

*Presentation to Legal Aid Ontario*

**Ethno-Racial Groups in Toronto,  
1971-2001:  
A Demographic and Socio-  
Economic Profile**

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## Quantitative and Qualitative ...

- Rich description of detailed 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!)

## *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), essentially the commuting area of the central city, includes 23 surrounding municipalities, the largest of which are Brampton, Markham, Mississauga, Oakville and Vaughan

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

## *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 requires judgment, 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*

19	<input type="text"/>
20	<input type="text"/>
21	<input type="text"/>
22	<input type="text"/>

*“Ethno-Racial Groups,” continued*

- Ethno-racial groups are mutually exclusive and include the entire population
- Persons reporting a single ancestry and with a 2001 Toronto population of 2500 in 2001, are reported separately, such as Lithuanian, Palestinian, Afghan, Tamil, Vietnamese, Grenadian, Ecuadorian
- “Other” groups collapse smaller single-ancestry groups, such as “Other Southeast Asian,” “Other West Asian.”
- Combined groups for multiple ancestry, based on global relations, such as “African and European” and “Caribbean and South Asian”
- **113 ethno-racial groups in total**, subdivided into eight global regions, of which 78 are single nationalities

*“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 separate groups, while “Southeast Asian” encompasses “Cambodian, Indonesian, Laotian, Vietnamese, etc.”
- The “visible minority” categories suggest essentializing ideas of racialization – and invite Census respondents to slot themselves into pre-defined categories
- Ancestry and membership in visible minority groups is quite highly correlated

# 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, 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

# *Analytical Themes I*

- *Demographic Difference, at Both Ends of the Age Distribution in Relation to the “Prime Age” population*

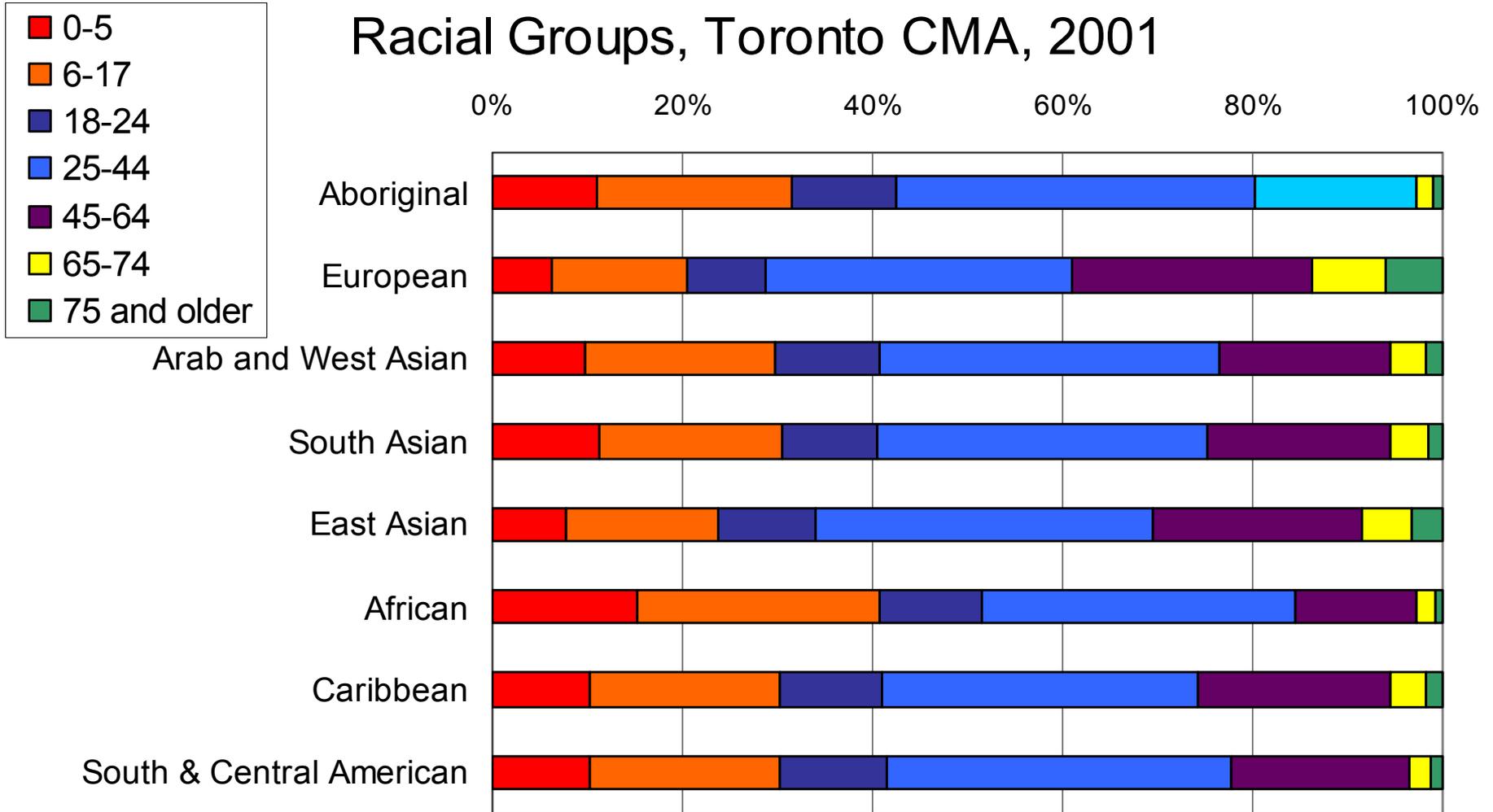
The “life cycle” of ethno-racial groups constituted from differences in the age distributions of groups; and

- *Multi-Dimensional Socio-Economic Difference*

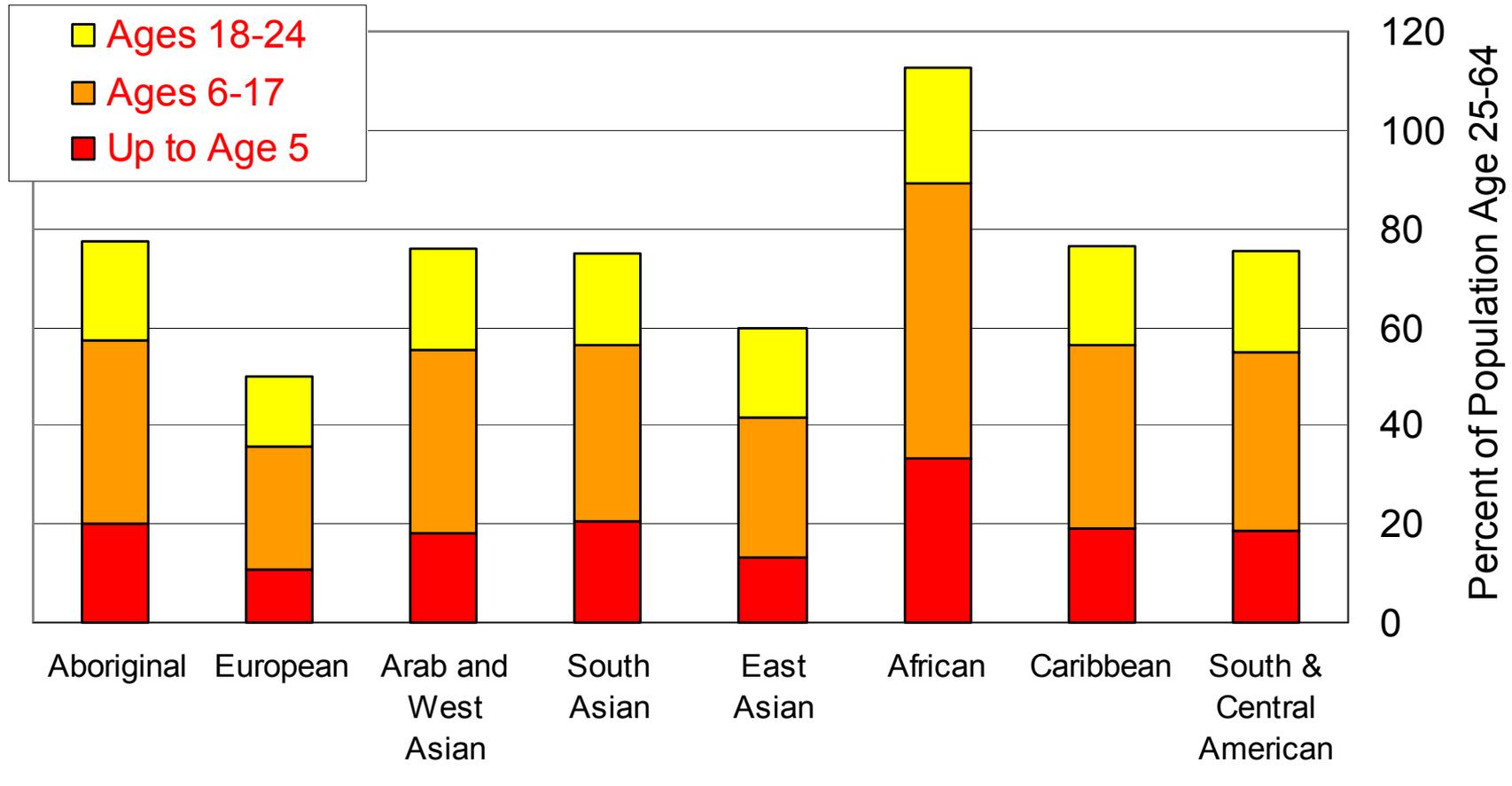
Linked, but to some extent different patterns of disadvantage in education, employment, personal income and family income

- Differences *within* and *between* global categories of “racialization”
- The *Report* is not about immigrants!
- Immigration has general effects, but immigrant groups have different trajectories as a result of the circumstances of their arrival and their different socio-economic and cultural characteristics

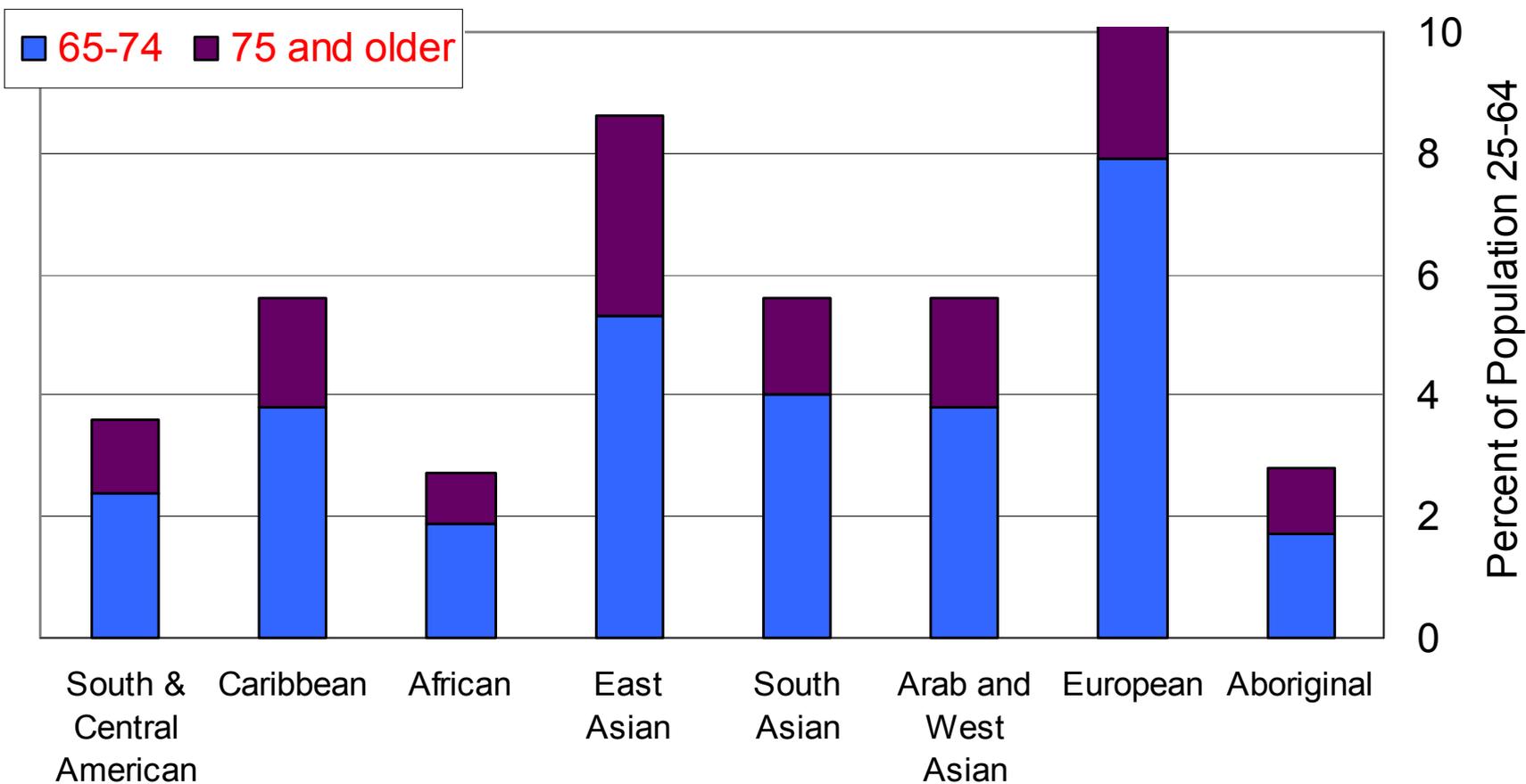
# Age Distribution for Global Categories of Ethno-Racial Groups, Toronto CMA, 2001



## Children and Young People Relative to Prime-Age Adults for Global Regions, Toronto CMA, 2001



# Number of Older People Relative to Prime-Age Adults for Global Regions, Toronto CMA, 2001



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

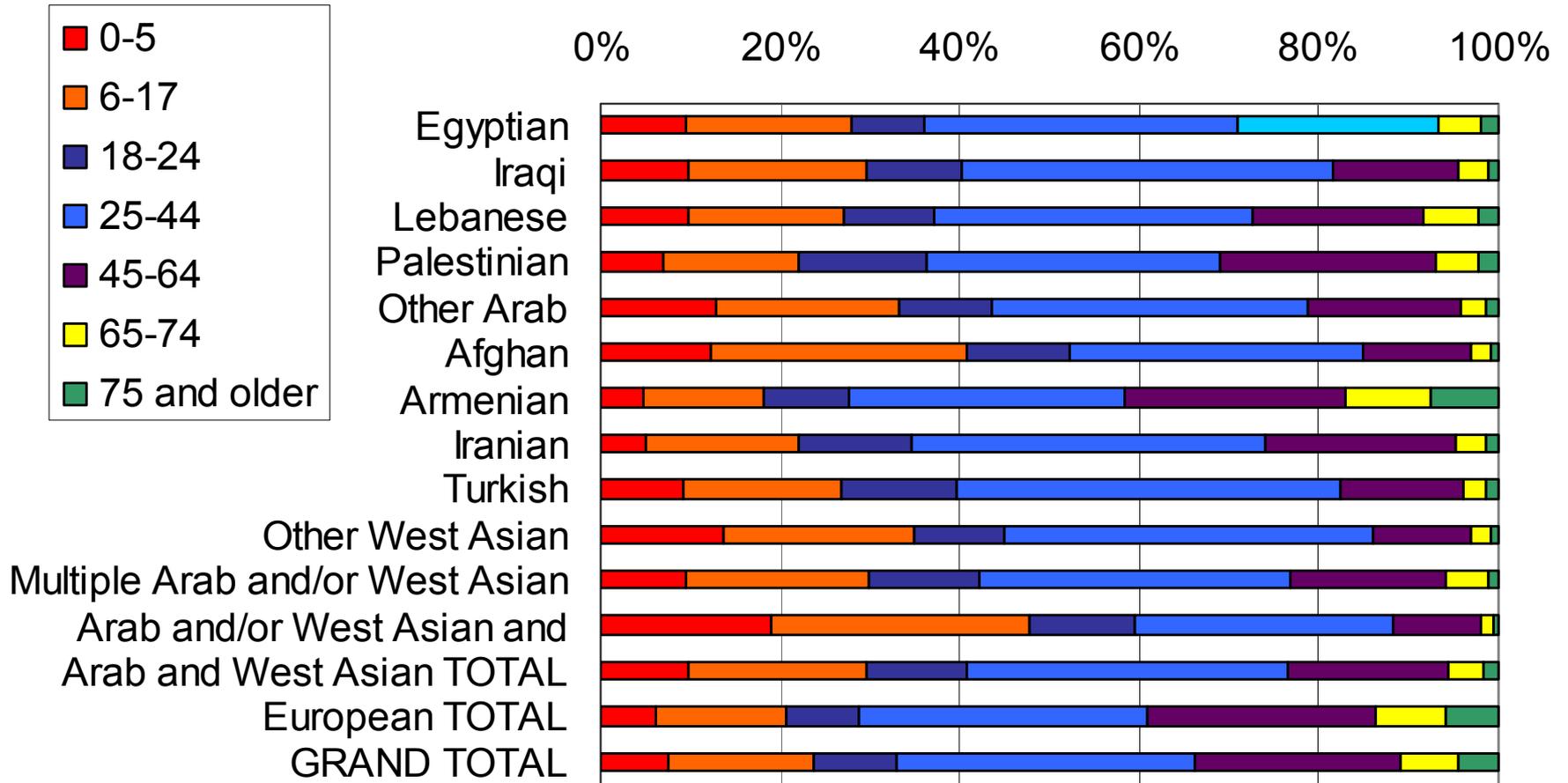
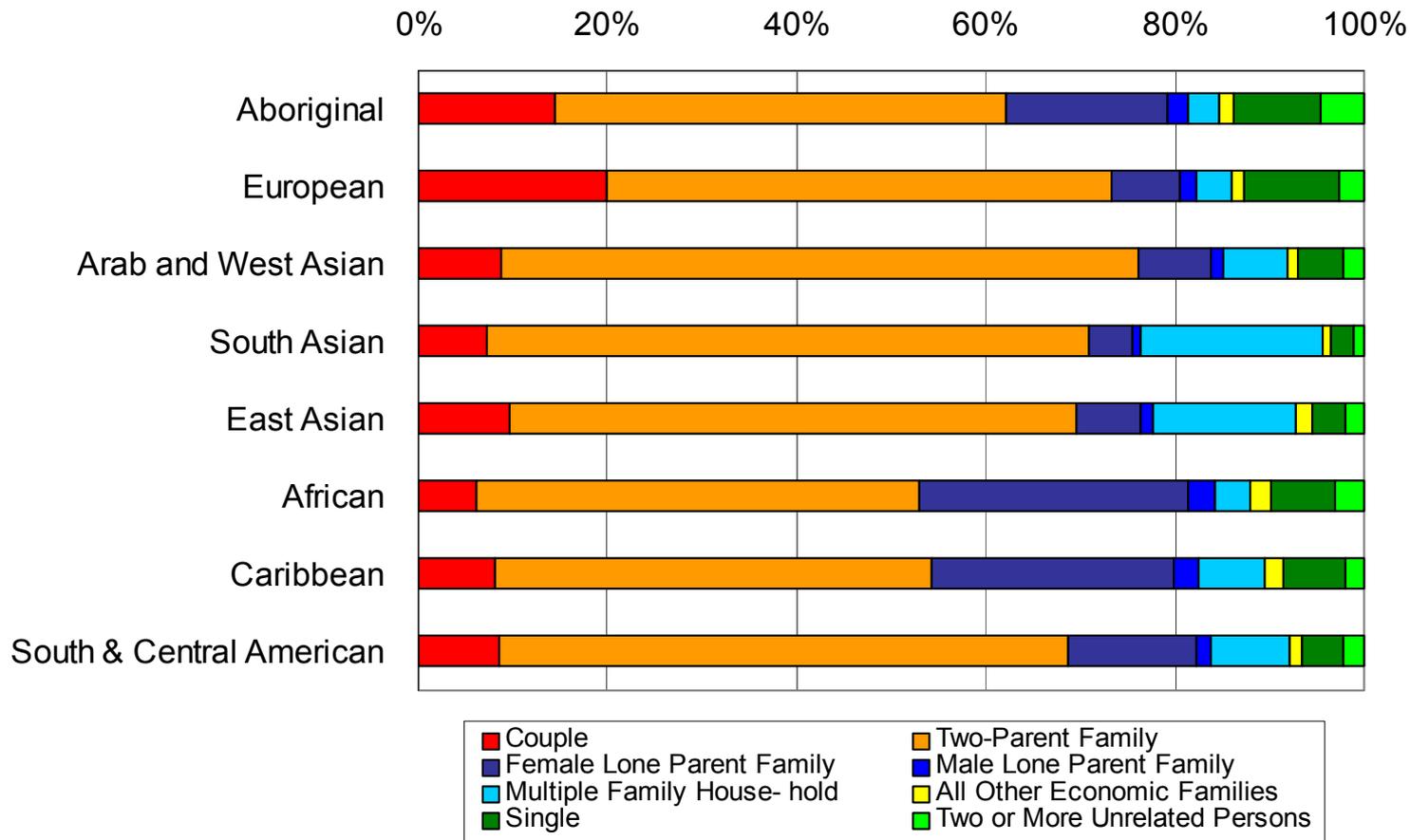


Chart 2.4  
 Type of Family for Global Groups, Toronto CMA 2001



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

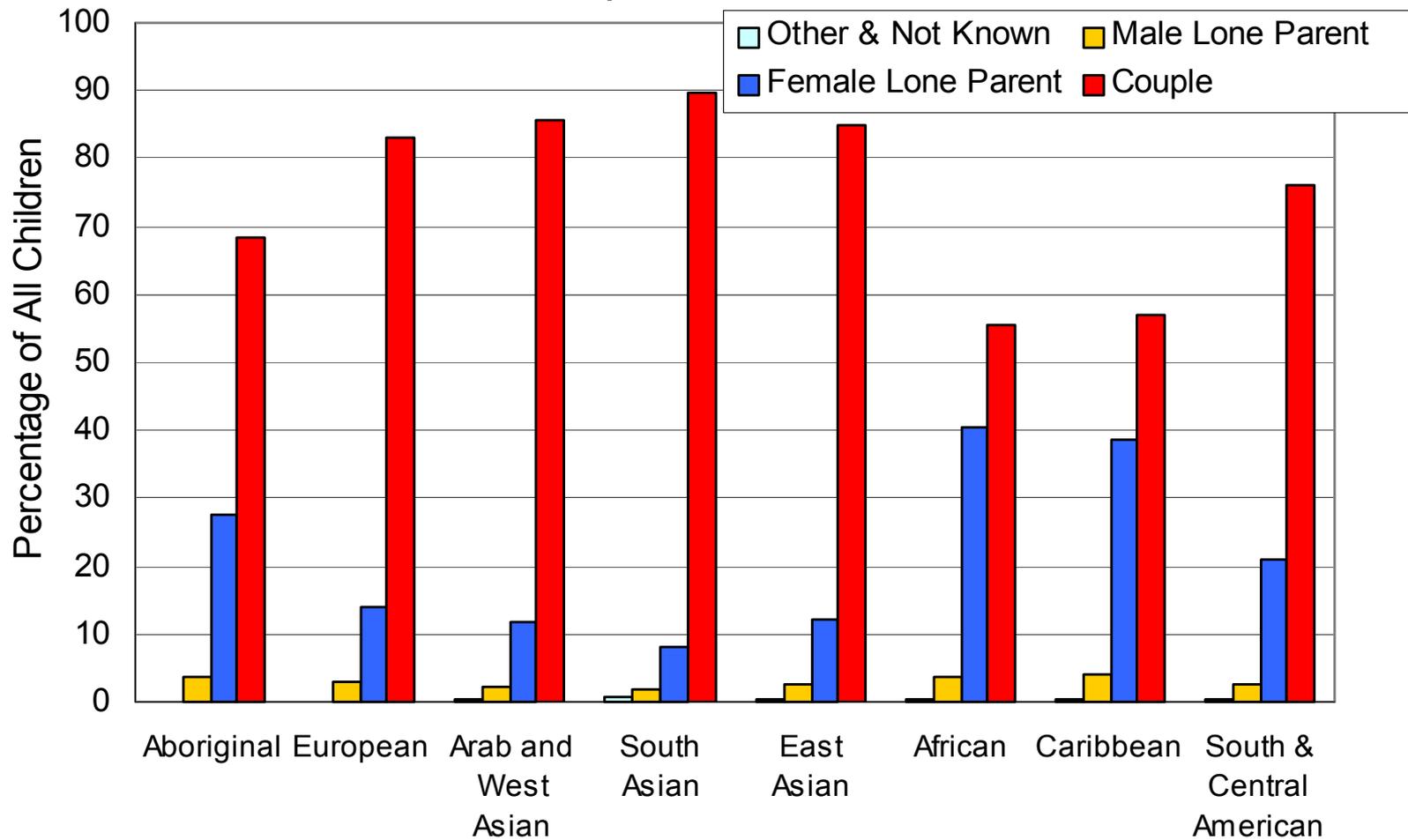


Chart 3.1  
 Educational Attainment for Persons Age 25-34  
 for Global Groups, Toronto CMA 2001

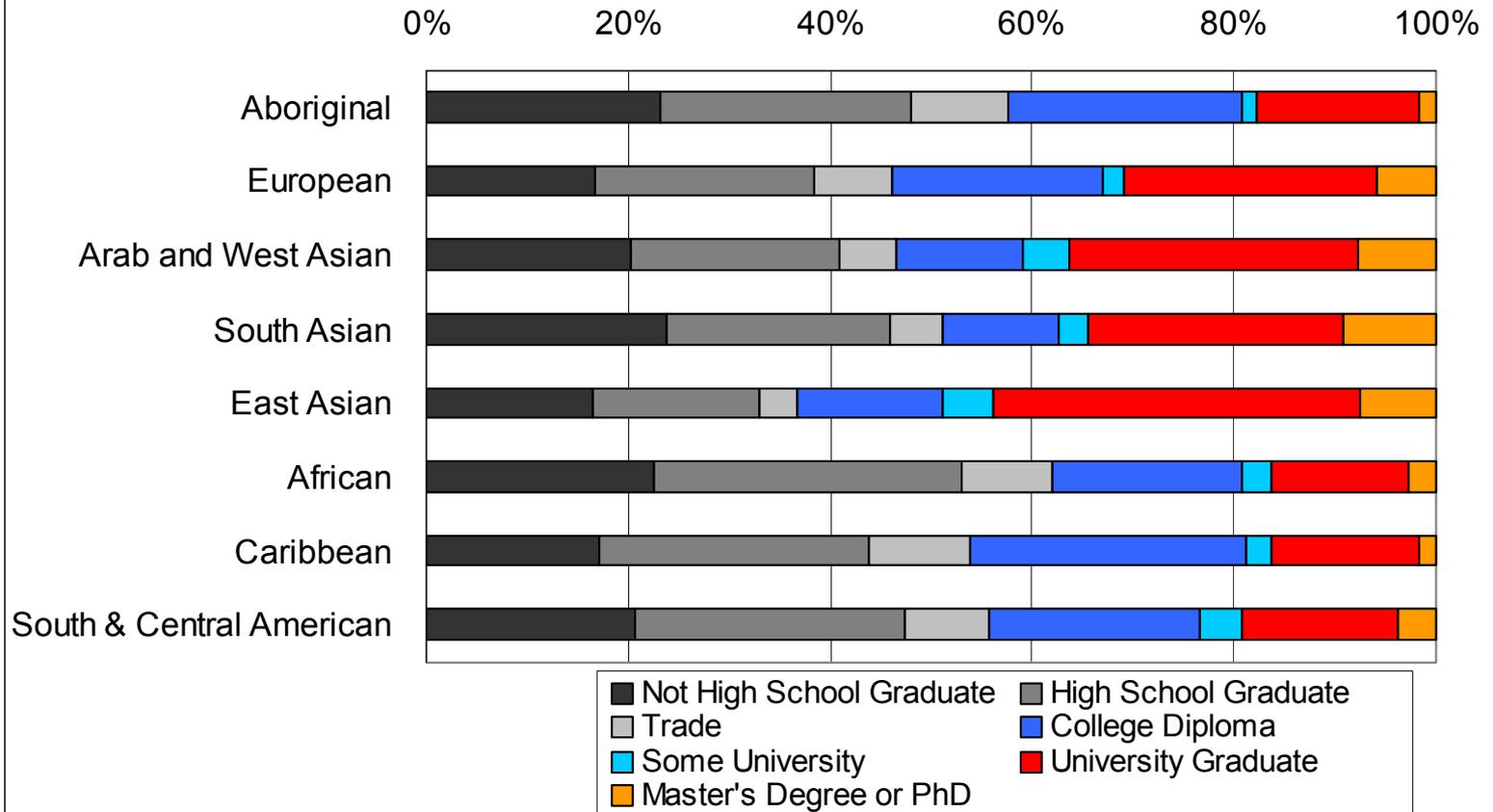
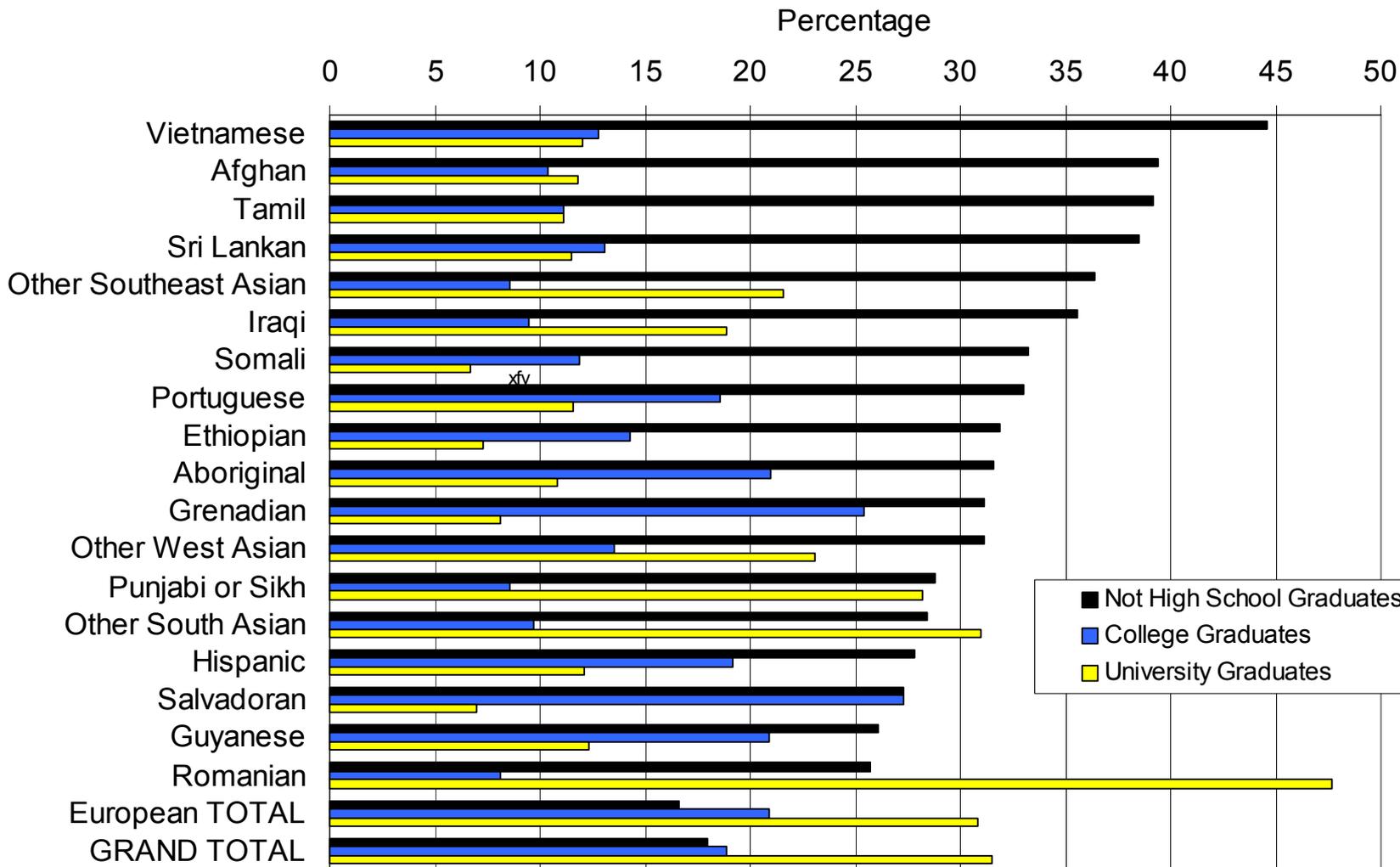
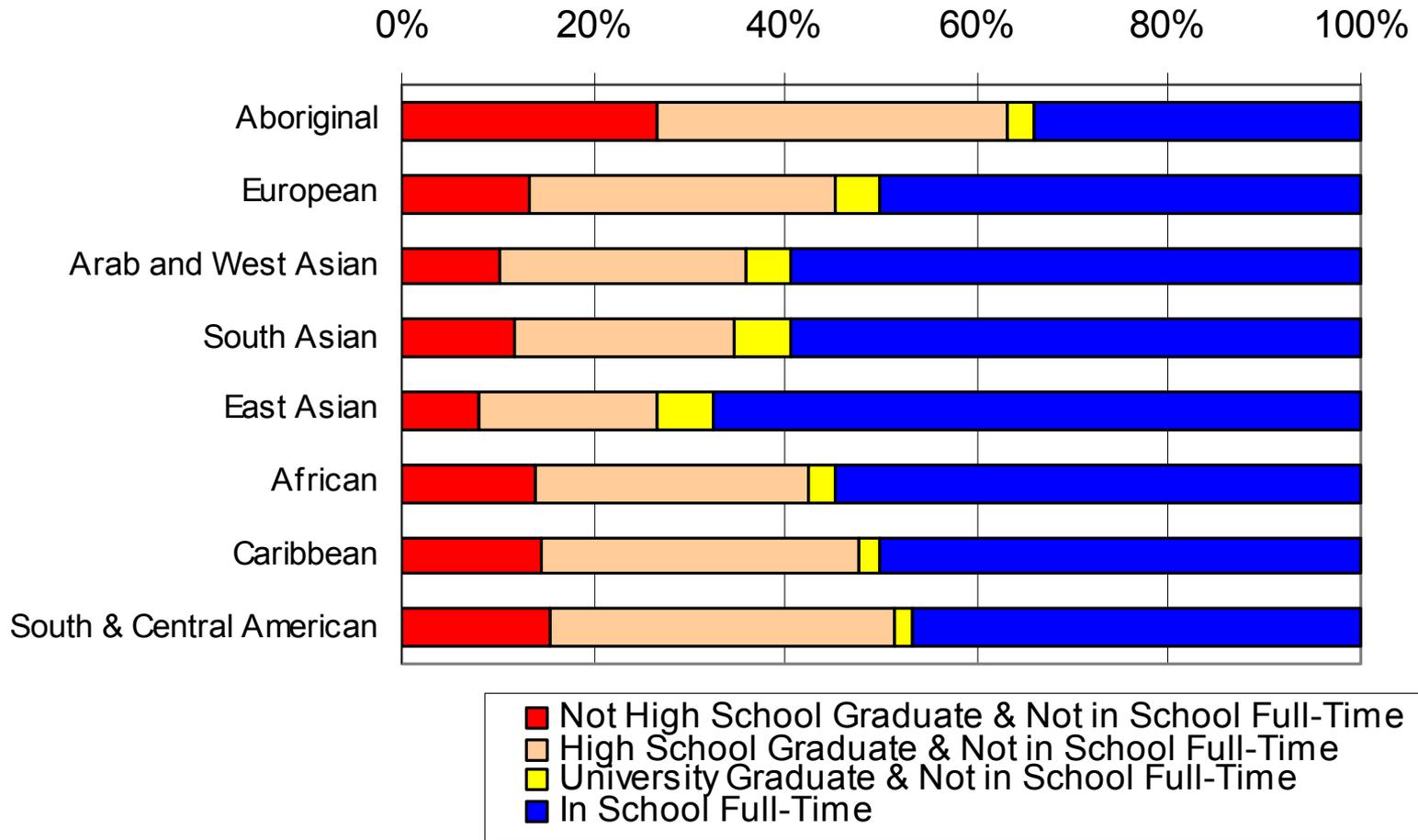


Chart 3.3  
 Ethno-Racial Groups with 25 Percent or more Non-High School  
 Graduates Age 25-34, Toronto CMA 2001



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



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

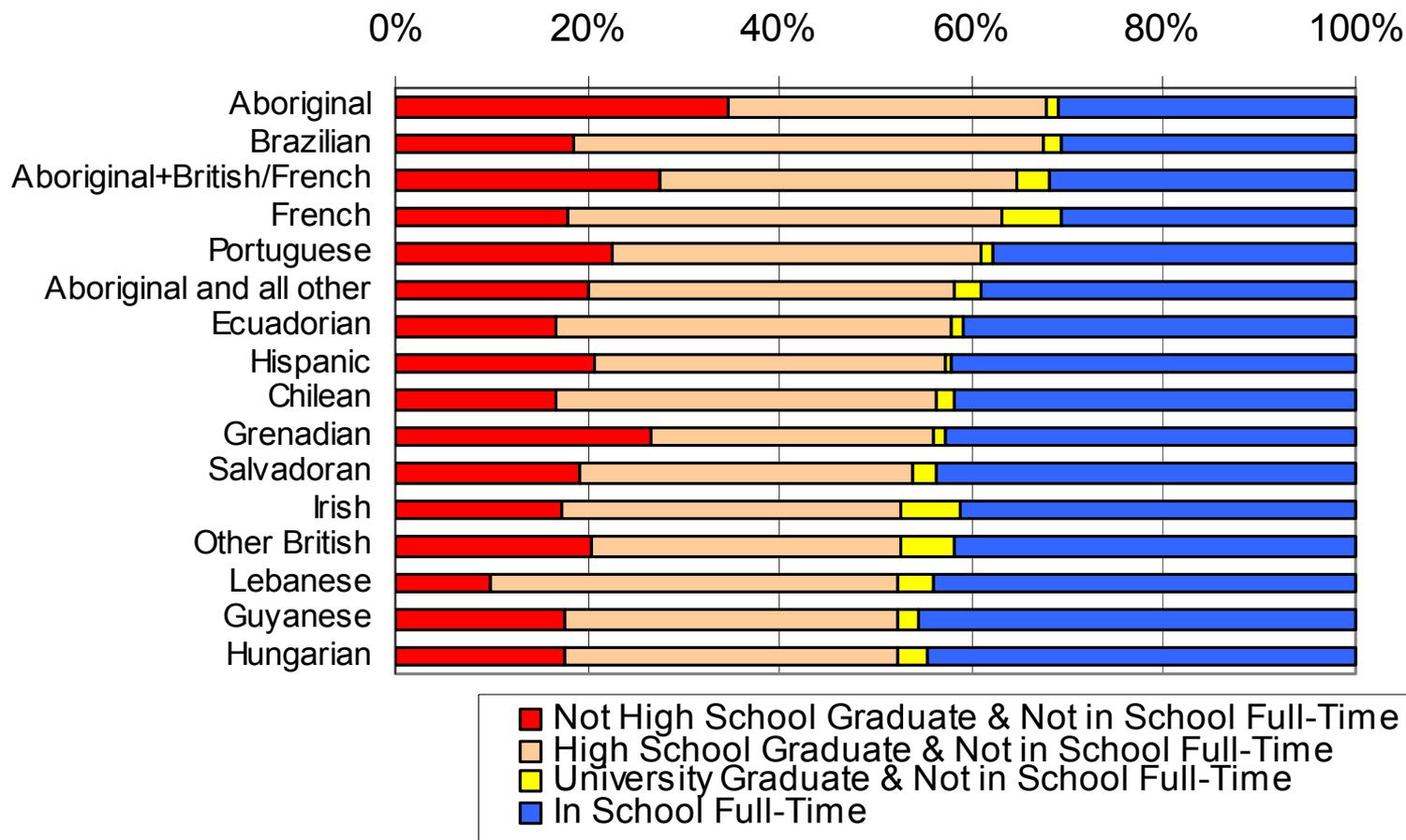


Chart 4.1a  
 Labour Force Characteristics of Women 18-64  
 for Global Groups, Toronto CMA 2001

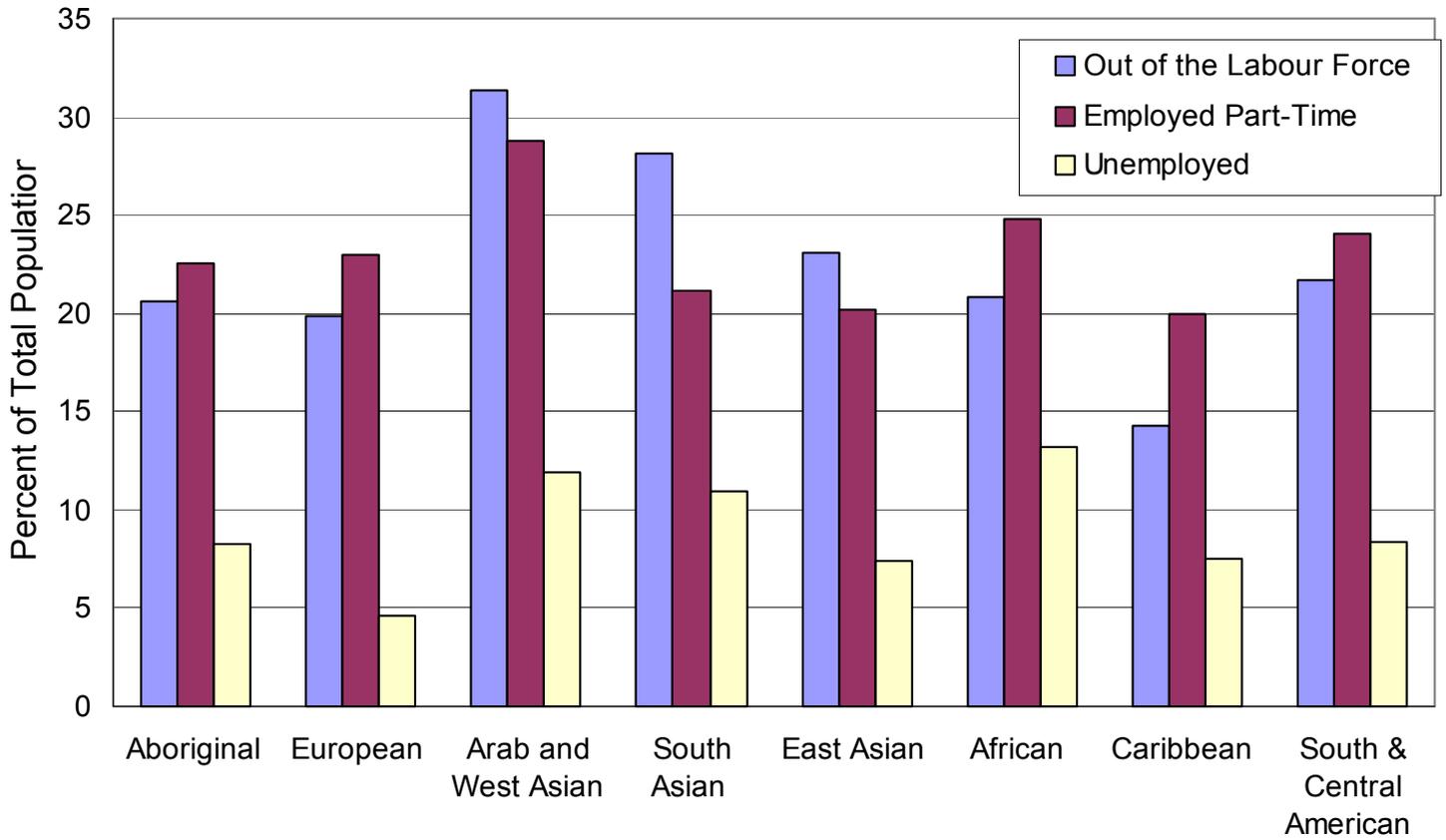


Chart 4.1b  
 Labour Force Characteristics of Men 18-64  
 for Global Groups, Toronto CMA 2001

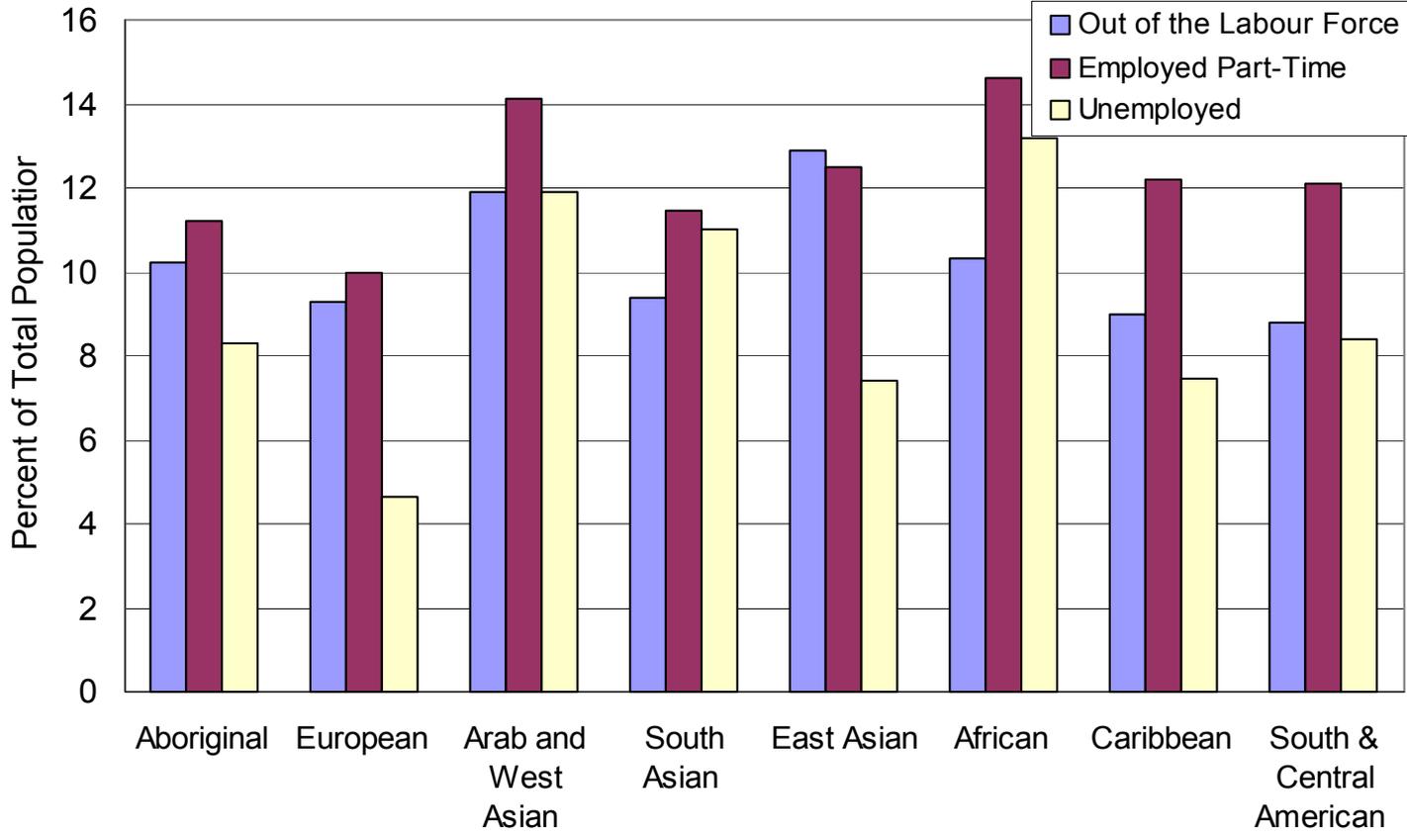


Chart 4.2a  
 Occupations of Women, Age 18-64,  
 for Global Groups, Toronto CMA 2001

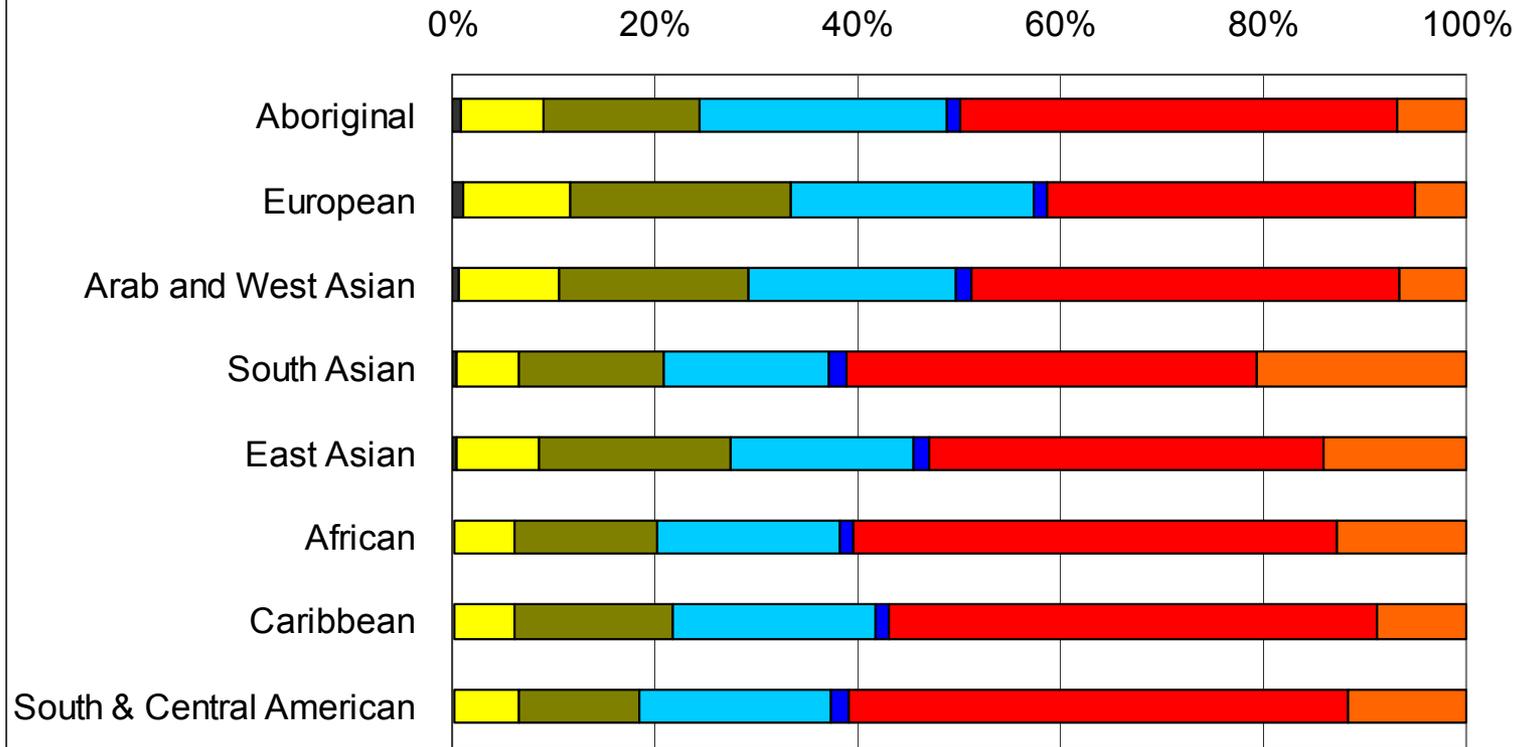
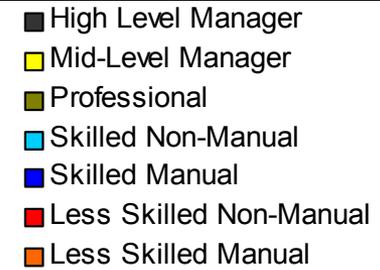


Chart 4.2b  
Occupations of Men, Age 18-64,  
for Global Groups, Toronto CMA 2001

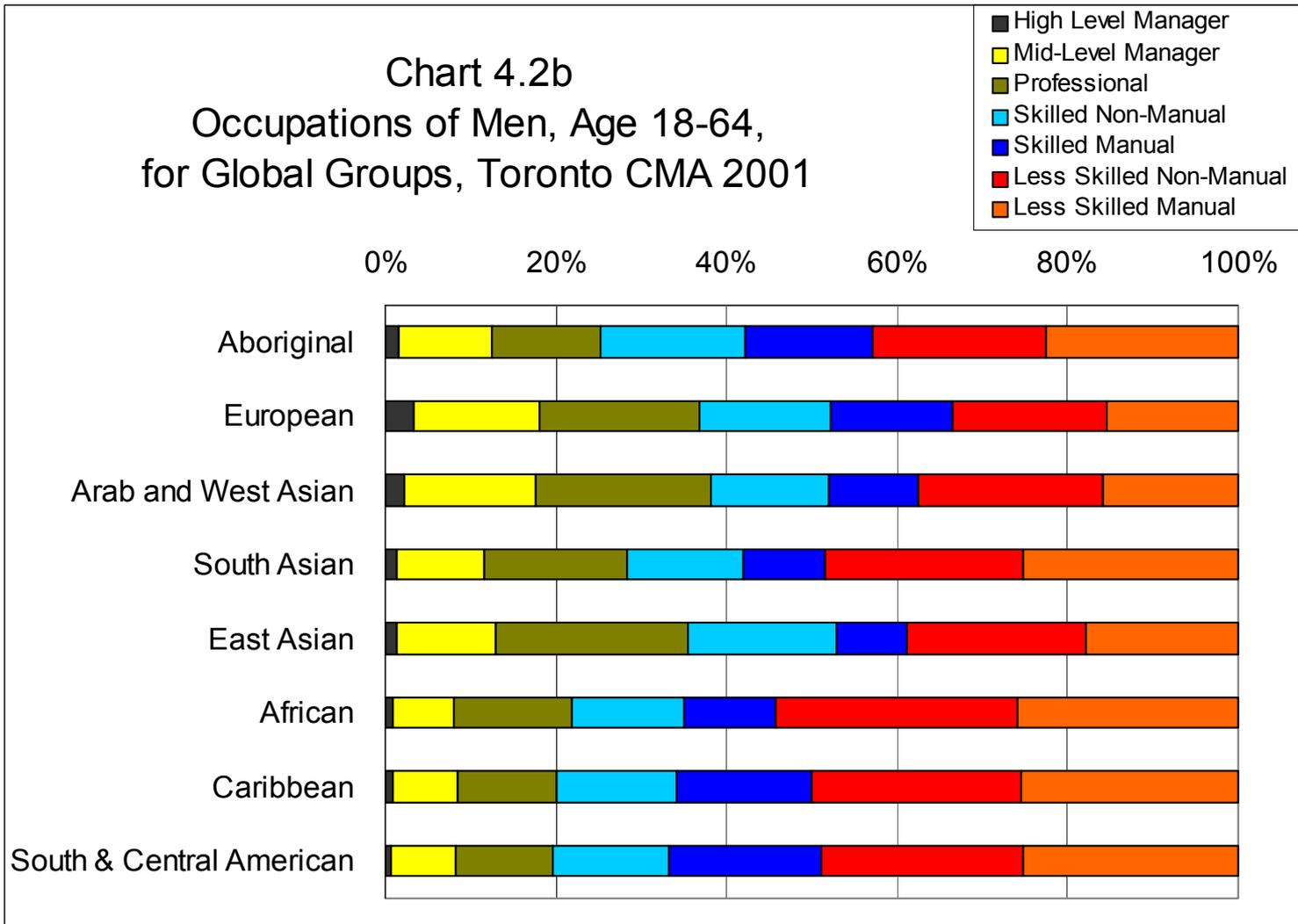


Chart 4.4a  
 Ethno-Racial Groups with Female Median Full-Time Employment  
 Income \$25,000 or Less in 2000, Toronto CMA

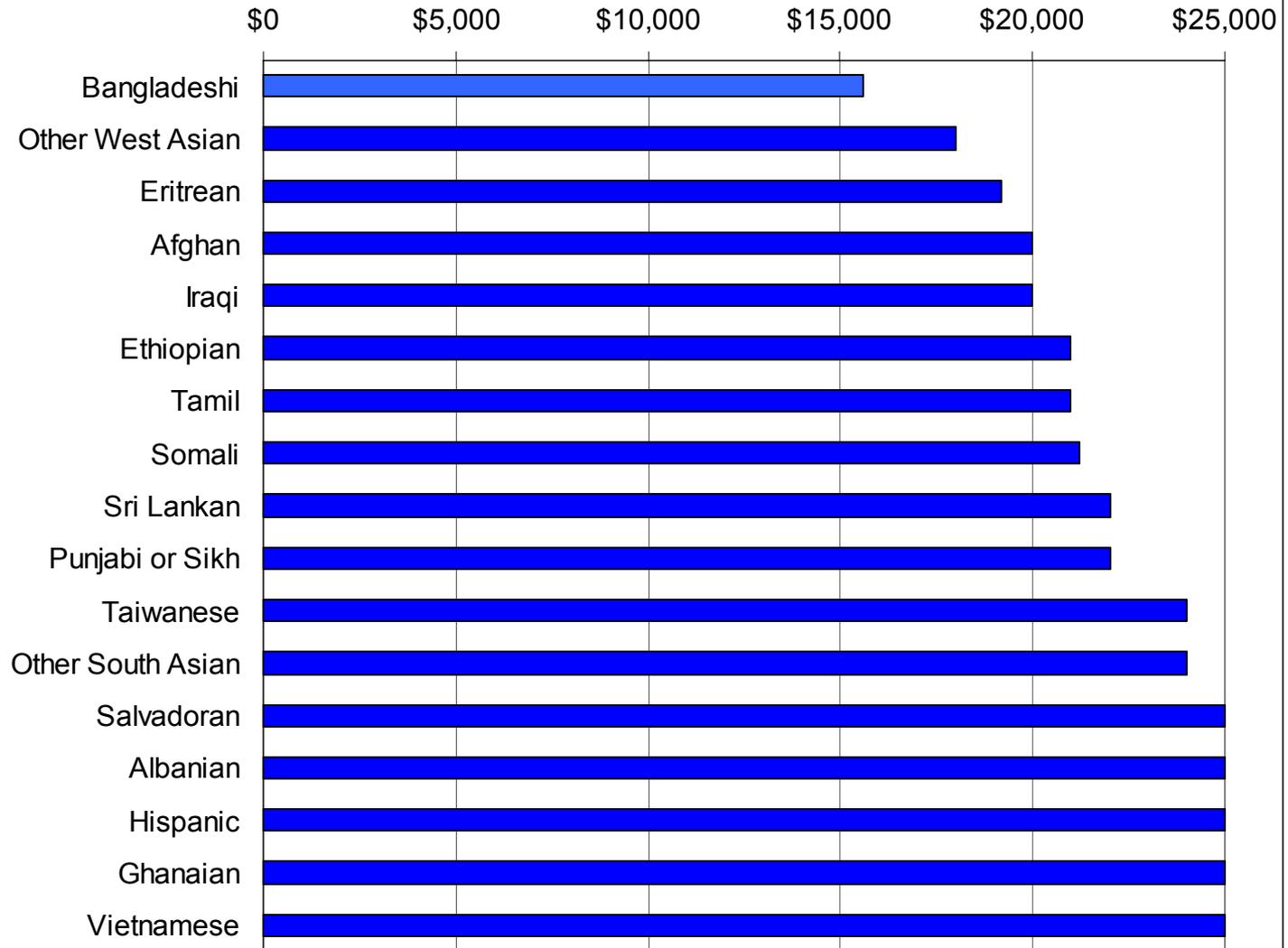


Chart 4.4a  
 Ethno-Racial Groups with Male Median Full-Time Employment  
 Income \$32,000 or Less in 2000, Toronto CMA

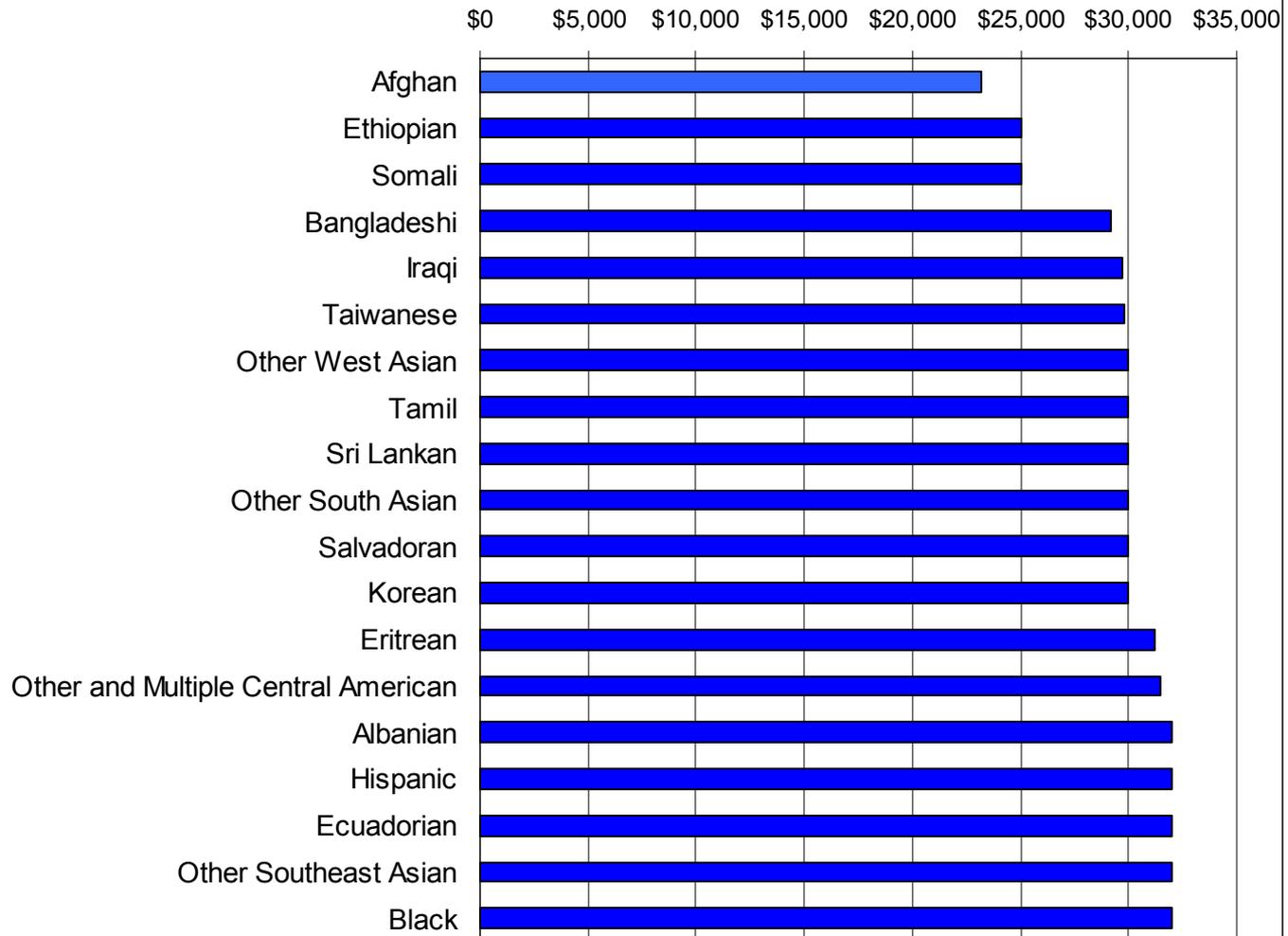


Chart 5.1  
Percentage of Persons Below the Low Income Cut-Off  
for Global Groups, Toronto CMA, 2000

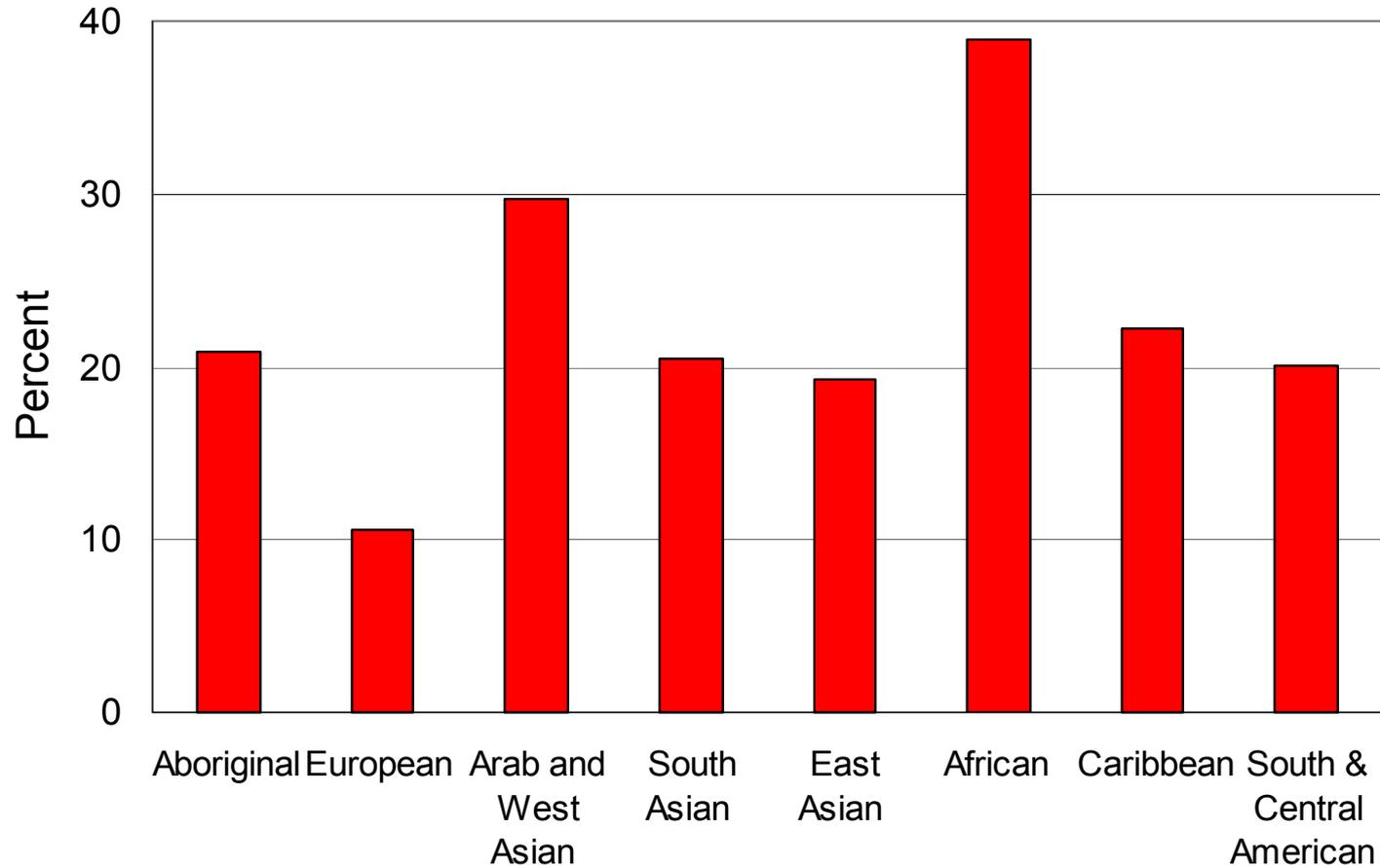


Chart 5.2  
 Ethno-Racial Groups with 30 Percent or more Below  
 the Low Income Cut-Off, Toronto CMA, 2000

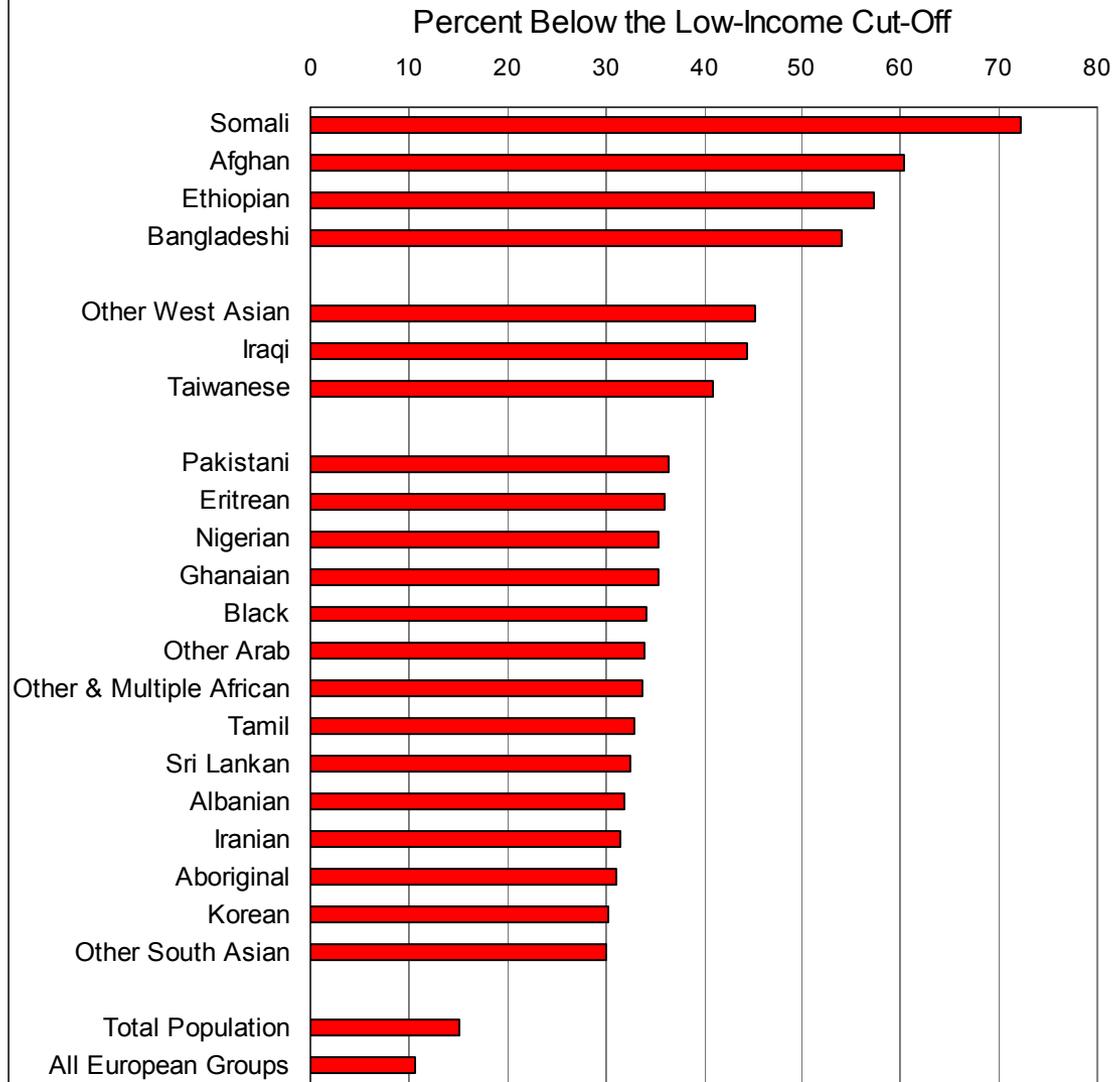


Chart 5.5  
Ethno-Racial Groups with Under \$50,000 Economic Family Income  
in 2000, Toronto CMA

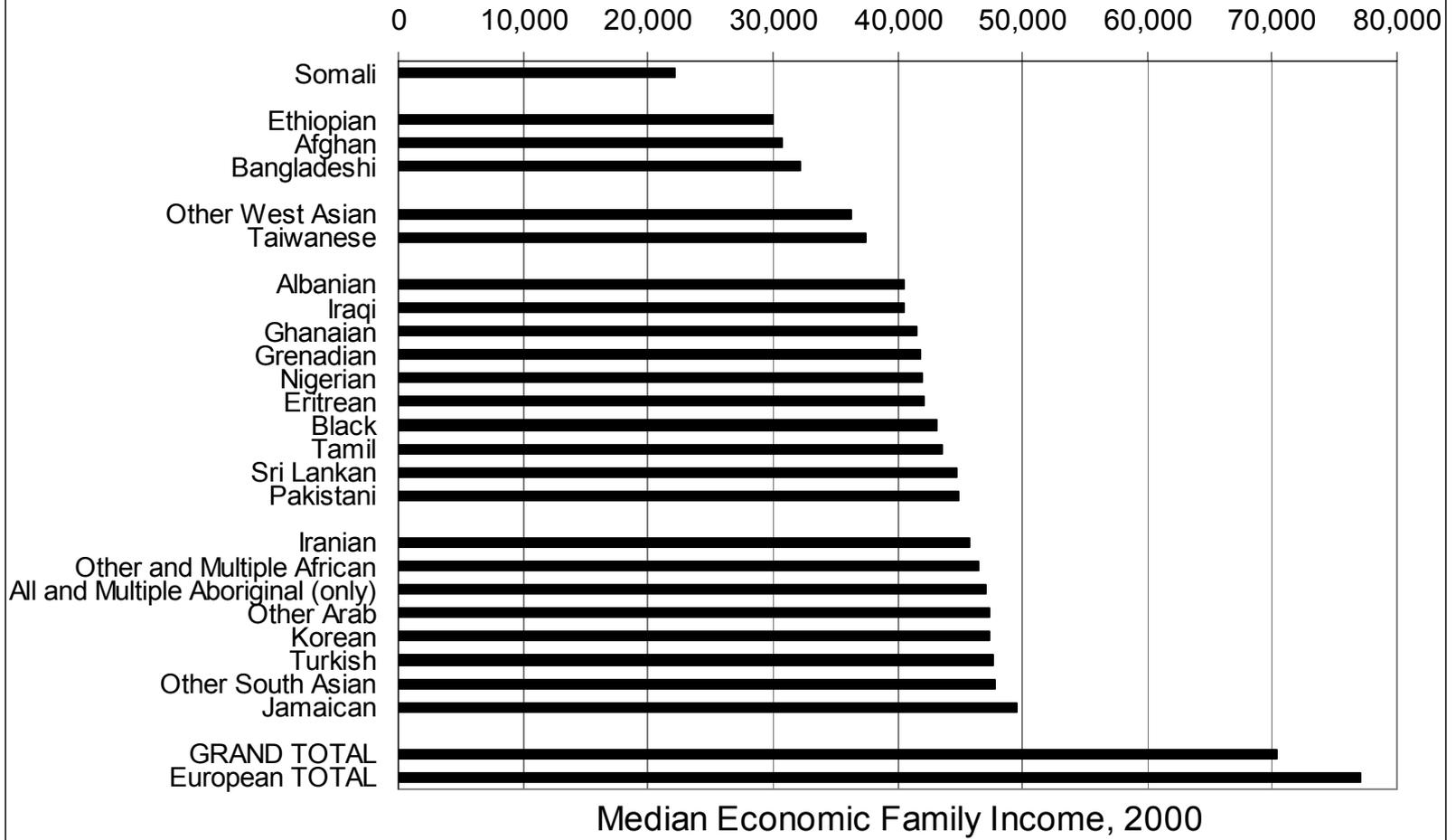


Chart 5.3  
 Incidence of Low Income in 2000 by Age for Global  
 Regions, Toronto CMA

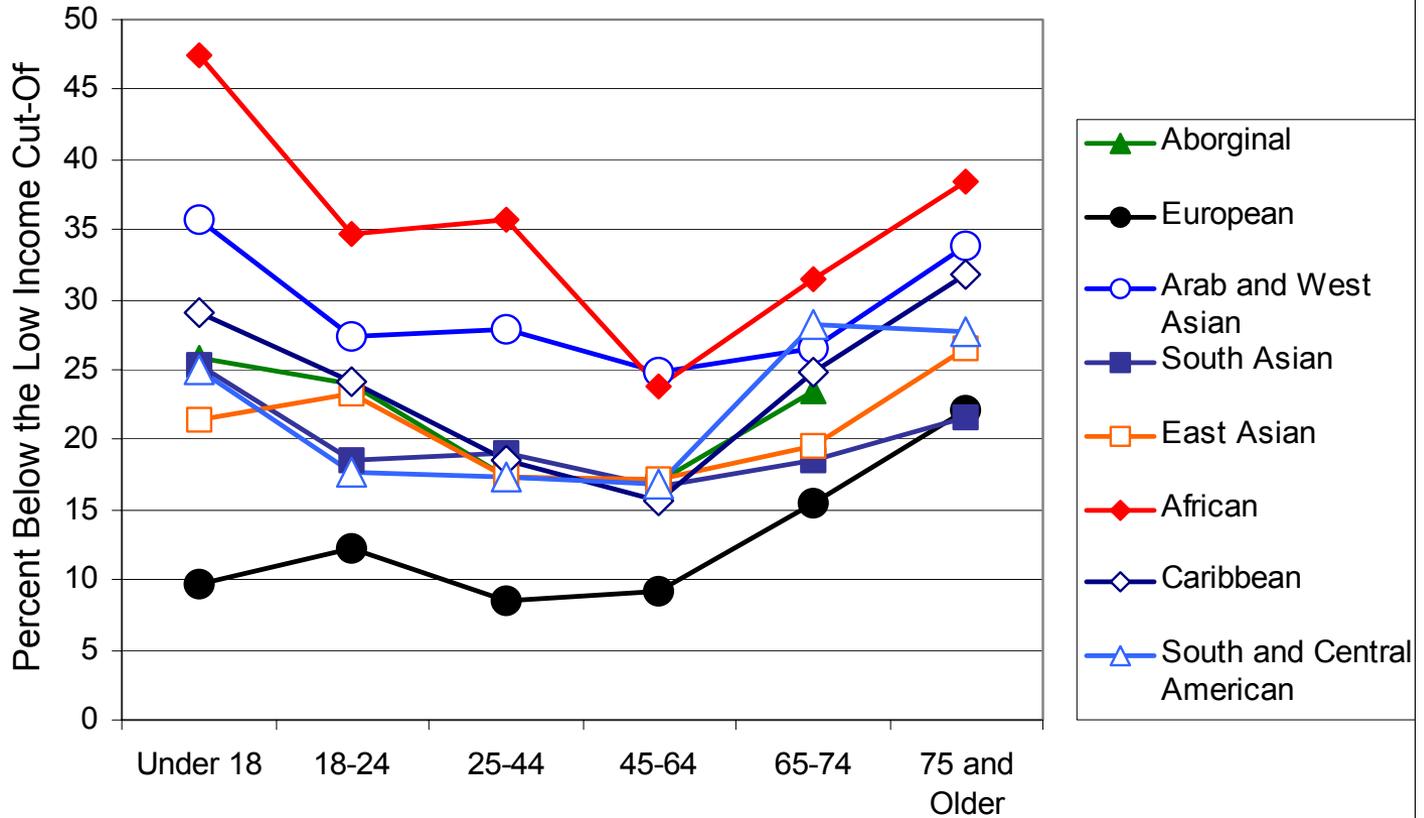
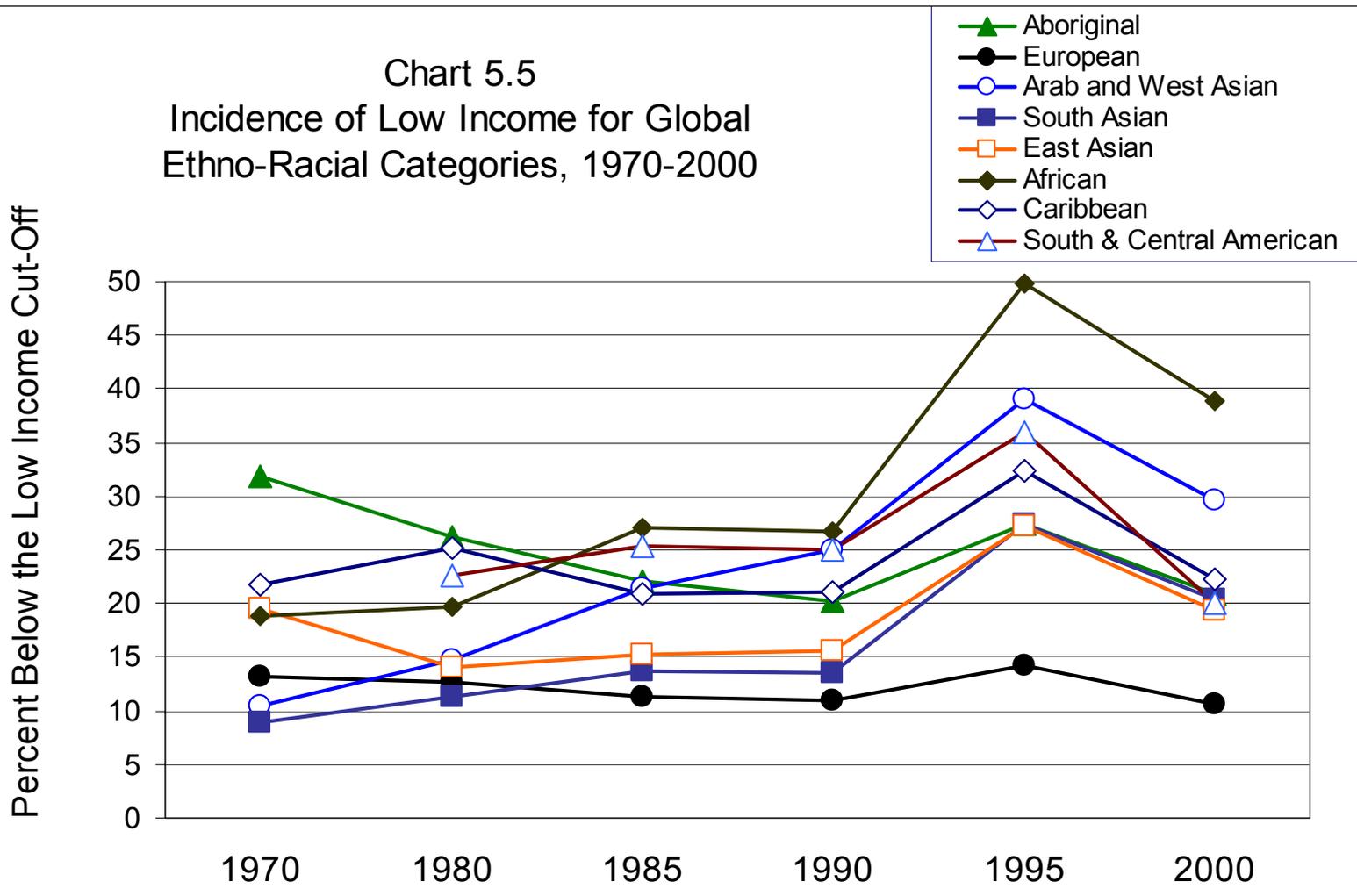


Chart 5.5  
 Incidence of Low Income for Global  
 Ethno-Racial Categories, 1970-2000



# 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

Criterion	Group	Extreme Disadvantage	Severe Disadvantage	Significant Disadvantage
Children in female one parent households	Children under 18	over 40%	33-40%	27-32.9%
Not High School Graduates	Ages 25-34	over 35%	30-35%	25-29.9%
University graduates	Ages 25-34	under 18%	18-25%	25.1-28%
Not in school full-time and not a high school graduate	Ages 18-24	over 30%	20.1-30%	18-20%
In School full-time	Ages 18-24	under 35%	35-41.9%	42-46%
Unemployed	Women, 18-64	>19%	15-19%	12-14.9%
Unemployed	Men, 18-64	>11%	9-11%	8-8.9%
Lower skill manual occupation	Employed Women, 18-64	over 55%	51-55%	48-50.9%
Lower skill non-manual occupation	Employed Women, 18-64	over 30%	20-30%	14.5-19.9%
Lower skill manual occupation	Employed Men, 18-64	over 30%	28-30%	26-27.9%
Lower skill non-manual occupation	Employed Men, 18-64	over 37%	30.5-37%	27-30.4%
Median employment income	Women	under \$20,100	\$20,100-22,000	\$22,100-\$26,000
Median employment income	Men	under \$29,500	\$29,500-30,000	\$30,100-32,000

# A corner of the table

## Summary Table

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

Criterion	Group	Extreme Disadvantage	Severe Disadvantage
Children in female one parent households	Children under 18	<b>over 40%</b> Grenadian, Somali, Jamaican, Other Caribbean, Black, Multiple Caribbean	<b>33-40%</b> Other and Multiple African, Barbadian, Aboriginal, Ghanaian, Trinidadian/Tobagonian
Not High School Graduates	Ages 25-34	<b>over 35%</b> Vietnamese, Afghan, Tamil, Sri Lankank, Iraqi	<b>30-35%</b> Somali, Portuguese, Ethiopian, Aboriginal, Other West Asian, Grenadian
University graduates	Ages 25-34	<b>under 18%</b> Other and Multiple Central American, Ethiopian, Somali, Salvadoran	<b>18-25%</b> Jamaican, Guyanese, Peruvian, Sri Lankan
Not in school full-time and not a high school graduate	Ages 18-24	<b>over 30%</b> Aboriginal	<b>20.1-30%</b> Aboriginal and British and/or French, Grenadian, Portuguese, Turkish, Colombian, Hispanic, Other British, Aboriginal and all other

# The whole table

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

Criterion	Group	Extreme Disadvantage	Severe Disadvantage
Children in female one parent households	Children under 18	<b>over 40%</b> Grenadian, Somali, Jamaican, Other Caribbean, Black, Multiple Caribbean	<b>33-40%</b> Other and Multiple African, Barbadian, Aboriginal, Ghanaian, Trinidadian/Tobagonian
Not High School Graduates	Ages 25-34	<b>over 35%</b> Vietnamese, Afghan, Tamil, Sri Lankan, Iraqi	<b>30-35%</b> Somali, Portuguese, Ethiopian, Aboriginal, Other West Asian, Grenadian
University graduates	Ages 25-34	<b>under 18%</b> Other and Multiple Central American, Ethiopian, Somali, Salvadoran	<b>18-25%</b> Jamaican, Guyanese, Peruvian, Sri Lankan
Not in school full-time and not a high school graduate	Ages 18-24	<b>over 30%</b> Aboriginal	<b>20.1-30%</b> Aboriginal and British and/or French, Grenadian, Portuguese, Turkish, Colombian, Hispanic, Other British, Aboriginal and all other
In School full-time	Ages 18-24	<b>under 35%</b> Aboriginal, , Aboriginal and British and/or French, Grenadian, Portuguese	<b>35-41.9%</b> American, Salvadoran, Punjabi or Sikh, Iraqi, Canadian, Brazilian, Somali, West Indian, Afghan, Other Southeast Asian
Unemployed	Women, 18-64	<b>&gt;19%</b> Somali, Afghan, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Albanian	<b>15-19%</b> Nigerian, Iraqi, Other West Asian, Taiwanese, Eritrean, Tamil, Multiple South Asian, Multiple Arab and/or West Asian
Unemployed	Men, 18-64	<b>&gt;11%</b> Somali, Albanian, Nigerian, Turkish, Afghan	<b>9-11%</b> Iraqi, Other West Asian, Taiwanese, Multiple Arab and/or West Asian, Other and Multiple African, Pakistani, Iranian, Bangladeshi
Lower skill manual occupation	Employed Women, 18-64	<b>over 55%</b> Ethiopian, Eritrean, Grenadian, Other and Multiple Central American, Somali	<b>51-55%</b> Filipino, Bosnian, Salvadoran, Afghan, Hispanic, Peruvian, South Asian and East Asian, Black
Lower skill non-manual occupation	Employed Women, 18-64	<b>over 30%</b> Punjabi or Sikh, Ghanaian, Vietnamese, Other Southeast Asian	<b>20-30%</b> Tamil, Other South Asian, Sri Lankan, Iraqi, Multiple East/Southeast Asian, Indian
Lower skill manual occupation	Employed Men, 18-64	<b>over 30%</b> Ethiopian, Somali, Bangladeshi, Afghan, Black	<b>28-30%</b> Barbadian, Filipino, Other and Multiple Central American, East/Southeast Asian and European, Pakistani, Mexican
Lower skill non-manual occupation	Employed Men, 18-64	<b>over 37%</b> Punjabi or Sikh, Other Southeast Asian, Iraqi, Ghanaian, Vietnamese	<b>30.5-37%</b> Somali, Ecuadorian, Grenadian, Tamil, Albanian, Ethiopian, Salvadoran, Jamaican, Hispanic
Median employment income	Women	<b>under \$20,100</b> Bangladeshi, Other West Asian, Eritrean, Iraqi, Afghan	<b>\$20,100-22,000</b> Tamil, Ethiopian, Somali, Punjabi or Sikh, Sri Lankan
Median employment income	Men	<b>under \$29,500</b> Afghan, Ethiopian, Somali, Bangladeshi	<b>\$29,500-30,000</b> Iraqi, Taiwanese, Other West Asian, Tamil, Sri Lankan, Other South Asian, Salvadoran, Korean
Below the Low Income Cut-Off (LICO)	All Individuals	<b>over 40%</b> Somali, Afghan, Ethiopian, Bangladeshi, Other West Asian, Iraqi, Taiwanese	<b>34-40%</b> Pakistani, Eritrean, Nigerian, Ghanaian, Black, Other Arab
Median Income	All Families	<b>under \$33,000</b> Somali, Ethiopian, Afghan, Bangladeshi	<b>\$33,000-42,599</b> Other West Asian, Taiwanese, Iraqi, Albanian, Ghanaian, Grenadian, Nigerian, Eritrean
Median Income	Non-Family Persons	<b>under \$10,000</b> Afghan	<b>\$10,000-16,499</b> Iraqi, Somali, Ethiopian, Salvadoran, Other West Asian, Eritrean, Korean

# 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 112 groups in the Toronto CMA, 52 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 11 groups appear twice.

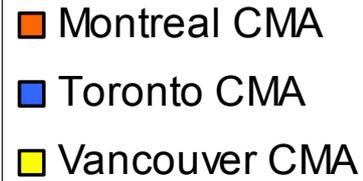
## Summary Results, Multiple Disadvantage

- Among the 48 European groups, only the Bosnian and Portuguese groups appear more than once.
- Four ethno-racial groups experience far greater disadvantage than any other group:
  - The Somali group appears in all 13 rows of the Table, 9 times in the “extremely disadvantaged” category;
  - the Ethiopian group appears 12 times; and
  - the Afghan and Bangladeshi groups appear 9 times, and these three groups are “extremely disadvantaged” in 6 categories or more.

## Summary Results, Multiple Disadvantage

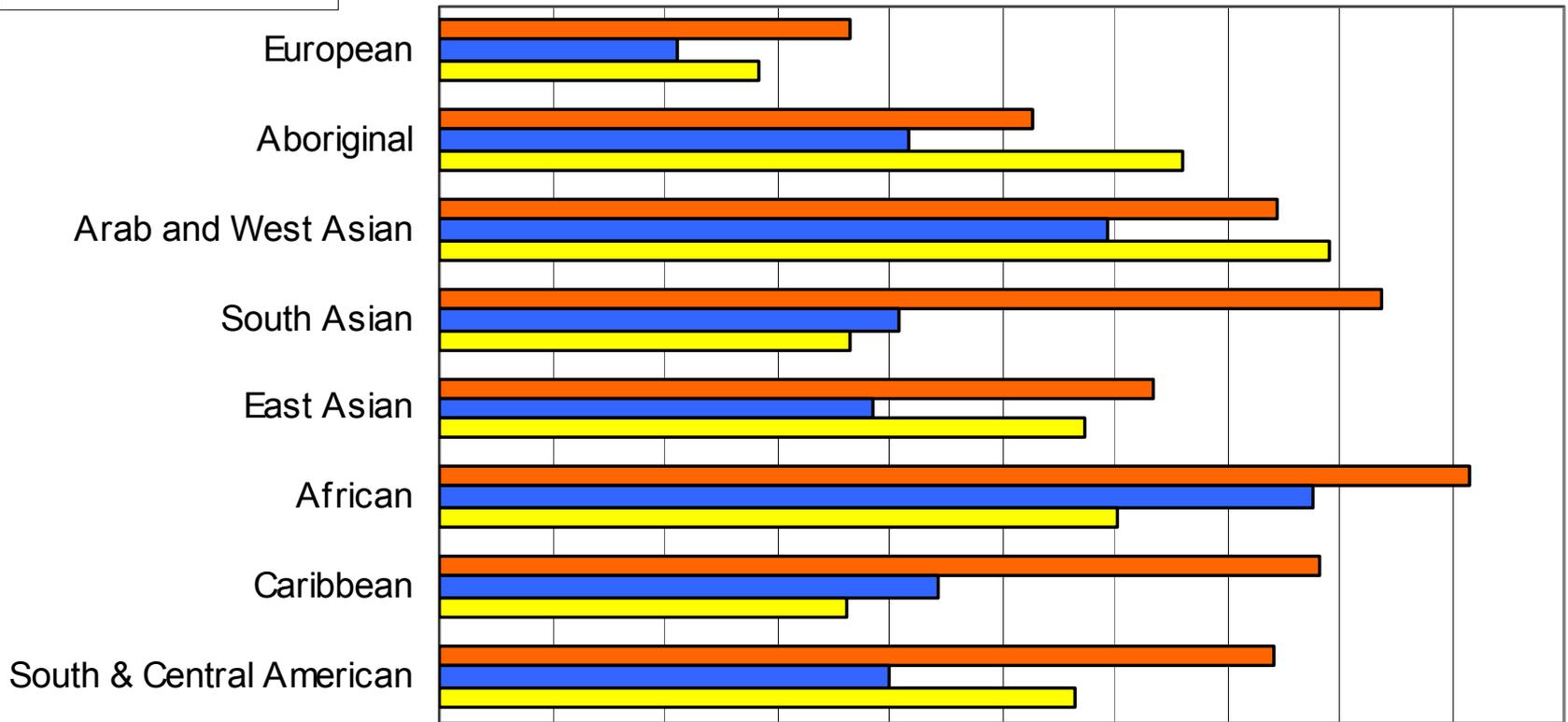
- A number of other ethno-racial groups experience multiple disadvantage, but not so severely as those four groups.
- These include the Albanian, Black (which includes “Africans”), Eritrean, Ghanaian, Grenadian, Iraqi, Salvadoran, Sri Lankan, Tamil and Vietnamese groups, as well as the “Other Southeast Asian” (mainly Cambodians and Laotians) and “Other West Asian” (Tajiks, Uzbeks and a number of others) groups

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

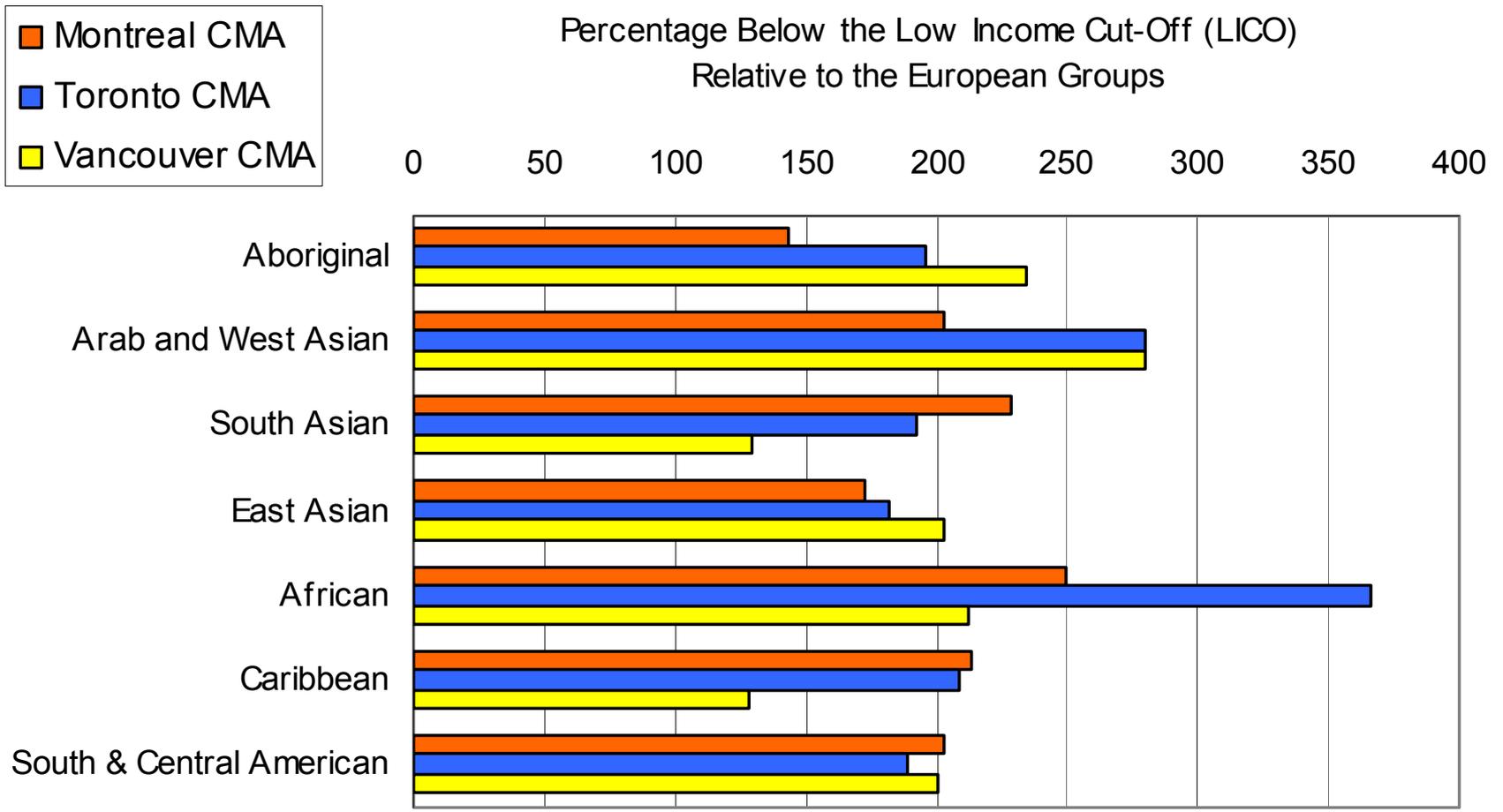


Percentage Below the Low Income Cut-Off (LICO)

0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50



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



# 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 terms of 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
- Structural changes, such increasing the minimum wage, building social housing and providing daycare, are need to 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 very few elderly
- 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 than 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 Toronto, 1971-2001: A Demographic and Socio-Economic Profile**

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

before printing – remember that it is 182 pages long; it is set up to 2-sided printing, so pages of 2-part tables are facing)

Printed & bound, \$25, order from  
**[isrorder@yorku.ca](mailto:isrorder@yorku.ca)**

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

***The end***