

The Long-term Labour Market Integration of Refugee Claimants Who Became Permanent Residents in Canada

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
(Research and Evaluation, Policy Research) &
Statistics Canada

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November 23, 2020



Outline

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- Key findings
- Concluding remarks

Objective

- Although refugees are admitted to Canada on a humanitarian basis, their labour market outcomes play a crucial role in successful integration.
- This study compares the long-term labour market outcomes of refugee claimants with those of resettled refugees (government-assisted refugees and privately sponsored refugees).
- Additionally, this study presents the first comparison in labour market outcomes between refugee claimants who eventually became permanent residents, with those who do not gain permanent residency.

Background

Refugees may be admitted to Canada through two streams:

The Refugee and Humanitarian Resettlement Program	The In-Canada Asylum Program
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Refugees are selected overseas either as:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Government-assisted refugees, who are referred by UNHCR and supported through the federally funded Resettlement Assistance Program2. As privately sponsored refugees, who are sponsored and supported by voluntary groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Provides refugee protection for individuals in Canada who have a well-founded fear of persecution, or are at risk of torture, or cruel or unusual punishment in their home countries.➤ Adjudication of their claim is made by the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, and based on whether they meet the United Nations definition of a Convention refugee, or is a person in need of protection based on the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act

Methodology

- **This study used data from the Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB).**
 - The IMDB contains immigrant landing records from 1980 onwards, as well as personal and family level T1 tax data (the T1 Family File) from 1982 onwards.
- **The sample group for the long-term analysis in this study included:**
 - Refugee claimants who made their claim in 2003, were between 25 and 44 years old in 2004, appeared in the T1FF in all years from 2004 to 2016, and landed (or not) by 2016.
 - Resettled refugees (government-assisted refugees and privately sponsored refugees who landed in 2003, were between 25 and 44 years-old in 2004, and appeared in T1FF in all years from 2004 to 2016.

Socio-demographic characteristics of sample group

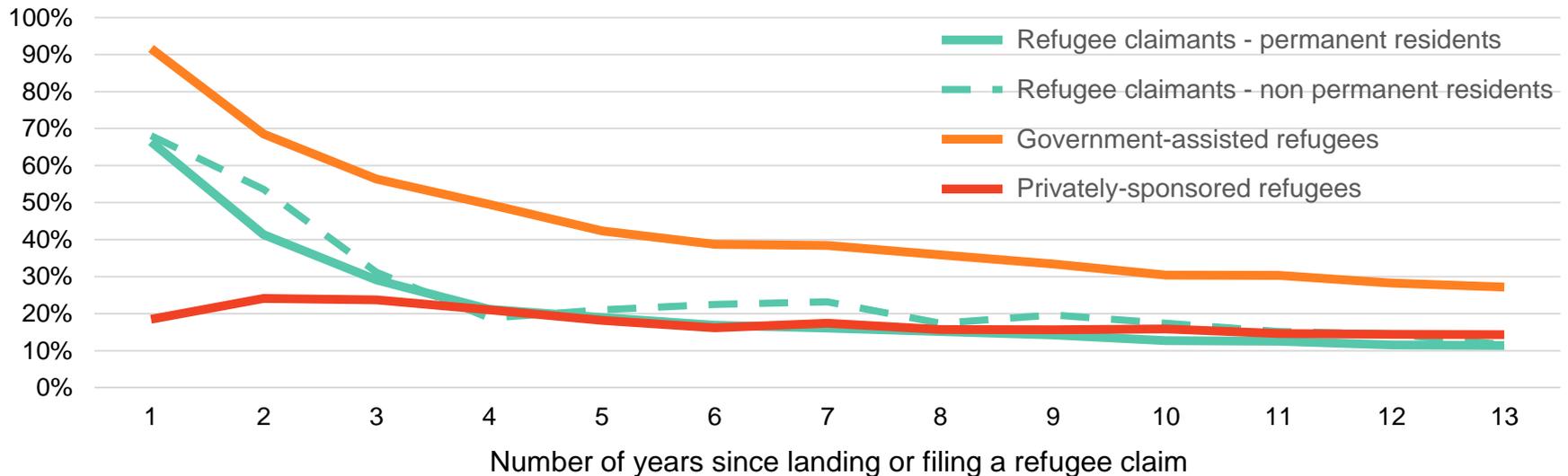
	Refugee claimants who became permanent residents	Refugee claimants who did <u>not</u> become permanent residents	Government-assisted refugees	Privately sponsored refugees
Male	51.9%	50.7%	46.0%	49.9%
Age in 2003 (mean years)	32.5	32.7	32.5	31.7
Bachelor's degree or higher	25.0%	- *	14.3%	8.0%
Top world region of birth	South and Central America (30.9%)	South and Central America (27.6%)	Africa and the Middle East (47.8%)	Africa and the Middle East (62.3%)

Source: Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB) - T1 Family File (T1FF).

* Education data not available for refugee claimants who did not become permanent residents during the study period

Key findings: Social assistance

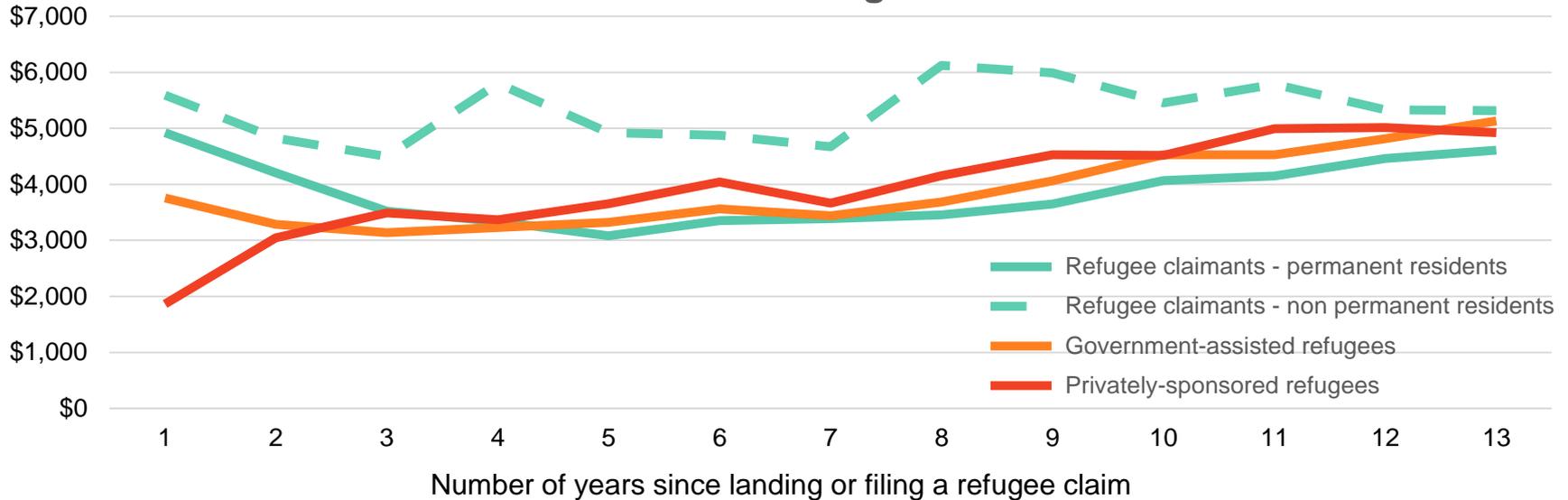
Percentage receiving social assistance income among those who landed or filed a refugee claim in 2003



- An estimated 66.5% - 68.1% of refugee claimants received social assistance in their first year after arrival, compared to 18.4% for privately sponsored refugees and 91.6% for government-assisted refugees.
- Thirteen years after landing, refugee claimants who became permanent residents were the least likely of all refugee groups to receive social assistance (11.4%), although claimants who were without status were not far behind (11.6%).
 - Comparatively, 14.3% of privately sponsored refugees and 27.2% of government-assisted refugees received social assistance.

Key findings: Social assistance

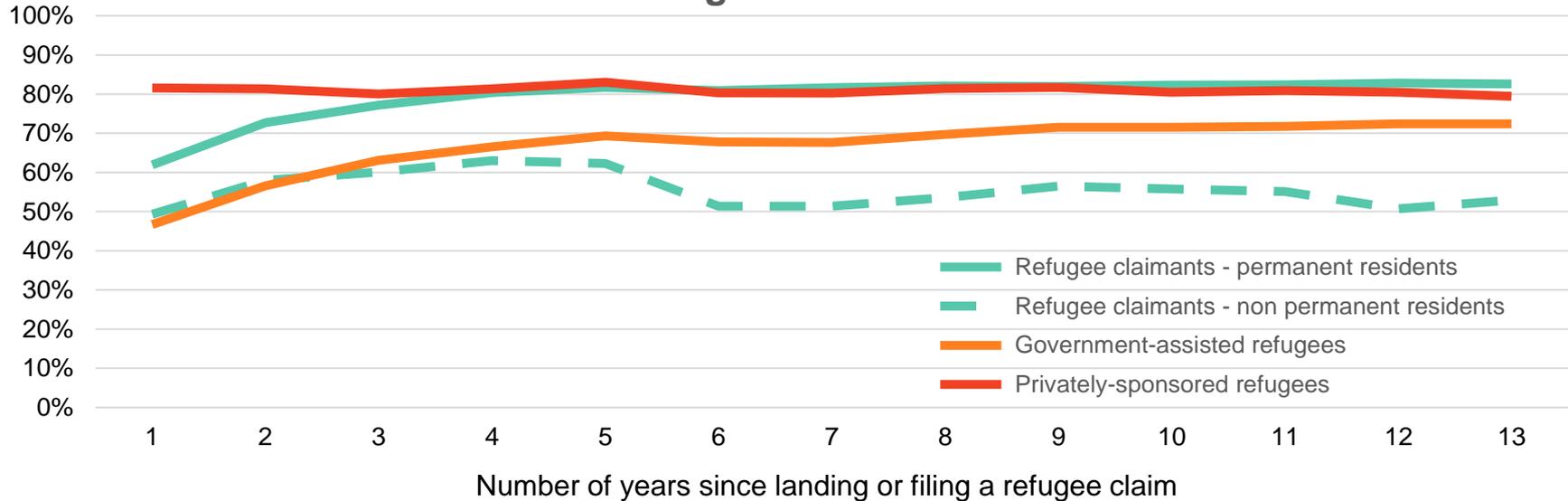
Mean social assistance income per family member among recipients who landed or filed a refugee claim in 2003



- In the initial years after landing, refugee claimants received more in social assistance income per family member than resettled refugees.
- However, thirteen years later, refugee claimants who gained permanent residency received less in social assistance income (\$4,611) than both privately sponsored refugees (\$4,923) and government-assisted refugees (\$5,130).
- Refugee claimants who remained without status received the highest amount in social assistance (\$5,317).

Key findings: Employment Earnings

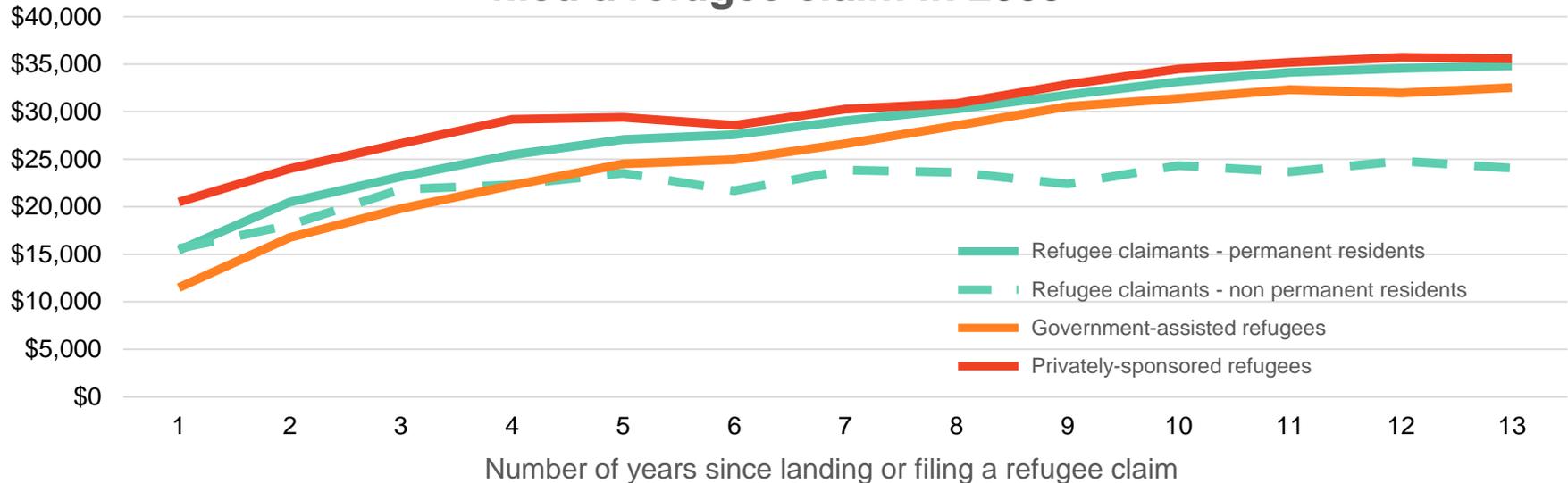
Percentage receiving employment income among those who landed or filed a refugee claim in 2003



- Among claimants who did not become permanent residents during the study period, the share with employment income increased from 49.3% in the first year after arrival to 63.0% four years later, before declining; by the end of the thirteen-year study period, 52.9% of claimants without landing status reported employment earnings.
- In comparison, the incidence of employment earnings among refugee claimants who became permanent residents continued to steadily increase, reaching 82.6% by the end of the study period. This share was higher than the rate reported for government-assisted refugees (72.4%) and privately sponsored refugees (79.5%).

Key findings: Employment Earnings

Mean employment income among recipients who landed or filed a refugee claim in 2003



- One year after landing, claimants reported average employment earnings of just over \$15,000, compared to \$11,485 for government-assisted refugees and \$20,495 for privately sponsored refugees.
- While average employment earnings generally increase with time for all refugee groups, the earnings of claimants who did not become permanent residents became stagnant soon after landing; by the end of the thirteen-year study period, claimants without landing status reported employment earnings of \$24,051, compared to \$34,825 for claimants who became permanent residents, \$35,567 for privately sponsored refugees, and \$32,533 for government-assisted refugees.

Key findings: Multivariate analysis

- As individual characteristics (sex, age, educational attainment, and region of birth) strongly influence labour market performance, the study also analyzed social assistance use and employment outcomes after controlling for these factors.
- Notably, the study found that after adjusting for differences in individual characteristics, privately sponsored refugees were actually less likely to receive social assistance by the end of the thirteen-year period than refugee claimants who became permanent residents.
- Furthermore, it was also found that the share of privately sponsored refugees with employment earnings was higher than the share reported for claimants who obtained permanent residency.

Concluding remarks

- In addition to providing enhanced foundational knowledge on the economic outcomes of claimants who do not have landing status, the findings of this study also hint at the economic vulnerability of this group.
- As evidenced in the report, the labour market outcomes of claimants steadily improve with time, but eventually deteriorate for those who do not gain permanent residency.

Concluding remarks (continued)

- After adjusting for differences in individual characteristics, the report found that there were unobserved factors that bolstered the labour market performance of privately sponsored refugees compared to refugee claimants.
- One factor that could explain the improved outcomes for privately sponsored refugees is their sponsorship networks, which may provide valuable support in their labour market integration.
- Additionally, privately sponsored refugees have access to federally-funded settlement services immediately upon landing, which are only available to claimants if they become permanent residents.

Thank you!

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Full report: Frenette, Marc; Gure, Yasmin; Lu, Yuqian (2020). The Long-term Labour Market Integration of Refugee Claimants Who Became Permanent Residents in Canada (No. 2020018). Statistics Canada, Analytical Studies Branch. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/catalogue/11F0019M2020018>