



**Citizenship and
Immigration Canada**

**Citoyenneté et
Immigration Canada**



RESULTS FROM MONITORING ACTIVITIES OF THE NEW CITIZENSHIP TEST

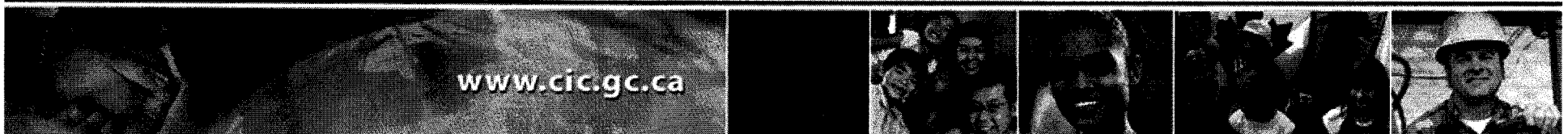
Citizenship and Immigration Canada
BUILDING A STRONGER CANADA

Citoyenneté et Immigration Canada
BÂTIR UN CANADA PLUS FORT

Canada

Introduction

- CIC launched a new citizenship test on March 15, 2010
- The department is monitoring the new test in order to track pass rates and assess validity of testing tool
- This presentation will:
 - Provide preliminary results and detailed analysis from the monitoring activities (for tests taken March 15-April 1)
 - Outline policy issues resulting from the analysis
 - Propose policy recommendations and next steps

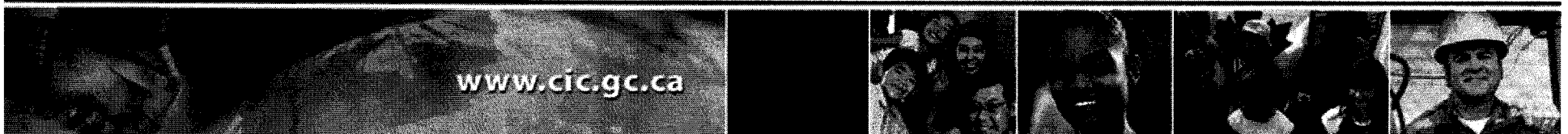


Context

- The new citizenship knowledge test, as a key part of the Citizenship Action Plan (CAP), aims to increase integrity of the knowledge testing process
- Effective monitoring of the new test is an integral part of program management and provides insight into adjustments that may be required

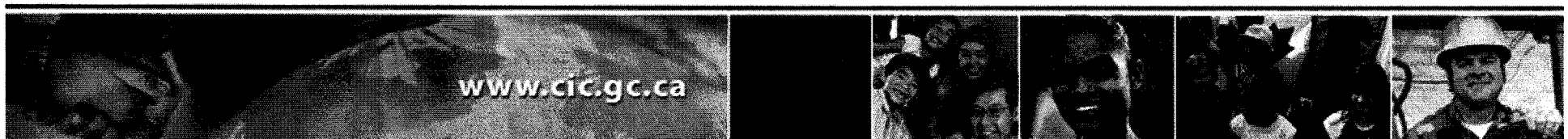
Monitoring Activities: Data collected

- From March 15-April 1, 2010:
 - Demographic data was collected through questionnaires completed by test-takers at the time of the test
 - Local CIC offices provided copies of each test (photocopied answer sheets/Scantron cards) and daily test results to NHQ (aggregate counts)
 - The data was provided to Statistics Canada for further analysis
 - Statistics Canada provided:
 - Aggregate results (April)
 - Question analysis (July)
 - Demographic analysis (August)



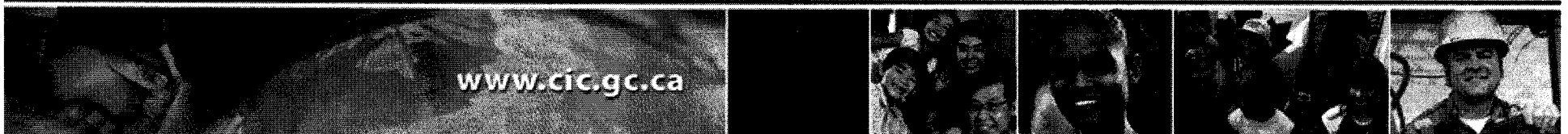
Preliminary Results: Aggregate data

- 5,390 tests taken between March 15-April 1, 2010 were analysed:
 - 69% pass rate (includes version)
 - Version pass rate (55%) significantly lower than pass rate for other versions (72%)
- On April 7, 2010, CIC offices were directed to cease using version immediately
- Scrambled versions were deployed on and offices resumed providing aggregate counts to NHQ
 - Pass rate is currently 75% for the first time testing
 - Pass rate for re-testing is 48%
 - Therefore, overall pass rate is 72% (when we factor in re-testing)



Question Analysis

- Version analysis:
 - Pass rates of versions are very close (75%, 74% and 72% respectively)
 - Version failed about 5% fewer candidates (69%)
 - Version failed about twice as many candidates (55%) (see Annex A)
 - Pass rate of two mandatory questions (Q10, Q11) much lower
 - Pass rate of non-mandatory questions much lower
- Mandatory questions:
 - Q and Q : version and version have identical pass rate; version a higher pass rate; version a much lower pass rate
 - Q, Q, and Q : comparable, negligible failure rates across all versions
- A global pass mark of 75%, with no mandatory questions, would increase the pass rate by 5%

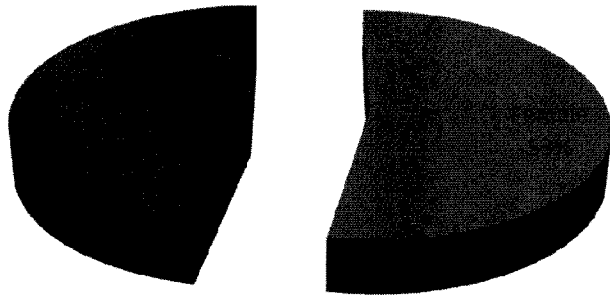


Question Analysis (2)

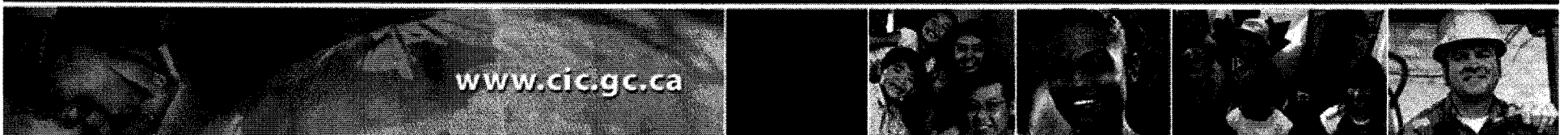
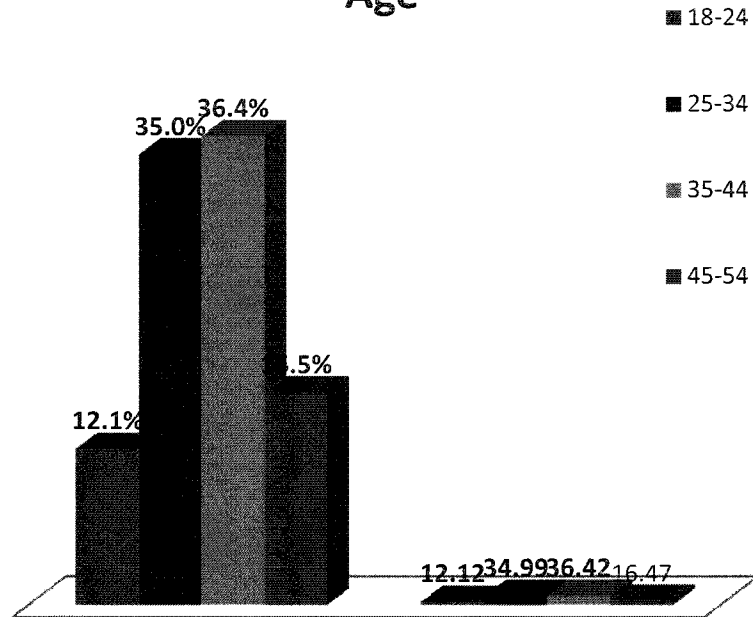
- Question analysis: level of language difficulty
 - During the development phase, test questions were assigned a projected level of difficulty (low, medium, or high)
 - Statistical analysis indicates that projected level of difficulty has little influence on success rate of a question (see Annex B)
 - Some questions projected low or moderate difficulty had a higher failure rate
 - Some questions projected moderate difficulty had a lower failure rate
 - Version 1 included more questions with lower success rate

Demographic Composition of the Sample

Chart Title

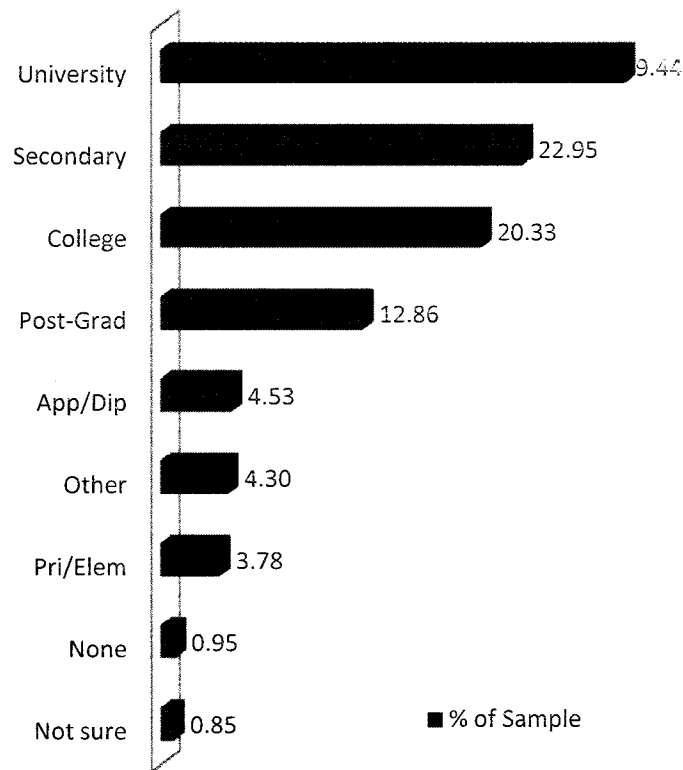


Age

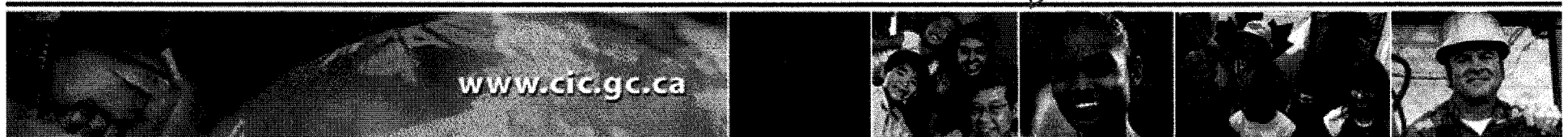
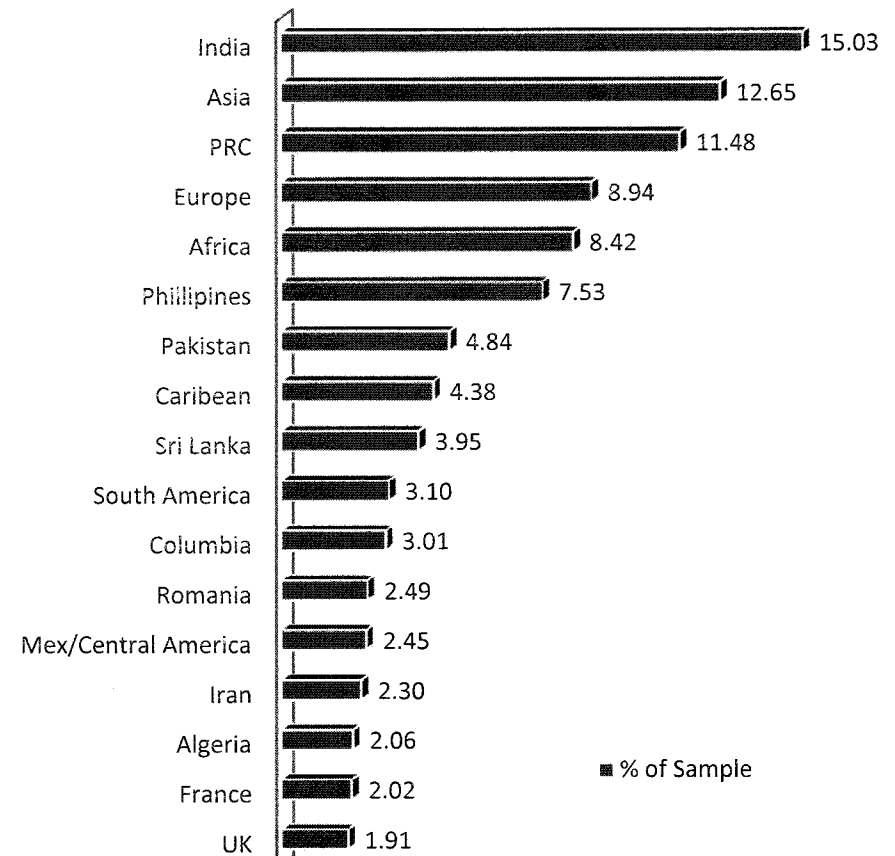


Demographic Composition of the Sample (2)

Highest Level of Education



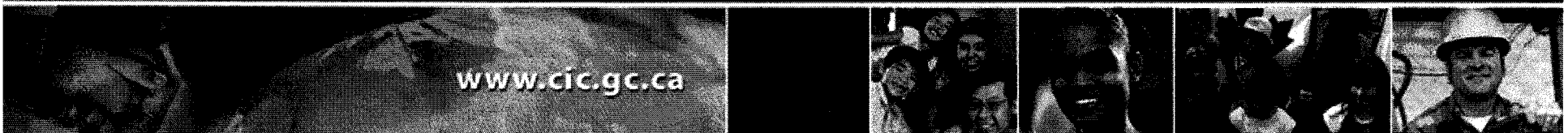
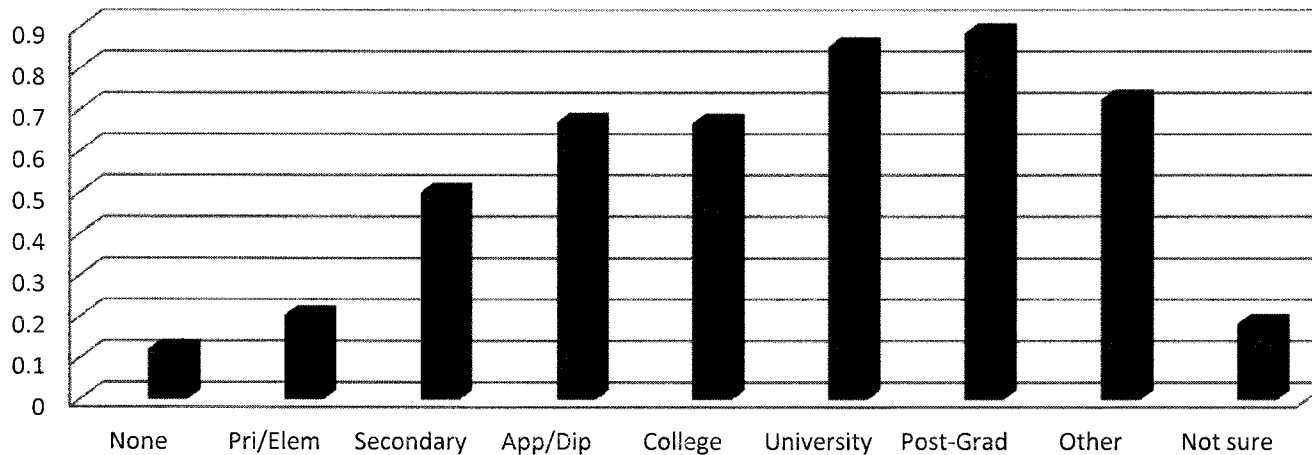
Country/Region of Birth



Preliminary Demographic Analysis

- Education had the biggest effect on pass rates. When compared to people who reported no education completed:
 - Primary/Elementary had about 1.6 times the odds of passing compared to somebody with no education
 - Secondary had about 6 times the odds of passing
 - Apprenticeship/vocational about 10 times the odds of passing
 - College about 12 times the odds of passing
 - University about 40 times the odds of passing
 - Post-grad about 50 times the odds of passing

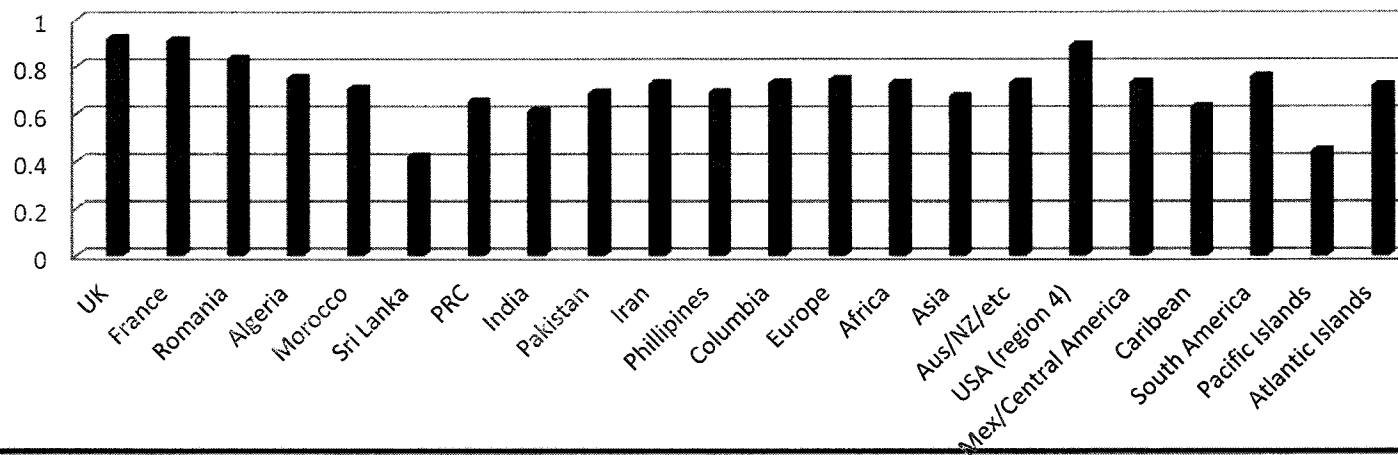
Pass Rates by Education Level



Preliminary Demographic Analysis(2)

- Country of origin had the second most significant effect, but had about one-sixth the effect of Education. Only the major immigration countries were considered, and compared to India:
 - Applicants from the UK had about 9 times the odds of passing compared to somebody from India
 - France: 5 times the odds of passing
 - Romania: 3 times the odds of passing
 - Algeria, Morocco, Sri Lanka, China, Pakistan, Iran, Phillipines, Columbia: No statistically significant difference from India

Pass Rates by Country/Region of Birth

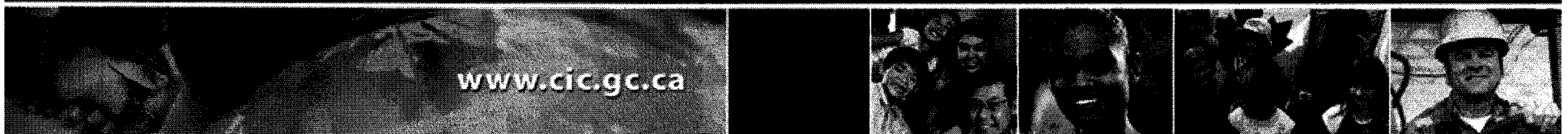
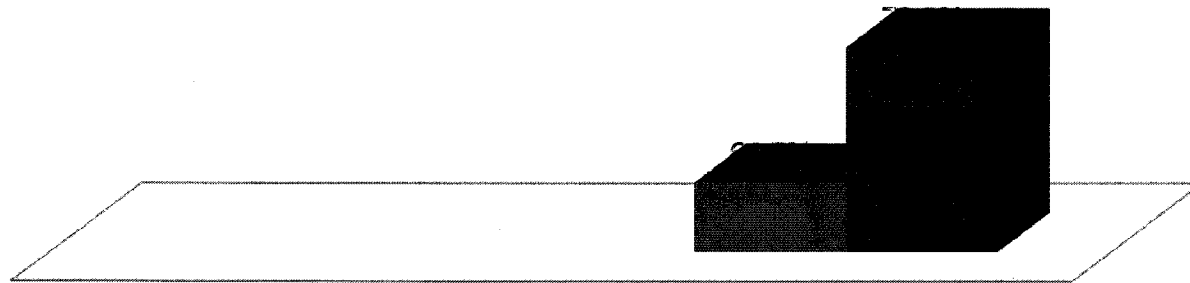


Preliminary Demographic Analysis(3)

- Gender: males are about 1.5 times as likely to pass compared to females, even after Education and Country of Origin have been accounted for

Pass Rates by Gender

■ Female ■ Male

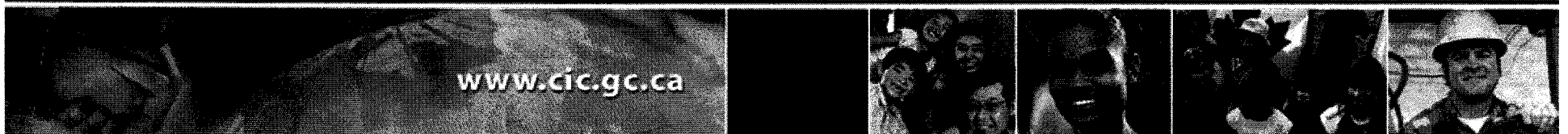


Preliminary Demographic Analysis(4)

- The remaining variables:
 - Immigrant category did not have any statistically significant effect (but the question was not answered well)
 - Neither country of education nor age had any effect, once adjusted for level of education
 - Language spoken at home had no significant effect

Policy Issues (2)

3. Difficult to predict success rate of questions
 - Pre-assigned projected level of difficulty did not bear out statistically, leading to inconsistent test design and inconsistency across versions
 - Deployment of standardized and fair test versions is consistent with goal of improving program integrity – better to have higher degree of assurance of possible success rate



Policy Issues and Recommendations

1. Mandatory questions are problematic

Recommendation:

Institute global pass rate (no more mandatory questions):

- More consistent with wording of proposed new regulations
- Addresses fairness issue e.g. ending situation where people meet or exceed the pass mark, but still fail because they incorrectly answered a mandatory question
- Removing mandatory questions would likely increase the current success rate (first time test) to desired pass rate (80%) and decrease the need for re-tests and/or referrals for hearings with a citizenship judge
- Greater opportunity to scramble questions and increase integrity of citizenship test

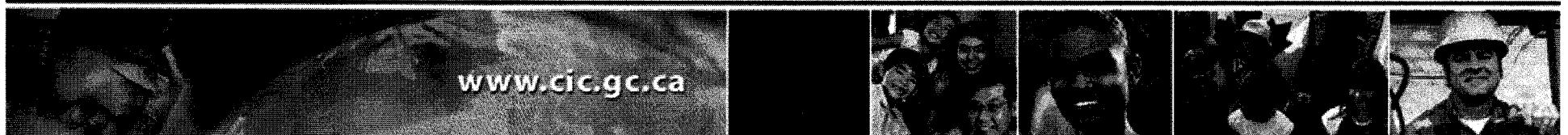
Policy Issues and Recommendations (2)

2. Need to institute a more formalized monitoring process

Recommendation:

The Department should must monitor test results in a more systematic fashion:

- Monitoring is needed to ensure appropriate data analysis (i.e. overall pass rate, question analysis, and demographic analysis)
- New regulatory compliant test versions must be monitored to make sure that there are not any problematic questions
- Pursuing short term solution to obtain demographic data from GCMS (through OMC-Stats)
- In longer term, implementation of E-testing would improve monitoring capabilities



Policy Issues and Recommendations (3)

3. Resources should be made available for applicants facing barriers with the study guide

Recommendation:

Develop supplementary materials to assist applicants

- On-line/electronic strategy:
 - A version of *Discover Canada* that links audio to scrolling written text
 - A vocabulary and pronunciation companion that would include simple definitions of all key words used in the guide
 - Resources to train applicants for using computers/on-line tools
 - Make available CDs and DVDs for those who do not have computer access
- A teacher's guide that would support citizenship test preparation courses and courses with a citizenship component (e.g. LINC)
- A plain language version of *Discover Canada*

17

Policy Issues and Recommendations (4)

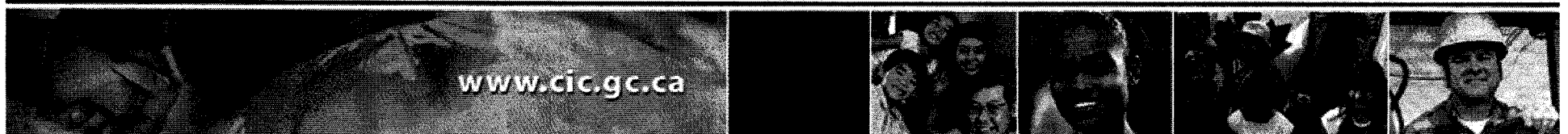
4. Test design was affected by lack of pilots

Recommendation:

Pre-test all new test questions (second pool)

- Pre-assigned projected level of difficulty did not bear out statistically, leading to inconsistent test design and inconsistency across versions

- Pros:
 - Ensures test version design consistency and fairness with less legal risk
 - Eases operational burden (data collection in local offices, data input at NHQ); consistent with past practice
- Cons: Tight timelines to meet implementation of revised regulations
 - Could deploy regulatory compliant versions with questions that have been tested via monitoring activities (first pool)
 - Could deploy additional versions using piloted new questions (second pool)

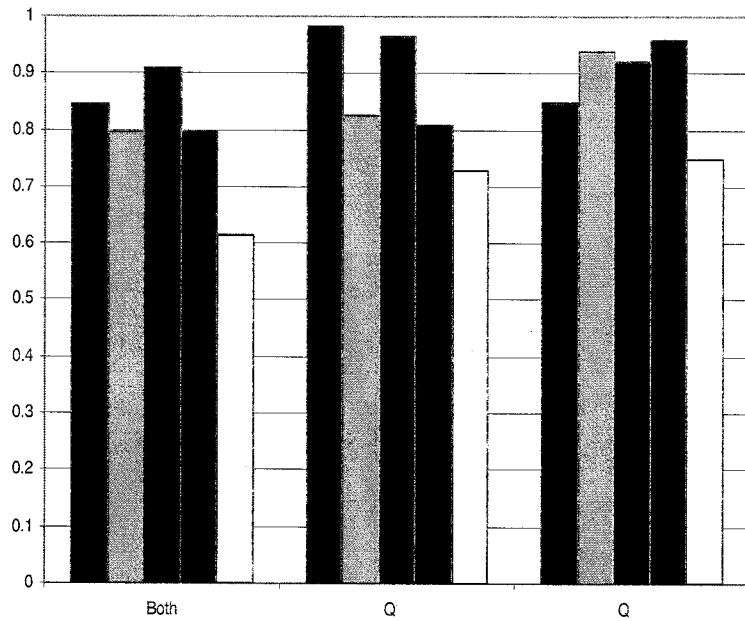


Next Steps

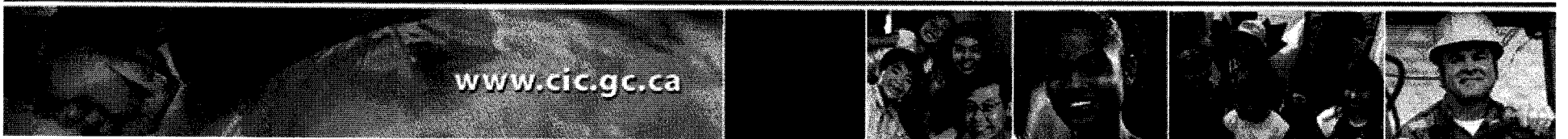
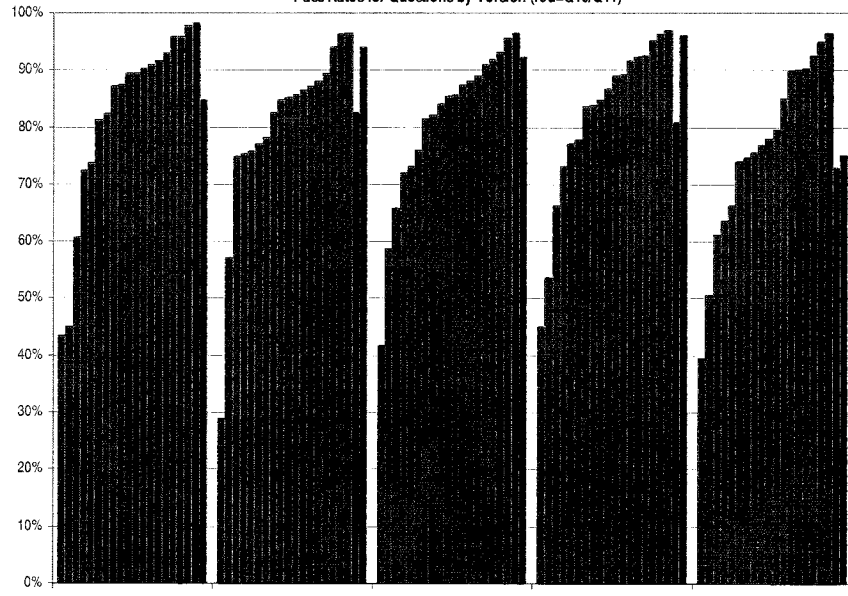
- Continue using versions until new regulations are in place
- Pursue options and timelines for pre-testing the second pool of questions
- Develop 10 new test versions
 - Deploy regulatory compliant versions using first pool
 - Deploy additional versions using pre-tested second pool
- Pursue the development of supplementary materials, as recommended
- Develop more systematic monitoring strategy
- Develop options for e-testing

Annex A – Pass Rates by Version

Weighted Pass Rates for Mandatory Questions and by Version:

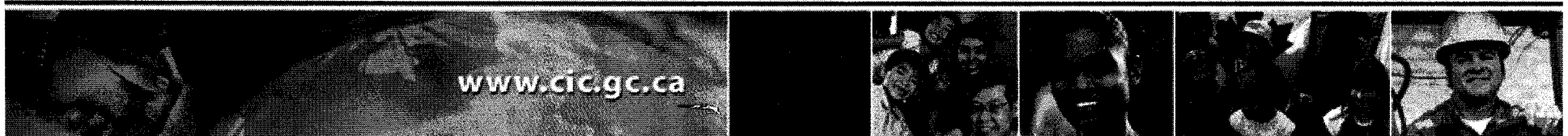


Pass Rates for Questions by Version (red=Q10/Q11)



s.21(1)(a)
s.21(1)(b)

Annex C – Projected Level of Difficulty vs Pass Rate





Citizenship and
Immigration Canada

Citoyenneté et
Immigration Canada



Citizenship and Immigration Canada
BUILDING A STRONGER CANADA

Citoyenneté et Immigration Canada
BÂTIR UN CANADA PLUS FORT

Thank You • Merci

Canada