

# Integration outcomes of refugees in Canada: Findings from the 2016 Census

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# Outline for presentation

- Overview
- Key findings by theme
  - Demographic
  - Education
  - Economic
  - Childhood refugees
- Final key messages

# Motivation and overview

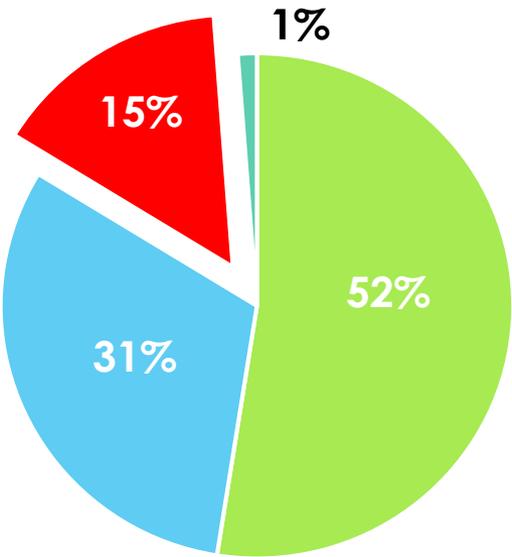
- The refugee integration experience in Canada is complex and nuanced and worthy of in-depth study.
- Developing our evidence base for comprehensive immigration data continues to be a priority for Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).
- IRCC's collaboration with Statistics Canada led to the development of a record-linkage between IRCC's administrative immigration records\* and the 2016 Census data.
- As a result, the 2016 Census data presented the first time that socio-economic outcomes of immigrants could be explored at the admission category level.
- This presentation will summarize some of the key findings on refugee outcomes, for those landed between 1980 and 2016.

\*IRCC administrative data linked for immigrants that have landed since 1980

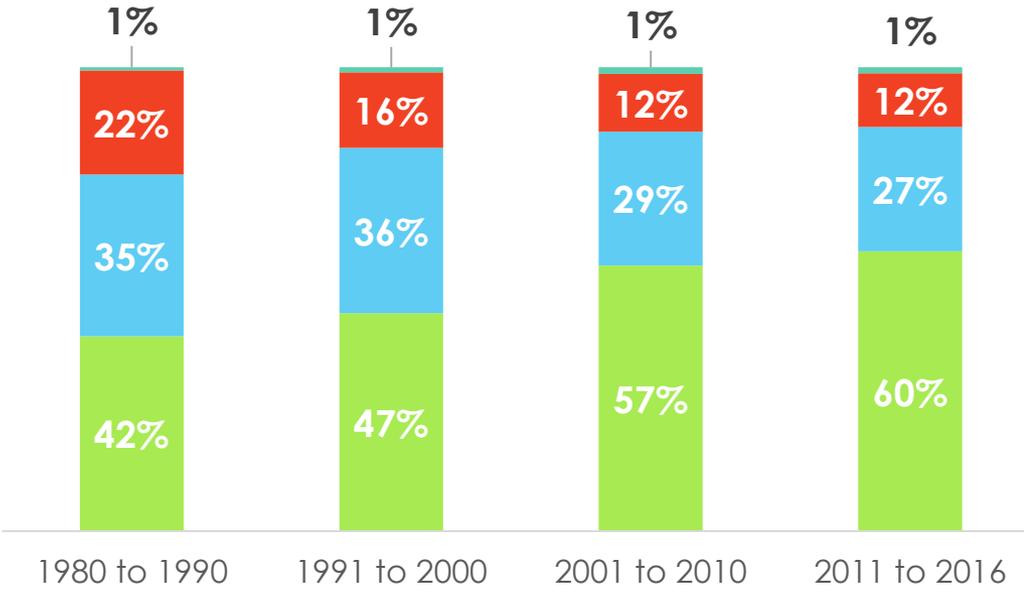
# **Demographic profile of refugees in Canada- Key highlights**

# Admission category analysis

Admission category breakdown in 2016



Admission category by period of immigration

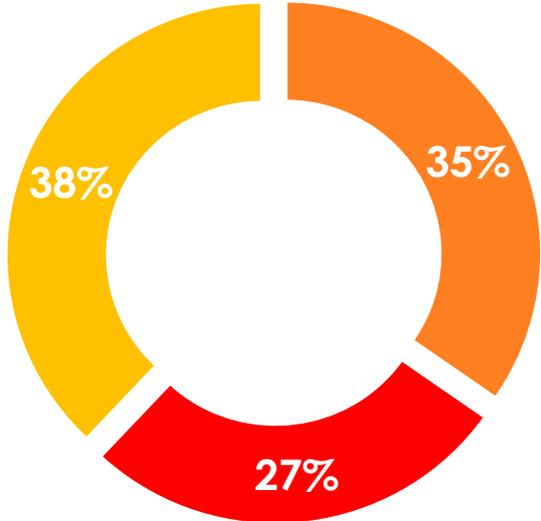


- Economic immigrants
- Family class
- Refugees
- Other immigrants

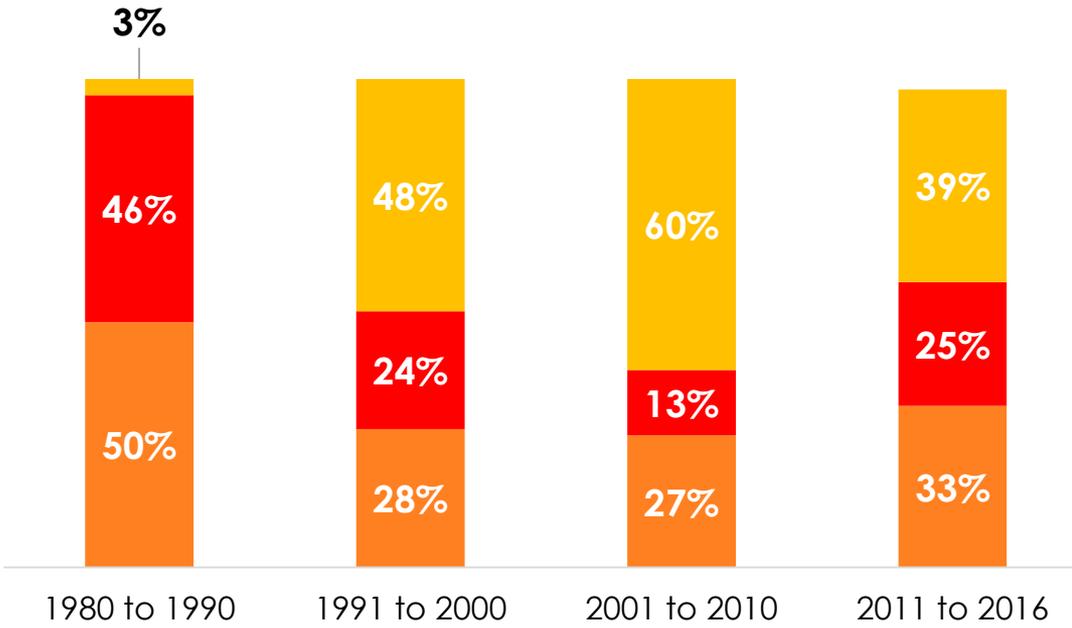
- In 2016, refugees accounted for 15% of landed immigrants, and 2% of the population in Canada, overall.
- The share of both refugee and family class immigrants has consistently declined since 1980, while the share of economic class immigrants has steadily grown.

# Admission category analysis

### Refugee admission category breakdown in 2016



### Admission category by period of immigration



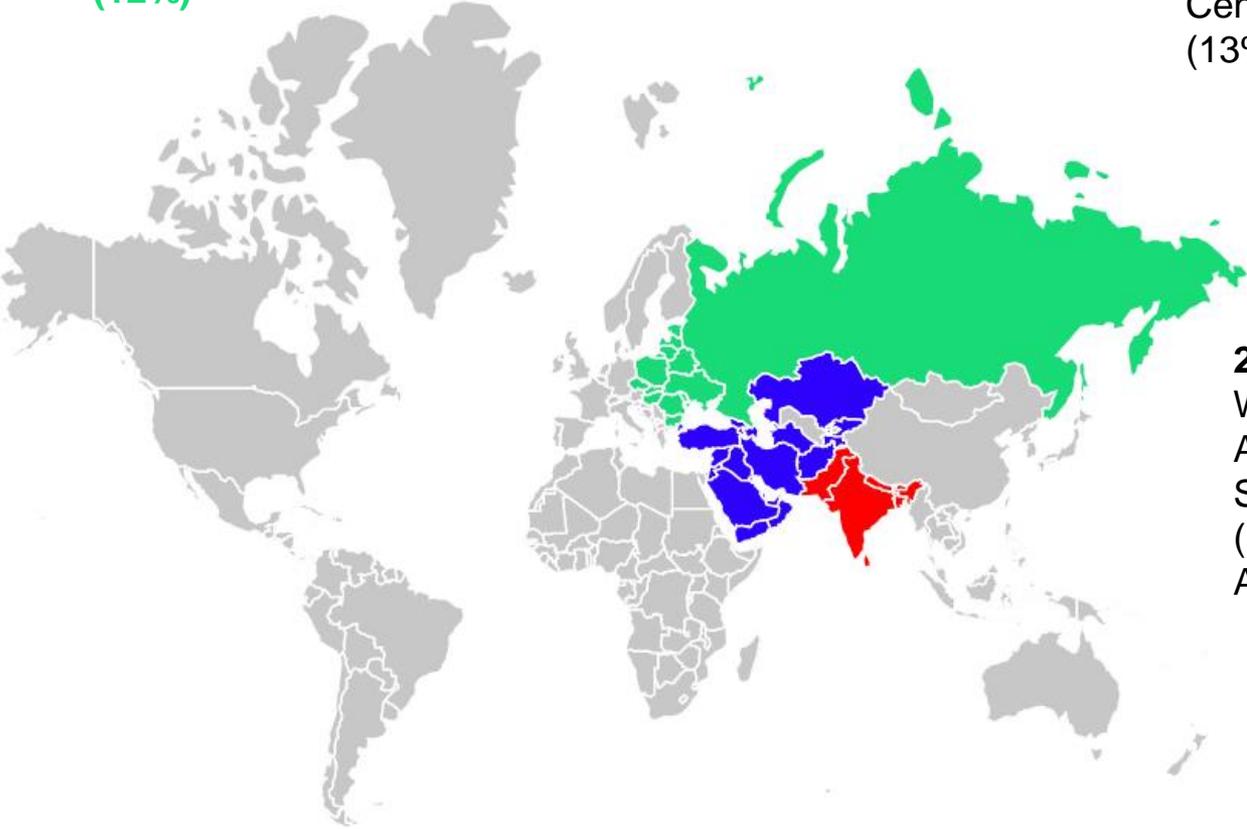
- Government-assisted refugees (GAR)
- Privately sponsored refugees (PSR)
- Protected persons in Canada (PPC)

➤ Since 1990, PPCs have continuously accounted for a larger share of landings than GARs and PSRs; however, in more recent years, the share of PPCs has declined while the proportion of GARs and specifically PSRs has increased.

# Source region of refugees

## Source region of refugees in 2016

- Overall, the top three source regions of refugees in Canada in 2016 were **West Central Asia and the Middle East (21%)**, **Southern Asia (13%)**, and **Eastern Europe (12%)**

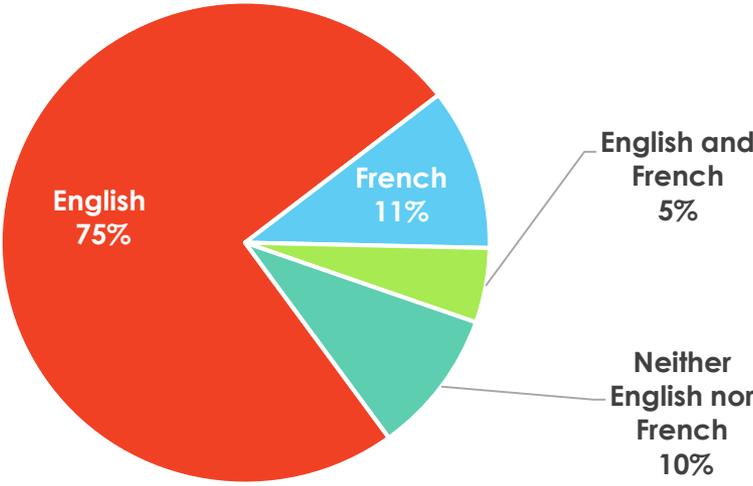


## Top three source region of refugees by period of immigration

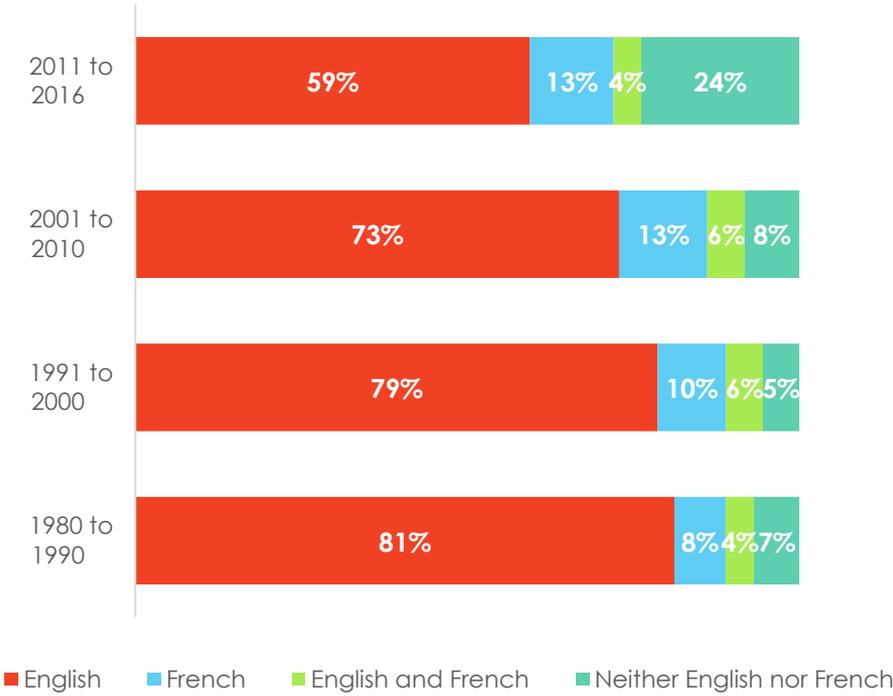
- 1980 – 1990:** Southeast Asia (34%); Eastern Europe (27%); Central America (13%)
- 1991 – 2000:** Southern Asia (20%); West Central Asia and the Middle East (19%); Southern Europe (16%)
- 2001 – 2010:** West Central Asia (22%); Southern Asia (17%); Eastern Africa (14%)
- 2011 – 2016:** West Central Asia and the Middle East (42%); Eastern Africa (14%); Southern Asia (10%)

# Official language proficiency

## First official language spoken among refugees in 2016



## First official language spoken among refugees, by period of immigration, in 2016



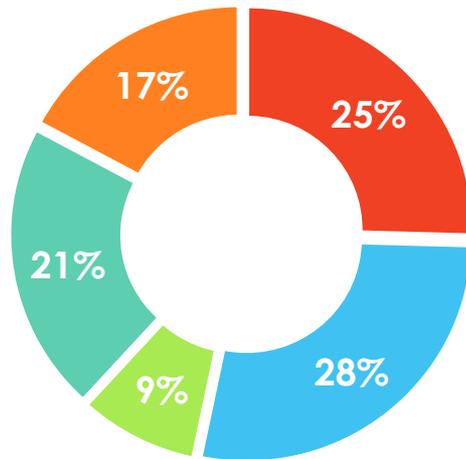
➤ Official language acquisition is higher among refugees who have been in Canada longer. Among refugees who had landed in Canada less than five years before the Census, almost a quarter (24%) did not speak English or French; among refugees who had landed in Canada prior to 2001, the proportion that did not speak English or French was about 6%.

# **Education profile of refugees in Canada- Key highlights**

# Educational attainment among refugees in Canada

**Educational attainment among refugees, population age 25-64 in 2016**

- No certificate, diploma or degree
- High school diploma or equivalent
- Apprenticeship or trades certificate/diploma
- College, CEGEP or other non-university or university certificate or diploma
- University certificate, diploma or degree at bachelor level or above



**Educational attainment among refugees by admission category in 2016, population age 25-64 in 2016**

University certificate, diploma or degree at bachelor level or above



College, CEGEP or other non-university or university certificate or diploma



Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma



High school diploma or equivalency certificate



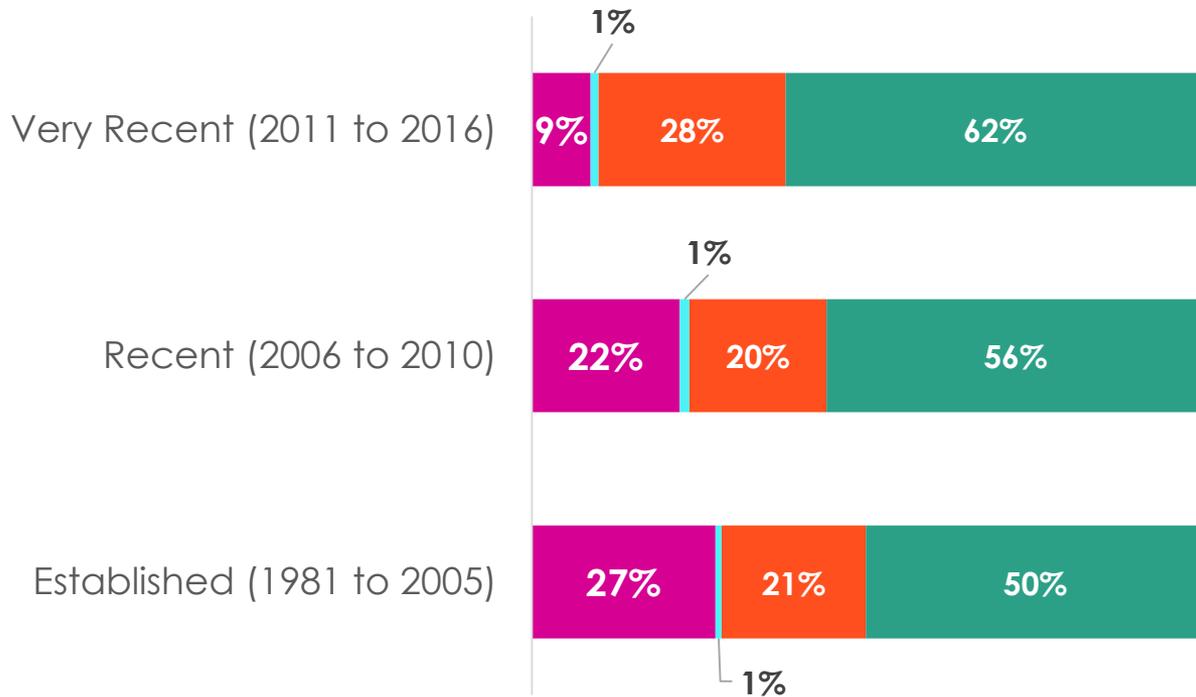
No certificate, diploma or degree



- Government-assisted refugees
- Privately sponsored refugees
- Protected persons in Canada

# Educational attainment by period of immigration

World region of highest level of education (postsecondary) among refugees by period of immigration, population age 25-64 in 2016

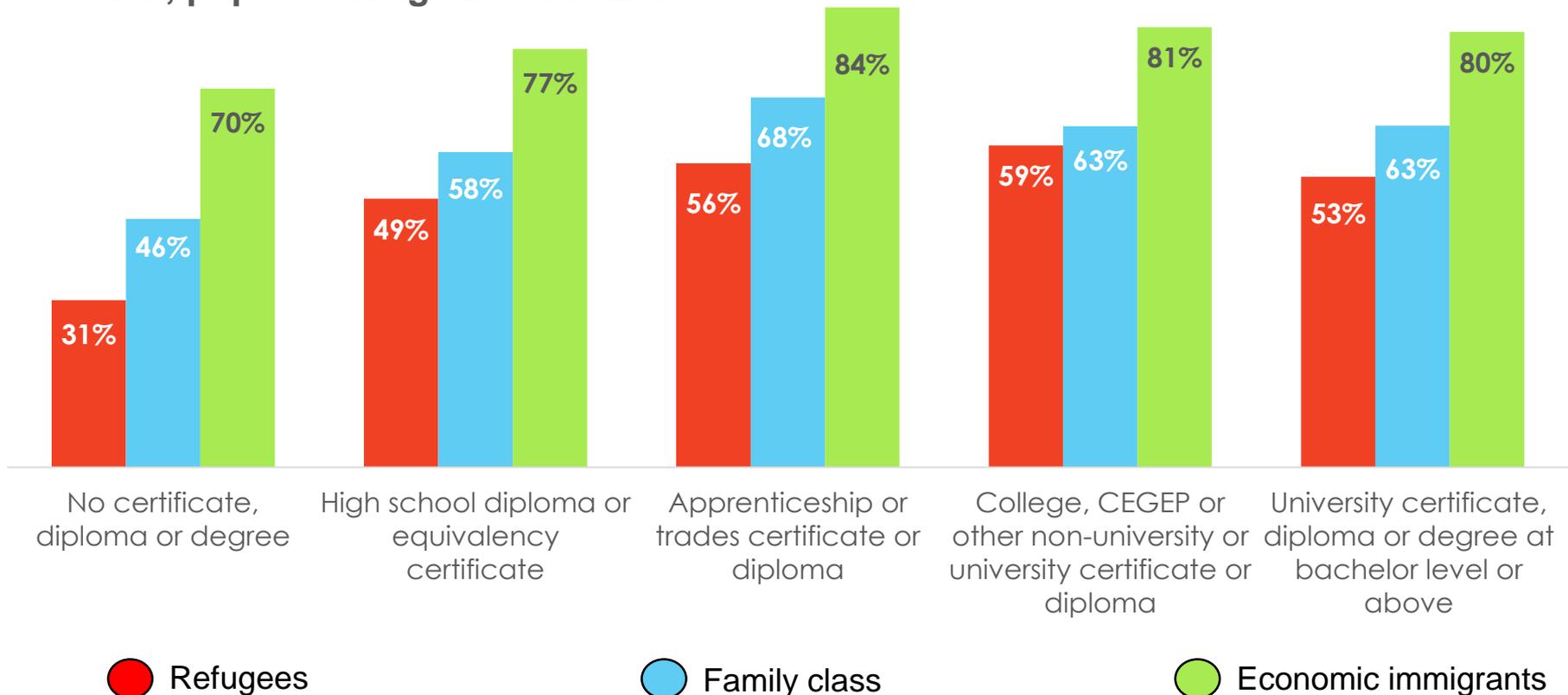


➤ Just over a quarter of refugees that had been in Canada for more than ten years reported completing their highest level of postsecondary education within Canada.

- Inside Canada
- United States, Western Europe, Northern Europe, Australia, and New Zealand
- All other countries
- No postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree

# Educational attainment and employment outcomes

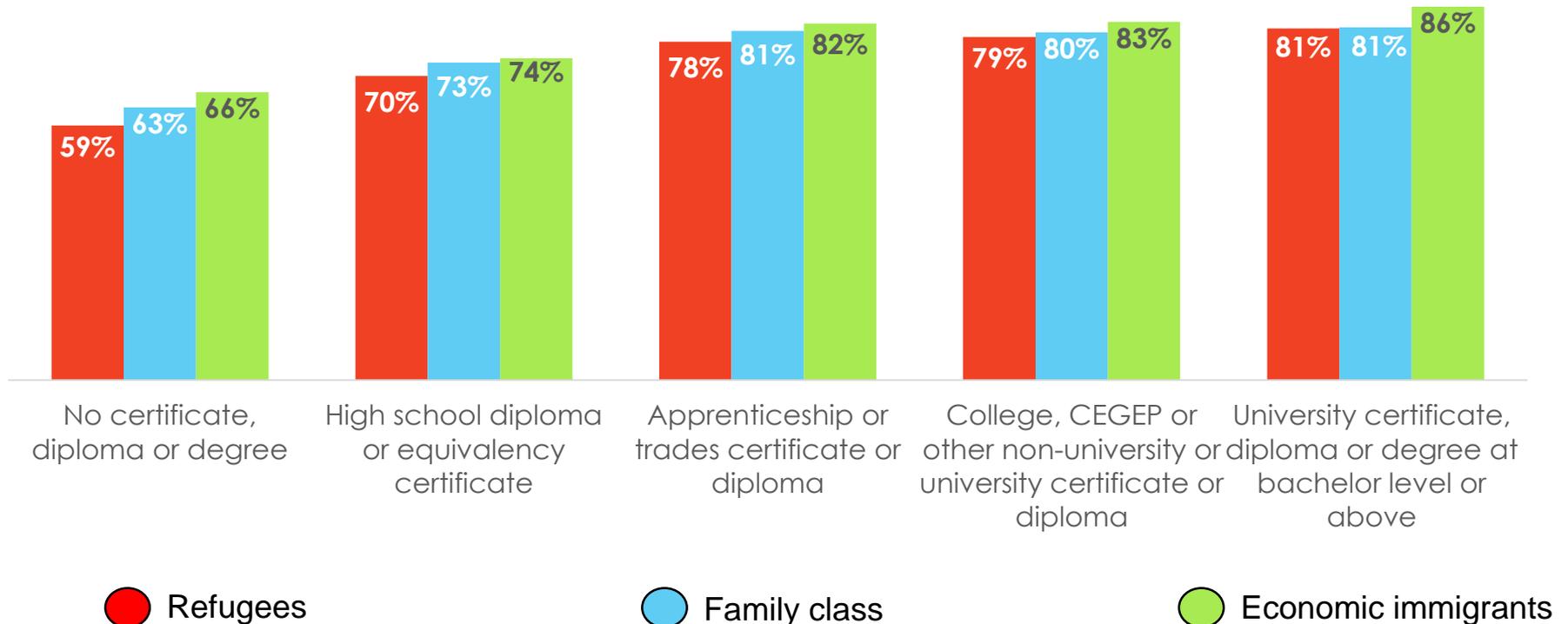
Employment rate among 'Very Recent' (2011 to 2016), by admission category and education, population age 25-64 in 2016



- Among the 'Very Recent' (2011 and 2016) landing cohorts, refugees reported significantly lower employment rates than family class immigrants and economic principal applicants, at every education level.

# Educational attainment and employment outcomes

Employment rate among 'Established' (1981 to 2005), by admission category and education level, population age 25-64 in 2016

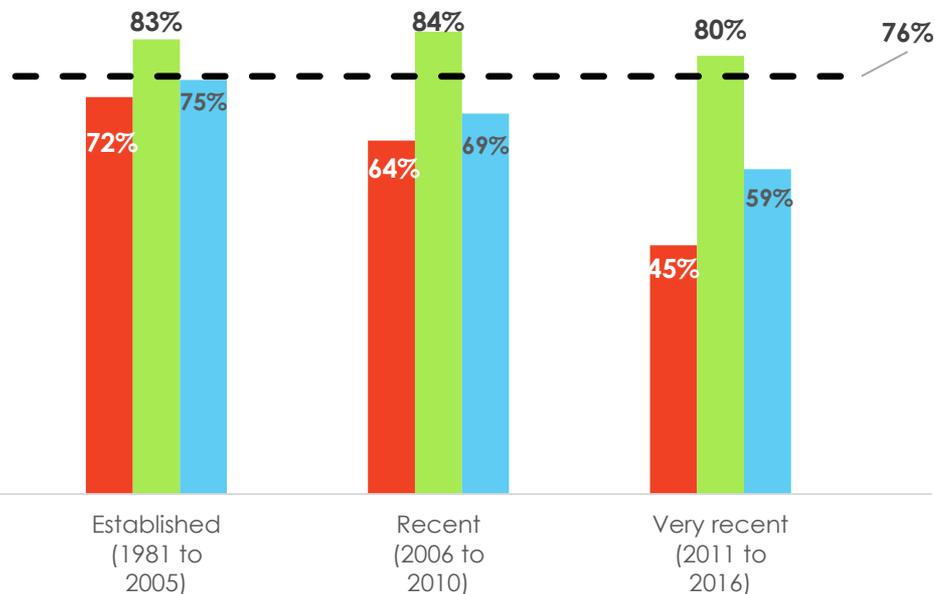


- 'Established' (1981- 2005) refugee landing cohorts reported similar employment rates at every education level as other immigrants.

# **Economic outcomes refugees in Canada- Key highlights**

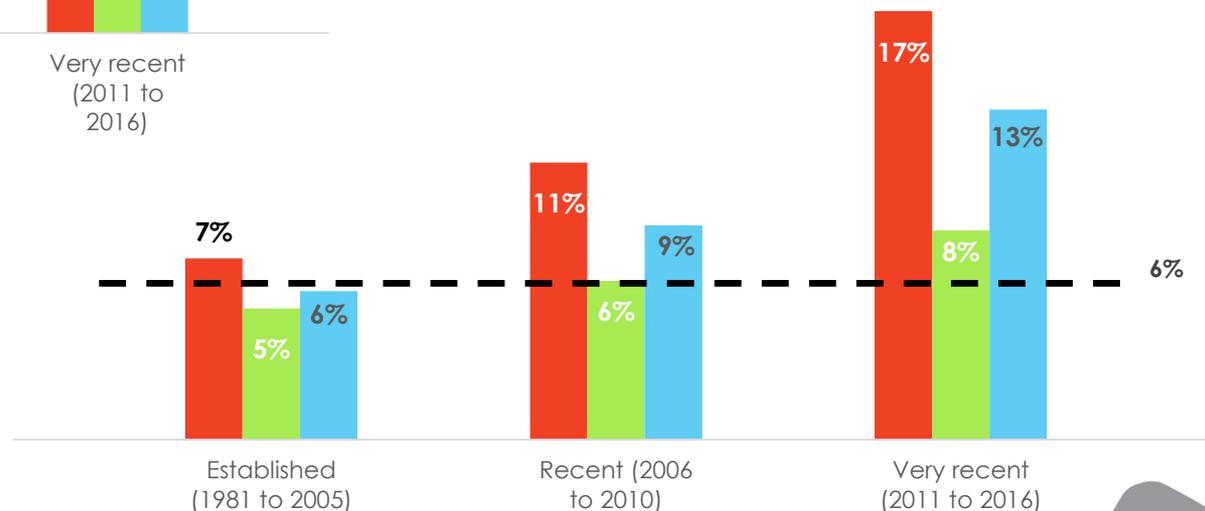
# Labour force status indicators by admission category and landing period

## Employment rate



- Employment rates were generally higher among refugees who had been in Canada longer. Similarly, unemployment rates also tend to be lower as time in Canada increases.
- Refugees in the Established landing cohorts (1981-2005) report employment, and unemployment rates that are comparable to the Canadian-born population.

## Unemployment rate

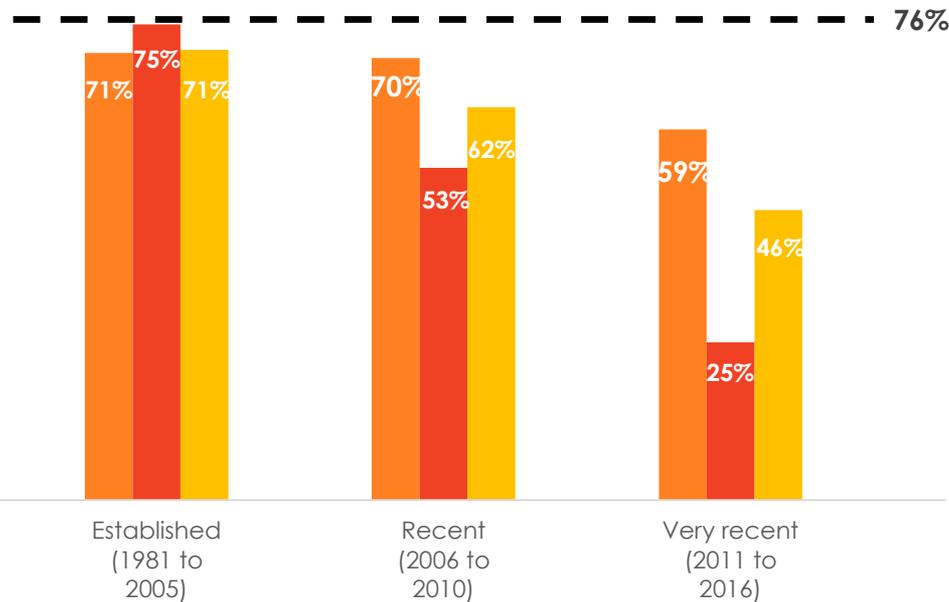


- Refugees
- Economic class immigrants
- Economic immigrants
- Canadian-born population

Population aged 25-64 in 2016

# Labour force status indicators by refugee admission category and landing period

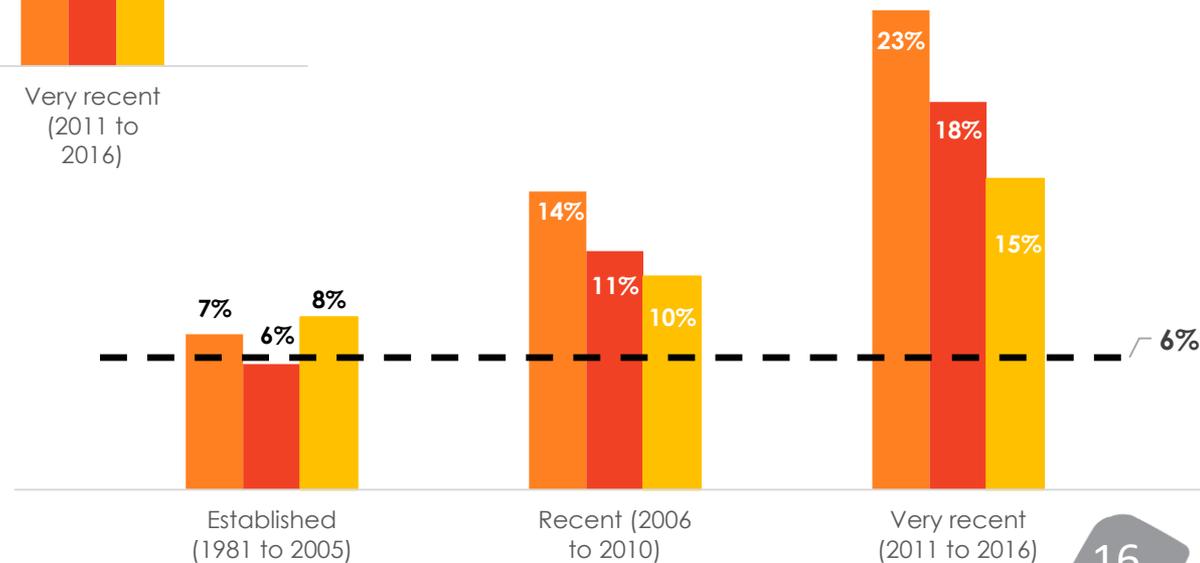
## Employment rate



- GARs in the Very Recent landing cohorts (2011-2016) reported considerably lower employment rates than PSRs and PPCs, in addition to higher unemployment rates.
- However, among refugees who had been in Canada for more than ten years, the gap in labour force outcomes between three refugee categories diminished.

- Government-assisted refugees
- Privately sponsored refugees
- Protected persons in Canada
- Canadian-born population

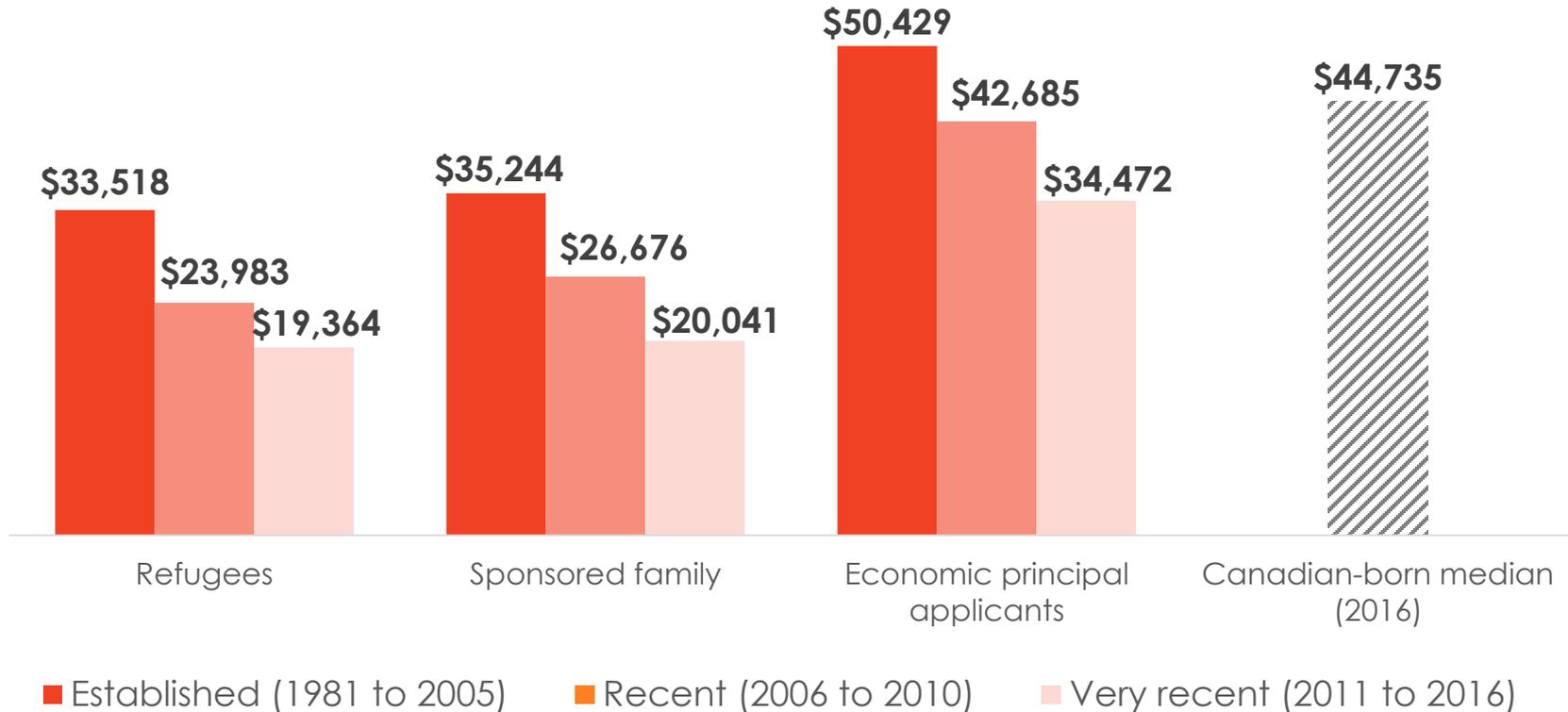
## Unemployment rate



Population aged 25-64 in 2016

# Median employment earnings

Median employment earnings by admission category, population 25-64 in 2016

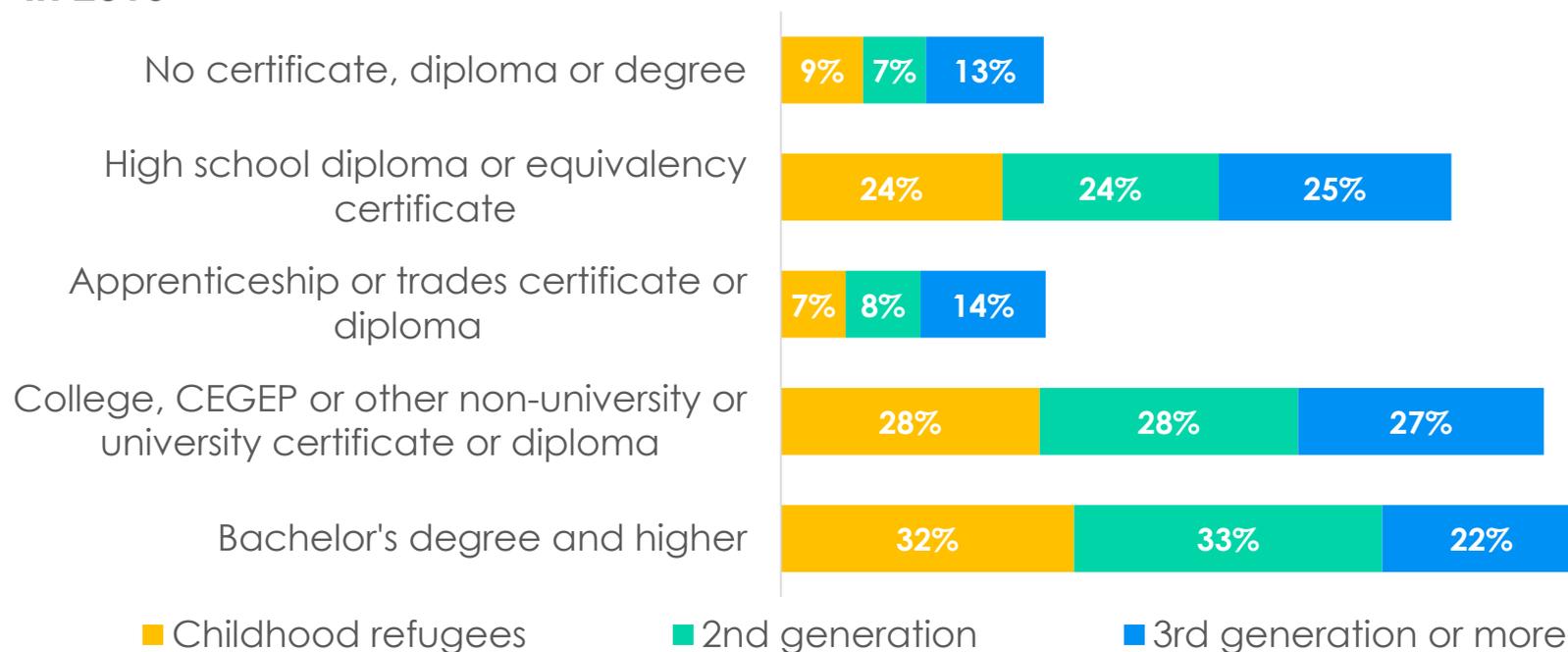


- Similar to other immigrant categories, the median employment earnings of refugees increase with time in Canada. Nonetheless, earnings among refugees who had been in Canada for more than ten years remained below the Canadian-born median.

# **Outcomes of childhood refugees in Canada- Key highlights**

# Educational attainment among childhood refugees in Canada

Highest level of education, population age 25-64 in 2016

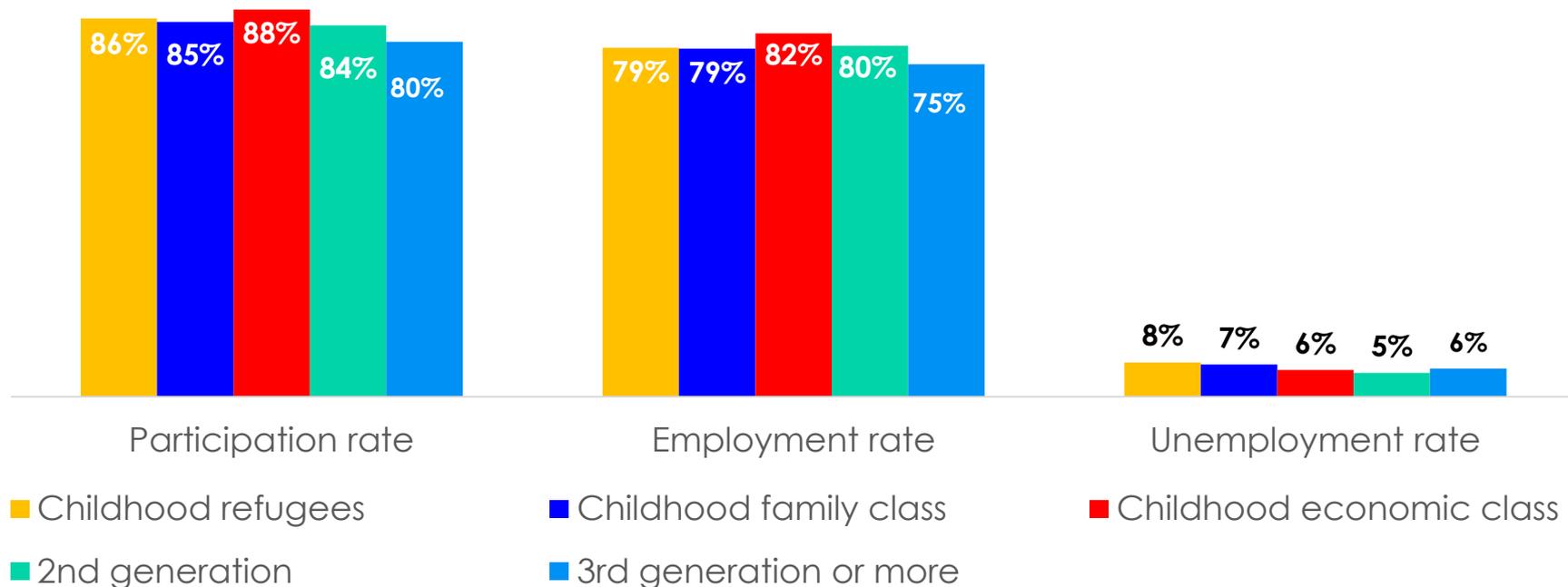


- Childhood refugees reported significantly higher university completion rates than 3<sup>rd</sup> generation or more Canadians (children born in Canada to Canadian-born parents). Although university completion rates are comparatively high among the children of immigrants overall, outcomes vary by visible minority status.
- Among other childhood immigrants, those whose parents were admitted under the economic stream reported the highest university completion rate, at 54%. Childhood family class immigrants reported the lowest rate, at 24%

Note: Childhood refugees limited to those landed since 1980

# Labour market outcomes of childhood refugees in Canada

## Labour force status, population age 25-64 in 2016



- Overall, the labour force statistics for childhood refugees is not significantly different than the rates reported for other childhood immigrants, or those born in Canada (both 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> generation or more Canadians).
- Nonetheless, childhood refugees report the highest unemployment rates among all groups.

Note: Childhood immigrants and refugees limited to those landed since 1980

# Labour market outcomes of childhood refugees in Canada

## Labour force status among university-educated population age 25-64 in 2016

	Participation rate	Employment rate	Unemployment rate
Childhood refugees	91%	86%	6%
Childhood family class	91%	86%	5%
Childhood economic class	89%	85%	5%
2 <sup>nd</sup> generation	89%	86%	4%
3 <sup>rd</sup> generation	88%	85%	3%

- Among the university-educated population, a similar trend is noted, with childhood refugees reporting marginally higher unemployment rates than other childhood immigrants, and those born in Canada.

## **Concluding points**

# Key messages

- **Refugees are not selected for economic reasons or their ability to successfully integrate in Canada**; nonetheless, the findings from the 2016 Census indicate that there are some positive socio-economic outcomes to be noted amongst this group.
- Overall, the **economic outcomes of refugees generally improve with time in Canada**, not unlike other immigrant groups.
- The analysis on the labour market outcomes of refugees highlighted that while recently landed refugees may initially struggle, **those who had been in Canada for more than ten years reported similar participation, employment, and unemployment rates as the Canadian-born population.**
- Moreover, **the data on childhood refugees emphasized that this group is integrating exceptionally well in Canada**, outperforming 3<sup>rd</sup> generation or more Canadians in educational attainment, and reporting comparable labour market outcomes.
  - However, **it cannot be ignored that some visible minority populations, particularly those of Black or Latin American backgrounds, are not experiencing the same level of success**; future research in this area should further analyzes the extent to which structural discrimination, both in the Canadian education system and labour market, are at play for these poorer outcomes.
- It is imperative that IRCC continue to **invest in settlement resources for refugees**, in order to **encourage stronger socio-economic outcomes** in the initial years of arrival, and provide a strong foundation for successful integration.

**Thank you!**  
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