

# Tracking Interregional Mobility Among Recently Arrived Refugees in Canada

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Guiding Question: Do refugees stop moving after arriving to their new countries?



# Interregional Mobility of Recently Arrived Refugees



- ❑ Refugee migration after arrival requires crossing of social, administrative and linguistic contexts and represent significant investments for individuals and their families.
- ❑ Canada's five major geographical regions (Atlantic, Quebec, Ontario, Prairies, and British Columbia) were important macro-contexts for refugee settlement in the last decades.
- ❑ They are the hubs for labour force markets, industry, trade, commerce and significant demographic concentrations. They are also “magnets” for both immigrants and refugees.

# Previous Studies



- ❑ Previous studies of interregional migration of immigrants which included refugees found significant gains made by the Prairies at the expense of other regions (examples: Finnie 1999, Orrenius and Zavodny,2009; Okono-Myers,2010; vanHuystee and St.Jean,2014, Bonikowska et.al.2015)
- ❑ Different drivers have been identified: refugees' vulnerable positions in the labour force, “push” and “pull” factors, regional “booms” and “busts”, desire to be close to “co-ethnics”, etc.
- ❑ Interregional migration also linked to the selectivity of refugees (age, gender, education, language proficiency etc.)

# Paper's Research Questions



- What was the general picture of refugees' interregional migration during 2000-2013 in Canada?
- Their origins and destinations? Who were the movers and nonmovers?
- Where patterns similar to subgroups (GARs, PSRs and LICs)?
- Their socio-demographic backgrounds?
- What can the period 2000-2013 teach us?



# Data Source



- ❑ Statistics Canada's Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB) combines linked administrative immigration and tax data files.
- ❑ A 2016 IMDB table was drawn containing a record for refugee tax-filers entering Canada between 2000 and 2013 aged 25-64 by :
  - **Landing years: 2000-2004, 2005-2009 and 2010-2013, three arrival cohorts**
  - **Three tax observation years: 2004, 2009 and 2013**
  - **Geographical regions of landing and tax reporting: Atlantic, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and B.C.**
  - **Refugee classes of entry: Government Assisted (GARs), Privately Sponsored (PSRs), Landed in Canada (LICs) and refugee dependants**
  - **Socio-demographic backgrounds: gender, age groups, schooling and world regions of birth**

# Three Refugee Cohorts



- ❑ The observed counts for the refugee arrival cohorts in the 2016 IMDB table were as follows: 67,005 for the 2000-2004 arrival cohort, 66,665 for the 2005-2009 arrival cohort and 47,265 for the 2010-2013 one.
- ❑ These produced a combined total of about 181,005 refugees.
- ❑ The combined counts of refugee sub-groups in the three arrival cohorts were the following: 39,895 GARs (22%), 25,179 PSRs (14%), 98,705 LICs (55%) and 17,160 dependants (9%).

# Measurement of Interregional Mobility



- ❑ Any discrepancies between the reporting of the intended region/province of landing at arrival and the current region/province of residence at the time of tax reporting.
- ❑ Multiple landing-residence (L-R) matrices were calculated for different arrival cohorts, refugee categories and tax years of reporting.
- ❑ Each matrix consisted of migration flows present in 49 cells (7 x 7 origin-destination regions).



# Findings

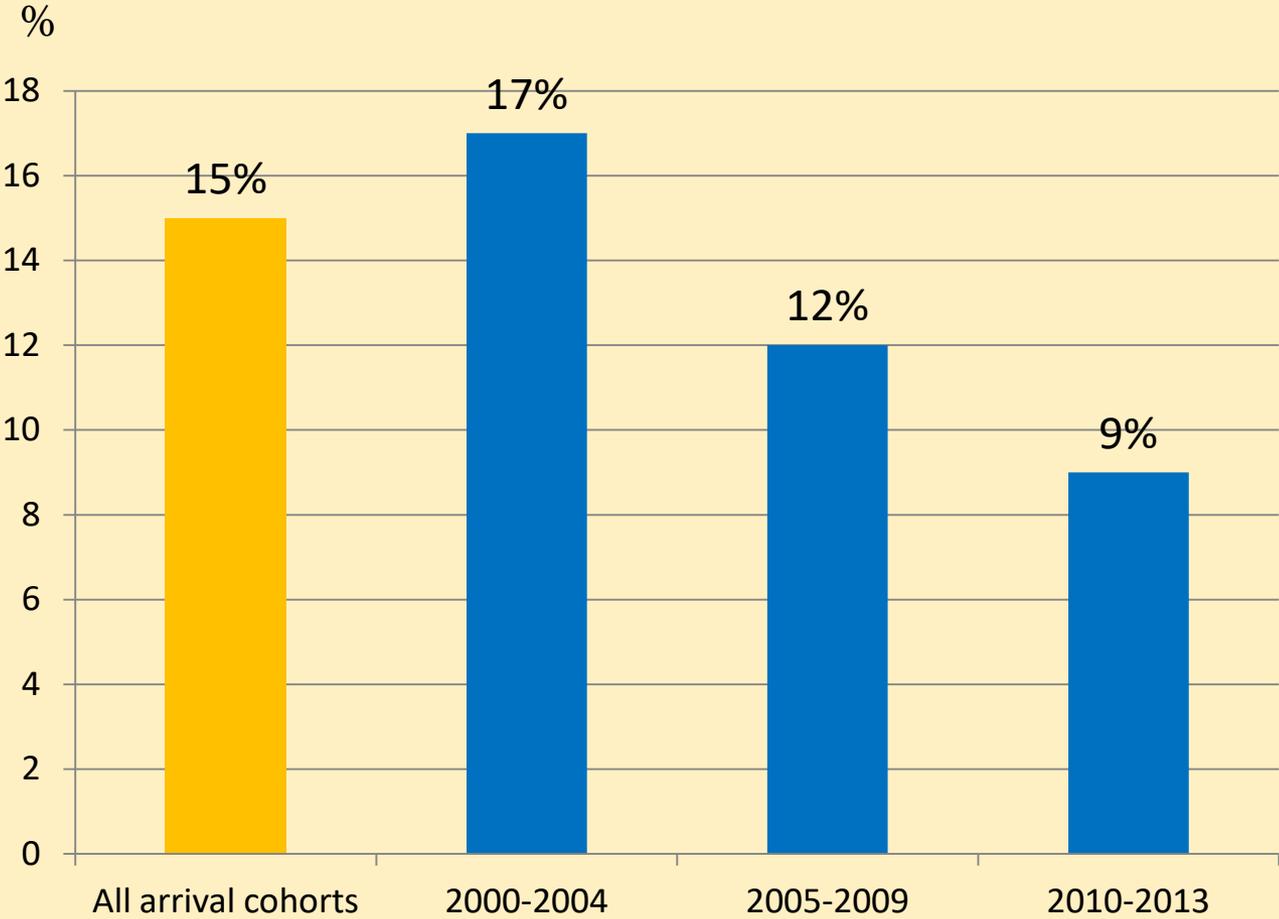


# Winners and Losers

- ❑ Between 2000 and 2013, the Alberta region benefited most from the influx of immigrants, including refugees.
- ❑ In absolute terms, Alberta received more than 4,000 refugees from the first two refugee arrival cohorts and about 2,300 from the third one.
- ❑ British Columbia was also a net gainer in the first two arrival cohorts and Ontario in the first one only.
- ❑ The Atlantic and Quebec regions lost the most immigrants to interregional interchanges. The Atlantic region lost 3,100 refugees from the first arrival cohort, 6,400 from the second and 4,800 from the third.



# The longer the residence, the higher the likelihood of interregional mobility



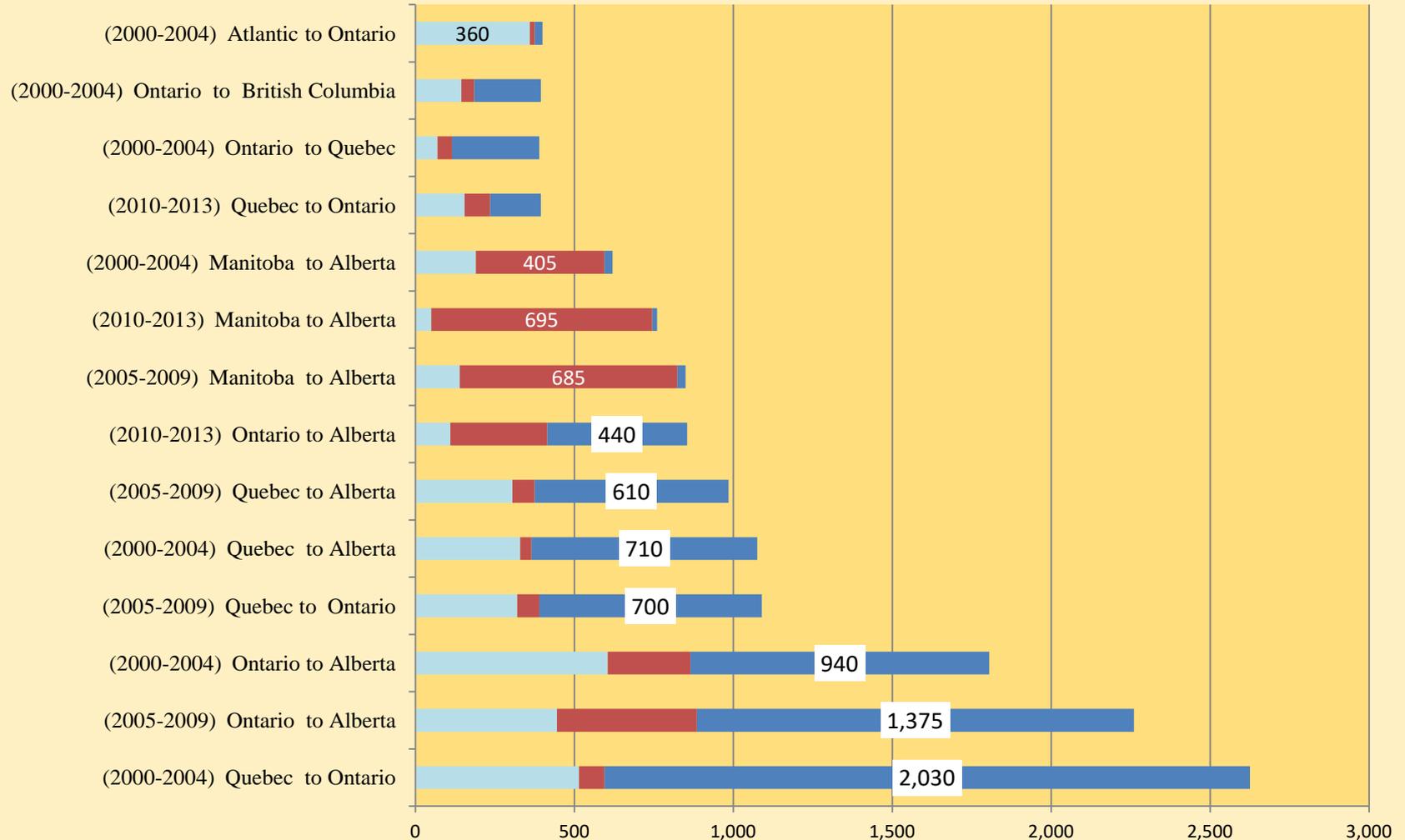
Tax Year of Observation:  
2013

# Historical Waves: LICs on the Move



Tax Year of Observation:  
2013

GARs PSRs LICs



# Gars more mobile during 2000-2004, PSRs in latter periods



Mover vs Nonmover Interregional Rates,  
Refugee Subgroups by Cohorts and  
Landing Region, Tax Year 2013

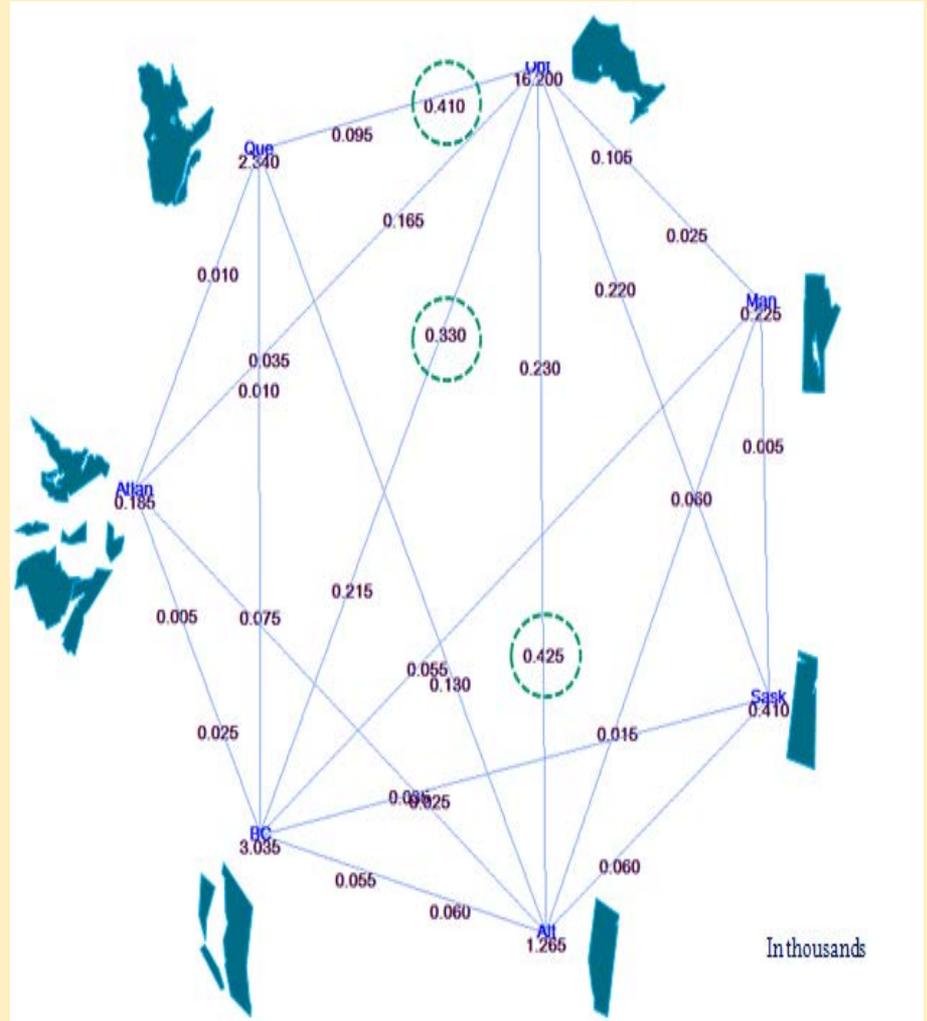
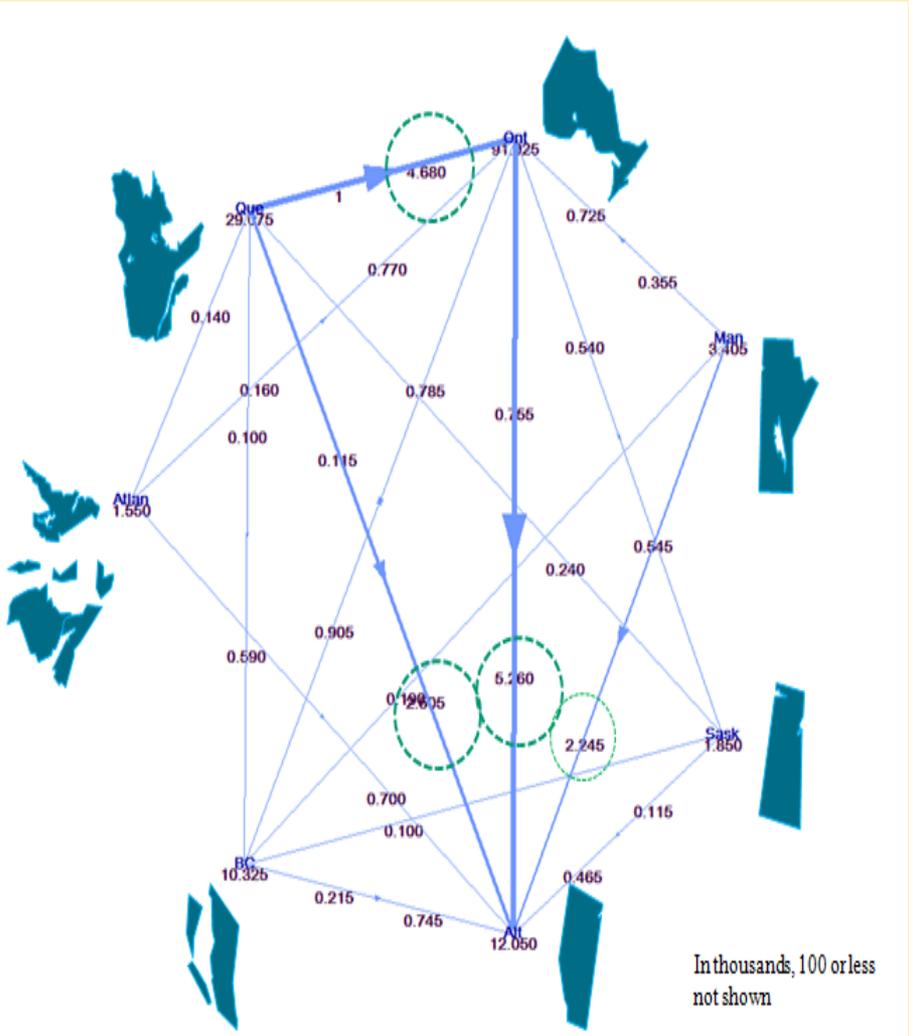
Cohorts/Regions	All Refugees	Government Assisted	Privately Sponsored	Landed in Canada	Dependents
<b>2000-2004 cohort</b>					
L:All Regions	<b>69</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>21</b>
L:Atlantic	230	256	125	91	10
L:Quebec	41	33	29	44	47
L:Ontario	10	20	13	8	6
L:Manitoba	107	101	120	74	10
L:Saskatchewan	157	191	91	67	50
L:Alberta	16	19	10	14	11
L:British Columbia	19	27	28	13	11
<b>2005-2009 cohort</b>					
L:All Regions	<b>44</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>12</b>
L:Atlantic	112	115	200	71	33
L:Quebec	26	27	25	25	29
L:Ontario	10	20	16	8	7
L:Manitoba	99	58	143	45	5
L:Saskatchewan	47	47	48	17	10
L:Alberta	11	11	7	12	7
L:British Columbia	17	20	29	12	7
<b>2010-2013 cohort</b>					
L:All Regions	<b>27</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2</b>
L:Atlantic	44	49	20	18	2
L:Quebec	10	18	18	7	7
L:Ontario	5	6	10	5	3
L:Manitoba	89	33	123	22	5
L:Saskatchewan	27	20	37	38	10
L:Alberta	6	4	8	5	4
L:British Columbia	13	12	19	7	3

# Refugees from all world regions involved in interregional moves

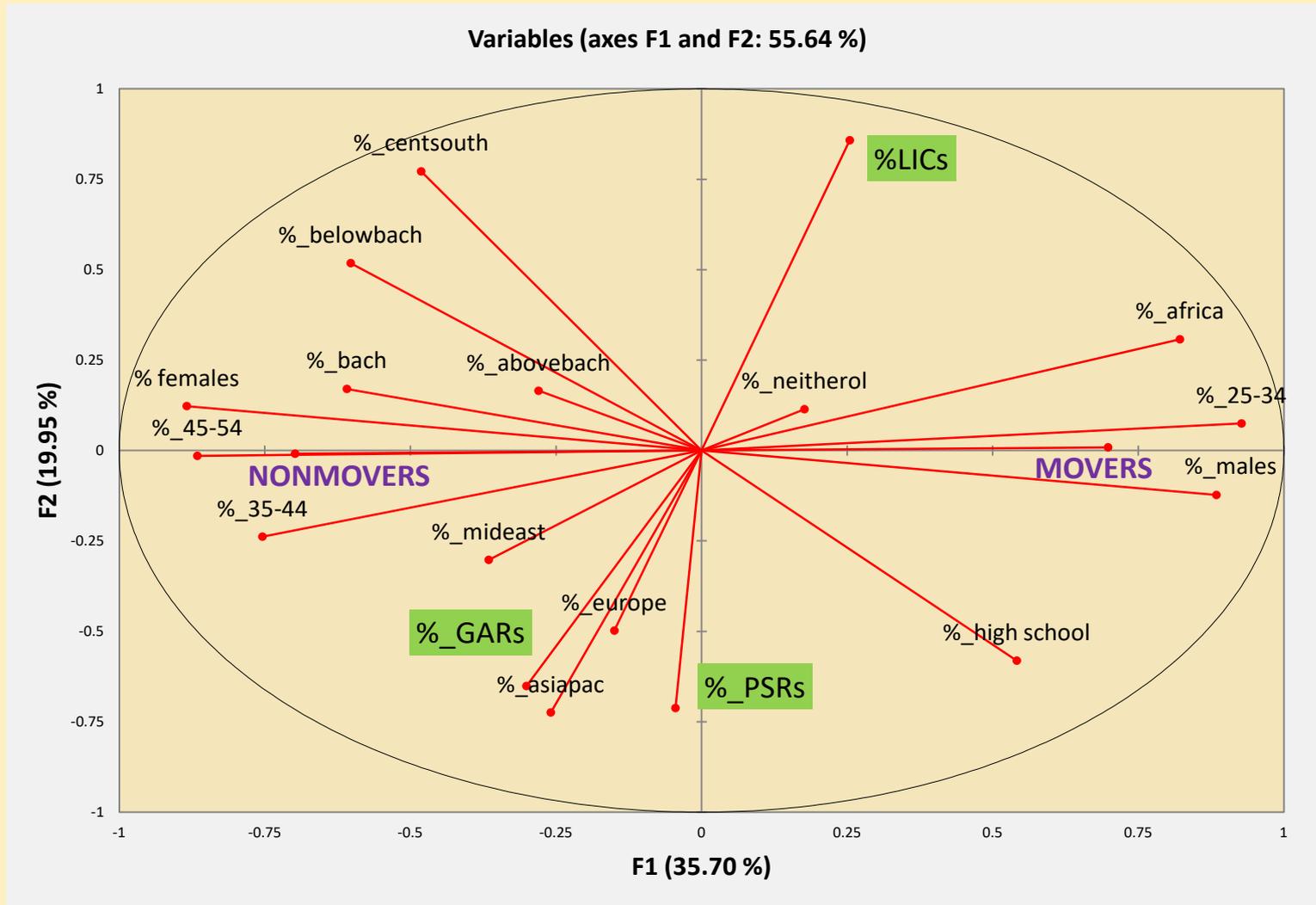


All regions (Tax year=2013)

Middle East (Tax year=2013)



Over-representation of males, younger individuals, those born in Africa, with high school education and/or with no official language proficiency in interregional flows



# Conclusions



- ❑ The likelihood of interregional mobility increases with the time in the country (one in five will move in the first ten years)
- ❑ Alberta and B.C. benefited from exchanges with other regions of the country during 2000-2013
- ❑ Latter pattern observed for refugees from the Middle East
- ❑ Some typical moves: LICs from Quebec to Ontario, GARs out from the Atlantic, PSRs from Manitoba to Alberta, etc.
- ❑ Those who were young, males, from Africa, with high school education and/or no official language proficiency at arrival more involved in interregional migration

# Preparing for Refugees' Interregional Moves



- ❑ One out of five refugees may move inter-regionally within the first ten years after arrival to Canada
- ❑ Refugees may resettle multiple times at different locations, which may include metropolitan or non-metropolitan centers such as smaller cities, towns or rural areas where secondary refugee settlement is now happening.
- ❑ Those refugees who stay in their original regional location need to be reassured that there are adequate long-term employment and educational opportunities for them
- ❑ Potential refugee movers need be provided information on opportunities in possible destinations and logistical support for their future interregional moves.

# Looking at the Future



- “Push” and “pull” factors have changed in their strength and direction. Also, composition of refugee flows are different from previous years.
- It is necessary for government and settlement agencies take into the account interregional mobility experiences of refugees in their short and long term strategies

# Today's Refugees: Will they behave like those of the past?



Yes side: “Push” and “pull” factors driving migration do not make distinctions by refugee types  
No side: Factors may be modified by refugee and immigrant retention efforts



Thank-you!