

BC REFUGEE HUB BULLETIN

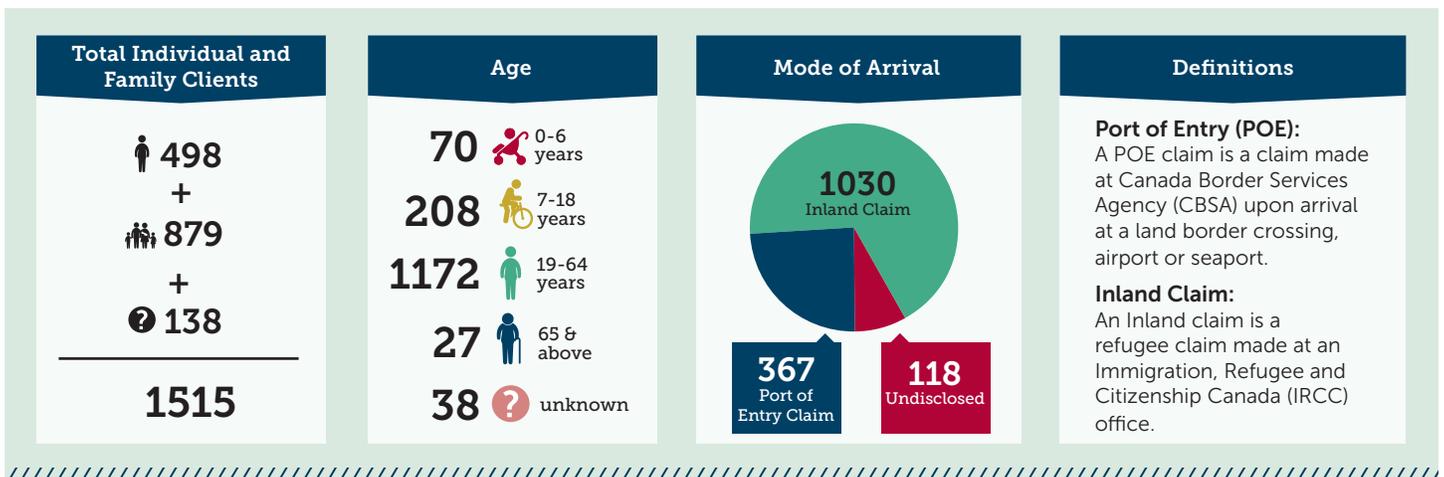
Refugee Claimants // Arrival Highlights: Jul-Sept 2019



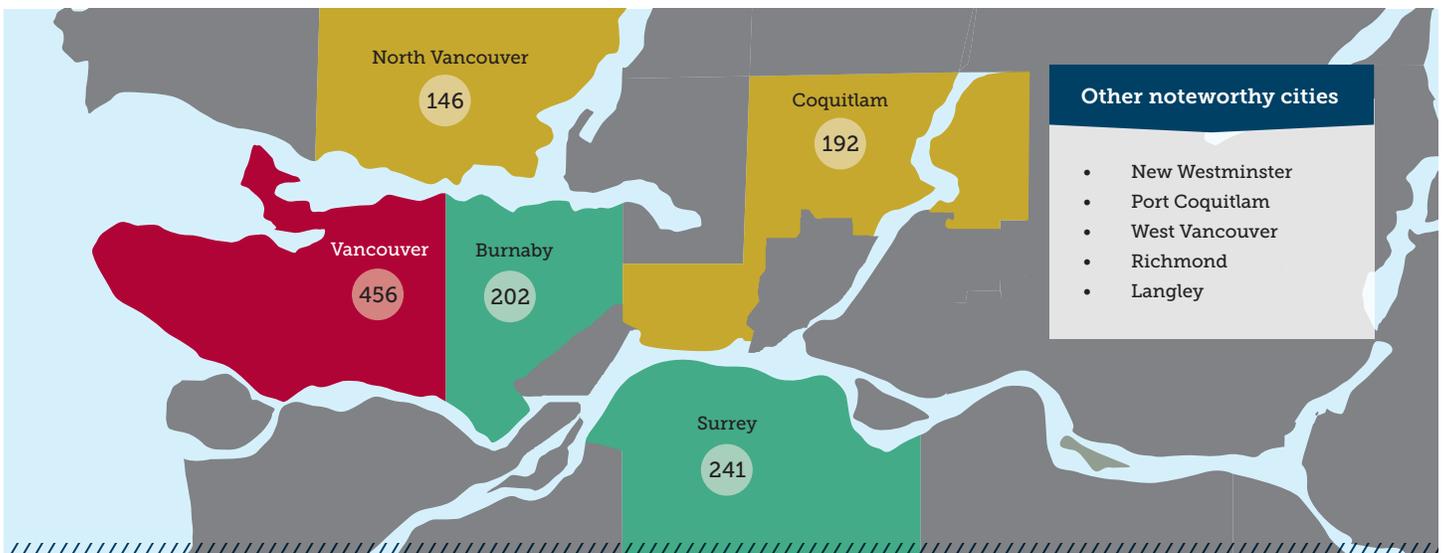
SOS Monthly Statistics of New Refugee Claimant Clients: Jul. to Sept. 2019



SOS Total New and Returning Clients Served: Jul. to Sept. 2019

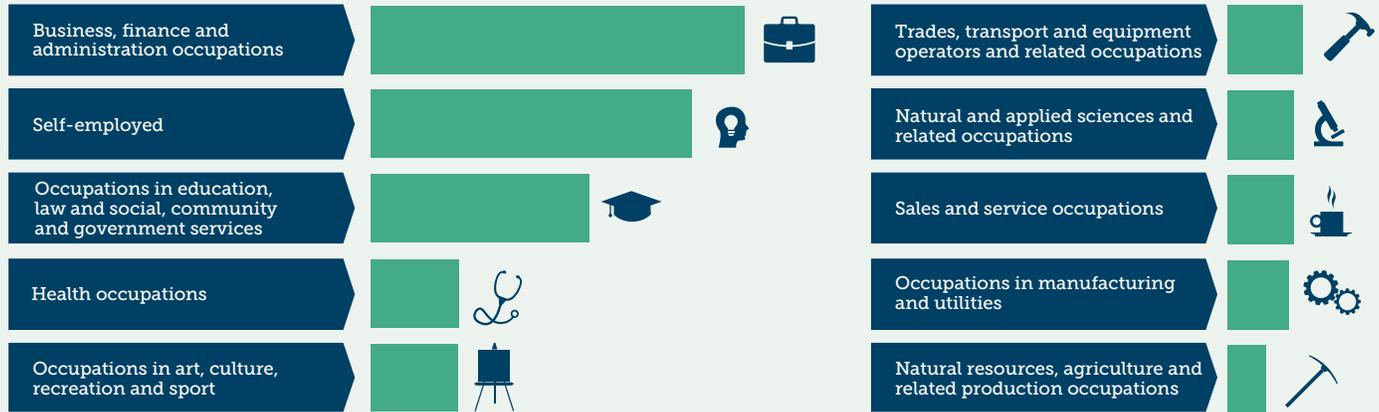


SOS Top 5 Settlement Patterns Based on Residential Addresses: Jul. to Sept. 2019



SOS Pre Arrival Occupation / Education: Jul. to Sept. 2019

The following are highlights of the past occupation and/or education that was reported Jul-Sept 2019 by Refugee Claimants



* May have multiple responses The statistics above were provided by Settlement Orientation Services (sosbc.ca).

SOS Trends and Observations: Jul. to Sep. 2019

- **Clients who make claims at the airport are receiving outdated forms, particularly the Schedule 12.** Unaware of this issue, they wait several months believing that they have already requested a work permit under Schedule 12. After waiting, they must resubmit the application separately.
- **Significant improvement in automatic work permit system.** This has substantially reduced the pressure and workload of staff and the stress on refugee claimants.
- **Elimination of three-day time frame for eligibility decision.** Immigration officials used to have a time frame of three days to decide on the eligibility of a refugee claim. Recently, this three-day deadline has been removed from the Act. This new policy means that an individual who makes a refugee claim may face delays before a decision is made on the claim eligibility. This has intensified the anxiety among asylum seekers due to the ambiguity of the process and the timeline.
- **Irregular border crosser statistics.** Generally speaking, the flow of refugee claimants captured by SOS offices is consistent with the number reported across Canada. There has been a noticeable decrease in the number of irregular crossers both nationally and locally.
- **Interprovincial migration.** Continued to see an interprovincial migration of refugee claimants. The main reasons were harsh weather conditions and cuts to legal aid services in some of the provinces. Ontario experienced a provincial cut in legal aid, but the federal government took action after a few months and allocated additional funding to ensure the accessibility of legal aid assistance to refugee claimants.

The trends and observations above were provided by Settlement Orientation Services (sosbc.ca).

Service Provider Spotlight

ALL WELCOME HERE COALITION

The All Welcome Here Coalition is a group of non-partisan British Columbia organizations working together to support refugees and advance refugee-friendly public policy. The Coalition does this by facilitating effective inter-organizational communication and timely, active responses to issues in the public discourse based on facts, research, lived experience, and storytelling.

The All Welcome Here Coalition is administered by AMSSA and funded by Vancity, The United Way of the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Foundation.

Learn more about #AllWelcomeHere amssa.org/allwelcomehere



LEGAL ADVOCACY PROGRAMS – REFERRAL PROTOCOLS

Legal Advocacy Programs in this referral protocol document are funded by The Law Foundation of British Columbia. Programming is targeted specifically to low income immigrant, refugee and migrant workers. Agencies funded by the Law Foundation of BC are:

- Archway Community Services
- Kinbrace
- ISSofBC
- Migrant Workers Centre
- MOSAIC

ISSofBC has recently been funded for the Legal Advocacy Program in April 2019. ISSofBC has administered this initiative to help provide program and referral protocol clarity among the agencies mentioned in this document to foster a collaborative working model.

View and download document here: bit.ly/2oueHSn

