



Canadian Citizenship

"Harder to get and easier to lose"

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Agenda

- Policy context
- Statistics
- 2010 Changes and impact
- 2014 Changes and expected impact
- Longer-term implications and transition advice

Conservative Government Context

- Fearless advice and loyal implementation breakdown
- Ministerial certainty vs. “arrogance of the expert”
- Sharper ideological/values divide
- Evidence and anecdote
- Centre of gravity and priorities

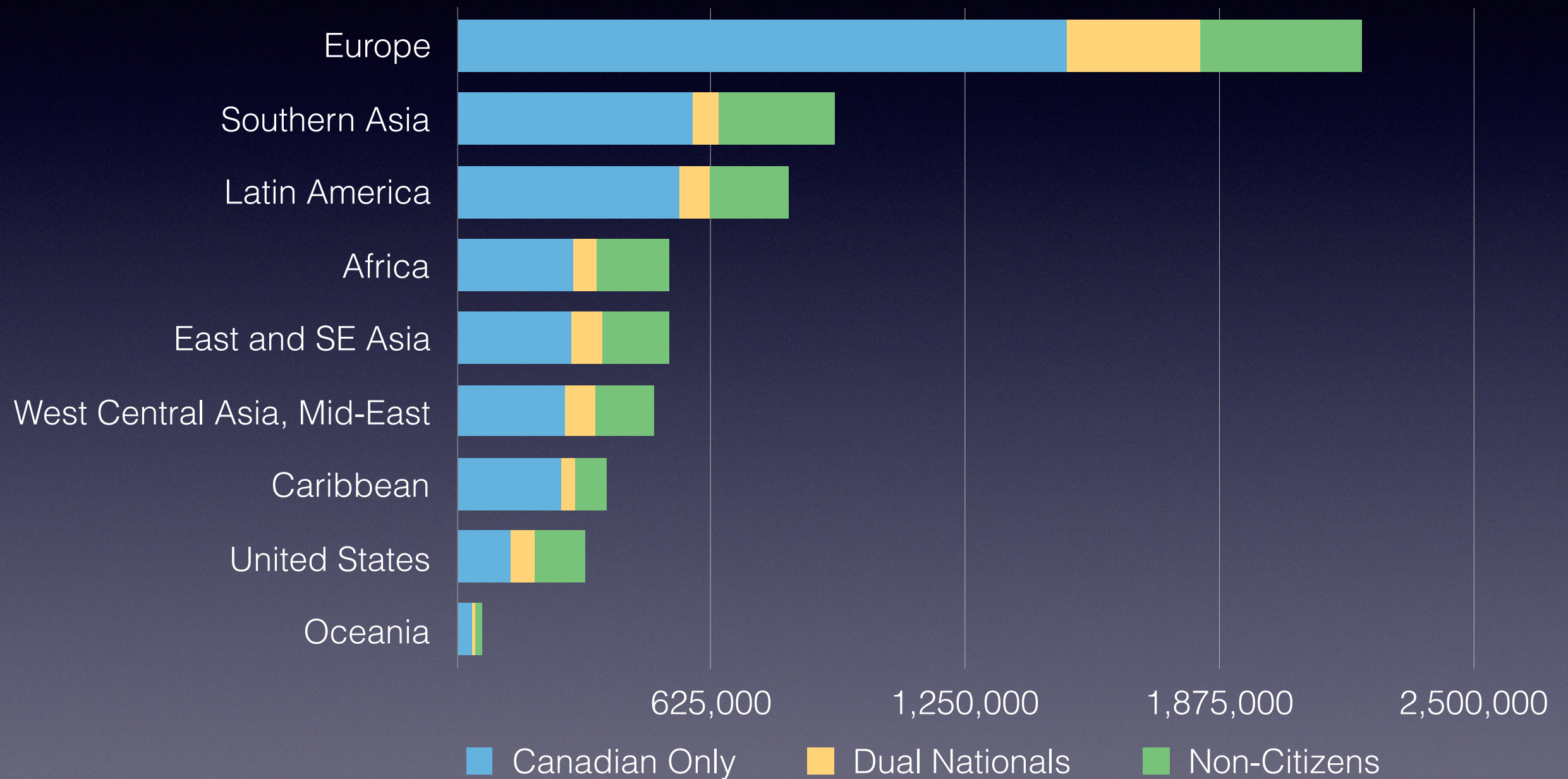
Policy Context

Global vs Local

- Citizenship: Facilitation vs. Meaningfulness
- Multiculturalism: Accommodation vs. Integration
- Shift towards meaningfulness and integration

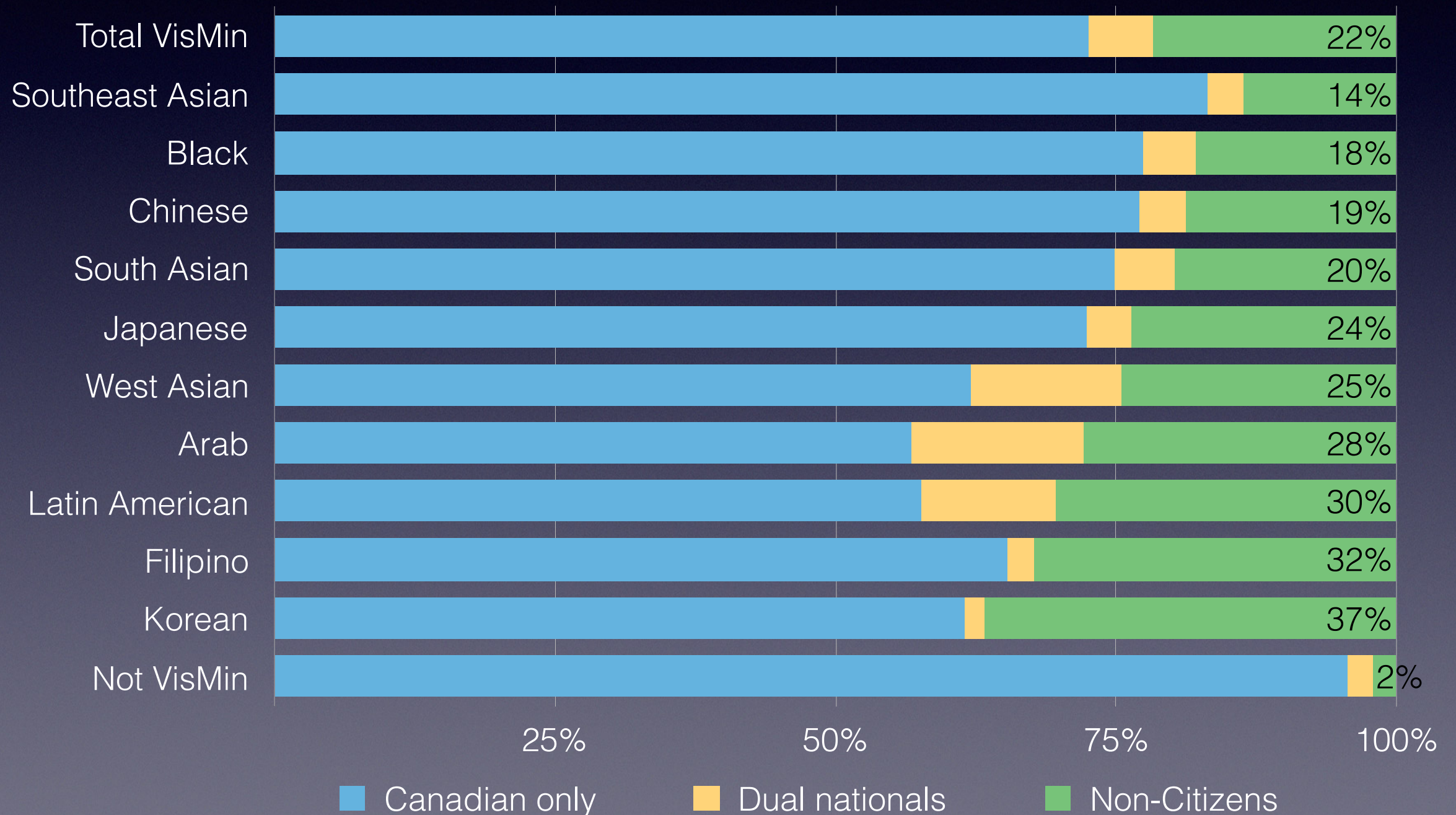
Citizenship Take-up

Foreign-born by Place of Birth, Eligible



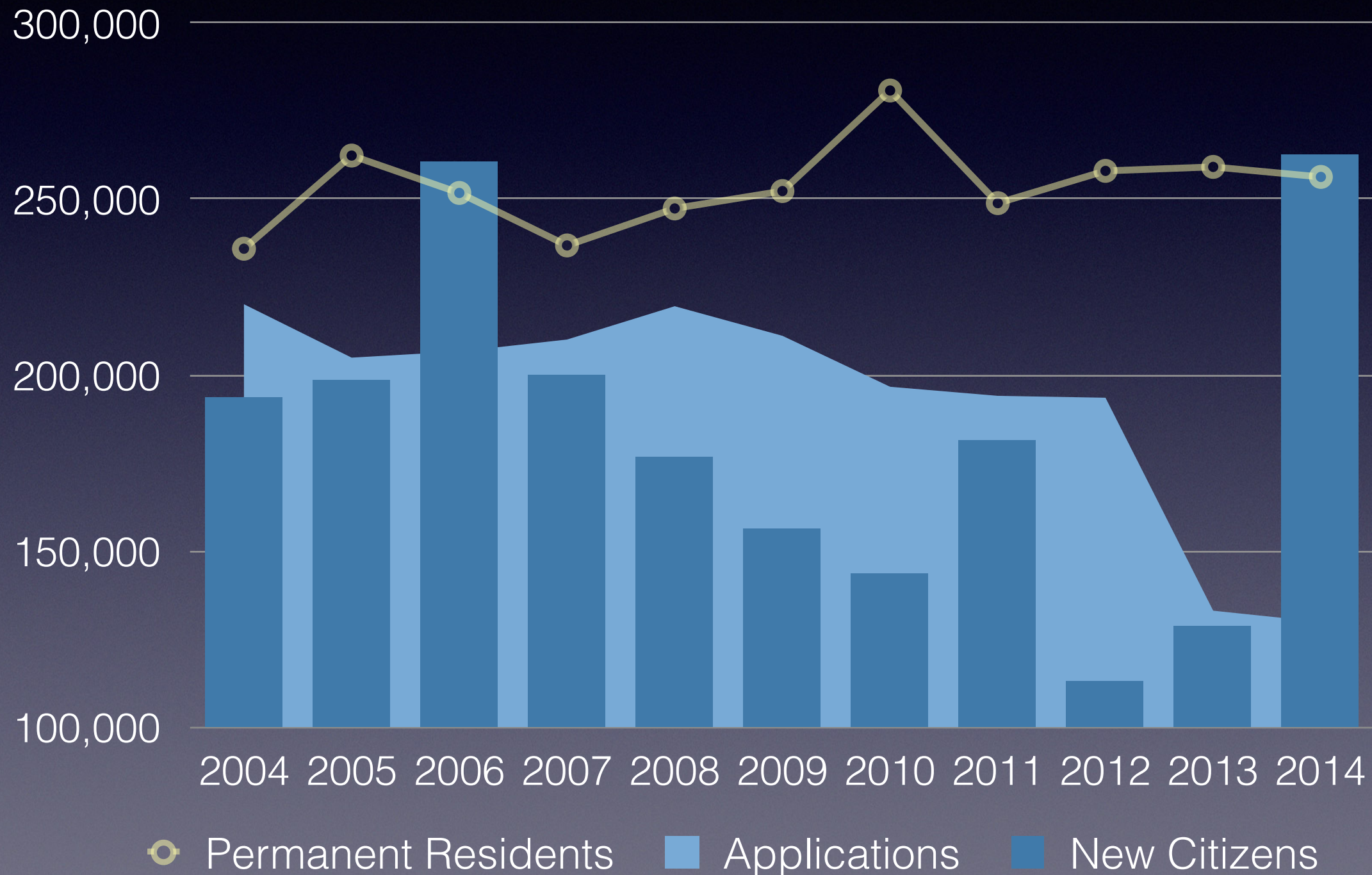
Citizenship

Visible Minorities, Eligible or Not



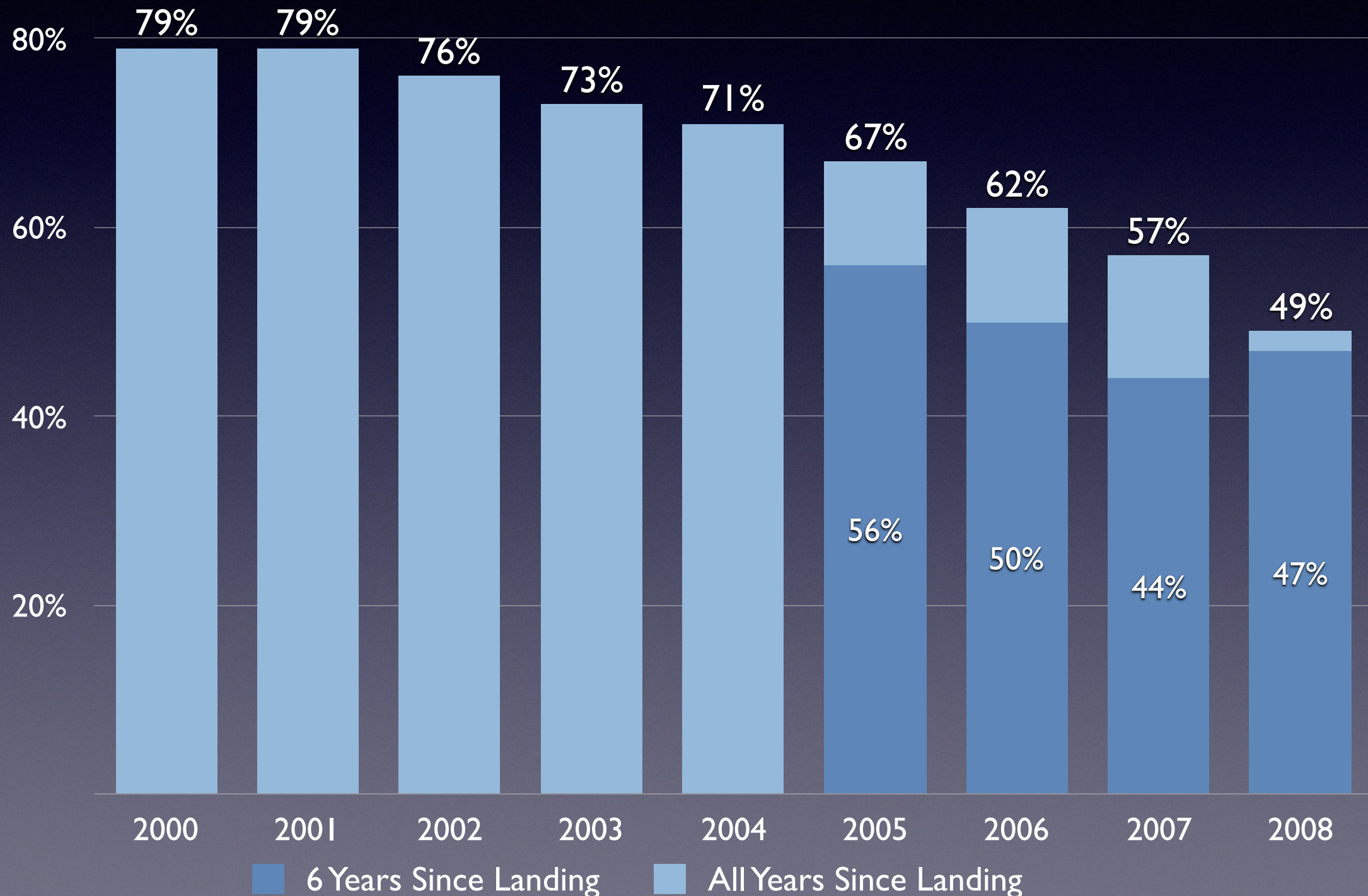
PRs, Applications, Citizens

2004 to 2014



Citizenship Take-Up

6 Years Since Landing vs All Years Since Landing 2014



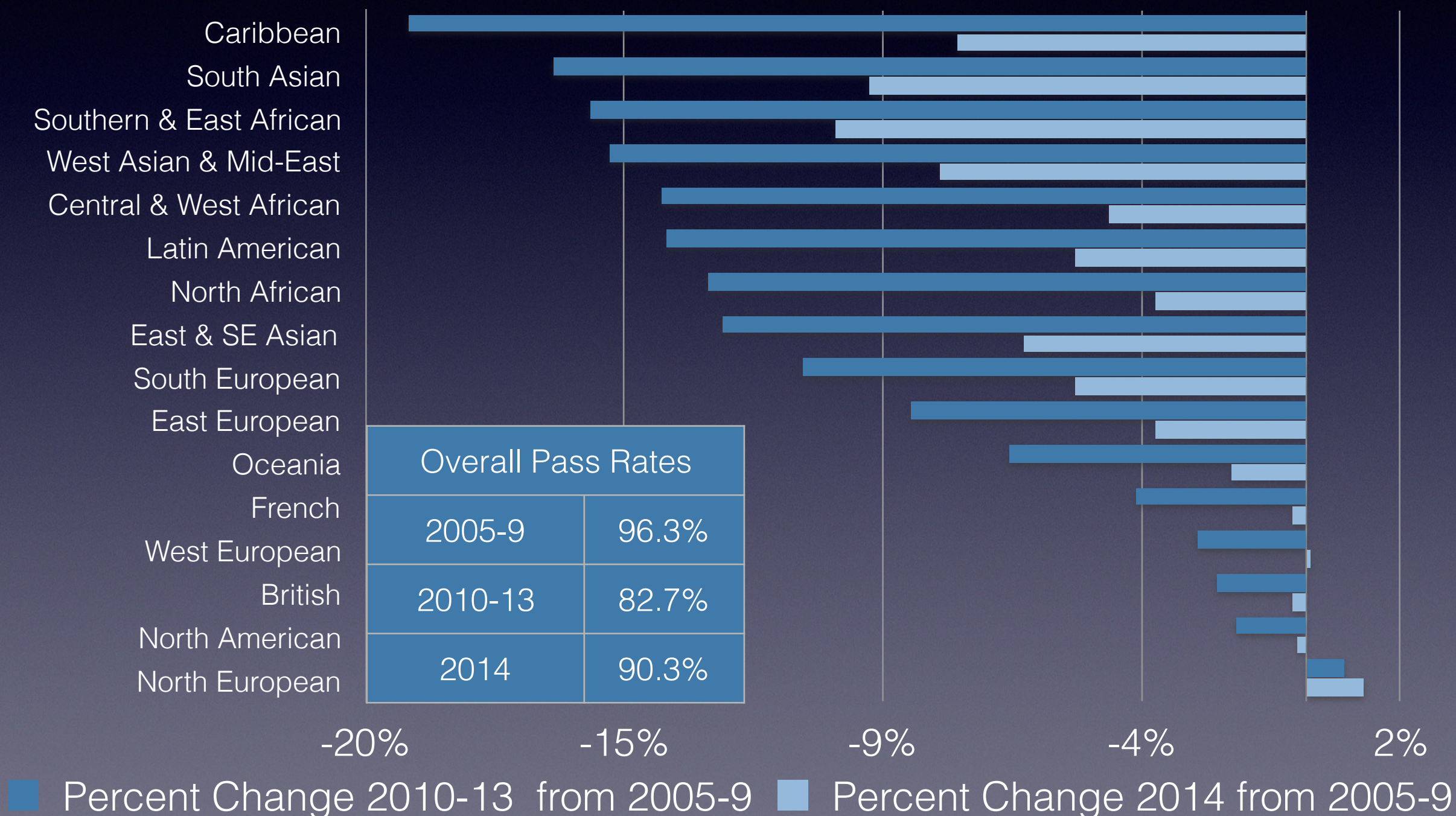
Citizenship Test

Monthly Pass Rates



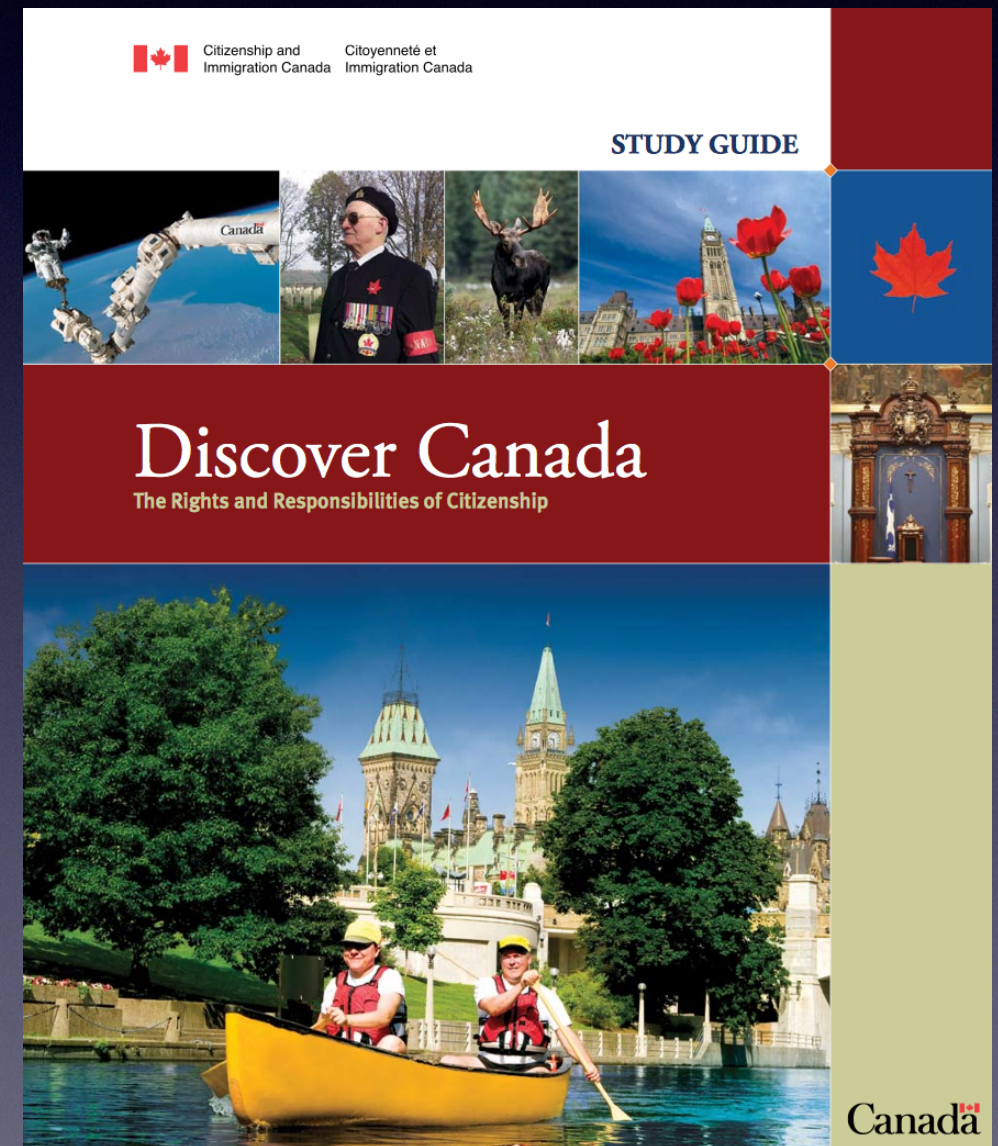
Impact 2010 Changes

Percentage Decline by Country of Birth
2010-13 and 2014 Compared to 2005-9



Changes 2010

- Emphasis on history, military, responsibilities
- More rigorous knowledge test
- Language “pre-assessment”
- Anti-fraud



2014 Citizenship Act

Residency and Testing

- Longer residency (4 out of 6), physical presence
 - From “honour system” to residency questionnaire
- “Intent to reside”
- Knowledge and language required 14-65
- Tax returns

2014 Citizenship Act

Business Processes

- Removal of citizenship judges
- Ability to cancel incomplete applications
- Electronic means to verify citizenship.
- “Soft” commitment one year processing

2014 Citizenship Act

Fairness

- “Lost Canadians” fix
- Fees from \$100 to \$530
- Revocation
 - Fraud: Ministerial discretion
 - “Terror and Treason” and dual nationals

Radicalization Examples

Dual vs Canadian Nationality

	Dual Nationals	Canadian Only
Canadians charged by the RCMP but still at large	Ferid Ahmed Imam Ahmad Waseem Maiwand Yar Hasibullah Yusufzai	
Canadians reported to be fighting or supporting extremists abroad, but not charged	Mohammed Ali Sami Elabi Um m Haritha Omar Hassan Mohammad Ibrahim Abu Dujana al-Muhajir Farah Mohamed Shirdon	Collin Gordon Gregory Gordon John Maguire
Canadians accused of possible terrorist links by other countries	Faker Boussora Abderraouf Jdey Amer El-Maati Abu Ameenah Bilal Philips	
Recent trials	Hiva Alizadeh Misbahuddin Ahmed (revocation proceedings initiated)	John Nuttal Amanda Karody Carlos Larmond Ashton Larmond

Implications

- Burden on low-income, less educated and refugees
- Further reduction in naturalization rate
- Weaker due process
- Challenges to revocation as unconstitutional likely

Broader Issues

- Dual nationality, diaspora politics and loyalty
- Global mobility vs. belonging — competitiveness
- Declining naturalization rate and increased proportion of non-citizens
- Other: Voting rights, Birth tourism, Niqab ban

New Government Rebalancing (1)

- Preserve increased integrity and efficiency measures
 - Citizenship test question rotation
 - Physical presence for residency
 - Language assessment
 - Filing Canadian tax return
 - 1 stop decision-making model
 - abandoning incomplete applications
- Early symbolic changes
 - Reduce fees from \$530 to \$300
 - Cancel Court revocation proceedings for dual nationals
- Administrative changes
 - New Citizenship Study guide (replace *Discover Canada*)
 - Set and report on service standards (one-year)

New Government Rebalancing (2)

- Legislative changes
 - Abolish “intent to reside” provision
 - Restore pre-Permanent Resident time half-credit
 - Revisit requirement for 14-17 years olds to be tested for knowledge and language
 - Revisit citizenship decision making model (restoring GiC/ Court role or allowing for oral hearings)
 - Remove revocation provisions for dual nationals for terror or treason

Other

- Machinery change unlikely (unadvisable)
- Strong or weak minister?
- Relative priority of citizenship vs immigration and refugees
- CIC organizational structure

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