

Joining and Belonging: Language Use and the Civic Participation of Immigrants

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Why the interest in the Civic Participation of immigrants?

- 1) Indicator of integration**

- 1) High levels may be associated with social cohesion and with active social networks that offer social support**



Indicators of Civic Participation (CP)

- a) Membership and activities in associations**
- b) Voting**
- c) Feelings of Belonging**



Research results are mixed in terms of FB and Canadian born similarities or differences.


Differences also exist within the immigrant population.

Variations exist by duration and language skills

My core questions:

- 1) Do immigrants differ from the Canadian born in the type and level of CP**
- 2) Does poor/high language proficiency reduce/increase CP for immigrants**

Use 2002 Ethnic Diversity Survey, language proficiency defined from language first learned in childhood & home language used most often



**Language proficiency typology from
language first learned and home language
most often used:**

Type I: English and/or French

**Type II: Mixed- Other language first learned;
home languages most used are English
and/or French**

**Type III: Other language first learned; home
language most used is NOT English
and/or French**



Membership and activities in associations or groups

Art, Dance, Cultural Group

Youth Organization or children's groups

Business or Job Related

Hobby, Social Club or Seniors Group

Sports Club or Team(s)

Service Club, Agency or Charitable Organization

Community Organization(s)

Ethnic or Immigrant Associations

Religious Affiliated Group(s)

Chart 1: Percent Having Membership or Participation in a Group or Organization by Nativity and Language Proficiency, Age 20+, Canada 2002

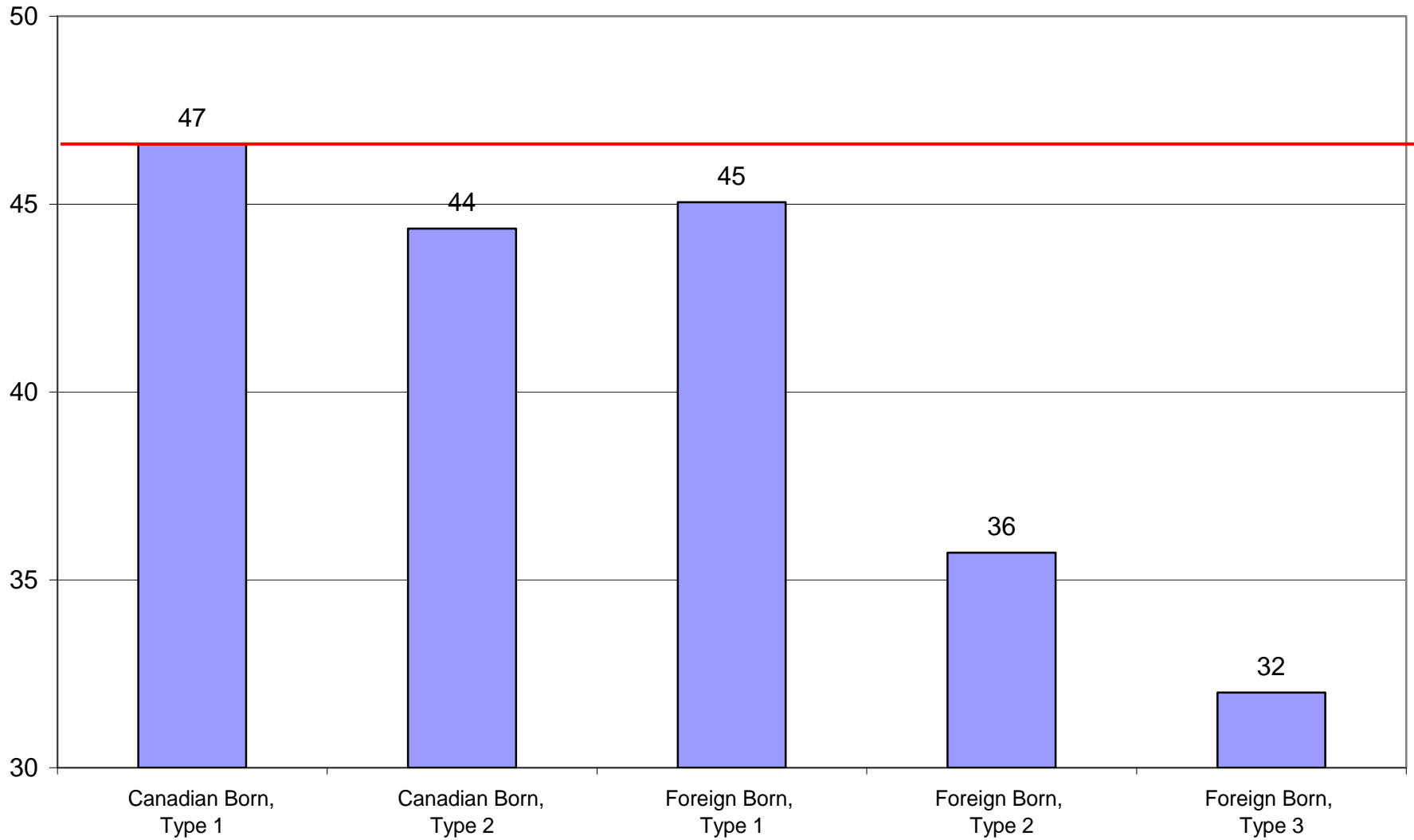


Chart 2: Of Those Participating, Percentages Belonging to Only One Group or Organization, Ages 20+, Canada 2002

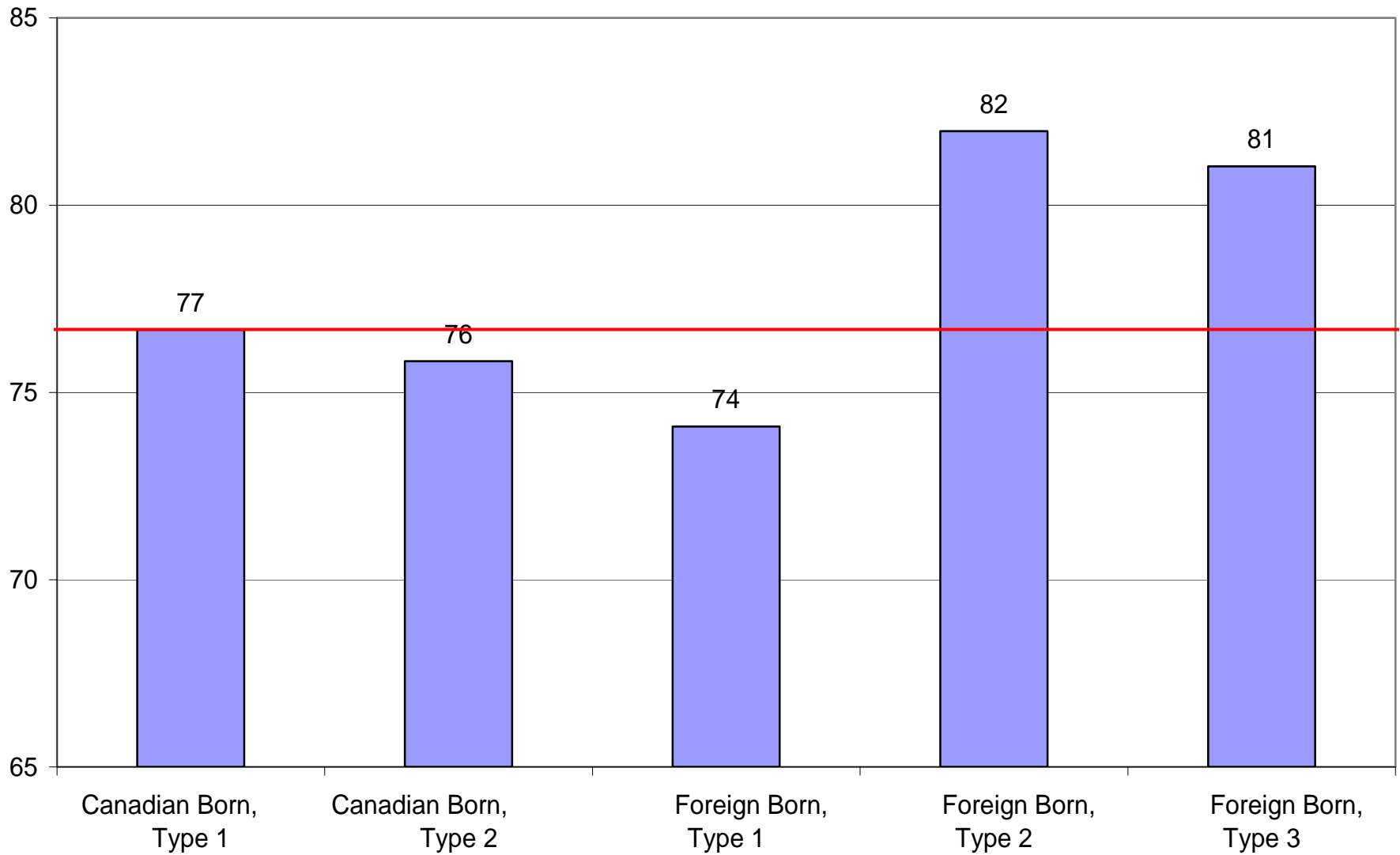


Chart 3: Of Those Participating, Percentages Belonging to Sports Club or Team(s), Ages 20+, Canada 2002

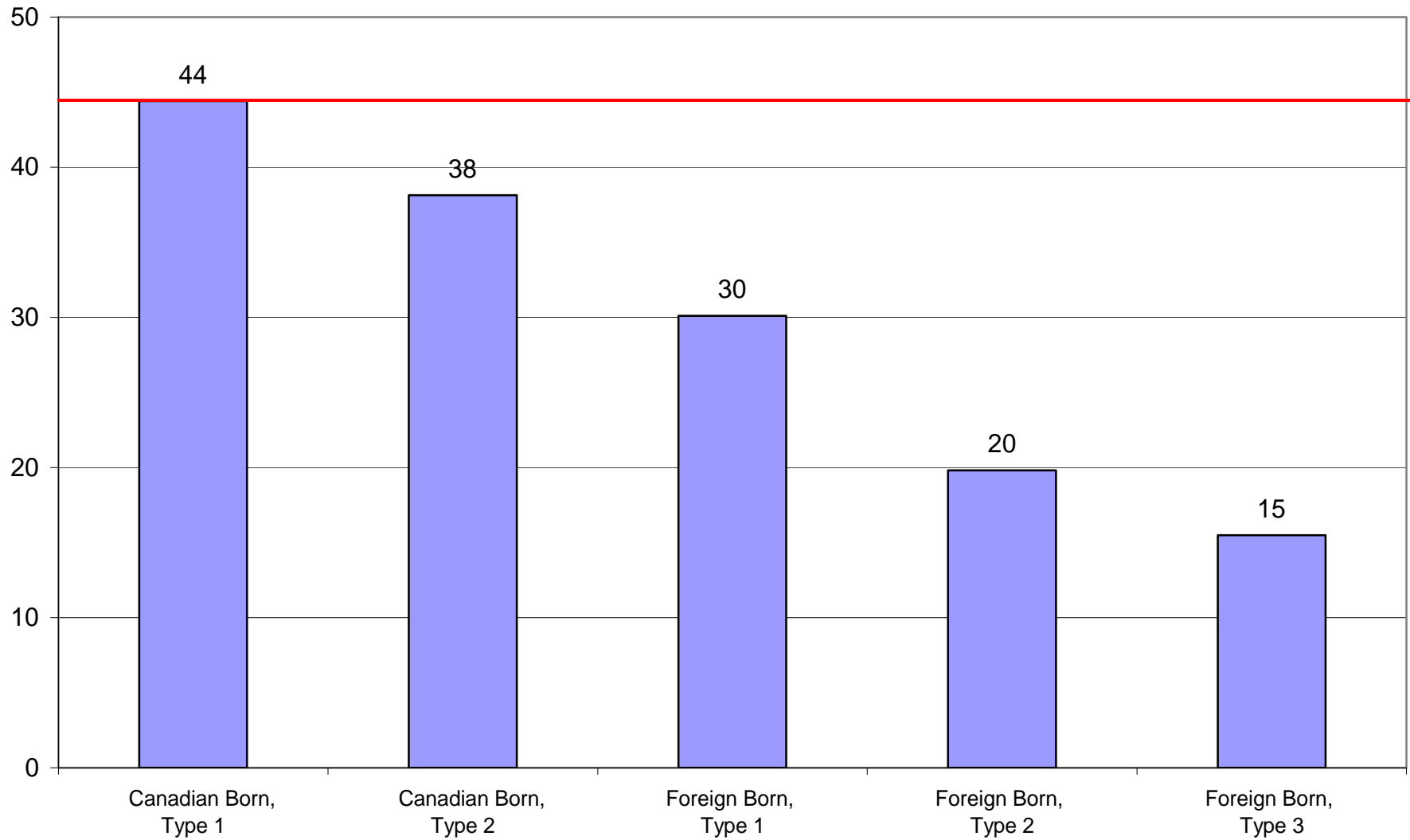
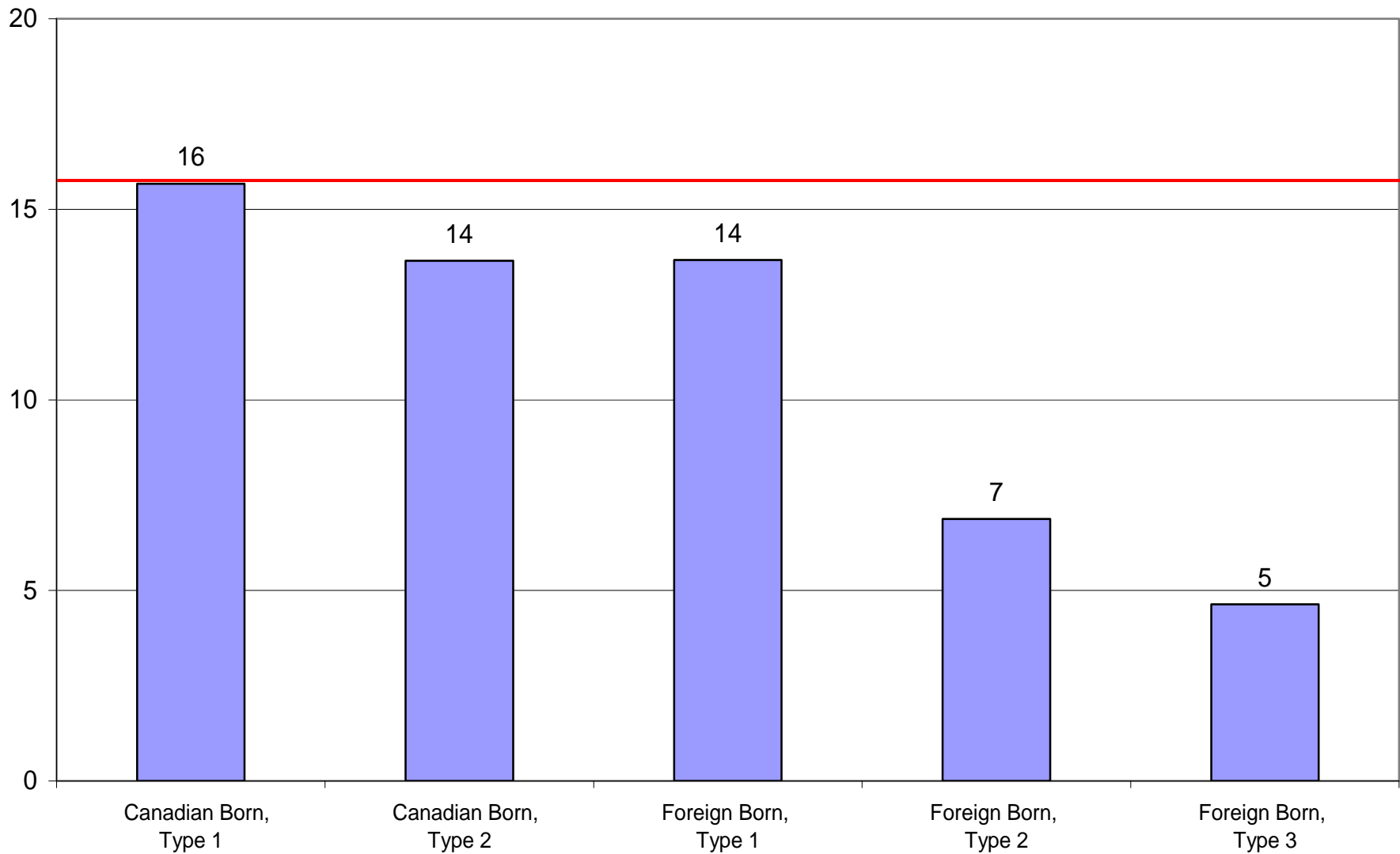


Chart 4: Of Those Participating, Percentages Belonging to Service Club, Agency or Charitable Organization(s), Age 20+, Canada 2002



**Chart 5: Of Those Participating, Percentages Belonging to Community Organization(s),
Age 20+, Canada 2002**

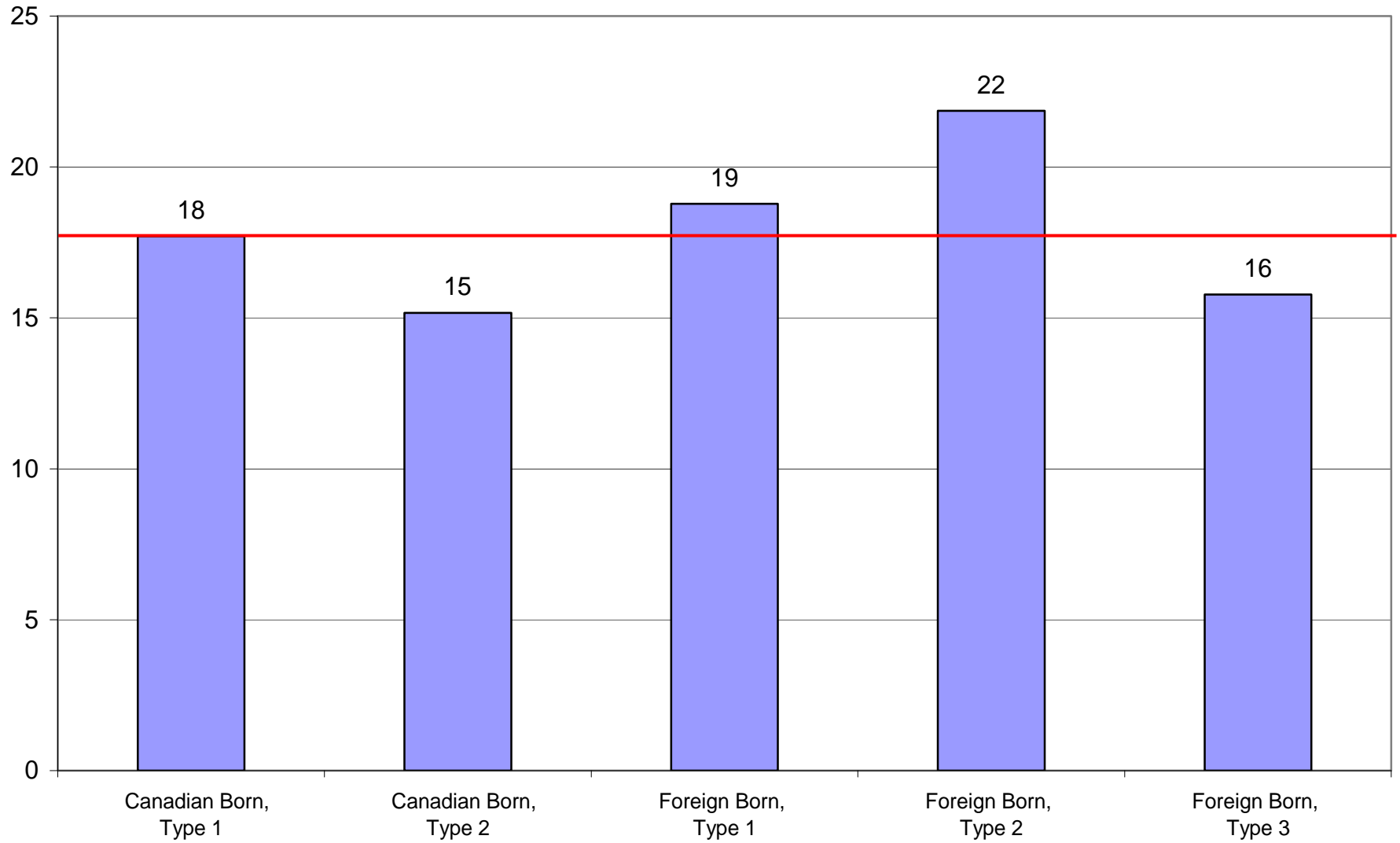


Chart 6: Of Those Participating, Percentages Belonging to Ethnic or Immigrant Association(s), Age 20+, Canada 2002

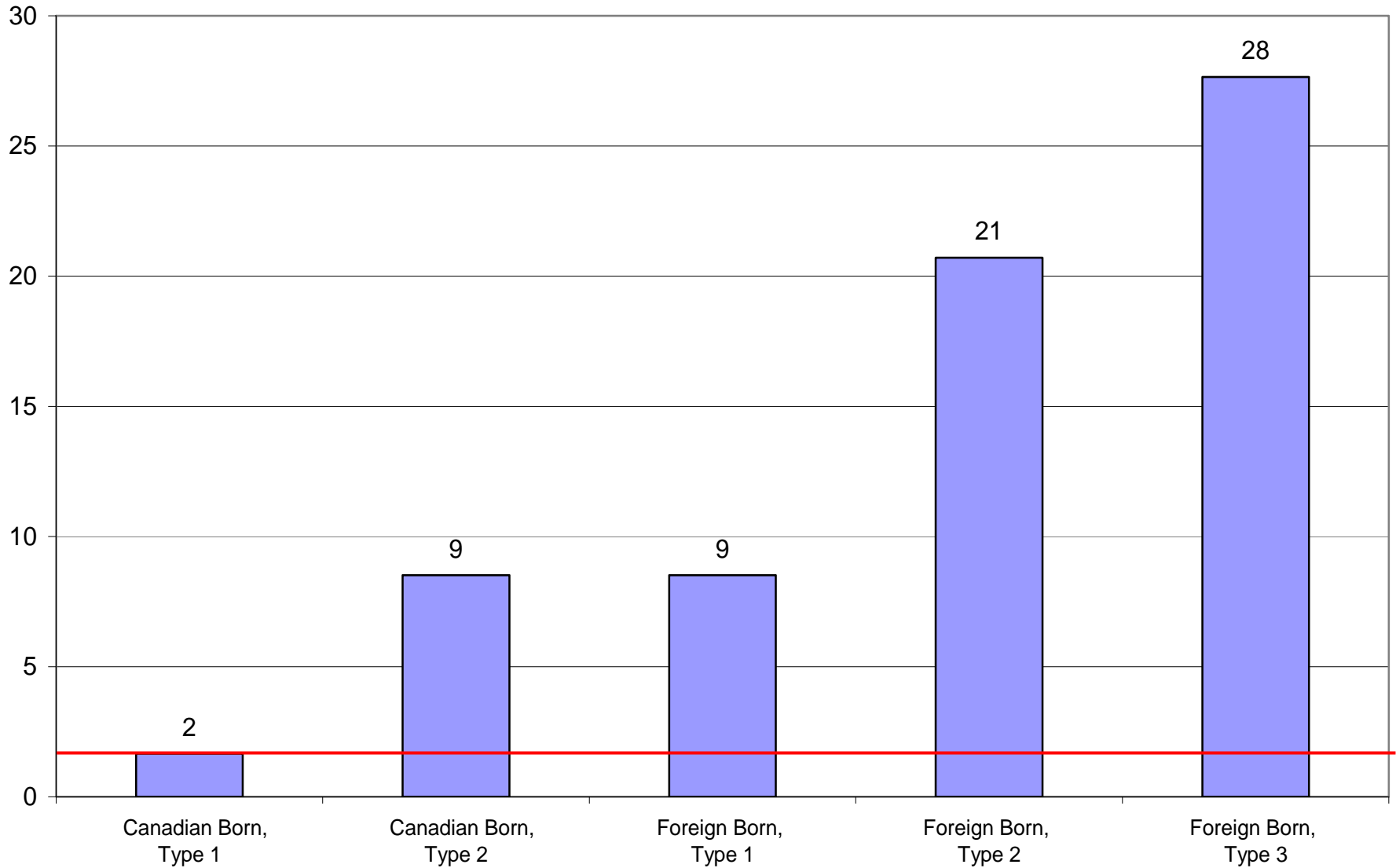
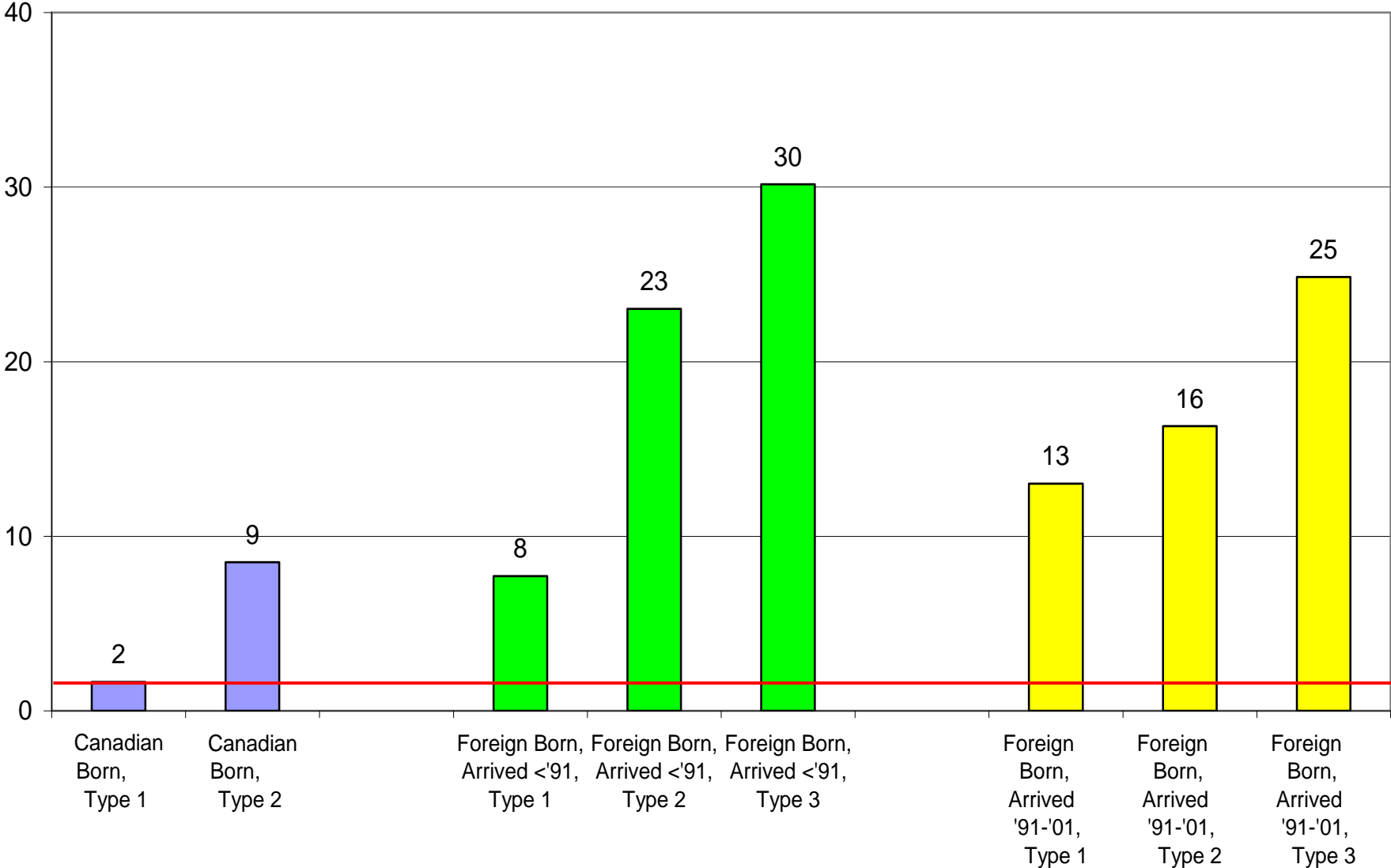


Chart 7: Of Those Participating, Percentages Belonging to Ethnic or Immigrant Association(s), by Year of Arrival, Age 20+, Canada 2002



**Chart 8: Of Those Participating, Percentages Belonging to Religious Affiliated Group(s),
Age 20+, Canada 2002**

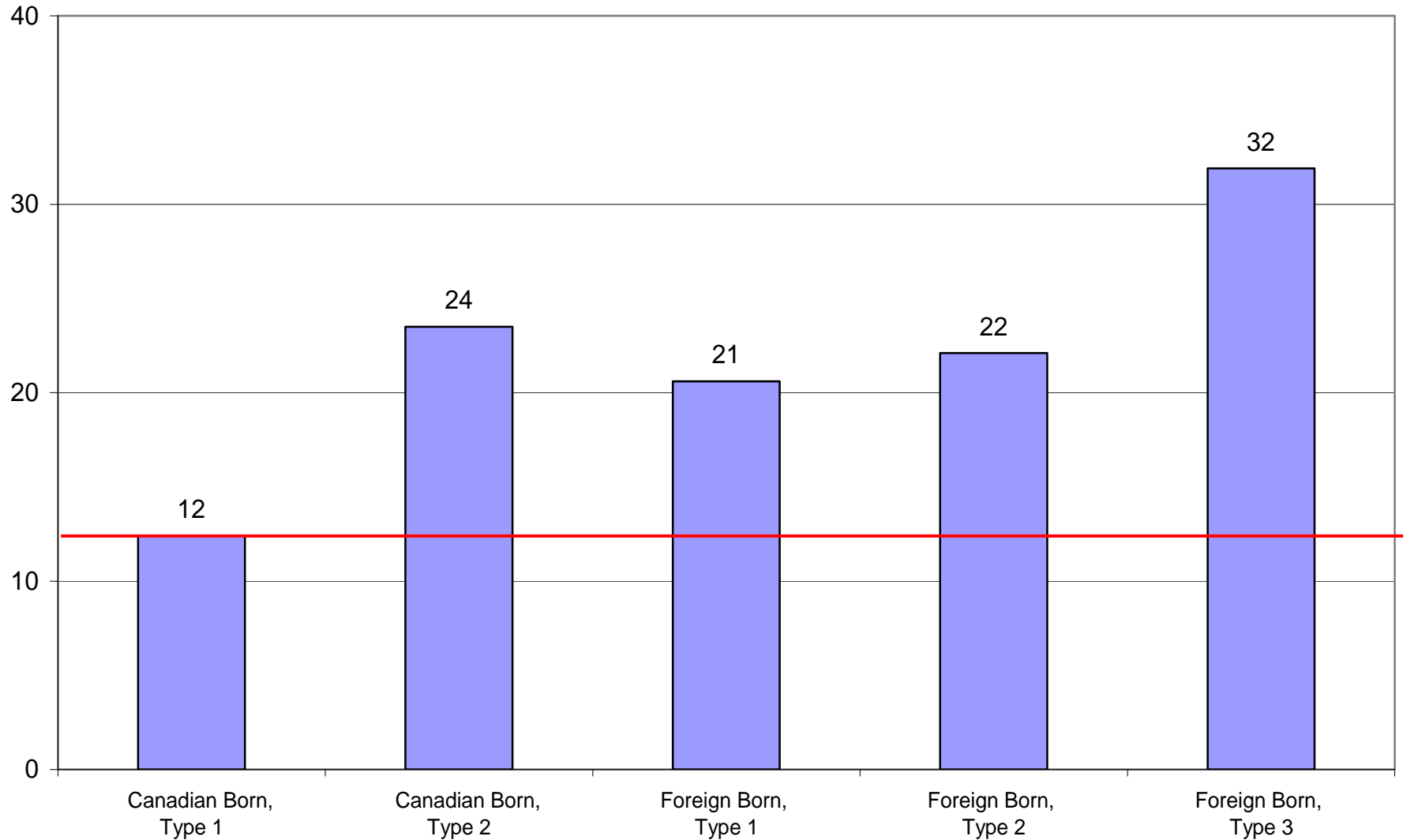
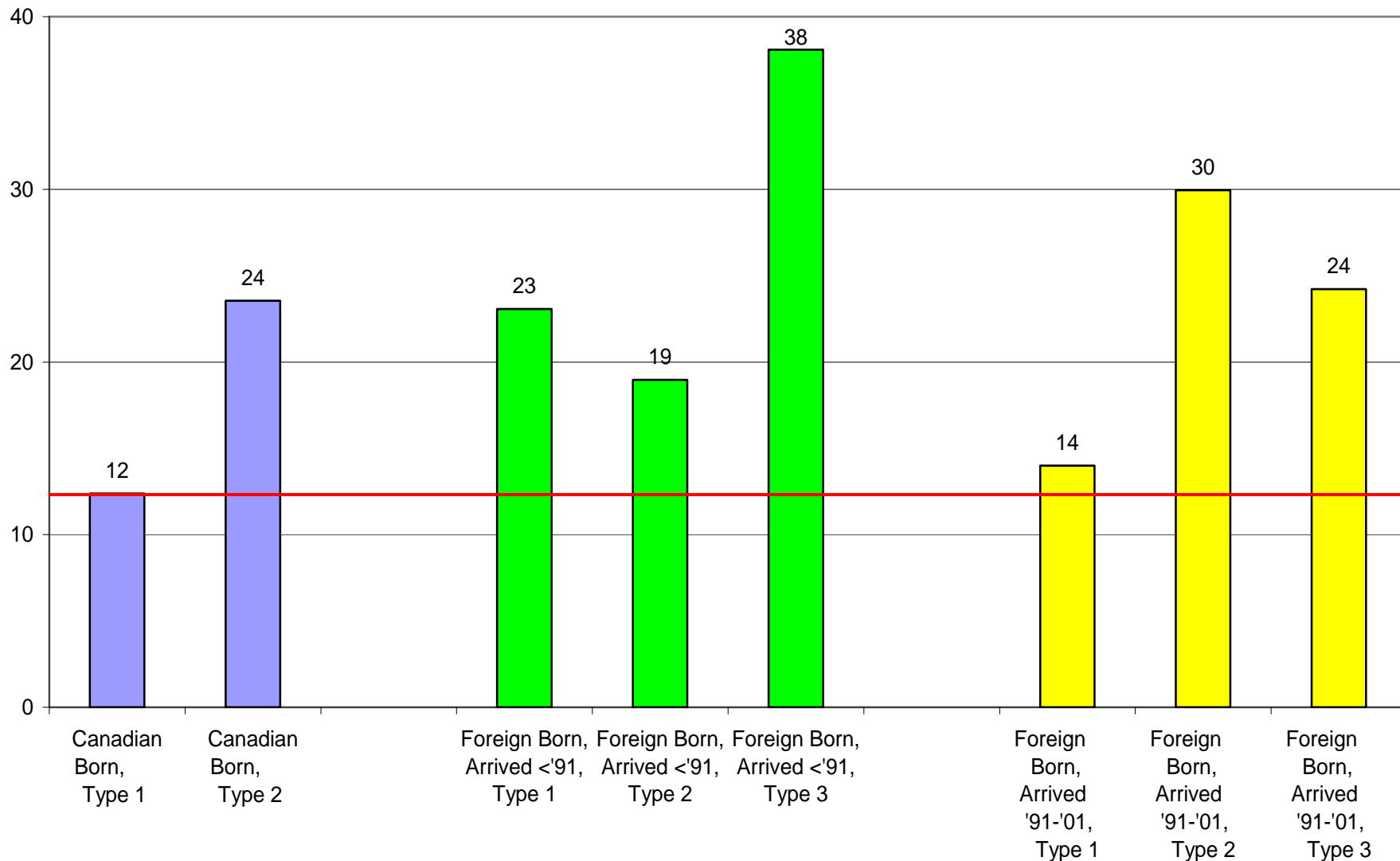


Chart 9: Of Those Participating, Percentages Belonging to Religious Affiliated Group(s) by Year of Arrival, Persons Ages 20 and Over, Canada 2002





Other Indicators of Civic Participation

**Very strong feelings of belonging to
family, ethnic or cultural group, town,
province, Canada, North America**

**(for those who were eligible): voting in
municipal, provincial or federal
elections**

Chart 10: Percentages Feeling a Strong Sense of Belonging to Types of Affiliations by Nativity and Language Proficiency, Ages 20+, Canada 2002

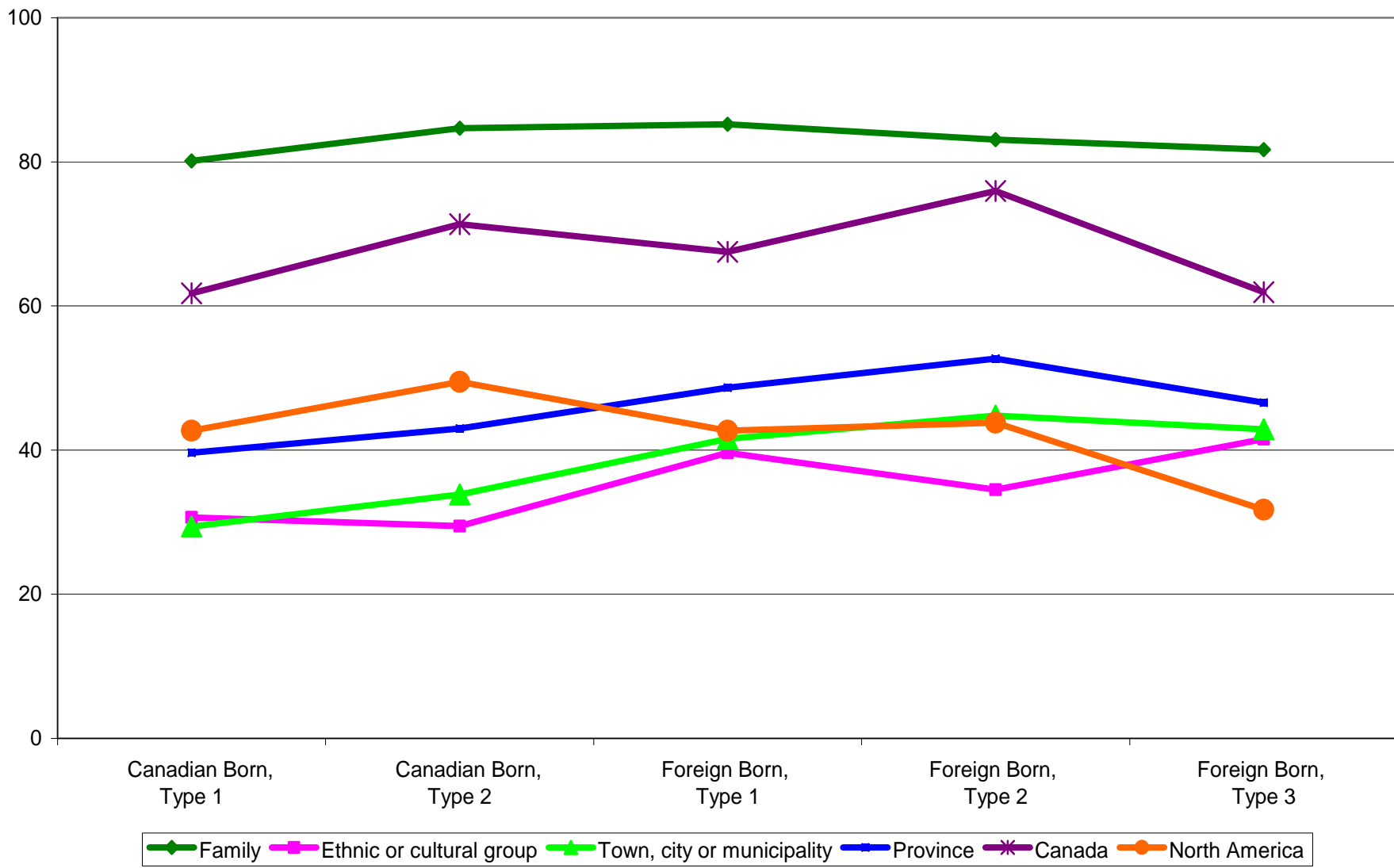
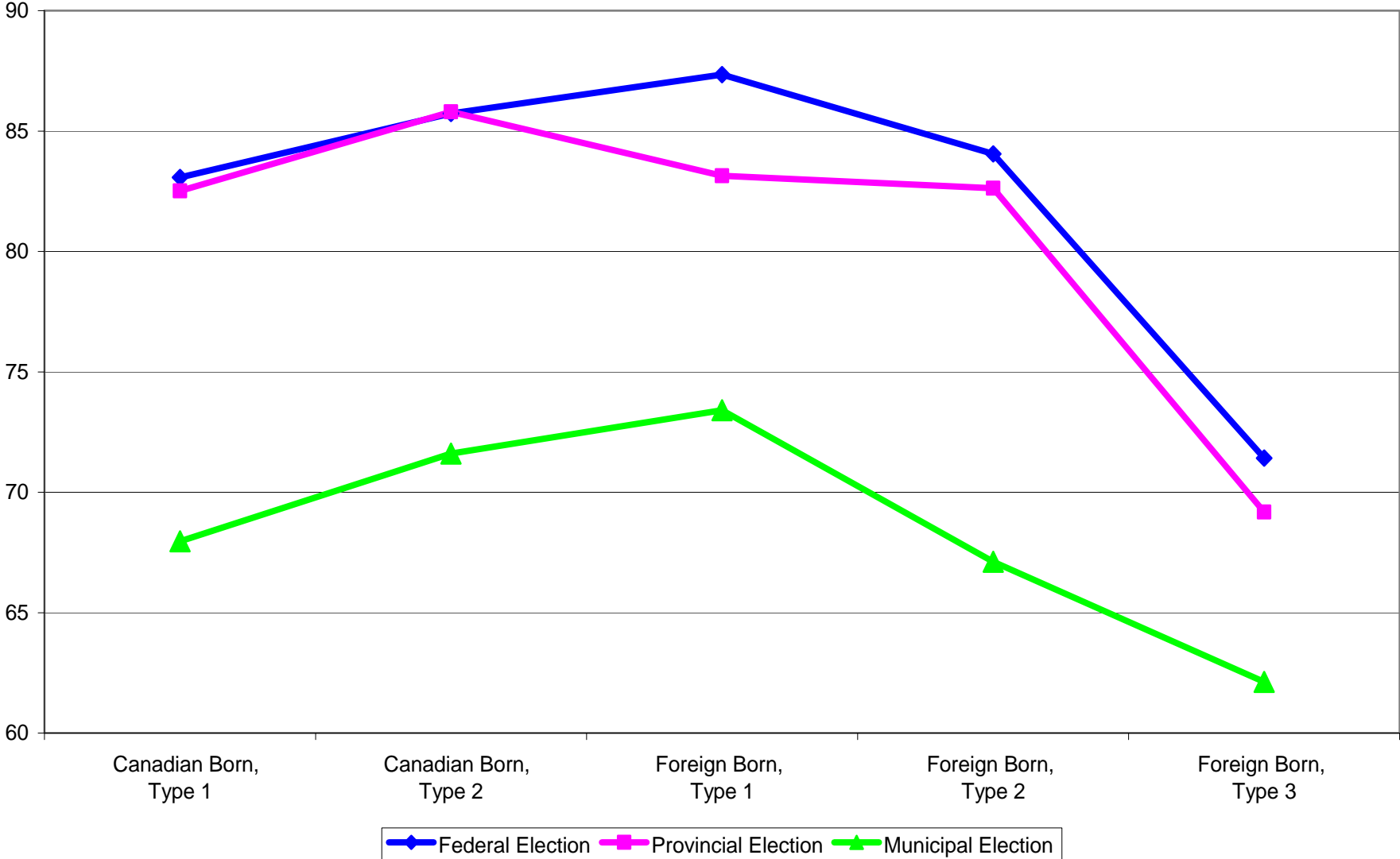


Chart 11: Percentages Voting in Types of Elections For Those Who Voted by Nativity and Language Proficiency, Ages 20+, Canada 2002





Conclusions: Differences in Civic Participation exist by nativity and language usage

- 1) FB with low English/French language skills less likely to be members or organizations, groups and they are most likely to belong to only one group**



Conclusions:

- 2) FB with low language skills in English and/or French most likely to be members of ethnic or religious organizations**

- 3) Slightly less likely to vote**

- 4) Slightly lower % saying they feel they belong to town, province, Canada, or North America**