

# Pandemic is over; now what?

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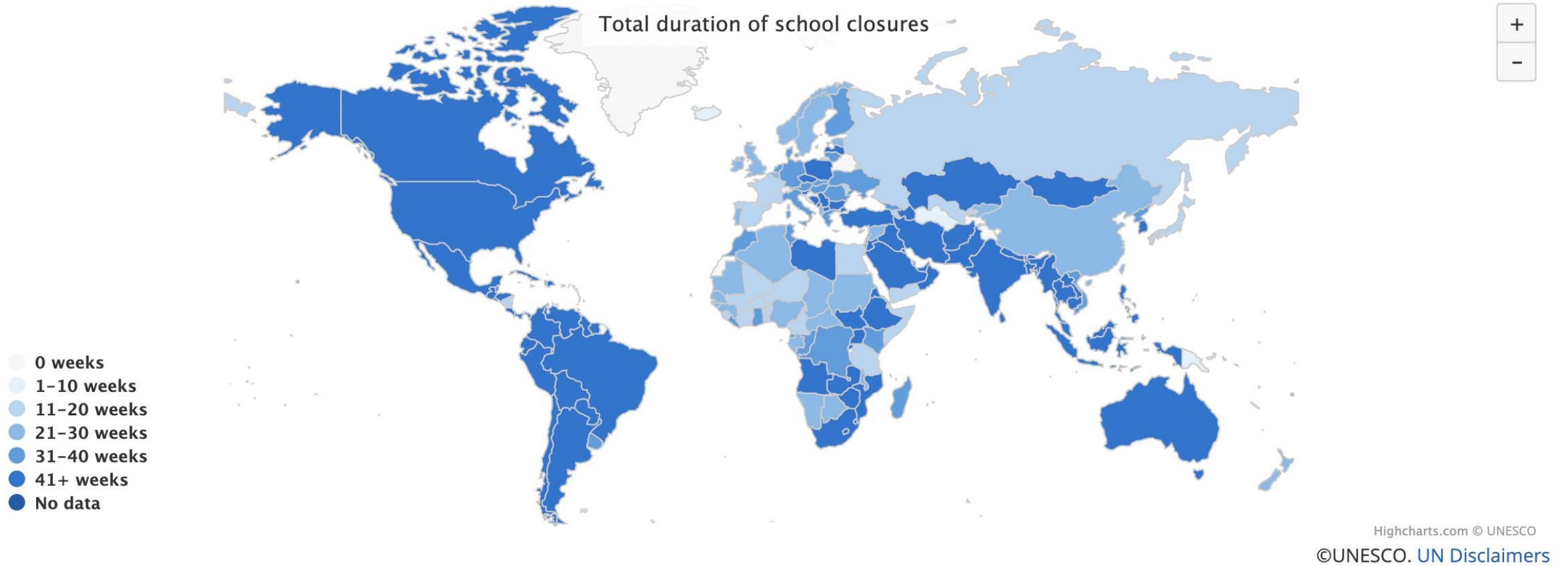
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**"COVID Invasion" (detail) by Leonard (Age group: 4-6 years).**

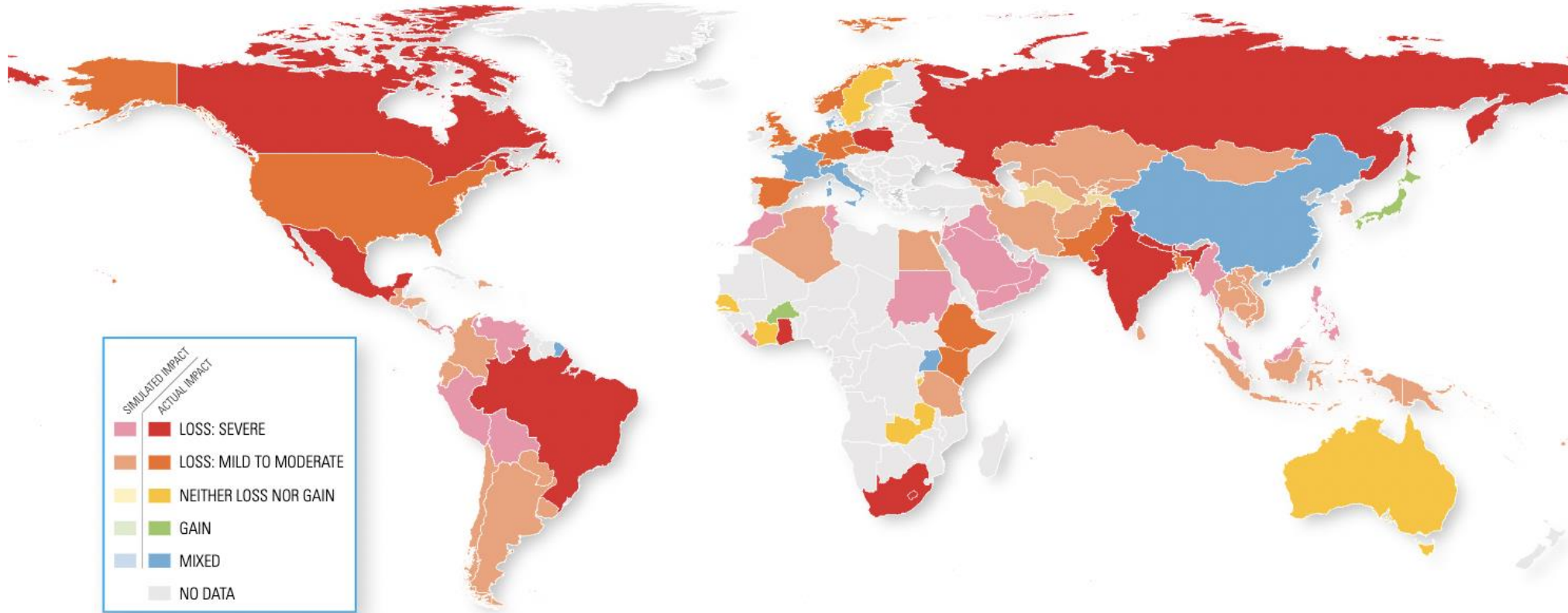
Image: Royal Ontario Museum

# February 2020-February 2022



# Where are we on education recovery? UNESCO, UNICEF & World Bank Report, 2022

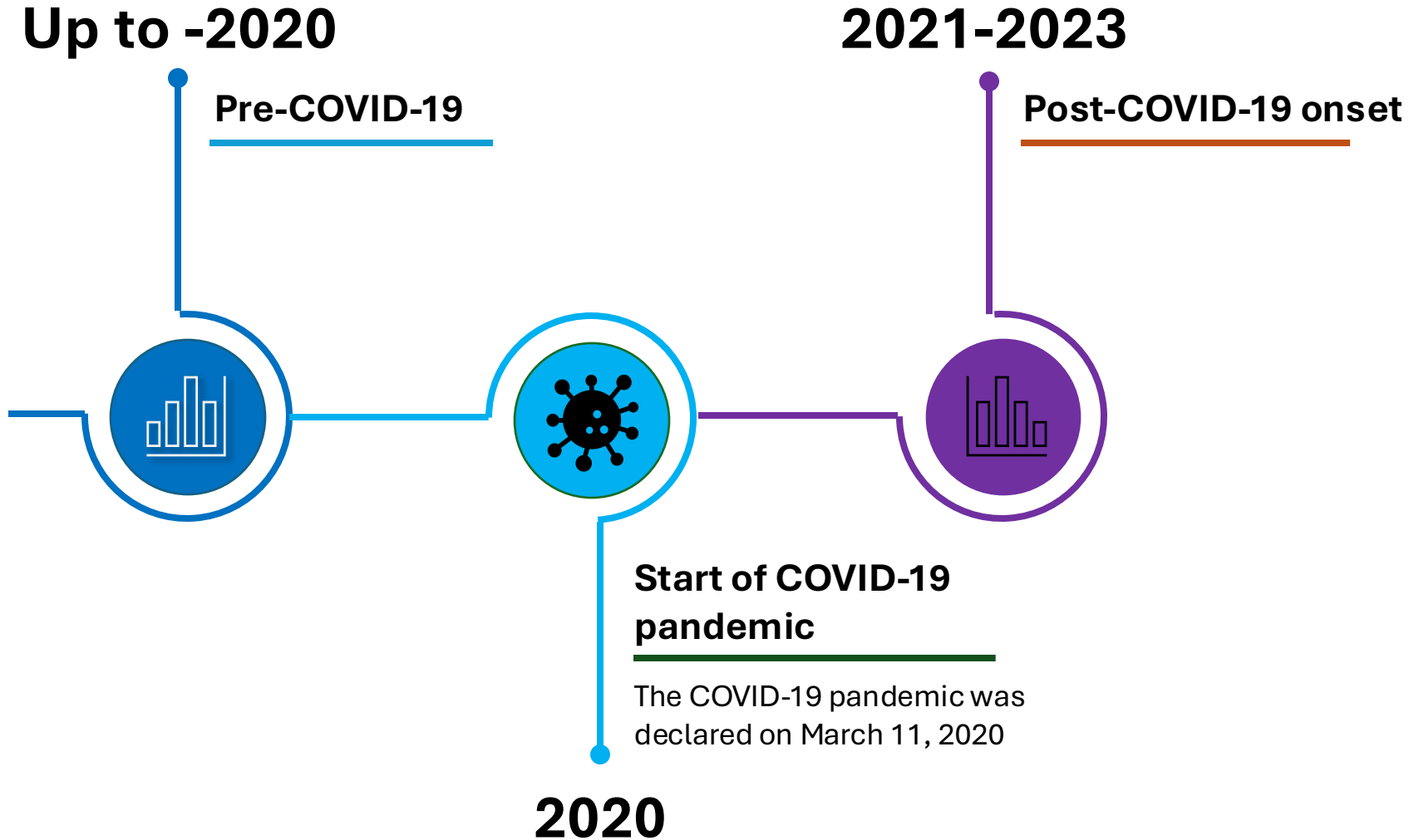
**FIGURE 3.** Impact of school closures on learning result, based on literature as of 28 February 2022



**Source:** Based on 65 studies reporting simulated (lighter shades) and actual observed (darker shades) learning losses/gains, covering a total of 104 countries and territories.

**Note:** Categorization of severity of learning loss is based on the distribution of values ('Severe' = top tercile of distribution). Losses are considered severe if  $\geq 0.30$  decrease in standard deviations,  $\geq 6$  months behind,  $\leq 30$  per cent of in-person equivalent,  $\geq 5$  percentage points decrease in share of students able to do tasks/reaching proficiency,  $\geq 10$  per cent decline in performance,  $\geq 10$  per cent decline in learning-adjusted years of schooling, or  $\geq 50$  per cent decline in instructional loss (average share of the school year lost). Losses are categorized based on the largest reported loss, regardless of age/grade and subject.

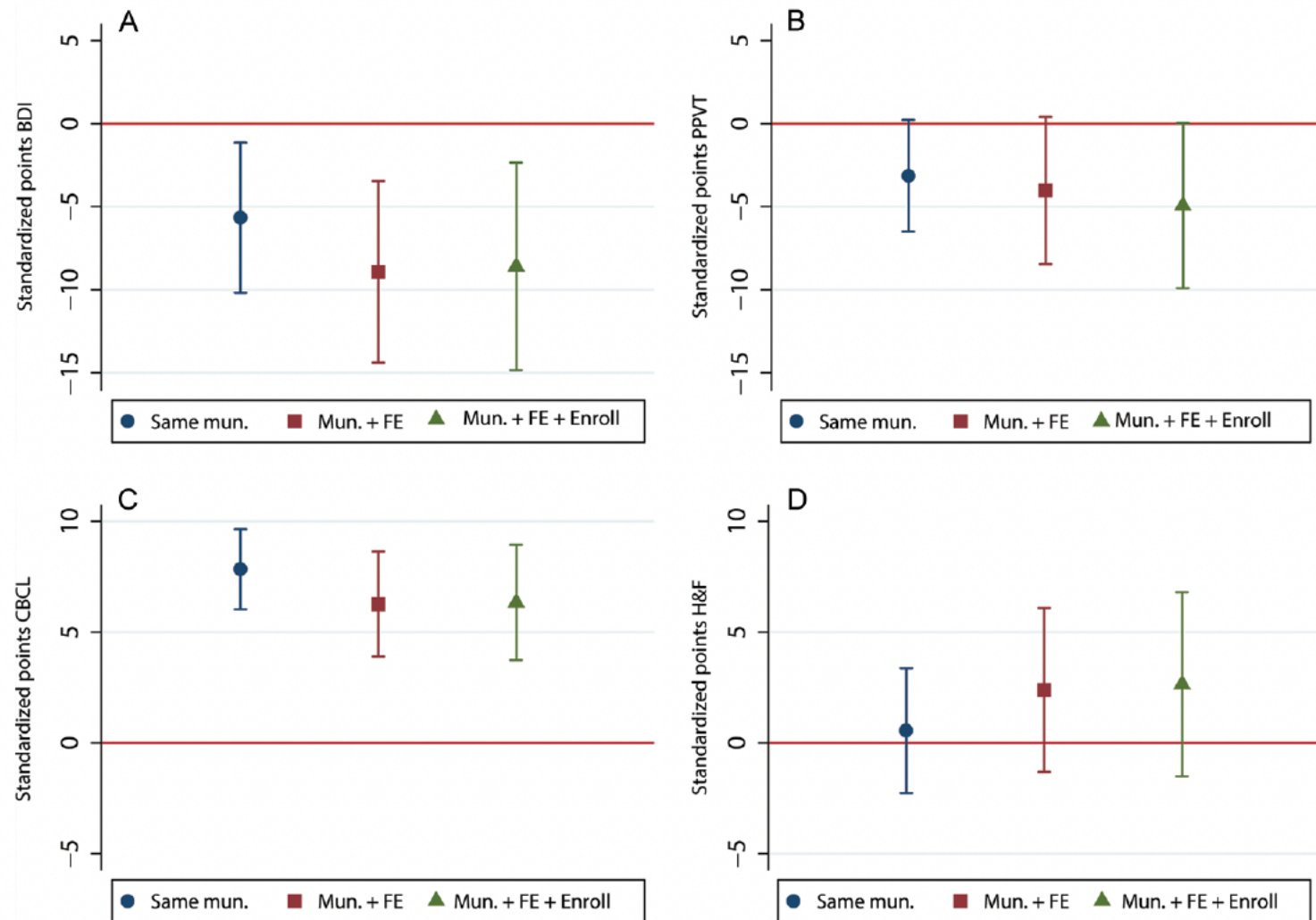
# Timeline



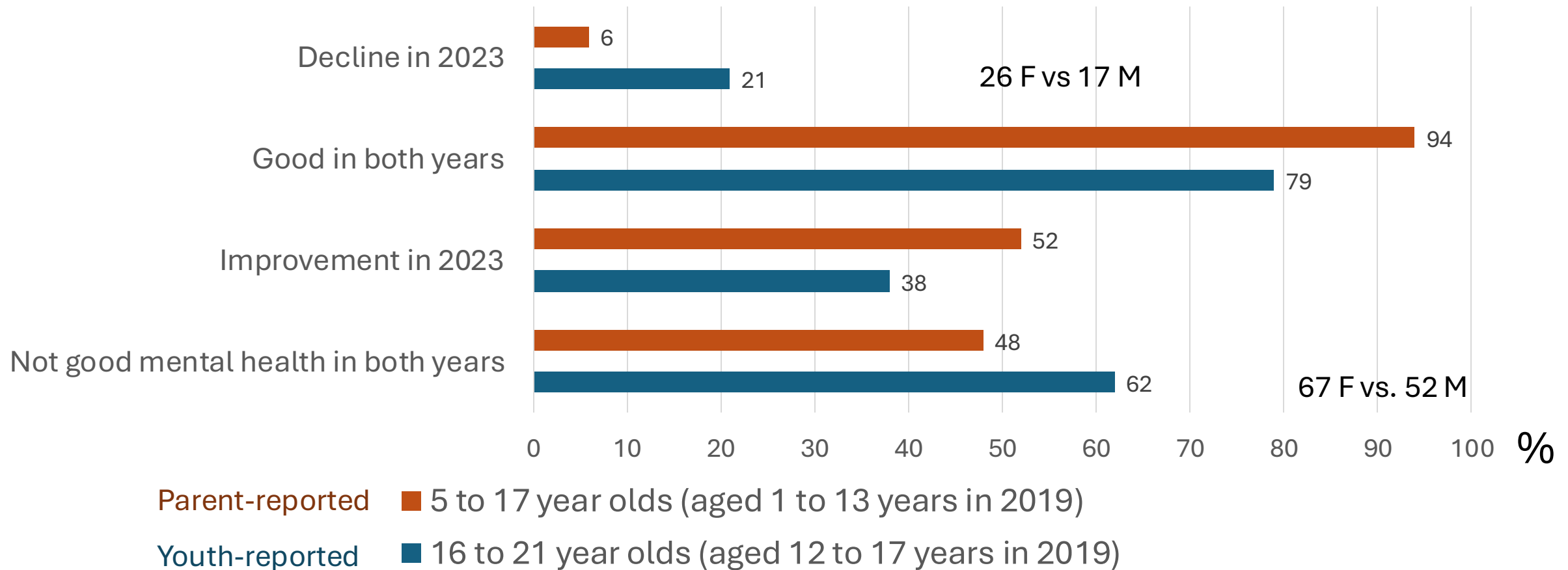
# A 2017 vs. 2020 cohort of 4-5 year-olds in Chile

With adequate controls, the 2020 cohort did more poorly in terms of cognitive and vocabulary development, behaviour; but same in executive functioning

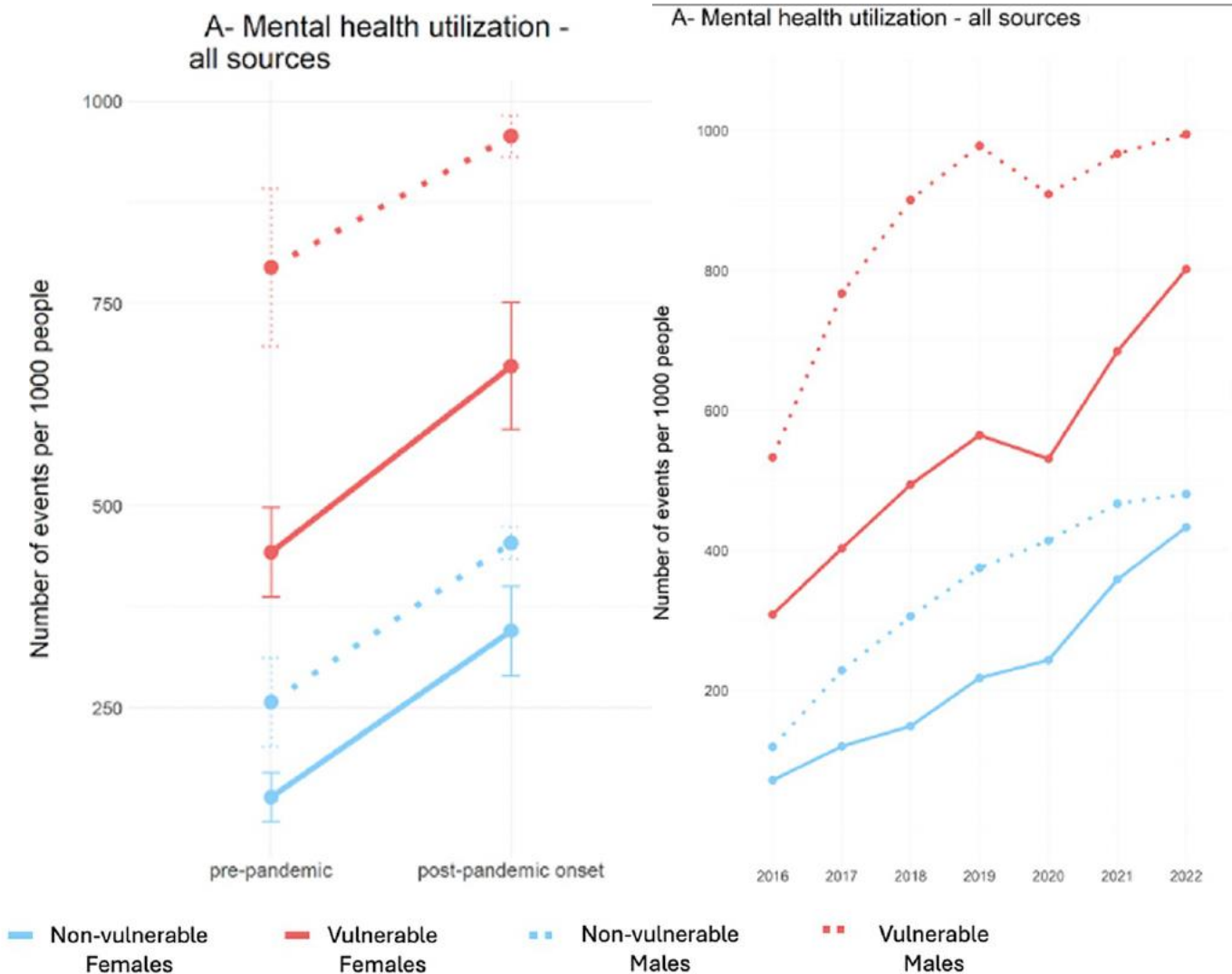
DEVELOPMENTAL LOSSES IN YOUNG CHILDREN DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



# Changes in perceived mental health between 2019 and 2023, by age group (Canada)



# Alberta – from vulnerability in kindergarten to utilization of mental health services



Poorer outcomes:  
males  
children who were  
developmentally  
vulnerable in  
kindergarten



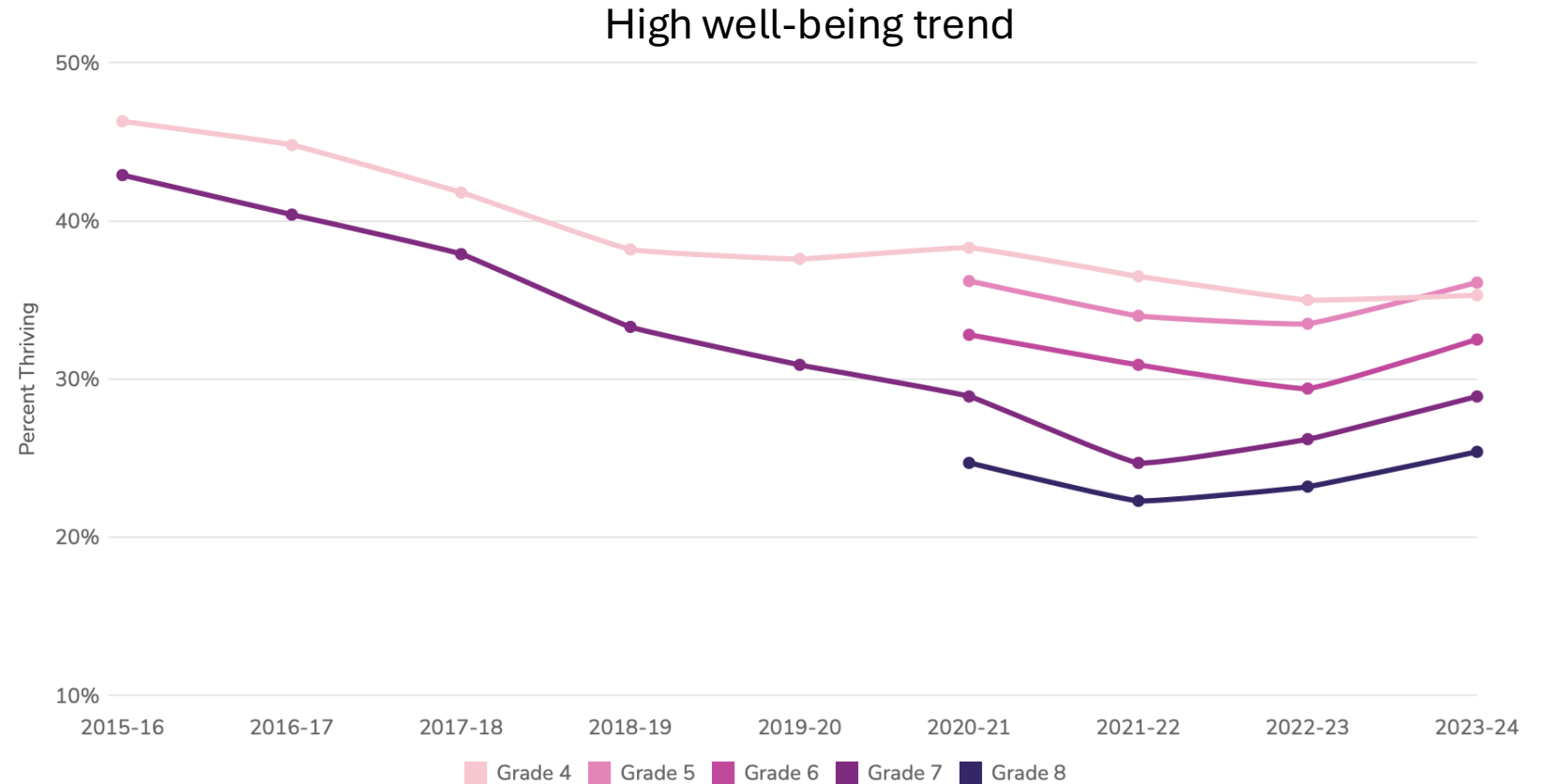
# Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI)

## The MDI Well-Being Index

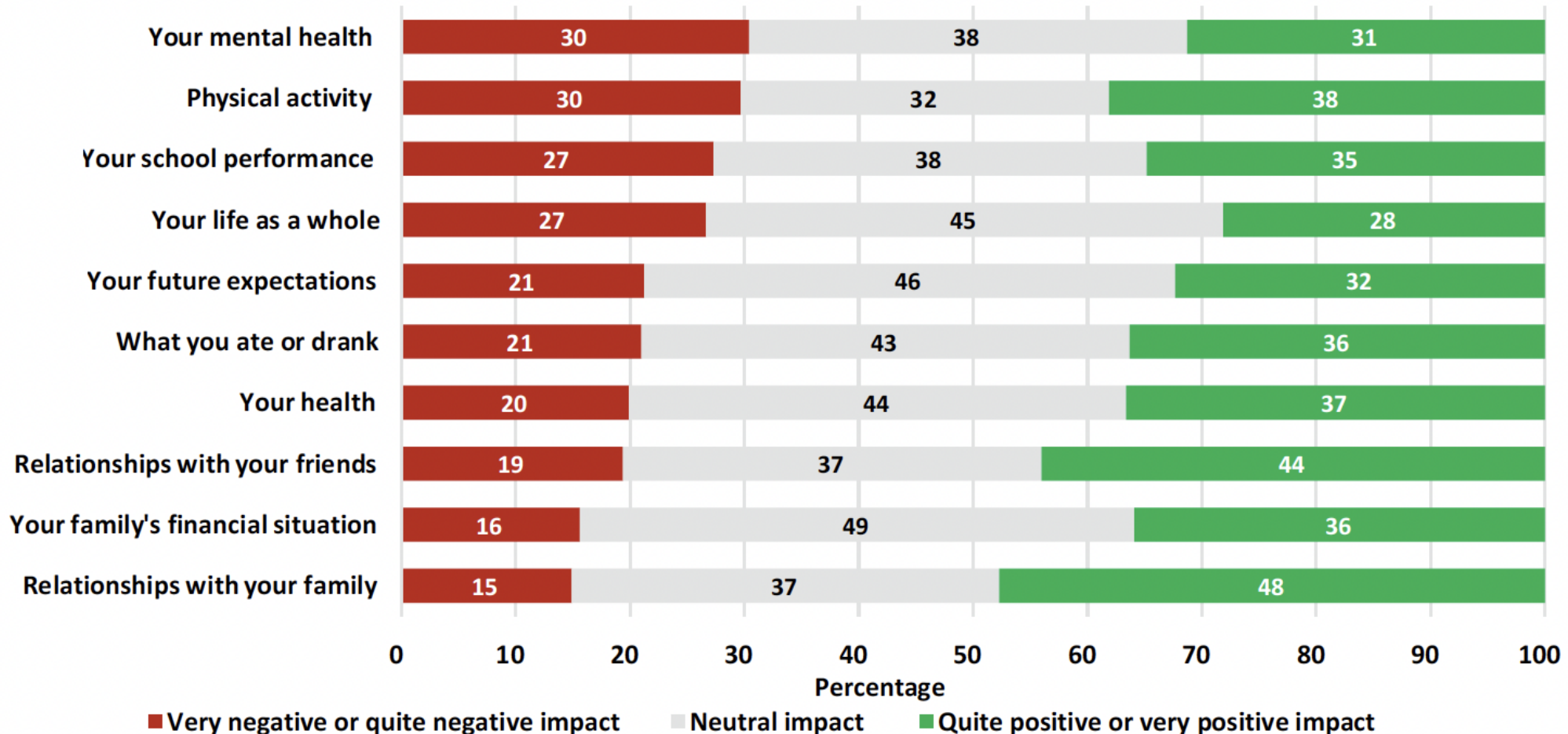
Combination of:  
Optimism  
Happiness,  
Self-Esteem,  
Absence of Sadness  
General Health

Into:  
low, medium, and **high well-being**

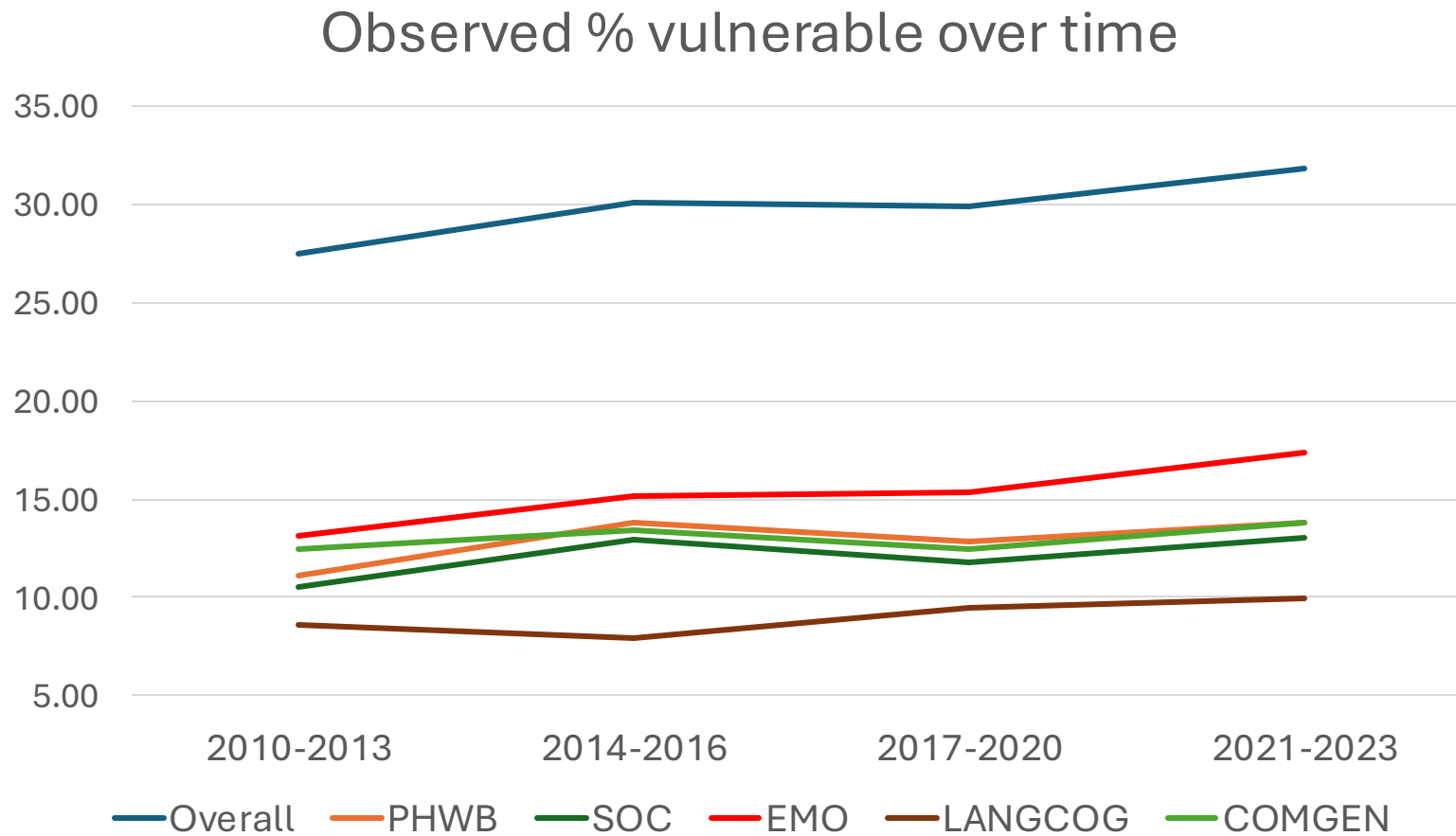
Province of British Columbia



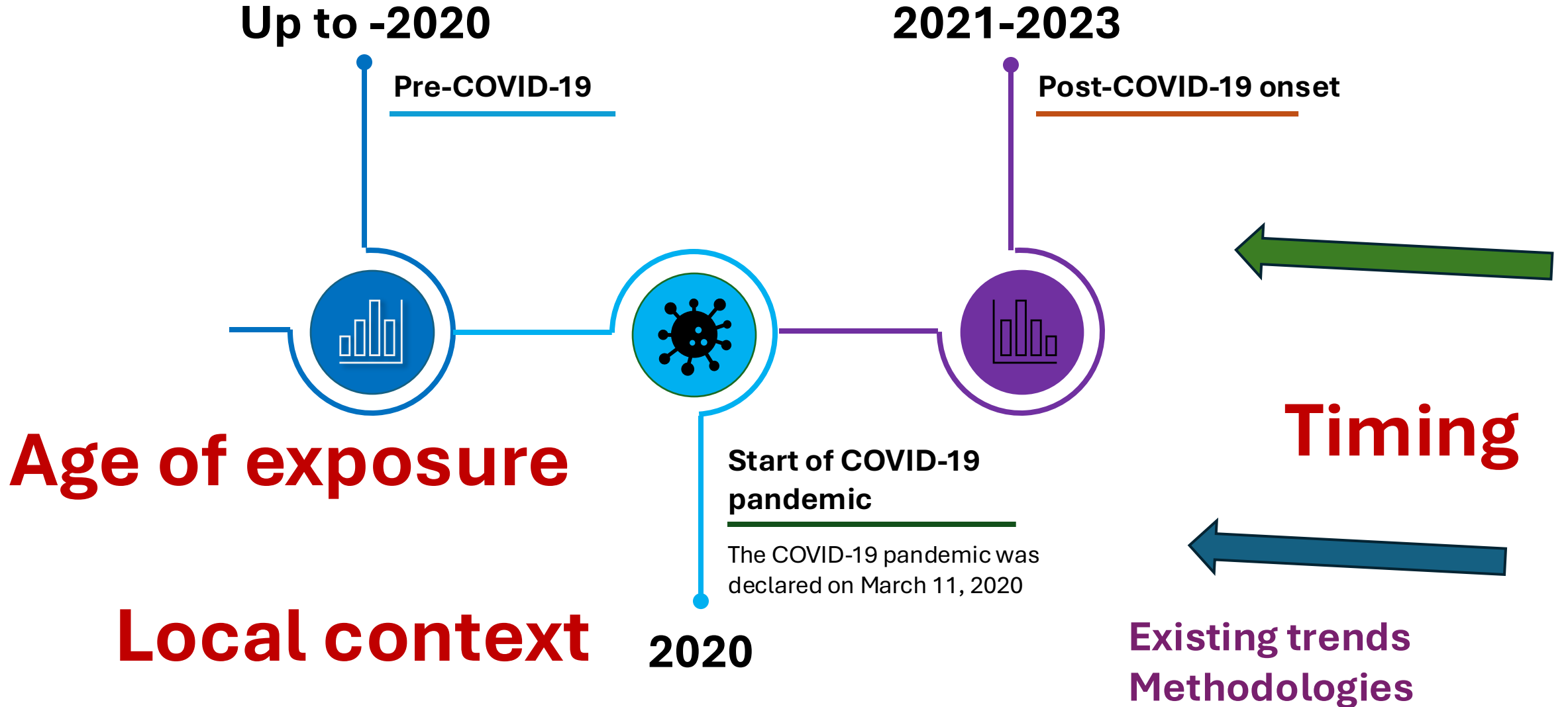
# Overall patterns of reported positive, neutral and negative impacts of the pandemic (HBSC 2021/22)



# Youngest children – how long will they carry the burden?



# Pre-post COVID-19 considerations



# Some emerging patterns

- Data collected during early phases of the pandemic indicate worse outcomes
- Mixed evidence on sex differences
- Evidence on age
- Negative trends a continuation of existing patterns
- Surprising (or not?) positive signals

**Now is not the time to stop collecting data – these trends need to be monitored, and in REAL TIME**