

# Early school leavers and their later life education, employment and training experiences.

**BetterStart  
Group**



**Government of South Australia**

Department of Treasury  
and Finance

Alicia Montgomerie

Justin Lokhorst

John Lynch

Rhiannon Pilkington

Eden Neumann

Thomas Worthley

Matthew Winefield

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## Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the First Peoples and Nations of the lands and waters we live and work upon. Sovereignty of the land was never ceded, it always was, and always will be, Aboriginal land.

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Kurna, Boandik, and Barngarla First Nations Peoples people, the traditional custodians of the lands that are home to Adelaide University campuses across South Australia. We acknowledge the deep feelings of attachment and relationship of the Kurna people to Country, and we respect and value their past, present and ongoing connection to the land, and their cultural beliefs.

Adelaide University and SA Department of Treasury and Finance acknowledge the historical impact of colonisation and its continuing effects and are committed to the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation vision: 'A united Australia which respects this land of ours; values the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage; and provides justice and equity for all'.

## About the authors

### Adelaide University

Alicia Montgomerie is Head of Data Analytics, and Co-Director of BetterStart Group

Justin Lokhorst is Lead for BEBOLD Integration Projects and Partnerships at BetterStart Group

Rhiannon Pilkington is Associate Professor of Epidemiology, and Co-Director of BetterStart Group

John Lynch is Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health, and Co-Director of BetterStart Group

### SA Department of Treasury and Finance

Eden Neumann is Economist, Department of Treasury and Finance

Thomas Worthley is Economist, Department of Treasury and Finance

Matthew Winefield is Director Economics, Department of Treasury and Finance

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### **Who we are – BetterStart Group**

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BetterStart Group is an interdisciplinary team trained in epidemiology, public health, psychology, allied health and social work. Our expertise spans the first 1000 days, early childhood education and care, child maltreatment, justice systems, housing and homelessness, mental health, substance misuse, domestic, family and sexual violence, and social and economic inequalities. Our aim is to generate evidence that is useful to inform policy and practice and that can improve health and wellbeing of children, young people, families, and communities.

### **Contact us**

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For further information, please visit our website:

 <https://adelaide.edu.au/research/betterstart-group/>

Contact us via our Research Coordinator:

 [jacqueline.aldis@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:jacqueline.aldis@adelaide.edu.au)

### **Who we are – SA DTF Economics Team**

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The Economics section is part of the Revenue, Economics and Policy branch with the South Australian Department of Treasury and Finance. The branch delivers robust analysis, strategic advice and innovation solutions to address priority social, economic, revenue and financial policy issues, supporting informed decision-making across government. The Economics section leads cross-government work on social impact investment, and is committed to building the evidence base about the impact of government funded services, to improve life outcomes for South Australians.

### **Contact us**

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Contact us via:

 [dtfeconomics@sa.gov.au](mailto:dtfeconomics@sa.gov.au)

# Summary

## About this report

This report presents the first SA-led analysis from the Life Course Data Initiative (LCDI) pilot, focusing on young people who leave school before completing Year 12 and their subsequent education, employment, and training outcomes. The study forms part of a broader research program that integrates the South Australian Better Evidence Better Outcomes Linked Data (BEBOLD) platform with the Person Level Integrated Data Asset (PLIDA) to undertake research designed to inform policy, practice, service delivery and system initiatives aiming to improve outcomes for children, young people and families.

## What we did

Using de-identified linked administrative data from the BEBOLD platform, South Australian Department for Education records, and PLIDA, we examined early school leaving and later disengagement from education, employment, and training. The study included 150,832 South Australian Government school students who were 18 to 30 years of age at the time of the 2021 Census. Early school leavers were defined as individuals who left school before completing Year 12, while post-school outcomes were measured using Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) at the 2021 Census. Analyses considered demographic, socioeconomic, health, disability, and caring characteristic patterns according to NEET outcomes.

## What we found

- 1 in 6 individuals were classified as an early school leaver (17.3%).
- 31.3% of early school leavers were NEET at ages 18-30, compared with 13.0% of school finishers, an absolute increase of 18.3 percentage points.
- This is a relative increase of 2.4 times as likely of being NEET for early school leavers.
- In practical terms, this means that for every 100 young people, there were around 18 additional individuals who were NEET among early school leavers compared with school finishers.
- Although early school leavers represented 17.3% of the study population, they accounted for one-third (33.4%) of all individuals who were NEET.
- The likelihood of being NEET increased as level of school attainment decreased. Young people who completed Year 9 or below had a NEET prevalence of 50.9%, almost four times that of school finishers - 37.9 percentage points higher in absolute terms.

Across key indicators, the prevalence of NEET was consistently around 16 to 24 percentage points higher among early school leavers than school finishers. Compared with school finishers, NEET prevalence among early school leavers was:

- 19.7 percentage points higher for those who had received a school card (39.3% vs 19.6%);
- 15.8 percentage points higher for those who had received disability support at school (48.1% vs 32.3%);
- 23.8 percentage points higher for those requiring assistance with core activities (requires help or supervision with self-care, mobility, or communication due to a long-term health condition, disability, or old age) (71.6% vs 51.2%);

- 22.6 percentage points higher for those with a mental health condition (47.3% vs 23.5%); and
- 22.6 percentage points higher for those with one or more long-term health condition(s) (41.6% vs 19.0%).

### What this means

Leaving school early was associated with a substantially higher likelihood of being disengaged from employment, education, and training in early adulthood. Early school leavers had an 18.3 percentage point higher prevalence of NEET than school finishers (31.3% vs 13.0%). While socioeconomic disadvantage, disability support needs and health conditions were associated with higher rates of NEET regardless of school completion status, school finishers had lower NEET prevalence than early school leavers with similar characteristics. This highlights the importance of improving school retention and providing targeted supports for young people experiencing disadvantage to support successful post-school transitions into education, training and employment.

This report provides a baseline understanding of the transitions into being NEET among those who leave school early, at a whole population level in one Australian jurisdiction - South Australia. There are important implications for school retention policies, and targeted supports for young people, especially those experiencing various forms of disadvantage, to successfully transition into education, training and employment after they leave school.

### Future Work

This analysis demonstrates the value of linking jurisdictional and Commonwealth data through the Life Course Dataset to examine post-school outcomes. Future work will extend these analyses by incorporating additional PLIDA datasets to examine outcomes over time, and investigating a wider range of education, employment, training and welfare outcomes among school leavers and school finishers.

The broader SA-led LCDI research program will also examine other key life course questions, including the long-term outcomes of children who start school developmentally vulnerable or experience low wellbeing, poor academic performance and the impact of multiple school changes on later education, employment, training, and welfare outcomes.

## Table of Contents

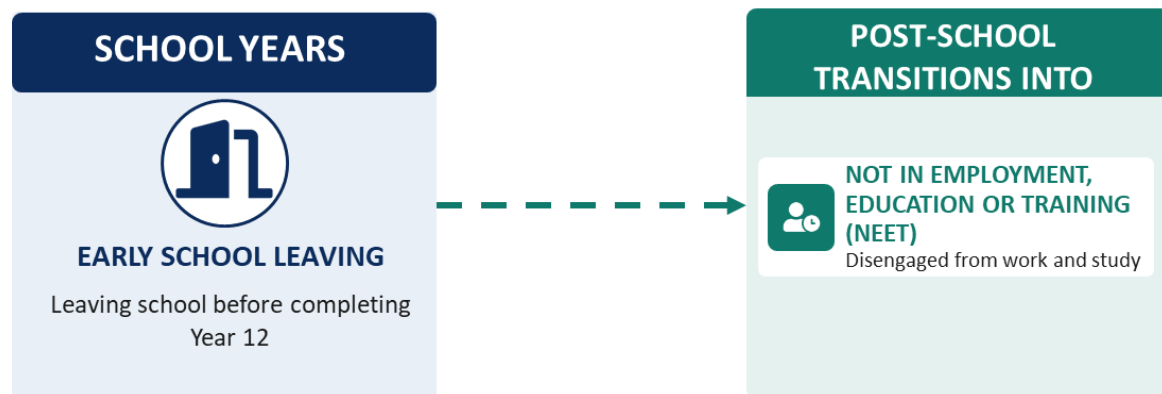
|                                                                                                    |    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| About this report.....                                                                             | 7  |
| BEBOLD, BEBOLD-PLIDA and the Life Course Dataset .....                                             | 8  |
| BEBOLD .....                                                                                       | 8  |
| BEBOLD-PLIDA.....                                                                                  | 9  |
| SA-led LCDI Pilot Research Project.....                                                            | 11 |
| Our approach .....                                                                                 | 12 |
| Data sources.....                                                                                  | 12 |
| Study population.....                                                                              | 12 |
| Definition of early school leavers .....                                                           | 14 |
| Definition of “Not in Education, Employment or Training” (NEET) .....                              | 14 |
| Demographic, socioeconomic, educational, health, and caring-related characteristics.....           | 14 |
| Results.....                                                                                       | 15 |
| Early school leavers.....                                                                          | 15 |
| Characteristics of early school leavers.....                                                       | 16 |
| Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).....                                               | 17 |
| Characteristics of those who were NEET .....                                                       | 18 |
| Early school leavers and NEET .....                                                                | 19 |
| Characteristics of early school leavers and NEET .....                                             | 20 |
| Prevalence of NEET by age and school completion status .....                                       | 22 |
| Characteristics associated with NEET .....                                                         | 23 |
| Other Insights.....                                                                                | 25 |
| Realising the potential of linking SA state and Commonwealth data .....                            | 25 |
| Custodian supply of data to BetterStart .....                                                      | 25 |
| Data curation by BetterStart.....                                                                  | 25 |
| Preparing data for PLIDA linkage .....                                                             | 25 |
| Data receipt, linkage and assembly by ABS .....                                                    | 25 |
| Navigating data in ABS DataLab.....                                                                | 25 |
| Output clearance from DataLab .....                                                                | 25 |
| Output consideration by BEBOLD and PLIDA custodians .....                                          | 26 |
| With multiple data sources containing similar information, comes multiple analytical choices ..... | 26 |
| Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).....                                               | 26 |
| Future Work.....                                                                                   | 27 |
| Appendix 1 .....                                                                                   | 28 |
| Appendix 2 .....                                                                                   | 31 |
| Analysis tables.....                                                                               | 31 |
| Characteristics of early school leavers.....                                                       | 31 |
| Characteristics of Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET) .....                          | 32 |
| Acknowledgements.....                                                                              | 33 |
| Disclaimer.....                                                                                    | 33 |

## About this report

This article presents findings from research undertaken by Adelaide University's BetterStart Group in partnership with the South Australian Government's Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) as part of the Life Course Data Initiative (LCDI) pilot being delivered by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), using data linked in the Life Course Dataset.

The project involved integrating the established Better Evidence Better Outcomes Linked Data (BEBOLD) platform with the Person Level Integrated Data Asset (PLIDA) as part of the [LCDI research program](#). BetterStart and DTF have received approval from SA and Commonwealth data custodians, and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), to use the Life Course Dataset to investigate transitions through the education system from early childhood to post-school transitions into education, employment, training and welfare, and how these vary according to experiences of socioeconomic, and health disadvantage (see Figure 1).

**Figure 1: Initial analysis of the South Australian Life Course Data Initiative (SA LCDI) focusing on early school leavers and their post-school pathways into education, employment and training.**



# BEBOLD, BEBOLD-PLIDA and the Life Course Dataset

## BEBOLD

The South Australian (SA) Better Evidence Better Outcomes Linked Data (BEBOLD) platform is a de-identified, updatable, award winning, comprehensive linked data asset. BEBOLD was established in 2011 by BetterStart Group, in partnership with data custodians across SA government agencies. Its operation has been funded through competitive research grants, topic specific government and philanthropic support, and by Adelaide University.

### Structure

BEBOLD contains:

- a series of open electronic birth cohorts that follow 33 entire SA birth cohorts and their families from 1991 onwards;
- approximately 1.5 million records consisting of children born from 1991 onwards and their families;
- children (in the eligible birth years) who were not born in South Australia but who either move to South Australia and/or interact with at least one SA Government service; and
- family files that link children and their families, allowing examination of intergenerational contacts with government agencies.

### Content

BEBOLD is one of the richest linked data sources of child and family life-course information in Australia and internationally. It includes de-identified information about child protection contact, pregnancy, early development, wellbeing in childhood and adolescence, education, youth justice, corrections, hospital admissions, emergency presentations, drug and alcohol services, housing and homelessness and community mental health.

### Data Linkage

Linkage for the BEBOLD platform is conducted by SA NT DataLink. SA NT DataLink maintain a master linkage file which is used to assign deidentified linkage keys to custodian data. With approval and support from custodians, de-identified analytical data is supplied to BetterStart for inclusion into the BEBOLD platform.

### The Five Safes

The BEBOLD platform meets the trusted access principles as outlined in the [Five Safes Framework](#) and does not include any names, addresses, or phone numbers to identify individuals meeting the Safe Data criteria. BEBOLD data is used to minimise the potential for re-identification of individuals.

### Ethics Approvals

All research conducted using the BEBOLD platform has received ethics approval from SA Department of Health and Welfare (SA DHW) Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC), Adelaide University HREC and Aboriginal Health Research Ethics Committee (AHREC). All researchers are ethically approved and only have access to the data items in the BEBOLD platform that are relevant to their ethically approved research question.

## BEBOLD-PLIDA

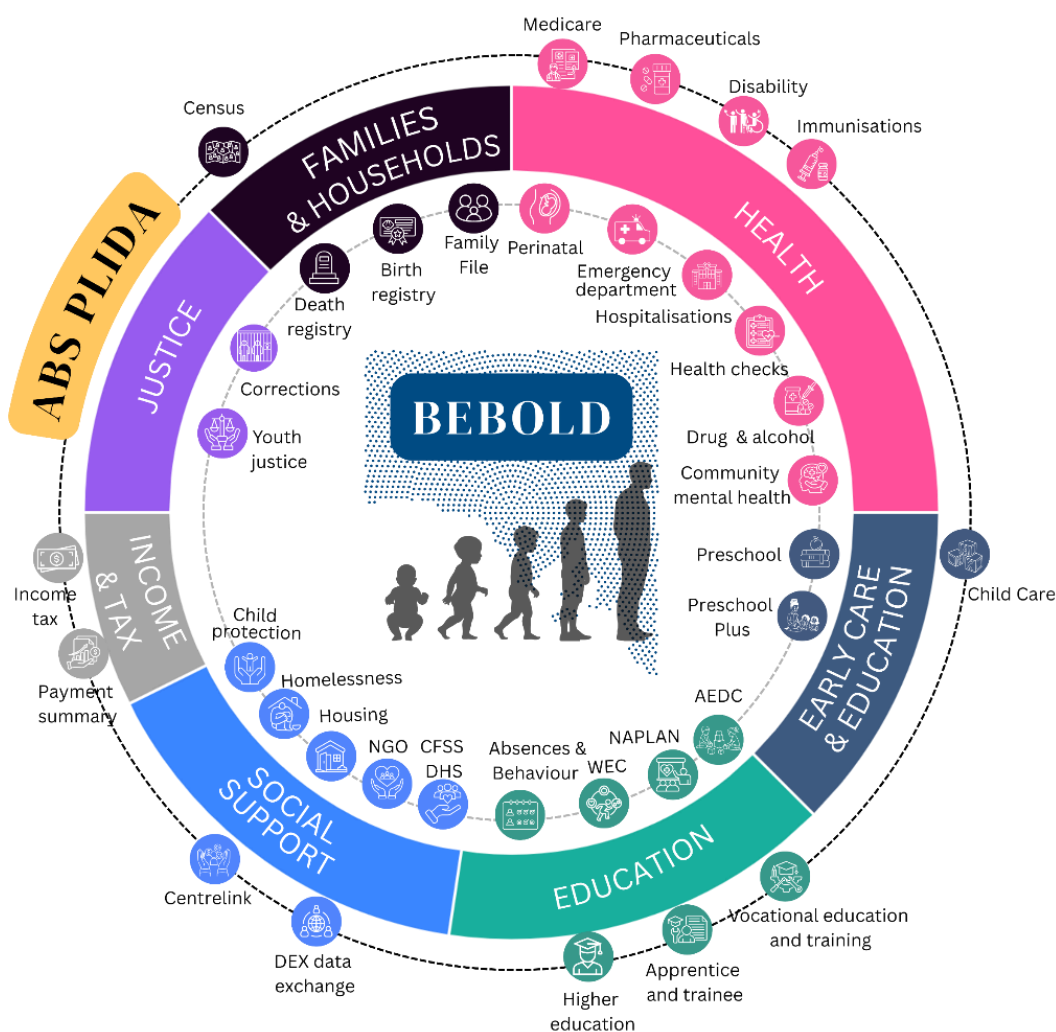
BEBOLD was linked to the [Person Level Integrated Data Asset \(PLIDA\)](#) in 2025 as part of the broader “Better data driving better outcomes for children, young people and families” project listed on the [ABS Data Integration Project Register \(see 2025\)](#).

This foundational project resulted in the linkage of over twenty BEBOLD component datasets to PLIDA, yielding the largest linkage of jurisdictional data to PLIDA to date in the ABS Data Integration program. The combined data asset is referred to as BEBOLD-PLIDA (Figure 2).

Australian jurisdictional governments and the Commonwealth Government may have common policy interests. This project provides a linked data platform to support evidence generation in areas of common interests. BEBOLD-PLIDA supports a broad range of research and evaluation objectives including:

- the impact of policies and program participation on a range of outcomes;
- understanding the reach of programs and investments;
- understanding client population profiles and service contact patterns; and
- investigating precursors and consequences of system contact.

**Figure 2: Data available in BEBOLD and BEBOLD-PLIDA**



With approval of BEBOLD data custodians, BetterStart have made a subset of linked BEBOLD-PLIDA data available for inclusion in the Life Course Dataset to support a small number of research projects associated with the LCDI pilot.

Bringing BEBOLD-PLIDA data together required robust governance, and strong relationships across all partners, most of all the SA data custodians providing data to BEBOLD, and a good deal of time.

Key milestones included:

- approval from all custodians for on-supply of analytical data (by BetterStart) and identifier/linkage key data (by SA NT DataLink) to the ABS;
- ethics approval for the creation and maintenance of BEBOLD-PLIDA from SA DHW HREC;
- an agreement between SA NT DataLink and ABS for supply of data for linkage, requiring SA Privacy Committee exemption;
- an agreement between BetterStart and ABS for supply of analytical data; and
- approval from PLIDA data custodians for linkage of data to support proposed research questions.

## SA-led LCDI Pilot Research Project

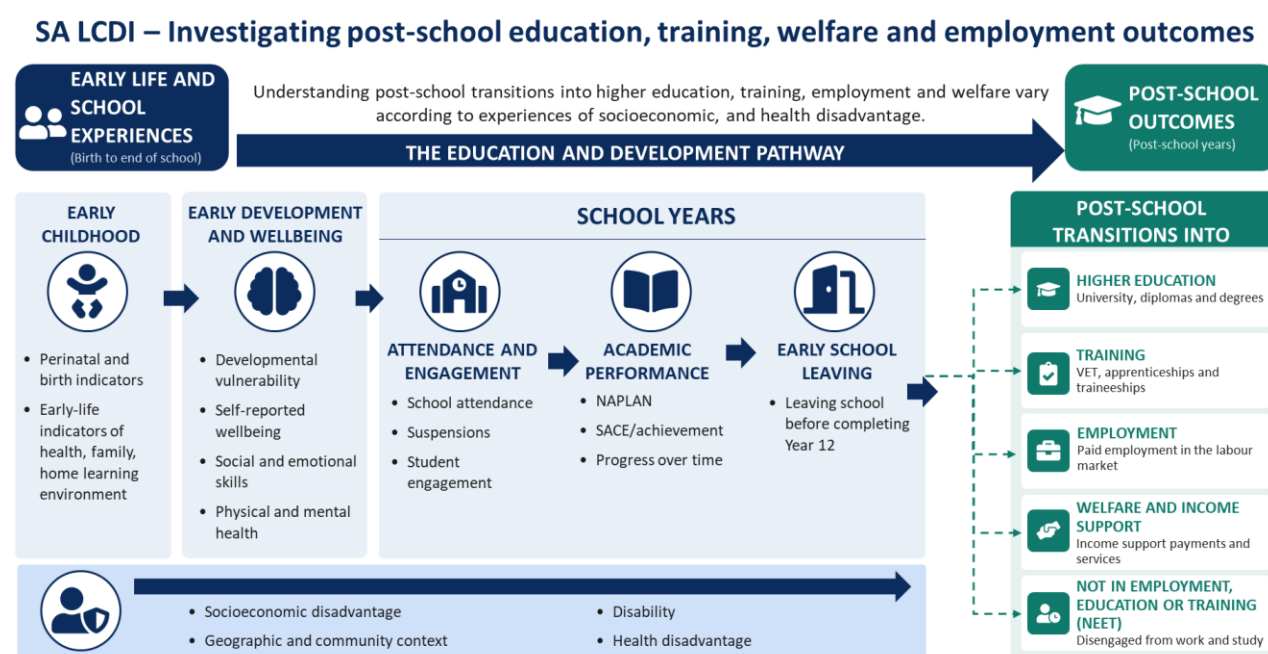
SA Government and BetterStart have received approval from SA and Commonwealth data custodians, and the ABS, to use the Life Course Dataset to support a SA-led research project for the LCDI pilot. This project uses the Life Course Dataset to investigate transitions through the education system from early childhood to post-school education, employment, training and welfare outcomes, and explores how these transitions vary according to background socioeconomic characteristics and health needs.

Partner organisations on this project include:

- BetterStart Group, Adelaide University;
- SA Department of Treasury and Finance;
- SA Department for Education;
- Australian Bureau of Statistics; and
- Commonwealth Department of Education.

This research was undertaken as part of the South Australian led project under the Life Course Data Initiative (LCDI), a pilot program delivered by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) using the Life Course Dataset. The broad SA-led LCDI research program examines educational trajectories from early childhood through to adulthood and investigates how later education, training, employment, and welfare outcomes are shaped by experiences of socioeconomic and health disadvantage. An overview of the broad program of work is presented in Figure 3. The current article presents the first analysis from the SA-led LCDI research program, focusing on early school leavers and their post-school pathways into education, employment, training, and welfare.

**Figure 3: The South Australian Life Course Data Initiative (SA LCDI) research program**



# Our approach

## Data sources

To examine patterns of early school leaving and post-school pathways in the context of socioeconomic disadvantage and health needs, we used data from the BEBOLD platform including: public school enrolments, SA Department for Education (DfE), and from PLIDA including: Census of Population and Housing 2021 (Census 2021), Core Scoping 2006-latest (Single Source, ERP Status, Single Source, Physical Presence Status and Weight, 2006-latest and Vitals, 2006-latest) and Core Demographics 2006-latest (2021 Census).

## Study population

To examine those “Not in Employment, Education, or Training” (NEET) at the time of the 2021 Census, the study population was restricted to individuals born from 1991 onwards who had attended a South Australian Government school. The observation window from 2006 to 2021 was selected to ensure population coverage of cohorts who had the opportunity to be enrolled in Years 9 to 12 and who could subsequently be linked to their NEET outcomes in the 2021 Census. As shown in Figure 4, individuals born in 1991 were approximately 30 years old at the 2021 Census, while those born in 2003 were in Year 12 in 2020 and approximately 18 years old in 2021. This timeframe therefore captures all 12 cohorts born between 1991 and 2003 as they progressed through the senior secondary school years (Years 9 to 12 in SA Government schools), enabling identification of both early school leavers and school finishers. This design allowed investigation of the relationship between school completion and later participation in employment, further education, and training, as measured by NEET status in the 2021 Census.

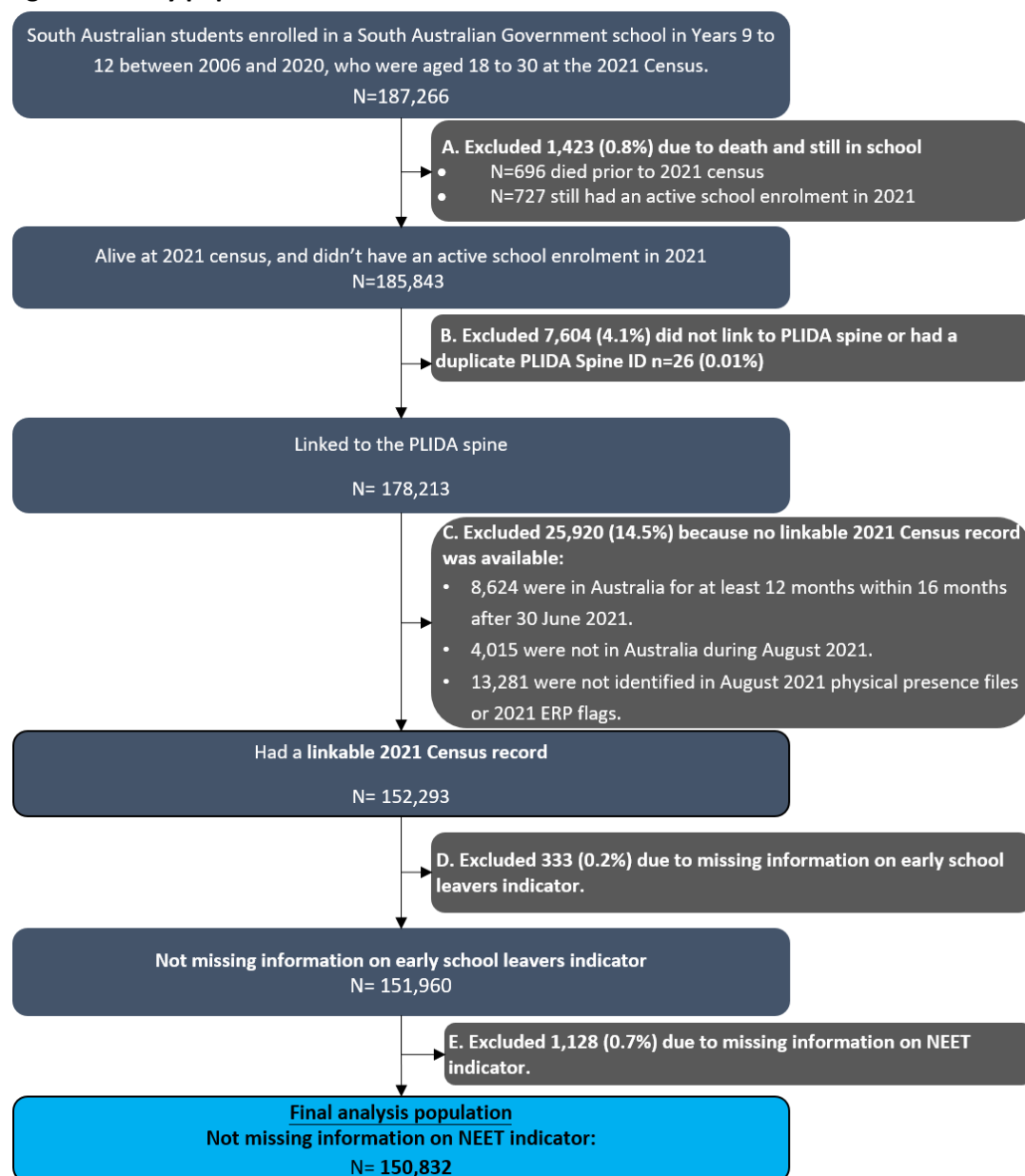
**Figure 4: Eligible Study Population, School Leavers (dark green), School Finishers (light green) and 2021 Census timepoint where NEET was defined (blue).**

| Birth Year | CALENDAR YEAR |              |              |              |              |           |              |              |              |              |              |      |
|------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------|
|            | 2006          | 2007         | 2008         | 2009         | 2010         | 2011-2015 | 2016         | 2017         | 2018         | 2019         | 2020         | 2021 |
| 1991       | Yr10<br>~15y  | Yr11<br>~16y | Yr12<br>~17y | ~18y         | ~19y         | ...       | ~25y         | ~26y         | ~27y         | ~28y         | ~29y         | ~30y |
| 1992       | Yr9<br>~14y   | Yr10<br>~15y | Yr11<br>~16y | Yr12<br>~17y | ~18y         | ...       | ~24y         | ~25y         | ~26y         | ~27y         | ~28y         | ~29y |
| 1993       |               | Yr9<br>~14y  | Yr10<br>~15y | Yr11<br>~16y | Yr12<br>~17y | ...       | ~23y         | ~24y         | ~25y         | ~26y         | ~27y         | ~28y |
| 1994-2000  | ...           | ...          | ...          | ...          | ...          | ...       | ...          | ...          | ...          | ...          | ...          | ...  |
| 2001       |               |              |              |              |              | ...       | Yr10<br>~15y | Yr11<br>~16y | Yr12<br>~17y | ~18y         | ~19y         | ~20y |
| 2002       |               |              |              |              |              | ...       | Yr9<br>~14y  | Yr10<br>~15y | Yr11<br>~16y | Yr12<br>~17y | ~18y         | ~19y |
| 2003       |               |              |              |              |              | ...       |              | Yr9<br>~14y  | Yr10<br>~15y | Yr11<br>~16y | Yr12<br>~17y | ~18y |

Early School leavers
School finishers
2021 Census (NEET defined)

As shown in Figure 5, linked administrative data were used to identify a cohort of 187,266 individuals from South Australian Government school enrolment records. Eligible participants were enrolled in Years 9 to 12 between 2006 and 2020 and were aged 18 to 30 years at the 2021 Census. Individuals who had died before the 2021 Census ( $n = 696$ ) or were still enrolled in school in 2021 ( $n = 727$ ) were excluded, leaving 185,843 individuals. A further 7,630 individuals who could not be linked to the PLIDA spine or had duplicate PLIDA spine identifiers were excluded, resulting in 178,213 individuals linked to the PLIDA spine. Of these, 25,920 were excluded because a linkable 2021 Census record was not available. This group included 4,015 individuals who were not in Australia in August 2021, 8,624 who were resident in Australia for at least 12 months within the 16 months following 30 June 2021, and 13,281 who could not be identified in Census linkage files, either because they did not complete the Census or could not be reliably linked to a Census record. After excluding individuals without a linkable 2021 Census record, 152,293 individuals remained. Additional exclusions were applied for missing information on school completion status ( $n = 333$ ) and NEET status ( $n = 1,128$ ). The final analytical sample comprised 150,832 individuals (Figure 5).

**Figure 5: Study population flowchart**



## Definition of early school leavers

Early school leavers were defined as individuals who exited school before completing Year 12, based primarily on SA Department for Education (DfE) enrolment records. Individuals who remained enrolled through Year 12 were classified as school finishers. This definition reflects the SA education context, where compulsory schooling extends to age 16 years and compulsory participation in education, training, or approved learning programs extends to age 17 years unless a recognised qualification has been attained or an exemption has been granted. Detailed definitions of all variables are provided in Appendix 1, Table 7 (page 28).

School completion status was primarily determined using government school administrative records. However, for students who exited a South Australian government school before completing Year 12 and had a recorded reason for leaving which included transfer to an independent or Catholic school, attendance at a school interstate or overseas, or an unknown/unrecorded destination, subsequent educational outcomes for these students could not be established from government school records. In these cases, highest educational attainment reported in the 2021 ABS Census was used to supplement administrative data and determine highest school completion status. Individuals with a Year 12 qualification were classified as school finishers, while those whose highest attainment was below Year 12 were classified as early school leavers. This approach enabled consistent classification across the study population and maximised coverage where school administrative records were incomplete.

## Definition of “Not in Education, Employment or Training” (NEET)

Experiences with employment, further education and training were investigated using a measure of Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) as captured in 2021 Census data when young people were aged 18 to 30 years. Individuals were classified as NEET if they were not engaged in education and were either unemployed or not participating in the labour force. Individuals were classified as not NEET if they were enrolled in full-time or part-time education and/or were employed. Participants with insufficient information to determine education or labour force status, including overseas visitors, were classified as having unknown NEET status. This definition is consistent with established approaches used in the Australian NEET literature and includes young people who are disengaged from both education and the labour market. Detailed definitions of all variables are provided in Appendix 1, Table 7 (page 28).

## Demographic, socioeconomic, educational, health, and caring-related characteristics

The study population was characterised using demographic, socioeconomic, educational, health, and caring-related variables. These included age at the 2021 Census, sex, school card status during schooling (an indicator of family socioeconomic disadvantage), disability support eligibility while enrolled in school, language spoken at home, provision of unpaid childcare, need for assistance with core activities, presence of at least one long-term health condition, presence of a mental health condition, and provision of unpaid care or assistance to a person with a disability, health condition, or age-related needs. Detailed definitions of all variables are provided in Appendix 1, Table 7 (page 28).

# Results

## Early school leavers

Table 1 shows the number and proportion of the 150,832 young people include in the analysis who were defined as early school leaver. The study analysis included young people who had active enrolment in a South Australian school in year 9, 10, 11 or 12 from 2006-2020, and were aged 18-30 years at the 2021 Census.

**Table 1: Number and proportion of early school leavers who attended a South Australian Government School from 2006 to 2020**

|                                                 | n              | col %        |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| <b>Early school leaver</b>                      |                |              |
| No – School Finisher: Year 12                   | 124,794        | 82.7         |
| Yes – Early School Leaver: Year 11 or below     | 26,038         | 17.3         |
| <b>Highest year of school completed</b>         |                |              |
| Year 9 or below                                 | 1,488          | 1.0          |
| Year 10                                         | 6,239          | 4.1          |
| Year 11                                         | 18,311         | 12.1         |
| Year 12                                         | 124,794        | 82.7         |
| <b>Total</b>                                    | <b>150,832</b> | <b>100.0</b> |
| <b><u>Of early school leavers, N=26,038</u></b> |                |              |
| <b>Highest year of school completed</b>         |                |              |
| Year 9 or below                                 | 1,488          | 5.7          |
| Year 10                                         | 6,239          | 24.0         |
| Year 11                                         | 18,311         | 70.3         |
| <b>Total</b>                                    | <b>26,038</b>  | <b>100.0</b> |

### Key Message:

- 82.7% of all children completed school
- 17.3% or 1 in 6 individuals were early school leavers
  - 1,488 or 1.0% completed up to Year 9 or below
  - 6,239 or 4.1% completed Year 10
  - 18,311 or 12.1% completed Year 11

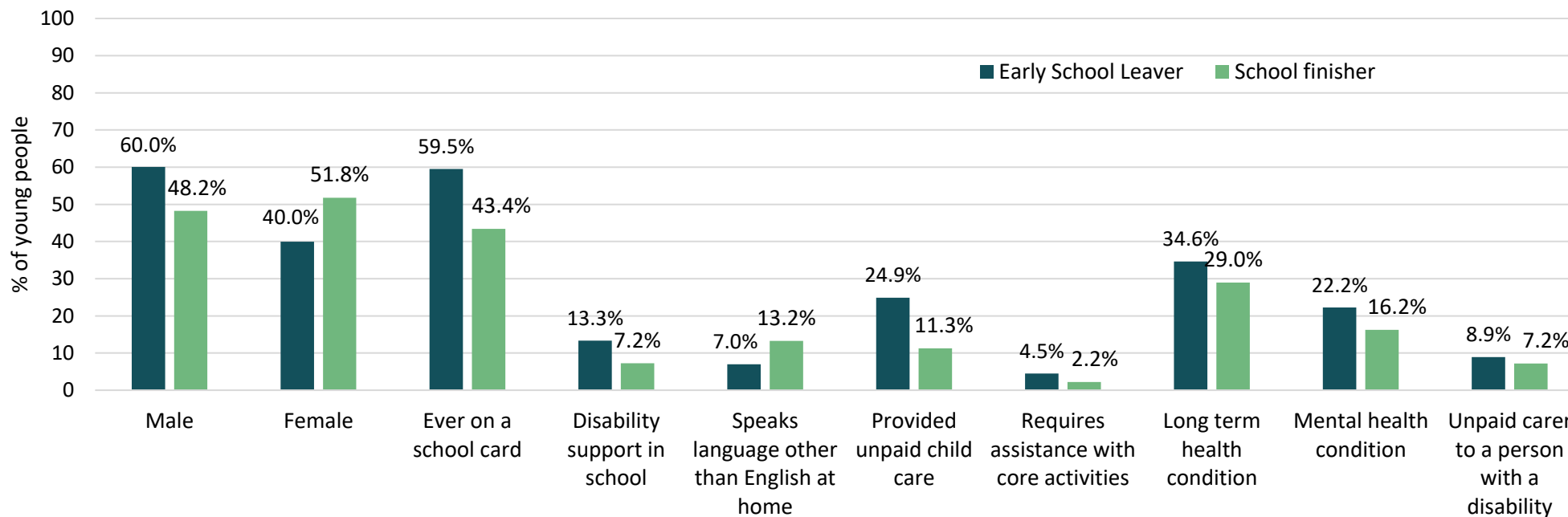
Of those who left school early (n=26,038):

- 70.3% completed Year 11;
- 24.0% completed Year 10; and
- only 5.7% completed Year 9 or below.

## Characteristics of early school leavers

Figure 6 shows the characteristics of early school leavers compared to school finishers, the full table can be viewed in Appendix 2, Table 8 (page 31).

**Figure 6: Characteristics of early school leavers compared to school finishers**



### Key Message:

Compared to school finishers, early school leavers were more likely to:

- be male (60.0% vs 48.2%);
- ever be on a school card during schooling (59.5% vs 43.4%);
- ever be qualified for disability support in school (13.3% vs 7.2%);
- speak only English at home (92.7% vs 86.6%); or
- provide unpaid child care for their own child or other's child and their own child (24.9% vs 11.3%).

## Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

Table 2 shows the number and proportion of the 150,832 young people included in the analysis who were defined as Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) at the 2021 Census aged 18 to 30 years.

**Table 2: Number and proportion defined as Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) at the 2021 Census aged 18 to 30 years.**

|                                                | n              | col %        |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| <b>NEET</b>                                    |                |              |
| No                                             | 126,435        | 83.8         |
| Yes – not in education, employment or training | 24,397         | 16.2         |
| <b>Total</b>                                   | <b>150,832</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

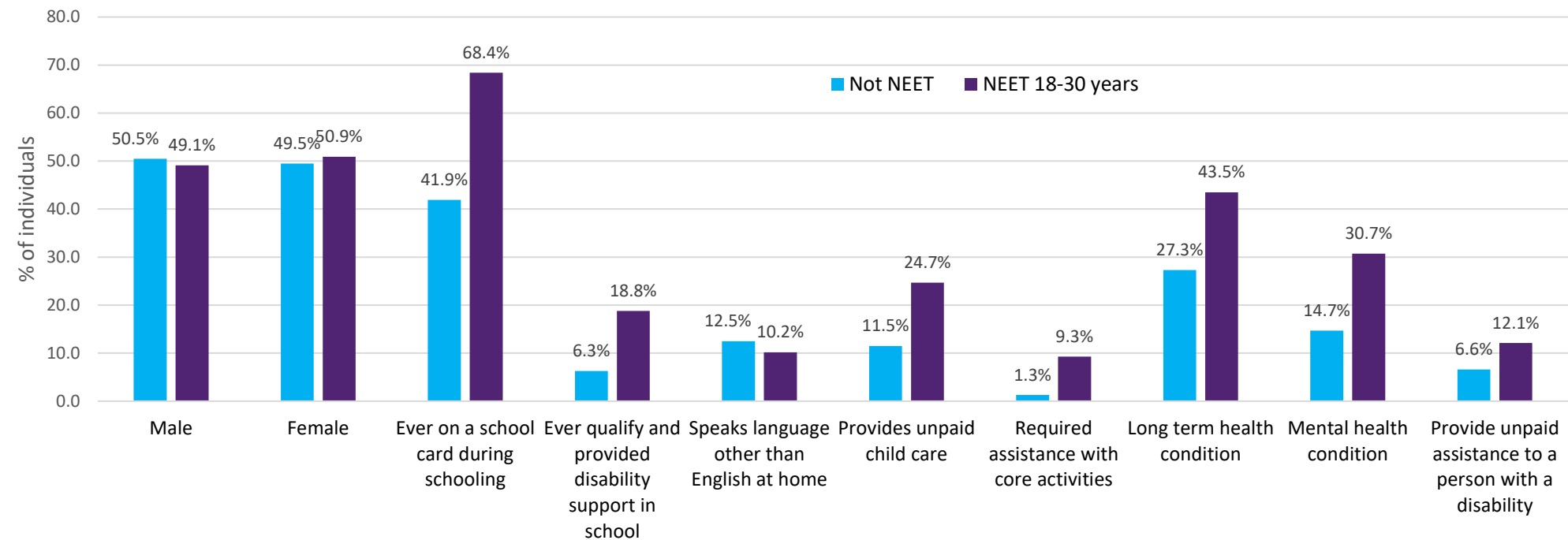
### Key Message:

16.2% of people aged 18 to 30 years were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) at 2021 Census.

## Characteristics of those who were NEET

Figure 7 shows the characteristics of the study population by NEET at ages 18-30 years, the full table can be viewed in Appendix 2, Table 9 (page 32).

**Figure 7: Characteristics of the study population by NEET at 18 to 30 years**



**Key Message:**

Compared to those who weren't NEET, those that were NEET at 18 -30 years were more likely to:

- ever be on a school card during schooling (68.4% vs 41.9%);
- ever be qualified for disability support in school (18.8% vs 6.3%);
- provide unpaid child care for their own child or other's child and their own child (24.7% vs 11.5%);
- require assistance with core activities (requires help or supervision with self-care, mobility, or communication due to a long-term health condition, disability, or old age) (9.3% vs 1.3%);
- have one or more long term health condition(s) (43.5% vs 27.3%); or
- have a mental health condition (30.7% vs 14.7%).

## Early school leavers and NEET

Table 3 shows the number and proportion of the 150,832 young people included in the analysis who were NEET at the 2021 Census aged 18 to 30 years.

**Table 3: Number and proportion of early school leavers who were NEET at 2021 census aged 18 to 30 years**

|                                         | NEET at the 2021 census aged 18 to 30 years |              |             |      |             | Total          |              |              |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|------|-------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
|                                         | n                                           | col %        | row %       | RR   | 95% CI      | n              | col %        | row %        |
| <b>Early school leaver</b>              |                                             |              |             |      |             |                |              |              |
| No                                      | 16,253                                      | 66.6         | 13.0        | Ref  |             | 124,794        | 82.7         | 100.0        |
| Yes                                     | 8,144                                       | 33.4         | 31.3        | 2.40 | 2.35 - 2.46 | 26,038         | 17.3         | 100.0        |
| <b>Total</b>                            | <b>24,397</b>                               | <b>100.0</b> | <b>16.2</b> |      |             | <b>150,832</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b> |
| <b>Highest year of school completed</b> |                                             |              |             |      |             |                |              |              |
| Year 12                                 | 16,253                                      | 66.6         | 13.0        | Ref  |             | 124,794        | 82.7         | 100.0        |
| Year 11                                 | 5,248                                       | 21.5         | 28.7        | 2.20 | 2.14 - 2.26 | 18,311         | 12.1         | 100.0        |
| Year 10                                 | 2,138                                       | 8.8          | 34.3        | 2.63 | 2.52 - 2.74 | 6,239          | 4.1          | 100.0        |
| Year 9 or below                         | 758                                         | 3.1          | 50.9        | 3.91 | 3.68 - 4.15 | 1,488          | 1.0          | 100.0        |
| <b>Total</b>                            | <b>24,397</b>                               | <b>100.0</b> | <b>16.2</b> |      |             | <b>150,832</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

### Key Message:

- Although early school leavers represented 17.3% of the study population, they accounted for one-third (33.4%) of all individuals who were NEET.
- Early school leavers were more than twice as likely to be NEET at ages 18-30 years compared with those who were school finishers (31.3% vs 13.0%; RR = 2.40, 95% CI: 2.35-2.46).
- A gradient was observed by highest year of school completed, with the likelihood of being NEET increasing as the level of school completion decreased.
- The proportion who were NEET was 13.0% among school finishers, increasing to 28.7% for Year 11 completers (RR = 2.20, 95% CI: 2.14-2.26), 34.3% for Year 10 completers (RR = 2.63, 95% CI: 2.52-2.74), and 50.9% for those who completed Year 9 or below (RR = 3.91, 95% CI: 3.68-4.15).

## Characteristics of early school leavers and NEET

Table 4 shows the Demographic, socioeconomic, educational, health, and caring-related characteristics of the 150,832 young people included in the analysis by early schools leavers and NEET at ages 18-30 years.

**Table 4: Characteristics of early school leavers by NEET at 2021 census aged 18 to 30 years**

|                                                                                        | Early School Leaver      |       |        |       |                     |       |         |       | Overall          |       |         |       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------|--------|-------|---------------------|-------|---------|-------|------------------|-------|---------|-------|
|                                                                                        | Yes: Early School Leaver |       |        |       | No: School Finisher |       |         |       | NEET (18-30 yrs) |       | Total   |       |
|                                                                                        | NEET (18-30 yrs)         | Total |        | Col % | NEET (18-30 yrs)    | Total |         | Col % | N                | Col % | N       | Col % |
|                                                                                        | N                        | Col % | N      |       | N                   | Col % | N       |       |                  |       |         |       |
| <b>Sex</b>                                                                             |                          |       |        |       |                     |       |         |       |                  |       |         |       |
| Male                                                                                   | 4,124                    | 50.6  | 15,631 | 60.0  | 7,859               | 48.4  | 60,172  | 48.2  | 11,983           | 49.1  | 75,803  | 50.3  |
| Female                                                                                 | 4,020                    | 49.4  | 10,407 | 40.0  | 8,394               | 51.6  | 64,622  | 51.8  | 12,414           | 50.9  | 75,029  | 49.7  |
| <b>Ever on a school card during schooling</b>                                          |                          |       |        |       |                     |       |         |       |                  |       |         |       |
| No                                                                                     | 2,060                    | 25.3  | 10,538 | 40.5  | 5,649               | 34.8  | 70,668  | 56.6  | 7,709            | 31.6  | 81,206  | 53.8  |
| Yes                                                                                    | 6,084                    | 74.7  | 15,500 | 59.5  | 10,604              | 65.2  | 54,126  | 43.4  | 16,688           | 68.4  | 69,626  | 46.2  |
| <b>Ever qualify &amp; provided disability support in school</b>                        |                          |       |        |       |                     |       |         |       |                  |       |         |       |
| No                                                                                     | 6,475                    | 79.5  | 22,570 | 86.7  | 13,340              | 82.1  | 115,769 | 92.8  | 19,815           | 81.2  | 138,339 | 91.7  |
| Yes                                                                                    | 1,669                    | 20.5  | 3,468  | 13.3  | 2,913               | 17.9  | 9,025   | 7.2   | 4,582            | 18.8  | 12,493  | 8.3   |
| <b>Language other than English spoken at home</b>                                      |                          |       |        |       |                     |       |         |       |                  |       |         |       |
| English only                                                                           | 7,445                    | 91.4  | 24,135 | 92.7  | 14,354              | 88.3  | 108,055 | 86.6  | 21,799           | 89.4  | 132,190 | 87.6  |
| Speaks language other than English                                                     | 657                      | 8.1   | 1,820  | 7.0   | 1,839               | 11.3  | 16,524  | 13.2  | 2,496            | 10.2  | 18,344  | 12.2  |
| Not stated/unknown                                                                     | 42                       | 0.5   | 83     | 0.3   | 60                  | 0.4   | 215     | 0.2   | 102              | 0.4   | 298     | 0.2   |
| <b>Unpaid child care: Provided unpaid child care to own child or own child + other</b> |                          |       |        |       |                     |       |         |       |                  |       |         |       |
| No                                                                                     | 5,722                    | 70.3  | 19,337 | 74.3  | 12,444              | 76.6  | 109,946 | 88.1  | 18,166           | 74.5  | 129,283 | 85.7  |
| Yes                                                                                    | 2,334                    | 28.7  | 6,478  | 24.9  | 3,687               | 22.7  | 14,093  | 11.3  | 6,021            | 24.7  | 20,571  | 13.6  |
| Not stated/unknown                                                                     | 88                       | 1.1   | 223    | 0.9   | 122                 | 0.8   | 755     | 0.6   | 210              | 0.9   | 978     | 0.6   |

|                                                                                                                                                                                        | Early School Leaver      |              |               |              |                     |              |                |              | Overall          |              |                |              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                        | Yes: Early School Leaver |              |               |              | No: School Finisher |              |                |              |                  |              |                |              |
|                                                                                                                                                                                        | NEET (18-30 yrs)         |              | Total         |              | NEET (18-30 yrs)    |              | Total          |              | NEET (18-30 yrs) |              | Total          |              |
|                                                                                                                                                                                        | N                        | Col %        | N             | Col %        | N                   | Col %        | N              | Col %        | N                | Col %        | N              | Col %        |
| <b>Requires assistance with core activities (requires help or supervision with self-care, mobility, or communication due to a long-term health condition, disability, or old age.)</b> |                          |              |               |              |                     |              |                |              |                  |              |                |              |
| No                                                                                                                                                                                     | 7,210                    | 88.5         | 24,655        | 94.7         | 14,701              | 90.5         | 121,275        | 97.2         | 21,911           | 89.8         | 145,930        | 96.8         |
| Yes                                                                                                                                                                                    | 839                      | 10.3         | 1,171         | 4.5          | 1,421               | 8.7          | 2,773          | 2.2          | 2,260            | 9.3          | 3,944          | 2.6          |
| Not stated/unknown                                                                                                                                                                     | 95                       | 1.2          | 212           | 0.8          | 131                 | 0.8          | 746            | 0.6          | 226              | 0.9          | 958            | 0.6          |
| <b>Long term health condition</b>                                                                                                                                                      |                          |              |               |              |                     |              |                |              |                  |              |                |              |
| No                                                                                                                                                                                     | 4,092                    | 50.2         | 16,091        | 61.8         | 8,856               | 54.5         | 84,961         | 68.1         | 12,948           | 53.1         | 101,052        | 67.0         |
| Yes                                                                                                                                                                                    | 3,748                    | 46.0         | 9,009         | 34.6         | 6,864               | 42.2         | 36,142         | 29.0         | 10,612           | 43.5         | 45,151         | 29.9         |
| Not stated/unknown                                                                                                                                                                     | 304                      | 3.7          | 938           | 3.6          | 533                 | 3.3          | 3,691          | 3.0          | 837              | 3.4          | 4,629          | 3.1          |
| <b>Mental health condition</b>                                                                                                                                                         |                          |              |               |              |                     |              |                |              |                  |              |                |              |
| No                                                                                                                                                                                     | 5,100                    | 62.6         | 19,312        | 74.2         | 10,965              | 67.5         | 100,842        | 80.8         | 16,065           | 65.8         | 120,154        | 79.7         |
| Yes                                                                                                                                                                                    | 2,740                    | 33.6         | 5,788         | 22.2         | 4,755               | 29.3         | 20,261         | 16.2         | 7,495            | 30.7         | 26,049         | 17.3         |
| Not stated/unknown                                                                                                                                                                     | 304                      | 3.7          | 938           | 3.6          | 533                 | 3.3          | 3,691          | 3.0          | 837              | 3.4          | 4,629          | 3.1          |
| <b>Provide unpaid assistance to a person with a disability</b>                                                                                                                         |                          |              |               |              |                     |              |                |              |                  |              |                |              |
| No                                                                                                                                                                                     | 6,993                    | 85.9         | 23,411        | 89.9         | 14,152              | 87.1         | 114,805        | 92.0         | 21,145           | 86.7         | 138,216        | 91.6         |
| Yes                                                                                                                                                                                    | 1,030                    | 12.6         | 2,315         | 8.9          | 1,911               | 11.8         | 8,987          | 7.2          | 2,941            | 12.1         | 11,302         | 7.5          |
| Not stated/unknown                                                                                                                                                                     | 121                      | 1.5          | 312           | 1.2          | 190                 | 1.2          | 1,002          | 0.8          | 311              | 1.3          | 1,314          | 0.9          |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>8,144</b>             | <b>100.0</b> | <b>26,038</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>16,253</b>       | <b>100.0</b> | <b>124,794</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>24,397</b>    | <b>100.0</b> | <b>150,832</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

#### Key Message:

- Among early school leavers, 74.7% of those who were NEET had ever received a school card during schooling compared with 59.5% of early school leavers who were not NEET.
- Similarly, 20.5% of NEET early school leavers had received disability support at school compared with 13.3% of non-NEET early school leavers.
- Early school leavers who were NEET were also more likely than those who were not NEET to report at least one long-term health condition (46.0% vs 34.6%), report a mental health condition (33.6% vs 22.2%), require assistance with core activities (10.3% vs 4.5%), provide unpaid care to a person with a disability or health condition (12.6% vs 8.9%), and provide unpaid childcare (28.7% vs 24.9%). Similar patterns were observed among school finishers.

## Prevalence of NEET by age and school completion status

Table 5 shows the prevalence NEET by age and school completion status. Overall, 24,397 of 150,832 young people (16.2%) experienced NEET between ages 18 and 30 years. NEET prevalence was more than twice as likely among early school leavers (31.3%; 8,144/26,038) than among school finishers (13.0%; 16,253/124,794), resulting in an overall relative risk of 2.40 (95% CI 2.35-2.46).

**Table 5: Prevalence of NEET between ages 18 and 30 years among early school leavers and school finishers**

| Age at 2021 Census | Prevalence of NEET at ages 18-30 years |                      |                                       |                      |                                    |                      | RR 95% CI Early School leaver vs School finisher |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
|                    | Overall<br>n/N                         | Prevalence of NEET % | Early School Leaver (n=26,038)<br>n/N | Prevalence of NEET % | School finisher (n=124,794)<br>n/N | Prevalence of NEET % |                                                  |
| 18 years           | 1,355 / 10,315                         | 13.1                 | 511 / 1,722                           | 29.7                 | 844 / 8,593                        | 9.8                  | 3.0 (2.72 - 3.31)                                |
| 19 years           | 1,815 / 10,700                         | 17.0                 | 585 / 1,583                           | 37.0                 | 1,230 / 9,117                      | 13.5                 | 2.7 (2.49 - 2.93)                                |
| 20 years           | 1,842 / 11,323                         | 16.3                 | 591 / 1,589                           | 37.2                 | 1,251 / 9,734                      | 12.9                 | 2.9 (2.67 - 3.15)                                |
| 21 years           | 1,907 / 11,761                         | 16.2                 | 566 / 1,618                           | 35.0                 | 1,341 / 10,143                     | 13.2                 | 2.7 (2.48 - 2.93)                                |
| 22 years           | 1,946 / 11,946                         | 16.3                 | 533 / 1,497                           | 35.6                 | 1,413 / 10,449                     | 13.5                 | 2.6 (2.39 - 2.83)                                |
| 23 years           | 1,958 / 12,010                         | 16.3                 | 514 / 1,509                           | 34.1                 | 1,444 / 10,501                     | 13.8                 | 2.5 (2.30 - 2.72)                                |
| 24 years           | 1,959 / 12,072                         | 16.2                 | 537 / 1,658                           | 32.4                 | 1,422 / 10,414                     | 13.7                 | 2.4 (2.21 - 2.61)                                |
| 25 years           | 2,056 / 12,234                         | 16.8                 | 622 / 1,968                           | 31.6                 | 1,434 / 10,266                     | 14.0                 | 2.3 (2.12 - 2.49)                                |
| 26 years           | 2,085 / 12,667                         | 16.5                 | 737 / 2,327                           | 31.7                 | 1,348 / 10,340                     | 13.0                 | 2.4 (2.22 - 2.59)                                |
| 27 years           | 1,990 / 12,389                         | 16.1                 | 756 / 2,659                           | 28.4                 | 1,234 / 9,730                      | 12.7                 | 2.2 (2.03 - 2.38)                                |
| 28 years           | 2,061 / 12,693                         | 16.2                 | 819 / 2,776                           | 29.5                 | 1,242 / 9,917                      | 12.5                 | 2.4 (2.22 - 2.59)                                |
| 29 years           | 2,101 / 12,645                         | 16.6                 | 816 / 3,055                           | 26.7                 | 1,285 / 9,590                      | 13.4                 | 2.0 (1.85 - 2.16)                                |
| 30 years           | 1,322 / 8,077                          | 16.4                 | 557 / 2,077                           | 26.8                 | 765 / 6,000                        | 12.8                 | 2.1 (1.91 - 2.31)                                |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>24,397 / 150,832</b>                | <b>16.2</b>          | <b>8,144 / 26,038</b>                 | <b>31.3</b>          | <b>16,253 / 124,794</b>            | <b>13.0</b>          | <b>2.4 (2.35 - 2.46)</b>                         |

RR = Relative Risk. CI = Confidence Interval

### Key Message:

The largest disparity was observed at age 18 years, when early school leavers were three times as likely to be NEET as school finishers (RR 3.00, 95% CI 2.72-3.31). Although the relative difference narrowed with age, early school leavers remained at significantly greater risk of NEET throughout the 18 to 30-year age range. By age 30 years, 26.8% of early school leavers and 12.8% of school finishers were NEET, with early school leavers remaining more than twice as likely to be NEET at age 30 years (RR 2.10, 95% CI 1.91-2.31).

## Characteristics associated with NEET

Table 6 presents the prevalence and relative risk (RR) of NEET aged 18 and 30 years according to selected demographic, socioeconomic, health and caring characteristics. Estimates are shown for the overall cohort and separately for early school leavers (Year 11 or below) and school finishers (Year 12).

Overall, approximately one in six young people were NEET at 18-30 years (16.2%), with females having a similar risk to males (16.5% vs 15.8%, RR = 1.04, 95% CI: 1.02–1.06). Among young people who left school before completing Year 12, 38.6% of females were NEET compared with 26.4% of males, representing a 46% higher risk of being NEET at 18-30 years (RR = 1.46, 95% CI: 1.41–1.51). In contrast, among school finishers, NEET prevalence was similar for females (13.0%) and males (13.1%) (RR = 0.99, 95% CI: 0.96–1.02).

**Table 6: Prevalence and risk of NEET at ages 18 to 30 years according to demographic, socioeconomic, health and caring characteristics, overall and by school completion status**

|                                                                 | Risk of NEET at ages 18 -30 years (2021 Census) |                |                    |                                                  |                |                    |                                      |                |                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
|                                                                 | Overall (N=150,832)                             |                |                    | Early School Leaver: Year 11 or below (n=26,038) |                |                    | School finisher: Year 12 (n=124,794) |                |                    |
|                                                                 | n/N                                             | % <sup>a</sup> | RR (95% CI)        | n/N                                              | % <sup>a</sup> | RR (95% CI)        | n/N                                  | % <sup>a</sup> | RR (95% CI)        |
| <b>Sex</b>                                                      |                                                 |                |                    |                                                  |                |                    |                                      |                |                    |
| Male                                                            | 11983/75,803                                    | 15.8           | Ref                | 4,124/15631                                      | 26.4           | Ref                | 7859/60,172                          | 13.1           | Ref                |
| Female                                                          | 12414/75,029                                    | 16.5           | 1.04 (1.02 - 1.06) | 4,020/10407                                      | 38.6           | 1.46 (1.41 - 1.51) | 8394/64,622                          | 13.0           | 0.99 (0.96 - 1.02) |
| <b>Ever on a school card during schooling</b>                   |                                                 |                |                    |                                                  |                |                    |                                      |                |                    |
| No                                                              | 7709/81,206                                     | 9.5            | Ref                | 2,060/10538                                      | 19.5           | Ref                | 5649/70,668                          | 8.0            | Ref                |
| Yes                                                             | 16688/69,626                                    | 24.0           | 2.53 (2.47 - 2.59) | 6,084/15500                                      | 39.3           | 2.02 (1.93 - 2.11) | 10604/54,126                         | 19.6           | 2.45 (2.38 - 2.53) |
| <b>Ever qualify &amp; provided disability support in school</b> |                                                 |                |                    |                                                  |                |                    |                                      |                |                    |
| No                                                              | 19815/138,339                                   | 14.3           | Ref                | 6,475/22,570                                     | 28.7           | Ref                | 13,340/115,769                       | 11.5           | Ref                |
| Yes                                                             | 4582/12,493                                     | 36.7           | 2.57 (2.5 - 2.64)  | 1,669/3,468                                      | 48.1           | 1.68 (1.61 - 1.75) | 2,913/9,025                          | 32.3           | 2.81 (2.72 - 2.91) |
| <b>Speaks language other than English at home</b>               |                                                 |                |                    |                                                  |                |                    |                                      |                |                    |
| No                                                              | 21799/13,2190                                   | 16.5           | Ref                | 7,445/24,135                                     | 30.8           | Ref                | 14,354/108,055                       | 13.3           | Ref                |
| Yes                                                             | 2496/18,344                                     | 13.6           | 0.82 (0.79 - 0.85) | 657/1,820                                        | 36.1           | 1.17 (1.1 - 1.25)  | 1,839/16,524                         | 11.1           | 0.83 (0.79 - 0.87) |
| <b>Unpaid child care</b>                                        |                                                 |                |                    |                                                  |                |                    |                                      |                |                    |
| No                                                              | 18166/129283                                    | 14.1           | Ref                | 5,722/19,337                                     | 29.6           | Ref                | 12,444/109,946                       | 11.3           | Ref                |
| Yes                                                             | 6021/20571                                      | 29.3           | 2.08 (2.03 - 2.13) | 2,334/6,478                                      | 36.0           | 1.22 (1.17 - 1.27) | 3,687/14,093                         | 26.2           | 2.32 (2.25 - 2.4)  |

|                                                                | Risk of NEET at ages 18 -30 years (2021 Census) |                |                    |                                                     |                |                    |                                      |                |                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
|                                                                | Overall (N=150,832)                             |                |                    | Early School Leaver: Year 11 or below<br>(n=26,038) |                |                    | School finisher: Year 12 (n=124,794) |                |                    |
|                                                                | n/N                                             | % <sup>a</sup> | RR (95% CI)        | n/N                                                 | % <sup>a</sup> | RR (95% CI)        | n/N                                  | % <sup>a</sup> | RR (95% CI)        |
| <b>Requires assistance with core activities</b>                |                                                 |                |                    |                                                     |                |                    |                                      |                |                    |
| No                                                             | 21,911/145,930                                  | 15.0           | Ref                | 7,210/24,655                                        | 29.2           | Ref                | 14,701/121,275                       | 12.1           | Ref                |
| Yes                                                            | 2,260/3944                                      | 57.3           | 3.82 (3.71 - 3.93) | 839/1,171                                           | 71.6           | 2.45 (2.35 - 2.55) | 1421/2,773                           | 51.2           | 4.23 (4.07 - 4.4)  |
| <b>Long term health condition</b>                              |                                                 |                |                    |                                                     |                |                    |                                      |                |                    |
| No                                                             | 12,948/101,052                                  | 12.8           | Ref                | 4,092/16,091                                        | 25.4           | Ref                | 8,856/84,961                         | 10.4           | Ref                |
| Yes                                                            | 10,612/45,151                                   | 23.5           | 1.84 (1.8 - 1.88)  | 3,748/9,009                                         | 41.6           | 1.64 (1.58 - 1.7)  | 6,864/36,142                         | 19.0           | 1.83 (1.78 - 1.88) |
| <b>Mental health condition</b>                                 |                                                 |                |                    |                                                     |                |                    |                                      |                |                    |
| No                                                             | 16,065/120,154                                  | 13.4           | Ref                | 5,100/19,312                                        | 26.4           | Ref                | 109,65/100,842                       | 10.9           | Ref                |
| Yes                                                            | 7,495/26,049                                    | 28.8           | 2.15 (2.1 - 2.2)   | 2,740/5,788                                         | 47.3           | 1.79 (1.73 - 1.86) | 4,755/20,261                         | 23.5           | 2.16 (2.1 - 2.23)  |
| <b>Provide unpaid assistance to a person with a disability</b> |                                                 |                |                    |                                                     |                |                    |                                      |                |                    |
| No                                                             | 21,145/138,216                                  | 15.3           | Ref                | 6,993/23,411                                        | 29.9           | Ref                | 14,152/114,805                       | 12.3           | Ref                |
| Yes                                                            | 2,941/11,302                                    | 26.0           | 1.70 (1.64 - 1.76) | 1,030/2,315                                         | 44.5           | 1.49 (1.42 - 1.57) | 1,911/8,987                          | 21.3           | 1.73 (1.66 - 1.81) |

<sup>a</sup> = Prevalence of NEET. Ref = Reference category. RR = Relative Risk. CI = Confidence Interval

#### Key Message:

- Among early school leavers, NEET prevalence was particularly high for those:
  - requiring assistance with core activities (71.6%; RR=2.45, 95% CI: 2.35–2.55);
  - who had received disability support at school (48.1%; RR=1.68, 95% CI: 1.61–1.75);
  - reporting a mental health condition (47.3%; RR=1.79, 95% CI: 1.73–1.86);
  - reporting a long-term health condition (41.6%; RR=1.64, 95% CI: 1.58–1.70); or
  - a history of school card receipt (39.3%; RR=2.02, 95% CI: 1.93–2.11).
- Similar patterns were observed among school finishers, where NEET at 18-30 years prevalence was substantially higher among those:
  - requiring assistance with core activities (51.2%; RR=4.23, 95% CI: 4.07–4.40);
  - who had received disability support at school (32.3%; RR=2.81, 95% CI: 2.72–2.91);
  - reporting a mental health condition (23.5%; RR=2.16, 95% CI: 2.10–2.23);
  - reporting a long-term health condition (19.0%; RR=1.83, 95% CI: 1.78–1.88); or
  - a history of school card receipt (19.6%; RR=2.45, 95% CI: 2.38–2.53).

## Other Insights

### Realising the potential of linking SA state and Commonwealth data

In addition to the governance milestones outlined earlier, there are several complex, and time-consuming processes involved in creating and maintaining the BEBOLD and BEBOLD-PLIDA assets and operationalising data for analysis.

#### Custodian supply of data to BetterStart

This requires effort from custodians to extract data from systems not designed for data to be easily extracted. This process involves merging linkage keys supplied by SA NT DataLink onto analytical data by agency staff with specific capabilities who are often capacity limited.

#### Data curation by BetterStart

To minimise burden on custodians, BetterStart receive data extracted directly from custodian systems and do not request that custodians curate data in any way. To make this data “analysis ready”, datasets need to be converted into an appropriate format, strings converted to numerical/categorical variables and erroneous values/missingness adjusted for. This is time and effort intensive and sometimes requires data re-supply from custodians.

#### Preparing data for PLIDA linkage

Further curation of data by BetterStart is required before ABS can integrate it with PLIDA, including codifying free text fields, collapsing categories with small counts and compiling comprehensive data dictionaries with precise variable names and value labels.

#### Data receipt, linkage and assembly by ABS

The ABS data integration process incorporates multiple safeguards throughout data receipt, linkage, assembly and researcher access. This includes secure handling arrangements, de-identification and application of the [Five Safes Framework](#), to protect confidentiality and minimise the risk of identifying individuals.

#### Navigating data in ABS DataLab

Linked PLIDA and BEBOLD data is extensive, containing thousands of variables over hundreds of tables. Using such data intelligently requires two steps. First, Understanding the scope and breadth of each dataset takes time and proficiency with such data only comes with extensive experience of understanding what each data element means in practice – i.e., the construct it is intended to represent. This requires subject matter expertise. Second, intelligent use of an asset like BEBOLD-PLIDA then comes from using it analytically. Bringing these tables together in the ABS DataLab also requires a degree of technical expertise as it involves multiple merges across datasets using various dataset concordances.

#### Output clearance from DataLab

Outputs must be cleared by the ABS DataLab Clearance team prior to being released from ABS DataLab for dissemination. To protect confidentiality, researchers are required to comply with DataLab Safe Researcher guidelines, which may require some compromises in analysis outputs. The

ABS then vets outputs to ensure confidentiality requirements are met and that outputs align with the approved research questions.

### **Output consideration by BEBOLD and PLIDA custodians**

Supply of data to BEBOLD comes with provisions for custodian review of outputs using their data. The period for review for custodians can take up to 2 weeks for PLIDA and 4 weeks for BEBOLD.

## **With multiple data sources containing similar information, comes multiple analytical choices**

Similar concepts of interest captured across different datasets can be defined in different ways. The definitional and analytical choices made must be transparent.

### **Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)**

The concept of NEET was defined using self-reported 2021 Census data, as described above. The choice of Census data and variables was based on [previous work published](#) and provided a convenient reference point on which to validate outputs of this research.

There are multiple different indicators of a person's engagement in employment, education and training across the PLIDA platform, such as:

- Centrelink DOMINO data to capture NEET populations; and
- Personal Income Tax (PIT), Vocational Education and Training (VET), Higher Education Information Management System (HEIMS) to capture not-NEET populations.

The availability of data presents several possibilities for defining NEET and not-NEET populations, each of which may have different assumptions and potential utility.

By combining SA and Commonwealth data, BEBOLD-PLIDA and the Life Course Dataset provide an opportunity to test how different data sources capture information and generate useful intelligence on the benefits and drawbacks on individual information sources and how these can best be used to support research of interest.

## Future Work

The analysis presented in this article is an initial demonstration of the utility of linked jurisdictional and Commonwealth data brought together in the Life Course Dataset. Research partners will extend this analysis by:

- Broadening the definition of NEET to include people who are marginally attached to employment or education.
- Calculating NEET using other PLIDA datasets such as those from Australian Taxation Office (ATO) and Department for Social Services (DSS) which will facilitate examination of NEET outcomes over time and outside of Census years.
- Expand on the range of outcomes analysed for School Leavers and School Finishers related to later life experience in education, employment, training and welfare.

More broadly, the Life Course Dataset will be used to explore other research questions outlined in the SA-led LCDI pilot project proposal, such as:

- What are the post-school education, employment, training and welfare outcomes of children who start school developmentally vulnerable and/or experience low self-reported wellbeing?
- What are later life education, employment, training and welfare outcomes following multiple school changes?

# Appendix 1

## Definitions

**Table 7: Definitions of indicators used in the analysis**

| Indicator                                                                             | Description                                                              | Values                                                                                        | How defined                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Date Source                                                                                                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Early school leaver from BEBOLD – Education Data School Enrolment Census (SEC)</b> |                                                                          | No-School Finisher: Year 12                                                                   | BEBOLD SEC YearLevel=12                                                                                                                                                                                                           | BEBOLD – Education data, school enrolment census (SEC) table                                                                                                          |
|                                                                                       |                                                                          | Yes – Early School Leaver: Year 11 or below                                                   | BEBOLD SEC YearLevel=12                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                       |
|                                                                                       |                                                                          | Unknown year level when left school                                                           | BEBOLD SEC YearLevel=Unknown                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                       |
|                                                                                       |                                                                          | Unknown year level completed – left SA Government to continue schooling at elsewhere          | BEBOLD SEC Reason left Govt school was for schooling elsewhere                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Early school leaver - BEBOLD and 2021 Census</b>                                   |                                                                          | Unknown year level completed – left school and reason leaving school not provided             | BEBOLD SEC Reason left Govt school was unknown                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                       |
|                                                                                       |                                                                          |                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Early school leaver - BEBOLD and 2021 Census</b>                                   |                                                                          | No: School finisher: Year 12                                                                  | BEBOLD SEC YearLevel=12 or if BEBOLD SEC=Unknown then HSCP=1                                                                                                                                                                      | BEBOLD – Education data, school enrolment census (SEC) table and census_2021_person. HSCP Highest Year of School Completed for that missing information on BEBOLD SEC |
|                                                                                       |                                                                          | Yes: Early School Leaver: Year 11 or below                                                    | BEBOLD SEC YearLevel=11 or below. or if BEBOLD SEC=Unknown then HSCP<=2 year 11 or below                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET)</b>                               | Not in education, employment, or training at the time of the 2021 census | No - either employment, education or training                                                 | LFSP = 1,2,3,(Employed) or STUP = 2,3,4 Student                                                                                                                                                                                   | census_2021_person – LFSP: Labour Force Status and STUP: Full-Time/Part-Time Student Status                                                                           |
|                                                                                       |                                                                          | Yes – NEET: not in employment, education or training<br>Unknown/not stated / overseas visitor | LFSP = 4,5,6 (Unemployed or Not in the labour force) & STUP==1<br>LFSP==7 & STUP==5 OR<br>LFSP==9 & STUP==6 OR<br>(LFSP==4   LFSP==5   LFSP==6) & STUP==5 OR<br>LFSP==8 & STUP==5 OR<br>STUP==1 & LFSP==8 OR<br>STUP==1 & LFSP==7 |                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Highest Year of School Completed</b>                                               | Highest Year of School Completed                                         | Year 9 or below                                                                               | BEBOLD SEC YearLevel=9 or below. or if BEBOLD SEC=Unknown then HSCP<=4                                                                                                                                                            | census_2021_person. HSCP Highest Year of School Completed                                                                                                             |
|                                                                                       |                                                                          | Year 10                                                                                       | BEBOLD SEC YearLevel=10 or if BEBOLD SEC=Unknown then HSCP=3                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                       |
|                                                                                       |                                                                          | Year 11                                                                                       | BEBOLD SEC YearLevel=11 or if BEBOLD SEC=Unknown then HSCP=2                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                       |
|                                                                                       |                                                                          | Year 12                                                                                       | BEBOLD SEC YearLevel=12. or if BEBOLD SEC=Unknown then HSCP=1                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                       |

| Indicator                                                       | Description                                                                                                                                        | Values                                                                           | How defined                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Date Source                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Age at census 2021</b>                                       | Age at 2021 Census                                                                                                                                 | 18                                                                               | BEBOLD SEC Age 18 years at Census 2021                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | BEBOLD – Education data, school enrolment census (SEC) table date                                                                                            |
|                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                    | 19                                                                               | BEBOLD SEC Age 19 years at Census 2021                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                    | 20                                                                               | BEBOLD SEC Age 20 years at Census 2021                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                    | 21                                                                               | BEBOLD SEC Age 21 years at Census 2021                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                    | 22                                                                               | BEBOLD SEC Age 22 years at Census 2021                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                    | 23                                                                               | BEBOLD SEC Age 23 years at Census 2021                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                    | 24                                                                               | BEBOLD SEC Age 24 years at Census 2021                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                    | 25                                                                               | BEBOLD SEC Age 25 years at Census 2021                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                    | 26                                                                               | BEBOLD SEC Age 26 years at Census 2021                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                    | 27                                                                               | BEBOLD SEC Age 27 years at Census 2021                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                    | 28                                                                               | BEBOLD SEC Age 28 years at Census 2021                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                    | 29                                                                               | BEBOLD SEC Age 29 years at Census 2021                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                    | 30                                                                               | BEBOLD SEC Age 30 years at Census 2021                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Sex</b>                                                      | Sex                                                                                                                                                | Male<br>Female                                                                   | SEXP=1 Male<br>SEXP=2 Female                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | census_2021_person.<br>SEXP – Sex                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Ever on a school card during schooling</b>                   | Provides financial support for Low-income families to help with school fees and materials. It is through the school card scheme.                   | No<br>Yes                                                                        | Schoolcard=0 No<br>Schoolcard=1 Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | BEBOLD – Education data, school enrolment census table                                                                                                       |
| <b>Ever qualified and provided disability support in school</b> | Every during time in a South Australian Government School the student had official paperwork stating they qualify for disability support in school | No<br>Yes                                                                        | Disability=0 No<br>Disability=1 Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | BEBOLD – Education data, school enrolment census table                                                                                                       |
| <b>Language other than English spoken at home</b>               | Proficiency in Spoken English spoken at home, Language other than English spoken at home taken from                                                | English only<br><br>Speaks language other than English<br><br>Not stated/unknown | ENGLP=1 Speaks English only<br>ENGLP=2,3,4,5 Uses other language and speaks English: Very well to Not at all<br>ENGLP=6. & Not stated - both language (LANP) and proficiency in spoken English not stated or Not stated - language (LANP) stated, proficiency in spoken English not stated | census_2021_person - ENGLP=Proficiency in Spoken English. Census of Population and Housing 2021: Person level variables, 2021, madipge-cen21-d-person-2021 – |

| Indicator                                                                              | Description                                                                                                                                                                              | Values             | How defined                                                                                               | Date Source                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Unpaid child care: Provided unpaid child care to own child or own child + other</b> | Provides unpaid child care to own child or own child + other child                                                                                                                       | No                 | CHCAREP=1 Did not provide child care or                                                                   | census_2021_person – CHCAREP: Unpaid Child Care                                                                  |
|                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                          | Yes                | CHCAREP==3 Cared for other child/children                                                                 |                                                                                                                  |
|                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                          | Not stated/unknown | CHCAREP=2 Cared for own child/children   CHCAREP==4 Cared for own child/children and other child/children |                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Requires assistance with core activities</b>                                        | Core Activity Need for Assistance. T individuals who require help or supervision with self-care, mobility, or communication due to a long-term health condition, disability, or old age. | No                 | CHCAREP=& Not stated                                                                                      | census_2021_person . ASSNP Core Activity Need for Assistance:                                                    |
|                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                          | Yes                | ASSNP=2 Does not have need for assistance with core activities                                            |                                                                                                                  |
|                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                          | Not stated/unknown | ASSNP=1 Has need for assistance with core activities                                                      |                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Long term health condition</b>                                                      | Whether has One or more Long-term Health Condition(s)                                                                                                                                    | No                 | ASSNP=& Not stated                                                                                        | census_2021_person . HLTHP:Whether has One or more Long-term Health Condition(s)                                 |
|                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                          | Yes                | HLTHP=121 Does not have a long-term health condition                                                      |                                                                                                                  |
|                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                          | Not stated/unknown | HLTHP=122 Has one or more long-term health condition(s)                                                   |                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Mental health condition:</b>                                                        | Whether has Mental Health Condition (including Depression or Anxiety)                                                                                                                    | No                 | HLTHP=&&& Not stated                                                                                      | census_2021_person. HMMHCP Whether has Mental Health Condition (including Depression or Anxiety)                 |
|                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                          | Yes                | HMMHCP=92 Does not have a mental health condition                                                         |                                                                                                                  |
|                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                          | Not stated/unknown | HMMHCP=91 Has a mental health condition (including depression or anxiety)                                 |                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Provide unpaid assistance to a person with a disability</b>                         | Unpaid care for a person with a disability. Unpaid Assistance to a Person with a Disability, Health Condition, or due to Old Age                                                         | No                 | HMMHCP=&&& Not stated                                                                                     | census_2021_person. UNCAREP Unpaid Assistance to a Person with a Disability, Health Condition, or due to Old Age |
|                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                          | Yes                | UNCAREP=1 No unpaid assistance provided                                                                   |                                                                                                                  |
|                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                          | Not stated/unknown | UNCAREP=2 Provided unpaid assistance                                                                      |                                                                                                                  |
|                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                          |                    | UNCAREP=& Not stated                                                                                      |                                                                                                                  |

## Appendix 2

### Analysis tables

#### Characteristics of early school leavers

**Table 8: Number and proportion of characteristics of early school leavers compared to school finishers**

|                                                                                        | Early school leaver |              |               |              | Total          |              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
|                                                                                        | No<br>n             | Col %        | Yes<br>n      | Col %        | n              | Col %        |
| <b>Age at census 2021</b>                                                              |                     |              |               |              |                |              |
| 18                                                                                     | 8,593               | 6.9          | 1,722         | 6.6          | 10,315         | 6.8          |
| 19                                                                                     | 9,117               | 7.3          | 1,583         | 6.1          | 10,700         | 7.1          |
| 20                                                                                     | 9,734               | 7.8          | 1,589         | 6.1          | 11,323         | 7.5          |
| 21                                                                                     | 10,143              | 8.1          | 1,618         | 6.2          | 11,761         | 7.8          |
| 22                                                                                     | 10,449              | 8.4          | 1,497         | 5.7          | 11,946         | 7.9          |
| 23                                                                                     | 10,501              | 8.4          | 1,509         | 5.8          | 12,010         | 8.0          |
| 24                                                                                     | 10,414              | 8.3          | 1,658         | 6.4          | 12,072         | 8.0          |
| 25                                                                                     | 10,266              | 8.2          | 1,968         | 7.6          | 12,234         | 8.1          |
| 26                                                                                     | 10,340              | 8.3          | 2,327         | 8.9          | 12,667         | 8.4          |
| 27                                                                                     | 9,730               | 7.8          | 2,659         | 10.2         | 12,389         | 8.2          |
| 28                                                                                     | 9,917               | 7.9          | 2,776         | 10.7         | 12,693         | 8.4          |
| 29                                                                                     | 9,590               | 7.7          | 3,055         | 11.7         | 12,645         | 8.4          |
| 30                                                                                     | 6,000               | 4.8          | 2,077         | 8.0          | 8,077          | 5.4          |
| <b>Sex</b>                                                                             |                     |              |               |              |                |              |
| Male                                                                                   | 60,172              | 48.2         | 15,631        | 60.0         | 75,803         | 50.3         |
| Female                                                                                 | 64,622              | 51.8         | 10,407        | 40.0         | 75,029         | 49.7         |
| <b>Ever on a school card during schooling</b>                                          |                     |              |               |              |                |              |
| No                                                                                     | 70,668              | 56.6         | 10,538        | 40.5         | 81,206         | 53.8         |
| Yes                                                                                    | 54,126              | 43.4         | 15,500        | 59.5         | 69,626         | 46.2         |
| <b>Ever qualify and provided disability support in school</b>                          |                     |              |               |              |                |              |
| No                                                                                     | 115,769             | 92.8         | 22,570        | 86.7         | 138,339        | 91.7         |
| Yes                                                                                    | 9,025               | 7.2          | 3,468         | 13.3         | 12,493         | 8.3          |
| <b>Language other than English spoken at home</b>                                      |                     |              |               |              |                |              |
| English only                                                                           | 108,055             | 86.6         | 24,135        | 92.7         | 132,190        | 87.6         |
| Speaks language other than English                                                     | 16,524              | 13.2         | 1,820         | 7.0          | 18,344         | 12.2         |
| Not stated/unknown                                                                     | 215                 | 0.2          | 83            | 0.3          | 298            | 0.2          |
| <b>Unpaid child care: Provided unpaid child care to own child or own child + other</b> |                     |              |               |              |                |              |
| No                                                                                     | 109,946             | 88.1         | 19,337        | 74.3         | 129,283        | 85.7         |
| Yes                                                                                    | 14,093              | 11.3         | 6,478         | 24.9         | 20,571         | 13.6         |
| Not stated/unknown                                                                     | 755                 | 0.6          | 223           | 0.9          | 978            | 0.6          |
| <b>Requires assistance with core activities</b>                                        |                     |              |               |              |                |              |
| No                                                                                     | 121,275             | 97.2         | 24,655        | 94.7         | 145,930        | 96.8         |
| Yes                                                                                    | 2,773               | 2.2          | 1,171         | 4.5          | 3,944          | 2.6          |
| Not stated/unknown                                                                     | 746                 | 0.6          | 212           | 0.8          | 958            | 0.6          |
| <b>Long term health condition</b>                                                      |                     |              |               |              |                |              |
| No                                                                                     | 84,961              | 68.1         | 16,091        | 61.8         | 101,052        | 67.0         |
| Yes                                                                                    | 36,142              | 29.0         | 9,009         | 34.6         | 45,151         | 29.9         |
| Not stated/unknown                                                                     | 3,691               | 3.0          | 938           | 3.6          | 4,629          | 3.1          |
| <b>Mental health condition</b>                                                         |                     |              |               |              |                |              |
| No                                                                                     | 100,842             | 80.8         | 19,312        | 74.2         | 120,154        | 79.7         |
| Yes                                                                                    | 20,261              | 16.2         | 5,788         | 22.2         | 26,049         | 17.3         |
| Not stated/unknown                                                                     | 3,691               | 3.0          | 938           | 3.6          | 4,629          | 3.1          |
| <b>Provide unpaid assistance to a person with a disability</b>                         |                     |              |               |              |                |              |
| No                                                                                     | 114,805             | 92.0         | 23,411        | 89.9         | 138,216        | 91.6         |
| Yes                                                                                    | 8,987               | 7.2          | 2,315         | 8.9          | 11,302         | 7.5          |
| Not stated/unknown                                                                     | 1,002               | 0.8          | 312           | 1.2          | 1,314          | 0.9          |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                           | <b>124,794</b>      | <b>100.0</b> | <b>26,038</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>150,832</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

## Characteristics of Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET)

**Table 9: Number and proportion of characteristics of NEET at 2021 Census aged 18 to 30 years**

|                                                                                        | NEET 2021 Census aged 18-30 years |              |              |              | Total         |              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
|                                                                                        | No                                |              | Yes          |              |               |              |
|                                                                                        | n                                 | Col %        | n            | Col %        | n             | Col %        |
| <b>Age at census 2021</b>                                                              |                                   |              |              |              |               |              |
| 18                                                                                     | 8960                              | 7.1          | 1355         | 5.6          | 10,315        | 6.8          |
| 19                                                                                     | 8885                              | 7.0          | 1815         | 7.4          | 10,700        | 7.1          |
| 20                                                                                     | 9481                              | 7.5          | 1842         | 7.6          | 11,323        | 7.5          |
| 21                                                                                     | 9854                              | 7.8          | 1907         | 7.8          | 11,761        | 7.8          |
| 22                                                                                     | 10000                             | 7.9          | 1946         | 8.0          | 11,946        | 7.9          |
| 23                                                                                     | 10052                             | 8.0          | 1958         | 8.0          | 12,010        | 8.0          |
| 24                                                                                     | 10113                             | 8.0          | 1959         | 8.0          | 12,072        | 8.0          |
| 25                                                                                     | 10178                             | 8.0          | 2056         | 8.4          | 12,234        | 8.1          |
| 26                                                                                     | 10582                             | 8.4          | 2085         | 8.5          | 12,667        | 8.4          |
| 27                                                                                     | 10399                             | 8.2          | 1990         | 8.2          | 12,389        | 8.2          |
| 28                                                                                     | 10632                             | 8.4          | 2061         | 8.4          | 12,693        | 8.4          |
| 29                                                                                     | 10544                             | 8.3          | 2101         | 8.6          | 12,645        | 8.4          |
| 30                                                                                     | 6755                              | 5.3          | 1322         | 5.4          | 8,077         | 5.4          |
| <b>Sex</b>                                                                             |                                   |              |              |              |               |              |
| Male                                                                                   | 63820                             | 50.5         | 11983        | 49.1         | 75,803        | 50.3         |
| Female                                                                                 | 62615                             | 49.5         | 12414        | 50.9         | 75,029        | 49.7         |
| <b>Ever on a school card during schooling</b>                                          |                                   |              |              |              |               |              |
| No                                                                                     | 73497                             | 58.1         | 7709         | 31.6         | 81,206        | 53.8         |
| Yes                                                                                    | 52938                             | 41.9         | 16688        | 68.4         | 69,626        | 46.2         |
| <b>Ever qualify and provided disability support in school</b>                          |                                   |              |              |              |               |              |
| No                                                                                     | 118524                            | 93.7         | 19815        | 81.2         | 138,339       | 91.7         |
| Yes                                                                                    | 7911                              | 6.3          | 4582         | 18.8         | 12,493        | 8.3          |
| <b>Language other than English spoken at home</b>                                      |                                   |              |              |              |               |              |
| English only                                                                           | 110391                            | 87.3         | 21799        | 89.4         | 132,190       | 87.6         |
| Speaks language other than English                                                     | 15848                             | 12.5         | 2496         | 10.2         | 18,344        | 12.2         |
| Not stated/unknown                                                                     | 196                               | 0.2          | 102          | 0.4          | 298           | 0.2          |
| <b>Unpaid child care: Provided unpaid child care to own child or own child + other</b> |                                   |              |              |              |               |              |
| No                                                                                     | 111117                            | 87.9         | 18166        | 74.5         | 129,283       | 85.7         |
| Yes                                                                                    | 14550                             | 11.5         | 6021         | 24.7         | 20,571        | 13.6         |
| Not stated/unknown                                                                     | 768                               | 0.6          | 210          | 0.9          | 978           | 0.6          |
| <b>Requires assistance with core activities</b>                                        |                                   |              |              |              |               |              |
| No                                                                                     | 124019                            | 98.1         | 21911        | 89.8         | 145,930       | 96.8         |
| Yes                                                                                    | 1684                              | 1.3          | 2260         | 9.3          | 3,944         | 2.6          |
| Not stated/unknown                                                                     | 732                               | 0.6          | 226          | 0.9          | 958           | 0.6          |
| <b>Long term health condition</b>                                                      |                                   |              |              |              |               |              |
| No                                                                                     | 88104                             | 69.7         | 12948        | 53.1         | 101,052       | 67.0         |
| Yes                                                                                    | 34539                             | 27.3         | 10612        | 43.5         | 45,151        | 29.9         |
| Not stated/unknown                                                                     | 3792                              | 3.0          | 837          | 3.4          | 4,629         | 3.1          |
| <b>Mental health condition</b>                                                         |                                   |              |              |              |               |              |
| No                                                                                     | 104089                            | 82.3         | 16065        | 65.8         | 120154        | 79.7         |
| Yes                                                                                    | 18554                             | 14.7         | 7495         | 30.7         | 26049         | 17.3         |
| Not stated/unknown                                                                     | 3792                              | 3.0          | 837          | 3.4          | 4629          | 3.1          |
| <b>Provide unpaid assistance to a person with a disability</b>                         |                                   |              |              |              |               |              |
| No                                                                                     | 117071                            | 92.6         | 21145        | 86.7         | 138216        | 91.6         |
| Yes                                                                                    | 8361                              | 6.6          | 2941         | 12.1         | 11302         | 7.5          |
| Not stated/unknown                                                                     | 1003                              | 0.8          | 311          | 1.3          | 1314          | 0.9          |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                           | <b>126435</b>                     | <b>100.0</b> | <b>24397</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>150832</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

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## Disclaimer

The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of our government and non-government partners.