

DCDSB Student Demographic Survey: 2021-2022 and 2023-2024

A Comparative Analysis

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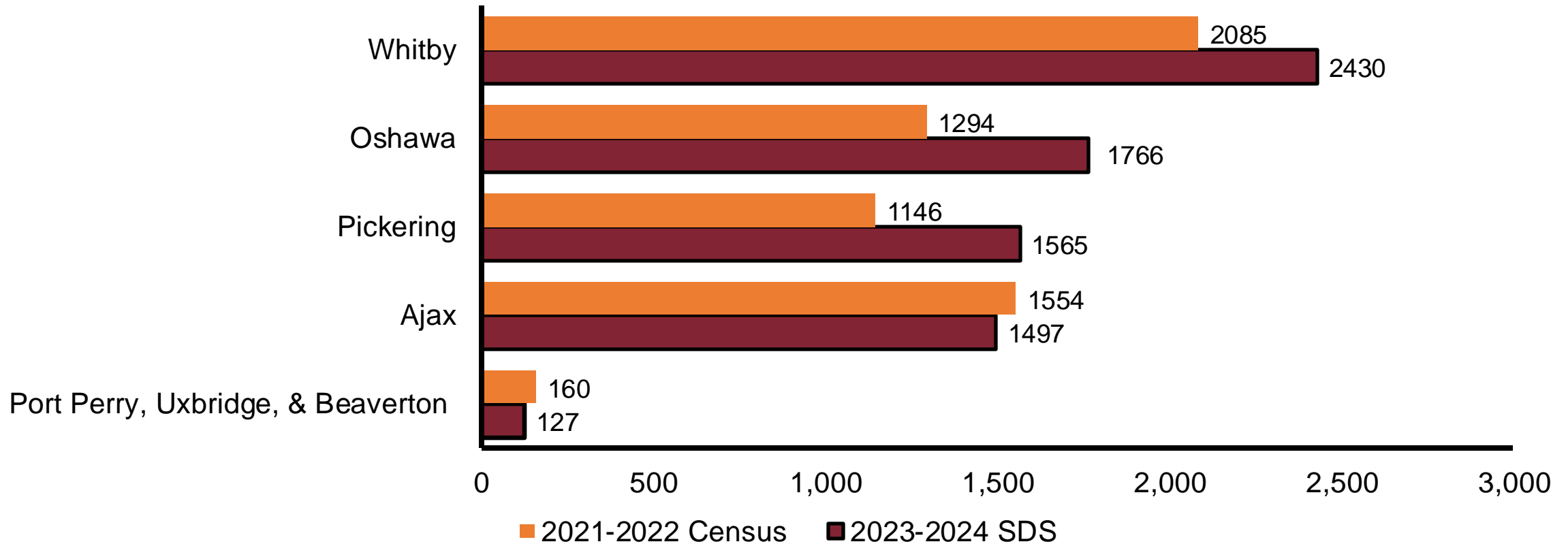
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Survey Participation & Completion Rates

- The **2021-2022 Student Census** had a participation and completion rate of 39%, accounting for 6,239 students (student population at the time approximated 15,900 eligible students)
- The **2023-2024 Student Demographic Survey** had a participation and completion rate of 33%, accounting for 7,389 students (student population at the time approximated 22,727 eligible students)

****NOTE: The '21-'22 Survey was completed by students in Grades 4-12, while the '23-'24 Survey was completed by students in Grade K-12**

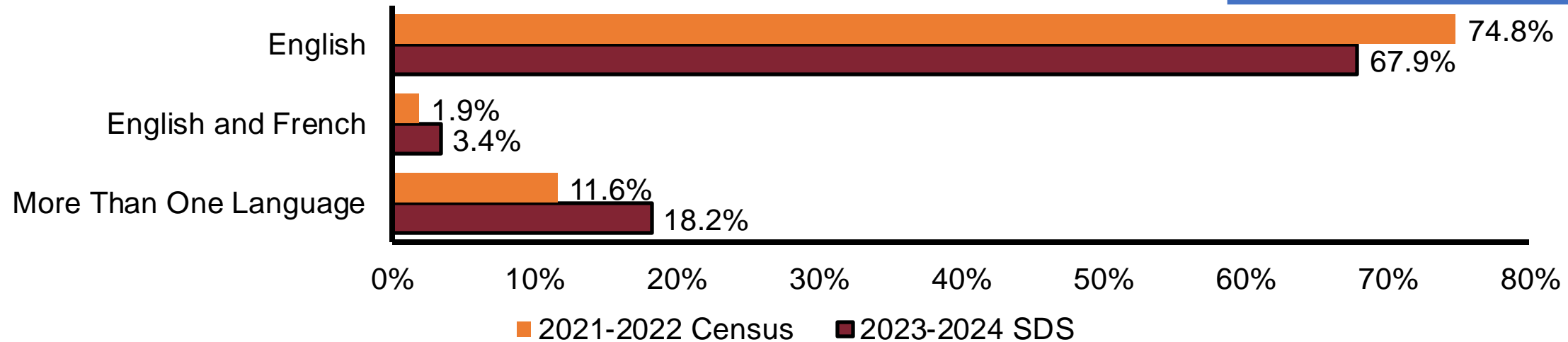
Number of Completed Surveys by Municipality



While Whitby has the highest completion rates across both Surveys, Oshawa and Pickering had higher completion rates compared to Ajax in the current Survey, which was the opposite result in the previous iteration of this Survey

Survey Q1: Students' First Language

Question from SDS:
What is/are the first language(s) you/your child(ren) first learned to speak? Select all that apply.

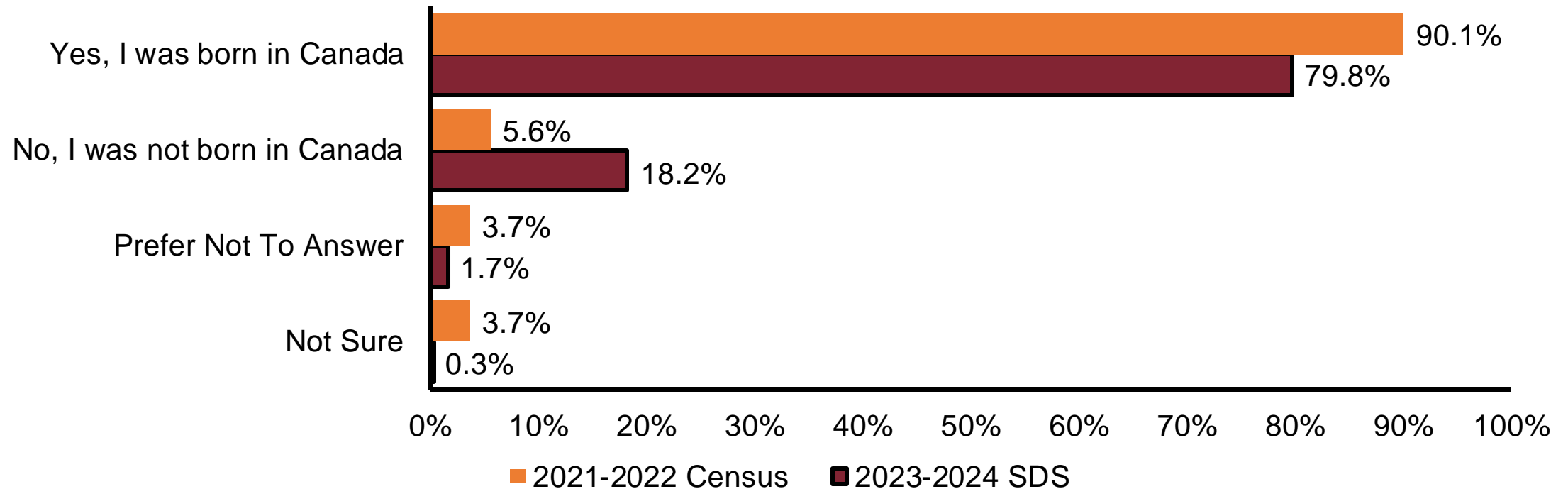


English, English and French and More Than One Language saw the biggest fluctuations in results between the '21-'22 Census and '23-'24 Demographic Survey. The proportion of bilingual (English and French) speaking students nearly doubled, while the proportion of students who can speak more than one language saw a noticeable increase. English speaking students saw a 7% decrease between survey iterations. All other language options showed very comparable data.

Survey Q2: Students' Indigenous Status

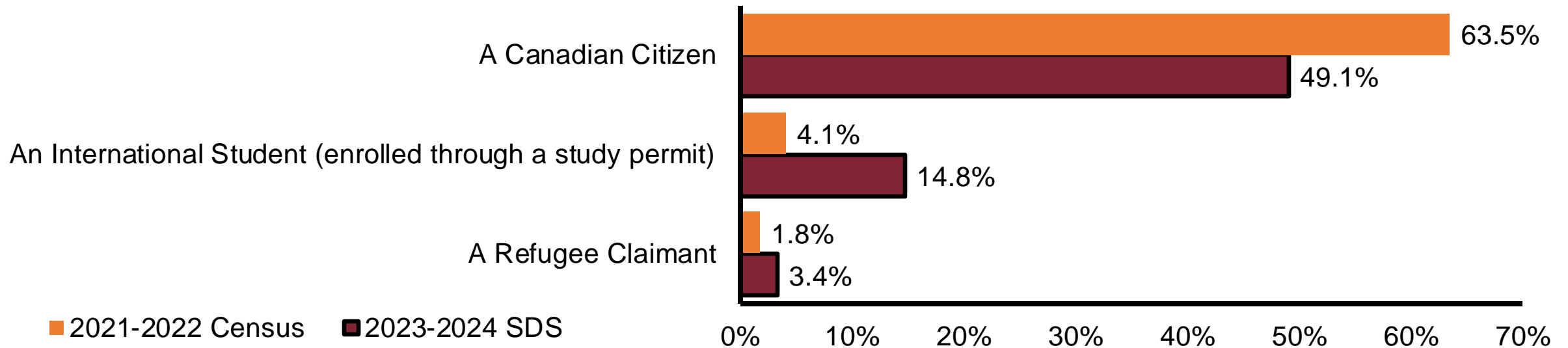
- Data was exceedingly comparable between the 2021-2022 and 2023-2024 Student Demographic Surveys
- No notable changes/fluctuations in the number of Indigenous students who self-identify and who also participated in either iteration of this survey.
 - 2021-2022: **1.5%** of students identified as Indigenous (First Nations, Inuit and/or Métis)
 - 2023-2024: **1.9%** of students identified as Indigenous (First Nations, Inuit and/or Métis)

Survey Q3a: Students' Canadian Status



Data from these two iterations of the Student Demographic Survey suggest a noticeable decrease in the number of participating students who are Canadian-born, and conversely almost four times the number of participating students who are not Canadian-born

Survey Q3b: Students' Not Born in Canada Status



The most noteworthy data comparisons for this question asking students to identify their status in Canada, if not Canadian-born, stem from these three specific response categories. The number of Canadian citizens who completed the 2023-2024 survey saw a noticeable decline from the previous version of this survey. However, most of that gap was offset by the substantial increase in the number of international students who completed the current survey (who, due to COVID, could provide context to the 4.1% from the previous survey) compared to two years ago. Likewise, there was almost a doubling of the number of students who are refugee claimants who participated in the 2023-2024 survey compared to the 2021-2022 survey.

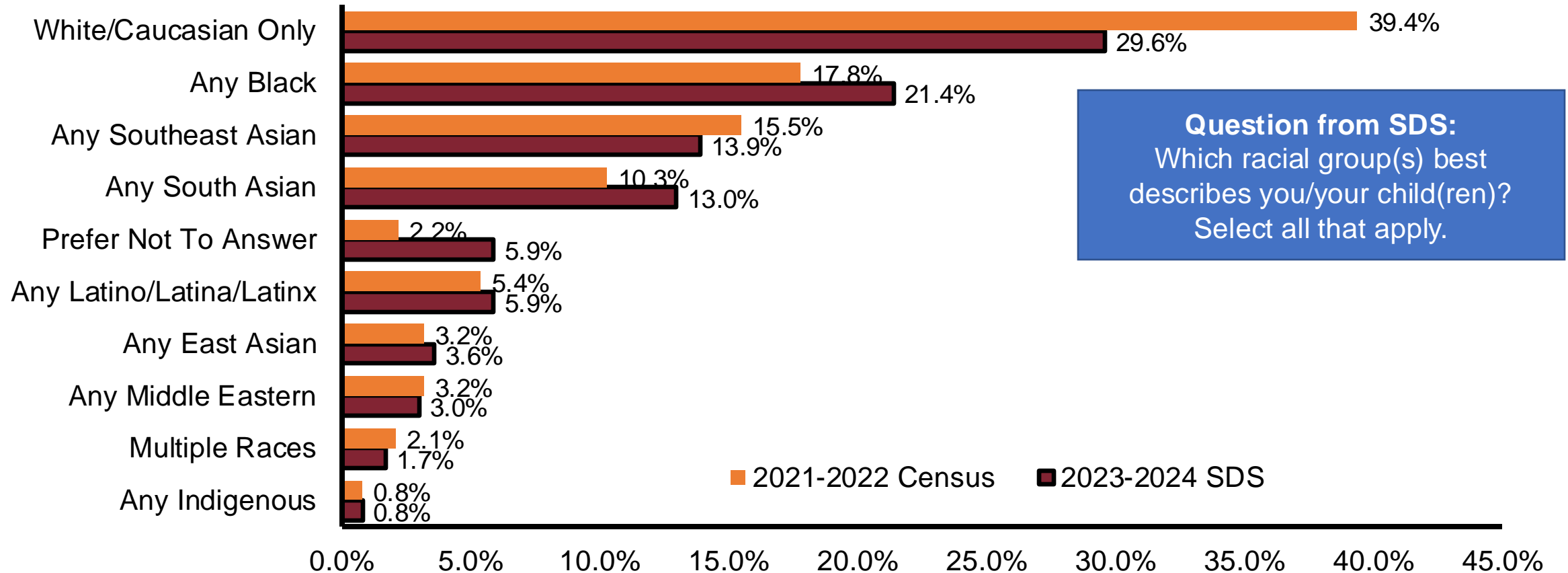
Survey Q4: Students' Perceptions of Being Canadian

- Data was exceedingly comparable between the 2021-2022 and 2023-2024 Student Demographic Surveys
- Notable decrease in the number of students who perceive themselves to be Canadian and who also participated in either iteration of this Survey; no notable change/fluctuation in the number of students who do not perceive themselves to be Canadian between survey iterations
 - **Yes, I consider myself Canadian: 90.8%** ('21-'22 survey); **87.2%** ('23-'24 survey)
 - **No, I do not consider myself Canadian: 5.6%** ('21-'22 survey); **5.7%** ('23-'24 survey)

Survey Q5: Students' Ethnic/Cultural Origins

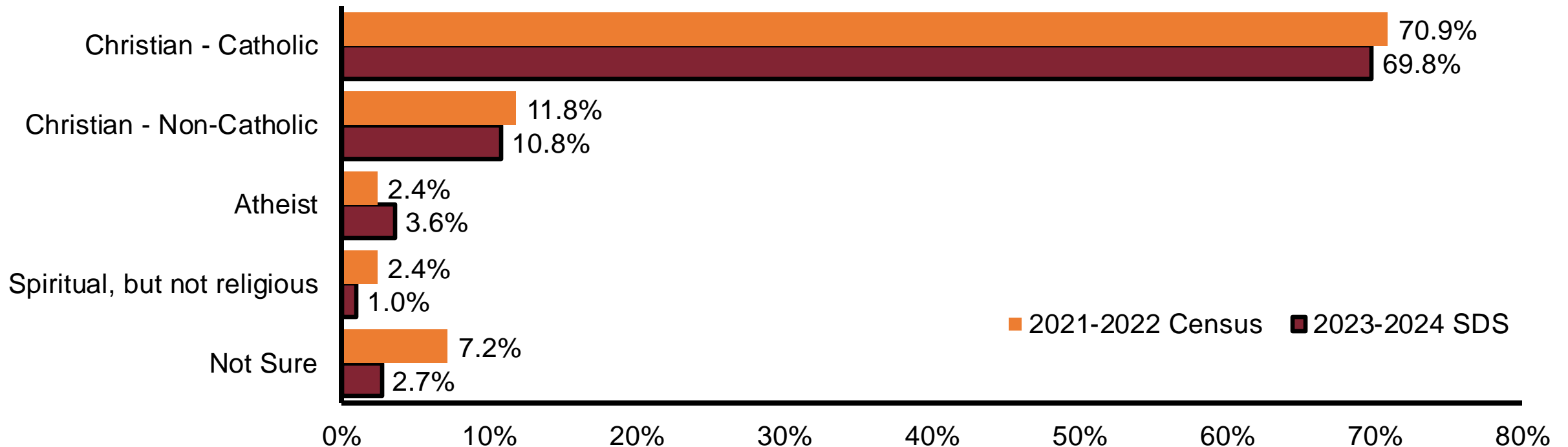
- Data was exceedingly comparable between the 2021-2022 and 2023-2024 Student Demographic Surveys
- The only notable changes/fluctuations in the data between the two iterations of this survey were:
 1. the substantial **decrease** in the proportion of students who self-identify as having 'Multiple Ethnicities' ('21-'22 Survey: **24.8%**; '23-'24 Survey: **1.3%**); and
 2. The substantial **increase** in the proportion of students who chose not to report their ethnicity ('21-'22 Survey: **12.6%**; '23-'24 Survey: **32.7%**).

Survey Q6 (Aggregated): Students' Race



Most notable to observe here is the 10% decrease in the number of self-identified White/Caucasian students who participated in the current Survey compared to the previous Survey, and the 3-4% increase in the number of self-identified Black and self-identified South Asian students who participated in the current Survey compared to the previous iteration

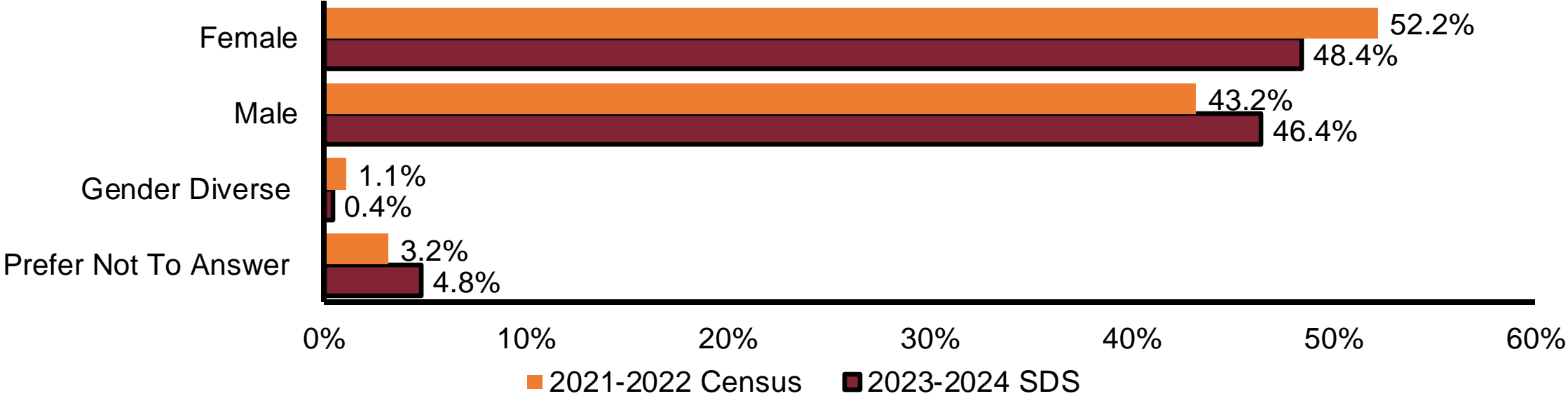
Survey Q7: Students' Religious and/or Spiritual Affiliation



Data from these two iterations of the Student Demographic Survey suggest very similar numbers reported for the proportion of self-identified Christian - Catholic and Christian - Non-Catholic students. However, there is a noticeable decrease in the proportion of students who are 'Not Sure' of their religion

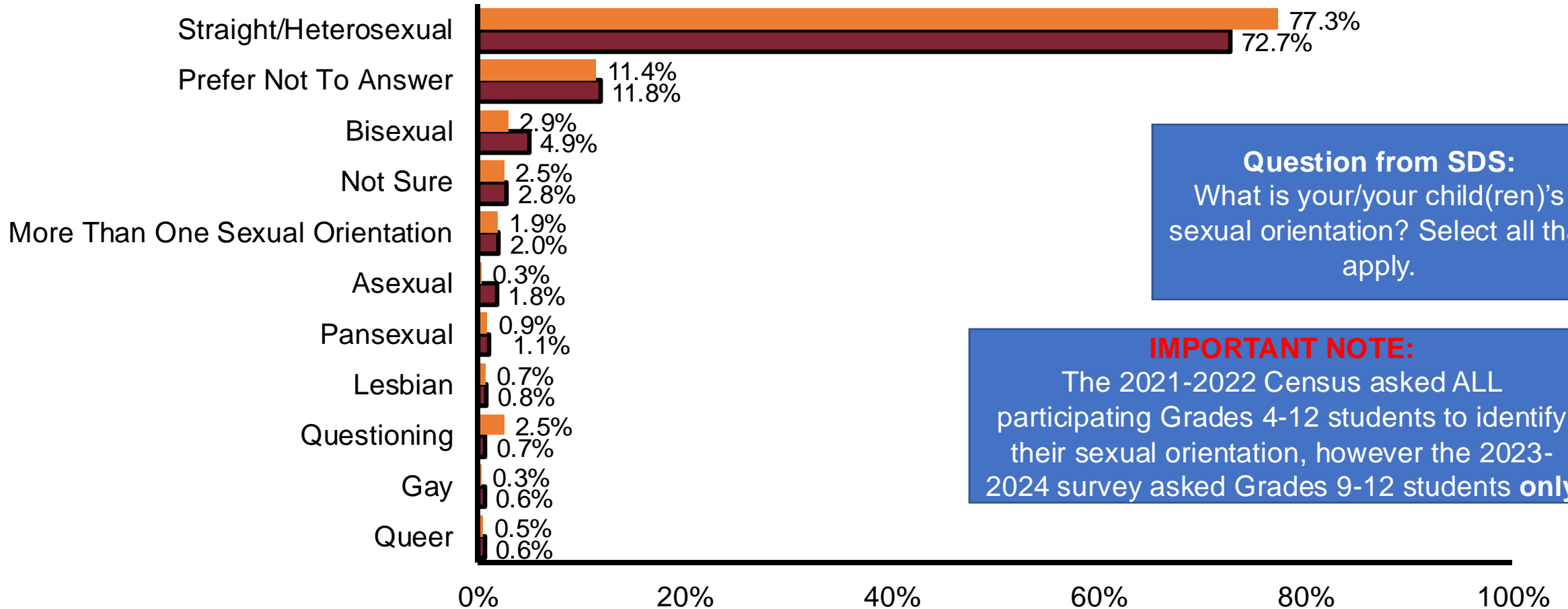
Survey Q8: Students' Gender Identity

Question from SDS:
What is your/your child(ren)'s gender?



Looking at the Surveys' data, we can observe a closing of the gender gap, whereby in the last Census, there was an almost 10% gap between the proportion of female students who participated in the Survey compared to male students. For the current Student Demographic Survey, we see that gap close significantly, to 2% difference between female and male students who chose to participate in the survey and self-identify their gender.

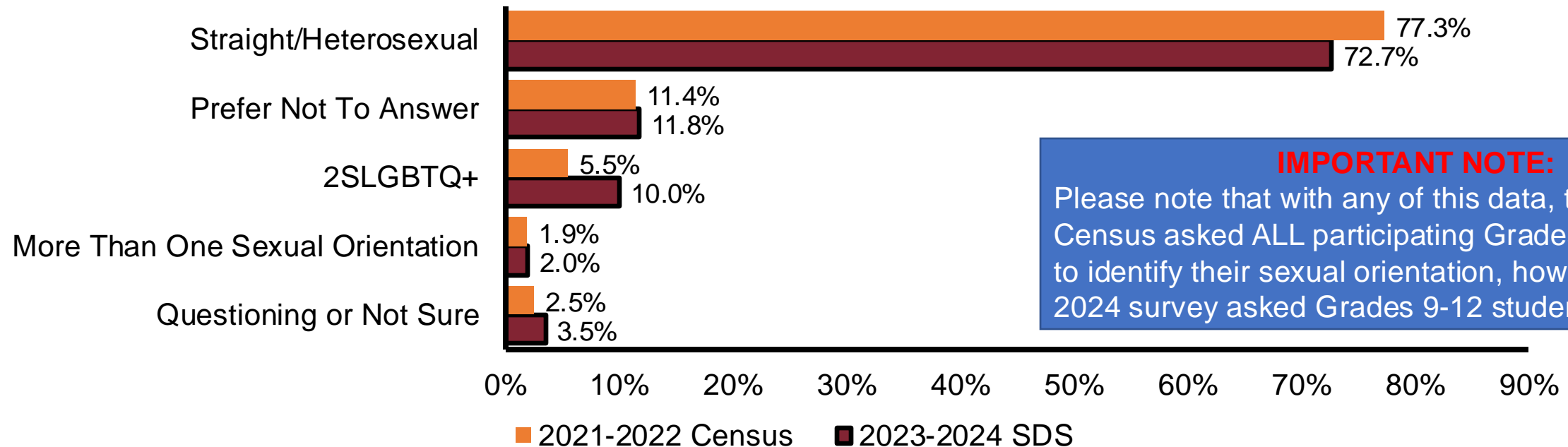
Survey Q9: Students' Sexual Orientation



Question from SDS:
What is your/your child(ren)'s sexual orientation? Select all that apply.

IMPORTANT NOTE:
The 2021-2022 Census asked ALL participating Grades 4-12 students to identify their sexual orientation, however the 2023-2024 survey asked Grades 9-12 students **only**

Survey Q9 (Aggregated): Students' Sexual Orientation

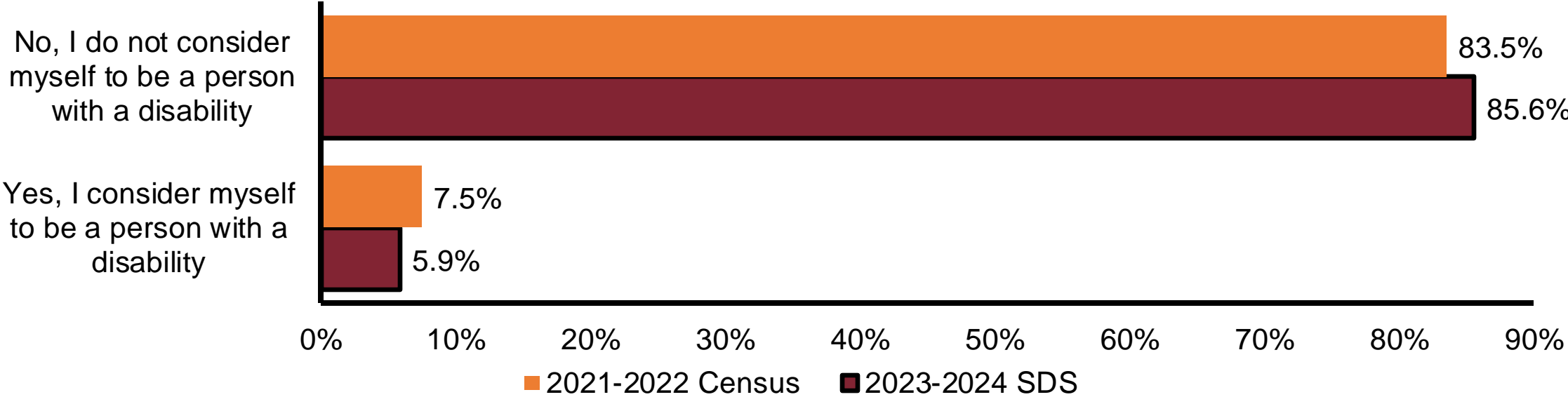


We do see a near doubling of the proportion of 2SLGBTQ+ students who self-identified on the current survey compared to its previous iteration. The proportion of straight/heterosexual students saw a decline of nearly 5% in this current survey compared to its earlier iteration. Those who 'Question' or are 'Not Sure' of their sexual orientation saw a 1% increase in this current survey's administration.

Listening, Learning, and Living in Faith

Survey Q10a: Students' Disability Status

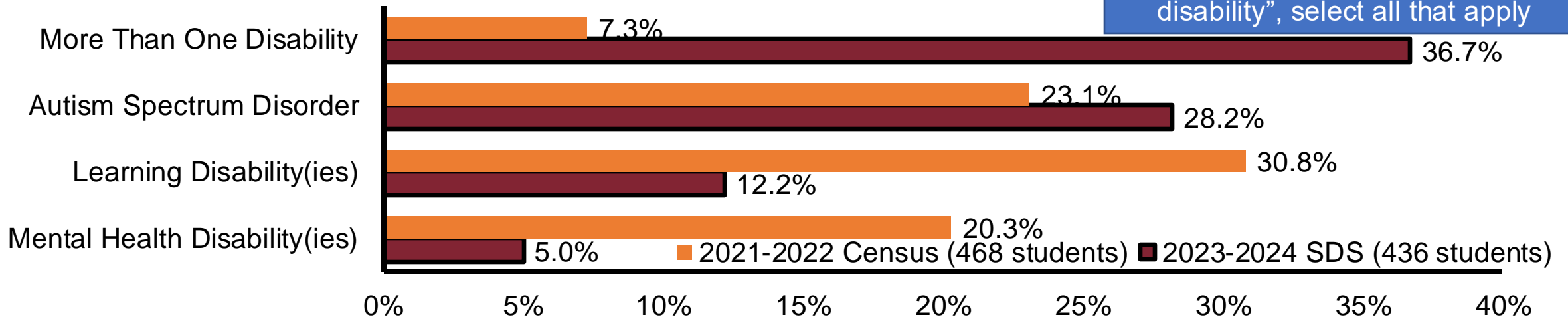
Question from SDS:
Do you consider yourself/your child(ren) to be a person with a disability(ies)?
Select one answer only.



We can notice a near 2% decrease in the proportion of students who identify as having a disability and who completed the 2023-2024 SDS compared to its previous survey iteration.

Survey Q10b: Of Those Who Selected “Yes, I Consider Myself a Person With a Disability”

Question from SDS:
If you said “Yes, I do consider myself/my child(ren) a person with a disability”, select all that apply



Learning disability(ies), Autism Spectrum Disorder and Mental health disability(ies) comprise the most significant and most selected disability types across both iterations of this Survey. We can also notice a rise in the number of students with Autism, compared to very notable reductions in the number of students with learning or mental health disability(ies), who also completed the Survey.

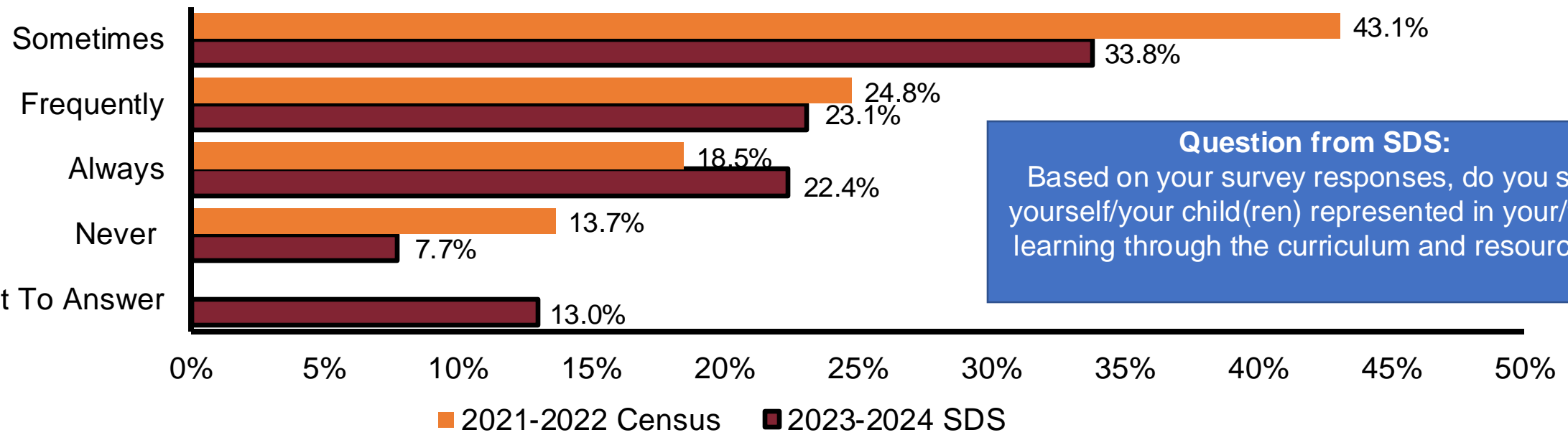
We can also observe the substantial increase in the proportion of students who self-identify as having more than one disability, at a rate 5x higher in the current Survey than its previous iteration. **Please note the ‘23-’24 survey results accounts for 436 students who identified as having a disability, and 468 students who identified as having a disability in the ‘21-’22 Census.**

Listening, Learning, and Living in Faith

Survey Q11: Students' Living Situation

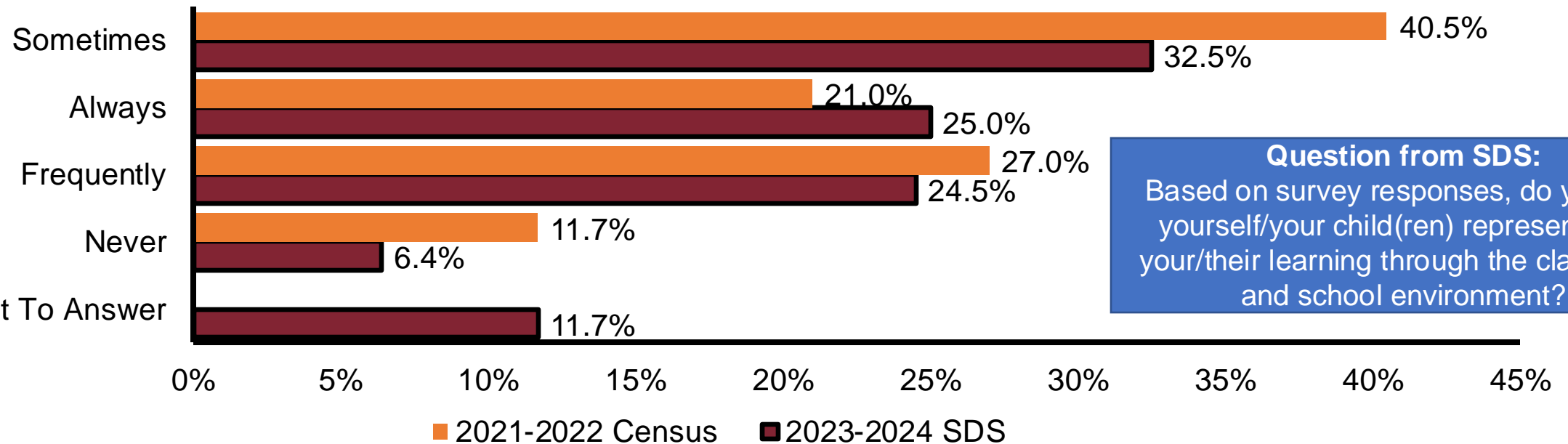
- Data cannot accurately be compared between the 2021-2022 and 2023-2024 Student Demographic Surveys
- The questions were worded in a different format between iterations of the Student Demographic Survey, so engaging in analytical discussions would not provide accurate and equitable comparisons

Survey Q12a): Students' Representation in Curriculum







We can observe here that across both surveys, the highest proportion of students see themselves represented in the curriculum and school resources 'sometimes', though that number has decreased by nearly 10% for the current survey. We also see an increase in the proportion of students who 'always' see themselves represented, and a reduction in the proportion of those who 'never' see themselves represented. Please also note that a 'Prefer Not To Answer' option was not provided in the '21-'22 survey.

Survey Q12b): Students' Representation in Classroom







We can observe here that across both surveys, the highest proportion of students see themselves represented in the classroom and school environment 'sometimes', though that number has decreased by 8% for the current survey. We also see an increase in the proportion of students who 'always' see themselves represented, and a reduction in the proportion of those who 'never' see themselves represented. Please also note that a 'Prefer Not To Answer' option was not provided in the '21-'22 survey.






High-Level Direct Comparisons – 2021-2022 and 2023-2024 Student Demographic Surveys

Comparable Metrics	2021 – 2022 Student Census (Grades 4-12)	2023-2024 Student Demographic Survey (Grades K-12)	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) or No Direct Comparison
Overall Survey Completion Rate	6,239 students out of 15,900 students (39% completion rate)	7,389 students out of 22,727 students (33% completion rate)	Different grades assessed. No Direct Comparison.
Grades 9-12 completion rates (eligible population)	2,292 students (approximately 32%)	3,924 students (approximately 57%)	Increase 
Bilingual (EN/FR) % / More Than One Language %	1.9% / 11.6%	3.4% / 18.2%	Increase 
Canadian Citizen % (if not born in Canada)	63.5%	49.1%	Decrease 
International Student % / Refugee Claimant % (if not born in Canada)	4.1% / 1.8%	14.8% / 3.4%	Increase 









High-Level Direct Comparisons – ‘21-’22 and ‘23-’24 Surveys – Race, Religion, Gender and Sexual Orientation

Comparable Metrics	2021 – 2022 Student Census (Grades 4-12)	2023-2024 Student Demographic Survey (Grades K-12)	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) or No Direct Comparison
Race Q: White/Caucasian students %	39.4%	29.6%	Decrease 
Race Q: Black students % / South Asian students %	17.8% / 10.3%	21.4% / 13.0%	Increase 
Uncertainty of Religious Affiliation	7.2%	2.7%	Decrease 
Male / Female %	43.2% / 52.2%	46.4% / 48.4%	Increase (males); Decrease (females) 
Straight/Heterosexual students %	77.3% (ALL grades)	72.7% (Grades 9-12 only)	Different grades assessed. No Direct Comparison.
2SLGBTQ+ students %	5.5% (ALL grades)	10% (Grades 9-12 only)	Different grades assessed. No Direct Comparison.

High-Level Direct Comparisons – Of Those Who Said “Yes, I Consider Myself To Be A Person With A Disability”

Comparable Metrics	2021 – 2022 Student Census (Grades 4-12)	2023-2024 Student Demographic Survey (Grades K-12)	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) or No Direct Comparison
Yes, I Consider Myself To Be A Person With A Disability	7.5% (468 students / 6,239 students who submitted Survey)	5.9% (436 students / 7,389 students who submitted Survey)	Decrease 
More than one disability (if yes to having a disability) %	7.3%	36.7%	Increase 
Autism Spectrum Disorder %	23.1%	28.2%	Increase 
Learning Disability(ies) %	30.8%	12.2%	Decrease 
Mental Health Disability(ies)%	20.3%	5.0%	Decrease 
of the 468 students ('21-'22 survey) and 436 students ('23-'24 survey) who stated “Yes, I have a disability”*			

High-Level Direct Comparisons – Perceptions of Representation in the Curriculum and Classroom

Comparable Metrics	2021 – 2022 Student Census (Grades 4-12)	2023-2024 Student Demographic Survey (Grades K-12)	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) or No Direct Comparison
Perceptions of Representation in the Curriculum and School Resources %	18.5% - Always	22.4% - Always	Increase 
	24.8% - Frequently	23.1% - Frequently	Decrease 
	43.1% - Sometimes	33.8% - Sometimes	Decrease 
	13.7% - Never	11.7% - Never	Decrease 
Perceptions of Representation in the Classroom and School Environment %	21.0% - Always	25.0% - Always	Increase 
	27.0% - Frequently	24.5% - Frequently	Decrease 
	40.5% - Sometimes	32.5% - Sometimes	Decrease 
	7.7% - Never	6.4% - Never	Decrease 

Thank you for your time!

This concludes the comparative analysis of the 2021-2022 Student Census and the 2023-2024 Student Demographic Survey!