

The Agency Data on Migration (ADMIG) Project: A Pilot Study

The importance of status and temporary residents

The proportions of temporary resident entries as a total of all migrants appear to be steady over time, but there is a rising number of temporary residents entering Canada each year, with most growth observed among workers and students.

Figure 1. Temporary resident entries, 1988-2012, percent

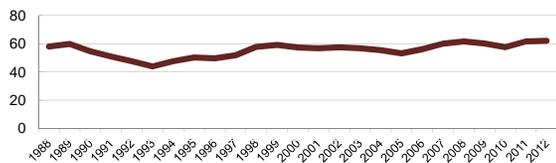
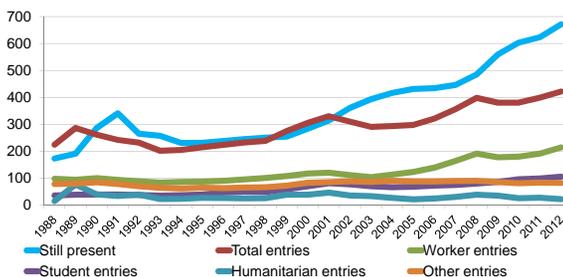


Figure 2. Temporary residents, 1988-2012, in thousands



Source for Figures 1 & 2: 2012 CIC Facts & Figures, includes both entries and re-entries

The data context: Limitations and opportunities

Temporary migrants are a vulnerable group and they are less visible in research studies because of the lack of data and access to them. Yet, as reliance on temporary workers increases and the drive to attract international students intensifies, we need to adapt our programs and policies based on relevant research.

Examples of widely used immigration data sources that lack detailed (or any) temporary resident information:

- 1) National Household Survey (formerly the Census long-form)
- 2) Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada (LSIC)
- 3) Longitudinal Immigrant Database (IMDB)
- 4) Permanent Resident Data System (PRDS)
- 5) Ethnic Diversity Survey (EDS)

There are challenges to collecting reliable data on temporary residents, but there are also **potential opportunities**. Local community non-profits maintain records on clients, including temporary migrants. These data, primarily used for administrative purposes, could offer insights into the experiences of migrant subgroups.

Some of the advantages to using agency records (there are disadvantages too):

- A rich source of **quality** and **current** data for generating knowledge on marginalized groups
- Time and cost efficient, unobtrusive, and reduces respondent burden
- Permits longitudinal analysis

The ADMIG Project: A Community-Academic Research Partnership

Objective: To explore the potential for filling in knowledge gaps on temporary and permanent migrant experiences using agency records and through cross-sector collaboration.

Pilot project phases:

- 1) Phase I: Survey of agency information systems (Jul.2012 – Dec.2013)
- 2) Phase II: Agency data analysis (Jan.2013 – Mar.2014)
- 3) Phase III: Expert panels (Jan. – Jun.2014)

Phase I: Survey of agency information systems

Purpose: To understand the information systems of agencies and their views on data coordination.

On-line survey launched July 2013

- Sample includes non-profit agencies in the GTA
- Survey questions covered four areas: 1) Organizational, Staff and Volunteer Information; 2) Services and Budget Information; 3) Agency Data Collection and Information Systems; 4) Reflections on Data Sharing
- Agency annual reports and intake forms also being collected

Preliminary results

- 68% of agency respondents ask about "immigration status"
- 70% of agency respondents serve clients regardless of status; 10% do not; 20% NR

Which migrant groups are underserved?

Percent of agencies indicating the following groups based on agency funding:

- 40% refugee claimants
- 35% non-status migrants
- 26% international students
- 24% temporary foreign workers (low-skilled program)
- 21% Canadian citizens
- 19% live-in caregivers
- 18% resettled refugees (GARs & privately sponsored)
- 15% seasonal agricultural workers
- 14% permanent residents
- 8% highly-skilled temporary foreign workers (IT, NAFTA)

"A shared data collection strategy could be used for the following purposes:"

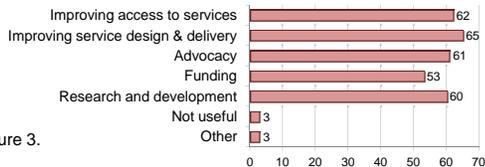


Figure 3.

"My agency would consider coordinating with other immigrant-serving agencies and organizations to develop a shared data collection strategy."

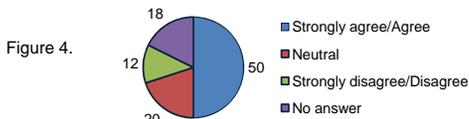


Figure 4.

Phase II: Analyzing agency data

Purpose: To assess the feasibility of using administrative records for conducting research on migrant groups and to develop a model for research collaboration.

Method: Work with partner agencies, Access Alliance and WES, to obtain and analyze their respective datasets.

Access Alliance Jan.2009 – Dec.2012 (n=5,910, Purkinje database)	World Education Services Jan.2012 – Dec.2012 (n=692, WES records/survey)
Gender	Gender
Age	Age
Country of origin	Country of origin
Immigration status	Immigration status
Year of arrival	Country of current residence
OHIP (Y/N)	Country of education
Interim Federal Health (Y/N)	High educational attainment
Number of visits	Field of work in country of origin
Languages	Reason for credential evaluation
Type of provider	Barriers in job search
Reason for visit	Barriers in educational/career goals
Issues addressed	English language proficiency

Preliminary results

Access Alliance: Immigration status, percent

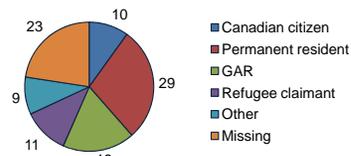


Figure 5.

World Education Services: Immigration status, percent

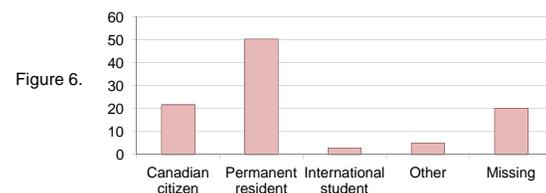


Figure 6.

Next steps

- Wrap-up collection of survey and agency materials, and analyse data.
- Further analyses of data from Access Alliance and WES.
- Identify a third agency for Phase II.
- Implement Phase III – conduct focus groups of agencies to elaborate on survey results and to assess the feasibility of developing a shared data collection strategy.
- Offer recommendations for best practices related to the collection and coordination of agency data, and for cross-sector collaboration on building research into agency data systems.

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