

Aboriginal Youth Employment in Northern Canada



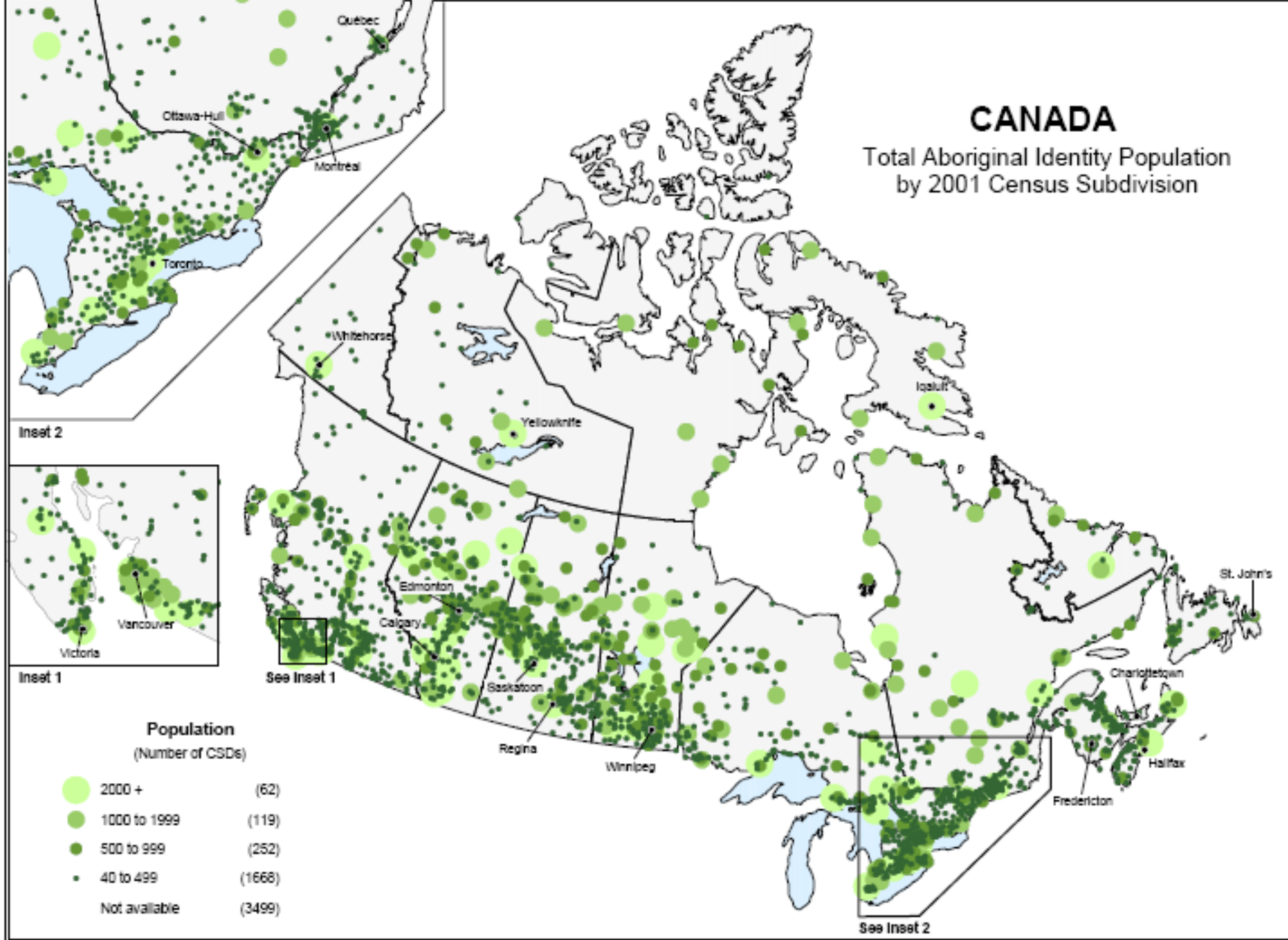
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Carleton University

*Knowledge Synthesis Grants on Skills Development for
the Future Needs of the Canadian Labour Market*

Ottawa, February 11-12, 2014

CANADA

Total Aboriginal Identity Population
by 2001 Census Subdivision



Inset 2

Inset 1

See Inset 1

See Inset 2

Population
(Number of CSDs)

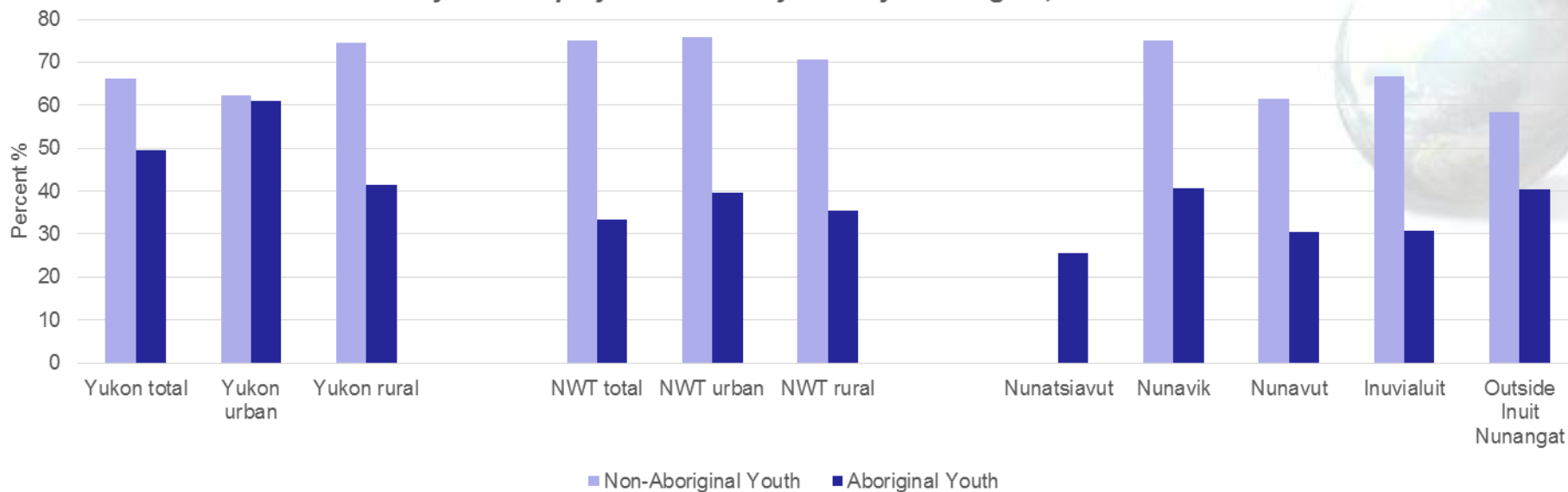
2000 +	(62)
1000 to 1999	(119)
500 to 999	(252)
40 to 499	(1668)
Not available	(3499)

Perplexing Paradox in the Northern Canadian Labour Market

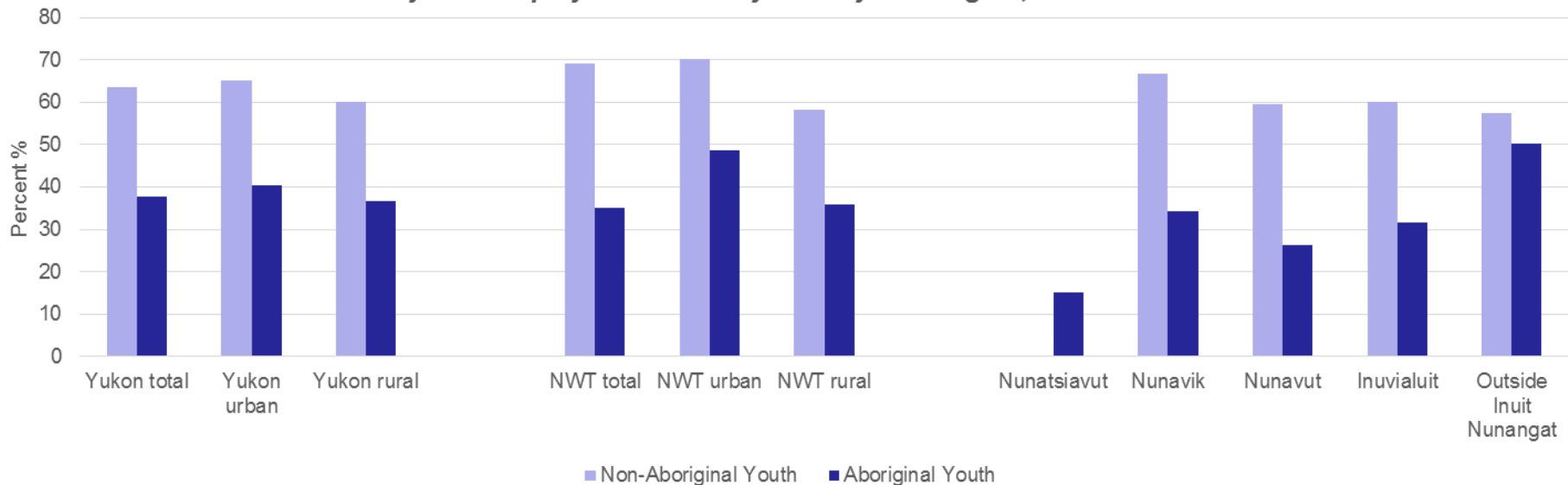


- Young Aboriginal people in northern Canada are less likely to be employed, compared to other young people in the North or those in the rest of the country
- Employers in many regions of the North are experiencing difficulties in developing a stable local workforce
 - **Why this mismatch of people and opportunities?**

Female youth employment rates by identity and region, 2006



Male youth employment rates by identity and region, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, the 2006 Census.

Note: Youth age group, 15-26 years. No-bar for the non-Aboriginal youth indicates zero population counts in the region.

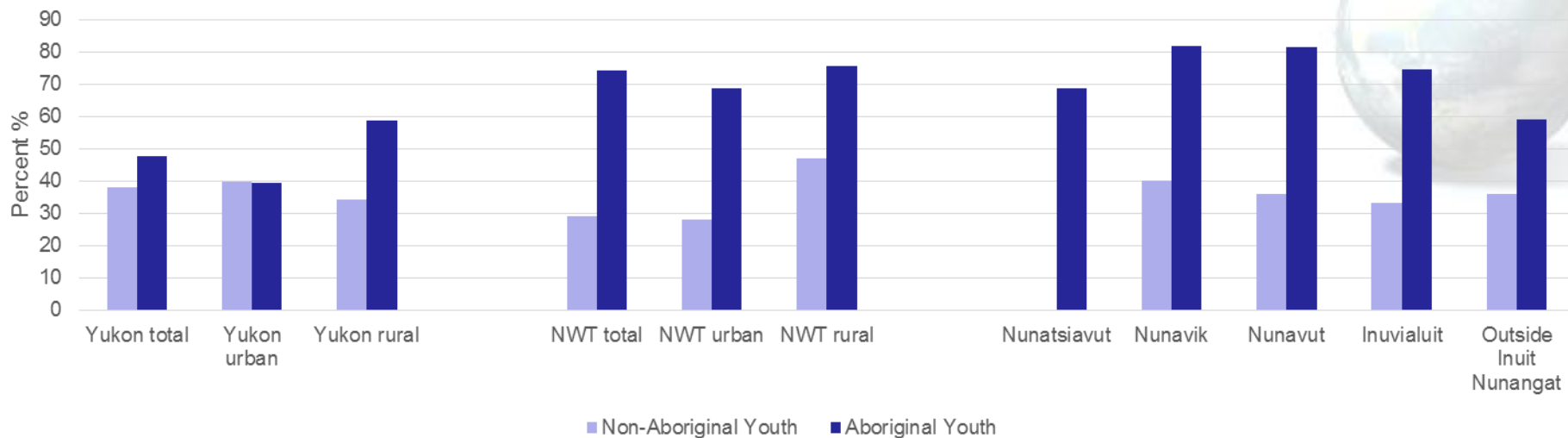
Findings



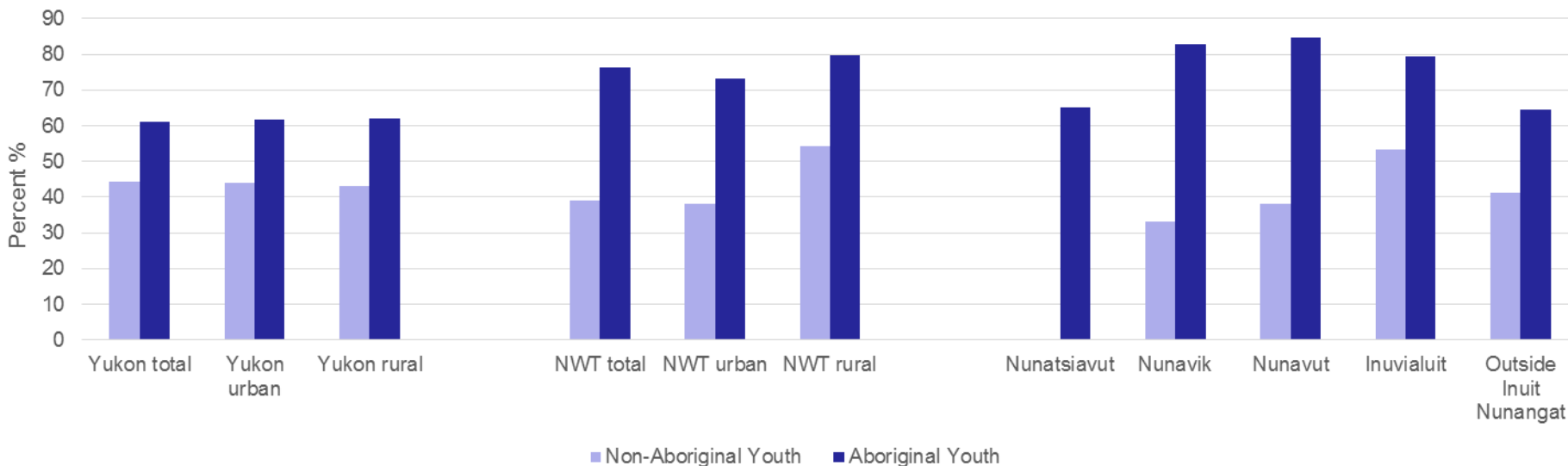
- *Apparent Reasons for the Mismatch*
- Northern Aboriginal youth are more likely to leave school early
- Northern Aboriginal youth, especially female, are more likely to experience early parenthood
- Employment opportunities in the North are geographically concentrated; people are not.

- *Other Possible Reasons for the Mismatch*
- Unbalanced policy emphasis in relation to industry sectors
- Complex opportunity structure in relation to funding / intervention
- Insufficient attention paid to the existing variation

Proportions (%) of female youth with less than high school education, by identity and region, 2006



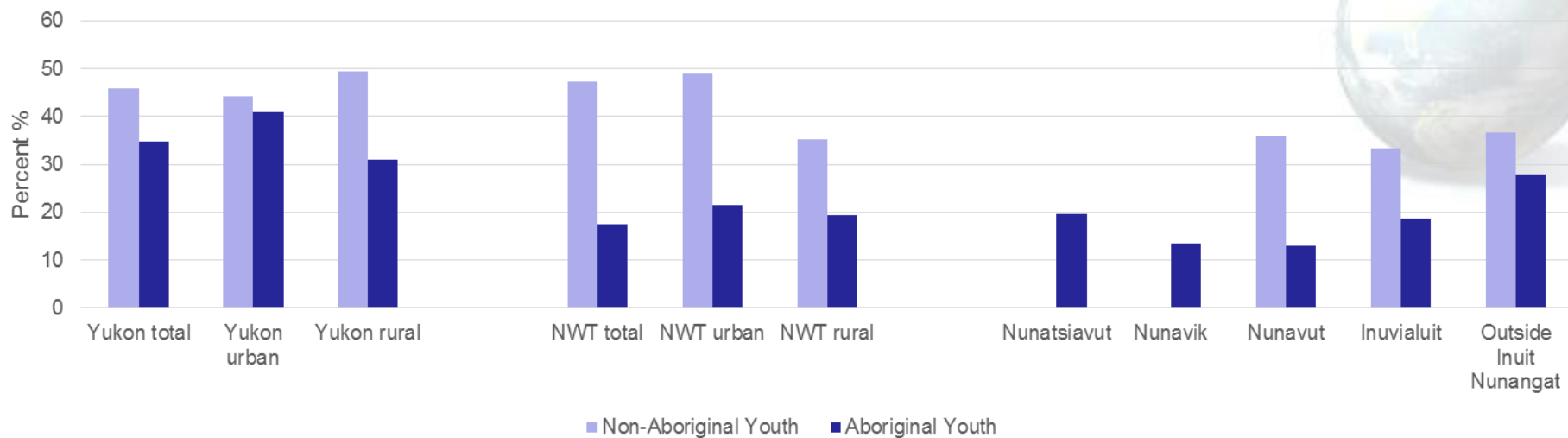
Proportions (%) of male youth with less than high school education, by identity and region, 2006



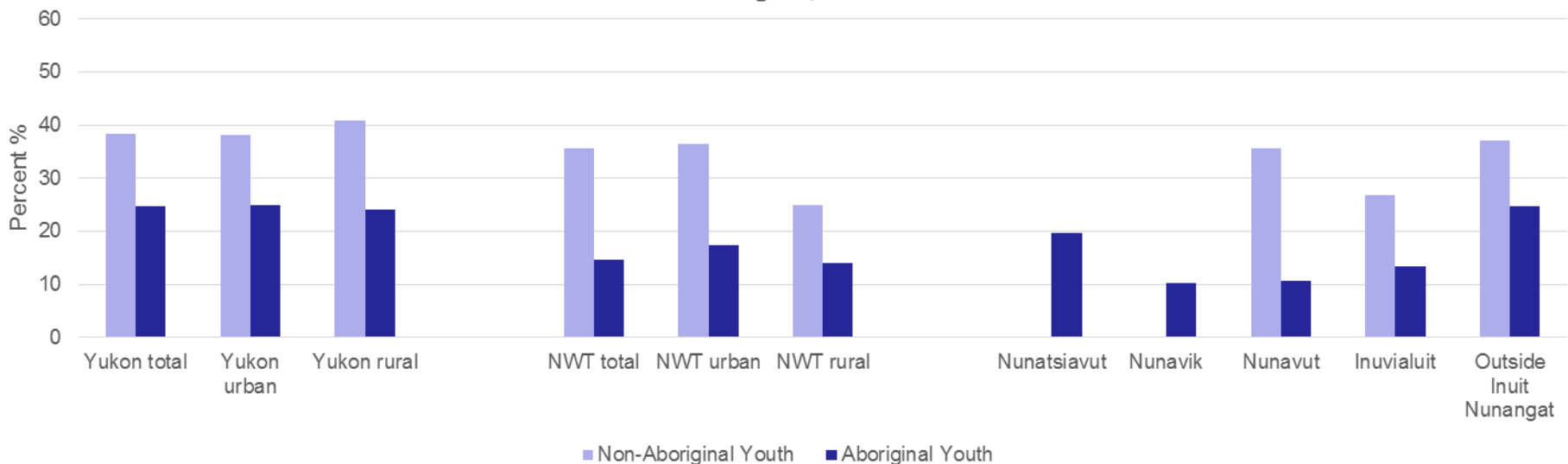
Source: Statistics Canada, the 2006 Census.

Note: Youth age group, 15-26 years. No-bar for the non-Aboriginal youth indicates zero population counts in the region.

Proportions (%) of female youth with a completed high school diploma or equivalent, by identity and region, 2006



Proportions (%) of male youth with a completed high school diploma or equivalent, by identity and region, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, the 2006 Census.

Note: Youth age group, 15-26 years. No-bar for the non-Aboriginal youth indicates zero population counts in the region.

Key Conclusions



Resource sector emphasis should be balanced by more attention to opening practical paths to sustainable public and para-public sector jobs. This would not only expand the range of career options available to young people but also support democratic development and Indigenous self-determination

Federal and territorial governments should continue to work to improve access to post-secondary academic education, which is generally required for careers that offer steady employment.

Key Conclusions cont'd



There is scant research on this question but we suspect that community empowerment and development is the essential underlying element. Adequate housing, improved community-school relations, community initiatives to support youth career planning, support for harvesting sector, more community level control of terms of grants are likely to be important.