STATISTICS CANADA'S DATA SOURCES ON IMMIGRANTS AND IMMIGRANT FAMILIES

ABSTRACT

While the concept of immigrant family is not part of Statistics Canada's standard definitions, there are potentially many ways to define it. Statistics Canada's data sources offer a wealth of information on all aspects of Canadian life. Many surveys can be used to produce estimates of the immigrant population and characteristics of families, based on user-defined concepts of an immigrant family. Aggregate data from administrative sources are also available upon request. Data gaps however exist on the understanding of the structure and dynamics of immigrant families over time and on the impact the family has on various immigration outcomes, for example, the adaptation and socio-economic well-being of immigrants in Canada. This paper provides an overview of Statistics Canada's key data sources on immigrants.

LORNA BAILIE AND JOHANNE DENIS[1]

Lorna Bailie and Johanne Denis are with the Special Surveys Division at Statistics Canada.

Statistics Canada is mandated to collect and disseminate relevant and accurate information that address current and emerging issues facing Canadians. Certainly the dynamics and economic impact of immigration in Canada suggest this needs to be an information priority. Immigration numbers are on the rise. Since 2000, more than 60% of the population growth comes from international migration. Between 2025 and 2030, it is expected that immigration will account for all population growth. Statistics Canada has improved coverage of the immigrant population for many of its household surveys such as the Canadian Community Health Survey, the International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey and others. Certainly the launch of the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada has resulted in a greater breadth of information and a better understanding of the outcomes of recent immigrants through collection of data on the dynamics of the integration process.

While these surveys allow researchers to study the population of immigrants, little is known about the composition of immigrant families and their dynamic over time. The following provides a description of the concepts of immigrant and immigrant family, followed by an overview of some key household surveys conducted by Statistics Canada that allow for the study of immigrants, and potentially, immigrant families. Information on two key administrative sources and on access to Statistics Canada data are also provided.

The Concepts of Immigrant and Immigrant Family

As part of its objectives, Statistics Canada is to promote sound statistical standards and practices. This is partly being met through the development of standard classifications, the monitoring of their implementation and the establishment of official concordances among and between international and Canadian classifications. Statistics Canada is also responsible for the standardization of economic and social concepts and the maintenance of comprehensive documentation for all surveys conducted by Statistics Canada.

The concept of immigrant

According to the 2001 Census of Population Dictionary (Statistics Canada, 2003), the concept of immigrant refers to persons who are, or have been, landed immigrants in Canada. A landed immigrant is a person who has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities. Some immigrants have resided in Canada for a number of years, while others have arrived recently. Most immigrants are born outside Canada, but a small number were born in Canada.

In a survey context, the identification of immigrants mainly comes from self-reporting.[2] There are various ways to identify target populations, namely:

a) Based on citizenship – can ask for detailed country of citizenship; can ask if the person is a Canadian citizen by naturalization or by birth or not a Canadian citizen.

b) Based on landed immigrant status – can ask details on year of immigration, admission category, age of immigration, source country.

c) Based on place of birth – can ask detailed country of birth; can ask if the person was born outside or inside Canada.

d) Based on generational status – can ask details on country of birth of mother and father to then classify the individual as being a first generation, i.e., the individual and their parents were born outside Canada, a second generation, i.e., the individual was born in Canada but at least one of their parents was not, or a third generation, where both the individual and their parents were Canadian-born.

The concept of immigrant family

The concept of immigrant family is not part of Statistics Canada's standard definitions. Indeed there are potentially many ways to define an immigrant family. Data users usually define it according to their research questions and the data source being used. Among all data sources available (see Appendix B for a list of some key household surveys), the Census of Population is the best source to adequately define the concept since data are collected on every person in a household. The relationship of household members to the household reference person (called "Person 1") allows for family structures to be defined. Indeed, a person may be related to Person 1 through blood, marriage, common-law or adoption (e.g. spouse, common-law partner, son or daughter, father or mother) or unrelated (e.g. lodger, roommate or employee).

Most household surveys are at the person level. In other words, information is collected from a selected respondent, and household or family characteristics become attributes of the selected respondent. For these surveys, statistical inferences cannot therefore be made at the family or household level.

The following presents a review – by no means, exhaustive – of definitions of immigrant family that have been used by various data users. Most of these definitions were derived based on users' research questions rather than aiming at really studying immigrant families.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada suggested an operationalization of the concept of immigrant family, in their custom tables from the Census of Population. The following rules were used:

i) Both husband and wife or lone parent are recent[3] immigrants; OR

ii) Mixed recent immigrant families:
   - Husband is recent immigrant, wife is earlier immigrant
   - Husband is recent immigrant, wife is Canadian-born
   - Wife is recent immigrant, husband is earlier immigrant
   - Wife is recent immigrant, husband is Canadian-born; OR

iii) Both husband and wife or lone parent are earlier immigrants; OR

iv) Mixed earlier immigrant families and/or Canadian-born families:
   - Husband is earlier immigrant, wife is Canadian-born
   - Wife is earlier immigrant, husband is Canadian-born
   - Both husband and wife or lone parent are Canadian-born; OR

v) Both husband and wife or lone parent are non-permanent residents.[4]

In his study, *The wealth position of immigrant families in Canada*, Zhang (2003) employed Statistics Canada's Survey of Financial Security. Information was collected for family units and included data on all family members aged 15 or over. The following definition was used: a family is referred to as an immigrant family if the major income recipient is an immigrant. If the major income recipient is not an immigrant, the family is referred to as Canadian-born. Since the study employs cross-sectional data, no ambiguity can be introduced by this definition. Caution should be used when using this definition with longitudinal data because of changing characteristics of respondents or spouses over time and throughout the various waves of the survey. For example, the Canadian-born spouse of an immigrant major income may become the major income recipient in follow-up waves of the longitudinal survey. In such case, the immigrant family of the first wave would be re-classified as Canadian-born in the second wave.

Worswick (2001) used the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth in his research: *School performance of the children of immigrants in Canada, 1994-98*. He defined children of immigrant families as children for whom the person most knowledgeable about the child is an immigrant. These children may or may not have been born in Canada. Children of Canadian-born parents are those for whom the person most knowledgeable about the child was born in Canada.

In his study, *Evolving family living arrangements of Canada's immigrants*, Thomas (2001) used the Census of Population and the Landed Immigrant Data System, from Citizenship and Immigration Canada. The immigrant population captured in the Census was divided into categories that reflect increasing levels of support from relatives. To avoid double-counting, immigrants who live in an economic family with more than one type of relative (for ex., a later arrival and a Canadian-born adult) were classified according to the relative who is longest-established in Canada or who should be able to lend the most support. Categories of living arrangements were defined for immigrants who live: (1) alone as unattached individuals; (2) in economic families with children only; (3) with an adult or adults whose year of immigration was more recent than their own; (4) with an adult or adults who immigrated in the same year; (5) with immigrants who migrated in an earlier year than their own; and (6) with Canadian-born adult relatives.

In Research and Development Highlights (1997), *The housing and socio-economic conditions of immigrant families: 1991 Census profile*, an immigrant family refers to a family (lone-parent or couple-led) living in a private household where at least one member of the family is, or has been, a landed immigrant to Canada.

Liu and Kerr (2003) used the Canadian Survey of Consumer Finance (later replaced by the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics in 1998) in their study: *Family change*

and economic well-being in Canada: the case of recent immigrant families with children. Immigrant families were those with at least one adult reporting they had emigrated to Canada over the past decade.

In *The academic achievement of adolescents from immigrant families: the role of family background, attitudes and behavior*, Fuligni (1997) did not use a data source from Statistics Canada, but a U.S. survey conducted in a California school district with a large number of immigrant families. In his study, students were classified as being either first, second or third generation or greater.

The above mentioned studies were either done at the family level or at the person level, where family classification was used as an attribute of the selected respondent.

The Census of Population and Some Key Household Surveys Conducted by Statistics Canada

As described above, the Census of Population is the best source to adequately define the concept of immigrant family. It also provides reliable estimates of the immigrant population since questions on immigration are asked to all members of one in five households in Canada. Please see Appendix A for a description of the census questions related to immigration.

Statistics Canada's extensive socio-economic statistical program includes a variety of complementary data sources that address three major types of data needs in ways that the Census cannot:

- a need for current data on a regular basis;
- a need for information that includes complex or sensitive questions which are best administered by an interviewer;
- a need for information to determine the underlying causes of a phenomenon, requiring a set of data that extends over time.

The Census of Population is the best source to adequately define the concept of immigrant family. It also provides reliable estimates of the immigrant population since questions on immigration are asked to all members of one in five households in Canada.

Some of these various data sources identify the immigrant population based on place of birth while others define it according to the landed immigrant status and/or citizenship. Some other sources categorize immigrants based on their generational status.

While definitions used are quite comparable between surveys, a current initiative is currently underway in Statistics Canada: the *Standardized Questionnaire Modules Working Group*. This group was mandated with the task of looking at commonly asked question modules in household surveys, and recommending a standardized approach to asking these questions in a consistent and common way. Immigration related questions were one topic looked at by the working group. Subject matter experts from the Census and other household surveys with a history of asking immigration related questions, reviewed the questions, concepts and definitions being used by various data sources and recommended standardized questions for *country of birth, country of birth of parents and grandparents, landed immigrant status, year of arrival in Canada and year of landing in Canada*. Once these and other questions are approved by an internal standard committee, they will become the standardized question modules for future household surveys with a five-year review mechanism put in place.

Appendix B provides a list of some of the largest, or more relevant household surveys for the immigrant population, in alphabetical order. It provides the purpose, the frequency and the question(s) on immigration that is (are) being collected, with a note on the potential to define the immigrant family. The reliability of estimates on the immigrant population is also presented. Among these surveys, the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada and the Ethnic Diversity Survey specifically target the immigrant population while the Census of Population allows for precise estimates at various levels of geography.

Readers are moreover referred to Statistics Canada's socio-economic data sources on census-related topics.[5] This review of Statistics Canada complementary data sources to the Census of Population was produced in the context of the 2006 Census consultation process.

Administrative Sources

The Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB) is a database that links immigration and taxation records. It currently covers the immigration landing years 1980 to 2003 and is updated with tax information annually. However, tax data are subject to a 16-year retention period on the file. The IMDB is a comprehensive source of data on the economic behaviour of the immigrant taxfiler population in Canada. The database is managed by Statistics Canada on behalf of a federal-provincial consortium led by Citizenship and Immigration Canada. A person is included in the database only if he or she obtained their landed immigrant status since 1980 and filed at least one tax return after becoming a landed immigrant. There is, however, no family information on the database and no comparison with the overall Canadian population is possible.

To overcome these limitations, a new product was created. The Longitudinal Administrative Databank (LAD) and the Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB) are linked together to produce a source of longitudinal information on a sample of Canadians and immigrants (referred to here as the LAD_IMDB). The LAD_IMDB combines longitudinal tax information for a sample of Canadians from the LAD, with characteristics of landed immigrants (permanent residents) from the IMDB. The resulting database is a 20 percent sample of Canadian taxfilers, including a representative proportion of immigrants. Immigrants are associated with their key characteristics at landing. Bringing together these databases

enriches the LAD by enabling comparisons of known immigrants and other Canadian taxfilers. Similarly, the IMDB is enriched by the supplementary family information and the extended period of taxfiling information available on the LAD sample of immigrants. For more information on this product, see Dryburgh (2004).

Access to Statistics Canada Data

Flexible, workable access options for all types of data users continues to be a challenge for Statistics Canada. The legislative authority (*Statistics Act*) guarantees respondents confidentiality and reassures them of reputable and responsible protection of data. Under this legislative framework, Statistics Canada has over the years developed options for accessing data that address a multitude of user needs. While *The Daily* provides general level summary information, Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca) offers an increased access to free aggregate data and summary analysis. These two options however do not address the needs of researchers wanting to use microdata. When possible,[6] public use microdata files are produced and placed in a consortium of postsecondary institutions, also known as the Data Liberation Initiative. These public use files are screened and details are collapsed in order to protect the identification, and thus confidentiality, of respondents.

In 1998, the Canadian Initiative on Social Statistics studied the challenges facing the research community in Canada. One of the recommendations of the national task force was the creation of research facilities to give academic researchers improved access to Statistics Canada's microdata files. This access would allow researchers in the social sciences to build expertise in quantitative methodology and analysis. The Research Data Centres (RDC) program was thus created and is now part of an initiative by Statistics Canada, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)[7] and university consortia to help strengthen Canada's social research capacity and to support the policy research community.

RDCs provide researchers with access, in a secure university setting, to microdata from population and household surveys (both cross-sectional and longitudinal). The centres are staffed by Statistics Canada employees. They are operated under the provisions of the *Statistics Act*[8] in accordance with all the confidentiality rules and are accessible only to researchers with approved projects who have been sworn in under the *Statistics Act* as "deemed employees." RDCs are located throughout the country, so researchers do not need to travel to Ottawa to access Statistics Canada microdata. For more information on the Research Data Centres Program, see http://www.statcan.ca/english/rdc/index.htm.

Statistics Canada has also been hosting theme-specific data users conferences such as the health data users conference and data workshops to help researchers understand some of the more complex longitudinal files. Major resources have been expended to improve documentation found on the Integrated Meta Data Base, the Statistics Canada repository of documentation for all surveys.

More information on how to access data can be found at www.statcan.ca.

Ackowledgements

The authors would like to thank Lucie Cossette from Special Surveys Division in Statistics Canada for her help in the review of data products and comments provided on this paper. Margaret Michalowski from Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division also provided valuable comments.

References

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. 1997. The housing and socio-economic conditions of immigrant families: 1991 Census profile. *Research and Development Highlights – Socio-Economic Series*. Ottawa.

Dryburgh, H. 2004. *The Longitudinal Administrative Databank (LAD) and the Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB): Building the LAD_IMDB – a technical paper*. Statistics Canada. Catalogue no. 89-612-XIE. Ottawa.

Fuligni, A. J. 1997. The academic achievement of adolescents from immigrant families: The roles of family background, attitudes, and behaviour. *Child Development.* Volume 68. Number 2.

Liu J., Kerr, D. 2003. Family change and economic well-being in Canada: The case of recent immigrant families with children. *International Migration*. Volume 41 (4). MA, USA.

Statistics Canada. 2003. 2001 *Census Dictionary.* Catalogue no. 92-378-XIE. Ottawa. Revised in December 2004.

Thomas, D. 2001. Evolving family living arrangements of Canada's immigrants. Statistics Canada. Catalogue no. 11-008 – no. 61. *Canadian Social Trends*. Ottawa.

Worswick, C. 2001. *School performance of the children of immigrants in Canada, 1994-98*. Statistics Canada. Catalogue no. 11F0019MIE – no. 178. Ottawa.

Zhang, X. 2003. *The wealth position of immigrant families in Canada*. Statistics Canada. Catalogue no. 11F0019MIE – no. 197. Ottawa.

Notes

1 The views expressed in this article are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Statistics Canada or the Government of Canada.

2 Most Statistics Canada household surveys are based on an area frame, where households and the respondent within households are selected using a multistage approach. In these surveys, the immigrant status of respondents is not known at the selection stage. Other household surveys use a random digit dialing approach where the characteristics of respondents are not known before selection. The Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada is the only sample survey conducted by Statistics Canada where the sample is selected from an administrative source from Citizenship and Immigration Canada. In this case, the immigrant status is therefore not based on self-reporting.

3 *Recent immigrants* are those who immigrated between 1986 and 2001; earlier immigrants are those who immigrated between 1875 and 1985.

4 *Non-permanent residents* refer to people from another country who had an employment authorization, a student authorization, or a Minister's permit, or who were refugee claimants at the time of the Census, and family members living in Canada with them.

5 http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/products/reference/consultation/ sum.htm AND http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/products/reference/consultation/tables.htm

6 Public use microdata files are generally produced for cross-sectional surveys. However this product cannot be developed for longitudinal surveys given the high risk of disclosure arising from the nature of data collected over time.

7 See http://www.sshrc.ca.

8 See http://www.statcan.ca/english/about/statact.htm

Appendix A: Census of Population questions related to immigration

SOCIOCULTURAL INFORMATION

9 Where was this person born?

Specify one response only, according to present boundaries.

Born in Canada
Specify province or territory

14 [ ]

Born outside Canada
Specifi country

15 [ ]

10 Of what country is this person a citizen?

Indicate more than one citizenship, if applicable. "Canada, by naturalization" refers to the process by which an immigrant is granted citizenship of Canada, under the Citizenship Act.

16 Canada, by birth

17 Canada, by naturalization

18 [ ]

11 Is this person now, or has this person ever been, a landed immigrant?

A "landed immigrant" is a person who has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities.

19 No — Go to Question 13

20 Yes

12 In what year did this person first become a landed immigrant?

If exact year is not known, enter best estimate.

Year

21 [ ][ ][ ][ ]

PLACE OF BIRTH OF PARENTS

32 Where was each of this person's parents born?

Mark " " or specify country according to present boundaries.

a) Father

a) Mother

43

Father

01 Born in Canada
Bornn outside Canada
Specify country

02 [ ]

Mother

03 Born in Canada
Bornn outside Canada
Specify country

04 [ ]

Appendix B: Some key household surveys at Statistics Canada

Survey	Purpose	Frequency	Immigration question(s) / How to define an immigrant family?	Reliability of estimates on immigrants / immigrant families
Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating (CSGVP)	The purpose of this survey is to collect data regarding unpaid volunteer activities, charitable giving and civic participation. The results will help build a better understanding of these activities which can in turn be used to develop programs and services to help them.	Every 3 years with a follow up of a sample of respondents 3 years after the first interview	Immigration-related questions include: country of birth, citizenship, landed-immigrant status and year first immigrated to Canada. The concept of immigrant family can be user-defined and derived using the relationships between members of the household. Analysis is at the person level with family information being used as attribute of the selected respondent.	The CSGVP is a simple random sample of persons aged 15 or over. Large Census Metropolitan Areas are oversampled. Results from the 2004 CSGVP will be released in the spring of 2006. It will then be possible to know if the effective sample size of immigrants would allow reliable analyses to be done.
Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS)	The central objective of the CCHS is to gather health-related data at the sub-provincial levels of geography (health region or combined health regions).	Annual, with a larger sample every 2 years	Immigration-related questions include: country of birth, if born a Canadian citizen or not and year first came to Canada to live. Information on household relationships is also collected but no information on the immigration status of household members is collected. Analysis is at the person level.	The CCHS is conducted every year, with a larger sample being taken every other year. The sample size of immigrant respondents was of 16,901 in cycle 1.1 (12 years old and over); 5,599 in cycle 1.2 (15 years old and over); 17,287 in cycle 2.1 (12 years old and over) and 3,760 in cycle 2.2 (all ages).
Census of Population	The Census is designed to provide information about the demographic, social and economic characteristics of the Canadian population and about its housing units.	Every 5 years (years ending in 1 and 6)	Immigration-related questions include: country of birth, citizenship, landed-immigrant status, year first became a landed immigrant and country of birth of parents. The concept of immigrant family can be user-defined and derived using the relationships between members of the household.	Questions are asked to a sample of 1 in 5 households in Canada; data are very reliable for both persons and families.

Survey	Purpose	Frequency	Immigration question(s) / How to define an immigrant family?	Reliability of estimates on immigrants / immigrant families
Ethnic Diversity Survey (EDS)	The two primary objectives of the EDS are: to provide information on the ethnic and cultural background of people in Canada and how these backgrounds affect their participation in the social, economic and cultural life of Canada; and to provide information to better understand how Canadians of different ethnic backgrounds interpret and report their ethnicity.	Infrequent: Postcensal survey conducted following the 2001 Census of Population	Immigration-related questions include: country of birth, citizenship, landed-immigrant status, year first came to Canada to live and country of birth of parents and grandparents. The concept of immigrant family can be user-defined and derived using the relationships between members of the household. Analysis is at the person level with family information being used as attribute of the selected respondent.	The total responding sample included 10,000 immigrants living in the 10 provinces.
General Social Survey (GSS)	The two primary objectives of the GSS are: to gather data on social trends in order to monitor temporal changes in the living conditions and well being of Canadians; and to provide immediate information on specific social policy issues of current or emerging interest. Topic changes every year. Every 5 years, the GSS collects data on families to monitor changes in Canadian family structures with respect to marriage and common-law unions, and children. Cycle 15, conducted in 2001 was the latest one on families. While only collected once, retrospective data on family structures were collected.	Annual	Immigration-related questions include: country of birth, year became a landed immigrant or first came to Canada to live permanently. Some cycles, including the family cycles, also collect the country of birth of parents and grandparents. The concept of immigrant family can be user-defined and derived. Analysis is at the person level and at the family level, in family cycles.	The GSS is a simple random sample of persons aged 15 or over. The sample of immigrants is therefore obtained at random with no oversample being taken in major cities. For cycle 15, the sample of first generation responding immigrants was about 4,200 units. Second generation immigrants can also be derived using the country of birth of parents.
International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey (IALSS)	The main purpose of the survey is to find out how well adults use printed information to function in society. Another aim is to collect data on the incidence and volume of participation in adult education and training, and to investigate the relationships between initial and adult education, on the one hand, and literacy proficiency and wider economic and social outcomes, on the other.	Infrequent – conducted in 2003	Immigration-related questions include: country of birth, landed-immigrant status, year first immigrated to Canada, principal applicant/ family member status, number of years lived in Canada, years of schooling outside Canada, highest level of education obtained outside Canada and in which country, mother born in or outside Canada, father born in or outside Canada. Limited information is available on the family of the respondent.	The IALSS used the 2001 Census of Population as a sampling frame. In addition to the main sample additional households were sampled in Quebec, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia to provide data on the immigrant population,for a total of 1,707 responding units.

Survey	Purpose	Frequency	Immigration question(s) / How to define an immigrant family?	Reliability of estimates on immigrants / immigrant families
Labour Force Survey (LFS)	The LFS provides estimates of employment and unemployment which are among the most timely and important measures of performance of the Canadian economy.	Monthly	Starting in January 2006, immigration-related questions are being collected: country of birth, landed-immigrant status, year and month first became a landed immigrant, country in which the respondent received his/her highest level of education. The concept of immigrant family can be specified and derived using relationships between members of the household aged 15 and over. Analysis can be performed at the person and/or household levels.	The LFS uses a complex sample design. The quality of the LFS immigrant data will be investigated during 2006. It is expected that the LFS will be able to produce high quality three month moving average unemployment rates for immigrants at a national and provincial level, and for the largest three CMAs.
Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada (LSIC)	The main objective of the LSIC is to understand the adaptation process of new immigrants to Canada, the factors that affect their adaptation and the services used by immigrants to facilitate the process. While full adaptation may take several generations to achieve, the LSIC is designed to examine the process during the critical first four years of settlement, during which newcomers establish economic, social and cultural ties to Canadian society.	6 months, 2 years and 4 years after arrival	Target population: landed immigrants arriving from outside Canada between October 1, 2000 and September 30, 2001; were age 15 or older at the time of landing. Immigrants who applied and landed from within Canada are excluded from the survey. The concept of immigrant family can be specified and derived using relationships between the selected longitudinal respondent and members of the household. Analysis is at the person level with family information being used as attribute of the selected respondent.	The sample size of recent immigrant respondents was of 12,040 in Wave 1, 9,322 in Wave 2 and will be over 7,000 in Wave 3.
National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY)	The purpose of the NLSCY is to collect information on children, their development, family and school experiences. Another purpose of this survey is to gather information on various school factors which may influence the development and education of children.	Every 2 years; first cohort started in 1994	For both, the person most knowledgeable about the child (PMK) and the child, immigration-related questions include: country of birth, citizenship, landed-immigrant status and year first immigrated to Canada. The concept of immigrant family can be user-defined and derived using the immigration-related characteristics of the child, the PMK and/or the spouse of the PMK. Analysis is at the person level with family information being used as attribute of the selected child.	In cycle 5 (2002-2003), for 0 to 5 year olds, there is a responding sample of 42 first generation, 2,090 second generation and 8,707 who were born in Canada to Canadian-born parents. For the 8 to 17 year olds, the sample includes 83 first generation, 1,023 second generation and 6,826 who were born in Canada to Canadian- born parents. Given the small sample size of the first generation category, it is suggested to group the first and second generation categories to get reliable estimates.

Survey	Purpose	Frequency	Immigration question(s) / How to define an immigrant family?	Reliability of estimates on immigrants / immigrant families
National Population Health Survey (NPHS)	The purpose of this longitudinal survey is to collect data on the economic, social, demographic, occupational and environmental correlates of health.	Every 2 years; first cohort started in 1994; cross-sectional components in 1994-1995, 1996-1997 and 1998-1999	Immigration-related questions include: country of birth and year first immigrate to Canada (cycle 1) / year first came to Canada to live (cycles 2 and 3). One component of the cross-sectional sample (called the household component) also asks the immigration-related questions to each member of the household. The concept of immigrant family can be specified and derived using relationships between the selected respondent and members of the household. Analysis is at the person level.	For the cross-sectional components, the sample size of immigrant respondents was of 2,400 in 1994-1995 (12 years old and over); 11,789 in 1996-1997 (all ages) and 2,445 in 1998-1999 (all ages). For the household components, the sample size of immigrant respondents (all household members) was of 7,019 in 1994-1995 (all ages); 28,546 in 1996-1997 (all ages) and 6,548 in 1998-1999 (all ages).
Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID)	At the heart of the survey's objectives is the understanding of the economic well-being of Canadians: what economic shifts do individuals and families live through, and how does it vary with changes in their paid work, family make-up, receipt of government transfers or other factors? The survey's longitudinal dimension makes it possible to see such concurrent and often related events.	Annual	Immigration-related questions include: country of birth, landed-immigrant status, year first became a landed immigrant and whether mother or father were Canadian-born or foreign-born. Information on family relationships and demographic characteristics of family and household members is also collected.	The samples for SLID are selected from the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS) and thus share the latter's sample design.The sample includes 2 cross-sectional panels at any one time plus a longitudinal component. With 3,500 – 4,000 immigrants in each panel, there is a potential for 7,000 immigrants if combining the 2 cross-sectional panels.
Youth in Transition Survey (YITS)	The YITS is a longitudinal survey undertaken jointly by Statistics Canada and Human Resources and Skills Development Canada. This survey is designed to examine the major transitions in the lives of youth, particularly between education, training and work. There are two cohorts : Cohort A – 15 year old Cohort B – 18 to 20 year old	Every 2 years for 5 cycles (2000 to 2008)	Various questions on immigration are asked: country of birth, citizenship, landed-immigrant status and year first came to Canada to live. The concept of immigrant family can be user-defined and derived using the immigration-related characteristics of the youth and/or the parents of the youth. Analysis can be done at the youth level with family characteristics being used as attribute or at the parent level.	The sample for the 15 year old cohort is selected from a school sampling frame, while the 18 to 20 year old cohort is selected from the Labour Force Survey. For the cohort of 15 years old, a responding sample of 1,250 immigrants was obtained in cycle 2 (conducted in 2002). For the cohort of 18 to 20 years old, the responding sample of immigrants fo cycle 2 was 782.