



# Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Strategic Data Development to Support Policy Research  
Pathways to Prosperity Conference  
November 16, 2013

*Research and Evaluation,  
Citizenship and Immigration Canada*





## This presentation will

- Present some basic findings with a focus on civic engagement and belonging
- Identify some data gap issues
- Discuss how CIC is working towards filling some of the data gaps pertaining to :
  - Civic engagement and belonging
  - Internet usage and social media
  - Economic trajectories





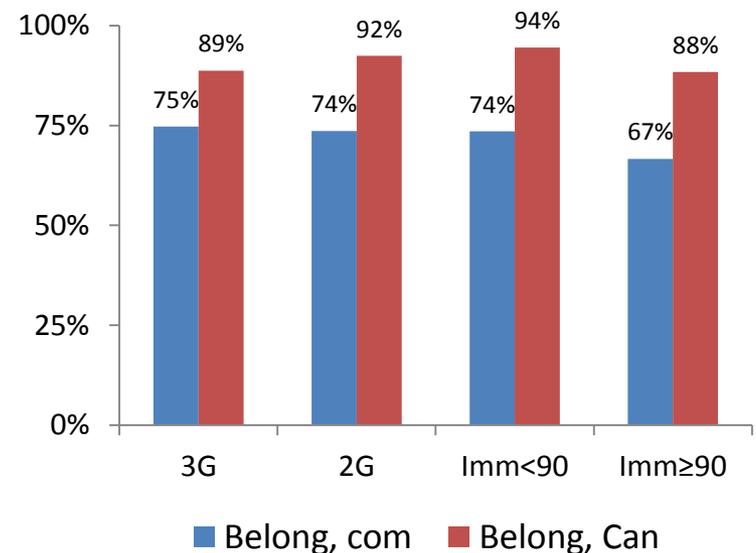
## Sense of Belonging (GSS Social Networks; 2008)

### Main Findings:

- Established immigrants have a higher sense of belonging to Canada than the 3+ generation(s)
- Sense of belonging to the local community show convergence between immigrants and the Canadian born population.

*Interesting results – but we need a better sample to specifically probe integration and settlement issues*

Sense of Belonging to Canada (Can) and Community (Com) by generational status, 2008 GSS (Social Networks)

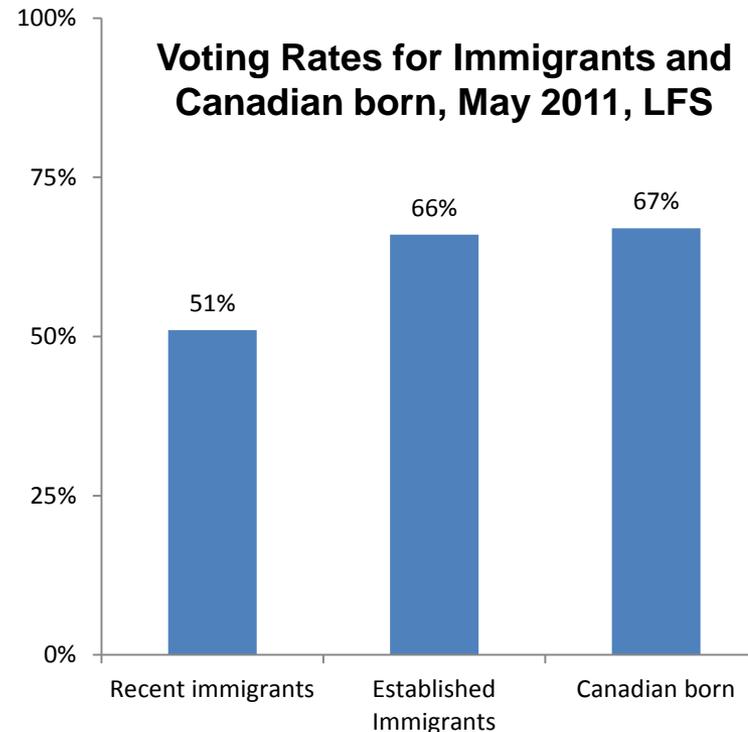


# Civic Participation Results (LFS 2011; GSS 2008)

## Main Findings:

- The voting rates of immigrants converge to those of the Canadian born, the longer immigrants are in Canada
- The participation of immigrants in civic activities other than voting varies with time spent in Canada:
  - Those in Canada over 18 years have high rates of participation in public meetings and expressing views to politicians and newspapers (GSS, 2008)
  - While those in Canada for less than 18 years participate less, they seek political information at high rates (GSS, 2008)

*Interesting results – but we need a better sample to specifically probe integration and settlement issues*



Source: LFS 2011; Statistics Canada

\*Source: Uppal and LaRoche-Côté, 2012



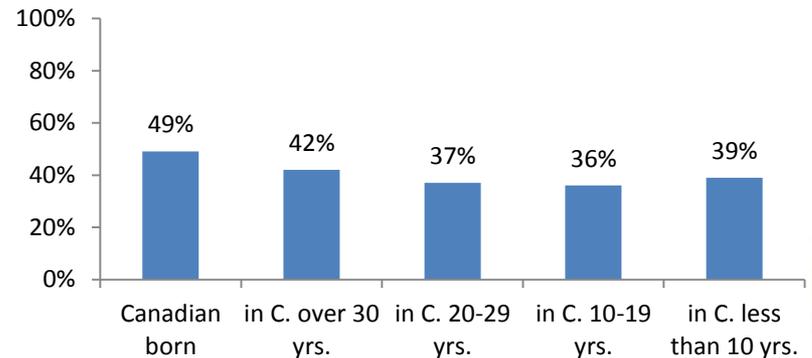
# Civic Engagement (CSGVP 2010)

## Main Findings:

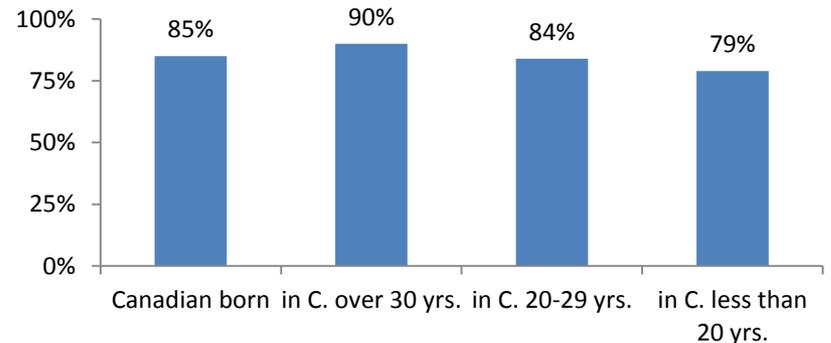
- The proportion of immigrants that volunteered increased with time spent in Canada
  - Immigrants who volunteered contributed a few more hours annually than the Canadian-born
- The proportion of immigrants that donated increased with time spent in Canada
  - On average, the donations given by immigrants were higher than those by the Canadian-born

*Interesting results – but we need a better sample to specifically probe integration settlement issues*

performed unpaid volunteer work (2010 CSGVP)



donated to organization or charity (2010 CSGVP)





# Filling some data gaps

- Issue:

- There are many data gaps in our understanding of immigrant settlement and integration
- When wanting to compare results to the Canadian born population, there are very interesting questionnaires but limited immigrant samples

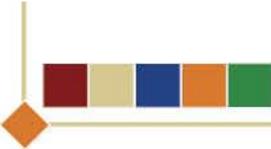
- Aim :

- To find data sources where it is possible to have comparisons between recent and established immigrants and the Canadian born (in some cases 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>+ generations)
- To include immigration category in as a variable for analysis
- To allow for more place-based analysis

- Action:

- CIC has been investigating linking CIC's administrative data (Immigrant Landing File/IMDB) with Statistics Canada surveys
  - » Over-sample immigrants in a more cost efficient manner
  - » Linking to existing data sources to bring over variables/concepts (e.g. immigration class, intended occupation)





## 2013 General Social Survey – Social Identity

- **Social Identity questionnaire content:** Demographics, Social Networks, Sense of Belonging, Trust, Discrimination, Health and Well-Being, Ethno-cultural markers, Identification, symbols and values, Civic Participation
  - Questions on volunteering, donations, voting, civic participation activities other than voting, and sense of belonging will all be included
  - Many new questions will be asked on Internet usage (please see annex 1)
- **Step 1: Completed a feasibility study:** Enhancing the General Social Survey (GSS) with data from the Longitudinal Immigrant Database (IMDB) which provided CIC with: a basis for a targeted immigrant oversample and a potential to bring over immigrant class information and more accurate economic information
- **Step 2: Invested in a Social Identity immigrant oversample**
  - BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and Atlantic
  - Toronto, Vancouver, Montreal, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg
  - Detailed immigration categories at the Canada level
  - Broad immigration categories at the Provincial/CMA level
- **Survey is in the field;** awaiting to see response rates
- **Step 3: Data will be released in 2015**
  - Microdata will be accessible via Statistics Canada’s Research Data Centres
  - A public use microdata file will be released which will include the immigrant over-sample.



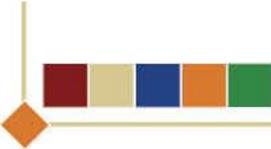


# 2011 National Household Survey (NHS)

Statistics Canada linked the 2011 NHS and the Immigration Landing File to certify the NHS results

- **Step 1:** Under a Letter of Agreement with CIC, Statistics Canada has been developing a system that would allow for NHS-Landing File linked data to be run, verified and released
- This will allow for:
  - NHS results to be explored through an immigration category lens
  - A consideration of what changed over time (e.g. intended occupation versus 2011 NHS occupation)
- **Step 2:** Topics that CIC plans to explore using this linkage data:
  - Citizenship acquisition
  - Occupation-Education match
  - Families
  - Settlement profile
  - Official language minorities
  - Mobility
  - Ethnic enclaves
- This will provide some key information on immigrants economic trajectories
- **Step 3:** Investigating data dissemination via CANSIM and at other venues





# Next steps

- Waiting for the results of GSS-Social Identity to see how the IMDB performs as a sampling frame
  - In the meantime, CIC has also invested in an oversample of the 2014 GSS on Victimization. This follows the same methodology used for 2013 GSS on Social Identity, but the oversample is smaller, approximately 1/3 in size. More lessons will be learned from this.
- Working on getting NHS-Landing File linkage tables completed and out for analysis
- Starting to consider other linkage project?
  - PIAAC? CCHS? LFS?
- Start thinking of a multi-year strategy to enhance the GSS across selected themed cycles?
- Open to suggestions





## Annex 1: Social identity questions – questions on internet use:

- Internet use by respondent in the past month /year (IUM) which includes
  - Frequency; electronic banking; searching for information on goods and services; purchasing goods or services
- What are the reasons why you do not use the Internet?
- Internet contacts of respondent (ICR)
  - In the past 12 months, have you used the Internet to access a social networking website (such as Facebook or Twitter)?
  - (In the past month,) how often did you communicate with any of your relatives by e-mail or Internet [, outside of people you live with?
  - How often did you communicate with [any of your friends/your friend] by email or by Internet in the past month?
- In the past month, outside of work or school, how many new people did you meet either face-to-face or online?
  - Did you meet this person on the Internet?
- Number of groups, organizations or associations the respondent participated in the past 12 months and involvement through the Internet (GRP)
- In the past 12 months, have you done any of the following activities:
  - expressed your views on a political or social issue through an Internet forum or news website?
  - (In the past 12 months, have you done any of the following activities:) signed an Internet petition?
  - Canadians use a variety of sources to keep informed on news and current affairs.
- How many hours do you spend on the Internet during a typical week to follow news and current affairs? Which forms of ethnic media do you use (via Internet)

