

# The Role of Human Capital in Migration Decisions: Evidence from Canada

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# Background

- Migration is one of the driving sources of growth in Canada
  - How do different provinces benefit from internal migration?
- Intraprovincial and interprovincial migration
  - Who stays within a province when they move?
- Human capital/Education
  - How does migration differ by highest degree/diploma?

# Research Questions

- Canadian Census data allows for the examination of migration over time, both internal and interprovincially.
  - What provinces experience high out-migration vs. internal migration?
  - What are the human capital characteristics of individuals that move interprovincially?  
Internally?
  - What factors impact the migratory decisions of Canadians?

# Data and Methods

- 2006 Census of Canada
- Individuals age 15-64
- Model the effect of:
  - province of residence five years ago
  - Age
  - Sex
  - Marital status
  - Family structure
  - **Educational attainment**
  - Field of study
- Multinomial logit: No move (0), Intraprovincial (1), Interprovincial (2)

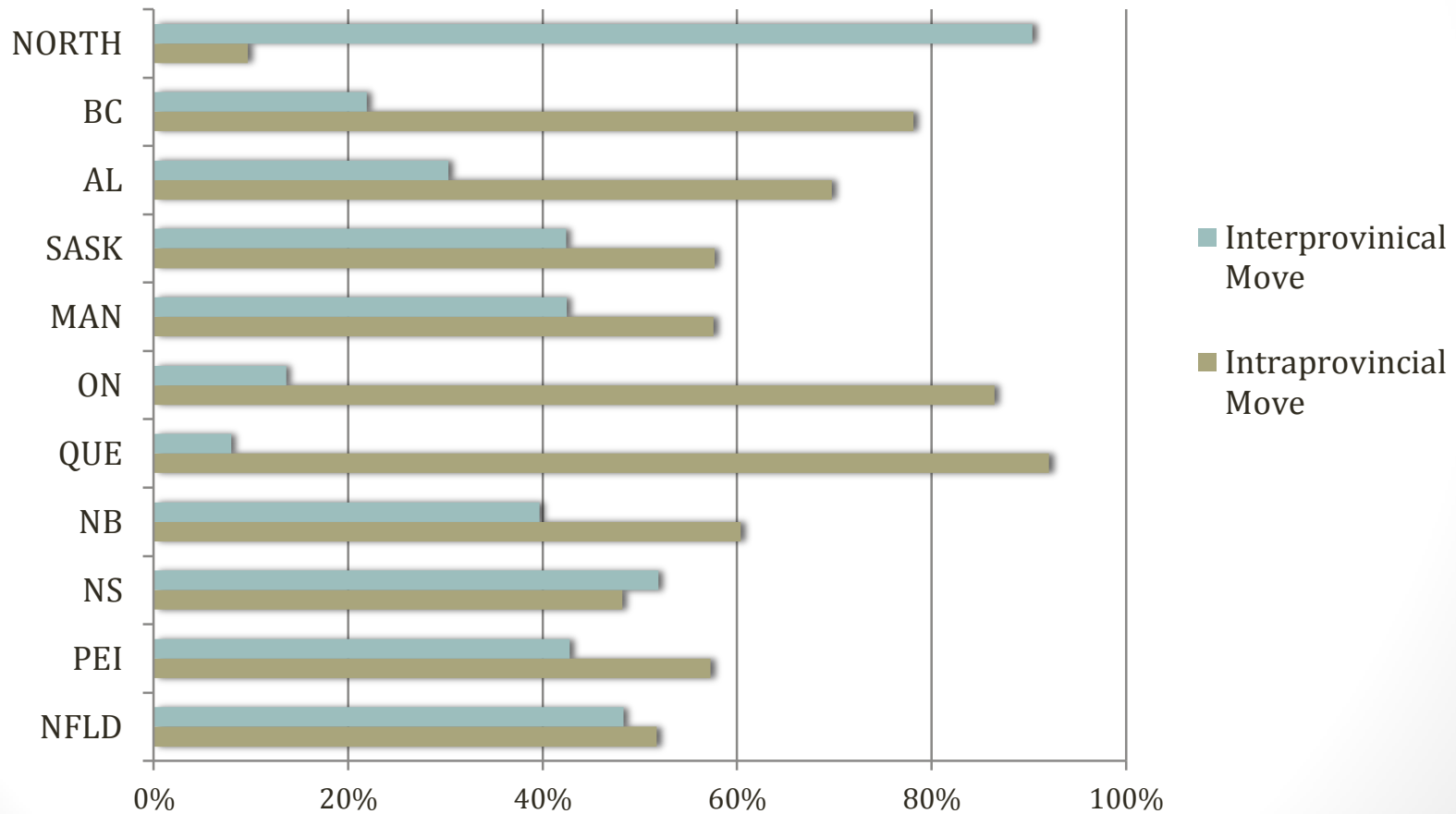
# Canada's demographic 'have' and 'have not' provinces

As of 2001: % of living population residing in province of birth (Ontario):

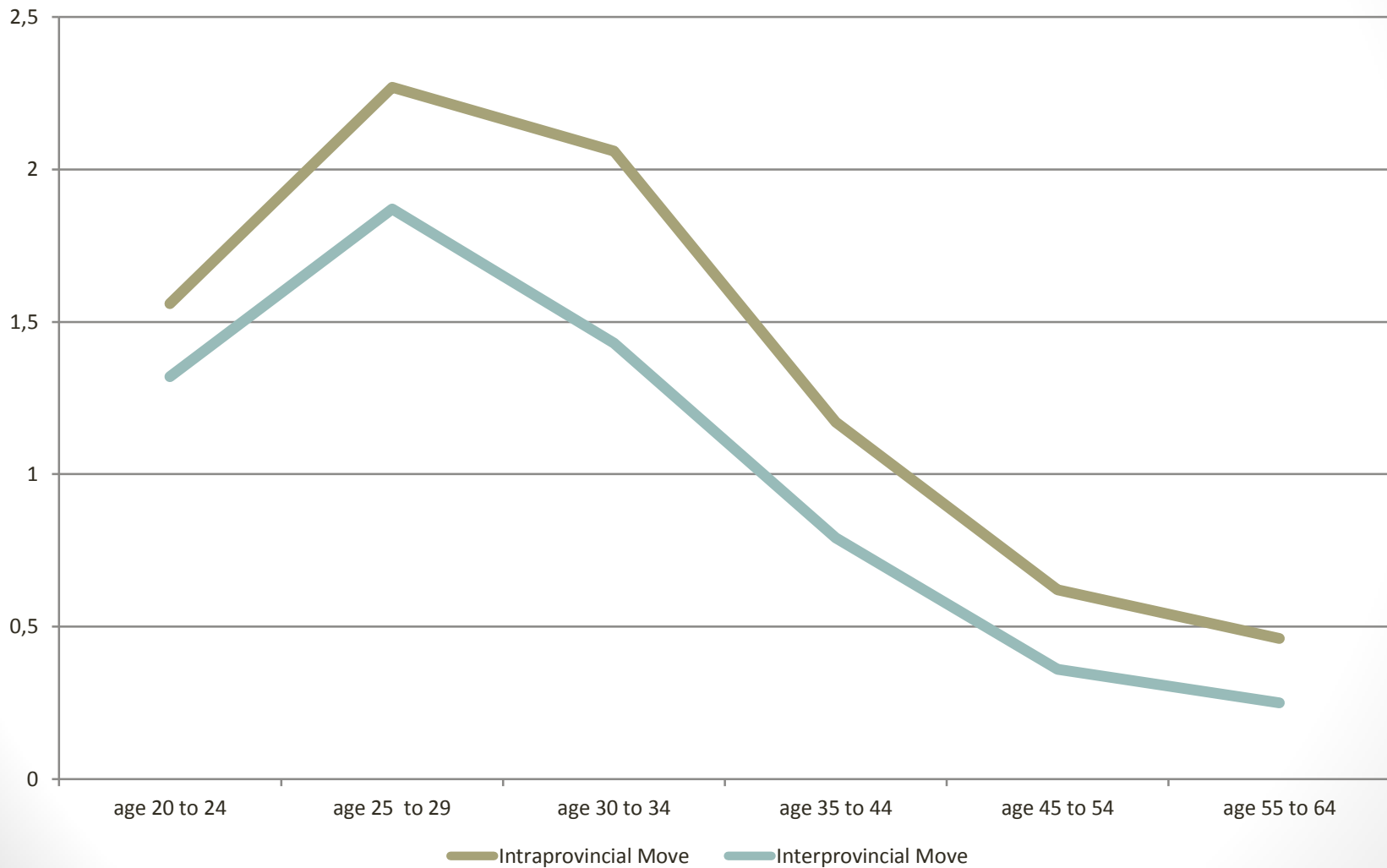
- Newfoundland/Labrador: 70.1% (13.82%)
- Prince Edward Island: 69.9% (11.69%)
- Nova Scotia: 74.0% (12.32%)
- New Brunswick: 73.5% (9.76%)
- Quebec: 92.0% (5.19%)
- Ontario: 90.4%
- Manitoba: 72.6% (6.4%)
- Saskatchewan: 64.8% (4.23%)
- Alberta: 81.1% (2.95%)
- British Columbia: 87.9% (3.06%)

# Provincial Migration, 2001-2006

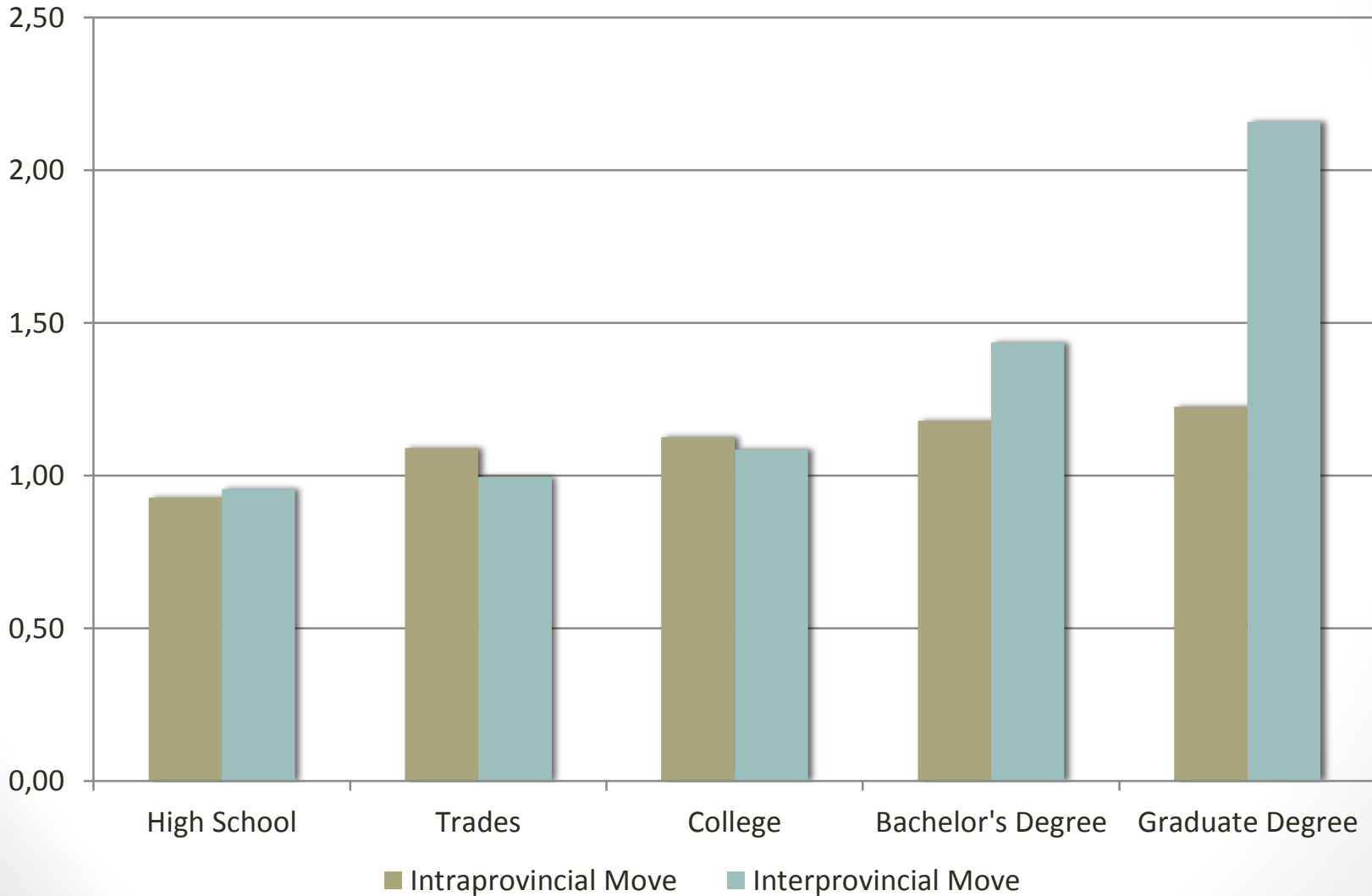
**Intra- and Interprovincial migration by province of residence, 5 years ago**



# Relative risk of intra- and interprovincial migration, by age



# Relative risk of intra- and interprovincial migration, by highest level of education





# Policy Implications?

- What differentiates demographic 'have' and 'have not' provinces?
  - Is it just jobs?
- Labour Market development strategies require information on population stocks and flows.
- This is particularly important for education levels, particularly for post-secondary institutions.

# Next steps

- Household structure
- Field of study by province
- The effect of local (provincial) business cycles on migration.
- Immigrant status