



# USE OF LONGITUDINAL DATA ON IMMIGRANTS IN THE ANALYSIS OF INTEGRATION AND MIGRATION

## Examples from OECD work

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# Introduction

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- Integration is, by definition, a process that occurs over time
- Any programme effectiveness analysis or other causality study also requires a proper before and after comparison
- Sources of proper longitudinal data:
  - **Register data** (traditionally DK, FI, NO, FI) emerging to varying degrees also in BE, CA, CH, IT, NL, NZ, etc....and soon in DE)
  - **Longitudinal surveys of immigrants**, especially new arrivals (DE, FR, previously AU, CA, NZ, UK, US)
  - Other large-scale **panel sources of general population** (e.g. may need migrant sample boosting - e.g. UK, DE)
  - Other sources (not covered in this presentation):  
(Quasi-) Experimental data (best way to identify causality);  
certain big data; etc.



# Register data vs. longitudinal migrant surveys

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- Register data
    - + Highest quality (based on administrative sources )
    - + No sample size issues
    - Data protection and access
    - Are generally not specifically set up for the study of migration/integration
  - Longitudinal migrant surveys
    - + Allows to focus on specific groups and time points of interest
    - + Covers issues that administrative sources cannot capture (e.g. social integration – but this is rarely studied; language progress)
    - Attrition is a big issue, especially for longer time horizons
    - Costly; drawing (and maintaining) a representative sample can be challenging
    - Most studies cover only recent arrivals
- => Need to be aware upfront of what you want to get out of it**

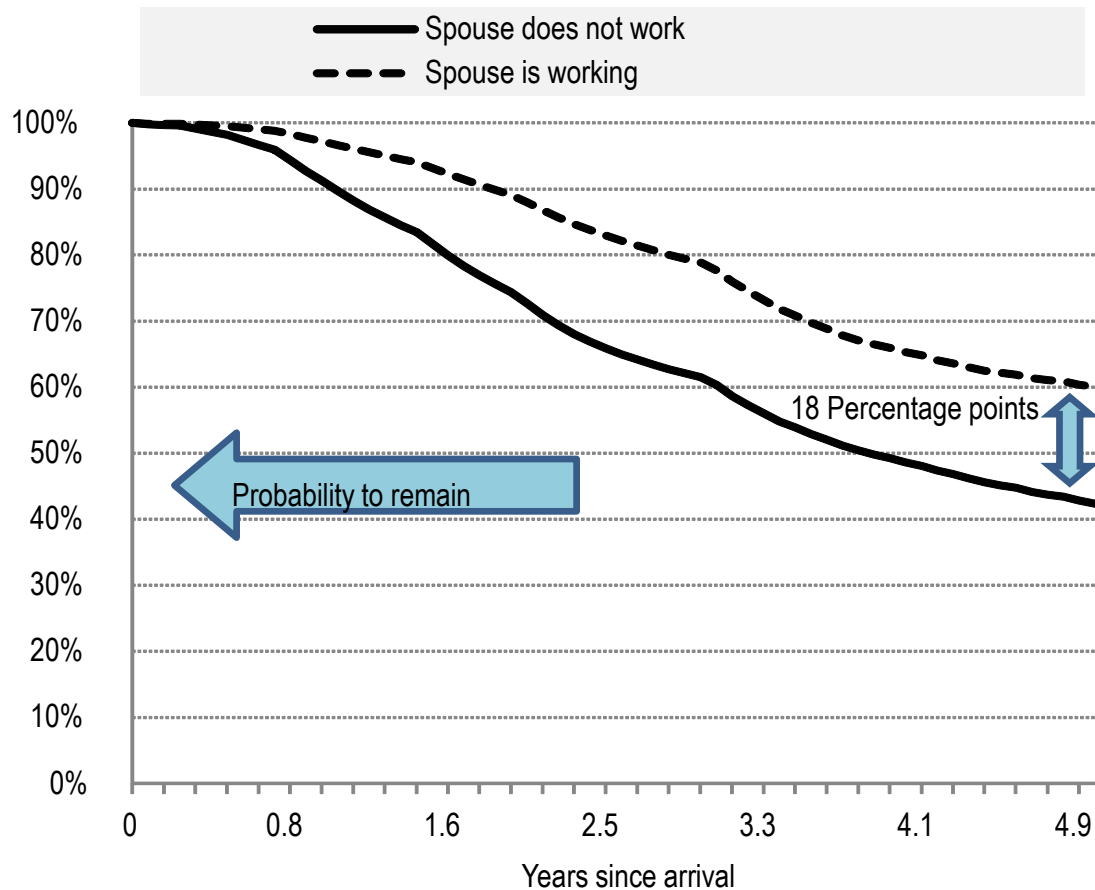


# STUDYING MIGRATION PROCESSES WITH LONGITUDINAL DATA



# What determines retention?

Probability of stay for high-skilled labour migrants (2005-2012)

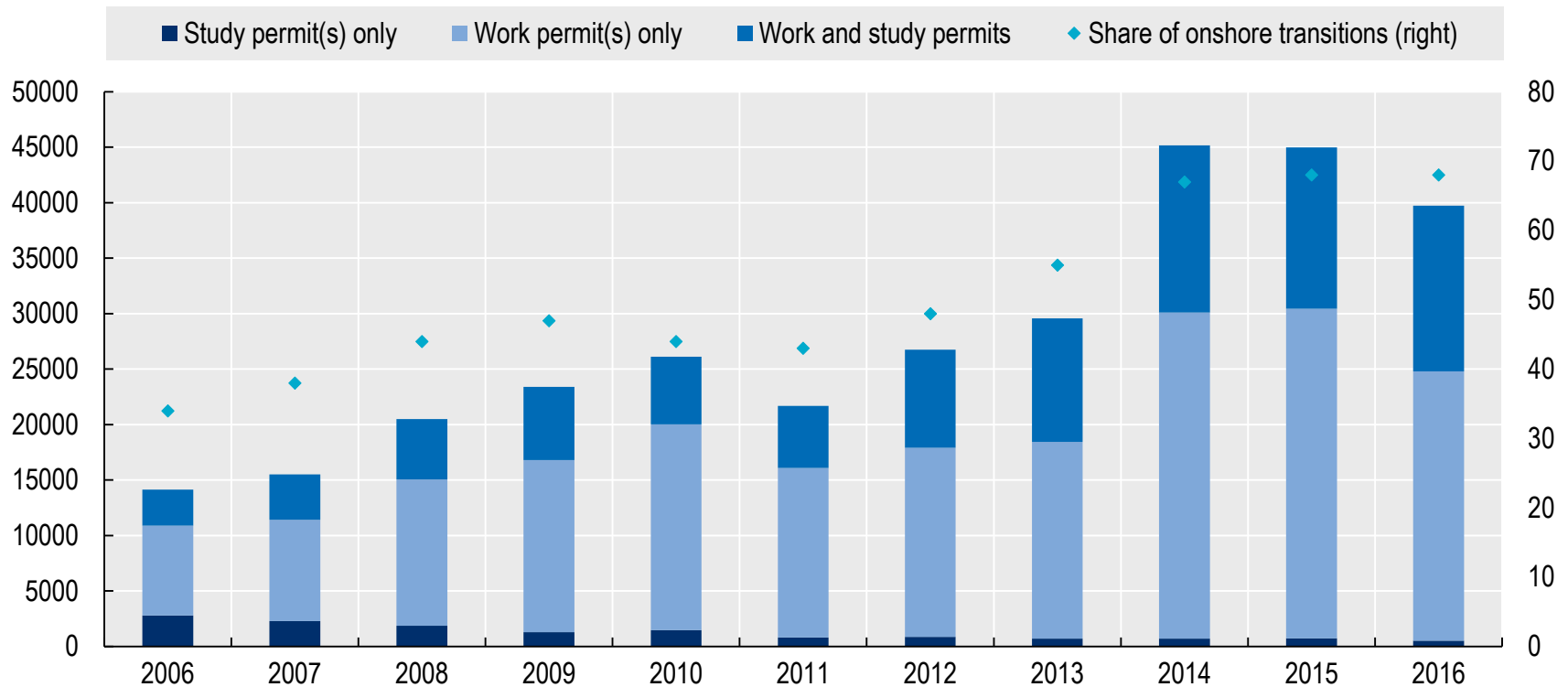


Source: OECD (2016), Recruiting Immigrant Workers - Netherlands.



# Who becomes a permanent immigrant in Canada?

Admissions of permanent labour migrants (principal applicants in economic classes) by previous permits, 2006-2016



Source: OECD (2019), Recruiting Immigrant Workers - Canada.

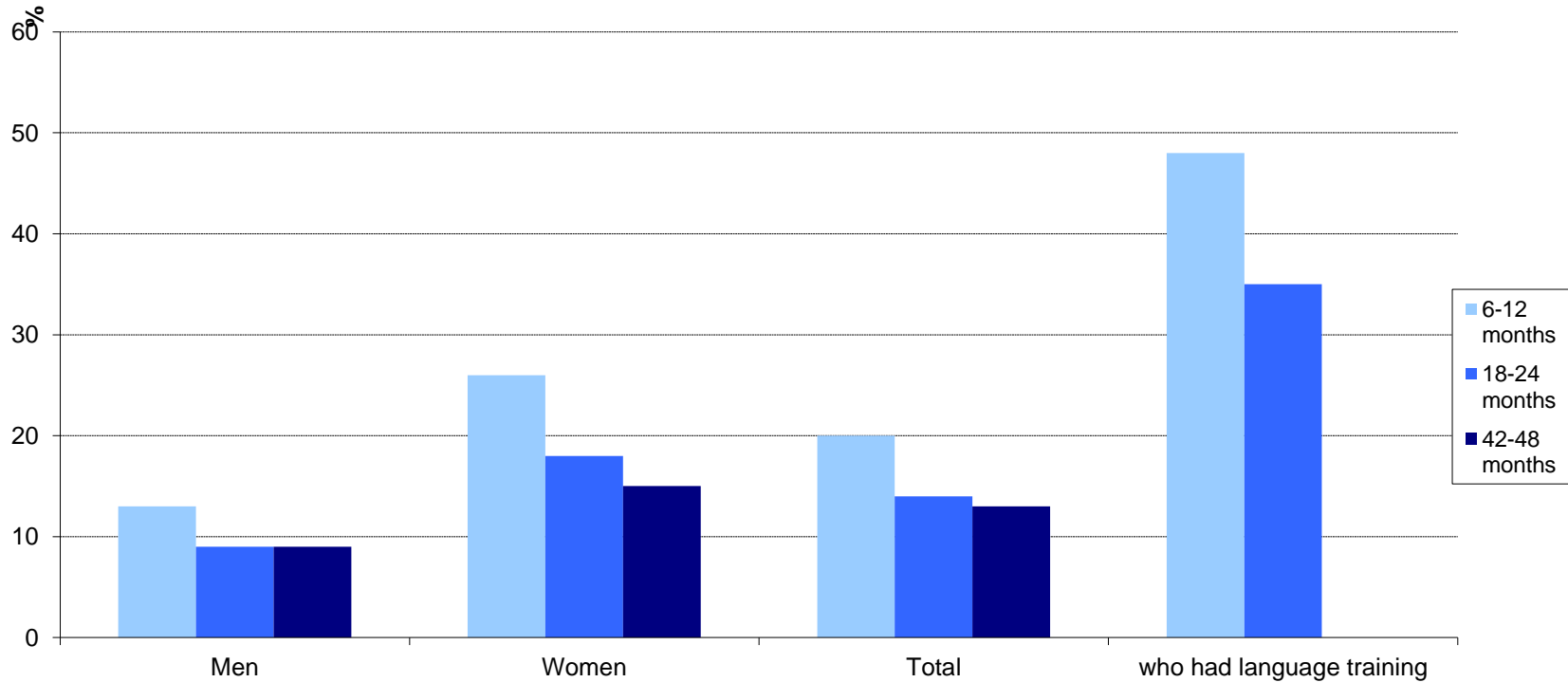


# STUDYING INTEGRATION PROCESSES WITH LONGITUDINAL DATA (IN ADDITION TO PROPER CAUSALITY STUDIES)



# Longitudinal surveys of new arrivals allow for monitoring parts of the integration process that cannot be captured well otherwise – e.g. language

Share of new arrivals (non-EU, not including students) with poor French language skills



Source: ELIPA.

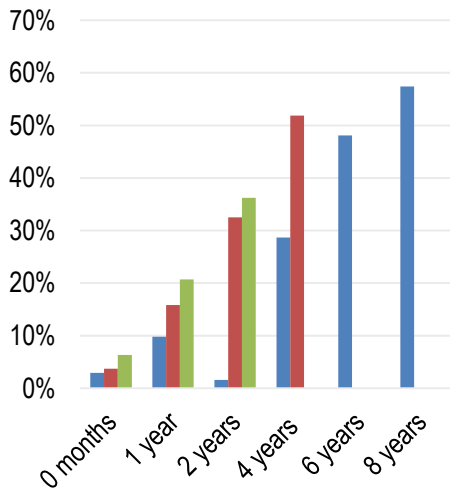




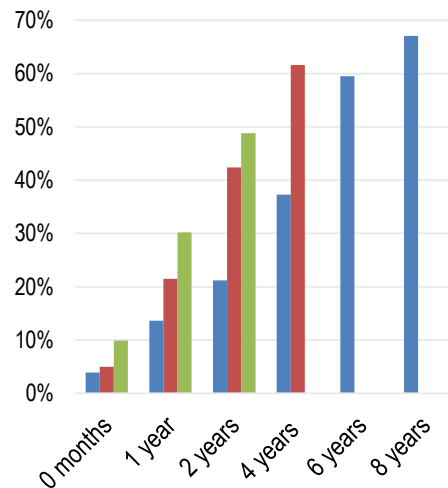
# Register data allow for analysing changes in the integration path across cohorts

Evolution of employment rates of refugees in Sweden, by cohort and over time

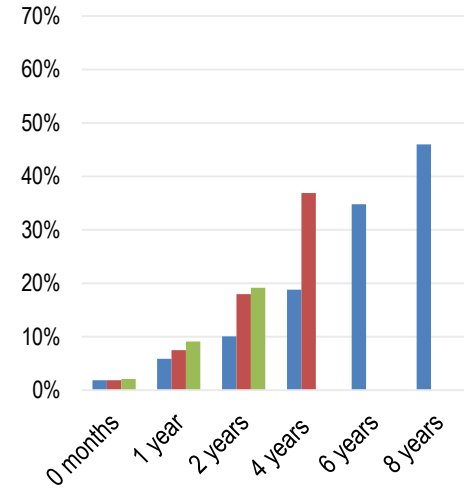
## Women and men



## Men



## Women



■ Arrived 2010   ■ Arrived 2015   ■ Arrived 2017

Source: SCB (2020), Andel (i procent) förvärvsarbetande kommunmottagna flyktingar efter utbildning, kön och mottagningsår 1997 - 2019

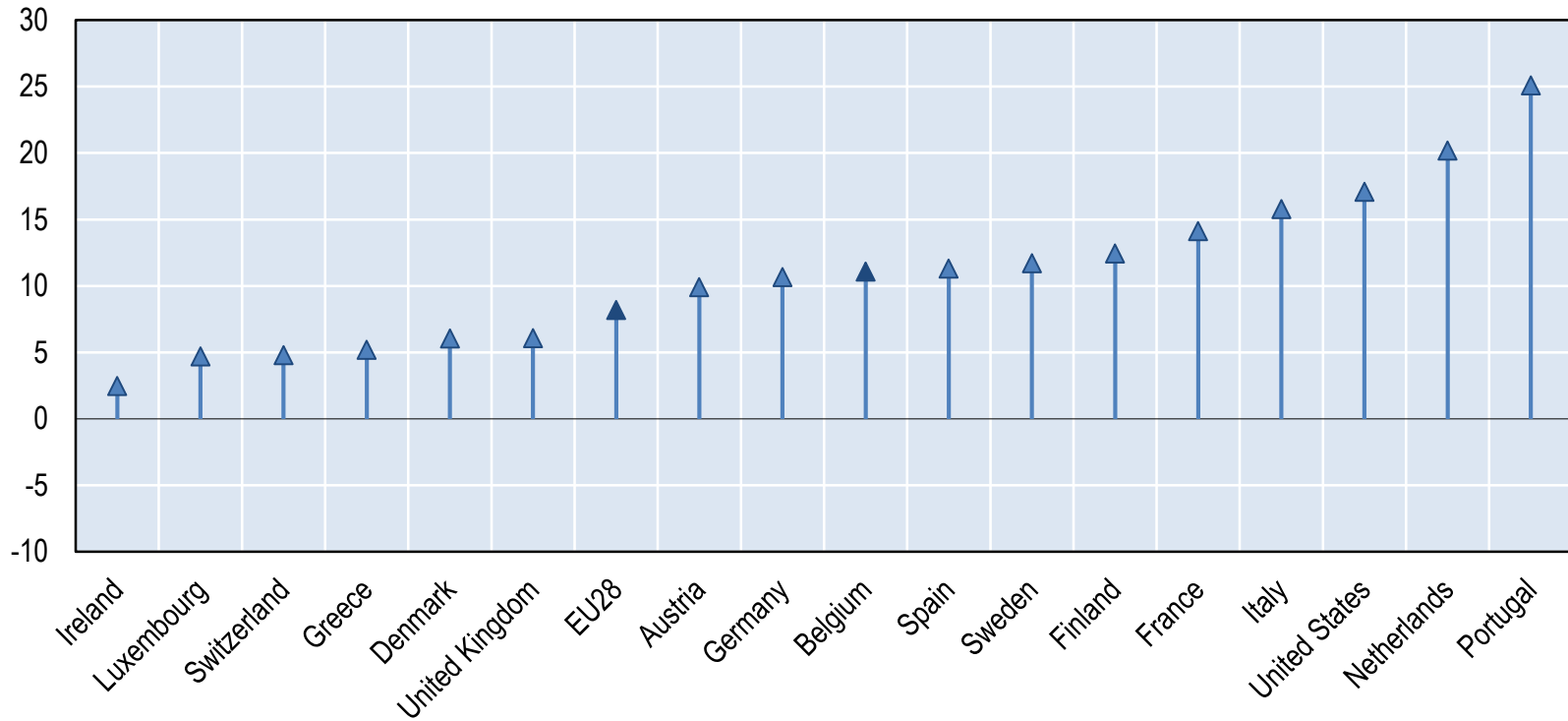


# ALTERNATIVES TO LONGITUDINAL DATA



# *Pseudo-cohorts* with repeated cross-sectional samples can be an alternative in high-quality surveys with large samples

Percentage point change between 2014 and 2019 in employment rates of immigrants aged 15-64 not in education who arrived between 2010 and 2014



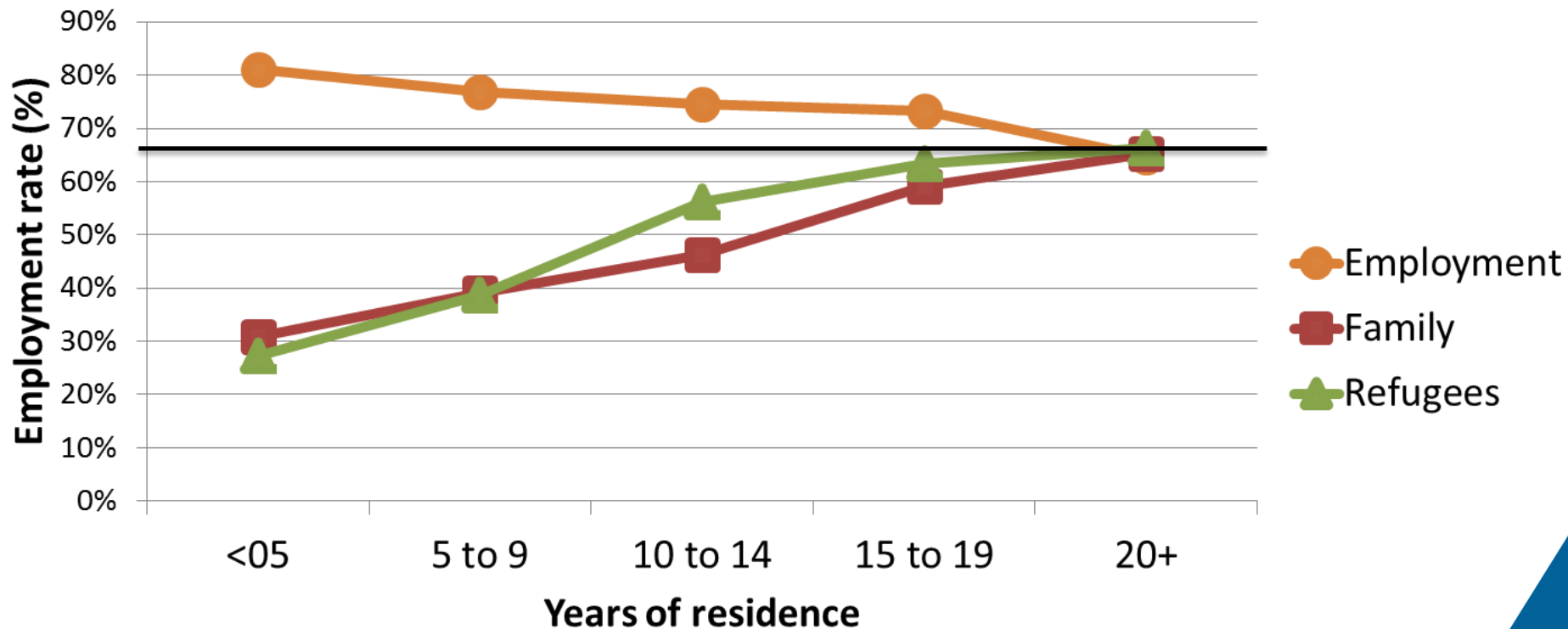
Source : EU Labour Force Survey (data provided by Eurostat), OECD Secretariat calculations.

Note: The graphic compares the outcomes of immigrants with 0-4 years duration of residence in 2014 with the outcomes of immigrants with 5-9 years duration of residence in 2019.



## *Duration-of-residence* provides some insights at the aggregate level...

Employment rate by immigrant categories and duration of stay in European OECD countries, 2014



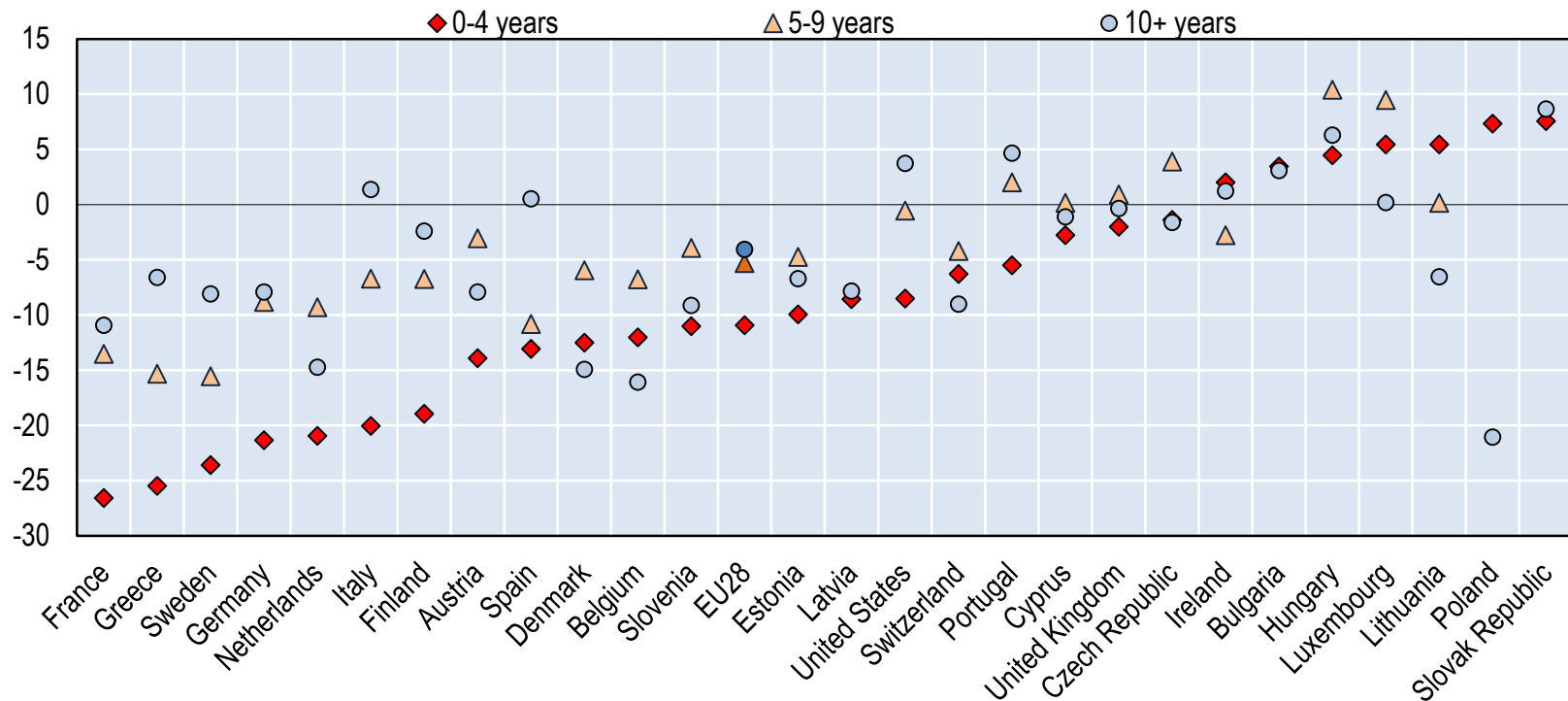
Source : EU-OECD (2016), *How are refugees faring on the labour market in Europe? A first evaluation based on the 2014 EU labour force survey ad hoc module*, DG EMPL Working Paper 1/2016.



# ...but can produce odd results where the migrant population is small or changed a lot over time

## Employment rates of 15-64 immigrants by duration of stay, 2019

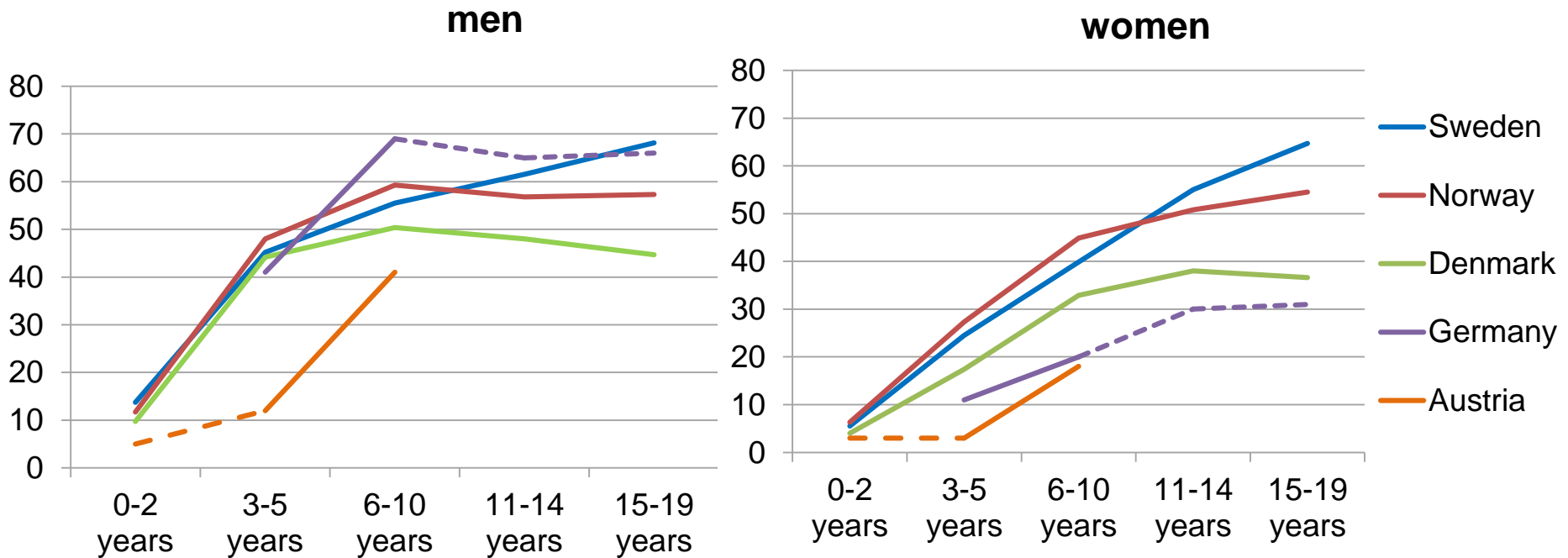
Differences in percentage points with the native-born population





# Migrant-specific surveys run into sample size issues when looking at duration of residence

Refugees' employment by gender and duration of residence, around 2016



Source: Liebig and Tronstad (2018).

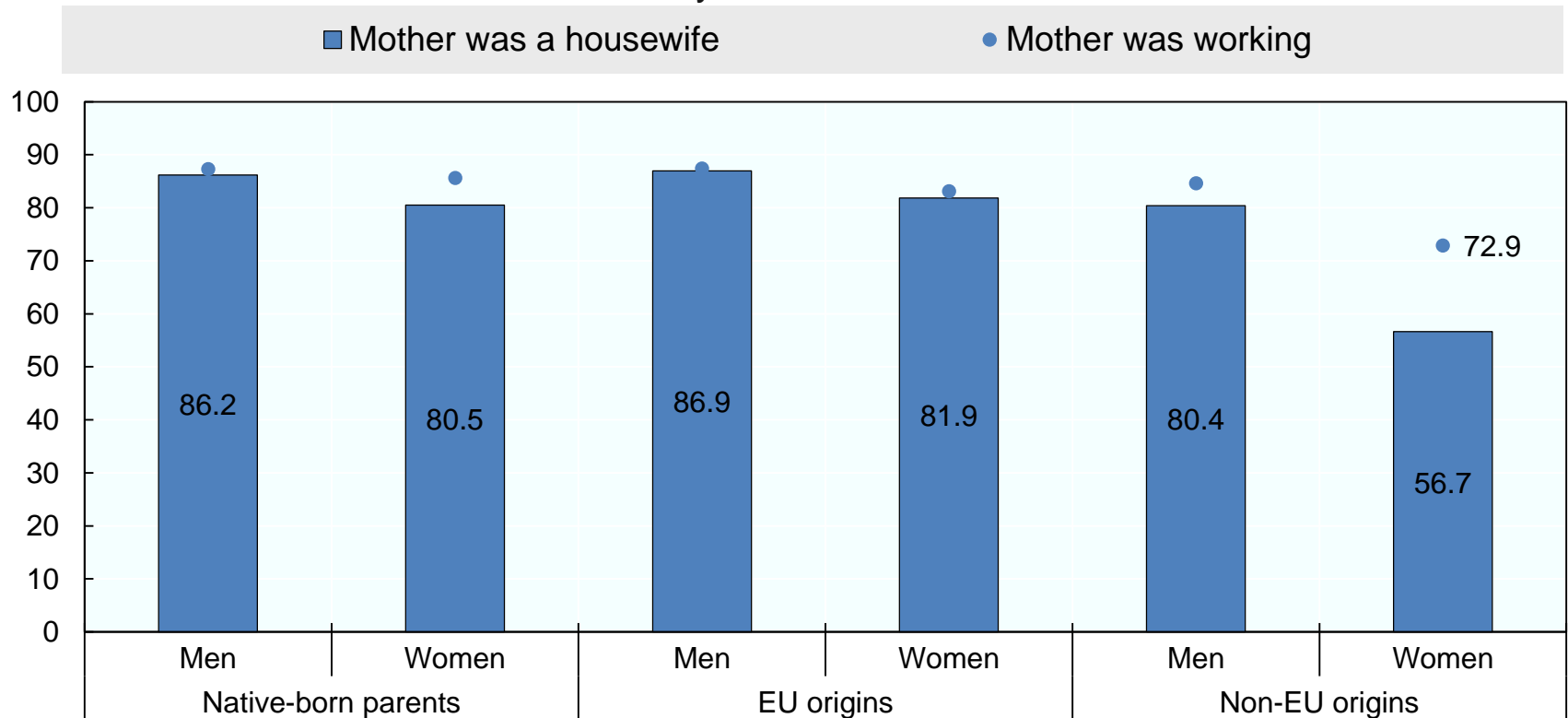
*Data for Scandinavian countries show very similar results with proper longitudinal data (men: cut-off after about 9 years; women: ongoing integration for at least 12 years)*



## Recall questions:

Depends on the question and the time horizon,  
and causality difficult to establish

Current employment rate of youth, by maternal employment status when respondent was 15 years old



Results hold in a regression analysis controlling for age, educational attainment, mother's educational attainment; financial situation in childhood and at present.

Source: OECD (2017) Catching up? Intergenerational Mobility and Children of Immigrants.



## Conclusion

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- Any solid analysis of migration and integration processes requires longitudinal data, and these are becoming more and more widespread
- Solid evaluations of integration programmes using longitudinal data are still rare
- The trend is clearly going towards integrated administrative data rather than longitudinal migrant surveys
- The latter have their main benefit (in cases where administrative data exist) for the survey of social integration (which is an underresearched area of high policy interest), but are hardly ever used in that context





# For more information on the work of the OECD in the areas of migration and integration

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[www.oecd.org/migration](http://www.oecd.org/migration)

Including

*“Settling In”, the largest database on migrant integration  
outcomes (joint OECD-EU project)*

*OECD-DIOC database on expatriates*

*OECD Migration Database*

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