

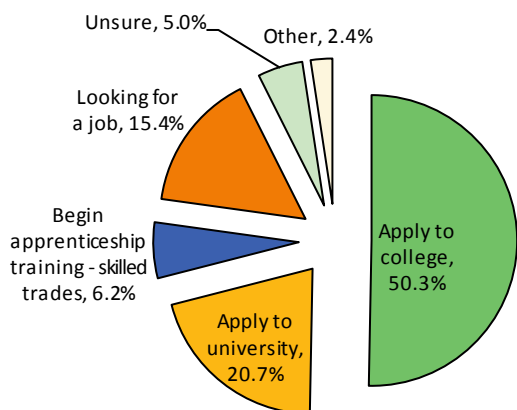
### Toronto District School Board Adult Students: Post-Secondary Plans & Pathways

In October 2014, there were 6,172 students registered in the five Toronto District School Board's (TDSB) Adult High Schools. This Adult Student Census Fact Sheet incorporates findings from the Adult Student Census (ASC) survey that was administered to 4,787 students resulting in a response rate of 78%. A total of 4,616 adult students completed the ASC and were linked to the TDSB's School Information Systems; results and percentages reported in this Fact Sheet are based on this group of 4,616 adult students with slight variations in the number of responses for some questions.

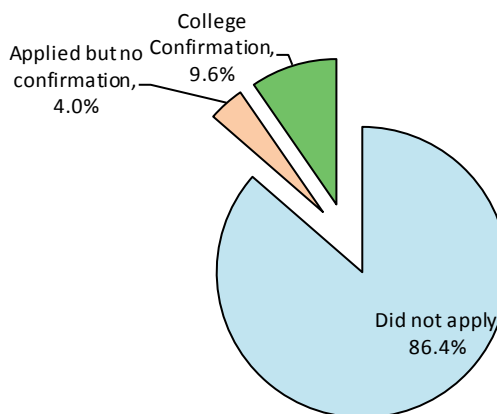
The purpose of this Fact Sheet is to identify various student groups who had plans to attend post-secondary after completing their courses, focusing on college. Also the effects of school climate and emotional well-being on post-secondary plans and admission confirmations are examined. The student groups shown in the graphs/tables or discussed in the text are *not being compared to each other* but are used to show differences within the ASC population for post-secondary pathways. Note that many of the students surveyed may not be in the position to apply to post-secondary at the moment, but will be in the future. A look at subsequent application cycles will yield a more complete picture.

**Post-Secondary Plans and Confirmations:** Over half of the students who took the ASC had planned on attending college (see Figure 1). College confirmations showed that 10% of students who took the ASC actually confirmed an offer of admission at a college in Ontario over the 2015 application cycle, while over 85% of students didn't apply to post-secondary at all<sup>12</sup> (see Figure 2). The large discrepancy found between post-secondary plans and confirmations is consistent with what has been encountered in other research (Robson, Anisef & Brown, 2016).

**Figure 1: Post-secondary Plans**



**Figure 2: College Confirmations**



1. The number of students who confirmed university was very small in comparison to the number of students who took the ASC and therefore have been treated as missing. The effect on the percentages of other categories has been found to be minimal.

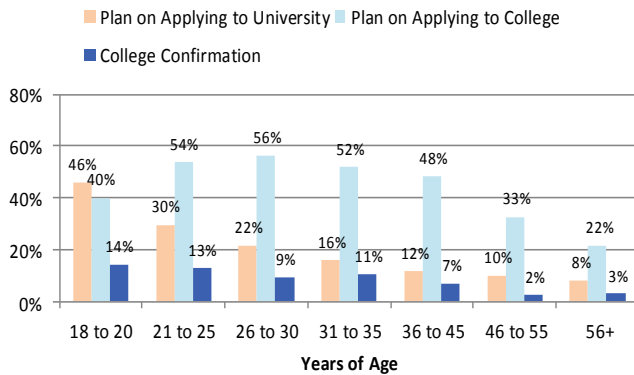
2. Refers to students applying through the Ontario College Application Service over 2015, confirming for the 2015-16 post-secondary school year. Students will apply over multiple years and future analyses will examine students over the 2016 and 2017 application cycles.



## TIME LIVING IN CANADA, AGE, RACIAL BACKGROUND, REGION OF BIRTH, AND FIRST LANGUAGE

**Time Living in Canada:** Students not born in Canada, but have been in Canada for longer than 1 year were more likely to plan on applying to college (50%-57%) compared to the ASC population (50%). Whereas those born in Canada or that have been in Canada for less than 1 year were more likely to plan on applying to university (29%-31%) compared to the ASC population (21%). College confirmation rates were similar across categories of time spent in Canada (8%-12%).

**Figure 3: Post-secondary Plans & Pathways, Age**



**Age:** Forty percent (40%) of students aged 18 to 20 planned on applying to college after their studies, while:

- 54% of students aged 21 to 25,
- 56% of students aged 26 to 30,
- 52% of students aged 31 to 35,
- 48% of students aged 36 to 45,
- 33% of students aged 46 to 55, and
- 22% of students aged 56+ planned on applying to college after their studies.

In terms of college confirmations, approximately 10%-15% of those between the ages of 18 and 35 had confirmed college while 7% of those aged 36-45 and less than 5% of those aged over 45 confirmed an offer of admission to college (see Figure 3).

**Racial Background:** According to self-identified racial background ASC results, over 50% of Black and Asian (e.g., South Asian, East Asian, etc.) students had plans to apply to college. College confirmations were also highest among these groups (10% to 15%) (see Table 1).

**Regions of Birth** (top 7 regions of birth from the TDSB's School Information Systems): Adult students born in Eastern Africa had the highest percentage of students that had plans to apply to college at 61%. Adult students born in Eastern Asia had the highest rate of college confirmation at 12% (see Table 2).

**Table 1: Post-secondary Plans & Pathways, Racial Background**

Racial Group	Plan on Applying to University	Plan on Applying to College	College Confirmation
Southeast Asian	20%	53%	15%
East Asian	19%	52%	13%
Mixed	30%	41%	12%
Black	21%	56%	10%
South Asian	17%	52%	10%
White	26%	39%	8%
Middle Eastern	22%	38%	7%
Latin American	20%	49%	6%
Aboriginal	25%	46%	0%
Other	20%	55%	9%

**Table 2: Post-secondary Plans & Pathways, Region of Birth**

Region of Birth	Plan on Applying to University	Plan on Applying to College	College Confirmation
Eastern Asia	16%	51%	12%
South Asia	18%	52%	11%
English-speaking Caribbean and region	10%	55%	10%
Canada	29%	41%	9%
Eastern Africa	20%	61%	8%
Western Asia	20%	48%	8%
Central & South America & Mexico	20%	46%	5%

**First Language that Students Learned to Speak:** Among the top 5 languages that adult students learned first, Arabic and Tamil speaking students had the highest rates of planning to attend college (57% and 62%). Tamil speaking students also recorded one of the highest college confirmation rates at 10%.

## RESIDENCE TYPE, EMPLOYMENT, AND INCOME

### RESIDENCE TYPE

**Type of Residence:** Based on ASC responses, at least 50% of those who rented their home had plans to apply to college and less than 50% who owned their home or lived with parent(s)/family had plans to apply to college. College confirmations were highest among those who lived with parent(s)/family at 14% and lowest among those who owned a house at 7% (see Table 3).

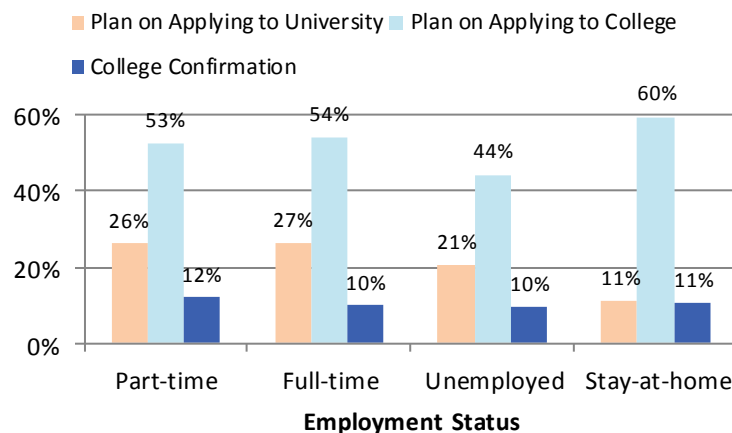
**Table 3: Post-secondary Plans & Pathways, Type of Residence**

Residence	Plan on Applying to University	Plan on Applying to College	College Confirmation
With Parent/Family	31%	49%	14%
Own Apartment/Condo	19%	44%	12%
Rent Apartment/Condo	19%	50%	9%
Rent Room	21%	54%	9%
Rent House	16%	57%	8%
Own House	14%	43%	7%

### EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

**Employment Status:** Nearly 55% of adult students who were employed (53% for part-time and 54% for full-time) had plans to apply to college. Only 44% of adult students who were unemployed and 60% of adult students who were stay-at-home parents had plans to apply to college. The college confirmation rate was similar across employment categories at 10%-12% (see Figure 4).

**Figure 4: Post-secondary Plans & Pathways, Employment Status**



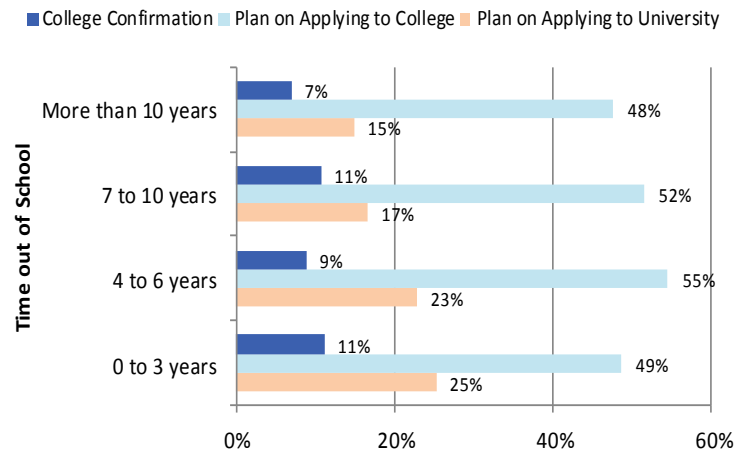
**Household Income:** Slightly over 50% of adult students earning incomes of less than \$50,000 had plans to apply to college. This percentage gradually decreased as income increased. College confirmations gradually increased as income increased, peaking at 14% for adult students with incomes of \$75,000 to \$99,999. Note that according to the ASC, 77% of adult students had an annual household income of less than \$30,000. Therefore adult students are much more represented in the lower income categories.

## EDUCATION, CAREER GOALS, AND SCHOOL EXPERIENCES & SOCIAL EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

### EDUCATION

**Length of Time Adult Students had been Out of School:** The percentage of adult students who planned on applying to college was similar across lengths of time out of school. The highest was 55% for students out of school 4 to 6 years. College confirmations were also similar across times out of school with the highest being in 0 to 3 years and 7 to 10 years, at 11% each. (see Figure 5).

**Figure 5: Post-secondary Plans & Pathways, Length of Time Out of School**



**Table 4: Post-secondary Plans & Pathways, Career Goals**

Career Goal	Plan on Applying to University	Plan on Applying to College	College Confirmation
Nursing	20%	68%	15%
Health Care	22%	61%	12%
Accounting	19%	48%	10%
Technology or Computers	29%	44%	9%
Office or Clerical or Administration	14%	50%	9%
Social Services or Social Worker or Counsellor	21%	55%	8%
Child Care or ECE	5%	61%	6%
Trades	7%	40%	6%

**Specific Career Goals:** Preliminary analysis revealed that over 60% of students who had career goals in the health field (e.g. nursing, health care, etc.) planned to apply to college. College plans for students who were interested in technology and trades were lower at 44% and 40% respectively. College confirmation was highest among students who had career goals in nursing (15%) and health care (12%). College confirmation was lowest among students who had career goals in child care or early childhood education (ECE) and trades, both at 6% (see Table 4).

### SCHOOL EXPERIENCES AND SOCIAL EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

Results on school experiences showed that there were virtually no differences between adult students that felt positive about their school climate all the time and those that rarely felt positive in terms of plans to apply to post-secondary. Similar results were found in terms of college confirmations.

Also according to ASC results, adult students who felt confident that they would do well in their course planned to apply to post-secondary and confirmed college at the same rate as those who didn't feel confident.

Past research has shown that adult learners are not in school for extended periods of time, which may be a factor in why we see school experiences and social emotional well-being not having as much of an effect on post-secondary plans and confirmations. Further research is needed to explore the lack of effect more thoroughly.