

(Administrative) Data Innovation for Policy: Promises and Challenges

Research and Evaluation Branch

Lorna Jantzen, Assistant Director



Overview



- Context
 - Federal Government
 - Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)
- IRCC Research Data Development
 - Open Data
 - Canadian Research Data Centres
 - Provincial Institutes
- Next Steps

Federal Government policies in support of data and evidence



- Open Government/Open Data
- Statistics Canada Modernization Agenda
- Policy on Results
- A Data Strategy Roadmap for the Federal Public Service

IRCC Context



DEPARTMENTAL RESULTS FRAMEWORK AND PROGRAM INVENTORY

CORE RESPONSIBILITIES (WHAT WE DO)



Visitors, International Students and Temporary Workers



Immigrant and Refugee Selection and Integration



Citizenship and Passports

DEPARTMENTAL RESULTS (WHY WE DO IT)

1. Entry to Canada of eligible visitors, international students and temporary workers is facilitated
2. Facilitation of temporary entry helps to generate economic benefits

3. Potential permanent residents are selected for immigration to Canada
4. Permanent residents are welcomed and benefit from settlement supports
5. Immigrants and refugees achieve economic independence and contribute to labour force growth
6. Immigrants and refugees feel part of and participate in Canadian society

7. Eligible permanent residents become Canadian citizens
8. Canadians' international travel is facilitated

PROGRAM INVENTORY (HOW WE DELIVER)



Visitors



International Students



Temporary Workers



Federal Economic Immigration



Provincial Economic Immigration



Family Reunification



Humanitarian/Compassionate and Discretionary Immigration



Refugee Resettlement



Asylum



Settlement



Citizenship



Passport

New analytical and research capacity



IRCC@Open Data

- Resettled refugees,
- Settlement services,
- Passports,
- Work permit holders,
- TR to PR transitions,
- Express Entry,
- Permanent residents,
- Study permit holders,
- Syrian refugees,
- Visitors
- Information on adoptions,
- Application processing (PR, TR),
- Asylum Claimants,
- Citizenship
- *Official Languages*

IRCC@Statistics Canada website

- **Aggregate data tables** are available on the Statistics Canada website.
 - Dynamic IMDB tables
 - Admission category census tables

IRCC@CRDCNs

- **Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB):** IRCC data linked to the tax data files.
- **Admission Category on the 2016 Census:** now a standard variable.
- **General Social Survey (2013 Social Identity)** - sample of over 27,000 that includes almost 10,000 immigrants
- **Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS)-IMDB:** Brings together the annual component of the CCHS from 2004 to 2015 and the IMDB.
- **Discharge Abstract Database (DAD)-IMDB:** focuses on the hospitalization of immigrants
- **Beyond the IMDB: Longitudinal Immigration Statistical Environment**
- **Canadian Employee-Employer Dynamic Database (CEEDD)-IMDB:** includes Permanent Residents and Temporary Residents at the firm-level and individual-level.

Immigration related research projects at RDCs



- 255** Active Projects in Statistics Canada Research Data Centres
- 66** New immigration projects in 2019
- 55** Number of universities/organizations where principal researchers are located
- 152** Number of projects using IMDB
- 103** Number of projects using other datasets on immigrants - excluding IMDB

Provincial Data Linkage Program: Well-Being, Settlement and Integration of Immigrants



IRCC@Provincial Research Institutes

IRCC has been collaborating with interested provinces to allow linkages between IRCC data and provincial data sources.

- **Ontario (Institute for Clinical and Evaluative Studies (ICES)), British Columbia (PopData BC) and Manitoba (Manitoba Centre for Health Policy)** have agreements with IRCC.
 - Researchers access an environment which links IRCC administrative data to provincial data sources
 - In 2018 IRCC received 88 proposals, 54 manuscripts and 24 final publications
 - Updating all agreements to include Permanent and Temporary Residents
- IRCC recently signed a tripartite MOU with the **Province of New Brunswick and the University of New Brunswick (Institute for Research, Data and Training)** to integration our administrative data into this linkage environment.
- Discussions are occurring with Alberta and Nova Scotia.

So what does this mean for academics and SPOs



- Statistics Canada has 36 Research Data Centres across the country and immigration data is now more integrated in social and economic databases than ever before
 - Data is not straightforward and students will require guidance
- This is an opportunity for academic and SPOs to work together
 - For SPOs who do not necessarily have the capacity to fully utilize this data, it is important to connect with academic partners
 - For academics, it will be important to consider how students can be trained to work with this data and potentially fill important knowledge gaps for community base organizations
- IRCC will continue to support SPO-academic collaborative arrangements

Examples of some of the latest research



1. Sorting and Shaping: The Dynamics of Labour Market Exclusion for Female Migrant Care Workers in Canada, 1980-2015 (Naomi Lightman, U of Calgary) (IMDB)
2. The long-term economic integration of resettled refugees in Canada: a comparison of Privately Sponsored Refugees and Government-Assisted Refugees (Lisa Kaida, Feng Hou & Max Stick) (IMDB)
3. Helping Ontario's small centres attract and retain immigrants (Victoria Esses, U of Western Ontario) (IMDB)
4. The role of social capital and ethnocultural characteristics in the employment income of immigrants over time (Rose Evra (Statistics Canada) and Abdolmohammad Kazemipur (U of C) (LSIC-IMDB)
5. Foreign credential recognition among immigrant medical professionals (James Ted McDonald, U of NB) (Census)
6. Mental Health of Immigrants and the Utilization of Mental Health Services (Haozhen Zhang (IRCC) and Edward Ng (Statistics Canada). (CCHS-IMDB)
7. Measuring the Impact of Ethnocultural Diversity on Canadian Firm Performance and Productivity, 2001-2015. (Bessma Momani and Kira Williams, University of Waterloo and Balsillie School of International Affairs) (CEEDD-PR)
8. Temporary Foreign Worker Trajectories in Canada. (Danièle Bélanger, Université Laval) (CEEDD-TR)
9. The problem with defining foreign birth as a risk factor in tuberculosis epidemiology studies (James Johnson, UBC) (PopData)
10. Optimizing Health Care for Refugees, Astrid Guttman (ICES)



Questions

Opportunities

Discussion