



# Sources of Evidence on Immigrant and Refugee Integration

December 2, 2015

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Immigration, Refugees  
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés  
et Citoyenneté Canada

Canada

# Outline

- Part I - highlights on IRCC newly developed data sources:
  1. ACCESS: Open data - an increasingly rich source of IRCC data, drawn from administrative sources
  2. LINKAGES: Overview of most important datasets enhanced by linkages, and some examples drawn from these
- Part II - some considerations on linked data:
  1. Truncation at 1980
  2. Self-reported and administrative immigration class
- Part III - some ideas on complementary quantitative - qualitative research to fill existing gaps
  1. Thickening our knowledge of localities/groups
  2. Thickening our knowledge of firms/organizations
  3. Adaptation / acculturation and their impact on survey responses

**IRCC**

# IRCC's Data Roadmap

**STC**

(Statistics Canada)

Immigration Landing  
File (ILF)

Longitudinal  
Immigration  
Landing File  
(IMDB)

Canadian Employer  
Employee Dynamic  
Database (CEEDD)  
PR & TR

General Social Survey  
(GSS)

2011 National  
Household Survey  
(NHS)/2016 Census

Canadian Community  
Health Survey (CCHS)

STC surveys linked to ILF/IMDB

IRCC administrative data at STC

IRCC data linked to  
provincial/territorial health data

Maintained at IRCC

Application for  
permanent residency  
(e.g. language, age,  
education ...)

Temporary Resident  
Database

Confirmation of Permanent  
Residency  
Landing years 1980 to 2010

Pre-landing Canadian  
Experience  
(study experience, refugee  
claim)

Tax Data

Based on T1FF, converted to LAD structure (not held in GCMS)

Sponsorship  
Agreements

Health Related  
Datasets

Settlement services  
iCARE

Settlement Outcome  
Survey

Citizenship Grants

PT Health Data Linkages

Landing – Health  
Linkage (ICES)

Landing – Health  
Linkage (PopData BC)

Landing – Health  
Linkage Manitoba

# Increasing number of IRCC administrative data tables are available to the public through the Open Data portal

<http://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset>

## Datasets (November 23, 2016):

- Settlement services
- Refugee claims
- Express entry
- Syrian refugee resettlement
- Transitions of temporary residents to permanent residents
- Resettled refugees
- Passports
- Adoptions
- Visitors
- International Students

- Permanent resident admissions
- Permanent resident cards
- Temporary foreign workers
- Temporary residents applications processing
- Facts and figures immigration overview – permanent residents
- Facts and figures immigration overview – temporary residents
- Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada overview

### Organization

☒ Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (19)

## Syrian Refugee Resettlement

The number of Syrian refugees arriving in Canada as part of the Government of Canada's Syrian refugee resettlement program. The number of Syrian refugees arriving in Canada by Immigration Category and Family Composition. Data includes persons processed under Canada's Syrian refugee resettlement...

Organization:

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Resource Formats:

XLS

# Example: data tables available on the Open Data Portal at “Syrian Refugee Resettlement”

## Resources

Resource Name	Resource Type	Format	Language	Links
Admissions of Syrian Refugees by P/T, Gender, Age Group and Immigration Category	Dataset	XLS	English	<a href="#">Access</a>
Admissions of Syrian Refugees by P/T, Gender, Age Group and Immigration Category	Dataset	XLS	French	<a href="#">Access</a>
Admissions of Syrian Refugees by P/T, Top Mother Tongue and Immigration Category	Dataset	XLS	English	<a href="#">Access</a>
Admissions of Syrian Refugees by P/T, Top Mother Tongue and Immigration Category	Dataset	XLS	French	<a href="#">Access</a>
Admissions of Syrian Refugees by P/T, Official Language Spoken (OLS) and Immigration Category	Dataset	XLS	English	<a href="#">Access</a>
Admissions of Syrian Refugees by P/T, Official Language Spoken (OLS) and Immigration Category	Dataset	XLS	French	<a href="#">Access</a>
Admissions of Syrian Refugees by P/T, Education Level and Immigration Category	Dataset	XLS	English	<a href="#">Access</a>
Admissions of Syrian Refugees by P/T, Education Level and Immigration Category	Dataset	XLS	French	<a href="#">Access</a>
Admissions of Syrian Refugees by P/T, Skill Level and Immigration Category	Dataset	XLS	English	<a href="#">Access</a>
Admissions of Syrian Refugees by P/T, Skill Level and Immigration Category	Dataset	XLS	French	<a href="#">Access</a>
Admissions of Syrian Refugees by P/T, Years of Schooling and Immigration Category	Dataset	XLS	English	<a href="#">Access</a>
Admissions of Syrian Refugees by P/T, Years of Schooling and Immigration Category	Dataset	XLS	French	<a href="#">Access</a>
Admissions of Syrian Refugees by P/T, CMA and Immigration Category	Dataset	XLS	English	<a href="#">Access</a>
Admissions of Syrian Refugees by P/T, CMA and Immigration Category	Dataset	XLS	French	<a href="#">Access</a>
Admissions of Syrian Refugees by P/T, Family Status and Immigration Category	Dataset	XLS	English	<a href="#">Access</a>
Admissions of Syrian Refugees by P/T, Family Status and Immigration Category	Dataset	XLS	French	<a href="#">Access</a>
Syrian Refugee Settlement Service Clients by SPOs, P/T, Gender, Age Group and Immigration Category	Dataset	XLS	English	<a href="#">Access</a>
Syrian Refugee Settlement Service Clients by SPOs, P/T, Gender, Age Group and Immigration Category	Dataset	XLS	French	<a href="#">Access</a>
Syrian Refugee Settlement Service Clients by SPOs, P/T, CMA and Immigration Category	Dataset	XLS	English	<a href="#">Access</a>
Syrian Refugee Settlement Service Clients by SPOs, P/T, CMA and Immigration Category	Dataset	XLS	French	<a href="#">Access</a>
Ontario - Admissions of Syrian Refugees by Immigration Category and Family Composition	Dataset	XLS	English	<a href="#">Access</a>
Ontario - Admissions of Syrian Refugees by Immigration Category and Family Composition	Dataset	XLS	French	<a href="#">Access</a>
British Columbia- Admissions of Syrian Refugees* by Immigration Category and Family Composition	Dataset	XLS	English	<a href="#">Access</a>
British Columbia- Admissions of Syrian Refugees* by Immigration Category and Family Composition	Dataset	XLS	French	<a href="#">Access</a>

Newfoundland and Labrador - Admissions of Syrian Refugees* by Immigration Category and Family Composition	Dataset	XLS	English	<a href="#">Access</a>
Newfoundland and Labrador - Admissions of Syrian Refugees* by Immigration Category and Family Composition	Dataset	XLS	French	<a href="#">Access</a>
Nova Scotia - Admissions of Syrian Refugees* by Immigration Category and Family Composition	Dataset	XLS	English	<a href="#">Access</a>
Nova Scotia - Admissions of Syrian Refugees* by Immigration Category and Family Composition	Dataset	XLS	French	<a href="#">Access</a>
Prince Edward Island - Admissions of Syrian Refugees* by Immigration Category and Family Composition	Dataset	XLS	English	<a href="#">Access</a>
Prince Edward Island - Admissions of Syrian Refugees* by Immigration Category and Family Composition	Dataset	XLS	French	<a href="#">Access</a>
Quebec - Admissions of Syrian Refugees* by Immigration Category and Family Composition	Dataset	XLS	English	<a href="#">Access</a>
Quebec - Admissions of Syrian Refugees* by Immigration Category and Family Composition	Dataset	XLS	French	<a href="#">Access</a>
Saskatchewan - Admissions of Syrian Refugees* by Immigration Category and Family Composition	Dataset	XLS	English	<a href="#">Access</a>
Saskatchewan - Admissions of Syrian Refugees* by Immigration Category and Family Composition	Dataset	XLS	French	<a href="#">Access</a>
Alberta - Admissions of Syrian Refugees* by Immigration Category and Family Composition	Dataset	XLS	English	<a href="#">Access</a>
Alberta - Admissions of Syrian Refugees* by Immigration Category and Family Composition	Dataset	XLS	French	<a href="#">Access</a>
Manitoba - Admissions of Syrian Refugees* by Immigration Category and Family Composition	Dataset	XLS	English	<a href="#">Access</a>
Manitoba - Admissions of Syrian Refugees* by Immigration Category and Family Composition	Dataset	XLS	French	<a href="#">Access</a>
New Brunswick - Admissions of Syrian Refugees* by Immigration Category and Family Composition	Dataset	XLS	English	<a href="#">Access</a>
New Brunswick - Admissions of Syrian Refugees* by Immigration Category and Family Composition	Dataset	XLS	French	<a href="#">Access</a>
P/T not stated - Admissions of Syrian Refugees* by Immigration Category and Family Composition	Dataset	XLS	English	<a href="#">Access</a>
P/T not stated - Admissions of Syrian Refugees* by Immigration Category and Family Composition	Dataset	XLS	French	<a href="#">Access</a>
Canada (excluding Quebec) - Admissions of Syrian Refugees* by Immigration Category and Family Composition	Dataset	XLS	English	<a href="#">Access</a>
Canada (excluding Quebec) - Admissions of Syrian Refugees* by Immigration Category and Family Composition	Dataset	XLS	French	<a href="#">Access</a>
Canada (including Quebec) - Admissions of Syrian Refugees* by Immigration Category and Family Composition	Dataset	XLS	English	<a href="#">Access</a>
Canada (including Quebec) - Admissions of Syrian Refugees* by Immigration Category and Family Composition	Dataset	XLS	French	<a href="#">Access</a>

*Linkage data:  
A new wealth of information*

**Backbone of several linkages carried out with Statistics Canada:**

**Immigration Landing File**

- + CRA Tax filer information = Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB)
- + Canadian Employer-Employee Dynamic Database = CEED/ILF linkage DB
- + 2011 National Household Survey = 2011 NHS/ILF linkage DB → 2016 Census variables
- + 2013 General Social Survey on Social Identity + IMDB/ILF = 2013 GSS linkage DB
- + Canadian Community Health Survey (2003 to 2014) + IMDB/ILF = CCHS linkage DB

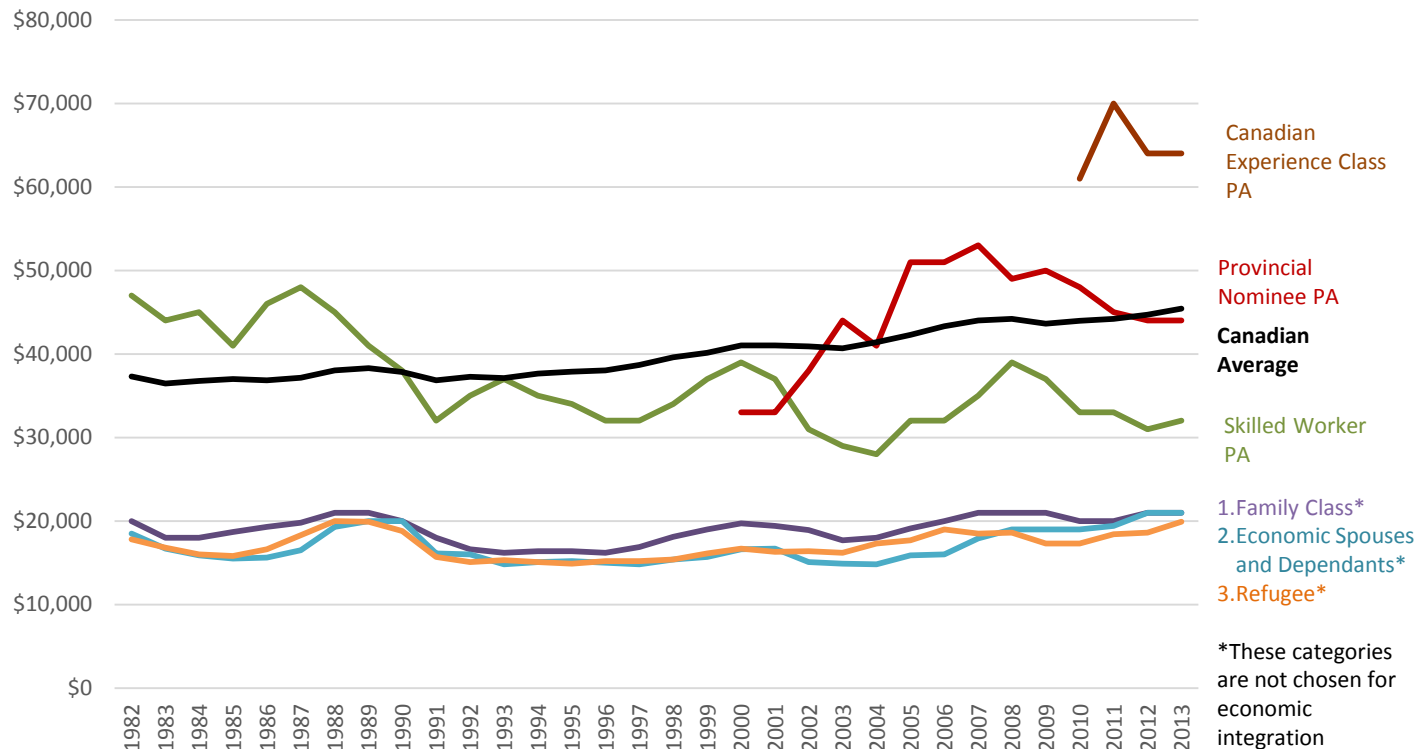
**Additional IRCC administrative data for current or future consideration for linkages:**

- + Temporary resident admissions (→CEED; → IMDB) work in progress with STC
- + Citizenship acquisition
- + iCARE
- + Sponsorship (family and refugees)

# Average Entry Employment Earnings by Immigration Category

High level comparisons of all immigrants mask a more nuanced story of both the low and high-performing immigrant groups.

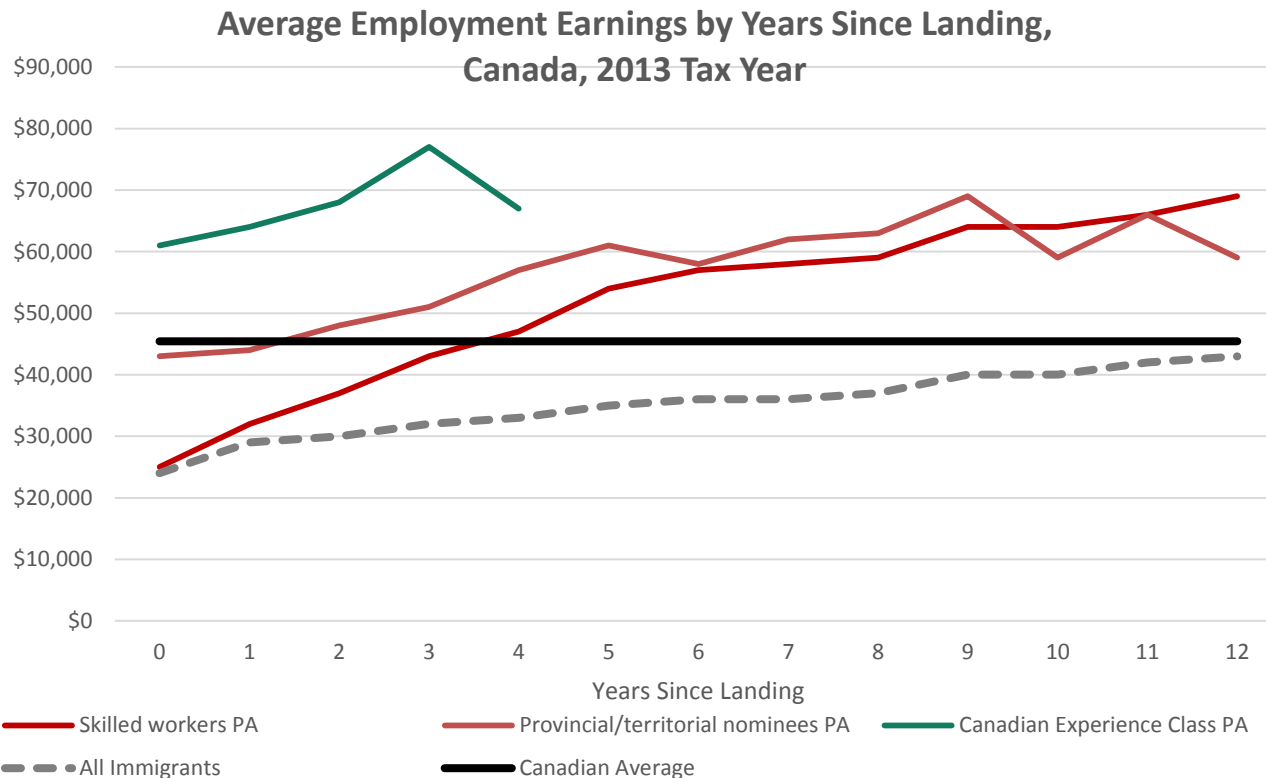
**Average Entry Employment Earnings (\$2013) by Immigration Category**  
Canada, Tax Years 1982 - 2013



- Canadian Experience Class PAs and Provincial Nominee PAs have **similar or higher earnings** at entry than the Canadian average.
- Family class, economic spouses and dependants, and refugees have **earnings that are below the Canadian average.**

## Principal Applicants: Skilled Worker, Provincial Nominees and Canadian Experience Class

- These are economic programs with built-in human capital selection characteristics (e.g., Canadian work experience prior to obtaining permanent residency or social connections) which contribute to higher levels of earnings for the Principal Applicants.



The average employment earnings of SW, PN and CEC principal applicants are well above the average of all immigrants. Immigrants landed earlier have higher employment earnings than more recent arrivals



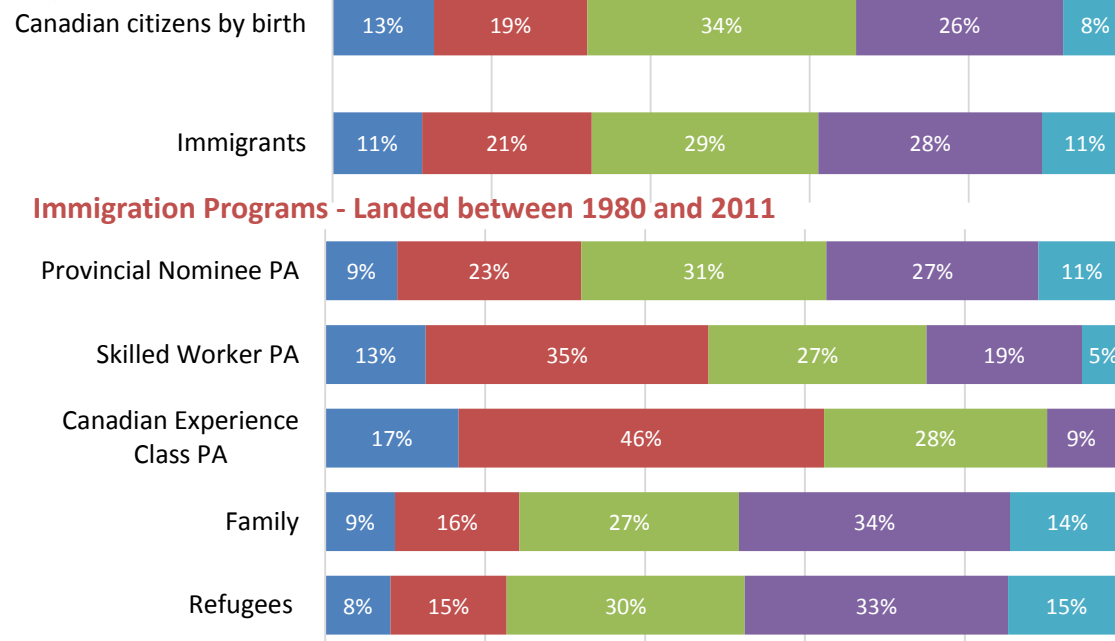
# Occupational Skill Level of Immigrants

Example: NHS/ILF linkage

- The immigrant population is working in occupations at all skill levels

**Percentage of the Working Population Aged 25 to 64 in NOC Skill Level Occupational Categories by Immigrant Status and Immigration Class**

## Total Population



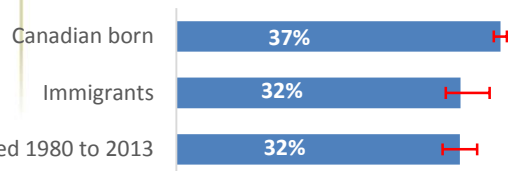
- Skill Level A - Manager O - No education specified
- Skill level A - Professionals - University Degree
- Skill level B College or apprenticeship training
- Skill level C High school or job-specific training
- Skill level D On-the-job training

**Economic immigrants** have higher percentages of immigrants working in Skill Level A and B occupations

**Family Class and Refugees** have higher percentages of immigrants working in Skill Level C and D occupations

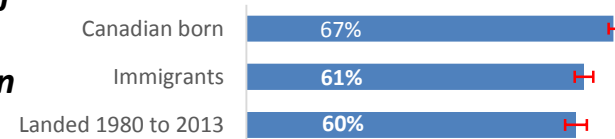
# Engagement through volunteering and social organizations --a facilitating factor for social networks -- varies across immigration categories

## Volunteering - 95% ci's

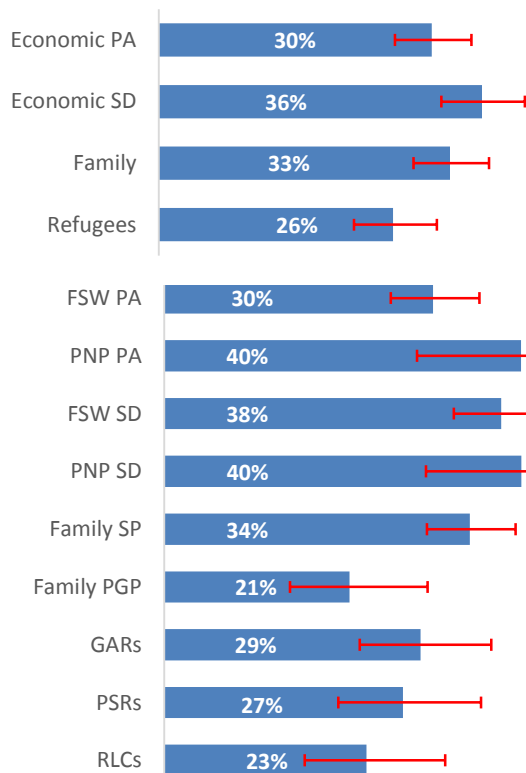


***Immigrants have lower rates of volunteering and organization membership than the Canadian born***

## Membership social organization(s) (excluding volunteering) - 95% ci's



## Immigration Programs – Landed 1980 to 2011

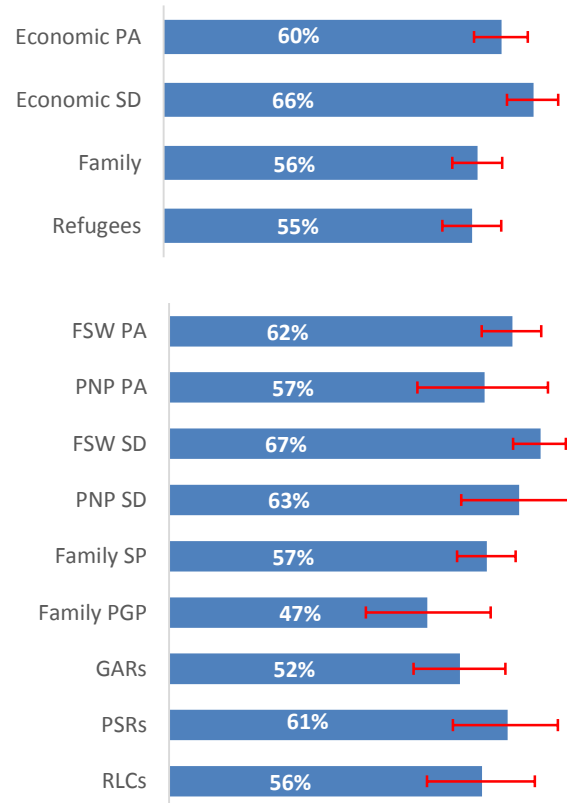


***Spouses and dependents of economic class immigrants have rates comparable to those of the Canadian born population***

***PNPs (both PAs and SDs) have relatively high volunteering rates, followed by FSW spouses and dependents and Family Class spouses and partners, who also have the highest rate of organization membership***

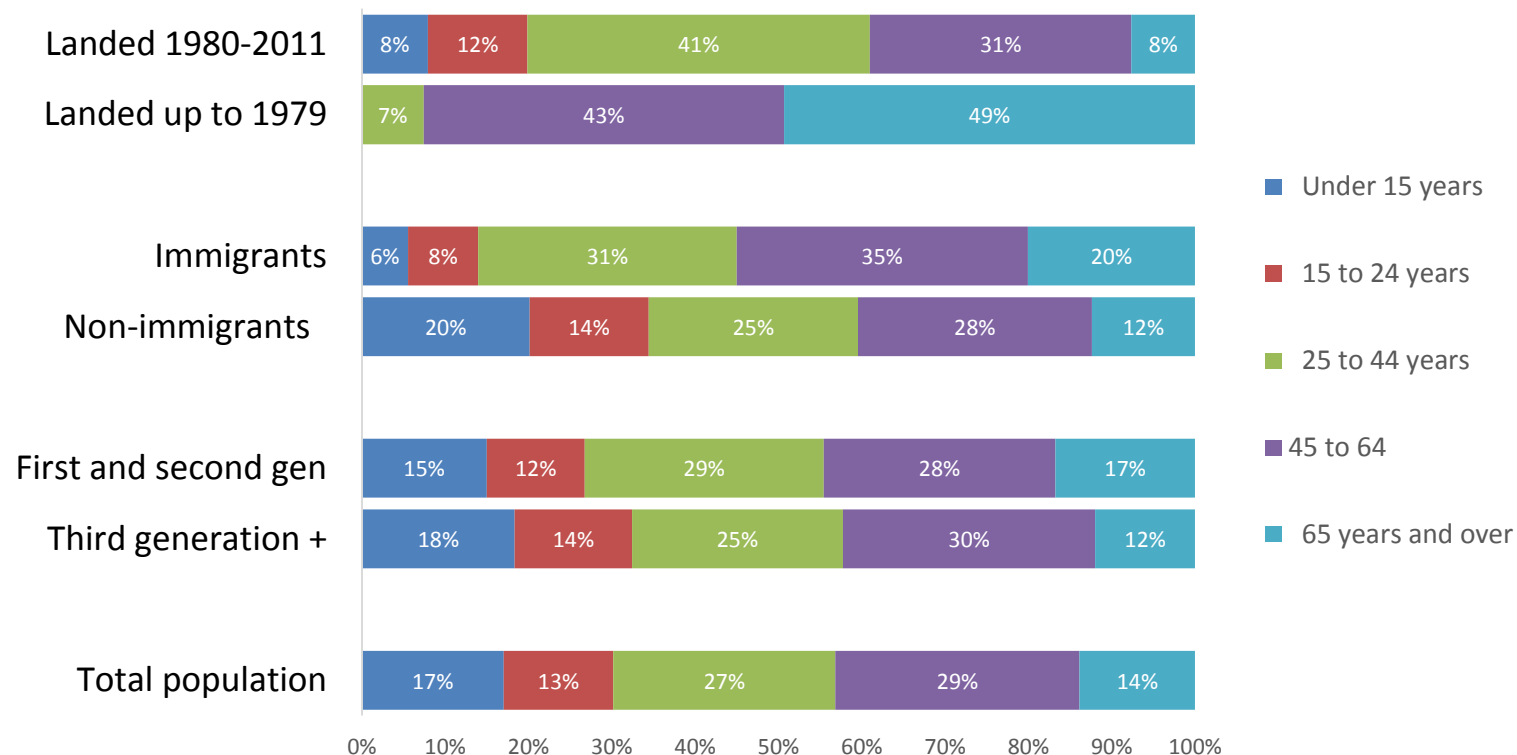
***Refugees have lower rates of engagement overall. GARs have slightly higher rates of volunteering, while PSRs have slightly higher rates of organization membership***

## Immigration Programs – Landed 1980 to 2011



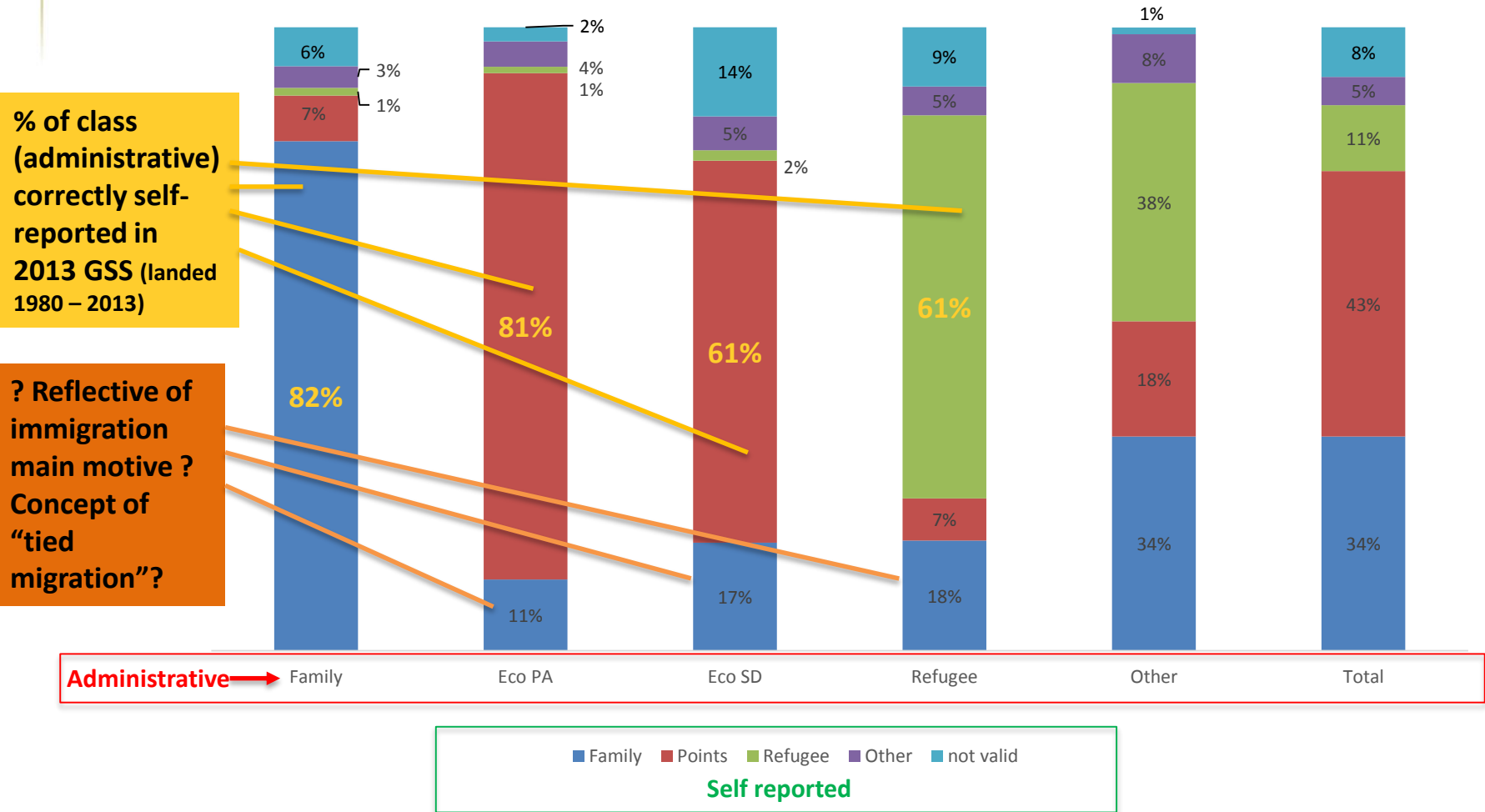
# Considerations about linked data – truncation at 1980

- Age distribution

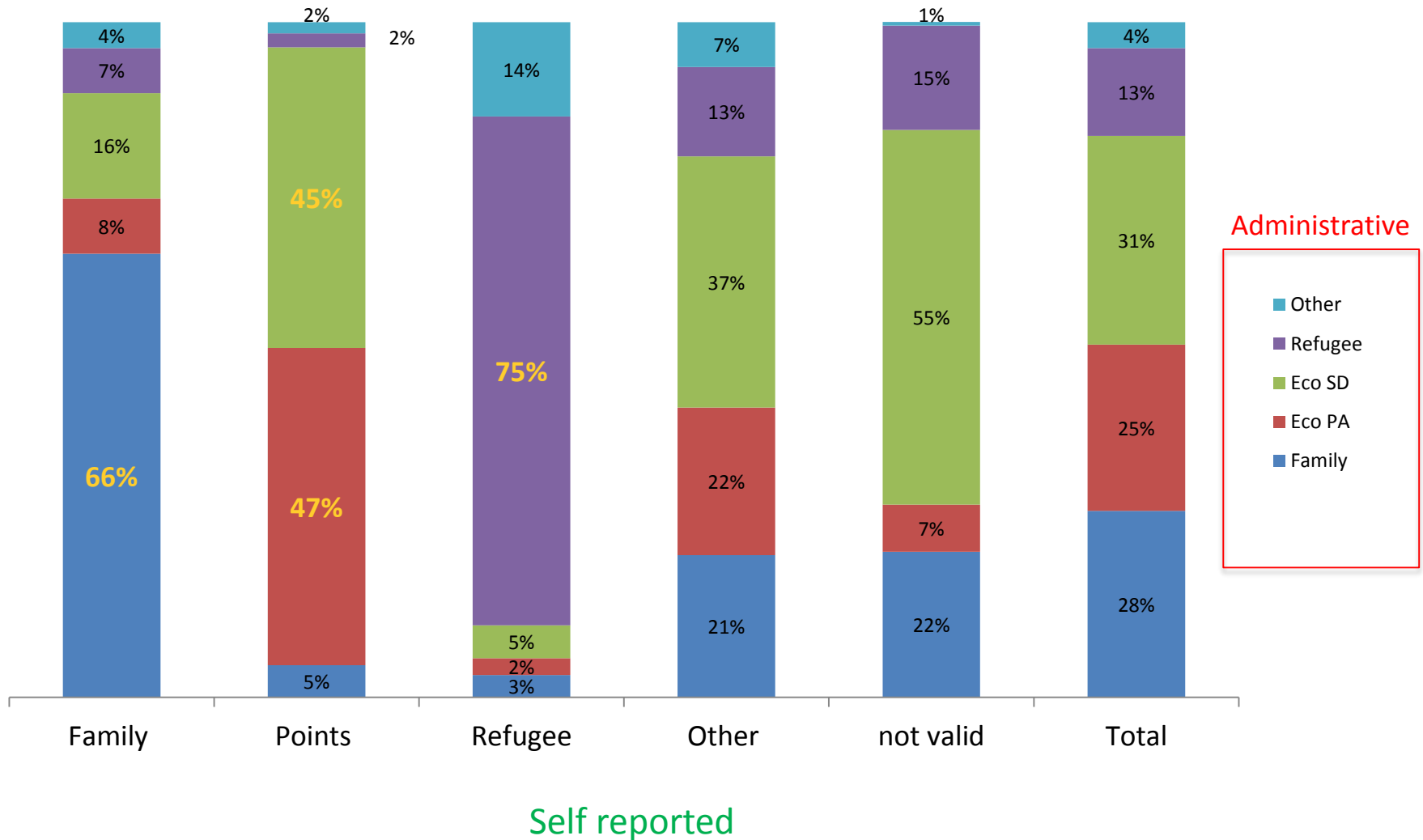



Source: 2011 NHS

# Considerations about linked data – self reported versus administrative immigration categories: composition of administrative classes



# Composition of self reported classes





Some gaps, and some ideas on complementing the strength of our knowledge based on quantitative research by coordinating quantitative and qualitative research agendas

- 1) Understanding the institutional, cultural and community context of geographies / groups
- 2) Understanding firms cultural practices, and their impact on integration and inclusion
- 3) Understanding how sentiments and subjective evaluations of life and society become reframed after arrival

# Geographies – key data source: Census (NHS/Long Form)

## Evidence from data, by geographic unit/type of choice:

- Composition of the population in the geography by immigration status, and background (geographic origin, generational status, ethno-cultural markers, immigration categories, linguistic background, religious affiliation);
- Demographics (age, sex); skills and education (educational attainment, occupational skill level);
- Economic integration indicators (labour market indicators), etc.

## Complementary qualitative evidence:

- Local institutions and organizations (public and private);
- Causal chains leading to outcomes unexplained by data;
- Local cultural practices in community and organizations;
- Point of view and cultural entrepreneurship of groups;

Some related policy concepts in use, for which research gaps have been identified:

- Absorptive capacity
- Welcoming communities

# Firms – key data source CEED linkage database

## Evidence from data:

### Immigrant entrepreneurship:

- Business-ownership among immigrants:
  - Investment (as reported on tax forms) by immigrant entrepreneurs.
- Survival and performance of immigrant-owned firms;
- Job creation and layoffs in immigrant-owned firms;
- Characteristics / strategies of immigrant-owned firms (e.g. export orientation, capital intensity, productivity);
- Characteristics & outcomes of workers employed in immigrant-owned firms.

### Immigrant employees:

- Characteristics of the firms in which immigrants and Canadian-born workers are employed;
- Employment mobility, 'job shopping', internal career ladders and earnings growth;
- Risks and consequences of layoffs;
- Immigrant/source country composition of firm-level workforces.

## Complementary qualitative evidence:

### Immigrant entrepreneurship:

- Cultural outlook of various types of immigrant business towards context, e.g. "ethnic", or integrated in broader non-ethnic business community
- Internal corporate culture of immigrant firms (by type / size)
- Engagement/participation of immigrant firms in broader immigrant integration sector
- Practice and engagement in transnational networks of immigrant firms
- Motivation for employees to work in immigrant firm

### Immigrant employees:

- Corporate culture and policy towards immigrants and diversity / cultural pluralism
- Engagement of firms with local institutions and integration sector
- Hiring practices and potential barriers or facilitation for immigrants

Concepts: integration, diversity. Gaps: role of employers / firms



Can qualitative research help the interpretation of sentiment based standard questions in surveys in the case of immigrants? (e.g. sense of belonging to community, life satisfaction scale)

### Survey based evidence:

- Immigrants have strongly positive sentiments soon after arrival, which then flag
- Sentiments for newcomers seem less strongly related to social connections and economic integration
- Some psychometric studies confirm that soon after arrival sentiments are more self-centred and framed by original country (left behind) than determined by experience in Canada

### Complementary qualitative evidence:

- How do immigrants see their life soon after arrival, how does this change with time? What are the important things they frame their evaluations of life on?
- How do they present themselves to the host society and surrounding community? How does their new self-presentation become sustainable, settled, accepted?
- Can “qualitative testing” be incorporated in qualitative research to expand our understanding?

Concepts: wellbeing, integration

Gaps:

- “month 13” (refugees)
- Support practices when “honeymoon” ends
- Settlement stressors and impact on integration



## Some considerations

We keep developing some very rich and complex and useful sources of evidence to build on (other presenters, and beginning of this presentation).

Think big (multi-method, multi-disciplinary); but break it up into feasible steps.

Think out of the box, but rigorously: thinking qualitatively about quantitative data, and fitting qualitative information into patterns discovered by analyzing quantitative data.

Thank you

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