



COMPARISON OF EARLY CHILD HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES OF CANADA AND THE NETHERLANDS

Meta van den Heuvel

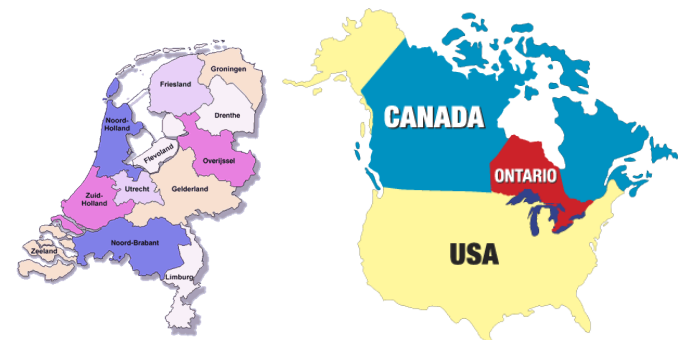
Introduction



- Early childhood is a key time in physical, cognitive and social development of children
- Early childhood is also a key time when public health, health care and social services can impact on the life trajectory of a child

Objective

- Comparative analysis social health policies between the Netherlands and Canada / Ontario
- To highlight similarities and differences of social health policies between the countries
- To better inform global early childhood development policies



Methods

- We compared 4 indicators which are associated with positive child health and development outcomes.



Results: 1. Prenatal Care

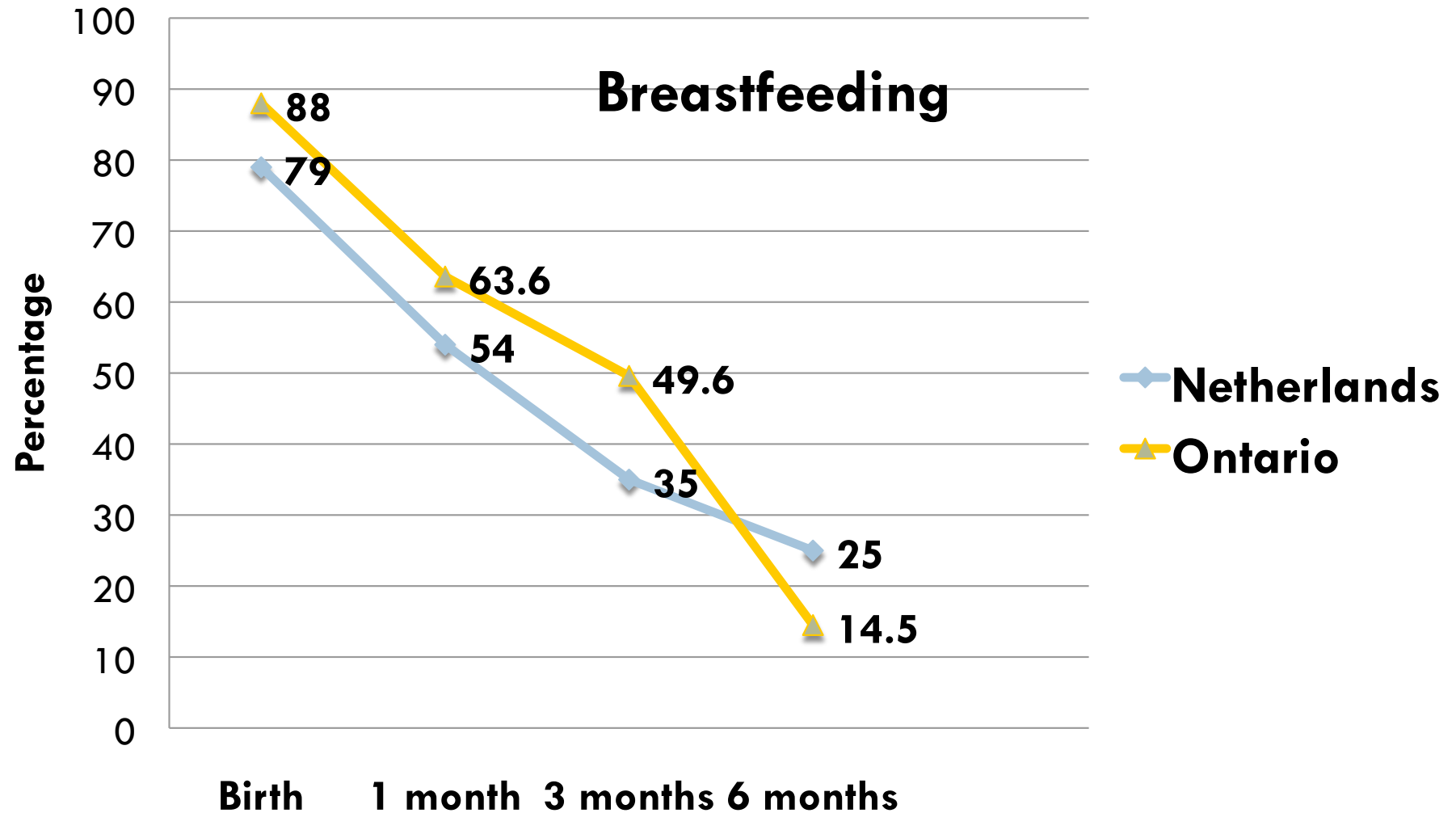
	Netherlands	Ontario
Organization		
Provision of Prenatal Care	Midwife 80%	Obstetrician 78%
Outcome		
Maternal smoking rate	7.6%	11.6%
Delivery	Home 23% Outdoor patient 11%	Hospital
Assisted vaginal delivery	10%	13.8%
C-section rate	15.4%	29%

Results 2. Maternal Leave

Organization

	The Netherlands	Ontario
Maternal Leave	16 weeks full salary Mandatory 4 weeks prior to due date	15 weeks at 55% of a woman's salary
Parental Leave	One year half the weekly hours worked May be spread out during the first 8 years Unpaid	35 weeks First year baby is born maximum payment \$468 weekly Taxable income

Result 2. Outcome Maternal Leave

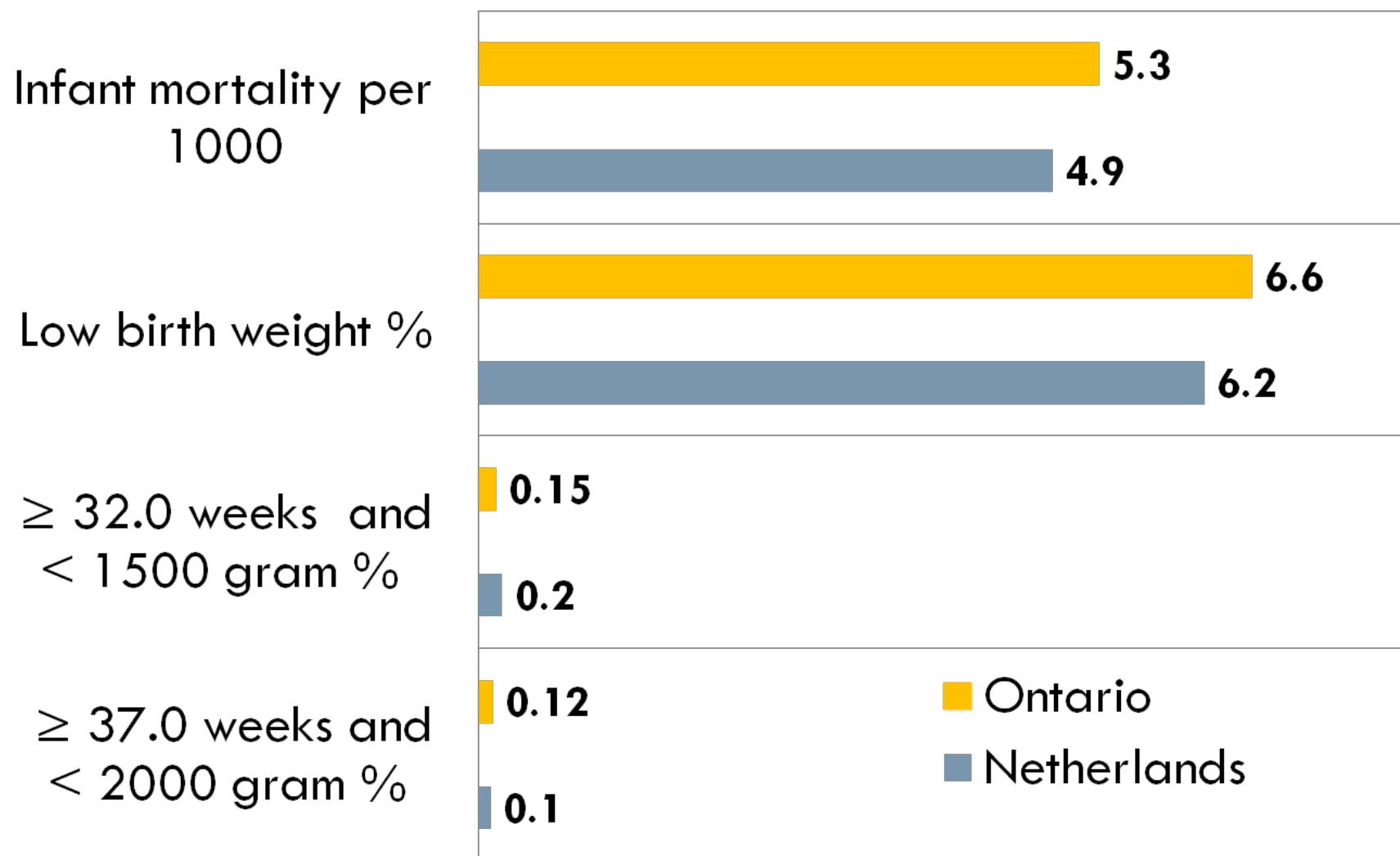


Results 3: Organization Child health

care

	Netherlands	Ontario
Acute Care	Family Physicians	Family physicians, pediatricians, emergency physicians
Preventive Care	Public health Physicians and specialized nurses	Family physicians, Pediatricians, Nurse practitioners, public health nurses
* Well baby visits	10 in first 18 months	6 in first 18 months (4 optional)
* Service Coverage	95%	No systematic delivery, nor geographically accessible to all families
Secondary and Tertiary care	Pediatricians	Pediatricians

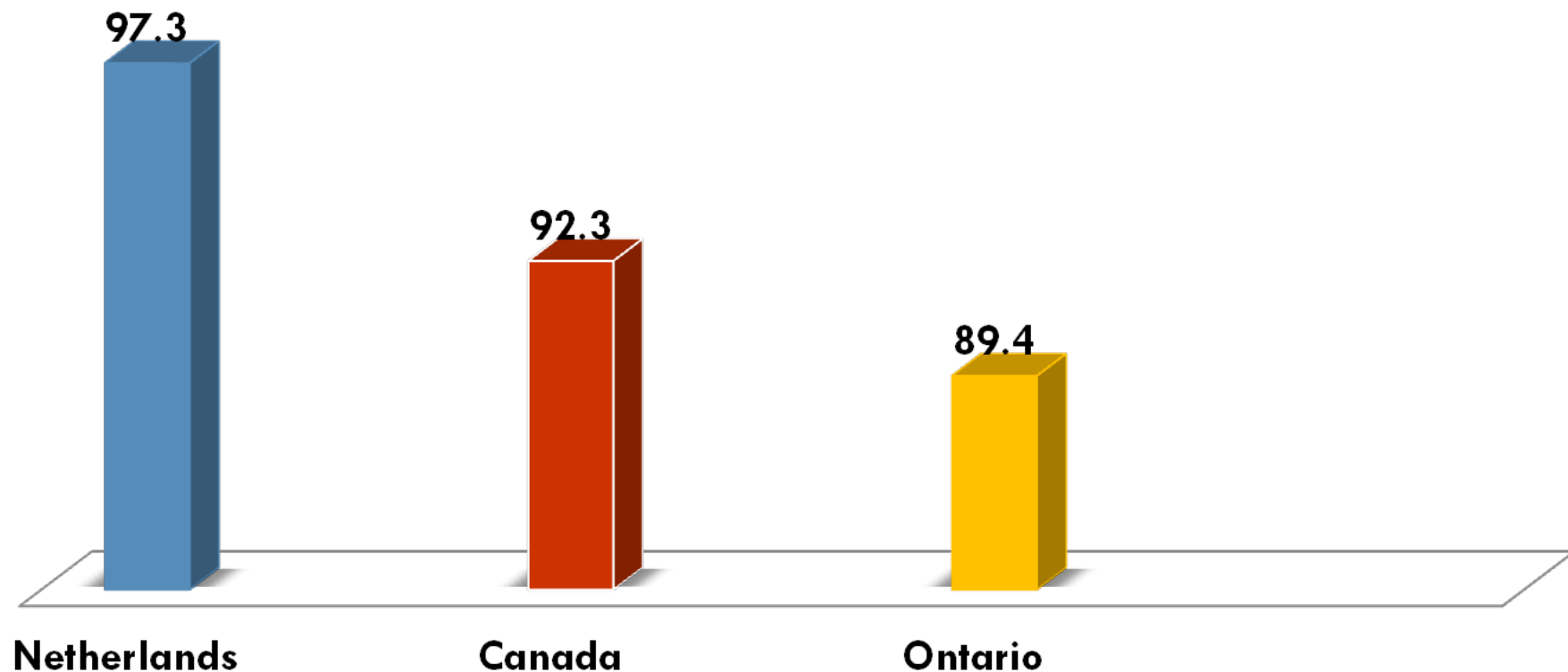
Results: 3. Outcome Child health care



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Immunization rates (%)

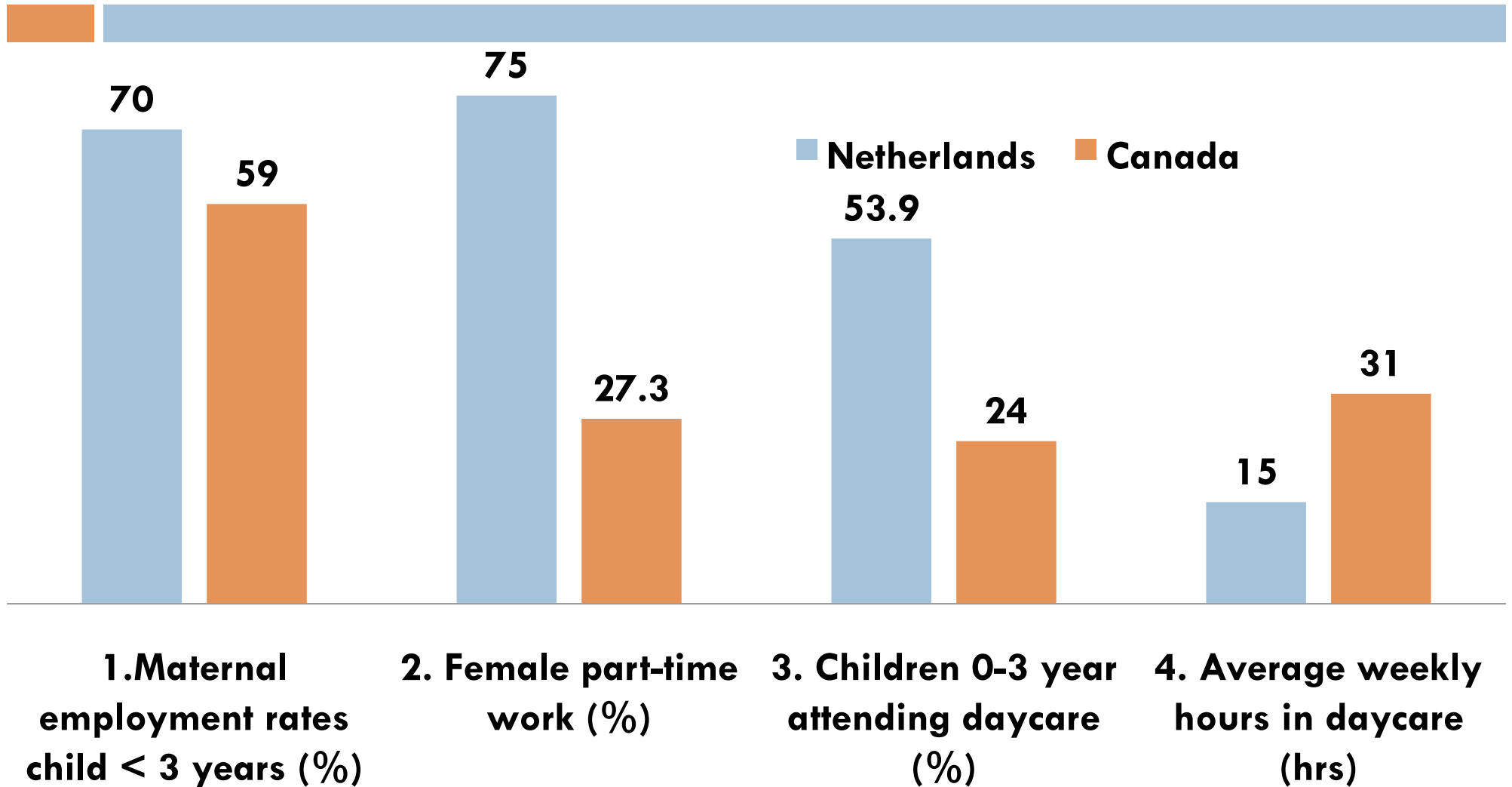
■ Netherlands ■ Canada ■ Ontario



Results: 4. Organization Early Childhood Education and Child Care

	The Netherlands	Ontario
Child Care Centres <i>Supports working parents</i>	Age 3 months – 4 years Contribution from the state income dependend	Age 3 months – 5 years Levels of parent contribution generally high
Pre-school <i>Supports at home parents</i>	Age 2-4 years Financed by municipalities	Age 2-6 years Operated by various agencies Funded by parents
Family support programs	At home or pre-school center Supports parents with disadvantaged backgrounds	Located in special “Early Years Centres” Open daily Accesible to all parents
Kindergarten	Compulsory school age 5 years, starts at age 4	Compulsory school age 6 years, starts at age 4

Result: 4. Outcome Early Childhood Education and care



Results 4: Outcome Early Childhood Education and care

- Very little is known about the outcome of early childhood education and care programs
- Early Development Instrument (EDI) can be used as school readiness instrument.
- In Ontario 1 in 4 of kindergarten children are rated as vulnerable
- No EDI data of the Netherlands available

Discussion



- Strengths: the use of policies common to many developed nations, along with the use of global health indicators
- Limitations: differences between Ontario and the Netherlands, variations in data quality

Conclusion

- There is an emerging need for measuring the quality and effects of all early child development programs offered in both countries.
- Further efforts should focus on “lifting all children up” through evidence-based, systematic programs and policies, and the development of indicators to measure progress in health and development



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Institutions





Questions?