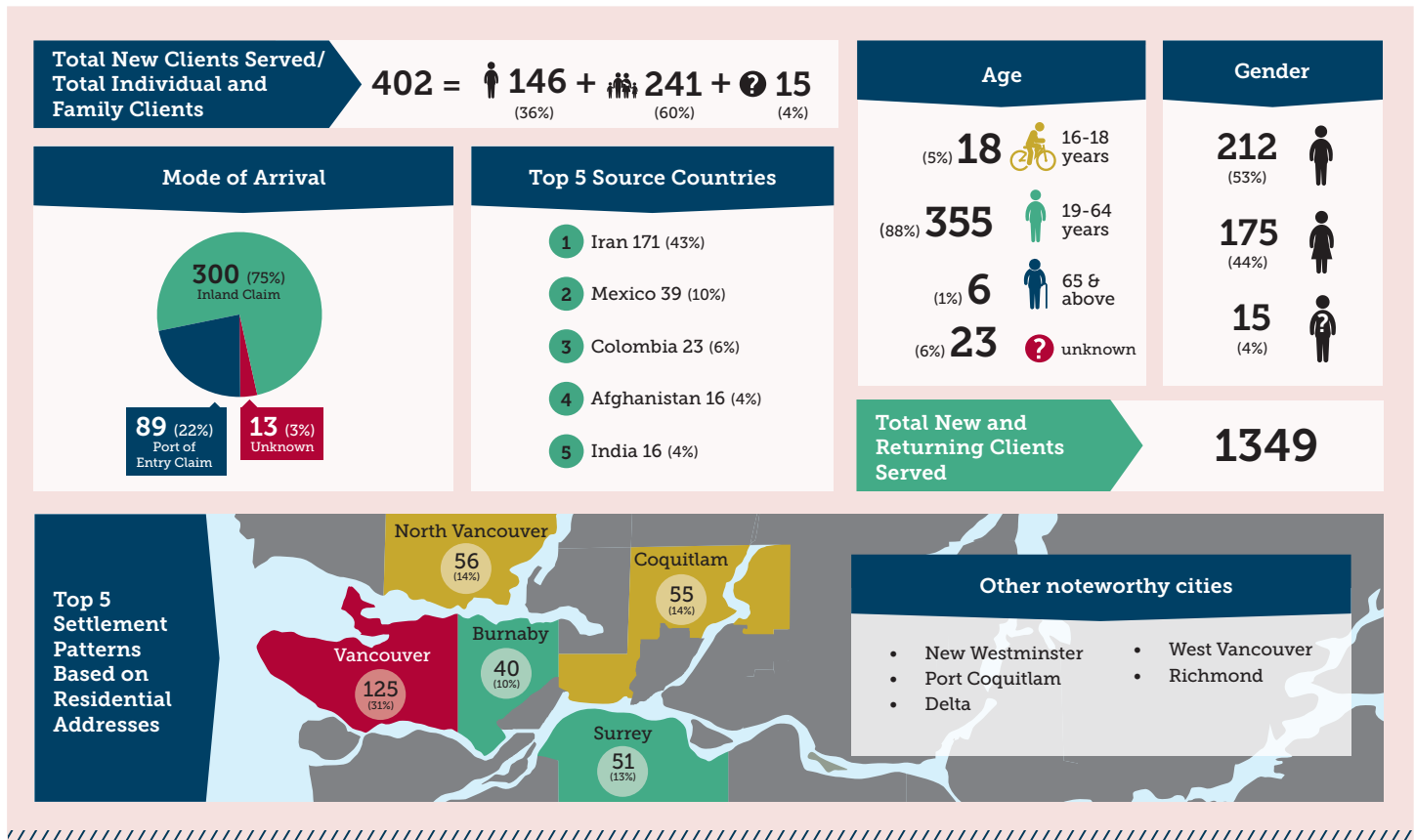


BC REFUGEE HUB BULLETIN

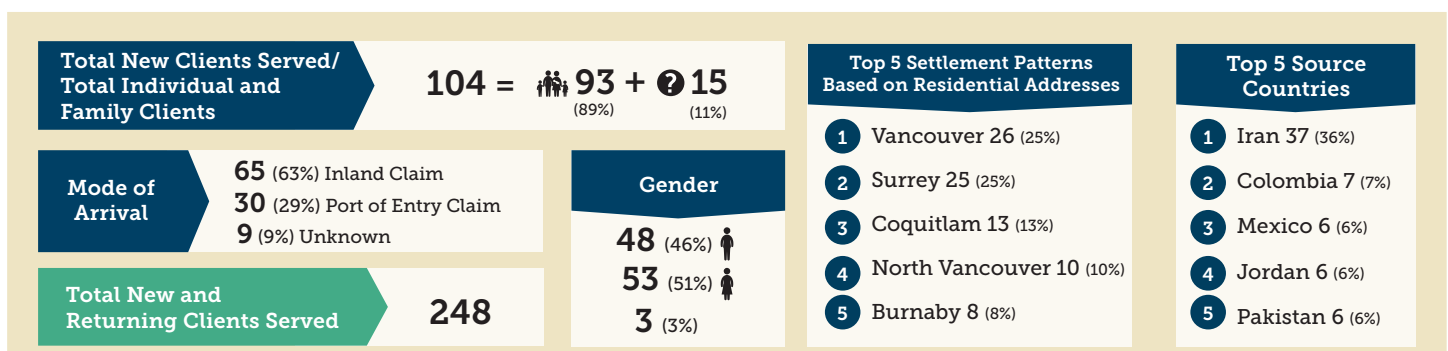
Refugee Claimants // Arrival Highlights: Jan-Mar 2020



ISSo/BC SOS Program Quarterly Statistics of New Clients 16+ years old: Jan. to Mar. 2020



ISSo/BC SOS Program Quarterly Statistics of New Clients 15 years old and under: Jan. to Mar. 2020






ISSo/BC SOS Program Trends and Observations: Jan. to Mar. 2020

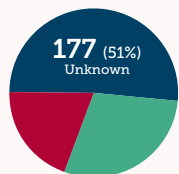
- The five top source countries have changed slightly as we have been receiving more clients from India. According to the IRB, India has become the second source state of refugee claimants in Canada in 2019. Our data only started to reflect this trend in the first quarter of 2020.
- IRB has been exercising some leniency by temporarily extending the time limits for filing Basis of Claim forms and notices of appeal. However, the announcement of hearing postponement has tremendously impacted refugee claimants, giving them anxiety and distress about the timeline of obtaining new hearing dates.
- Canada's new policy of returning irregular border crossers and people applying for refugee status at the border has placed many asylum seekers in a precarious situation. Asylum seekers who left their home countries and travelled by land have exhausted their economic resources to enter Canada and apply for refugee status.

MOSAIC Quarterly Statistics of New Clients: Jan. to Mar. 2020

Total Clients Served / Total Individual and Family Clients

346 =  108 (31%) +  212 (61%) +  26 (8%)

Mode of Arrival



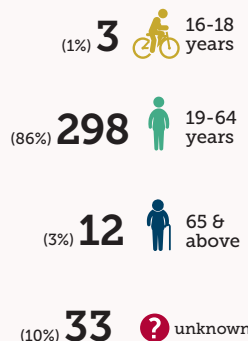
68 (20%)
Port of Entry Claim

101 (29%)
Inland Claim

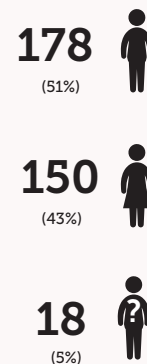
Top 10 Source Countries

1 Mexico 62 (18%)	6 Honduras 18 (5%)
2 Iran 51 (15%)	7 Nigeria 17 (5%)
3 Iraq 31 (9%)	8 Afghanistan 15 (4%)
4 India 30 (9%)	9 Egypt 12 (3%)
5 Colombia 21 (6%)	10 Turkey 7 (2%)

Age



Gender



Above statistics provided by MOSAIC Stream B Services, includes: MOSAIC (mosaicbc.org) programming, along with sub-contractors Options (options.bc.ca), Kinbrace (kinbrace.ca), Inasmuch (inasmuch.ca) and Archway Community Services (archway.ca).

MOSAIC Trends and Observations: Jan. to Mar. 2020

- **Asylum seekers are temporarily barred from irregular entry into Canada as of 20 March 2020.** This is not upholding our international legal obligations as signatories to the Refugee Convention. MOSAIC and partners organization have shifted service provision to ensure they remain virtually accessible for RCs already in Canada. COVID-19 pandemic ended hearings at the IRB-RPD.
- **In the past year, MOSAIC experienced increases in RCs from Central and South America.** Changes to the Refugee Status Determination (RSD) system via Bill C-97 make RC claims ineligible if a previous claim was made in five other countries (notably, the US). This means that numerous claimants will be denied access to Canada's RSD system, even if they come to Canada for compelling reasons. (i.e.: family reunification). Ineligible RCs only have access to the Pre- Removal Risk Assessment (PRRA) which is not as multifaceted as the RSD system at the IRB.
- Despite increasing tensions and human rights abuses for asylum seekers in the US, as well as a newly adopted US refugee policy to send people back to countries where they may face a well-founded fear of persecution without a chance to make their refugee claim (July 2019), refugees who come to an official US-CAN border crossing to make their claim are sent back to US by CBSA due to the Safe Third Country Agreement (STCA) (from 2002)

The statistics, trends and observations above were provided by MOSAIC (mosaicbc.org).

Service Provider Spotlight: Rainbow Refugee

Rainbow Refugee is a Vancouver based community group that supports people seeking refugee protection in Canada because of persecution based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression (SOGIE) or HIV status.

Rainbow Refugee has moved its group support and social events online, along with 1:1 supports via by phone, text or online:

- **Group Support:** Virtual Drop ins –Information and support for LGBTQI refugee claimants & newcomers in BC. Stand-by interpretation in Farsi, Arabic, Spanish & Bahasa Indonesian available. Email community@rainbowrefugee.ca to join.

- **Social Events Online:** Community Outreach team plans online social time—karaoke, meditation and conversation. Email outreach@rainbowrefugee.ca to join.

- **1:1 Support and Consultation:** Nazanin Moghadami has joined Rainbow Refugee in her new role as case manager. She is fluent in Farsi and English and can help members get connected with resources and services, including legal, financial, health, food and COVID-19 relief services. Email support@rainbowrefugee.ca or text her at 613.604.5024

Learn more: rainbowrefugee.com



Definitions

Port of Entry (POE): A POE claim is a claim made at Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) upon arrival at a land border crossing, airport or seaport.

Inland Claim: An Inland claim is a refugee claim made at an Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) office.