



Social Outcomes of Immigrants and Refugees in Canada: Data Innovations, Knowledge and Gaps

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Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

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et Citoyenneté Canada

Canada

Purpose and outline

Purpose

- To present on data innovation initiatives for measuring integration outcomes
- To present on social and health outcomes of immigrants and refugees
- To identify knowledge and data gaps and the way forward

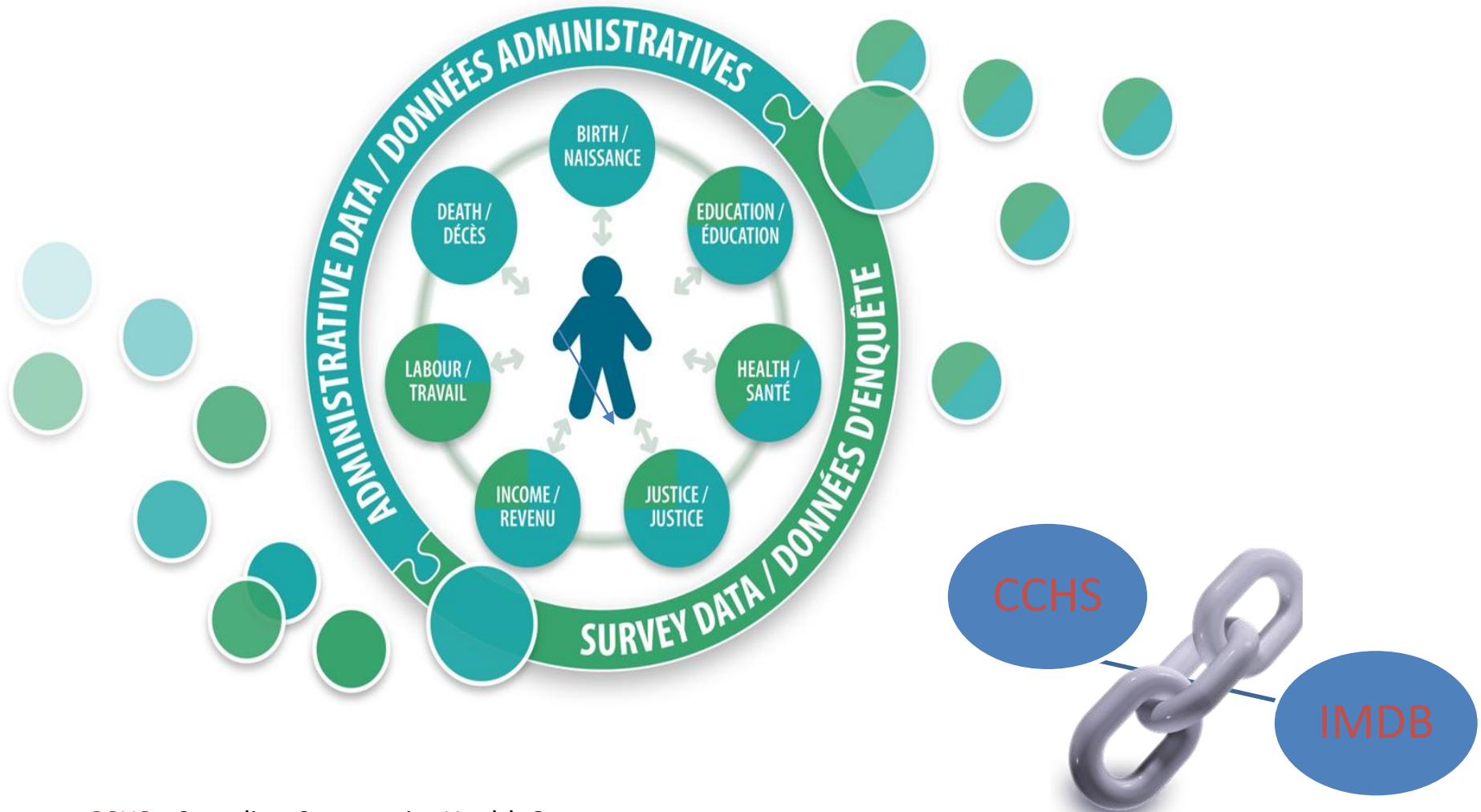
Outline

- Overview of strategic data development that enabled the understanding of social and health outcomes of immigrants and refugees in Canada
- Knowledge of social and health outcomes of immigrants and refugees:
 - The differences in social outcomes of recent immigrants, established immigrants and the Canadian-born in terms of:
 - Social, physical and mental well-being
 - Perceptions of society and self
 - Social support and connections
 - Social, civic and political participation
 - How are social outcomes associated with employment status and knowledge of official languages?
- Knowledge gaps and forward plans

Strategic data development initiatives

- Immigrants landing file (ILF): administrative data of permanent residents
- Oversampling of immigrants in Statistics Canada surveys
 - Oversampling of immigrants in General Social Survey (GSS) on Social Identity
 - Oversampling of immigrants in GSS on Victimization
- Administrative and survey data linkages:
 - ILF-tax file linkage (IMDB dating back to 1980)
 - Post survey record linkage of GSS with ILF
 - ILF-National Household Survey 2011 (NHS) linkage
 - ILF-2016 Census linkage and inclusion of immigration categories in Census release
 - IMDB-hospital discharge abstract database
- Social and economic record linkage environment
 - ILF-Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) 2000-2014 including modules on mental health
 - Canadian Employer-Employee Dynamics Database (CEEDD)
- In-house program data development
 - Immigration Contribution Agreement Reporting Environment (iCARE)

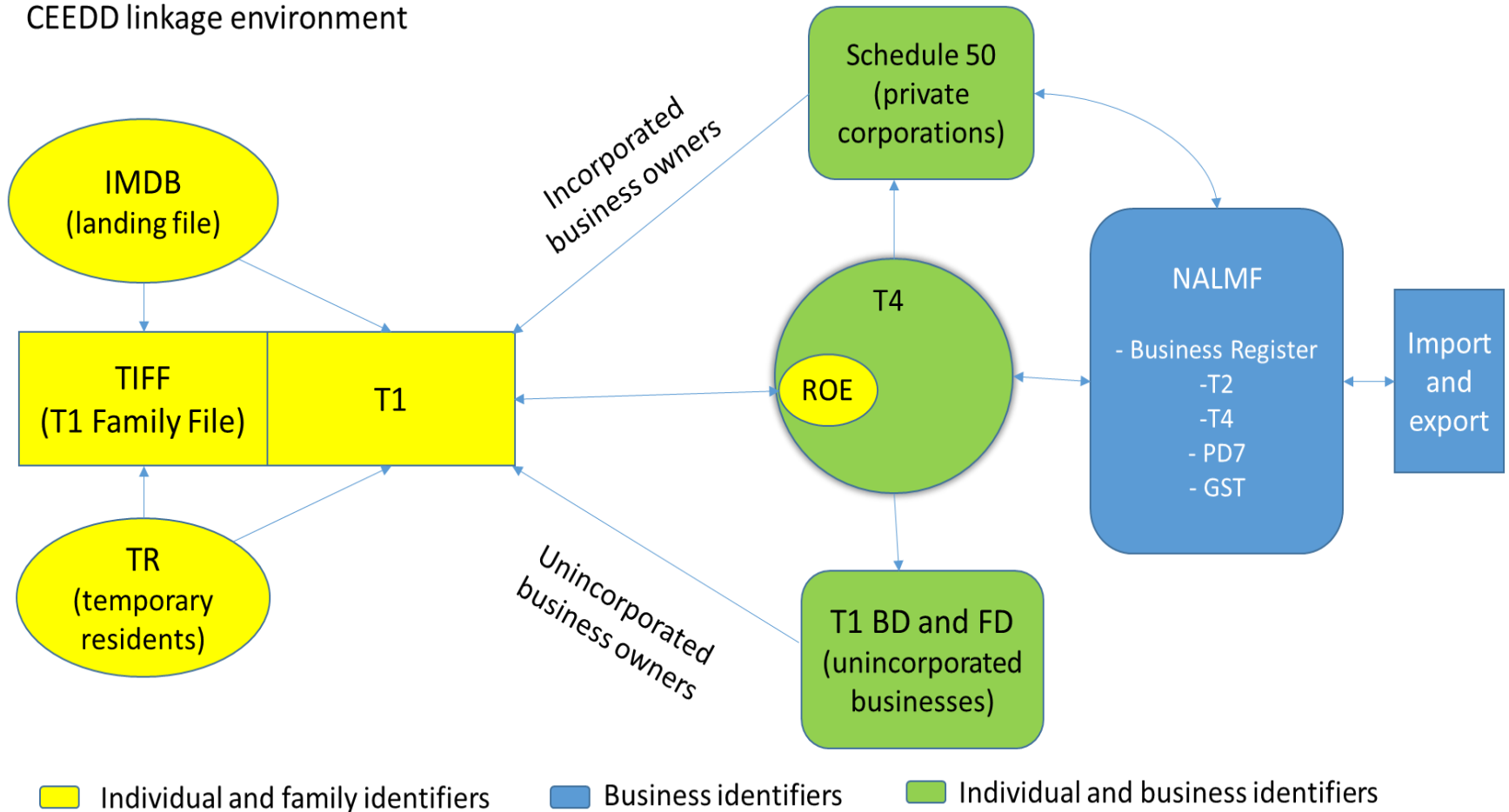
Social data linkage environment (SDLE)



CCHS - Canadian Community Health Survey
IMDB - Longitudinal Immigrant Database

The Canadian employer and employee dynamic database (CEEDD) - linkage environment

CEEDD linkage environment

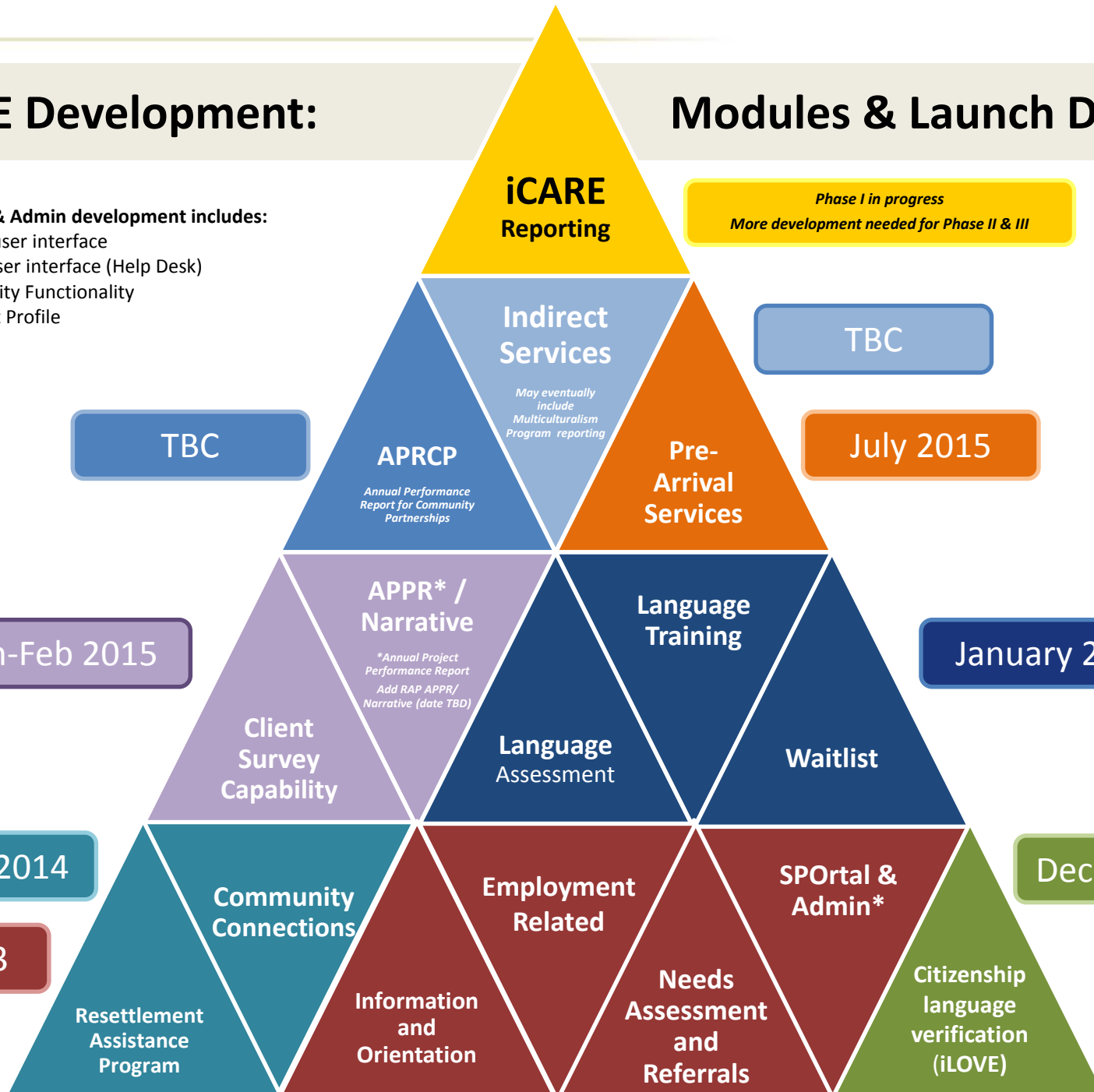


iCARE Development:

Modules & Launch Dates

***SPORtal & Admin development includes:**

- SPO user interface
- CIC user interface (Help Desk)
- Security Functionality
- Client Profile



Highlights: social and health outcomes of immigrants and refugees in Canada

Social, physical and mental wel-being

- Sense of belonging of immigrants increases with additional time in Canada;
- Economic principal applicants reports slightly lower sense of community belonging compared to the Canadian born and other immigrant categories;
- Immigrants are generally less likely to have excellent or very good self-perceived health, compared to the Canadian-born;
- Refugees are less likely to report having excellent or very good mental health status compared to the Canadian born and other immigrants
- Immigrants are as likely as the Canadian-born to report mental Health conditions, but much less likely to seek professional help;
- The children of immigrants are more likely to report being treated unfairly because of their race, ethnicity, religion or language;

Perceptions of society and self

- Immigrants' attitudes towards society and people are more positive than the Canadian-born;
- A higher portion of recent immigrants feel challenged to contribute to society and improve themselves, compared to the Canadian born;

Highlights: social and health outcomes of immigrants and refugees in Canada

Social support and connections

- Immigrants' social support and connections slightly increase with more time spent in Canada; despite that, they remain lagged behind the Canadian-born who report significantly more social support and connections;

Social, civic and political participation

- Immigrants generally participate as much as the Canadian-born in social and civic activities, although there are observed differences among immigrants of different admission categories and source countries;
- Immigrants are less likely to volunteer than the Canadian-born, but contribute about the same number of hours as the Canadian born;
- Spouses and dependents of economic class immigrants have rates of volunteering and organization membership comparable to the Canadian born;
- Immigrants' political participation increased between the last two elections
- Established immigrants vote more than recent immigrants, but voting rates significantly vary across world regions of birth;
- Citizenship take up rates are high and increasing (85.8% in 2016 Census);

Highlights: social and health outcomes of immigrants and refugees in Canada

- Recent immigrants, unemployed immigrants and immigrants without official-language knowledge experience relatively lower levels of social support and connections, social well-being, and participation in social activities;
- Immigrants' expectations of post-landing experience matter in terms of their social outcomes:
 - Immigrants' positive attitudes towards society and people diminish with longer time in Canada;
 - Longer time in Canada does not significantly improve life satisfaction;
 - Recent immigrants' positive views towards society do not increase with employment;

Knowledge gaps and forward plans

Analysis

- Lots of data remain to be mined in depth and systematically
- Extension of the analysis by admission category
- Interdependency between social and economic well-being
- Differences in outcomes of settlement service clients vs non-clients
- Differences in outcomes of landed permanent residents vs those transitioned from temporary status (e.g. international students, international experience class, open work permit holders etc.)
- Integration outcomes of a specific cohort (e.g. Syrian refugees)
- Efficiency and effectiveness of settlement programming (e.g. language training)
- Citizenship negotiation process (tests, take-up, barriers etc.)

Data development

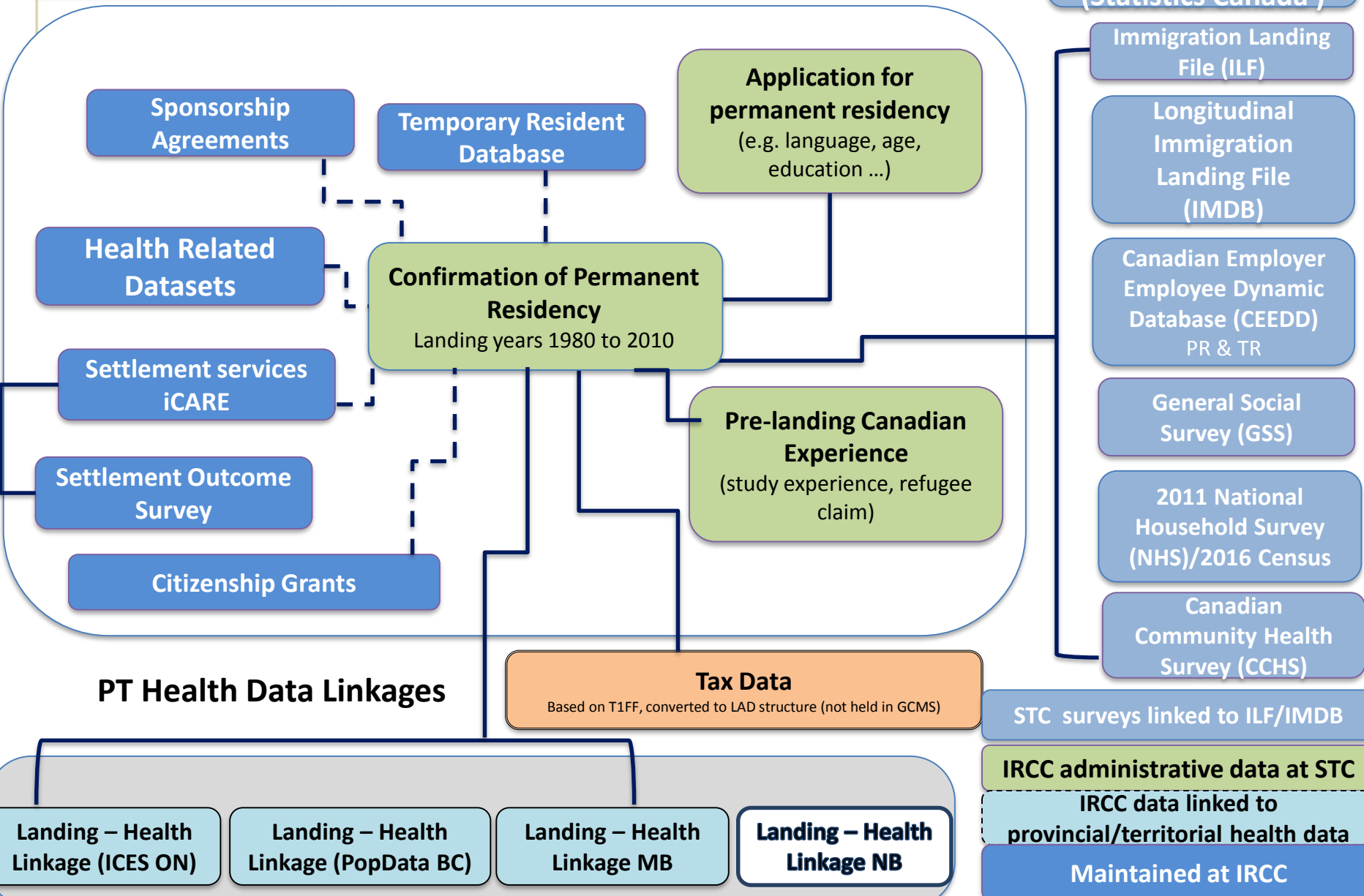
- Settlement outcomes survey (clients and non-clients)
- Citizenship grants database linkage with social and economic dimensions
- Specific cohort flags in 2016 Census and in iCARE (e.g. Syrian refugees)
- Refugee sponsorship database

IRCC's Data Roadmap

IRCC

STC

(Statistics Canada)



Sponsorship Agreements

Temporary Resident Database

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

Health Related Datasets

Confirmation of Permanent Residency
Landing years 1980 to 2010

Settlement services iCARE

Settlement Outcome Survey

Citizenship Grants

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

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)

PT Health Data Linkages

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

STC surveys linked to ILF/IMDB

IRCC administrative data at STC

IRCC data linked to provincial/territorial health data

Maintained at IRCC

Landing - Health Linkage (ICES ON)

Landing - Health Linkage (PopData BC)

Landing - Health Linkage MB

Landing - Health Linkage NB



THANK YOU

QUESTIONS?

Contact Xiaoyi Yan (Ph. D.)

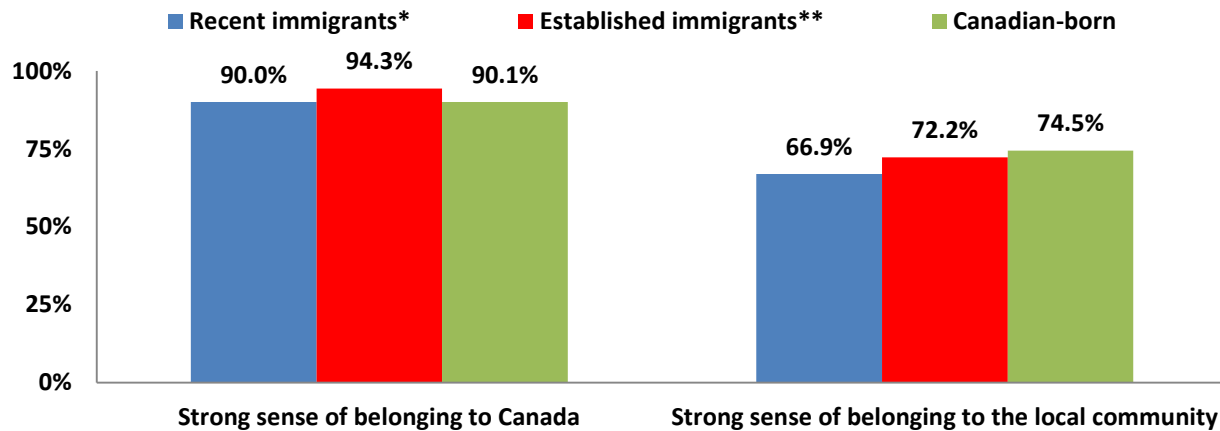
xiaoyi.yan@cic.gc.ca



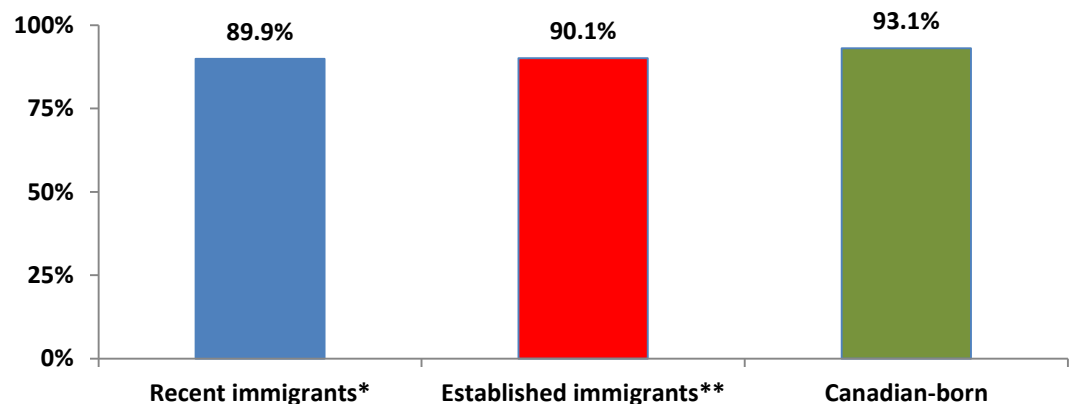
APPENDIX 1

Sense of belonging of immigrants increases with additional time in Canada; but longer time in Canada does not significantly improve life satisfaction

Sense of belonging to Canada and community



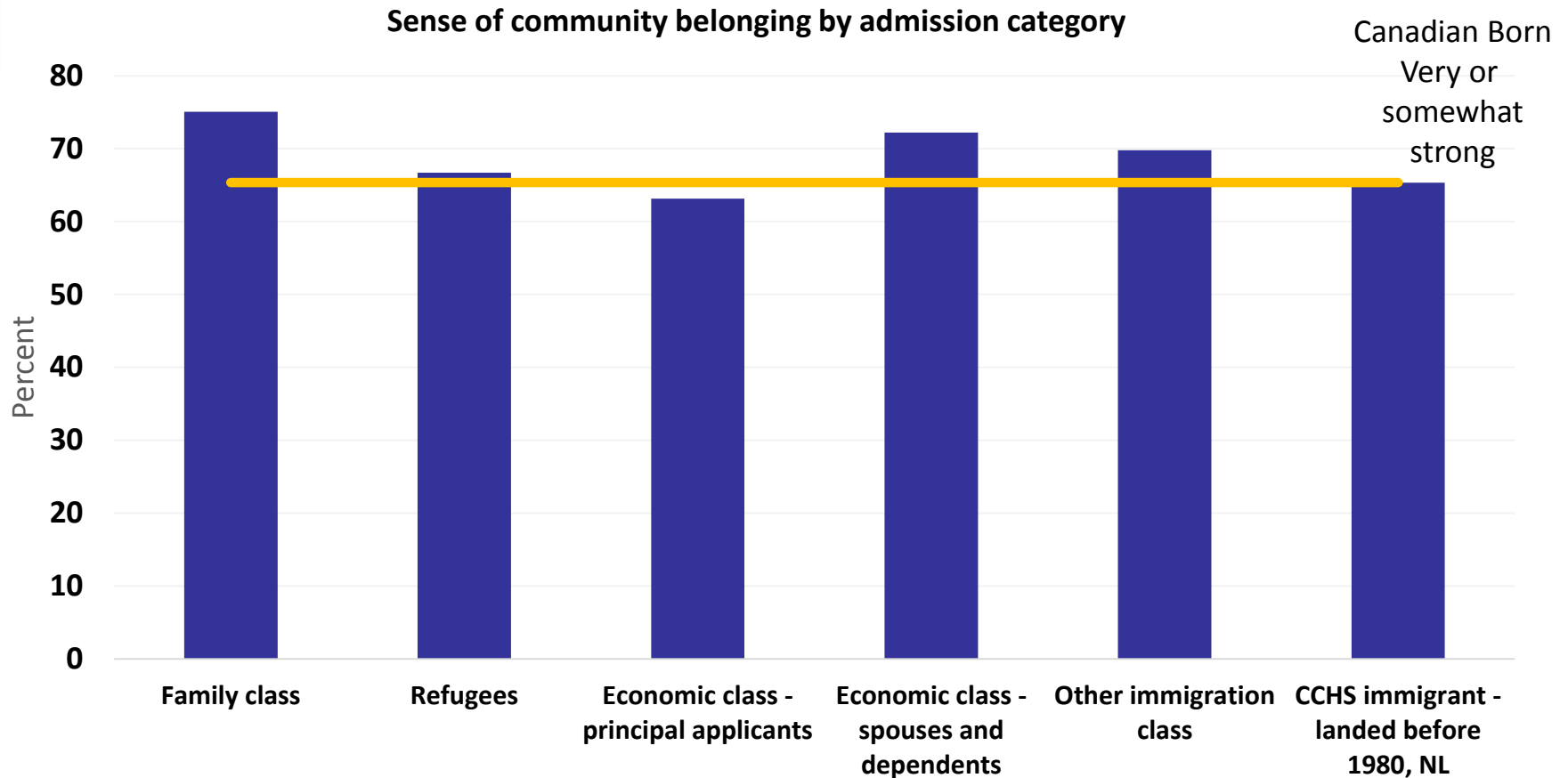
Felt satisfied with life, by length of time in Canada



*Recent immigrants: immigrants with less than 10 years in Canada.

**Established immigrants: immigrants with 10 or more years in Canada.

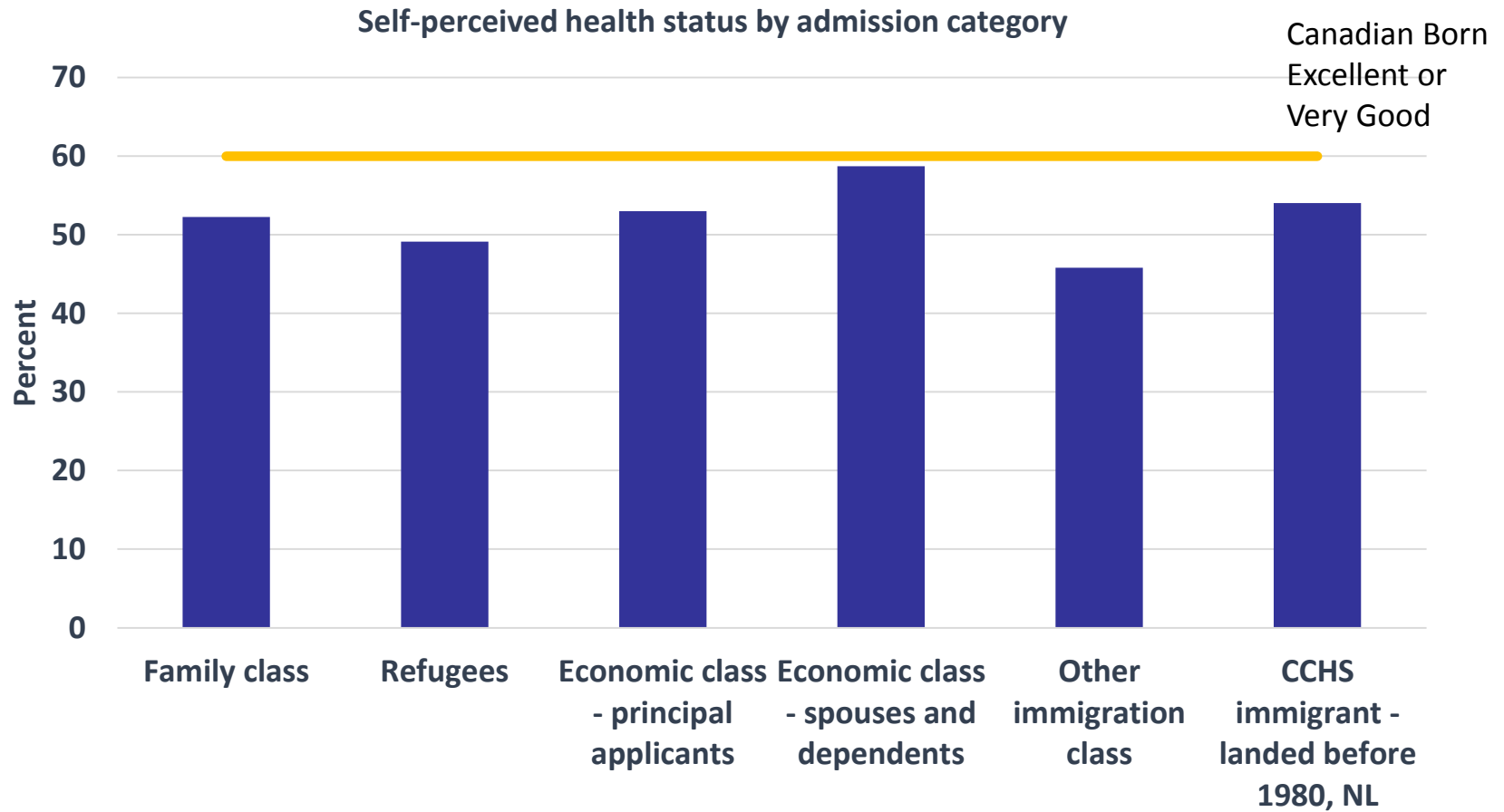
Economic principal applicants reports slightly lower sense of community belonging compared to the Canadian born and other immigrant categories



NL = Not Linked, unlinked CCHS immigrants landed after 1980 are excluded.

Source: CCHS 2014 – IMDB linked file, Statistics Canada

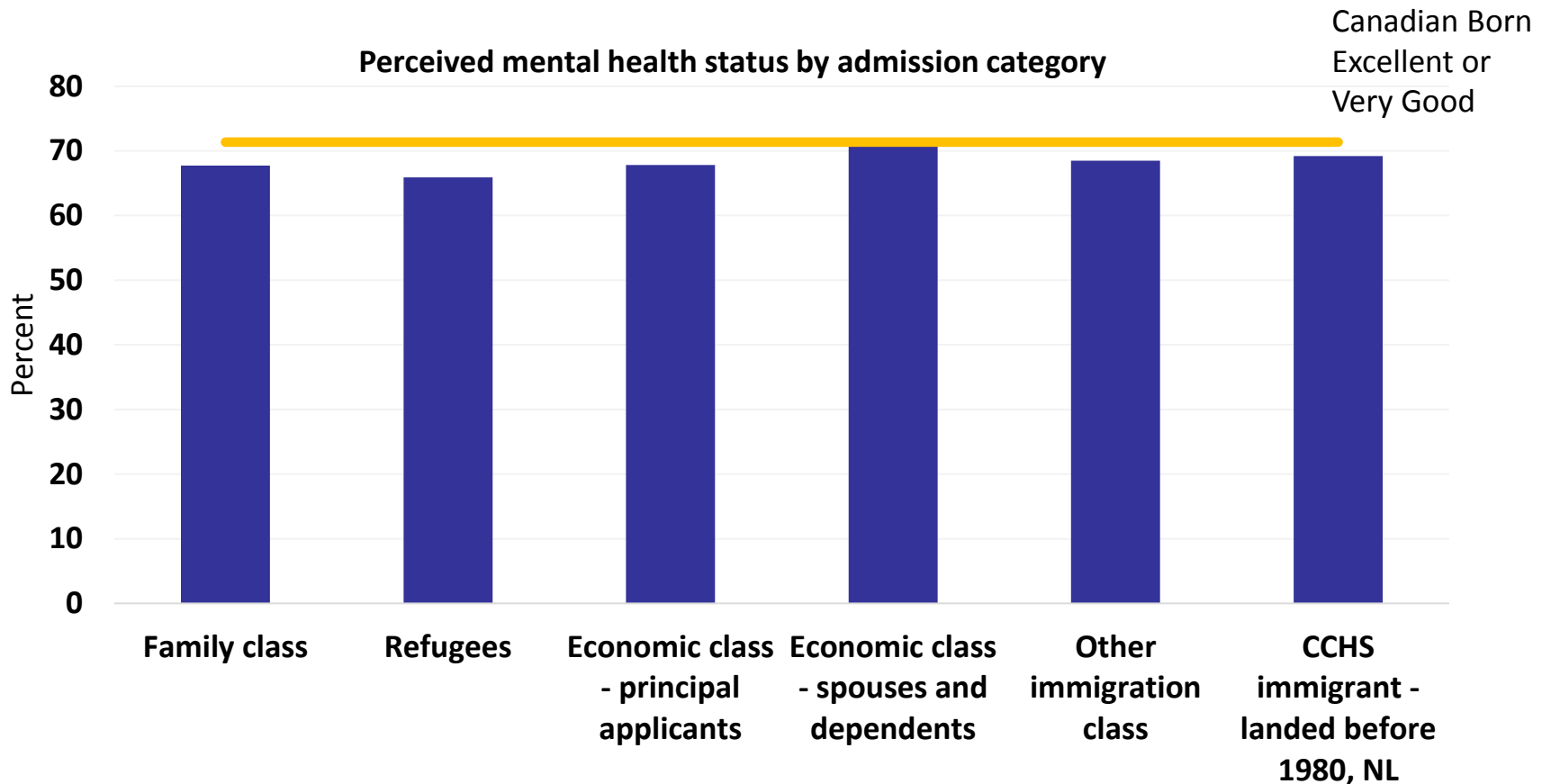
Immigrants are generally less likely to have excellent or very good self-perceived health, compared to the Canadian-born



NL = Not Linked, unlinked CCHS immigrants landed after 1980 are excluded.

Source: CCHS 2014 – IMDB linked file, Statistics Canada

Refugees are less likely to report having excellent or very good mental health status compared to the Canadian born and other immigrants

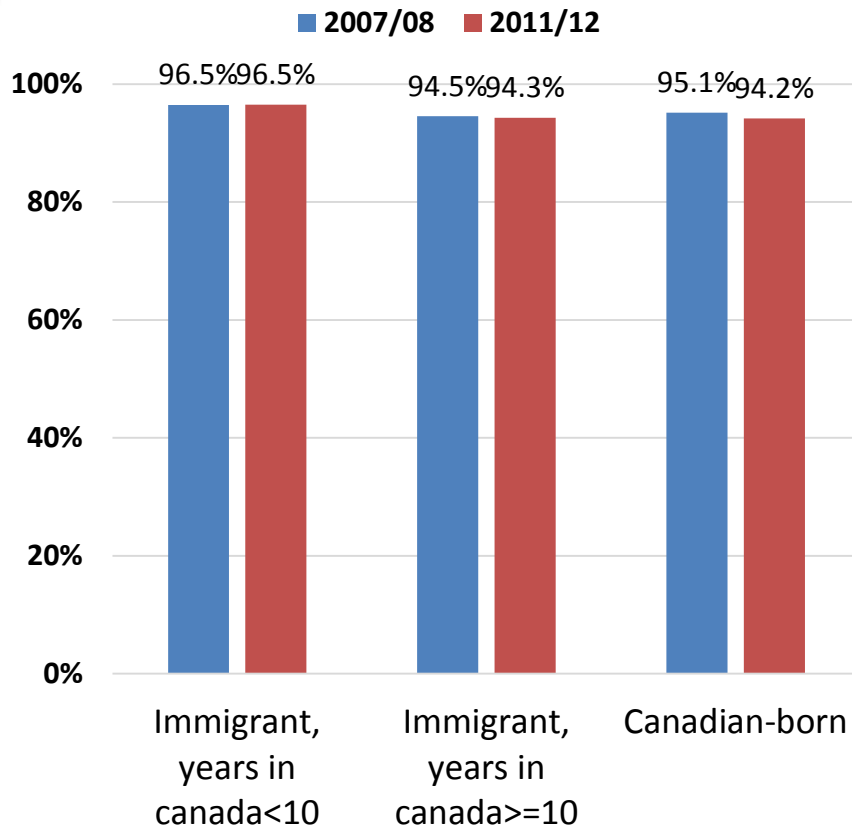


Note. All estimates have an acceptable C.V. ($0.0 \leq CV \leq 16.6$), applied bootstrap weights, age standardized, NL = Not Linked, unlinked CCHS immigrants landed after 1980 are excluded.

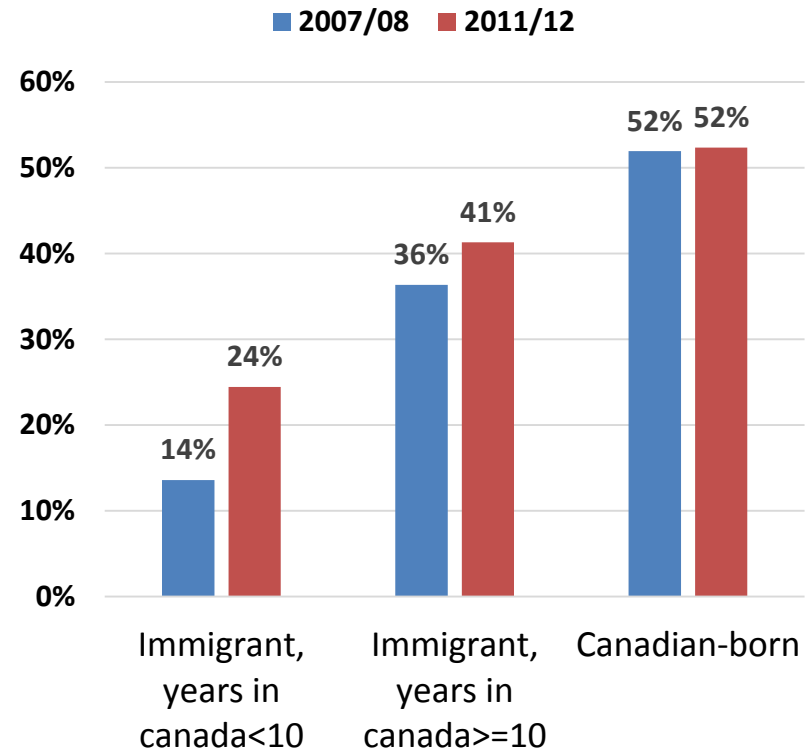
Source: CCHS 2014 – IMDB linked file, Statistics Canada

Immigrants are as likely as the Canadian-born to report mental Health conditions, but much less likely to seek professional help.

% of respondents who reported good mental health



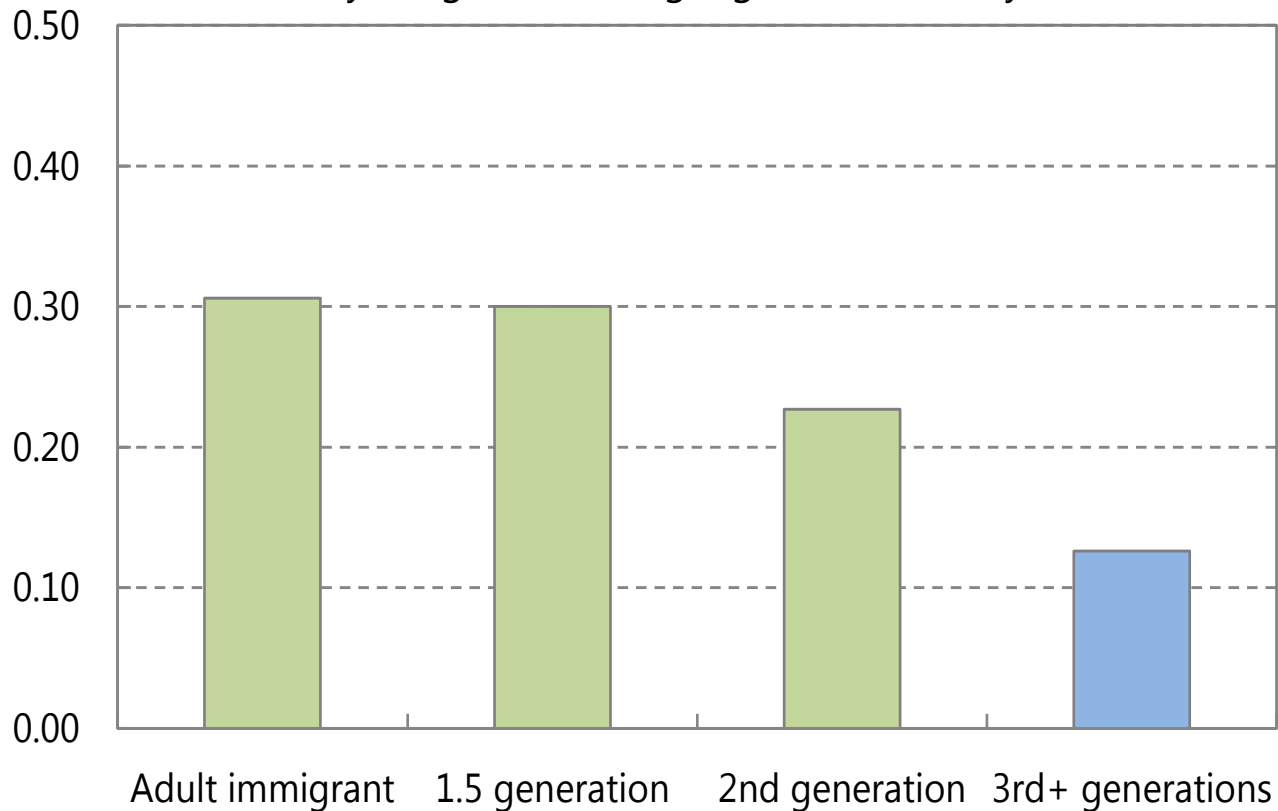
% of respondents with poor/fair perceived mental health who consulted mental health professional



The children of immigrants are more likely to report being treated unfairly because of their race, ethnicity, religion or language

Experiencing discrimination, young adults (15-34)

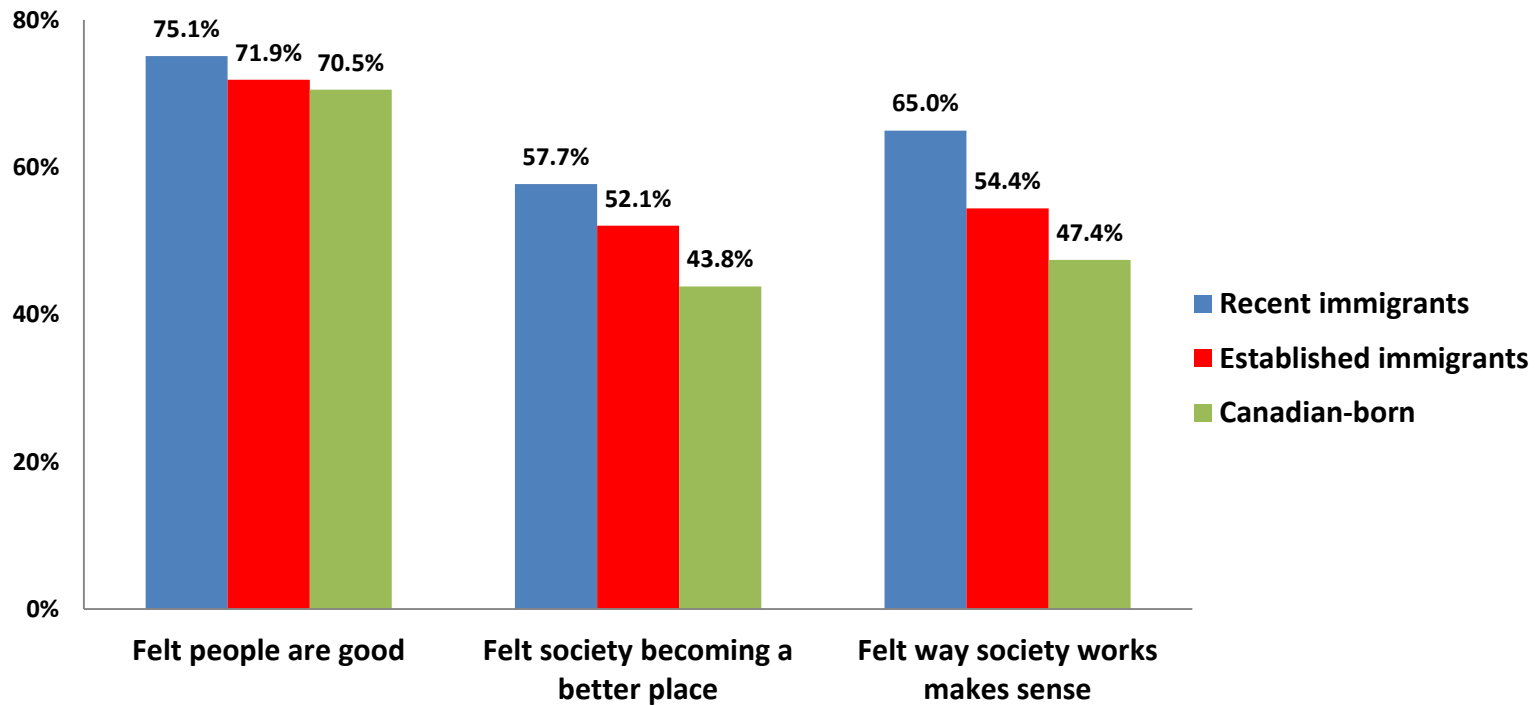
Share of perceived discrimination relating to race, ethnicity, religion and language in the last 5 years



Source: Pooled samples from GSS 2004, 2009, 2013.

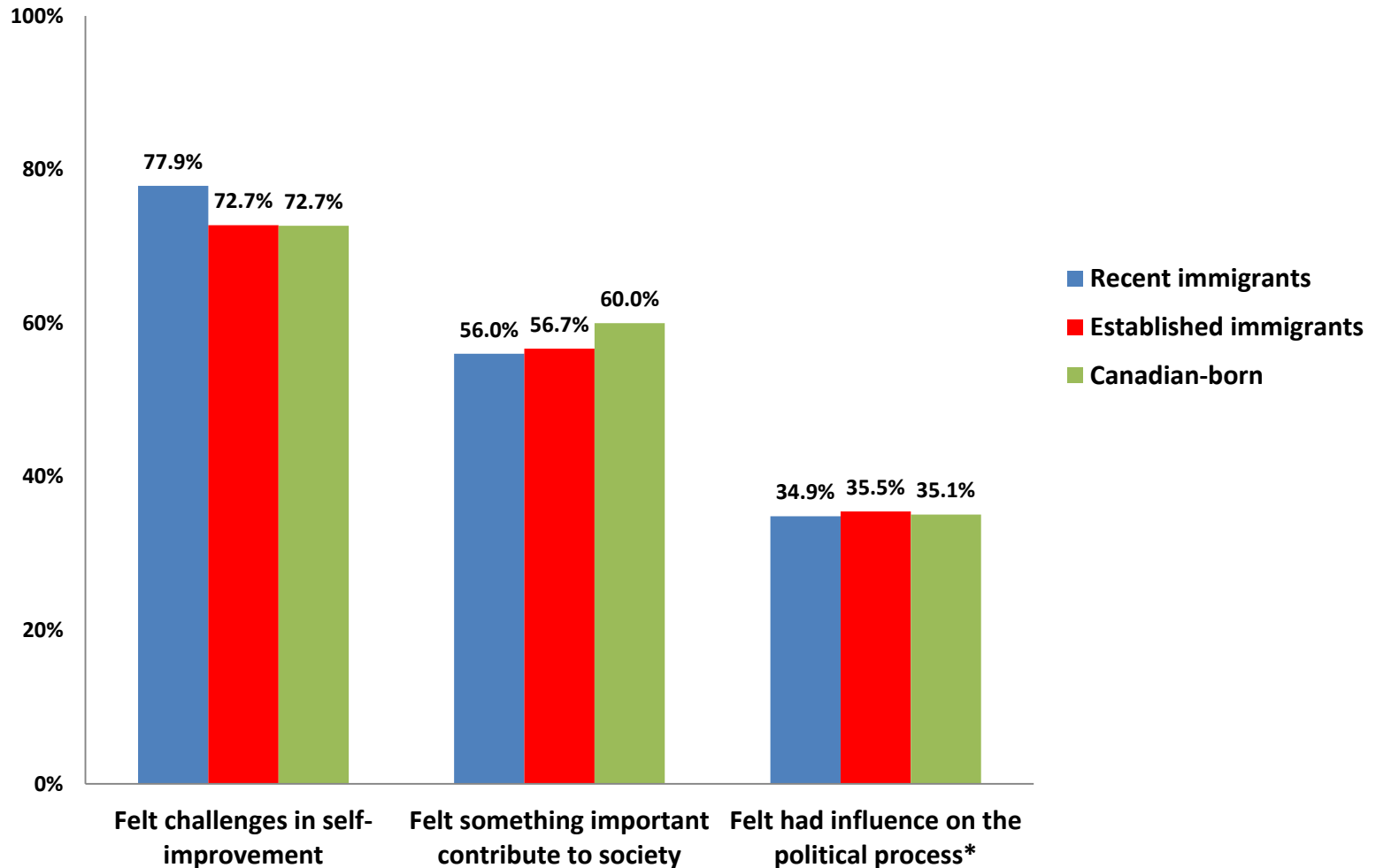
Immigrants' attitudes towards society and people are more positive than the Canadian-born, but they become less positive as time in Canada increases

Having positive perceptions of society and self



Source: CCHS, 2011-2012

A higher portion of recent immigrants feel challenged to contribute to society and improve themselves

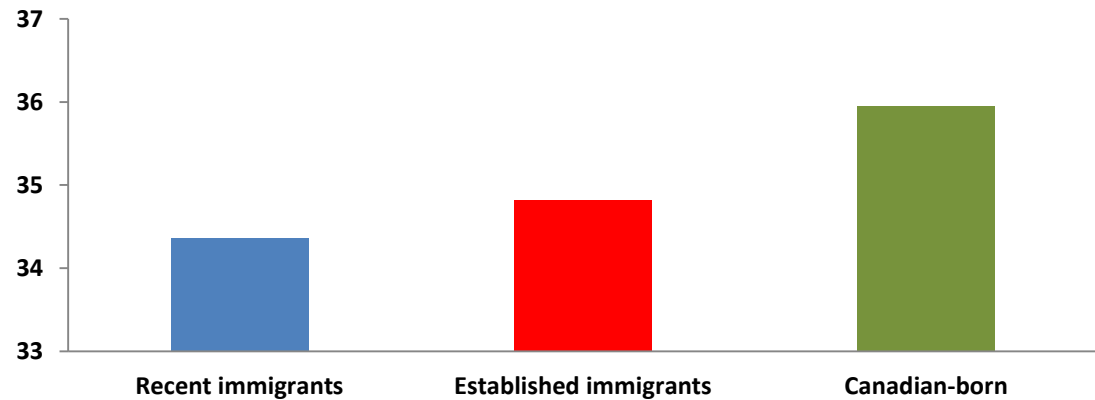


Source: CCHS, 2011-2012; *PIAAC, 2012

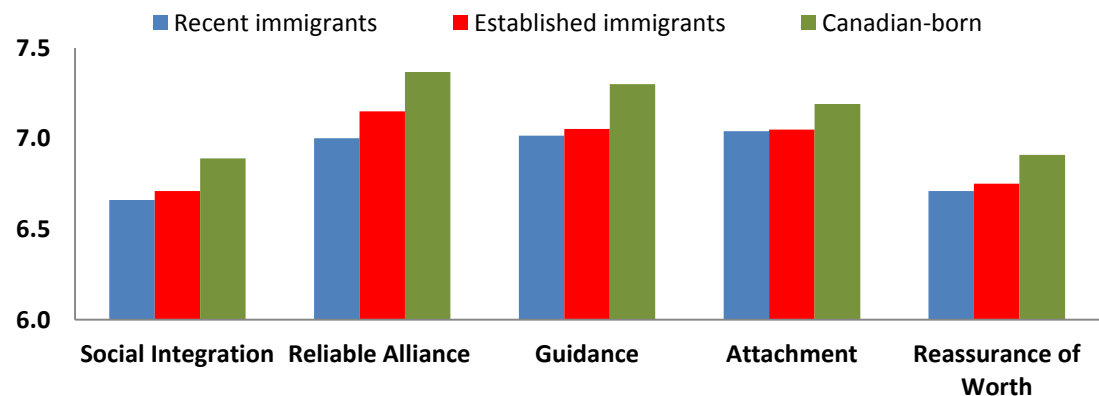
Immigrants, especially recent immigrants, report a significantly lower level of social support and connections, compared to the Canadian-born

- The Canadian-born enjoy a higher level of social support and connections than immigrants:
 - stronger sense of being integrated to society (Social Integration Scale),
 - stronger assurance that others can be counted when needed (Reliable Alliance Scale),
 - more advice or information available to them (Guidance Scale),
 - more close relationships with others (Attachment Scale),
 - a high level of recognition of competence (Reassurance of Worth Scale). *
- Established immigrants have slightly more social support and connections than recent immigrants.

Social Provision Scale: a higher score reflects a higher overall level of social support and connections



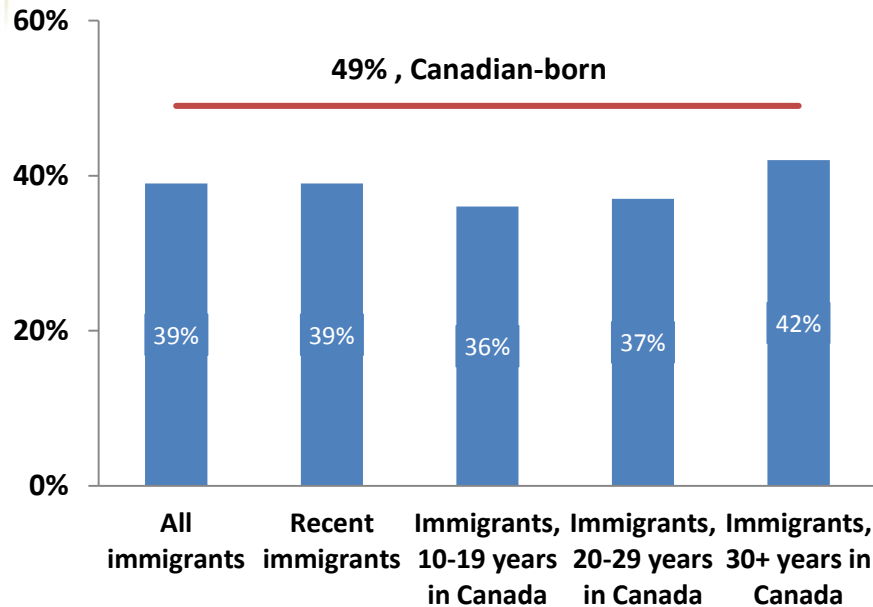
Scales of social support and connections: a higher score means more support and connections



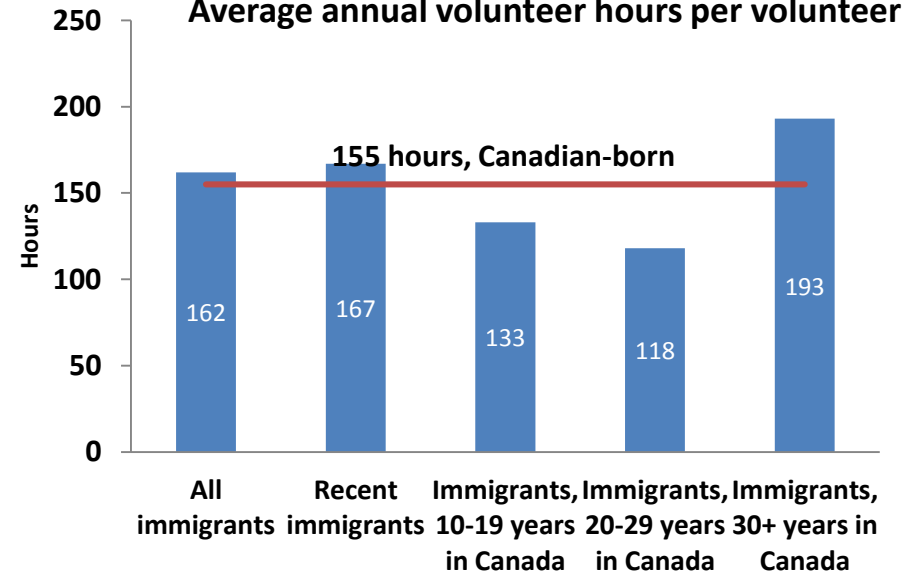
* Appendix 2 provides the information on the scales in more details.

Immigrants are less likely to volunteer than the Canadian-born, but contribute about the same number of hours as the Canadian born

Percent of people volunteered in 2010



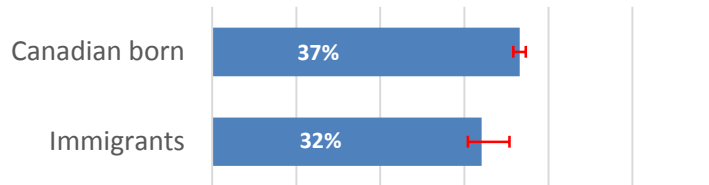
Average annual volunteer hours per volunteer



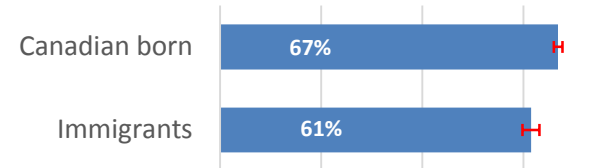
Source: Statistics Canada, Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating (CSGVP), 2010

Spouses and dependents of economic class immigrants have rates of volunteering and organization membership comparable to the Canadian born

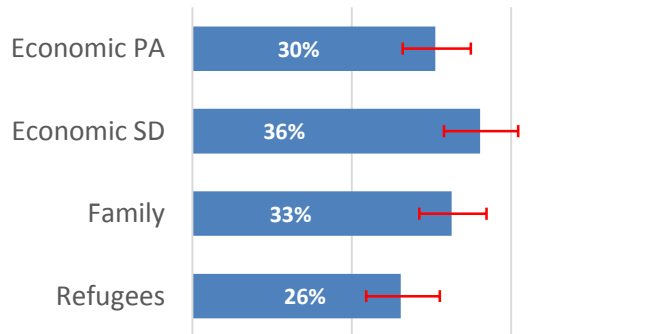
Volunteering - 95% ci's



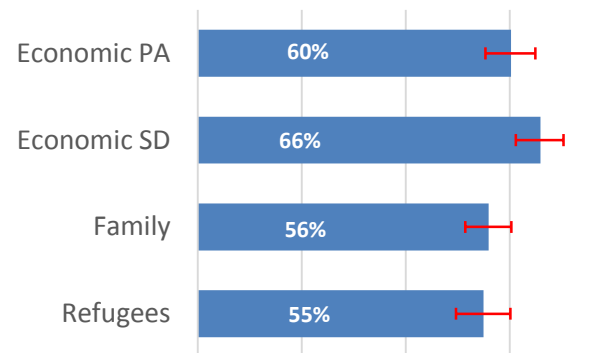
Membership social organization(s) (excluding volunteering) - 95% ci's



Immigration Programs – Landed 1980 to 2011



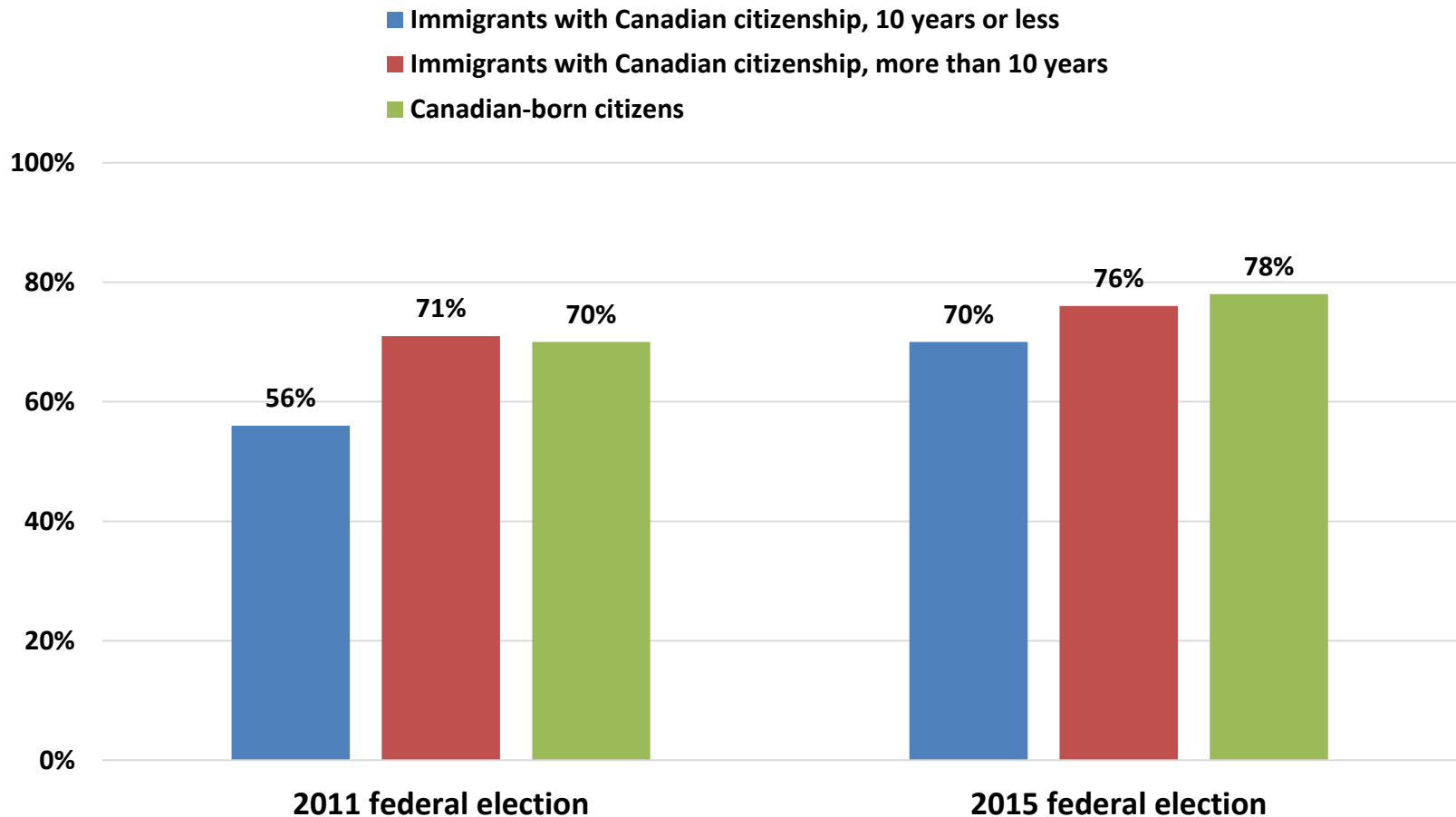
Immigration Programs – Landed 1980 to 2011



Source: 2013 GSS on Social Identity linked to IMDB

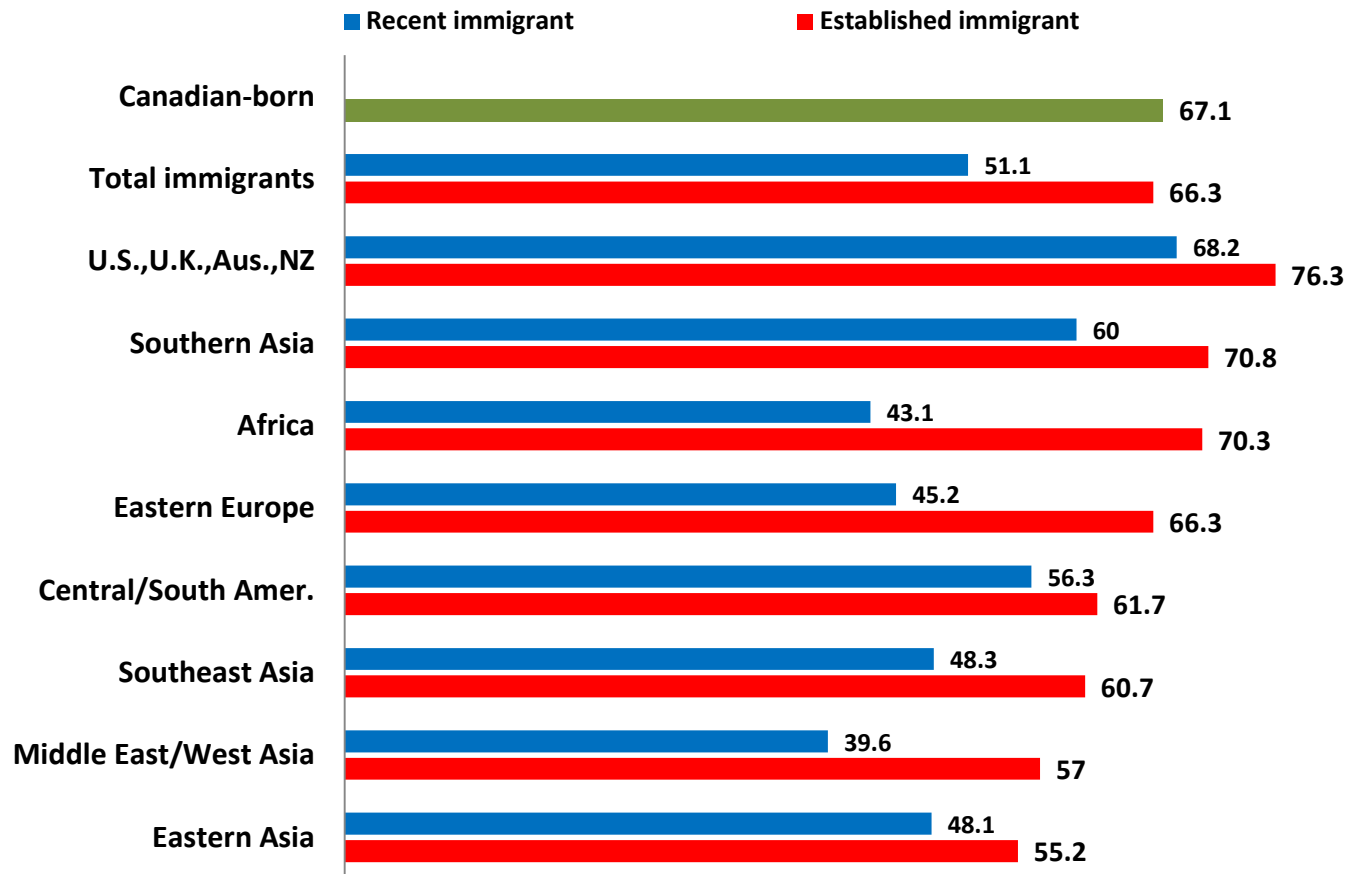
Immigrants' political participation increased between the two elections

**Voter turnout rates by immigration status
2011 and 2015 federal elections**



Established immigrants vote more than recent immigrants, but voting rates significantly vary across world regions of birth

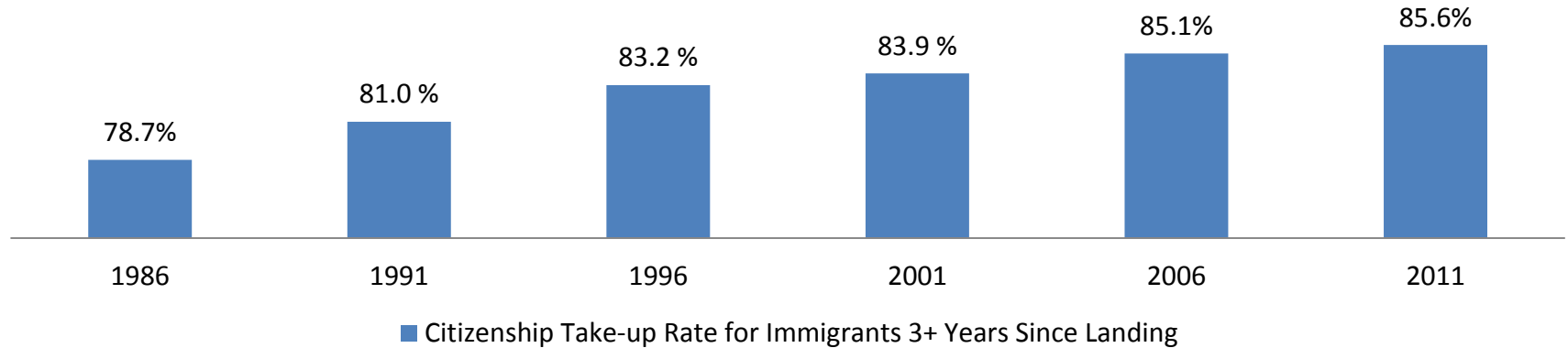
Citizen voting rates at 2011 Federal election, recent and established immigrants



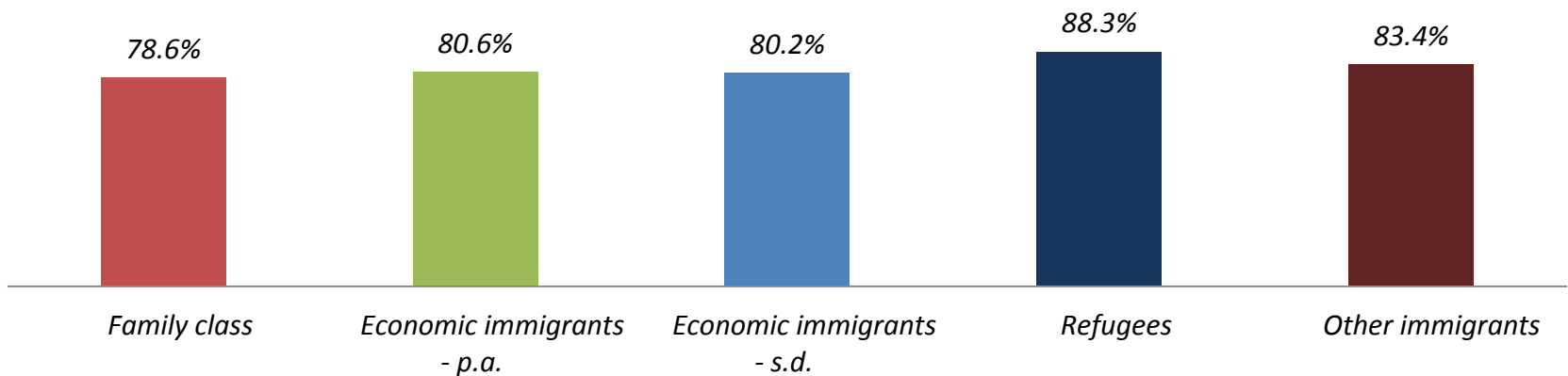
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, 2011

Citizenship take up rates are high and increasing

Citizenship Take-up Rate for Immigrants with 3+ Years since Landing (YSL) in Canada, 1986 to 2011 Censuses/National Household Survey

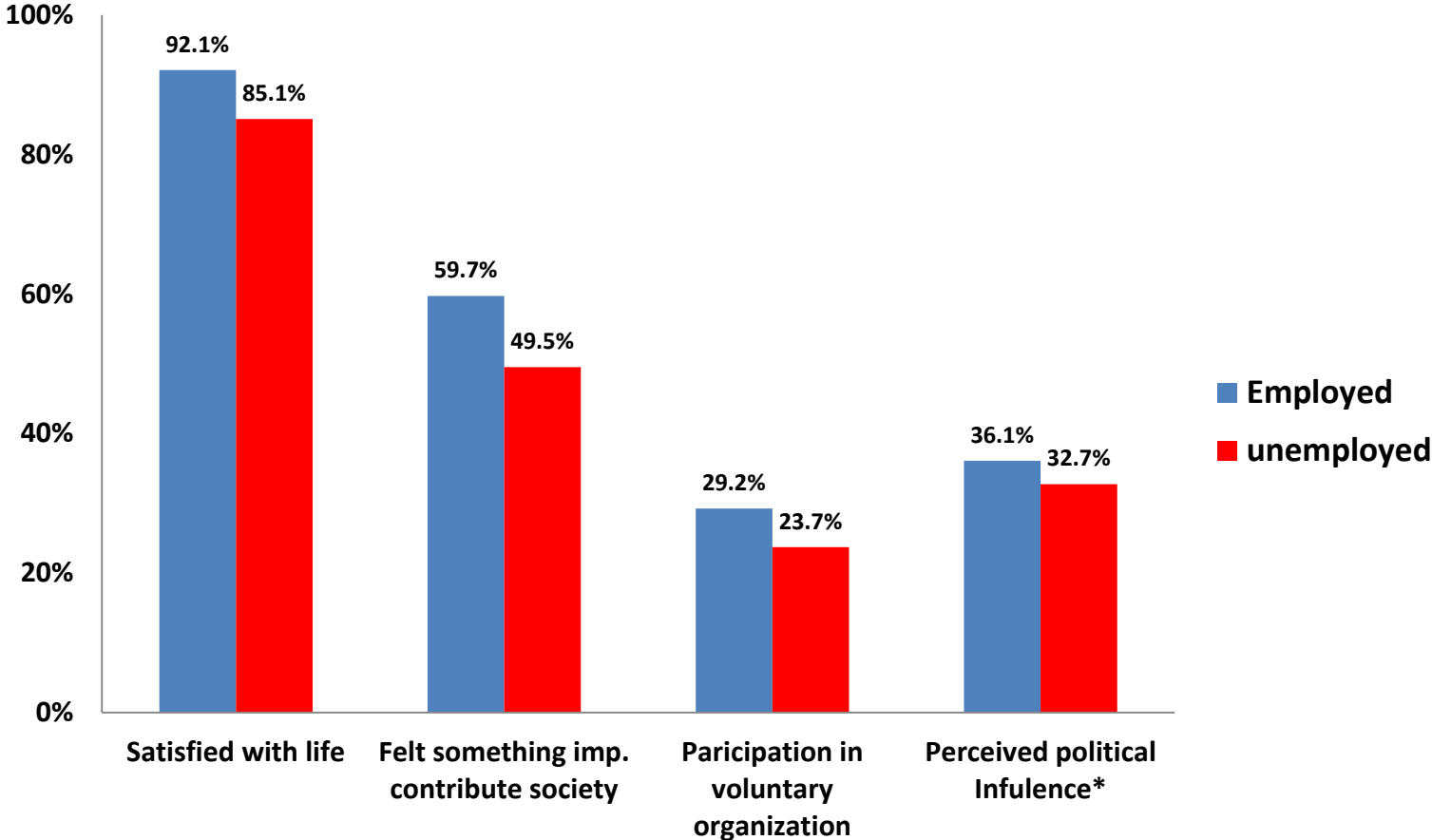


Citizenship Take-up Rate for Immigrants who landed in Canada after 1980 with 3+ Years since Landing (YSL) by Immigration Category, NHS-ILF Dataset



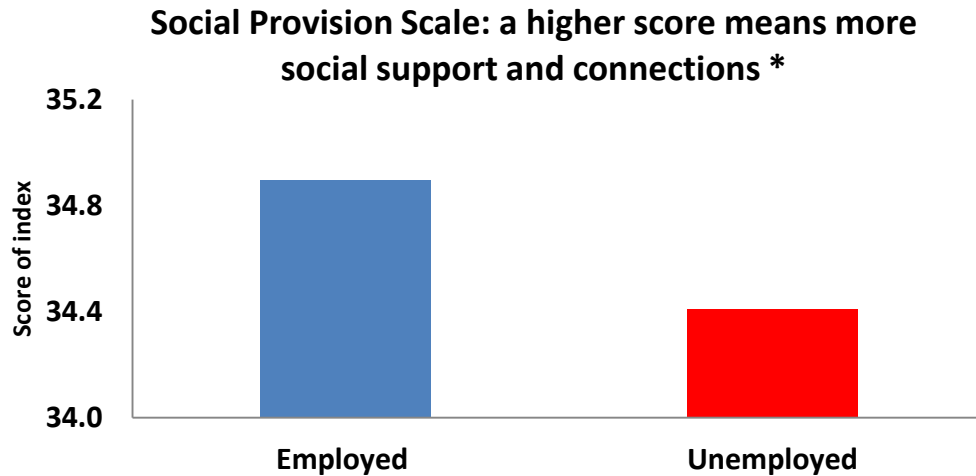
Employment improves immigrants' social well-being, participation in society, and perceived political influence.

Social outcomes by employment status

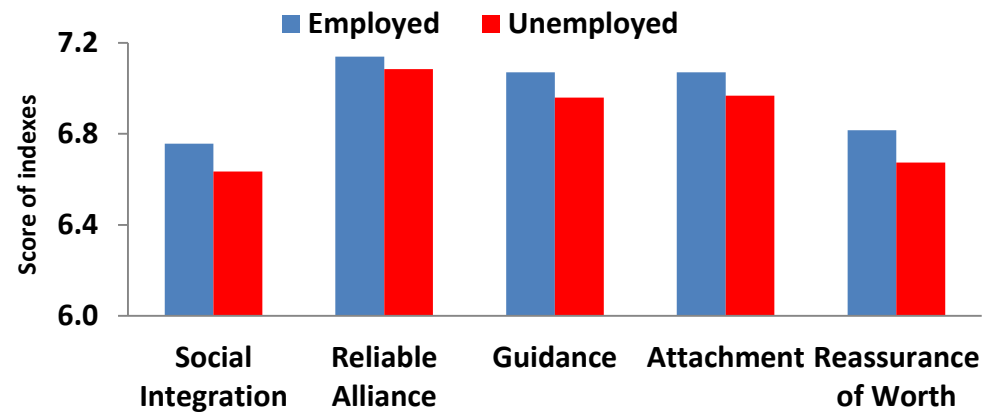


Source: CCHS, 2011-2012; *PIAAC, 2012.

Employed immigrants enjoy significantly more social support and connections than unemployed immigrants.

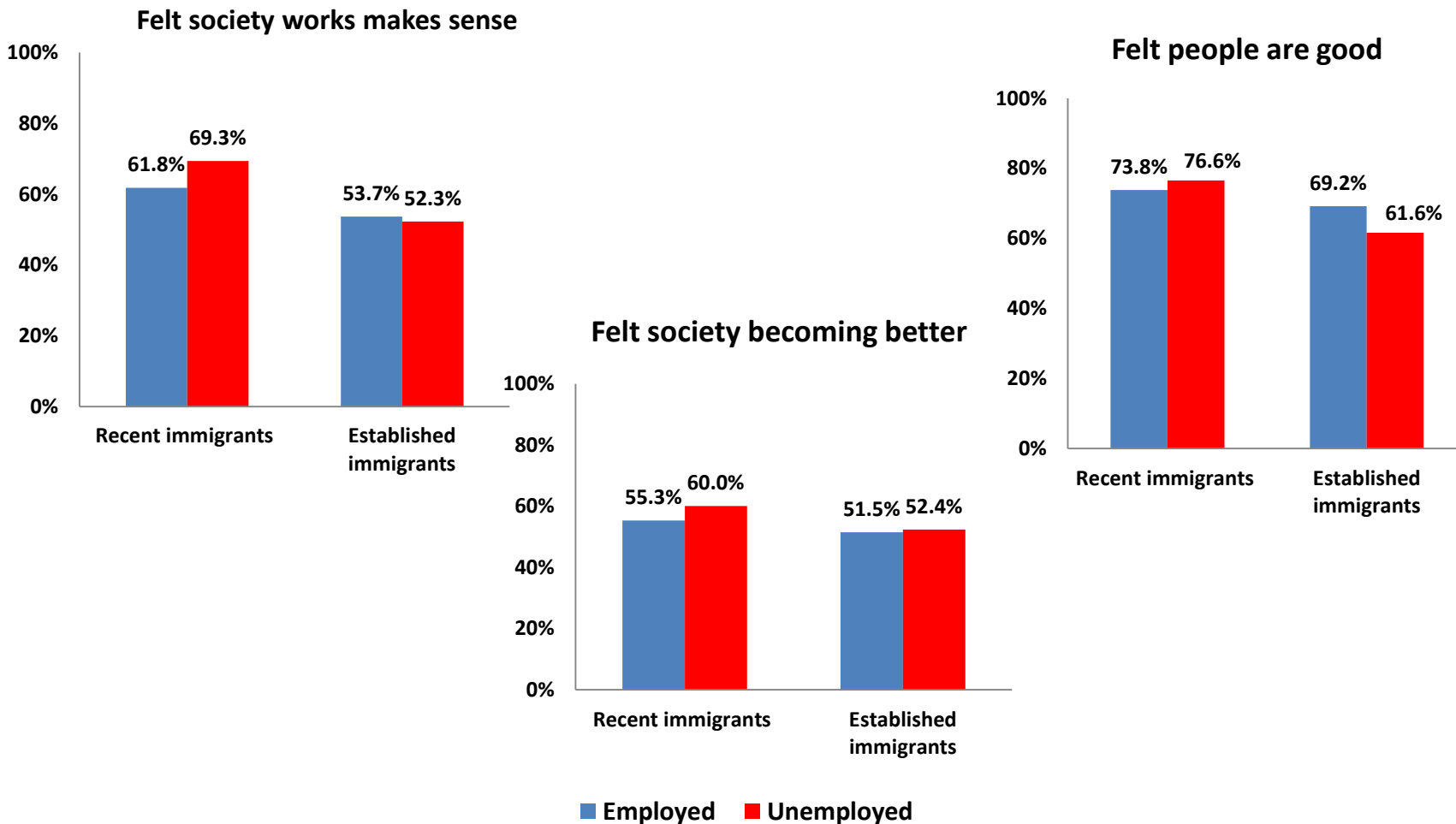


Scales of social support and connections: a higher score means more support and connections

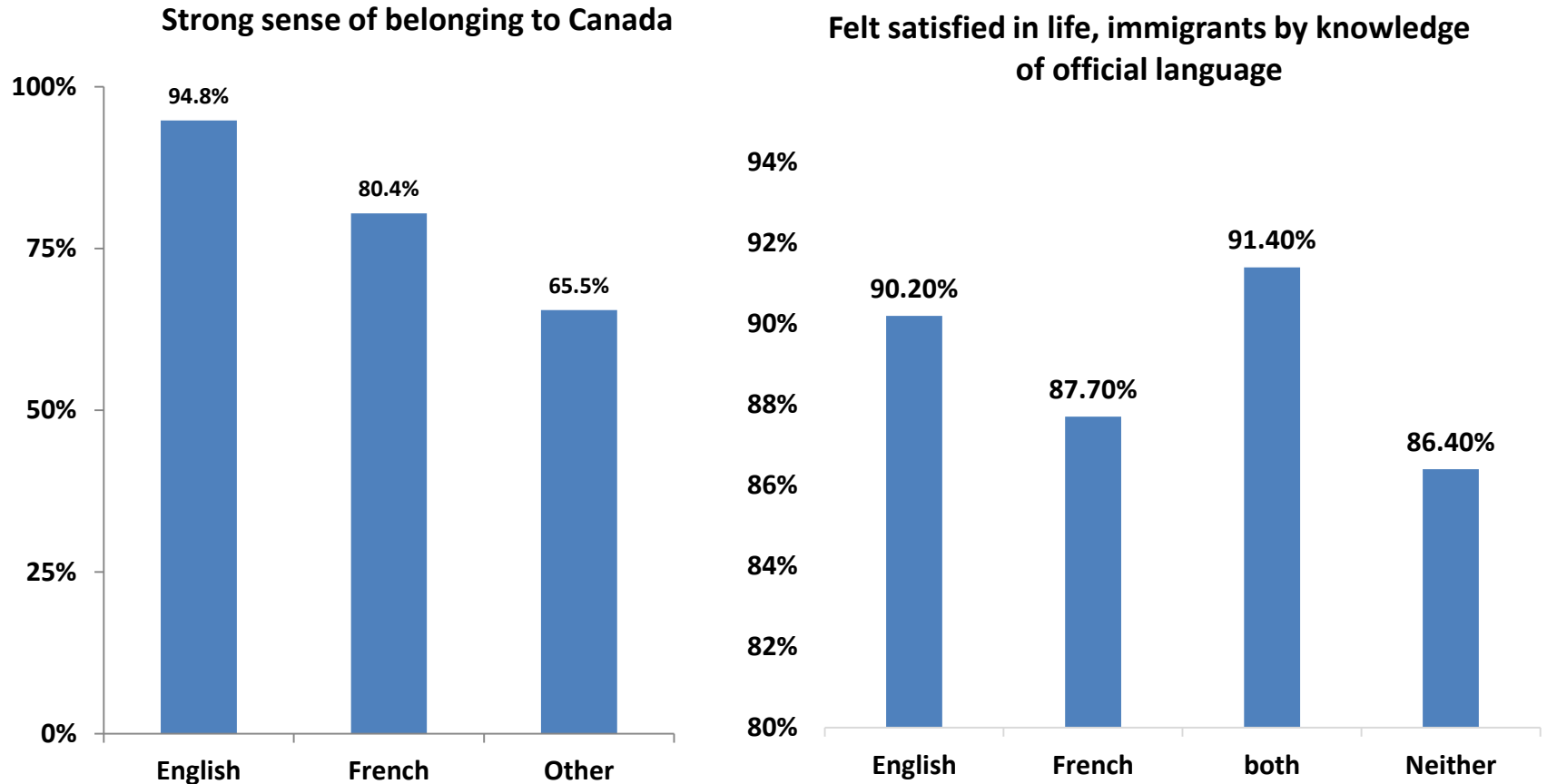


* Appendix 1 provides the information on the scales in more details.

Being employed, however, does not result in more positive attitudes towards society and people



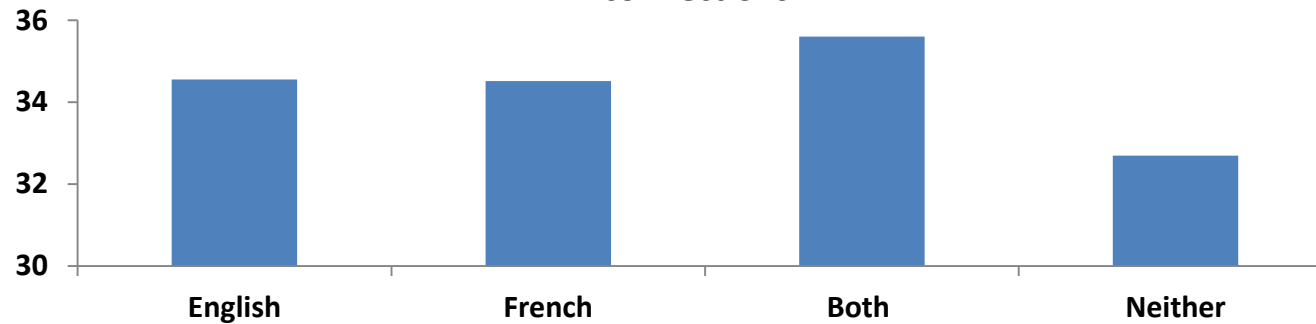
Knowledge of official languages contributes to immigrants' sense of belonging to Canada and life satisfaction.



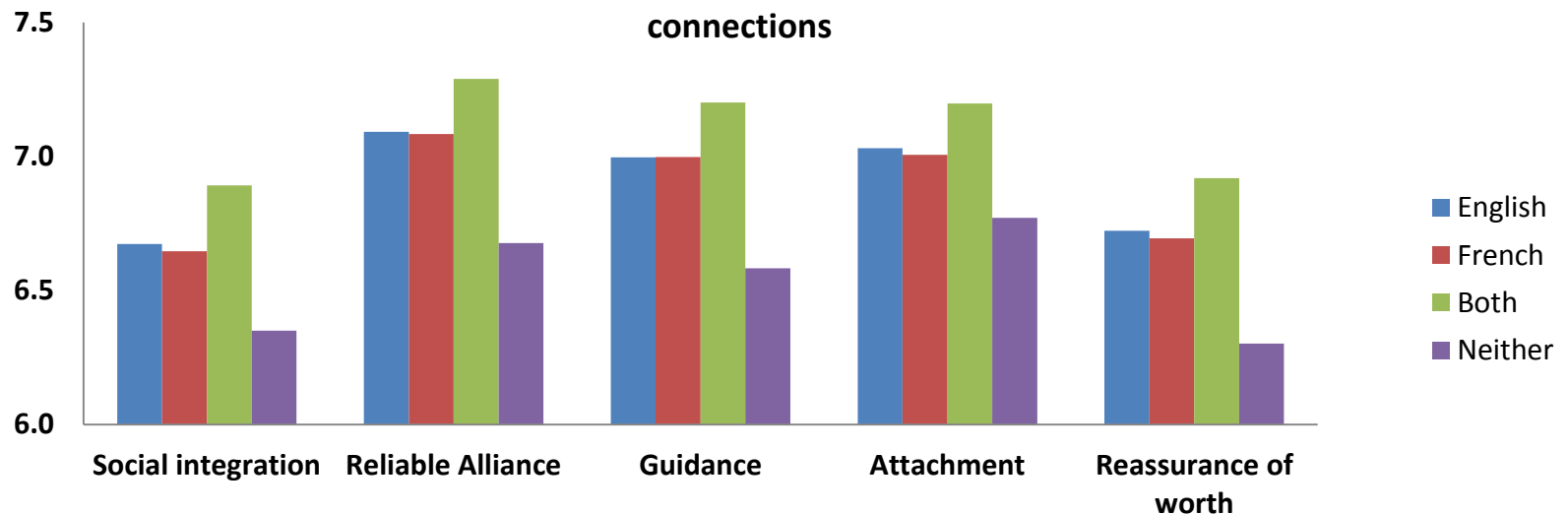
Source: CCHS, 2011-2012; GSS, 2008.

Knowledge of official languages is a key factor in securing social support and connections

Social Provision Scale: a higher score means more social support and connections



Scales of social support and connections: higher score means more support and connections



Source: CCHS, 2011-2012

APPENDIX 2

About Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS)

The **CCHS** is a cross-sectional survey that annually collects information related to health status, health care utilization, social capital (e.g. social activity, social support, etc.), other health determinants, and social-demographic characteristics for immigrants and the Canada-born. The CCHS relies upon a large sample of respondents and is designed to provide reliable estimates at the health region level. It produced an annual microdata file with about 1000 variables for a sample of around 65,000 respondents each year starting from 2007.

- Our analysis uses the Public Use Microdata File (PUMF) combining two years of data in 2011 and 2012. In total, there are 17,574 immigrants in this combined sample of 124,929 respondents.

The Social Provision Scale measures the level of social connections and support from others, groups as well as the community. The data is only available for Quebec, British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

- The CCHS also developed 5 sub-scales for five main social functions including Attachment, Guidance, Social Integration, Reliable Alliance, and Reassurance of Worth.
 - Reliable Alliance Scale: assurance that others can be counted on when needed.
 - Guidance Scale: advice or information available.
 - Social Integration Scale: a sense of being integrated into a group that shares similar interests, concerns or recreational activities.
 - Attachment Scale: a measure for emotional closeness to family, friends, and others
 - Reassurance of Worth Scale: a measure for recognition of one's competence.
- The rating system is based on the methodology developed by Cutrona and Russell (1987), and Caron (1996).
- The scales are based on the a list of 10 survey questions in the CCHS 2011-2012.