Dropout in upper secondary education

Nordisk statistiktræf om uddannelse

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Definitions of dropout

How is dropout defined?
• Enrolment rates
• Comparison between two consecutive years
• True cohort, followed through time
• Graduation rates
• Educational attainment

Students who have completed ISCED 3 vs. students who have completed some education at ISCED 3 but not the level
Completion of the programme of study but have not graduated (e.g. failed final exam)
Enrolment rates

- Enrolment rates show the proportion of an age group that is in education.
- Do not show if the same individuals are attending year by year, but give an indication of the trends and show the proportion of a particular age group attending school.
- Could be called drop-in students.
Example of enrolment rates in upper secondary education in Iceland 1999-2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1999</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16 years</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>93</td>
<td><strong>94</strong></td>
<td>93</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 years</td>
<td>76</td>
<td><strong>78</strong></td>
<td>81</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>84</td>
<td><strong>85</strong></td>
<td>83</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 years</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>68</td>
<td><strong>72</strong></td>
<td>73</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>75</td>
<td><strong>77</strong></td>
<td>75</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 years</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>66</td>
<td><strong>70</strong></td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>70</td>
<td><strong>71</strong></td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 years</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>56</td>
<td><strong>56</strong></td>
<td>56</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>52</td>
<td><strong>61</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Comparison between two consecutive years

• Students in year “n” that are not attending school in year “n+1” and have not graduated in the meantime.

• Statistics Iceland and the Ministry of Education and Culture agreed on this definition in 2002.

• Results: 15.0% dropout in day school and 19.3% for all students 2002-3. 16.4% in day school 2004-5.
Comparison 2002-2003

09/05/2011

0
10
20
30
40
50
60
70
80
%  

Males
Females
General progr.
Sex

Vocational progr.
Amount of study
Type of programme

Part-time study
Distance learning
Evening courses
Mode of teaching

Day courses
Ext. learn.
True cohort

• A group or a cohort of students is followed for a number of years.
• The graduations are checked after a specific number of years, such as 5 or 10 years.
• Those who have not graduated within this time are considered as dropouts.
• Some of the so-called dropouts may still be in school.
True cohort results in Iceland

• Icelandic surveys on the 1969 and 1975 cohorts. 57.2% of the 1975 cohort had completed some upper secondary education at the age of 24.

• Statistics Iceland followed the 1982 cohort. 62.1% had completed some education at ISCED 3 and 58.3% had completed the ISCED 3 level at the age of 24.

• Similar study on hearing impaired young people in 2010 found 69.2% had completed some education at ISCED 3 and 64.6% had completed the level.

• OECD/Norwegian data used a 5 year timeframe. Icelandic data showed 49% of the 1982 cohort had completed ISCED 3.
1982 cohort – status at age of 24

- Graduates: 62.1%
- Studied without graduating: 32.8%
- No studies after compulsory education: 5.1%

09/05/2011
Graduation data

The proportion of a reference population that has graduated from ISCED 3.

• Gross graduation rate, computed with regard to a specific reference age.

• Net graduation rate, sum of age specific rates.

• First time graduates at ISCED 3, no double counting. 89% for Iceland for 2008 (net rate).

• Completion rates. Proportion of new entrants who successfully graduate “n” years later. Some countries use true cohorts.
Upper secondary graduation rates in OECD countries


The chart shows the estimated percentage of an age cohort that will complete upper secondary education for the first time in 1995 and in 2007 (based on current patterns of graduation); it gives an indication of how many young adults complete upper secondary education compared to a decade earlier.

Note: 1995 graduation rates are calculated on a gross basis whereas 2007 are calculated as net graduation rates (for countries with available data).

Countries are ranked in descending order of the upper secondary graduation rates in 2007.

Source: OECD. Table A2.2. See Annex 3 for notes (www.oecd.org/edu/eag2009).
Educational attainment

Shows the share of the population who has completed a level of education. From the LFS.

• 64% of 25-64 years old in Iceland had completed at least upper secondary education in 2008.

• 69% of 25-34 years old had at least completed ISCED 3.
Chart A1.2. Population that has attained at least upper secondary education (2007)
Percentage, by age group

1. Year of reference 2002
2. Year of reference 2004

Countries are ranked in descending order of the percentage of the 25-to-34 year-olds who have attained at least upper secondary education.
OECD work

• Norway’s initiative, 11 countries responded with data in the first round.

• Lack of internationally comparable data on dropout at the upper secondary level.

• Data in the survey not fully comparable, but work is underway to define the variables wanted.

• Birth vs. entry cohort, entry to ISCED 2 or 3, duration after theoretical end of ISCED 3.
Completion rates in upper secondary education
Norwegian survey - OECD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Completion Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
More dropout in vocational education

France 91 71
USA 88 71
Finland 88 71
Netherlands 87 83
Norway 55 54
Denmark 82 58
Estonia 80 54
Italy 79 54
Sweden 78 65
New Zealand 70 24
Iceland 60 24

General programs
Vocational programs
New Nordic report on dropout in upper secondary education

Frafall i utdanning for 16–20 åringer i Norden

• Dropout, throughput and achievement of competence in the Nordic countries.

• 60-80% complete – mass completion has not yet been realized.

• Different definitions between the Nordic countries. Need for comparable research.

• The social background of pupils and progress in compulsory school has significance.

09/05/2011
What is the dropout rate?

How do we answer when the politicians and the Ministry of Educations asks us about the dropout rate in upper secondary education?

- 15.1% (all students 2002-3)
- 16.4% (day school students 2004-5)
- 37.9% (those who had not completed anything at the age of 24)
- 41.7% (those who had not completed ISCED 3 at the age of 24)
- 51.0% (had not completed ISCED 3 after 5 years of study)
- 10.7% (graduation rate in 2008 89.3%)
- 31.0% (25-34 year olds who have not completed ISCED in educational attainment data)