

ISSUES ARISING FOR IMMIGRATION RESEARCH AND DATA

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Three Key Immigration Policy Questions

- 1. Who immigrates to Canada?
- 2. What is the progress of immigrants in Canada?
- 3. What are the effects of immigration?

1. Who immigrates to Canada?

- Canada fulfills U.N. recommendations for data on immigrant arrivals
- Citizenship and Immigration Canada continues work on administrative record data and record linkage
- Additional survey data useful on immigrant arrivals

2. What is the progress of immigrants in Canada?

- Essential data to measure two types of progress
- First, progress of immigrants with time spent in Canada
- Second, intergenerational progress

Progress over time for immigrants

- Key variable is indication of time spent in Canada
- But, serious limitations with single variable of “year landed immigrant status was first obtained in Canada”
- Useful to also have data on number of trips to Canada and total time accumulated in Canada

Intergenerational Progress

- Essential data are place of birth for first and second generations
- Need data from children of immigrants on parental nativity
- Have census data but often lacking similar data on large surveys
- Intergenerational mobility also requires data on parental education and occupation

Sufficient Sample Size

- Persistent and common problem in national statistical systems for main immigrant-receiving countries
- Requires over-sampling by country-of-origin and immigrant cohorts because these are critical variables for analysis

3. What are the effects of immigration on Canadian society?

- Demographic: excellent Statistics Canada studies
- Labour markets: several useful studies of effects on employment and wage rates
- Fiscal: only a few limited studies
- Population ageing: more studies needed on this important topic

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