

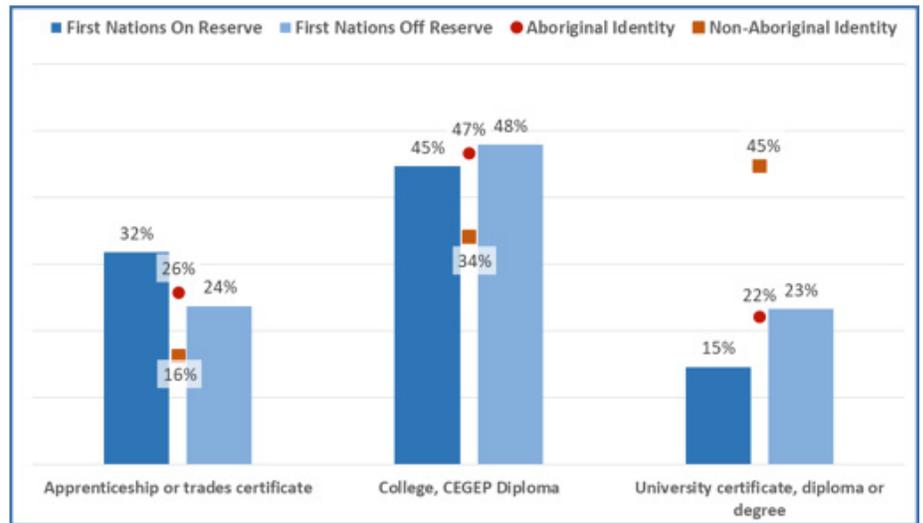


This fact sheet is intended to provide a snapshot of participation in and completion of post-secondary education for First Nations people in Canada. The fact sheet is limited by availability of federal government data and it does not fully reflect the support needed for First Nations post-secondary education as an inherent and Treaty right.

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION ATTAINMENT

- The majority of First Nations people obtain trade or college level certification.
- Since 2006, First Nations have increased certification in trades and college while the gap in university attainment persists.
- In 2016, First Nations peoples have higher attainment rates than non-Indigenous Canadians in college and the trades.
- Nearly half (47%) of Indigenous post-secondary graduates have completed a college diploma (34% of non-Indigenous people).

Figure 1
Post-secondary education attainment rates, aged 25-64, by degree type and area of residence, 2016



Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

- The overall gap in post-secondary education between First Nations and non-Indigenous people is directly related to the persistent gap in university attainment.
- This university attainment gap has remained at around 22 percentage points.
- Even though First Nations university level attainment has increased, so have the rates for non-Indigenous population, resulting in a persistent gap in university attainment.

Figure 2
University attainment rates (certificate, diploma or degree), aged 25-64, by area of residence, 2006-2016



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006, 2011, 2016





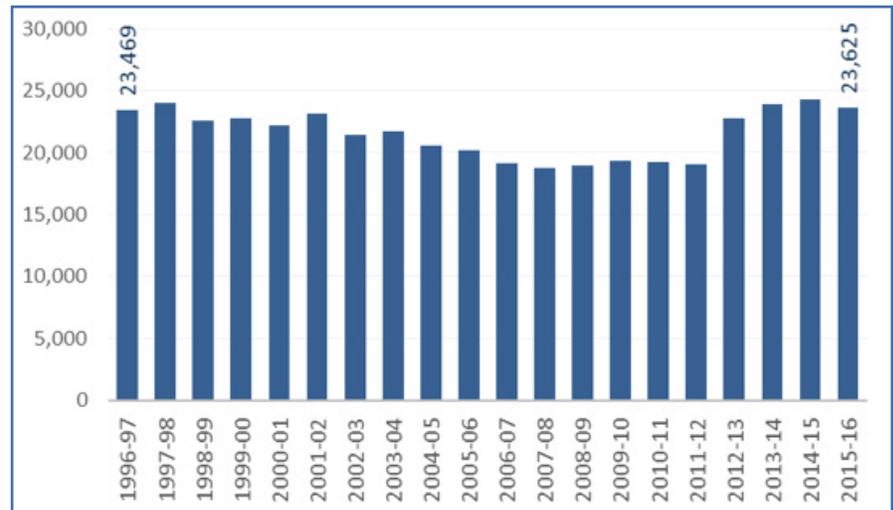
POST-SECONDARY STUDENT SUPPORT PROGRAM (PSSSP)

The Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP) is a federal program that provides First Nation and Inuit students with funding to post-secondary education in Canada.

- Since 1996, the number of students funded through PSSSP has been capped at approximately 25,000 students.
- This is despite an increase in First Nations population and increased high school graduation rates.

Note that the decline in students funded between 2010 and 2012 is partially attributed to reporting changes.

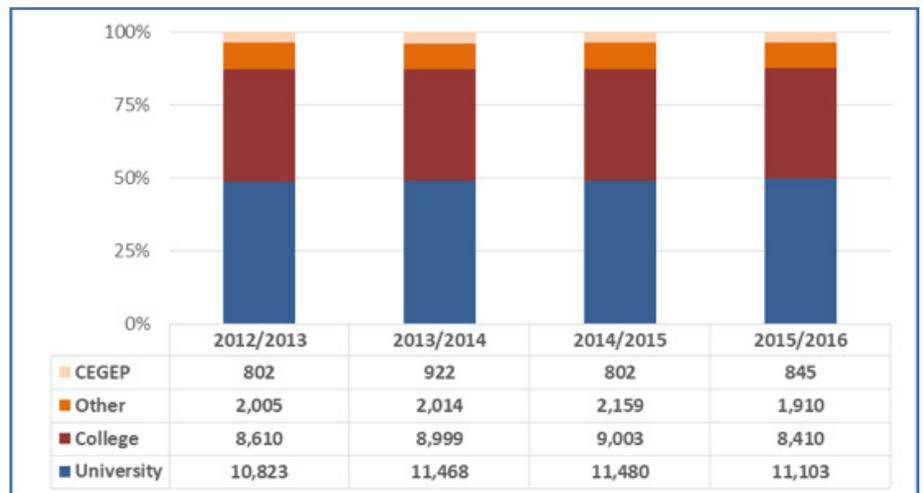
Figure 3:
First Nations students who received PSSSP funding, 1996-2016



Source: Education Information System (EIS), Department of Indigenous Services Canada, 2018.

- Despite the significant and persistent gap in university attainment, less than half of students funded through PSSSP are funded to complete a university diploma, degree or certificate.

Figure 4:
Students funded by PSSSP, by degree, 2012-2016



Source: Education Information System (EIS), Department of Indigenous Services Canada, 2018.

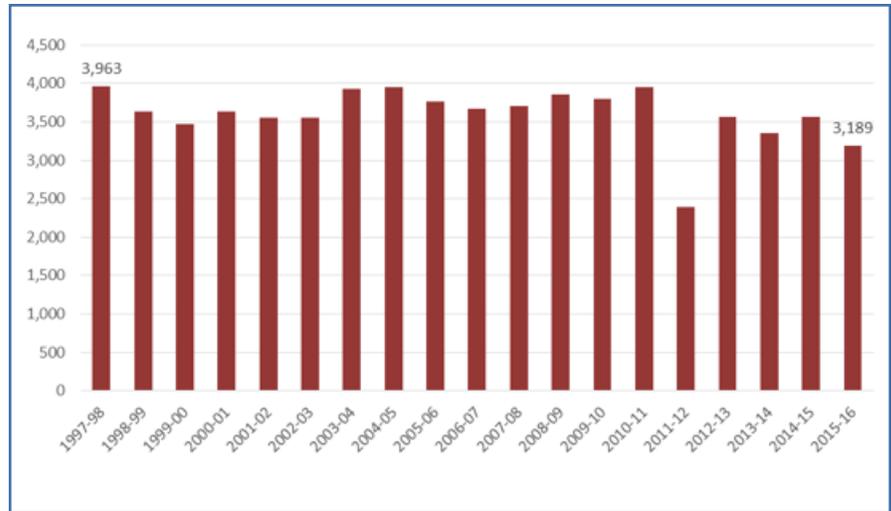




GRADUATES OF THE POST-SECONDARY STUDENT SUPPORT PROGRAM (PSSSP)

- The PSSSP has consistently assisted 3,000 to 4,000 graduates per year (approximately 14% of students in the program).
- Current challenges in reporting and data collection make it difficult to determine accurate annual graduation rates.

Figure 5:
First Nations students graduates who received PSSSP funding, 1997-2016

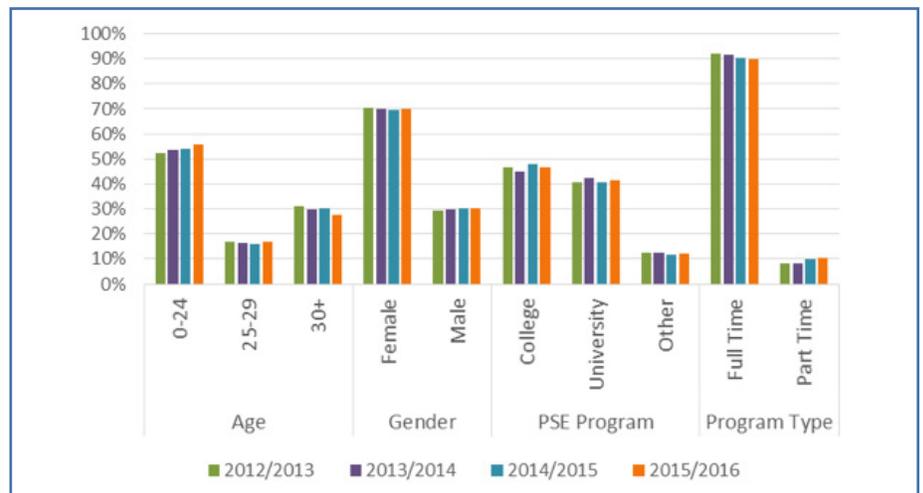


Source: Education Information System (EIS), Department of Indigenous Services Canada, 2018.

*Note: Saskatchewan did not report graduates in 2011/2012.

- The proportion of graduates that received funding from PSSSP is getting younger over time, and there is a decline for those in full-time programs.

Figure 6:
Characteristics of graduates funded by PSSSP, 2012-2016



Source: Education Information System (EIS), Department of Indigenous Services Canada, 2018.

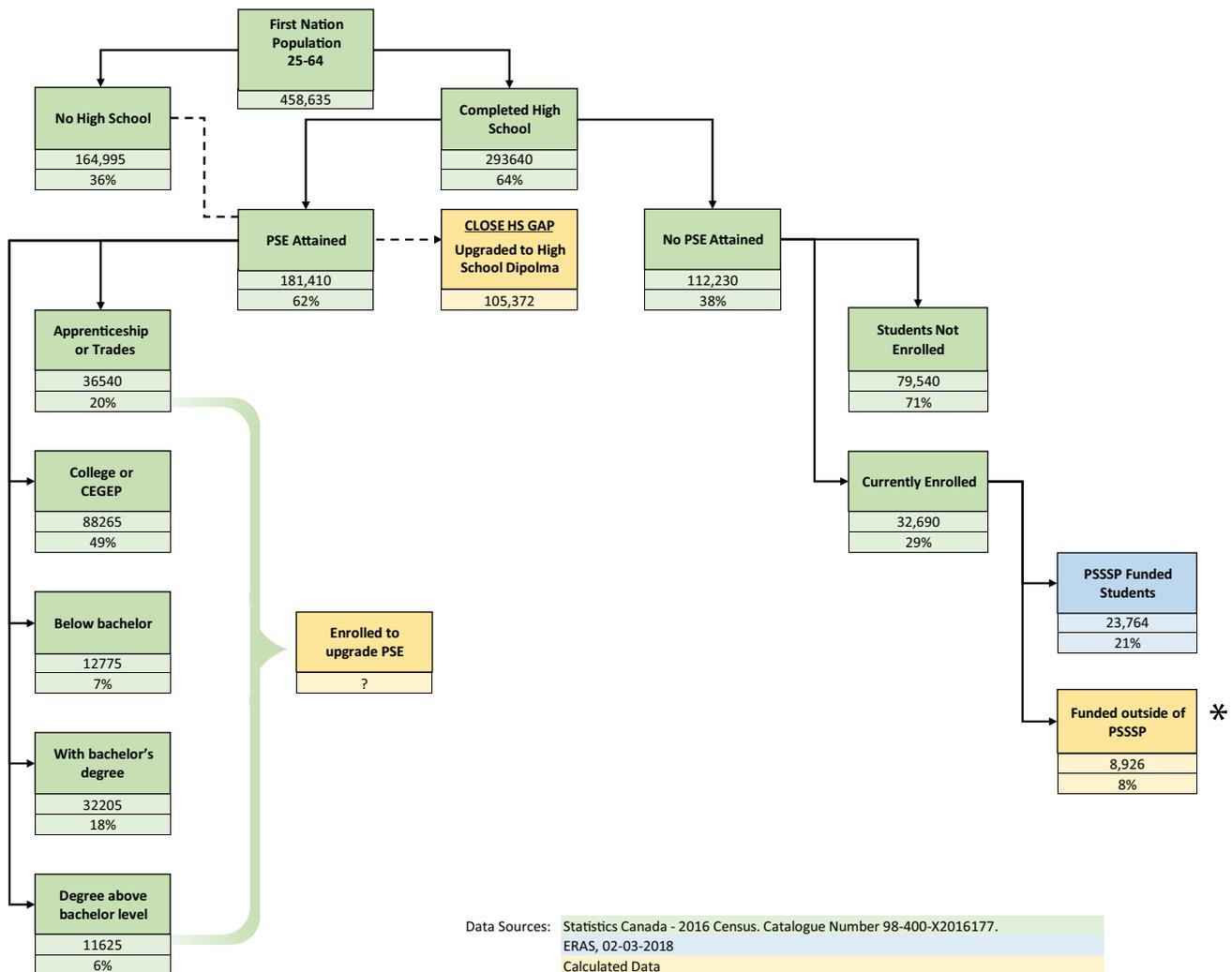




THE POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION LANDSCAPE

- In 2015, 112,230 First Nations people (aged 25-64) have the credentials to attend post-secondary education, but have not attained any post-secondary education.
- Of those 112,230 eligible learners, only 21% are funded through the PSSSP program.

Figure 7:
First Nations post-secondary education attainment and eligibility, 2015



* These students may be funded by student loans, scholarships or bursaries, grants, self-funded, combination of sources.



CLOSING THE POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION GAP

78,000 First Nations Graduates Needed to Close the Gap

- If First Nations high-school graduation rates were at the same rate as non-Indigenous Canadians, there would be approximately 400,000 First Nations peoples (aged 25-64) eligible to enroll in post-secondary education.
- If First Nations attained the same post-secondary education attainment rate as non-Indigenous Canadian (73%) then there would be approximately 292,000 First Nations people needed to close the gap in post-secondary education.
- Of those 292,000 First Nations People, in 2015:
 - o Approximately 181,000 have already attained a post-secondary degree
 - o Nearly 33,000 are currently enrolled in a post-secondary program (and 23,764 are funded through the PSSSP program)
 - o That leaves 78,000 First Nations graduates needed to close the post-secondary education gap.

Figure 8:
Closing the Gap in First Nations post-secondary education

292,000 First Nations People needed to close the gap

 = 10,000 people

