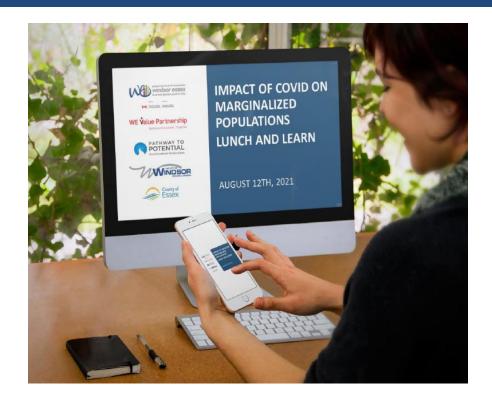
Lunch & Learn: Impact of COVID on Marginalized Populations





Herrigration, Retugnes, Intrigration, Refugels, and Citizenship Canada et Otovenneté Canada







Impact of COVID-19 on Marginalized Populations:

A Focus on Newcomers to Canada

Teresa Falsetta Aflak Social Policy & Planning Department City of Windsor









Zoom Webinar Tips

Housekeeping

- We ask that you please mute yourself
- For those joining by phone use the mute/unmute button on your phone
- For those joining by web use the buttons on the bottom of your screen
- The host may require to mute you if we experience continued background noise.

Posing Questions & Comments

• Questions can be posed throughout the presentation by using the Chat Box.

Technical issues

• If you experience any issues use the chat to send a private message to Monica Champagne.



Land Acknowledgement

Friends, colleagues and guests,

We will begin by acknowledging that Windsor occupies the traditional, ancestral and contemporary lands of the Niswi Ishkodewan Anishinaabeg: The Three Fires Confederacy (comprised of the Ojibwe, the Odawa, and the Potawatomi). We acknowledge the land and the surrounding waters for sustaining us and we work to stand together in commitment to protect and restore them from environmental degradation.

We further acknowledge our collective commitment and responsibility to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 calls-to-action. As we gather at our council meetings to enhance positive and meaningful outcomes for residents in our region; with and within the systems of education, employment, healthcare, government, justice, child welfare, and human and social services, let us never forget that that work is incomplete if it does not seek to face and reconcile our past as a nation, and the past of those systems in particular, toward the creation of a more just and equitable future for indigenous peoples in the whole of our society.



As COVID-19 spread across the country, it exposed weaknesses and vulnerabilities, like water seeping through every crack in the system. And as long as COVID-19 is present anywhere, it is a potential threat everywhere — not only to people's lives, but to the systems, communities and economies on which we rely.

What might unite the fight against COVID-19 with the protests against systemic racism is the message that a society is only as strong as its weakest link. And sometimes it takes a crisis for everyone to see the inequalities that were there all along.

The risks now are twofold: that the efforts of the last few months to suppress the virus will be squandered as the feeling of solidarity abates, and that the inequalities exposed over the last few months will be forgotten as the country tries to get back to "normal."

- Aaron Wherry, Parliament Hill Bureau



Impact of COVID-19 on Income Security





- The COVID-19 shutdown resulted in 3 million workers in Canada losing employment during the months of March and April 2020
- Immigrants to Canada were more likely to face disproportionate impacts of the economic shut down
- Prior to COVID:
 - 31% of employed recent immigrants had occupied their position for less than one year
 - 22% of recent immigrants occupied low-wage jobs compared with 12% among workers born in Canada.
 - Almost 1 in 3 immigrant children (32.2%) lives in poverty according to the 2016 Census (Martin, 2020, May 21)





- Labour Force Surveys showed stronger economic impacts of the pandemic on recent immigrants and immigrant women
- Many very recent immigrants and international students were not eligible for benefit programs (like CERB) and are facing increased risks of unemployment (Shields & Abu Alrob, 2020, July 24)

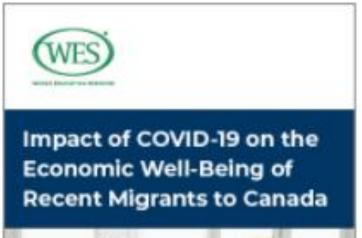
• Too many have been excluded from supports even though immigrant and migrant populations confront higher unemployment and are generally more financially insecure due to the pandemic.

STATCAN COVID-19: DATA TO INSIGHTS FOR A BETTER CANADA

Transitions into and out of employment by immigrants during the COVID-19 lockdown and recovery



- World Education Services surveyed 4,932 newcomers to Canada (in April, June, and August 2020)
 - A significant portion of newcomers had lost jobs and income and cannot meet their basic needs
 - 14% have lost their job due to COVID-19
 - 17% have temporarily lost their primary source of income
 - Only 48% of respondents who lost a job or experienced reduced hours or pay reported receiving the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) or Employment Insurance (EI).









A Check-In During COVID-19



- Other reports by the Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) in Cape Breton and the PEI Immigration Partnership noted that **employment during the pandemic was a top concern among recent immigrants**
- The LIP in Cape Breton surveyed 79 newcomers in May 2020. Participants were asked to "select the three areas that you believe present the most significant challenges for newcomers in Cape Breton during COVID-19."
 - The top three responses were:
 - 1. Finding or maintaining employment (87%)
 - 2. Paying mortgage or rent (53%)
 - 3. Accessing immigration-related information (47%)



Income Security Impacts: Visible Minority Canadians

- The August Labour Force Survey indicated higher rates of unemployment and lower reported wages among visible minority Canadians during the pandemic
- Low-wage employees accounted for an above-average share of all employees in August 2020 in most of the population groups designated as visible minorities



Statistics Statistique Canada Canada Arab, Black, and Southeast Asian Canadians continue to have among the highest unemployment rates in August

	%
Not a visible minority or Indigenous	9.4
Filipino	12.7
Chinese	13.2
Latin American	13.9
South Asian	14.9
Southeast Asian	16.6
Black	17.6
Arab	17.9

*Note: Unemployment rates from August 2020



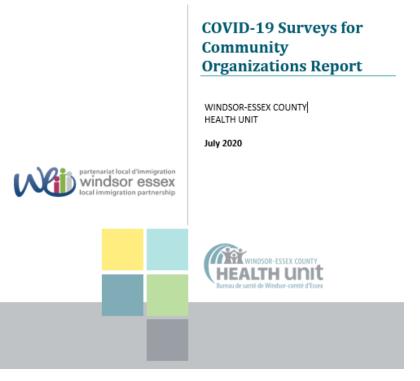
Impact of COVID-19 on Food Security





Impact of COVID-19 on Food Security

- Statistics Canada (2020, June 24) reported that 14.7% of Canadians have experienced food insecurity in their homes within the past 30 days (the web panel survey occurred in May 2020)
- In the WECHU COVID-19 Surveys for Community Organizations Report 48% of survey respondents stated access to food was a key issue facing clients; 65% said that supports to help clients access food safely would be helpful
 - In a second survey, 66% of respondents identified accessing food safely to be an issue





Impact of COVID-19 on Diverse Populations





Impact of COVID-19 on Diverse Populations

• Research by Public Health Ontario indicated a higher rate of COVID-19 cases and worse outcomes in urban neighborhoods with stronger ethno-cultural diversity

200.0 180.0 160.0 Age-adjusted rate per 100,000 140.0 Ontario rate: 128.6 per 100,000 120.0 7,157 100.0 cases 80.0 3,444 60.0 cases 2.308 1.851 cases 40.0 1.409 cases cases 20.0 0.0 Q2 Q4 Q1 (least diverse) Q3 Q5 (most diverse) Quintiles of diversity

Figure 1. Age-adjusted rate and number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 for each quintile of ethnic concentration: Ontario, January 15, 2020 to May 14, 2020

People living in the most diverse neighbourhoods were also more likely to experience severe outcomes (hospitalizations, ICU admissions and deaths) than people living in the least diverse neighbourhoods



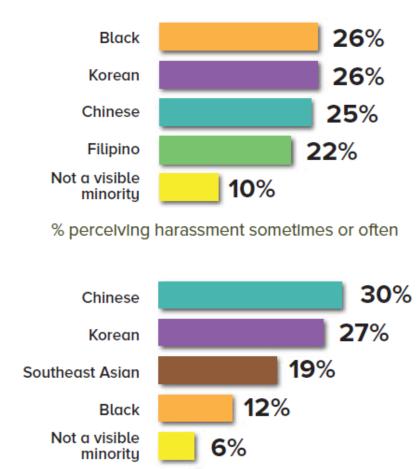
Safety Concerns for Visible Minority Canadians during the Pandemic

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic

1 in 5 (21%)

visible minority crowdsourcing participants **perceived that harassment** or attacks based on race, ethnicity or skin colour **occurred sometimes or often** in their neighbourhood, double the proportion among the rest of the population (10%).

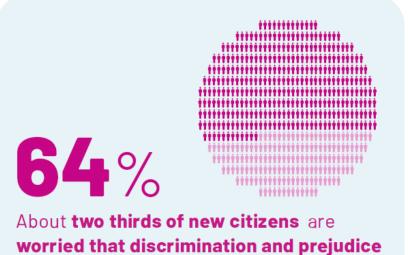
Visible minority participants were three times more likely (18%) than the rest of the population (6%) to **perceive increases in the frequency of harassment** or attacks based on race, ethnicity or skin colour.



% perceiving an increase in harassment since COVID-19 began

Source: Statistics Canada, Impacts of COVID-19 on Canadians - Perceptions of Safety, May 12 to 25, 2020 (5323).

Safety Concerns among New Citizens during the Pandemic



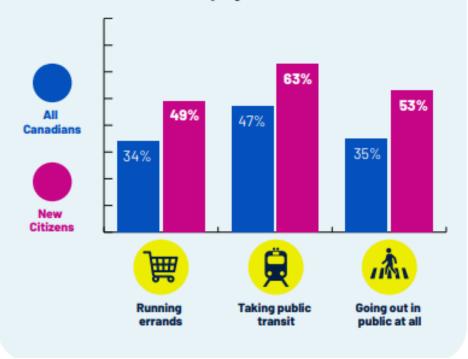
will increase because of COVID-19.



Institute Institut pour for Canadian la citoyenneté Citizenship canadienne



Have you been worried or hesitant to do any of the following activities due to concerns about discrimination or prejudice?

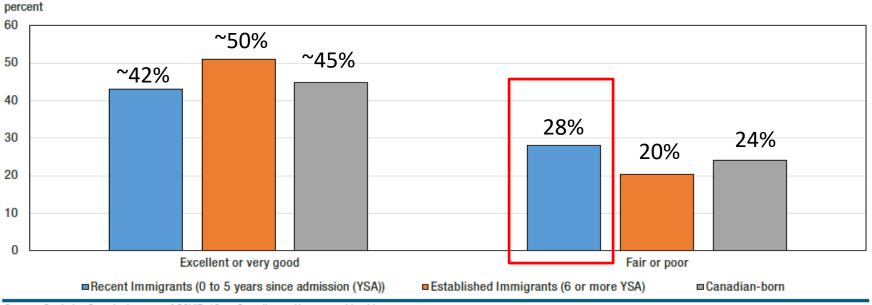




Mental Health of Recent Immigrants to Canada

 Research by Statistics Canada during the COVID-19 pandemic has found that recent immigrants are reporting poorer mental health compared to established immigrants and Canadian-born respondents during the pandemic





Source: Statistics Canada, Impacts of COVID-19 on Canadians - Your mental health.



Impacts on Government Assisted Refugees

- Government Assisted Refugees (GARs)
 are also vulnerable and experiencing
 increased isolation during the pandemic
- Mental health challenges for people who have lived through "horrific trauma," as some refugees have, is exacerbated by physical distancing measures implemented around the country
- A survey of Service Providers in the Settlement Assistance Program assessed the effects and challenges of COVID-19 on the GAR population
 - Reported isolation and physical distancing could trigger mental health issues, lack of access to professional services, increased risks of domestic violence

Refugees face more hardship settling during lockdown, advocates say



Efforts to rebuild lives in Canada on hold as people lose jobs and access to services



Georgie Smyth - CBC News - Posted: Apr 27, 2020 1:00 AM PT | Last Updated: April 30, 2020



Hamzeh Alnas arrived in B.C. on Jan. 15, 2020, with his partner to start a new life. Ten days later, Canada recorded it first case of COVID-19 and widespread shutdowns followed. He lost his job on March 11. (CBC)



Response: Virtual Services and Mental Health Supports

- Many remote services and courses were offered by organizations in Windsor-Essex as they pivoted to virtual programming
- Mental health services:
 - Windsor Women Working with Immigrant Women started offering Newcomer Mental Wellness Support Services in the form of a crisis phone line, with support also offered in Arabic and Mandarin
 - The 24/7 Windsor-Essex Counselling Support Line (WECSL) also offered translation services
- WE LIP's We Speak translation services for health providers:
 - Reduces language barriers and improves care for people with limited English proficiency





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Impacts on International Students

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International students struggle despite patch-work system of support

Bailey Moreton May 04, 2020 • May 6, 2020 • 5 minute read • Join the conversation



Shloka Shah, an international student at the University of Windsor, sits outside her home where she lives with her mother and eight other students, Thursday, April 30, 2020. PHOTO BY DAX MELMER /Windsor Star

- International students are a vulnerable population in Canada during the pandemic as they may be ineligible for government benefit programs, like CERB
 - Early in the pandemic, Windsor Star reported there are many international students in Southwestern Ontario "who are struggling to survive and unable to go home because of the coronavirus. Many have turned to food banks and other charities to cope." (Moreton, 2020, May 4)
- International students from India and Pakistan planning to attend post-secondary programs in Windsor were affected during the third wave



Response: Support for International Students

- Nationally, the government of Canada temporarily **removed the restriction that international students could work a maximum of 20 hours per week** in April 2020
- IRCC will be accepting 40,000 applications for permanent residency from international students
- The University of Windsor added \$700,000 in funding for scholarships and experiential learning programs for international students
 - The university is also offering counselling services to international students
- St. Clair College and the University of Windsor allowed international students to learn remotely from their home countries during the Spring/Summer semesters







Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada



Impacts on Temporary Foreign Workers

- Concerns over Canada's food supply led the federal government to exempt migrant workers from border restrictions and allow them to travel to Canada as part of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program
- This farm labor work has been labelled "3-D labour – Dirty, Dangerous and Demeaning – but now with the pandemic has been recalibrated as 3-D+E labour – Dirty, Dangerous, Demeaning and Essential – as this work has come to be widely recognized as vital to the smooth running of advanced economies." (Shields & Abu Alrob, 2020, July 24)



Migrant workers wait outside the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce on Erie Street South in Learnington on June 11, 2020. Hundreds of essential foreign farm workers have fallen ill to COVID-19 in Essex County, two have died. PHOTO BY DAX MELMER /Windsor Star

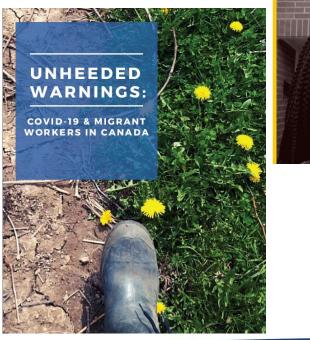


Impacts on Temporary Foreign Workers

- Many migrant workers in Essex County have been afraid to speak out about their living and working conditions on local farms, as they are concerned about retaliation and being sent home
- In June 2020, The Migrant Workers Alliance for Change reported on the many concerns expressed by migrant workers
- Care workers surveyed by the Migrant Rights Network (2020, October 28) reported an increase in employer control over their ability to leave the home they worked and lived in, impacting well-being and access to health care



EXPOSING MIGRANT CARE WORKER EXPLOITATION DURING COVID-19







Response: Support for Temporary Foreign Workers

Windsor's Isolation and Recovery Centre for migrant workers gets \$17.8M from Ottawa to stay open



But advocacy group organizer says keeping site in southwestern Ontario open isn't enough to help workers



Health Minister Patty Hajdu and Windsor-Tecumseh MP Irek Kusmierczyk on Tuesday announced new federal funding for the city's Isolation and Recovery Centre. (Adrian Wyld/The Canadian Press)

- The Federal government agreed to provide funding toward the Isolation and Recovery Centre for agricultural migrant workers impacted by COVID-19
 - City of Windsor has staff working full-time at the IRC in partnership with the Red Cross and EMS
- On April 14, 2021, the IRCC announced a new pathway to permanent residency for 20,000 temporary workers in health care and 30,000 temporary workers in other essential occupations
- Many organizations have provided **support to** the migrant worker population in Essex **County**, including running the IRC, testing workers and donating food, PPE, and hygiene products



Response: Support for Temporary Foreign Workers

- The Windsor Essex Local Immigration Partnership (WE LIP) held a Community Conversation in November 2020 on the Economic and Social Impact of Temporary Foreign Workers in Windsor-Essex
- Workplace Wellness for Agri-Food Workers Task Force (WWAW) developed
- Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers (OGVG) HUB Connect App for International Agri-Food Workers
- The Economic and Social Impact of Temporary Foreign Workers Task Force continued the work of collecting data on the economic and social contributions Migrant and Temporary Foreign Workers make to Windsor-Essex
- WE LIP Council members organizations partnered to create a positive messaging social media campaign
- We Speak interpretation initiative played an important role for health partners operating the Agri-Food Worker COVID-19 Testing Centre in Learnington and Essex-Windsor EMS at the Isolation and Recovery Centre





Other Challenges Posed by COVID-19

Accessing Internet and Technology & Reduced Access to Information





Digital Divide among Low-Income and Vulnerable Families

- The reliance on technology and internet to participate in online learning and connecting with others contributes to a growing "digital divide" among marginalized and low-income families
- A report by Statistics Canada indicated a higher proportion of low-income families were without internet services than families in higher incomes (Frenette, Frank, & Deng, 2020, April 15)
- Organizations that provide support to vulnerable populations are also facing challenges with inequitable access to internet and technology among the populations they support

COVID-19 IS HIGHLIGHTING CANADA'S DIGITAL DIVIDE. WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

COVID-19 Pandemic: School Closures and the Online Preparedness of Children





Challenges Accessing Internet & Technology

- Government Assisted Refugees and recent immigrants that do not have access or the computer literacy to use technology may face additional isolation by not being able to connect to family members back home or others in their community.
- It may also be difficult for service providers to connect and provide relevant COVID-19 information to their GAR clients (RAP SPO Survey, 2020, April 3)
- The survey of Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP) agencies working with refugees across Canada identifies the challenges with connecting to GAR clients virtually

SERVICES, SUPPORTS, and CHALLENGES



Response: Making Technology Accessible

- Computers for Kids program provides hardware to children and youth in need
 - Received 206 program referrals from Newcomer/Settlement Sector agencies in 2020
- The Community Refugee Fund and Diocese of London Refugee Ministries and YMCA of Southwestern Ontario purchased refurbished laptops for refugee claimants
- South Essex Community Council (SECC) was able to supply kits (refurbished laptops) to seniors, children and adult students



Providing access is helpful but challenges surrounding digital literacy and online navigation may still exist for both students and adults



Reduced Access to Information & Impact of Language Barriers

- "Newcomers who came to Canada as refugees may be especially vulnerable during the COVID-19 pandemic because of difficulty accessing good information about it or struggling to adopt to physical distancing norms." (York University, 2020, April 14)
- Language barriers may prevent the communication of important information about COVID-19 to recent immigrants (Huncar, 2020, March 31)
- Settlement assistance providers are also tasked with providing relevant COVID-19 related information to the people they support

Lost in translation: Newcomers need COVID-19 information in their own languages, advocates say



'God forbid if something happens in those housing premises — all of us will pay dearly'

Andrea Huncar - CBC News - Posted: Mar 31, 2020 10:47 PM MT | Last Updated: April 1, 2020



Community leaders say many Edmontonians are living in close proximity in affordable housing, which makes it difficult to self-isolate. (CBC News)



Reduced Access to Information & Impact of Language Barriers

- Vulnerable and marginalized populations that may not have appropriate ٠ access to information about the COVID-19 pandemic face a higher risk of exposure to the virus
- A report from the Institute of Canadian Citizenship suggests that • marginalized groups are also more likely to face consequences of violating physical distancing rules

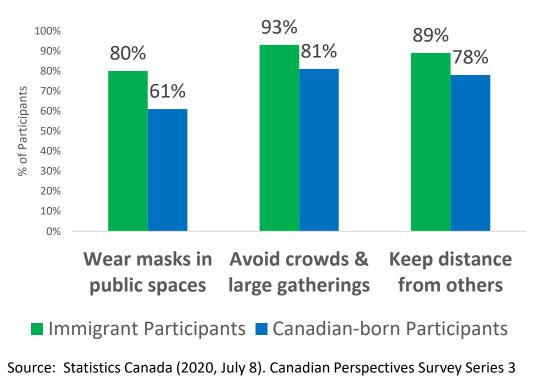
How physical distancing enforcement is negatively affecting Canada's marginalized communities



Reduced Access to Information & Impact of Language Barriers

- Making sure that recent immigrants and refugees to Canada have all the important information regarding COVID-19 and proper safety precautions is necessary to make sure they are able to comply
- Statistics Canada (2020, July 8) reported that Immigrants were more likely than Canadianborn people to report that they would be taking precautions as COVID-19 safety measures are relaxed

Precautions that Canadians will take as safety measures are relaxed, June 2020

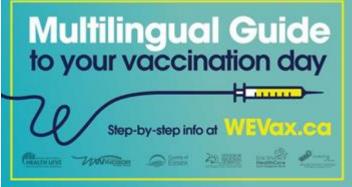




Response: Improving Access to Information

- The WECHU has provided COVID-19 information in multiple languages and access to the BrowseAloud translation feature on their website
- The WE LIP's **We Speak** Translation available for health care service providers
- Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County launched the "A World of Reasons" multilingual campaign
- WEVax partnership launched a multilingual public information campaign to urge residents to get vaccinated when they are eligible
- High Priority Communities Initiative, which includes the City of Windsor, Workforce WindsorEssex and the WE LIP, distributed 70,000 flyers to homes in hot spot postal codes
- Pathway to Potential funded program Be Back Soon translated promotional flyers into French, Arabic, Spanish, and Simplified Chinese











City of Windsor Lunch & Learn **Newcomer Data Sharing**

Hugo Vega & Kelsey Santarossa

August 12, 2021





Settlement success. Together.



Funded by:

Immigration, Refugees Immigration, Réfugiés and Citizenship Canada et Citoyenneté Canada

Einancé nar

WE Value Partnership

Settlement success. Together.

Partenariat WE Value

Succès en établissement. Ensemble.

The WE Value Partnership is community driven initiative using innovation in service delivery and technology to enhance the outcomes of new immigrants and to generate resources that assist stakeholders to build a stronger Windsor-Essex.

Funded by:

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Immigration, and Citizensh Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada





Windsor-Essex – Learnington – Chatham-Kent

YMCA SWO – South Essex Community Council – Adult Language & Learning







Local Immigration Partnerships all strive to:

 To improve access to effective services that facilitate settlement and integration for immigrants and newcomers

The WE Value Partnership logic and data models capture the information needed to track and monitor socio-cultural integration and settlement progress of newcomers in specific communities.

✓ To improve access to the labour market for immigrants and newcomers

By capturing education and employment history and goals, we can better communicate and design programs and services to integrate the skills and capacities of newcomers into local labour markets.

To increase the community's capacity to support and provide services to immigrants and newcomers

By streamlining access to referral and data, we ensure newcomers and front-line staff are supported, all while minimizing administrative and information sharing responsibilities.

To create a welcoming community and promote the inclusion of immigrants and newcomers in Windsor-Essex

By focusing on the assets and abilities of newcomers, we can better focus on the contributions they can make to their communities.

Funded by: F

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Available Data Sets:



WE Value Partnership Settlement success. Jogeth



Together, the WE Value Partnership and the Windsor Essex Local Immigration Partnership are excited to present themed data sets to the community. The information presented will be collected through completed WE Value Settlement Assessments and analyzed by Dr. Reza Nakhaie, University of Windsor.

Immigration, Refugees Immigration, Réfugiós and Citizenship Canada et Citoyenneté Canada



In working with the Windsor Essex Local Immigration Partnership (WE LIP), the WE Value Partnership shared 5 Thematic Data Sets with community stakeholders.

Working with the WE LIP ensures that interested partners and stakeholders have access to relevant data that may inform their strategic planning or program development relevant to newcomers to Windsor-Essex and Chatham-Kent.



ŵŵ Venez-vous d'arriver au Canada? الن يكون صعباً بقد الآن الفثور عل ما تحتاج إليه.

Resources for partners, clients and stakeholders available at:





Context & Considerations

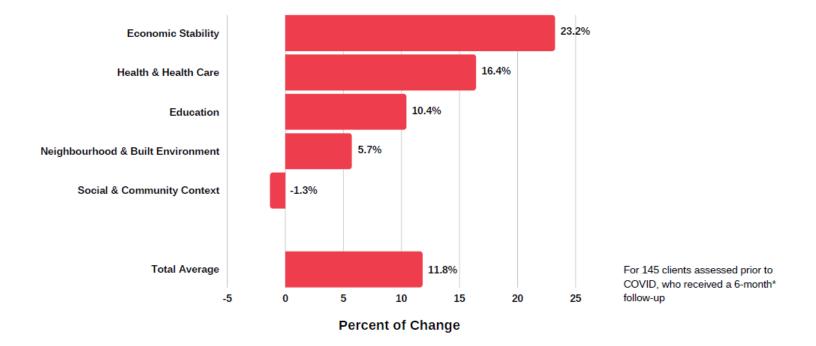
- The Pandemic effect
 - Assessments conducted prior to the beginning of the pandemic with follow-ups conducted 6 months post-start of the pandemic
 - A 6-month moratorium on new assessments to adapt to online, virtual assessments and follow-ups
 - Prioritization of needs and supports of existing clients with immediate needs in the first 6 months of the pandemic
 - The effective closing of the border to immigration
 - Modified and limited access to community services and supports
- Small sample size per pandemic effect factors
- Over-representation of Refugee Class
 - Reflective of clients more inclined to seek settlement supports (locally and nationally)
 - Reflective of clients afforded financial and community supports within their first year of Canada
- Employment status data consistent with that of those within their first 2 years in Canada



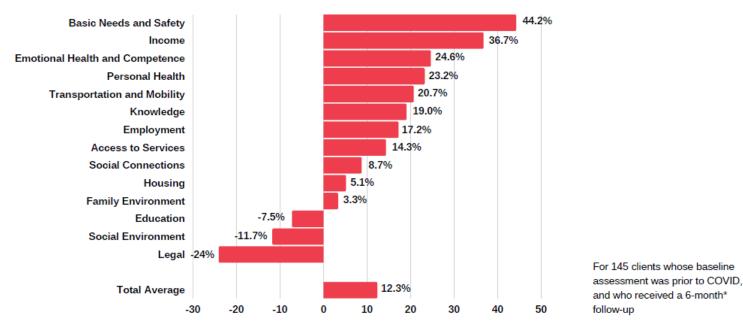
269 Total Clients with Initial Assessments		39	Average Age of Clients
145 Clients w/ Initial and Follow- Up Assessments		23.4	Average months in Canada
Gender	Marital Status 64% Married 27% Single 9% Widowed Imm. Category	8.2%	Lives with Parents
48% Male 52% Female		51%	Lives with Dependent Children
Country of Origin 26% Syria 25% Iraq 10% Somalia 39% Other			
	70% Refugee 11.2% Family 10.8 Protected Person 7.8% Economic	15.6%	Refugee Camp Experience

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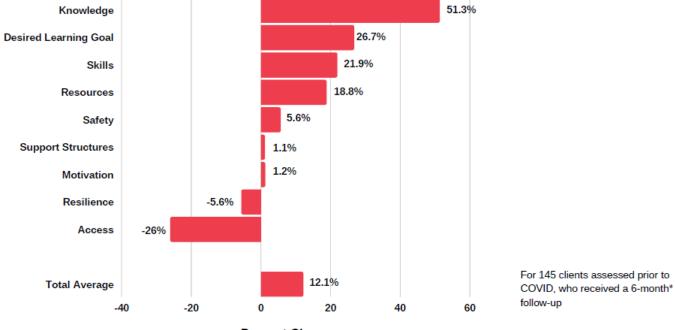
Changes in Social Determinants of Health - By Percent



Changes in Categories of Settlement - By Percent



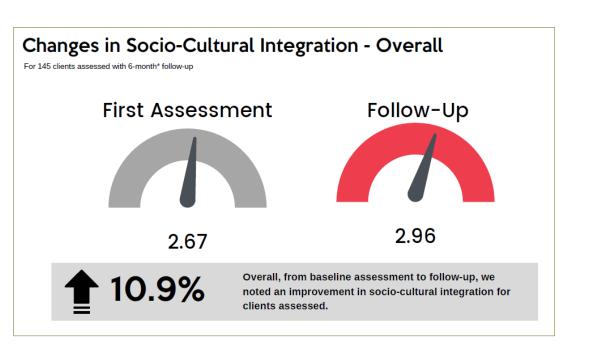
Percent of Change



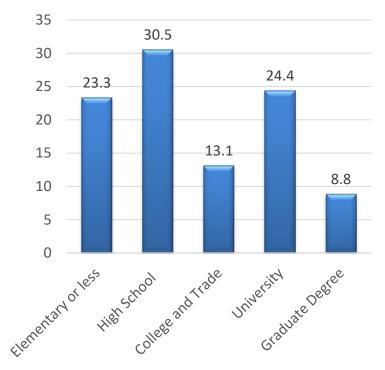
Changes in Client Capacities - By Percent

Percent Change



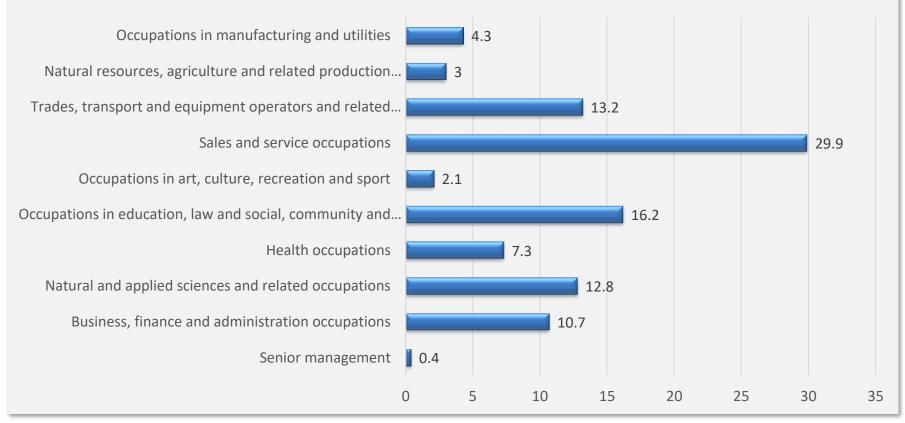


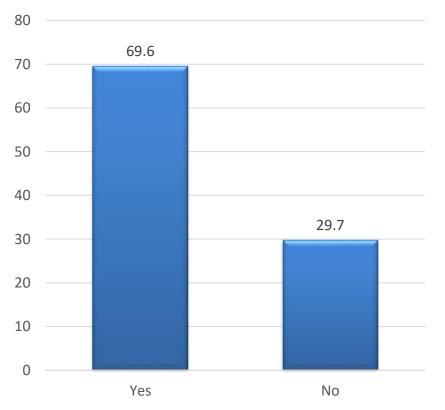
Highest Level of Education by Percent





Detailed Skill Type at Origin (%)



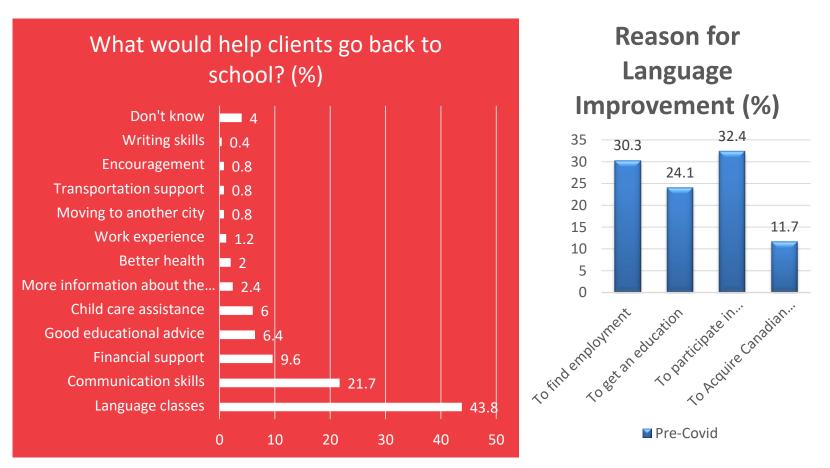


Degree is in Possession (%)

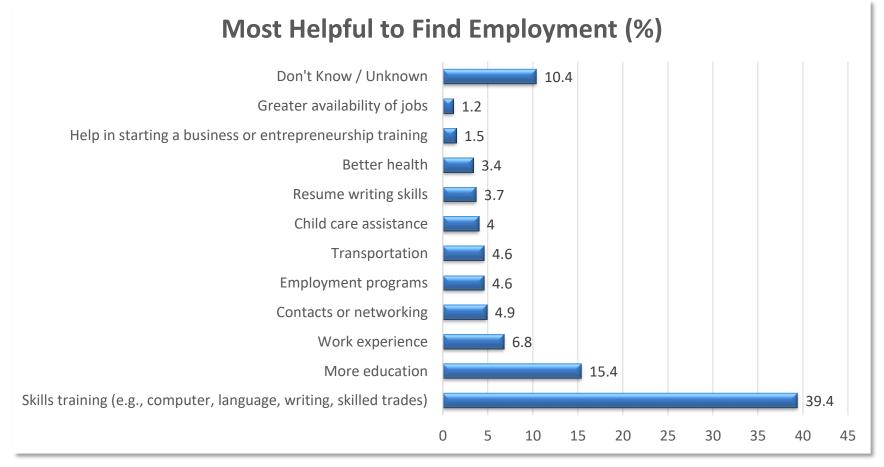




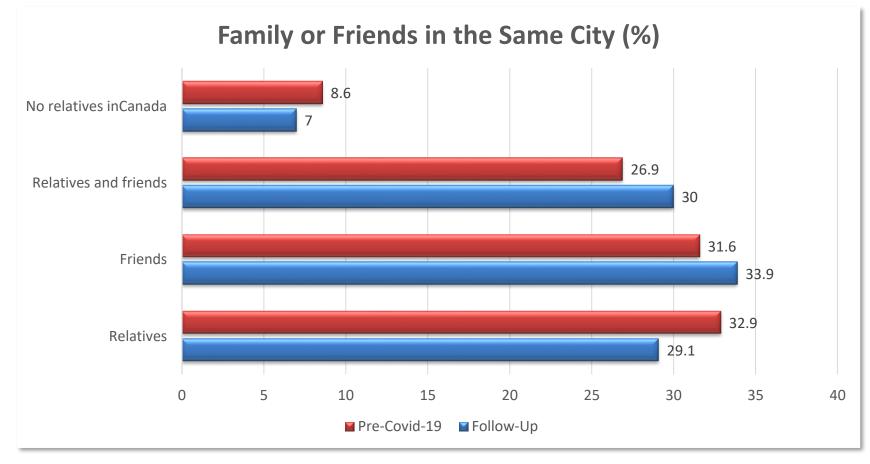


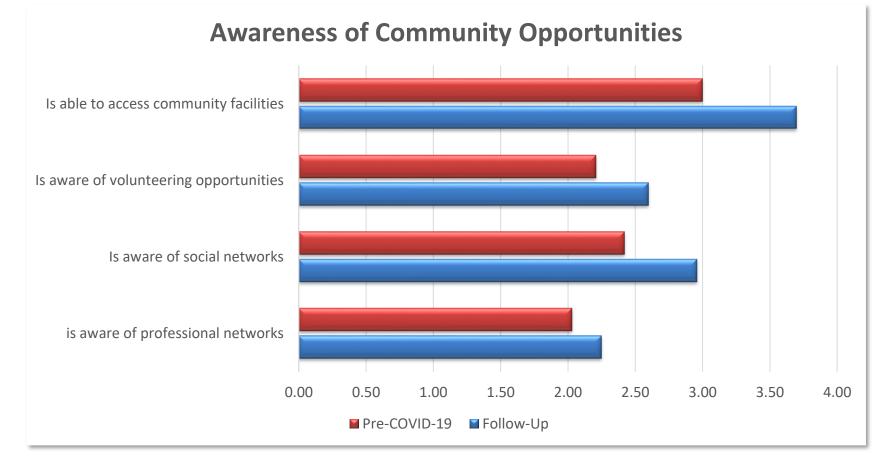


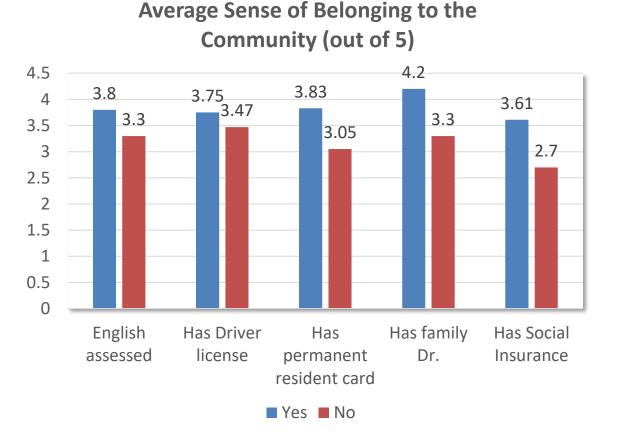
This chart refers to 145 clients at initial assessment who also received a follow-up



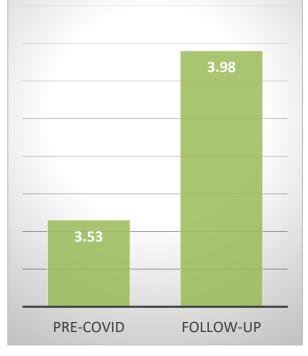
This chart refers to the data collected at the initial assessment, for which 107 clients indicated they were seeking employment.

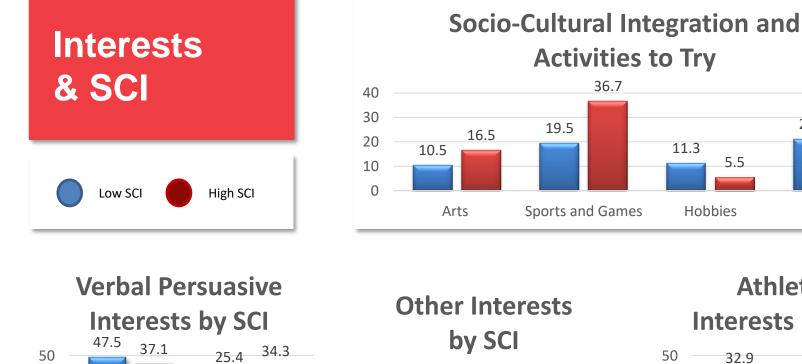






Average Sense of Belonging to the Community (out of 5)





50

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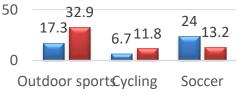


5.5

21.1

16.5

Skills

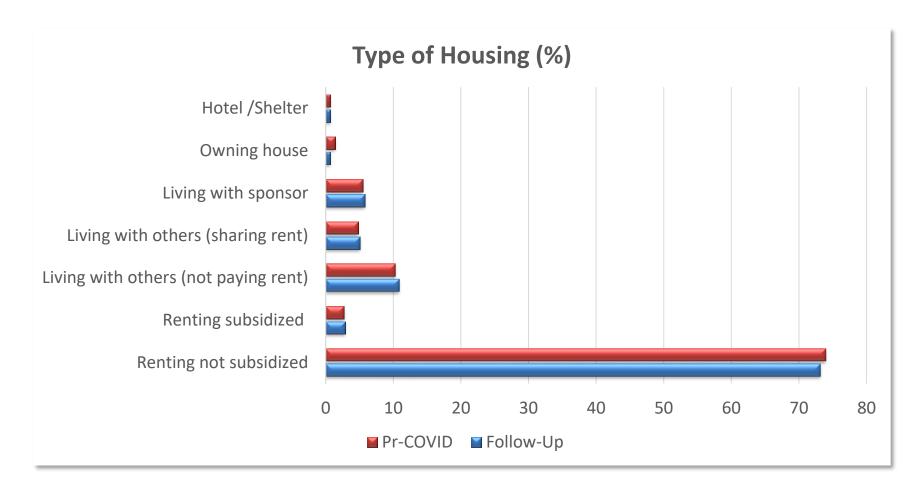


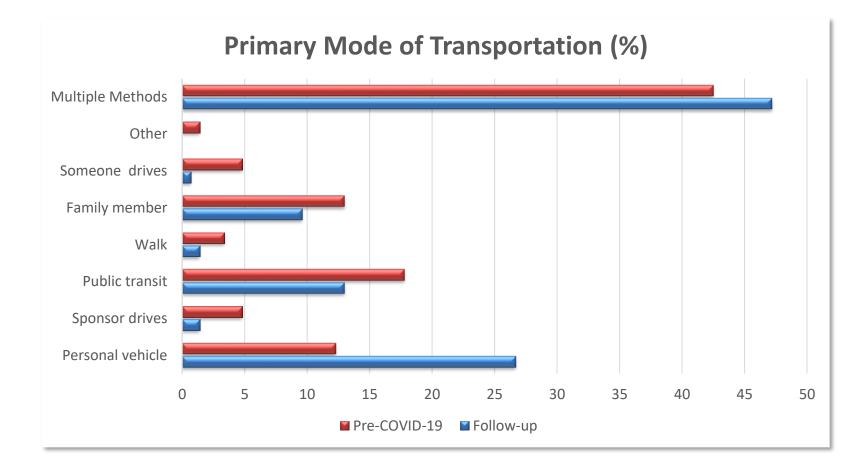
These charts refer to the data collected at the initial assessment for all 269 clients

Solving Problems

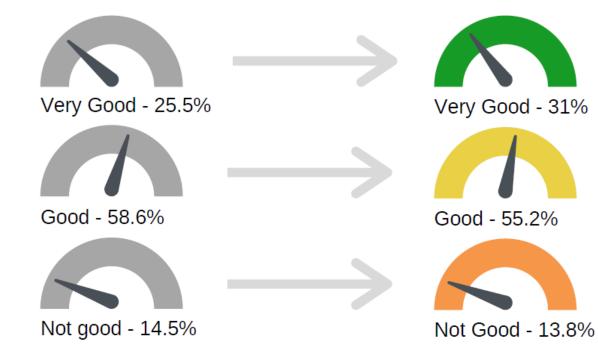
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Selling things





Changes in Clients' Self-Assessed Health



Questions



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Settlement success. Together.

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