

Polish immigrants in the socioeconomic landscape of Reykjavik

Kolbeinn Stefánsson

Presentation for the intercultural council

29.1.2024

Data

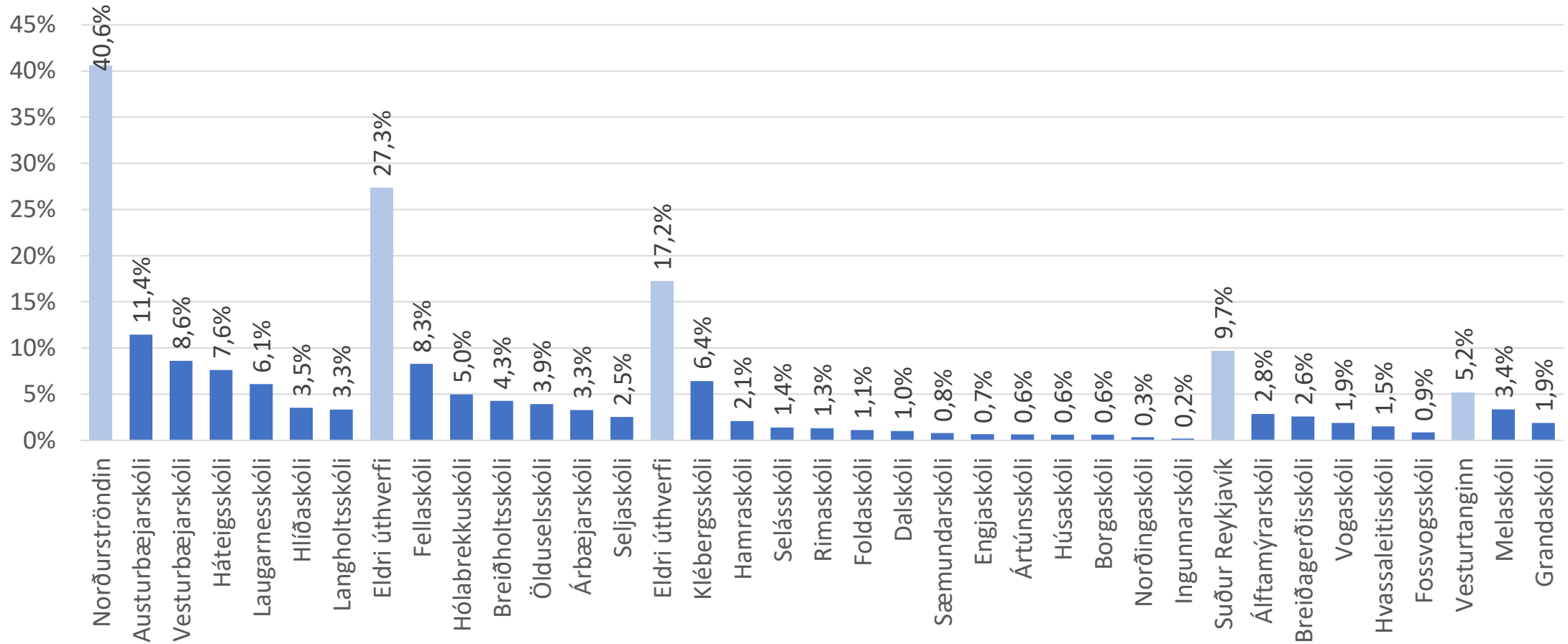
- Administrative data from Statistics Iceland
- All people with residence in Reykjavik and neighbouring municipalities at the end of each year 2000 to 2020
- Information about such things as incomes, property, debt, education, origins and family types

Theories

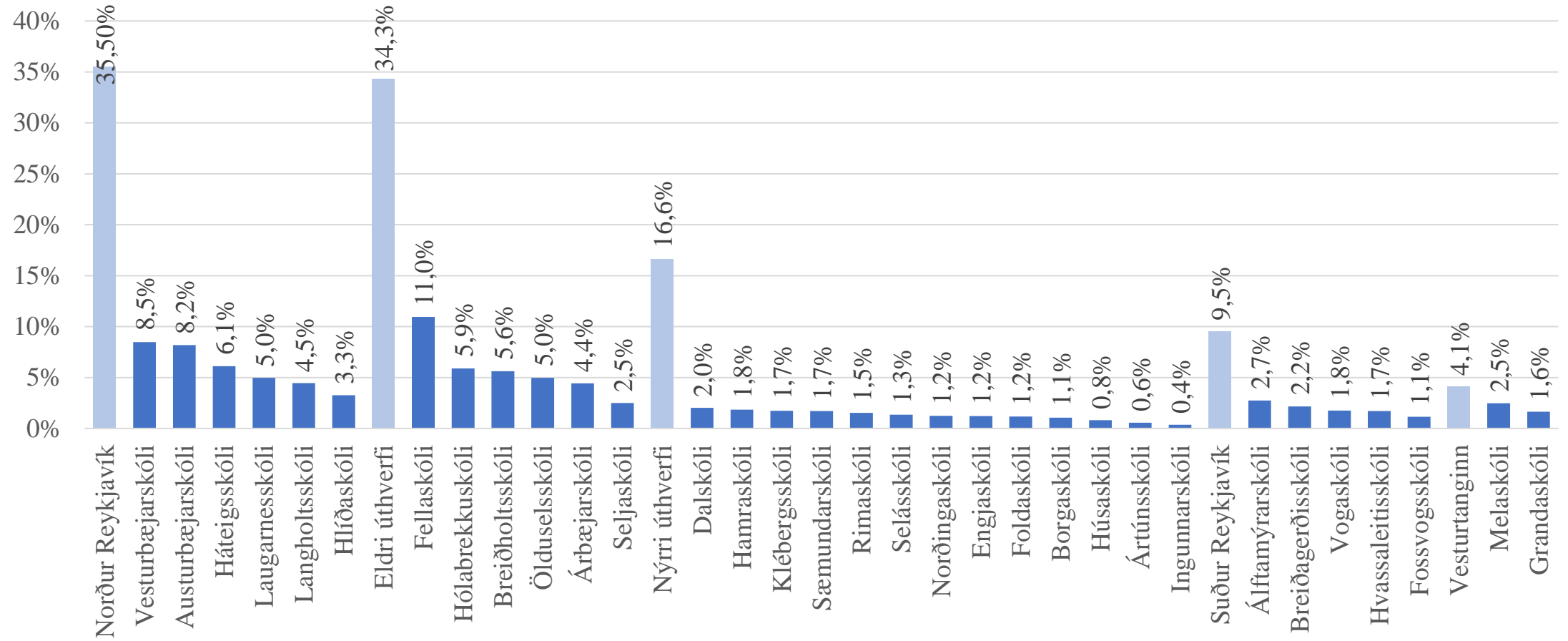
- Immigrants with the same origin tend to cluster in particular (often low income) areas
- Classical assimilation theory
 - The longer they stay they tend to diffuse into the general population
- Selective assimilation
 - Immigrants may have a preference for coethnics that prevents residential diffusion
- Discrimination

Polish immigrants in Iceland

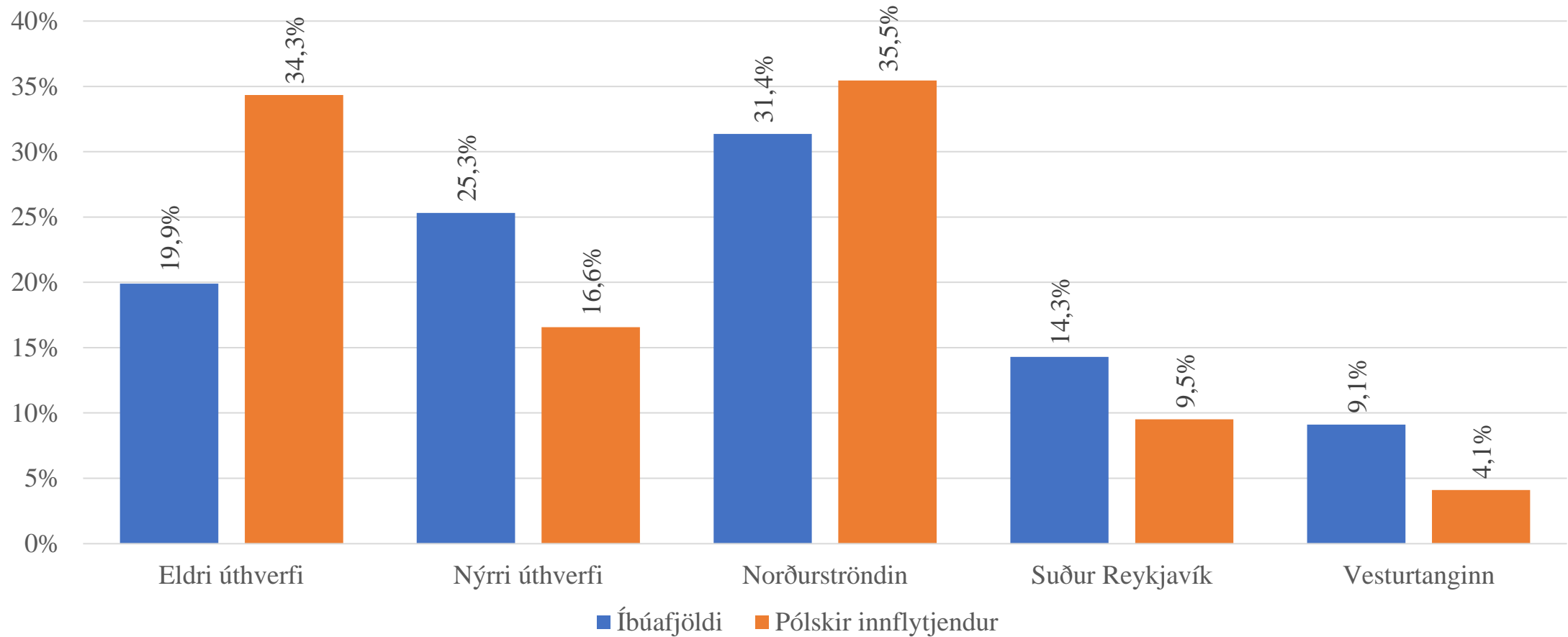
First address of Polish immigrants in Reykjavík between 2001 and 2020



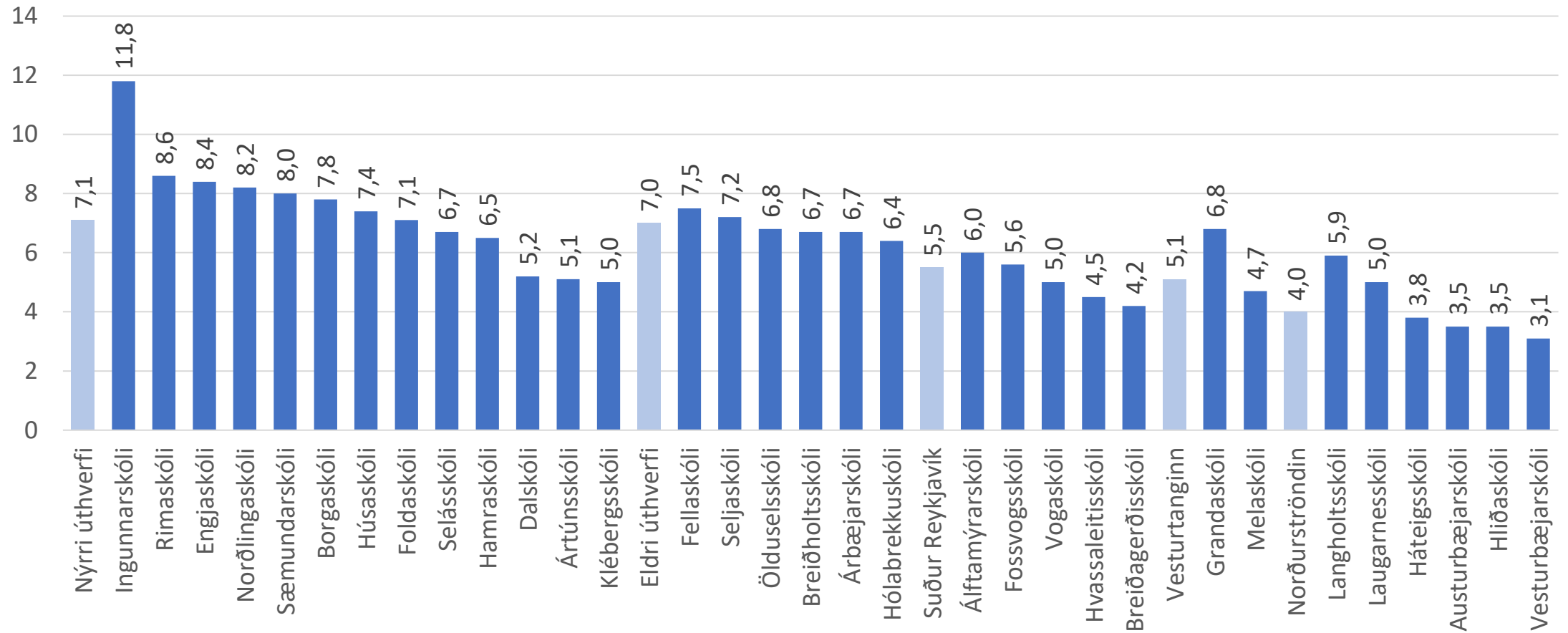
Distribution of Polish immigrants in Reykjavik in 2020



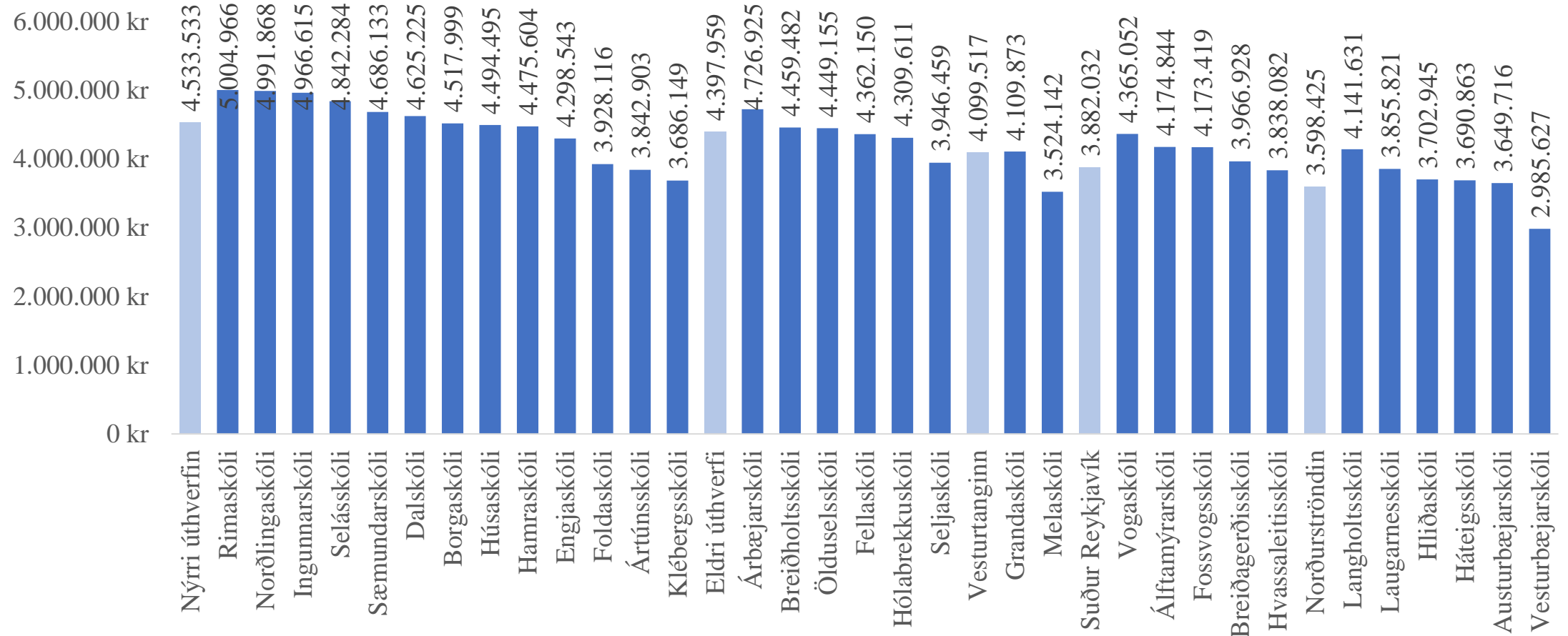
Under- and overrepresentation of Polish immigrant in larger areas within Reykjavik in 2020



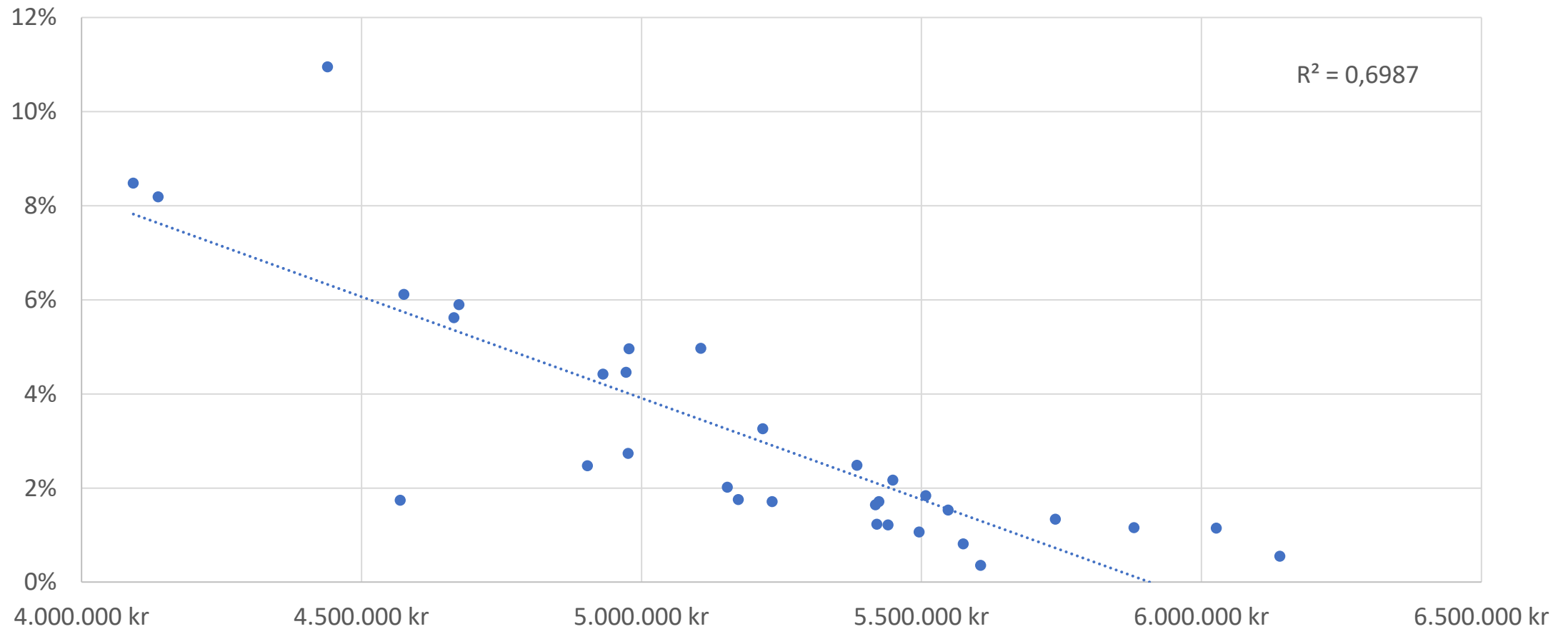
Average number of years since moving to Iceland by school catchments and larger areas in Reykjavik in 2020



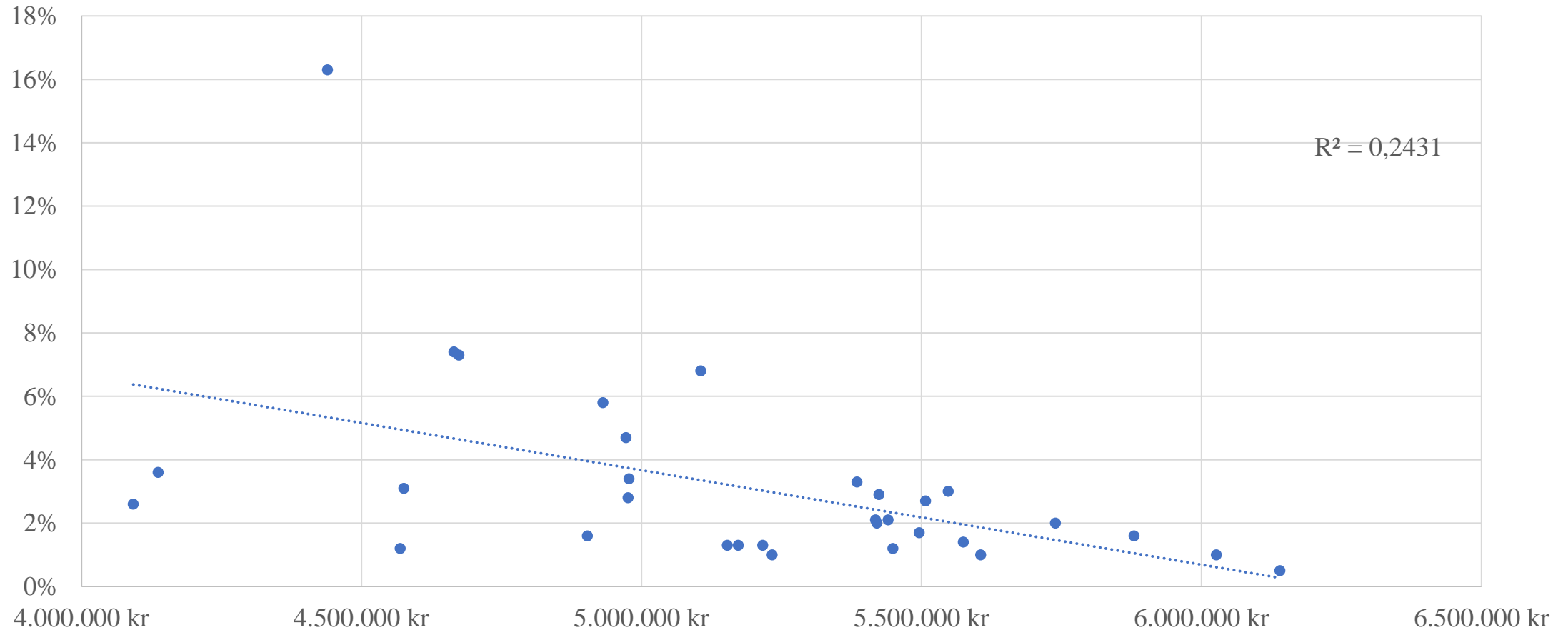
Median income of Polish immigrants by school catchments in Reykjavik in 2020



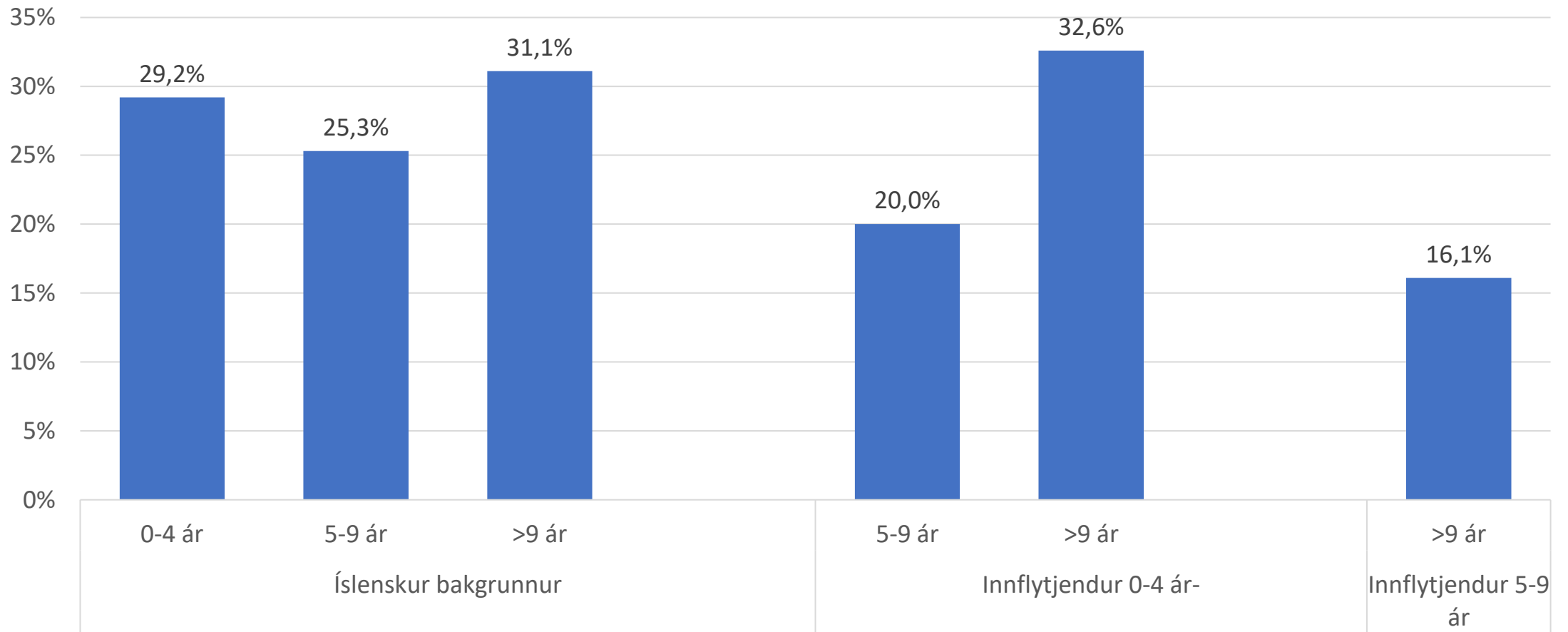
Correlation between median income of school catchments and the proportion of Polish immigrants



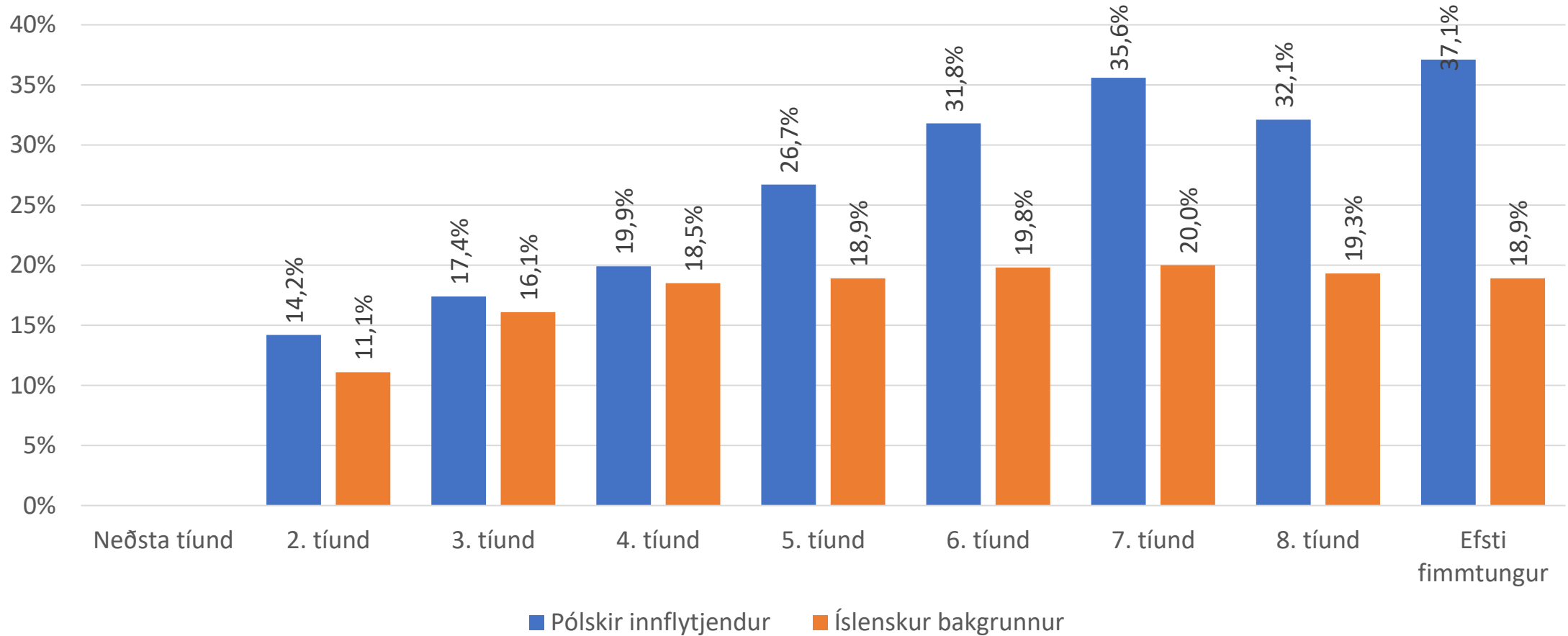
Correlation between median income of school catchments and the proportion of Polish immigrants with 10 or more years in Iceland



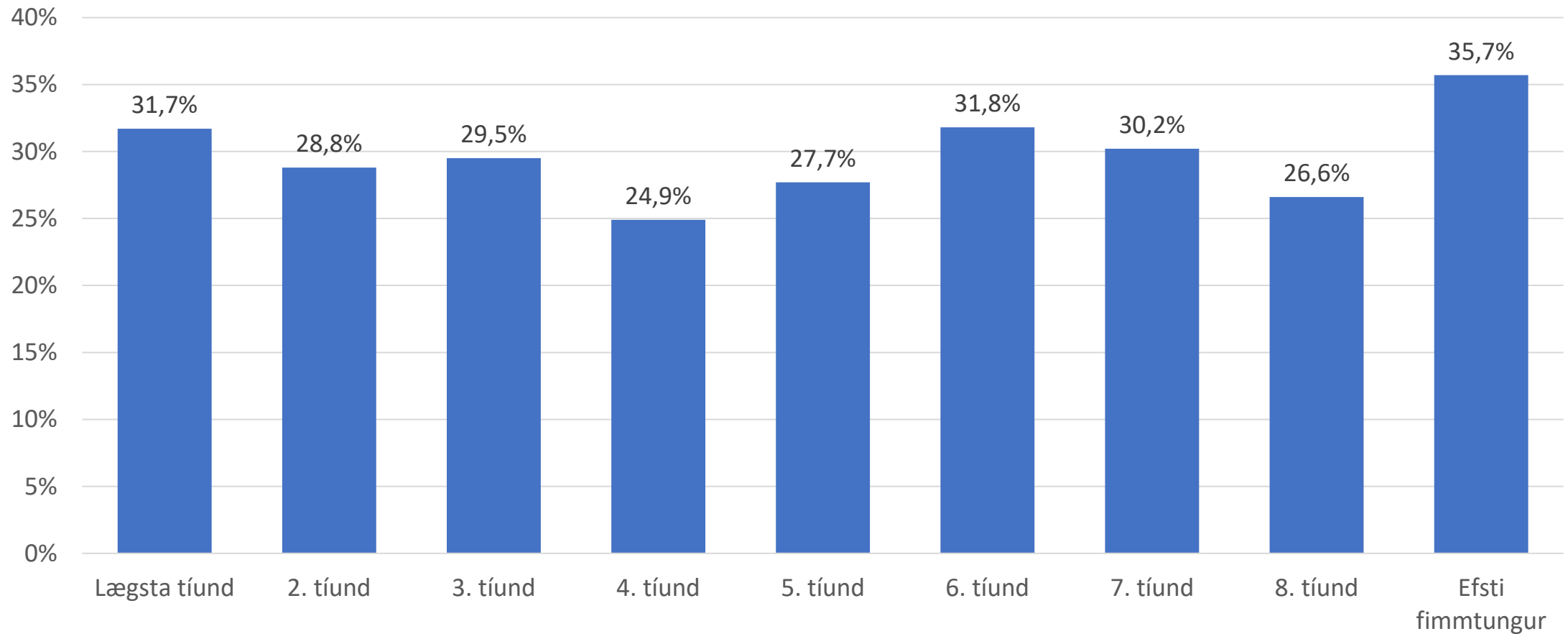
Dissimilarity index. Comparing residential patterns of Polish immigrants by length of stay to people with an Icelandic background (excluding 2nd gen.)



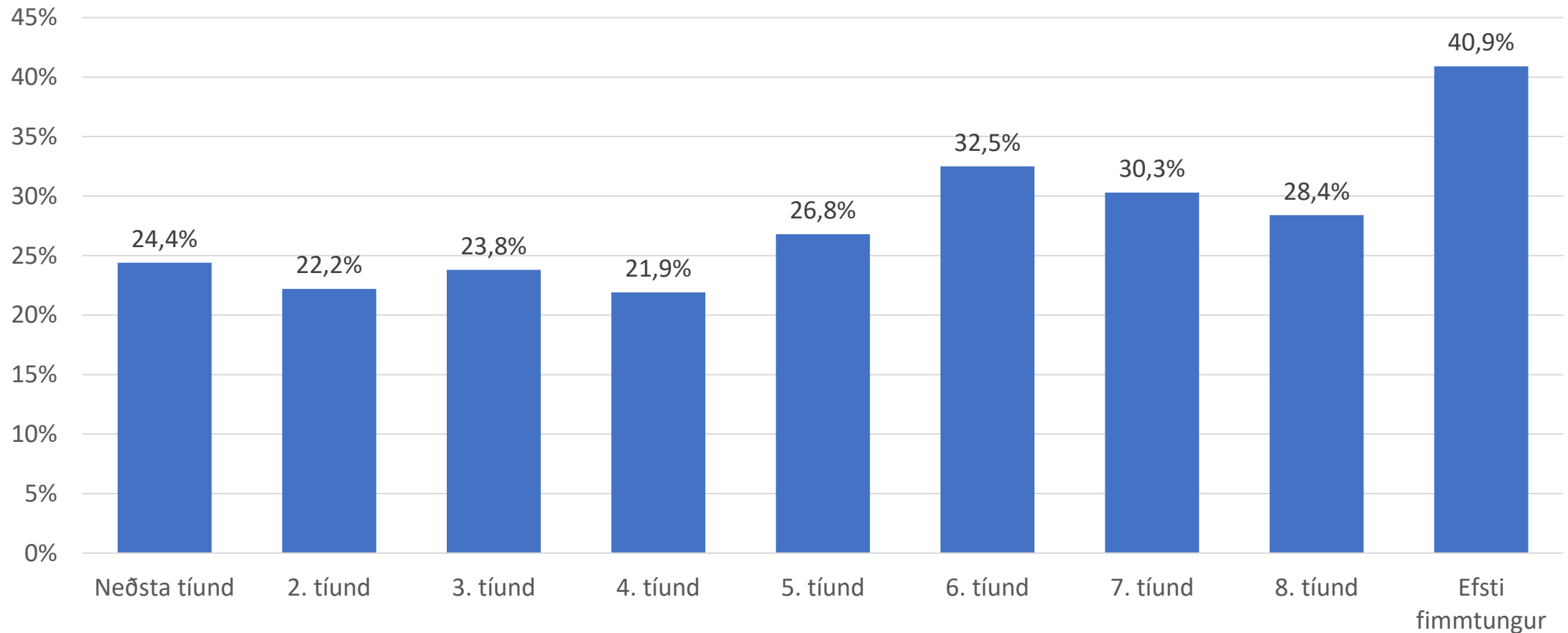
Dissimilarity index. Comparing residential patterns between different income groups by origin in 2020



Dissimilarity index. Comparing residential patterns of Polish immigrants in different income groups to people with an Icelandic background from all income groups



Dissimilarity index. Comparing the residential patterns of Polish immigrants in different income groups to people with an Icelandic background in the same income group in 2020



The situation

- Two Polish populations
 - North-west: Less affluent, shorter stay/more turnover, more likely to be single/childless
 - Old suburbs: Somewhat more affluent, longer stay more likely to have families
 - Some diffusion into the newer suburbs among highest income/longest duration members of the group
 - High income polish immigrants diffuse into middle income areas
- What is going on?
 - Older suburbs as an intermediate step?
 - Preferences for coethnics?
 - Housing discrimination?
 - Social strategies?

Questions?
Comments?