

Refugee Integration & Long-Term Health Outcomes in Canada (SyRIA.lth)

What it is:

Refugee Integration and Long-term Health Outcomes in Canada is a pan-Canadian longitudinal study funded by The Canadian Institute for Health Research (CIHR). The project is a partnership between settlement service agencies and academic research institutions in three of Canada's largest refugee resettlement provinces: British Columbia, Ontario, and Quebec.

We are looking at how different resettlement programs support the social integration of Government Assisted Refugees (GARs) and Privately Sponsored Refugees (PSRs) and the impact of integration pathways on their long-term physical and mental health. Our goal is to improve the health and well-being of new Canadians by understanding what leads to successful integration outcomes and for whom so that we can tailor resettlement programs to best suit newcomers' needs and circumstances.

Our research goals:

To produce knowledge that will:

- Inform promising practices for refugee resettlement and integration
- Strengthen knowledge exchange in the settlement sector
- Identify the impact of settlement policies on refugee health and well-being
- Deepen our understanding of the influence of social conditions on long-term health and well-being

Our approach:

Interviews will be collected once a year for four years with Syrian adults who resettled in Canada between 2015 and 2017. In year two and year four, we will also conduct focus groups to gain more insight into the nature of people's experiences.

These interviews will follow key integration markers at the material or functional level (e.g., employment, housing and social services accessed), the social level (e.g., social networks, discrimination), and the subjective or psychological level (e.g., sense of belonging, stress).

Project Updates

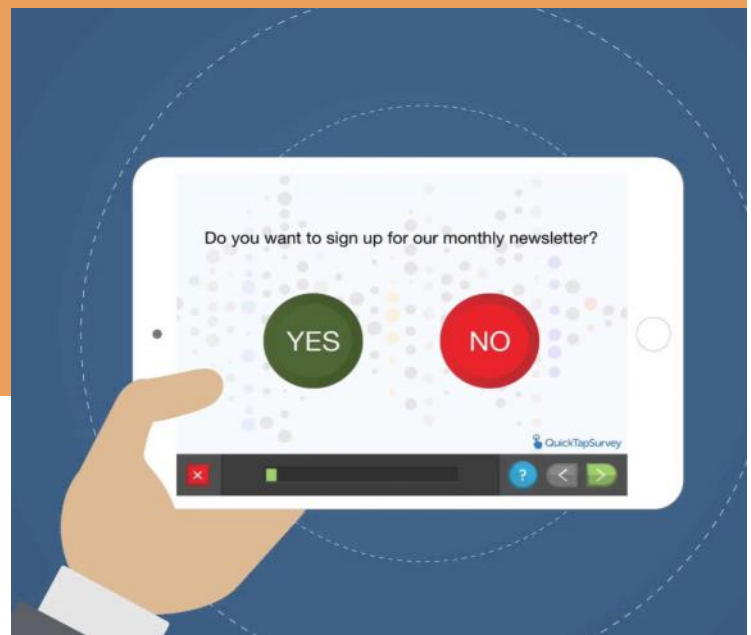
Work to date:

- Preliminary analyses of year 1 survey
- On-going dissemination year 1 survey results nationally (see pp.3-5)
- SyRIA.lth website is now available in Arabic: <http://syrialth.apps01.yorku.ca/ar/>
- Focus groups with a sub-sample of our research participants have been conducted nationally:

Site:	Number of focus groups with GARs	Number of focus groups with PSRs
Toronto	2 with males and 2 with females	2 with males and 2 with females
Kitchener	2 with males and 2 with females	2 with males and 2 with females
Windsor	2 with males and 2 with females	2 with males and 2 with females
Montreal	2 with males and 2 with females	2 with males and 2 with females
Vancouver	Scheduled for May 2018	Scheduled for May 2018
Okanagan Valley	2 with males and 2 with females	2 with males and 2 with females

Next steps:

- Website translation into French
- Forming year 1 data analysis and report writing national sub-teams
- Year 2 survey data collection (April– July 2018). The survey is now available on the iPads



Our Team's Presentations

National Metropolis Conference

Our team presented a year 1 survey data at The national Metropolis Conference in March.

Title of the workshop: **Context Matters: Comparing Syrian Refugees' Resettlement Experiences by Province and City Size**

- Montreal, QC team presented about urban and suburban settlement and integration differences
- BC team presented the initial year 1 survey outcomes with a special focus on employment differences between Vancouver and Okanagan Valley.
- ON team highlighted the different profiles of GARs vs. PSRs in Toronto, Kitchener and Windsor. PSRs in Toronto were not only different from GARs but also different from PSRs in the other two Ontario sites.

***Please see next page for some of our year 1 survey findings (page 4)**



Our national team- from left to right- Jill Hanley, Branka Agic, Kathy Sherrell, Michaela Hynie and Mahi Khalaf at the national Metropolis Conference (March 23, 2018)

Our Team's Presentations

National Metropolis Conference

What do we know so far?

Resettlement of Syrian Refugees in Quebec:

- Background: Quebec was already the province with highest concentration of Syrians (44%) prior to the Liberal announcement. Older waves of immigrants: 71% Christian, 76% higher education, employed. Through community and religious networks, thousands of private sponsorships already in the works. This led to the unique situation in Quebec; 9805 Syrians came to Quebec (Nov 2015 – July 2017): 79% privately sponsored; 66% in Montreal region.
- SyRIA.lth Year 1 survey Montreal: Recruited 697 participants from 398 households; 90% PSRs, 84% Christian, 74% Arab & 19% Armenian
- Central suburbs: Strong Arab community in terms of language, religious institutions, businesses and community organizations, and easy public transportation. Thus, social and employment connections for those who settled there might be easier
- Outer suburb: Diverse and difficult public transportation. Those settling in there typically from higher class background, better pre-existing language skills and privileged family connections

Resettlement of Syrian Refugees in BC:

SyRIA.lth Year 1 survey British Columbia (2 sites including: Vancouver and Okanagan Valley)

- 313 participants were interviewed (246 in Vancouver; 67 in Okanagan Valley)
- 30% of participants are working but household incomes remain low relative to family size. Over 40% of jobs are temporary or seasonal.
- Employment is highest among PSRs (43%) and lowest among GARs (24%)

Resettlement of Syrian Refugees in ON:

SyRIA.lth Year 1 survey Ontario (3 sites including: Kitchener, Windsor and Toronto)

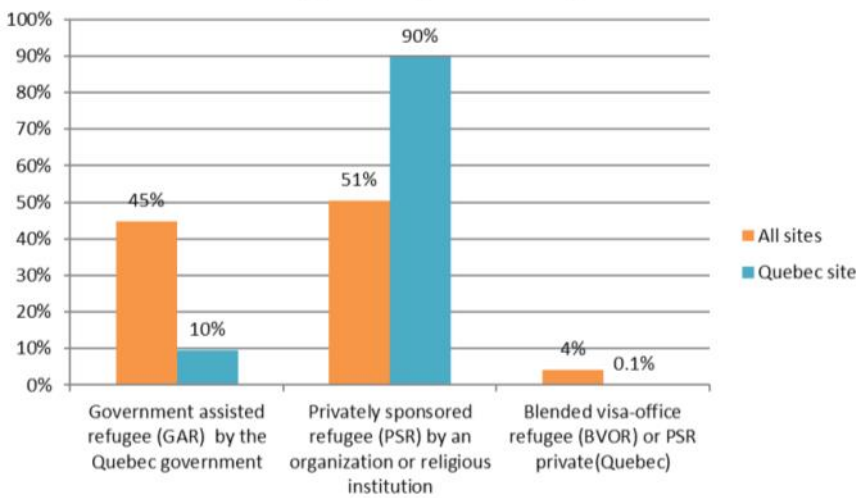
- 922 participants were interviewed (546 in Toronto; 141 in Kitchener and 235 in Windsor)
- GARs and PSRs differ in variables related to building social networks, accessing services, and learning the language
- PSR characteristics vary by city in ON

Our Team's Presentations

Emerging Voices Symposium

Oula Hajjar, our regional QC coordinator presented Montreal year 1 survey data at Emerging Voices symposium (April 13, 2018)

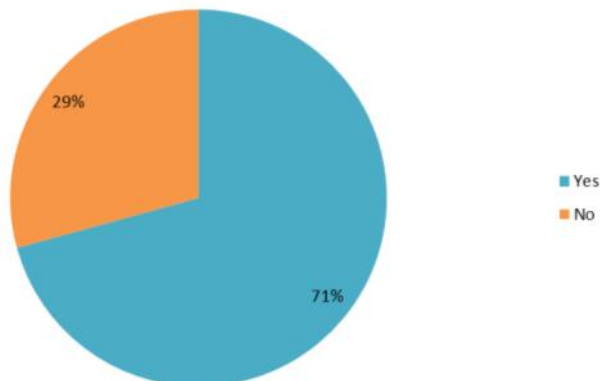
Type of sponsorship



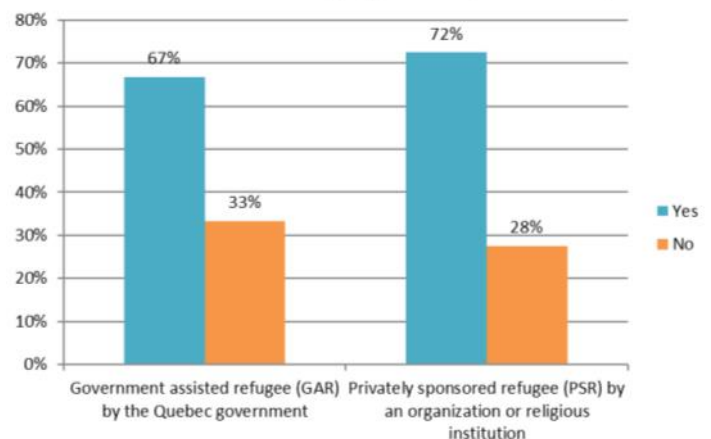
Particularities of the Quebec model:

- The private sponsorship faced challenges in terms of lack governmental support during the first year but with the fact that some sponsors did not commit to the sponsorship agreements.
- Paid French classes for PSRs and GARs is an important incentive towards integration.

Are you taking French language classes?



French classes- by type of sponsorship



Our Team's Work

Health Access Day Windsor 2018

On Monday April 17, 2018, The Multicultural Council of Windsor Essex has hosted its annual Health Access Day where over 40 health service providers and agencies joined to promote their services to meet health, mental health, settlement and other critical services in Windsor-Essex. Within the day, service providers joined with immigrants and refugees to educate about available services and respond to refugees' inquiries; a team of volunteers and staff was available to facilitate the communication between service providers and participating individuals. The event was a huge success and has received the commendment of all participating service providers and refugees/immigrants who visited during the day. Additionally, a panel discussion of five refugees had the opportunity to share their immigration story and current settlement experience in Canada (Windsor-Essex).



Riham Al-Saadi our regional Windsor coordinator assisted newcomer families at the Health Access Day 2018 (April 17, 2018)

HEALTH ACCESS DAY 2018

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

Fogolar Furlan Windsor, 1800 N Service Rd.

9:30 am to 2:00 pm

“Health & Wellness for Newcomer Families”

- Gain knowledge on how to access health and support services that help you and your family to stay physically and mentally healthy and prevent disease and illness.
- Interact with exhibitors and participate in a variety of screening and health promotion activities.



Relevant Research

Family History and Attitudes Toward Out-groups: Evidence from the Syrian Refugee Crisis

This piece explores how analogous thinking about family history affects out-group bias. It provides evidence from Greece, a country that serves as an entry port to Europe for a large number of refugees, and whose native population partly consists of descendants of ethnic Greeks that were forcibly relocated from Turkey in the early 20th century. Combining historical and survey data with an experimental manipulation, it shows that mentioning the parallels between past and present forced displacement leads to substantial increases in monetary donations and attitudinal measures of sympathy for refugees among respondents with forcibly displaced ancestors. This effect is also found among Greeks without a family history of forced migration, but only in places with a large historical concentration of Greek refugees from Turkey, where this historical experience is salient. Overall, the findings suggest that harnessing past experience can be an effective way of increasing empathy and reducing out-group discrimination.

Read the paper on: <https://people.stanford.edu/vfouka/sites/default/files/dinasfouka.pdf>

Canadians See welcoming Refugees as Our Top International Contribution, Survey Finds

The 2018 Canada's World Survey measured how Canadian attitudes have shifted and looked at issues that have emerged over the past decade. 25% of respondents think the most important contribution the country can make to the world is accepting immigrants and multiculturalism, a shift from ten years ago when peacekeeping topped the list. Consequently, the survey estimates that two million adult Canadians were involved directly in the sponsorship of refugees, with another seven million who knew someone who did. In addition, a majority of those surveyed believe Canada should either increase the number of refugees accepted over the next two years or continue to accept the same number.

Read the full report on: <https://www.thediscourse.ca/data/canadians-see-welcoming-refugees-as-our-top-international-contribution-survey-finds>

News & Events



Telling Our Stories: Immigrant Women's Resilience

A one-of-a-kind graphic novel written by immigrant women, to support immigrant women.

Download the graphic novel from: http://www.ocasi.org/sites/default/files/ocasi-vaw-graphic-novel-english_0.pdf

Continuing Education Opportunities:

Course/ Webinar	Website
Course: The Immigrant and Refugee Mental Health Project, by CAMH	rmhp/courses
Webinar: Interpreter Services in Mental Health Care	com/r/ASasso

Upcoming Events:

Date	Event	Location	Website
May 21-25	Canadian Association on of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies	Ottawa Canada	http://carfms.org/
June 7-9	International Refugee Rights Conference 2018	Toronto Canada	http://ccrweb.ca/en/
July 24-27	International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM)	Thessaloniki Greece	iasfm.org/iasfm17/



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