

TRENDS ANALYSIS: EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

FALL 2014



What does this measure & why is it important?

This indicator measures the number of people over the age of 15 with post-secondary education. Data for this indicator are from the 2011 [National Household Survey](#). Responses to the survey record the number of people with: (a) no certificate, diploma or degree, (b) high school diploma or equivalent, (c) apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma, (d) college, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma, (e) university certificate or diploma below bachelor level, (f) university bachelor's degree, and (g) university certificate, diploma or degree above bachelor level. National Household Survey response rates vary and thus data for this indicator was only reliably available for 30 of the 57 census sub-divisions in our region, accounting for only 63.7% of the region's population.

Education is a key social determinant of health (Public Health Agency of Canada, 2013). Education increases overall literacy and understanding of how one can promote one's own health and well-being, and provides the knowledge and skills needed to actively participate and contribute to society. Research shows that lower education levels lead to lower levels of general health, resulting in higher incidences of hospitalization and mortality from a number of conditions and diseases (Kashaninia, 2012). Level of education is highly correlated with other social determinants of health such as level of income, working conditions, and employment security. Education helps people move up the socioeconomic ladder and provides them with better access to other societal and economic resources (Mikkonen & Raphael, 2010). Better-educated citizens also have more ability to adapt and benefit from new training opportunities if their employment situation suddenly changes. With higher education, people generally achieve greater ability and more resources to attain a healthy and secure lifestyle (HSRDC, 2013).

What are the trends & current conditions?

Overall, 54.2% of residents aged 15 and older in our region have some post-secondary education. Only 5.1% have a certificate, diploma or degree above a university bachelor's degree and 9.9% have a university bachelor's degree. 15.2% have an apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma, and 20.5% have a college, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma. The percentage with only a high school diploma or equivalent is high at 27.1%. The percentage with no certificate, diploma or degree is also high at 18.6% of the population (figure 1).

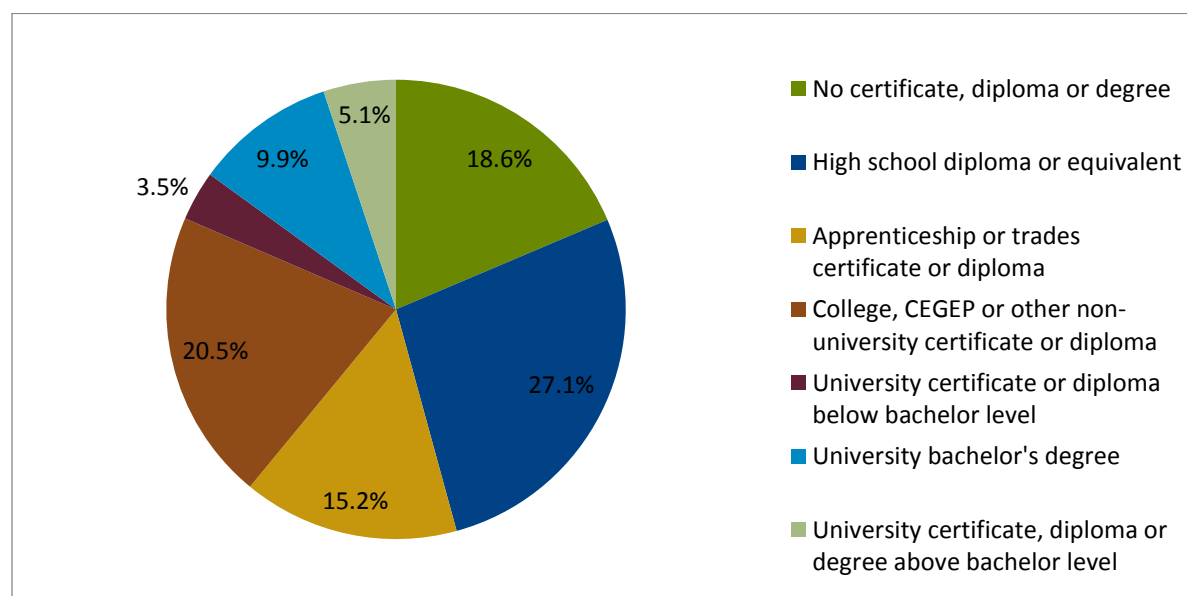


Figure 1: Percent of Basin-Boundary residents over the age of 15 by level of educational attainment

Source: National Household Survey Profile 2011

The number of people with post-secondary education varies among communities, with some of the highest percentages in Rossland (71.1%), Kaslo (67.4%), Warfield (66.1%), Central Kootenay F (65.2%), and East Kootenay F (60.6%). Communities with the lowest percentages of people with post-secondary education include Nakusp (37.9%), Central Kootenay B (40.1%), Kootenay Boundary A (45.2%), Grand Forks (47.9%), Valemount (47.9%), and Trail (48.2%).

Several communities have higher percentages of people with no certificate, diploma or degree including Nakusp (31.4%), Central Kootenay B (30.1%), Valemount (27.6%), Kootenay Boundary A (25.0%), and New Denver (25.0%). On the other hand, some communities have higher percentages for education above a bachelor's level, including Rossland with 8.4%, Fernie with 10.4%, Central Kootenay F with 11.6%, and New Denver with 11.9%. Fernie, Kimberley, Invermere, Nelson, Kaslo, East Kootenay F, Central Kootenay E, F and H, Warfield, and Rossland all show figures that are higher than the regional average for the percentage of the population with a university bachelor's degree.

Visit the [Digital Basin](#) for a map and detailed tables of educational attainment, found under the Education & Learning theme of the social pillar.



The Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute, at Selkirk College, is a regional research centre with a mandate to support informed decision-making by Columbia Basin-Boundary communities through the provision of information, applied research and related outreach and extension support. Visit www.cbrdi.ca for more information.

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