

Adult Education and Training Programs for Older Adults in the U.S.: National Results and Cross-national Comparisons Using PIAAC Data

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Presentation Overview

- Description of our research
- Key Findings
- Future research
- Implications for policy and practice

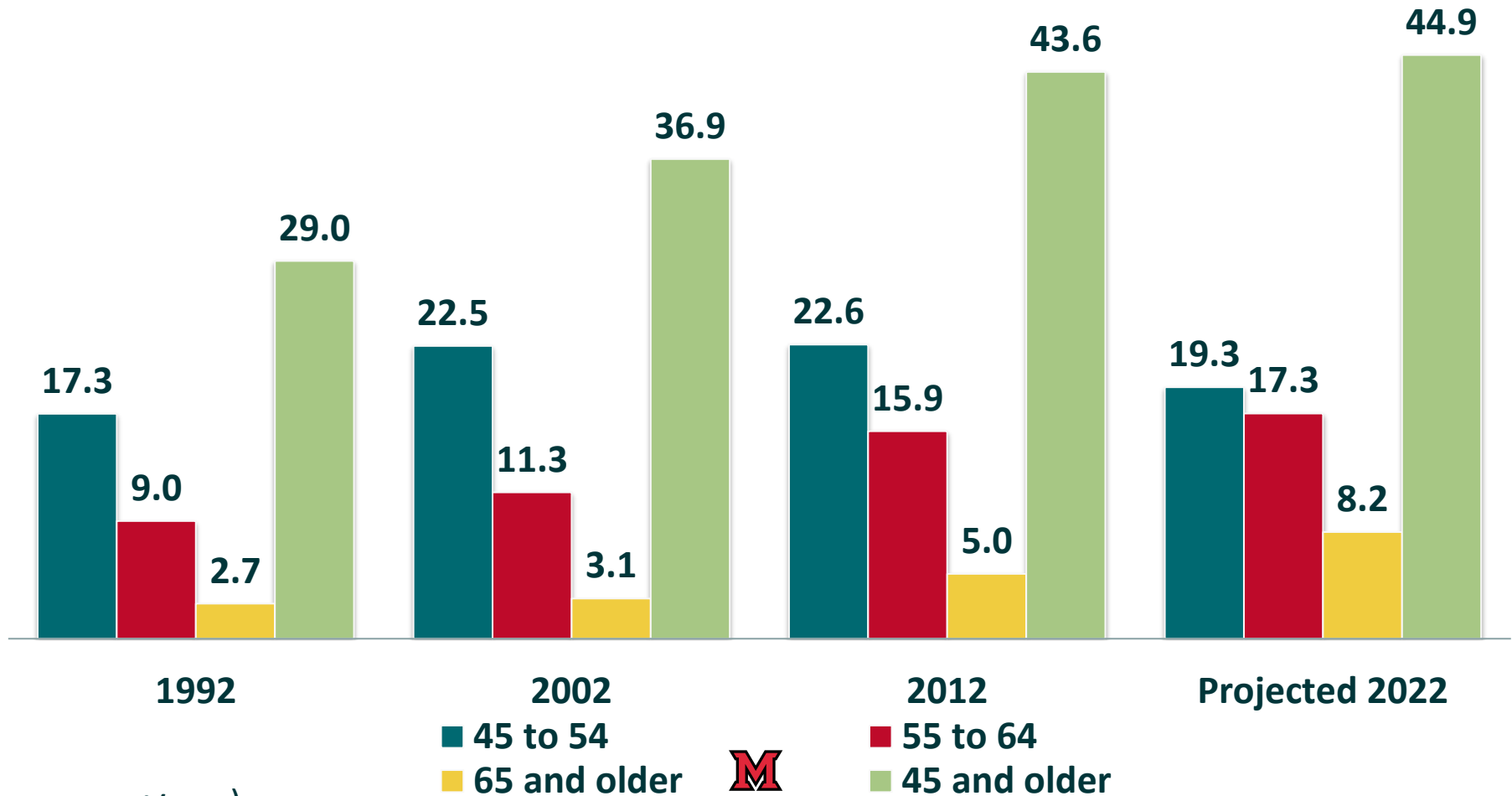
Importance of AET Research

Background

- Investments in human capital are becoming increasingly important in a knowledge based global economy
- The U.S. labor force is aging
- People are remaining in the labor force at older ages
- Older workers are important for economic growth
- Older adults may have a fear of returning to the classroom and test-taking



U.S. Labor Force Distribution by Age Group



Source: Toossi (2013)

Purpose of Research

- Purpose of research
 - To identify the relationship between participation in formal and non-formal adult education and training (AET) programs and labor market outcomes for ages 45 to 65
- Research questions:
 - Is there a relationship between participation in formal and non-formal AET and labor force participation and employment?
 - Is there a relationship between participation in formal and non-formal AET and higher levels of income and net worth?
 - What are the characteristics of AET programs, including financing schemes, in the U.K., Germany, Sweden, and Japan as compared to the U.S.?
 - How do U.S. outcomes compare with other countries?

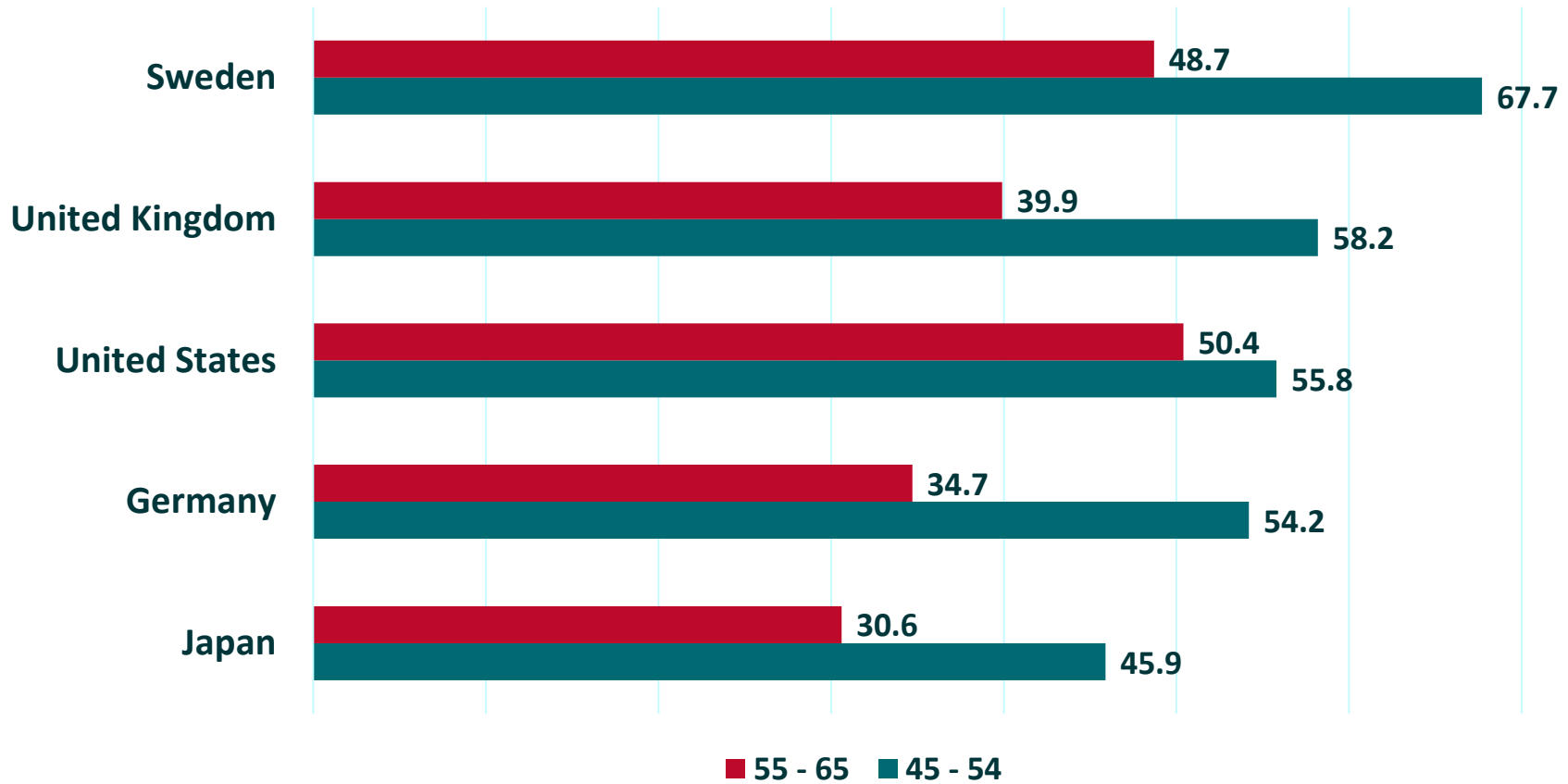


Key Findings

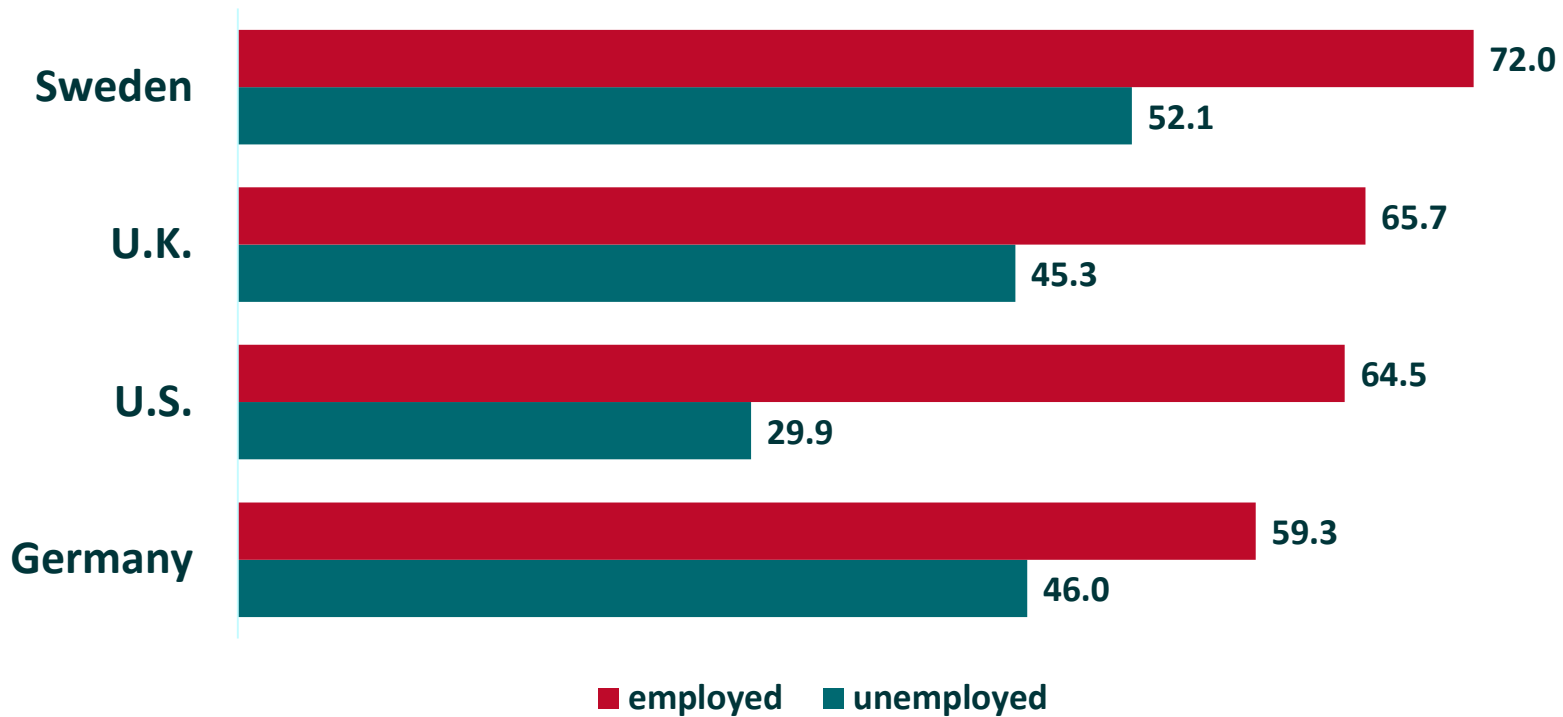
- Sweden has the highest AET participation rates for the 45 to 54 age group
- U.S. has the highest AET participation rates for the 55 to 65 age group
- The unemployed and not-in-the labor force groups are less likely to participate in AET than employed and in the labor force groups
- Could increased AET participation by the unemployed reduce long-term unemployment and early exit from the labor market?
- Could increased participation by the out-of-the-labor force group increase labor force participation rates for that group?



Participation in AET by Age Group (percent)

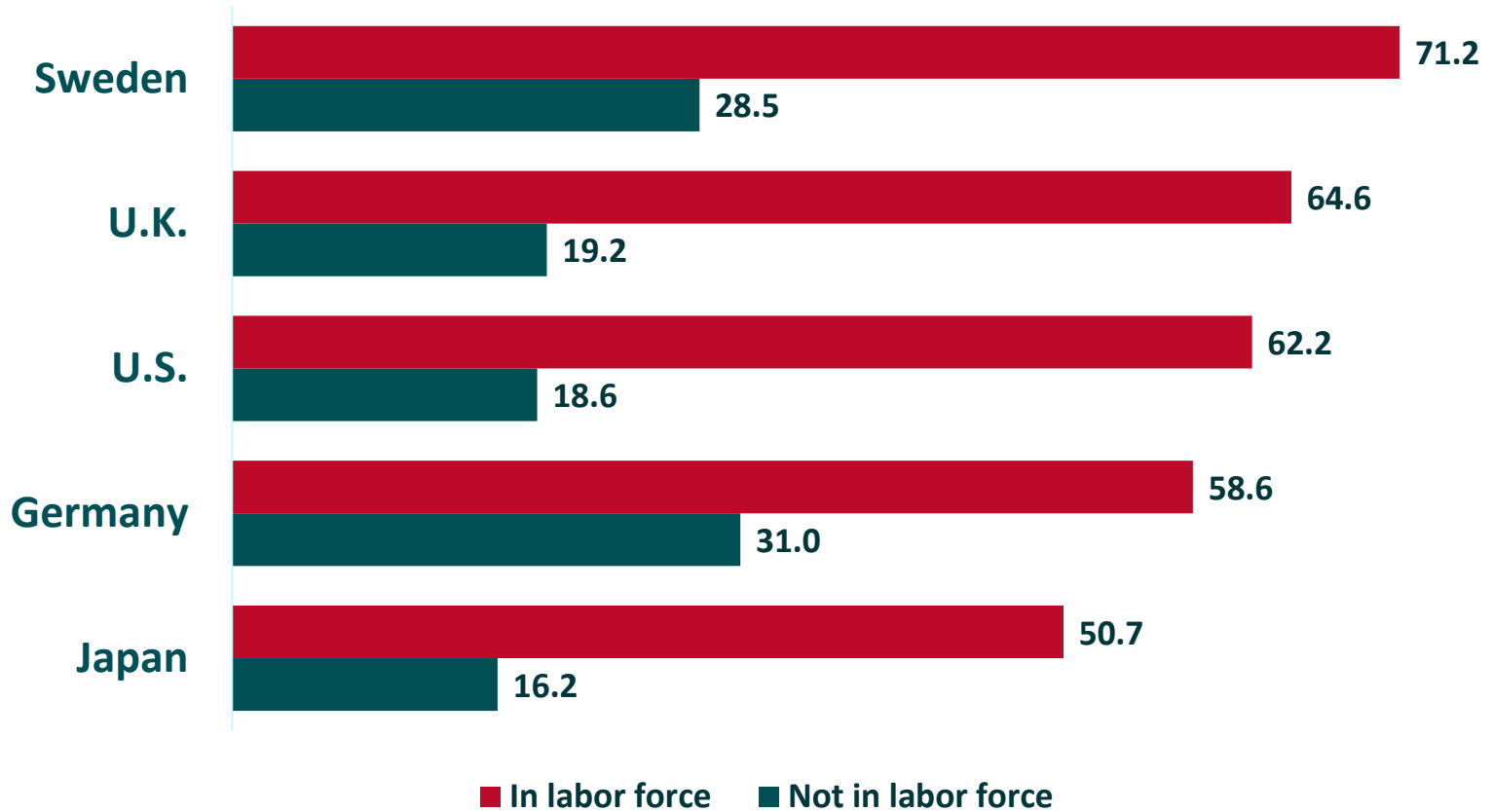


Participation in AET by Employment Status – Ages 45 to 54 (percent)



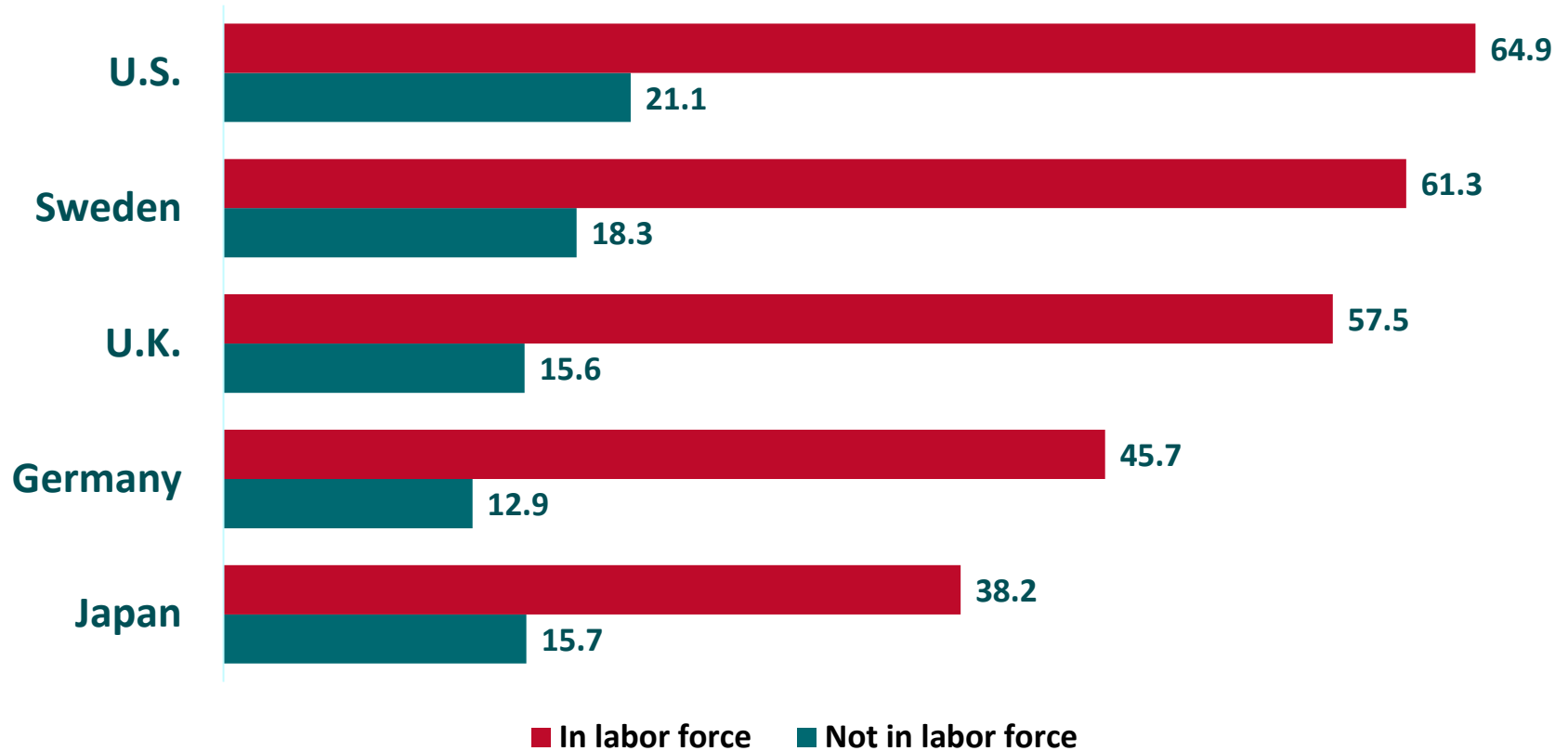
Source: OECD (2014)

Participation in AET by Labor Force Status – Ages 45 to 54 (percent)



Source: OECD (2014)

Participation in AET by Labor Force Status – Ages 55 to 65 (percent)



Source: OECD (2014)



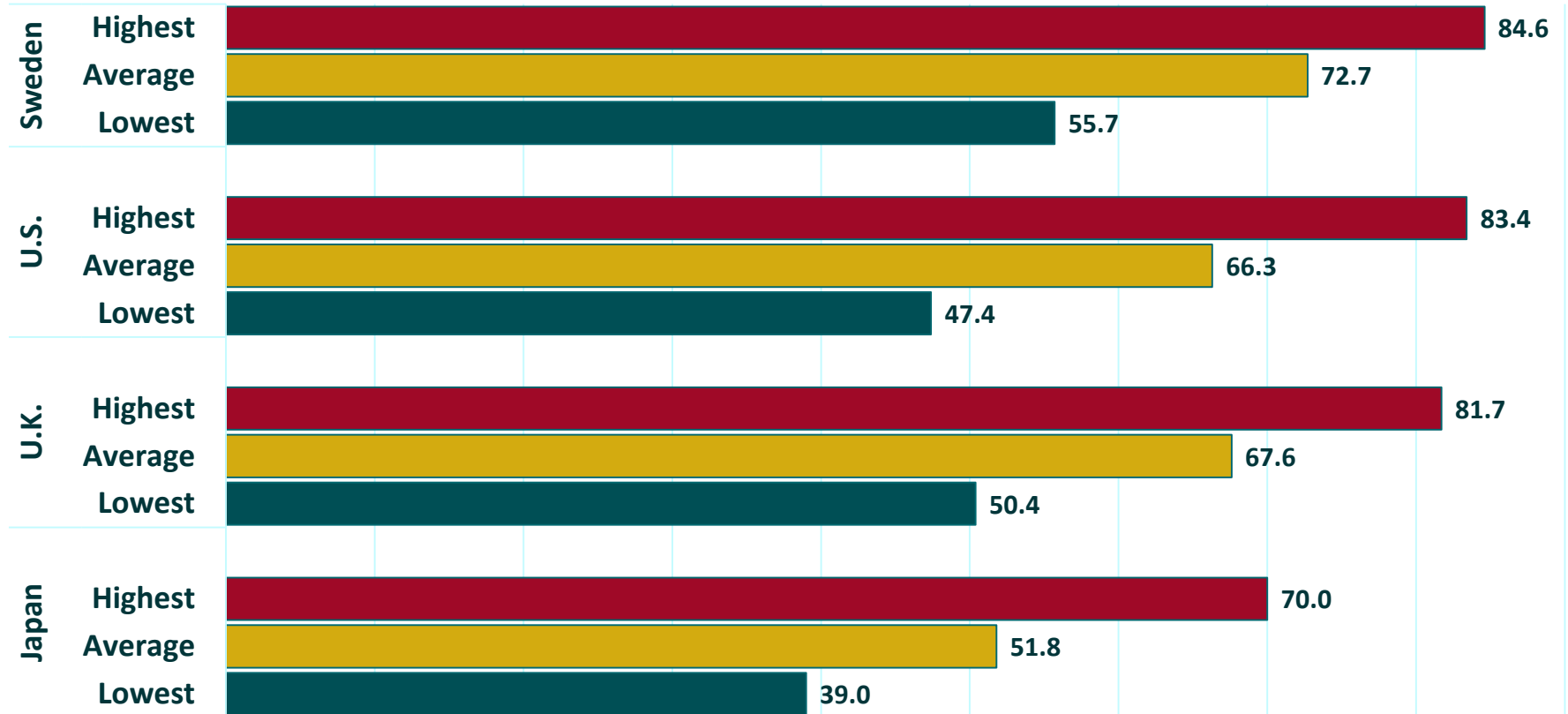
Key Findings

- Lower income quintiles less likely to participate in AET than higher income quintiles
- Females benefit less than males from AET participation
- Less than a high school diploma group benefits less than high school graduates from AET participation
- Lower AET participation rates by low-income groups was evident in comparison countries



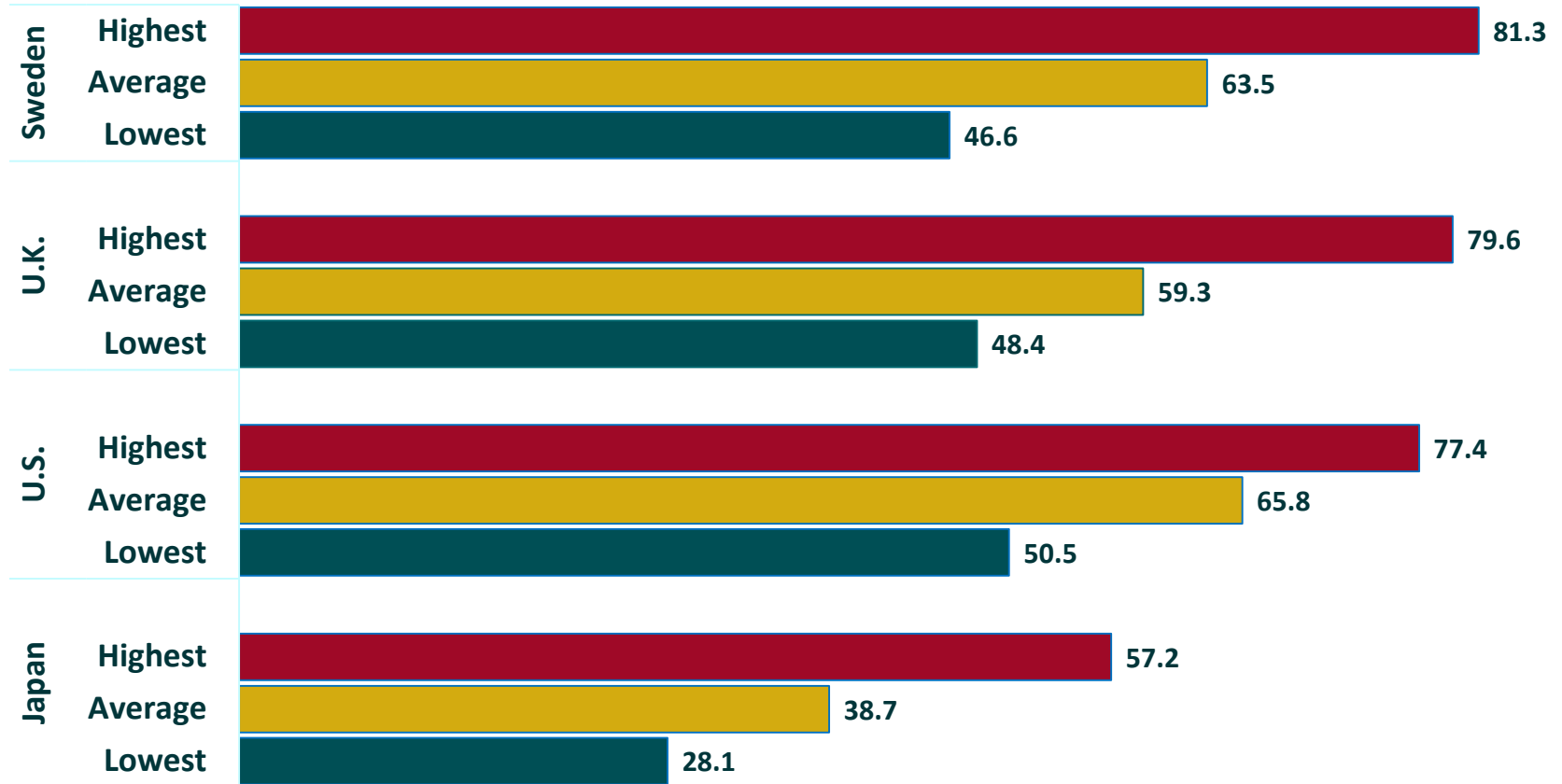
AET Participation by Income Quintile

– Ages 45 to 54 (percent)



Source: OECD (2014)

AET Participation by Income Quintile – Ages 55 to 65 (percent)



Source: OECD (2014)



Future Research

- Examine the relationship between literacy, numeracy, and problem solving skills with AET participation
- Examine outcomes for 66 – 74 age group
- Further examine characteristics of the unemployed
- Compare PIAAC outcomes with IALS and ALL for the baby boomer cohort
- Expand current research with qualitative research
- More thoroughly examine lifelong learning policies internationally





Implications for Policy and Practice

- Provide additional low-cost opportunities for AET participation by low-income groups and the unemployed
- Improve outreach programs to the unemployed and those not in the labor force
- Increase supportive services to older adults returning to the classroom
- Encourage participation in both formal and non-formal training opportunities



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References

OECD (2014a). Public data & analyses, online data [PIAAC public use data files]. Retrieved from <http://www.oecd.org/site/piaac/publicdataandanalysis.htm>

Toossi, M. (2013). Labor force projections to 2022: The labor force participation rate continues to fall. *Monthly Labor Review*, 136(12), 1-27.

