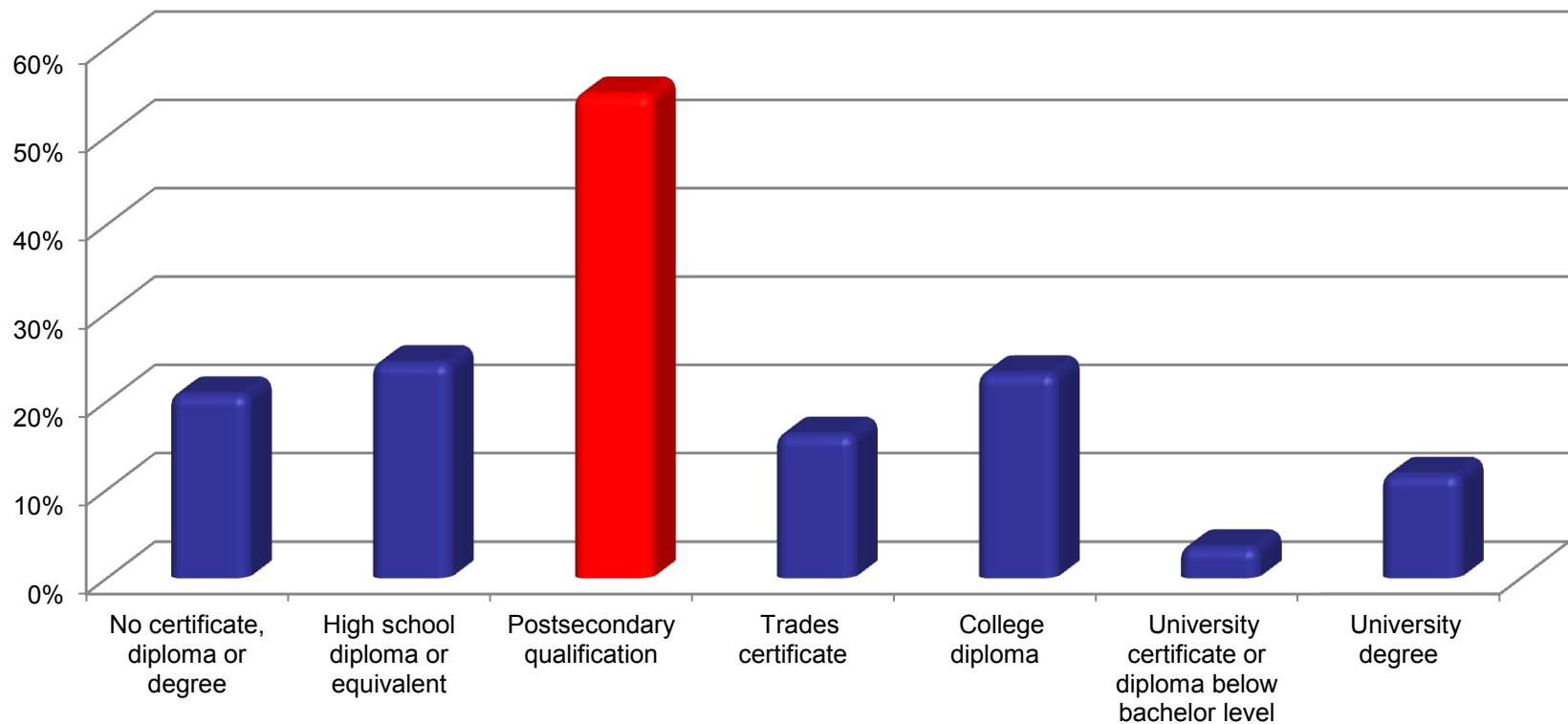


Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.



Over half of Métis aged 25 to 64 had a postsecondary qualification

Proportion of single identity Métis aged 25 to 64 by highest level of educational attainment, Canada, 2011

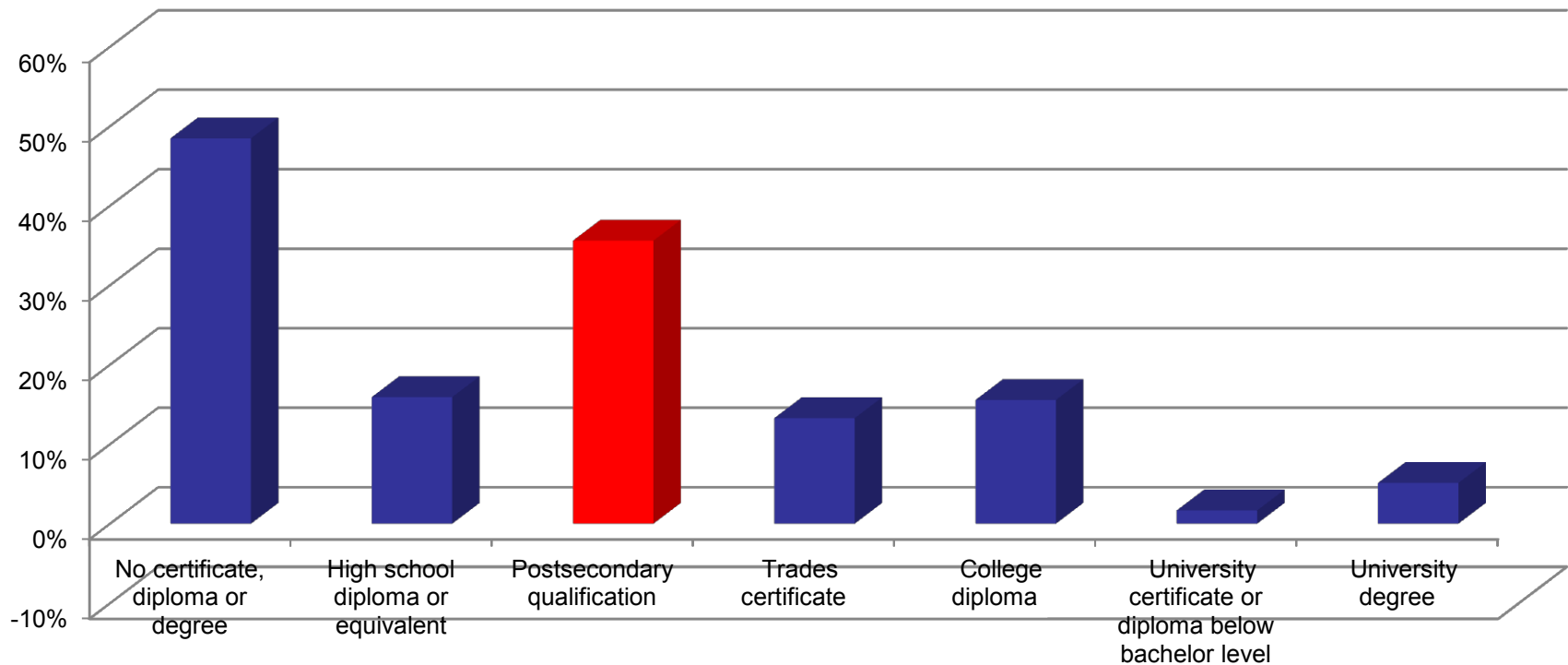


Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.



More than one-third of Inuit aged 25 to 64 had a postsecondary qualification

Proportion of single identity Inuit-aged 25 to 64 by highest level of educational attainment, Canada, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.



Release products

Analytical document (Catalogue no. 99-011-X2011001)

- *Aboriginal Peoples in Canada: First Nations People, Métis and Inuit*

NHS in Brief (Catalogue no. 99-011-X2011003)

- Aboriginal peoples and language

NHS Focus on Geography Series (Catalogue no. 99-010-X2011005)

Data tables (Catalogue nos. 99-011-X2011026 through 99-011-X2011033)

NHS Profiles (Catalogue no. 99-010-X)

National Household Survey Dictionary and reference guides

National Household Survey User Guide



Contributors to this NHS release

- Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division
- Census Subject Matter Secretariat
- Geography Division
- Census Operations Division
- Dissemination Division
- Communications Division



Release day products

Analytical document (Catalogue no. 99-012-X2011001)

Education in Canada: Attainment, Field of Study and Location of Study

NHS in Brief (Catalogue no. 99-012-X2011003)

The educational attainment of Aboriginal peoples in Canada

NHS Focus on Geography Series (Catalogue no. 99-012-X2011005)

Data Tables (Catalogue nos. 99-012-X2011040 through 99-012-X2011048)

NHS Profile (Catalogue nos. 99-012-X2011015 through 99-012-X2011019)

National Household Survey Dictionary (Catalogue no. 99-000-X)

National Household Survey Education Reference Guide (Catalogue no. 99-012-X2011006)

National Household Survey User Guide (Catalogue no. 99-001-X)



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