

*Presentation at the*  
Quebec Inter-University Centre  
for Social Statistics

# Ethno-Racial Inequality in Montreal

Michael Ornstein  
Institute for Social Research  
York University

1 February 2008

## Quantitative and Qualitative ...

- Rich description of ethno-racial groups on many dimensions of demography and socio-economic condition
- Description, *not* modeling
- Focus on *disadvantage*, rather than privilege (but every distribution has two ends)

# Analytical Themes I

- *Demographic Difference, at both ends of the age distribution in relation to the “prime age” population*

The “life cycle” of ethno-racial groups constituted from differences in the age distributions of groups; and

- *Socio-Economic Difference*

Somewhat correlated patterns of disadvantage in education, employment, personal income and family income

- Differences *within* and *between* global categories of “racialization”
- This not (only) about immigrants; immigrant groups have different trajectories as a result of the circumstances of their arrival and their different socio-economic and cultural characteristics

## *Source of Data*

- 2001 Canadian Census, mainly; 1971-1996 Censuses for comparison
- Data from the “long form” questionnaire, given at random to 1 in 5 households (except 1 in 3 in 1971)
- Detailed results from the 2006 Census conducted in May, will not be available until late 2008

## *Geography*

- Census Metropolitan Area (CMA)

*I thank Statistics Canada for access to the Census data in Ottawa and valuable staff assistance*

## *Definition of “Ethno-Racial Groups”*

- In 2001, based on the question:  
**To which ethnic or cultural group(s) did this person’s ancestors belong?**
- *No* pre-specified answers are provided on the Census form, just four blank boxes
- About one third of respondents give 2 or more answers
- Identifying the groups somewhat subjective because of
  - multiple responses
  - small size of some groups

# 2001 Census Question about Ancestry

*While most people in Canada view themselves as Canadians, information on their ancestral origins has been collected since the 1901 Census to capture the changing composition of Canada's diverse population. Therefore, this question refers to the **origins of the person's ancestors**.*

**17** To which ethnic or cultural group(s) did this person's **ancestors** belong?

*For example, Canadian, French, English, Chinese, Italian, German, Scottish, Irish, Cree, Micmac, Métis, Inuit (Eskimo), East Indian, Ukrainian, Dutch, Polish, Portuguese, Filipino, Jewish, Greek, Jamaican, Vietnamese, Lebanese, Chilean, Somali, etc.*

*Specify as many groups as applicable*

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# Ethno-Racial Groups: Principles

- Ethno-racial groups are mutually exclusive and include the entire population – thus avoiding the single/multiple response problem of Statistics Canada tables describing ancestry
- Subdivided into eight “global regions”: Aboriginal, Europe, Arab and West Asia, East Asia, South Asian, Africa, Caribbean and South and Central American
- Four types of ethno-racial group
  - Persons reporting a single ancestry and with a 2001 Montreal population ~1500 or more
  - “Other” groups: collapse smaller single-ancestry groups
  - Combined groups for multiple ancestry, both within and between global regions
  - “Other *and* Multiple” groups



## Ethno-Racial Groups in the Montreal CMA

Description	Number
<p><b>Persons reporting a single ancestry or unique combination with a 2001 population of ~1500, reported separately</b>            such as Aboriginal, Aboriginal and English and/or French, Lithuanian, Palestinian, Afghan, Tamil, Vietnamese, Grenadian, Hispanic, African</p>	70
<p><b>“Other” groups collapse smaller single-ancestry groups,</b>            such as “Other Southeast Asian,” “Other West Asian”</p>	6
<p><b>Combined groups for multiple ancestry, both within and between global regions,</b> such as “Multiple South Asian,” “African and European” and “Caribbean and South Asian”</p>	15
<p><b>“Other and Multiple” groups,</b>            such as “Other and Multiple Central American”</p>	11
Total	102

## Ethno-Racial Groups by Global Region, Montreal CMA 2001

	Single Group or Particular Combination	“Other” combination of smaller groups	“Combined” for multiple ancestry	Other and Multiple
Aboriginal	3		1	
European	27	1	7	4
Arab and West Asian	12	2	2	
South Asian	7	1	1	1
East Asian	7	1	1	1
African	2		2	1
Caribbean	5	1	1	2
South & Central American	7			2
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>11</b>

## *“Ethno-racial groups” relative to Statistics Canada’s visible minority groups”*

- The “visible minority” categories identified by Statistics Canada are based on the size of groups, thus Japanese and Korean are listed separately , while “Southeast Asian” encompasses “Cambodian, Indonesian, Laotian, Vietnamese, etc.”
- The “visible minority” categories suggest essentialized ideas of racialization – and invite Census respondents to slot themselves into pre-defined categories, especially problematic for persons of Caribbean ancestry
- Ancestry and membership in visible minority groups is quite highly correlated

# Population Estimates for the African, Caribbean and South and Central American Global Groups

	1971	1981	1986	1991	1996	2001
<b>African TOTAL</b>	<b>4,640</b>	<b>7,635</b>	<b>44,090</b>	<b>50,170</b>	<b>26,770</b>	<b>44,285</b>
Ghanaian				925	1,570	1,850
Black		35	35,700	37,135	7,905	14,545
Other and Multiple African	4,640	6,090	535	4,685	13,515	23,295
African and East/Southeast/South Asian			460	920	980	1,260
African and European/Arabic/West Asian		1,510	7,395	6,505	2,800	3,335
<b>Caribbean TOTAL</b>	<b>4,465</b>	<b>19,680</b>	<b>19,055</b>	<b>47,350</b>	<b>100,075</b>	<b>100,595</b>
Barbadian				420	2,485	2,455
Haitian		13,955	13,365	35,425	65,935	64,995
Jamaican			805	1,840	6,885	7,190
Trinidadian/Tobagonian				815	2,710	2,215
West Indian	4,465		1,735	1,465	3,065	3,490
Other Caribbean		5,725	275	1,925	5,775	6,795
Multiple Caribbean			10	120	1,605	1,805
Caribbean and European			2630	4655	10220	10310
Caribbean and East/South Asian			240	690	1,395	1,350
<b>South and Central American TOTAL</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>10,365</b>	<b>20,525</b>	<b>42,080</b>	<b>63,005</b>	<b>71,195</b>
Chilean		1,530	2,890	4,175	8,395	6,865
Columbian				1,225	1,945	2,835
Guatamalan				1,665	2,800	2,905
Mexican		420	500	1,385	2,025	3,255
Peruvian		415	1,310	2,320	4,720	5,815
Salvadoran				4,065	6,270	6,370
Hispanic	610	5,550	6,830	10,565	10,970	9,965
Other and Multiple South American		2,450	8,995	15,225	21,730	28,385
Other and Multiple Central American				1,460	4,150	4,805

# Ethno-Racial Groups with the Census, some methodological issues

- Ancestry is a non-permanent, individual (not family) characteristic
- Probably the most potential change is when children leave their parents to establish households and fill out the Census themselves
- Ancestry involves some imputation of missing values by Statistics Canada, whose effect is not known
- Sample is clustered in households and stratified to match the population in extreme detail
- Census file is not adjusted for “undercount”

# 2001 Census Question used to identify members of visible minorities

**19** Is this person:

- Mark "⊗" more than one or specify, if applicable.

*This information is collected to support programs that promote equal opportunity for everyone to share in the social, cultural and economic life of Canada.*

05  White

06  Chinese

07  South Asian (e.g., East Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, etc.)

08  Black

09  Filipino

10  Latin American

11  Southeast Asian (e.g., Cambodian, Indonesian, Laotian, Vietnamese, etc.)

12  Arab

13  West Asian (e.g., Afghan, Iranian, etc.)

14  Japanese

15  Korean

Other — Specify

16

## *Detailed Statistics for Demographic Characteristics, Education, Occupation and Household Income*

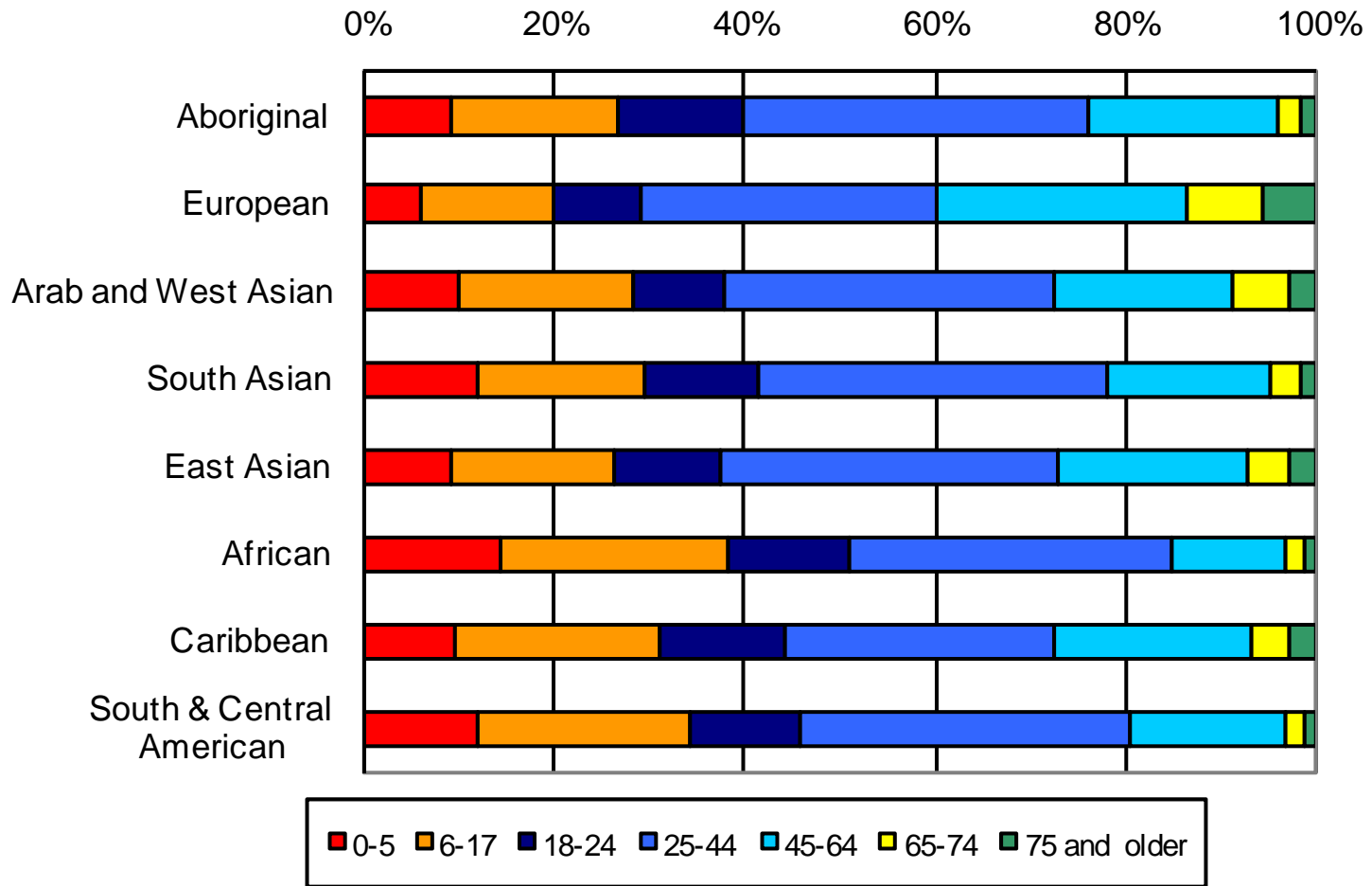
- Age Distribution
- Percentage of Immigrants and when they settled
- First and home language
- Family type

- Education in 2001
  - Completed education for ages 25-34
  - Completed education for ages 35-54
  - Young adults 18-24: in school full-time, out of school – with university degree, high school diploma, no high school diploma
- For women and men 25-34 in 2001, percent high school and university graduates
- From 1971-2001, ages 25-34, high school and university graduates

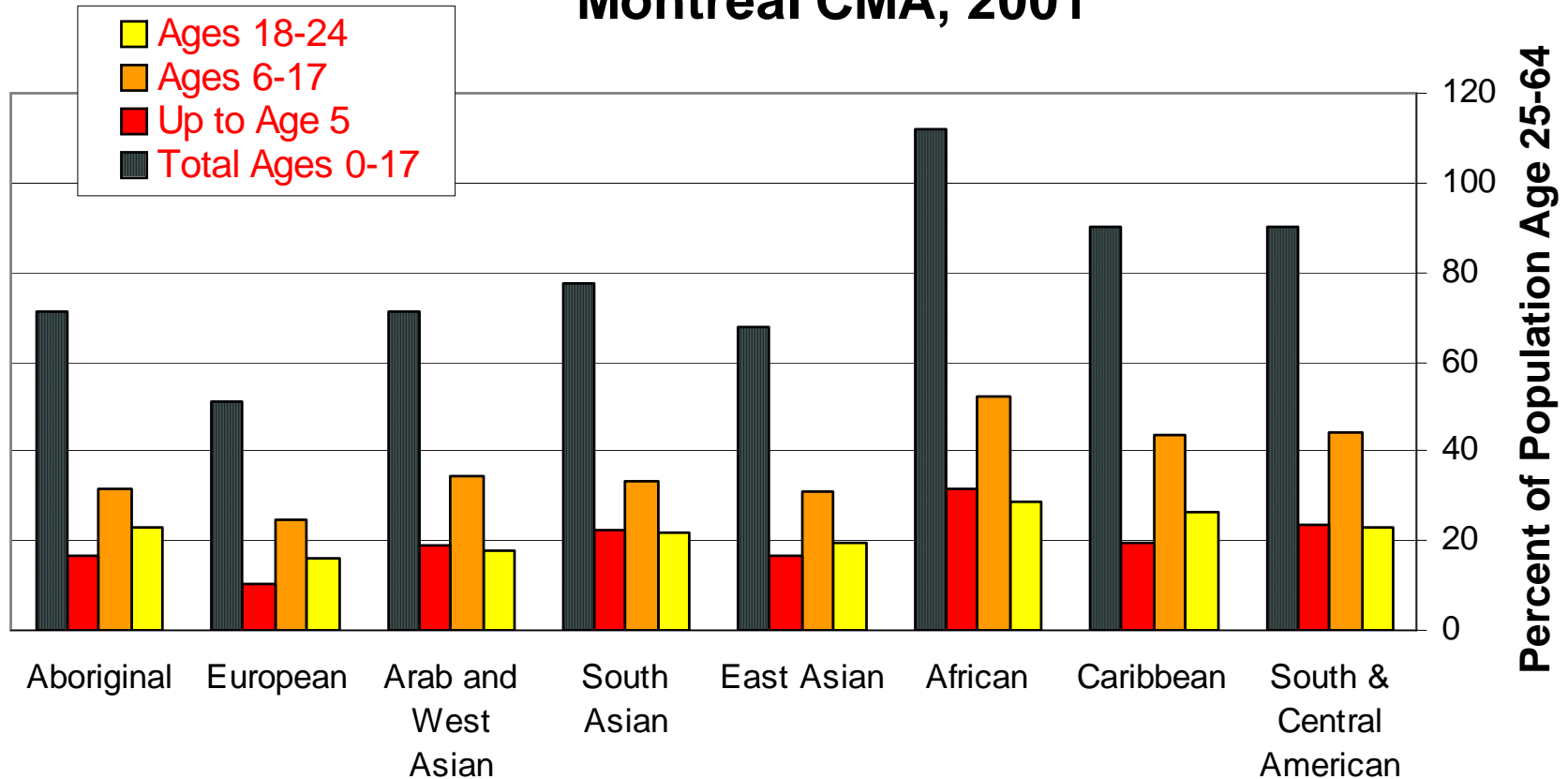


- Employment in 2001, for women and men separately
  - Labour force status
  - Self-employment
  - Part- versus full-time employment
  - Occupations (seven categories for skill, manual/non-manual)
  - Employment income
- Family Income and Incidence of poverty (LICO) from 1971-2001, for families and unattached persons

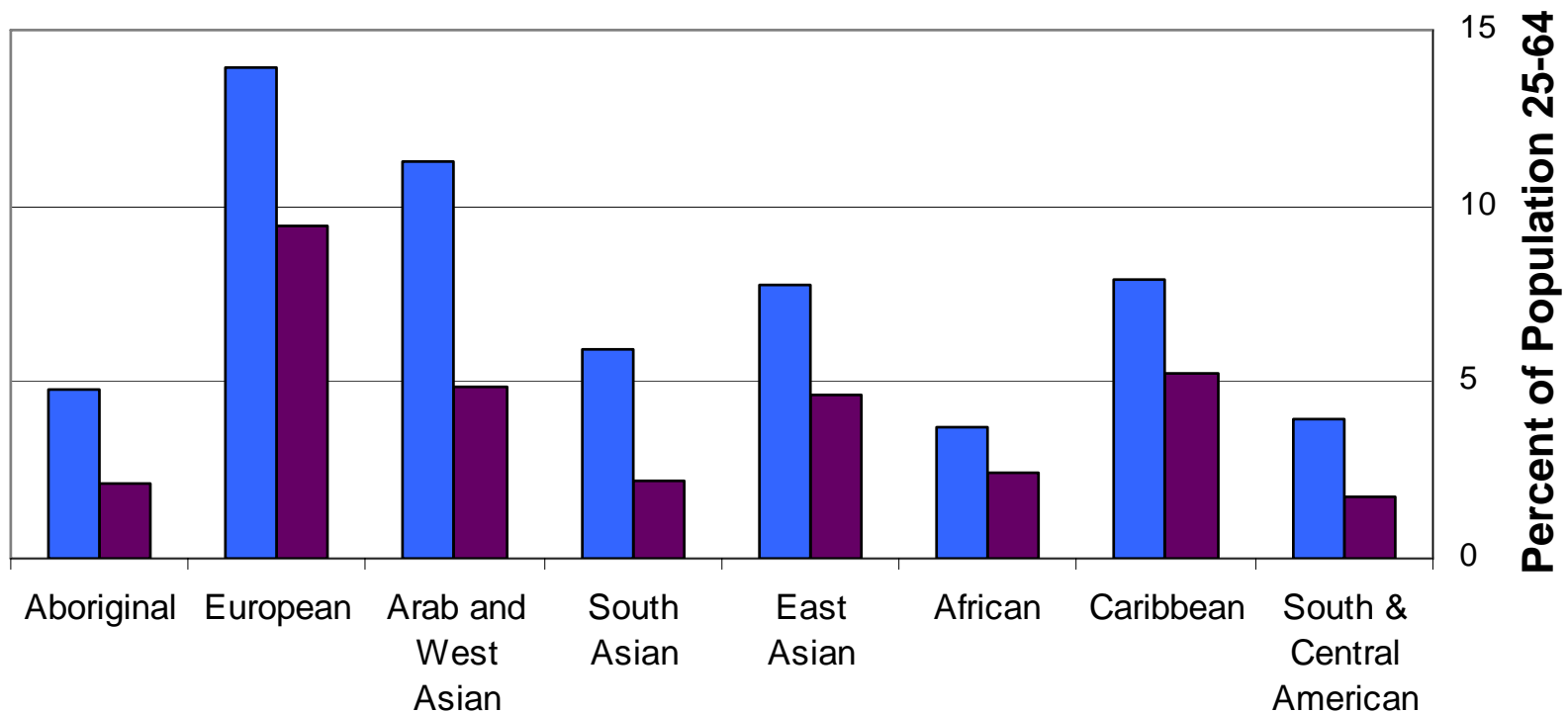
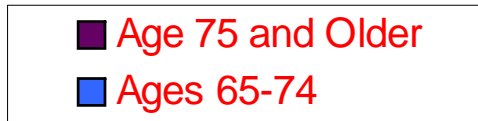
### Age Distribution by Global Region, Montreal CMA2001



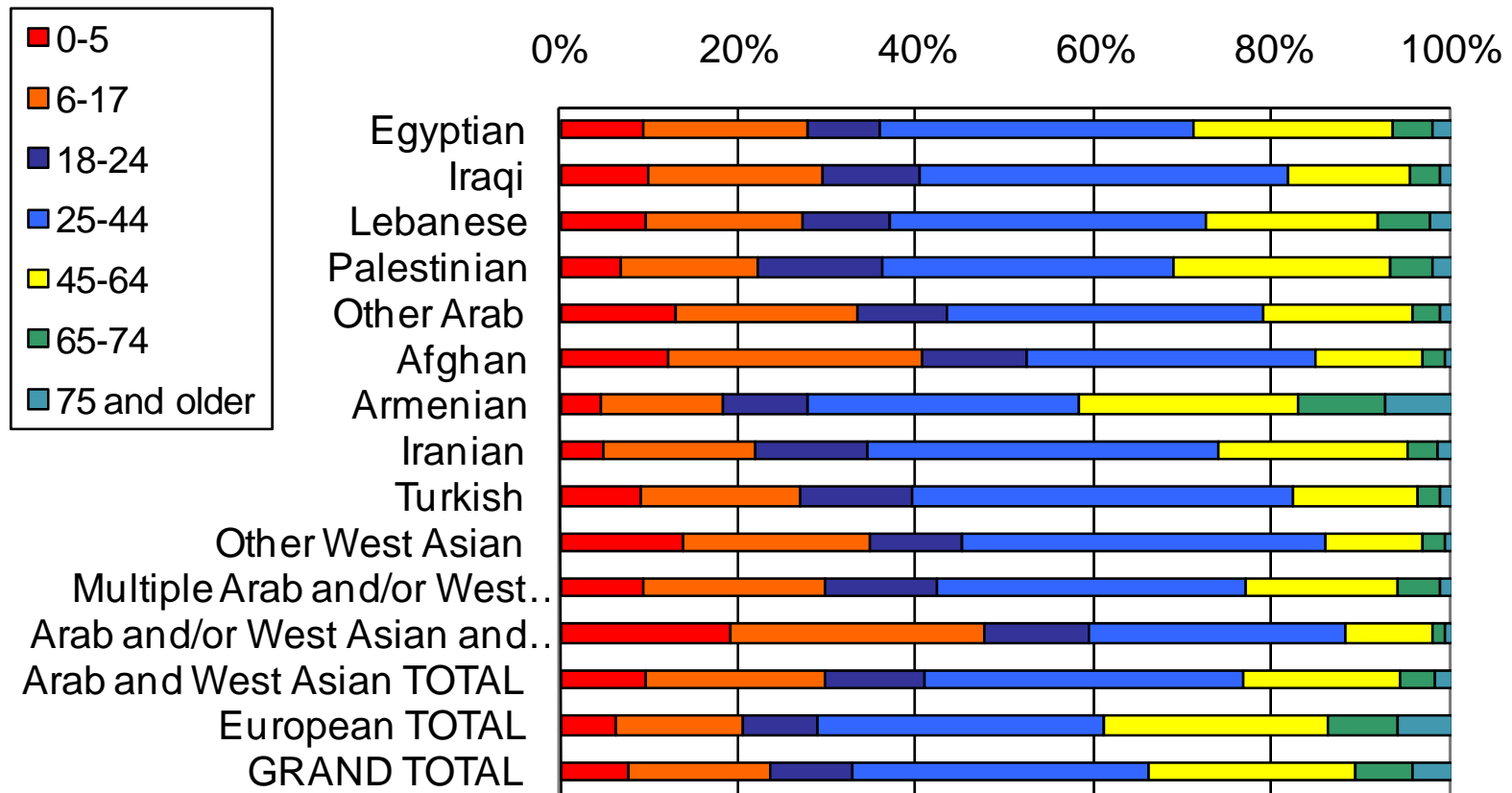
## Dependency Ratios for Young People for Global Categories of Ethno-Racial Groups, Montreal CMA, 2001



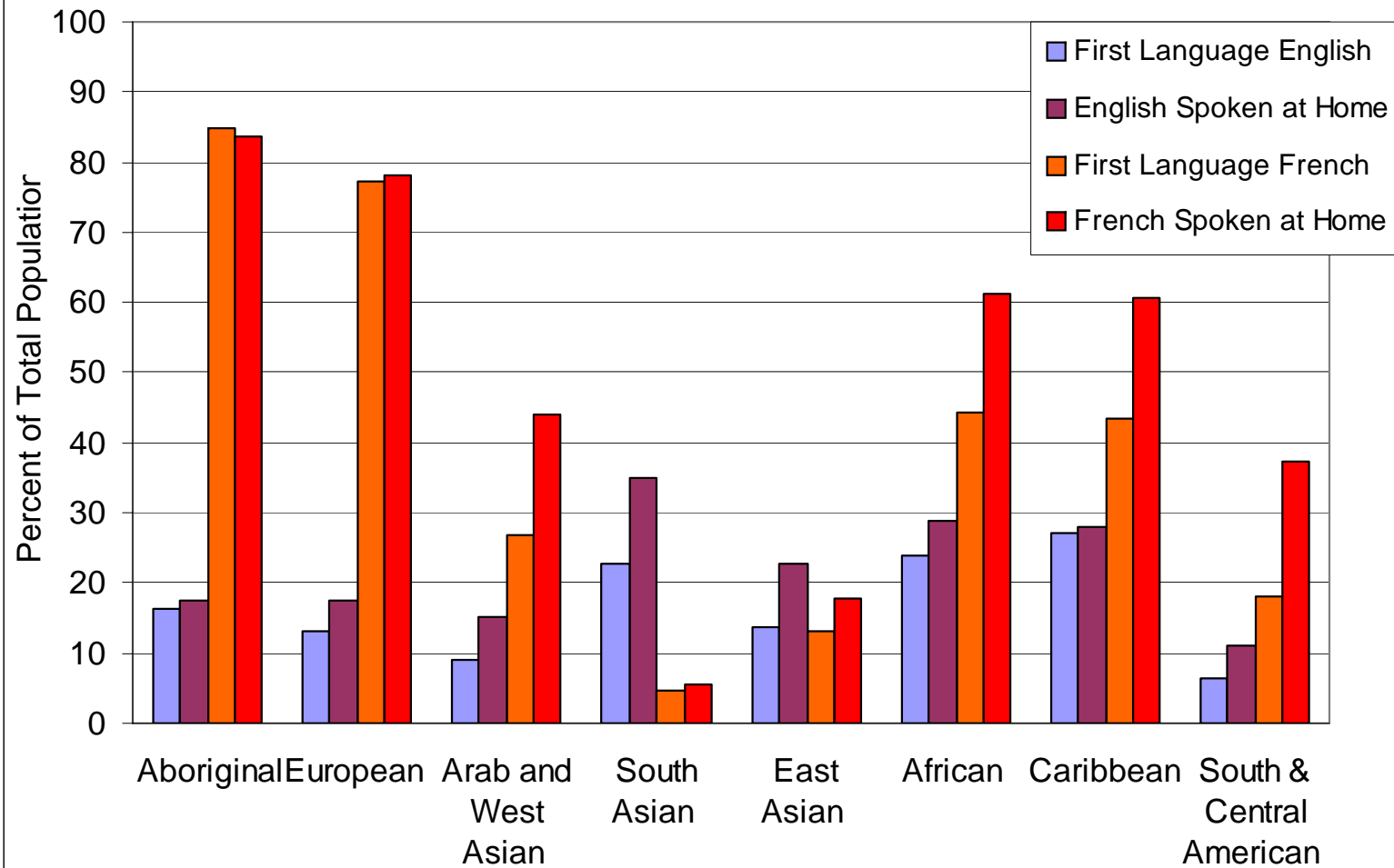
## Dependency Ratios for Older People for Global Categories of Ethno-Racial Groups, Montreal CMA, 2001



## Age Distribution for Arab and West Asian Groups, Toronto CMA, 2001

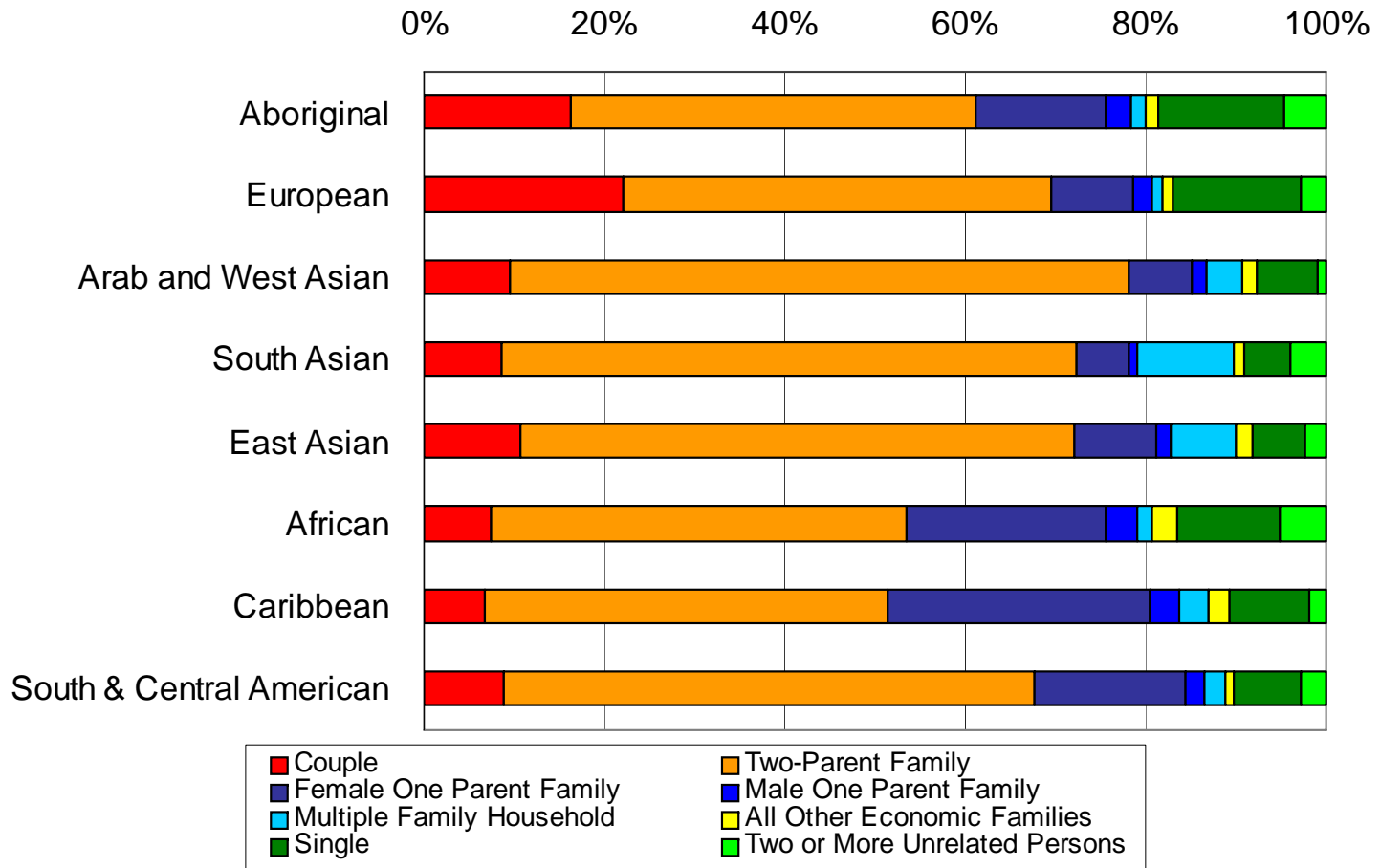


First Language and as Language Spoken at Home by Global Region, Montreal CMA, 2001

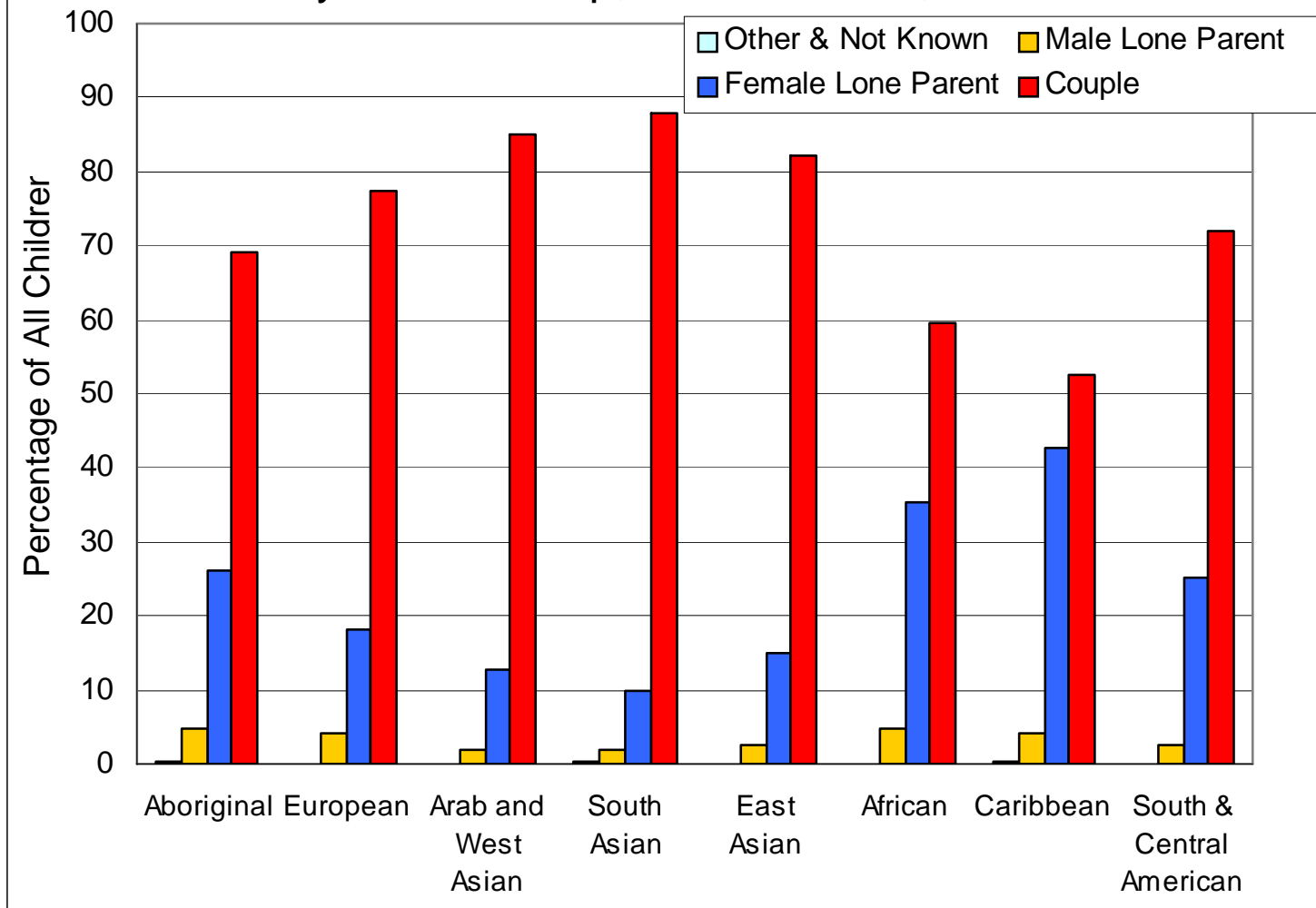


## Type of Household by Global Region, Montreal CMA, 2001

Percent of Individuals in Each Type of Household

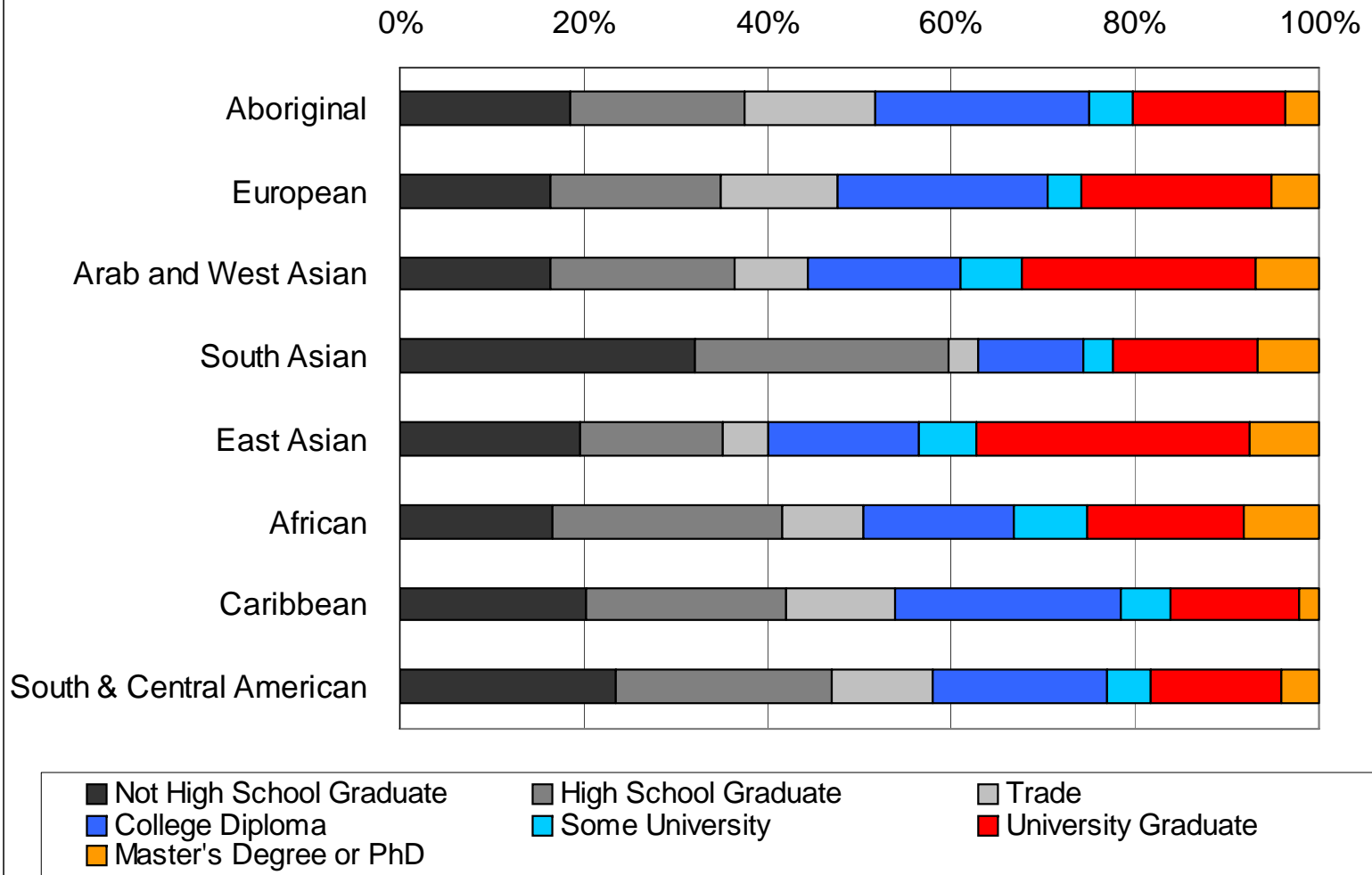


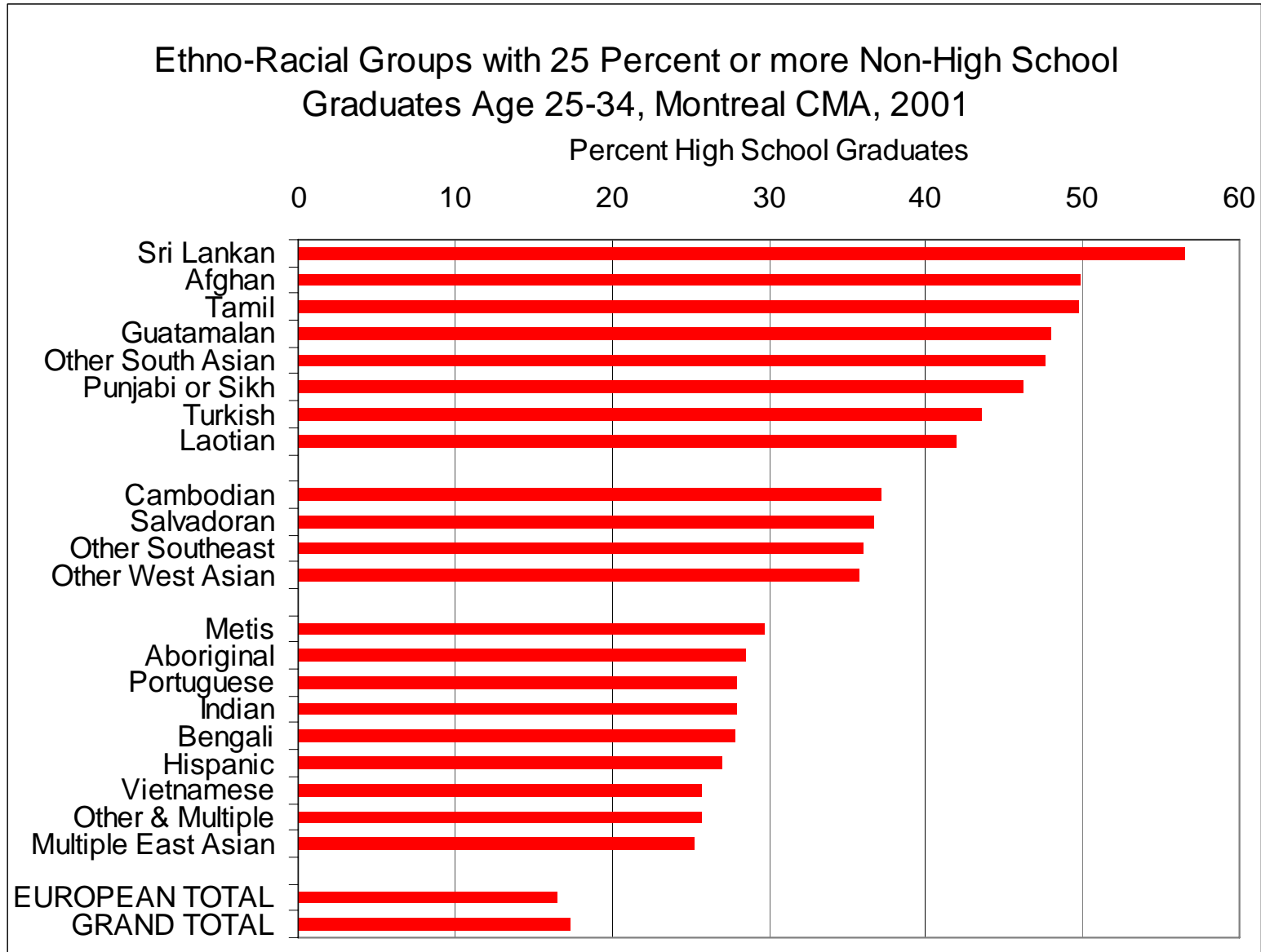
## Parents in the Households of Children Under 18 by Global Group, Montreal CMA, 2001



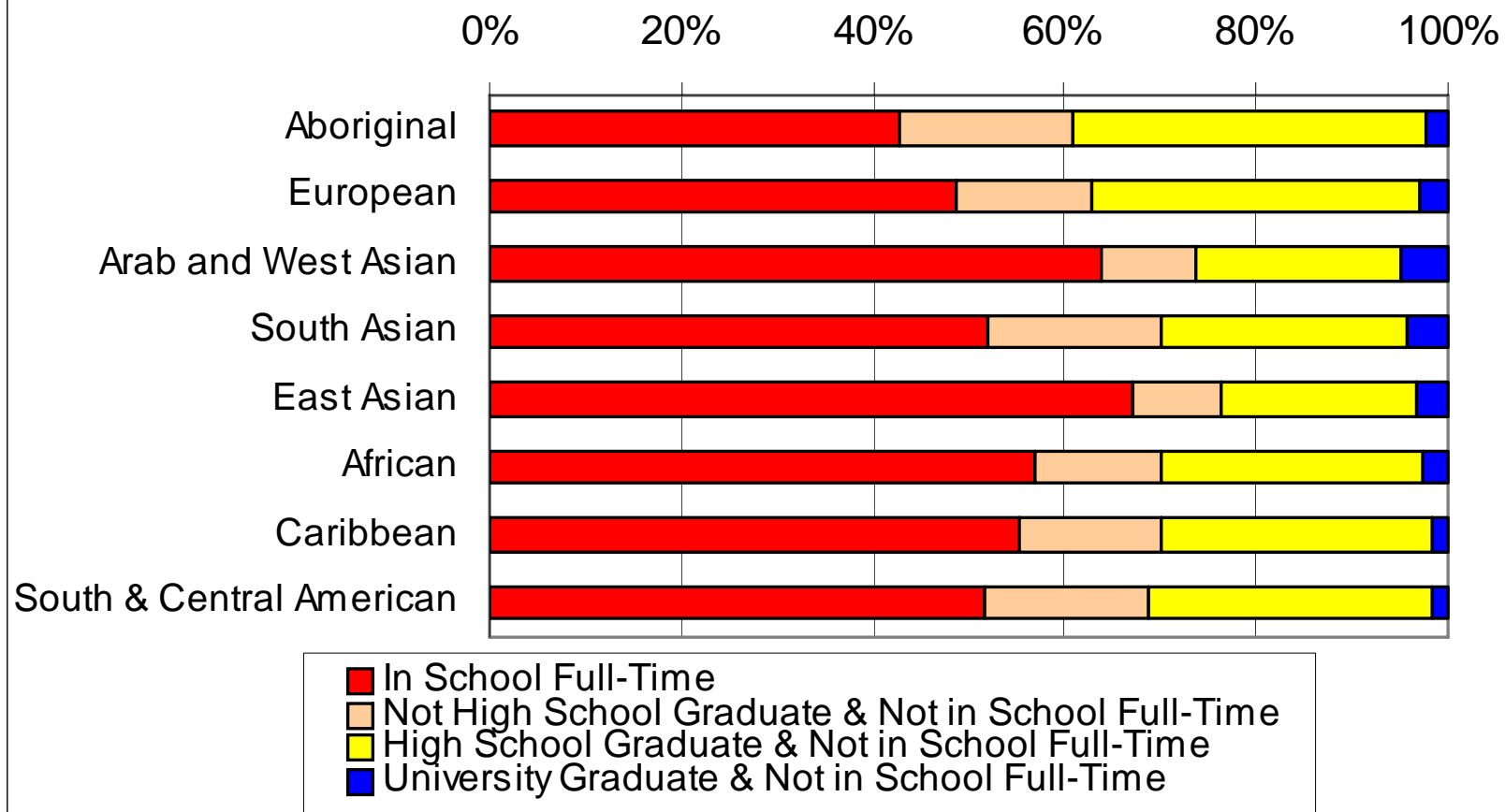


## Educational Attainment for Persons Age 25-34 by Global Region, Montreal CMA, 2001

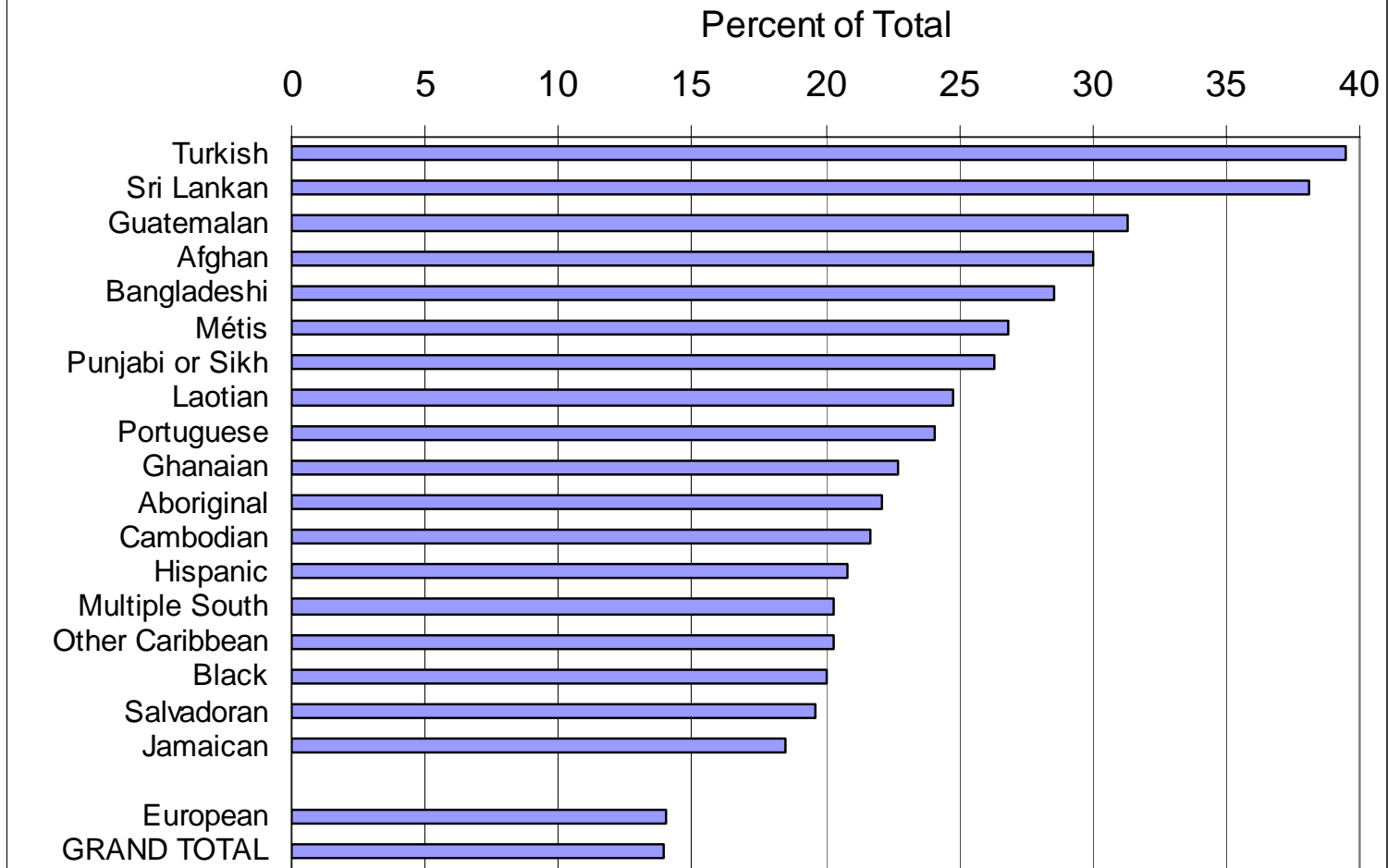




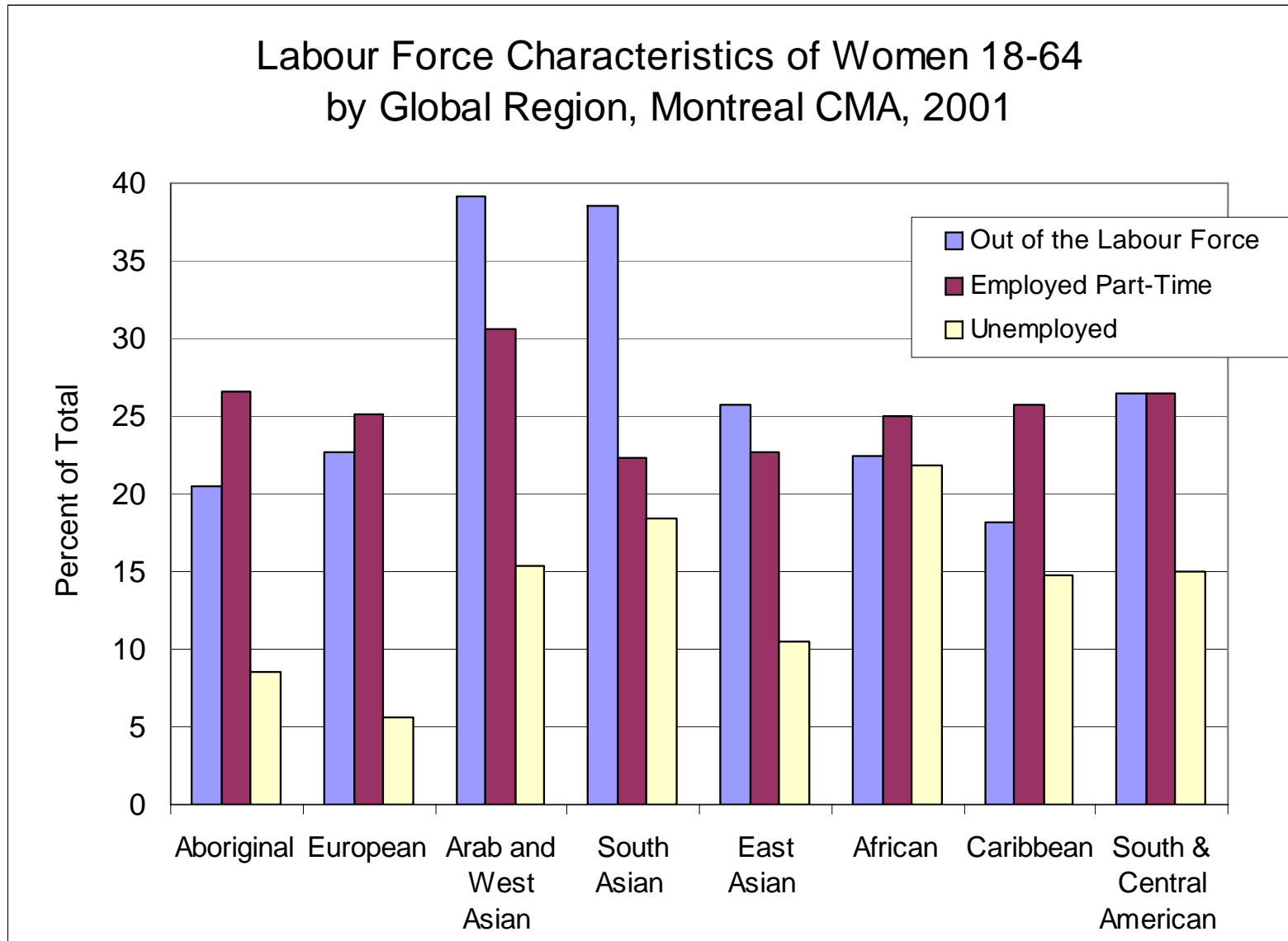
## Whether in School Full-Time and Completed Education, for Youth 18-24, for Global Groups, Montreal CMA, 2001

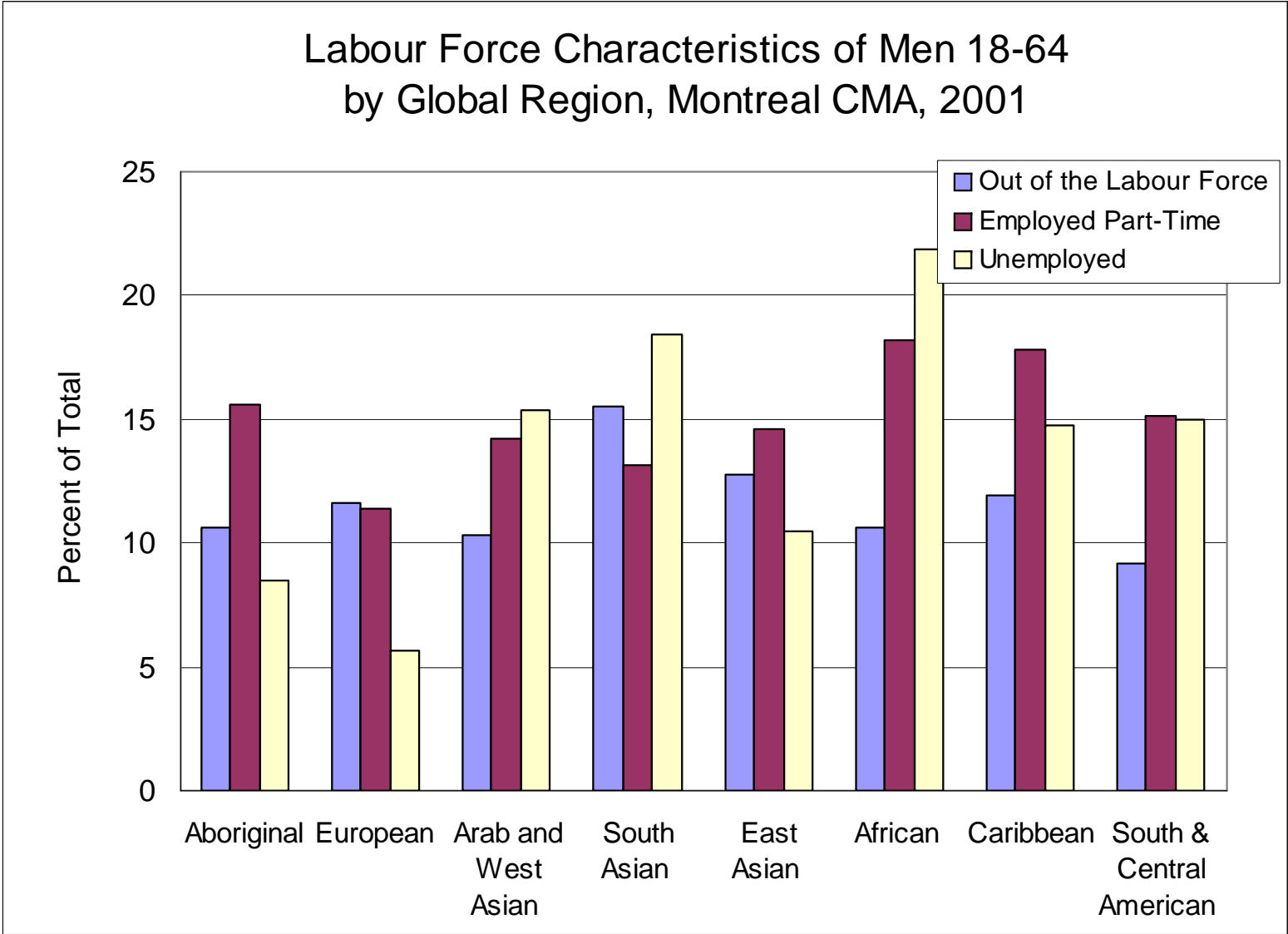


## For Ages 18-24, Groups with the Lowest Proportion Not in School Full-Time and Not High School Graduates, Montreal CMA, 2001

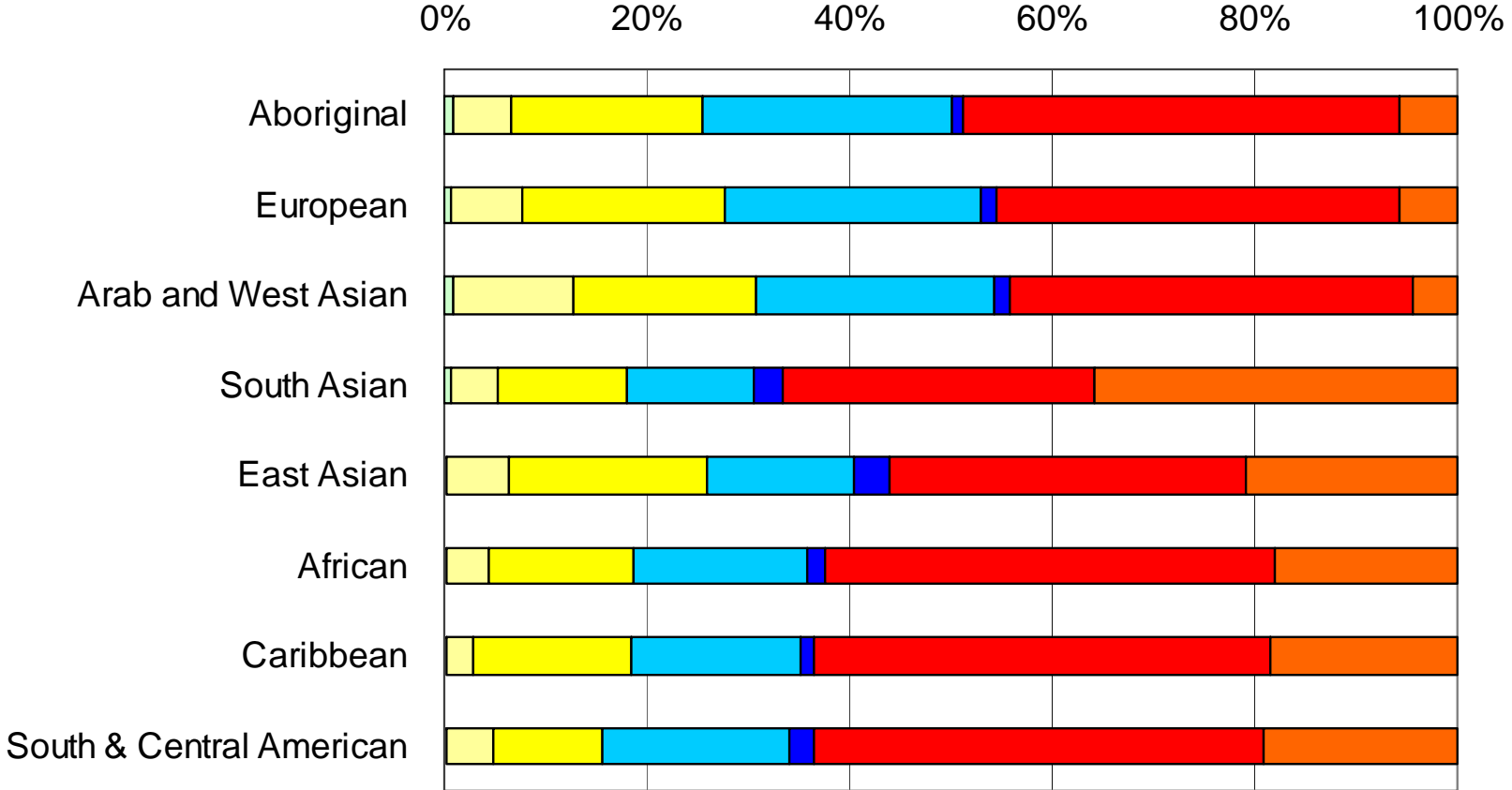
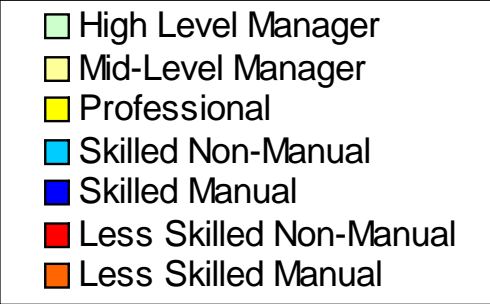


## Labour Force Characteristics of Women 18-64 by Global Region, Montreal CMA, 2001



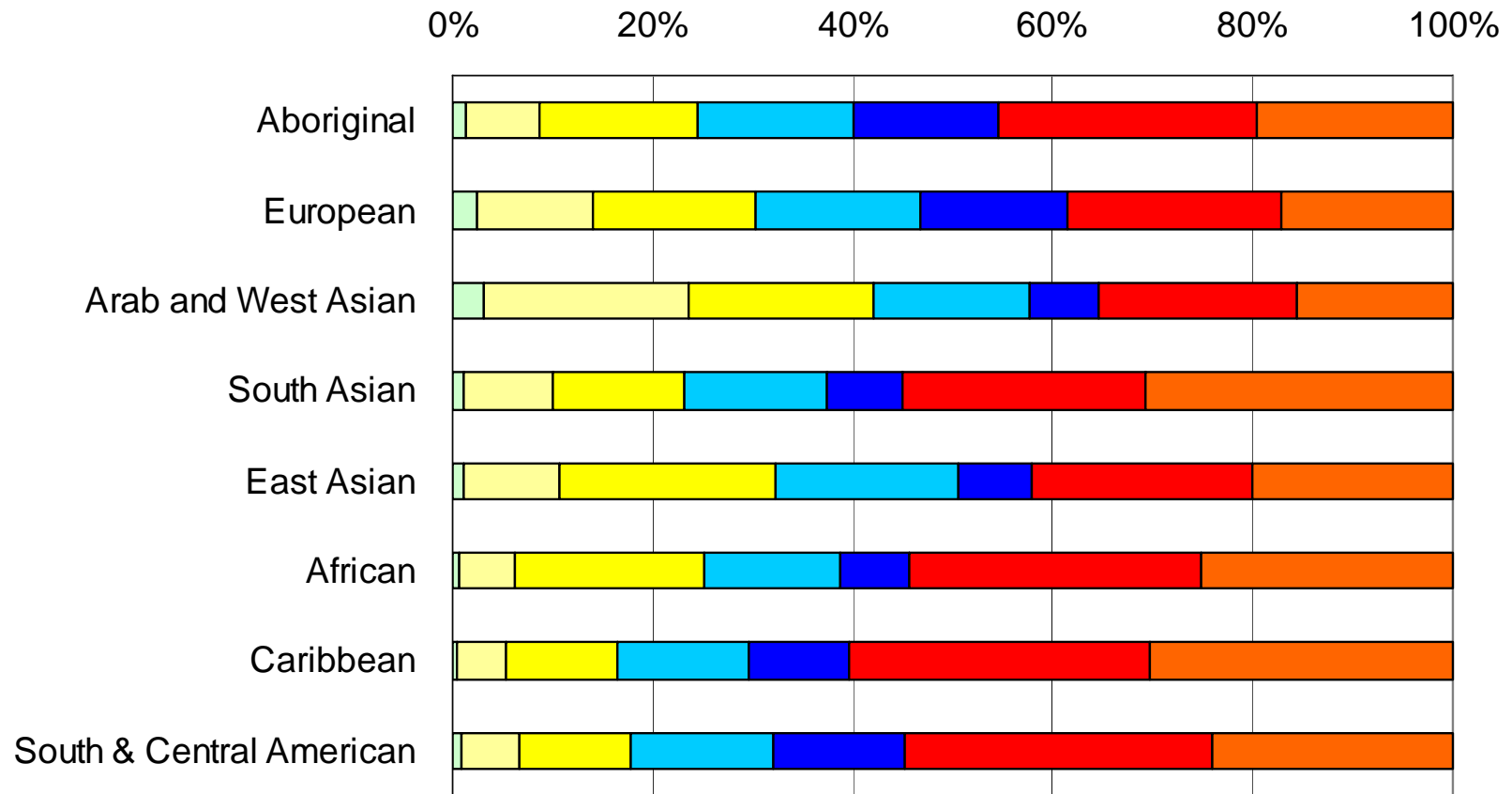


# Occupations of Women Age 18-64 by Global Region, Montreal CMA, 2001



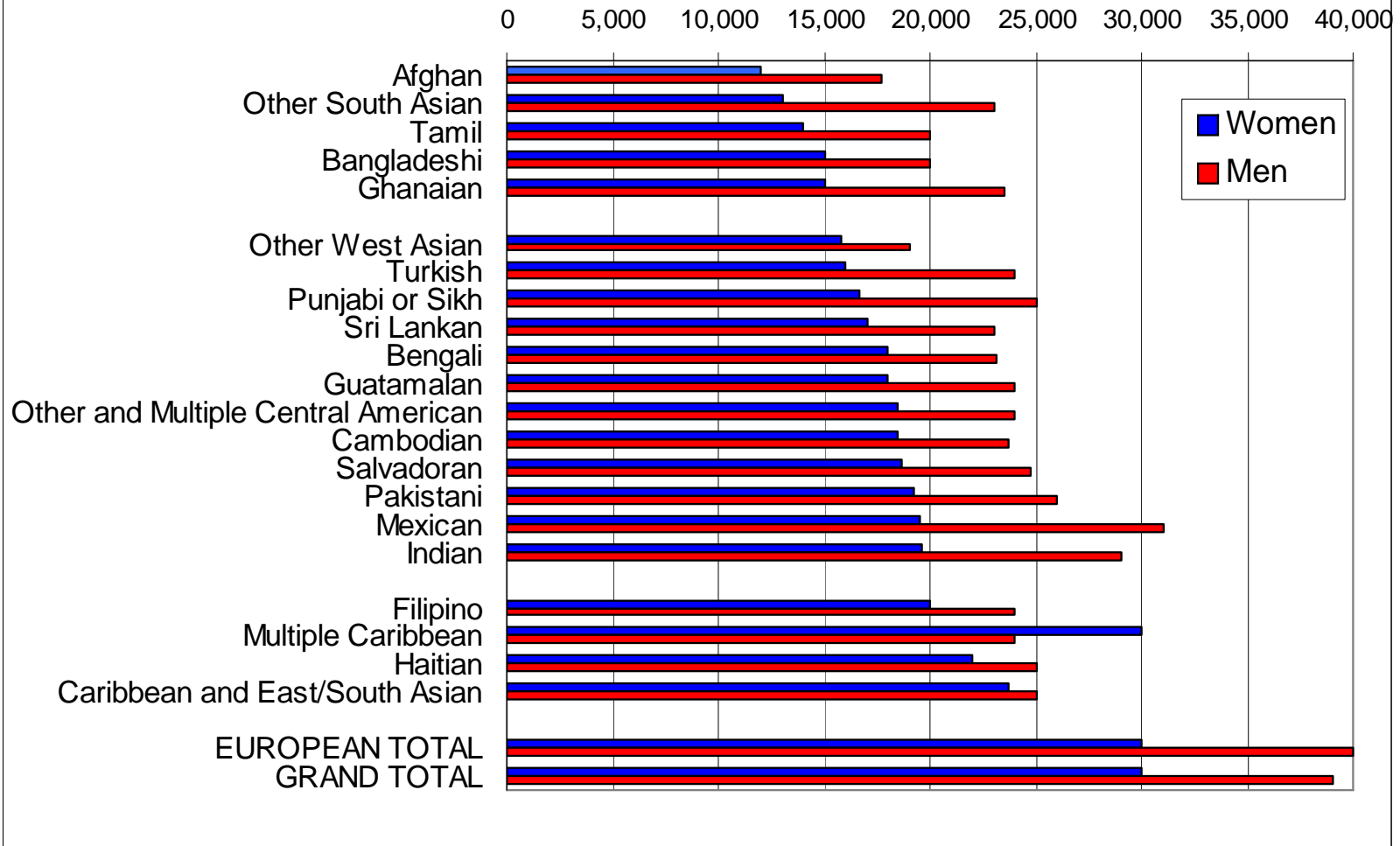
## Occupations of Men Age 18-64 by Global Region, Montreal CMA, 2001

- High Level Manager
- Mid-Level Manager
- Professional
- Skilled Non-Manual
- Skilled Manual
- Less Skilled Non-Manual
- Less Skilled Manual

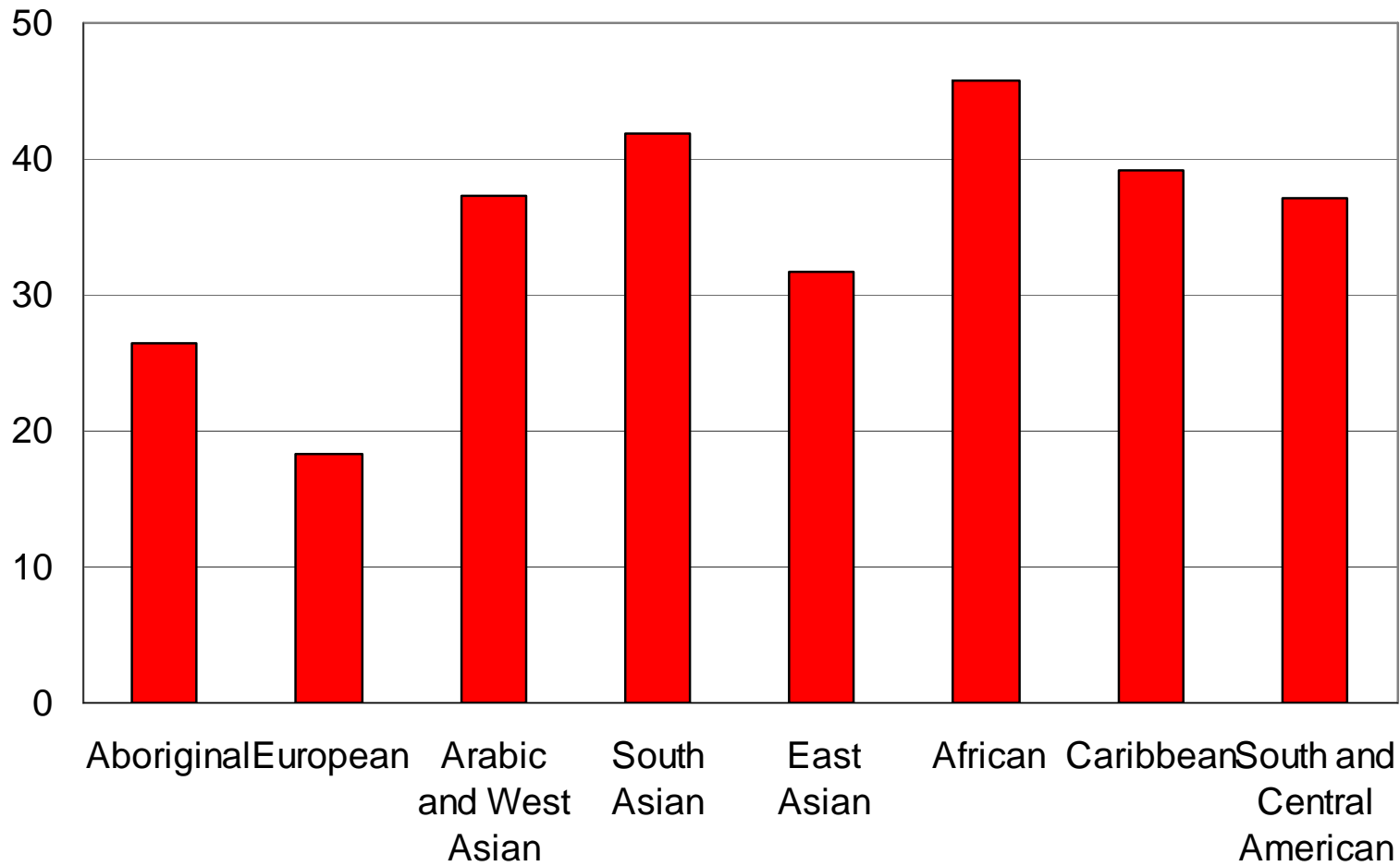




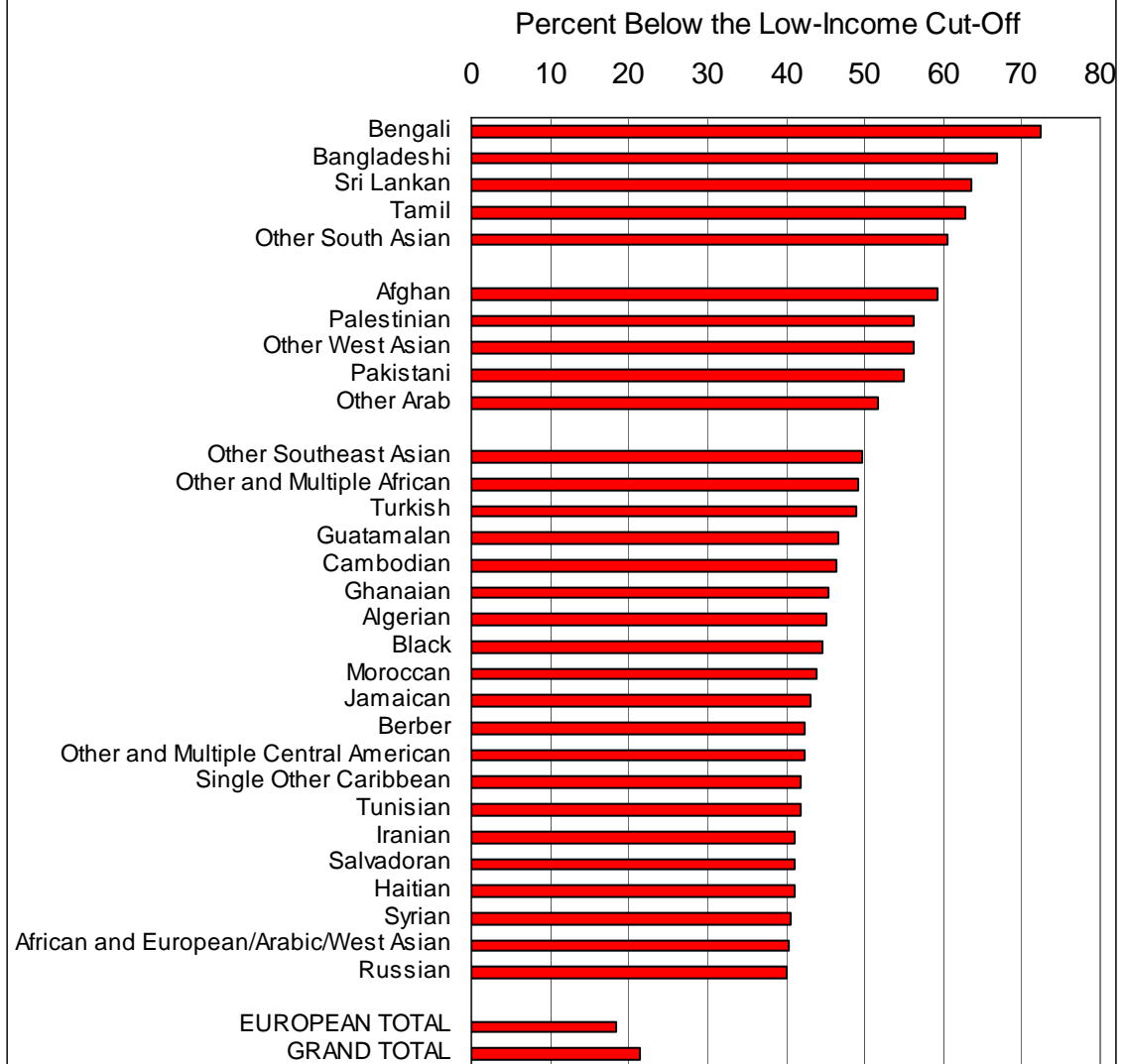
Ethno-Racial Groups with Median Employment Income for Women Under \$20,000 or Men Under \$26,000, Montreal CMA, 2000

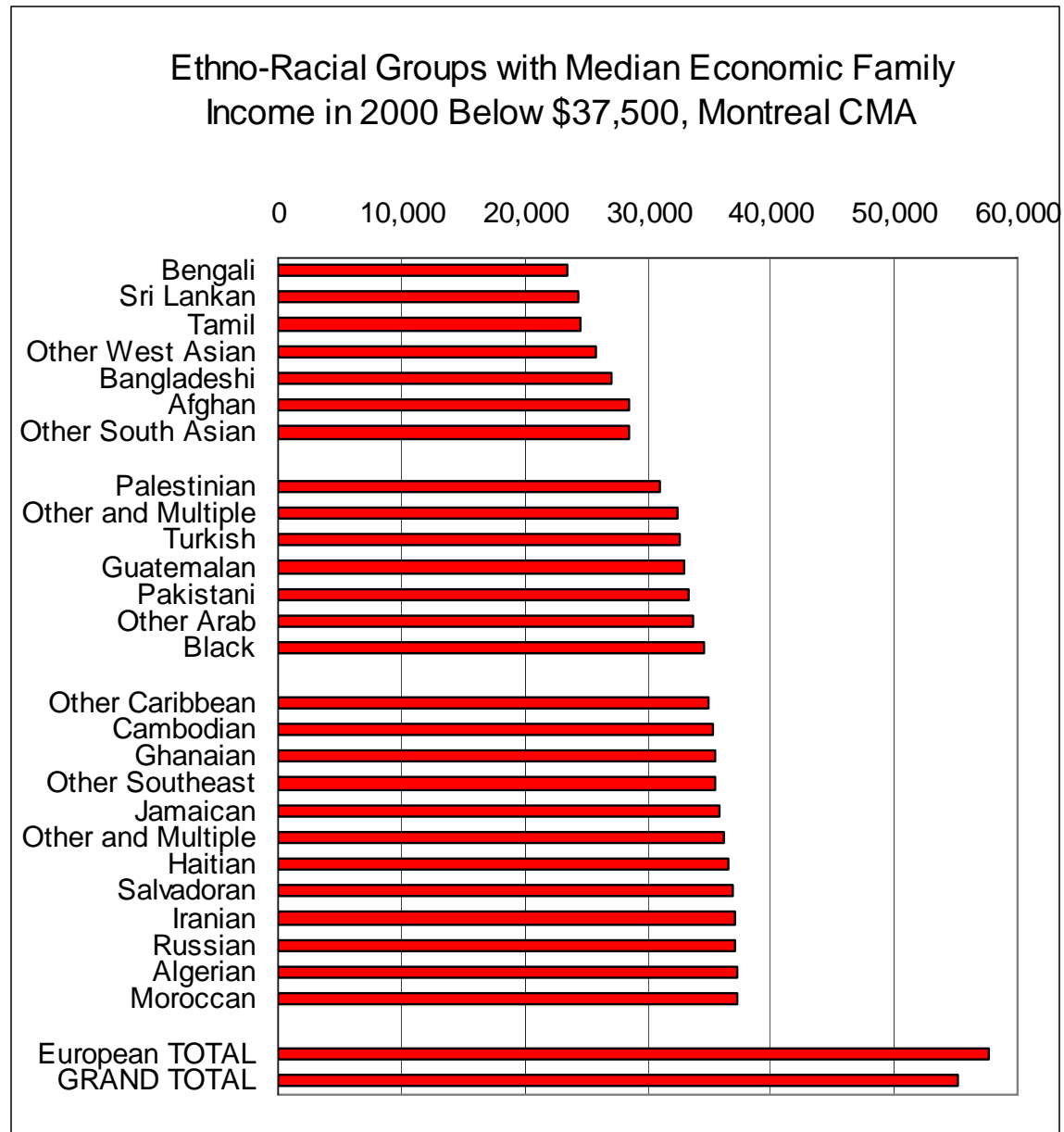


### Percentage of Persons Below the Low Income Cut-Off by Global Region, Montreal CMA, 2000

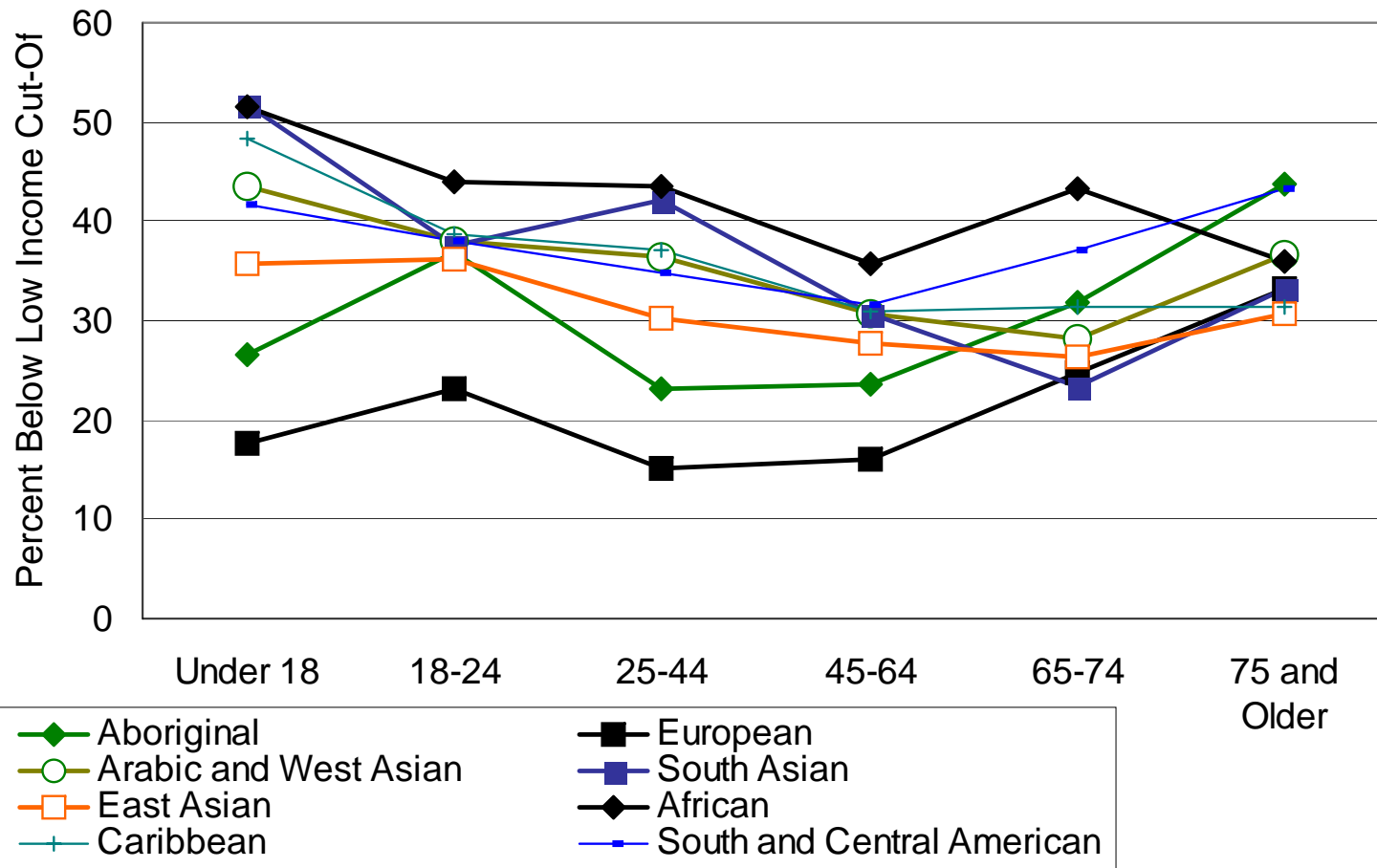


### Ethno-Racial Groups with 30 Percent or more Below the Low Income Cut-Off, Montreal CMA, 2001

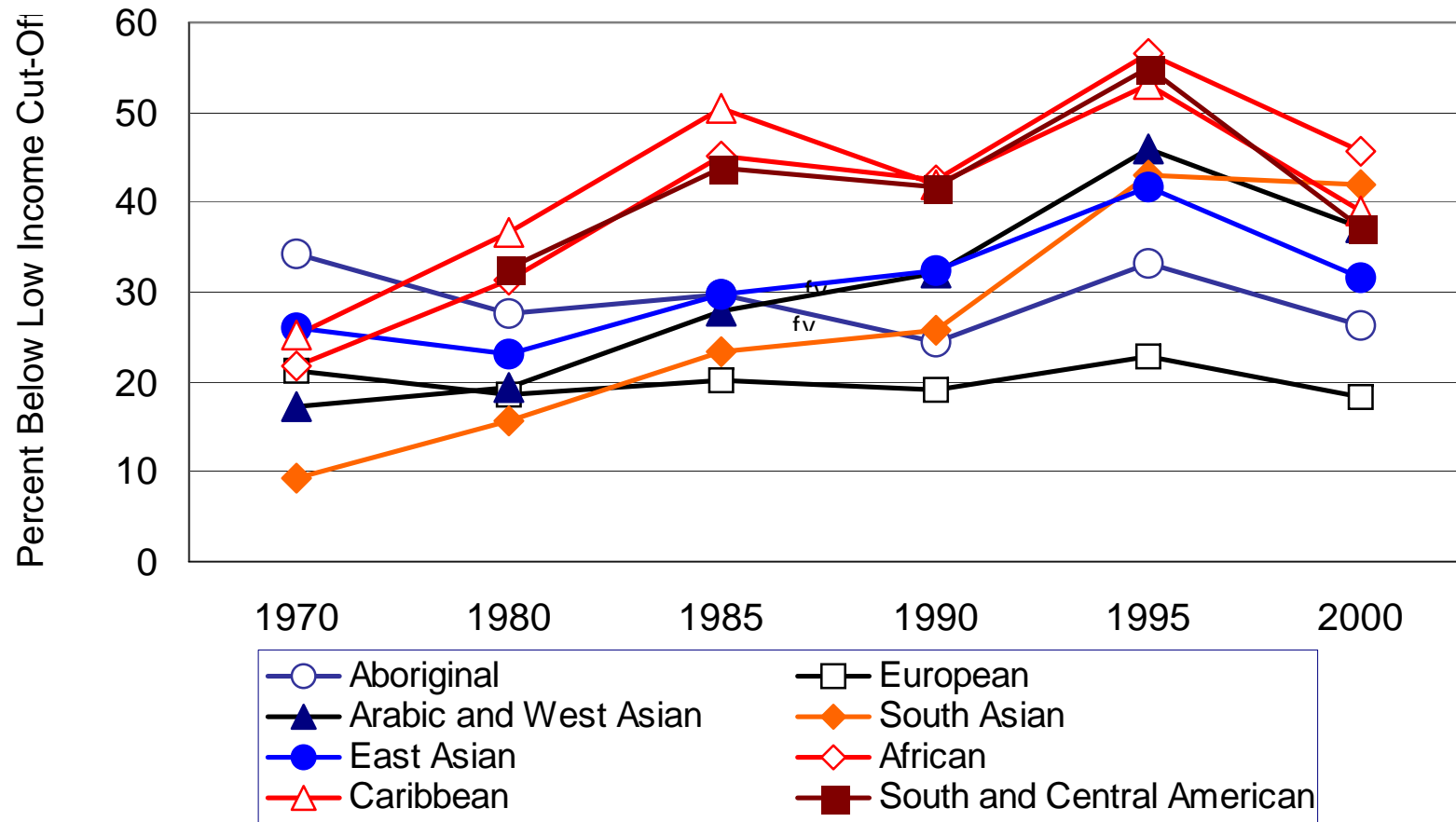




Incidence of Low Income in 2000 by Age by Global Region,  
Montreal CMA



## Low Income by Global Region, Montreal CMA, 1970-2000



# Identifying Multiple Disadvantage

1. Establish criteria, often in relation to some sector of the population, e.g. median employment income of men 18-64, who worked mostly full-time for 40 weeks or more in 2000
2. Identify “outliers” – ethno-racial groups whose position is outside the “normal” distribution – who suffer “extreme disadvantage”
3. Identify groups, not in the first group, in the lowest decile by each criterion, this category is labeled “severe disadvantage”
4. Identify groups in the second decile
5. For 3. and 4., above respect discontinuities in the distribution so the identify quantitatively similar groups; this category is labelled “significant disadvantage”
6. Summarize the rankings in the multiple criteria to identify the most disadvantaged groups

## Criteria for Disadvantage the for Montreal CMA, Figures from 2001 Census

Dimension	Group of Concern	Extreme Disadvantage	Severe Disadvantage	Significant Disadvantage
Children in female one parent	Children under 18	over 45%	36.1-45%	31-36%
Not High School Graduates	Ages 25-34	over 45%	30 to 45%	24 to 29.9%
University graduates	Ages 25-34	under 6%	6-11.9%	12-15.5%
Not in school full-time and not a high	Ages 18-24	over 35%	25.1-35%	18.5-25%
In School full-time	Ages 18-24	under 32%	32-39.9%	40-47%
Unemployed	Women, 18-64	ove 30%	24.1-30%	19.5-24%
Unemployed	Men, 18-64	over 25%	20.1-25%	17.4-20%
Lower skill manual occupation	Employed Women, 18-64	over 55%	40.1-55%	23-40%
Lower skill non-manual occupation	Employed Women, 18-64	over 55%	50.1-55%	45-50%
Lower skill manual occupation	Employed Men, 18-64	over 40%	33.1-40%	27.5-33%
Lower skill non-manual occupation	Employed Men, 18-64	over 36%	33.9-36%	30-33%
Median employment income	Women	under \$15,500	\$15,500-17,499	\$17,500-20,000
Median employment income	Men	under \$21,000	\$21,000-23,900	\$24,00-25,000
Below the Low Income Cut-Off (LICO)	All Individuals	over 61%	52.9-61%	46-53%
Median Income	All Families	under \$26,000	\$26,000-29,999	\$30,000-34,500
Median Income	Non-Family Persons	under \$10,000	\$10,000-12,249	\$12,500-14,000



# A corner of the table

Extreme, Severe and Significant Disadvantage of Ethno-Racial Groups, Montreal CMA 2001

Criterion	Group	Extreme Disadvantage	Severe Disadvantage
Children in female one parent households	Children under 18	<b>over 45%</b> Jamaican, Other Caribbean, Trinidadian/Tobagonian	<b>36.1-45%</b> Barbadian, Haitian, Métis, Japanese, Black, Caribbean and European, Caribbean and East/South Asian,
Not High School Graduates	Ages 25-34	<b>over 45%</b> Sri Lankan, Afghan, Tamil, Guatemalan, Other South Asian, Punjabi or Sikh	<b>30 to 45%</b> Turkish, Laotian, Cambodian, Other Southeast Asian, Other West Asian
University graduates	Ages 25-34	<b>under 6%</b> Guatemalan, Sri Lankan, Tamil	<b>6-11.9%</b> Other South Asian, Laotian, Punjabi or Sikh, Jamaican, Aboriginal
Not in school full-time and not a high school graduate	Ages 18-24	<b>over 35%</b> Turkish, Sri Lankan	<b>25.1-35%</b> Guatemalan, Afghan, Bangladeshi, Métis, Punjabi or Sikh
In School full-time	Ages 18-24	<b>under 32%</b> Aboriginal, Turkish	<b>32-39.9%</b> Guatemalan, Caribbean and East/South Asian, Bangladeshi, Irish

# The entire table

Summary Table  
Extreme, Severe and Significant Disadvantage of Ethno-Racial Groups, Montreal CMA 2001

Criterion	Group	Extreme Disadvantage	Severe Disadvantage
Children in female one parent households	Children under 18	<b>over 45%</b> Jamaican, Other Caribbean, Trinidadian/Tobagonian	<b>36.1-45%</b> Barbadian, Haitian, Métis, Japanese, Black, Caribbean and European, Caribbean and East/South
Not High School Graduates	Ages 25-34	<b>over 45%</b> Sri Lankan, Afghan, Tamil, Guatemalan, Other South Asian, Punjabi or Sikh	<b>30 to 45%</b> Turkish, Laotian, Cambodian, Other Southeast Asian, Other West Asian
University graduates	Ages 25-34	<b>under 6%</b> Guatemalan, Sri Lankan, Tamil	<b>6-11.9%</b> Other South Asian, Laotian, Punjabi or Sikh, Jamaican, Aboriginal
Not in school full-time and not a high school graduate	Ages 18-24	<b>over 35%</b> Turkish, Sri Lankan	<b>25.1-35%</b> Guatemalan, Afghan, Bangladeshi, Métis, Punjabi or Sikh
In School full-time	Ages 18-24	<b>under 32%</b> Aboriginal, Turkish	<b>32-39.9%</b> Guatemalan, Caribbean and East/South Asian, Bangladeshi, Irish
Unemployed	Women, 18-64	<b>ove 30%</b> Tamil, Bengali, Algerian, Punjabi or Sikh	<b>24.1-30%</b> Bangladeshi, Other South Asian, Other and Multiple African, Berber, Pakistani, Mexican, Sri Lankan
Unemployed	Men, 18-64	<b>over 25%</b> Berber, Algerian, Pakistani, Punjabi or Sikh	<b>20.1-25%</b> Other Arab, Other and Multiple African, Palestinian, Moroccan
Lower skill manual occupation	Employed Women, 18-64	<b>over 55%</b> Turkish, Bengali, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan, Tamil	<b>40.1-55%</b> Ghanaian, Other South Asian, Afghan, Punjabi or Sikh
Lower skill non-manual occupation	Employed Women, 18-64	<b>over 55%</b> Jamaican, Trinidadian/Tobagonian	<b>50.1-55%</b> Filipino, Black, Barbadian
Lower skill manual occupation	Employed Men, 18-64	<b>over 40%</b> Punjabi or Sikh, Tamil, Guatemalan, Ghanaian	<b>33.1-40%</b> Laotian, Filipino, Sri Lankan, Haitian, Cambodian
Lower skill non-manual occupation	Employed Men, 18-64	<b>over 36%</b> Multiple Caribbean, Other Caribbean	<b>33.9-36%</b> Columbian, Afghan, Black
Median employment income	Women	<b>under \$15,500</b> Afghan, Other South Asian, Tamil, Bangladeshi, Ghanaian	<b>\$15,500-17,499</b> Other West Asian, Turkish, Punjabi or Sikh, Sri Lankan
Median employment income	Men	<b>under \$21,000</b> Afghan, Other West Asian, Bangladeshi, Tamil,	<b>\$21,000-23,900</b> Other South Asian, Bengali, Ghanaian, Peruvian
Below the Low Income Cut-Off (LICO)	All Individuals	<b>over 61%</b> Bengali, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan, Tamil	<b>52.9-61%</b> Other South Asian, Afghan, Palestinian, Other West Asian, Pakistani
Median Income	All Families	<b>under \$26,000</b> Bengali, Sri Lankan, Tamil, Other West Asian	<b>\$26,000-29,999</b> Bangladeshi, Afghan, Other South Asian
Median Income	Non-Family Persons	<b>under \$10,000</b> Afghan, Other West Asian, Other Southeast Asian, Cambodian, Guatemalan	<b>\$10,000-12,249</b> African and East/Southeast/South Asian, Columbian, Mexican, Punjabi or Sikh

# Summary Results, Multiple Disadvantage

- Counting the number of times each ethno-racial group appears in the Table immediately demonstrates the extent to which socio-economic disadvantage disproportionately affects particular groups.
- Of the 102 groups identified in the Montreal CMA, 53 do not appear in the Table at all, as they do not experience disadvantage in any area.
- A further 12 groups appear only once and 5 groups appear twice.

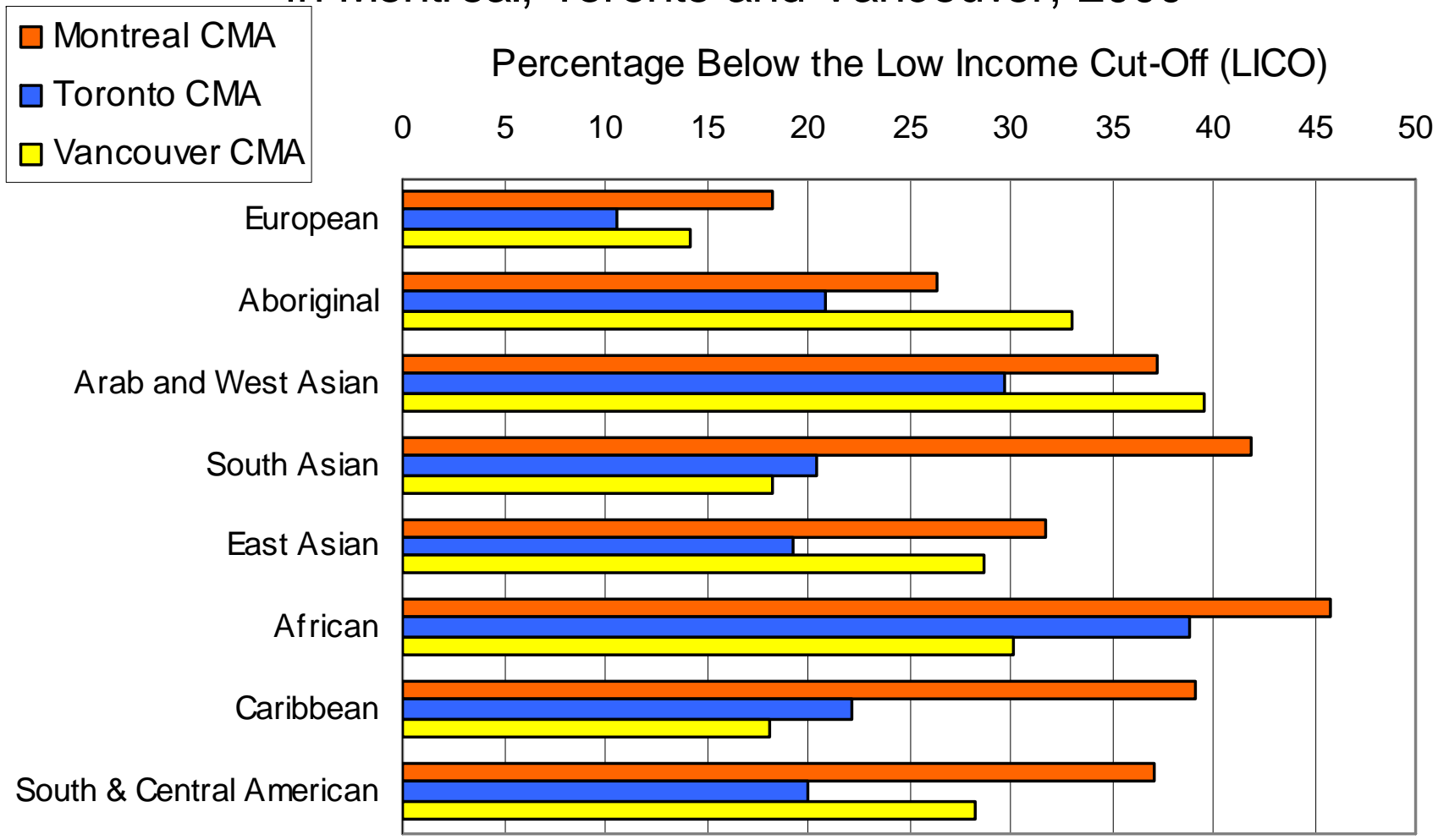
## Summary Results, Multiple Disadvantage

- Among the 39 European groups, none appears more than once in any category of disadvantage.
- Most disadvantaged groups:
  - The Sri Lankans appear in all 13 rows of the Table, 6 times in the “extremely disadvantaged” category
  - the Guatemalan group appears 12 times
  - the Afghan, Bangladeshi, Punjabi and Sikh groups appear 11 times
  - the Bengalis and Tamils 10 times

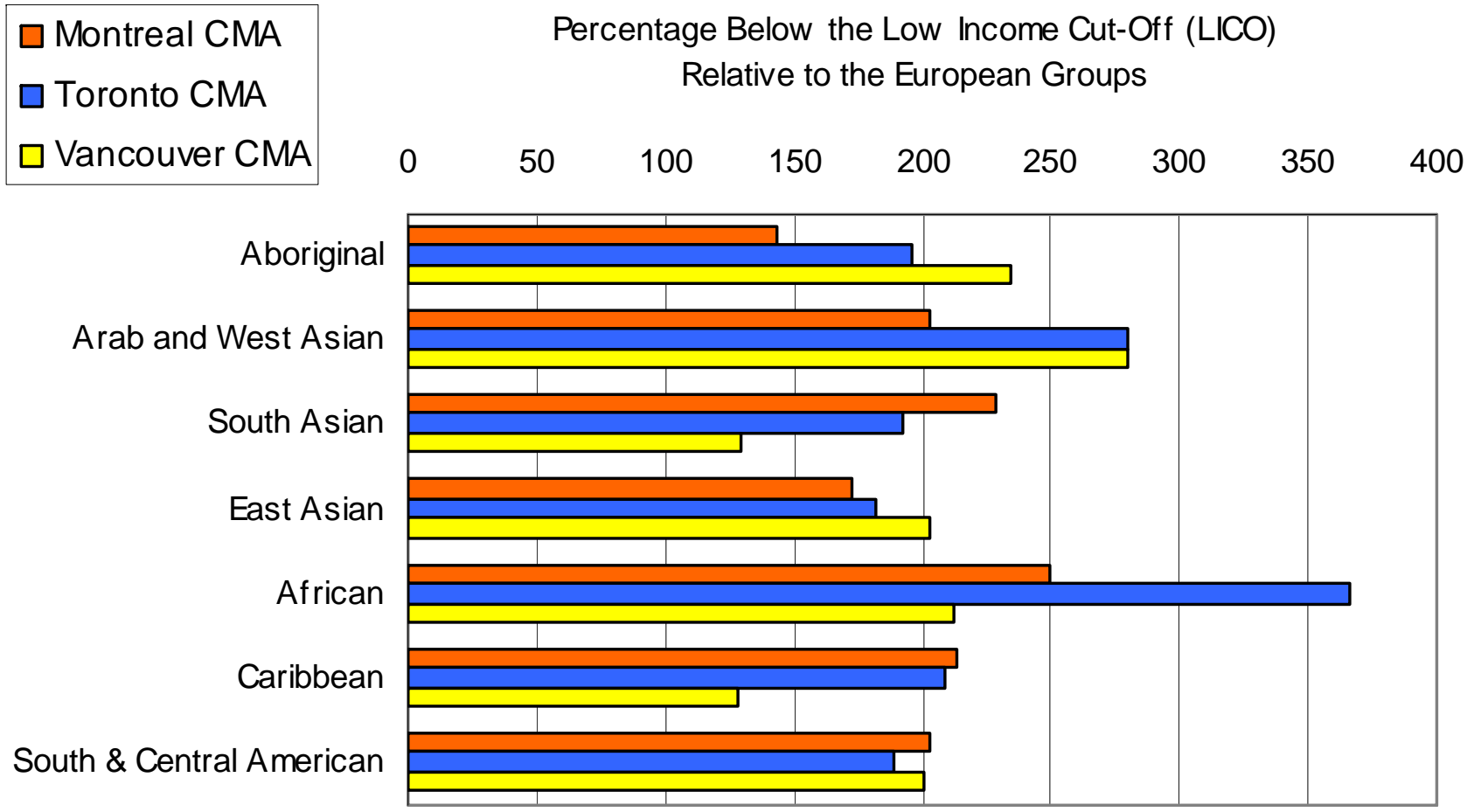
## Summary Results, Multiple Disadvantage

- A number of other ethno-racial groups experience multiple disadvantage, but not so severely as those four groups.
- These include the Other South Asian, Turkish, Cambodian, Other West Asian, Pakistani (8 or 9 mentions) and the Ghanaian, Haitian, Laotian, Other Arab, Other Caribbean (6 mentions)

## Poverty by Global Region in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver, 2000



## Poverty Rate Relative to Europeans by Global Region in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver, 2000



## The Most Disadvantaged Groups in Three CMAs

<b>Criterion</b>	<b>Montreal</b>	<b>Toronto</b>	<b>Vancouver</b>
<b>Severe Disadvantage on 6 criteria or more</b>	Tamil, Sri Lankan	Somali, Afghan, Ethiopian, Bangladeshi	Somali, Aboriginal, Afghan
<b>Severe Disadvantaged on 2 to 5 Criteria and some disadvantage on 8 criteria or more</b>	Afghan, Punjabi or Sikh, Bangladeshi, Guatemalan, Bengali, Other West Asian, Turkish, Other South Asian	Grenadian, , Aboriginal, Albanian	Metis, Vietnamese, Figian
<b>Some Disadvantage on 8 criteria or more</b>	Cambodian, Pakistani	Other West Asian, Tamil, Sri Lankan, Salvadoran, Black, Hispanic	Salvadoran, Other South Asian, Other and Multiple Central American, Bosnian, Hispanic, Other and Multiple African



# Explanatory Paradigms I: Human Capital

- Groups with more education and experience, who are older have higher income
- **But**, non-whites/immigrants are unable to convert their human capital into income at the same rates as Canadian-born whites
- Recognition of credentials is not the only issue, as many people are not in “professionalized” occupations
- The complicated “fixes” required to make the human capital framework explain ethno-racial and other differentiation (like gender), as well as the effects of family and culture, show the limits of the approach, as much as its flexibility

# Explanatory Paradigms II: Immigration/Settlement

- Newer immigrants have more difficulty in the labour force
- Aspects of settlement, such as the language learning, community-networks, and “ethnic economy” do affect long-term socio-economic outcomes
- ***But***, the circumstances of settlement are as important as timing; groups with high proportions of refugees are highly disadvantaged
- Does not effectively address second and later generational differences
- Too great attention to the complex differentiation between groups threatens the generality and usefulness of this framework

# Explanatory Paradigms III:

## Racialization

- Identifies ethno-racial differentiation in the relationships between groups with greatly different economic, social and political resources
- Questions the “naturalness” of inequality, sets it in economic and social structures and identifying structural barriers
- ***But***, can overlook the effects of factors that structurally disadvantage groups, including human capital and the effects of household structure
- May lead to a policy focus on rigid, hard to change aspects of educational institutions and the labour market
- Not so good at addressing differentiation *within* global regions

# Explanatory Paradigms IV: Socially Structured Inequality

- Ethno-racial inequality involves the intersection of “structured inequality” and *individuals* with different degrees of association in ethno-racial groups, with different economic, social and political resources
- The regime involves places in educational institutions, jobs and housing; differentiated by market forces and state regulation. The regime changes slowly, and not necessarily in response to the shape of demand
- Compensatory resources, such as social housing, ESL, job training, etc. benefit individuals, but do little to alter the structure of inequality; moreover they are more effective for economically groups with unrealized cultural and social resources
- Only structural changes, such increasing the minimum wage, building social housing and providing daycare, significantly diminish inequality

# (Some) Policy Implications

- Age differences between groups are large and significant – non-European groups tend to have more children and youth and fewer elderly, but they vary
- Groups in the greatest need: with high proportions of refugees *and* non-European
- Acute need versus continuing disadvantage (particularly for the Caribbean and South and Central American groups)
- Differentiated needs – especially contrasting education, employment, household income
- Groups may have high labour force participation and poor outcomes – Caribbean groups in particular

## Policy implications, continued

- Groups with high education and low income (Korean, Taiwanese, some Eastern European groups), at less risk than groups with low education and higher income (Portuguese)
- European groups entirely absent from the most disadvantaged
- Not clear that the known trajectory of European groups correctly forecasts the experience of more recent non-European immigrants – but likely it applies better to some regional groups (South and East Asian) than to others (African, Caribbean, South and Central American)

## **Ethno-Racial Groups in Montreal and Vancouver, 1971-2001:**

### **A Demographic and Socio-Economic Profile**

Free download at: [\*\*www.yorku.ca/isr/home.html\*\*](http://www.yorku.ca/isr/home.html)

It is set up to 2-sided printing, so pages of 2-part tables are facing)

Short article and table on multiple disadvantage – look on the website above, see “newsletter”

***The end***