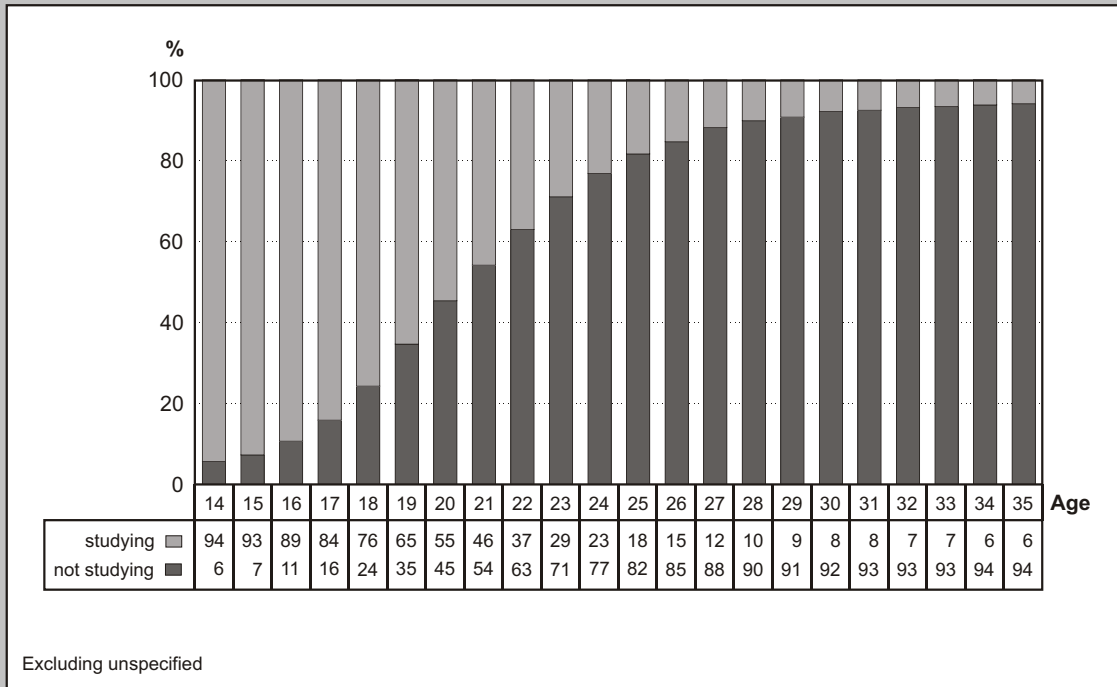


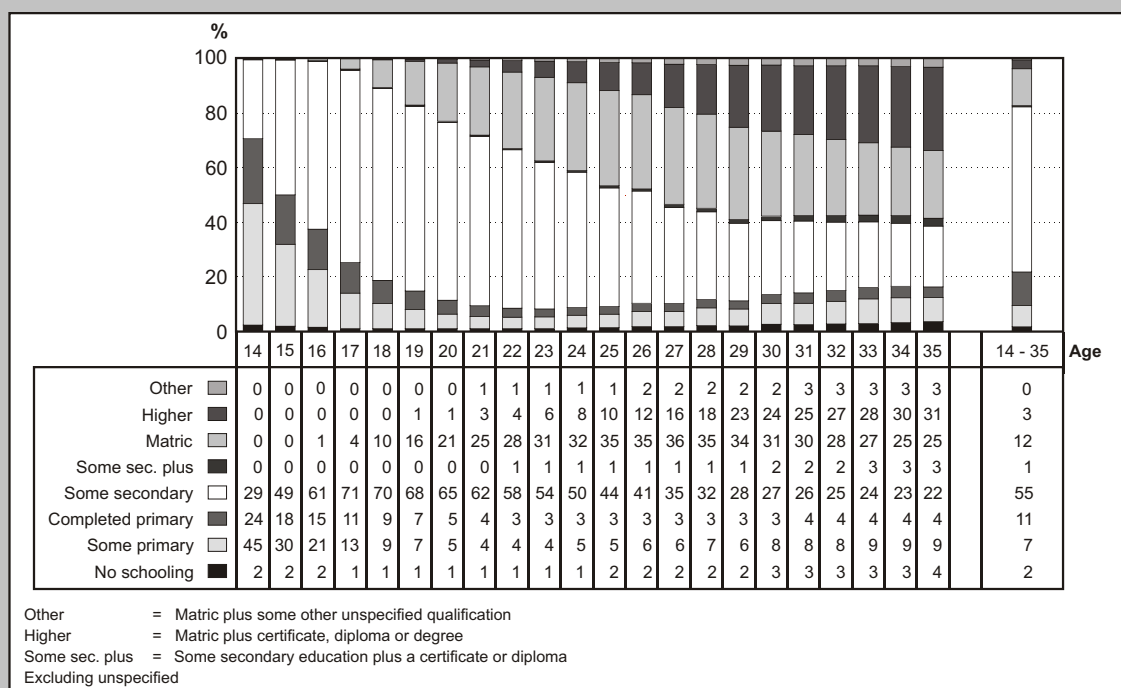
Figure 4.4: Percentage of studying and non-studying youth in each age category



Those who were studying

Figure 4.5 indicates that among those who indicated that they were studying there were those without any formal education. Among those aged 14 years, this proportion is 2%, and it gradually decreases with increasing age to 1% among those aged from 19 to 21 years. Then it starts to increase, so that those who were studying and did not have any formal education constitute 4% of the youth aged 35 years who were actually studying.

Figure 4.5: Highest level of education among youth who were studying, by age



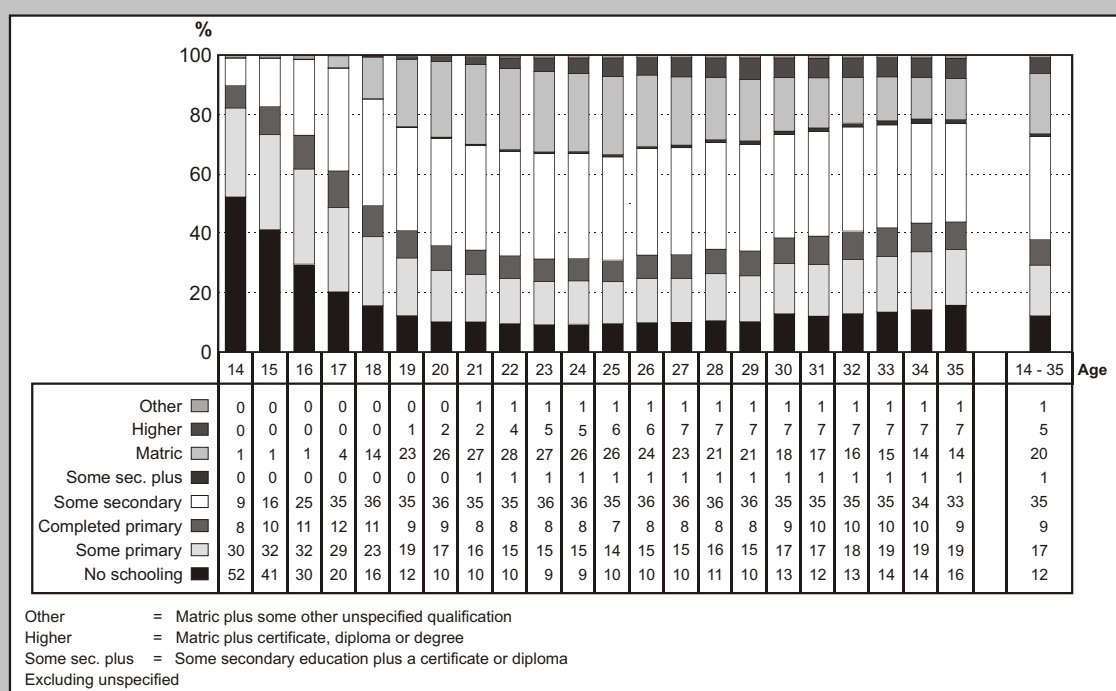
The largest proportion of 14-year-old youth who were studying had ‘some primary education’ (45%), although children of this age should have completed primary school.

Among the youth who were studying, the proportion with some secondary education (grades 8 to 11) tends to decrease as age increases, while the proportion with matric or higher tends to increase, and then to level off from the age of 29 years and older.

Those who were not studying

Figure 4.6 displays the highest education level of youth that were not studying in October 1996 within each single year age category from 14 to 35 years.

Figure 4.6: Highest level of education among non-studying youth, by age



Comparing youth who were studying (Figure 4.5) with those who were not (Figure 4.6), it can be seen that among those not studying the proportions with no education are larger in all age groups than among those studying.

More than half (52%) of 14 year olds who were not studying and about two in every five (41%) of 15 year olds who were not studying did not have any formal education at all. Nationally across all age categories more than one in every ten youths (12%) who were not studying had no formal education at all.

About three in every ten youths within each of the age categories 14, 15 and 16 years that were not studying in 1996 had only some primary education.

Implications

Prospects for a life of quality, particularly in relation to job opportunities and general living standards, remains a major concern in respect of a large proportion of youth in South Africa, given their low level of education.