



Benefits and challenges of using *signs of life* approach to estimate unregistered migration

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Estonian Population Register (PR)

PR contains data about

- all Estonian citizens
- foreigners, who have registered their address in Estonia
- foreigners, who have got an Estonian residence permit

BUT:

- people who have left Estonia often do not register their leaving in PR;
- people who have come (back) into Estonia do not give this information to PR

THIS LEADS TO:

- *Over-coverage of population register*
- *Migration flows are underestimated*

Signs of life approach to estimate residential population

General idea: It can be assumed that the people who actually live in Estonia are represented in other administrative registers because they are using services and receive payments

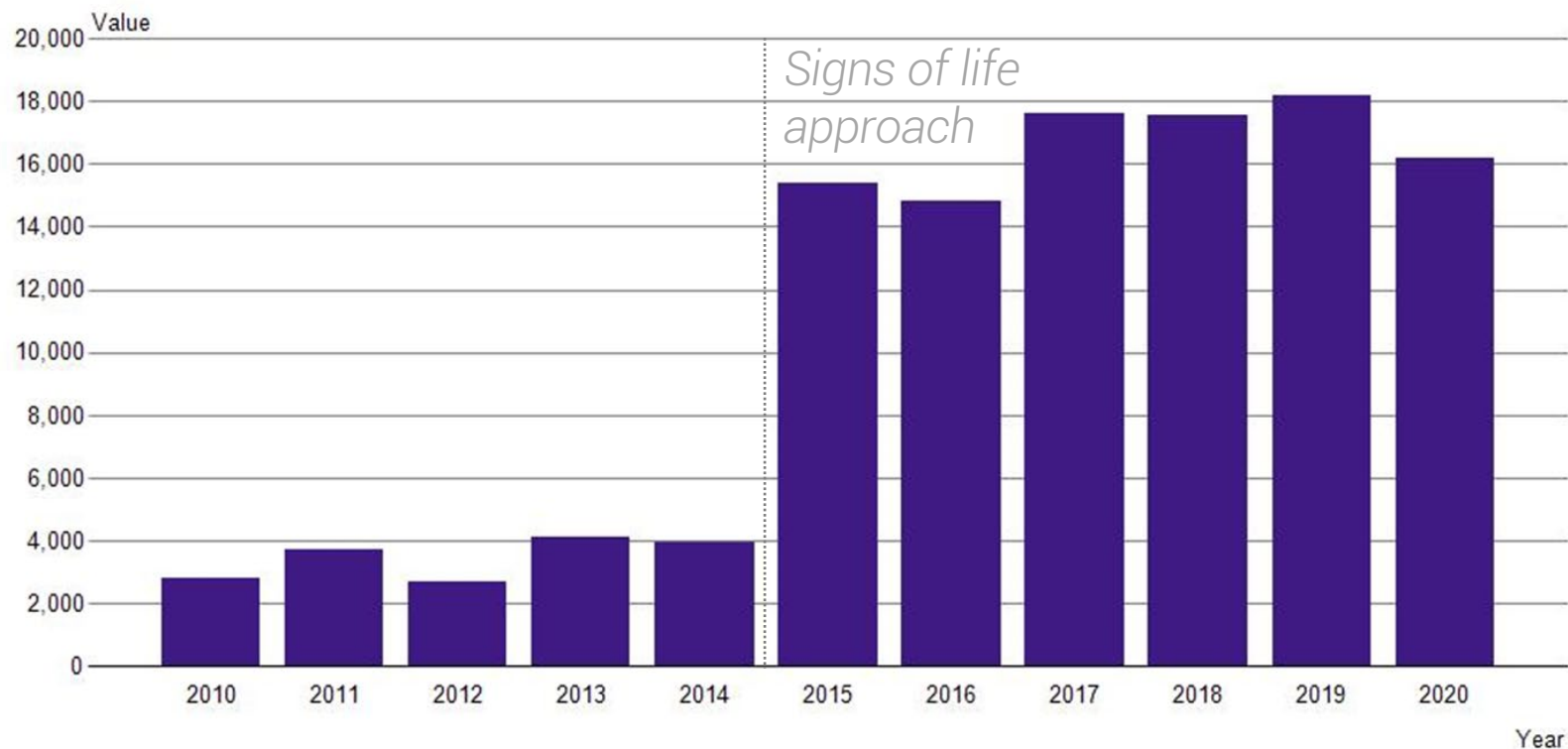


For example, a person gets a sign of life if he or she works, goes to school or visits a doctor, is in conscript service, applies for a document or receives social benefits.

Benefits and challenges in the context of migration statistics

Benefits: We are able to detect unregistered migration

RVR05: EXTERNAL MIGRATION by Year. Total, Immigration, Males and females.

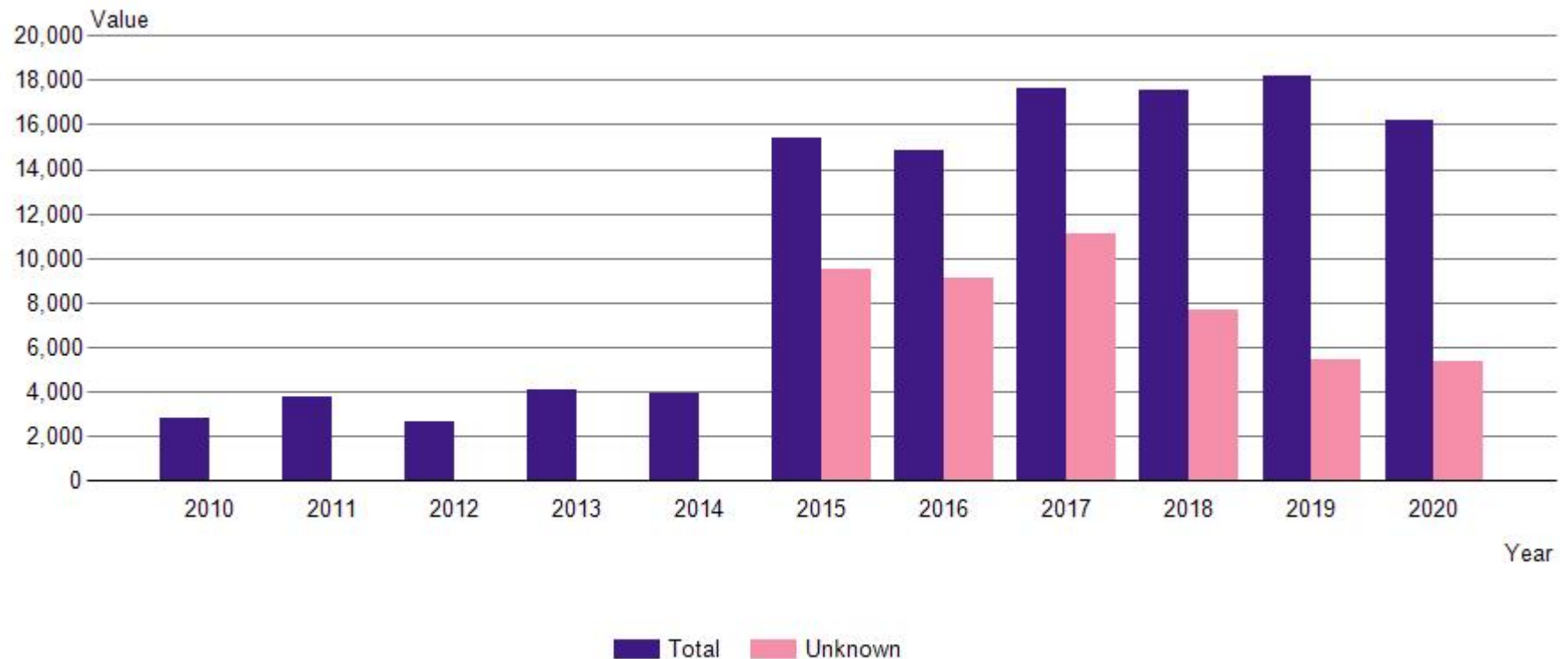


Data from: <https://andmed.stat.ee/en/>

Benefits and challenges in the context of migration statistics

Challenges: Lack of descriptive information about the migrants

RVR05: EXTERNAL MIGRATION by Country and Year. Immigration, Males and females.



Future prospects

Additional data sources: further administrative data sources, big data

New types of migration: transnational migrants and commuters



References:

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Thank you!

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