



REFUGEES AND MORE.
ADDRESSING CHALLENGES IN MEASURING MIGRATION.

Panel discussion

AGENDA OF THE PANEL

- **Overview of the panel**
- **Perspective of the Prime Minister's Chancellery – Council for Cooperation with Ukraine**
- **Perspective of the UNHCR**
- **Perspective of the WHO**
- **Perspective of Statistics Poland**
- **Q & A session**
- **Wrap-up**

PARTICIPANTS OF THE PANEL

Moderator: **Sławomir Nałęcz**

Discussants:

1. **Wiktor Babiński** – Chancellery of the Prime Minister
2. **Jun Shirato** – Deputy Representative of the UNHCR in Poland
3. **Rifat Hossain** – WHO
4. **Marek Cierpiat-Wolan** – President of Statistics Poland

AIM OF THE PANEL

**Diagnose needs/challenges and
propose ways forward
in statistics on refugees and migrants.**

QUESTIONS TO BE DISCUSSED

- What *refugees/migrant* population is the most interesting for my institution/organization?
- Why do we need statistics on them?
- What data do we have? What has been analysed / reported so far?
- What numbers do we miss and what are the barriers to get them?
- What is the way forward (plans/recommendations)?



Poland as safe haven to refugees

- 966 thousand Ukrainian refugees started work without need for permit
- 157 thousand kids received free meals in schools and kindergartens
- 520 thousand Ukrainians used Diia.pl in the mObywatel app
- 0.5 million Ukrainians found refuge in care of Polish local governments
- 48 tys. thousand businesses were set up in Poland by Ukrainian refugees thanks to legal accommodations adopted by the Polish government

Polish humanitarian corridor for Ukraine

- Among the foreign cities that have received the title of “Rescuer City” from the President of Ukraine, Polish cities dominate: Rzeszów, Przemyśl, Lublin, Chełm, Warsaw
- Polish local governments, churches, entrepreneurs and NGOs sent thousands of shipments into Ukraine worth hundreds of millions EUR



Kancelaria Prezesa
Rady Ministrów





**Presentation by
UNHCR Poland**

**5th Congress of
Polish Official
Statistics**

1 July 2025

Evacuees board a train at a
railway station in eastern Ukraine.

© Reuters/Alexander Ermochenko

Introduction

- UNHCR's mandate
- Global Trends (12 June 2025)
- Data Transformation Strategy 2020 - 2025

Refugee/ Uchodźca

A person who owing to **well-founded fear of being persecuted** for **reasons** of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, **is outside the country of [their] nationality** and is **unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail [themselves] of the protection of that country** or who, **not having a nationality** and being outside the country of [their] former habitual residence, is **unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.**

Act on granting protection to foreigners in the territory of the Republic of Poland

Subsidiary protection/ Ochrona uzupełniająca

A person who does not qualify as a refugee but in respect of whom substantial grounds have been shown for believing that the person concerned, if returned to [their] country of origin, or in the case of a stateless person, to [their] country of former habitual residence, would face a real risk of suffering serious harm defined as:

- (a) the death penalty or execution; or
- (b) torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of an applicant in the country of origin; or
- (c) serious and individual threat to a civilian's life or person by reason of indiscriminate violence in situations of international or internal armed conflict.

and is unable, or, owing to such risk, unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country.

Act on granting protection to foreigners in the territory of the Republic of Poland

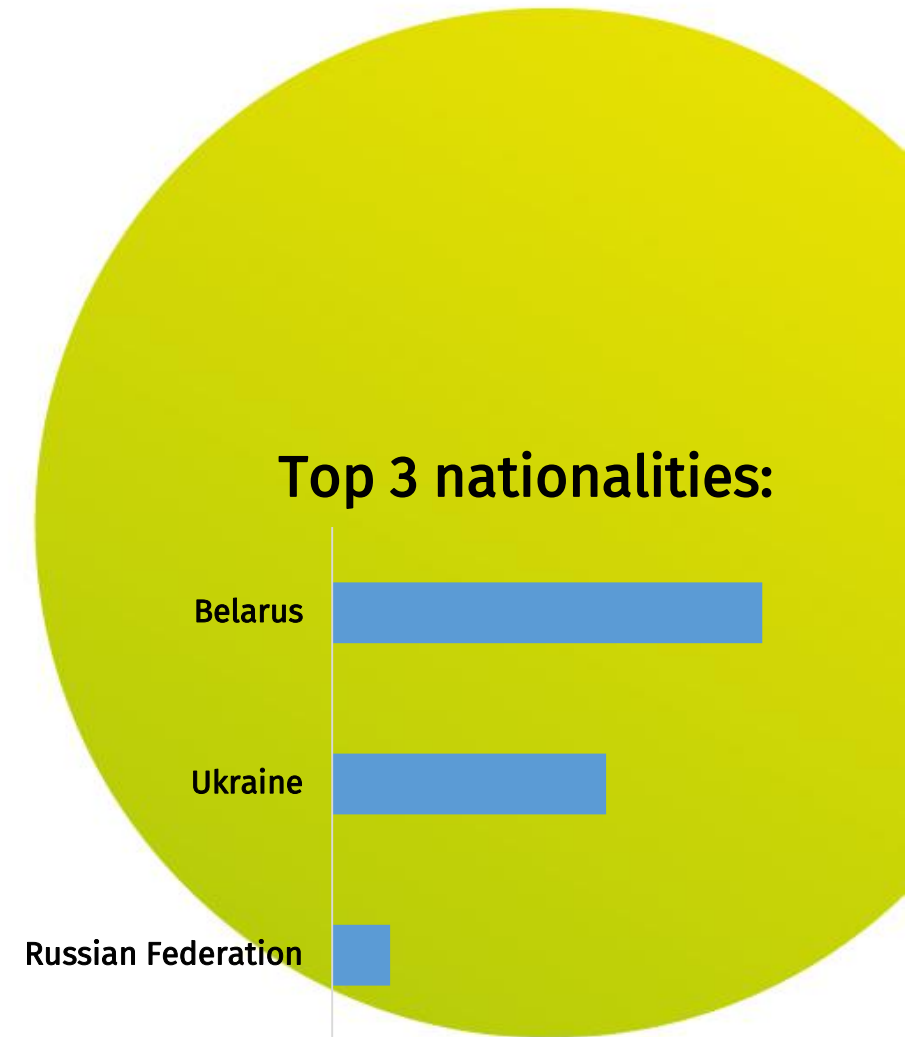
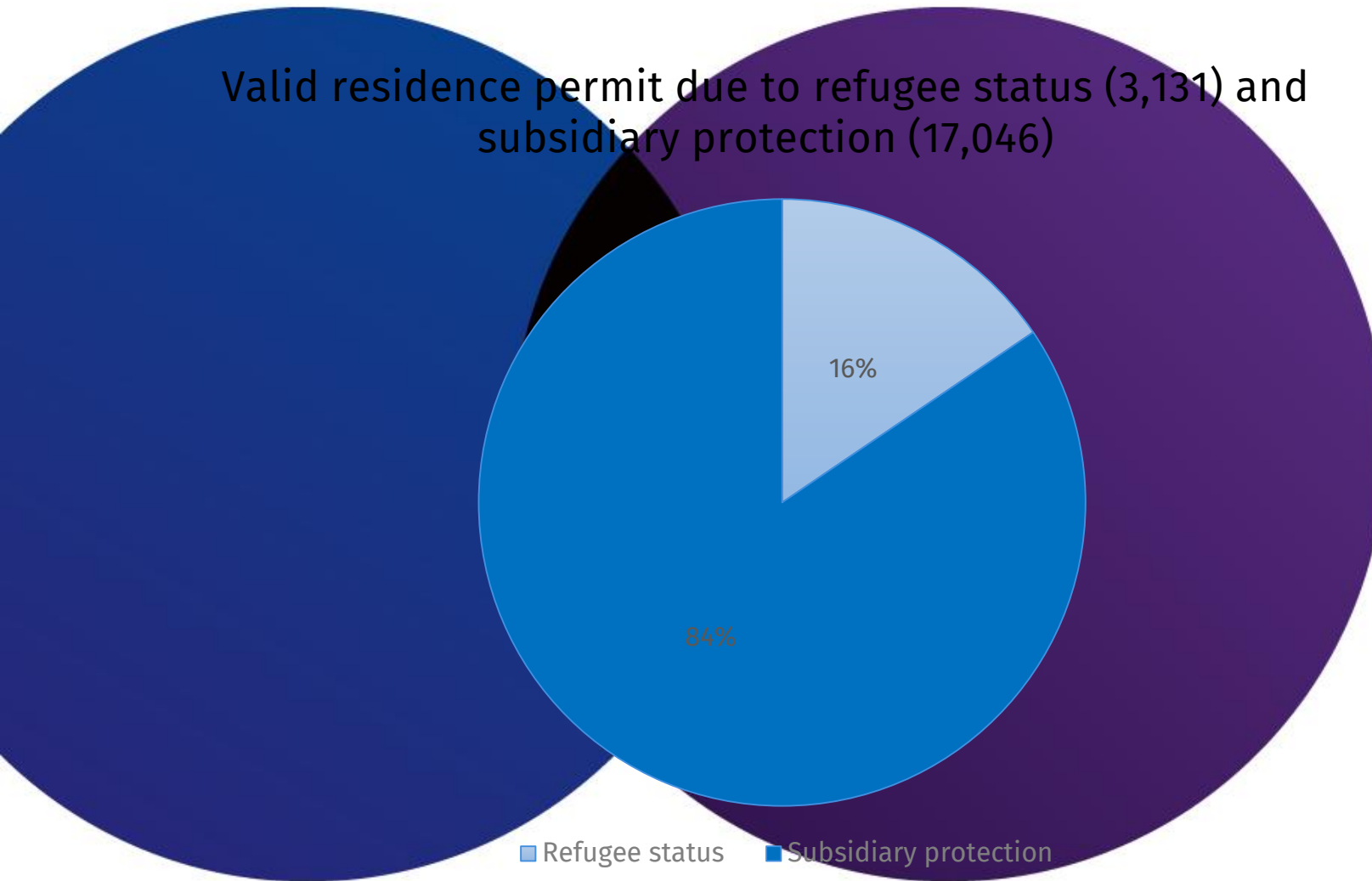
Refugee or subsidiary protection sur place

A foreigner may have a well-founded fear of persecution or a real risk of suffering serious harm, caused by events that occurred after leaving the country of origin.

A well-founded fear of persecution or a real risk of suffering serious harm may be caused by the foreigner's actions after leaving the country of origin, in particular when they were an expression and continuation of beliefs or sexual orientations held in the country of origin.

Act on granting protection to foreigners in the territory of the Republic of Poland

Refugee and subsidiary protection



Source: Office for Foreigners as of 31.05.2025

Asylum seeker

Osoba ubiegająca się o ochronę międzynarodową

An asylum-seeker is a person who is **seeking international protection**.

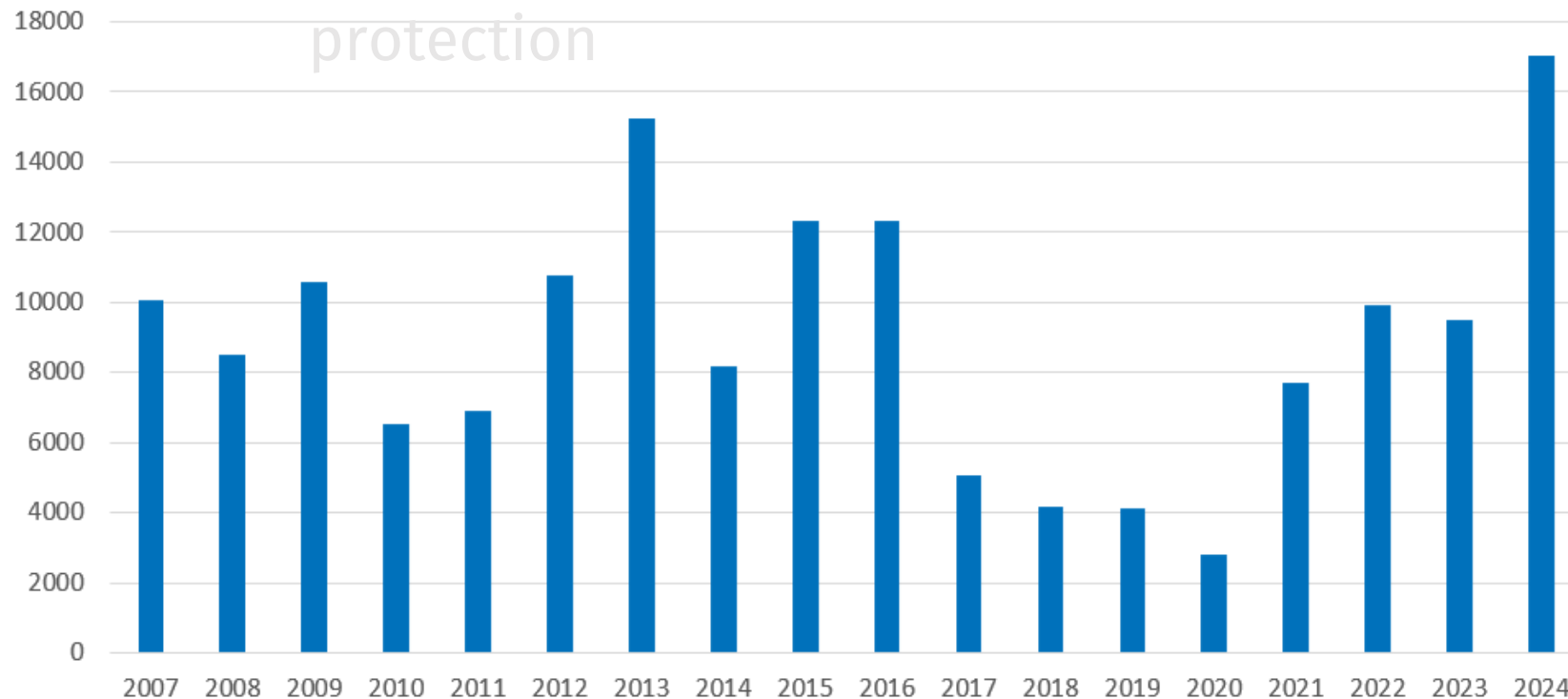
Their request for international protection, has yet to be processed, or they may not yet have requested asylum, but they intend to do so.

- When someone crosses an international border seeking safety, they often need to apply to be legally recognized as a refugee. While they seek asylum and await the outcome of their application, they are referred to as asylum-seekers and should be protected. **Not all asylum-seekers will be found to be refugees, but all refugees were once asylum-seekers.**

Asylum seeker

Osoba ubiegająca się o ochronę międzynarodową

Applications for international protection



Source: Office for Foreigners as of 31.05.2025

In 2025, number of persons that applied for IP: 7,471

Top 3 nationalities:

- Ukraine
- Belarus
- Russia

Temporary protection/ Ochrona czasowa

Foreigners arriving en masse in the Republic of Poland who left their country of origin or a specific geographical area due to foreign invasion, war, civil war, ethnic conflicts or gross violations of human rights may be granted temporary protection in the territory of the Republic of Poland, regardless of whether their arrival was spontaneous or was the result of assistance provided to them by the Republic of Poland or the international community.

* Temporary protection activated for people fleeing Ukraine due to armed conflict - *Act on Assistance to Citizens of Ukraine in the Context of the Armed Conflict in Ukraine* ("the Special Act")

Act on granting protection to foreigners in the territory of the Republic of Poland

Temporary protection/ Ochrona czasowa



gov.pl



Refugees from Ukraine registered in Poland, by district (powiat)

as of 10 June 2025

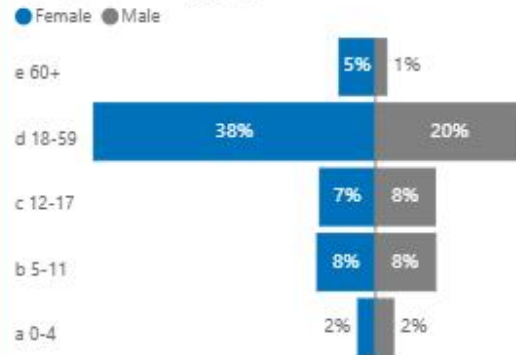
986 790 (active registration*)

Refugees from Ukraine with active registration for temporary protection (PESEL UKR)* as of 10 June 2025

1 943 863 (cumulative**)

Refugees from Ukraine who applied for temporary protection in Poland

Age gender disaggregation

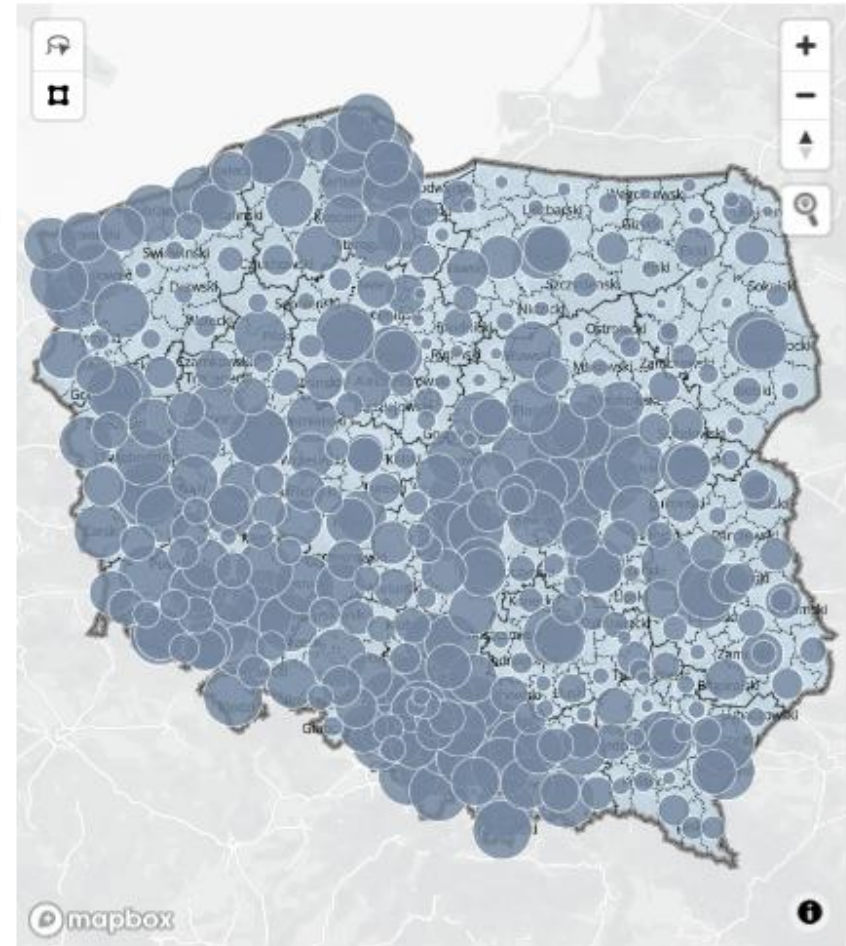


*The number reflects the total of persons with active registration in the register of citizens of Ukraine and their family members who have been assigned a PESEL number under the special law.

**The cumulative number of persons registered so far including those whose records were inactivated due to leaving Poland for more than 30 days. Detailed age.

Refugees by Gender and Voivodeship/powiat*

● Female ● Male



Asylum / Azyl

A foreigner may, upon their request, be granted asylum in the Republic of Poland, when it is necessary to ensure his/her protection and when it is in the important interest of the Republic of Poland.

* To issue a decision granting asylum, the Office for Foreigners needs a consent of the minister responsible for foreign affairs.

Act on granting protection to foreigners in the territory of the Republic of Poland

Migrant

People staying outside their country of origin who are **not asylum-seekers or refugees**.

They can return to country of origin – no risk of persecution or serious violation of human rights.

Migrant can reside in Poland based on residence permits due to work, studies, family reunification, etc. issued according to the Act on foreigners

Thank you!




Integrated data systems A game changer for overcoming the challenges of measuring migration and beyond

Refugee Plus, 5th Congress Polish Statistics,
1 July 2025

Rifat Hossain, World Health Organization



A health system



is as strong
as its weakest link...

More than a billion people are on the move,
globally

304 M

International
Migrants
(2022 estimate)

123.2 M

Forcibly Displaced
(end 2024)

48.8 M

Children
(end 2024)

At no time have more
people been on the
move
We must have their
health needs visible
to address and
achieve health for all

Ukraine emergency by numbers

61 M

Border crossings from Ukraine

23 M

Border crossings to Ukraine

5.6 M

Refugees recorded across world (5.1 million in Europe)

1.1 M

Refugees from Ukraine in Poland/under temporary protection

3.7 M

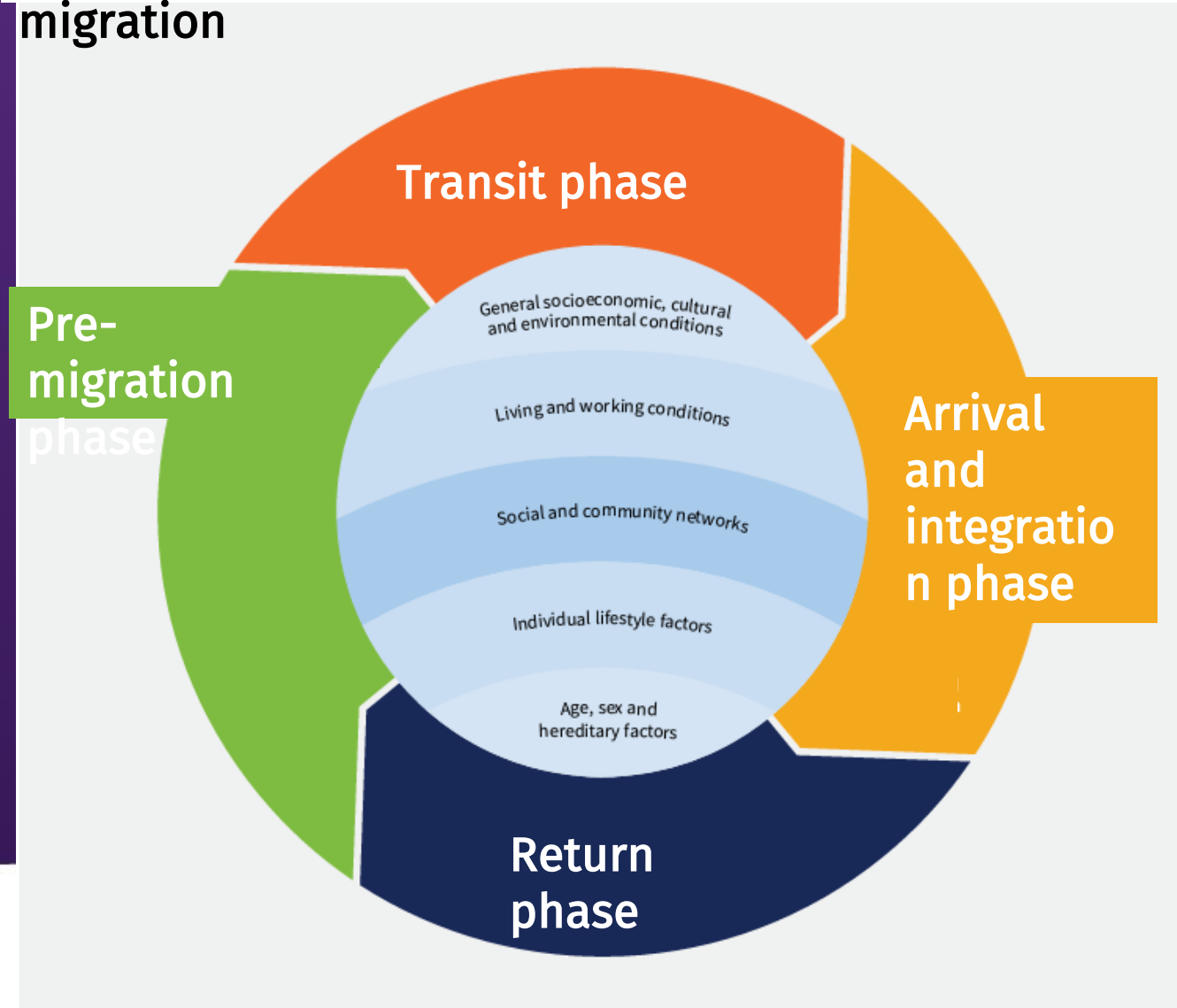
Internally displaced

“Health does not begin or end at countries' borders”

World report on health of refugees and migrants and determinants of health



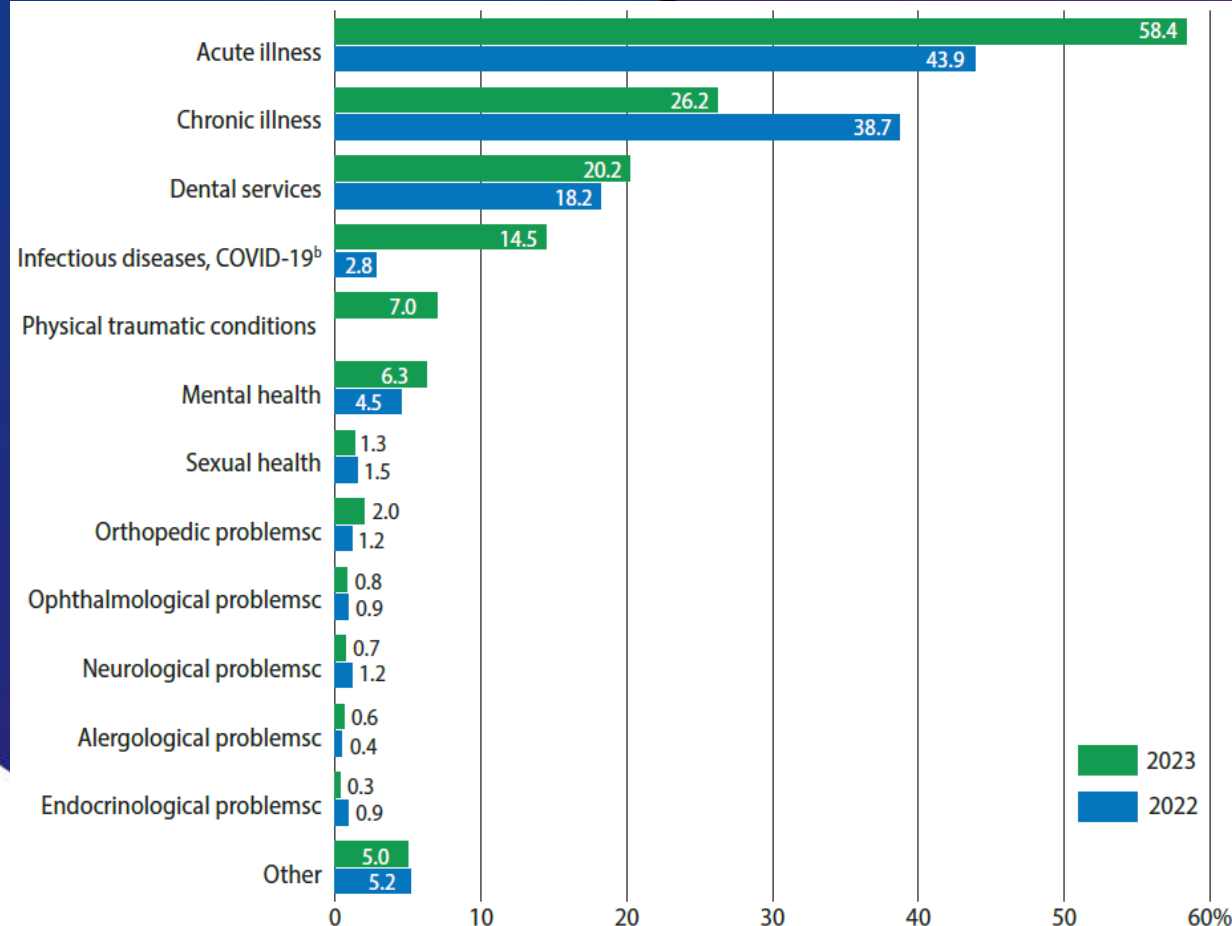
Fig. 1.3. Determinants of health and phases of migration



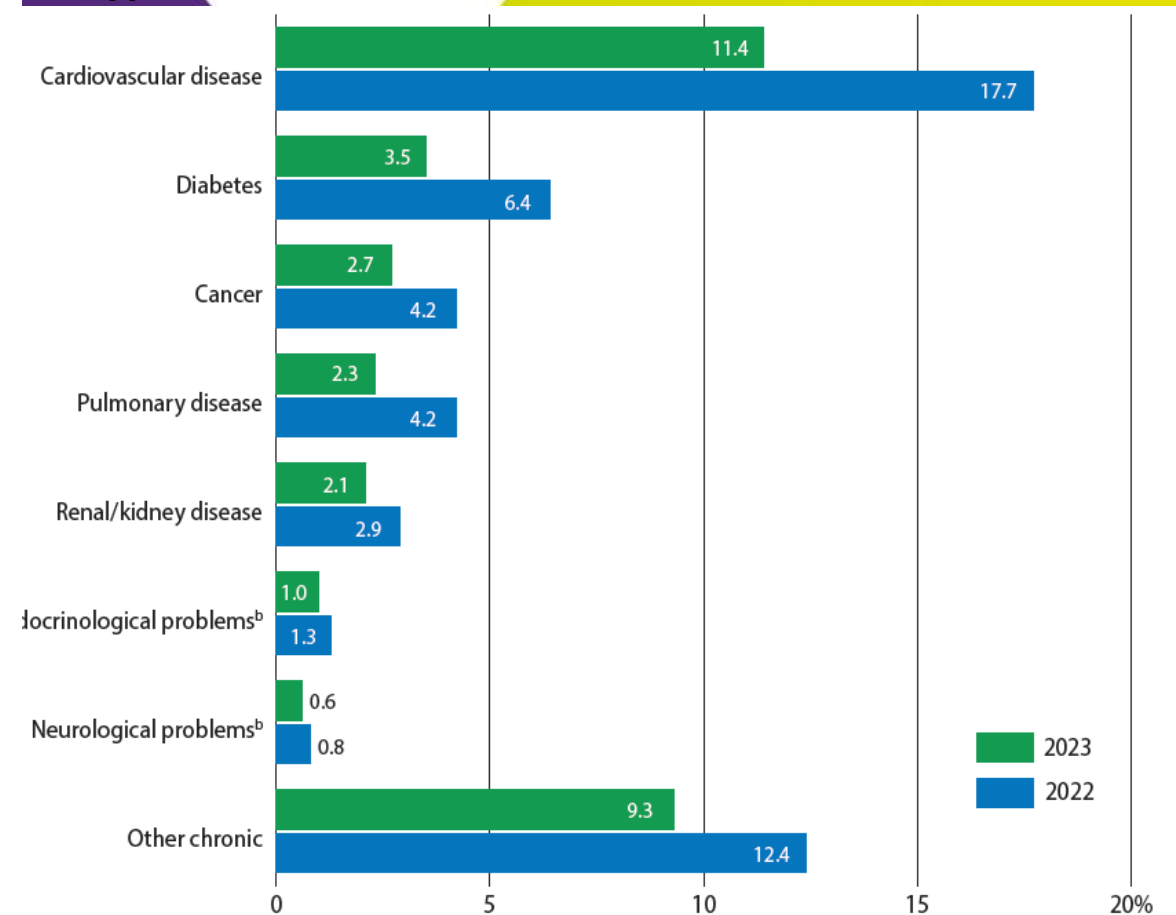
Health of Refugees from Ukraine in Poland

Comparative findings from 2022-2023 surveys

Types of health care needed*

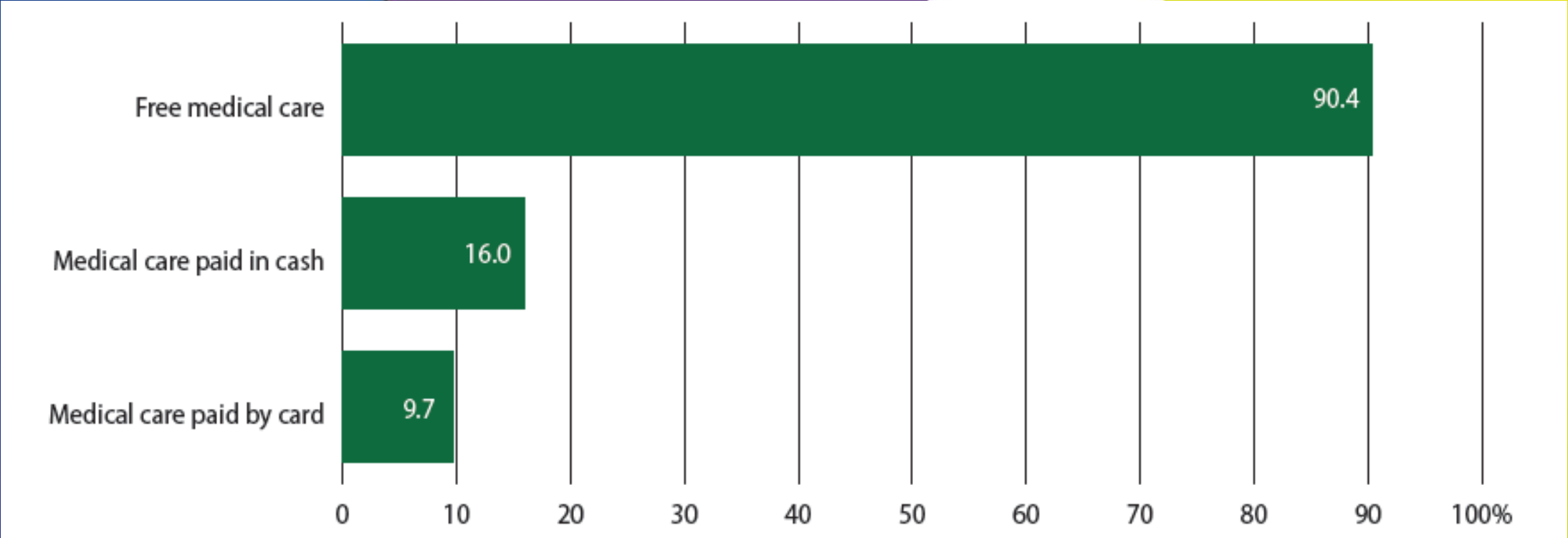


Types of health care needed for chronic illnesses*



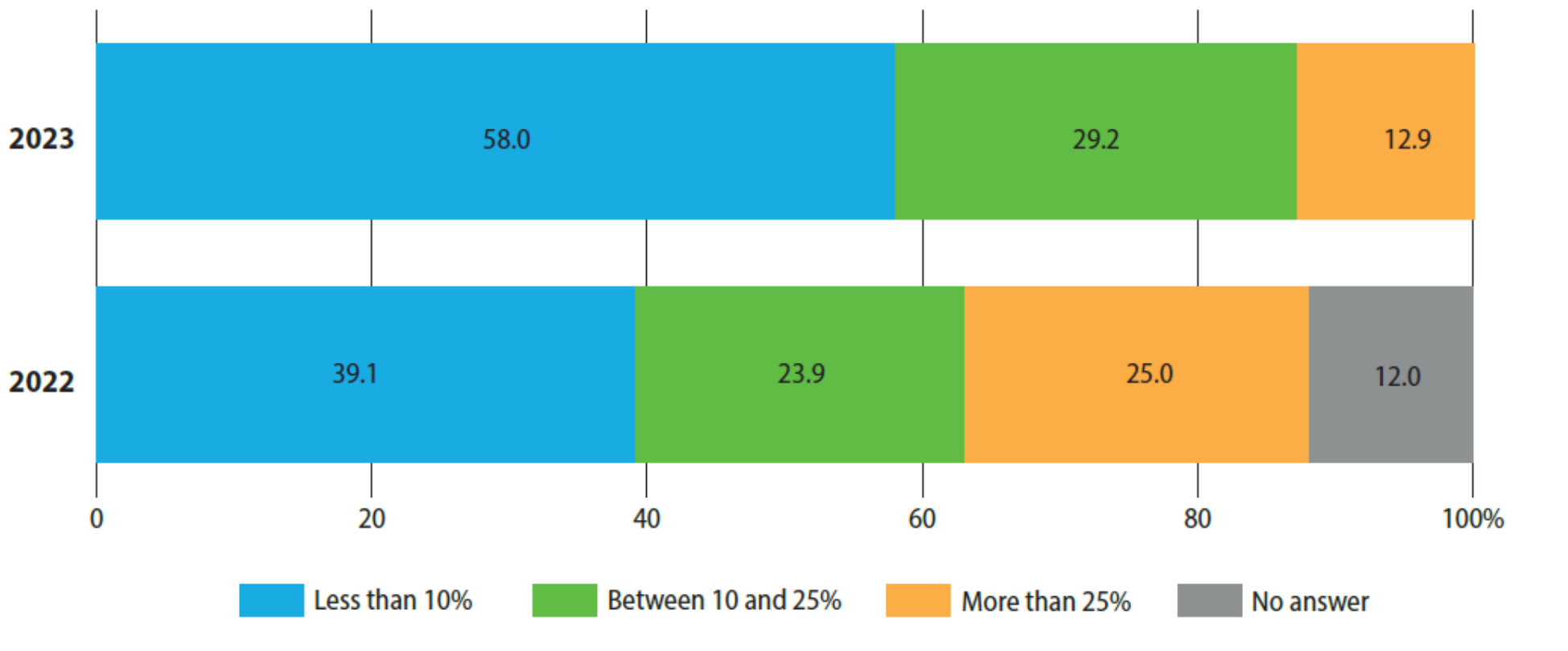
Comparative findings from 2022-2023 surveys

Access to healthcare free or paid



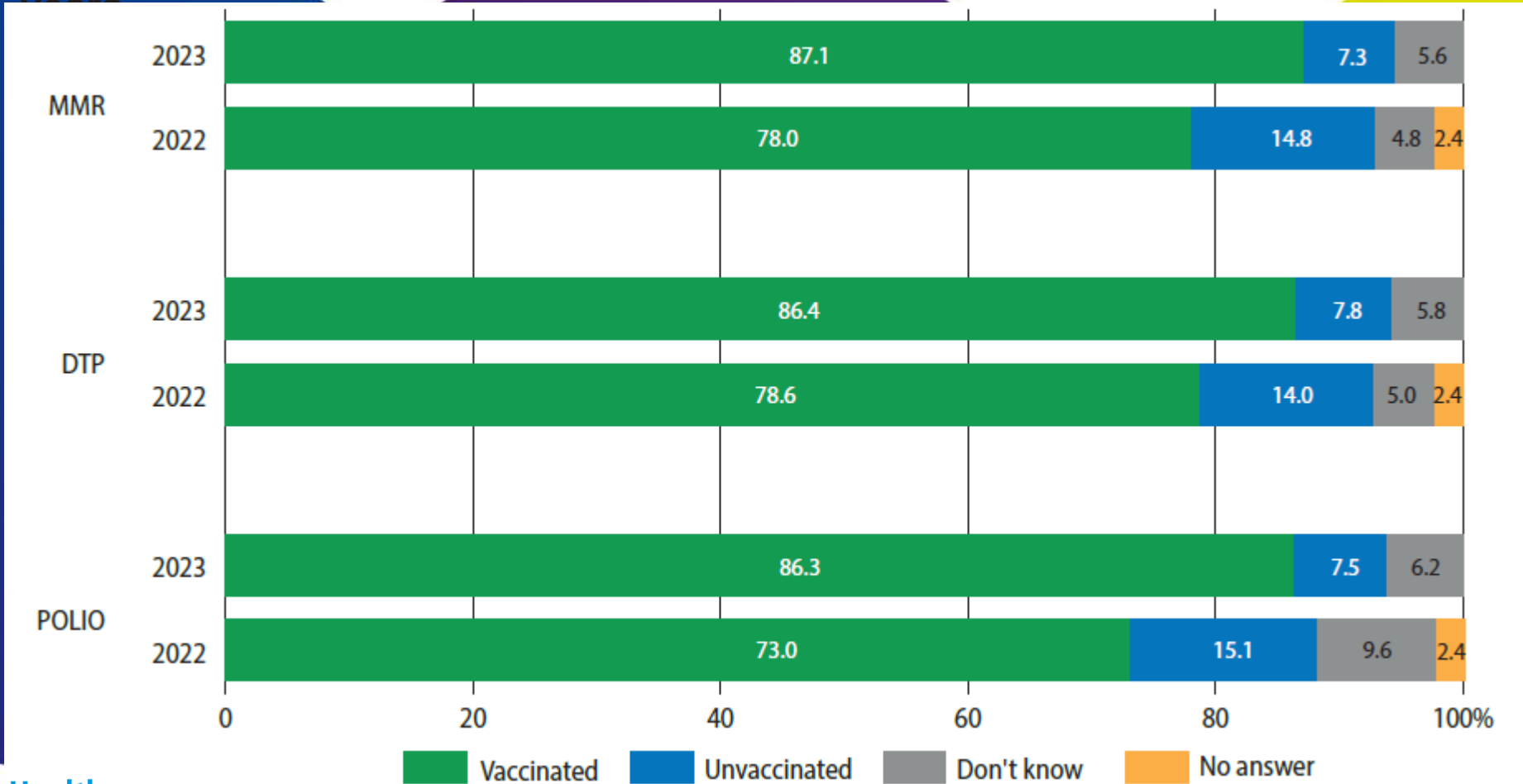
Comparative findings from 2022-2023 surveys

Share of income/savings spent on health care costs



Comparative findings from 2022-2023 surveys

Declared vaccination status of children aged 1–4



Health of Refugees

Data integration model – a comprehensive approach

Disaggregated data on refugees and migrants allows stakeholders to:

- understand and address their health needs
- develop inclusive public health approaches
- track progress towards national and global health goals
- enable decision-makers to understand and respond to public health challenges that occur within their borders

**Fit for purpose data are urgently needed
to monitor the health of refugees and migrants
if we are to meet the SDGs – leave no one
behind mantra**

Food for thought...only 5 years remaining for the SDGs

- 200 zettabytes (1 zettabyte 10^{21} byte) of data
- Only 1 zettabyte in the public domain
- 90% of the data generated within the last two years
- Can we afford to ignore all the other datasets?
- Quality of data can be assessed but not discarded immediately
- Data integration is a must
 - A true public-private partnership of data
 - Statistical-geospatial integration as well as

Towards an Integrated Information System for Health Equity in Poland

WHO Poland and partners are implementing a three-pronged approach to build an integrated information system for health equity:

- ❑ Two national-scale surveys—one for general population and the other for Ukrainian refugees—a harmonized baseline—define needs, access barriers, equity gaps across regions, population groups.
- ❑ The Health Equity Report for Poland (2026) synthesizes survey results, administrative data, and stakeholder input to create a comprehensive narrative on disparities and actionable recommendations. It is a key tool to drive equitable reforms and enhance transparency.
- ❑ A national platform integrating public and private-sector data (e.g. NFZ, GUS, mobile, financial, environmental) will support real-time monitoring, forecasting, and simulation of policy impacts. All tools ensure data-driven decision-making while respecting ethical standards.

These form a robust, inclusive, and forward-looking foundation for national health planning.

The BIG picture – why this matters

- Poland is hosting 1M+ refugees amid ongoing health system pressures
- Need for a unified, inclusive, and equity-focused data ecosystem
- Supports health system planning, international cooperation, and policy simulation
- Leverages and synergizing tools: HESRi, Health Index, AI-driven equity analytics

Integrated Health and Inclusion Survey (IHIS-2025)

- Unified national survey covering both host and refugee populations
- Combines core health modules + WHO equity monitoring concepts – socioeconomic health determinants
- Synergy between health index indicators and SEIS questions
- Feeds into Health Equity Report and regional refugee planning



• Partnership: GUS (lead), WHO, UNHCR, UNICEF, NIZP

IHIS: Design and Methodology

- Nationally representative + refugee oversampling
- Modules: health, protection, mental health, socio-economic inclusion
- Multi-modal data collection (household, phone, web)
- Disaggregation by legal status, gender, region, age, income, disability

Health Equity Report for Poland (HERP)

- Poland's second national health equity report (April 2025–June 2026)
- Assesses disparities in access, outcomes, and determinants
- Focus on regions, socioeconomic groups, and refugees
- Uses indicators from GUS, MoH, NFZ, private data (e.g., MNO, debit/credit cards)

HERP: Timeline and Components

- Q2 2025: Data and indicator finalization
- Q3–Q4 2025: Data gathering and analysis
- Q1 2026: Drafting and validation
- Q2 2026: Final report and launch

How AI feeds into HERP and beyond

- IHIS provides population-level data (host + refugees)
- AI platform integrates spending, mobility, geospatial data, and eventually also Electronic Medical Records (EMRs)
- Combined for predictive analysis, equity stratification, and tailored policy insights

AI-Enabled Health Data Integration

- Real-time analytics platform by WHO Poland and GUS
- Combines health spending, EMRs, mobile, and geospatial data
- Uses machine learning to simulate policy scenarios and forecast needs
- Supports health equity, service planning, and resilience building

Benefits of AI-Driven Health Analytics

- Forecasts demand and identifies gaps early
- Supports policy reform across health, housing, transport
- Tailors services by demographic and vulnerability level
- Promotes efficient and equitable resource allocation

Thank you

For more information:

Rifat Hossain - hossainr@who.int

WHO Poland - eurowhopol@who.int

Dashboard: [Health of Refugees](#)



Innovative approaches to measuring migration & human mobility

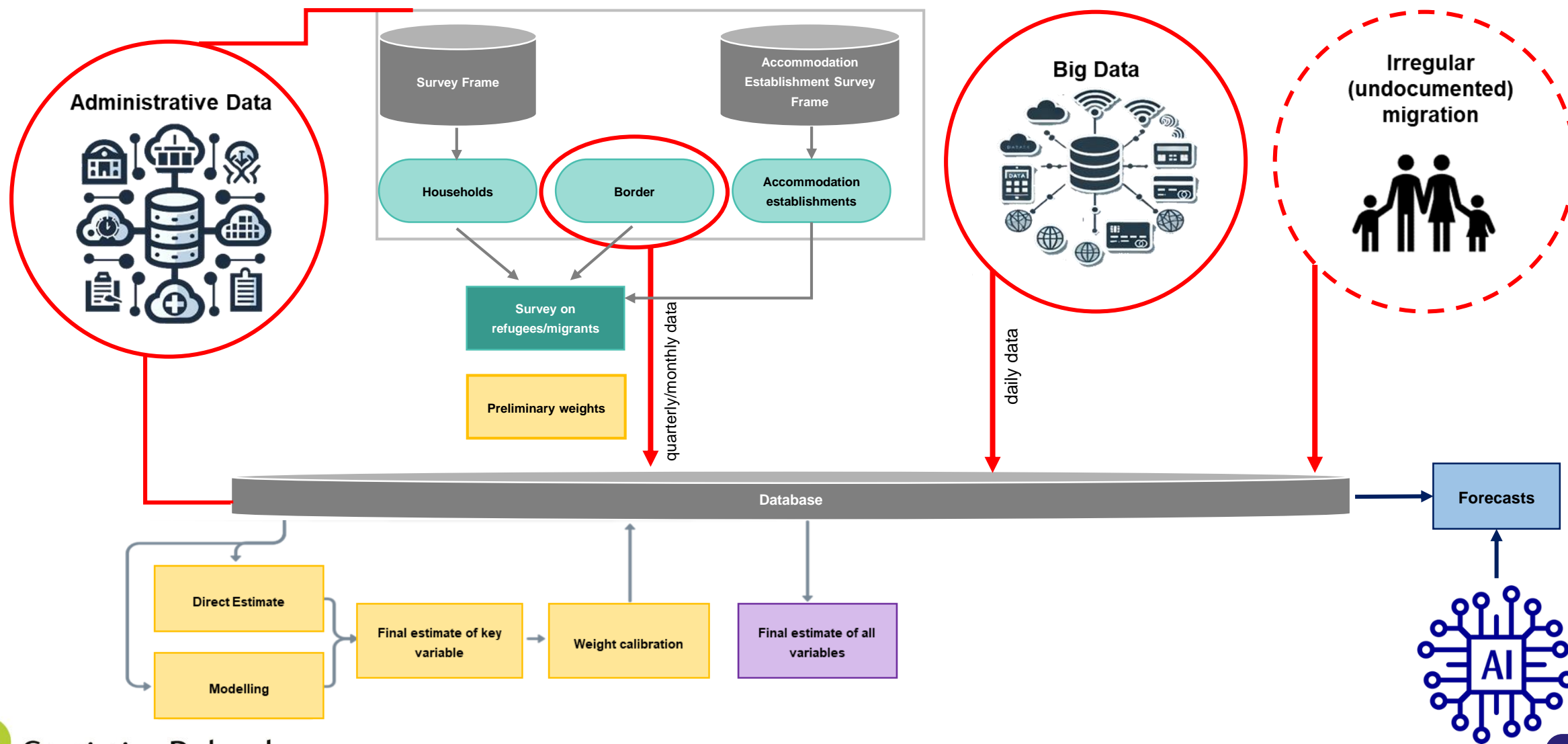
Case study from Poland

CES Plenary Session

Marek Cierpiat-Wolan, Assoc. Prof.

Integrated migration-related information system

Data integration model – real-time picture of refugees/migrants

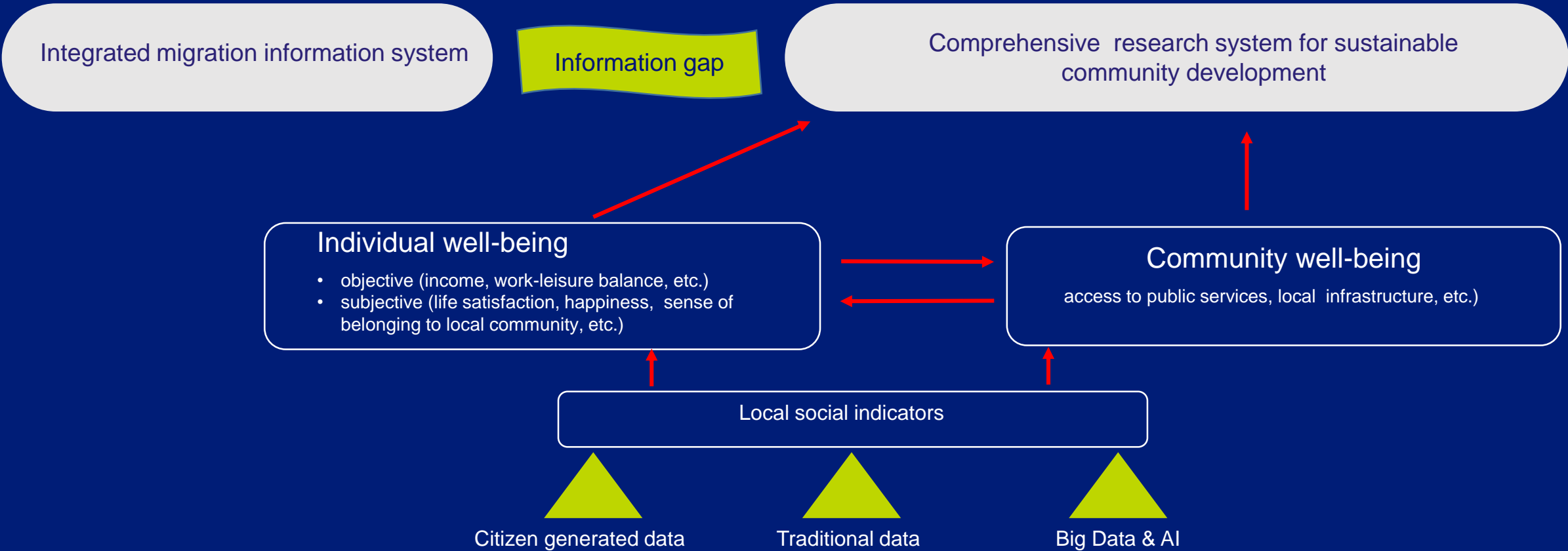


Website:

<https://healthofrefugees.stat.gov.pl>



How to make use of the integrated migration-related information system?



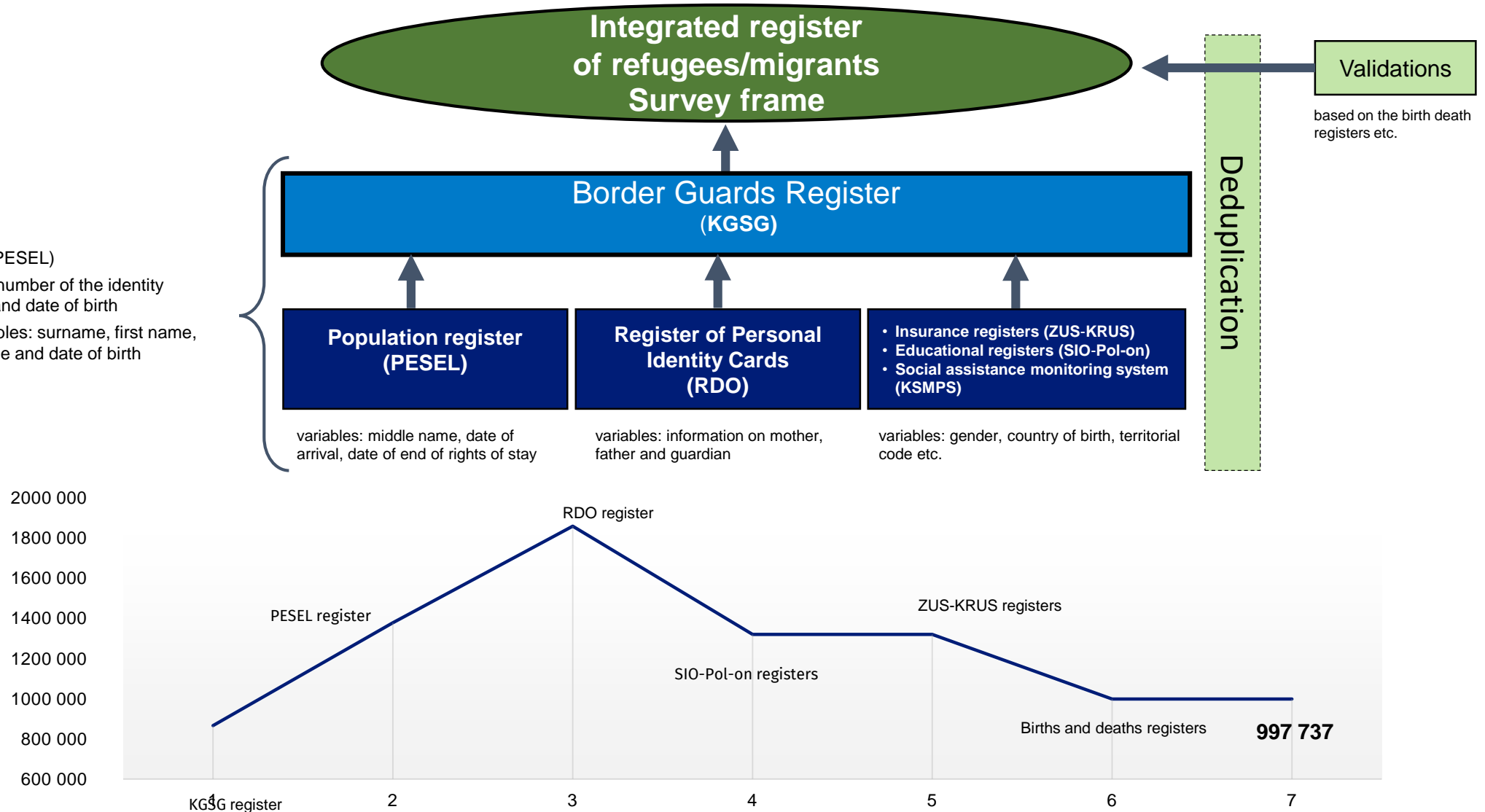
Thank you for your attention

Marek Cierpiat-Wolan, *Assoc. Prof.*

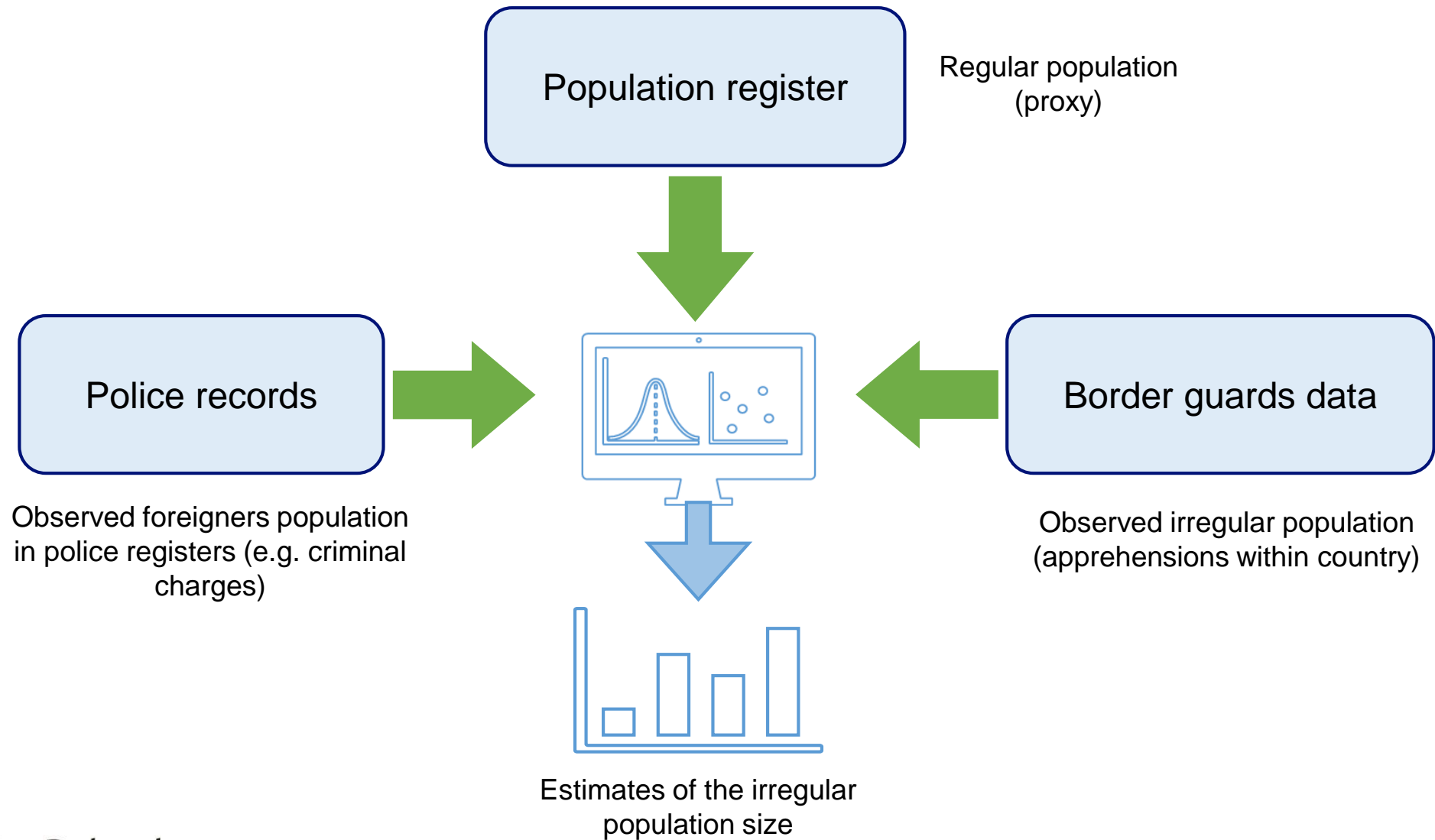
Developing integrated register of refugees/migrants

Connection key:

1. ID numer (PESEL)
2. series and number of the identity document and date of birth
3. set of variables: surname, first name, middle name and date of birth



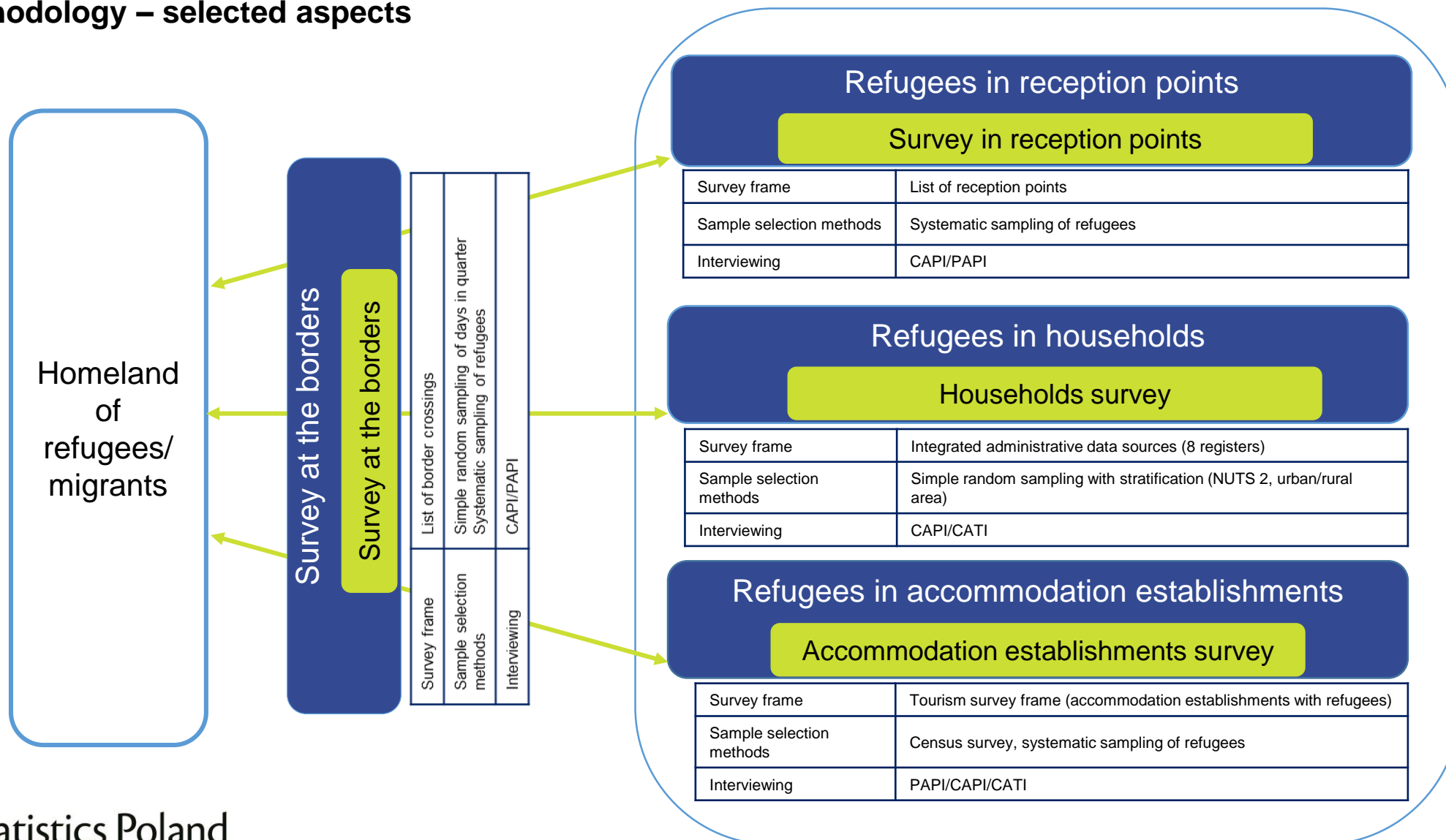
Deriving the size of irregular migration



Sample surveys

WHO and Statistics Poland

Methodology – selected aspects



Big data sources

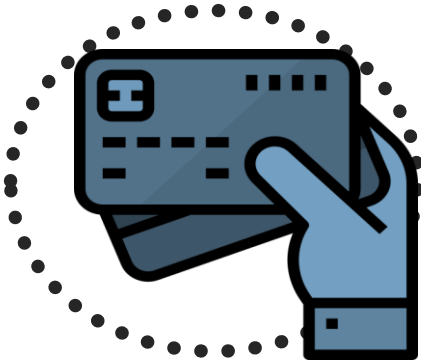
Mobile network operators

T-Mobile provides daily data



Payment/credit card operators

Samples of data



Big data Mobility model

- MNO: SIM card must be active for at least **3 hours** in a given area - multiple counting



$$y_1 = x_1$$

Two-stage procedure of estimation:

- Mobility model of SIM card users for deduplication and mobility assessment: based on the idea of the transition matrix of Markov process with parameters estimated with fixed point method
- Estimator of total number of refugees: based on MNO's market share, digital literacy by age cohorts, average SIM cards per card user, age-sex structure of refugees from administrative data

MNO data may „reveal” refugees not covered by administrative data sources.

y_i – active SIM cards with duplicates, x_i - unique active SIM cards, $p_{ij|k}^{(s)}$ - share of SIM card holders who moved in s -th step from i -th area to j -th area after visiting k -th area.

