

Initial Results of the Western Canadian Syrian Refugee Resettlement Survey

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Schnieders^



Small Centre Promising Practices Learning Event, Brandon
27 June 2017



HUGE Thanks to:

- Brooks and County Immigration Services
- Calgary Catholic Immigration Society
- Catholic Social Services (Edmonton)
- Catholic Social Services (Red Deer)
- Lethbridge Family Services-Immigrant Services
- Moose Jaw Multicultural Council
- Regina Open Door Society
- Saskatoon Open Door Society
- YWCA Prince Albert
- La Société franco-manitobaine/Accueil francophone (Saint-Boniface)
- Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council Inc. (Winnipeg)
- Westman Immigrant Services (Brandon)

632 interviews

Over ten days!

At fiscal year end!!!

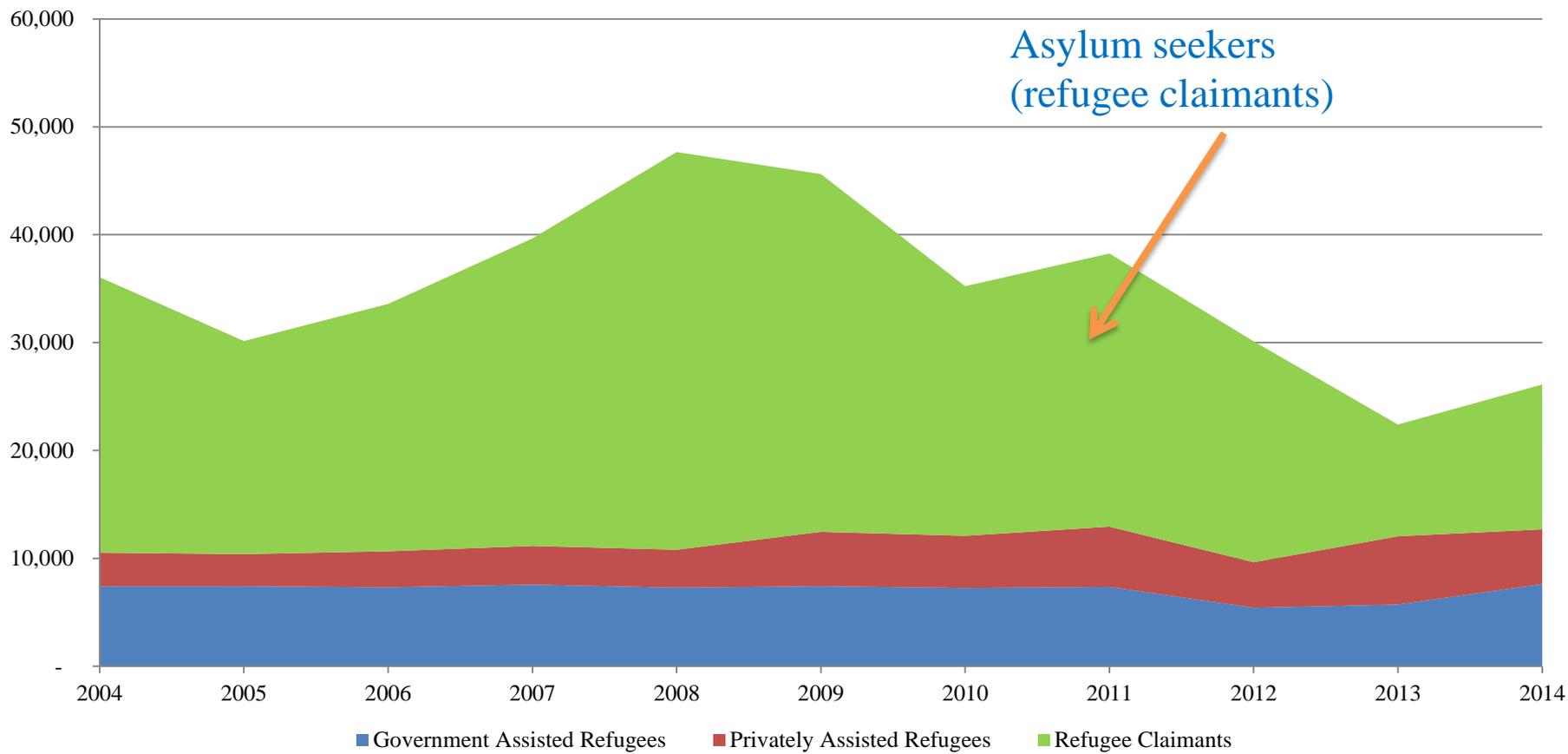
Conducted onsite at HOME

Entered on paper

Almost all done in Arabic!



Refugees to Canada by Type, 2004-2015

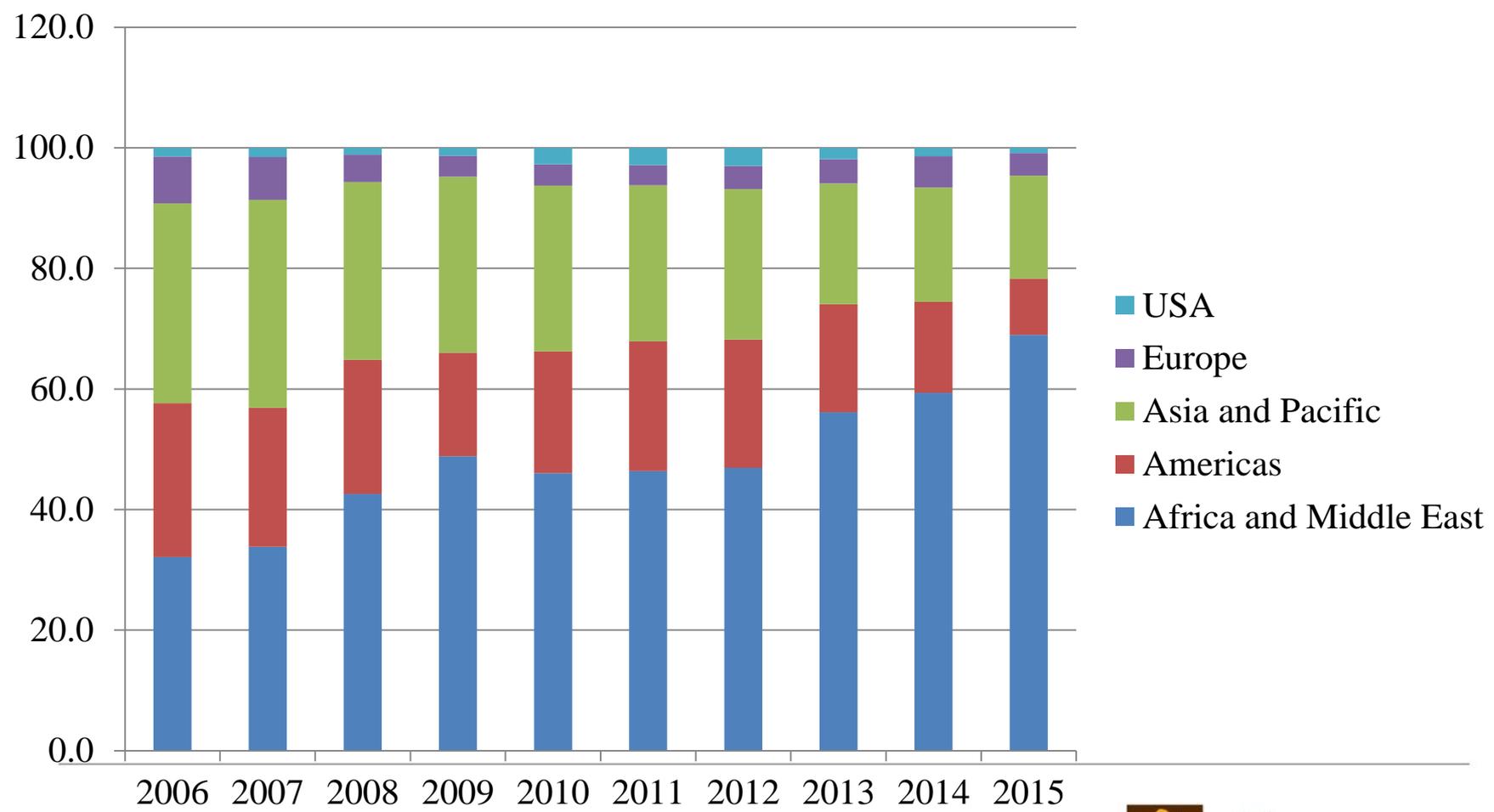


Calculations from Immigration and Citizenship Canada. 2015. Facts and Figures



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Source Region, Refugees 2006-2015

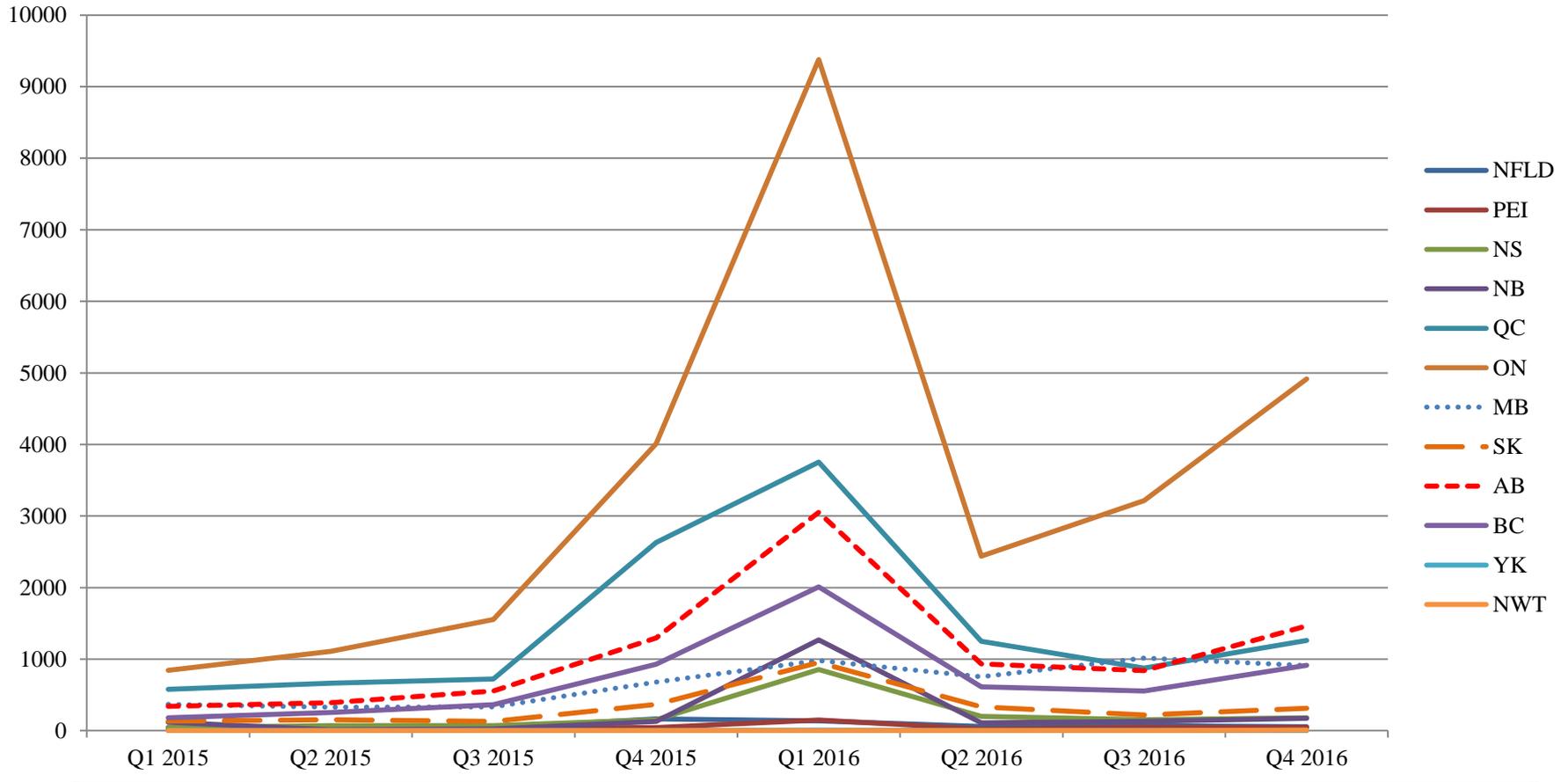


Source: IRCC 2017



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Syrian Arrivals by Province of Destination

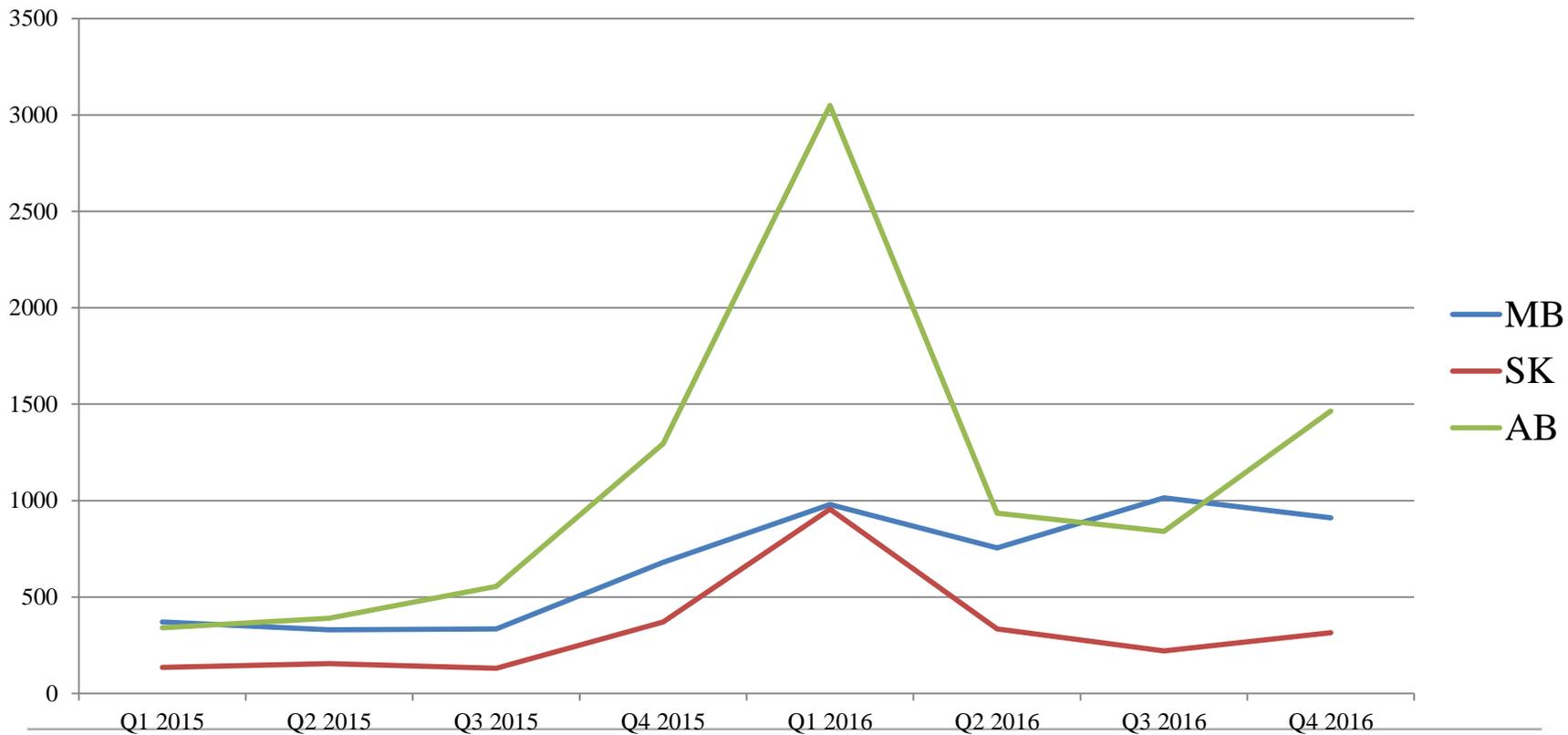


Source: IRCC 2017



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Syrians to Prairie Region 2015-2017

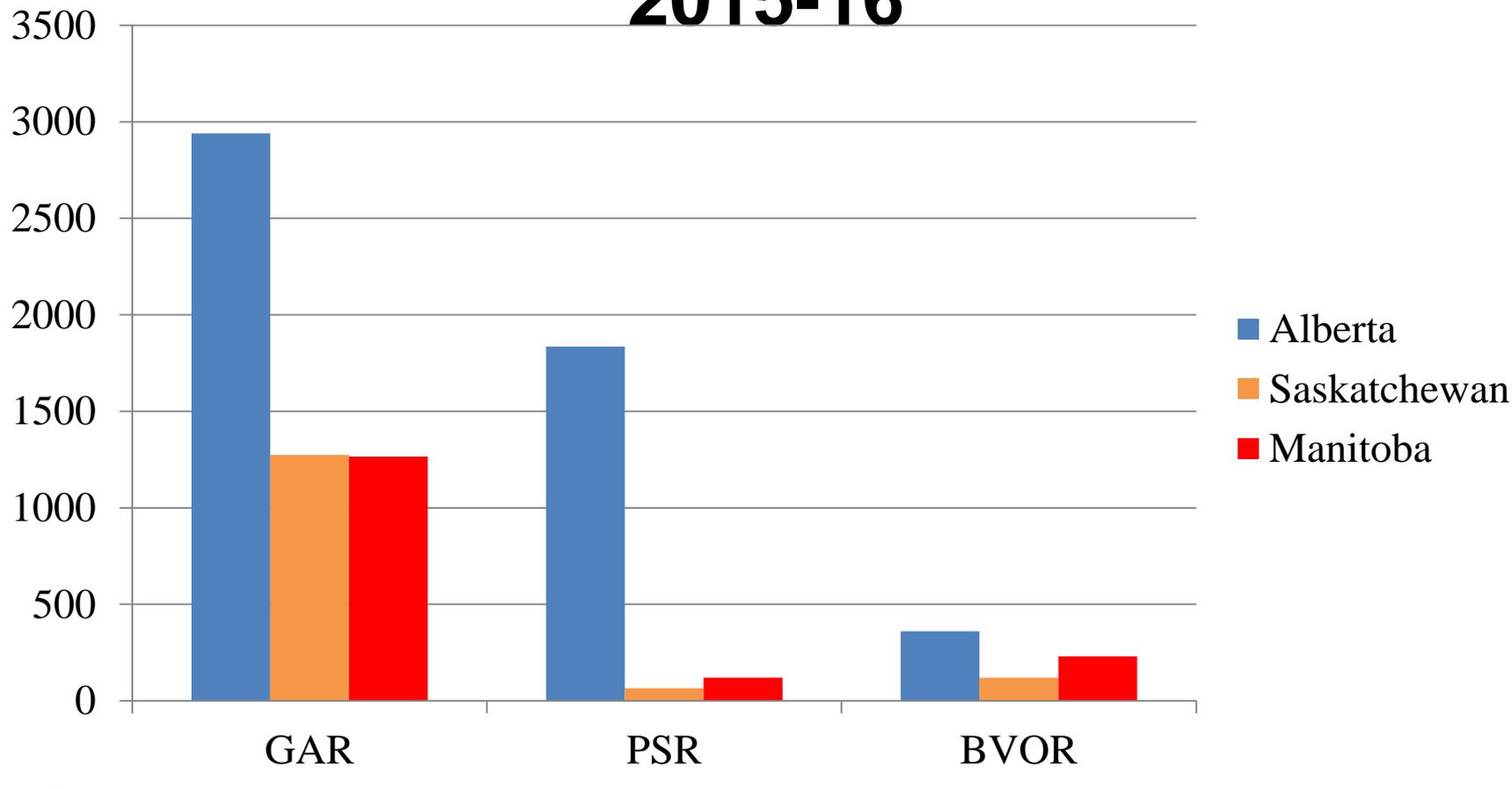


Source: IRCC monthly statistics, 2017



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Syrian Refugees by Class and Province, 2015-16



Source: IRCC Monthly data release, May 2017



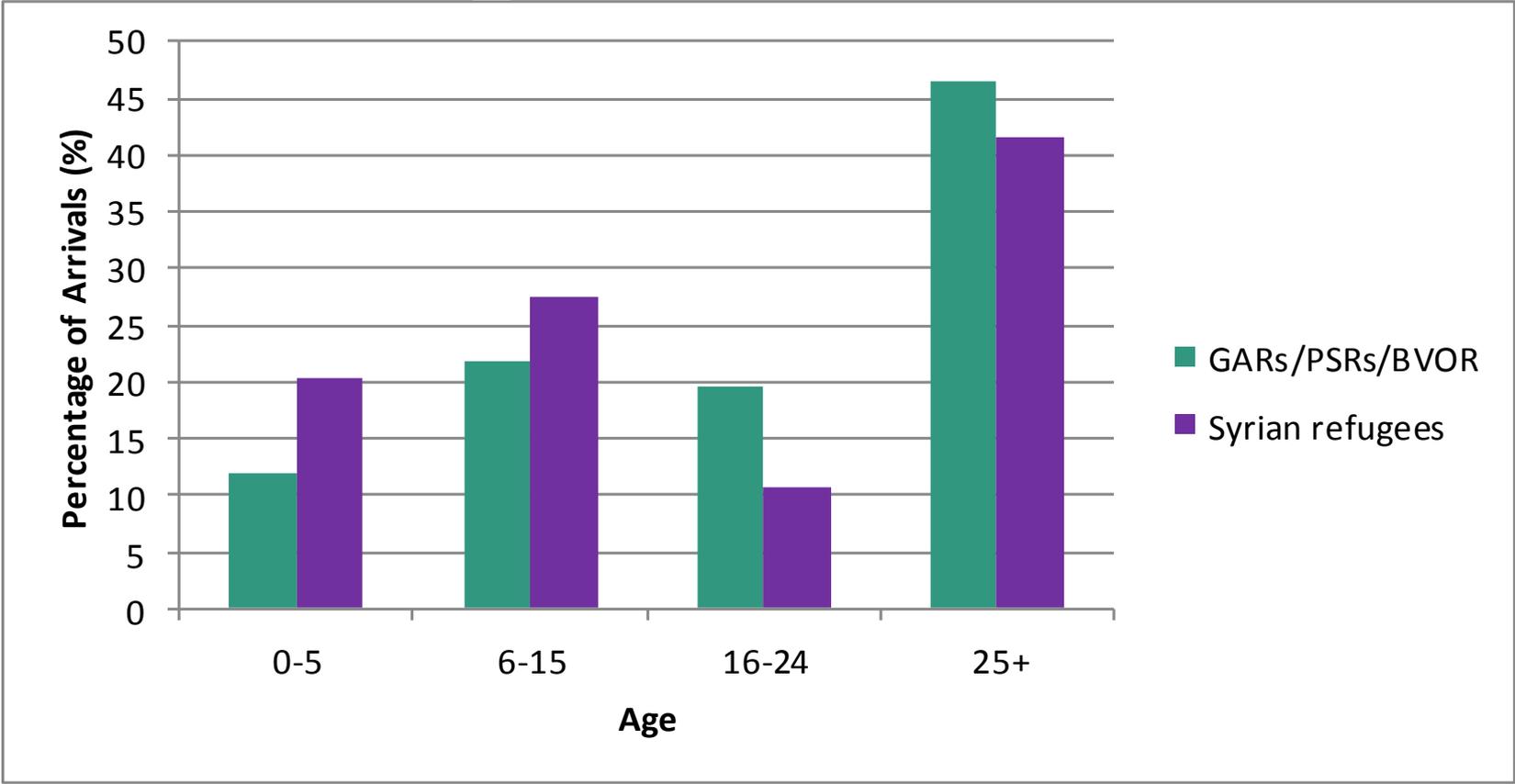
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Resettling refugees on this scale is not new

- 1956-57: over 37,000 Hungarians
 - 1979-1980: 59,000+ Vietnamese
 - Accounted for 25% of all immigrants that year; arrived during an economic recession; were settled outside of MTV
 - 1992-1994 11,000+ Bosnian, Serbian, Croatian
 - Airlifted 5,000+ Kosovars in 1999 **in 6 weeks**
 - Resettled 4,000+ Karen from Thailand in 2006
-



Over half of all refugees are under age 25 at arrival



Source: IRCC. 2016. Data request tracking number: CR-16-0095



How do immigrants & refugees compare?

	Immigrant	Refugee
Rate of mental illness	<5%	~20%
Physical health	Same	Same
Income	Earn 6% more	Work 15% less hours
Self Employment	Higher than native-born	Higher than immigrants
Access to settlement services	Low among dependents & family class	Highest among refugees
Experience of racism	Higher than refugees	Higher than native-born
Knowledge of official language at arrival	Over 80%	Less than 30%



Basic Methodology

- Intended online but many households did not have wifi
- 632 participants
 - 88% GARs 12% PSRs
- Funding meant data collection limited to **Alberta (42%)**, **Saskatchewan (35%)** and **Manitoba (23%)**
 - Interviewed 16% of all newly arriving Syrians to the region
 - Participants given \$10 grocery gift card OR \$10 cash
- Focal points include: **housing, language acquisition and language ability, employment information, and settlement service use**
- Interdisciplinary project advisory panel



Who are the participants?

- 57% are “month 13-ers”; 21% are “new” (0-5 months)
- 88% are GARs
- 58% are male, 42% female
- Average family=5.5
- Last country of residence:
 - Lebanon (41%), Jordan (38%), Turkey (12%), Egypt, UAE, Iran, Somalia
- 66% had only primary or middle school education
- 11% vocational or university
- Average time in Canada at time of survey:
 - Alberta: 11.8 months
 - Saskatchewan 10.7 months
 - Manitoba: 12.3 months



GARS interviewed v. arrived

	<u># interviewed</u>	<u>Actual arrivals</u>
Winnipeg	121	1,200
Brandon	26	60
Moose Jaw	23	120
Prince Albert	33	100
Saskatoon	80	505
Regina	86	550
Brooks	26	65
Lethbridge	71	230
Red Deer	33	185
Edmonton	52	1,270
Calgary	81	1,030
Total (GAR only)	632	5,315

- Brandon 43%
- Brooks 40%
- Prince Albert 33%
- Lethbridge 31%
- Moose Jaw 19%
- Red Deer 18%
- Saskatoon 16%
- Regina 16%
- Winnipeg 10%
- Calgary 8%
- Edmonton 4%



Housing the Syrian Refugees

Results from the study



Photo credit: City of Brandon, 2017

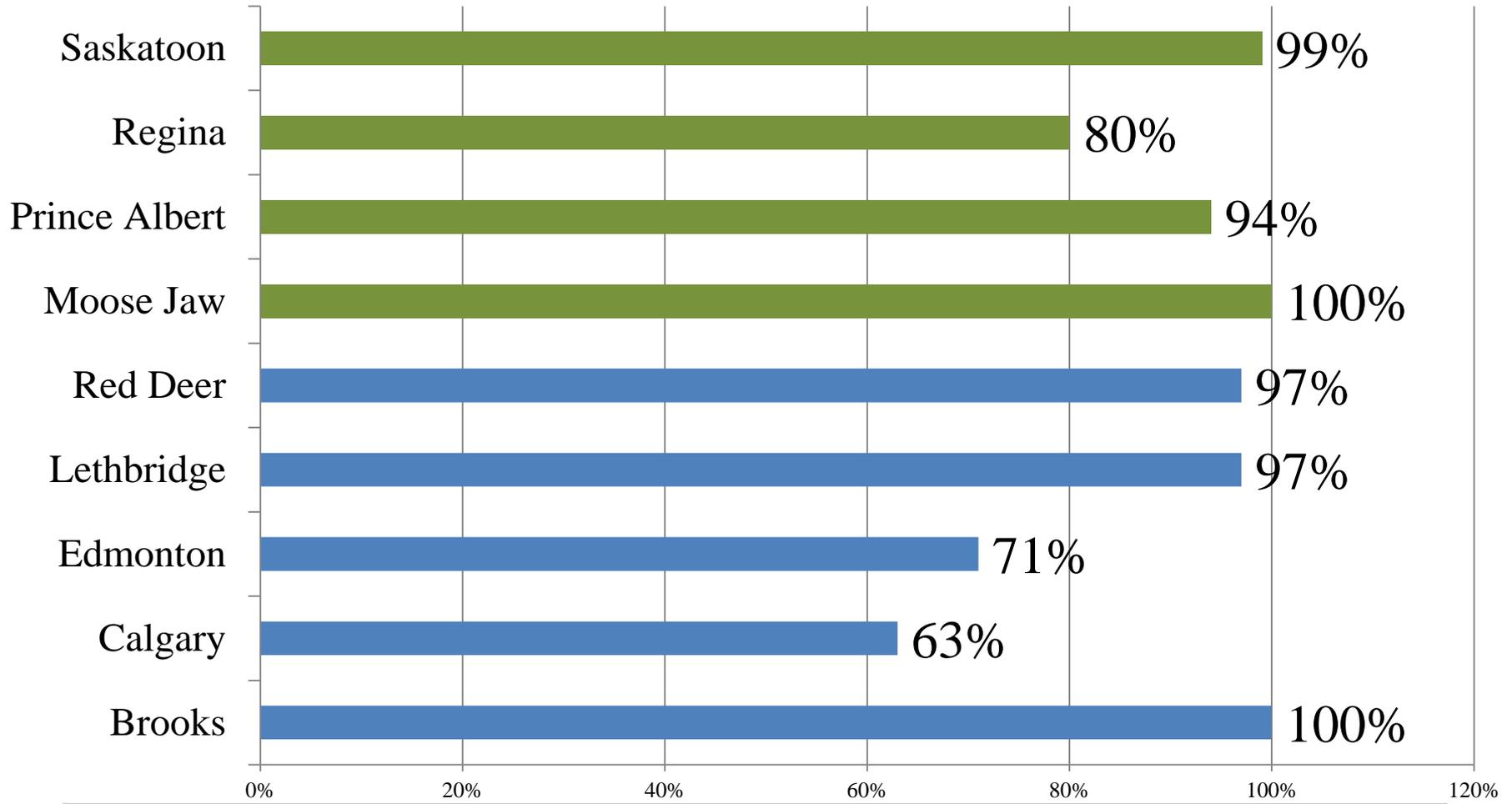


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What do we know about housing and refugees?

- “**Housing is the foundation upon which settlement unfolds**” (Sherrell 2017: 67)
- Major issues include: old and poorly maintained stock, isolated neighbourhood locations, high affordability stress, bugs and mice
- Context issues: large families/housing too small, city/town of destination
- Outcomes of housing : how quickly they can enroll in language classes, ability to access settlement services, proximity to jobs, transportation availability, psychological and physical well being, affects learning environment for children (no space to study or play), no good place for physical activity
- Basement suites and torture survivors
- Housing discrimination
- Demand for affordable housing is higher than supply
- In Toronto, 29% of PSRs & 51% refugee claimants unsatisfied with housing

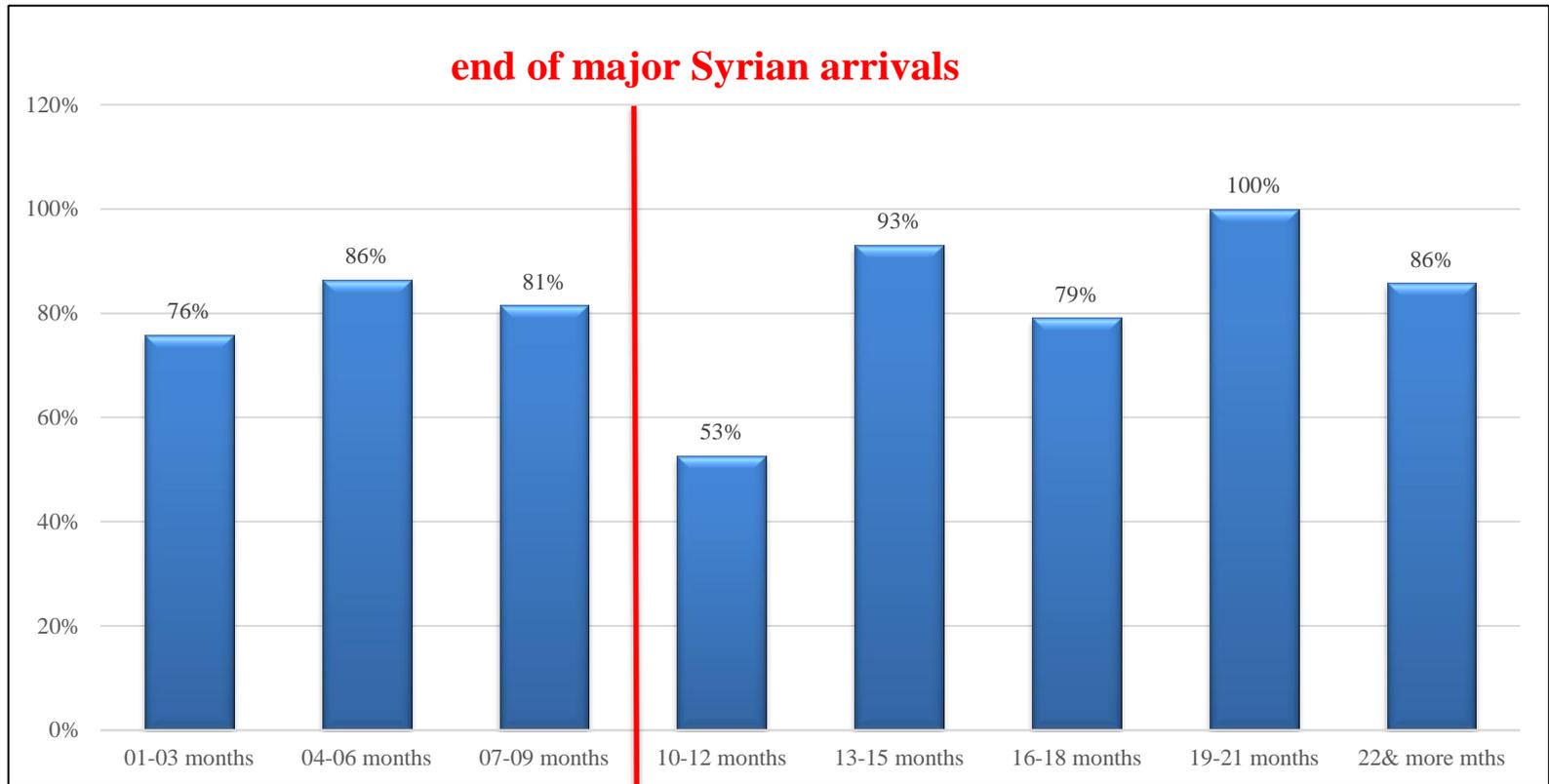
Temporary Accommodation by City



Note: no refugees destined to Manitoba stayed in hotels



Temporary accommodation by time of arrival

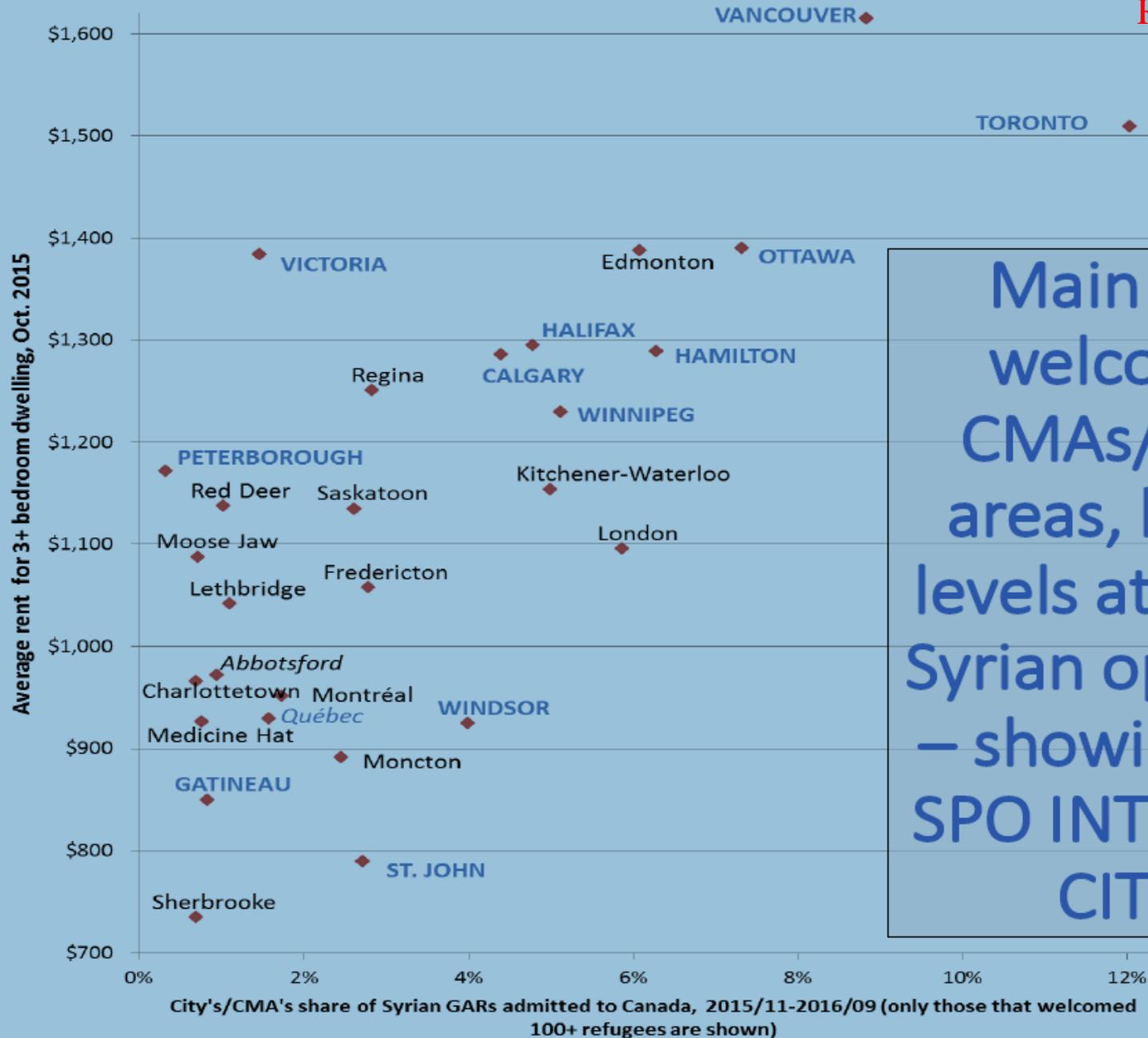


Challenges with temporary accommodation

- Average hotel stay:
 - Alberta: 14 days
 - Saskatchewan: 17 days
 - Manitoba: 0 days
- Majority of Syrians **happy** with their experience
- Hotel staff friendly and courteous, even if they couldn't speak Arabic
- **Size of the room and having to share with many people for weeks**
- Halal food or quality of food concerns
 - asked for Syrian food but were given Greek food instead.
 - few families felt they didn't have enough food to feed their children
- Settlement service workers who met with the families at the hotel were also described as being extremely helpful and patient.



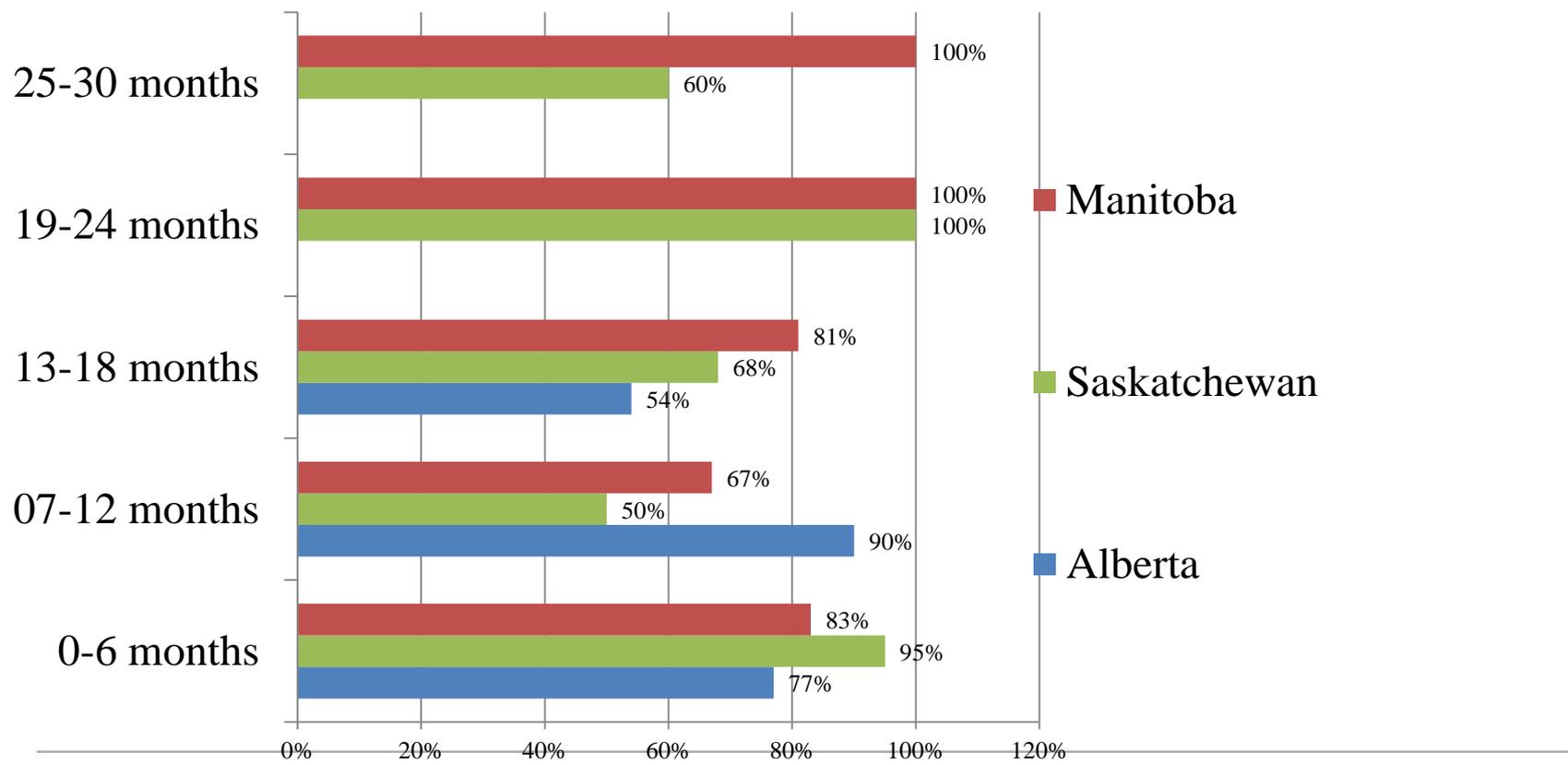
Rose and Charette
2017



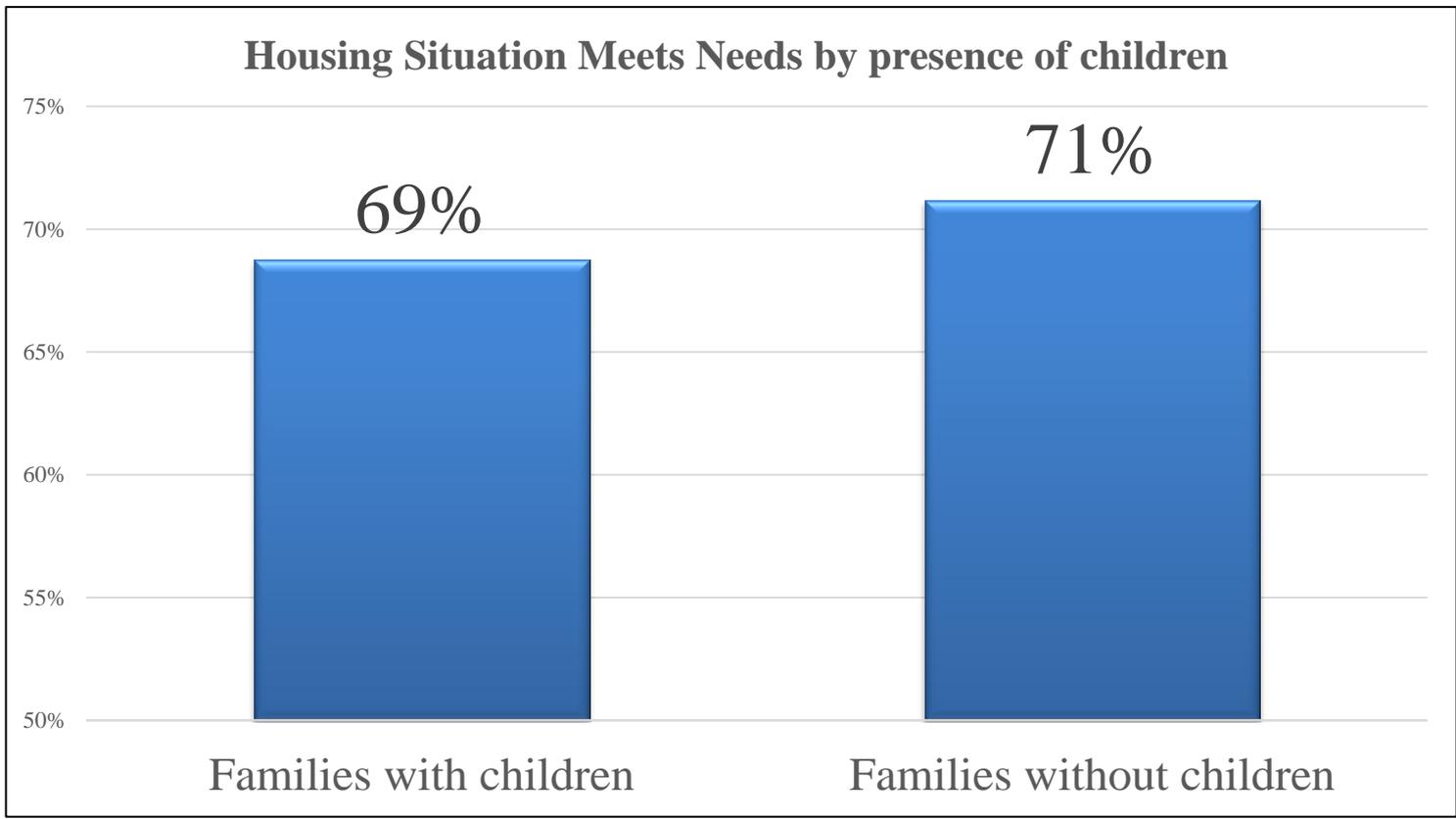
Main GAR-welcoming CMA's/urban areas, by rent levels at start of Syrian operation – showing RAP-SPO INTERVIEW CITIES

Does housing meet your needs? (yes)

by time in Canada and province



Does accommodation meet your needs?



Language

Results from our study

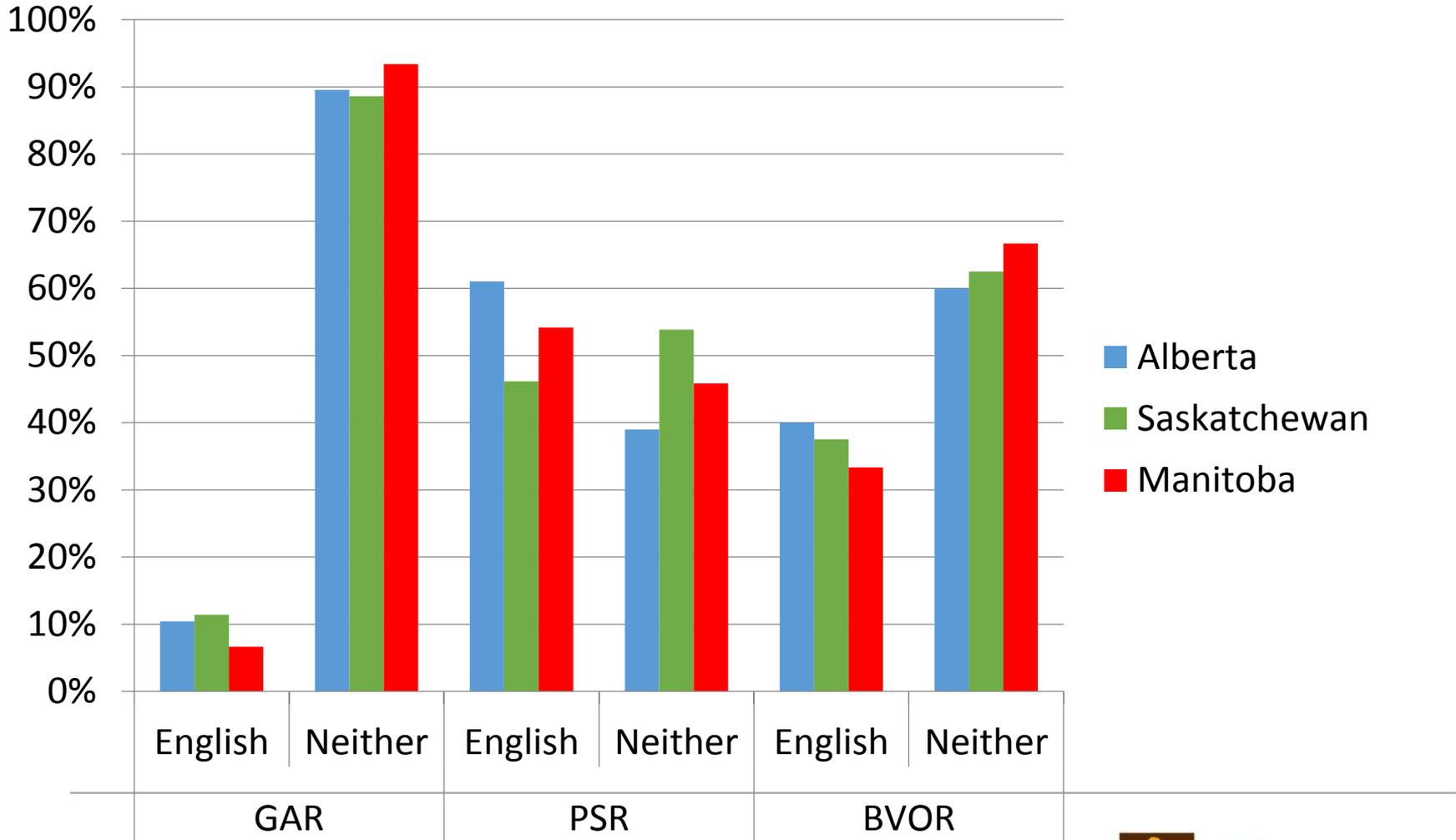


Photo credit: University of Reading, 2017



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Self-rated English Knowledge Prior to Arrival

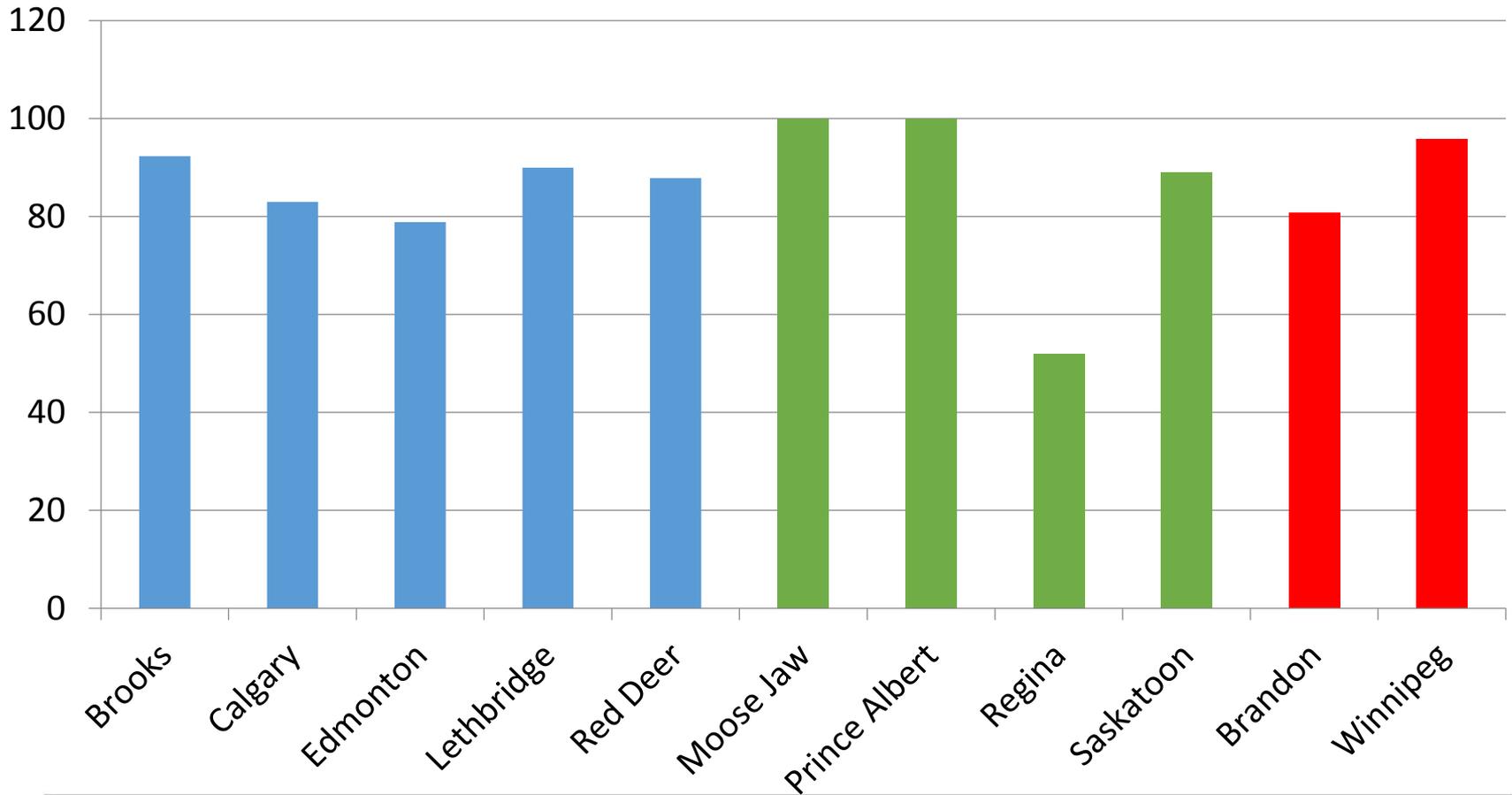


Source: IRCC Monthly data release, May 2017

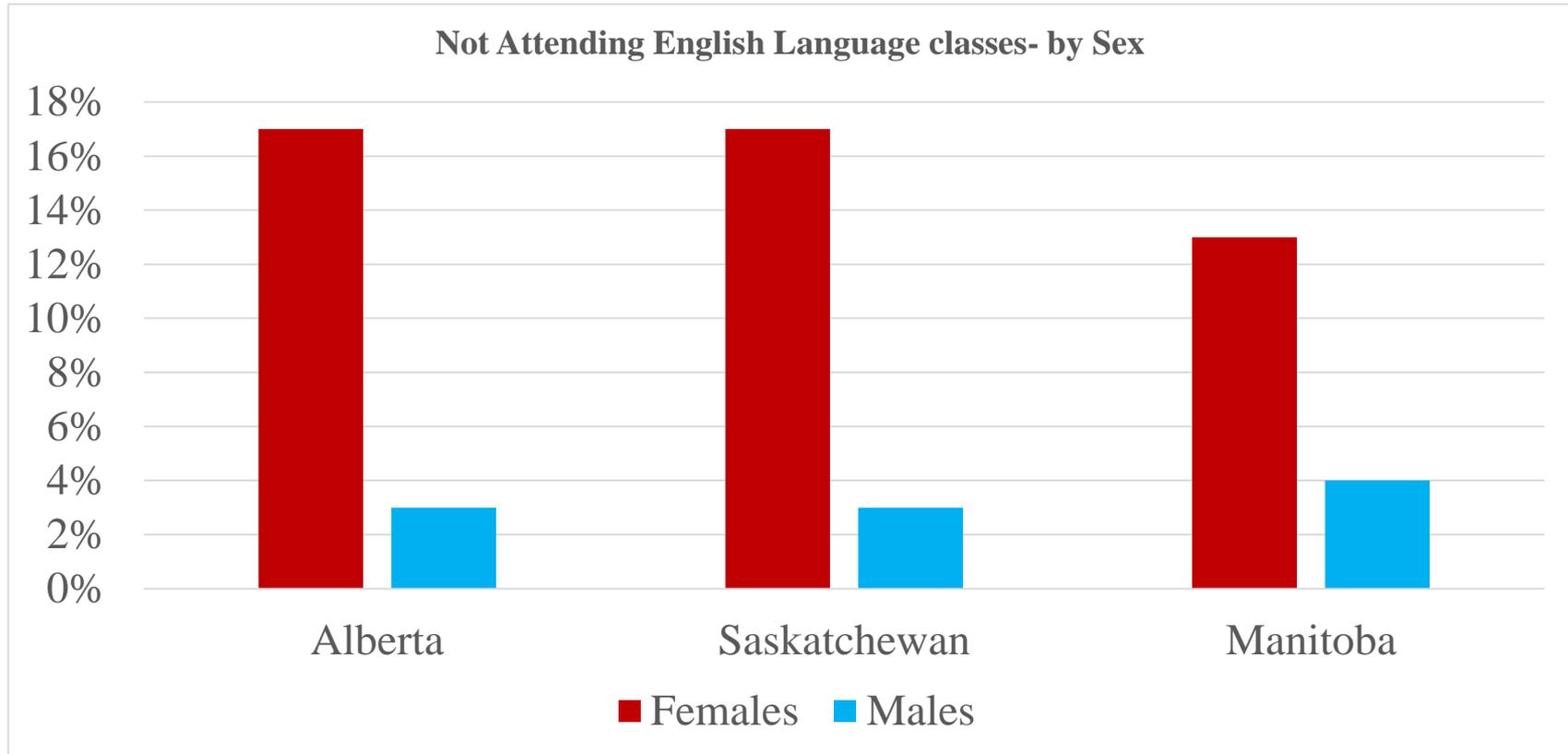


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Currently attending English class by city



Not attending English Class by Sex & Province



Why not attending by sex/prov

	Alberta		Saskatchewan		Manitoba	
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Currently on wait list	5%	4%	1%	6%	0%	4%
Plan to attend class	1%	10%	0%	8%	4%	9%
No plans to attend	11%	11%	2%	3%	0%	0%
Attending	83%	75%	97%	83%	96%	87%



Employment

Results from our study



**HIRE A
REFUGEE.CA**



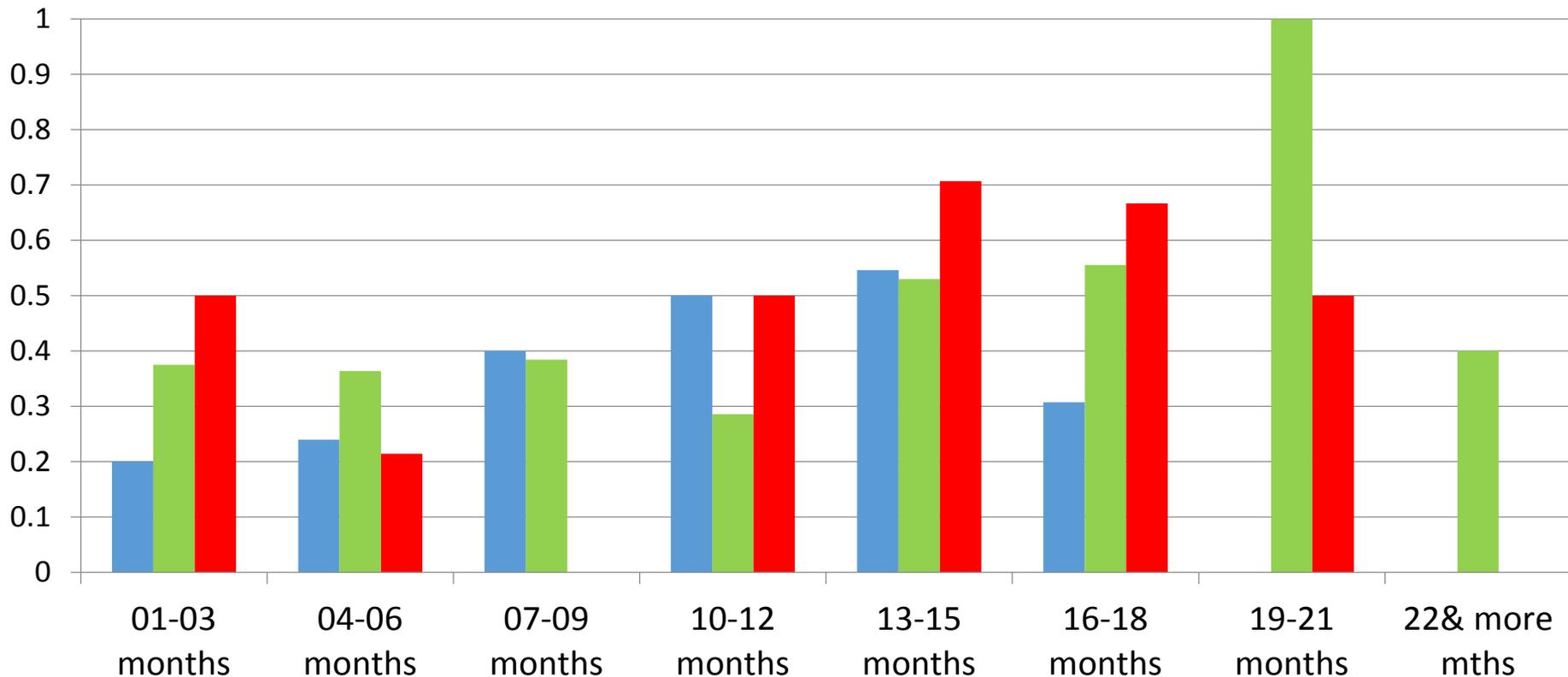
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What do we know about employment outcomes among refugees?

- **Pay more in taxes** than take in social services over lifetime
- Contribute to at least 60% of the labour market growth in Canada
- Age at arrival influences, especially those arriving as refugees
- Lifetime **employment rates 10-12% higher** than among workers born in Canada, US or Australia
- Refugees are **not a threat to Canadian/American jobs**
- Privately sponsored refugees find work faster than government assisted
- Four years after arrival, employment rate of refugees is just 6% lower than Canadian workers
- Many **work multiple jobs**, especially in their early years in Canada



Difficulty finding work by time & city

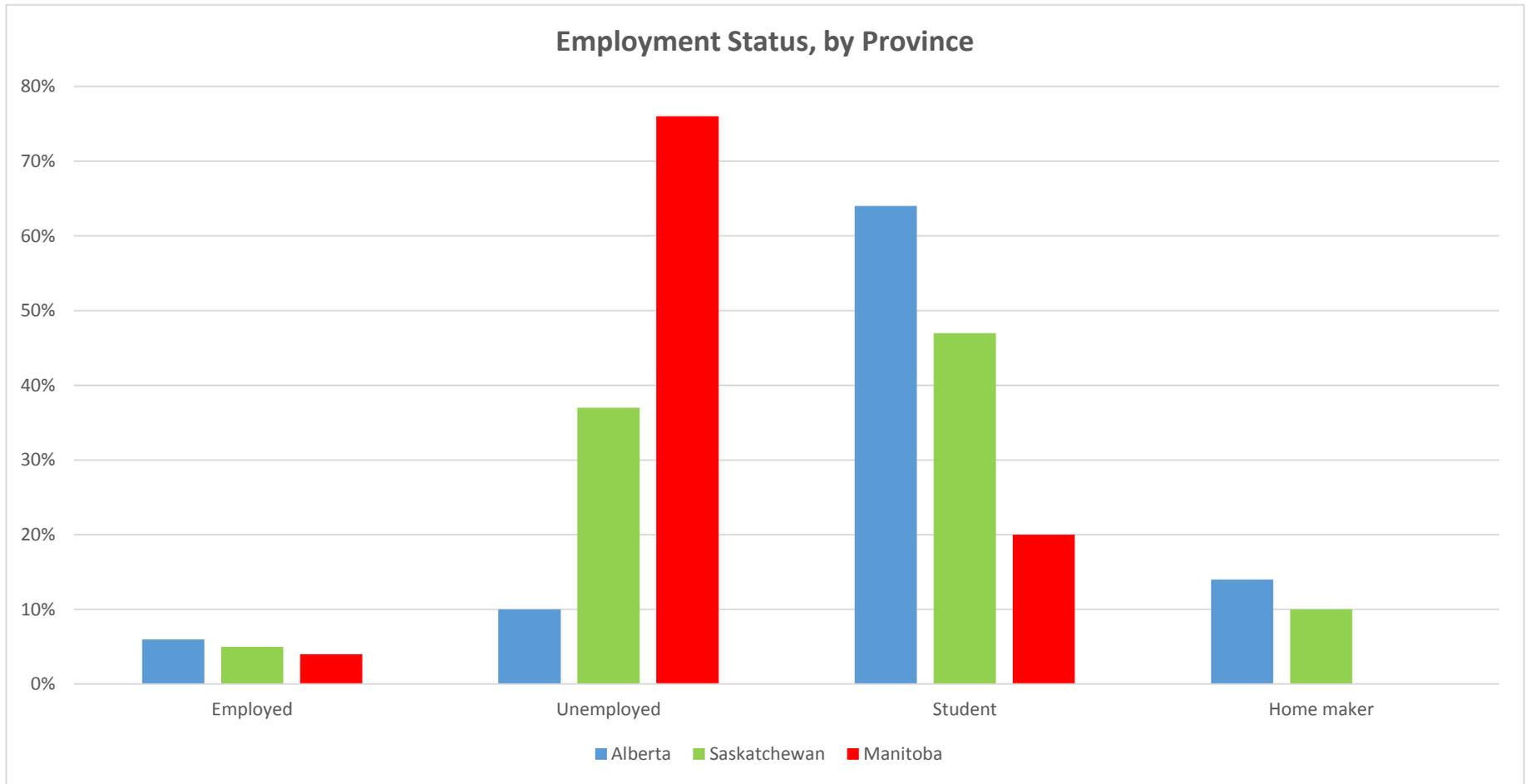


■ Alberta ■ Saskatchewan ■ Manitoba

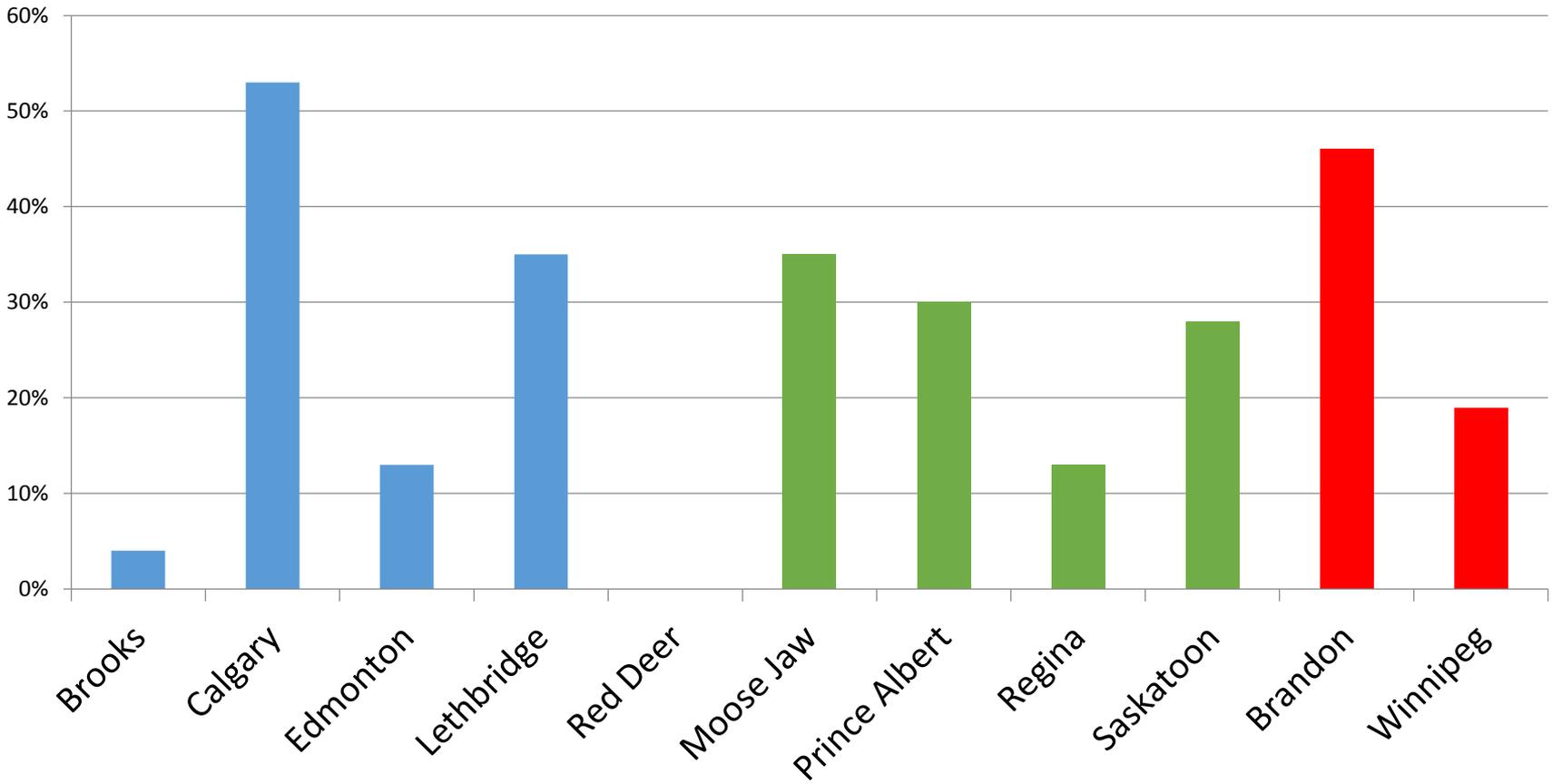


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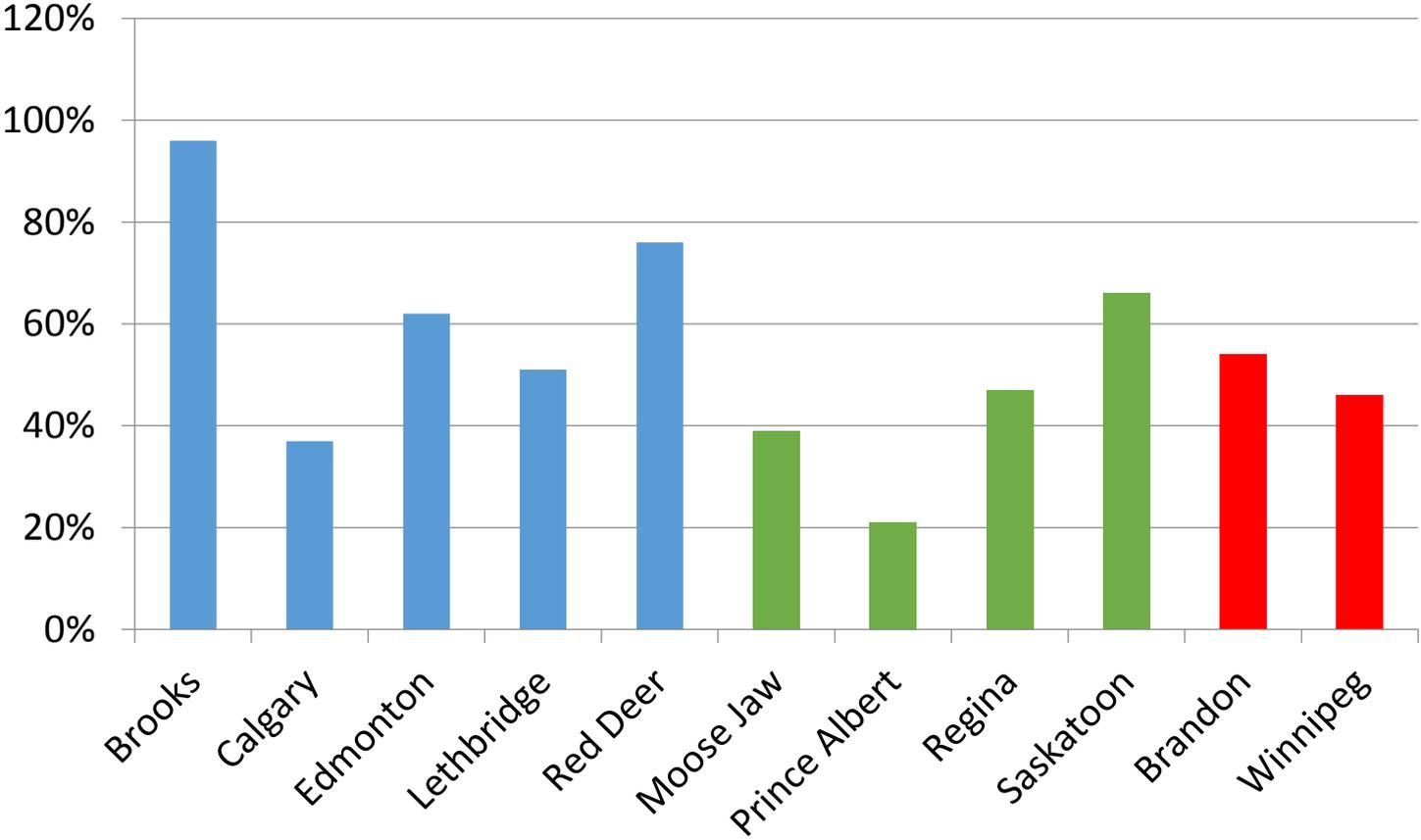
Current Employment Status by Province



Used employment services by city



Currently not looking for work by city



Income seven years after arrival of refugees by cohort entry, GARs and PSRs, 2004

	Arrival year 1980	Arrival year 1985	Arrival Year 1990
	<u>Income 7 yrs later (1987)</u>	<u>Income 7 years later (1992)</u>	<u>Income 7 years later (1997)</u>
Privately sponsored refugee	\$22,933	\$25,468	\$24,407
Government sponsored Refugee	\$24,101	\$22,576	\$21,116

The average income of an immigrants meets the average of a Canadian born worker within 7-10 years after arrival; for refugees, it is about 11-14 years after arrival.

Findings confirmed in Sweden 2017 and in Canada IRCC 2016

Source: Devoretz, Pivenko and Beiser, 2004; calculations by Wilkinson Bevelander, 2017; IRCC 2016-

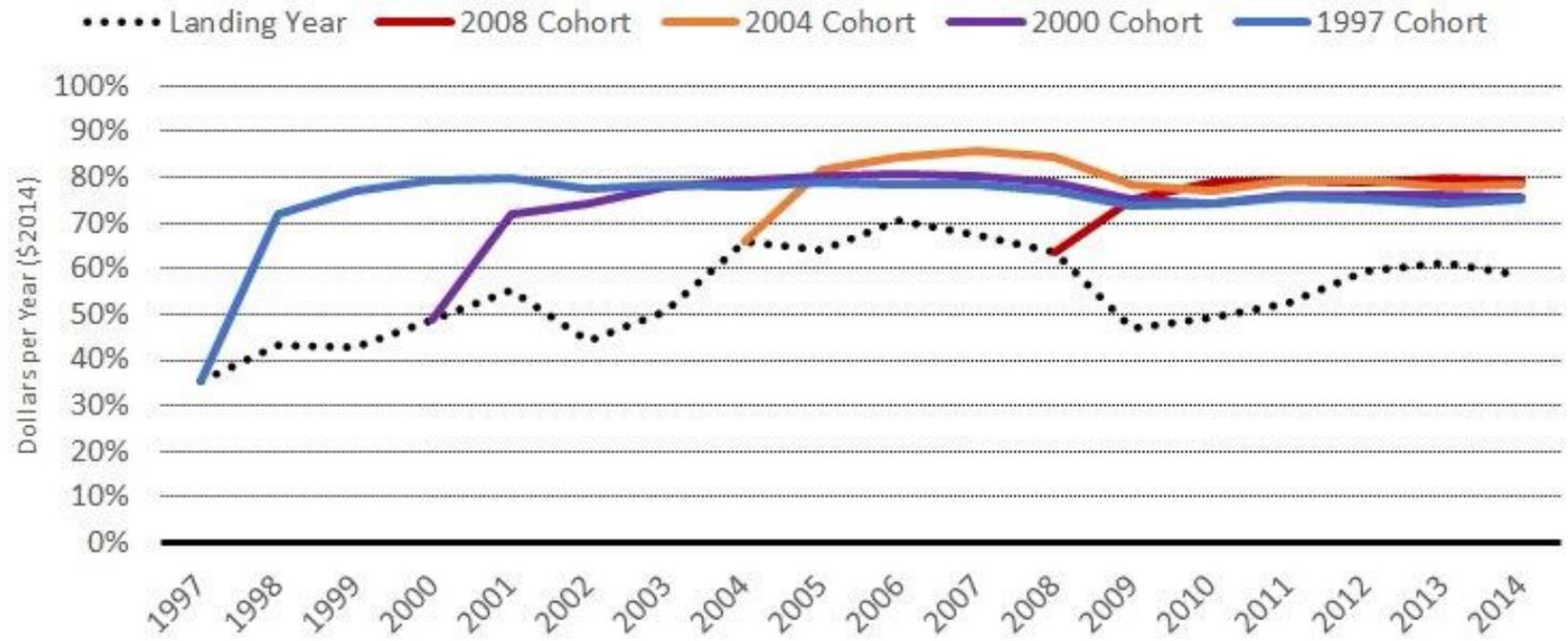


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% of refugees in Alberta with Employment Income, 2014

Share of Refugees in Alberta with Employment Income

CANSIM 054-0001 -- in 2014 Constant Dollars



Tombe, 2017-using IMDB

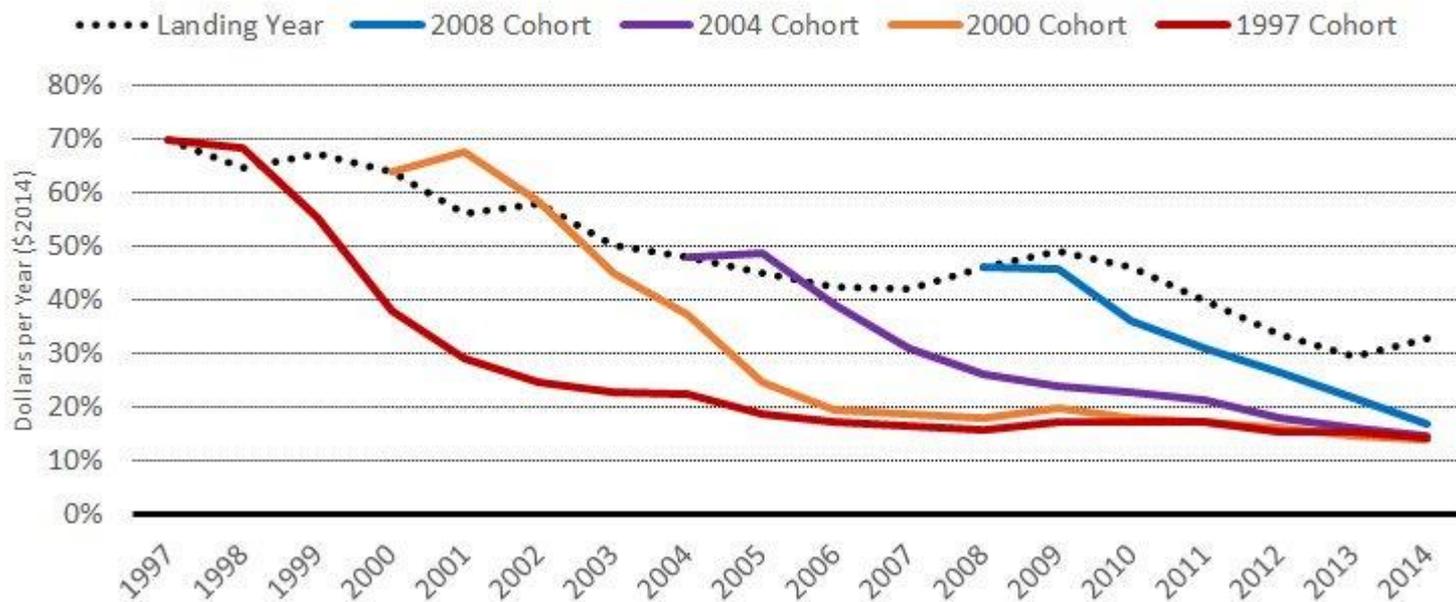


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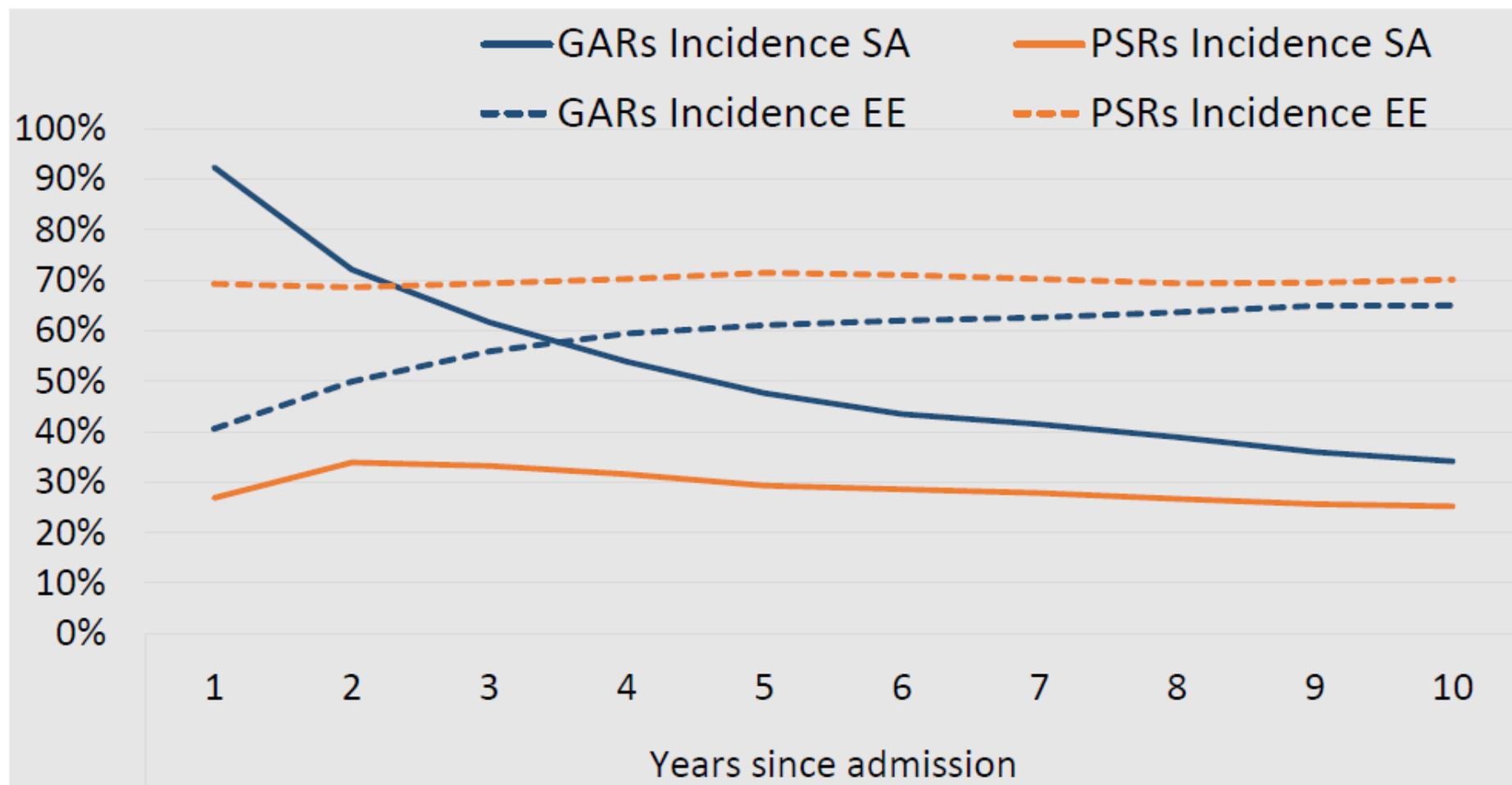
Use of Social Assistance among refugees in Alberta by landing cohort, 2017

Share of Refugees in Alberta on Social Assistance

CANSIM 054-0001 -- in 2014 Constant Dollars

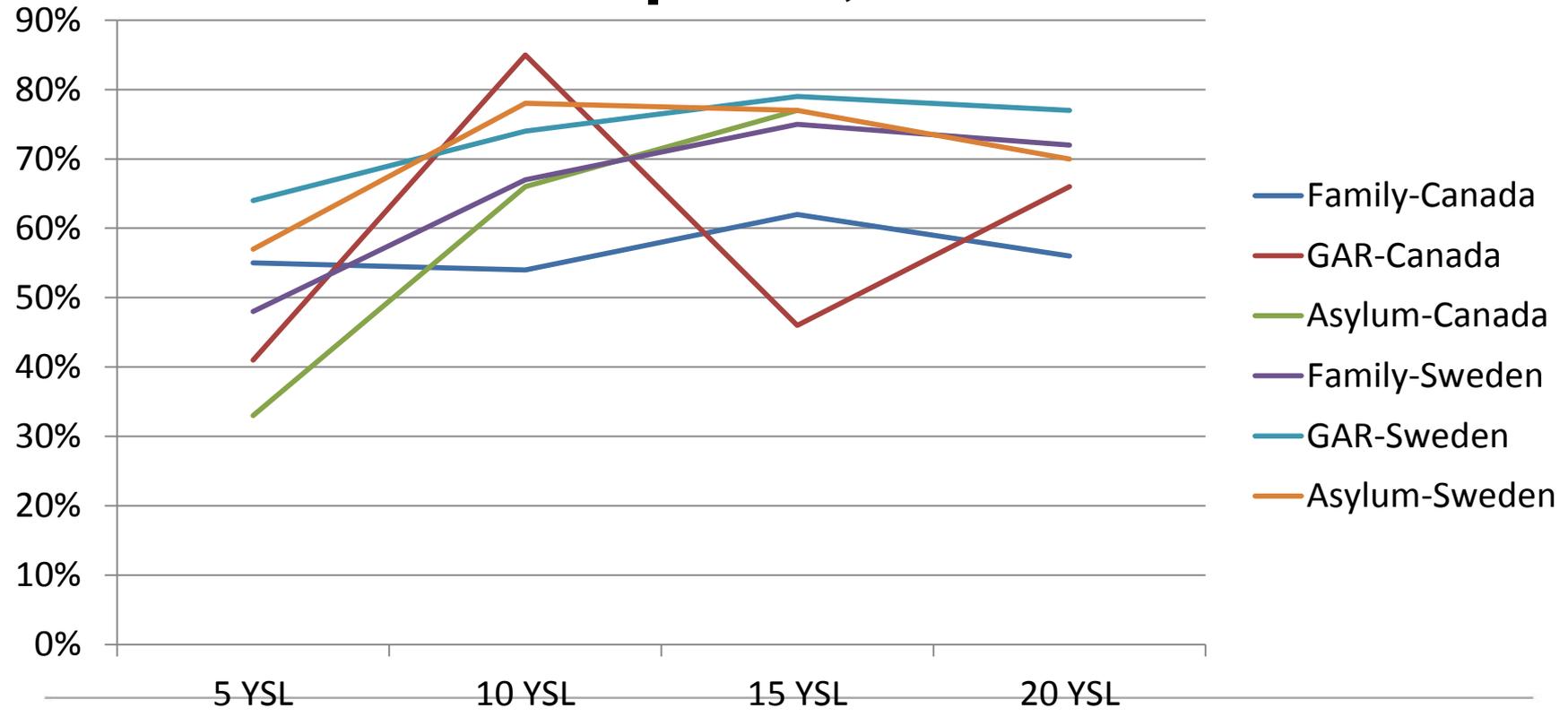


IRCC's analysis of incidence of Social Assistance (SA) and Employment Earnings (EE) for 2003-2013 cohorts of GARs and PSRs



Source: Edlund , Dawn (2017), Settlement of Syrian refugees – one year later.

Employment Rate by Years since migration, family and refugees-female Canada and Sweden compared, 2007



EXAMINED ONLY FYR, IRAQ, IRAN AND AFGHANISTAN

Bevelander and Pendakur, 2014

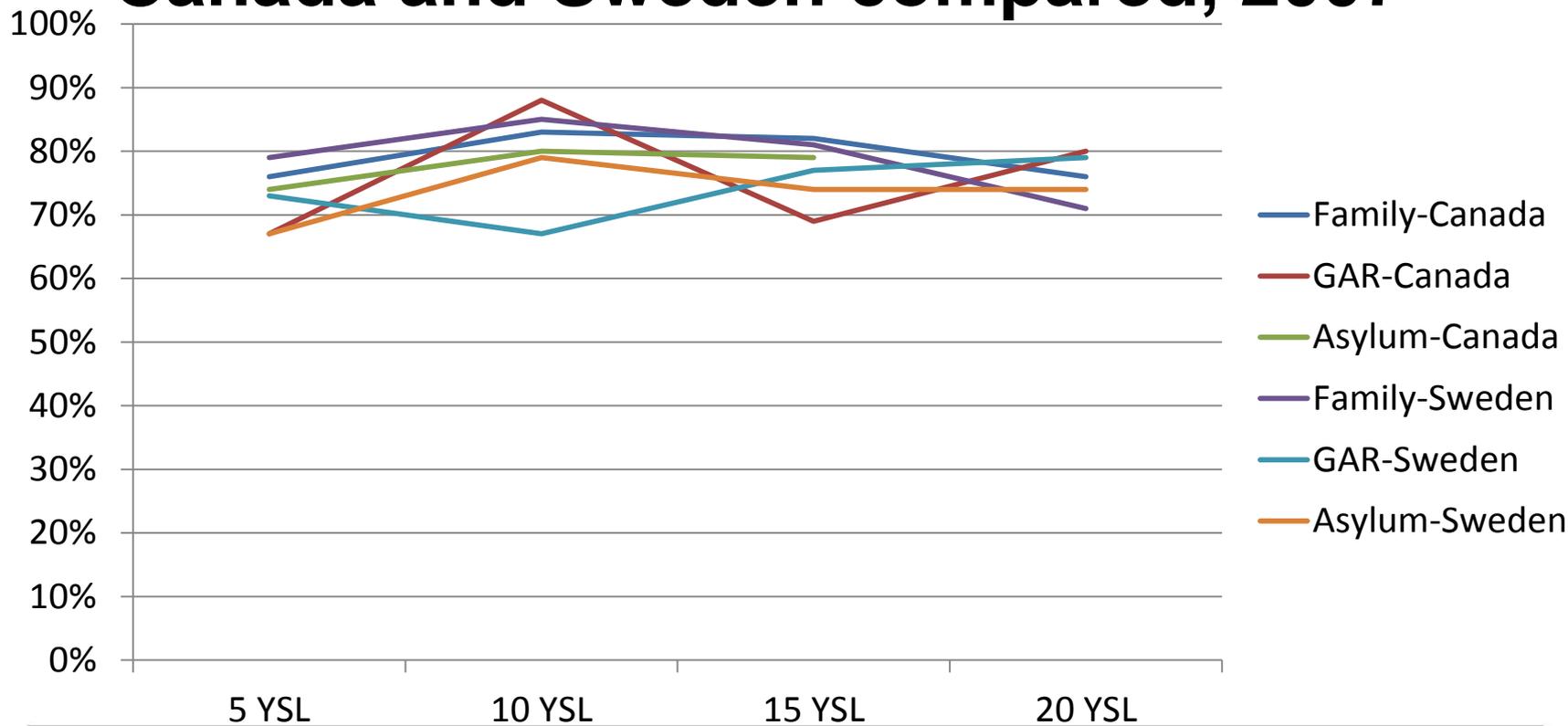
Used Swedish Registry, 2007 and IMDB 2007



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Employment Rate by Years since migration, family and refugees-males

Canada and Sweden compared, 2007



EXAMINED ONLY FYR, IRAQ, IRAN AND AFGHANISTAN

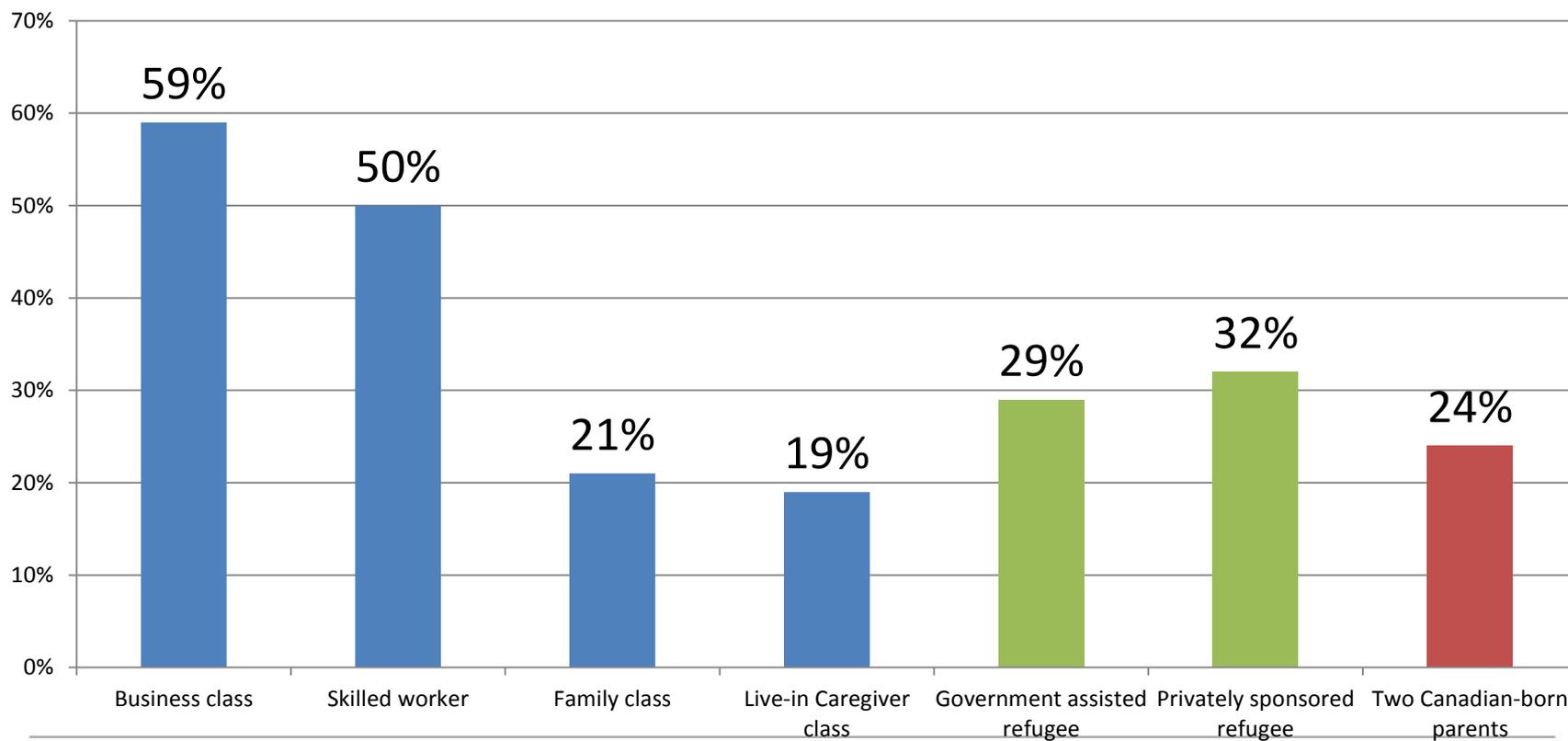
Bevelander and Pendakur, 2014

Used Swedish Registry, 2007 and IMDB 2007



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University completion rate of immigrant children and youth by entrance class, 2016



Difficulties Resettling

Results from our study



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Difficulties Resettling by Province

	<u>Alberta</u>	<u>Saskatchewan</u>	<u>Manitoba</u>
Language classes	16%	66%	73%
Lack of information about services	--	15%	20%
Lack of childcare	--	61%	13%
Transportation	--	19%	15%
Financial Difficulties	--	2%	24%
Lack of services in your community	--	14%	6%
Skills/training to get a job	15%	--	--
Foreign credential recognition	14%	--	--
Orientation to Canadian economy	13%	--	--
Finding suitable clothing	--	3%	1%
Orientation to Canadian culture	6%	--	--
Finding a physician	--	--	5%
Confusion where to find help	--	--	3%
Connection to employers	2%	--	--
Service eligibility	1%	--	--
Help finding housing	1%	--	--
Translation of documents	1%	--	--
Other	17%	--	--
Nothing, I was prepared	16%	--	--

Next Steps

- **Share share share results with** immigrant umbrella organizations, settlement service providers, policy makers and academics
- Analyze in greater detail, the interconnections between housing, employment, language acquisition and settlement service use
- Convince IRCC to fund a longitudinal project to cover the first three years in Canada and to add non-Syrian refugees
- Better fit to theoretical model in future waves of study



Additional Thanks

- Jason Disano, Jessica McCutcheon and team at the Social Science Research Laboratory, University of Saskatchewan
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Additional Findings, Reports and Information

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http://umanitoba.ca/about_IRW.html

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