



Department of
Education

GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

National Assessment Program
Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)

Summary of Western Australian public school students' results 2023

Shaping the future



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National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)
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Introduction

This report summarises the 2023 National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results for Western Australian (WA) public school students.

Introduced in 2008, NAPLAN is conducted annually across Australia in all schools.

From 2023 changes to NAPLAN were introduced. NAPLAN moved to Term 1 (previously Term 2), with testing conducted in March; student achievement is reported against 4 levels of proficiency (Exceeding, Strong, Developing and Needs Additional Support), replacing the previous NAPLAN bands and national minimum standards; and the NAPLAN measurement scales and time series have been reset.

Around 93,100 WA public school students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 sat the national literacy and numeracy tests in 2023. Almost all students sat the assessments online, excluding the Year 3 writing assessment which remains a paper-based test.

Further information about NAPLAN and 2023 national and state wide results (across public and non-government schools) is available via the [national NAPLAN report](#).

Trends and comparisons

With the introduction of new NAPLAN scales in 2023 a new time series has commenced. NAPLAN results from 2023 should not be compared to previous years.

Any given score on an assessment represents the same level of achievement over time. For example, a score of 500 in Reading is equivalent to the same score in future testing years.

Notes and definitions

The number of students (Students) includes all students who sat the test, as well as those who were exempt, absent or formally withdrawn from the test(s). Assessments for the same year level may show different numbers of students as a result of students moving interstate, overseas or transferring out of public schooling during the NAPLAN testing period.

Participation rates (Participation) comprise students who either sat the tests or were exempt, as a proportion of all students including absent and withdrawn students.

Exempt students are those who were granted formal exemptions because they had a significant intellectual or functional disability; or were from a non-English speaking background and had been in Australia for less than one year.

Mean is the average score for the students. The means include imputed scores for students who were absent or withdrawn from the test(s) but not exempt students.

Standard Deviation (SD) is a measure of the spread in the scores across students.

Proficiency levels are used to report student achievement. There are 4 proficiency levels:

- **Exceeding:** the student's result exceeds expectations at the time of testing.
- **Strong:** the student's result meets challenging but reasonable expectations at the time of testing.
- **Developing:** the student's result indicates that they are working towards expectations at the time of testing.
- **Needs additional support (NAS):** the student's result indicates that they are not achieving the learning outcomes that are expected at the time of testing. They are likely to need additional support to progress satisfactorily.

Gender is as reported by students and/or parents in their school enrolment records.

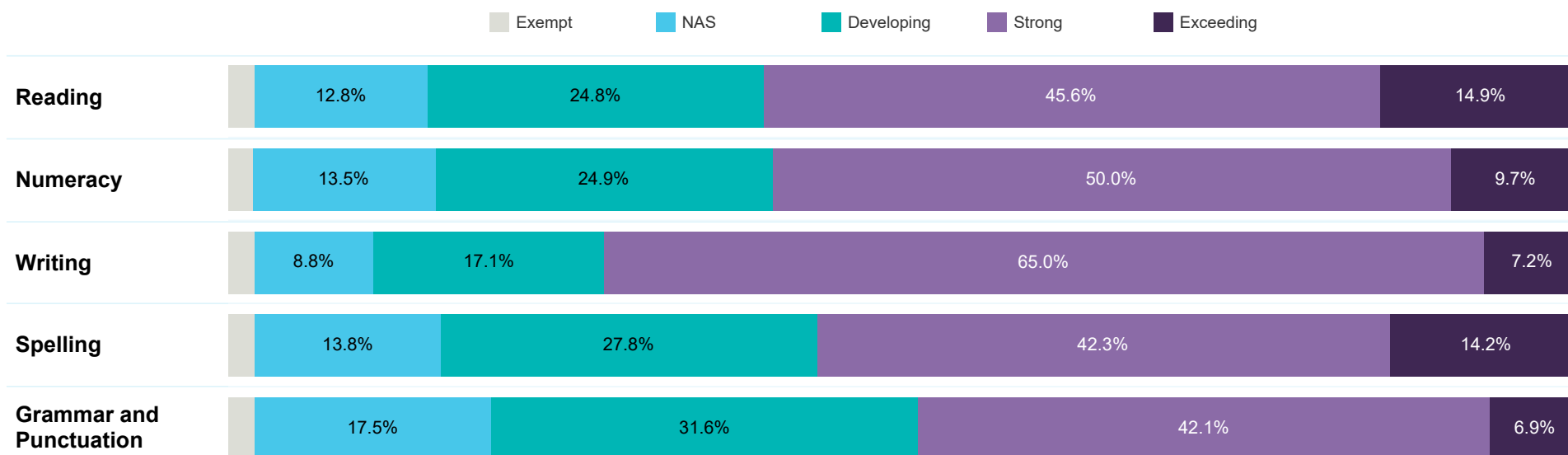
Aboriginal students are those who identify as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin, as indicated on school enrolment records.

Overall results – 2023

Participation and achievement of Year 3 students, 2023

Assessment	Students	Participation	Mean	SD	Exempt	NAS	Developing	Strong	Exceeding
Reading	25,967	95.8%	390.5	87.6	1.9%	12.8%	24.8%	45.6%	14.9%
Numeracy	25,964	95.0%	396.5	75.3	1.9%	13.5%	24.9%	50.0%	9.7%
Writing	25,971	95.1%	405.5	76.6	1.9%	8.8%	17.1%	65.0%	7.2%
Spelling	25,967	95.2%	393.2	91.7	1.9%	13.8%	27.8%	42.3%	14.2%
Grammar and Punctuation	25,967	95.2%	398.3	88.0	1.9%	17.5%	31.6%	42.1%	6.9%

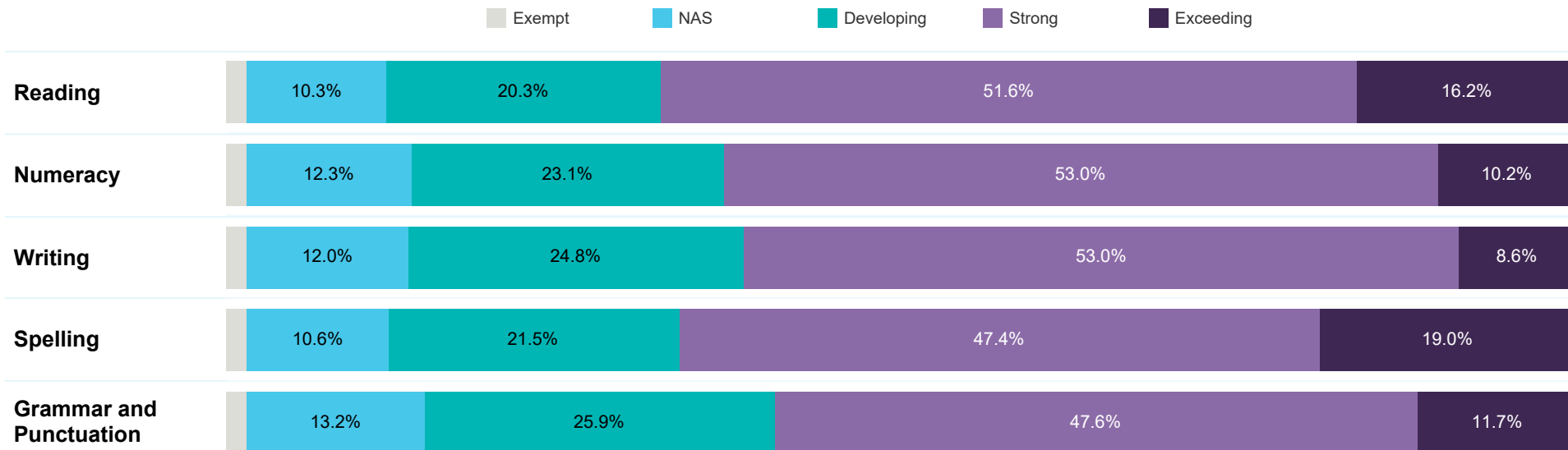
Percentage of Year 3 public school students in each proficiency level, 2023



Participation and achievement of Year 5 students, 2023

Assessment	Students	Participation	Mean	SD	Exempt	NAS	Developing	Strong	Exceeding
Reading	25,585	96.5%	480.6	78.1	1.5%	10.3%	20.3%	51.6%	16.2%
Numeracy	25,580	95.8%	477.9	79.3	1.5%	12.3%	23.1%	53.0%	10.2%
Writing	25,586	96.4%	472.0	79.3	1.5%	12.0%	24.8%	53.0%	8.6%
Spelling	25,581	96.0%	482.2	82.9	1.5%	10.6%	21.5%	47.4%	19.0%
Grammar and Punctuation	25,581	96.0%	487.2	83.0	1.5%	13.2%	25.9%	47.6%	11.7%

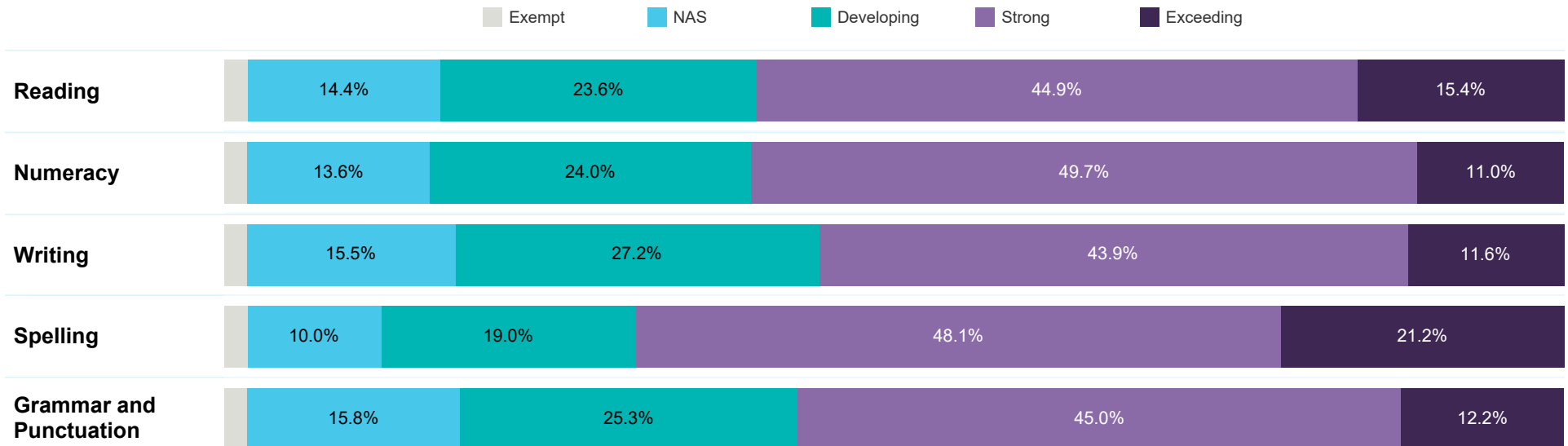
Percentage of Year 5 public school students in each proficiency level, 2023



Participation and achievement of Year 7 students, 2023

Assessment	Students	Participation	Mean	SD	Exempt	NAS	Developing	Strong	Exceeding
Reading	20,657	94.7%	519.9	83.1	1.7%	14.4%	23.6%	44.9%	15.4%
Numeracy	20,652	93.4%	525.7	86.4	1.7%	13.6%	24.0%	49.7%	11.0%
Writing	20,655	95.4%	518.1	88.0	1.7%	15.5%	27.2%	43.9%	11.6%
Spelling	20,655	93.6%	533.3	79.3	1.7%	10.0%	19.0%	48.1%	21.2%
Grammar and Punctuation	20,655	93.6%	526.0	83.4	1.7%	15.8%	25.3%	45.0%	12.2%

Percentage of Year 7 public school students in each proficiency level, 2023



Participation and achievement of Year 9 students, 2023

Assessment	Students	Participation	Mean	SD	Exempt	NAS	Developing	Strong	Exceeding
Reading	20,909	90.5%	562.3	77.3	1.8%	10.6%	26.0%	46.0%	15.7%
Numeracy	20,908	88.8%	565.2	83.4	1.8%	10.9%	24.7%	52.9%	9.7%
Writing	20,909	91.1%	557.7	92.5	1.8%	13.5%	31.0%	38.7%	15.0%
Spelling	20,909	89.0%	562.9	70.2	1.8%	9.4%	21.0%	50.9%	17.0%
Grammar and Punctuation	20,909	89.0%	551.3	87.5	1.8%	14.3%	30.9%	40.3%	12.7%

Percentage of Year 9 public school students in each proficiency level, 2023

Exempt NAS Developing Strong Exceeding

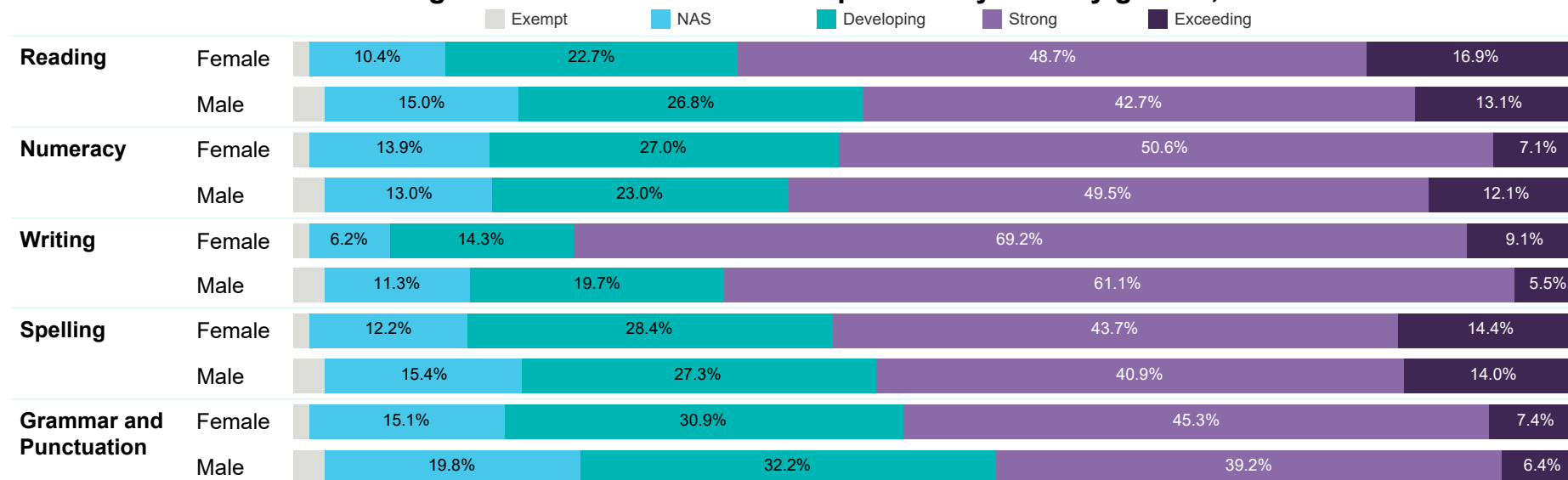


Results by gender – 2023

Participation and Achievement of Year 3 students by gender, 2023

Assessment	Student subgroup	Students	Participation	Mean	SD	Exempt	NAS	Developing	Strong	Exceeding
Reading	Female	12,446	96.6%	399.8	85.6	1.3%	10.4%	22.7%	48.7%	16.9%
	Male	13,519	95.1%	381.9	88.6	2.4%	15.0%	26.8%	42.7%	13.1%
Numeracy	Female	12,446	95.6%	390.4	71.6	1.3%	13.9%	27.0%	50.6%	7.1%
	Male	13,516	94.4%	402.2	78.2	2.4%	13.0%	23.0%	49.5%	12.1%
Writing	Female	12,449	96.1%	417.7	72.0	1.3%	6.2%	14.3%	69.2%	9.1%
	Male	13,520	94.3%	394.2	78.9	2.4%	11.3%	19.7%	61.1%	5.5%
Spelling	Female	12,448	96.0%	396.2	88.7	1.3%	12.2%	28.4%	43.7%	14.4%
	Male	13,517	94.4%	390.3	94.3	2.4%	15.4%	27.3%	40.9%	14.0%
Grammar and Punctuation	Female	12,448	96.0%	405.1	85.7	1.3%	15.1%	30.9%	45.3%	7.4%
	Male	13,517	94.4%	392.0	89.7	2.4%	19.8%	32.2%	39.2%	6.4%

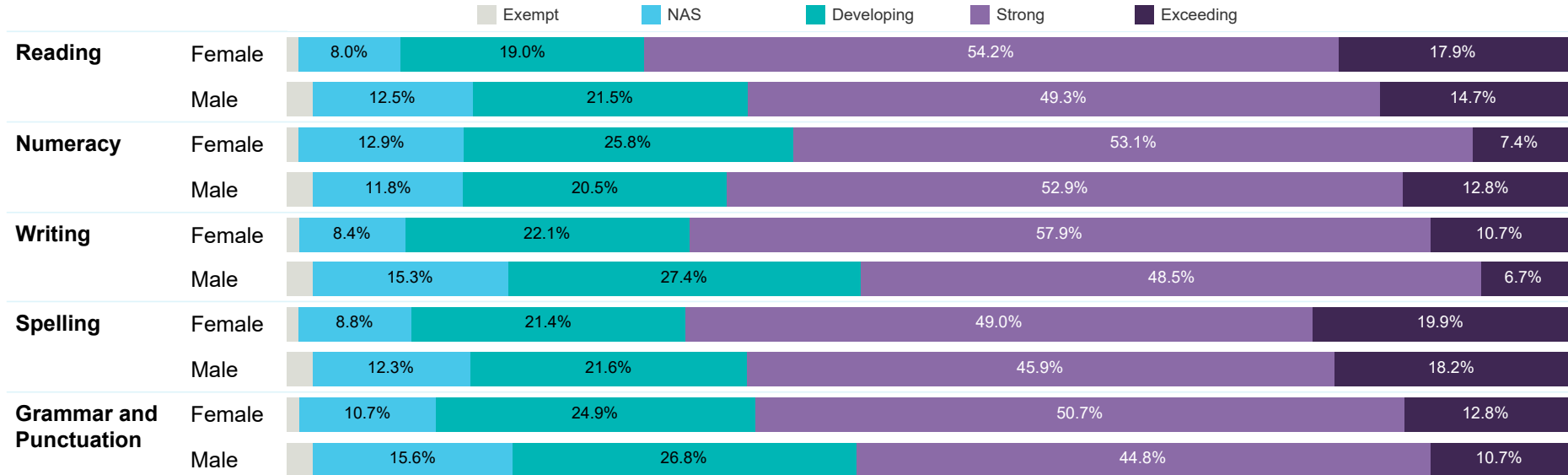
Percentage of Year 3 students in each proficiency level by gender, 2023



Participation and Achievement of Year 5 students by gender, 2023

Assessment	Student subgroup	Students	Participation	Mean	SD	Exempt	NAS	Developing	Strong	Exceeding
Reading	Female	12,359	97.2%	488.0	74.9	0.9%	8.0%	19.0%	54.2%	17.9%
	Male	13,222	95.9%	473.5	80.5	2.0%	12.5%	21.5%	49.3%	14.7%
Numeracy	Female	12,358	96.4%	470.1	75.0	0.9%	12.9%	25.8%	53.1%	7.4%
	Male	13,218	95.2%	485.3	82.5	2.0%	11.8%	20.5%	52.9%	12.8%
Writing	Female	12,360	97.0%	484.5	74.6	1.0%	8.4%	22.1%	57.9%	10.7%
	Male	13,222	95.8%	460.1	81.8	2.0%	15.3%	27.4%	48.5%	6.7%
Spelling	Female	12,358	96.7%	487.0	79.5	0.9%	8.8%	21.4%	49.0%	19.9%
	Male	13,219	95.4%	477.6	85.8	2.0%	12.3%	21.6%	45.9%	18.2%
Grammar and Punctuation	Female	12,358	96.7%	494.9	79.7	0.9%	10.7%	24.9%	50.7%	12.8%
	Male	13,219	95.4%	480.0	85.4	2.0%	15.6%	26.8%	44.8%	10.7%

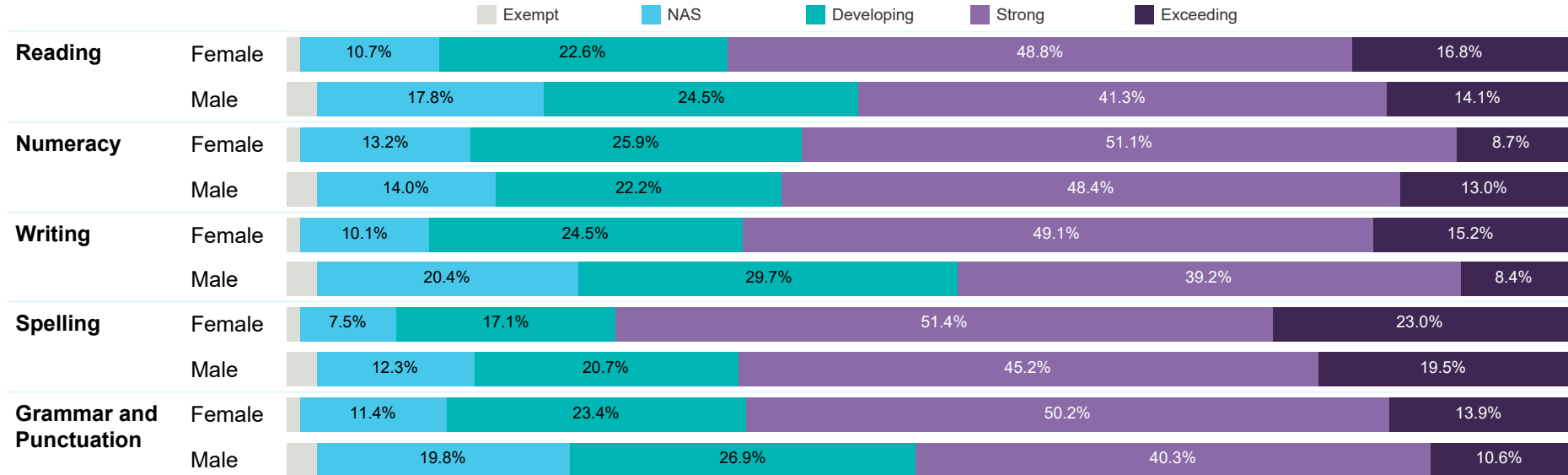
Percentage of Year 5 students in each proficiency level by gender, 2023



Participation and Achievement of Year 7 students by gender, 2023

Assessment	Student subgroup	Students	Participation	Mean	SD	Exempt	NAS	Developing	Strong	Exceeding
Reading	Female	9,811	95.0%	529.5	78.3	1.1%	10.7%	22.6%	48.8%	16.8%
	Male	10,820	94.6%	511.0	86.2	2.3%	17.8%	24.5%	41.3%	14.1%
Numeracy	Female	9,807	93.6%	521.1	81.4	1.1%	13.2%	25.9%	51.1%	8.7%
	Male	10,819	93.2%	529.9	90.6	2.3%	14.0%	22.2%	48.4%	13.0%
Writing	Female	9,809	95.7%	536.4	81.7	1.1%	10.1%	24.5%	49.1%	15.2%
	Male	10,820	95.2%	501.4	90.3	2.3%	20.4%	29.7%	39.2%	8.4%
Spelling	Female	9,809	93.9%	541.6	74.1	1.1%	7.5%	17.1%	51.4%	23.0%
	Male	10,820	93.3%	525.7	83.2	2.3%	12.3%	20.7%	45.2%	19.5%
Grammar and Punctuation	Female	9,809	93.9%	538.3	78.1	1.1%	11.4%	23.4%	50.2%	13.9%
	Male	10,820	93.3%	514.6	86.5	2.3%	19.8%	26.9%	40.3%	10.6%

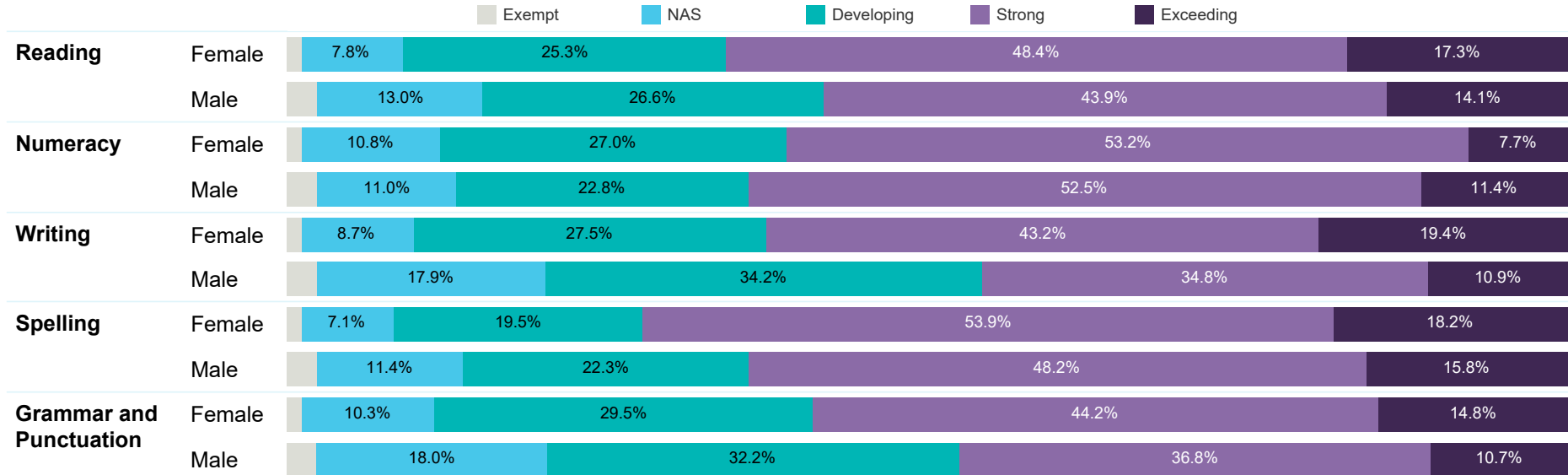
Percentage of Year 7 students in each proficiency level by gender, 2023



Participation and Achievement of Year 9 students by gender, 2023

Assessment	Student subgroup	Students	Participation	Mean	SD	Exempt	NAS	Developing	Strong	Exceeding
Reading	Female	9,858	90.5%	569.8	74.0	1.2%	7.8%	25.3%	48.4%	17.3%
	Male	11,012	90.5%	555.2	79.4	2.3%	13.0%	26.6%	43.9%	14.1%
Numeracy	Female	9,857	88.8%	560.1	79.5	1.2%	10.8%	27.0%	53.2%	7.7%
	Male	11,012	88.9%	569.7	86.5	2.3%	11.0%	22.8%	52.5%	11.4%
Writing	Female	9,858	91.3%	576.3	86.4	1.2%	8.7%	27.5%	43.2%	19.4%
	Male	11,012	91.0%	540.7	94.4	2.3%	17.9%	34.2%	34.8%	10.9%
Spelling	Female	9,858	89.2%	569.5	66.5	1.2%	7.1%	19.5%	53.9%	18.2%
	Male	11,012	88.9%	556.7	72.9	2.4%	11.4%	22.3%	48.2%	15.8%
Grammar and Punctuation	Female	9,858	89.2%	563.8	83.1	1.2%	10.3%	29.5%	44.2%	14.8%
	Male	11,012	88.9%	539.8	89.7	2.4%	18.0%	32.2%	36.8%	10.7%

Percentage of Year 9 students in each proficiency level by gender, 2023

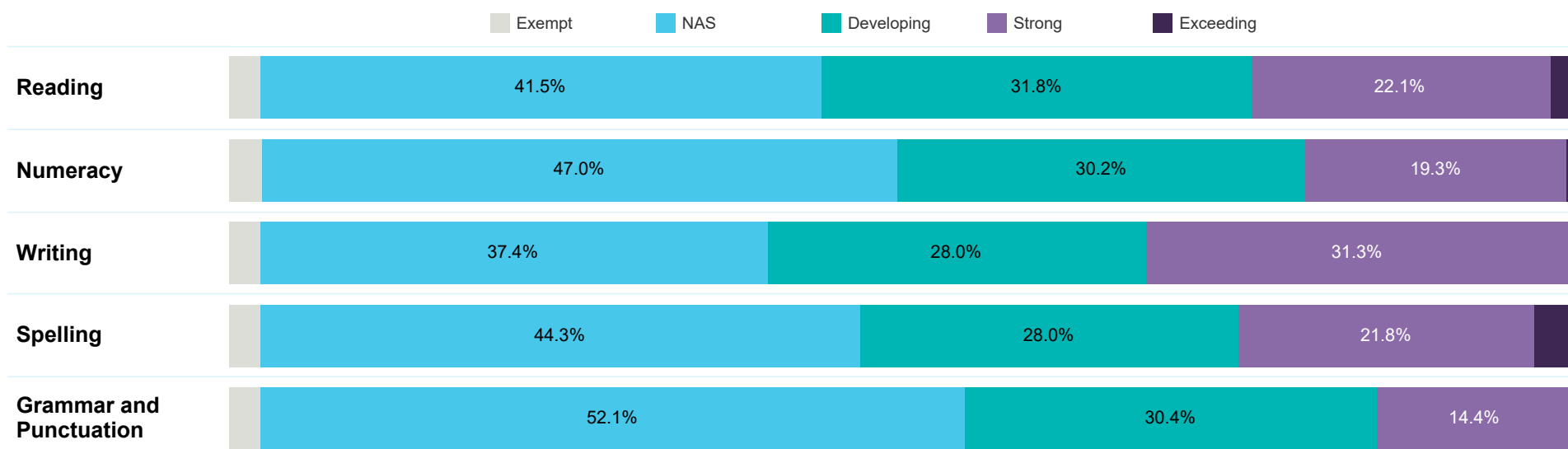


Results for Aboriginal students – 2023

Participation and achievement of Year 3 Aboriginal students, 2023

Assessment	Students	Participation	Mean	SD	Exempt	NAS	Developing	Strong	Exceeding
Reading	2,327	85.2%	308.3	84.0	2.3%	41.5%	31.8%	22.1%	2.3%
Numeracy	2,325	83.0%	319.5	72.1	2.4%	47.0%	30.2%	19.3%	1.1%
Writing	2,327	83.7%	319.8	90.9	2.4%	37.4%	28.0%	31.3%	0.9%
Spelling	2,326	82.7%	308.8	100.4	2.4%	44.3%	28.0%	21.8%	3.5%
Grammar and Punctuation	2,326	82.7%	311.4	85.6	2.4%	52.1%	30.4%	14.4%	0.7%

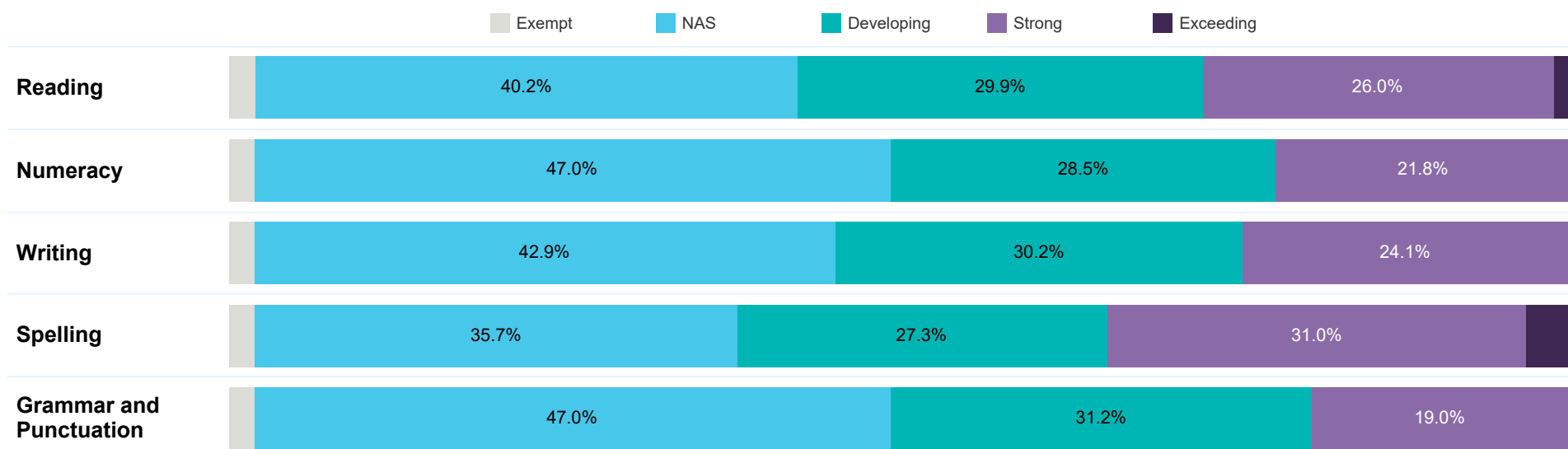
Percentage of Aboriginal Year 3 public school students in each proficiency level, 2023



Participation and achievement of Year 5 Aboriginal students, 2023

Assessment	Students	Participation	Mean	SD	Exempt	NAS	Developing	Strong	Exceeding
Reading	2,329	85.3%	398.4	78.8	1.9%	40.2%	29.9%	26.0%	2.0%
Numeracy	2,328	83.0%	393.9	74.3	1.9%	47.0%	28.5%	21.8%	0.8%
Writing	2,329	86.0%	388.4	94.2	1.9%	42.9%	30.2%	24.1%	0.9%
Spelling	2,328	83.6%	408.0	93.0	1.9%	35.7%	27.3%	31.0%	4.1%
Grammar and Punctuation	2,328	83.6%	399.1	82.6	1.9%	47.0%	31.2%	19.0%	0.9%

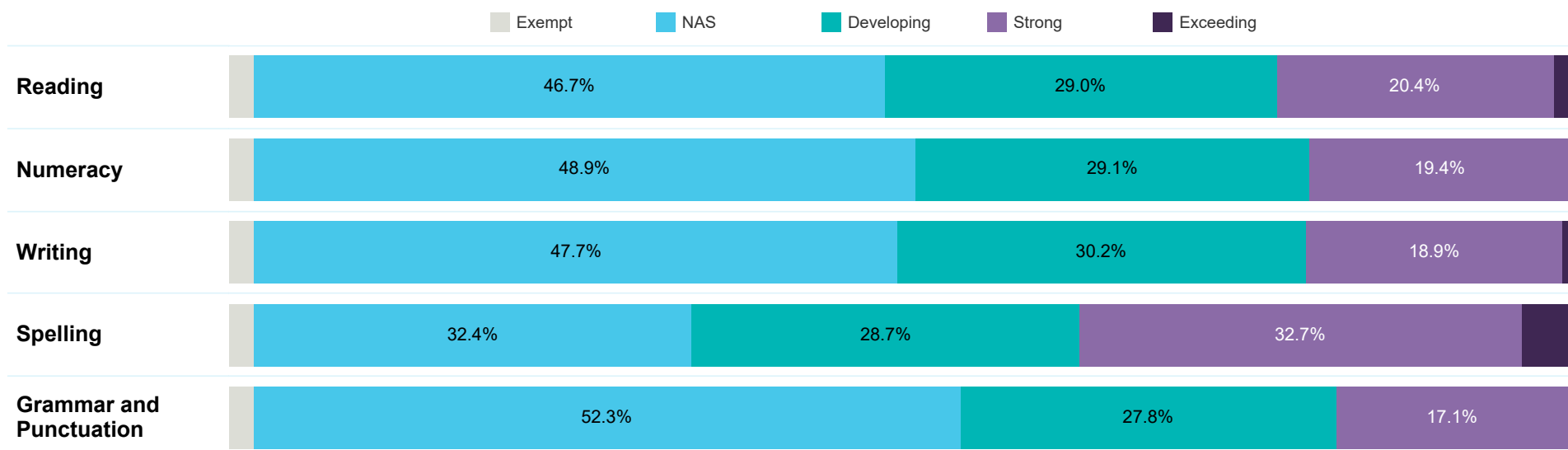
Percentage of Aboriginal Year 5 public school students in each proficiency level, 2023



Participation and achievement of Year 7 Aboriginal students, 2023

Assessment	Students	Participation	Mean	SD	Exempt	NAS	Developing	Strong	Exceeding
Reading	2,085	79.1%	438.2	79.5	1.8%	46.7%	29.0%	20.4%	2.0%
Numeracy	2,085	76.1%	435.9	78.0	1.8%	48.9%	29.1%	19.4%	0.7%
Writing	2,085	81.9%	432.1	98.2	1.8%	47.7%	30.2%	18.9%	1.4%
Spelling	2,085	77.2%	464.5	83.4	1.8%	32.4%	28.7%	32.7%	4.4%
Grammar and Punctuation	2,085	77.2%	437.7	80.6	1.8%	52.3%	27.8%	17.1%	0.9%

Percentage of Aboriginal Year 7 public school students in each proficiency level, 2023



Participation and achievement of Year 9 Aboriginal students, 2023

Assessment	Students	Participation	Mean	SD	Exempt	NAS	Developing	Strong	Exceeding
Reading	2,148	63.3%	489.3	72.1	1.5%	36.0%	38.3%	22.3%	1.9%
Numeracy	2,148	60.4%	483.3	73.0	1.5%	39.6%	36.5%	21.8%	0.5%
Writing	2,147	65.6%	466.5	99.3	1.5%	46.0%	35.3%	15.0%	2.1%
Spelling	2,148	60.9%	505.0	70.8	1.5%	29.5%	33.2%	32.6%	3.2%
Grammar and Punctuation	2,148	60.9%	467.2	81.7	1.5%	45.3%	36.2%	15.9%	1.1%

Percentage of Aboriginal Year 9 public school students in each proficiency level, 2023

