

# Internal migration in PNG: 2009-2010

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# Why is internal migration important?

- Internal migration is a natural part of the development process
  - Supply of labour away from low productivity production to high productivity production.
  - Enabling economic growth and higher incomes (and better income diversification) for internal migrants.
- But internal migration is a symptom of unequal economic growth or access / quality of service delivery across geographic areas.
  - Rural to urban migration driven by poor opportunities and service delivery in remote areas
- Need to understand the drivers of urban migration in order to manage the inflow of people to cities and towns.
- Urban poverty is likely to become more of a problem in PNG.

# Research questions

- How to define internal migrants?
- What is the prevalence of internal migrants across PNG?
  - Where they reside
  - Where they come from
- What are the characteristics of internal migrants?
  - Age, years since migration, education, health, welfare
- Is there evidence of internal migrants contributing to urban poverty?
- What can we say about the drivers of internal migration?
  - Difficult to say much with cross-section data but there are indicators.

# Two definitions of internal migrants:

**(1) Narrow definition:** Individuals that reside in a province that is different to their province of birth

Example: an NCD resident born in the Eastern Highlands is defined as a migrant.

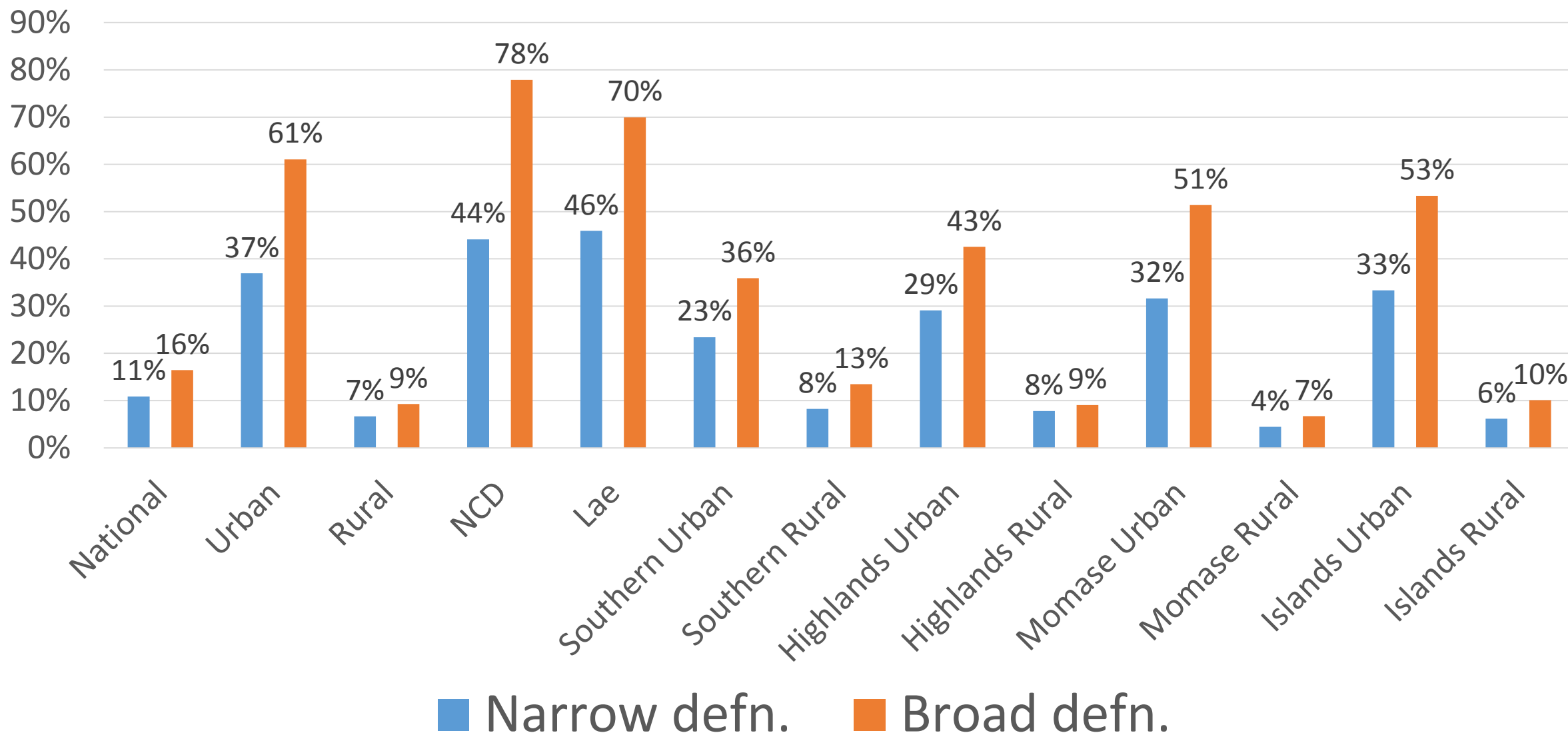
**(2) Broad definition:** Narrow definition PLUS all blood relatives in the same household of the family Head if the family Head is a migrant (based on the narrow definition).

Example: if this same NCD resident (born in the Eastern Highlands) has children living in the same household then the children are defined as migrants, even if they were born in NCD.

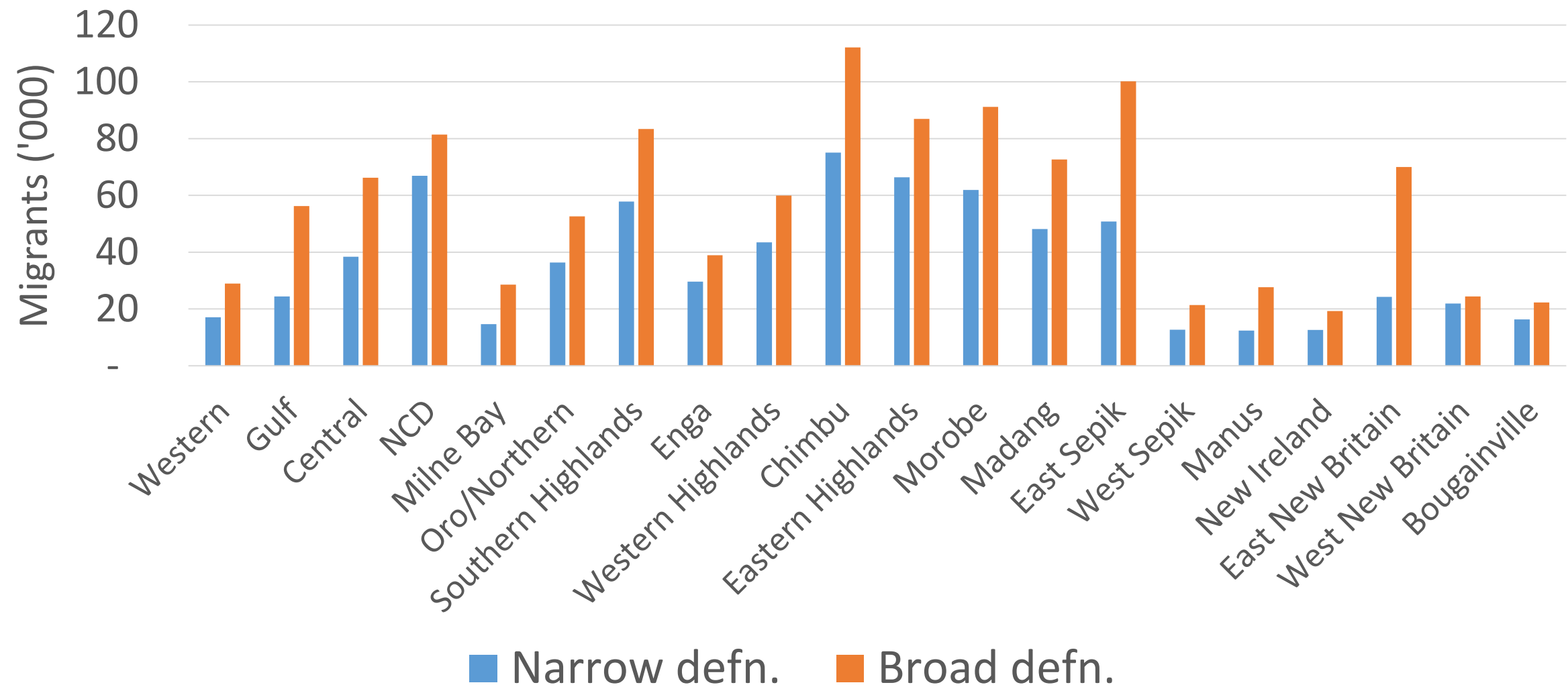
# Data: PNG Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2009-10 (HIES)

- Nationally representative survey covering 4,191 households
- Household level information:
  - Housing, ownership of consumer durables, non-food consumption, access to public services
- Person level information:
  - Age, sex, education, health, employment status, income, consumption expenditure, personal security, as well as anthropometric data for children under 7 (height, weight).
- Two-stage stratified cluster sample design
  - Strata: NCD, Lae, Southern Urban, Southern Rural, Highlands Urban, Highlands Rural, Momase Urban, Momase Rural, Islands Urban, Islands Rural

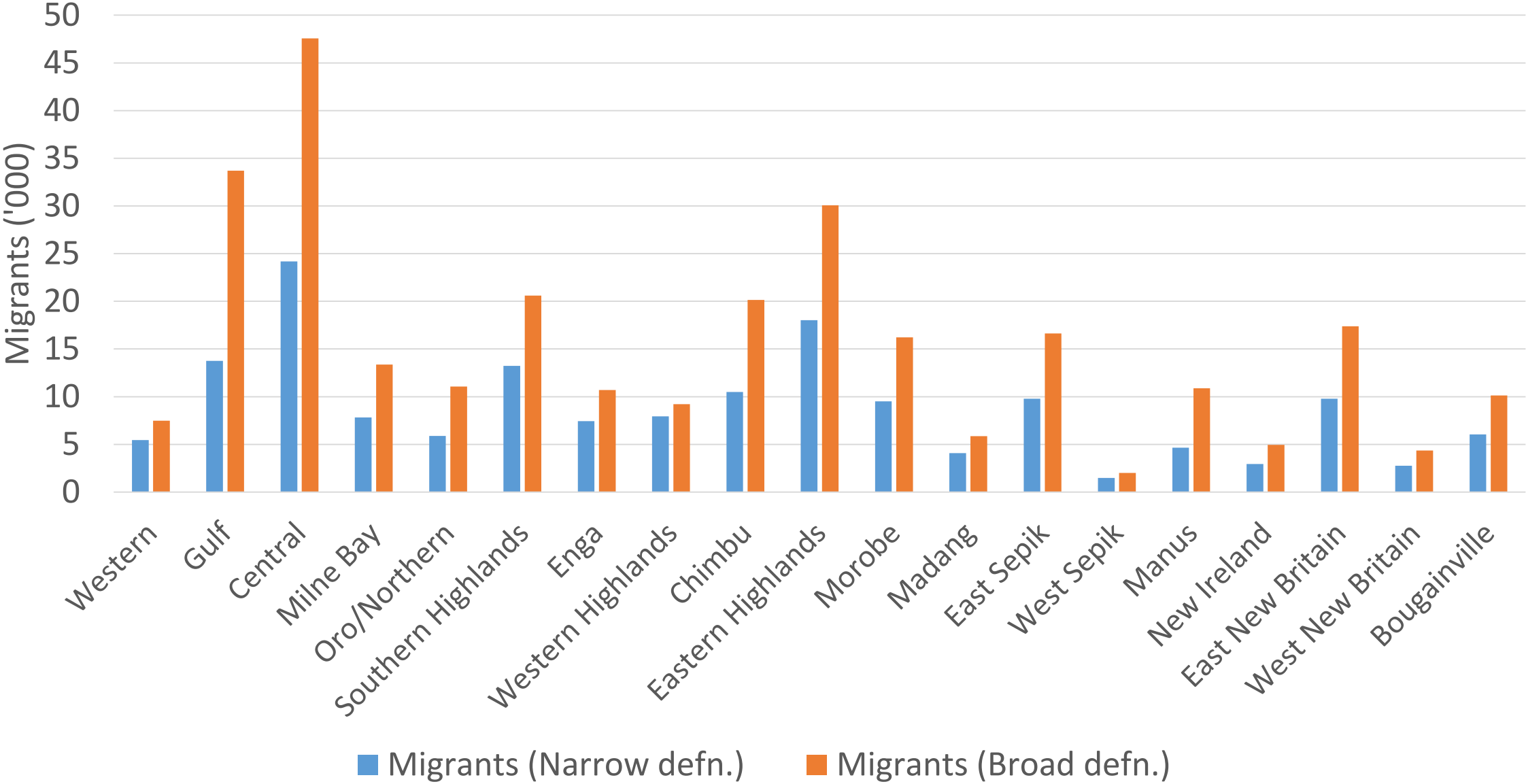
# Share of migrants by current residence



# Migrant population by province of birth

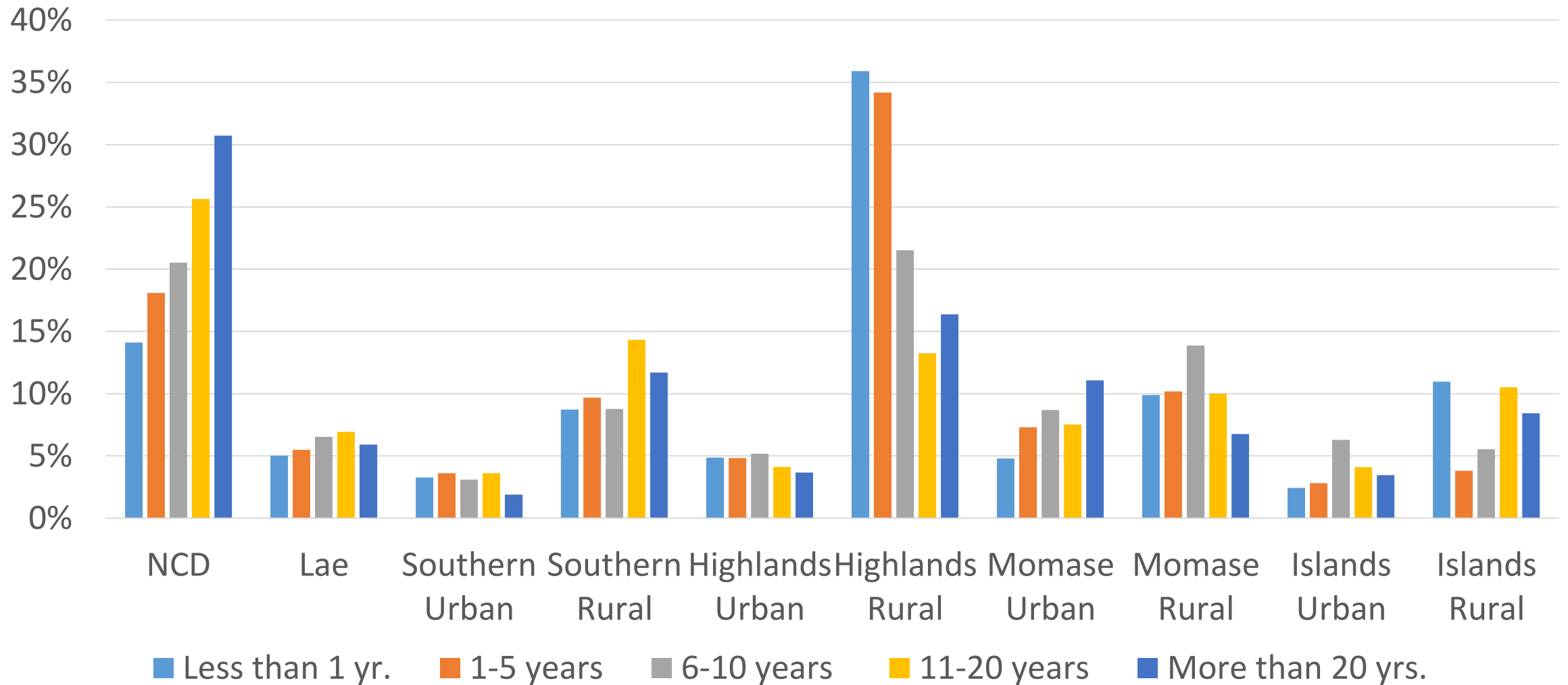


# Migrant population in NCD by province of birth

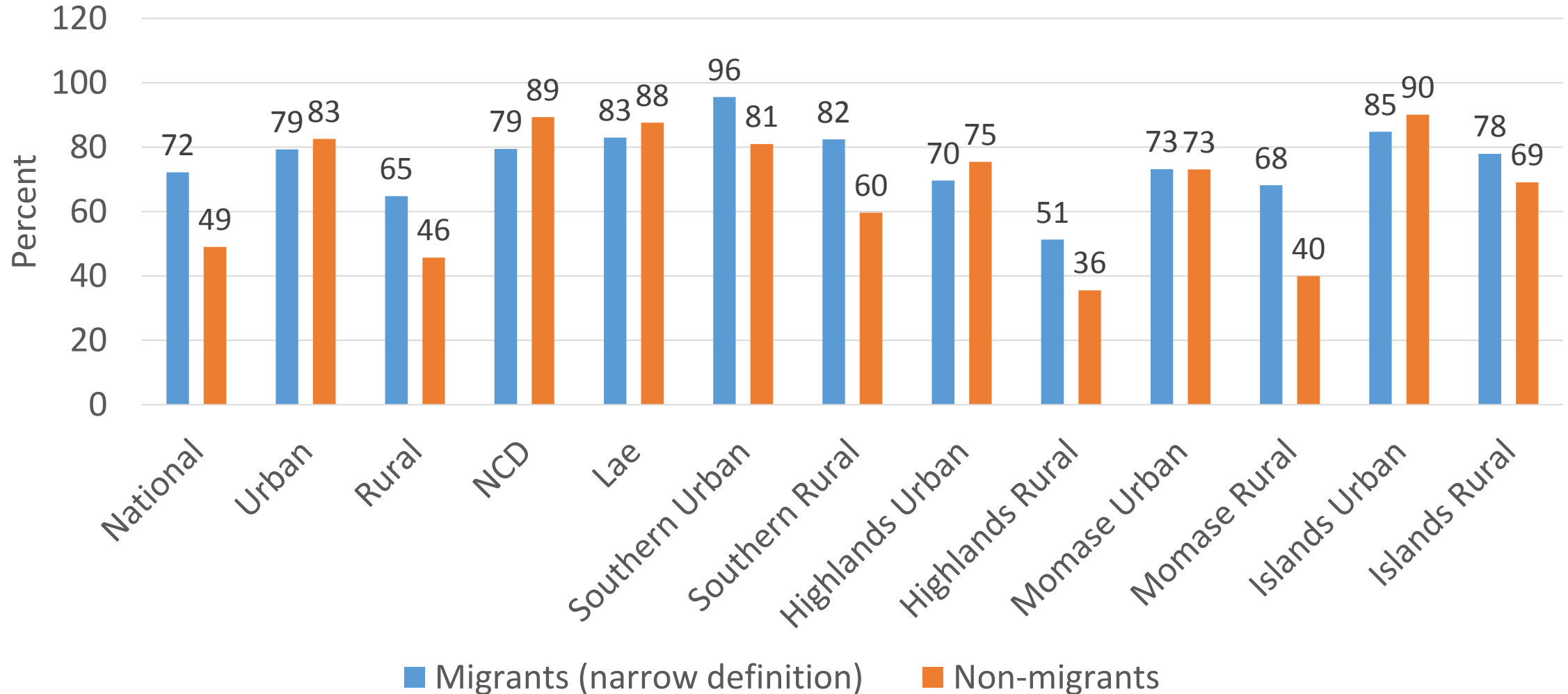




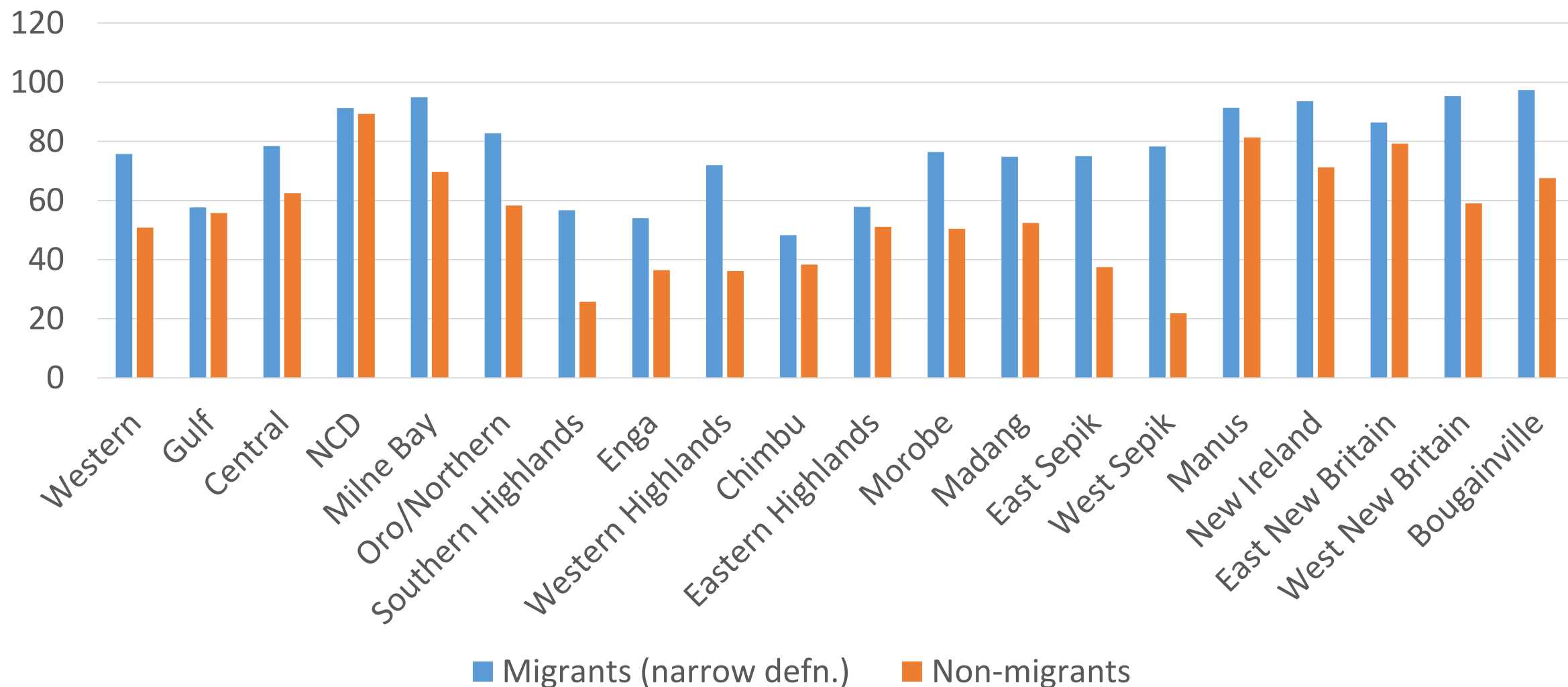
# Share of migrants across current residence by years since migration (narrow definition)



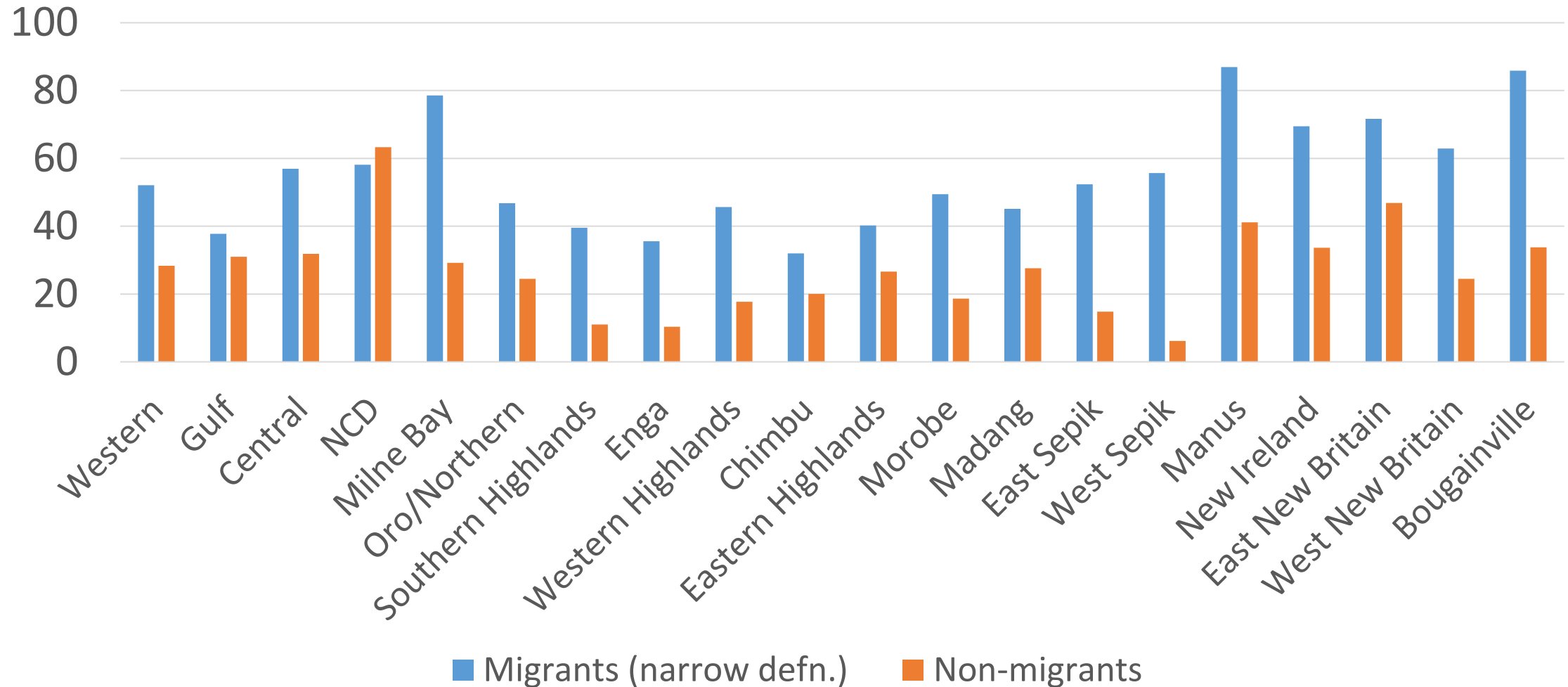
# Share of literate population (read and write) by area of current residence



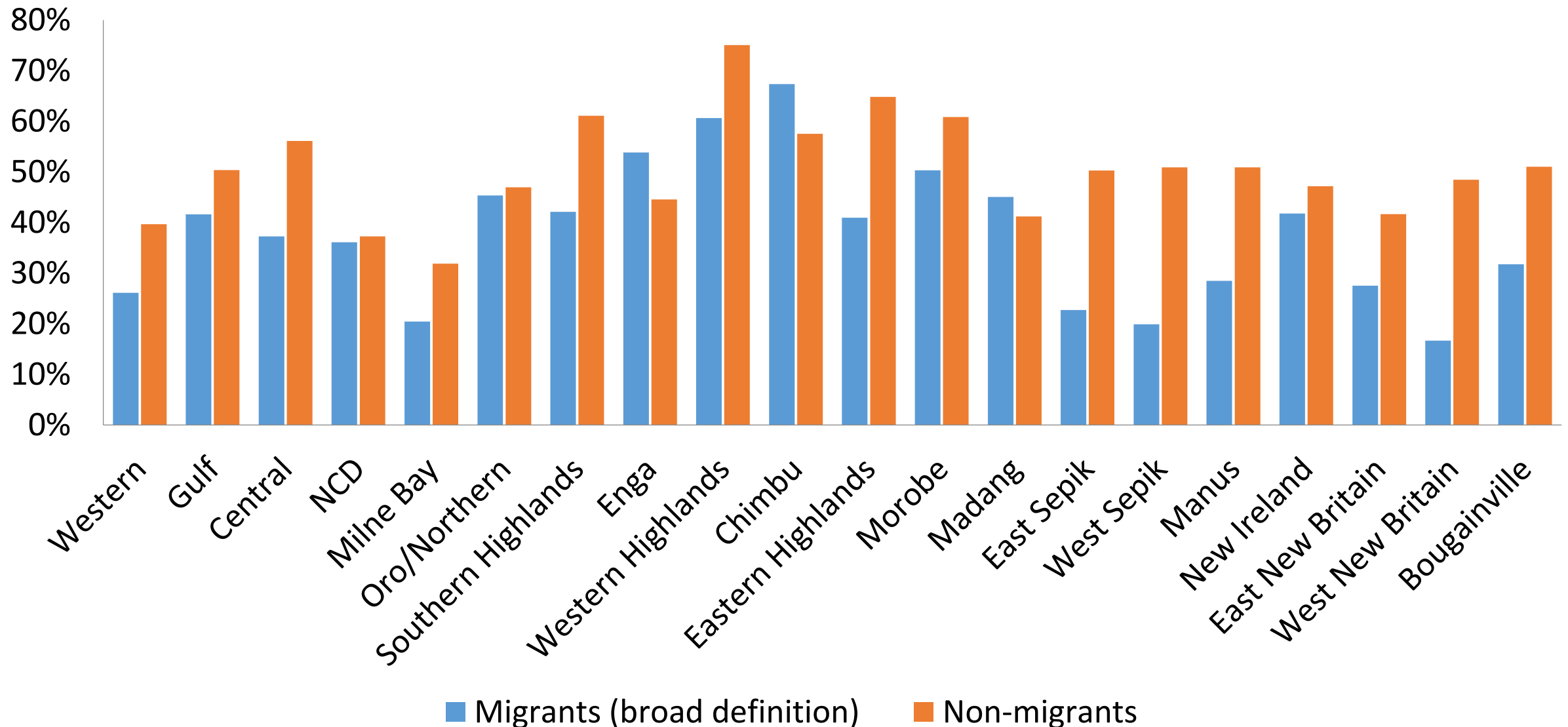
# Share of literate population (read and write) by province of birth



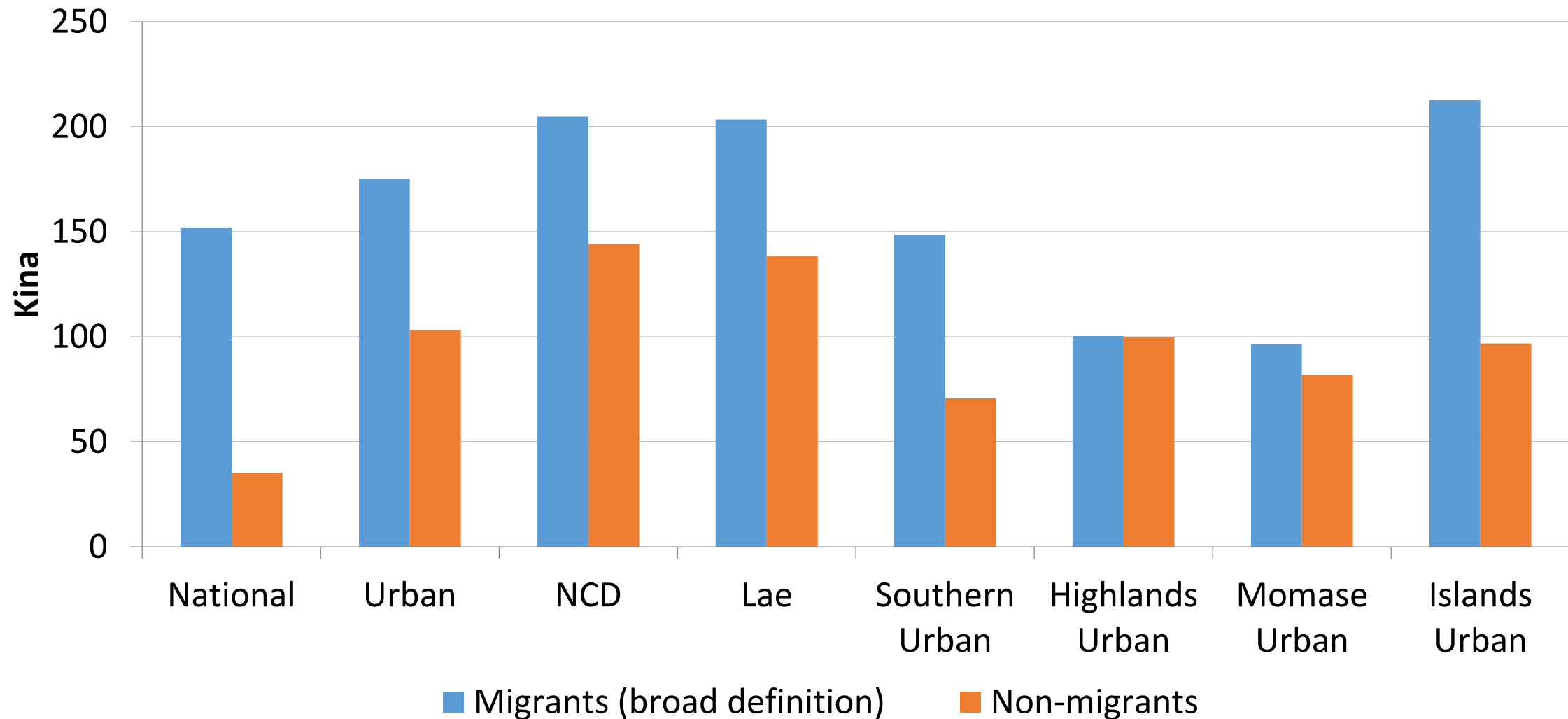
# Share of people who have completed primary school and above by province of birth



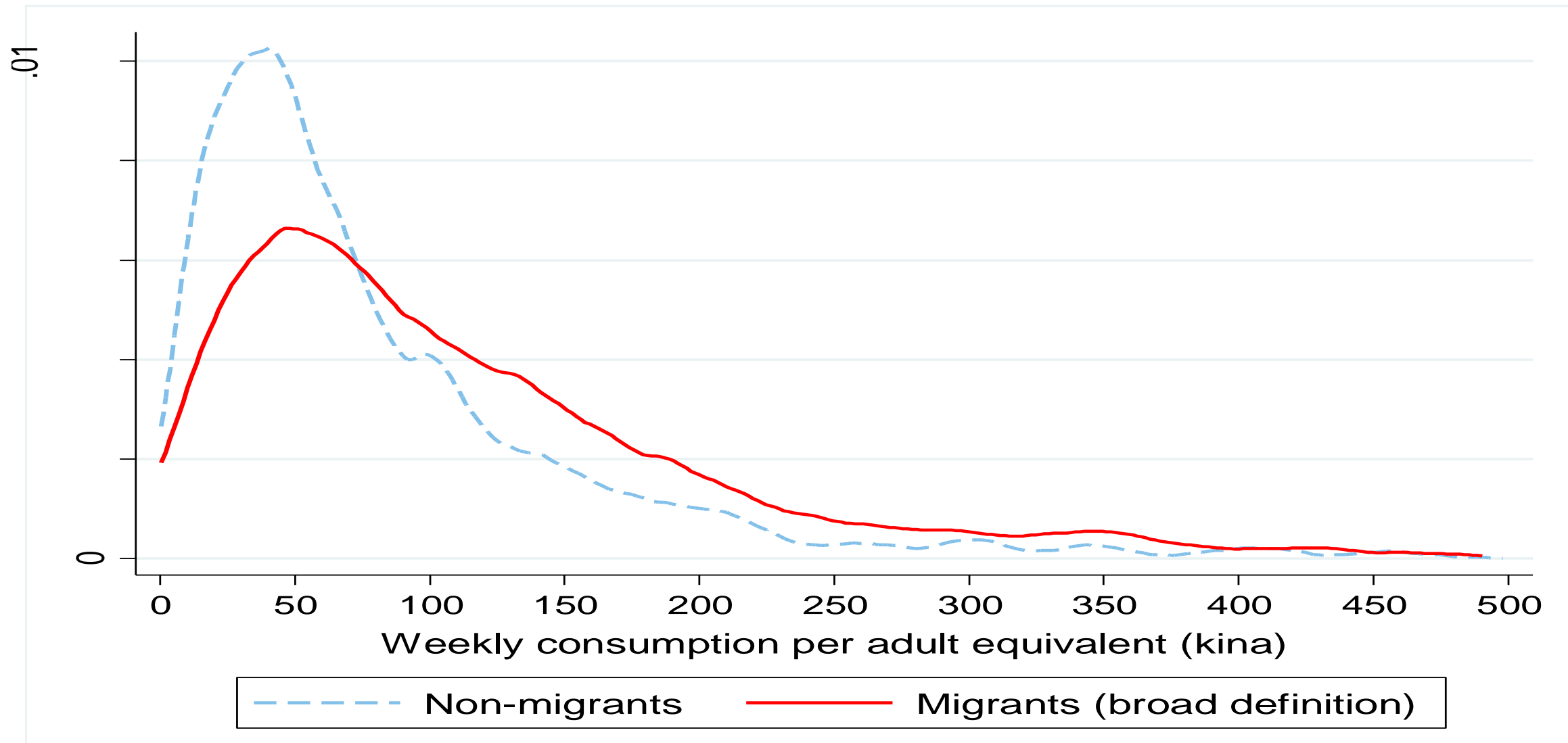
# Share of stunting (0-6 years of age) by province of birth



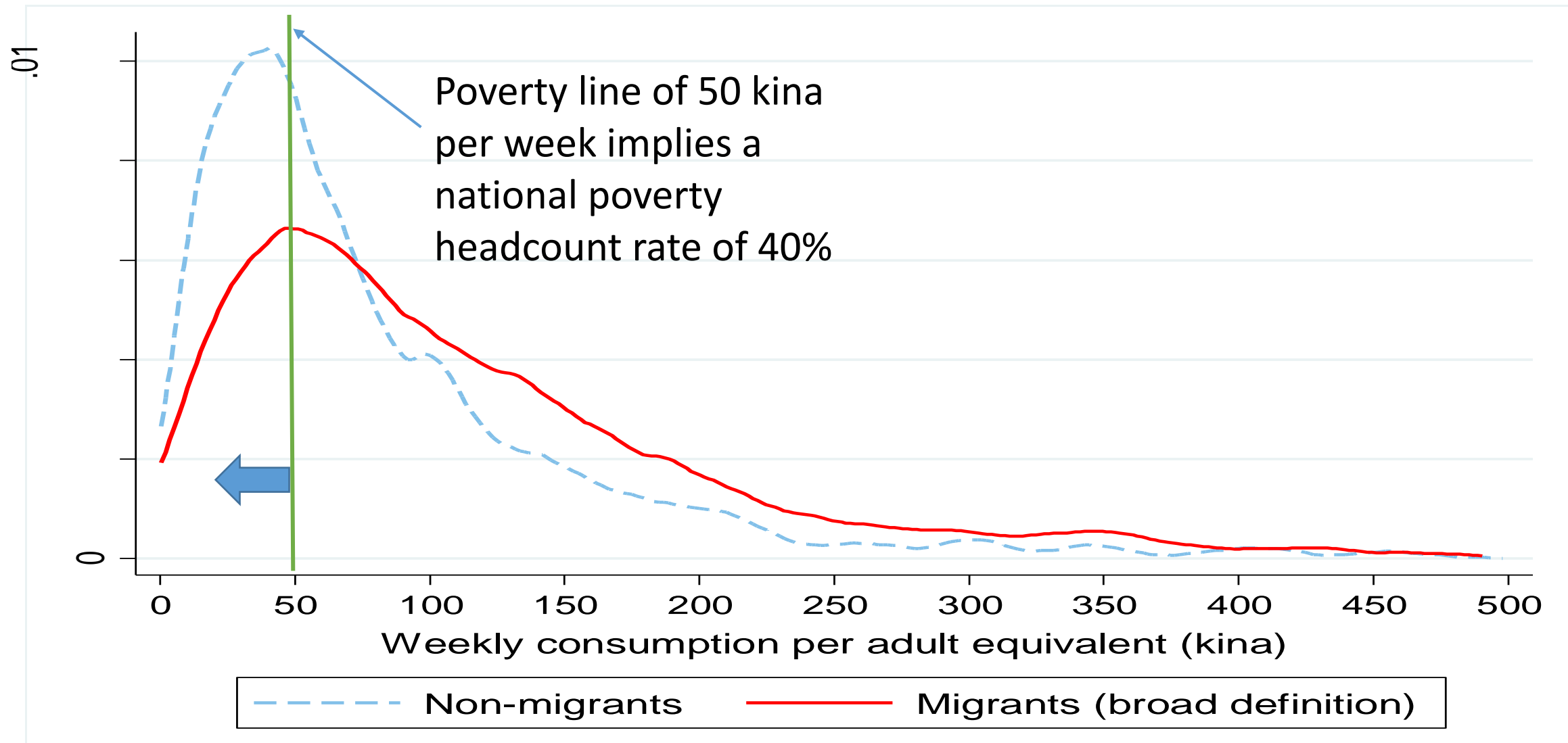
# Weekly income per adult equivalent (kina) by area of residence



# Kernel density of weekly consumption expenditure per adult equivalent at the national level

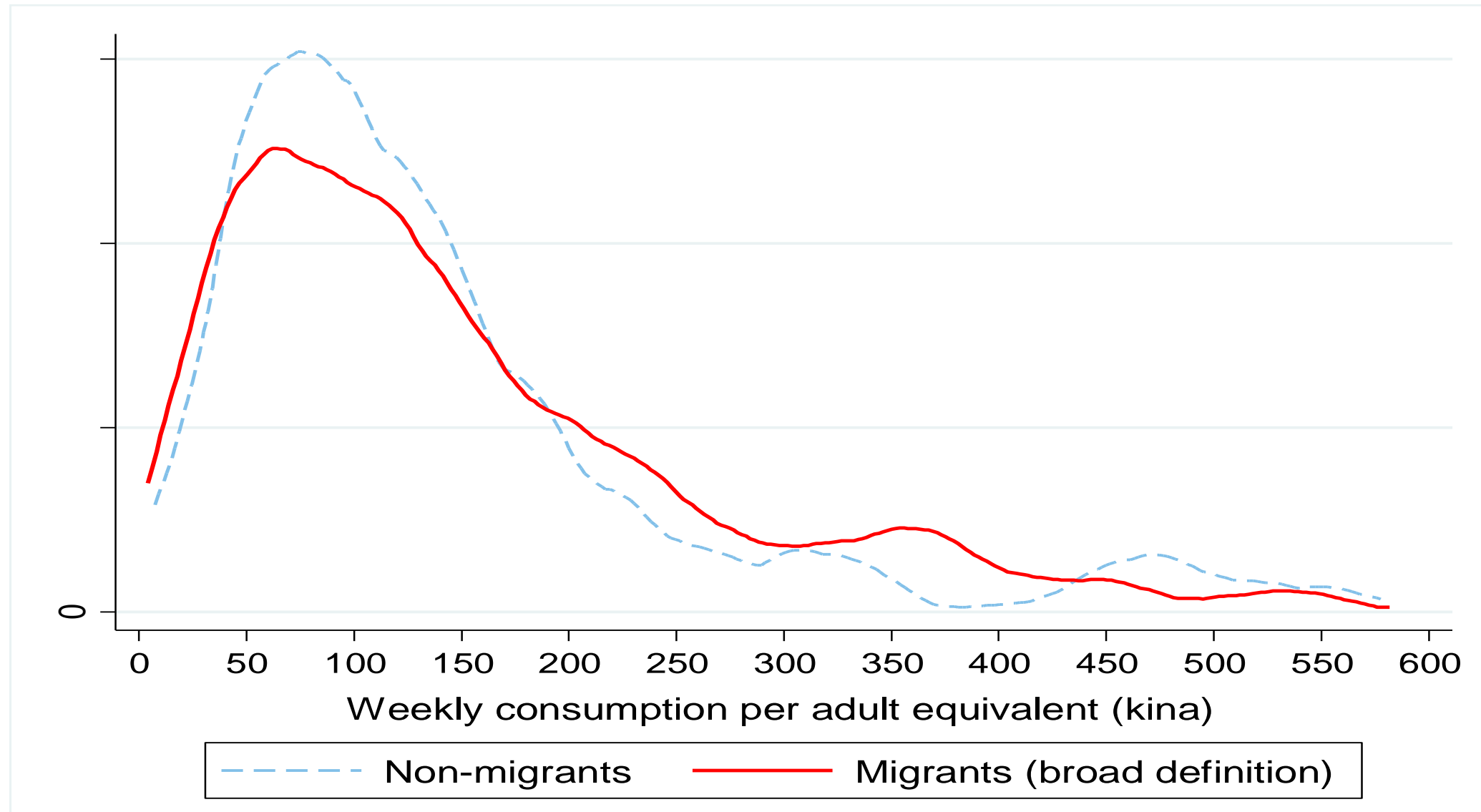


A national poverty headcount rate of 40% implies a poverty headcount rate of 26% for migrants

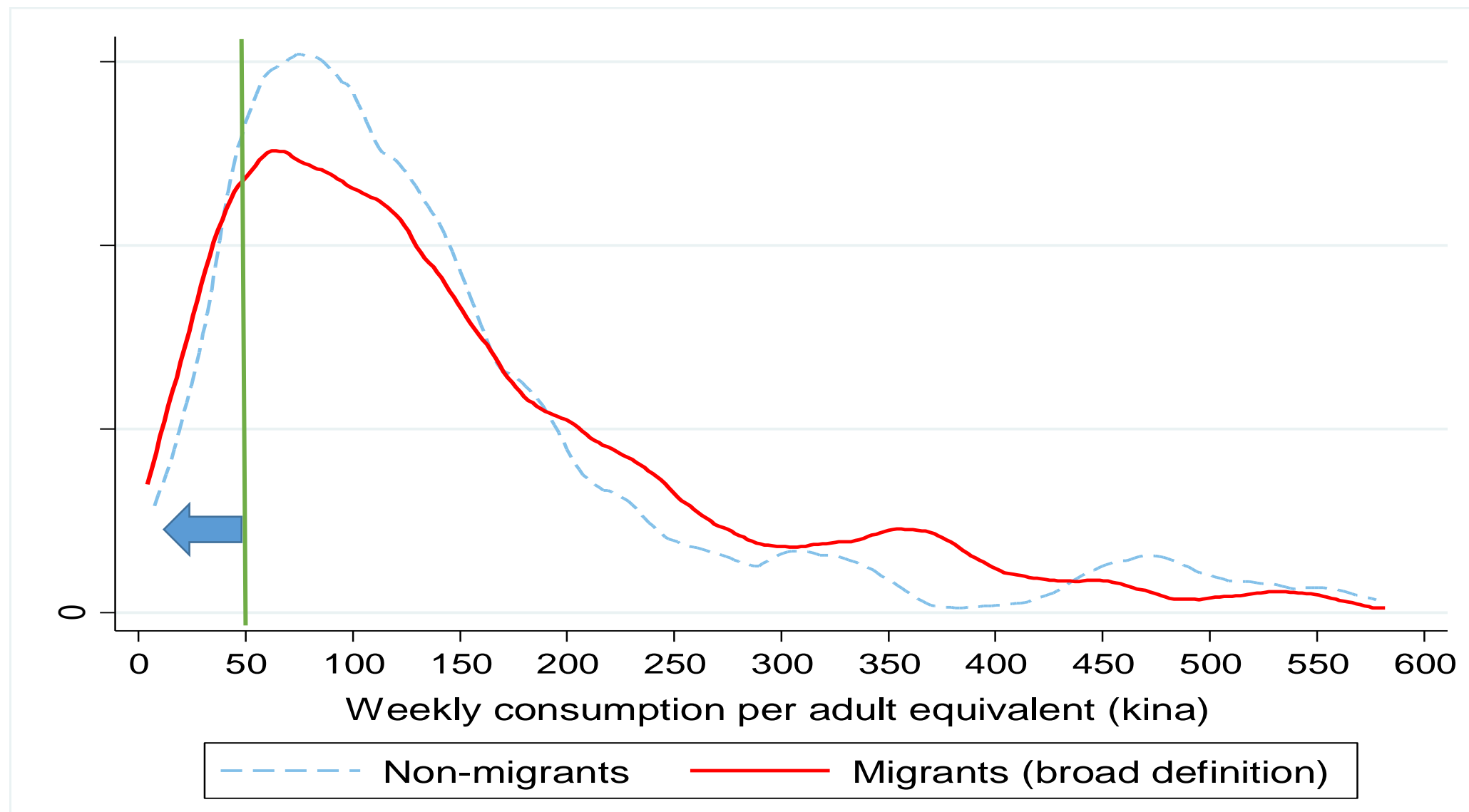




# Kernel density of weekly consumption expenditure per adult equivalent in NCD

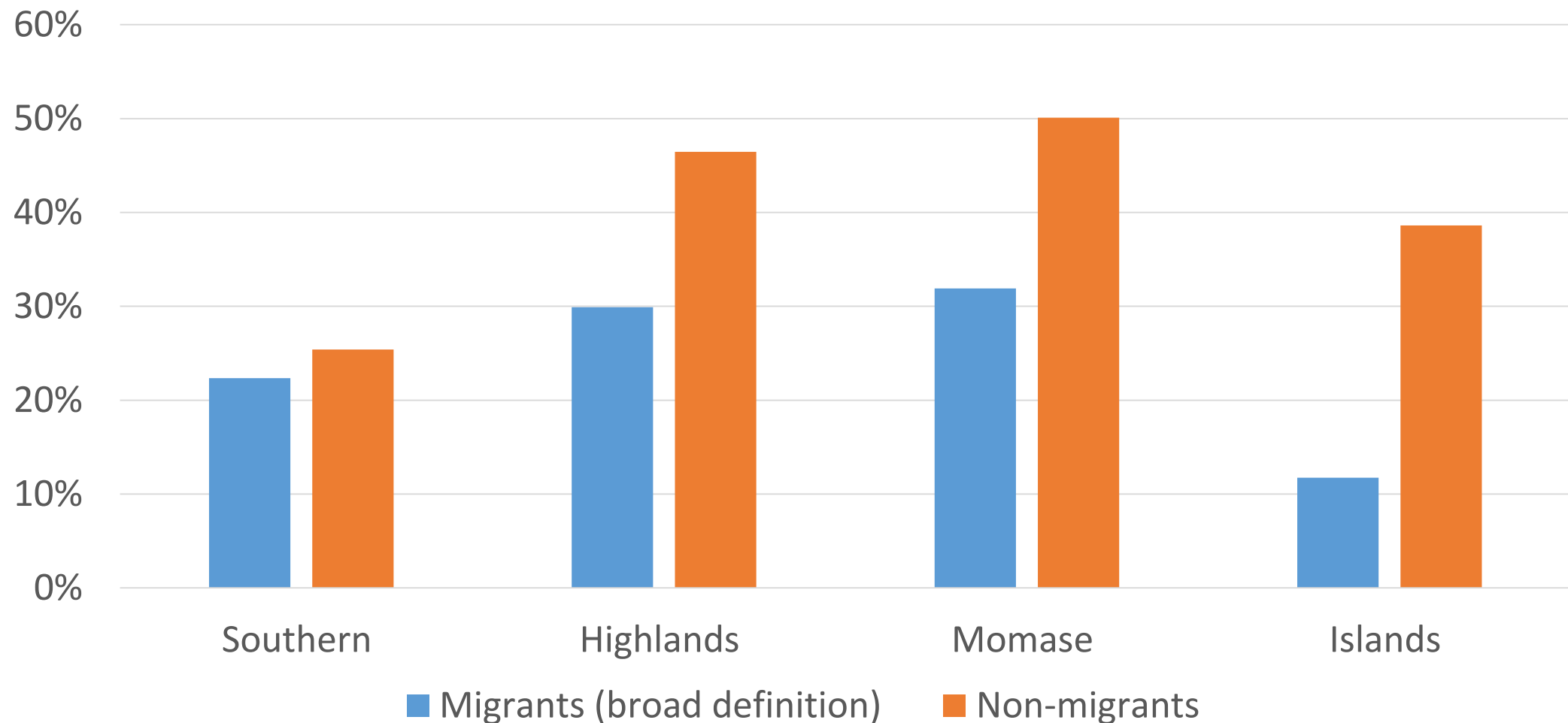


National headcount poverty at 40% implies headcount poverty at 16% for migrants in NCD and 11% for non-migrants in NCD

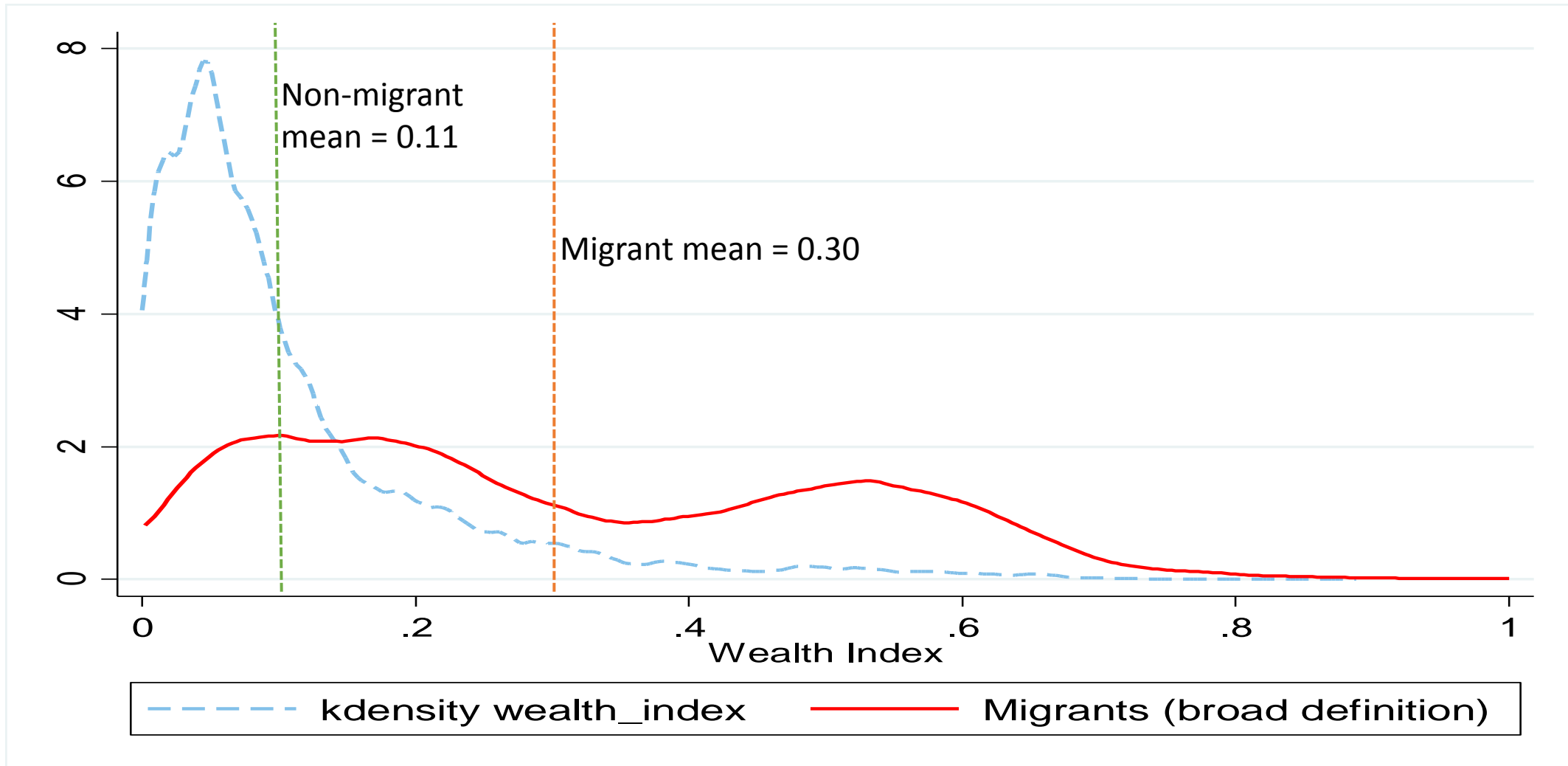


# Poverty headcount rate by region of birth

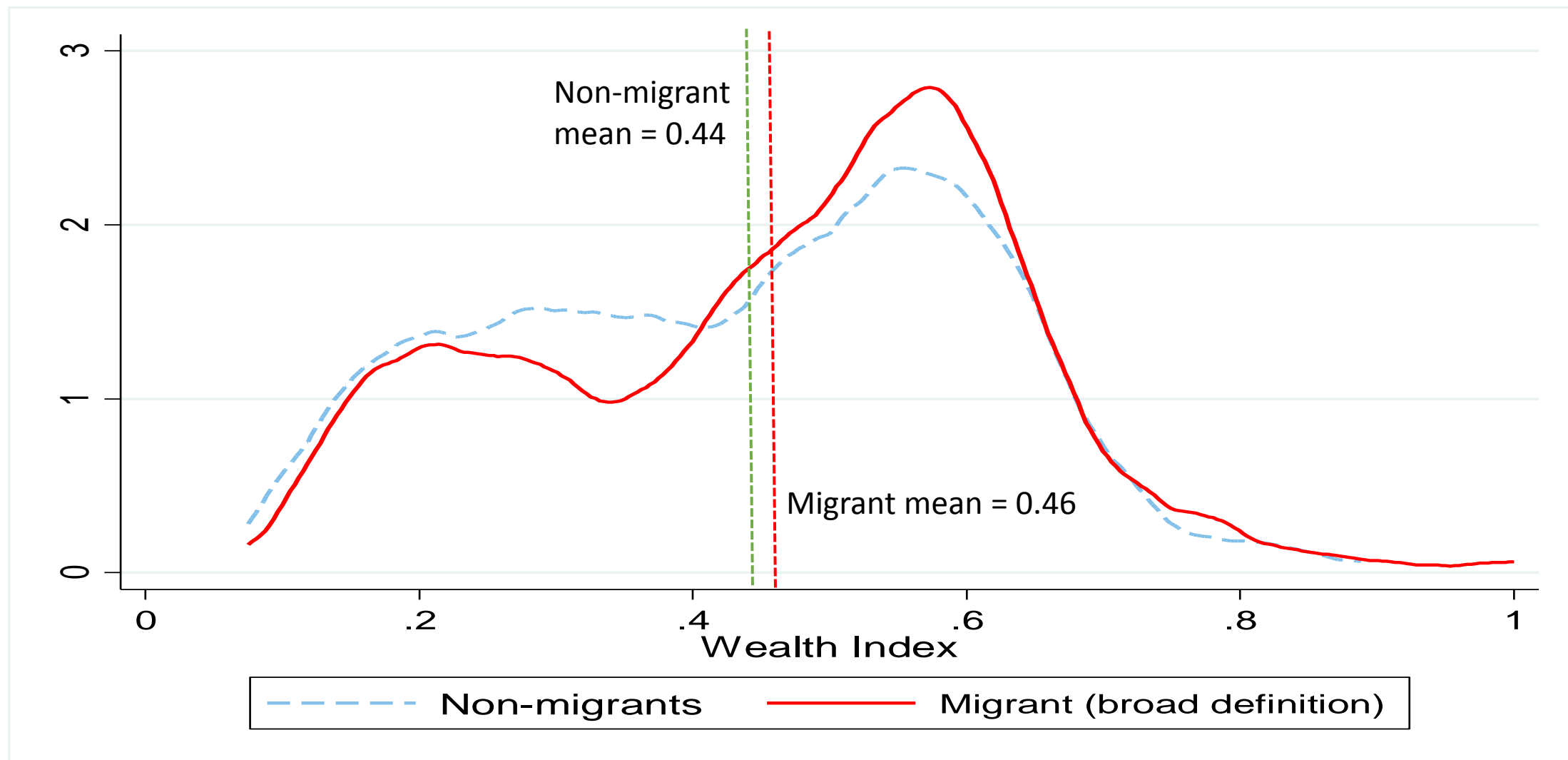
(based on a national rate of 40%)



# Kernel density of household wealth index at the national level



# Distribution of household wealth index for NCD residents



# Conclusions

- The prevalence of migrants in urban areas is high (61%)
- Evidence of strong demand for rural to urban migration
  - Income, consumption and wealth is higher for the majority of migrants compared to non-migrants
    - When measured by area of current residence and province of birth
  - Health – stunting rates are much lower for migrants (in all but three provinces)
  - Education outcomes tend to be much better for the children of migrants
- Likely constraints on abilities to migrate
  - Distance to urban area
  - Education
- As constraints are relaxed then we may see much more migration taking place
  - Free education → general improvements in education → more urban migration (?)