

# **Navigating Integration Services in Quebec:**

## **Exploring Users' Profiles and Service Accessibility**

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Valérie-Anne Mahéo (Université Laval)**

Pathways to Prosperity National Conference 2023

# Plan of the Presentation

1. Introduction

2. Overview of the Research Project

3. Integration Activities

4. Users' and Non-Users' Profiles

5. Factors Limiting and Facilitating Use of Integration Activities

6. Explaining Use of Integration Activities

7. Preliminary Findings

# 1. Integration in Quebec

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## ➤ **Two elements specific to the Quebec case:**

1. Mastery of French as a key component for social and professional inclusion
2. Quebec's "interculturalism" as the rationale for integration policies (Bouchard 2011)

## ➤ **Focus on immigrants' participation in multiple spheres of life :**

- Linguistic participation
- Economic participation
- Cultural participation
- Community participation
- Citizen participation

# 1. Integration in Quebec

## The Programme d'accompagnement et de soutien à l'intégration (PASI):

- **Funded and administered** : by the *Ministère de l'Immigration, de la Francisation et de l'Intégration* (MIFI)
- **Purpose:**  
Support immigrants' settlement and integration in Quebec
- **Offered:** by community organizations, in cities and regions across the province
- **Program Structure:** Distinct components, individual and group services, serving different immigrant populations.
  - Our project focuses on: integration **group activities**, facilitating immigrants' participation in Quebec society (*Component 2* of the Program)

## **2. Overview of the Project**

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- The research project is led by Prof. Valérie-Anne Mahéo, at Université Laval, and is funded by MIFI
- **A mixed-method project**, from 2021 to 2026
  - Interviews, focus groups, social innovation experiments
  - A panel survey with recent immigrants and non-immigrants (2022-2024)
- **Focus on** : Group activities of the PASI and their impact on immigrants' participation
- **Project's aim:**
  - Identify the profile of users and non-users of PASI activities
  - Identify factors that may hinder or facilitate use of activities
  - Examine which activities are used and by whom
- Ultimately, measure the effect of PASI services on the full participation of immigrants in Quebec society

## 2. Overview of the Project

### First wave of the panel survey:

- **Population:** Recent Immigrants in Quebec
- **Recruitment Method:**  
E-mail invitation sent by MIFI and partner organizations
  - 10,000 e-mails sent by MIFI for an academic survey
  - Only adult respondents
  - Non-traditional Recruitment:  
to reach a broad spectrum of immigrants without specific quotas  
(non-probability/convenience sample)
- **Survey administration :**  
Online survey (Qualtrics) from April to June 2023
- **Response rate:** 25%
  - Approximately 18% completed most of the survey (N = 1805)



## 2. Overview of the Project

### Presentation of the Survey Population

|                 |                                | Percent |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|---------|
| Occupation      | Working Full Time              | 61.2    |
|                 | Other                          | 38.8    |
| Education       | University Diploma             | 76.1    |
|                 | Less than a University Diploma | 23.0    |
| Gender          | Man                            | 48.3    |
|                 | Woman                          | 50.1    |
|                 | Other/I'd rather not say       | 1.6     |
| First Language  | French                         | 33.7    |
|                 | Other                          | 66.3    |
| Parental Status | Has Children                   | 55.1    |
|                 | No Children                    | 43.5    |
| Income          | No income to \$29,999          | 18.4    |
|                 | Between 30,000 and \$59,999    | 27.9    |
|                 | Between 60,000 and \$89,999    | 20.1    |
|                 | Between 90,000 and \$109,999   | 9.8     |
|                 | Between 110,000 and \$149,999  | 9.1     |
|                 | More than \$150,000            | 6.3     |

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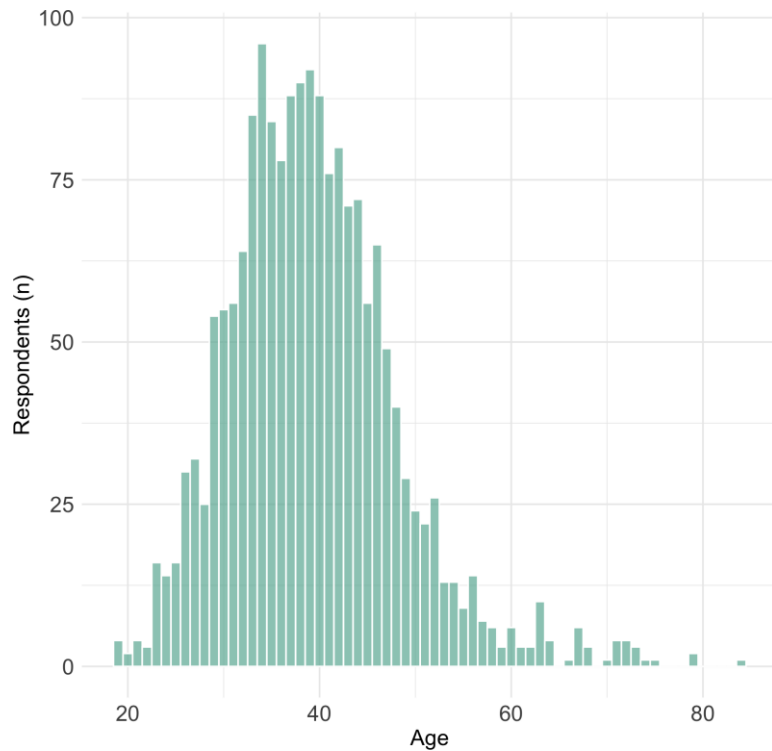
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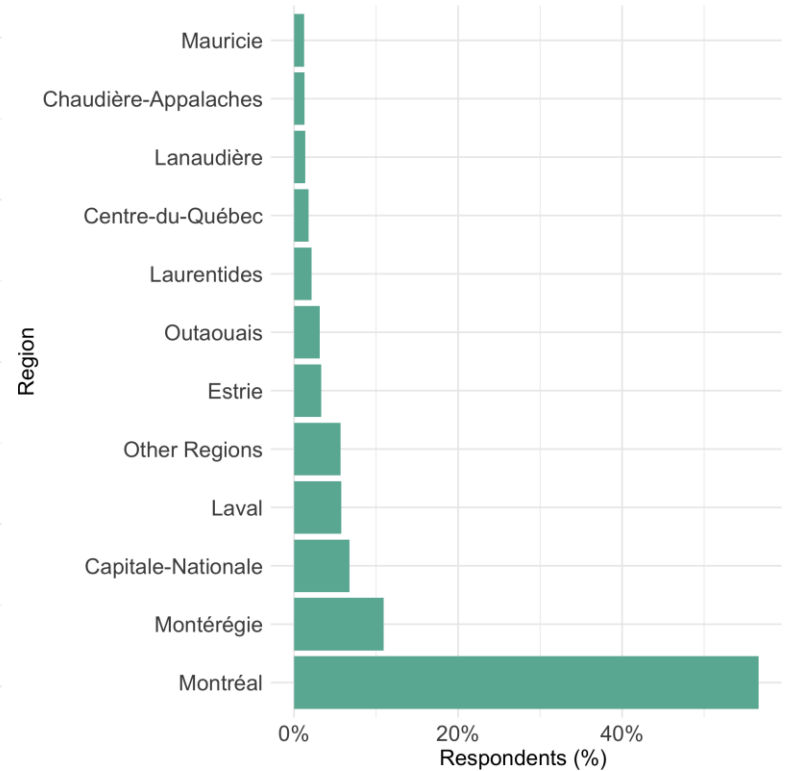
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Age Distribution



Mean Age: 39.34

Geographic Location (n > 20)

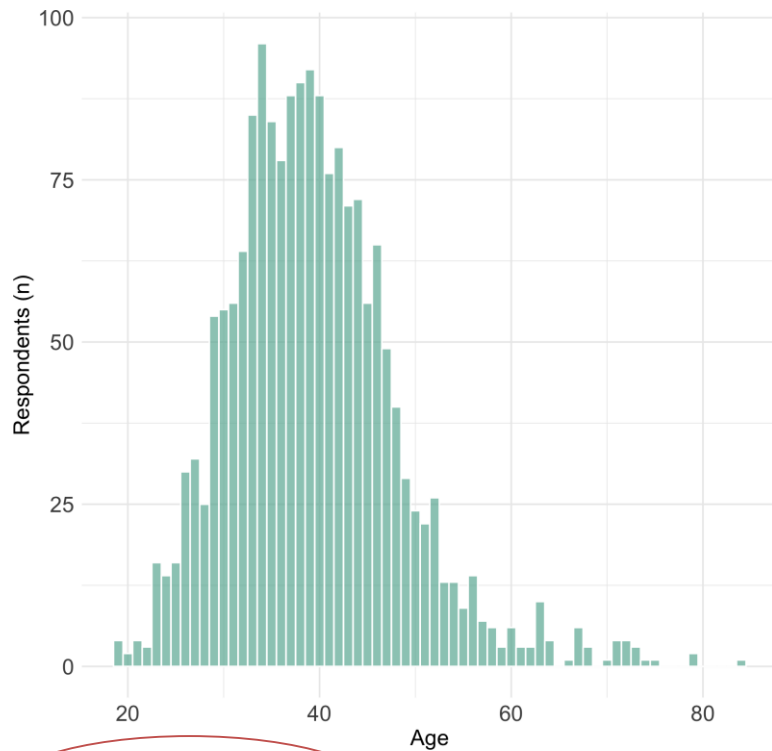


Montreal: 56.62% of respondents

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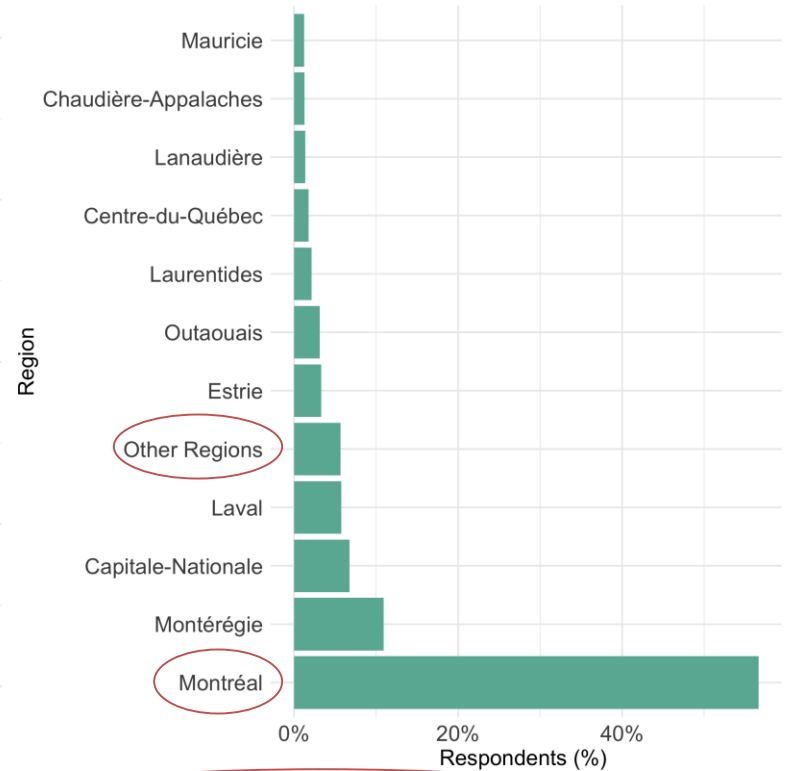
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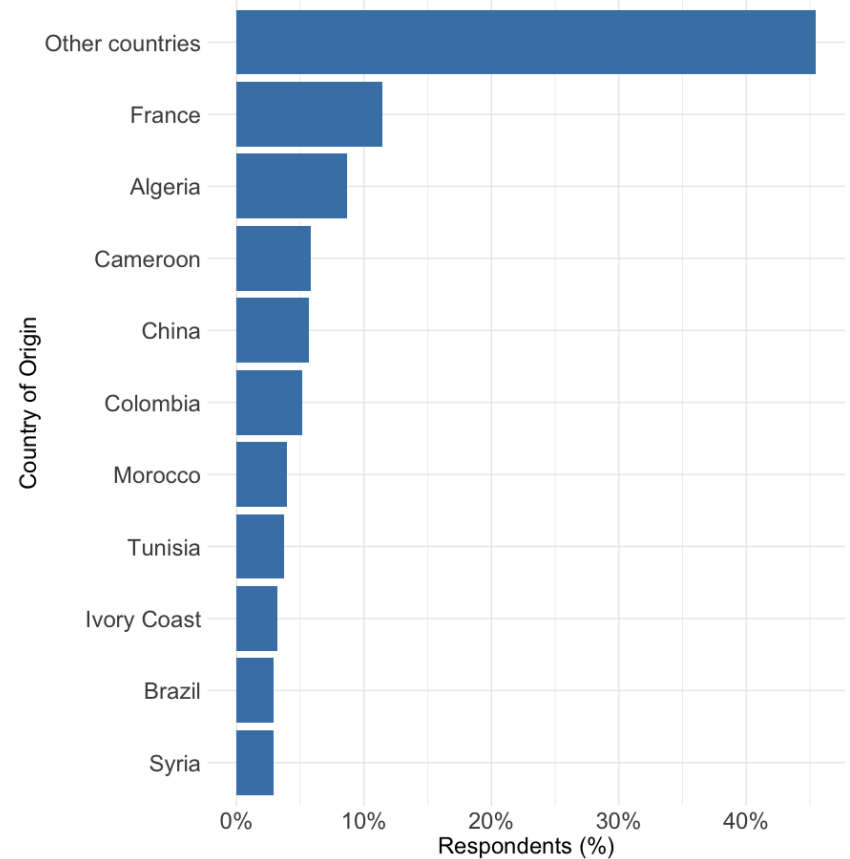
## 2. Overview of the Project

### Presentation of the Survey Population

#### Immigration Program, Citizenship, and Time in Quebec

|                      |                                   | Percent |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Immigration Program  | An economic program               | 56.0    |
|                      | The family reunification program  | 23.0    |
|                      | The refugee program               | 10.3    |
|                      | Other                             | 5.4     |
|                      | I do not have permanent residency | 3.6     |
|                      | I don't know                      | 1.5     |
| Citizenship Status   | Canadian citizen                  | 18.0    |
|                      | Permanent resident                | 76.2    |
|                      | Other status                      | 5.5     |
| Time Spent in Quebec | 0 to 2 Years                      | 19.8    |
|                      | 3 to 5 Years                      | 46.9    |
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#### Country of Origin



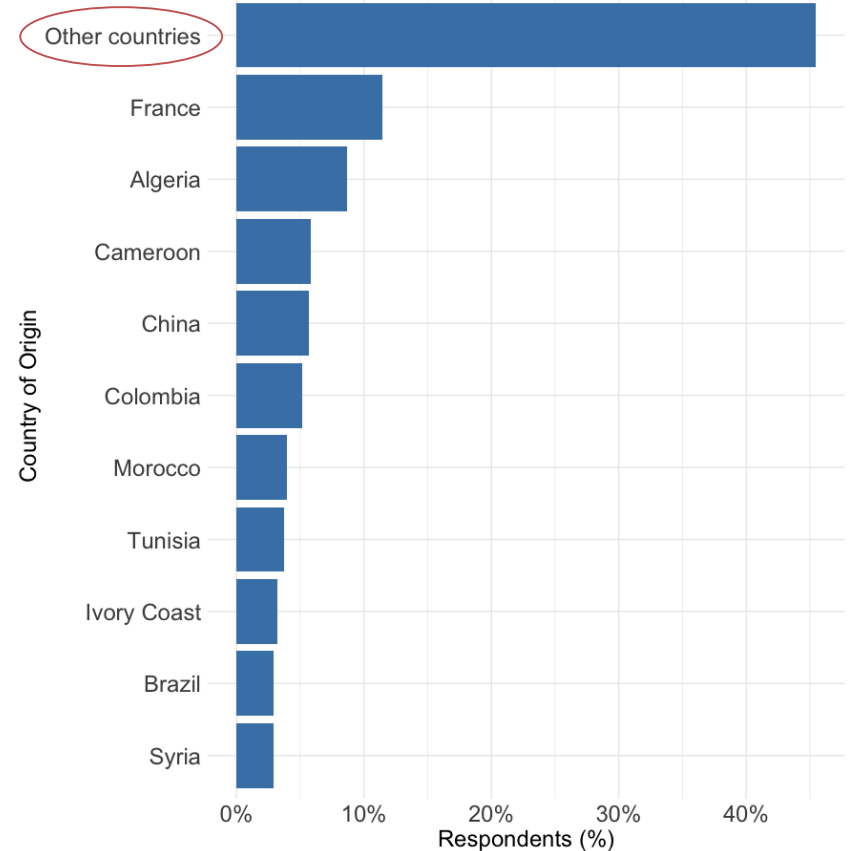
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## **3. PASI Integration Activities**

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## Types of activities

| Activity  | Family                | Participation Rate |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------|
| French discussion workshop  | Linguistic & Cultural | 7.6%               |
| Intercultural exchange  | Linguistic & Cultural | 3.8%               |
| Cultural outings or activities  | Linguistic & Cultural | 7.9%               |
| Information or discussion session on Quebec values and culture              | Linguistic & Cultural | 5.3%               |
| Workshop on Quebec history or your region's history                         | Linguistic & Cultural | 3.4%               |
| Volunteer work or visit to a community organization                         | Community & Sport     | 4.8%               |
| Sports activities or outings  | Community & Sport     | 4%                 |
| Information workshop on the school system or social services                | Citizenship & Rights  | 3.6%               |
| Workshop on employment / the job market or professional networking activity | Citizenship & Rights  | 7.9%               |
| Workshop on the driver's license or driving in Quebec                       | Citizenship & Rights  | 3.4%               |



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## **4. PASI Users' and Non-Users' Profiles**

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### Factors Linked to (Non-)Use of Integration Activities

|                   | PASI / Mean | Non-PASI / Mean | Diff. in Means |
|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Woman             | 53.9        | 47.2            | -6.6           |
| Age               | 40.4        | 38.5            | -1.9           |
| Children          | 60.3        | 52.5            | -7.7           |
| Montreal Region   | 53.4        | 59.1            | 5.8            |
| Time in Quebec    | 4.7         | 5.5             | 0.9            |
| Education         | 76.1        | 77.3            | 1.2            |
| Francophone       | 26.9        | 39.0            | 12.1           |
| Working Full Time | 54.6        | 66.2            | 11.6           |
| Visible Minority  | 72.5        | 85.3            | 12.8           |
| Economic Program  | 48.3        | 62.0            | 13.7           |

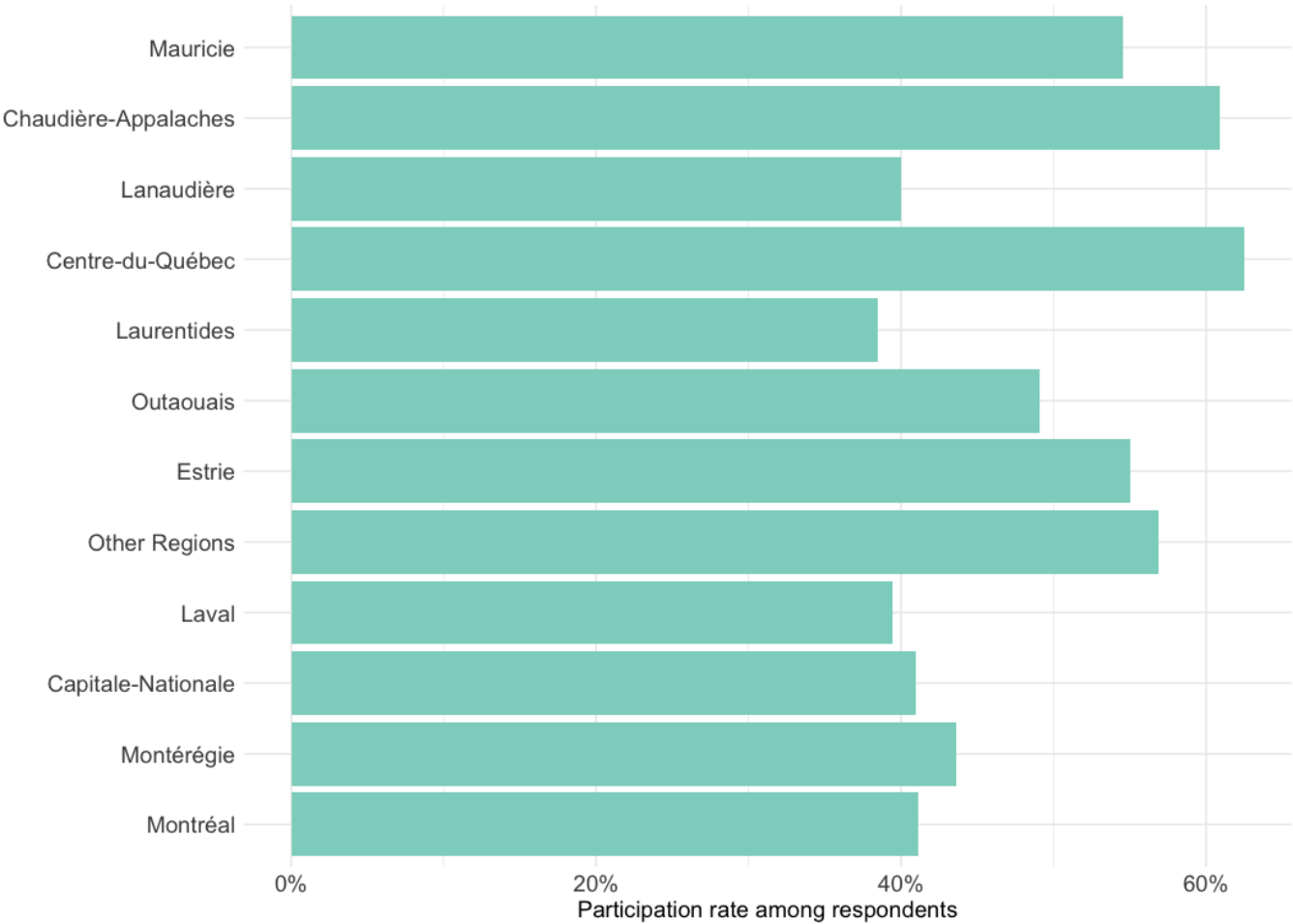
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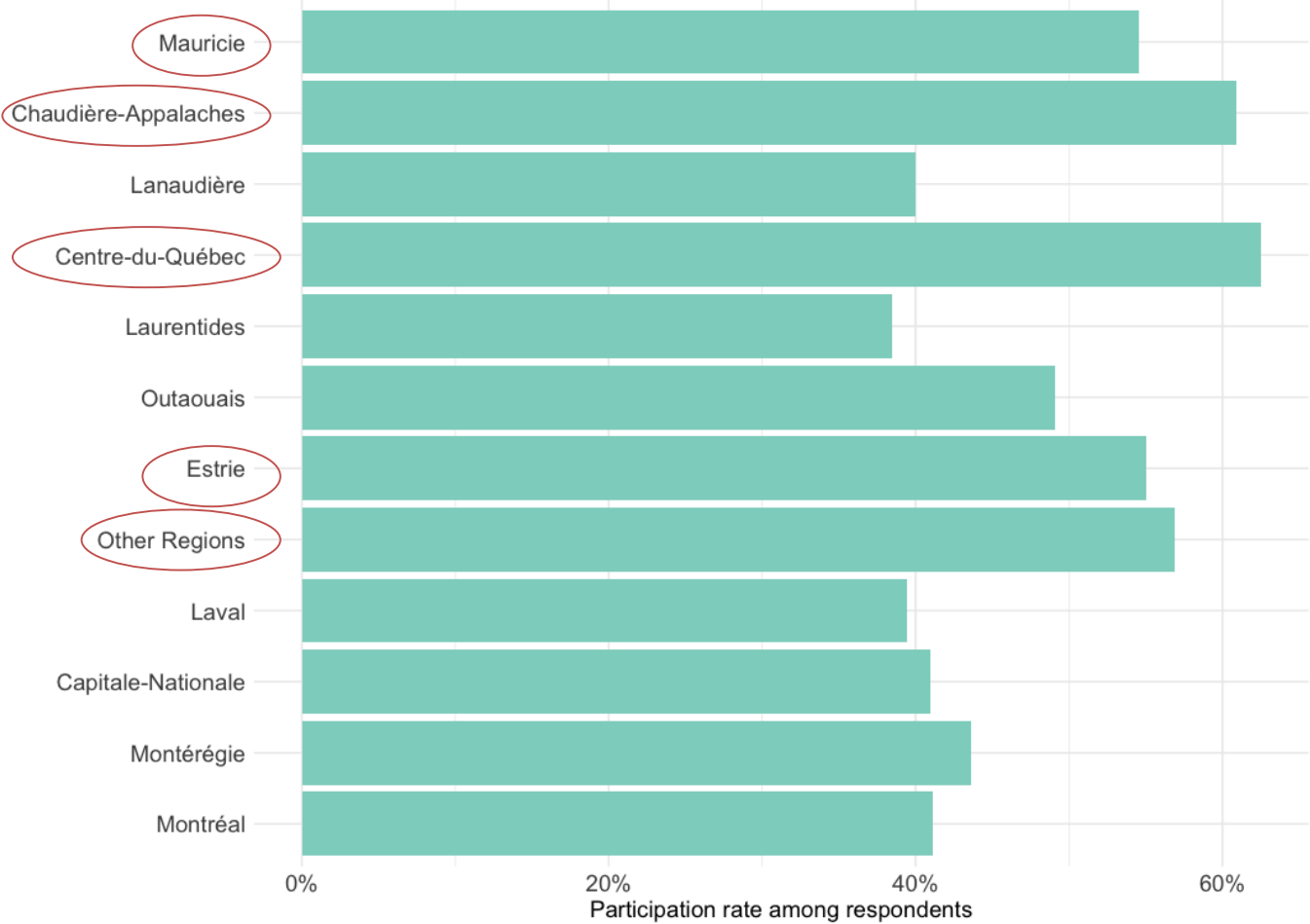
# 4. PASI Users' and Non-Users' Profiles

## Enrollment in Group Activities By Region



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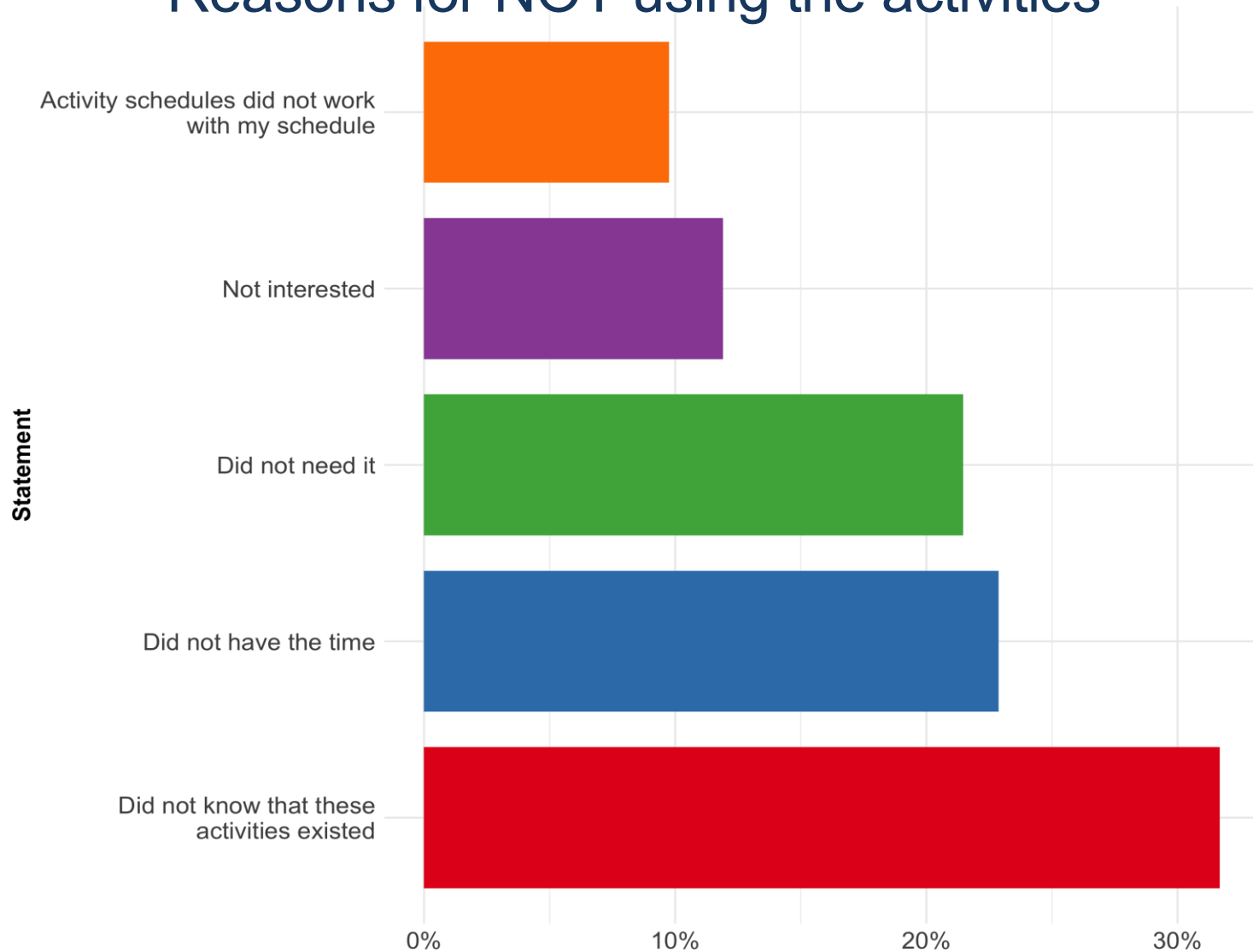
## Reported Enrollment in Group Activities By Region



## **5. Factors Limiting or Facilitating Use**

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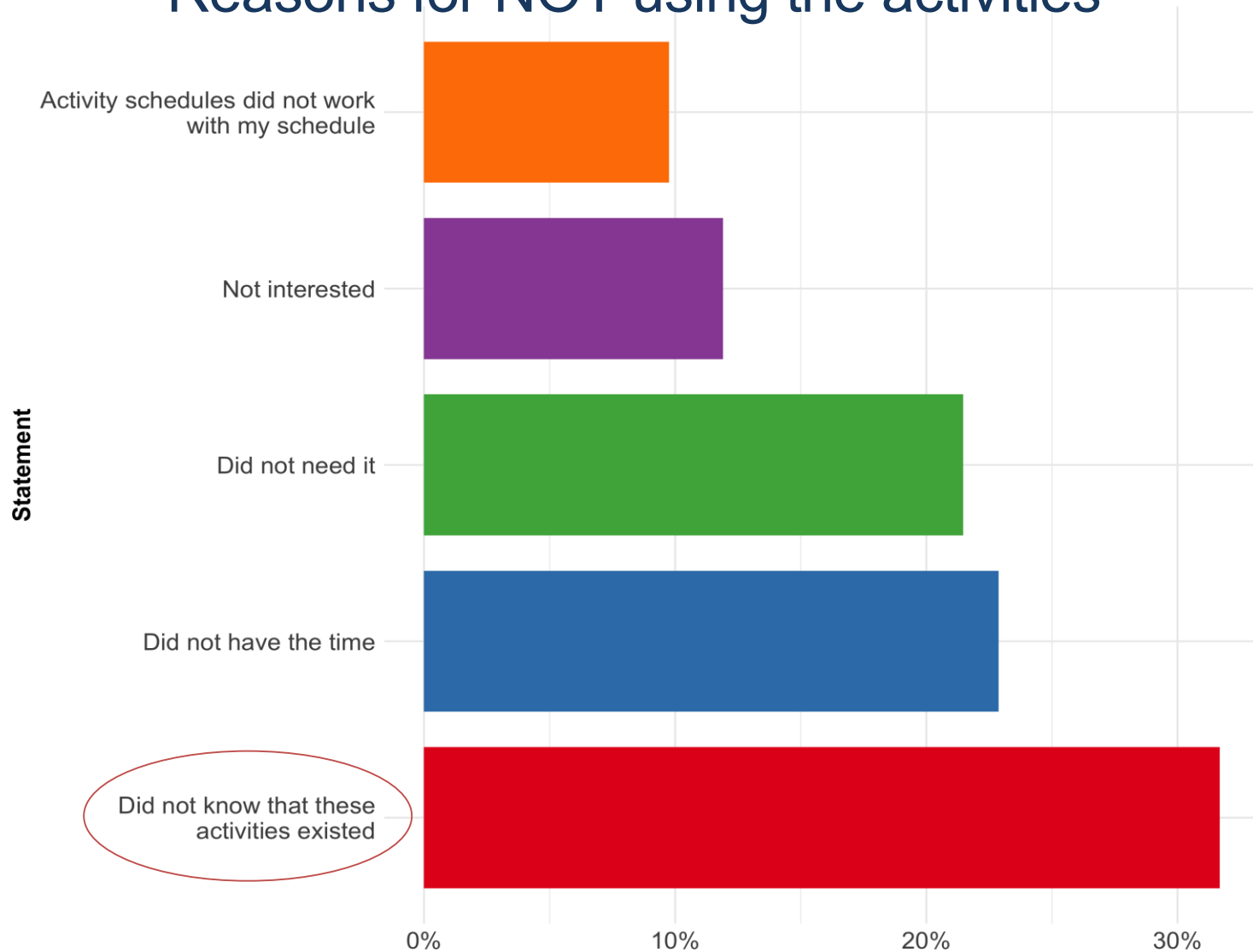
## Reasons for NOT using the activities





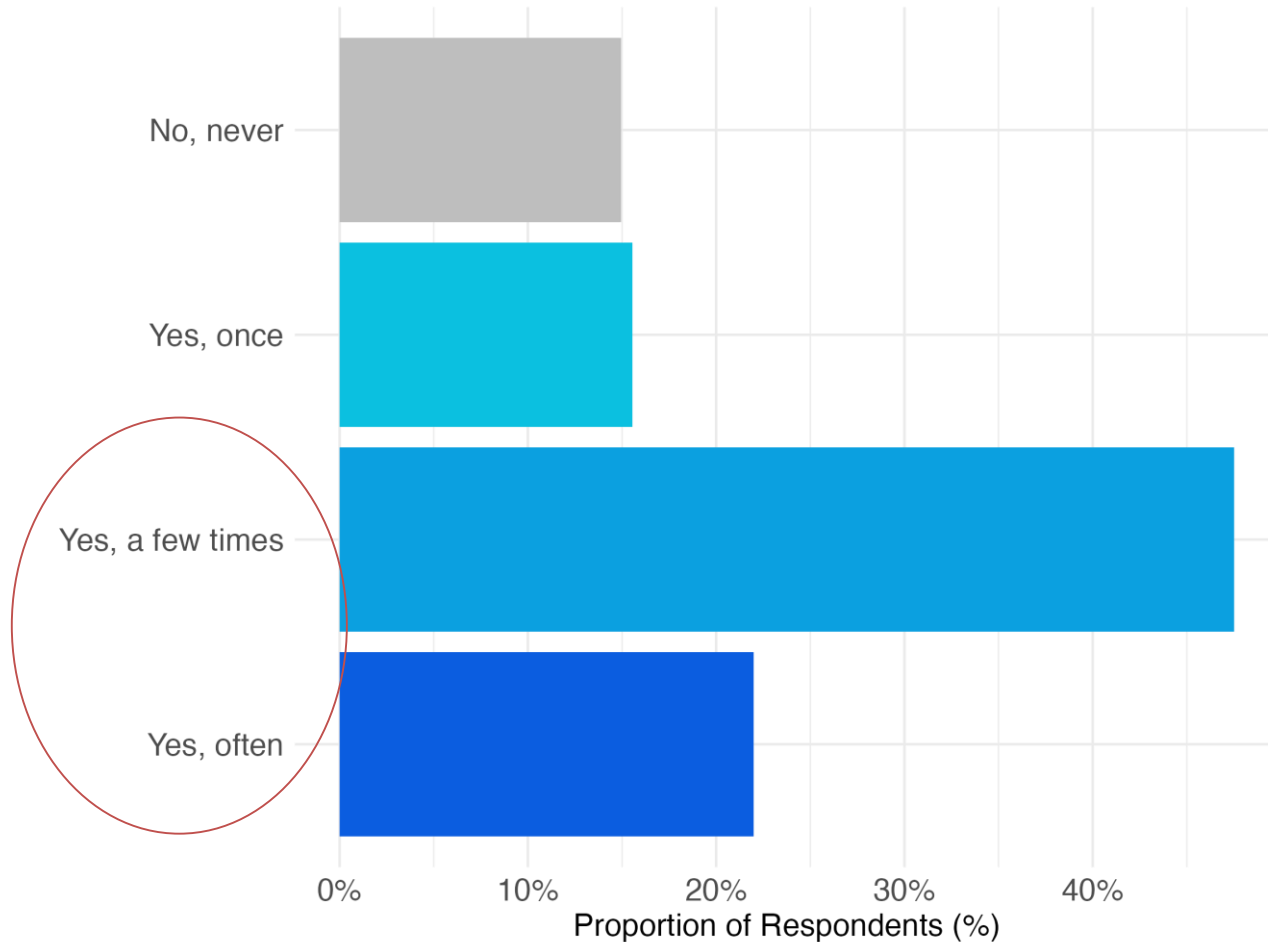
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## Reasons for NOT using the activities



## 5. Factors Limiting or Facilitating Use

Are users talking about their experience with the activities, to other immigrants?



## **6. Explaining Use of Integration Activities**

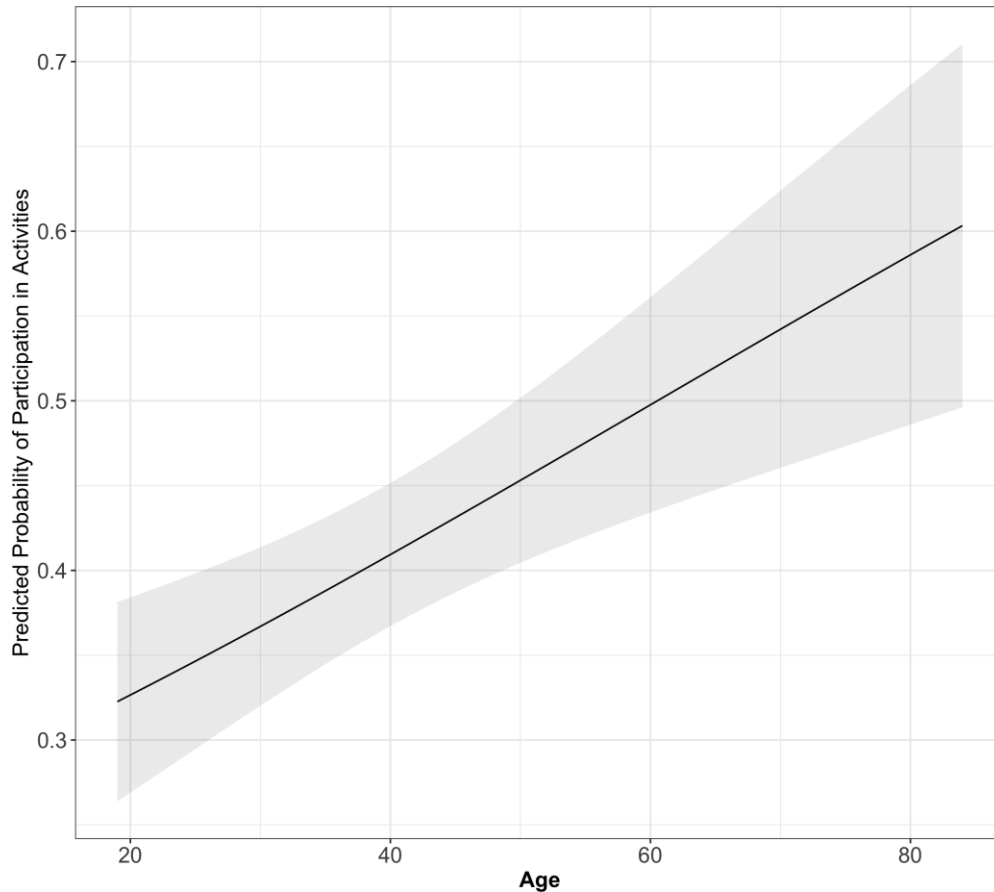
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## Factors Linked to Use of Integration Activities

- Preliminary analyses of predictive factors
- **Logistic Regression Model** explaining 'program use' with multiple variables:  
Age, Gender, Education, Employment Status, First Language, Parental Status,  
Region and Immigration Program
- We present **graphs** of:  
Predicted probabilities of using PASI services  
Based on various explanatory factors  
(computed with 90% Confidence Intervals)

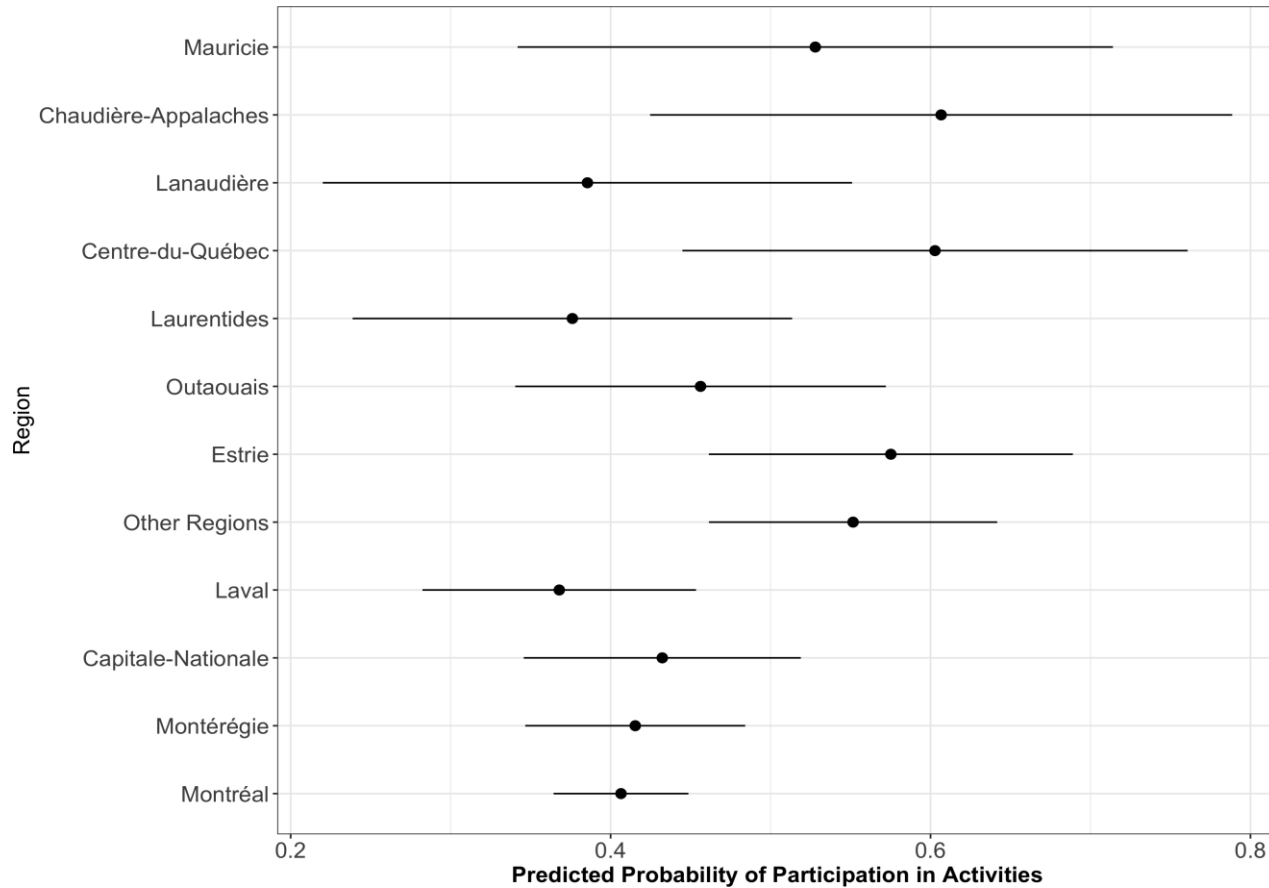
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Predicting the Use of Integration Activities: **Age**



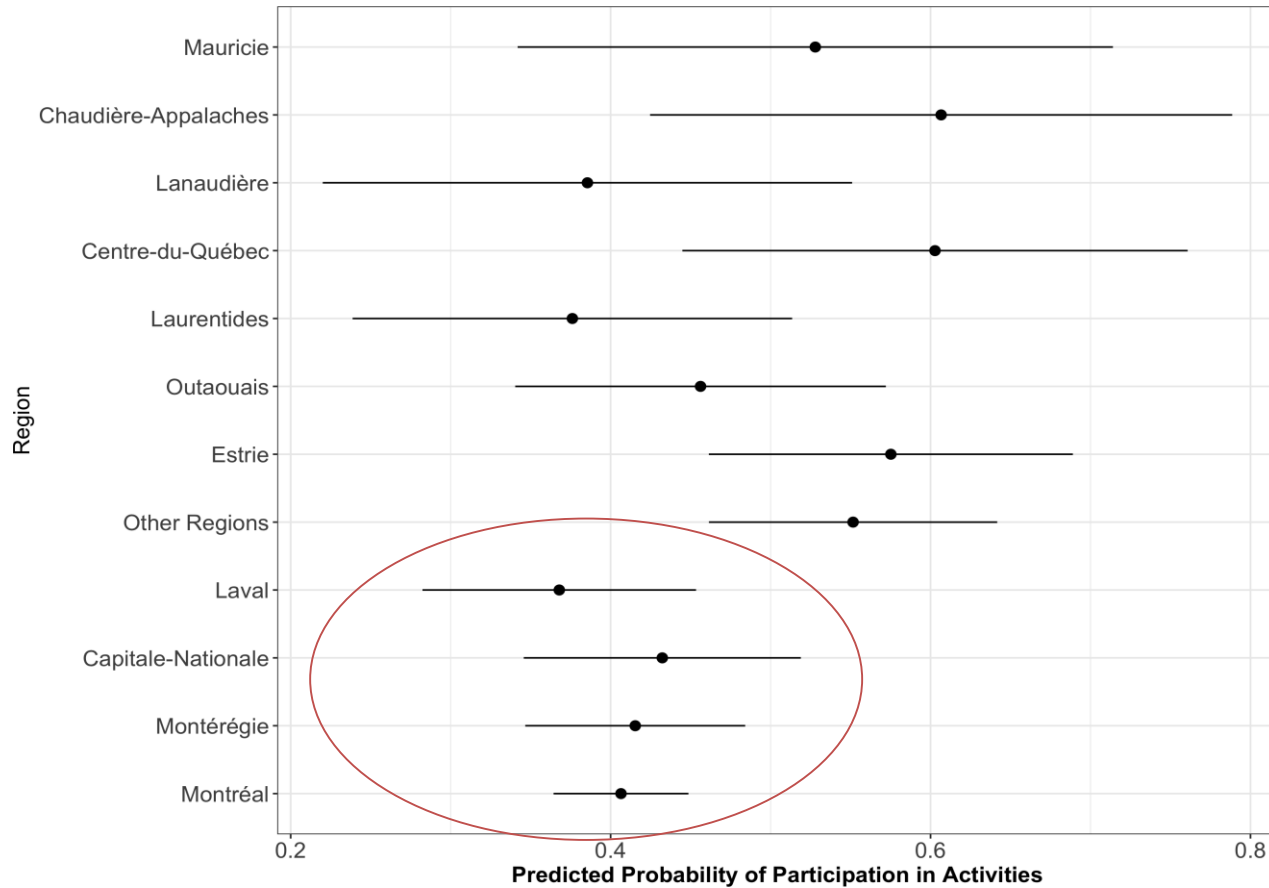
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Predicting the Use of Integration Activities: **Region**



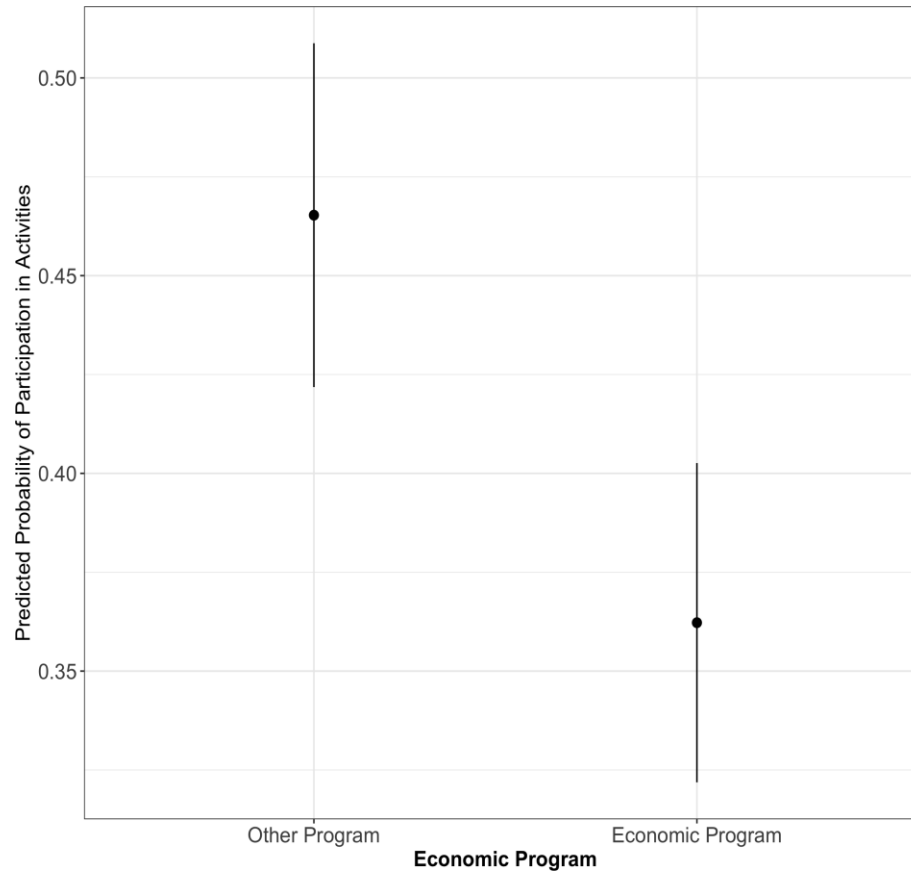
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Predicting the Use of Integration Activities: **Region**



# 6. Explaining Use of Integration Activities

## Predicting the Use of Integration Activities: Immigration Program





## **7. Preliminary Findings**

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- **Popular Activities Among PASI Users:**
  - Employment and job market workshops
  - French discussion workshops
  - Cultural activities
- **Socio-Demographic Profile of PASI Users:**
  - Slightly older
  - Predominantly female
  - Less likely to live in Montreal
- **Factors *Potentially* Explaining Integration Activity Use:**
  - Age
  - Region
  - Immigration Program

### ➤ **Avenues:**

Indications about **how to tailor the communication** about the activities: for whom & for which activities

# 7. Preliminary Findings

- **Factors limiting or facilitating use of integration activities:**
  - Primary barrier: Not being aware of the existence of these services
  - Other barriers: Lack of time, and perception that they are not necessary
  - ...But high communication of users to their network
- **Avenues:**
  - More (and early) communication about the activities
  - Communication about the (unexpected) benefits of the activities
  - Users as 'ambassadors' of the activities in their network
- **Next Steps:**
  - Longitudinal analyses:
    - Next waves of the surveys in 2024 & 2025
  - Evaluation of the impact of PASI activities on recent immigrants' participation in various spheres of life in Quebec
  - Testing various explanations of immigrants' access and use of integration activities

# Thank You!

For further information:

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# References

Bouchard, G. (2011). Qu'est ce que l'interculturalisme?. *McGill law journal*, 56(2), 395-468.

Carens, J. (2005). The integration of immigrants. *Journal of moral philosophy*, 2(1), 29-46.