Citizenship Acquisition in Canada: An Overview based on Census 1986 to 2006

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Executive summary

This profile uses data from the 1986, 1991, 2001, and 2006 censuses to provide an overview of citizenship acquisition of the immigrant population in Canada. The analysis compares citizenship take-up rates of immigrants with various socio-demographic characteristics.¹

Census data from 1986 to 2006 showed that the citizenship take-up rates among immigrants with at least three years since landing² (3+ YSL) or with at least five years since landing (5+ YSL) were high and increased consistently with each census.

• The take-up rate for immigrants with 3+ YSL was 85.1% in 2006, just over six percentage points higher compared to the 1986 Census. For immigrants with 5+ YSL the take up rate was 88.3% in 2006, almost eight percentage points higher compared to the 1986 census.

In each census from 1986 to 2006 the citizenship take-up rates among immigrants with 5+ YSL were slightly higher for men compared to women.

Comparing the results across census years from 1986 to 2006, immigrants who have been in Canada for longer periods of time consistently had higher citizenship take-up rates.

• At the time of the 2006 Census, immigrants with 3-4 YSL had a citizenship take-up rate of 47.6%, the rate for those with 5-14 YSL was almost double (84.1%), and for those with at least 35 YSL it was 91.8%.

In 2006, immigrants born in many African and Asian countries had higher take-up rates compared to those born in North America and Europe.

- The take-up rate for immigrants with 5+ YSL varied by region of birth; for immigrants from Africa it was 92.4%, from Asia 90.5%, from Europe 88.3% and from North America 63.8%.
- The take-up rate of immigrants with 5+ YSL varied considerably by country of birth. The take-up rates for immigrants with 5+ YSL were respectively 92.3%, 83.6% and 92.4% for those born in P.R. China, India and the Philippines; while for those who were born in Japan, the United States of America and Australia, the rates were 58.8%, 63.1% and 66.1 % respectively.
- Differences in take-up rates among immigrants from various countries persist with increased YSL. The take-up rates for immigrants with 25-34 YSL were 98.4%, 93.9% and 98.1% for those who were born in China, India and the Philippines; while for those who were born in Japan, the United States of America and Australia, the rates were 70.6%, 59.4% and 60.8%.

In 2006, immigrants who landed at younger ages generally had higher take-up rates. However, differences in take-up rates by age at landing were most prominent for those with fewer YSL in Canada.

For immigrants with 3-4 YSL who landed at ages 65+, 25-44 and under 15, take-up rates ranged from 39.3% to 46.9% to 54.5%, respectively.

Take-up rates are higher among immigrants with university level education or above compared to those with lower educational attainment, the overall difference however is moderate.

¹ Analysis by immigration category is not included in the study because censuses do not have this information.

² Years since landing (YSL) refers to the difference between the calendar years of the year prior to the census and the landing year. For brevity, the term "prior to the census year" is not always mentioned following YSL.

• In 2006, among immigrants aged 15 and over and with 5+ YSL, the take-up rates for those with bachelor degrees or above were approximately 90%, while the rates for those without university education ranged from 86.9% for those with no certificate, diploma or degree to 88.9% for those with apprenticeship, trades and college diploma.

In 2006, immigrants who self reported speaking at least one of the official languages had a higher citizenship take-up rate compared to those speaking neither English nor French. Among age groups, this difference was more pronounced for those between 25-64, compared those who were younger or older.

Immigrants residing in Quebec had the highest take-up rates in all census years except 1986; while those in the Atlantic Provinces had the lowest take-up rates in all census years.

Introduction

Canada's immigration, integration/settlement, citizenship and multiculturalism policies aim to provide an inclusive environment for Canada's culturally diverse population. The Canadian citizenship model is generally regarded as facilitative, in comparison to many other countries. For many who are foreign born, the acquisition of citizenship may mark the final stage of the migration process, and also indicate their commitment to Canada.³

The legal status of a Canadian citizen was first recognized with the Canadian Citizenship Act enacted on June 27th, 1946, and which came into force on January 1st, 1947. Canada became the first Commonwealth country to establish this distinct citizenship status — prior to 1947, both native born and those who were naturalized into the country had the status of British subjects. ⁴ Thirty years later, legislative changes to this Act aimed to ensure both equal treatment (by removing discriminatory practices) and improved access (e.g. by permitting the dual citizenship and lowering the residency requirement from five to three years). ⁵ Hence, the Citizenship Act which came into force on February 15th, 1977 both encourages and facilitates the naturalization of permanent residents. In contrast to the prior Act, citizenship is specified as a right in the 1977 Citizenship Act. A new law amending the Citizenship Act came into effect on April 17th, 2009. ⁶ This law confers Canadian citizenship to those who lost or never had it due to provisions in past legislation, such as laws which determined the passage of citizenship on the basis of the marital status of one's parents.

In general, in order to make a citizenship application an individual must meet requirements in the following six areas⁷: age, permanent resident status, time lived in Canada, language ability, prohibitions on criminal history, and knowledge of Canada. The requirements change over time. For example, before the bill C-24 came into force in 2015,⁸ applicants of the Canadian citizenship must be at least eighteen years old;⁹ applicants must have permanent resident status in Canada, and have lived in the country for at least three years in the past four years before applying for citizenship;¹⁰ applicants must have adequate knowledge of either of Canada's official languages (English and French); those with a criminal history (e.g. those charged with an

³ Tran, Kustec and Chui. 2005. "Becoming Canadian: Intent, process and outcome". Statistics Canada — Catalogue No. 11-008. www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-008-x/2004004/article/7775-eng.pdf accessed July 16th, 2012.

⁴ www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/legacy/chap-5.asp accessed July 16th, 2012.

⁵ 2010, Internal Paper, "Canadian Citizenship: A Discussion of Contemporary Policy and Legislative Change", Policy and Knowledge Development Division, Citizenship and Multicultural Branch, Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

⁶ www.cic.gc.ca/english/citizenship/rules.asp accessed July 16th, 2012.

⁷ www.cic.gc.ca/english/citizenship/become-eligibility.asp accessed July 16th, 2012.

⁸ www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/tools/updates/2015/2015-06-11.asp accessed September, 2015.

⁹ Applications for a child under 18 can be made once the following conditions are met: "a) the person applying is the child's parent, adoptive parent or legal guardian; b) the child is a permanent resident, but does not need to have lived in Canada for three years; and c) one parent is already a Canadian citizen or is applying to become a citizen at the same time. This also applies to adoptive parents." www.cic.gc.ca/english/citizenship/become-eligibility.asp accessed July 26th, 2012.

To make a citizenship application, adults must have resided in Canada for at least three years (1,095 days) in the past four years before applying. Children under the age of 18 do not need to meet this requirement. Time spent in Canada before becoming permanent resident may be counted if that time falls within the four-year period. Each day before lawful admission counts as one-half day. The calculation of residence cannot go beyond the four-year period before the date of application https://eservices.cic.gc.ca/rescalc/resCalcStartNew.do?&lang=en accessed on January 2nd, 2014.

indictable offense or an offense under the Citizenship Act) are ineligible to apply for citizenship; those applying for citizenship must demonstrate an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship; applicants between the ages of 18 and 54 must take a citizenship test¹¹ which evaluates their knowledge of Canada; for applicants aged under 18 or aged 55 or older, the knowledge and language requirements are waived and they do not have to write the test.

¹¹ For more information on the citizenship test see: www.cic.gc.ca/english/citizenship/cit-test.asp accessed July 2nd, 2013.

What you should know about this study

This profile uses data from the 1986, 1991, 2001, and 2006 censuses (20% sample) to portray the citizenship take-up rate of immigrants with various socio-demographic characteristics. Analysis of census data provides a snapshot of citizenship take-up at the time of the censues. There are several advantages of using census data to develop a profile of the citizenship take-up of immigrants in Canada. First, census data has a large sample size that allows for detailed geographic analysis and contains many demographic, ethno-cultural and economic variables. Second, data is available for consecutive censuses and this allows for comparisons across census years. ¹

However, using census data to develop a profile of citizenship take-up rates has some limitations. It does not capture immigrants who naturalized and subsequently left the country, or those who were absent at the time of the Census. While the census enumerates those living in Canada at census time and records immigrants' year of landing, there is no record of the actual time immigrants spent in Canada. In addition, the census does not reveal when citizenship was obtained. Further, there is no data on immigration categories. Finally, census data are based on self-reported characteristics by individuals and in some cases this person is a proxy reporter for the household.

Since immigrants were are eligible for citizenship application after three years of residency in Canadaⁱⁱⁱ, previous studies selected immigrants with at least three years since landing (YSL) prior to the census year in order to calculate the citizenship take-up rate for all "eligible" immigrants. However, more recent information suggests that there was time-lag of a few months to about two years between the application and the acquisition of citizenship, depending on the application time and place^{vi}. Using three years since landing (YSL) prior to the census year as cut-off point lowers the calculated rate by including many who had submitted an application but were waiting for the approval of their application. The variation in citizenship application processing time over years makes the comparisons of citizenship take-up rate across census years problematic. In the 2000s, as the citizenship grant application processing time could be as long as up to two years^{iv}, in this study, we use five YSL prior to the census year as the cut-off point to calculate the take-up rate for "eligible immigrants". In order to facilitate the comparison with previous studies, we also calculated the take-up rate using three years as cut-off points.

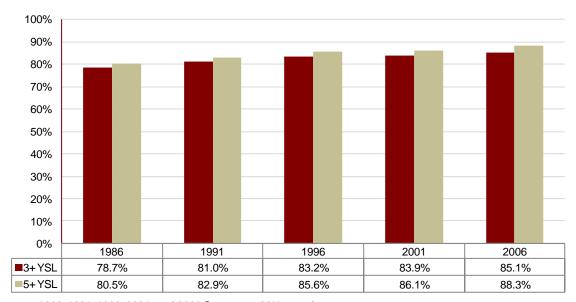
Throughout this report YSL refers to the difference between the calendar years of the year prior to the census and the landing year. For brevity, the term "prior to the census year" is not always mentioned following YSL.

- i. The format of the question on citizenship and explanation accompanying the question varied across these censuses. Such changes may influence the response to the question and hence the comparability across censuses.
- ii. Immigrants may come to Canada first as temporary residents then landed as permanent residents, i.e. immigrants.
- iii. See footnote 6 on page 1.
- iv. Eligibility based on landing year from the census is an approximation and is based on the assumption that immigrants lived in Canada for the entire period since their landing and did not get credit for the time spent in Canada prior to landing. We can only use this approximation since censuses do not record the actual time immigrants spend in Canada which is the information needed to identify eligible immigrants. See footnote 10 on page 1.
- v. See footnote 3 on page 1.
- vi. Administrative Data obtained from CIC Operational Performance Management Branch.

Citizenship Take-up Rates for Immigrants: Censuses 1986 to 2006

Census results from 1986 to 2006 showed high citizenship take-up rates for immigrants with either at least three years since landing (3+ YSL) or with at least five years since landing (5+ YSL). Take-up rates among these immigrants increased in each census. In 2006, the citizenship take-up rates were 88.3% for immigrants with 5+ YSL and 85.1% for those with 3+YSL—approximately eight and six percentage points higher than the corresponding take-up rates in the 1986 census. Figure 1 shows that whereas the gap in take-up rates between immigrants with 5+ and 3+YSL was approximately two percentage points in each census between 1986 and 2001, the difference increased to just over three percentage points by 2006. In part, this may be attributed to longer citizenship application processing times since 2001.

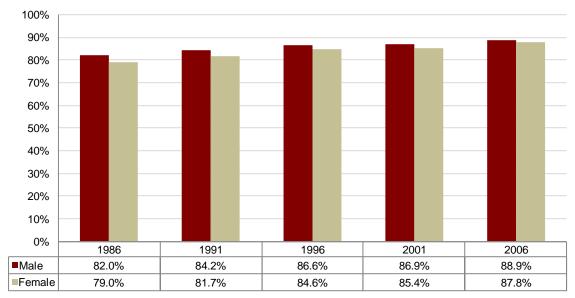
Figure 1: Citizenship Take-up Rate for Immigrants with 3+ and 5+ YSL in Canada, Censuses 1986 to 2006, Canada



Source: 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, and 2006 Censuses, 20% sample.

Figure 2 illustrates that in each census year from 1986 to 2006 the citizenship take-up rate among immigrants with 5+YSL was slightly higher for men compared to women. While in 1986 the difference in men's and women's take-up rates was three percentage points; by 2006 this gap decreased to one percentage point.

Figure 2: Citizenship Take-up Rate for Immigrants with 5 + YSL in Canada by Gender, cenuses 1986 to 2006



Source: 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, and 2006 Censuses, 20% sample.

Citizenship Take-up Rate by Landing Period/Years Since Landing (YSL) prior to the Census Year

Comparing the results across census years from 1986 to 2006, immigrants with longer YSL in Canada had consistently higher citizenship take-up rates. However, citizenship take-up rates of immigrants in the same YSL categories vary across census years.

In each census year from 1986 to 2006, immigrants with longer YSL in Canada had higher citizenship take-up rates. For example, at the time of the 2006 Census, immigrants with 3-4 YSL had a citizenship take-up rate of 47.6%, the rate for those with 5-14 YSL was almost double (84.1%), and for those with 35+ YSL it was 91.8% (Figure 3). In this paper, when we compare the citizenship take-up rates between immigrants with different YSL based on one census, we compare the take-up rates of immigrants who landed in Canada in different periods and hence have different YSL (Table 1). This should not be confused with comparing take-up rate change of the same landing cohorts across years since landing.

Table 1: Correspondence between Landing Periods and the Categories of Years Since Landing (YSL) prior to the Census Year, Censuses 1986 to 2006

Census year	3+ YSL	5+ YSL	3-4 YSL	5-14 YSL	15-24 YSL	25-34 YSL	35+YSL
1986	Before 1983	Before 1981	1981 to 1982	1971 to 1980	1961 to 1970	1951 to 1960	Before 1951
1991	Before 1988	Before 1986	1986 to 1987	1976 to 1985	1966 to 1975	1956 to 1965	Before 1956
1996	Before 1993	Before 1991	1991 to 1992	1981 to 1990	1971 to 1980	1961 to 1970	Before 1961
2001	Before 1998	Before 1996	1996 to1997	1986 to 1995	1976 to 1985	1966 to 1975	Before 1966
2006	Before 2003	Before 2001	2001 to 2002	1991 to 2000	1981 to 1990	1971 to 1980	before 1971

Citizenship take-up rates of immigrants in similar YSL categories varied across census years. Figure 3 illustrates that the citizenship take-up rates for immigrants with 3-4 YSL are lower in recent census years compared to earlier censuses. In the three censuses from 1986, 1991 to 1996 the citizenship take-up rates of immigrants with 3-4 YSL increased from 47.7%, to 51.2%, to 58.7%. In contrast, from 2001 to 2006 citizenship take-up rates of immigrants with 3-4 YSL decreased to 57.3% and 47.6%.

Figure 3 also shows higher citizenship take-up rates in later censuses for immigrants with both 5-14 YSL and 15-24 YSL. Compared to the 1986 census when the citizenship take-up rate for immigrants with 5-14 YSL was 68.2 %, in 2006 the take-up rate was sixteen percentage points higher. In the case of immigrants with 15-24 YSL from the 1986 to 2006 census there was a thirteen percentage point increase in take-up from 76.8% to 89.4%. In all five census years the citizenship take-up rates for immigrants with 35+YSL were above ninety percent; however take-up rates decreased from a high of 94.6% in 1986 to 91.8% in 2006.

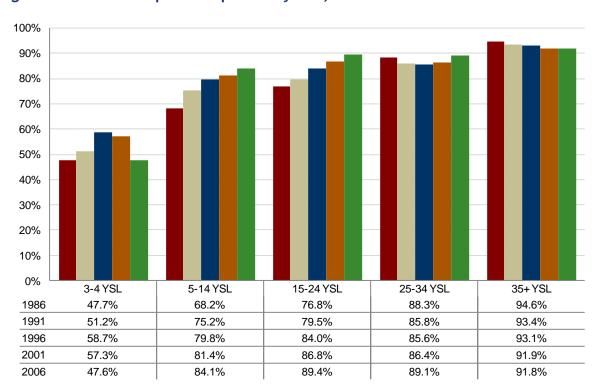
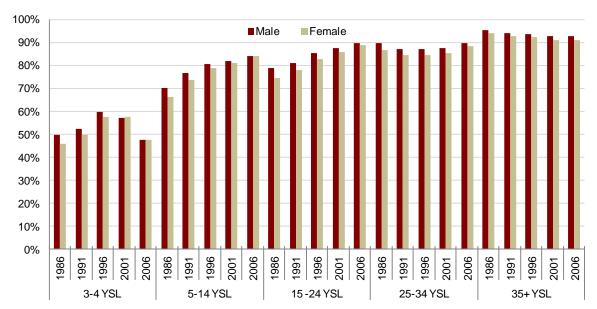


Figure 3: Citizenship Take-up Rate by YSL, Censuses 1986 to 2006

Source: 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, and 2006 Censuses, 20% sample.

Figure 4 demonstrates that the difference in citizenship take-up rates between men and women was slightly larger for those with less YSL, and also more pronounced for earlier censuses. For example, in 1986, the difference in the take-up rates between males and females for immigrants with 3-4 YSL was just about four percentage points (49.7% vs. 45.8%); whereas in the 2006 census take-up rates were almost the same (47.7% vs. 47.6%). In contrast, for all five censuses the difference in citizenship take-up rates between male and female immigrants with 35+ YSL was close to one percentage point.

Figure 4: Citizenship Take-up Rate by Gender and by YSL, Censuses 1986 to 2006



Source: 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, and 2006 Censuses, 20% sample.

Citizenship Take-up Rate by Region and Country of Birth (2006 Census)

The citizenship take-up rates of immigrants varied by their region of birth. Immigrants born in Africa and Asia had the higher take-up rates compared to those from North America and Europe.

Table 2 shows that in 2006 the citizenship take-up rate of immigrants varied according to region of birth. The average citizenship take-up rate for immigrants with 5+ YSL from all regions of birth was 88.3%. In comparison, the rates for those born in Africa and Asia were 92.4% and 90.5% respectively. In contrast, immigrants born in North America had a take-up rate of 63.4%, the lowest of all regions and substantially below the average rate.

Table 2: Citizenship Take-up Rate by Region of Birth and by YSL, 2006 Census

		Years	Since Landing		
Place of birth of Immigrants	3-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35+
Asia	46.3%	86.0%	94.4%	96.4%	97.6%
Eastern Asia	44.1%	87.4%	95.7%	97.2%	98.2%
Southern Asia	42.8%	80.9%	90.3%	94.5%	97.0%
Southeast Asia	49.7%	87.9%	95.4%	97.4%	97.5%
West Central Asia and the Middle East	55.4%	90.4%	94.9%	95.5%	97.1%
Europe	51.0%	82.4%	82.7%	84.2%	92.1%
Southern Europe	61.2%	87.8%	75.8%	85.5%	91.4%
Northern Europe	37.3%	60.9%	75.3%	82.0%	90.3%
Eastern Europe	55.2%	91.4%	95.0%	95.4%	97.7%
Western Europe	37.1%	63.4%	70.7%	79.8%	92.6%
Americas	49.4%	77.0%	84.7%	84.1%	84.1%
Caribbean and Bermuda	45.1%	80.1%	89.6%	93.7%	95.9%
North America	50.4%	57.6%	57.0%	59.6%	72.9%
South America	47.2%	81.7%	91.1%	93.8%	97.4%
Central America	58.9%	84.1%	92.2%	95.2%	97.1%
Africa	48.5%	88.0%	95.2%	96.9%	97.7%
Northern Africa	47.5%	89.2%	95.4%	96.2%	98.0%
Eastern Africa	48.7%	88.5%	95.9%	98.2%	97.6%
Western Africa	53.3%	89.5%	94.7%	96.5%	93.3%
Southern Africa	42.3%	84.4%	94.3%	94.8%	97.6%
Central Africa	49.8%	81.6%	88.1%	91.4%	88.1%
Oceania	41.2%	72.2%	82.9%	84.6%	84.5%
Total	47.6%	84.1%	89.4%	89.1%	91.8%

Figure 5 reveals that immigrants born in different regions had varying patterns of citizenship take-up by YSL. Immigrants from Africa and Asia showed citizenship take-up rates greater than the average rates for all regions of birth for each of the four YSL categories (5-14, 15-24, 25-34 and 35+ or more), while immigrants from the Americas and Oceania exhibited citizenship take-up rates below the average take-up rates for these YSL periods. Immigrants from Europe had citizenship take-up rates below the average rates for the YSL periods 5-14, 15-24 and 25-34, but immigrants with 35+ YSL had rates similar to the average rate (92.1% compared to 91.8%).

■All Regions Americas ■Oceania ■Europe ■Asia Africa 100% 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% 10% 0% 3-4 YSL 5-14 YSL 15-24 YSL 25-34 YSL 35+YSL Source: 2006 Census, 20% sample

Figure 5: Citizenship Take-Up Rate by Region of Birth and YSL, 2006 Census

Table 3 shows that for immigrants from all regions of birth the average citizenship take-up rates of males exceeded the average take-up rate of females (with either 3+YSL or 5+YSL) by approximately one percentage point. For immigrants (with 3+YSL or 5+YSL) born in Asia, Europe and the Americas, the gap in citizenship take-up rates between males and females is also one percentage point in each of these regions. In contrast, in Oceania female immigrants with 3+YSL and 5+YSL had a citizenship take-up rate of approximately one percentage point higher than males. In the African region female immigrants had similar citizenship take-up rates to male immigrants.

At the sub-regional level, the difference in citizenship take-up rates between male and females was the largest for immigrants born in North America and the smallest for those born in Caribbean and Bermuda. For those immigrants with 3+YSL born in North America, the citizenship take-up rate of male immigrants exceeded that of females by six percentage points, while for those with 5+YSL the gap between male and female take-up rates was seven percentage points. For those immigrants born in the Caribbean and Bermuda, the citizenship take-up rate of female immigrants with 3+ YSL and 5+YSL exceeded that of male immigrants by three percentage points.

Table 3: Citizenship Take-up Rate by Region of Birth and Gender, 2006 Census

	Take-	up rate 3+Y	SL	Take-ı	p rate 5+YS	SL
Places of birth of Immigrants	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Asia	85.0%	85.4%	84.8%	88.3%	88.9%	87.8%
Eastern Asia	85.7%	85.5%	85.9%	90.5%	90.9%	90.2%
Southern Asia	79.0%	80.5%	77.4%	91.5%	91.5%	91.5%
Southeast Asia	89.8%	90.0%	89.6%	85.9%	87.4%	84.3%
West Central Asia and the Middle East	87.3%	87.6%	86.9%	93.0%	93.1%	92.9%
Europe	87.1%	87.6%	86.5%	92.6%	92.8%	92.3%
Southern Europe	88.2%	88.9%	87.4%	88.3%	88.8%	87.7%
Northern Europe	84.3%	84.2%	84.4%	88.7%	89.4%	87.9%
Eastern Europe	91.5%	91.9%	91.1%	85.0%	85.1%	85.0%
Western Europe	84.4%	85.6%	83.3%	94.7%	95.0%	94.4%
Americas	80.0%	80.6%	79.5%	85.8%	87.0%	84.6%
Caribbean and Bermuda	87.0%	85.5%	88.1%	82.2%	82.9%	81.6%
North America	62.6%	66.2%	59.9%	89.2%	87.7%	90.3%
South America	85.6%	85.3%	85.8%	63.4%	67.3%	60.6%
Central America	86.8%	86.8%	86.7%	89.4%	89.1%	89.7%
Africa	86.3%	86.1%	86.5%	89.2%	89.2%	89.3%
Northern Africa	84.8%	84.5%	85.1%	92.4%	92.4%	92.5%
Eastern Africa	89.6%	89.6%	89.6%	93.0%	93.1%	93.0%
Western Africa	84.3%	85.0%	83.5%	93.6%	93.5%	93.7%
Southern Africa	86.8%	86.7%	86.9%	91.5%	91.6%	91.4%
Central Africa	76.7%	76.4%	76.9%	91.1%	90.9%	91.3%
Oceania	78.4%	77.7%	79.0%	84.1%	84.4%	84.0%
Total	85.1%	85.6%	84.6%	88.3%	88.9%	87.8%

Tables 4 to 8 illustrate that in 2006 the take-up rate of immigrants varied considerably by country of birth. Table 4 shows the take-up rates of immigrants from sixteen countries of birth from which there were 100,000 or more immigrants in the 2006 Census. Among these sixteen countries, the citizenship take-up rates for immigrants with 5+ YSL ranged from a high of 96.1% for those born in Hong Kong, to a low of 63.1% for those born in the United States of America. With the exception of the United States of America, immigrants with 5+ YSL born in all other countries had rates greater than 80%.

Table 4: Citizenship Take-up Rate by Selected Country of Birth and by YSL, 2006 Census

			Years	s Since Lar	nding		
Place of birth	3+	5+	3-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35+
United Kingdom	84.4%	85.1%	37.2%	61.1%	76.2%	82.4%	90.3%
PRC	84.3%	92.3%	45.4%	88.3%	96.7%	98.4%	98.8%
India	76.3%	83.1%	36.2%	74.5%	87.9%	93.9%	97.0%
Philippines	87.7%	92.4%	48.9%	88.0%	96.2%	98.1%	98.5%
Italy	88.4%	88.5%	47.4%	73.5%	74.7%	82.2%	90.0%
USA	62.3%	63.1%	50.4%	57.0%	56.4%	59.4%	72.8%
Hong Kong	95.6%	96.1%	64.7%	93.8%	97.9%	98.3%	98.7%
Germany	83.4%	84.1%	44.5%	56.4%	62.9%	74.1%	91.2%
Poland	93.3%	93.9%	53.3%	88.1%	94.4%	95.2%	97.8%
Viet Nam	94.5%	95.6%	62.3%	91.7%	96.6%	97.9%	96.2%
Portugal	81.1%	81.4%	49.4%	66.1%	70.2%	82.5%	89.8%
Eastern Europe Republics (former Soviet)	88.9%	94.8%	58.4%	92.8%	97.1%	95.9%	98.3%
Pakistan	81.4%	90.8%	52.3%	88.9%	94.6%	97.2%	97.1%
Jamaica	86.7%	88.3%	43.1%	77.6%	87.0%	93.6%	96.5%
Netherlands	86.5%	87.2%	27.9%	45.5%	56.6%	70.9%	94.1%
Sri Lanka	85.7%	90.2%	44.4%	87.7%	95.8%	98.9%	96.8%
Total place of birth	85.1%	88.3%	47.6%	84.1%	89.4%	89.1%	91.8%

Note: The countries of birth selected are those for which there are more than 100,000 immigrants enumerated in the 2006 Census.

Table 5 illustrates that among the countries of birth with more than 100,000 immigrants in 2006, the citizenship take-up rates of males exceeded that of female immigrants by the largest percentage points for those born in the United States of America, India and Italy (with either 3+YSL and 5+YSL). Of these three countries, the difference was greatest for immigrants born in the United States of America, where the citizenship take-up rate of male immigrants exceeded that of females by six and seven percentage points for those with 3+YSL and 5+YSL respectively. In contrast, for those immigrants born in Jamaica and the Philippines, the citizenship take-up rates of female immigrants with 3+YSL and 5+YSL exceeded that of male immigrants by a few percentage points.

Table 5: Citizenship Take-up Rate by Gender for Selected Country of Birth, 2006 Census

	Та	ke-up rate	3+YSL	Take-up rate 5+YSL		
Place of birth	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
United Kingdom	84.4%	84.2%	84.6%	85.1%	85.1%	85.2%
PRC	84.3%	83.5%	85.0%	92.3%	91.8%	92.8%
India	76.3%	78.1%	74.4%	83.1%	85.1%	81.2%
Philippines	87.7%	86.7%	88.4%	92.4%	91.8%	92.8%
Italy	88.4%	89.6%	87.0%	88.5%	89.8%	87.1%
United States of America	62.3%	65.9%	59.7%	63.1%	66.9%	60.3%
Hong Kong	95.6%	95.6%	95.5%	96.0%	96.0%	96.1%
Poland	93.2%	93.7%	92.8%	93.9%	94.2%	93.5%
Viet Nam	94.5%	95.1%	93.9%	95.6%	95.9%	95.3%
Portugal	81.1%	81.4%	80.9%	81.4%	81.6%	81.1%
Eastern Europe Republics, former Soviet	88.9%	89.1%	88.7%	94.8%	94.8%	94.8%
Pakistan	81.4%	82.0%	80.6%	90.8%	91.3%	90.3%
Jamaica	86.7%	84.1%	88.6%	88.3%	85.8%	90.2%
Netherlands	86.5%	86.9%	86.1%	87.2%	87.7%	86.7%
Sri Lanka	85.7%	86.8%	84.5%	90.2%	91.0%	89.4%
Total place of birth	85.1%	85.6%	84.6%	88.3%	88.9%	87.8%

Note: The countries of birth selected are those for which there are more than 100,000 immigrants enumerated in the

Based on the 2006 Census, 102 countries of birth were recorded as having 5,000 or more landed immigrants in Canada. Immigrants who were born in a majority of these countries (73 out of 102), and who had 5+ YSL in Canada had citizenship take-up rates greater than of 88.3%—the average rate for immigrants from all countries of birth. Table 6 lists fifteen of these countries where immigrants with 5+YSL had the highest citizenship take-up rates. From these top fifteen countries, immigrants from Tanzania, Laos and Uganda had the highest rates (97.2%, 96.5% and 96.5% respectively). In general, the citizenship take-up rates for immigrants from these fifteen countries exceeded the average rate for immigrants from all countries of birth in each YSL category. Compared to the average take-up rate of 84.1% for all immigrants with 5-14 YSL, those from eleven of these fifteen countries in this YSL landing category had take-up rates of more than 90%. For immigrants with 35+ YSL, those from all countries except Cambodia had take-up rates that exceeded 95%.

Table 6: Citizenship Take-up Rate for Countries of Birth with Highest Rates by YSL, 2006 Census

			Years	Since Landin	g		
Countries of birth	3+	5+	3-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35+
Tanzania	95.0%	97.2%	44.7%	90.7%	98.0%	99.0%	100.0%
Laos	96.2%	96.5%	58.3%	94.3%	96.7%	96.9%	100.0%
Uganda	95.9%	96.5%	72.7%	87.8%	93.6%	98.7%	*98.4%
Macau	95.8%	96.3%	76.7%	94.8%	96.0%	99.5%	100.0%
Hong Kong	95.6%	96.1%	64.7%	93.8%	97.9%	98.3%	98.7%
Romania	89.2%	95.9%	53.5%	95.2%	96.3%	97.2%	97.7%
Slovenia	95.6%	95.8%	76.5%	91.8%	96.3%	92.8%	96.4%
Hungary	94.8%	95.8%	48.1%	84.9%	95.4%	95.0%	97.6%
Baltic Republics	94.2%	95.7%	56.9%	90.9%	93.1%	90.7%	97.3%
Ukraine	90.1%	95.7%	55.6%	93.1%	96.6%	97.1%	98.3%
Viet Nam	94.5%	95.6%	62.3%	91.7%	96.6%	97.9%	96.2%
Egypt	92.6%	95.4%	53.4%	91.4%	97.7%	95.7%	98.5%
Slovakia	91.7%	95.3%	38.0%	89.3%	96.8%	94.7%	97.6%
Croatia	94.5%	95.1%	73.6%	90.4%	92.6%	95.3%	97.7%
Cambodia	94.2%	95.0%	67.9%	88.8%	96.3%	96.0%	81.8%
Total place of birth	85.1%	88.3%	47.6%	84.1%	89.4%	89.1%	91.8%

Note: Country of birth are selected where there were more than 5,000 immigrants enumerated in the 2006 Census, and where the citizenship take-up rate is greater than 95.0% for immigrants with 5+YSL.

Table 7 lists twenty nine countries of birth which had more than 5,000 immigrants enumerated in the 2006 Census; and from where immigrants with 5+ YSL in Canada had citizenship take-up rates less than 88.3%— the average rate for immigrants from all countries of birth. Immigrants born in Japan and the United States of America showed the lowest take-up rates, at 58.8% and 63.1% respectively. In general, the citizenship take-up rates of immigrants in these twenty nine countries increased with YSL in Canada. Between these countries there were different patterns of citizenship-take-up across YSL categories. First, the take-up rate for immigrants born in several countries (e.g. UK, Germany, Australia and New Zealand) was below the average take-up for all YSL categories under consideration. Second, immigrants born in several other countries (e.g. South Korea, India, Malaysia and France) had lower than average take-up rates in earlier

^{*}Numbers used for calculation were small. The rate was based on rounded numbers of immigrants (100) and naturalized immigrants (90). The rate is less reliable for this group.

Source: 2006 Census, 20% sample.

YSL, but then had citizenship take-up rates that equaled or exceeded the average rate for immigrants with longer YSL (25-34 and 35+).

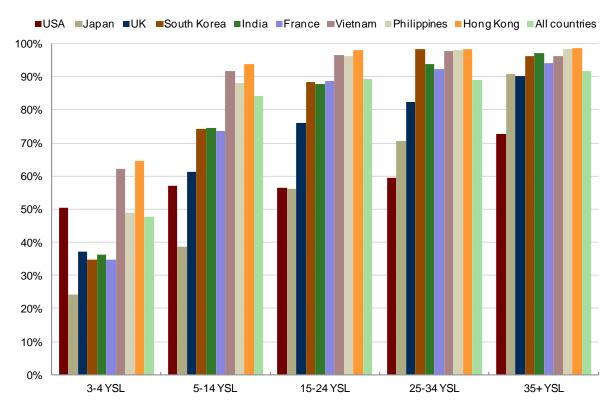
Table 7: Citizenship Take-up Rate for Countries of Birth with Lowest Rates by YSL, 2006 Census

Landing period and YSL	Before	Before	2001-	1991-	1981-	1971-	Before
0 (1 (7) (1 (0000)	2003	2001	2002	2000	1990	1980	1971
Countries of Birth (2006)	3+	5+	3-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35+
Sw itzerland	86.4%	88.1%	39.4%	77.4%	87.3%	89.3%	94.4%
Turkey	82.2%	87.5%	44.3%	79.4%	91.2%	96.0%	97.2%
Netherlands	86.5%	87.2%	27.9%	45.5%	56.6%	70.9%	94.1%
France	83.0%	87.2%	34.9%	73.7%	88.7%	92.4%	94.1%
Austria	86.6%	87.1%	24.3%	49.3%	68.1%	73.4%	92.5%
Ireland	86.1%	86.6%	44.9%	66.3%	79.4%	84.6%	91.1%
Spain	85.7%	86.5%	48.8%	66.7%	83.3%	85.2%	91.3%
Grenada	83.0%	86.1%	35.4%	75.2%	86.4%	94.1%	99.0%
Brazil	78.7%	85.3%	41.2%	78.6%	89.4%	89.2%	95.6%
UK	84.4%	85.1%	37.2%	61.1%	76.2%	82.4%	90.3%
Saint Vincent & Grenadines	83.3%	84.8%	54.3%	68.0%	86.6%	92.5%	97.6%
Indonesia	77.9%	84.4%	35.1%	69.7%	89.2%	86.4%	95.3%
Germany	83.4%	84.1%	44.5%	56.4%	62.9%	74.1%	91.2%
Malaysia	81.4%	84.0%	26.7%	72.7%	82.4%	95.7%	97.7%
Ecuador	80.2%	83.9%	41.1%	77.4%	83.5%	87.6%	93.5%
Belgium	82.5%	83.9%	38.2%	55.7%	65.3%	78.4%	92.7%
Cuba	73.1%	83.7%	39.2%	82.2%	86.1%	84.9%	94.2%
Sudan	73.7%	83.3%	50.1%	81.1%	92.7%	100.0%	93.6%
India	76.3%	83.1%	36.2%	74.5%	87.9%	93.9%	97.0%
DRC	74.5%	82.8%	47.9%	80.4%	93.9%	91.7%	86.4%
Scandanavia countries	82.1%	82.6%	34.0%	55.2%	50.2%	71.9%	89.8%
South Korea	72.2%	82.3%	34.6%	74.1%	88.4%	98.3%	96.2%
Chile	80.2%	81.5%	47.2%	64.7%	81.9%	87.9%	95.6%
Singapore	77.9%	81.5%	40.5%	70.2%	84.2%	92.0%	97.7%
Portugal	81.1%	81.4%	49.4%	66.1%	70.2%	82.5%	89.8%
New Zealand	76.7%	79.4%	34.7%	59.5%	76.5%	85.8%	87.9%
Austrailia	64.5%	66.1%	43.4%	54.2%	60.1%	60.8%	78.6%
USA	62.3%	63.1%	50.4%	57.0%	56.4%	59.4%	72.8%
Japan	54.7%	58.8%	24.2%	38.7%	56.3%	70.6%	90.7%
Total place of birth	85.1%	88.3%	47.6%	84.1%	89.4%	89.1%	91.8%

Note: Country of birth selected are those from which there are more than 5,000 immigrants in the 2006 Census, and where the citizenship take-up rate is less than 88.3%— the average rate for all immigrants with 5+ YSL. Citizenship take-up rates highlighted in red are greater than or equal to the average rate for a given YSL category. Citizenship take-up rates highlighted in blue are the lowest rate for a given YSL category. Scandinavia comprises Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

In summary, in 2006 the citizenship take-up rates of immigrants varied by their country of birth and YSL. Further, there were different patterns of citizenship take-up over YSL among immigrants born in different countries. To illustrate this point, Table 8 and Figure 6 compare the citizenship take-up rate of immigrants from selected countries of birth across YSL categories. First, immigrants born in some countries had citizenship take-up rates that exceeded the average citizenship take-up rates in all five YSL categories. This pattern is exemplified by immigrants born in the Philippines, Hong Kong and Vietnam. Second, immigrants from some other countries had citizenship take-up rates that were lower than the average rate for earlier YSL, but then had rates equal to or greater than the average take-up rates for longer YSL (25-34 and 35+). This is illustrated by immigrants born in India, France and South Korea. Finally, immigrants from some countries (e.g. United Kingdom and Japan) had citizenship take-up rates that were lower than the average citizenship take-up rates for each of the five YSL (3-4, 5-14, 15-24, 25-34 and 35 or more) categories. In the case of immigrants from the United States of America, only those with 3-4 YSL had citizenship take-up rates that exceeded the average take-up rate for that YSL category; immigrants from the United States of America in all other YSL categories had take-up rates that were lower than average rates.

Figure 6: Citizenship Take-Up Rate for Selected Countries/Regions of Birth and by YSL, 2006 Census



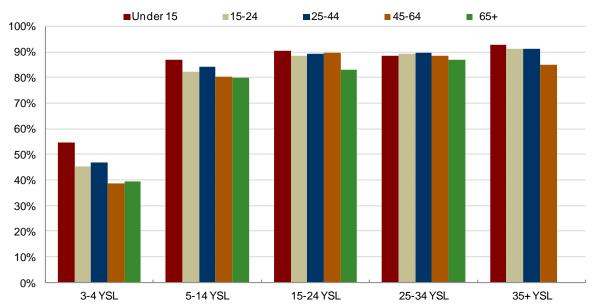
Source: 2006 Census, 20% sample. See Appendix 1 for the table corresponding to this figure.

Citizenship Take-up Rate by Age at Landing (2006 Census)

Immigrants who landed at younger ages generally had higher citizenship take-up rates.

Figure 7 shows that immigrants who landed in Canada at younger ages generally had higher citizenship take-up rate than those who landed at older ages. However, differences in take-up rates by age at landing were most prominent for those with fewer YSL in Canada. In 2006, take-up rates for immigrants with 3-4 YSL in age at landing categories 65+, 25 to 44 and under 15 ranged from 39.3% to 46.9% to 54.5%. In contrast, with increased YSL, immigrants across all age at landing categories had converging citizenship take-up rates. For example, take-up rates for immigrants with 25-34 YSL for all age groups were approximately 90%.

Figure 7: Citizenship Take-up Rate by Age at Landing and by YSL for Immigrants with 5+ YSL, 2006 Census

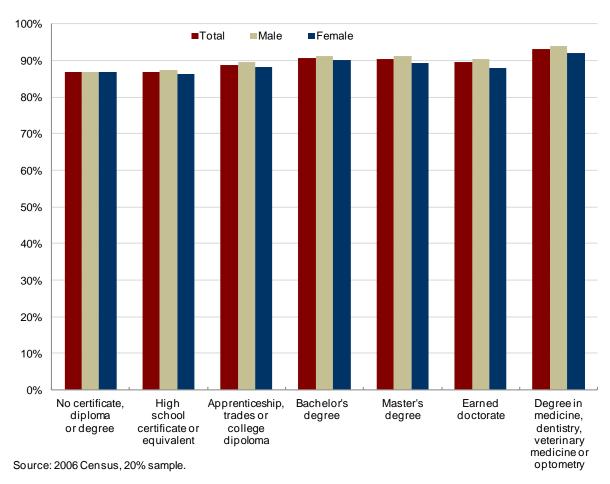


Citizenship Take-up Rate by Educational Attainment at Time of Census (2006 Census)

Citizenship take-up rates varied with educational attainment. Take-up rates were higher among immigrants with university level education compared to those with lower educational attainment.

Figure 8 demonstrates that among immigrants aged 15 and over, take-up rates are slightly higher among those with university level education compared to those with lower educational attainment. For those with university level education, citizenship take-up rates ranged from 89.7% for those with doctorates to 93.2% for immigrants with degrees in medicine and related fields. For those without university education, take-up rates ranged from 86.9% for those with no certificate, diploma or degree, to 88.9% for those with apprenticeship, trades and college diploma. Among those with university level education, women had slightly lower citizenship take-up rates than men. There was little difference in take-up rates between male and female immigrants without university education.

Figure 8: Citizenship Take-up Rate for Immigrants Aged 15+ with 5+ YSL by Educational Attainment and Gender, 2006 Census



Citizenship Take-up Rate by Self-reported Official Language Knowledge at Census Time (2006 Census)

Immigrants who spoke at least one of the official languages had a higher citizenship take-up rate compared to those who spoke neither English nor French.

In the 2006 Census, immigrants with at least 5 YSL who reported knowledge of an official language had markedly higher citizenship take-up rates than those who spoke neither English nor French. Figure 9 shows that among immigrants who spoke both English and French the citizenship take-up rate was just over ninety percent (90.8%); whereas the take-up rate was just three percentage points lower for those who spoke one of these languages, it was ten percentage points lower for immigrants who spoke neither language. There was little difference between the citizenship take-up rate of men and women in each language category.

Figure 9: Citizenship Take-up Rate for Immigrants with 5+ YSL by Official Language Knowledge and by Gender, 2006 Census

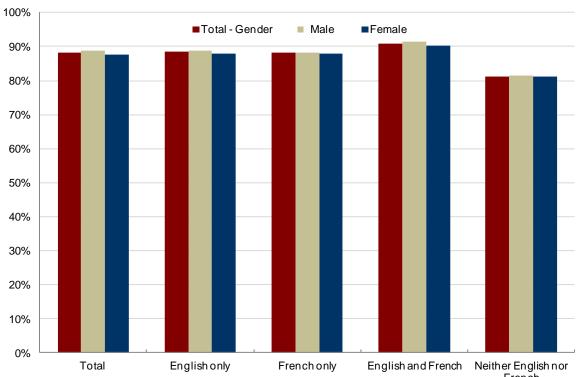
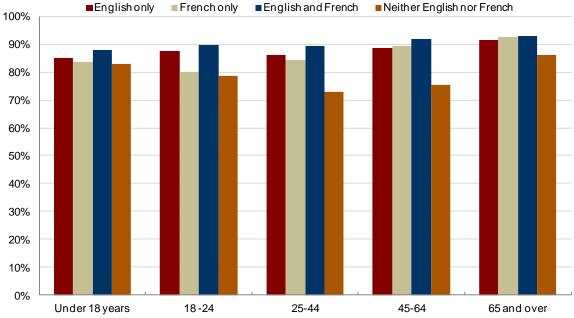


Figure 10 demonstrates that among immigrants who spoke neither official language, the take-up rates for those aged 25 to 44 or 45 to 64 were particularly low, about 16 percentage points lower than immigrants in the same age group who spoke both official languages, or 11-14 percentage points lower than those speaking English or French. For immigrants in all other age groups, the take-up rate was also lower for those speaking neither official language compared to those speaking at least one of the official languages. The differences, however, were less pronounced for those aged 65+ or under 18; being waived from the knowledge test and the knowledge of the official languages requirement for citizenship application of seniors and juniors likely underlay these smaller differences than other age groups .

Figure 10: Citizenship Take-up Rate for Immigrants with 5+ YSL by Official Language Knowledge and by Age at Census, 2006 Census

English only French only English and French Neither English nor French

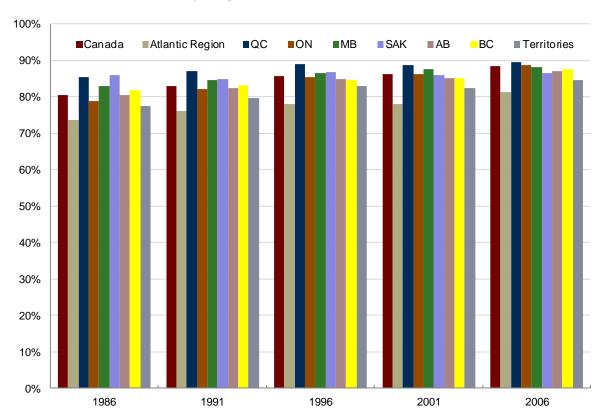


Citizenship Take-up Rate by Region/Province of Residence at Time of Census (2006 Census)

Immigrants in Quebec had the highest take-up rates in all census years except 1986; while those residing in the Atlantic region had the lowest take-up rates in all census years.

Table 8 and Figure 11 illustrate that across the census years the citizenship take-up rate of immigrants with 5+ YSL varied by region/province. For example, in all census years except 1986, immigrants in Quebec had the highest take-up rates. In 1986, Quebec and Saskatchewan had highest take-up rates, at 85.3% and 85.9% respectively. The difference between the take-up rate for immigrants in Quebec and the average rate in Canada decreased in each successive Census— it was greater by 4.8 and 1.2 percentage points in 1986 and 2006 respectively. In the Atlantic Region, immigrants with 5+ YSL had the lowest citizenship take-up rates compared to other provinces. In each census year, immigrants in the Atlantic region and the Territories had take-up rates seven and three percentage points lower than the average rate for Canada.

Figure 11: Citizenship Take-up Rate for Immigrants with 5+ YSL prior to the Census Year by Region/Province, Census Years 1986 to 2006



Source: 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, and 2006 Census, 20% sample.

Table 8: Citizenship Take-up Rate for Immigrants with 5+YSL by Region/Province, Census 1986 to 2006

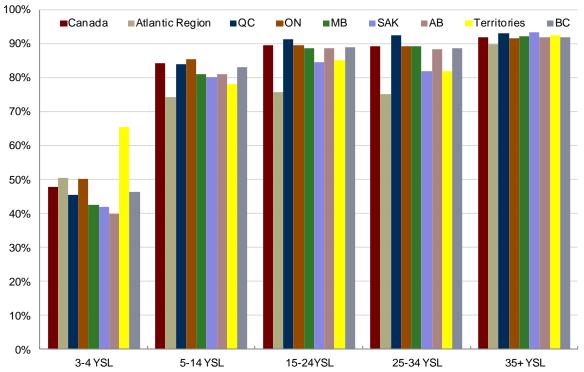
Region / Census Year	1986	1991	1996	2001	2006
AtlanticRegion	73.7%	76.2%	78.1%	77.9%	81.3%
Quebec	85.3%	86.9%	89.0%	88.8%	89.5%
Ontario	78.8%	82.1%	85.4%	86.2%	88.7%
Manitoba	82.8%	84.5%	86.5%	87.6%	88.1%
Saskatchew an	85.9%	84.8%	86.7%	85.9%	86.6%
Alberta	80.5%	82.4%	84.9%	85.2%	87.0%
Territories	77.2%	79.5%	83.0%	82.4%	84.5%
British Columbia	81.9%	83.2%	84.5%	85.1%	87.6%
Canada	80.5%	82.9%	85.6%	86.1%	88.3%

Note: Citizenship take-up rates highlighted in red are greater than or equal to the average rate for a census. Citizenship take-up rates highlighted in blue are the lowest for a given census year.

Source: 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, and 2006 Census, 20% sample.

Figure 12 demonstrates that across regions/provinces there are different patterns of citizenship take-up by YSL categories. For example, in the Atlantic region, the take-up rate of immigrants are higher than the average rate for Canada only for the 3-4 YSL category; in all other YSL categories take-up rates are lower than the average rate. In Quebec, whereas immigrants with 3-4 YSL and 5-14 YSL have slightly lower than the average rates, those with 15-24 YSL and 25-34 YSL have higher than the average rates.

Figure 12: Citizenship Take-up Rate by YSL and by Region/Province, 2006 Census



Source: 2006 Census, 20% sample. See Appendix 2 for the table corresponding to this Figure. The take-up rate for immigrants with 3-4 YSL in the Territories are based on a number less than 300.

Conclusion

This review of census data from 1986 to 2006 shows that take-up rates among immigrants with 3+ YSL and 5+YSL were high and increased consistently in each census year. However, across census years, citizenship take up rates varied by years since landing, place of birth, age at landing, educational attainment, knowledge of official languages and province of residence at the time of the census. Comparing the results across census years from 1986 to 2006, immigrants with longer YSL in Canada had consistently higher citizenship take-up rates. For immigrants who had landed in Canada for 35 years and over, the take-up rates were all over 91% for all five census years. However, citizenship take-up rates of immigrants in the same YSL categories varied across census years. The gap in take-up rates between immigrants with 5+ and 3+YSL was larger in 2006 compared to the earlier censuses.

In addition, information from the Census shows that citizenship take-up rates were also highest among immigrants from several African and Asian countries and lowest for those who were born in Japan, the United States of America and Australia.

Further, in terms of age at landing, younger immigrants had higher take-up rates than older immigrants, but this was more pronounced for those with shorter YSL. In addition, take-up rates were also higher among immigrants with university level education compared to those with lower educational attainment. Immigrants who self reported knowledge of at least one official language had higher citizenship take-up rates compared to those who spoke neither English nor French. Across provinces, immigrants in Quebec had the highest take-up rates in all census years except 1986; while those residing in the Atlantic region had the lowest take-up rates in all census years.

Overall, the gender difference in the citizenship take-up rates is moderate. In each census from 1986 to 2006 the citizenship take-up rates among immigrants with 5+ YSL were slightly higher for men compared to women. The difference in citizenship take-up rates between men and women was slightly higher for those with less YSL, and also more pronounced for earlier censuses. There was little difference between the citizenship take-up rates of men and women in each official language category (i.e. those who spoke English only, French only, English and French and Neither English nor French). Among the countries of birth where more than 100,000 immigrants were enumerated in the 2006 Census, for those immigrants born in Jamaica, PRC and the Philippines, the citizenship take-up rates of female immigrants with 3+ YSL and 5+YSL exceeded that of male immigrants.

Analysis of the 2011 National Household Survey (NHS) data will reveal how the citizenship take-up rates of immigrants have changed compared to earlier census years. The linked data of the 2011 NHS with the CIC permanent resident landing file will also allow to breakdown the take-up rate by immigration category. Further research could draw on CIC administrative data and can show how citizenship-take up rates differ by both admissions class and by landing cohort for immigrants with various demographic profiles. This data can also be used to investigate why citizenship take up rates have decreased for immigrants with 3-4YSL in more recent census years. In conclusion, the analysis presented in this paper shows that the majority of "eligible" immigrants become Canadian citizens.

Appendix Tables

Citizenship Take-up Rate (%) by YSL for Selected Countries of Birth, 2006 Census

Places of birth of			Yea	rs Since Land	ding		
im m igrants	3+	5+	3-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35+
Japan	54.7%	58.8%	24.2%	38.7%	56.3%	70.6%	90.7%
USA	62.3%	63.1%	50.4%	57.0%	56.4%	59.4%	72.8%
UK	84.4%	85.1%	37.2%	61.1%	76.2%	82.4%	90.3%
South Korea	72.2%	82.3%	34.6%	74.1%	88.4%	98.3%	96.2%
India	76.3%	83.1%	36.2%	74.5%	87.9%	93.9%	97.0%
France	83.0%	87.2%	34.9%	73.7%	88.7%	92.4%	94.1%
Viet Nam	94.5%	95.6%	62.3%	91.7%	96.6%	97.9%	96.2%
Philippines	87.7%	92.4%	48.9%	88.0%	96.2%	98.1%	98.5%
Hong Kong	95.6%	96.1%	64.7%	93.8%	97.9%	98.3%	98.7%
Total place of birth	85.1%	88.3%	47.6%	84.1%	89.4%	89.1%	91.8%

Note: citizenship take-up rates highlighted in red are greater than or equal to the average rate for a given YSL prior to the date of the census. Citizenship take-up rates highlighted in blue are the lowest for a given YSL category.

Source: 2006 Census, 20% sample.

Citizenship Take-up Rate (%) by YSL and by Province/Region, 2006 Census

	Years Since Landing							
Province/Region	3-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35+			
Atlantic Region	50.4%	74.3%	75.8%	75.2%	89.7%			
Quebec	45.4%	84.0%	91.2%	92.4%	93.1%			
Ontario	50.2%	85.2%	89.5%	89.2%	91.6%			
Manitoba	42.6%	80.8%	88.6%	89.1%	92.1%			
Saskatchew an	41.8%	80.2%	84.6%	81.8%	93.2%			
Alberta	39.9%	80.9%	88.6%	88.2%	91.7%			
Territories	65.4%	78.0%	85.0%	81.7%	92.5%			
British Columbia	46.2%	83.1%	89.0%	88.5%	91.7%			
Canada	47.6%	84.1%	89.4%	89.1%	91.8%			