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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