

ORIGIN AND INTEGRATION: HOUSING AND FAMILY AMONG MIGRANTS IN THE 2016 IRISH CENSUS

DATE

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Introduction

- Rapid migration to Ireland, peaking in the early 2000s, led to increase in the number of adults born outside Ireland. How well are they faring?
- Housing is a key component of integration, as adequate housing provides safety and shelter, allows people to work, participate in education and in society more broadly.
- Migrants, like other individuals, are embedded in families, and the structure and nature of migrants' families have implications for the integration of migrants and their children.
- Using Census 2016 microdata, this report compares the housing and family situation of people born in Ireland with that of first-generation migrants, examining what this means for their integration.

Introduction

- Similar to much integration research, we compare housing and family situation of migrant groups (born abroad) to that of Irish-born
- This is a typical benchmark, though useful to remember that e.g. home ownership is high in Ireland and overcrowding is low, by international standards
- We use information on all residents in Ireland in April 2016, so great potential to distinguish more migrant groups than before (11 migrant groups)
- Complements the *Monitoring Report on Integration* series by presenting much more detailed information on housing and family situation, for a much broader range of groups

Housing and Family Outcomes

Housing Tenure

Overcrowding

Homelessness*

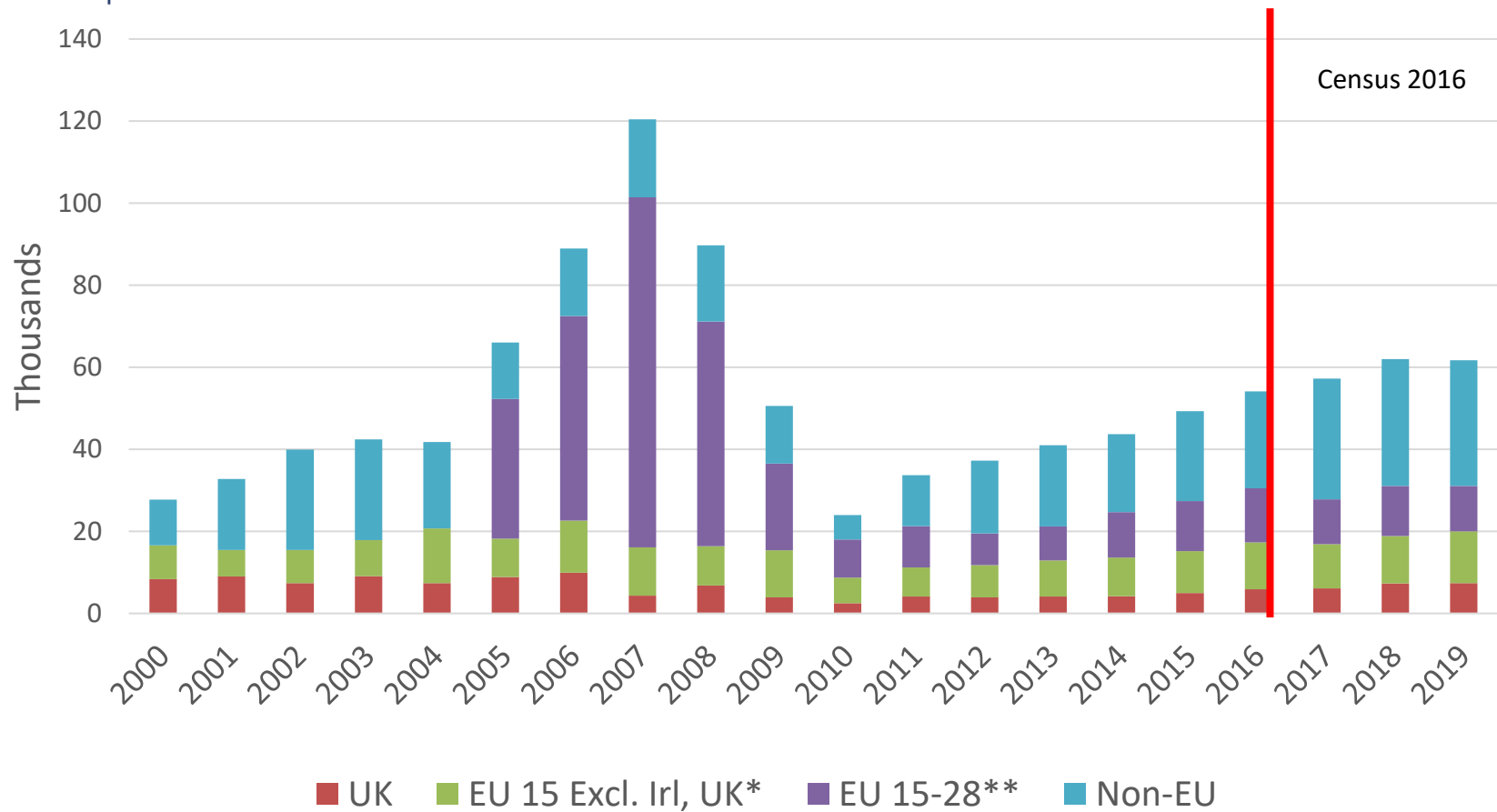
Household
composition

Number of children

'Mixed unions' (migrant-
Irish-born partnerships)

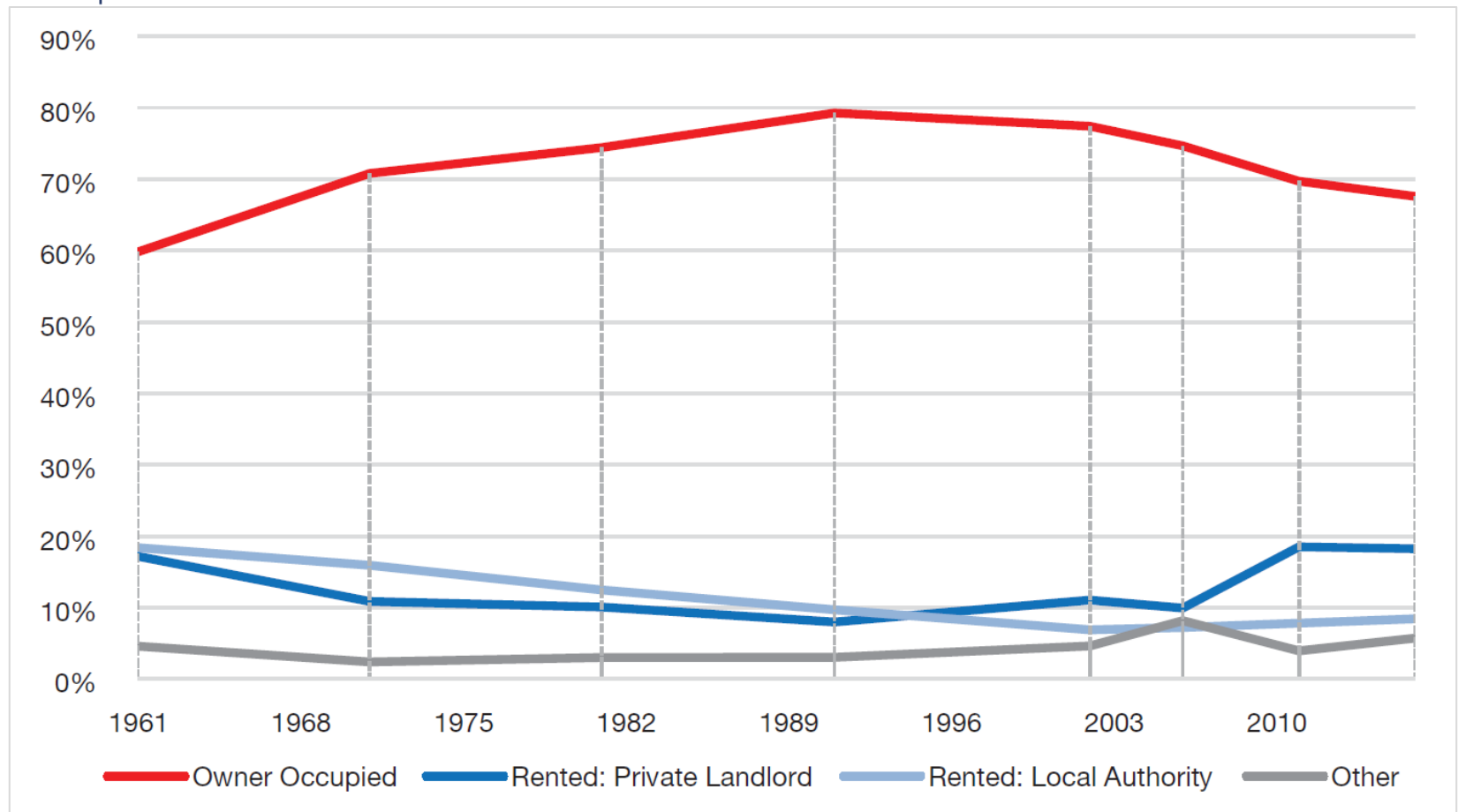
Note: Homelessness – using published census 2016 data.

Context: Immigration to Ireland 2000-2019



Source: CSO, 'Population and migration estimates', up to end April of reference year.

Context: Households by tenure, Ireland – 1960-2016



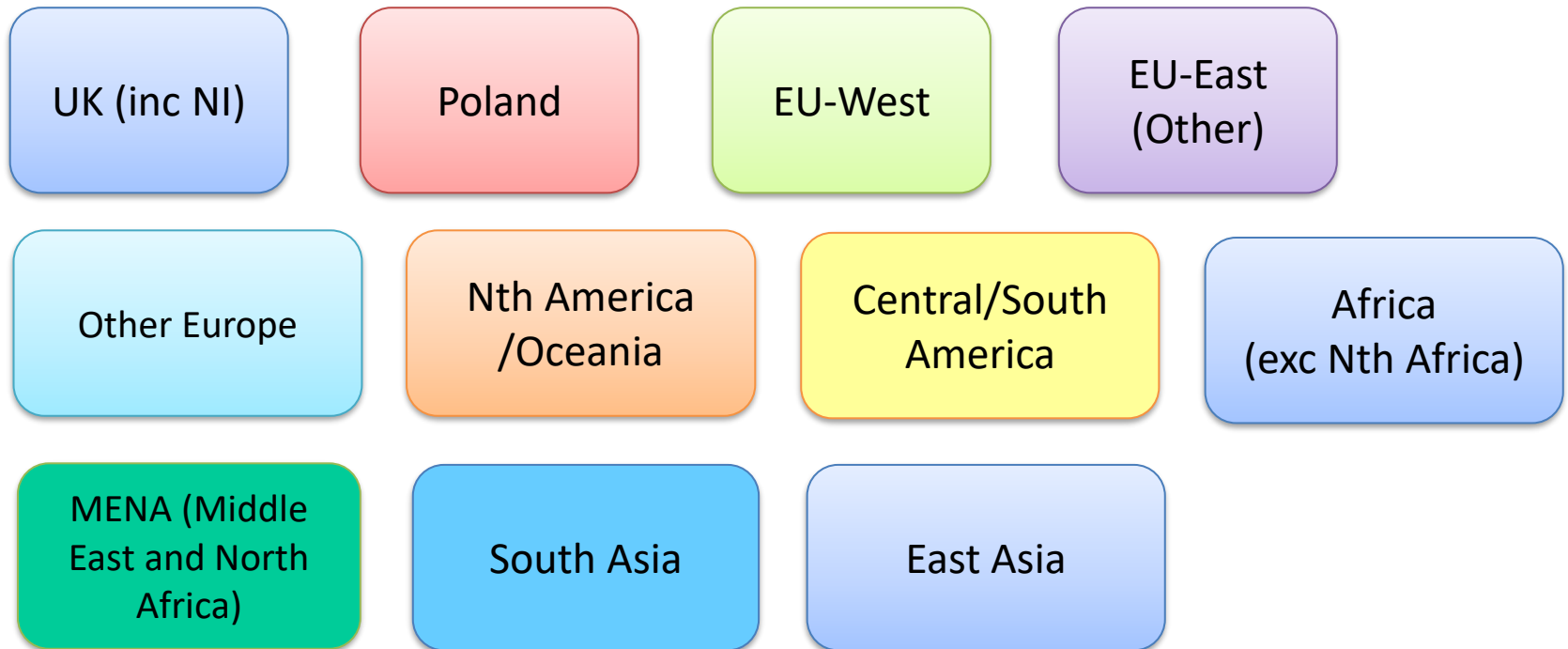
Source: Corrigan, 2019, using Census data reports.

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Data and Methods – Census 2016

- All **usually resident** in Ireland on night of 24 April 2016 (no tourists, visitors)
- Coverage – full population - includes communal accommodation, homeless
- Individuals for housing analysis: best info on families for Head of household
- Migrant= born outside Rep. of Ireland
- Models to explore to what extent differences linked to origin country, age, gender, family structure, time in Ireland, location, ethnicity etc

Migrant Groups (Census 2016)



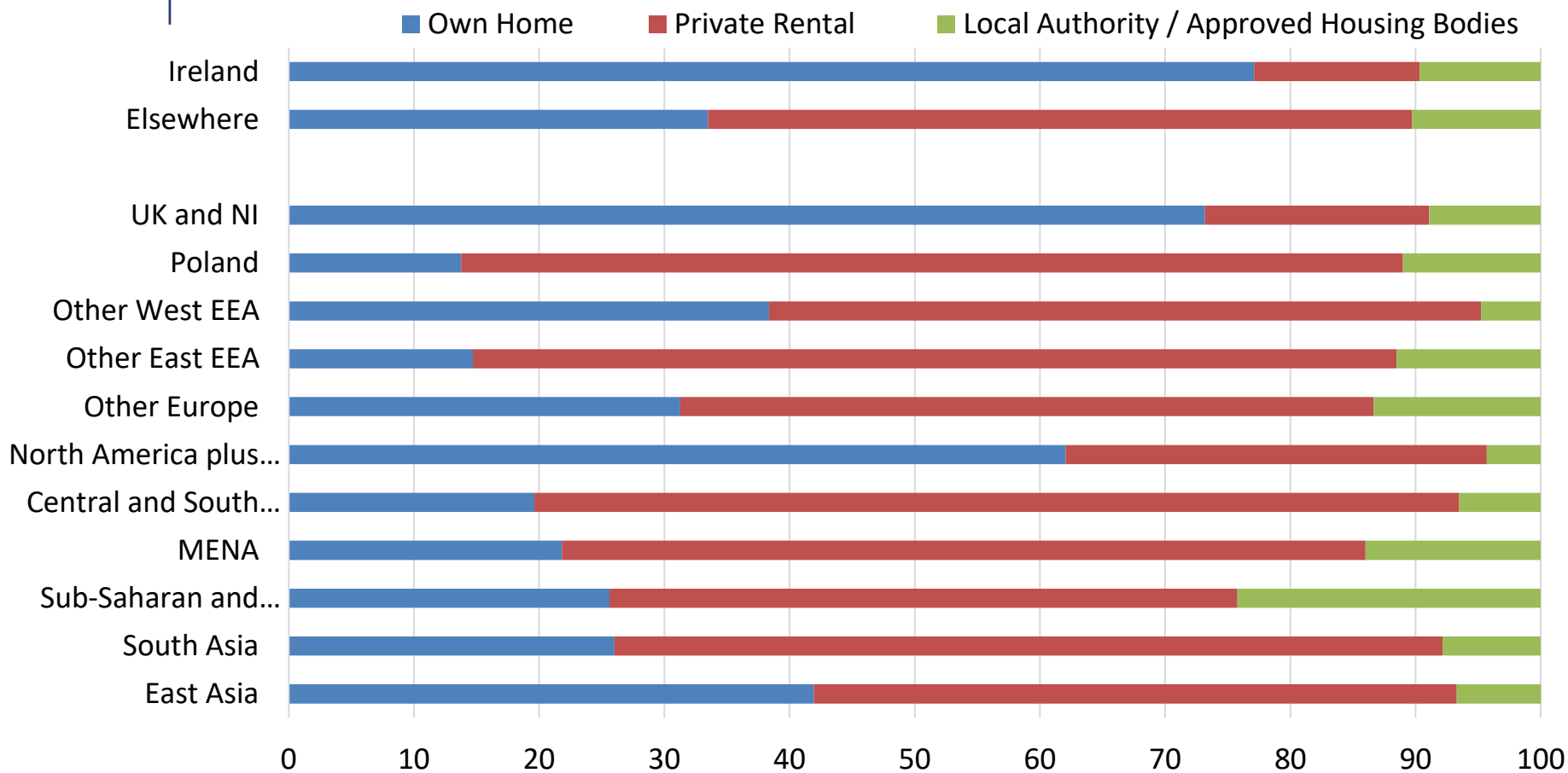
Based on international classifications of migrants - eg UN - and adapting them for Ireland

Size of migrant groups (Census 2016)

Region/country of birth	Frequency	Percentage
Ireland	3,781,881	82.7
UK, including NI	269,766	5.9
Poland	114,333	2.5
Other West EEA	62,666	1.4
Other East EEA	115,402	2.5
Other Europe	25,780	0.6
North America plus Oceania	41,308	0.9
Central and South America	23,807	0.5
MENA	17,989	0.4
Sub-Saharan and Other Africa	42,846	0.9
South Asia	44,315	1.0
East Asia	35,593	0.8
Total	4,575,686	100

Source: Census 2016. Excludes a small number of cases for whom individual country of birth was not recorded.

Housing Tenure by Country of birth (individuals)

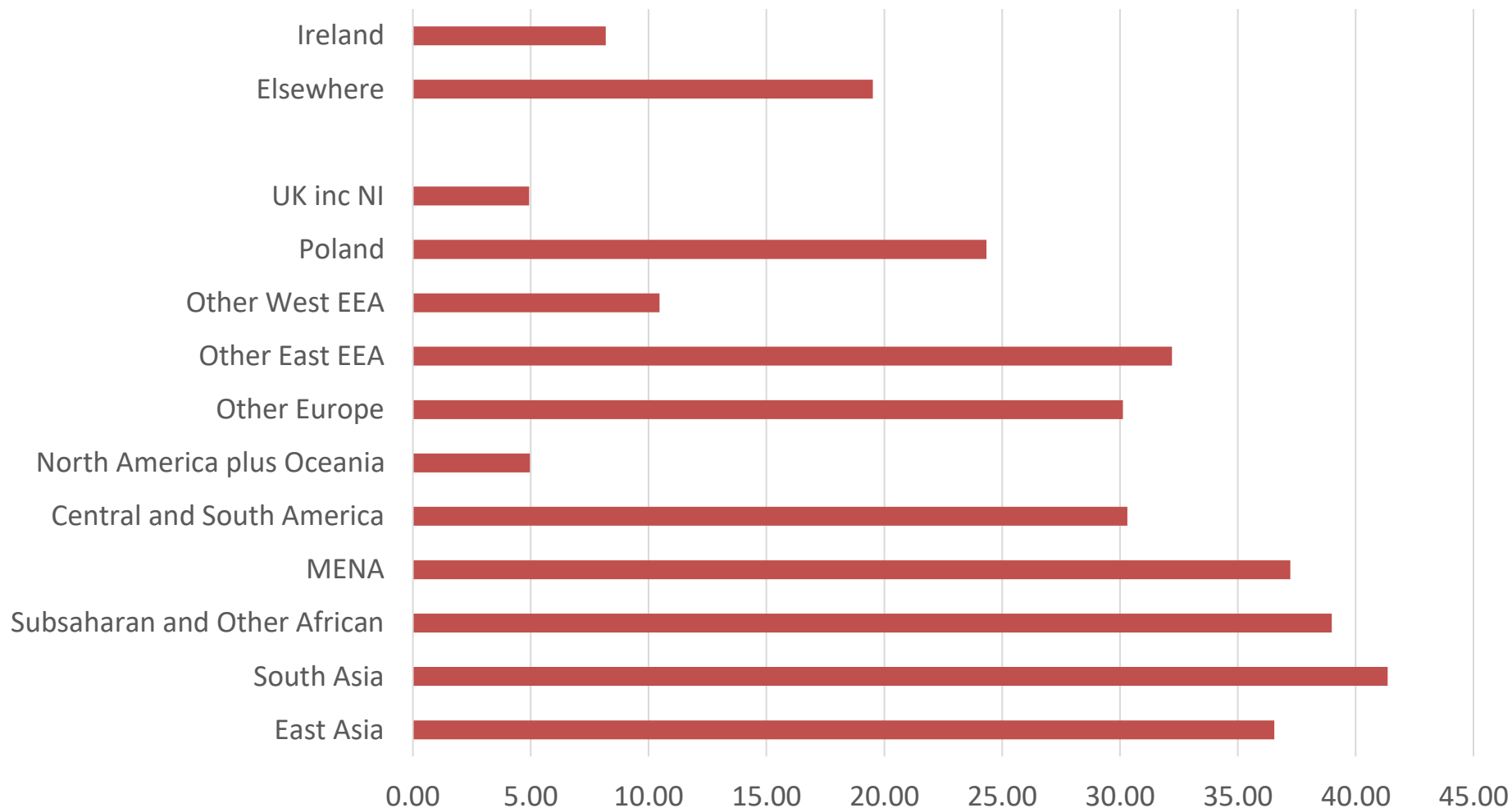


Source: Census microdata 2016. N=4,386,883. All respondents living in private households, who are usually resident in the household.

Factors associated with private renting (vs. owner occupier)

- Age group – and many migrants are young adults
- Location – urban; not being employed
- For migrants: recent arrivals, poor language skills, no Irish partner.
- Even after accounting for differences, private renting still much higher among many migrant groups, especially East Europeans

Proportion of individuals living in overcrowded accommodation* by country of birth (individuals)



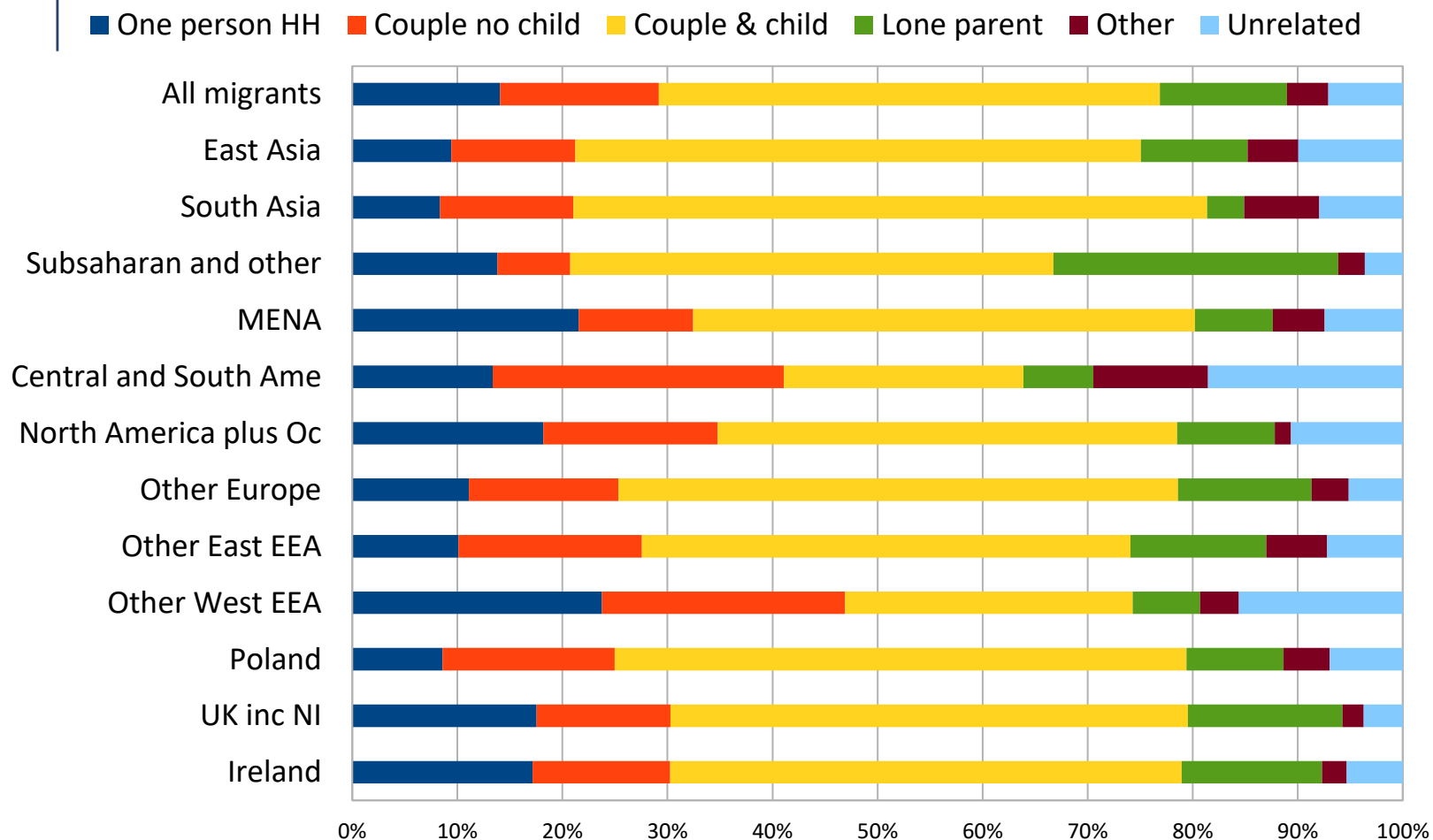
Source: Census 2016 microdata. N = 4,292,293.

Note: *Overcrowding is recognised as occurring when the number of people in the household exceeds the number of rooms. Overcrowding pertains to individuals in private households only.

Factors linked to overcrowding

- Country of origin
- Non-employment/low skilled employment
- Ethnicity – esp. Irish Traveller, also Black, Asian
- Poor English language skills
- Family structure (married/cohabiting couples with children)
- Urban location; renting (private or LA)
- Accounting for these factors – much reduces Irish/migrant difference

Household composition (HoH aged 20-54)

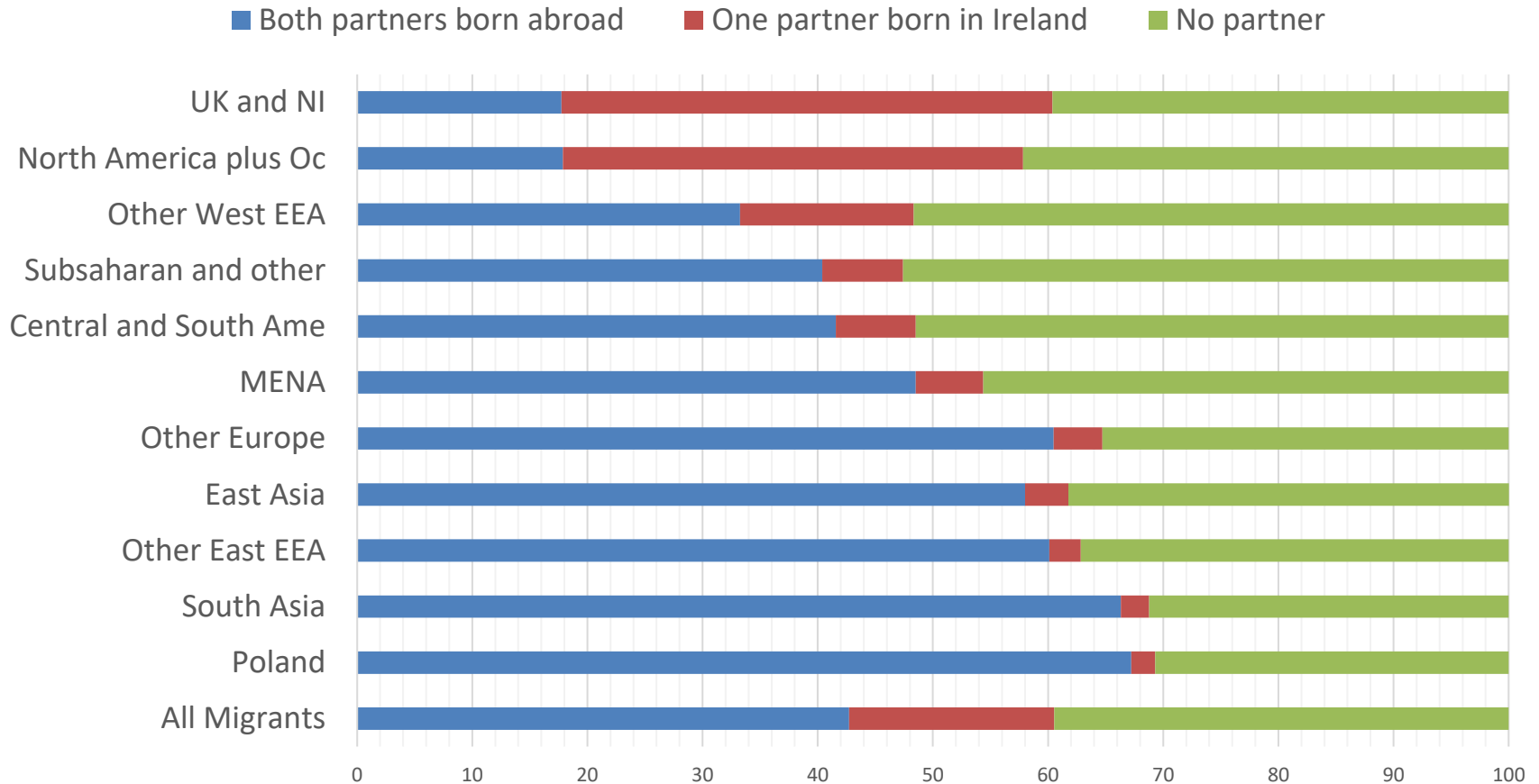


Source: Census microdata 2016. N = 1,001,581 households. All household heads are usually resident in Ireland.

Factors linked to lone parenthood

- Generally, most migrant HoHs less likely to be in lone parent households than Irish-born
- UK born and Sub-Saharan important exceptions – more likely to be lone parents
- Lone parenthood associated with lower education, non-employment, renting
- Note: only observe those living in household and parents or children may be living abroad

Mixed unions (Household heads 20-54)



Some Policy Implications

- Across the Western world, migrants tend to rent. In Ireland, challenges in private rented sector disproportionately affect migrants
- Protection from rising rents, adequate standards are very important
- Making housing a priority in next *Migrant Integration Strategy* – an urgent action
- For disadvantaged/low income migrants (& other disadvantaged groups) – increase provision of local authority housing so not competing for rented property
- For migrants who can afford it, reduce some barriers to accessing mortgage credit

Limitations & Further research

- Could definitely explore mixed unions in more depth, including ‘intra-ethnic partnerships’
- Do outcomes differ for men and women?
- We do not have detailed information on income
- No ‘second generation’ (GUI data here)
- We only observe people in the household in April 2016 – no family abroad, or ‘histories’
- Can’t identify refugees and this is important

Key Messages

- Migrants face greater challenges in the Irish housing market than Irish-born
- Migrants concentrated in the private rented sector and at higher risk of overcrowding
- Non-Irish nationals more at risk of homelessness
- Greater similarities in family indicators like lone parenthood and number of children – though pronounced migrant group differences here
- Mixed unions vary across groups – 70 of UK/American migrant groups partnered with Irish, for Polish 3 per cent, South Asia 4 per cent.

Thanks for listening! Comments welcome

Want to read more:

<https://www.esri.ie/publications/origin-and-integration-housing-and-family-among-migrants-in-the-2016-irish-census>

Research programme publications:

<https://www.esri.ie/current-research/integration-and-equality-research-programme>

Coming soon... Wages and working conditions of non-Irish nationals