

I. Sociodemographic Profile

Among respondents ages 18 to 34 years, school leavers show no significant differences by gender, race, or marital status compared to stayers. Significant sociodemographic differences by educational status are documented in Table 1.

Young adult school leavers have completed an average of about 9.8 years of schooling, while the average educational attainment for comparable stayers is 13.6 years. **School leavers have thus about 4 years less schooling than others their age.**

The major sociodemographic differences between the two groups are in income and employment status.

Young school leavers are much more likely to be poor compared to stayers. The former have an average annual household income of \$18,535 compared to \$31,442 among stayers.

Fewer school leavers were employed in the past 12 months, while more were employed part-time.

School leavers are somewhat younger than stayers in this sample. More school leavers are 18-24 (49%) compared to stayers (36%); stayers are more likely to be 25-34 years of age.

School leavers live in larger households, (3.5 members compared to 3.0 members), and these households are more likely to include youth or children under 18 years of age.

School leavers are much less likely than stayers to reside in metropolitan regions.

School leavers are less likely to be very religious and less likely to be Protestant than stayers.

II. Health Status, Disability, Medical Care Utilization, and Access to Care by Educational Status

Young school leavers and stayers are different according to most health status and utilization measures. Table 2 contains a summary of these comparisons. **Young school leavers are much more likely to rate their health as fair or poor and to report functional disability than stayers.** These differences in sickness and disability are among the most important in differentiating these two groups of young people.