

# **Collecting migration data across borders: Canadian - United States experience**

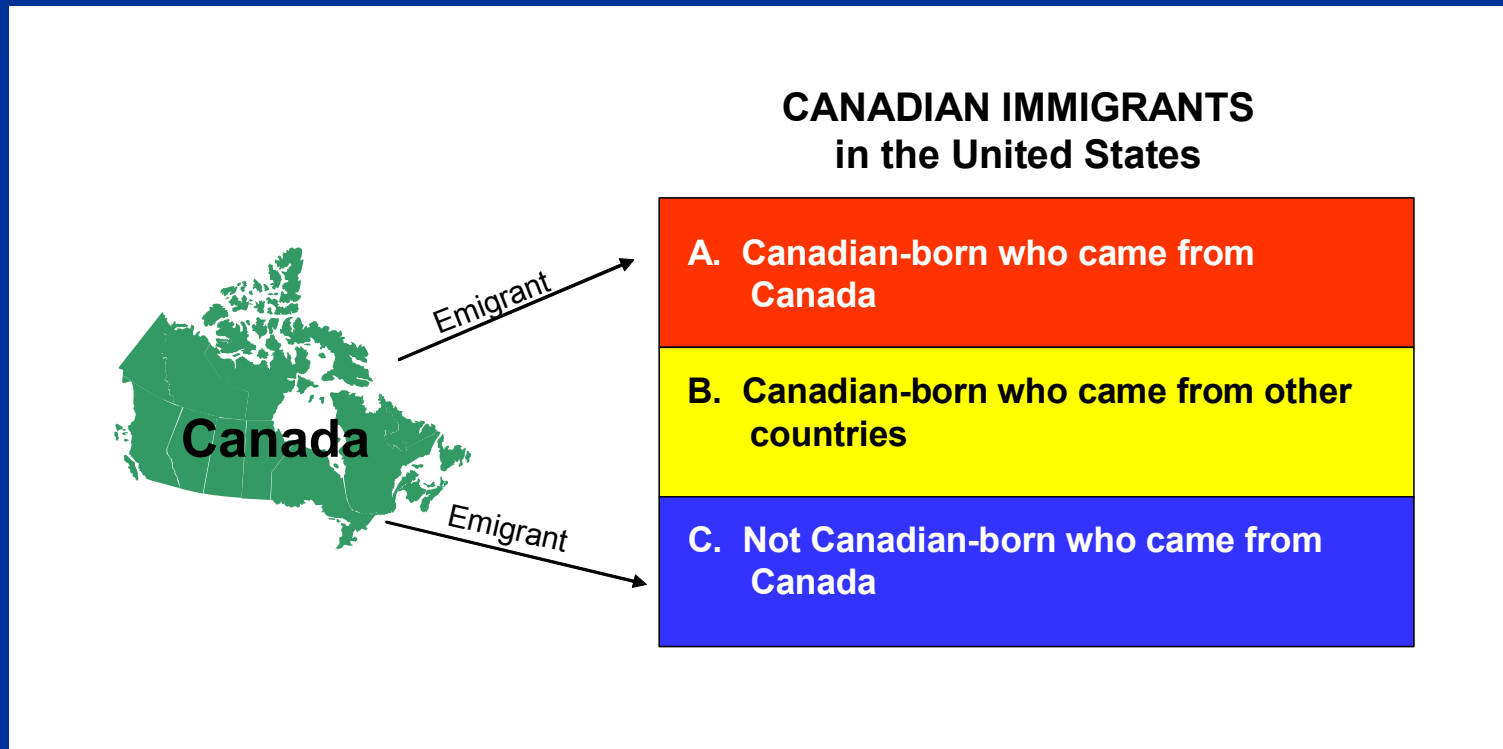
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**The 11<sup>th</sup> International Metropolis conference,  
Workshop “Measuring international migration: Data from both sides of the border”  
Lisbon, Portugal, October 3, 2006**

# National data exchanges as a way to improve migration statistics

- North American Migration Working Group – a forum to discuss approaches to measuring international migration
- Lack of quality data on flows (especially outflows) is a major challenge
- Canada – U.S. collaboration
  - development of temporary migration statistics
  - data exchanges as a way to improve estimates of emigration

# Looking at American immigrants from the Canadian perspective



# American data sources on Canadians in the U.S.

## ■ Administrative sources

- Office of Immigration Statistics (OIS),  
Dept. of Homeland Security

## ■ Surveys

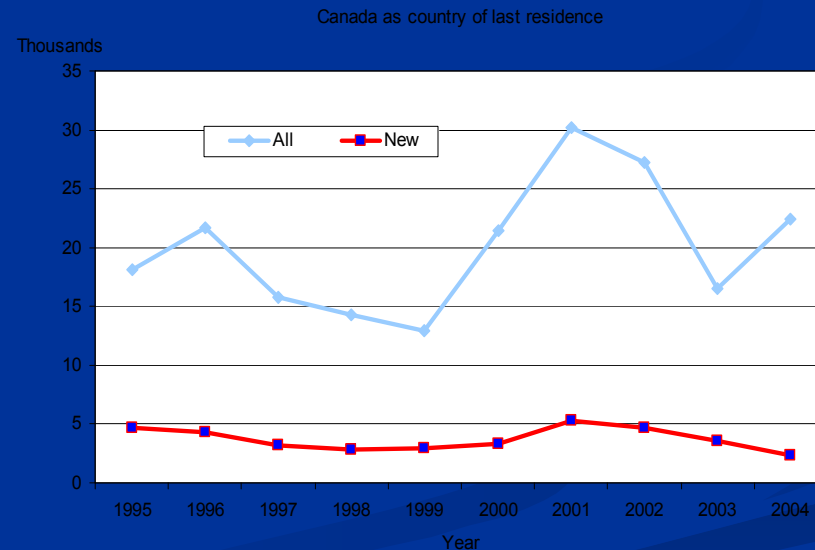
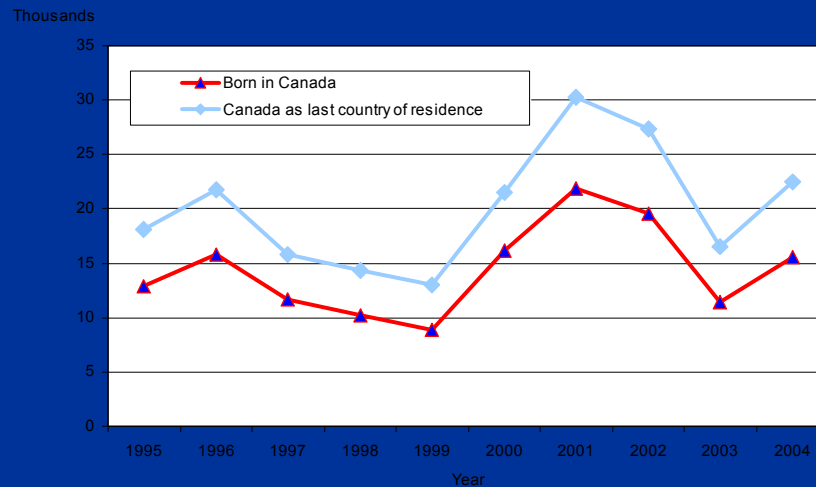
- Current Population Survey (CPS)
- American Community Survey (ACS)

# Office of Immigration Statistics, DHS

## Landings vs. entries for permanent residence

In the last 10 years, the annual number of landed immigrants with Canada as the country of last residence was between 10K and 30K

...but the annual number of those who newly arrived in the U.S. was not higher than 5.5K

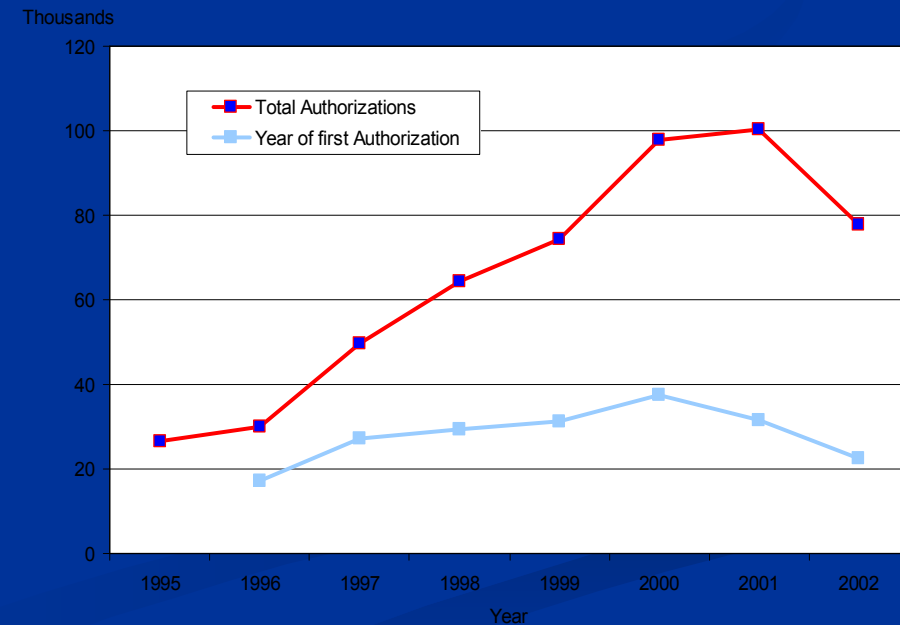
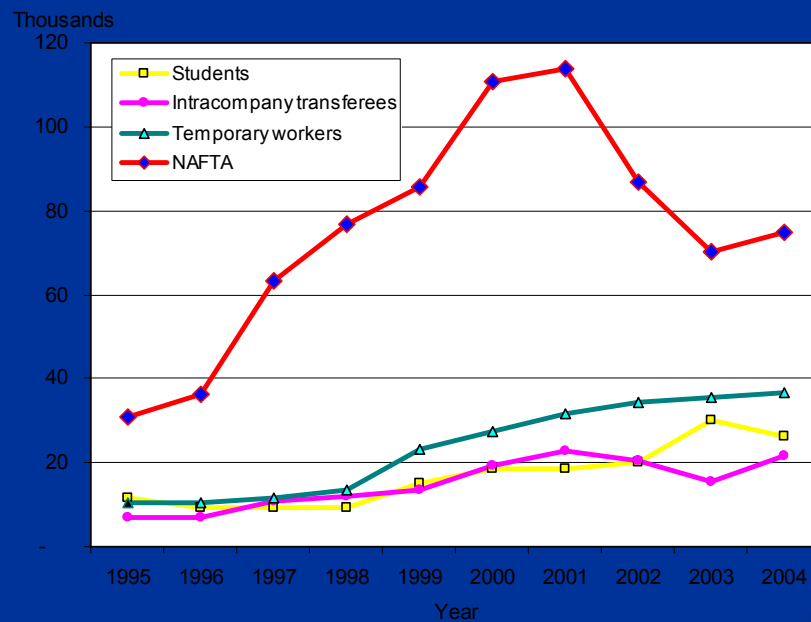


# Office of Immigration Statistics, DHS

## Authorizations for temporary stay vs. entries for temporary residence

In the last 10 years, the annual number of authorizations issued to Canadian citizens under NAFTA reached its peak in 2001, at almost 120K

...but the annual number of those arriving in the U.S. to work under NAFTA was the highest in 2001, at 40K

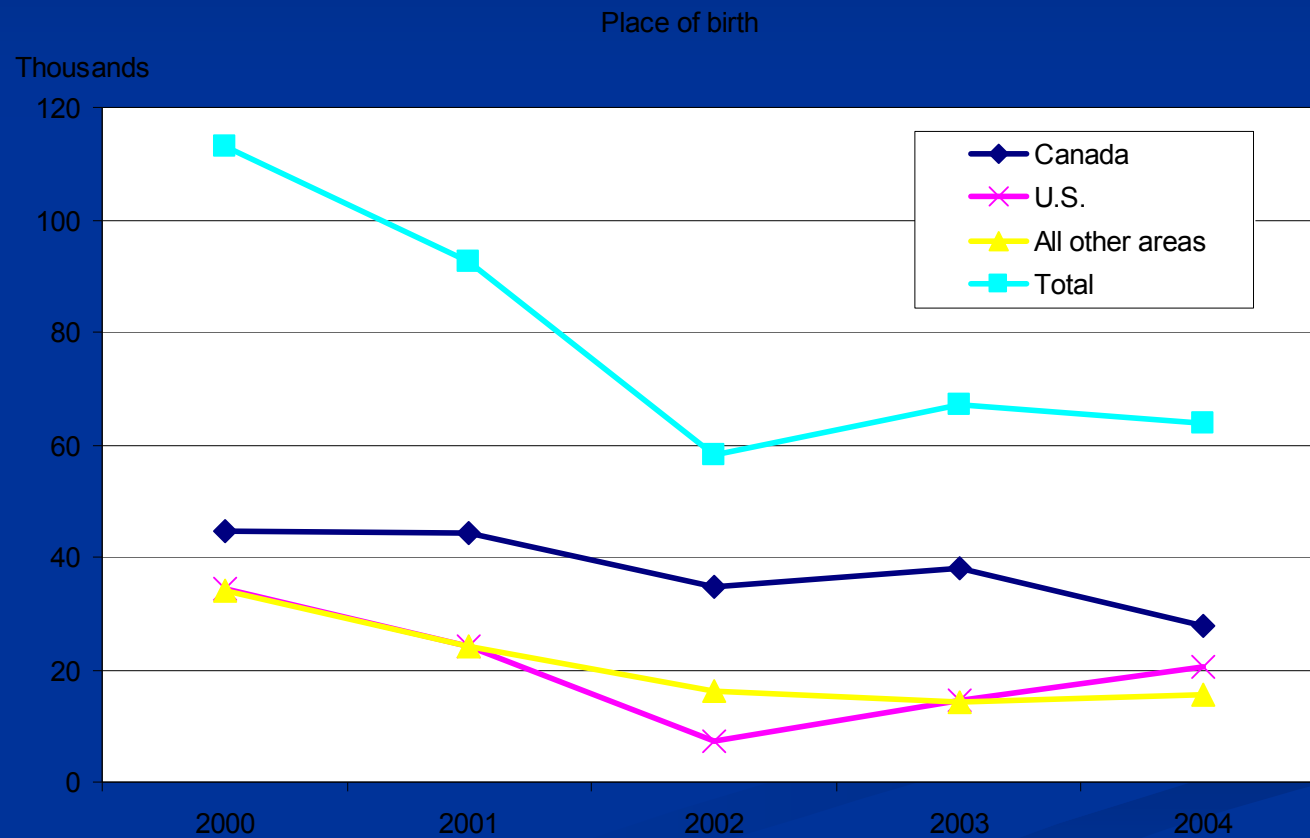


# **Advantages of using “outside the country residence”: sending country perspective**

- **More complete coverage of flows originated in the sending country**
- **Possibility of distinguishing between emigration of country-born persons and emigration of country’s immigrants**

# American Community Survey

Since the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Canadian emigration to the U.S. has shown a general decreasing trend

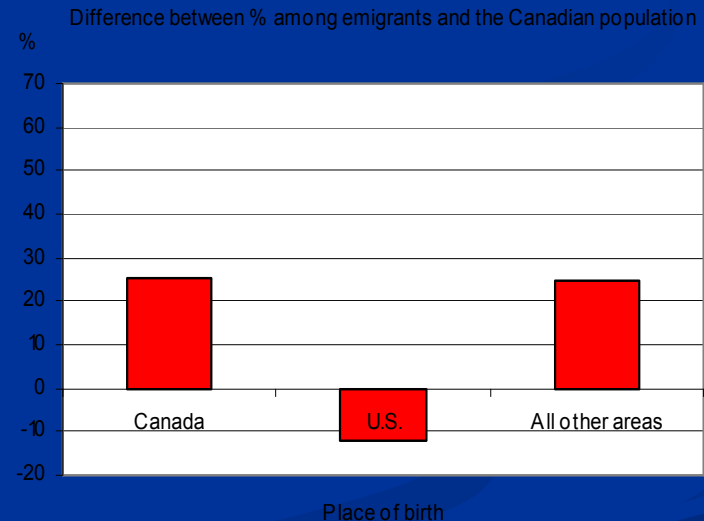
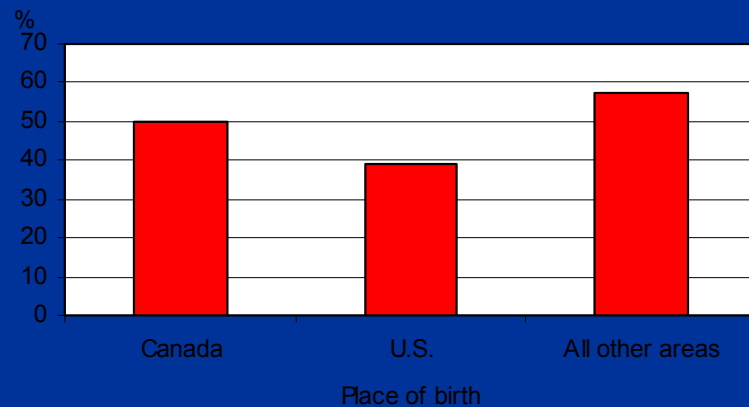




# American Community Survey, 2000-2003 (population 25 years and over)

Half of Canadian emigrants to the U.S. have a university degree

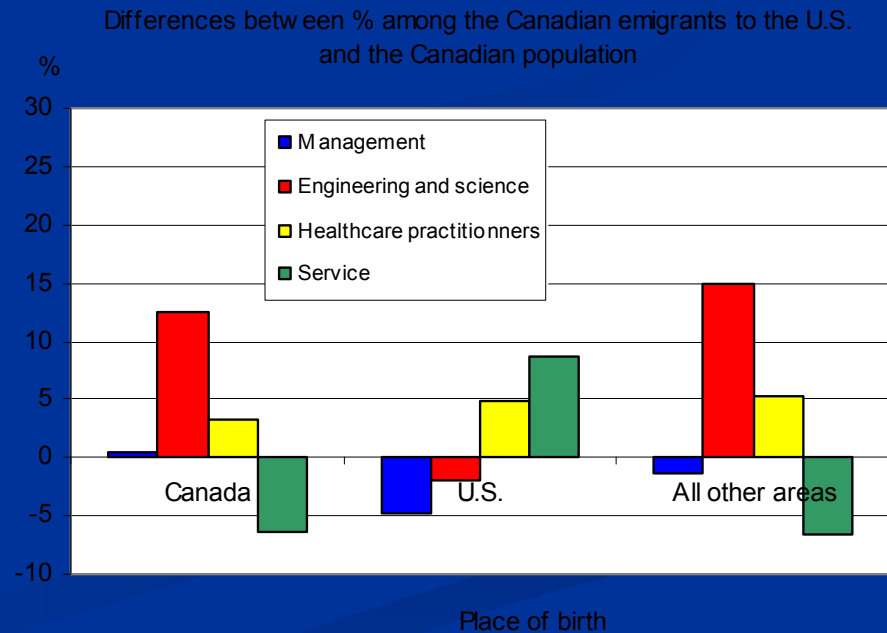
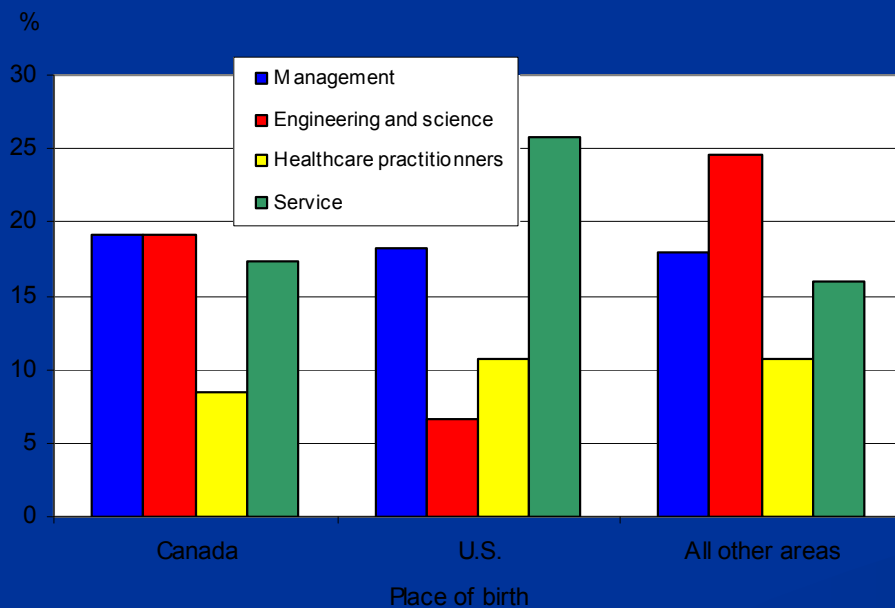
...and this is over 20% more than the proportion in the Canadian population



# American Community Survey, 2000-2003 (population 25 years and over)

Top occupational groups for Canadian emigrants to the U.S. are management, engineering and science, and services

... but among Canadian-born and born outside the NA continent those with engineering and science occupations emigrate more often than other groups



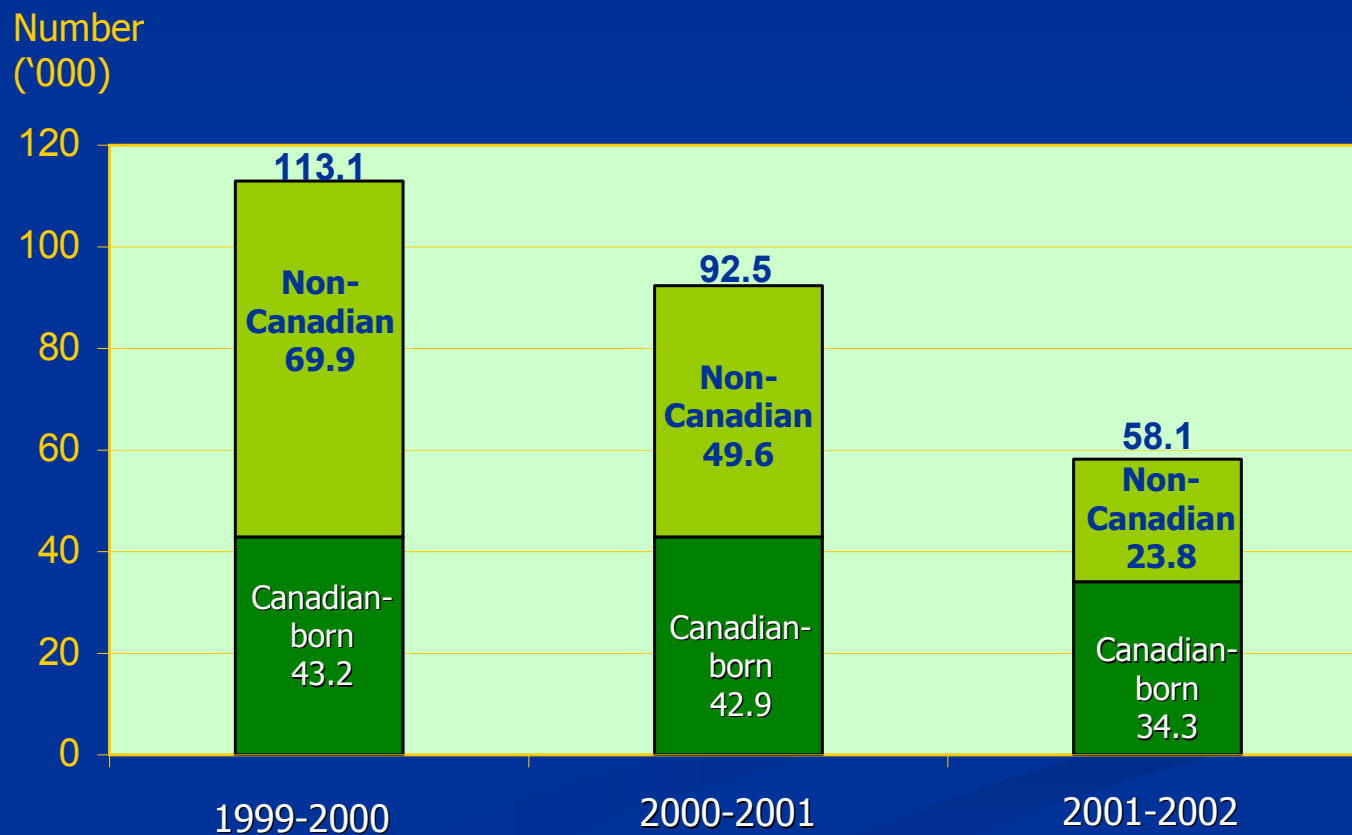
# **American Community Survey is useful in measuring the levels and characteristics of emigration from Canada to the U.S.**

- **Annual data**
- **Covers departures of all groups of Canadian residents**
- **Measures migration as change of residence**
- **Relates to longer-term migration, permanent and temporary**
- **Could include movements not traditionally in international migration statistics (ex. Canadian snowbirds)**

## Lessons learned

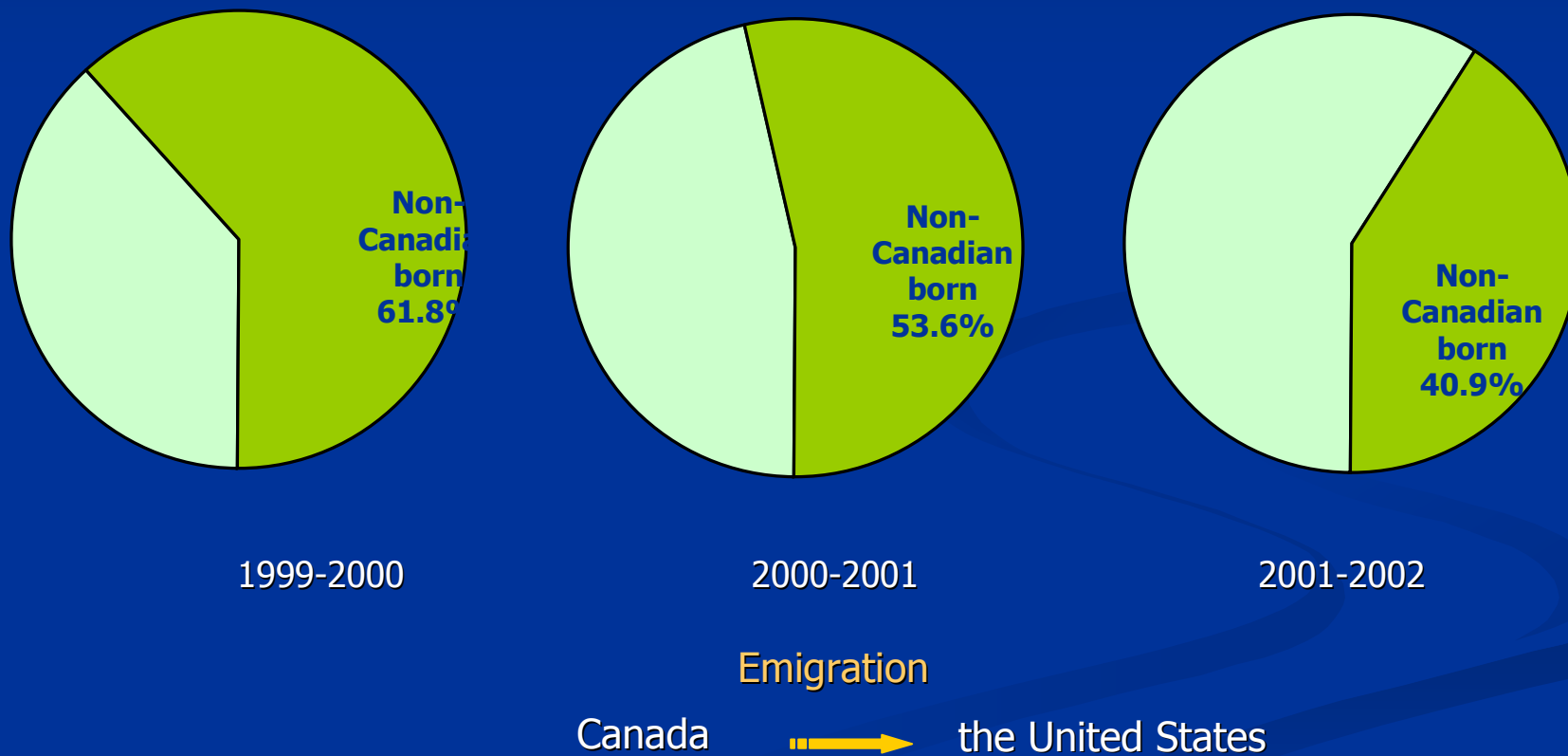
- **There are a number of feasible methods for obtaining information on emigration from immigrants' receiving country**
- **Cross-tabulating information on residence outside the country X years ago and place of birth could be the most beneficial to produce statistics**
- **Usefulness of sharing data across countries relies upon the understanding of underlying concepts/terminology**

# Since 2000, emigration from Canada to the United States has been decreasing



American Community Survey estimates

# ... and participation of non-Canadian born residents of Canada was the main reason behind the decrease



American Community Survey estimates