

Statistical Report

Waterloo Region - 2019/20



**Project READ Literacy
Network
October 2020**

Program Statistical Information

2019/20

The Waterloo Region statistical report is a summation and analysis of all statistics from 6 funded literacy sites:

Community Based:

- The Literacy Group - Cambridge
- The Literacy Group - Waterloo

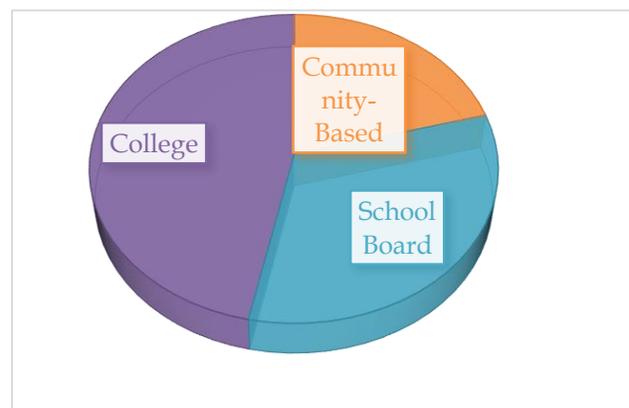
School Board:

- Essential Skills Upgrading (WRDSB)
- St. Louis Core Essentials (WRCDSB)

College:

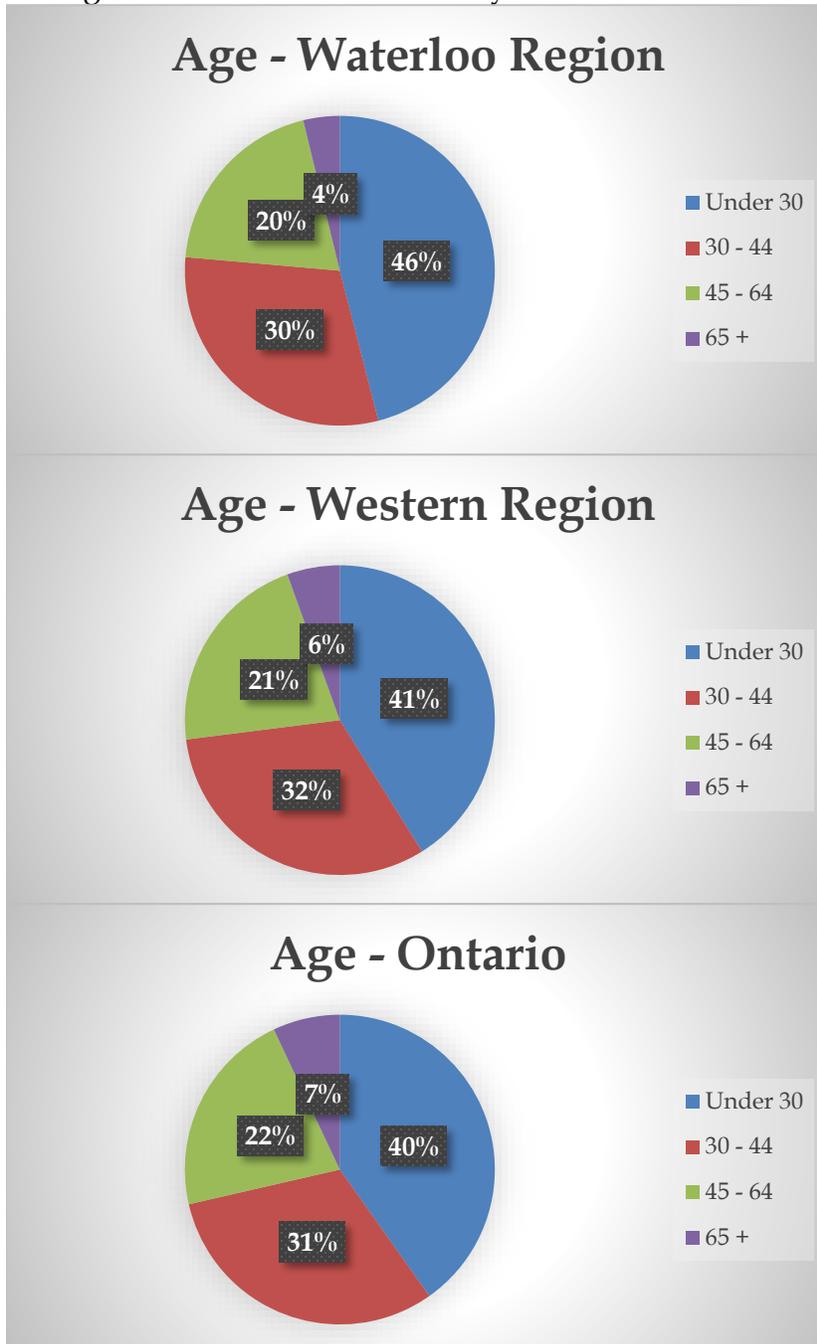
- Conestoga College - Cambridge
- Conestoga College - Waterloo

Number of Learners



The majority of learners were female at 61.5% which is comparable to the Western Region and provincial makeup.

The age of learner is where we vary:

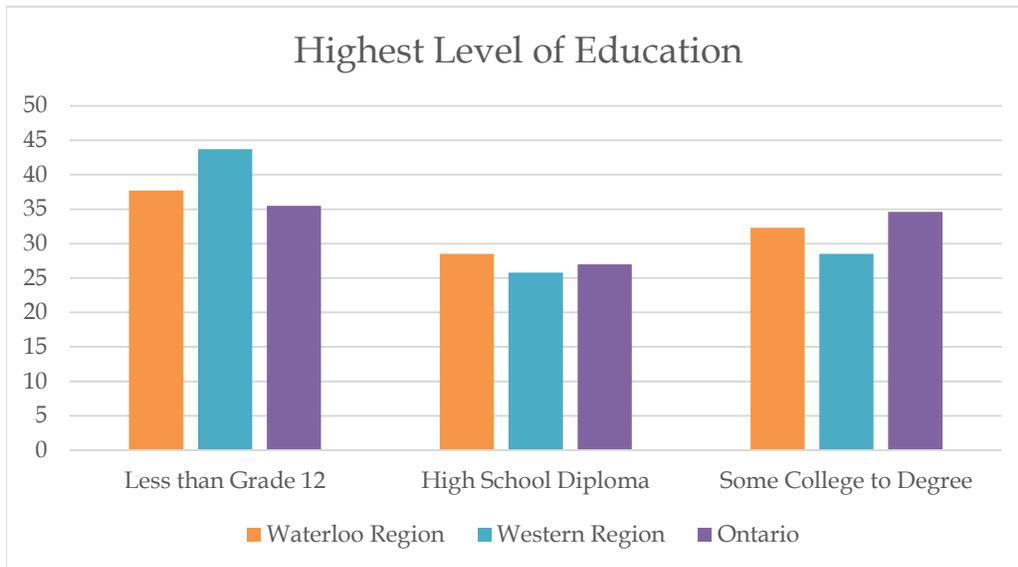


The majority of learners (46%) were under the age of 30. This is a trend that has continued for a while and is not surprising when we look at the Grade 10 literacy test results for Waterloo Region from EQAO over the past few years. This does lead us to recognize that more research on working with Millennials and Gen-Z will be necessary for LBS programs with the majority of practitioners not being in this age group.

Service Quality Core Measures of Learner Suitability are important for LBS programs to reach. These Core Measures include:

Education:

- Less than Grade 12

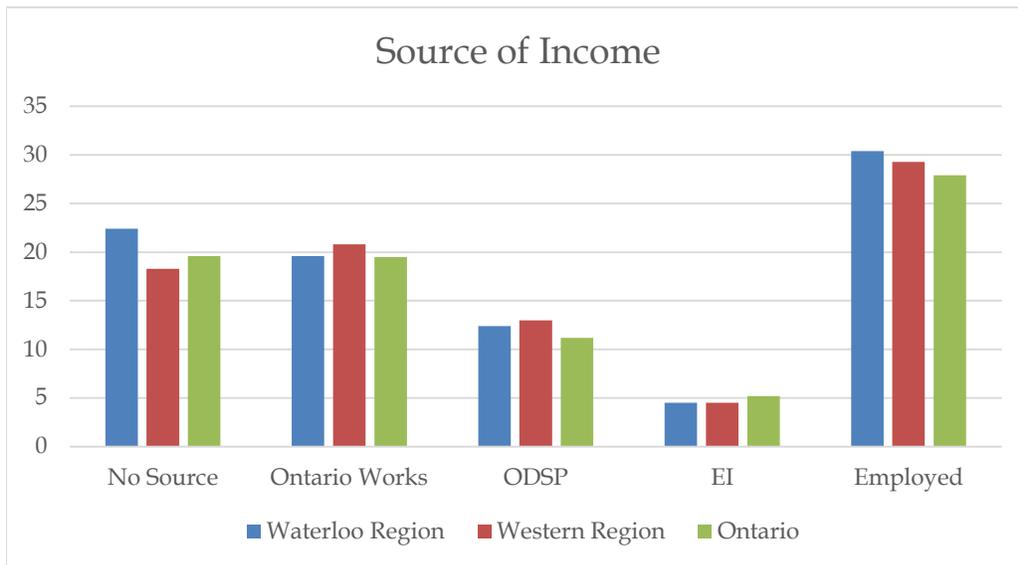


Waterloo Region has a higher percentage of high school graduates in their LBS programs. There are a number of potential reasons why but some plausible causes are:

- EQAO Grade 10 literacy results (in 2019 – 21% of students didn't meet the literacy standard)
- Students needing to increase their math skills for employment or further education and training
- Youth/adults out of education for more than a year needing to brush up on skills they lost (or potentially never took in high school) and need for their goal path
- Individuals who received their education from other countries and the high school level is not equivalent

Source of Income:

- OW/ODSP recipient
- No source of income
- Crown ward



It is important to note that the number of learners on OW has dropped this year along with referrals in from OW. The Waterloo Region social services are transitioning into a “teams” format. When there are changes at the Region, it takes time for referrals to occur again. Normally the referrals would have picked up in the late Spring from this kind of change, but COVID created a new referral stoppage. Project READ started doing assessments virtually and in Fall 2020, they have begun face to face assessments at their offices.

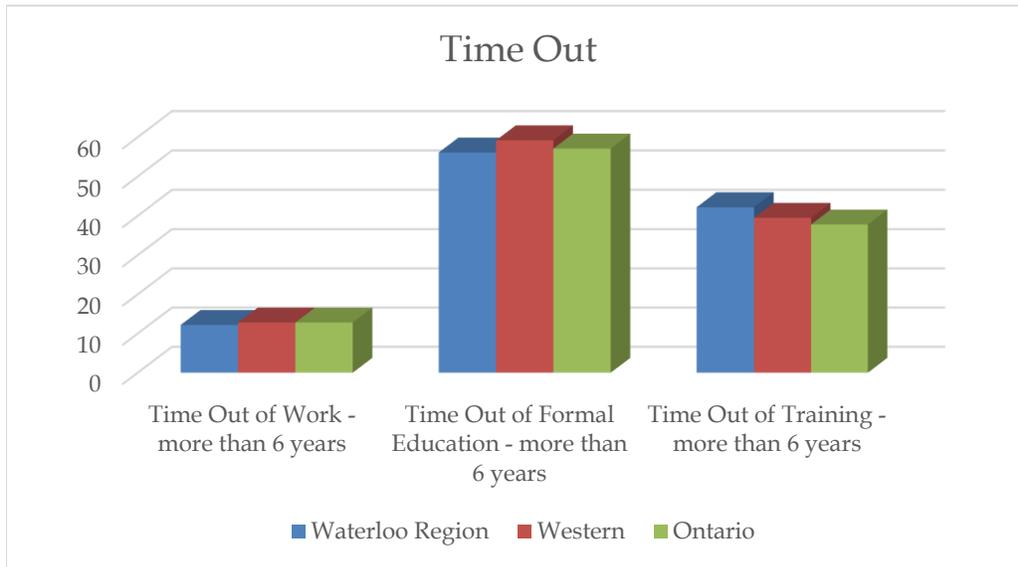
It’s interesting that Waterloo Region has more individuals receiving their income from employment in their LBS programs than the Western Region and province. However, the Region has less full time employed learners than the rest of the province, but more part time employed learners. It does lead to the potential that there are more impoverished learners in Waterloo Region.

Time Out of Formal Education:

- More than 6 years out of education

Time Out of Training

- More than 6 years without training

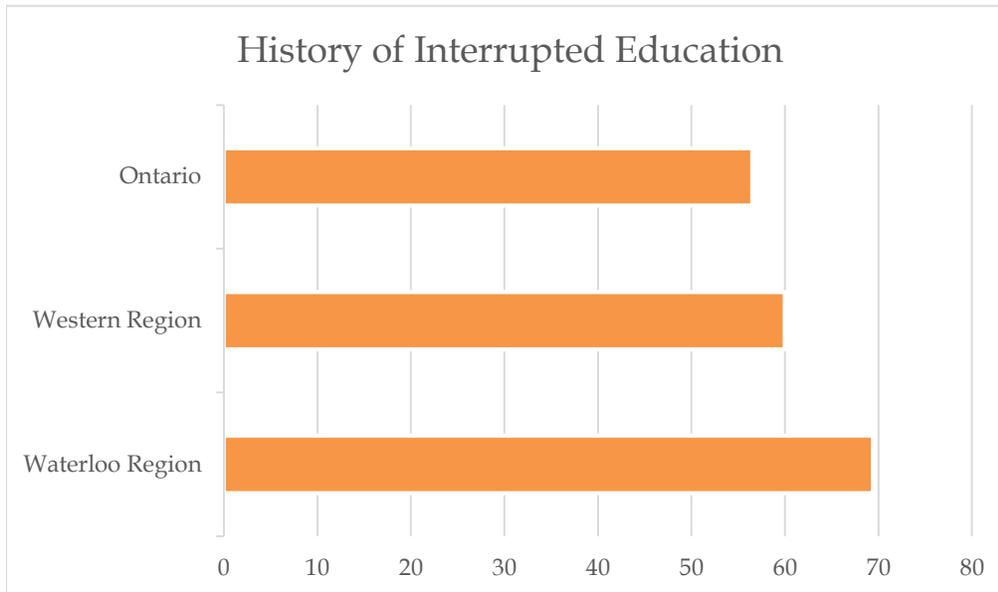


Age:

- Age over 45 and under 64 (see statistics on page 3)
Waterloo Region's numbers used to be much lower than the provincial percentage, but now it's only 1.4% lower in this category. This shows a 0.4% increase in this age group from last year for Waterloo Region, so the overall number in the province is on a decline in this category.

Interrupted education:

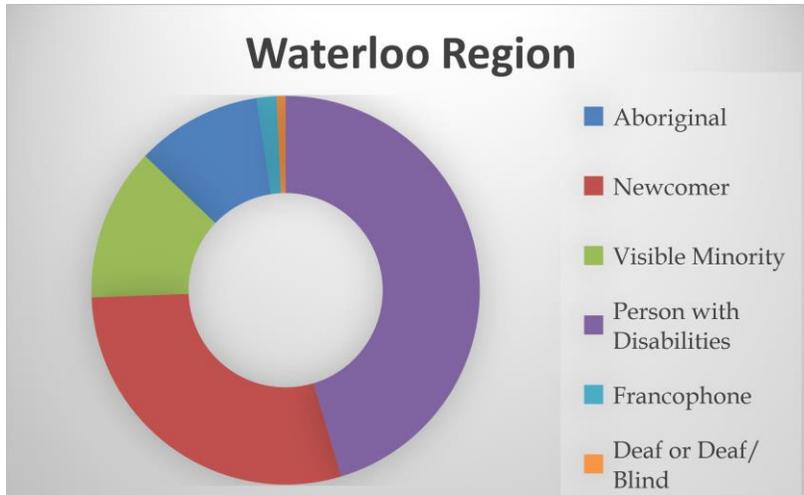
- History of interrupted education
-Learners identify if they have a history of interrupted primary and secondary education.



As can be seen Waterloo Region has a significantly higher number of learners that identify as having interrupted elementary or high school educations. This Region is over 9% higher than the West and 13% higher than the province. This can have an impact on training as adult learners need to overcome negative attitudes towards education.

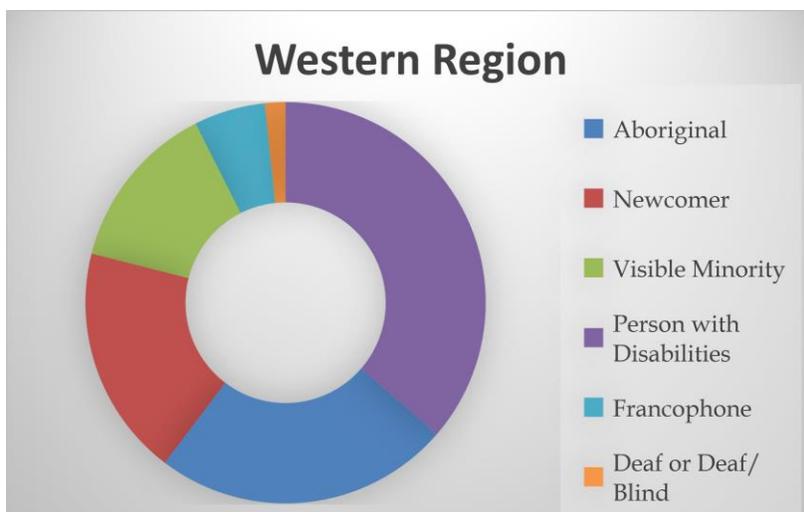
Self-Identified:

- Disabled
- Aboriginal
- Deaf
- Francophone

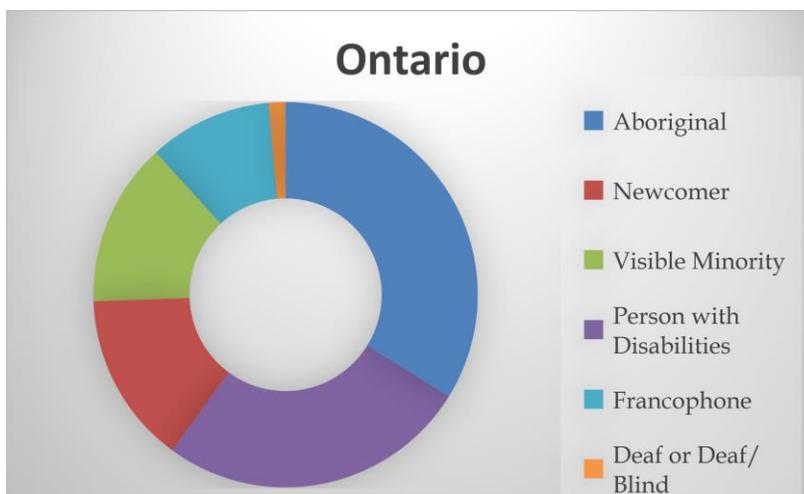


Learners in Waterloo Region identify more with having a disability than in the West and province (almost 6% more than the province).

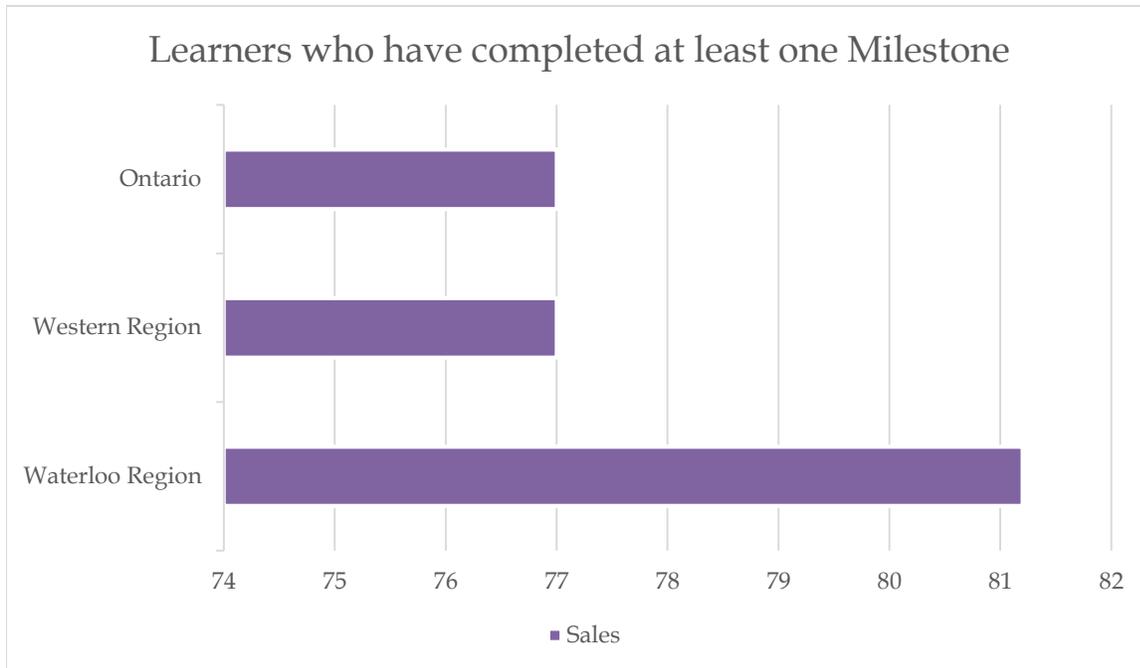
There are also a higher number of learners that identify as being a Newcomer. CIC News identified Waterloo Region as one of the top 5 cities in Ontario in attracting new immigrants.



There are also more indigenous learners in the rest of the province. This is not surprising as there are no reservations located within Waterloo Region. There is also no Indigenous LBS program available.



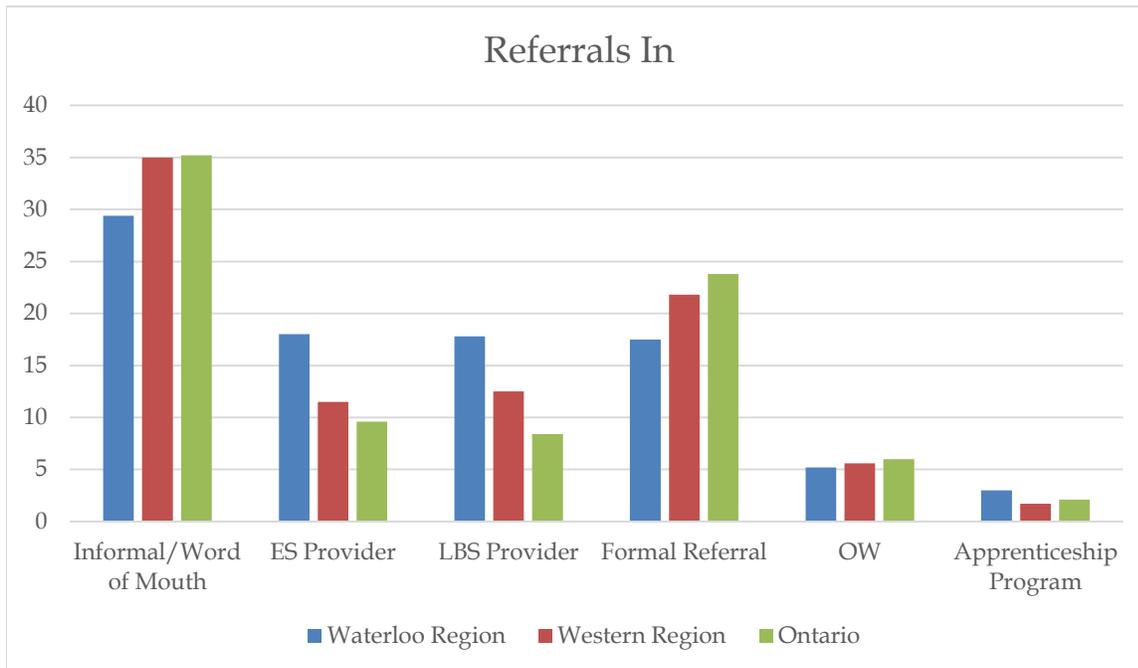
Service Quality Measures also include completions and progress. There are 3 levels that are reviewed, but only one that is statistically available and that's completion of at least one Milestone.



Waterloo Region LBS providers have done a great job in ensuring that learners are showing growth in their programs by completing milestones.

Service Coordination is also an important measure within the Service Quality Core Measures. This includes:

- Referred in
-the following are the Top 6 referral points in for Waterloo Region:



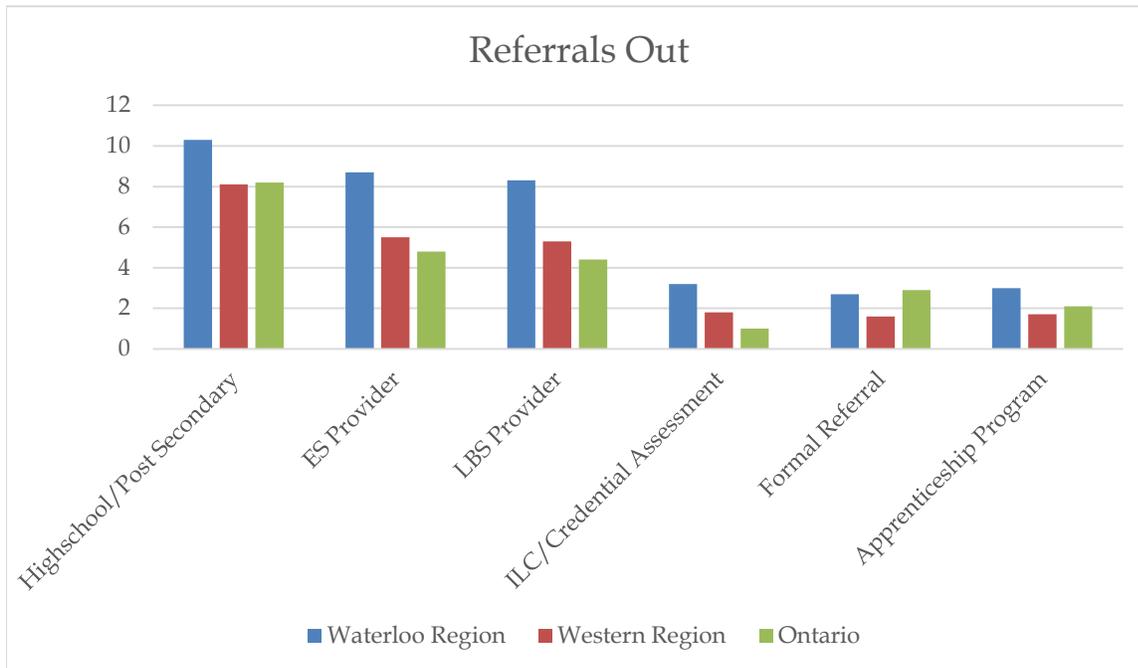
Referrals In that count towards Service Quality Standard (SQS):

Waterloo =51.9%
Western =51.9%
Ontario =55.9%

It is important to note that Informal/Word of Mouth and LBS Provider don't count towards SQS. These numbers may not count, but it is positive that Waterloo Region has greater referrals in from fellow LBS programs. This does show that referral protocols and relationships are strong amongst providers within the Region.

Referrals In are less than the provincial totals, but they do match the Western Region percentage. The positive take away is that like Referrals Out, Waterloo Regions referrals in from Employment Services is higher than both the West and the province.

- Referred out
-the following are the top 6 referral points out for Waterloo Region



Referrals Out that count towards SQS:

Waterloo = 34%

Western = 24.5%

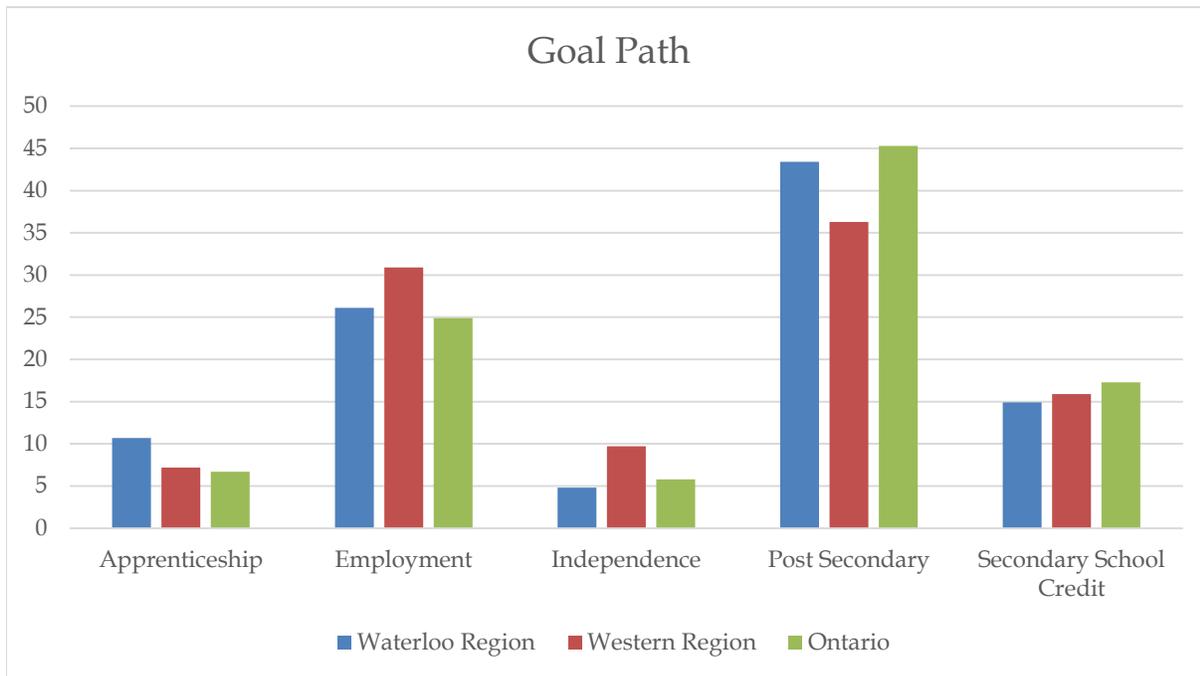
Ontario = 23.9%

LBS providers in Waterloo Region have been working hard to develop strong relationships with outside agencies to help learners along their goal paths. This can be seen from Waterloo having 10% more referrals out that count towards SQS than both the Western Region and the province.

It is important to note how high the Employment Service Provider percent is comparatively. LBS agencies have been actively engaged in meeting with Employment Services to discuss how we can better refer learners/clients between our programs and the work is obviously paying off.

Goal Paths

All learners in LBS programs have the option of 5 goal paths.



The most common goal path in LBS throughout the province, the western region and Waterloo Region is Post Secondary education. When you look at the fact that the majority of our learners are under the age of 30, this is a very reasonable goal path. Employment is the second most common goal path. The need to get a job is really the end goal for both Post Secondary education and getting a High School Diploma, but some individuals really just want to attain the skills necessary to get and keep a decent wage job.

Where Waterloo Region differs from the Western Region and province is in the other two goal paths. Regionally we have more learners with an Apprenticeship goal than for the Independence path and this is opposite for the rest of the province. It is obvious within Waterloo Region that most learners in our programs are on a short or long-term path to viable employment.

Summary

It is obvious that Waterloo Region Literacy and Basic Skills programs have worked hard to develop relationships with Employment Service providers. This is key for the success of adult learners as besides Independence all other goal paths are focused on employment.

The number of youth in our programs are going to continue to grow and we must learn to adjust our facilitation to meet these learners' needs.

The region and the world are a different place right now with the pandemic. Programs need to remain flexible and nimble as COVID-19 takes its course. Projects like Scenario Planning and The Future of the Workforce through the Workforce Planning Board are timely and will help us to continue meeting the needs of learners and employers in Waterloo Region.

