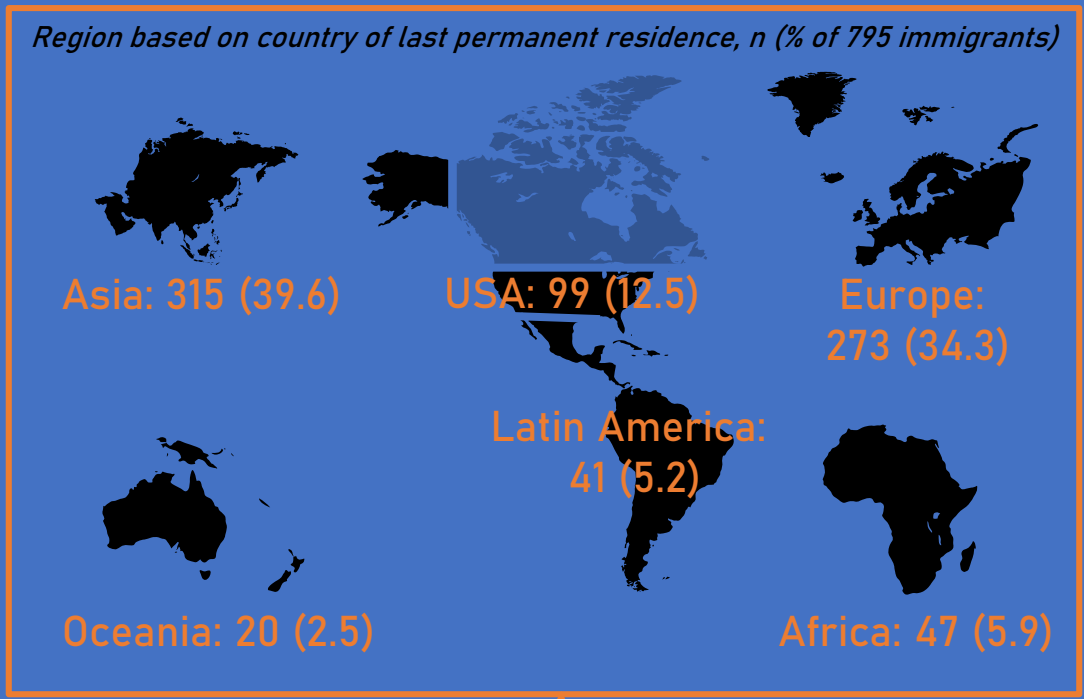


Background
Little is known about **uptake** of multiple sclerosis (MS) **disease-modifying drugs** (DMDs) by **immigrants** compared to **long-term residents**.

Objective
To describe **prescription drug** (DMD/non-DMD) **uptake** by immigrants and long-term residents with MS in a **universal health care system**.

Methods
All MS cases in British Columbia (BC), Canada identified using **health administrative data**.
Observational period: 1-January-1996 until 31-December-2012
Follow-up period: 1st MS or demyelinating event until earliest of death, emigration from BC, or study end
Immigrant definition: Persons becoming a Canadian permanent resident 1985–2012
Drug uptake: Captured as prescriptions filled

Cohort characteristics
16,739 MS cases identified; 795 (5%) were immigrants.
Mean **age** (standard deviation [SD]) at study entry
▪ of immigrants 39.5 years (11.5)
▪ of long-term residents 44.9 years (13.4).
Women: 70% of immigrants and 72% of long-term residents.
Mean **follow-up time** (study entry to end)
▪ of immigrants: 6.4 (SD 4.8) years
▪ of long-term residents: 9.7 (SD 5.8) years.



Multiple sclerosis disease-modifying drug use in immigrants vs long-term residents

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