

FAMILY MAINTENANCE

The Path Ahead

Recovery of Maintenance in the
European Union and Worldwide
Heidelberg Conference 5 – 8 March 2013



A few trends that matter



- People on the move
 - Migration
 - Immigration
- Families in the real world
 - Blended Families
 - Adult children
 - Aging parents

Transient families



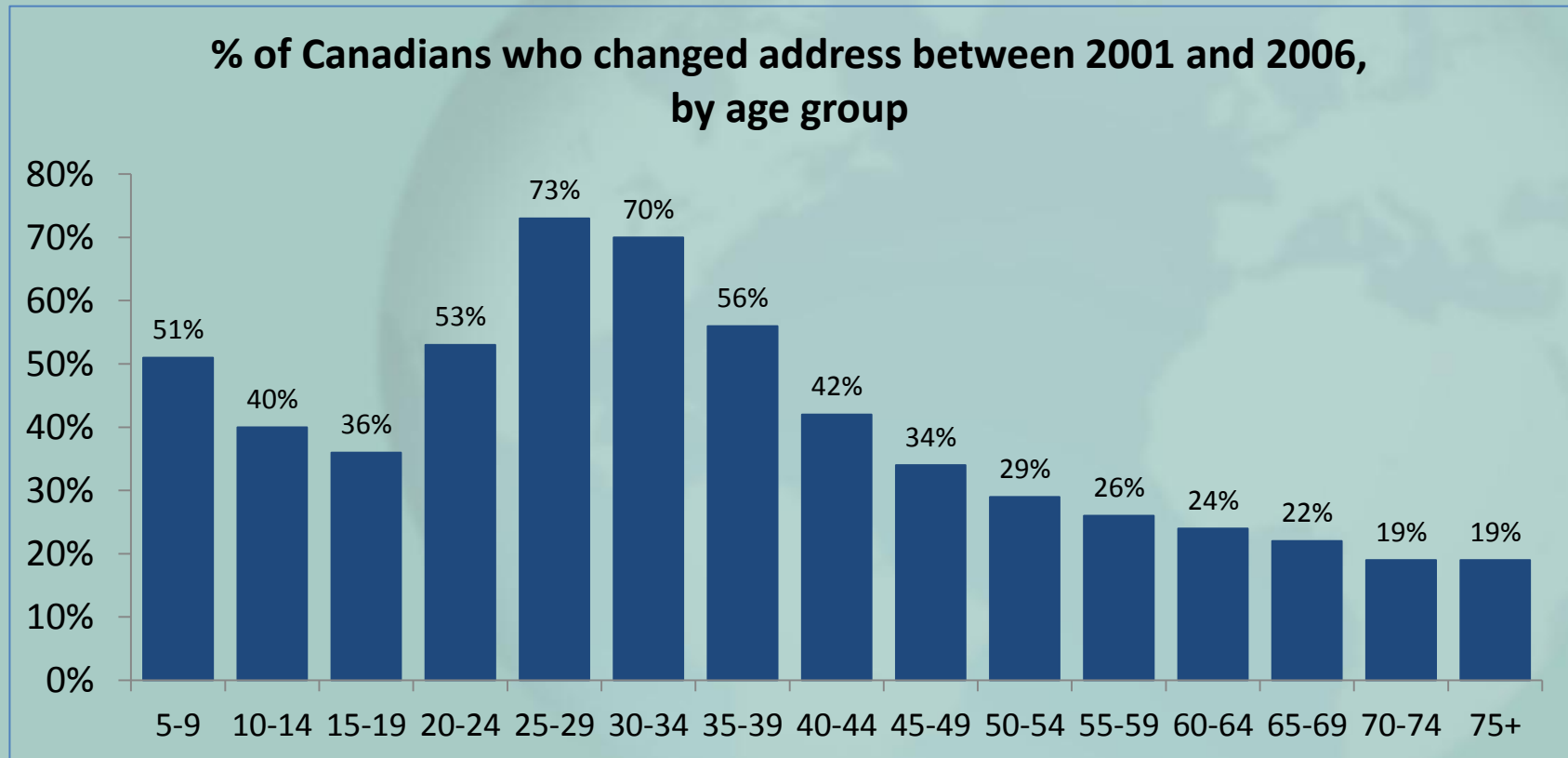
Families on the Move

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Between 2001 – 2006 In Canada	Number	As Percent of Total Population
TOTAL MOVERS	12,087,315	41%
Moved within the same municipality	6,507,900	22%
Moved to another municipality in the same province/territory	3,566,790	12%
Moved to a different province or territory	852,580	3%
Moved to Canada from another country	1,160,035	4 %

Happiness is having a large, loving, caring, close-knit family in another city.” (George Burns)

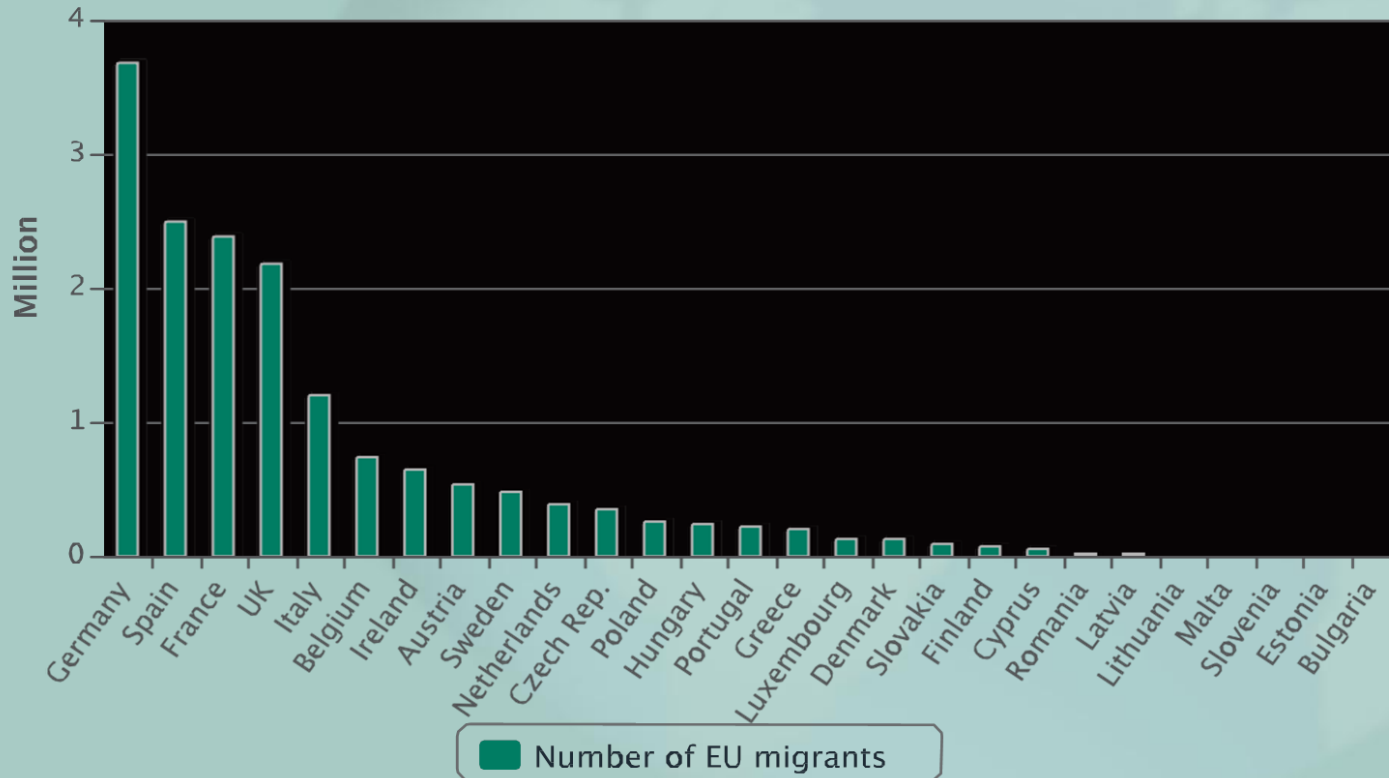
Locate Services?



Source: Statistics Canada 2006 Census of Population, cat. no. 97-556-XCB-2006006

Transient families

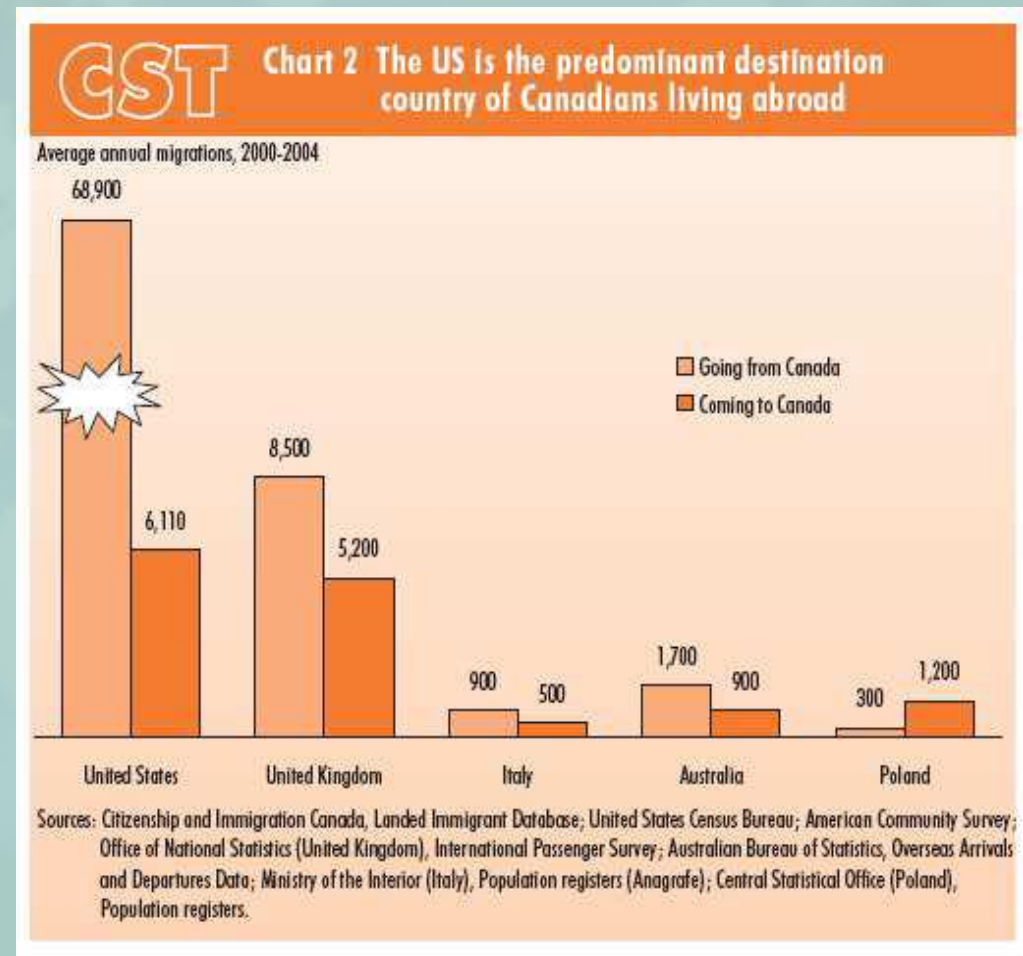
EU migrants in each EU country, 2010
Chart provided by www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk



Source is World Bank. Values for some countries are too small to show in the figure.

Migration is not just one direction

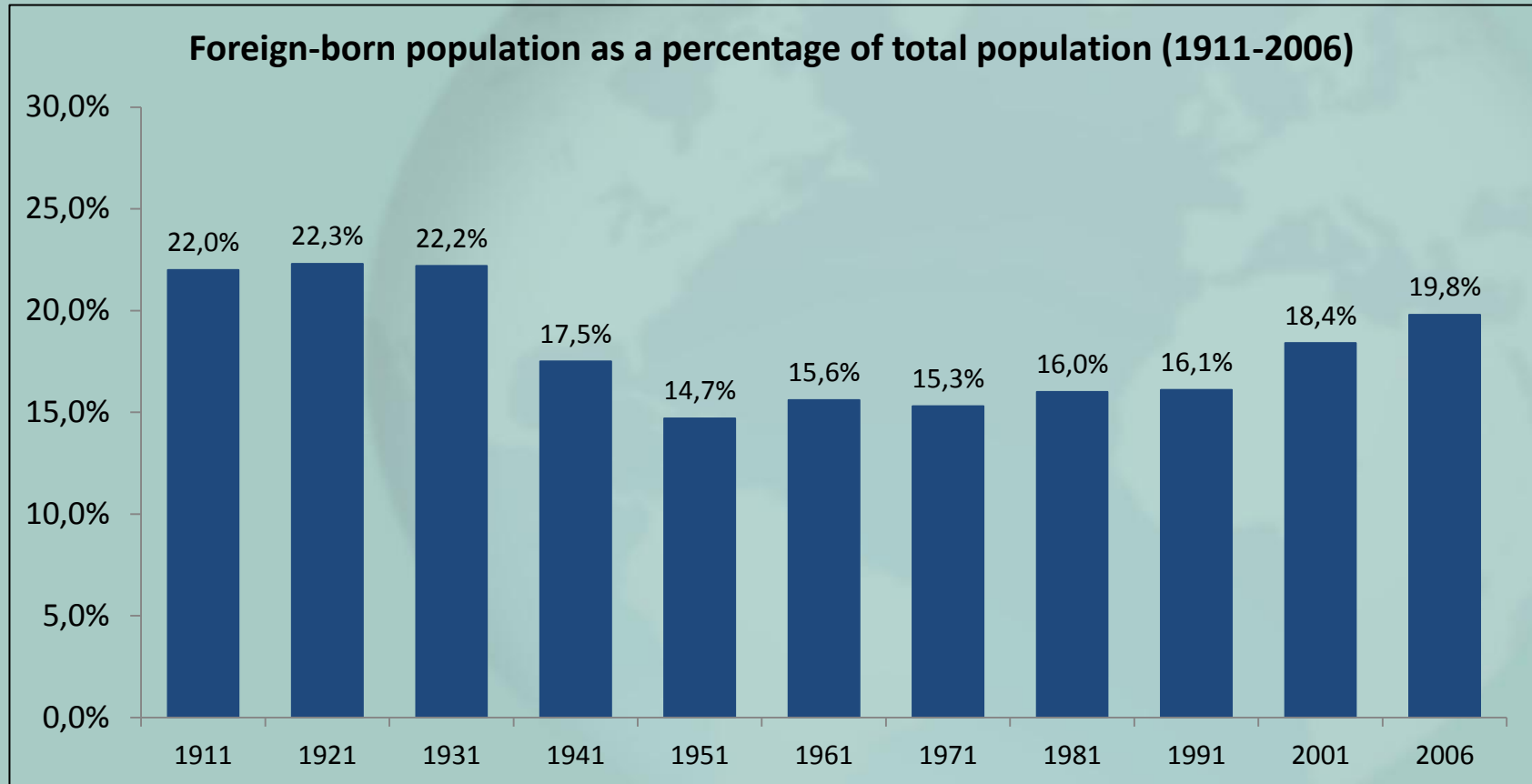
- 24,000 New Zealanders go to Australia each year
- 7500 New Zealanders return home each year
- 32% of the people who moved to the US from Canada in 2003 had been born in the US.
- Another 25% were secondary migrants, that is, people born in neither Canada nor the US but who subsequently emigrated from Canada.



So what?

- Increasing challenges in finding clients
- More international cases
- Multiple families across multiple States
- Challenges in managing multiple cases across borders
- The old model of one sending and one receiving State is evolving - now we have:
 - Two States enforcing same case
 - Third State enforcing the case
- Challenges to our data sharing agreements and protection of privacy
 - Sharing information at the speed of our clients
- How do we harmonize social policy and legislation across borders?

Immigration



Source: Statistics Canada 2006 Census of Population, cat. no. 97-557-XCB-2006006

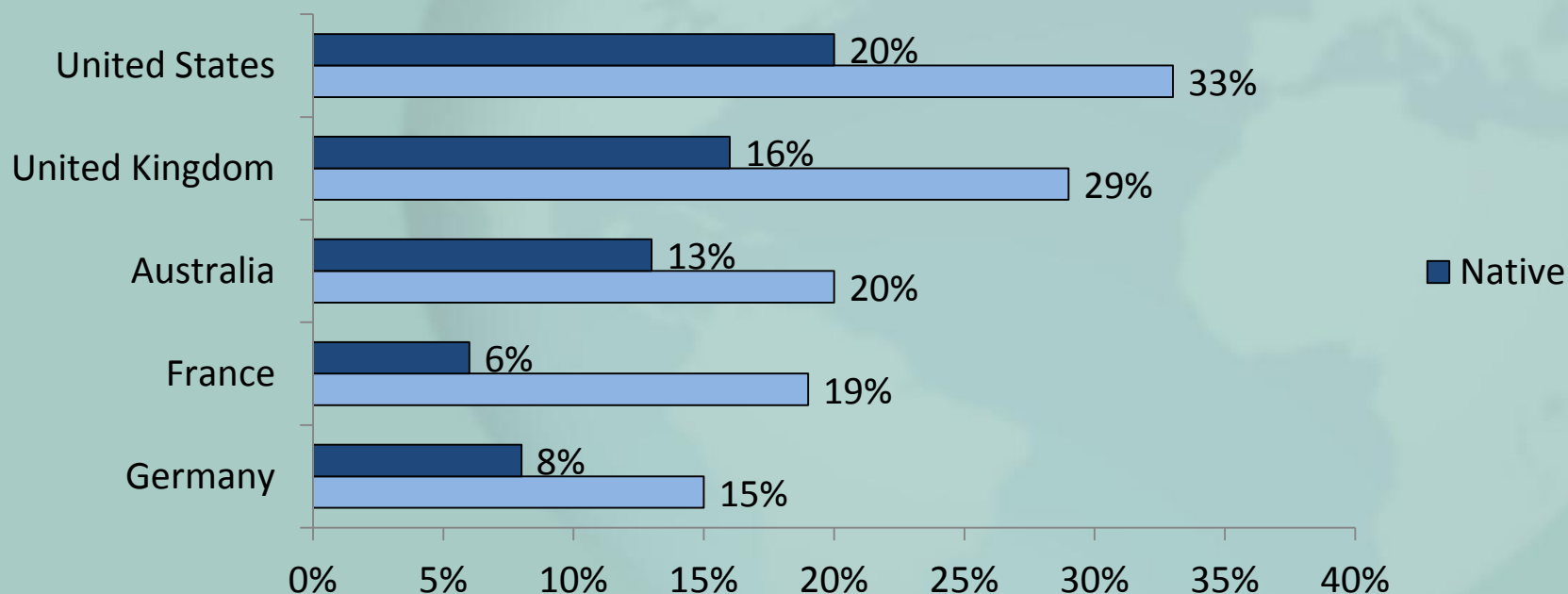
Immigrant Families

- In 2006 - 1 in 5 Canadian residents were born in another country
- Between 2001 – 2006 -foreign born population increased by 23.6 % (four times higher than growth in Canadian born population)
- Parents in immigrant families are more likely to be supporting two households (country of origin + current country)
- Immigrant parents are more likely to encounter barriers in finding and maintaining employment

Immigrant Poverty

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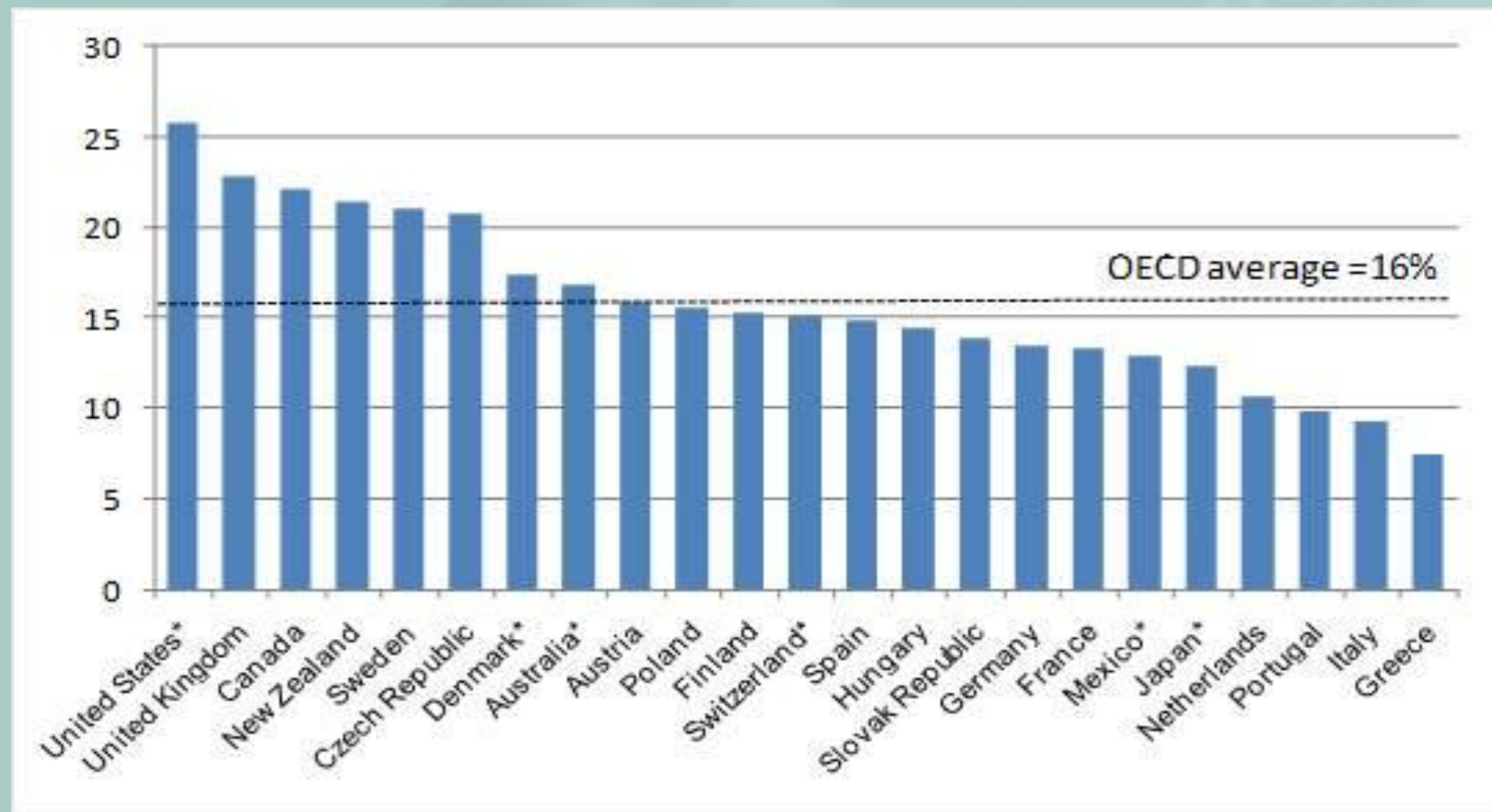
Figure 11.3 - Child poverty rate based on market income and including the effect of social transfers, five affluent countries



Source : UNICEF "Children in immigrant families In eight affluent countries. Their family, national and International context" August 2009

Single parent families below the poverty line

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Low Income Immigrant Families

Distribution (in %) of all low-income (LI) persons (18-64) in Canada, by family characteristics and recent immigrant status, 2004

	Recent Immigrants with LI	Other Canadians with LI
Type of family		
Unattached individual	19.0	52.2
Childless couple	19.2	12.9
Two-parent family	36.3	16.7
Lone-parent family	12.3	10.6
Other family type	13.1	7.7

Children from immigrant families are more likely to live in two-parent households – but over 10 % are lone-parent families

So What?

Poverty

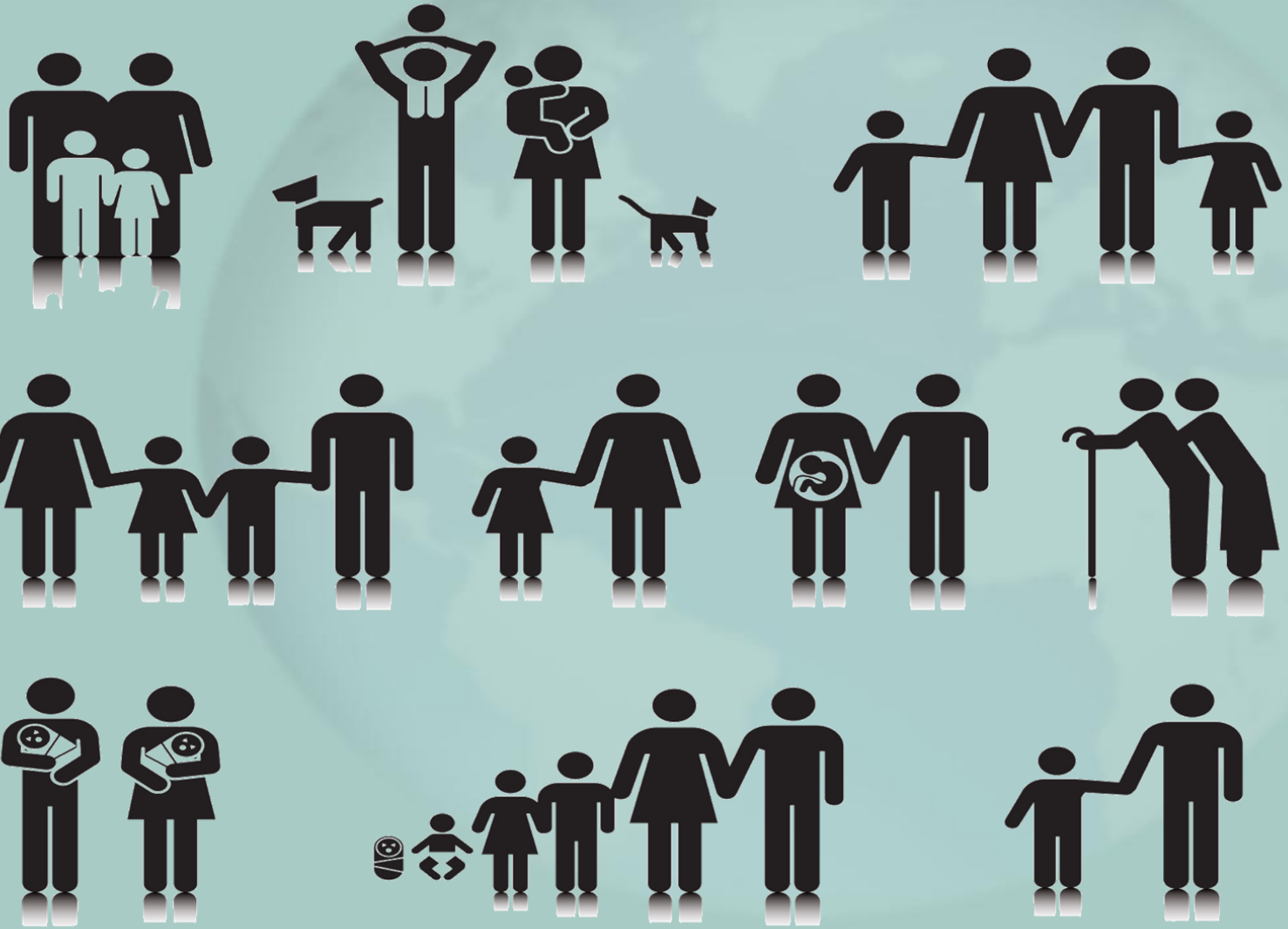
- Rate of lone parent families is almost same as non-immigrant families
- Immigrant children are living in poverty
- Large percentage of immigrants are working poor
- Challenges in reaching this segment of population to provide assistance

Values

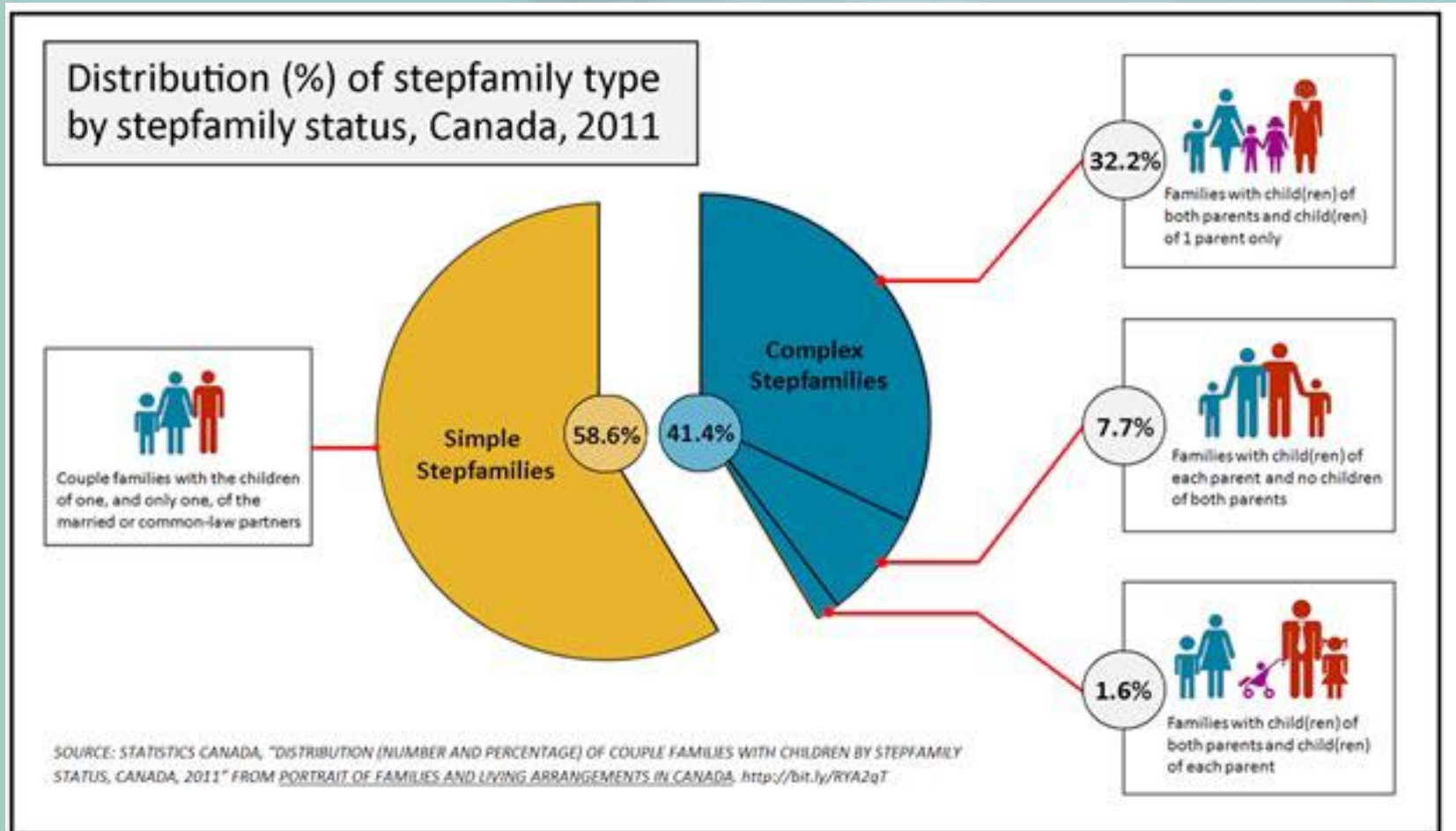
- Immigrants bring new values and new approaches to family
- Multi-generational families; different patterns of dependency

New Forms of Families

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Blended Families



One in ten Canadian children live in a blended family

Transitions

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Family transitions among children aged 6-13 (1996-97)

	Transitions for children born in a family in which parents were living together at the time of birth (legally married or common-law)	Transitions for children born in a family in which parents were living apart at the time of birth (single-parent, divorced, separated or widowed and not living common-law)
% of children who have experienced no family transitions	77.8%	16.2%
% of children who have experienced one family transition	8.0	44.7
% of children who have experienced two family transitions	7.8	18.0
% of children who have experienced three family transitions	4.9	16.9
% of children who have experienced four or more family transitions	1.5	4.2

Re-partnering

Cumulative Percentage of Repartnering after Marital Disruption



Year	Women			Men		
	Remarried	Cohabited	Total	Remarried	Cohabited	Total
1	0.7%	9.5%	10.2%	0.6%	14.9%	15.5%
2	2.7%	17.3%	20.0%	2.7%	23.5%	26.3%
3	4.2%	22.1%	26.3%	6.3%	31.0%	37.3%
4	5.6%	25.9%	31.4%	10.1%	35.8%	45.9%
5	7.2%	28.8%	36.0%	11.8%	38.6%	50.5%
10	13.5%	39.1%	52.5%	20.4%	49.2%	69.6%
15	16.4%	45.4%	61.8%	23.4%	54.3%	77.7%
20	19.2%	49.4%	68.6%	26.6%	55.5%	82.1%

Source: Zheng Wu and Christoph Schimmele (2009), "Divorce and Repartnering," Families: Changing

Trends in Canada, Maureen Baker (ed.) Toronto: McGraw-Hill Ryerson, p. 173.

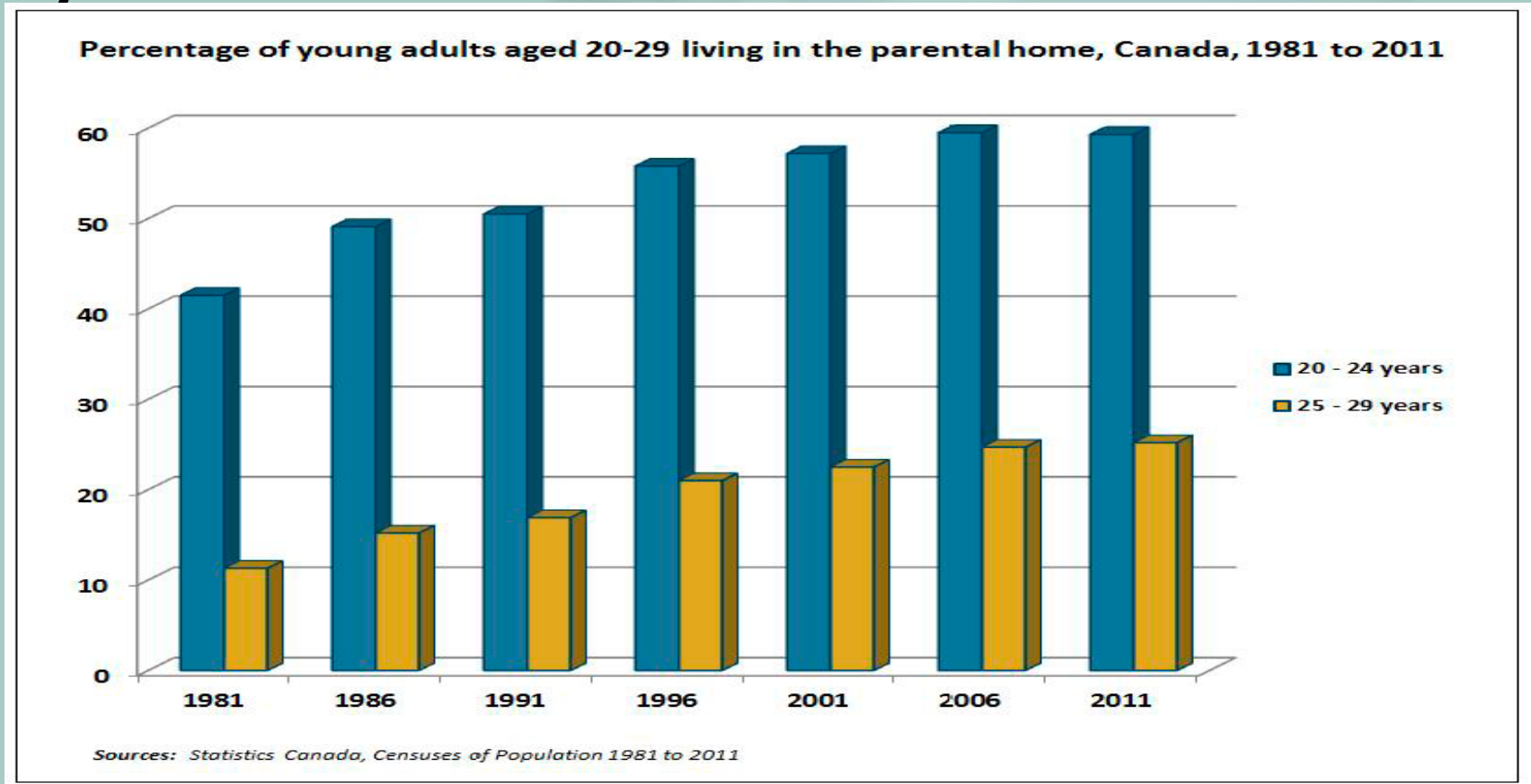
So what?

- Family Structures are not static
- Over their childhood children experience many “family pathways” as their parents re-partner and the children acquire step-siblings
- Simple child support guidelines do not work for these families
- Child support amounts can exceed a parent’s realistic ability to pay when there are multiple families
- Broader social policy issues concerning the competing priorities of children in different households are not well defined
- Our legal systems are not well designed to accommodate the fluid nature of family formation/re-formation
- By the time many child support decisions are being enforced – the parents have re-partnered

Adult children



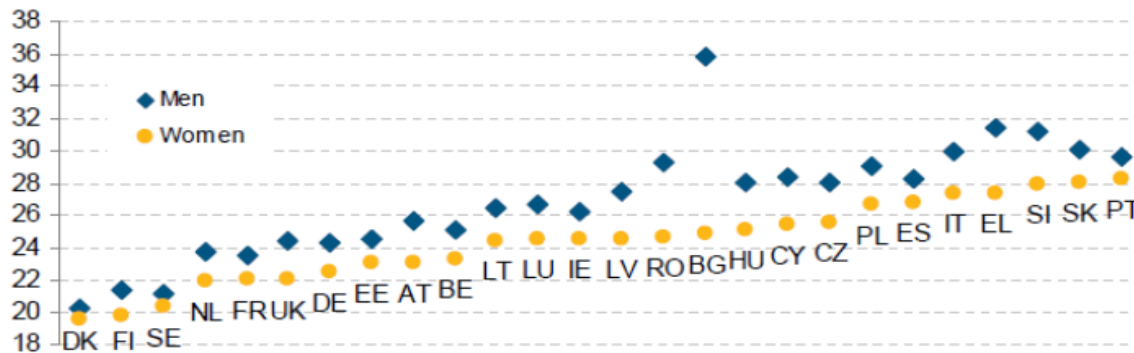
By the Numbers



“Yuckies” Young, Unwitting, Costly, Kids.

Will they ever move out?

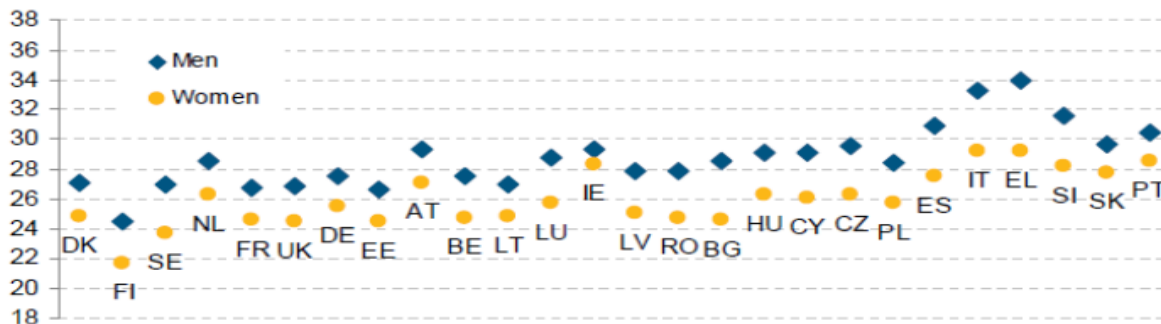
Figure 4: Age by which half of all individuals are living away from the parental home, 2008



Note: 2008 data for all countries except France (2007)
Source: EU-SILC Users' database.

* In some countries the leaving home age is higher than the age at which child is living with a partner!

Figure 5: Age by which half are living with a partner, 2008



Note: 2008 data for all countries except France (2007)
Source: EU-SILC Users' database.

So what?

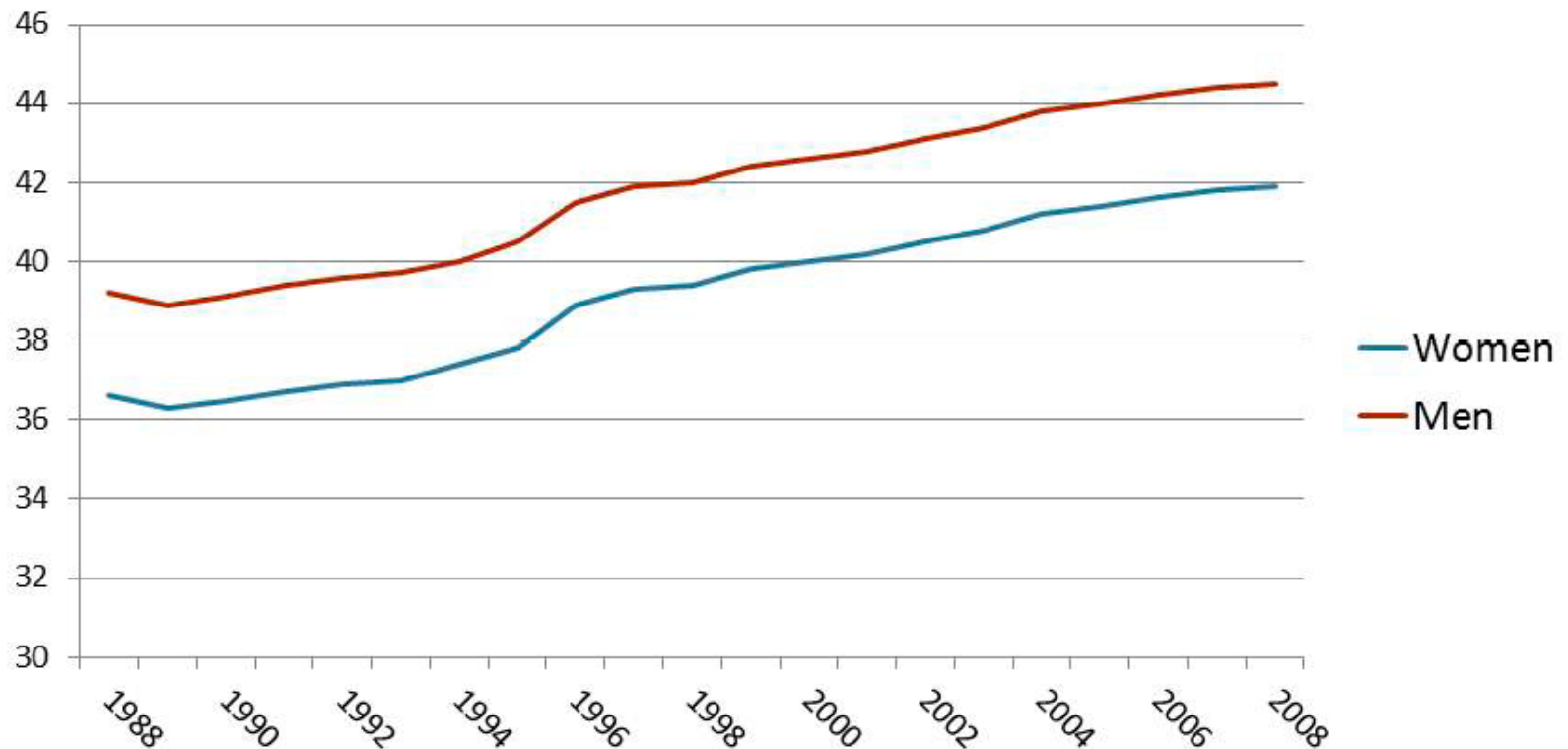
- Our child support programs were designed to deal with younger children
- Child support is one of the few programs to support adult children and their continuing education
- Now - one in four children in our programs are over age of majority
- These children experience multiple transitions between 18 – 23 years – with no easy mechanism to adjust their child support
- Higher ages of children in international cases
- Policies for support of adult children differ significantly in different countries
- Large numbers of children are affected by these policy differences
- Social policy and Convention – should we treat international cases differently than domestic cases?

AGING POPULATION



Silver Separations

Average age at divorce in Canada, 1988-2008 (years)



Source : Grey Divorce(Silver Separations), Fascinating families, Vanier Institute of the Family , December 19 2012

The senior boomerangs?

- In 2000, 4.1% (2.3 million) elderly parents were living with family
- By 2007, the number had jumped to 6.5% (3.6 million)
- In Canada – in 2011 – 11 percent of seniors (over age of 65) were living with relatives
*although not necessarily with their children

So what?

- Impact on poverty :
 - Cost of separation is particularly acute for women as they age
 - among those aged 78 to 80, divorce or separation results in an average 17% drop in family income compared to what they had when they were 54-56 years of age.
- Spousal Support may become increasingly important for these women
- Few international spousal support cases currently
- Who will be the caregivers and support for separated parents?
- Competing social policy – support your grandma or support your children?
- Multi-generational households don't fit neatly into our family definitions or guidelines

Are we going out of business ?

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- Number of families grew by **80 %** between 1971 and 2006
- This rate of growth is slowing dramatically
- Over next two decades – number of families in Canada will only grow by **15 %**
- Families will continue to be a shrinking percentage of households
- Expect only 62 percent of households will be families in 2026



But the need is still there

- Since the mid-1990's average after tax income of lone parent families (especially female lone parent families) has increased
 - Growth largely due to increased labour force participation , increased hours of work, higher levels of education
 - Female lone-parents are older and better educated today
 - Has resulted in a decline in poverty rates
- But... can financial situation improve much beyond today?
 - Labour force participation is already very high
 - Barriers are largely affordable child care and accessible education
- Child support is even more important going forward as means of lifting families out of poverty

Where do we go from here?



Families are changing

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- Pace of change in family structure is unprecedented
- Capacity to change legislation to keep up with the new families and their needs is limited
- What worked for families in the 1980s and 1990s does not necessarily fit now
- The simple guidelines used in many jurisdictions don't fit the new reality
 - Multiple families,
 - blended stepfamilies,
 - children over age of majority,
 - multi-generational households
- And international families add another dimension



The path forward?

- Encourage broad social policy discussions
- ***Evidence based social policy and legislation*** is critical
- Is it time to evaluate whether our legislation and policies are still working for today's families?
- Flexibility is critical if the system is to work for the modern family (which will continue to evolve)
- Solutions need to address the families beyond our borders



Some thoughts.....



- “Not Made Here” bias is alive and well - yet our families are more alike than we generally realize:
 - Adult children, immigrants , migration of families, aging of population, poverty affect families around the world
- Sharing information and sharing best practices is a key starting point
- There is no single right way to manage these changes
- Child support professionals are interacting with today’s families and understand the changes that families are going through
- Their voices need to be heard – Convention good example of the value of bringing practitioners into discussion
- Families are worth it.....

Next Steps....



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Thank You!