



ARE REFUGEES GOOD FOR CANADA?

A LOOK AT CANADIAN REFUGEE INTEGRATION

Overview

- About UNHCR
- Why this study?
- Findings
- COVID-19 impacts
- Next steps

About UNHCR

- Created by the United Nations in 1950
- Working in more than 130 countries
- Provide international protection
- Seek permanent solutions for refugees



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Why this study

- Context of unprecedented levels of displacement: UNHCR wants to **shore up public support for refugees**
- Supply allies and partners with credible data
- Counter negative narratives



Three Goals

1. Grow Resettlement
2. Advance Complementary Pathways
3. **Build the Foundation:
promote welcoming and
inclusive societies**

The Three-Year Strategy (2019-2021)

on Resettlement and
Complementary Pathways

How to Respond to Anti-Refugee Rhetoric

Don't refugees cost Canadians more in taxes?

After 20 years in Canada, refugees actually contribute more to Canada in income tax than they receive in benefits and services.

Refugees are not a burden.

Refugee children don't thrive in Canada.

Refugee children perform as well in school as Canadian-born children and 28.1% of refugee children go on to receive a college diploma or university certificate.

Refugees thrive in Canada.

Source: "Are Refugees Good for Canada? A Look at Canadian Refugee Integration" by UNHCR, Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada's Research and Evaluation Branch and Statistics Canada

Refugees are taking away our jobs!

Refugees are creating jobs for themselves and other Canadians - 14.4% of refugees are self-employed or business owners.

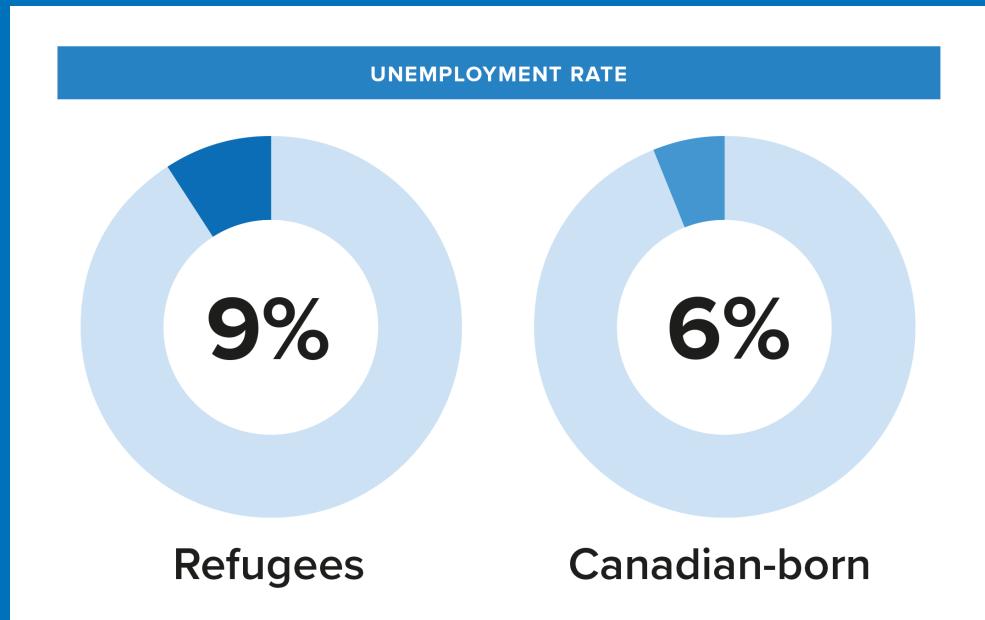
Refugees are good for Canada.

Source: "Are Refugees Good for Canada? A Look at Canadian Refugee Integration" by UNHCR, Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada's Research and Evaluation Branch and Statistics Canada

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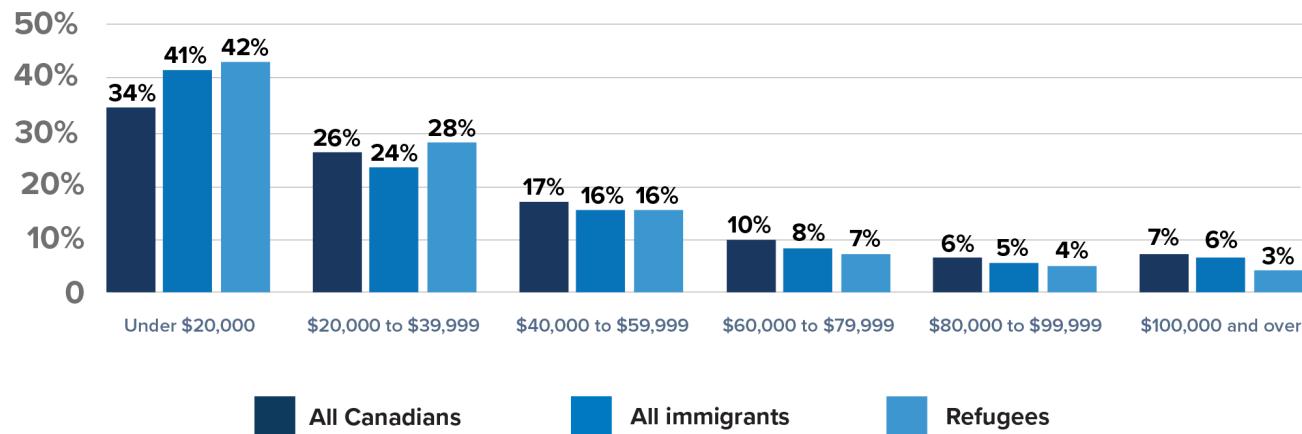
Findings – employment and income

Refugees' unemployment rate improves with time spent in Canada.

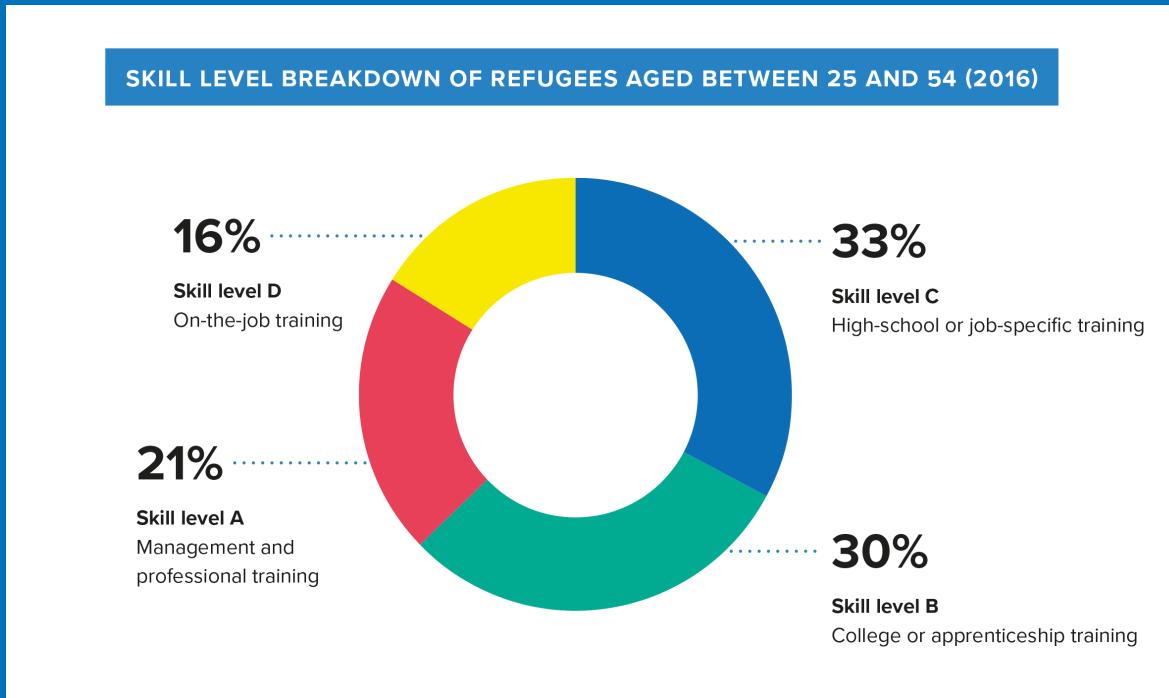


Findings – employment and income

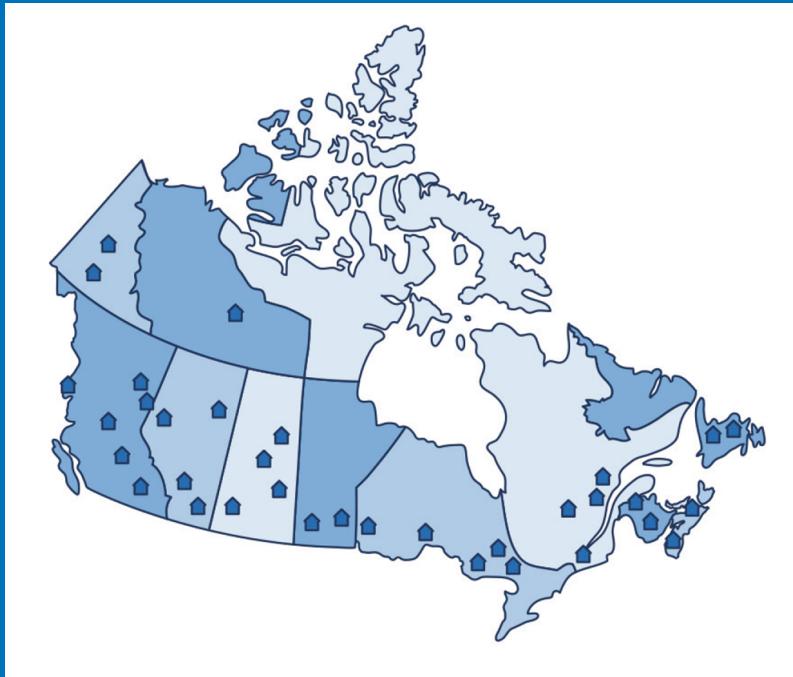
DISTRIBUTION OF TOTAL INCOME IN TAX YEAR 2014
IMMIGRANTS VS. ALL CANADIANS, 5+ YEARS SINCE LANDING



Findings – work experience



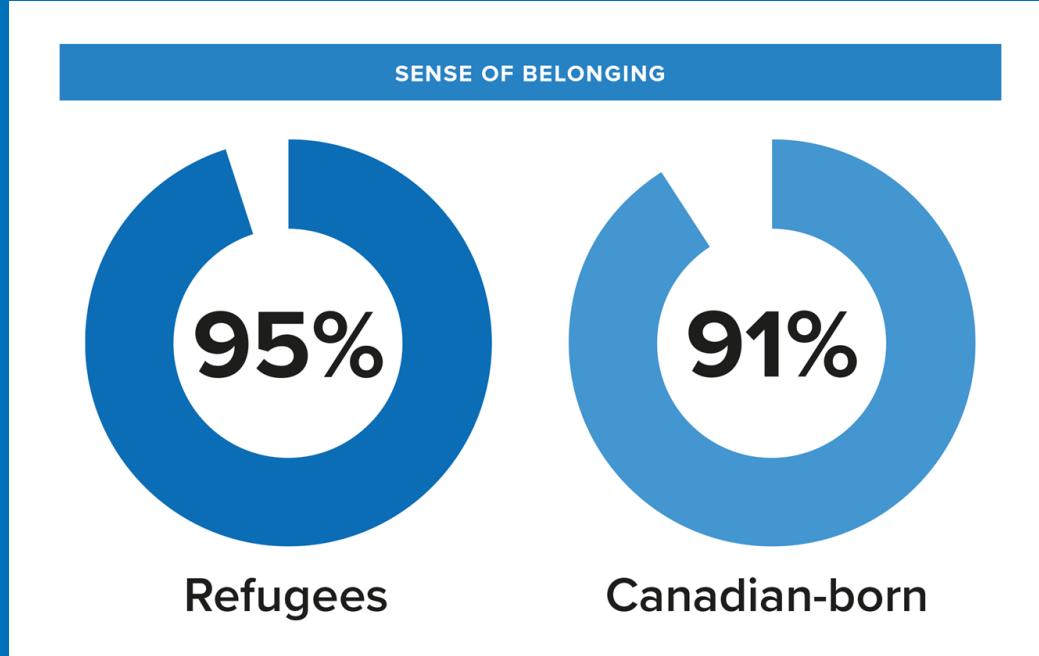
Findings – demographic contribution



Canada has an aging population and needs more young people. **Refugees are on average 11.1 years younger than those born in Canada, with an average age of 28.9 in 2016.**

Many refugees settle in smaller Canadian cities and towns, not just in major urban areas.

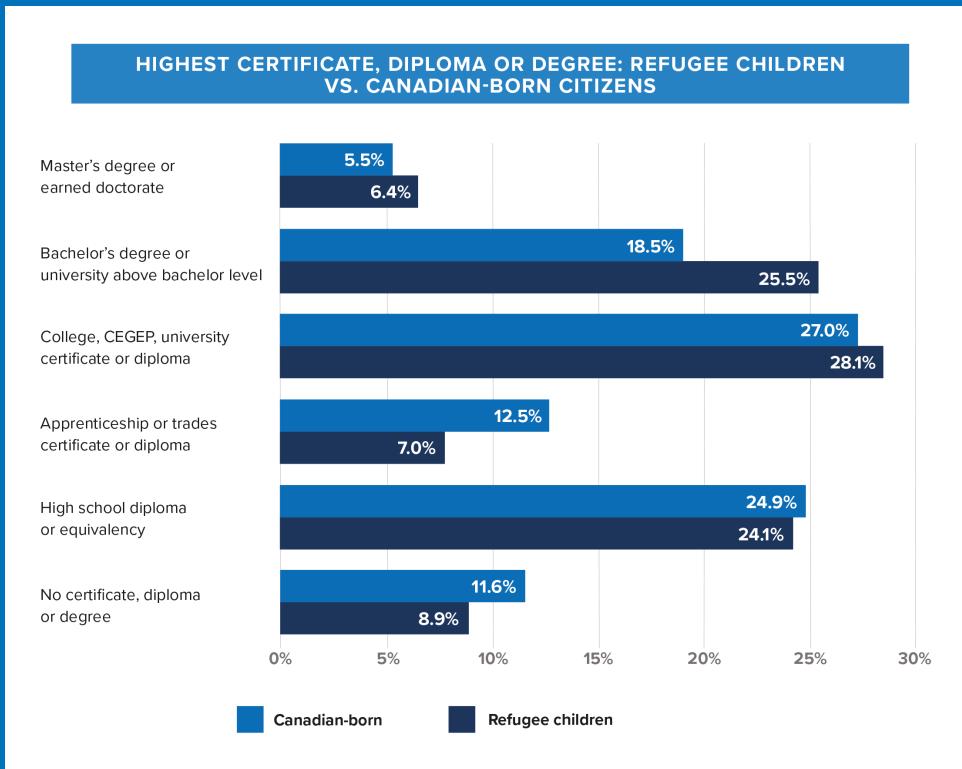
Findings – belonging



About one-third of refugee families managed to buy their own homes within the first five years in the country.

Refugees report a strong sense of belonging to Canada. They have the highest citizenship uptake rate of all immigration categories, at **88%**.

Findings – the next generation



Refugee children perform as well in school as Canadian-born children.

Impact of COVID-19

- COVID-19 is exacerbating challenges and vulnerabilities refugees face around the world
- Canada has continued with resettlement, particularly emergency cases
- Setbacks on economic (and social) integration for new arrivals and established immigrants
- Refugees contribute

Next Steps

- Telling the stories
- Need to emerge from COVID-19 together
- COVID has severely tested refugee protection and inclusion, making it more important than ever to maintain the “warmth of the welcome” in Canada.

THANK YOU

<https://www.unhcr.ca/>
