CERIS
Refugee Research Synthesis
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5 Key Themes Provided

- 1. Outcomes of Resettled Refugees
- 2. Outcomes of Refugees Landed in Canada
- 3. Secondary Migration of Resettled Refugees
- 4. Canada's Refugee Protection System in International Context
- 5. Irregular Migration and Refugee Protection

Major Findings

- Worldwide numbers of asylum applications are up 28% in 2013; refugee claims in Canada have declined by more than 49% (UNHCR 2014).
  - We use the concept of *preclusion* to capture this drop: "the prevention of access by potential asylum seekers in relation to sovereign territory of a state" (pp. 9-10).
  - Canada's Multiple Borders Strategy (CBSA 2009) generates preclusion along with security.
- The number of Government-Assisted Refugees (GARs) is down overall.

Confirmation of Recent Findings

- This report finds no definitive research to prove that
  a) refugee needs are higher since IRPA took effect in 2002; and
  b) group processing demands higher levels of settlement services categorically.
  - In 2010, CIC found that post-IRPA GARs are younger, on average, than GARs from the 1990s, with about 60% (compared to 50%) under the age of 24.
    - Hence, they have less education than their pre-IRPA counterparts, and this may have resource implications (Hyndman 2011).

CIC Evaluation of GARs and RAP (2011)

- "[r]efugee needs for support services has [sic] likely increased following the introduction of IRPA. With the enactment of IRPA in 2002…there was a greater emphasis placed on the need for protection and less emphasis placed on the ability of a refugee to become established in Canada. Resettled refugees are also exempt from inadmissibility to Canada for financial needs, or for excess demand on health care and social services. This change in selection criteria has had far reaching impact in terms of the types of clients RAP Service Provider Organizations (SPOs) provide service to as compared to the pre-IRPA GAR clients. As noted in the evaluation, GAR clients now face more "obstacles," as demonstrated by the percentage increase in the proportion of clients (2009 compared to 2000) with no official language skills (+14%), no formal education (+26%), or those 65 years of age or older (+150%)."

CIC data + evaluation = settlement services

- Given that CIC (2011) found that "GAR clients now face more obstacles'" to integration upon landing in Canada, and that CIC (2010) found no decline in the economic performance of post-IRPA refugees compared with pre-IRPA ones, **settlement services must be filling this gap.**
  - Without them, economic performance should show a decline, given the stats on previous slide.

Gaps in Refugee Research

- There is no published research we could find on visa-office referred refugees.
- The impact of both mental and physical disabilities on refugees' social and economic integration is unknown.
- Little is known about the migration pathways for claimants or why some claimants abandon their claims once in Canada.
- The outcomes of Canada's new refugee adjudication procedures (introduced in December 2012) are still emerging, and analyses of results largely unpublished beyond the data.

More Gaps in Research

- Data is unavailable on the number of inland refugee claims made after the implementation of the December 2004 Safe Third Country Agreement; a comparison of claims before and after this time would allow for rich analysis of migration patterns and refugee claims.
- No ‘irregular arrivals’ were designated by the Minister in 2013, so no legal or social science research has been done on casework or fieldwork.

Questions we could not answer

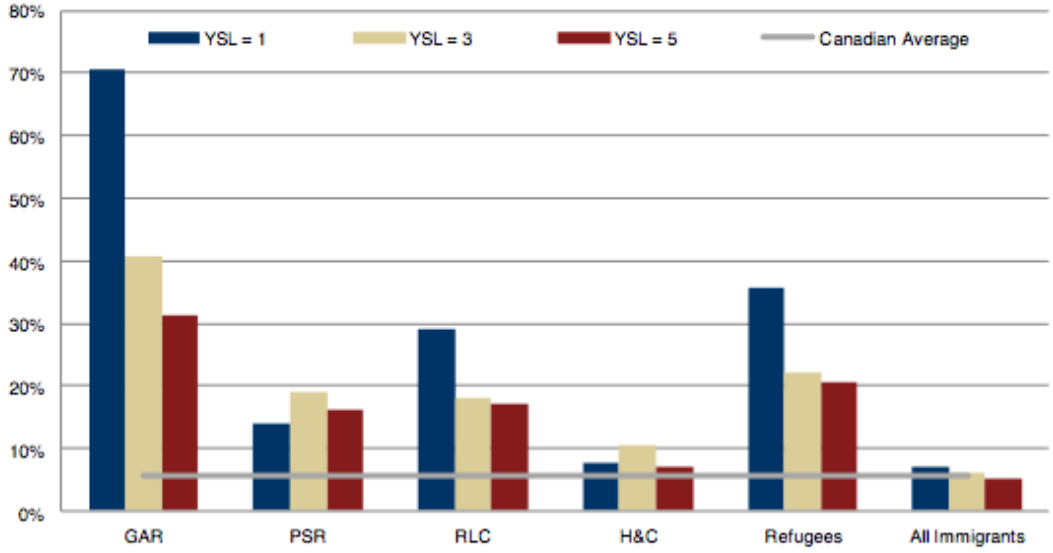
- What are the motivations of refugee claimants who come to Canada?
- What policies are in place to protect against *refoulement?*
- We were asked about ‘queue-jumping’ by asylum seekers, but found this to be an erroneous question since refugee law does not codify a queue or prescribed order for making an asylum claim.

Methodological Concern

- Existing federal data and subsequent analyses on the economic outcomes of GARs are flawed.
- A methodological error that reports income assistance from the Federal Government in Year 1 for GARs is reported as social assistance (and hence dependence).
- This errors shows GARs to perform less well than other refugee groups. Such data plotting and analysis could misinform the policy process.

Incorrect Skew Has Possible Stigma

Figure 10: Incidence of social assistance for selected immigrant categories, by years since landing (YSL), in tax year 2008



Source: IMDB, 2008 and CRA, 2008

- PSRs exhibit relatively high incidence of social assistance (SA) with higher rates than the all immigrants' average and the Canadian average.
- The incidence of SA remains high in subsequent years after landing; however they are lower than government-assisted refugees and refugees landed in Canada.

Questions?