

Socio-Economic Outcomes of Immigrants: What We Know, Where We Are Going, and Knowledge Gaps

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Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

Canada

Purpose and Outline

Purpose

- To present on data sources for measuring integration outcomes
- To present selected highlights of economic, social and health outcomes of immigrants, refugees and children of immigrants

Overview

- Key data sources and strategic data development initiatives
- Historic Immigration Levels
- Select economic, social, health and mental health outcomes
- Outcomes of Children of Immigrants
- Forward Plans

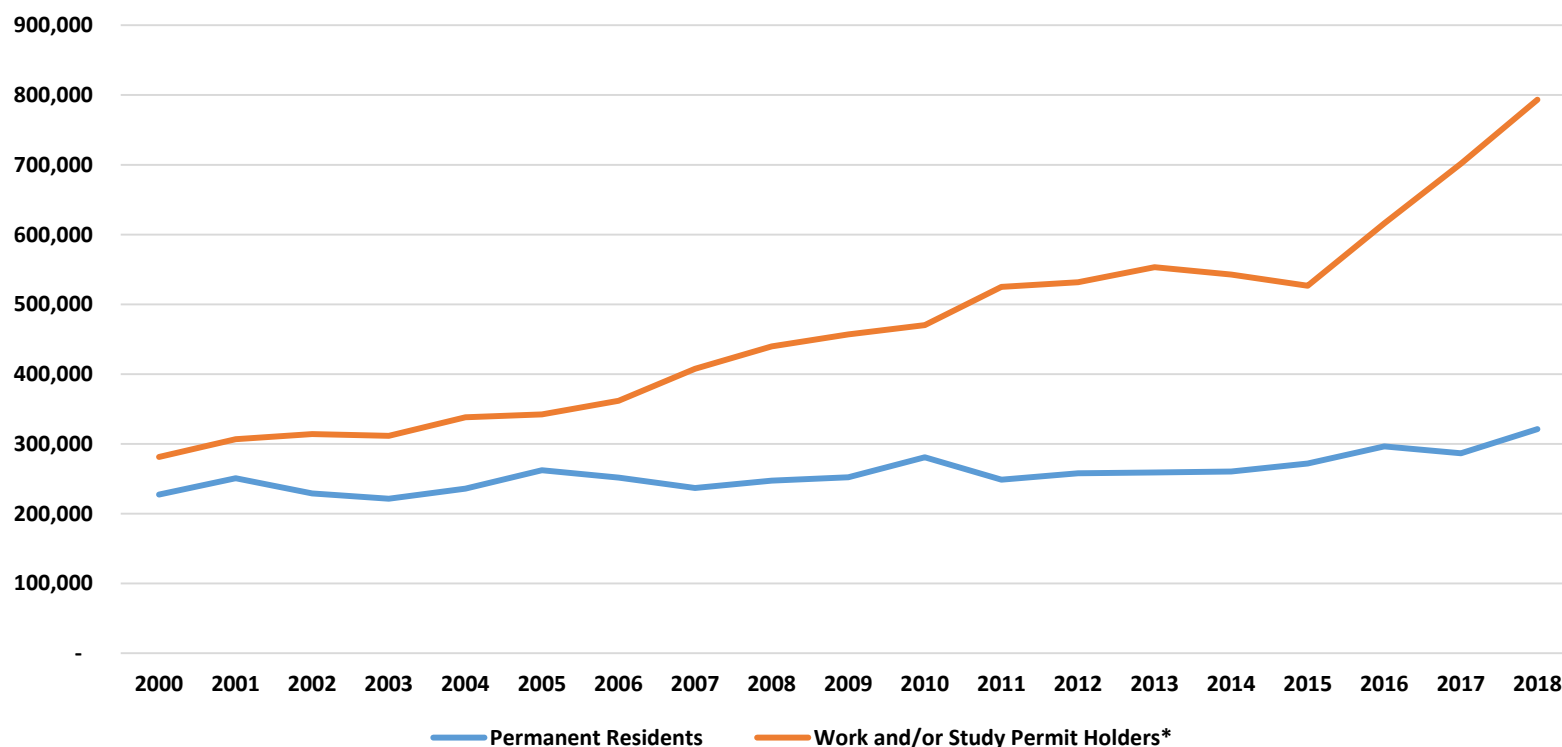
Key Data Sources and Strategic Data Development Initiatives

- Immigration landing file (ILF): administrative data of permanent residents
- Economic outcomes data sources:
 - Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB)
 - Labour Force Survey (LFS)
 - Census
 - Canadian Employer-Employee Dynamic Database
- Social and health outcomes data sources:
 - Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS); CCHS linked to the IMDB
 - General Social Survey (GSS); GSS linked to the IMDB
- Data development projects:
 - iCARE (settlement service data) linked to the IMDB

Historic Immigration Levels - How many are there?

- In 2018, the number of permanent residents admitted to Canada was 321,121. Canada's Immigration Plan for 2019-2021:
 - 2019: **330,800**; 2020: **341,000**; 2021: **350,000**
- Since 2015, there has been a notable increase in temporary residents (work permit and study permit holders). In 2018, the number of work and/or study permit holders reached 793,289.

Number of Permanent Residents Admitted, Work and/or Study Permit Holders, 2000-2018



*Note: Work and/or Study Permit holders denotes those with permits becoming effective in a given year

Permanent Resident Source: Netezza_DM2 - RDM, Permanent Residents, December 31, 2018

Temporary Resident Source: Netezza_DM2 - RDM, Temporary Residents, December 31, 2018

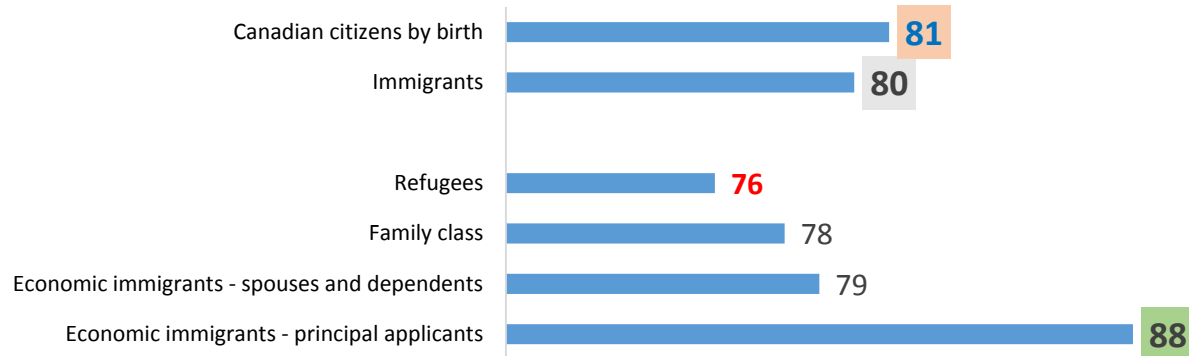
“Believe nothing you hear, and only one half
that you see.”

— Edgar Allan Poe

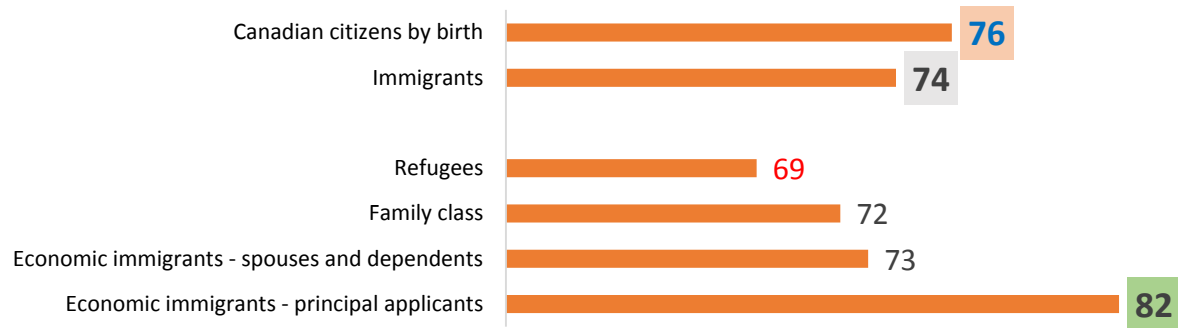
What do we know? Economic Outcomes of immigrants

How do they fare in the Canadian labour market?

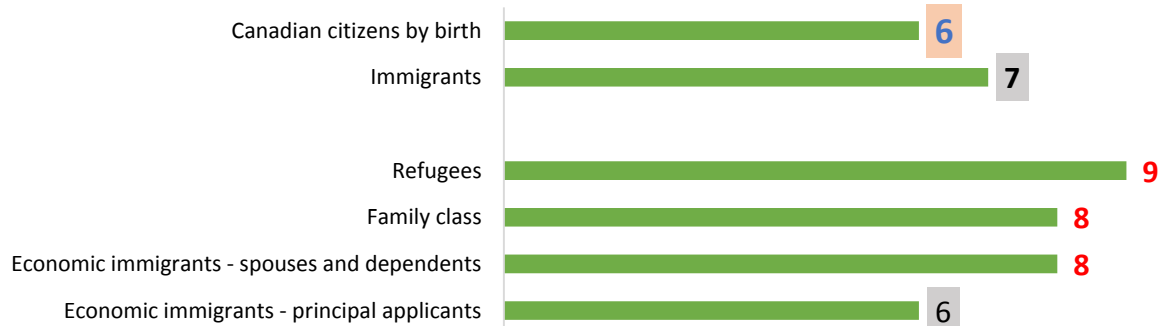
Labour Force Participation Rates of Immigrants and Canadian-born (25-64)



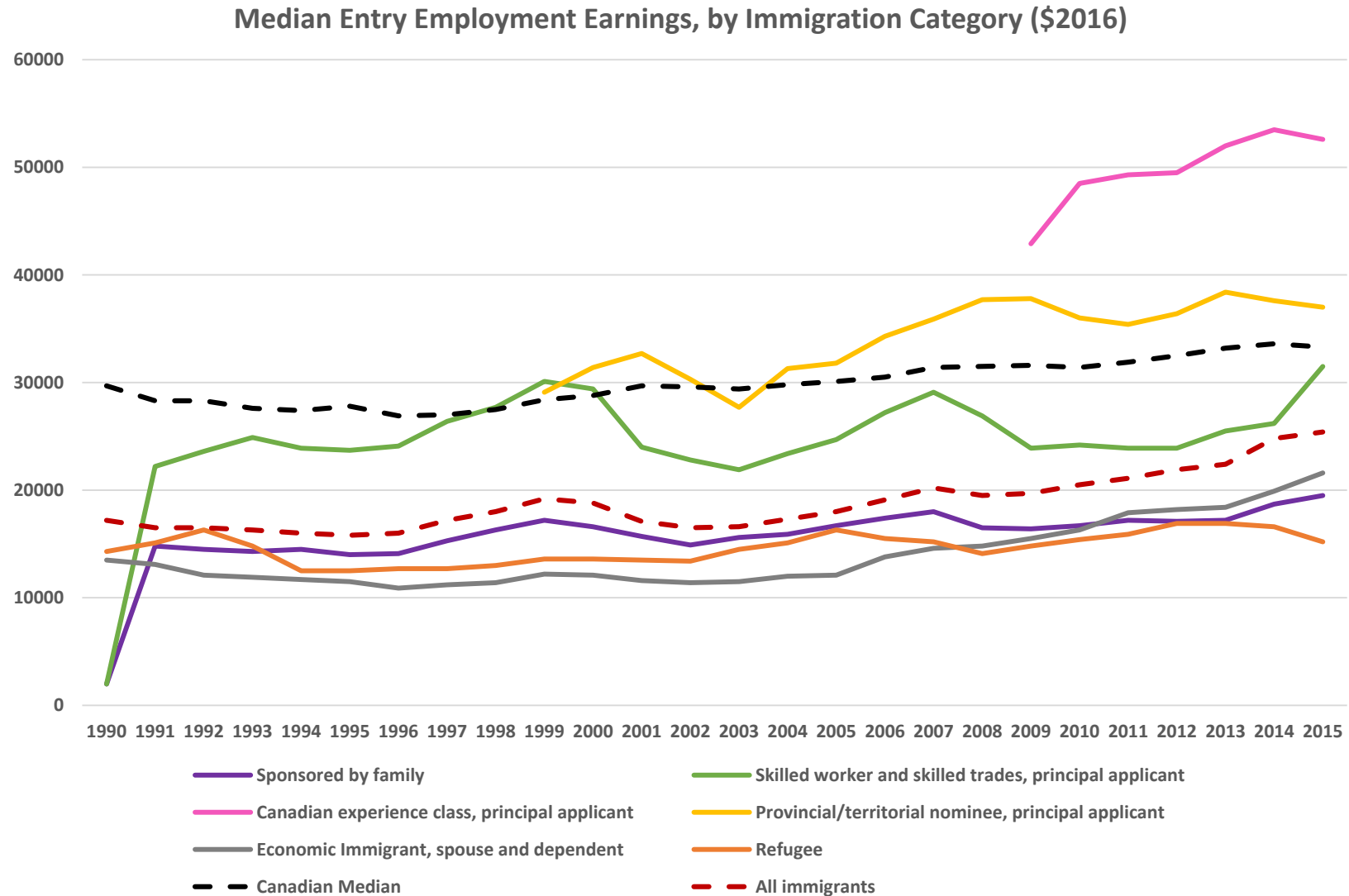
Employment Rates of Immigrants and Canadian-born (25-64)



Unemployment Rates of Immigrants and Canadian-born (25-64)



How much do they earn initially?



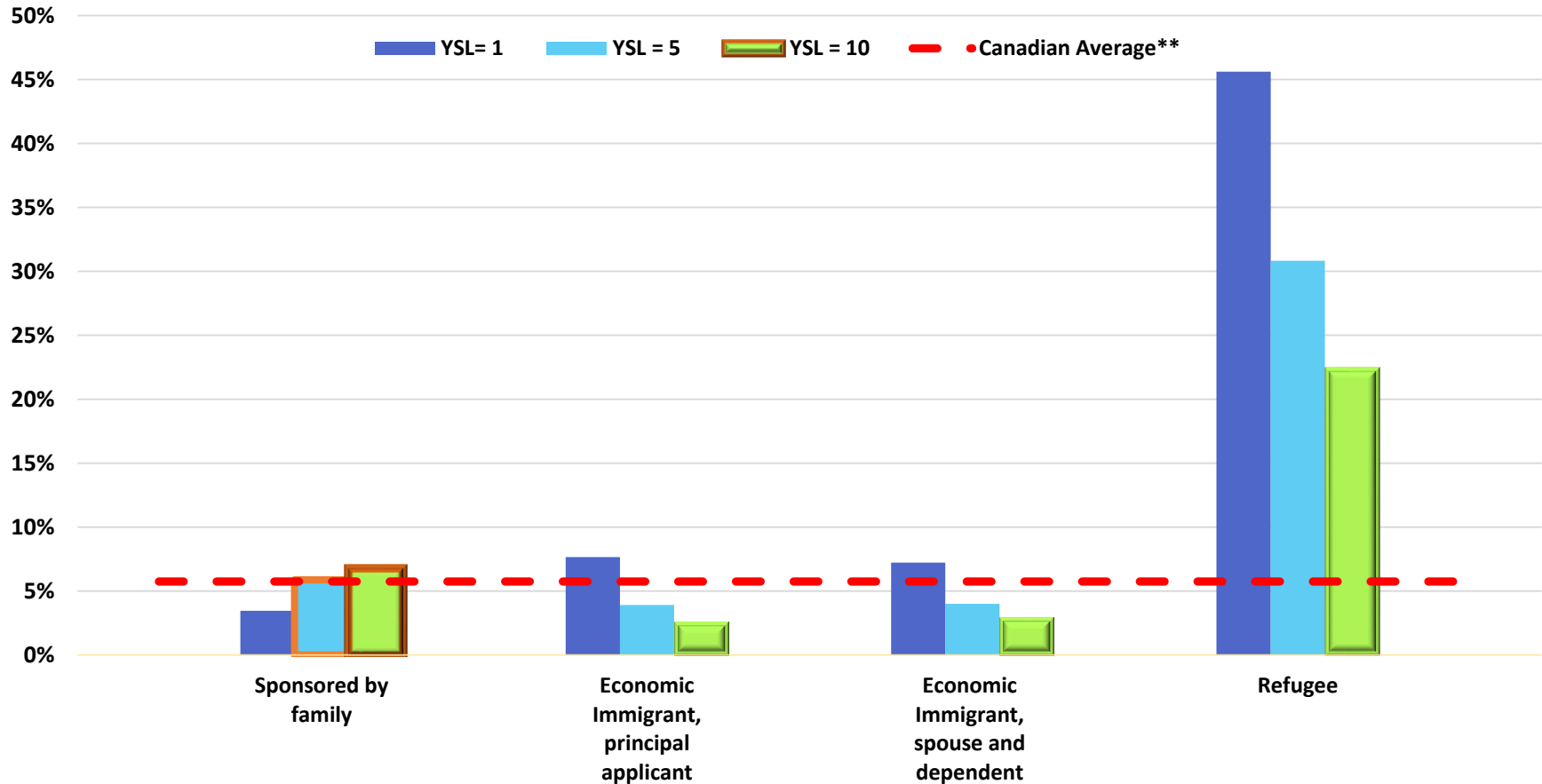
Source: IMDB 2016, Statistics Canada Table: 11-10-0239-01

*Canadian median is calculated based on tax filers, excluding immigrants who arrived post-1980

Do they use social assistance?

- The incidence of social assistance generally declines over time for all immigrant categories, with the exception of the **Family class**.

Incidence of Social Assistance, by Immigration Category and Years Since Landing*



Source: IMDB 2016, Statistics Canada Table: 11-10-0239-01

*Analysis based on the 2006 immigrant landing cohort.

**Canadian average is based on the incidence of social assistance among Canadians from 2006 to 2016.

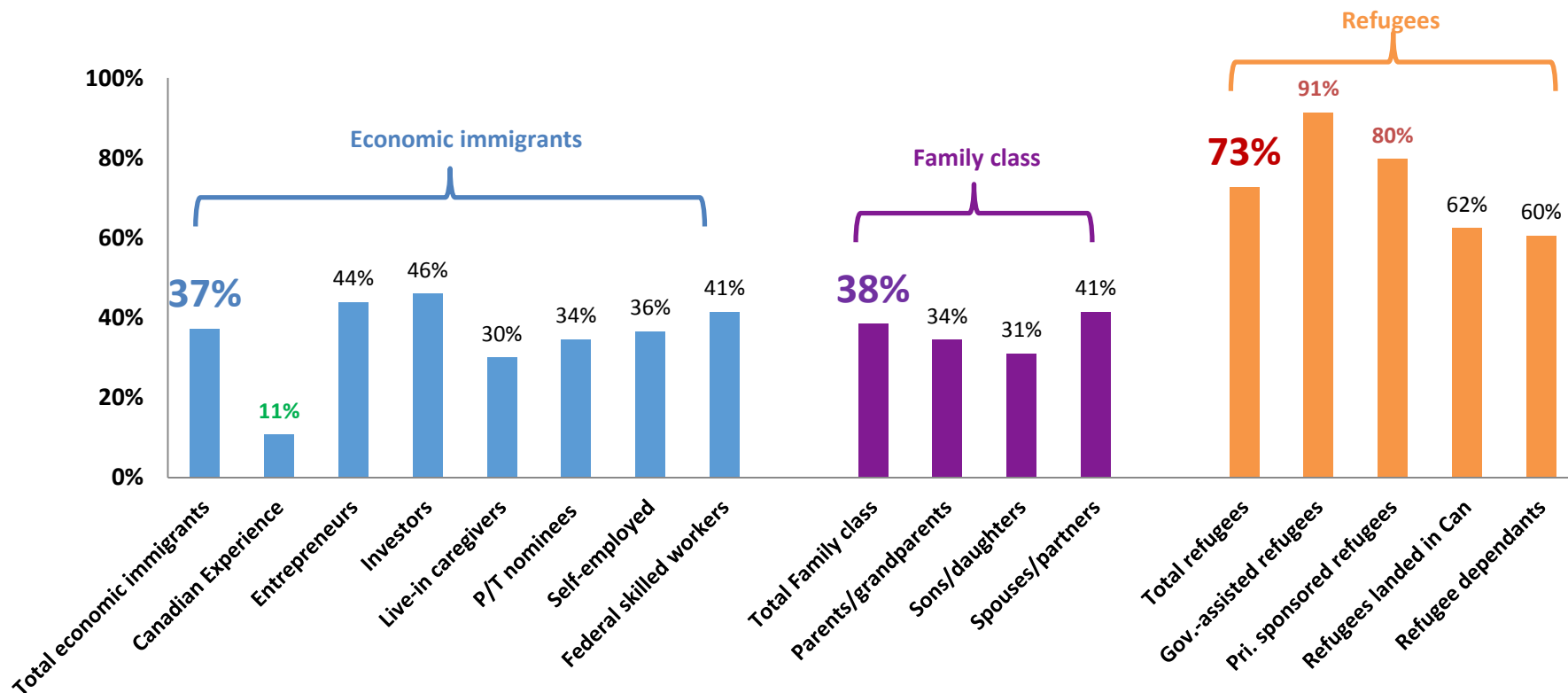
Other Economic Outcomes

- **Employment earnings:**
 - Annual earnings of **high-skilled principal applicants** surpass the Canadian average soon after landing and increase over time.
- **Time needed to catch up:**
 - **Economic principal applicants** reach the Canadian average in less than 5 years for all cohorts, while **refugees and family class** immigrants need much more time to catch up to the Canadian average.
- **Net direct fiscal contribution:**
 - **Immigrants as a group** have positive net direct fiscal contributions (average income tax paid net of government transfers), while **economic principal applicants** have higher net contributions than other immigrants and average Canadians.
 - The average net direct fiscal contributions of **refugees and family class** immigrants are consistently below the national average, though the gap narrows with time spent in Canada.

Who is more likely to use IRCC Settlement Services?

- Refugees, especially Government-assisted refugees are more likely to use settlement services, while immigrants in the Canadian Experience category were the least likely to utilize services.

Percentage of immigrants who used services, by immigration class and category

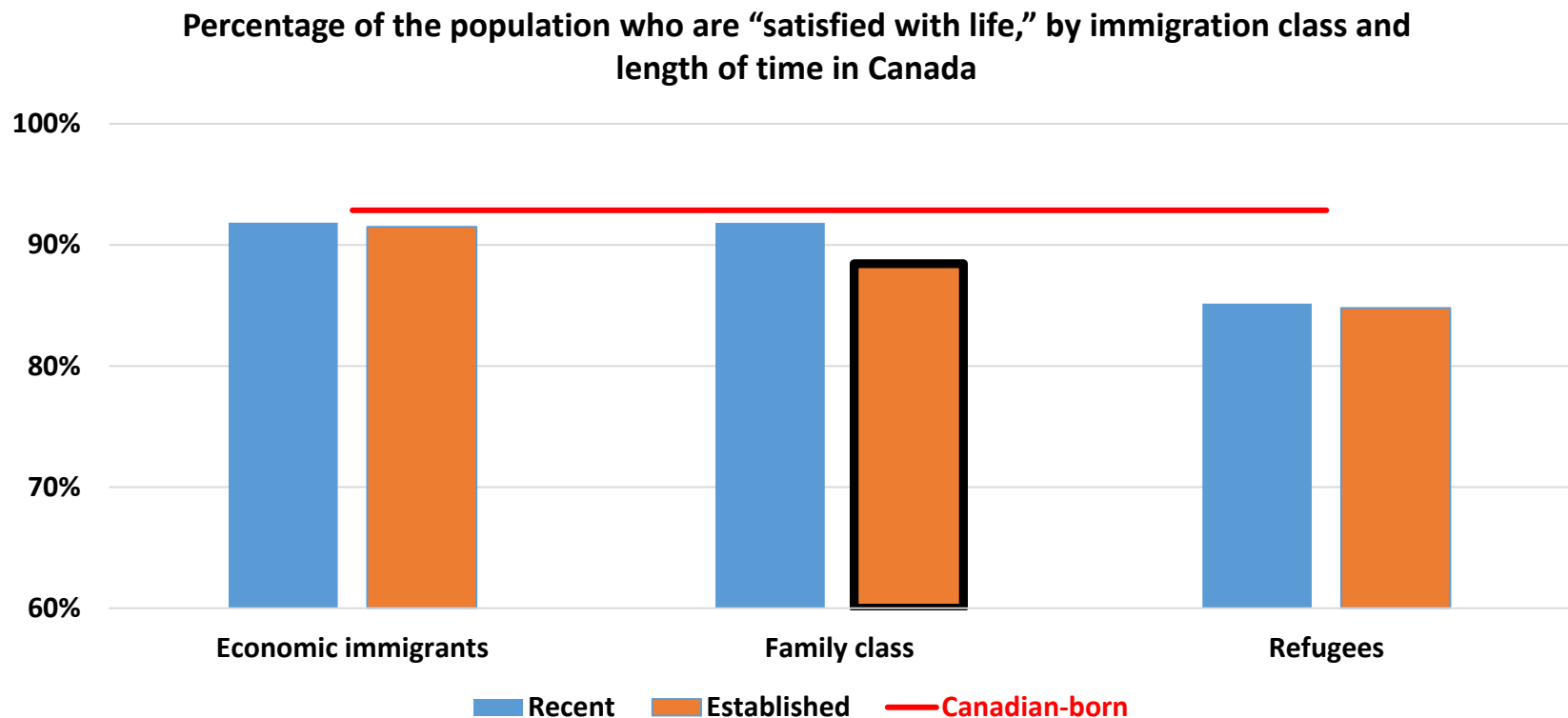


Note: The estimates use data as of October 2014 for immigrants landed from 2007/08 to 2014/15, excluding those landed in QC, in BC before 2014/15, and in MB before 2013/14.

What do we know? Social Outcomes

Are they satisfied with life?

- Economic immigrants* have a comparable level of life satisfaction with **the Canadian-born**, while *refugees* are less satisfied with life than other immigrants and the Canadian-born.



Note: “Recent” means the length of time in Canada is less than 10 years, and “established” means the length of time is greater than or equal to 10 years.

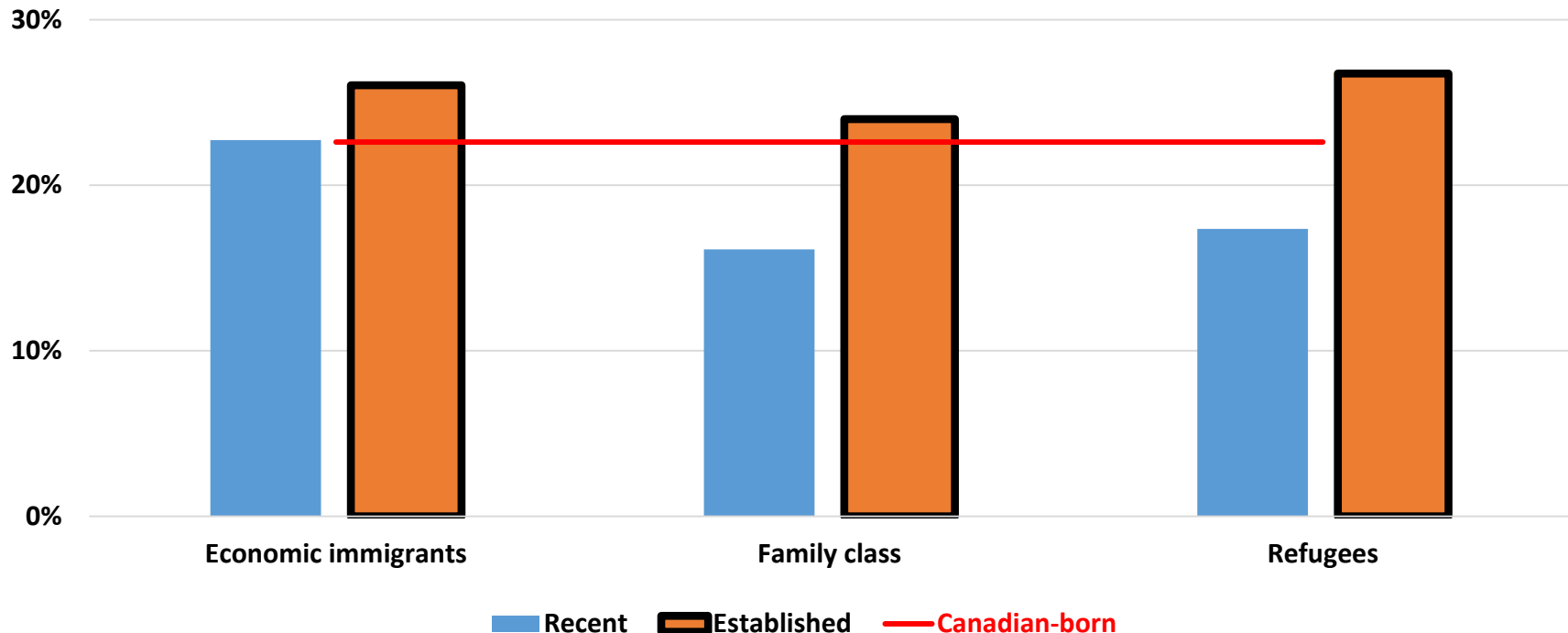
Source: CCHS-IMDB linkage produced in 2017, the chart uses CCHS variables in the 2013/2014 cycle.

Are they stressed?

- Compared to the **Canadian-born**, **recent immigrants** feel less or comparable levels of stress in life...

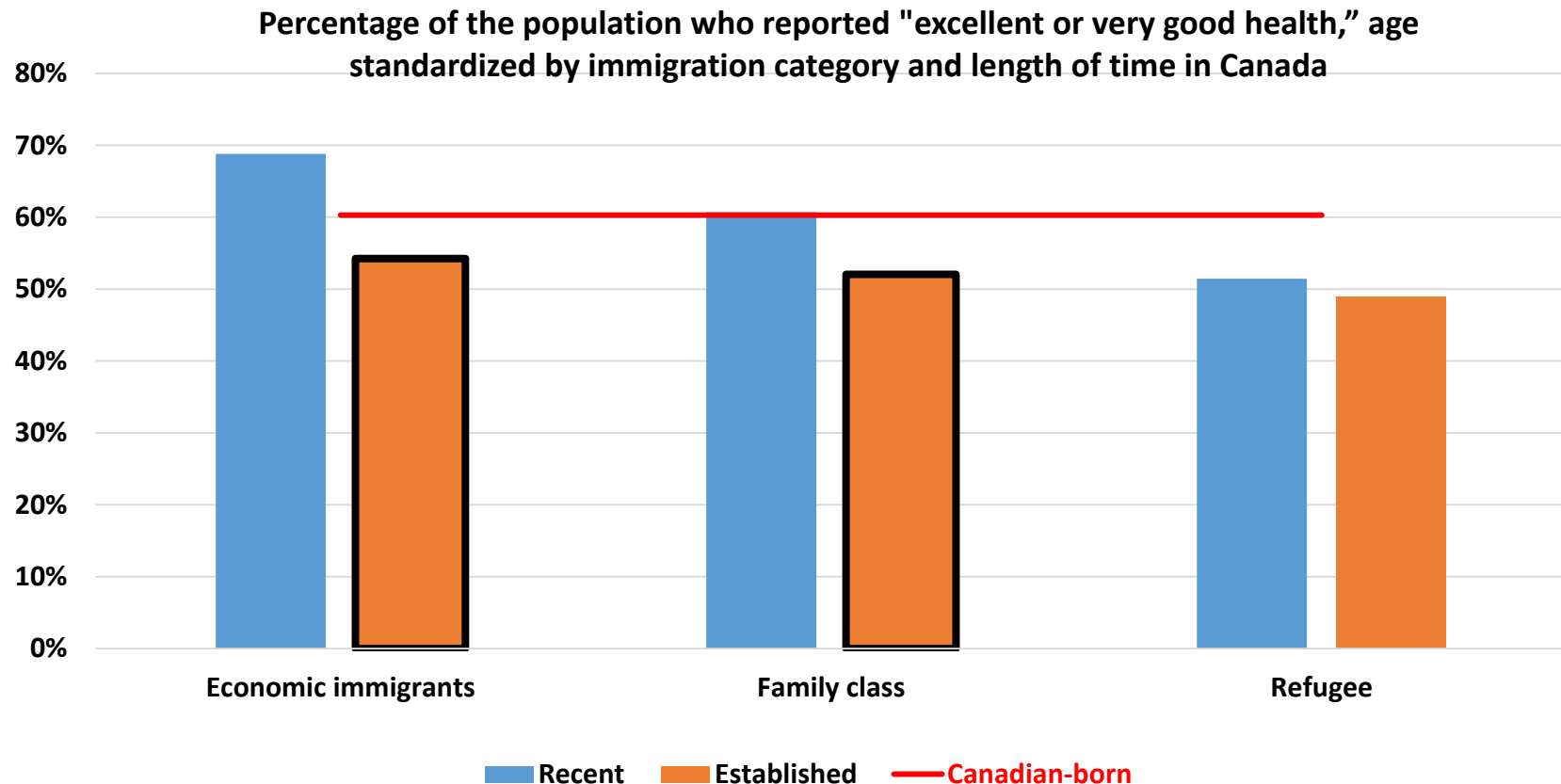
... but stress **increases**, especially among **refugees and family class** immigrants, as more time is spent in Canada.

Percentage of the population that reported life stress to be "quite a bit/extremely stressful," by immigration class and length of time in Canada



Do they report being healthy?

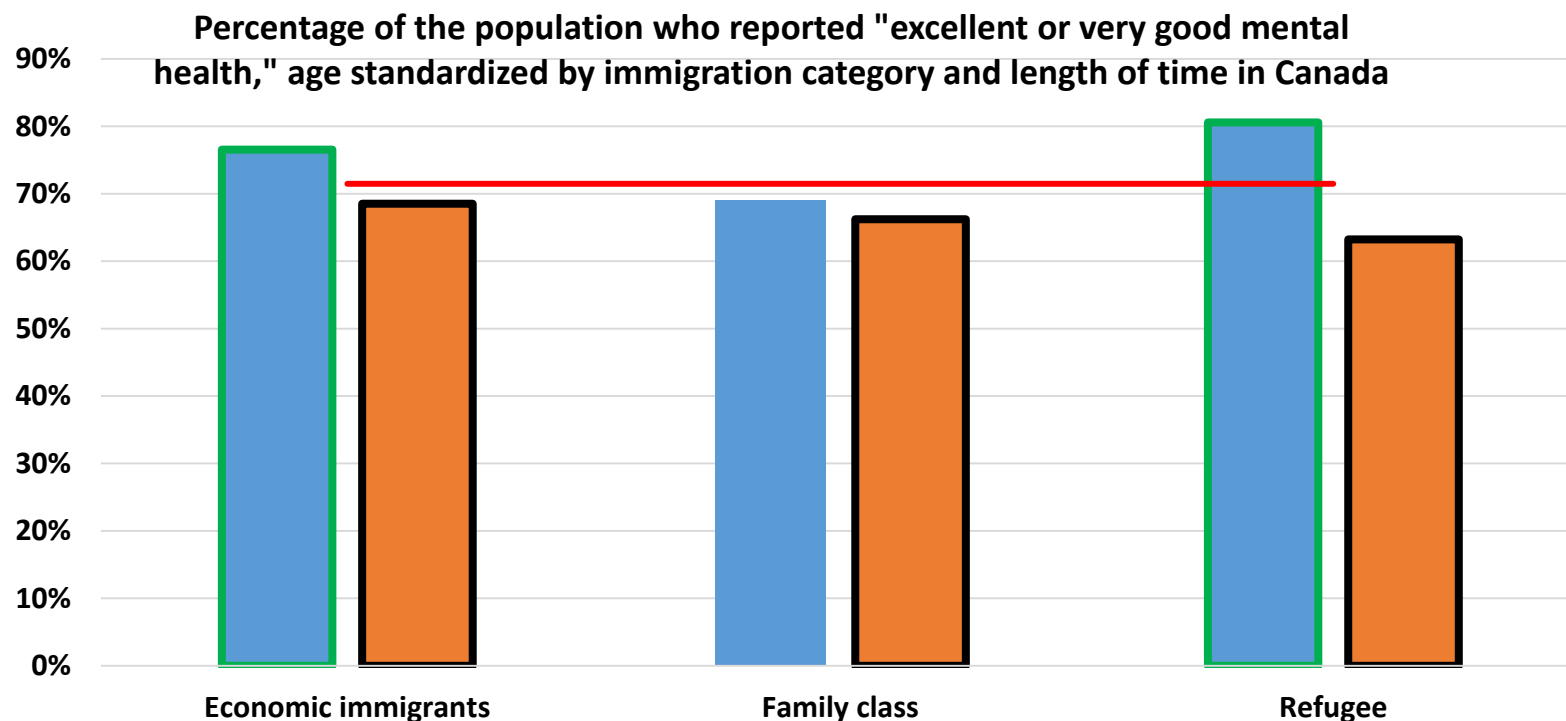
- Recent *economic and family class* immigrants reported a better or comparable health status compared to the *Canadian-born*.
- but their *perceived* health declines as more time is spent in Canada, suggesting a “healthy immigrant effect.”



Do they report being in good mental health?

- Recent economic immigrants and refugees are more likely to report “excellent or very good mental health” than the **Canadian-born**.

but **established** immigrants, especially established **refugees** report a worse state of mental health, supporting the notion of a “healthy immigrant effect.”



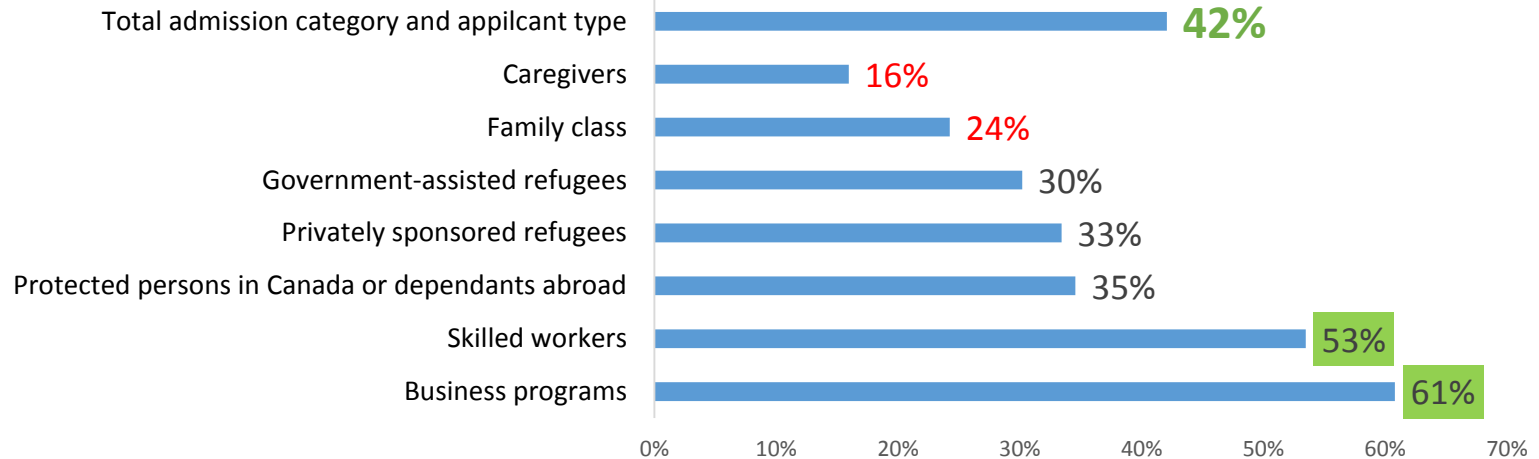
What about their children?

Generation status

University completion rate (aged 25-44)



1.5 generation by immigration category for immigrants landed since 1980



Notes:

- First generation includes immigrants who landed at age 15 or above.
- 1.5 generation includes those who immigrated to Canada at age under 15.
- The second generation includes those who were born in Canada and had at least one parent born outside Canada.
- Third generation or more includes persons who were born in Canada to two Canadian-born parents

Source: 2016 Census

*To cling to the known is to remain a
prisoner of ignorance.*

Yvon Rivard

Where are we going?

Settlement Services - Are they effective?

- **A key knowledge gap is understanding how effective settlement services are.**
 - **E.g.: What are the economic outcomes of settlement service users, and how do their outcomes compare to non-users? How effective are settlement services in improving the economic outcomes of clients?**
 - In order to do so, IRCC recently completed a data linkage between settlement service data (iCARE) with immigrant tax data (IMDB).
- **Planned research projects for 2019-2020 include:**
 1. Economic outcomes of settlement service users and non-users
 2. An in-depth examination of the impact of language training on immigrants' economic outcomes
- *Preliminary results indicate that overall, settlement services are being used by immigrants who need them (i.e. those who are unemployed and/or those who need help acquiring the skills, resources, language proficiency etc. in order to enter the labour market).*

Additional Forward Plans

- Examine the *interactive relationships* of economic, social, health and mental health characteristics of immigrants and refugees, and how they impact immigrant outcomes
- Differences in outcomes of landed permanent residents vs those who transitioned from *temporary status*
- The economic and fiscal impact of immigrants, refugees and **temporary residents**

*"A conclusion is when you start to be
tired of thinking"*

Harold Fricklestein

Conclusion

- IRCC has been able to consistently report on the economic outcomes of immigrants for many years.
 - Overall, immigrants, particularly economic principal applicants, have strong, positive economic outcomes.
 - Despite being admitted to Canada based on a humanitarian basis, refugees become increasingly self-sufficient with more time spent in Canada.
- The social outcomes of immigrants and refugees has been more difficult to measure. Further discussion is needed on which indicators provide reliable, objective information on their social integration.
 - What are other social measures that would enhance our understanding of how immigrants are integrating?
 - How do other countries measure social integration of immigrants and refugees?

THANK YOU!

He who asks is a fool for five minutes, but he who does not ask remains a fool forever.

Chinese Proverb

QUESTIONS ?

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Annex: Supporting Research Projects

- “2014 Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB) : Current Measures of Immigrant Economic Outcomes and Strategic Enhancements,” April 2017, IRCC, Research and Evaluation Branch, Policy Research Division (H. Zhang)
- “Children of Immigrants : Recent Findings,” June 2017, IRCC, Research and Evaluation, Policy Research Division (L. Xu)
- “The Economic and Fiscal Impacts of Immigration: the Canadian Evidence,” November 2017, IRCC, Research and Evaluation Branch, Policy Research Division (H. Zhang)
- “Research Insights in Settlement Services : Uptake, Mobility of Clients and Service Outcomes,” October 2018, IRCC, Research and Evaluation, Policy Research Division (H. Zhang, J. Zhong & R. Lee)
- “Social, Health and Mental Health Outcomes of Immigrants: the Canadian Evidence” (*working title*) forthcoming, IRCC, Research and Evaluation, Policy Research Division (H. Zhang)

What is the direct fiscal contribution of immigrants?

Average income tax paid net of transfers received (\$2014) by immigration category and YSL, 2014 tax year

