ISSUES ARISING FOR IMMIGRATION RESEARCH AND DATA

Barry Edmonston
University of Victoria
Chair, Committee on Immigrants and Migrants
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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be@uvic.ca