

# IMDB INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP

Day 2: Economic outcomes

# Goals & Focus

**Goals:** At the end of the session, we will:

- I. Understand the basic structure and contents of the IMDB dataset
- II. Develop ideas on how the IMDB data can be used in the planning/evaluation of service provision
- III. Become able to generate tables/charts based on publicly available data
- IV. Learn where to access more IMDB products

## **Focus:**

Instruction will be based on practical examples relating to services for refugees; however, tips on how to apply the same skills to explore other types of services for immigrants will be discussed.

# I: IMDB Background

The Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB) is produced and managed by Statistics Canada on behalf of a consortium led by IRCC and the Provincial partners.

The IMDB links administrative immigrant data from IRCC with annual tax records from CRA

Updated annually, the 2019 IMDB includes:

- **Integrated Permanent & Non-Permanent Resident File (PNRF):**  
1952-1979/**1980-2019**
- Non-Permanent Resident File:  
1980-2019
- PNRF\_CHILD\_1980-2019

- **T1FF Tax files: 1982-2018**
- T4 Supplemental Tax file: 1997-2019

- Settlement services module (ICARE data): 2013 -

For more information, see the IMDB Technical Report (2019)

- <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-633-x/11-633-x2021002-eng.htm> (English)
- <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-633-x/11-633-x2021002-fra.htm> (French)

# Permanent & Non-Permanent Resident File (PNRF)



## Variables\*

Landing Year  
Landing Month

Immigration category

Landing Age  
Marital status  
Destination Province  
Country of Citizenship

Knowledge of official  
language  
Education at admission

Pre-landing filer indicator

\* Selected variables

# T1FF Tax File

**Tax File  
1982**

**Tax File  
1983**

**Tax File  
2018**

## **Variables\***

Age

Employment income

Self-employment

Government Transfers

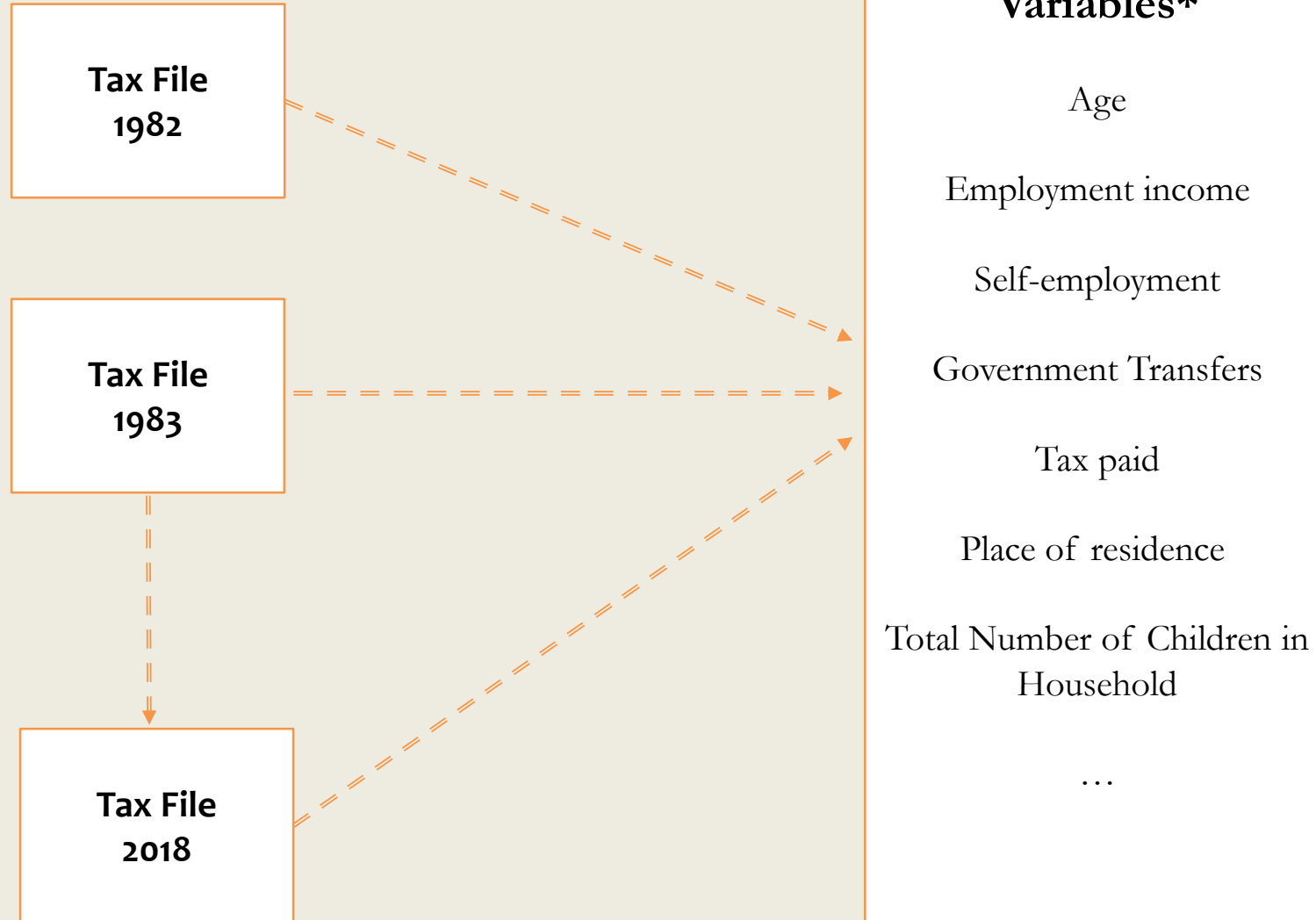
Tax paid

Place of residence

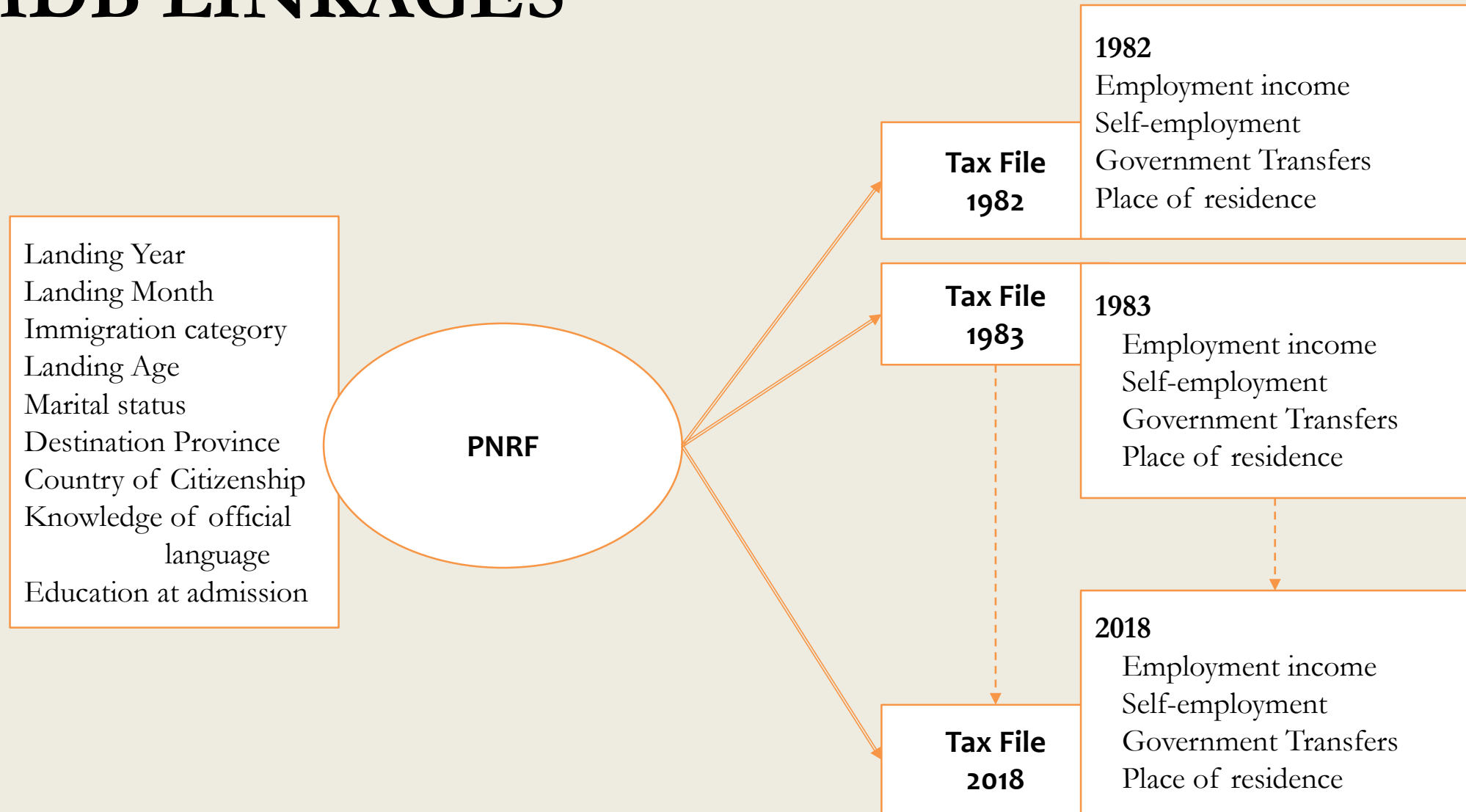
Total Number of Children in  
Household

...

\* Selected variables



# IMDB LINKAGES



# Landing File – T1FF File Linkage Example

IMDB_ID	Landing Year	Age at Landing	Gender	Employment Income 2000	Province of Residence 2000	Employment Income 2001	Province of Residence 2001
IM583	2000	34	F	20,500	NS	49,000	BC
IM145	2000	53	M	.	.	56,000	AB
IM548	2000	29	F	11,500	BC	33,800	BC
IM798	2000	31	M	36,000	MB	.	.
IM961	2000	42	M	10,000	SK	.	.
IM967	2000	40	F	.	.	.	.
IM110	2000	35	F	.	SK	59,000	SK

PNRF  
→ Information at landing

T1FF (income, residence, etc.)  
→ Changes over years

## II: How can we use the data?

The IMDB provides valuable **contextual information**

- To evaluate how well specific groups of refugees or other newcomers are adjusting to economic lives in the host society, the data from broader context and historical trends offer important baseline information.

The IMDB contains useful information to **gauge resettlement outcomes**

- Retention rates or economic outcomes can indicate the impact of programs as well as the effectiveness and/or need for improvement/refinement.



# Example 1: Baseline information

How does the rate of RAP clients who receive employment income in one jurisdiction compare to the Provincial level outcomes?

How does it compare to the economic outcomes of GARs and PSRs in other jurisdictions or previous cohorts?

- The IMDB data offers baseline information to compare the outcomes of a specific group of clients to those of other (or broader) jurisdictions.
- The comparison *can* highlight effectiveness in services or need for resources for changes/improvements.

# Example 2: Long-term outcomes

RAP Dashboard offers outcomes of RAP clients after 12 months. How are they doing after that period?

- The IMDB collects data from tax records and offers information on economic outcomes by tracking records over time.
- How does the level of knowledge in official languages at landing affect economic outcomes in a long run?
- Does the higher % of participation in language courses (obtained from the RAP Dashboard) lead to higher rates of economic activities in the initial years of resettlement?

## Example 2: Long-term outcomes (Cont'd)

RAP Dashboard offers outcomes of RAP clients after 12 months. How are they doing after that period?

- The IMDB also collects information on receiving various types of Government transfers (social benefits). It is important that clients know the eligibility of their benefits and have access to them even after the initial 12 months period. Drastic decline in receiving benefits among a specific cohort of newcomers *could* signal issues around access.

# Example 3: Before and After

In late 2015 and early 2016, a cohort of Syrian Refugees arrived in Canada. There were various changes in the resettlement practices. What could be an impact of those changes?

- Comparing the economic outcomes of refugees before and after specific years, we can assess whether changes in resettlement practices or policies are reflected in the changes of the outcomes.

# III: Generate tables/charts with the IMDB products

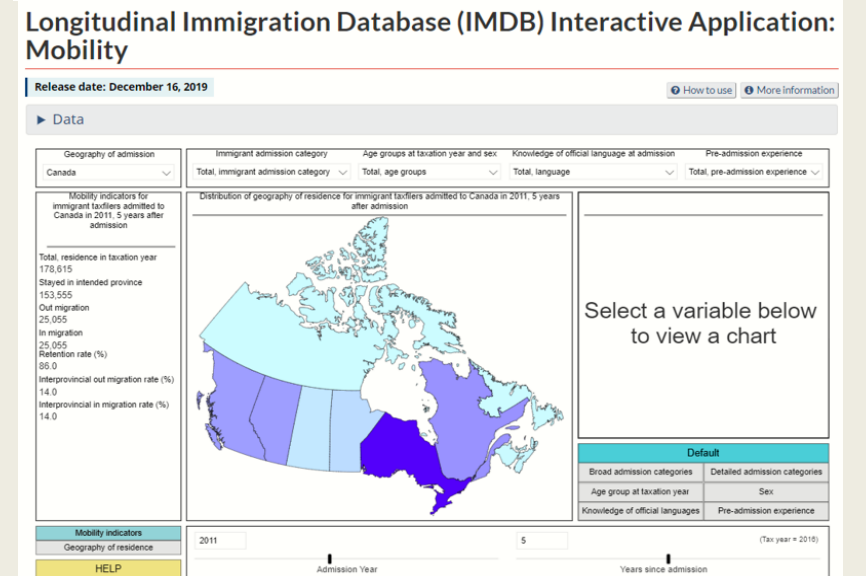
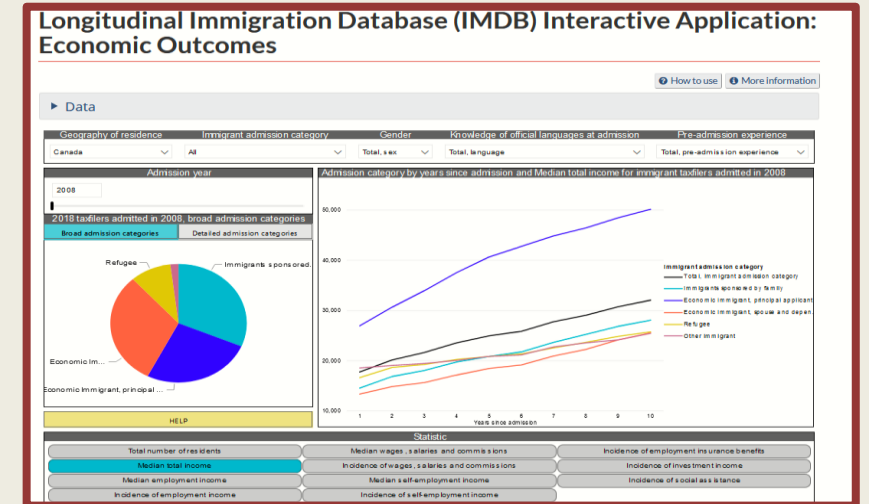
Data products (Statistics Canada)

[www.statcan.gc.ca/immigration-e](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/immigration-e) (English)

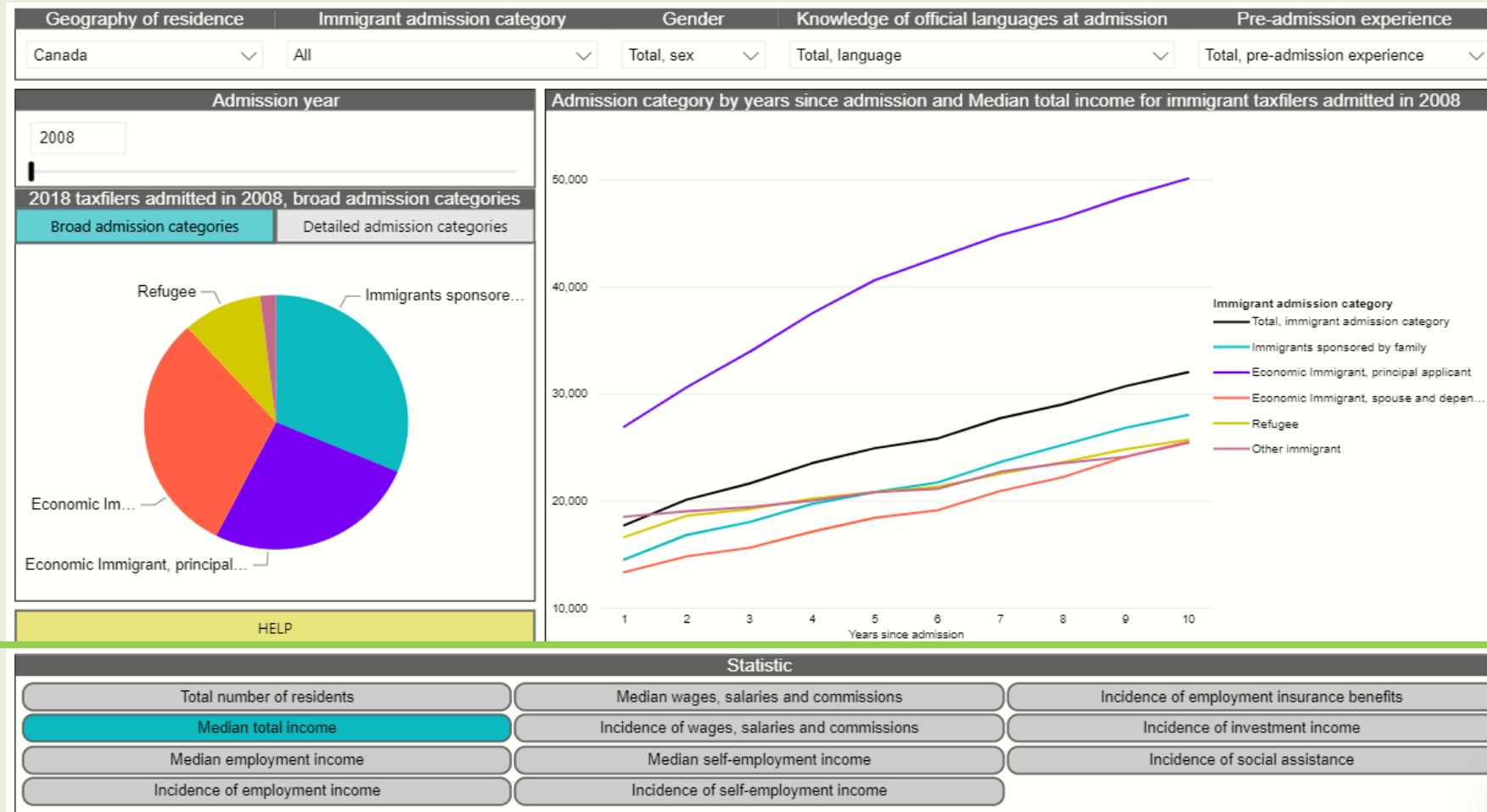
[www.statcan.gc.ca/immigration-f](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/immigration-f) (French)

→ Data visualization products: Interactive Application

- Economic Outcomes
- Mobility



# III: Interactive App: Economic Outcomes



Measures of  
economic  
outcomes

# III: How to generate economic outcomes?

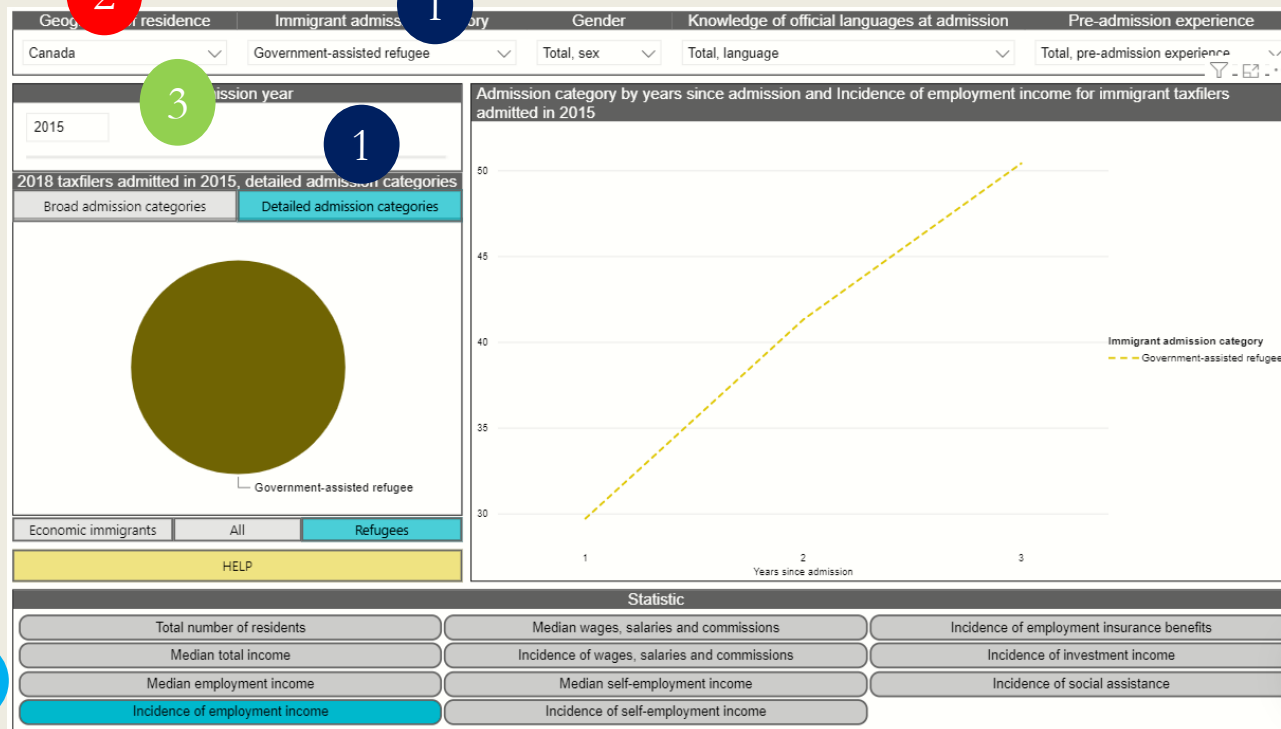
Key information to generate economic outcomes:

1. Select specific group of newcomers  
Select “Detailed admission categories” then select specific groups
2. Geography of residence: Province (or Canada)
3. Year of admission: YYYY
4. Select the outcome measure

**Example:** % of Incidence of Employment Income among GARs who were admitted in 2015 in Canada

# III: How to generate economic outcomes?

**Example:** % of Incidence of Employment Income among GARs who were admitted in 2015 in Canada

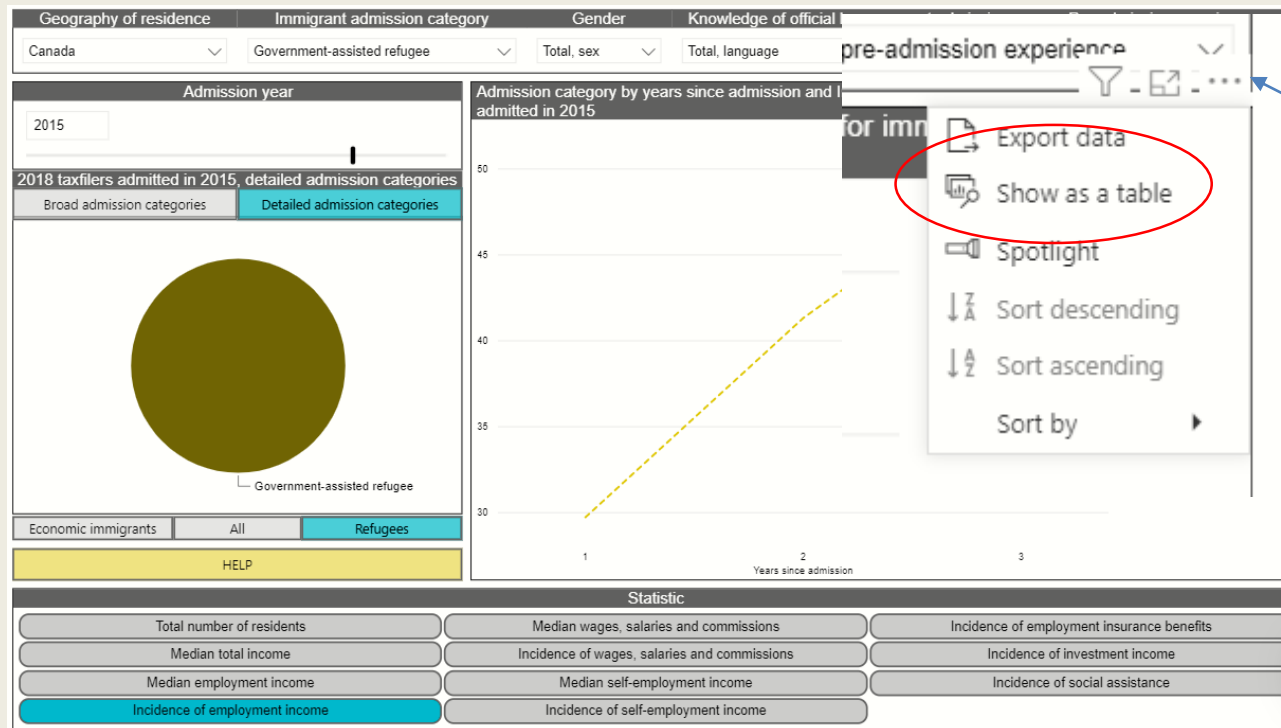


Other groups can be added/removed from the charts by (de)selecting



# III: How to generate economic outcomes?

**Example:** % of Incidence of Employment Income among GARs who were admitted in 2015 in Canada

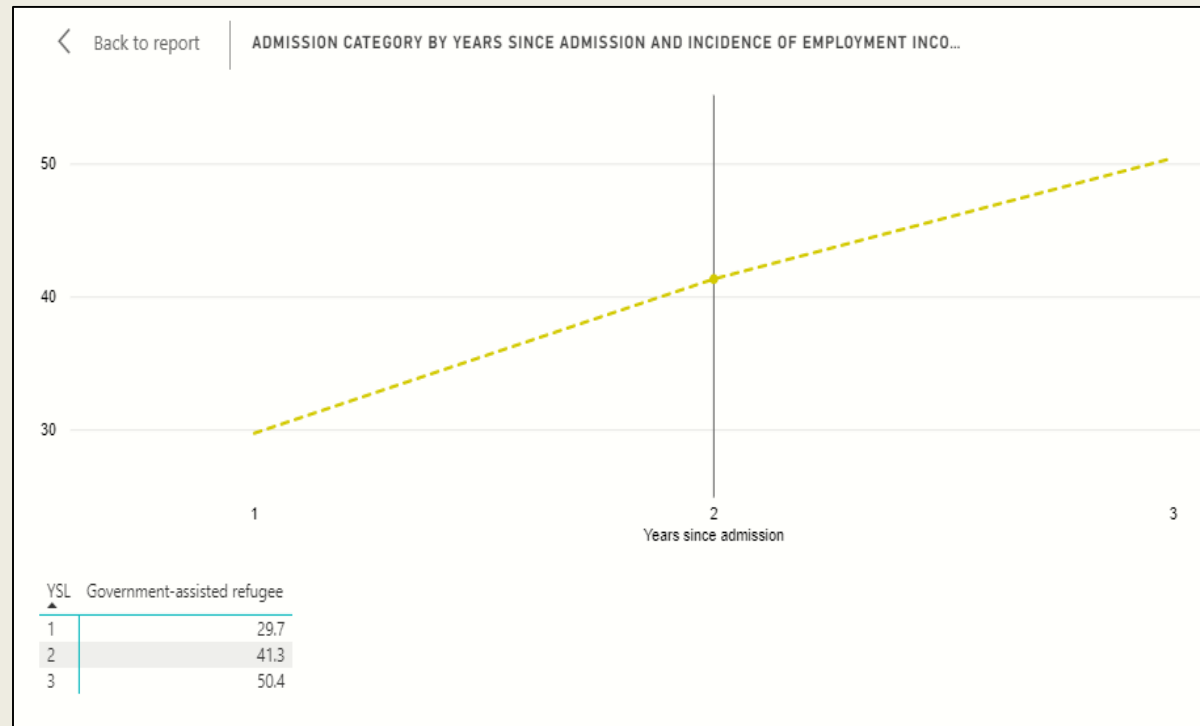


Specific values can be obtained by pointing the cursor on the line, or select “**Show as a table**” option under “**more** option”

Also, you can download the information included in the chart by selecting “**Export data**”

# III: How to generate economic outcomes?

**Example:** % of Incidence of Employment Income among GARs who were admitted in 2015 in Canada



Specific values allow us to expand the analytical framework (e.g. compare cohorts)

# III: Measures of Economic Outcomes

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**Total Income:**

Median/Incidence

Total income includes the tax filer's income from taxable sources (e.g., earnings, interests) as well as non-taxable sources (i.e., government transfers)

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**Employment Income:**

Median/Incidence

Employment incomes is the sum of wages, salaries, commissions and self-employment

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**Wages, salaries and commissions:**

Median/Incidence

Wages, Salaries, and commissions is the sum of T4 earnings (Line 101) and other employment income (Line 104)

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**Self-employment income:**

Median/Incidence

Self-employment income is the sum of self-employment income from business, professional, commission, farming income, fishing income, and limited partnership income.

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**EI / Social Assistance:**

Incidence

Employment Insurance benefits are income paid to individuals experiencing paid-employment income interruptions due to health and other reasons.

Social assistance benefits are family level financial assistance/benefits provided by federal and/or provincial programs

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# III: Which outcomes to examine, when...?

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## **Total Income:**

Median/Incidence

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## **Employment Income:**

Median/Incidence

---

## **Wages, salaries and commissions:**

Median/Incidence

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## **Self-employment income:**

Median/Incidence

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## **EI/Social Assistance:**

Incidence

..., when we want to know % of refugees who have reported earnings by working for an employer?

..., when we want to know the financial conditions of refugees?

..., when we want to know if employment income is increasing for refugees over time?

Caution: Not reporting earnings does not mean “unemployed”

# III: Economic outcomes – Analyzing Data

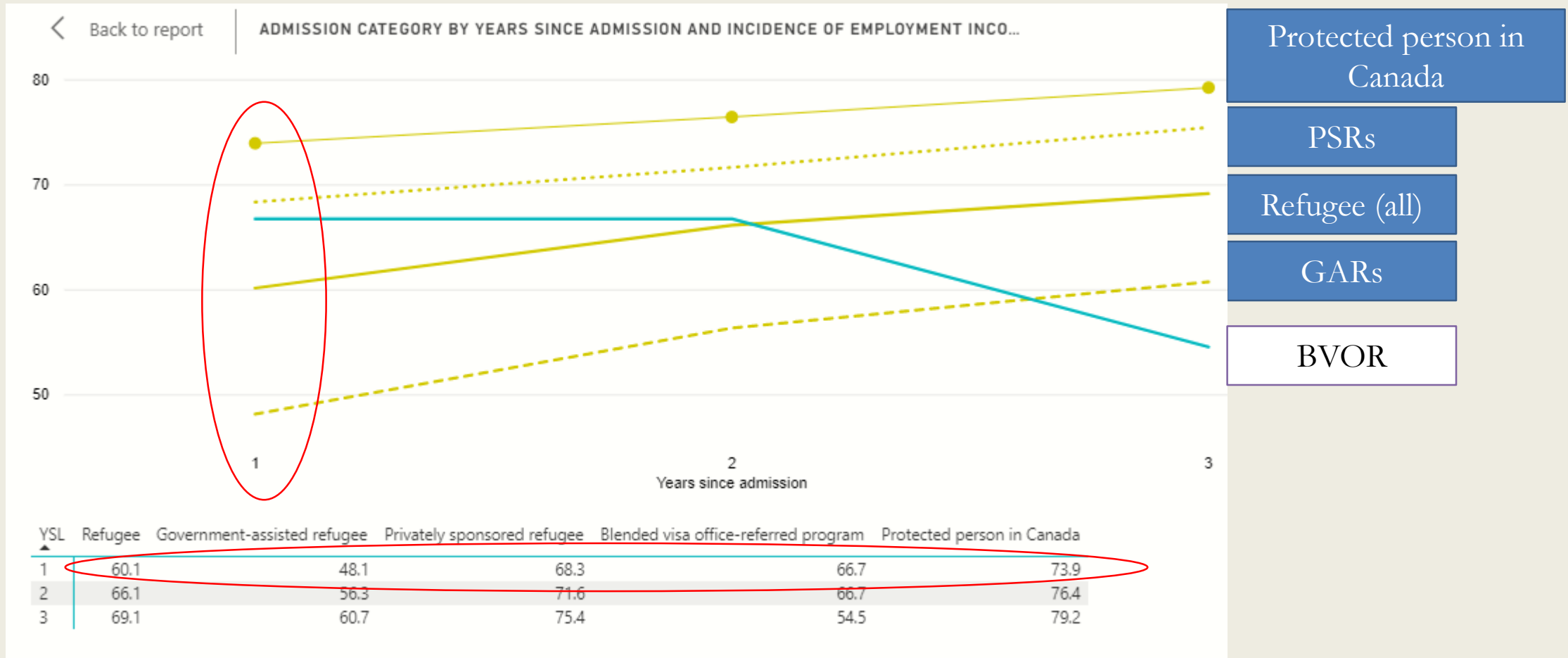
**Data analysis involves the combination and presentation of relevant data**

**Example:** In Region X of BC, an internal data from a SPO showed that 40% of the RAP clients, who arrived in 2015, have reported that they are working. How does this result compare to the rest of the province?

Let's find out the % of Incidence of Employment Income of refugees in BC who landed in 2015.

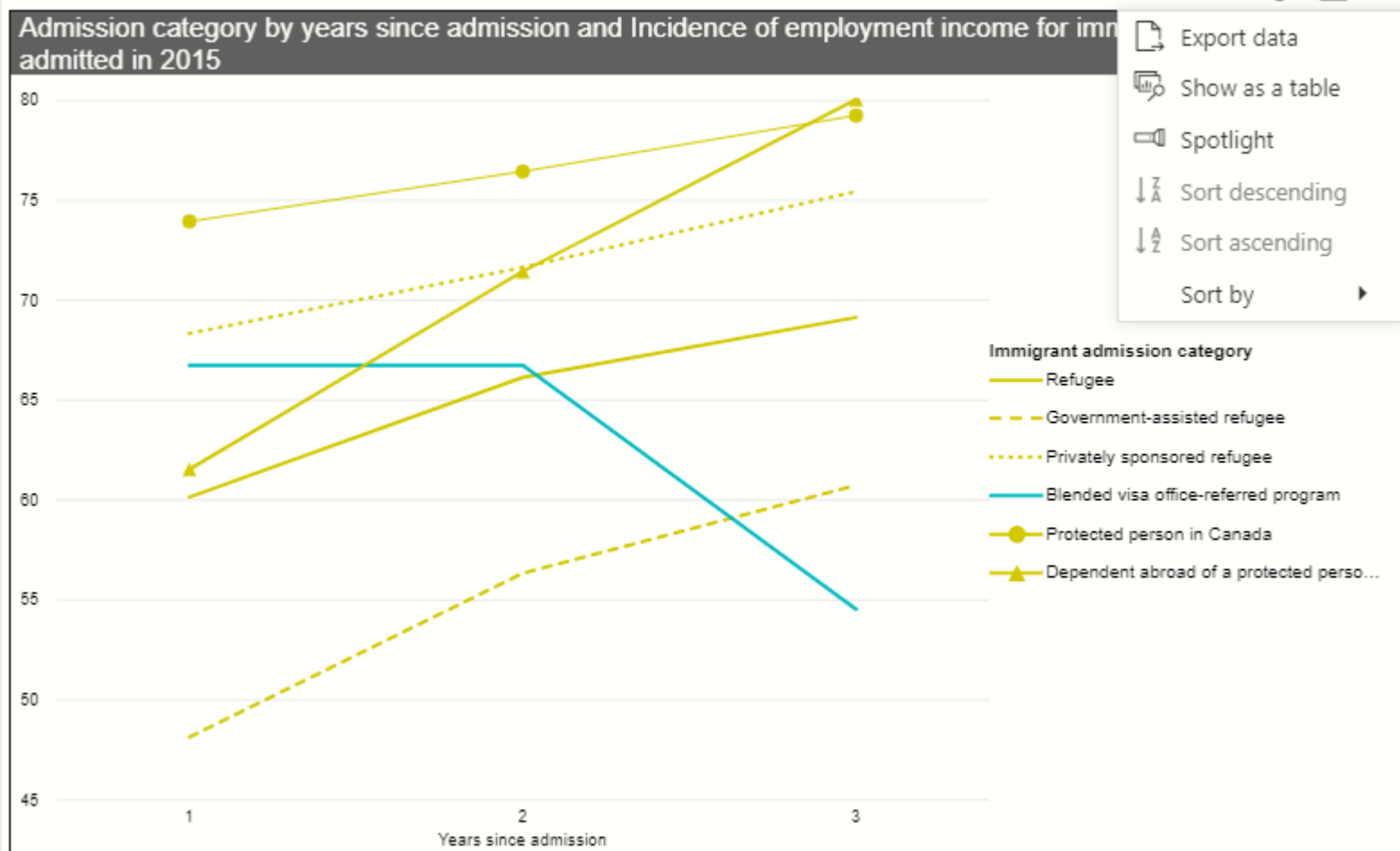
(note: % of Incidence of Employment Income is used as an proxy)

# III: Economic outcomes – Analyzing Data



These data allow you to produce a customized table/chart

# III: Economic outcomes – Analyzing Data



Choose “**Export data**”

In a pop-up window, select “**Export**”

➔ The data will be downloaded in “.csv” format, which can be opened with Excel

# III: Economic outcomes – Analyzing Data

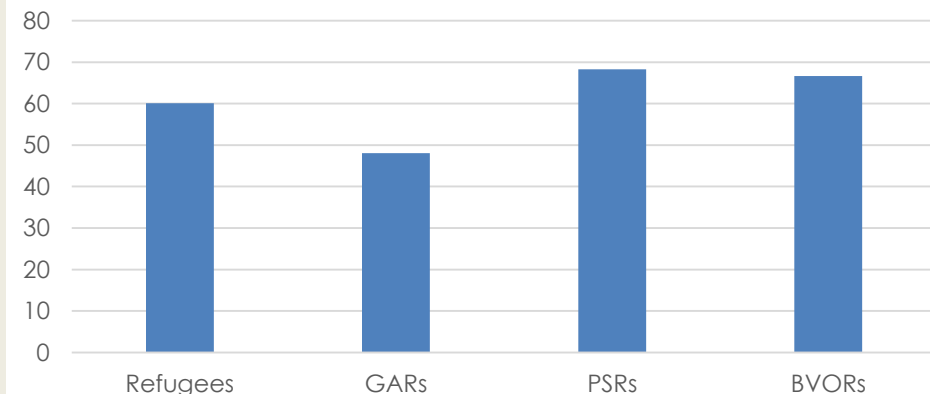
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	YSL	Value	Immigrant admission category					
2	1	60.1	Refugee					
3	1	48.1	Government-assisted refugee					
4	1	68.3	Privately sponsored refugee					
5	1	66.7	Blended visa office-referred program					
6	1	73.9	Protected person in Canada					
7	1	61.5	Dependent abroad of a protected person in Canada					
8	2	66.1	Refugee					
9	2	56.3	Government-assisted refugee					
10	2	71.6	Privately sponsored refugee					
11	2	66.7	Blended visa office-referred program					
12	2	76.4	Protected person in Canada					
13	2	71.4	Dependent abroad of a protected person in Canada					
14	3	69.1	Refugee					
15	3	60.7	Government-assisted refugee					
16	3	75.4	Privately sponsored refugee					
17	3	54.5	Blended visa office-referred program					
18	3	79.2	Protected person in Canada					
19	3	80	Dependent abroad of a protected person in Canada					



	Year Since Admission		
	1	2	3
Refugees	60.1	66.1	69.1
GARs	48.1	56.3	60.7
PSRs	68.3	71.6	75.4
BVORs	66.7	66.7	54.5



% of Working among Refugees in BC  
2015 cohort, after 1 year since Admission





# III: Economic outcomes – Exercise 1

The EXIT Needs Assessments of the RAP clients who arrived in 2015 in SK and MB hypothetically indicated that 40% of them reported that they are working after 12 months since landing. To find out how they improve their economic outcomes, we are interested in finding out information about this cohort of refugees. Find out the economic outcomes for the GARs and PSRs of the same landing cohort.

Groups: GARs

PSRs

Province: SK/ MB

Year of admission: 2015

Outcome measure: Incidence of Employment Income

# III: Economic outcomes – Exercise 1

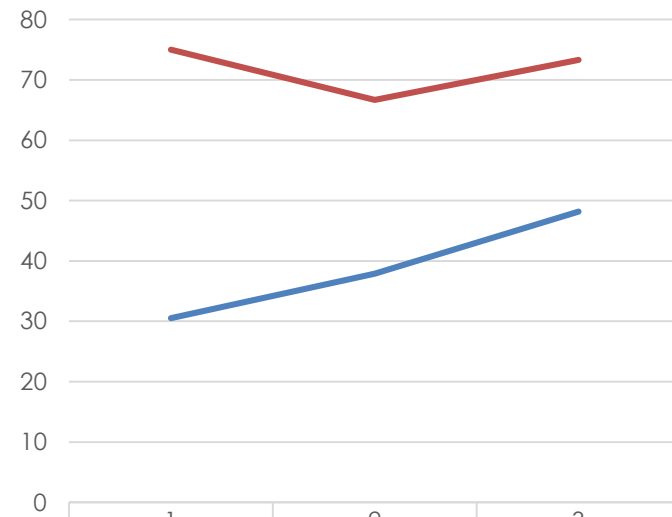
% Incidence of Employment Income among GARs and PSRs who were admitted in SK and MB in 2015 at 1, 2 and 3 years since admission

SK		
Year Since Landing	GARs	PSRs
1		
2		
3		

MB		
Year Since Landing	GARs	PSRs
1		
2		
3		

# III: Economic outcomes – Exercise 1

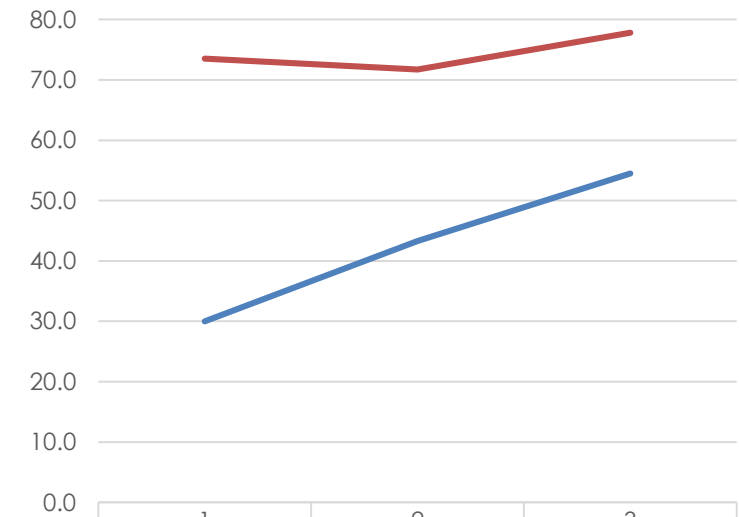
SK



	1	2	3
% Incidence of Emp Inc GARs	30.5	37.9	48.2
% Incidence of Emp Inc PSRs	75.0	66.7	73.3

Year since Admission

MB



	1	2	3
% Incidence of Emp Inc GARs	30.0	43.3	54.5
% Incidence of Emp Inc PSRs	73.5	71.7	77.8

Year since Admission

## III: Economic outcomes – Exercise 2

Knowledge in official languages is a vital component for gainful employment. In a jurisdiction Y in Alberta (or BC, SK, or MB), it is reported that recent cohorts of refugees increasingly arrive with limited knowledge in English or French.

To address the needs for more resources in language training, we are trying to make a case that knowledge in English is important for economic well-being, which will signal the importance of language training. In doing so, we are going to compare the earnings levels of refugees who arrive with knowledge of English and those without neither English or French.

➔ What information will provide the most plausible evidence?

# III: Economic outcomes – Exercise 2

→ What information will provide an most plausible evidence?

Groups: Refugees with English Knowledge  
Refugees without knowledge in English or French

Province: Alberta

Year of admission: 2013 to follow up for 5 years since landing

Outcome measure: Median wages, salaries and commissions

# III: Economic outcomes – Exercise 2

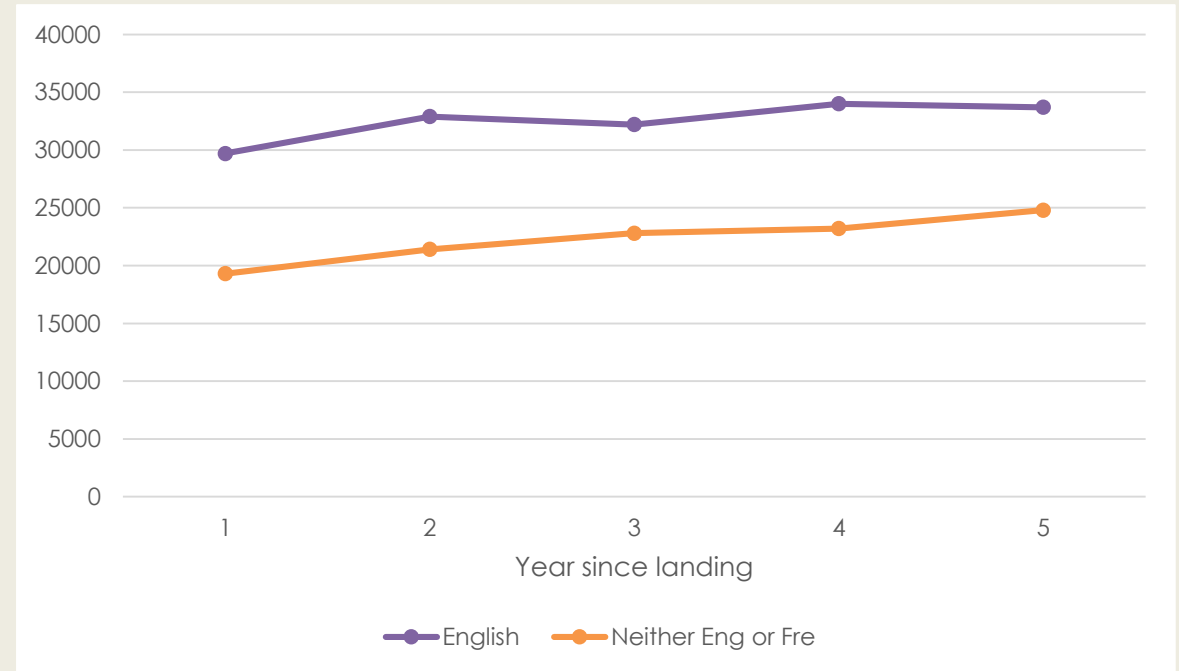
Median earnings for Refugees in AB  
by Knowledge of Official Languages  
(2013 admission cohort)

Year Since Landing	English	Neither Eng or Fre
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

# III: Economic outcomes – Exercise 2

Median Earnings for Refugees in AB  
by Knowledge of Official Languages  
(2013 admission cohort)

Year Since Landing	English	Neither Eng or Fre
1	29700	19300
2	32900	21400
3	32200	22800
4	34000	23200
5	33700	24800



# III: Economic outcomes – Exercise 3

The COVID 19 Pandemic led to changes in the contents and formats of various service provisions. How such changes affected the resettlement outcomes of refugees who arrived during this period is yet to be seen. Yet, data from the IMDB can offer the baseline information to compare the future results.

For instance, we might be interested in investigating whether the pandemic have impacted to women' economic outcomes more than men's outcomes.

What information would we be examining as the baseline data?



# III: Economic outcomes – Exercise 3

What information would we be examining as the baseline data?

Example:

Short term economic outcome for refugee women and men in the most recent arrival cohort.

Groups: Refugee men and women

**Province:** Province of your interest

**Year of admission:** 2018 → 1 year since admission is 2019

2019 → 1 year since admission is 2020

2020 → 1 year since admission is 2021

(not currently available, but will become available in the future)

**Outcome measure:** % of Employment Income

# III: Summary

The Interactive App provides information on economic outcome measures, including:

- Various income measures (Total, Employment, Self-Employment, Investment)
- Rates of recipients of incomes and social benefits

The App allows users to generate these economic outcomes for specific groups based on:

- Admission year
- Admission category
- Sex
- Knowledge of official languages at admission
- Pre-landing experience
- Provinces/Territories and Canada

# III: Summary (Cont'd)

## Potential Use of IMDB data

- **Baseline information (as proxy)** to situate an outcome of specific client base
- **Long-term records** allow use to track the specific cohort/groups of refugee clients' economic outcomes over time.
- **Comparing the economic outcomes from different backgrounds** (i.e. language skills) can offer information about the importance of services
- **Comparing the specific cohorts of refugees** can signal the impact of events (i.e. changes in practices, policies) that occurred in a specific year.

# III: Limitation

- The Interactive App uses the IMDB 2018, which limits the follow up period for recent landing cohorts. For those who landed in 2018, for instance, only the information in the year of admission is available.
- The IMDB's economic outcomes are generated based on the Tax-files, which do not take into account for labour market status. They are not exactly comparable to the labour market data (e.g. Labour Force Survey).
- Many newcomers do not file their tax in the year of admission, and data for the year of admission may not be robust.
- The Interactive App covers only landing cohort since 2008.
- The Interactive App provides economic outcomes at the provincial level, not for smaller geographical units within a province.

## IV: Where to access more IMDB products

- **Provincial economic outcome data**

[43-10-0026-01](#) contains the data are used in the Interactive Application. You can select the economic outcome measures, the admission years and other characteristics and download the tables for the various admission category groups.

[43-10-0027-01](#) contains the economic outcomes **by sociodemographic profiles** such as gender, age, areas of birth for specific admission category groups.

[43-10-0028-01](#) contains economic outcomes of **asylum claimants**

[43-10-0031-01](#) contains economic outcomes of **tax-filing immigrants who were admitted as children**

## IV: Where to access more IMDB products

- **Sub-provincial economic outcome data**

[43-10-0030-01](#): Economic Outcomes by Census Metropolitan Area

[43-10-0029-01](#): Economic Outcomes by Economic Regions

## IV: Where to access more IMDB products

For other characteristics, or older cohorts of newcomers, you can request customized tables from Statistics Canada.

Contact DSS Client Services / DSS Service a Clientele (STATCAN) via email.

[statcan.dssclientservices-dssserviceaclientele.statcan@canada.ca](mailto:statcan.dssclientservices-dssserviceaclientele.statcan@canada.ca)

The Canadian Research Data Centre Network (CRDCN) (<https://crdcn.org/>) with over 30 locations across Canada provide access to the confidential microdata of the IMDB.

Access to the RDC can be made for non-academic researchers. (Fees will apply for researchers without affiliations with member institutions)

**Questions?**



# Contacts

For the detailed contents and data requests, contact Statistics Canada (See the slide above)

For clarification about the contents of this workshop, contact the instructors

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About the CYRRC, visit <https://cyrrc.org/>