

Longitudinal Immigration database

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STATISTICS CANADA
ONE HUNDRED YEARS AND COUNTING

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CENT ANS BIEN COMPTÉS

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Overview

- What is the Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB)?
 - Background
 - Linkage
 - Content
 - Limitations and advantages
- IMDB linkages to other data sources
- Dissemination options
 - Access
 - Documentation



IMDB background

- Statistics Canada produces the database on behalf of a federal-provincial consortium led by Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)
- The IMDB links administrative immigrant and non-permanent resident data from IRCC with annual tax records
 - Tax records are processed to measure mobility, socio-economic performance, family composition, etc
 - Administrative data on immigration contains socio-demographic information and selection policy details
- Created to respond to the need for detailed and reliable data on the performance and impact of immigration policies and programs.



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IMDB background (2)

- The IMDB is updated annually, it includes:
 - All immigrants admitted to Canada from 1980 to 2016
 - All non-permanent resident permits from 1980 to 2016
 - Tax files from 1982 to 2015 for linked immigrants
- Provides longitudinal, detailed, and reliable data on socio-economic outcomes of immigrants after landing
- Permits analysis on immigrants' temporary residency activity
- Connects short- and long-term outcomes with characteristics at admission



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Tax data coverage (for immigrants only)

- Individual and family level incomes
- Family composition for each tax year
 - Family size
 - Marital status, spousal identifier
 - Number of children, by age
 - Number of immigrants in the family
- Industry of employment (NAICS)
- Tax credit for post-secondary education



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Challenges and limitations

- Socio-economic outcomes restricted to tax file content
 - E.g. Presence of employment within a year is different from labour force rates
 - Occupation type (NOC) is not available
- Variable definitions can change over time
 - Geographic boundaries, immigrant selection policies
- Limited information on out-migration
 - Entry/exit variable from tax files
 - Discontinued filing
 - Intermittent filing
- Linkage error can vary by age, gender or landing year



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Analytical possibilities

- Longitudinal design
 - Up to 34 years of follow-up available
 - Allows for survival analysis with time-varying covariates
- Fiscal data at the individual and the family level
 - e.g. Long-term effects of family economic condition during childhood
- External geography information can be linked
 - e.g. Properties of a census tract can be added as predictors in a model of socioeconomic outcomes

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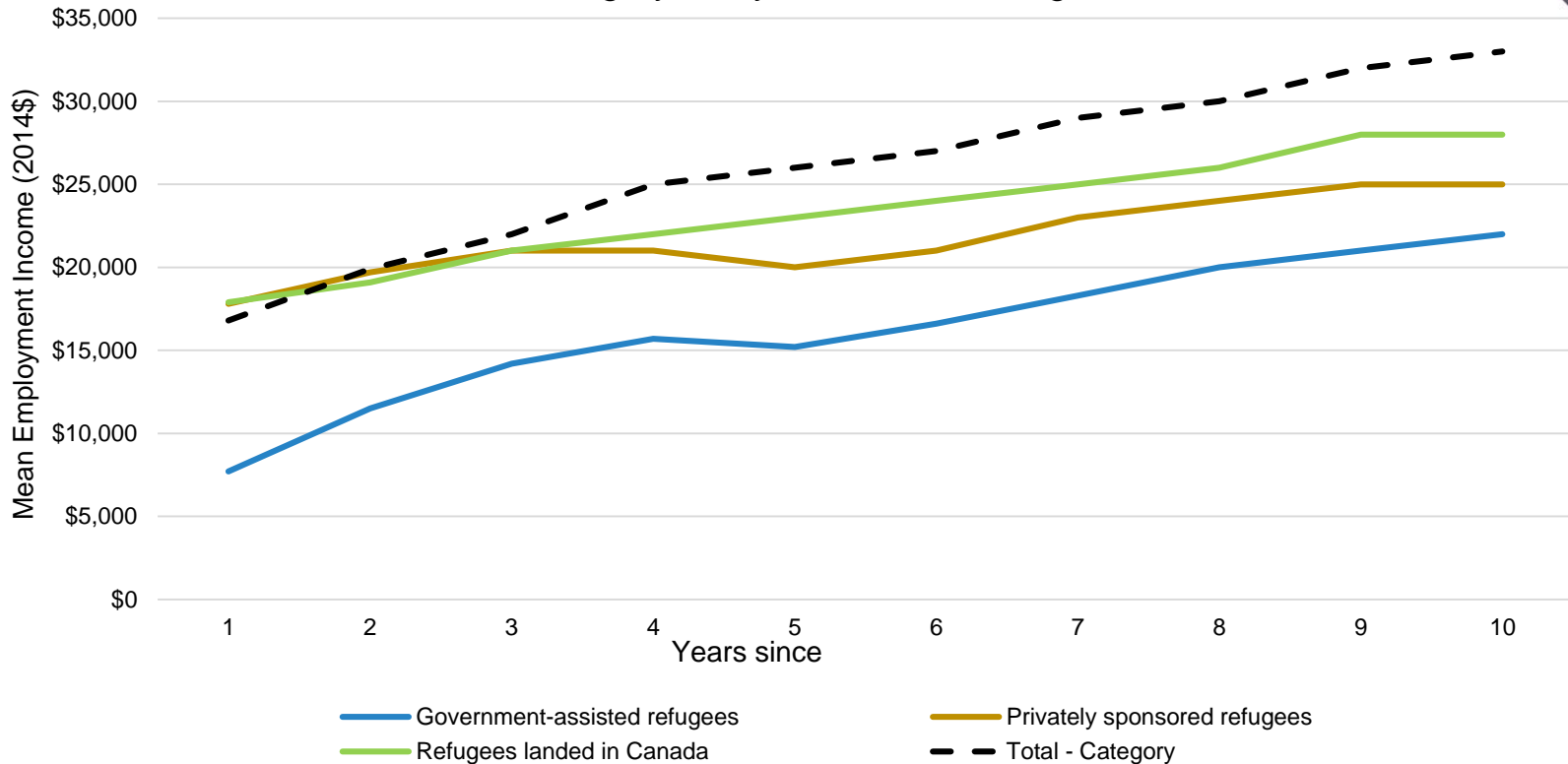
Best practices

- Be cautious with time variables
 - Landing year, Tax year, Years since landing, Pre-admission year
- Be cautious when...
 - Using year since landing 0
 - Reporting income while grouping recent cohorts
- Adjust incomes for the Consumer Price Index (CPI)
- Social assistance is best measured using the family level

Detailed immigration category

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Wages and salaries of immigrants admitted in 2004, by selected immigration category and years since landing

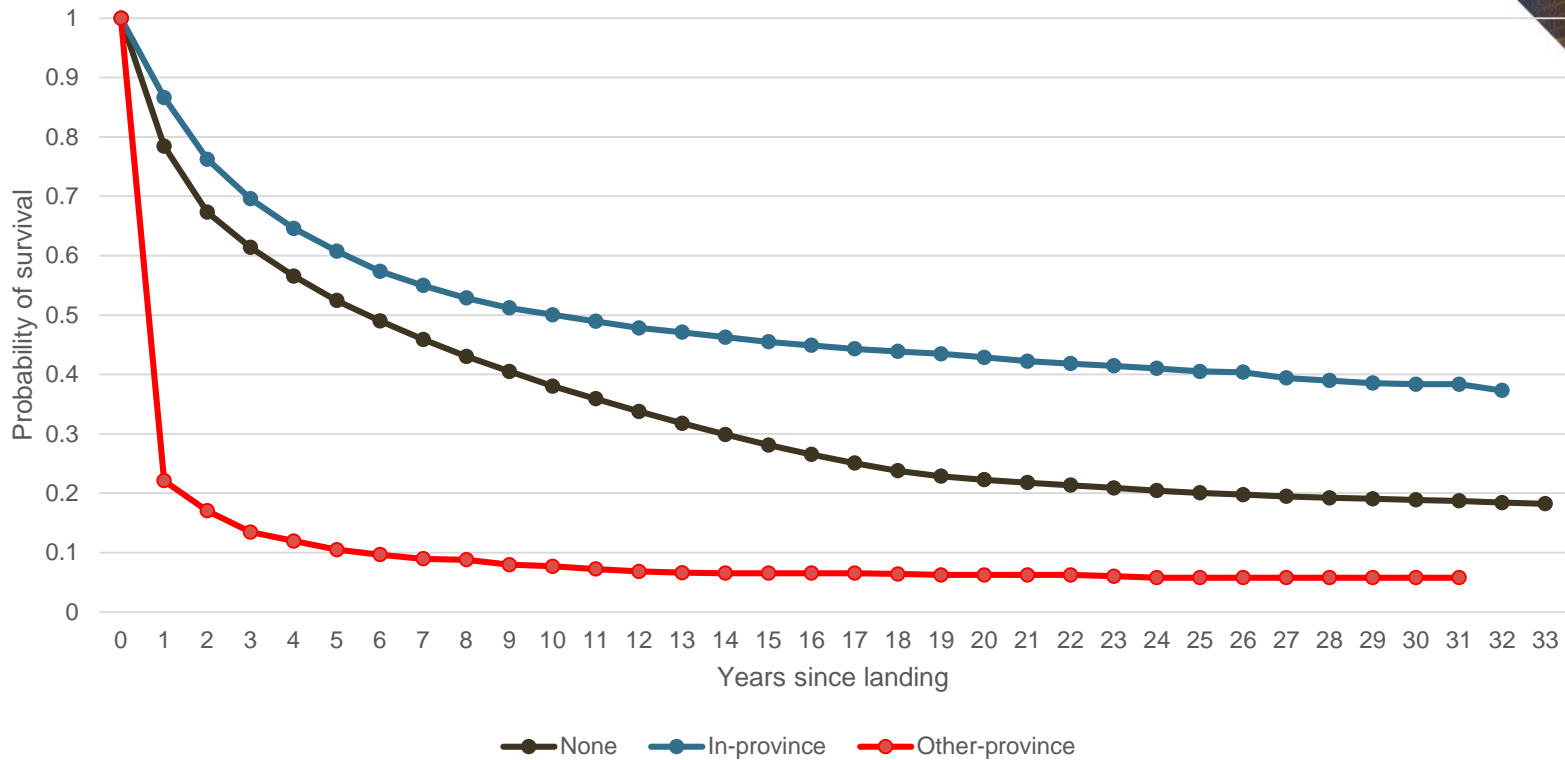


Source: Statistics Canada, 2014 Longitudinal Immigration Database

Likelihood of staying in Atlantic provinces



Life-Table Survival Curves: Prelanding Experience



Note 1: Pre-landing experience is only considered for immigrants filing tax before landing. Category "none" may include immigrants with non permanent permits that never filed before admission.

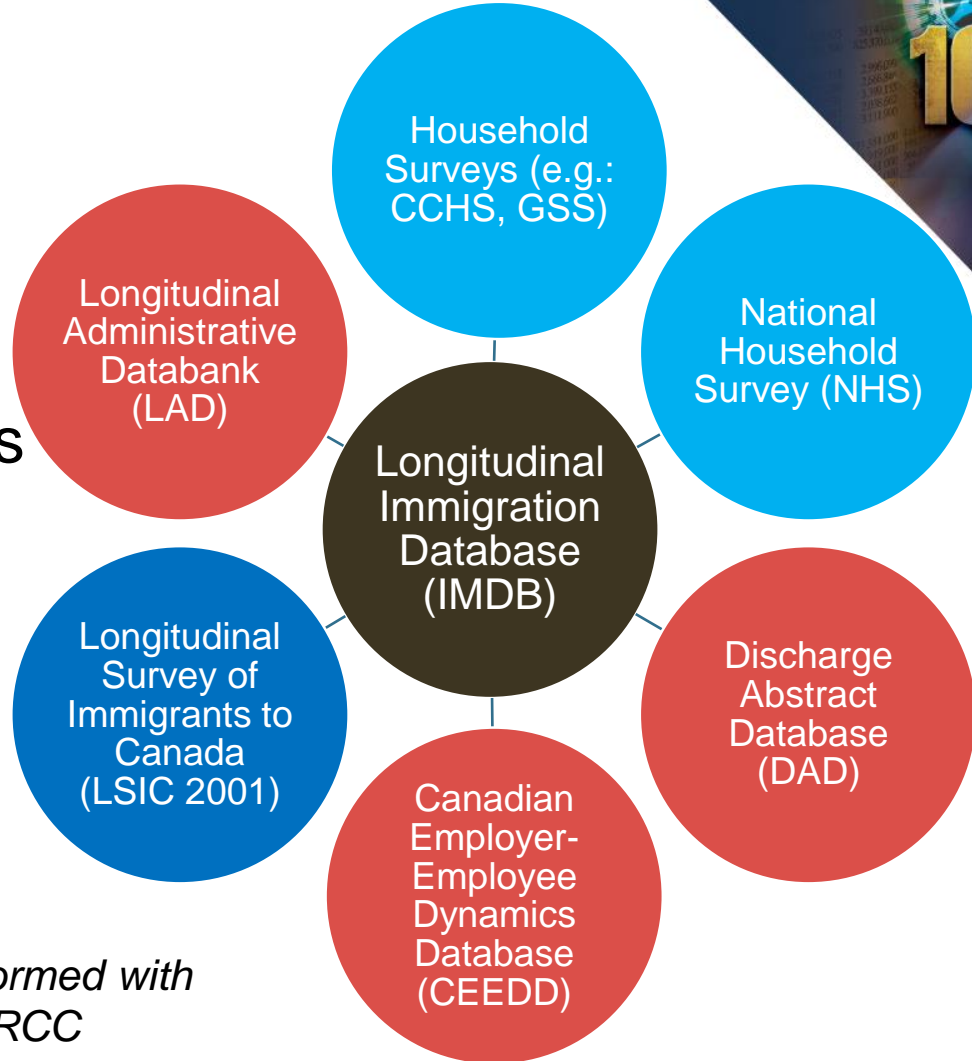
Source: Statistics Canada, 2015 Longitudinal Immigration Database

IMDB linked to other datasets

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Benefits:

- Reduces limitations
- Extends content
- Extends coverage



** Many of these linkages were performed with support from and partnership with IRCC*

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Access and usage

- Technical report / User Guide
 - Describe the IMDB, components, and data quality
 - Provide guidance/examples on how to analyse results
- Dynamic Tables
 - 28 national/provincial tables released annually
 - Income and mobility outcomes
 - <http://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurveyProduct&Id=420104>
- Custom tabulations
 - Tables produced by Statistics Canada upon request

Access and usage (2)



- Micro-data in Research Data Centers (RDC):
 - Accessible via Statistics Canada regional offices (within 29 universities, 8 provinces)
 - Provide support for analytical needs and data manipulation

Upcoming

- Release of the 2016 IMDB (this fall)
 - Updated documentation
- Addition of citizenship date (this fall)
 - Since 2005
- Addition of settlement data (feasibility study in collaboration with IRCC)
 - No plan RDC release at this moment

IRCC-Statistics Canada collaboration

- IRCC and Statistics Canada have been collaborating extensively on the IMDB for many years. This has led to various **enhancements of the IMDB** itself and linkages between the IMDB and other data sources (e.g. Census, GSS).
- In addition, IRCC and Statistics Canada have been working together towards making these **datasets available in the RDCs** for broad access to the research community. This collaboration is intended to enhance the available data holdings related to immigration, settlement and citizenship.
- IRCC encourages researchers to share their papers and results with the IRCC Research Section who could then widely distribute findings within the Department and to partner organizations. Where possible, researchers will be invited to speak to IRCC staff and management so their research can directly inform policy development.
- If you wish to contact IRCC regarding your research, please e-mail: IRCC.REKMPPPartnerships-PartenariatsMCPDGRE.IRCC@cic.gc.ca



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IRCC-Statistics Canada collaboration (2)

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THANK YOU!

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