



TDSB Secondary Success Indicators 17–21 Year Old Post-Secondary Applications 2006-7

What It Is

Students applying to post-secondary institutions in Ontario provide applications through the Ontario Universities Applications Centre (OUAC) and the Ontario College Application Centre (OCAS). We matched the 2007 applications with information in our Student Information System on 17-21 year old students in the TDSB on March 31, 2007.

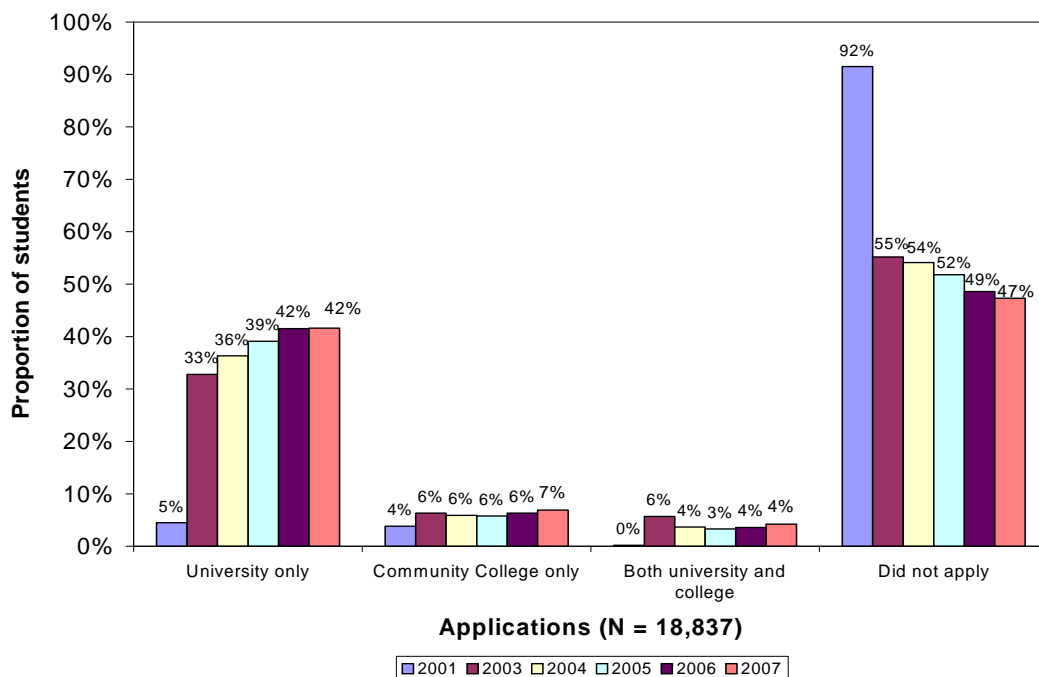
We show those who apply to university only; those who apply to community college only; those who apply to both university and college programs; and those who do not apply. This information is compared to similar TDSB information going back to 2001.

The Trend — Age-Appropriate 17 Year Old Grade 12 Students

Figure 1 shows TDSB post-secondary applications of 17 year olds (age appropriate for Grade 12) from 2001 to 2007. There are two key observations:

- 1) The proportion of 17 year olds applying to university only dramatically increased from 5% to 33% in 2003. This was the 'double cohort' year when students under the new curriculum could apply to university after four years rather than five years;
- 2) Canada now has one of the highest rates of post-secondary access in the world, and this can be seen in the increase of post-secondary applications of 17 year olds from 33% when the new curriculum was implemented, to 42% in 2007. *In 2006 and 2007, for the first time, the number of 17 year old applicants to post-secondary in the system outnumbered the numbers who did not apply to post-secondary.*

**Figure 1: Ontario Post-Secondary Applications of 17 Year Olds TDSB
Spring 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007**





Who Will Get In

We know from previous research that about three quarters of those who apply will attend post-secondary institutions; in addition, many who do not attend during this application cycle will re-apply to post-secondary in the next year (often to different programs and schools from the first year).

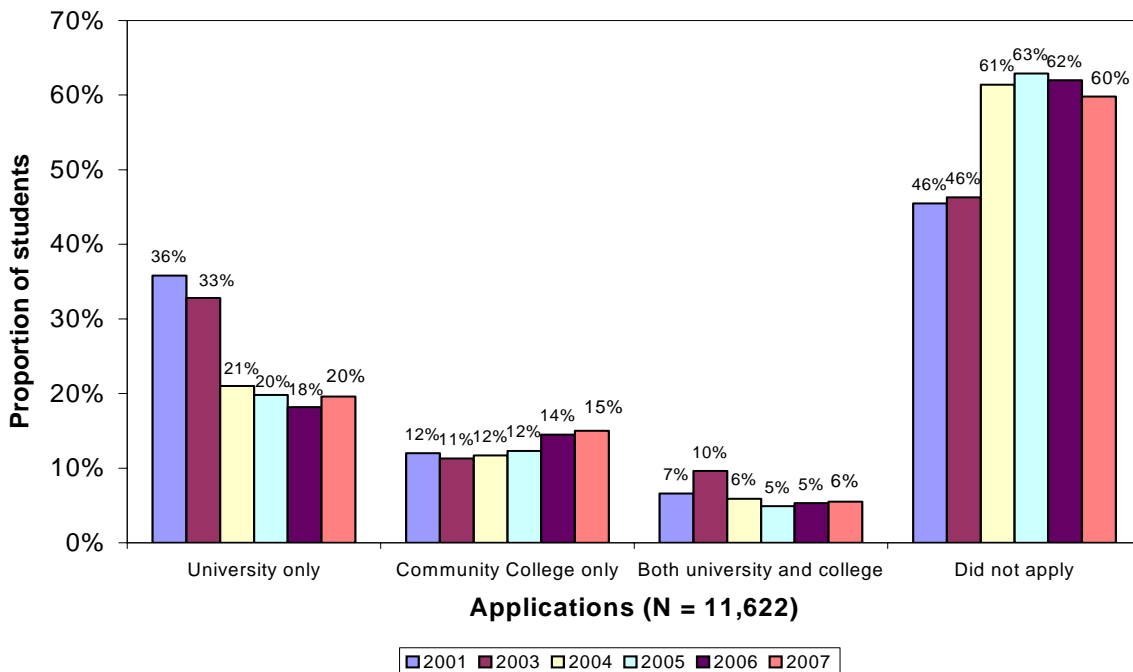
The Pattern — Older (18–21 Year Old) Students

17 year olds now make up the majority (62%) of our Grade 12 population, but 38% are 18-21 years of age (most are 18 years of age).

Since the new curriculum was implemented, the proportion of post-secondary applicants out of this older age group has been stable, at 37-40%.

However, we also know that many students who do not go into post-secondary directly from high school will apply as adults. In 2007, the number of community college adult applicants who had *previously* been in the TDSB outnumbered community college applicants *currently* in the TDSB.

**Figure 2: Ontario Post-Secondary Applications of 18-21 Year Olds TDSB
Spring 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007**



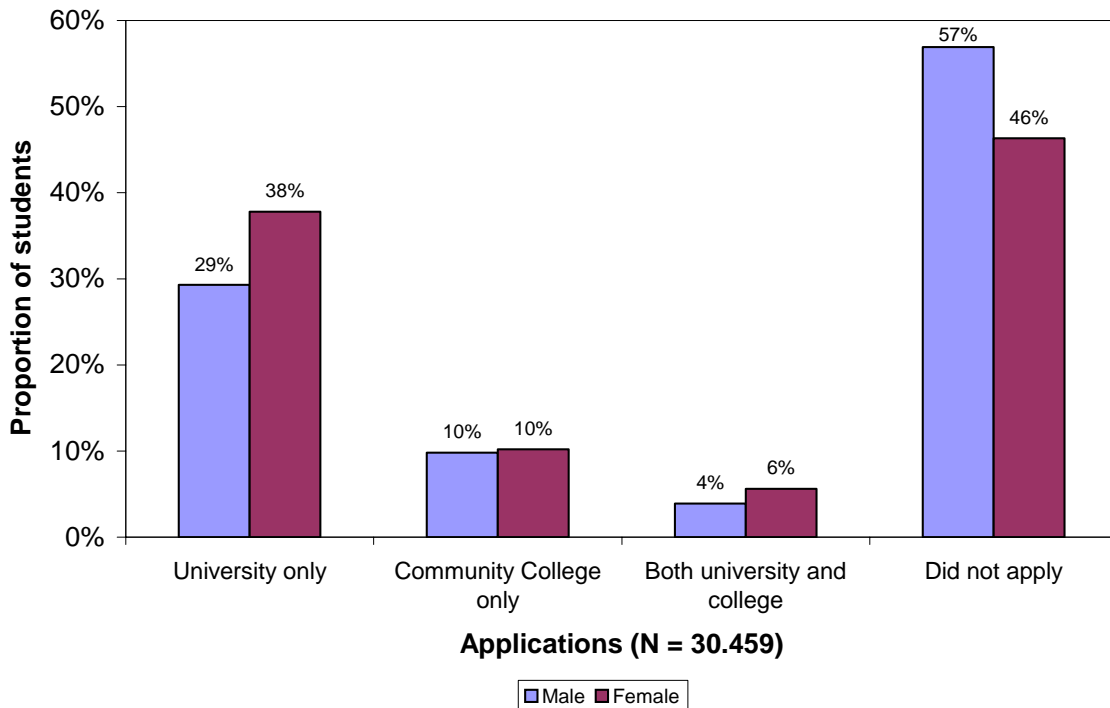


CONTEXT: Gender of Post-Secondary Applicants

The Pattern

Male students are less likely to apply to post-secondary than female students (43% of male Grade 12 students compared to 54% of females). The main difference is in those who apply to university only (29% of males compared to 38% of females) or both university and college (4% compared to 6%), whereas there is no difference among those who apply to community college only (10%).

Figure 3: Ontario Post-Secondary Applications of 17-21 Year Olds TDSB Spring 2007 by Gender





CONTEXT: Student Achievement in Mathematics (Grades 9-12)

What It Is

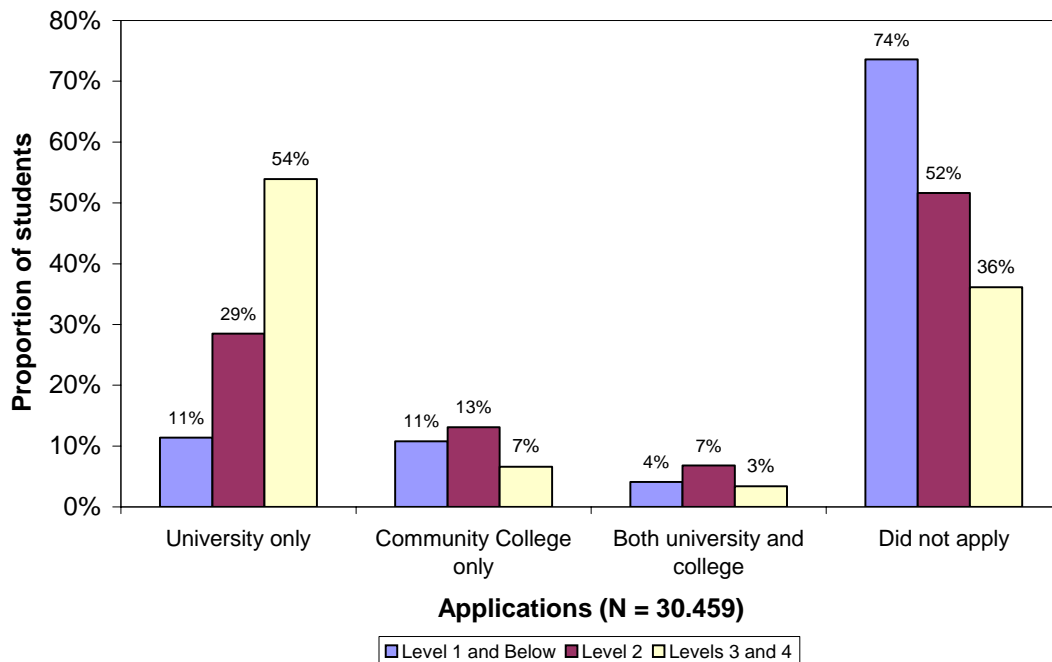
We looked at overall Mathematics achievement from Grade 9 to 12: 1) those who had an average mark of 59% or less in their completed Grades 9-12 Mathematics courses (Level 1 and Below); 2) those who had an average mark of 60-69% in their completed Grades 9-12 Mathematics courses (Level 2); 3) those who had an average mark of 70% or higher in their completed Grades 9-12 Mathematics courses (Levels 3 and 4).

The Pattern

Around two thirds of students with an average of 70% or higher (Levels 3 and 4) in high school Mathematics applied to post-secondary (most applied to university); only a quarter of those with an average of 59% or less (Level 1 and Below) applied to post-secondary (those applicants were equally split between university and community college).

Similar patterns are seen in looking at summary Grade 9-12 information in English and Science.

Figure 4: Ontario Post-Secondary Applications of 17-21 Year Olds TDSB Spring 2007 by Mathematics Achievement (Grades 9-12)





CONTEXT: Neighbourhood Income of Post-Secondary Applicants

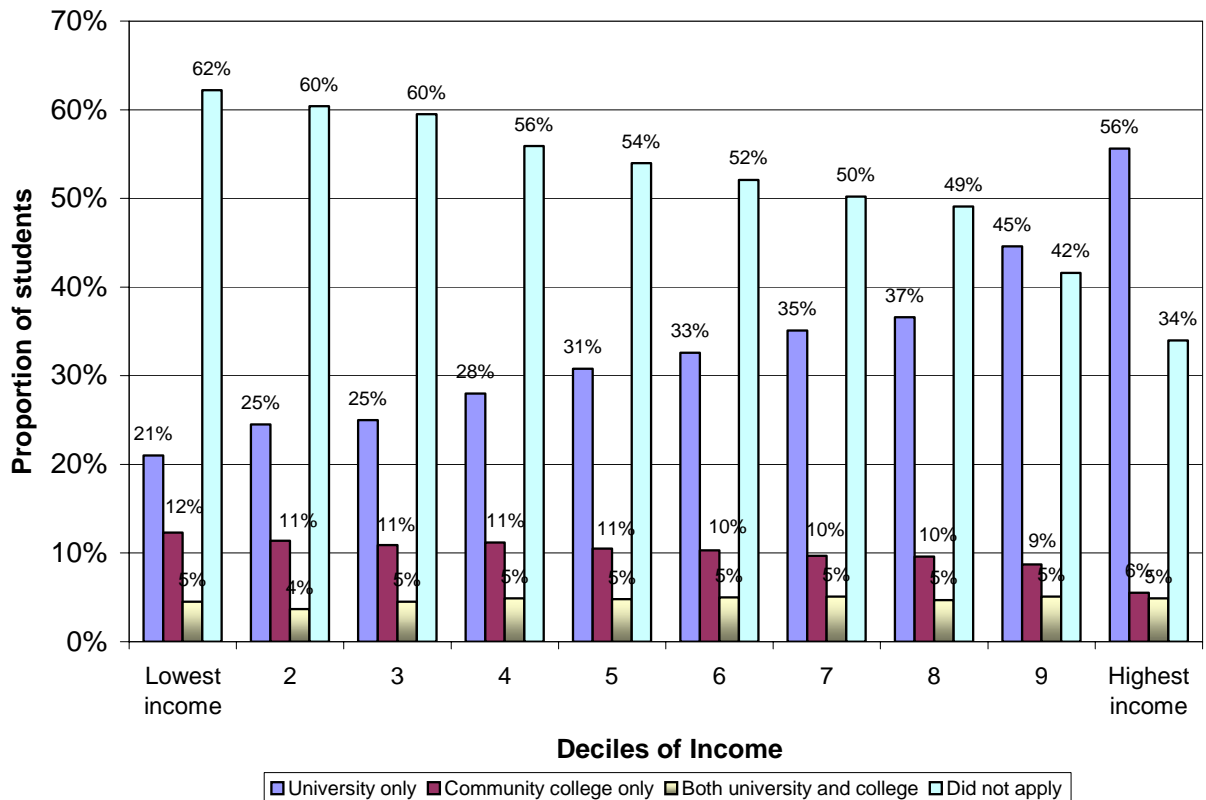
What It Is

Student income was approximated by using the average family income of the neighbourhood of student residence according to the 2001 Statistics Canada census. All students in the TDSB were divided into 10 income groupings, from lowest to highest income.

The Trend

There is a clear relationship of neighbourhood income and applying to post-secondary institutions: while 66% of students from highest-income neighbourhoods applied, 62% of students from the lowest-income neighbourhoods did not apply. However, closer examination shows that the key difference is in students applying to university: there is a limited difference between neighbourhoods when students apply to community colleges.

Figure 5: Applications to University by Family Income, Spring 2007





About the TDSB Secondary Success Indicators

The TDSB's Secondary Success Indicators have looked at patterns and trends in annual achievement since 2000. There are five key components: Grade 9 cohort achievement; achievement of age-appropriate Grade 10 students; achievement of the provincial Literacy Requirement; annual graduation and dropout patterns; and TDSB applications to post-secondary institutions.

In addition, each Grade 9 cohort is followed for seven years. The progress of the 2006-7 Grade 9 cohort will be monitored until Fall 2013.

Should you require additional information please contact us at 416-394-4929.

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