

Government Assisted Refugees (GAR): 21,726
Privately Sponsored Refugees (PSR): 13,942
Blended Visa Office Referred Refugees (BVOR): 3,958

**Arrived in Canada between
 November 4, 2015 – December 31, 2016**

Information and Informed Decisions

Needs Assessments and Referrals

Overall, 89% of adult Syrian Refugees received a NARS.

95% GARs

81% PSRs

82% BVOR Refugees

Information and Orientation

Overall, 92% of adult Syrian Refugees received Information and Orientation.

99% GARs

84% PSRs

88% BVOR Refugees

Source: iCARE, December 31, 2017

Lack of Pre-Arrival Information

Syrian refugees, particularly those part of the original 25K commitment, had received very little pre-arrival information, which often led to unrealistic expectations about the resettlement process.

Source: Esses & Hamilton, 2017.

Foreign Credential Recognition

Foreign credential recognition is a source of frustration among Syrian refugees who vocalised that despite obtaining education and work experience in their home country, they were unable to find work that was commensurate with their education and abilities.

Source: Agrawal & Zeitouny, 2017.

Language

Language Assessment

Overall, 88% of adult Syrian Refugees received a Language Assessment.

92% GARs

82% PSRs

88% BVOR Refugees

Language Training (IRCC-Funded)

Overall, 73% of adult Syrian Refugees received IRCC-Funded Language Training.

85% GARs

57% PSRs

73% BVOR Refugees

Source: iCARE, December 31, 2017

Difficulties getting to language classes

Research has found that despite the desire to improve their language skills, some Syrian refugees with young children have had difficulty attending language classes, due to not being able to find childcare. In these situations, families have opted to send only one parent to attend the classes, typically the father of the household

Source: Fang et al., 2017; Wilkinson et al., 2017

Employment

Employment Related Services

Overall, 27% of adult Syrian Refugees received Employment Related Services.

27% GARs

30% PSRs

21% BVOR Refugees

Source: iCARE, December 31, 2017

Employment in Ontario Cities

Of the Syrian refugees who were participating in the study and had been in Canada for over one year:

- More GARs were employed in Kitchener (10%) compared to Toronto (5%) or Windsor (2%)
- More PSRs were employed in Toronto (63%) compared to Kitchener (50%) or Windsor (33%)

Source: Hynie (2018) What do we know so far? Context in the SyRIA.lth project. Metropolis Conference, March 2018.

Help Finding Employment

When participating Syrian refugees were asked who helped them find work, the most popular answers were friends. Settlement agencies and employment agencies were the least popular.

Source: Hynie (2018) What do we know so far? Context in the SyRIA.lth project. Metropolis Conference, March 2018.

Connections to the Community

Community Connections

Overall, 52% of adult Syrian Refugees received Community Connections.

73% GARs

25% PSRs

49% BVOR Refugees

Source: iCARE, December 31, 2017

Youth Sense of Belonging

Research that has focused on the settlement of Syrian refugee students has found that much of this population is dealing with some level of trauma and grief.

Source: Papazian-Zohrabian et al., 2017

Optimism of Parents

While initial difficulties exist, parents of Syrian refugee children have expressed optimism. Research has noted that when interviewing Syrian mothers, almost all felt that settling children into schools and neighbourhoods in Canada has been more favourable than their experience in other countries, as they felt Syrian students were valued by their teachers and their communities in Canada.

Source: Milkie et al., 2017

Comparisons to Other Refugee Populations

For the adult resettled refugees who were not destined to Quebec, and arrived in Canada between Nov. 4, 2015 and Dec. 31, 2016, Syrian refugees accessed settlement services at a higher rate than non-Syrian refugees:

	Syrian Refugees	Non-Syrian Refugees
Needs Assessment and Referral Services	89%	80%
Employment Related Services	27%	27%
Information and Orientation Services	92%	89%
Community Connections Services	52%	27%
Language Assessment Services	88%	78%
Language Training Services	73%	56%

Source: iCARE, December 31, 2017.

Provincial Statistics and Information – Selected Highlights

- **Ontario**
 - o In total, approximately 4,625 Syrian students were enrolled in Ontario schools during the 2015/16 school year
 - o 18,000+ OHIP cards were issued to Syrian refugees
 - o 9,750+ Ontarians received training on sponsoring refugees through MCI funding.

Source: Province of Ontario. Ontario's Response to the Syrian Refugee Crisis – Sept. 2016

Recent Studies and Reports by Service Provider Organizations

- **Fraser Valley, BC:** A recent report from the Refugee Response Team in Fraser Valley identified key areas of concern with language.
 - o Accessing transportation is a challenge for refugees to get to language training
 - o The influx of refugees has increased pressure on language instructors resulting in huge turn overs and burnouts.
- **Calgary, AB:** A study review conducted in fall 2016 examined the settlement of Syrian PSRs and Eritrean PSRs. Key results include:
 - o 44% of Syrian PSRs had found employment, most of whom were male.
 - o 53% were reported to have English levels between Canadian Language Benchmark 1 and 4.
 - o 91% of those enrolled in language were taking Language Instruction for Newcomers Classes (LINC).
- **Peel, ON:** The Peel Newcomer Strategy Group assessed the Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP) services offered to refugees, and concluded that:
 - o Overall, responses were very positive regarding awareness of supports and services, knowledge in accessing services, etc.
 - o 80% of participants indicated that they were being supported through the language assessment process.

Source: Service Provider Organizations

Research Findings

Research results (co-funded by IRCC and SSHRC, and research funded through other organizations) are emerging, and include the following findings:

- **Social Integration of Syrian Refugee Children in Canadian Schools: Three Prominent Issues (Guo et al., 2018)**
 - o While Canadian schools had provided opportunities for refugee children to socialize and make friends, three barriers were raised with regards to affecting Syrian youth's social integration.
 - o Barriers included: Difficulty in developing friendships with local students; bullying and racism; and discriminatory attitudes of teachers.
- **Mental Health Counselling for Refugee Youth: Issues and Good Practices (Marshall, 2018)**
 - o Pre-migration mental health difficulties such as anxiety, depression, and exposure to stressful life events also impact refugee's post-migration mental health.
 - o Family history and disruptions to the family unit have an impact on young refugees' mental health outcomes.
 - o A significant barrier for young refugees is that other resettlement needs may be seen as more urgent and pressing than mental health concerns.
- **A comparative evaluation of Local Immigration Partnerships (LIPs) and their role in the Syrian refugee resettlement process in three Ontario reception centres (Walton-Roberts et al.)**
 - The research found that LIPs acted as a catalyst for community wide refugee resettlement planning and responses, fostered working groups and bodies to oversee specific aspects of refugee resettlement.
- **Exploring the mental health and service needs of Syrian refugees within their first two years in Canada (McKenzie et. al, 2018)**
 - Syrian refugees often reported financial burdens, unemployment, housing, and language acquisition as factors that aggravated stress.
 - There is a reluctance among refugees to seek professional mental health services, most choosing to defer to family and friends for support.

Responsible Branch: Research and Evaluation Branch – Policy Research

Work in Progress

- **Institute for Clinical Evaluative Studies (ICES):** a study regarding the health of Syrian Refugees.
- **Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC):** conducting a study on the health of Syrian Refugees in the long term.
- **Province of Ontario:** conducting a study to measure the outcomes of Syrian refugees in Ontario. Topics of analysis include health, income, and education. A final report is expected in Spring 2019.

Responsible Branch: Research and Evaluation Branch