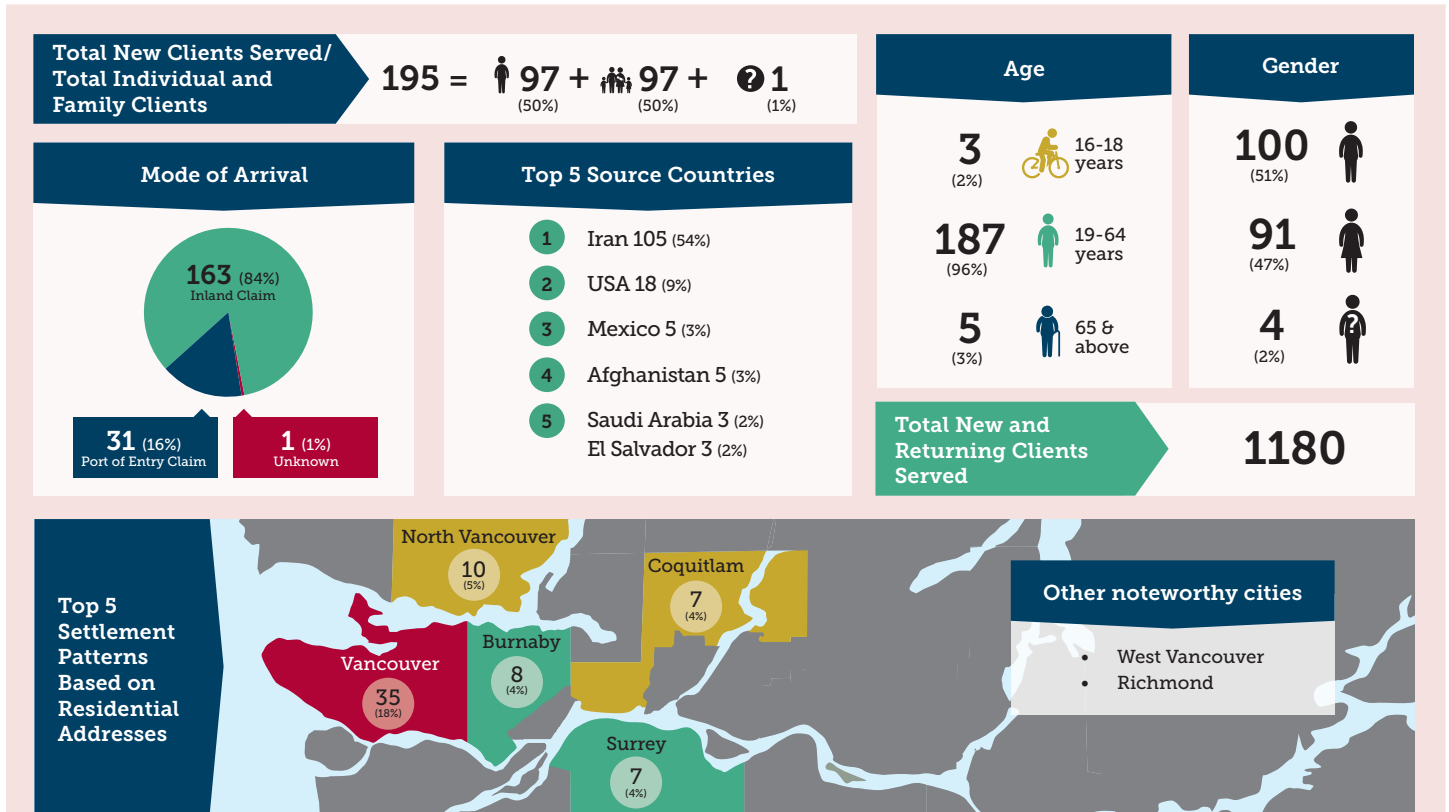


BC REFUGEE HUB BULLETIN

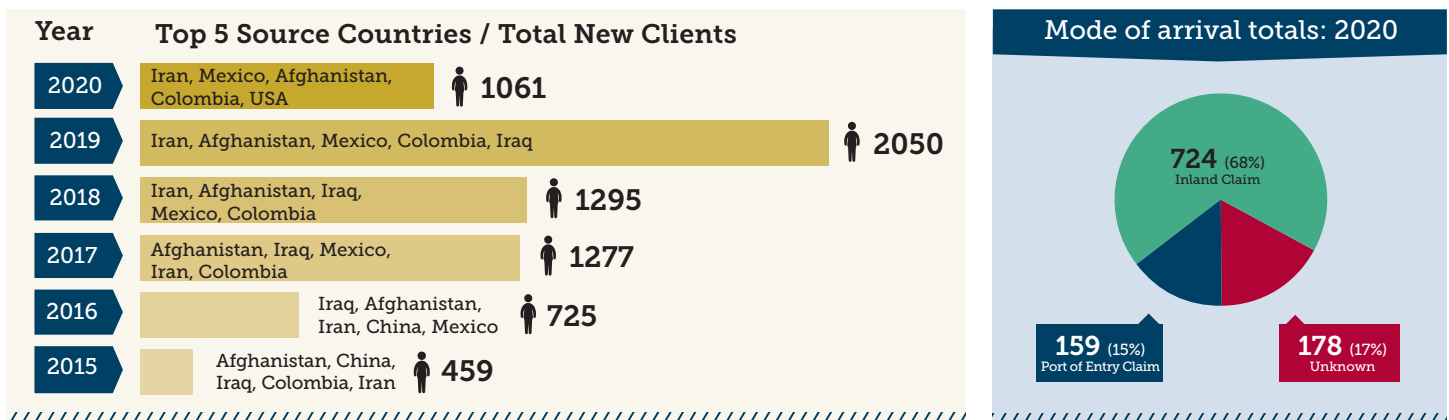
Refugee Claimants // Arrival Highlights: Oct-Dec 2020 // 2020 Roll-Up



ISSofBC SOS Program Quarterly Statistics of New Clients 16+ years old: Oct. to Dec. 2020



Historical Context: Annual Total New Refugee Claimant Clients: 2015 to 2020






ISSofBC SOS Program Trends and Observations: Oct. to Dec. 2020

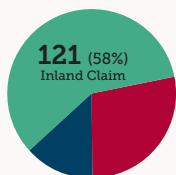
- There is a significant increase in refugee claimants getting positive decisions without hearings or through online hearing proceedings, which has significantly increased requests for support with PR applications as well as PR loans through our organizational partners Vancity.
- IRCC is requesting clients to submit employment history for 10 years back as part of their refugee claim applications, this has resulted in increased requests for support with putting together these resumes.
- As IRCC rules for Travel documents have changed to require submission of proof of emergency travel prior to starting the application process, this has created a lot of confusion for clients who continue to expect us to support them with this application despite not having an emergency need for travel. The SOS program team is orienting clients about the new requirements and supporting clients accordingly.

MOSAIC Quarterly Statistics of New Clients 16+ years old: Oct. to Dec. 2020

Total Clients Served / Total Individual and Family Clients

207 =  57 (28%) +  92 (44%) +  58 (28%)

Mode of Arrival



Top 5 Source Countries

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1 Iran 49 (24%) | 4 Mexico 13 (6%)
Iraq 12 (6%) |
| 2 Pakistan 17 (8%) | 5 Honduras 11 (5%)
Afghanistan 11 (5%)
Kenya 10 (5%) |
| 3 India 15 (7%)
Columbia 15 (7%) | |

Age


10 (5%)  16-18 years


172 (83%)  19-64 years


2 (1%)  65 & above

23 (11%)  unknown

Gender

98 (47%) 


89 (43%) 

12 (6%) 


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 Quarterly totals of new clients 16+ years old: 2020

Q4

 207 (16%)


Q3

 465 (37%)


Q2

 242 (19%)

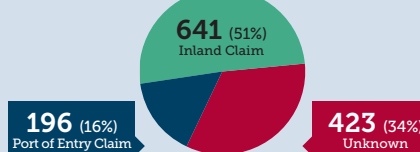
Q1

 346 (27%)

2020

Total new clients served January – December 2020 =  1260

Mode of Arrival



MOSAIC Trends and Observations: Oct. to Dec. 2020

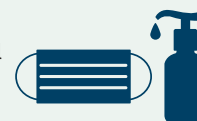
➤ During this reporting period, the IRB-RPD was conducting hearings in a variety of different ways: In person with COVID measures, remotely via videoconference, as well as through the file review process. We have been working to stay abreast with the evolving situation, to best support our clients within the scope of our work. As of January 18, 2021, the IRB shifted to virtual hearings only which brings mixed reactions of our clients.



➤ The border between Canada and the US remains closed under the Quarantine Act. This means that many individuals who may have made an inland refugee claim remain temporarily barred entry into Canada. The Safe Third Country Agreement remains in effect – individuals entering Canada at a land port of entry continue to be ineligible to make a refugee claim and will be returned to the U.S. unless they meet one of the relevant exceptions under the STCA. Small numbers of asylum seekers are irregularly crossing into BC. MOSAIC is working with key partners to ensure proper quarantine measures and quality wrap-around support services for both public and individual health.



➤ MOSAIC and partners swiftly pivoted to virtual services in February 2020 to ensure that refugee claimants can access and benefit from our wide range of services. We offer multiple virtual sessions for refugee claimants every week ranging from essential settlement support, employment services, art therapy and mental wellbeing groups, social connection meetings and English Conversation Circles. In December with incredible community partners we provided nearly 200 new winter jackets, hand sanitizer and masks, over 350 new toys, and more to refugee claimants in need (for more info about our programs: refugeclaimant@mosaicbc.org)



Service Provider Spotlight: Immigration and Refugee Legal Clinic (IRLC)

IRLC aims to reach those who often fall through the cracks of our legal system and provide them with excellent, respectful and caring legal advice and representation.



IMMIGRATION & REFUGEE
LEGAL CLINIC

Key areas of focus:

- Legal advice and information
- Systemic litigation
- Mentorship and Education
- Representation at courts and tribunals
- Advocating for change

Services:

IRLC prioritize providing full representation in litigation and on applications requiring legal submissions for individuals and families whose cases:

- are legally complex, or
- involve sensitive client care issues, or
- require immediate, urgent action

Issues IRLC works on:

- Judicial reviews at Federal Court of decisions from the Immigration and Refugee Board, Canada Border Services Agency, or Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada
- Refugee claims and appeals
- Applications requesting humanitarian and compassionate considerations
- Inadmissibility cases at the Immigration Division and Immigration Appeal Division
- Detention reviews at the Immigration Division
- Sponsorship appeals at the Immigration Appeal Division
- Applications to defer removal and motions to stay removal

Intake form:

bit.ly/IRLCintake

Contact:

778-372-6583 | info@irlc.ca | irlc.ca

BC Refugee Hub Training Webinars

The BC Refugee Hub regularly holds training webinars on a variety of topics related to refugees and refugee claimants. These professional development training sessions aim to build and increase capacity for those working with and supporting refugees and refugee claimants in British Columbia.

All webinar recordings, Powerpoint decks and resources are posted on the BC Refugee Hub under the "Training" section and are an excellent resource to use for training and onboarding team members.



Below are recent training webinars:

- Refugee Research – Local and National Perspectives
- Refugee/Asylum Claims—National and Local Updates from UNHCR Canada and Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB)
- Employment Support and Mentoring for Refugees and Refugee Claimants
- Interim Federal Health Program—Overview and Updates due to COVID-19
- Refugee Claim Process, Legal Requirements and Updates
- Domestic Violence—Supporting Refugees and Refugee Claimants in BC
- Evaluating Programs for Refugees

Access all trainings here: bcrefugeehub.ca/category/training



Definitions

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

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.