

Results from the LSIA

The Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Australia (LSIA) was designed to collect and disseminate information about recently arrived migrants, reflecting their settlement experiences in Australia over a period of time, from their pre-immigration situations through their initial years of settlement in Australia. The survey provides information used in the monitoring and evaluation of immigration and settlement policies and programmes.

It is comprised of samples from three cohorts of migrants. The first arrived between September 1993 and August 1995 (LSIA 1) and the second between September 1999 and August 2000 (LSIA 2). The cohorts were interviewed in 'waves' at set intervals of around six months (wave 1) and 18 months (wave 2) after arrival. LSIA 1 was interviewed again at around 42 months after arrival (wave 3). They cover migrants granted visas offshore and do not include migrants such as New Zealand citizens or persons granted permanent residence while in Australia.

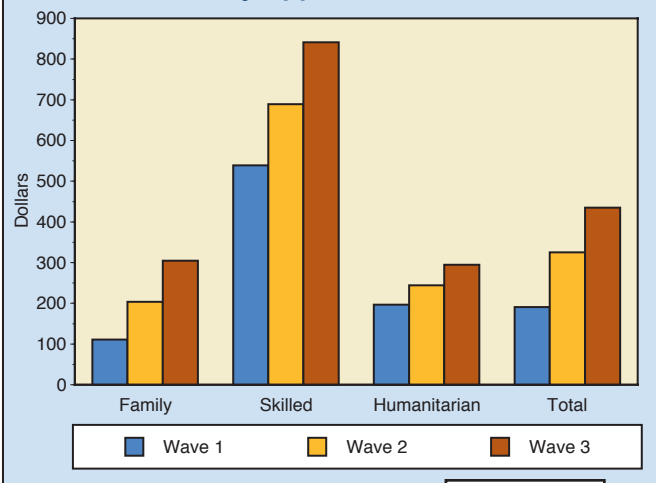
The third cohort (LSIA 3) included people who arrived or were granted permanent visas in Australia between December 2004 and March 2005. Wave 1 has been completed and wave 2 is in process. Data from wave 1 is available and data from wave 2 should be available in the first half of 2007.

The LSIA has been the chief source of information on the migration experiences and outcomes of new Migration and Humanitarian Programme migrants over the past decade.

Income

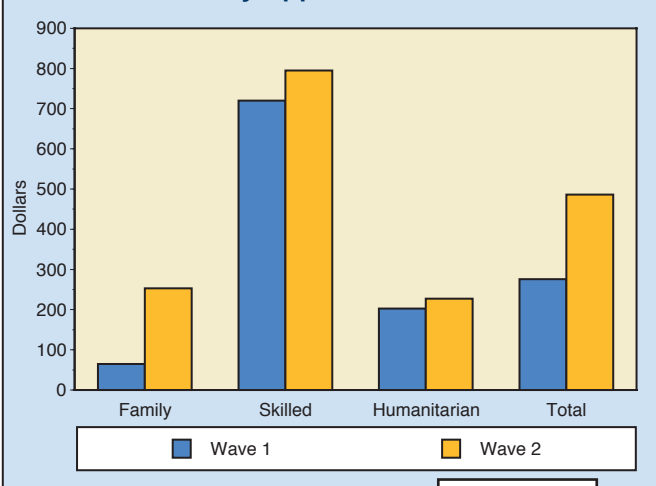
Average personal income for migrants increases rapidly with time in Australia, reflecting the greater likelihood of employment and more skilled employment. This is illustrated in Figures 6-13a and 6-13b. Figure 6-13c shows earnings at six months in LSIA 1, LSIA 2 and LSIA 3. The slight reduction in earnings in LSIA 3 is probably the result of the inclusion, for the first time in the surveys, of former overseas students.

Fig. 6-13a: Median Weekly Income (2005 dollars) Primary Applicants - LSIA 1



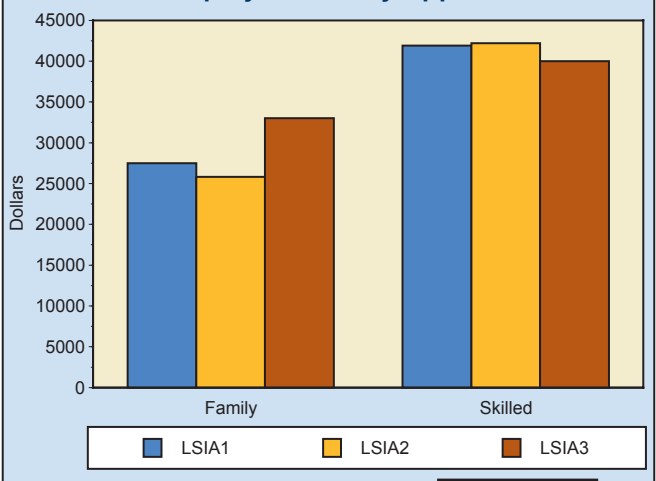
Source Data: LSIA

Fig. 6-13b: Median Weekly Income (2005 dollars) Primary Applicants - LSIA 2



Source Data: LSIA

Fig. 6-13c: Median Annual Earnings (2005 dollars) at Wave 1 Employed Primary Applicants - LSIA1



Source Data: LSIA

Labour Market Outcomes

Figures 6-14c and 6-15c show that labour force participation and employment have improved for more recent migrants.

For skilled migrants, the increase in employment rates of Primary Applicants between LSIA 1 and LSIA 2, and LSIA 2 and LSIA 3, at six months in Australia was around 10 per cent. This was greater than the overall increase in employment rates for Australia as a whole over the relevant period.

Research suggests that it was not so much the change in the state of the labour market, as the change in the attributes of the migrants (ie the increased emphasis on skill and good English) that improved the employment outcomes for LSIA 2 and later LSIA 3.

Figures 6-16a and 6-16b illustrate the importance of English to success in finding a job. Figure 6-16c illustrates the same point using data from LSIA 3 as well as LSIA 1 and LSIA 2.

Figures 6-14a, 6-14b, 6-15a and 6-15b show that labour force participation and employment also increase with length of time in Australia. For skilled migrants surveyed in LSIA 2, the unemployment rate at around 18 months after arriving in Australia was less than the average for Australia as a whole. The likelihood of being in skilled employment also increases with time spent in Australia (see Figures 6-17a and 6-17b).

Fig. 6-14a: Employment to Population Ratio Primary Applicants - LSIA 1

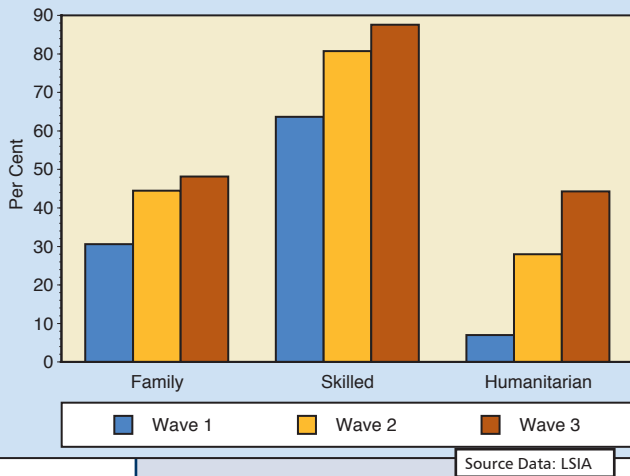


Fig. 6-14b: Employment to Population Ratio Primary Applicants - LSIA 2

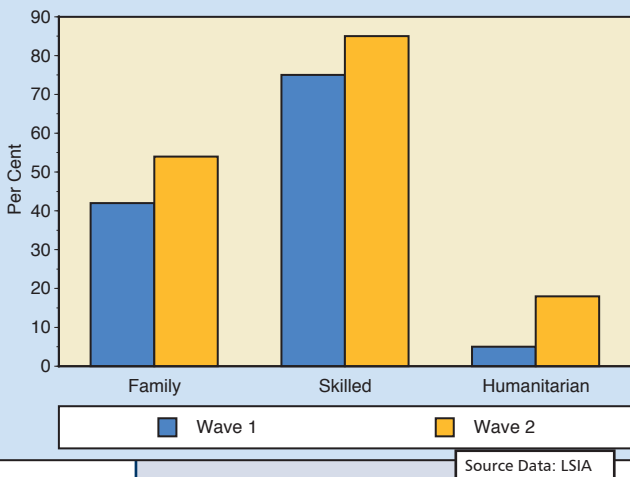
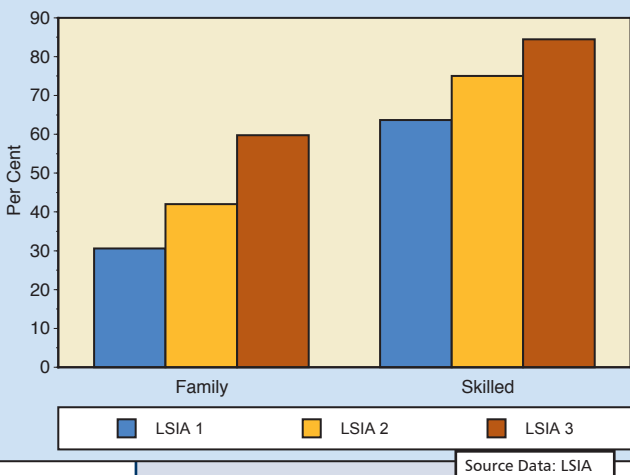
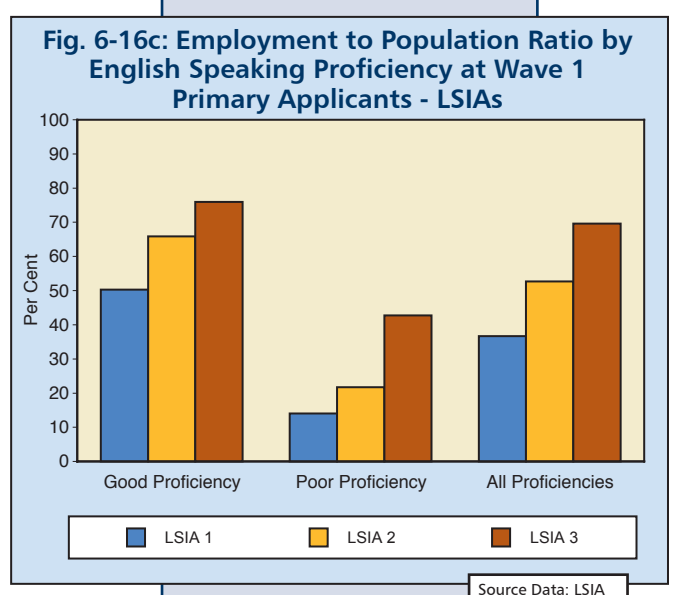
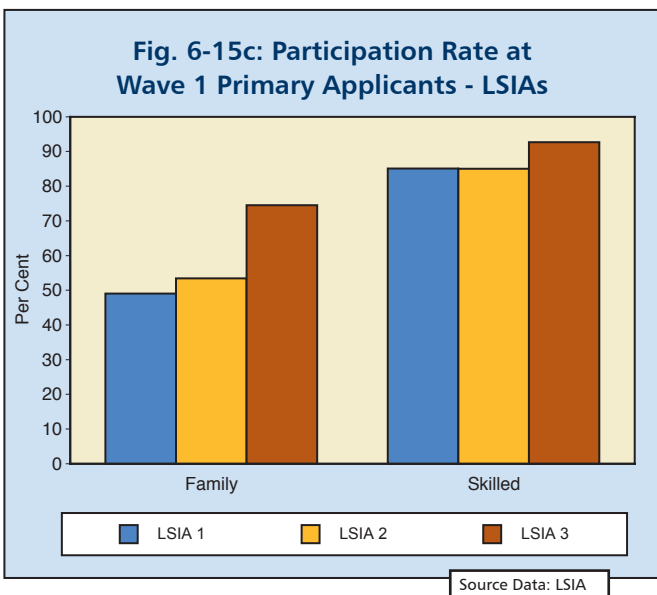
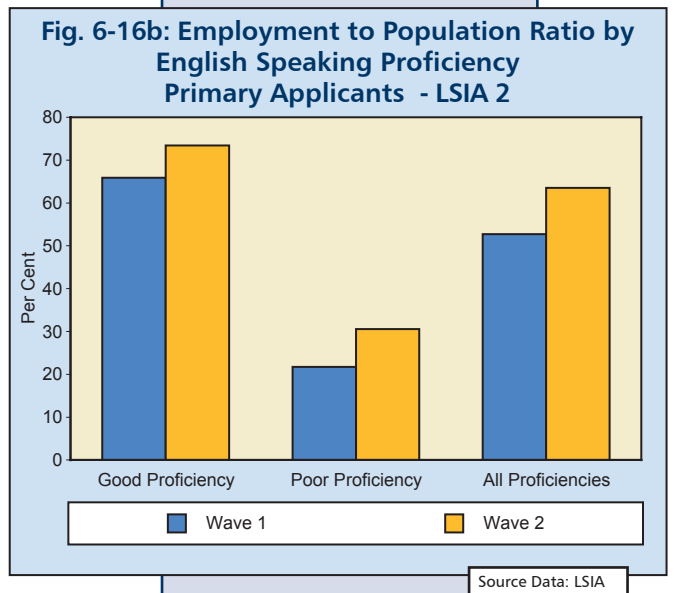
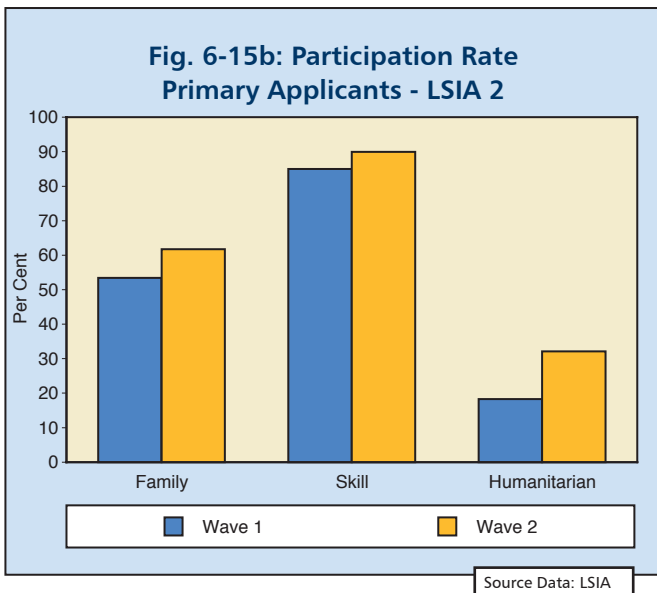
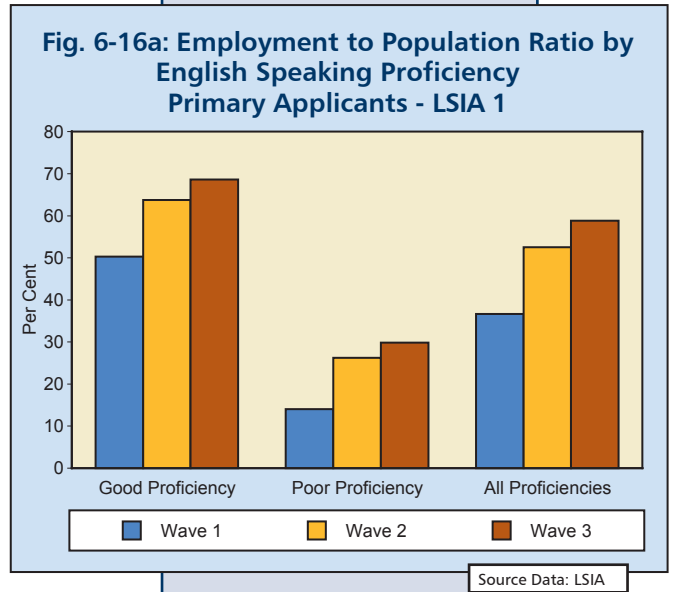
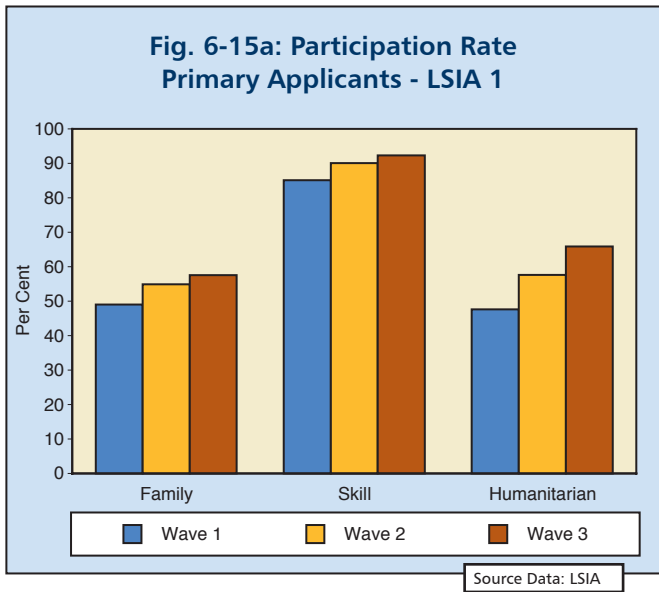


Fig. 6-14c: Employment to Population Ratio at Wave 1 Primary Applicants - LSIA 1





Occupation

For Skill Stream migrants, an important indicator of successful settlement is employment in skilled occupations. Migrants working in skilled jobs will make greater use of their qualifications, enjoy higher earnings and will experience higher levels of job satisfaction.

As can be seen from figure 6-17c, across the three LSIA, around 50-60 per cent of skilled Primary Applicants are working in skilled jobs at the six month stage. Figures 6-17a and 6-17b show that as migrants adapt to the Australian labour market the proportion of Primary Applicants in skilled jobs increases significantly.

The decline in skilled occupations between LSIA 2 and LSIA 3 can be attributed to the addition in LSIA 3 of former overseas students who obtained their visa onshore. This particular subgroup of skilled migrants has little or no relevant work experience, lower levels of English and therefore has a lower proportion of Primary Applicants working in skilled occupations.

Family Stream migrants are not selected on the basis of employability or skill. Therefore, the proportion of these migrants in skilled occupations is consistently less.

Housing

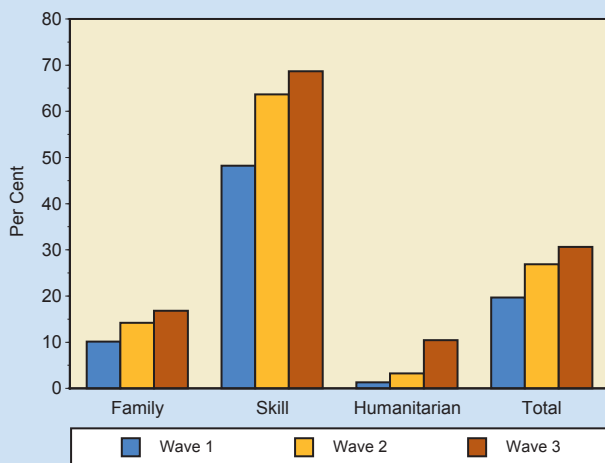
The vast majority of migrants surveyed in LSIA 1 and LSIA 2 reported that they stayed with Australian residents immediately upon arrival. Within six months, the private rental market became the most significant form of housing tenure, but by 18 months, some of those who had been renting were paying off or owned a home. Overall, LSIA 2 arrivals had significantly higher levels of home ownership than LSIA 1. Migrants under the Business Skills and Employer Nomination Scheme categories in LSIA 2 had the highest rate of home ownership, with around 63 per cent owning or paying off a home 18 months after arrival.

Public rental appears not to be a significant tenure for new arrivals generally. Less than 5 per cent of new arrivals in LSIA 1 and LSIA 2 were living in public housing at six months after arrival. However, Humanitarian entrants were substantially more reliant on public housing than any other visa category, and this increased from 8 per cent at 18 months for LSIA 1 to 13 per cent at 18 months for LSIA 2. The vast majority of Humanitarian entrants not in public housing were concentrated in the private rental market.

The level of housing stress, or the proportion of family income spent on accommodation, is also an important indicator of economic wellbeing. Housing stress is generally measured in terms of having to pay more than 40 per cent of gross income in rent or mortgage payments. At wave 1, around 18 per cent of LSIA 2 families reported housing payments that indicated housing stress, with this figure rising to 29 per cent for Humanitarian entrants.

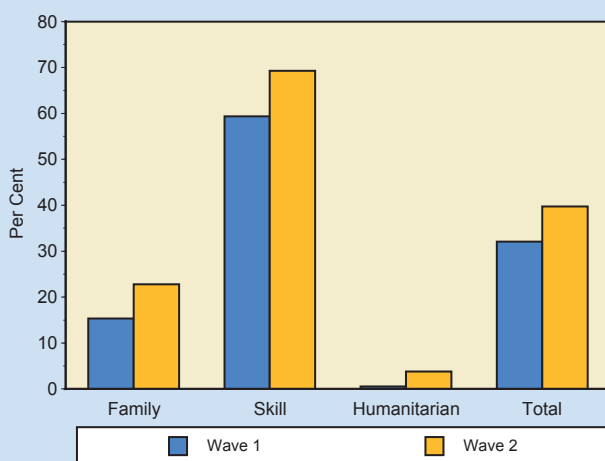
Data from LSIA 3 shows that at the six month stage, there are fewer Family Stream migrants renting compared with previous LSIA. At the same time the proportion of skilled migrants who are renting is higher for LSIA 3. This can be largely attributed to former overseas students who obtained their visa onshore. These migrants tend to be younger, less established financially than other skilled migrants and just starting out on their careers.

Fig. 6-17a: Proportion of Migrants in Skilled Occupations Primary Applicants - LSIA 1



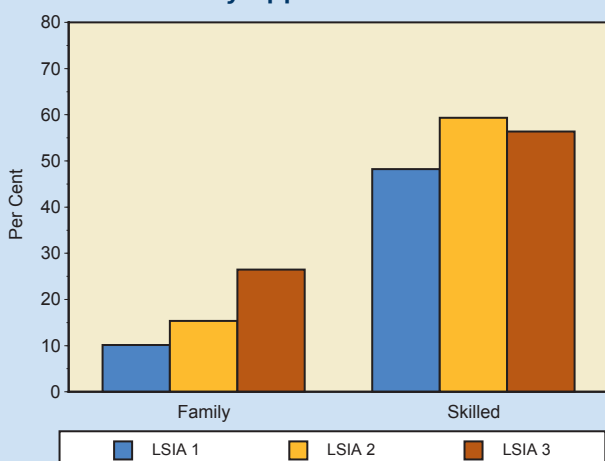
Source Data: LSIA

Fig. 6-17b: Proportion of Migrants in Skilled Occupations Primary Applicants - LSIA 2



Source Data: LSIA

Fig. 6-17c: Proportion of Migrants in Skilled Occupations at Wave 1 Primary Applicants - LSIA



Source Data: LSIA

Fig. 6-18a: Housing Arrangements: Own or Paying Off Dwelling by Migrant Eligibility Stream (% of PAs) - LSIA 1

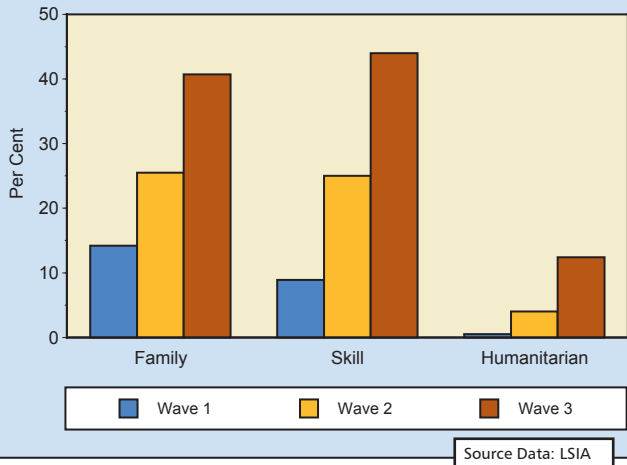


Fig. 6-19a: Housing Arrangements: Renting Privately by Migrant Eligibility Stream (% of PAs) - LSIA 1

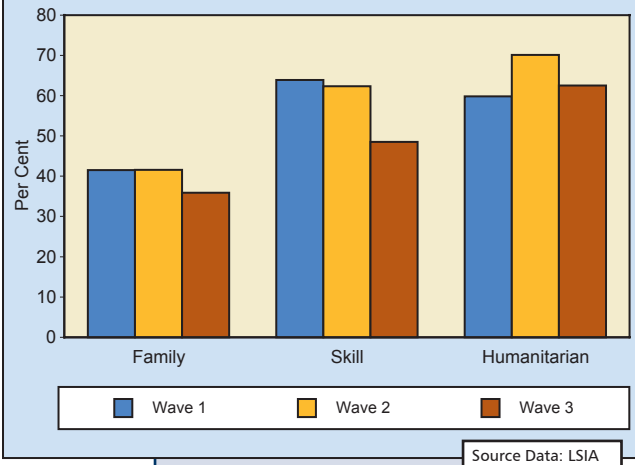


Fig. 6-18b: Housing Arrangements: Own or Paying Off Dwelling by Migrant Eligibility Stream (% of PAs) - LSIA 2

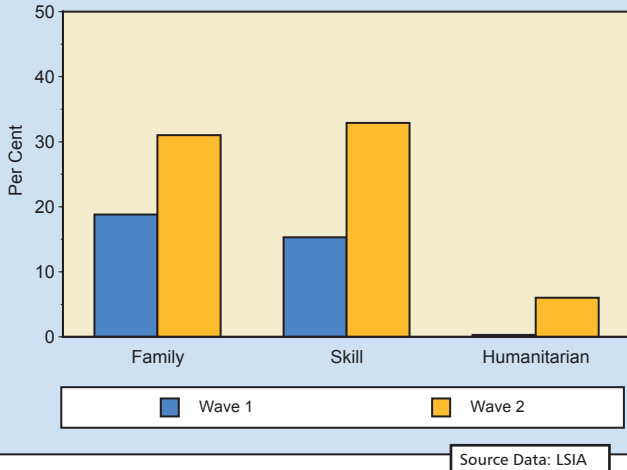


Fig. 6-19b: Housing Arrangements: Renting Privately by Migrant Eligibility Stream (% of PAs) - LSIA 2

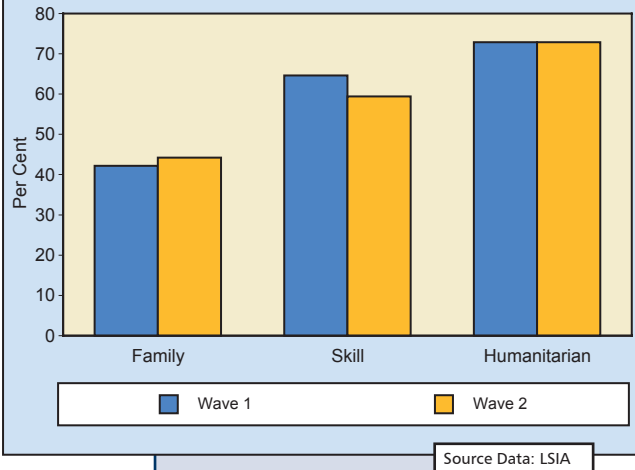


Fig. 6-18c: Housing Arrangements at Wave 1: Own or Paying Off Dwelling by Migrant Eligibility Stream (% of PAs) - LSIA 1

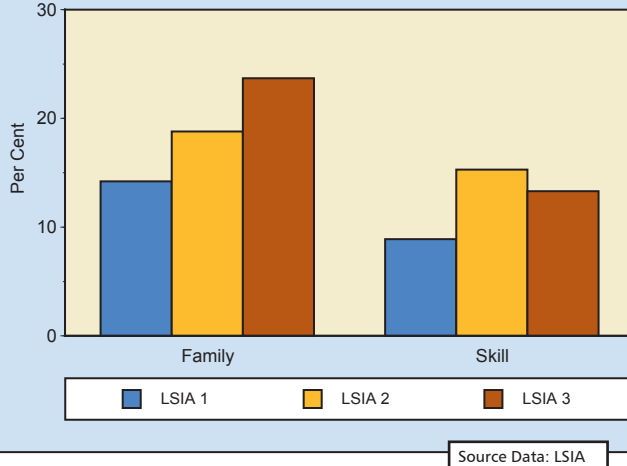


Fig. 6-19c: Housing Arrangements at Wave 1: Renting Privately by Migrant Eligibility Stream (% of PAs) - LSIA 1

