

NEVER TOO LATE TO COMPLETE SCHOOL

**Results of the UIS survey on adult education
and literacy programmes in Latin America and
the Caribbean**

A strong regional interest in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)

Adult education (AE) is seen as key to reduce social inequalities in the most unequal region of the world, giving new educational opportunities to **adults and youths** who didn't have those chances in the past.



A strong regional interest in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)

Over time, various types of AE programmes have been developed in the region to:

- Enhance literacy and basic skills among young early school leavers and adults,
- Provide new opportunities to complete primary and secondary education
- Provide vocational and labour skills to enhance employability , and general skills relevant for an adequate personal development

A global demand

This UIS survey is a response to a regional interest and to the *Belém Framework for Action on Adult Education*, which reiterates the fundamental role of learning and adult education and calls upon UNESCO to develop a monitoring process and to install a periodic cycle of reporting on adult learning and education.

Aim of the survey

The aim of this initiative is to improve the scope and availability of relevant and comparable data on participation in literacy, primary and secondary educational programmes for youths and adults.

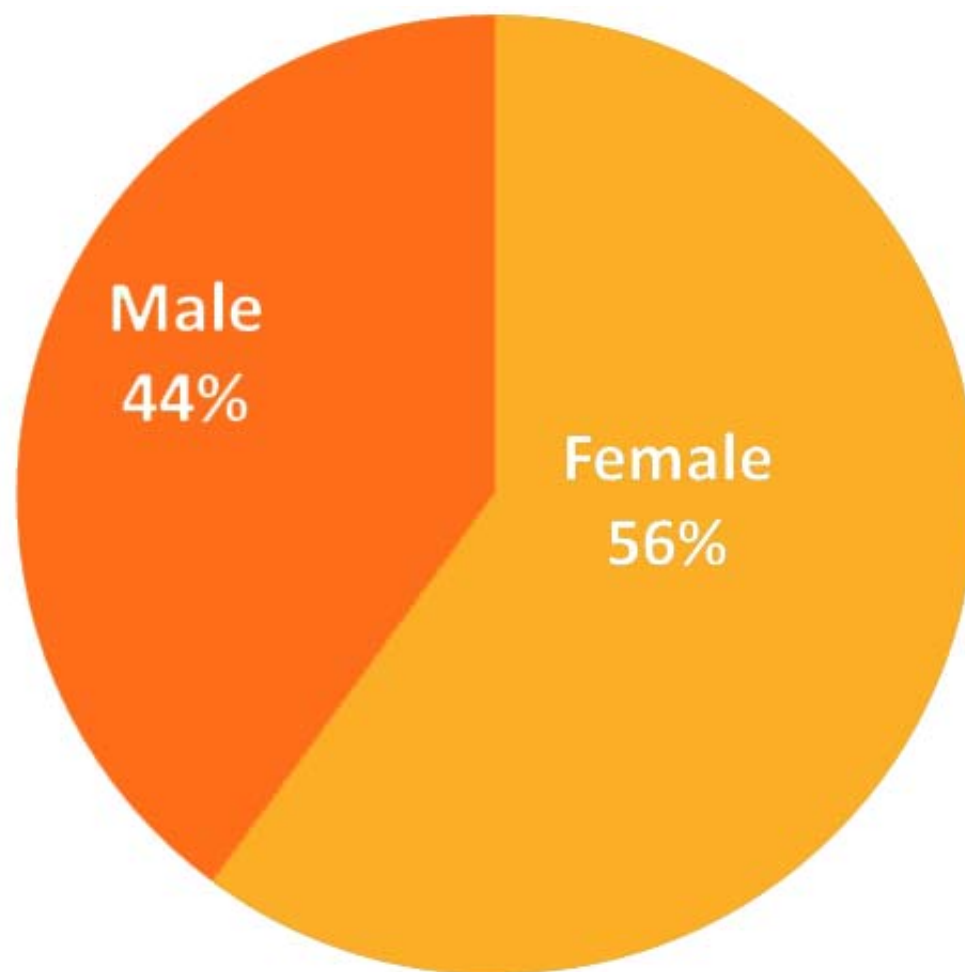
Data provide more elements to assess the national efforts to improve the situation of the most educational vulnerable people who are already beyond the regular school age.

Data refer to 2010, or the most recent year available

Literacy in the region

In 2010, 36 million adults 15 years and older were reported to be illiterate, or 9% of the adult population.

20 million are women.



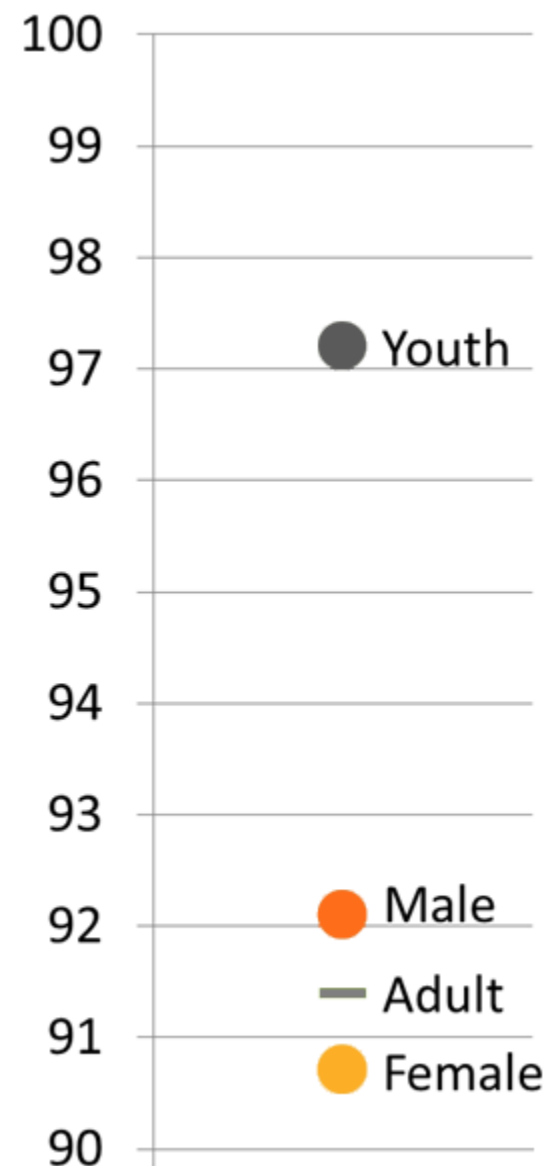
Distribution of illiterate population by gender

In 2010: 3 million youths are illiterate

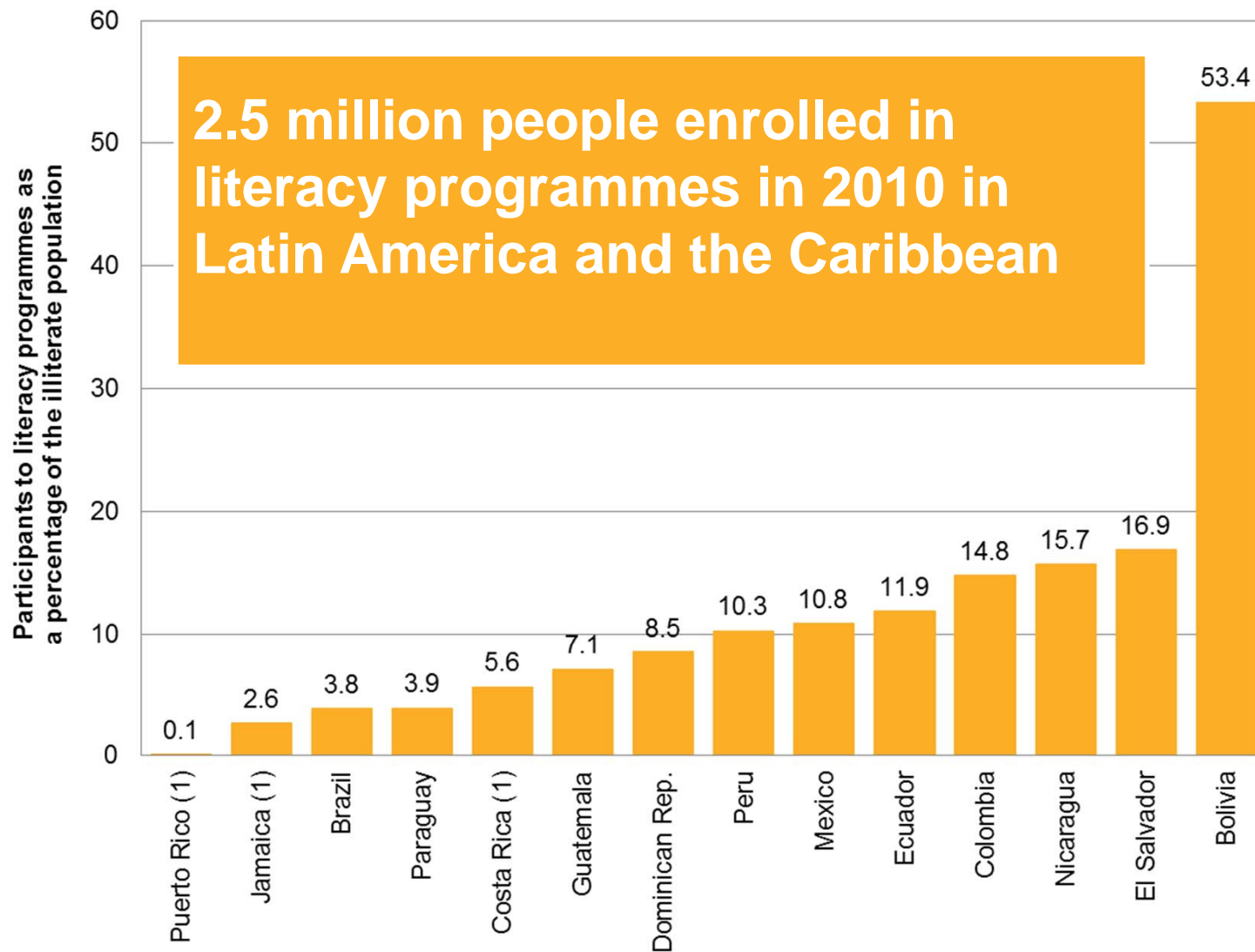
The average adult literacy rate (15+) was 91%.

In 2010, the youth literacy rate (15-24 years old) was 97%.

However, about 3 million youths are illiterate.

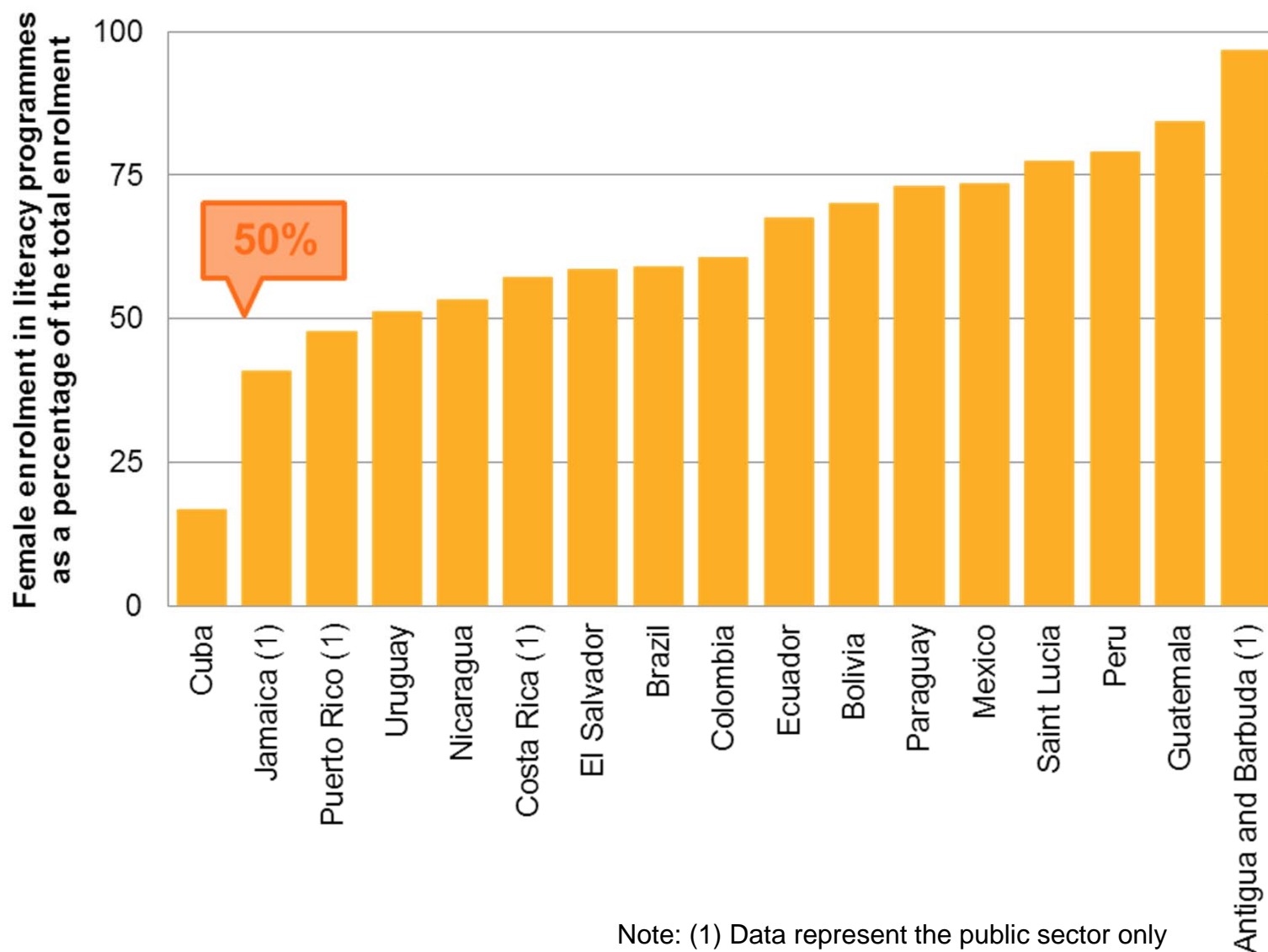


What are countries doing to close the literacy gap?

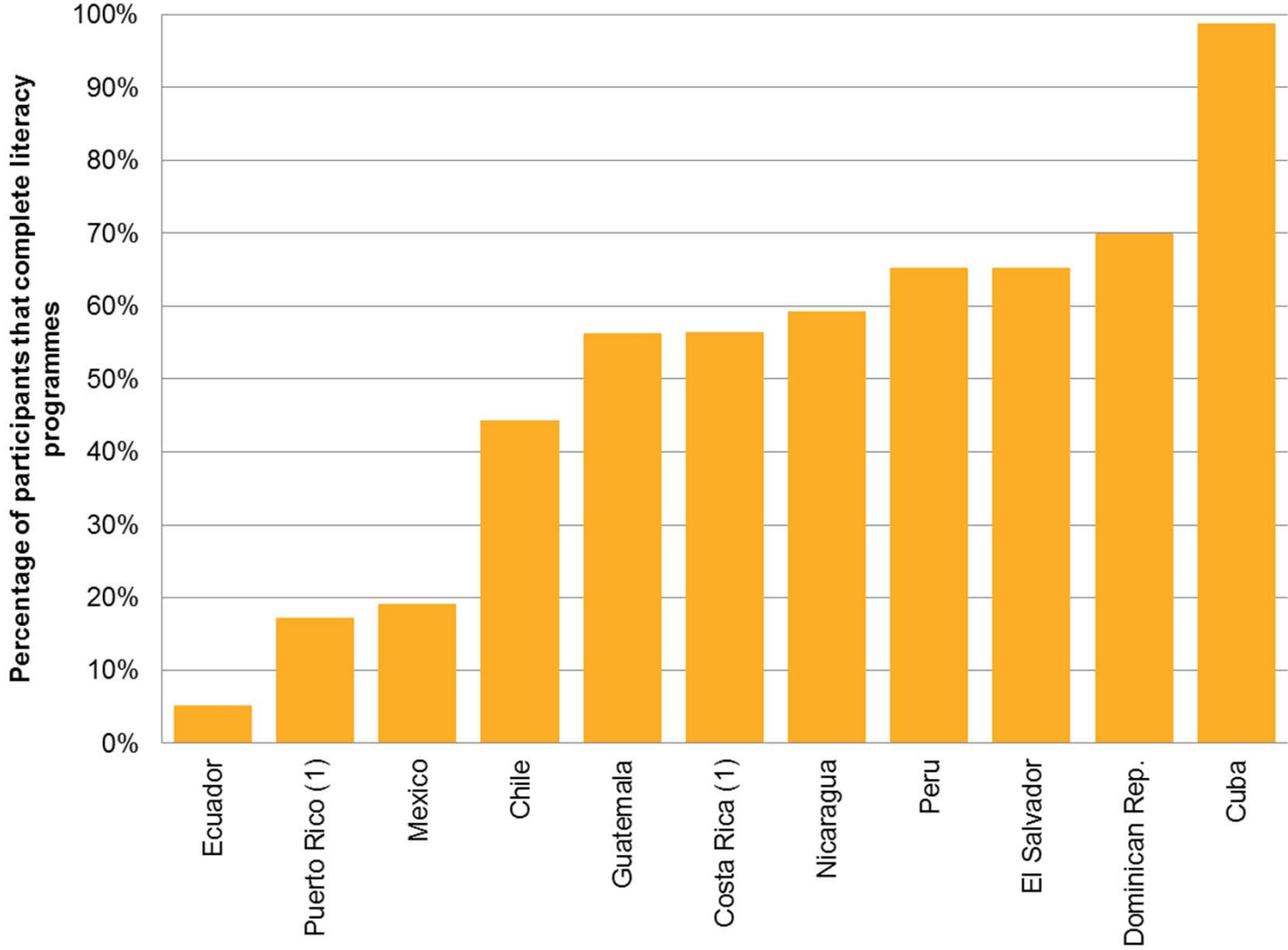


Note: (1) Data represent the public sector only

Women have a prominent presence in literacy programmes



Low levels of completion in the literacy programmes



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Primary and secondary education programmes for adults

Although levels of participation in regular formal education in the region are very high, a big share of the adult population still has a low level of education.



Educational attainment in the LAC region

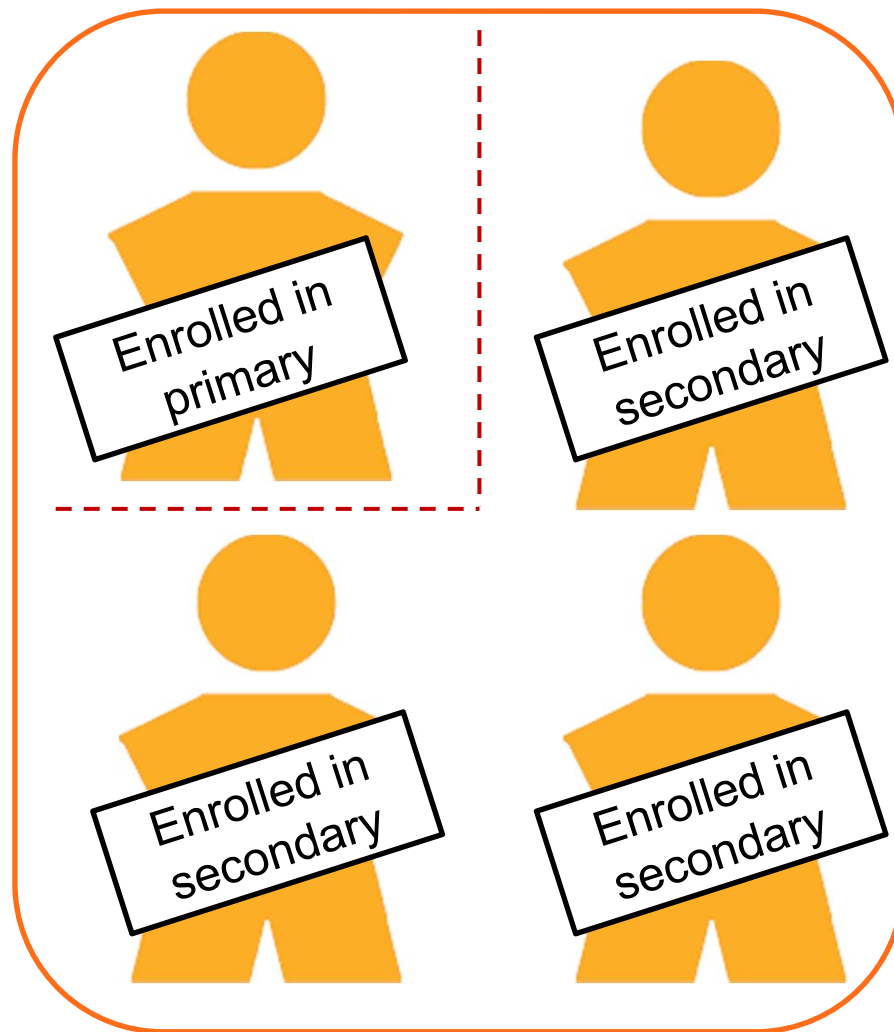
Out of 28 countries with available data:

- There are 8 countries where the proportion of adults who did not complete primary education range between 35% and 70%.
- There are 13 countries where the proportion of adults who did not complete secondary education range between 45% and 85%

Secondary education is the most popular stream in LAC

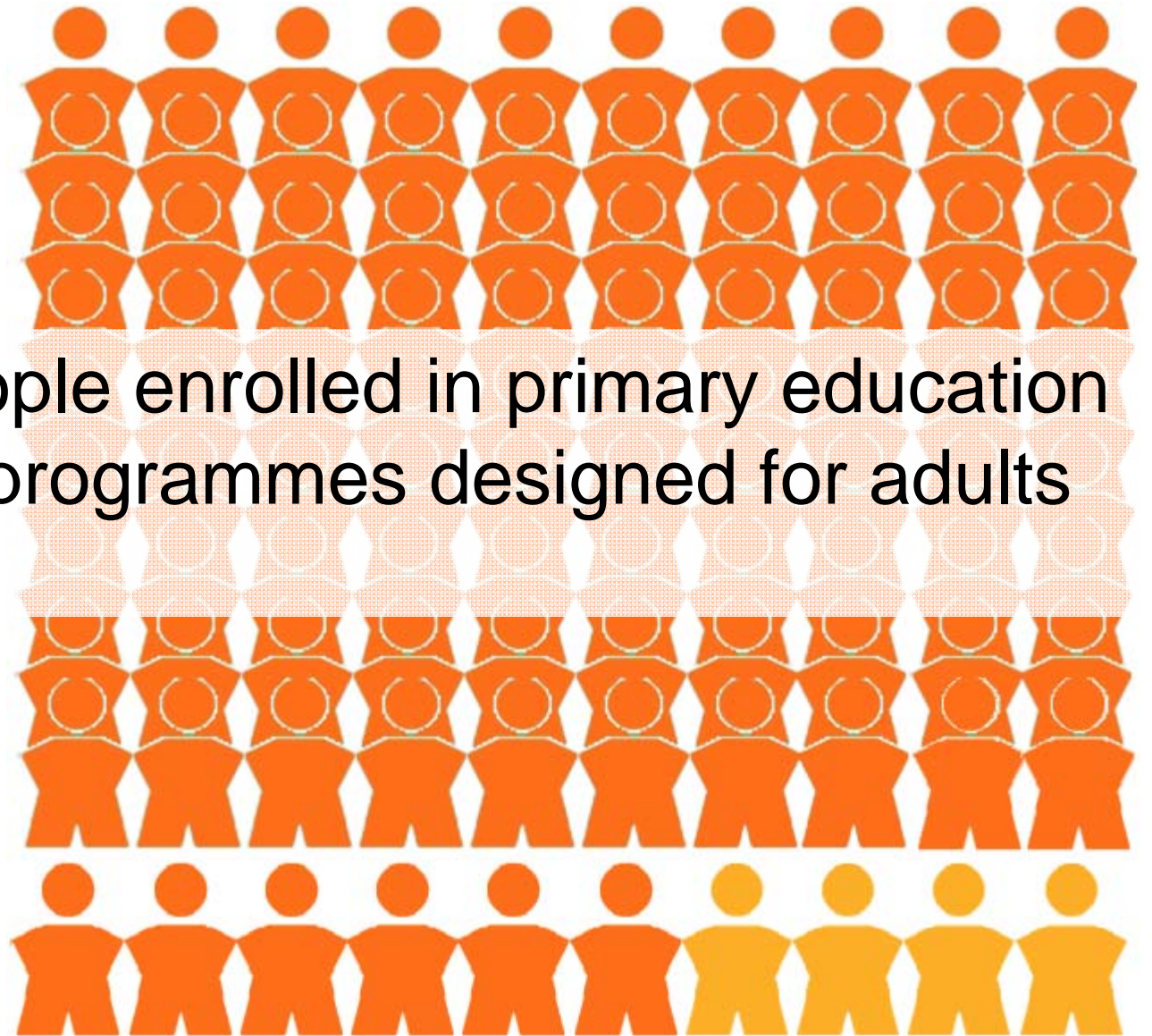
In 2010, 10.4 million people enrolled in primary and secondary education programmes for adults

75% of adults in education programmes were enrolled at the secondary level.



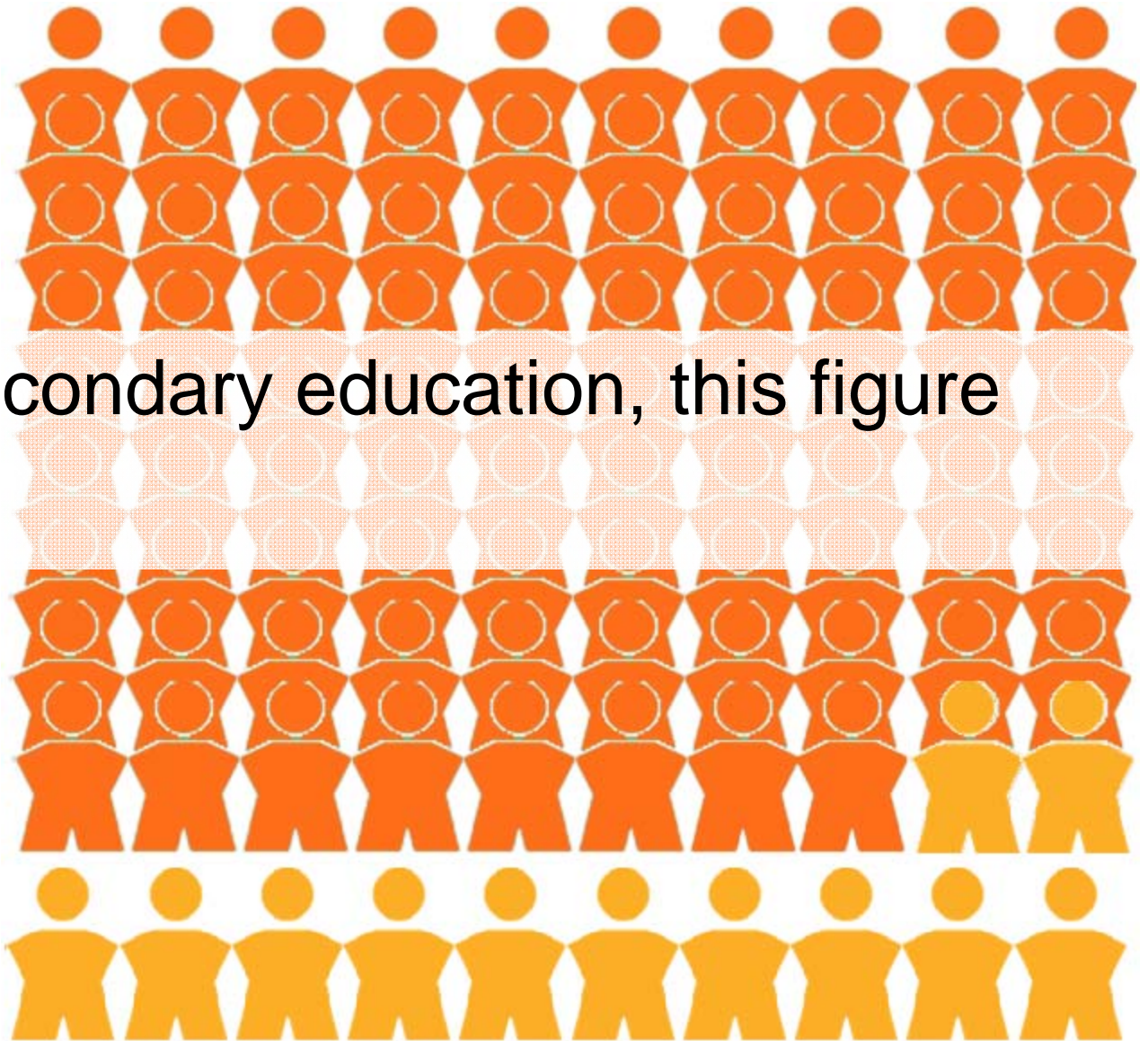
Primary education programmes for adults

4 out of 100 people enrolled in primary education are doing so in programmes designed for adults

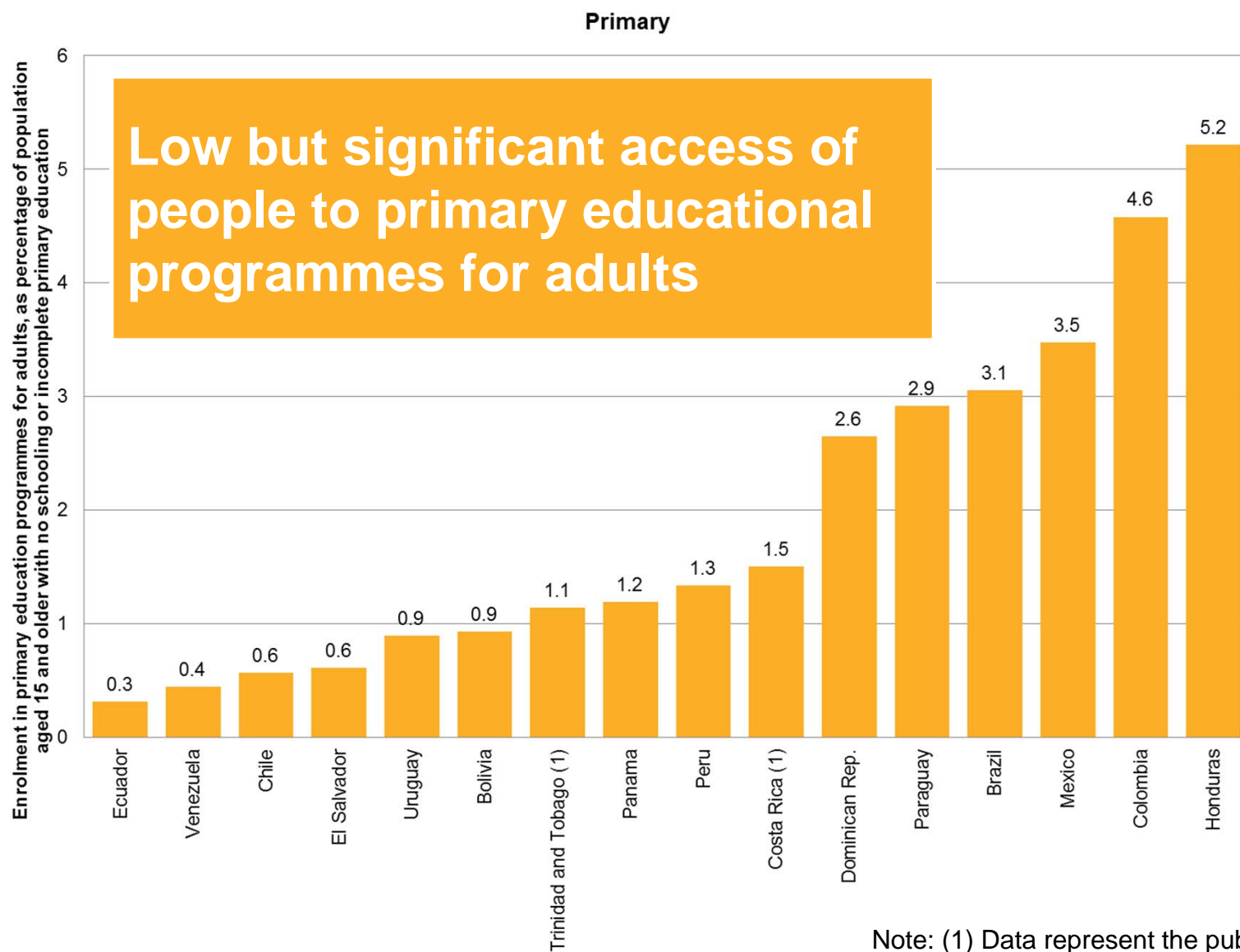


Secondary education programmes for adults

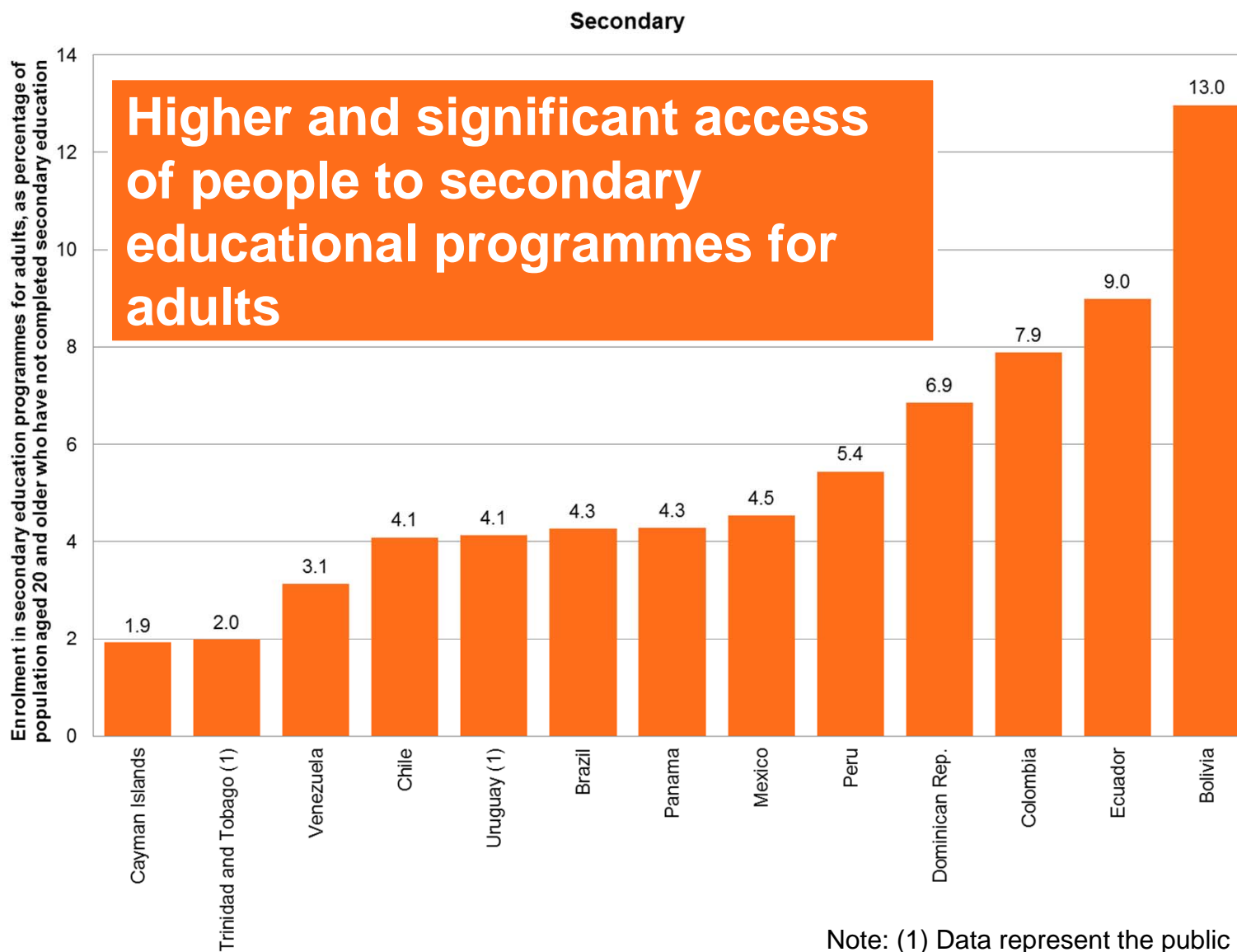
In the case of secondary education, this figure rises to 12%!



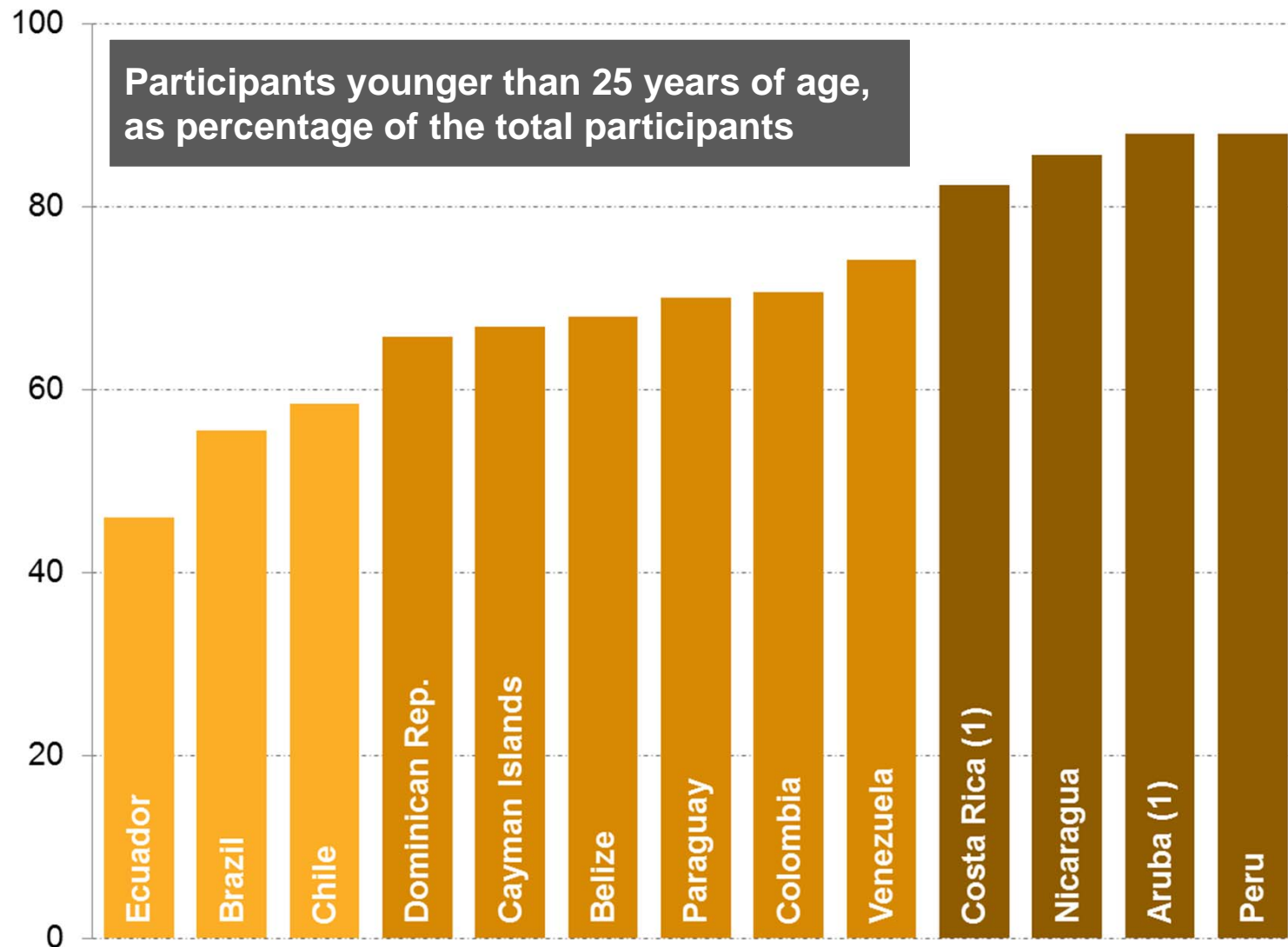
Access to primary education for adults



Access to secondary education for adults



Majority of participants in secondary education for adults are younger than 25 years of age



Note: (1) Data represent the public sector only

For more information, please consult

<http://www.uis.unesco.org/Education/Pages/regional-data-collection-adult-ed-lac.aspx>

and

[http://www.unesco.org/new/en/santiago/press-room/single-new/news/more than 12 million adults are enrolled in literacy and adult education programmes/#.Um5lzVNw9fp](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/santiago/press-room/single-new/news/more%20than%2012%20million%20adults%20are%20enrolled%20in%20literacy%20and%20adult%20education%20programmes/#.Um5lzVNw9fp)