

LIVING CONDITIONS OF IMMIGRANT SENIORS

MONTREAL 2016

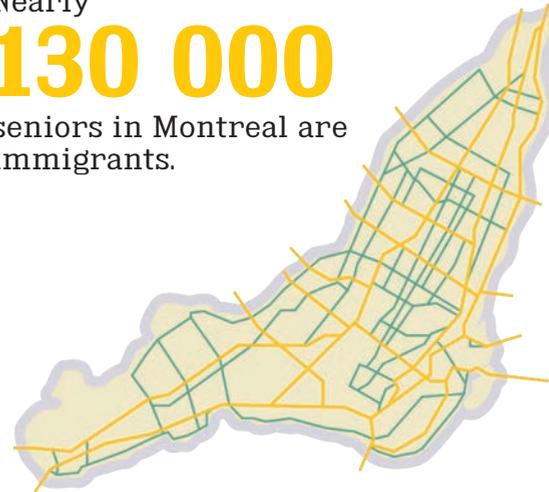
Who are Montreal immigrant seniors?

Are their living conditions relatively favourable compared to Canadian-born seniors?

Are there any differences based on how long they have been in the country?

Nearly
130 000

seniors in Montreal are immigrants.

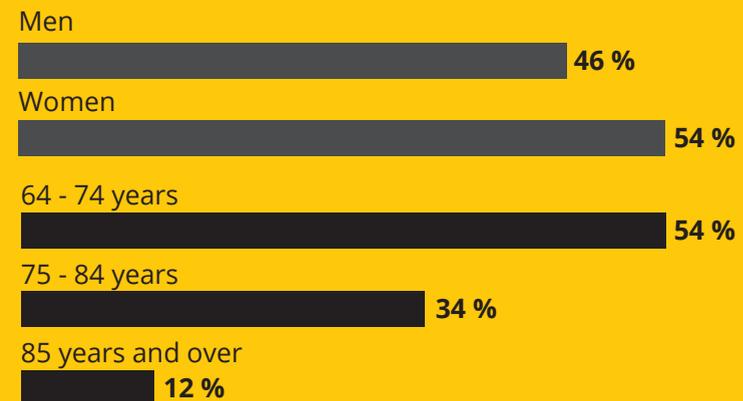


Montreal seniors were born outside of Canada (**44%**). This proportion is higher than in the overall Montreal population (**34%**).

96% of immigrants aged 65 and over arrived in Canada **before 2006**.



Distribution of immigrants 65 years of age and over by gender and age group, 2016

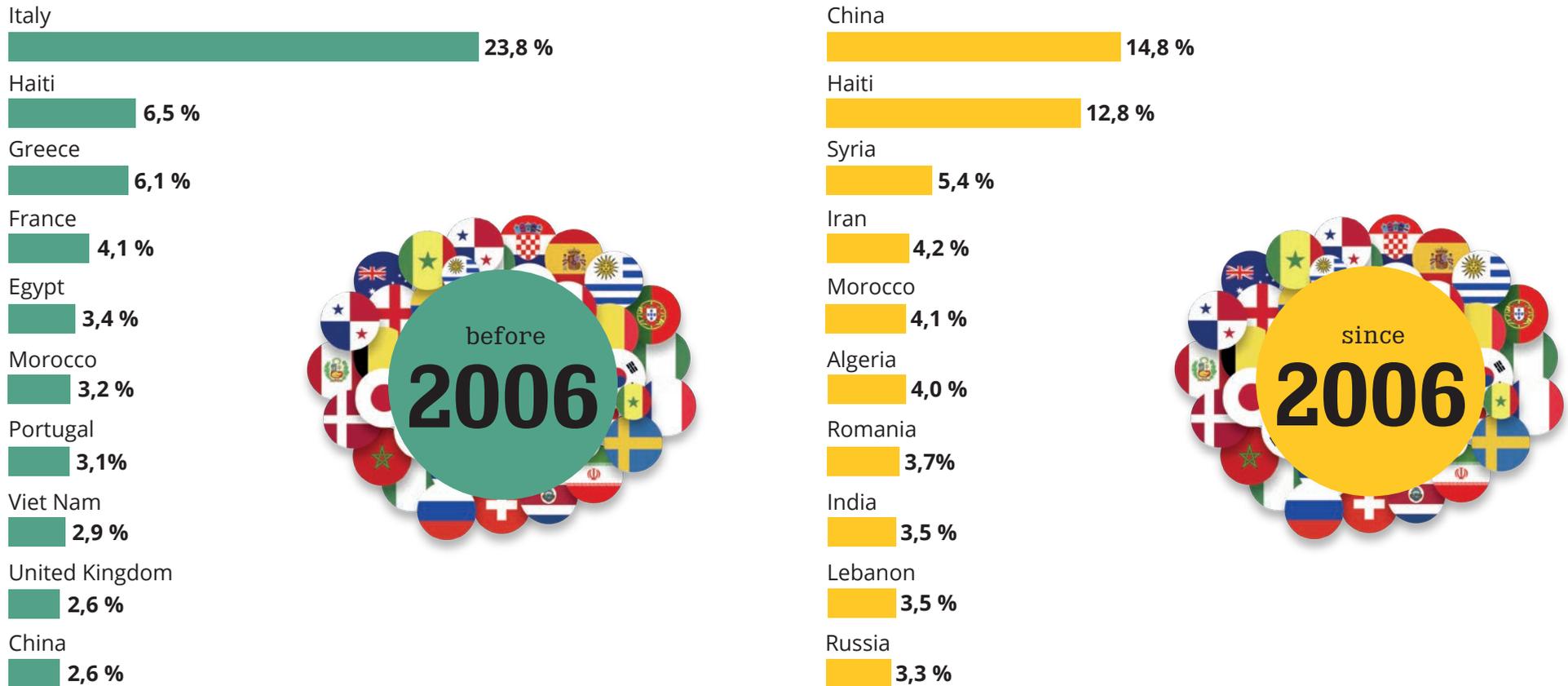


MAIN COUNTRIES FROM WHICH IMMIGRANT SENIORS COME - A RAPIDLY CHANGING PICTURE

When comparing the distribution of the origin of immigrant seniors by period of immigration, it can be observed that the place of origin between immigrants who arrived **before or since 2006** is very different.

However, one thing remains the same: in both cases, the top 10 countries from which immigrant seniors come represent more than half of all places of origin. (**before 2006: 58% / since 2006: 59%**)

Main countries of origin by period of immigration: immigrant population 65 years of age and over, Montreal, 2016



Distribution of the immigrant population 65 years of age and over by admission type, since 2006, Montreal, 2016





LOW EDUCATION LEVELS FOR ALMOST HALF OF IMMIGRANT SENIORS

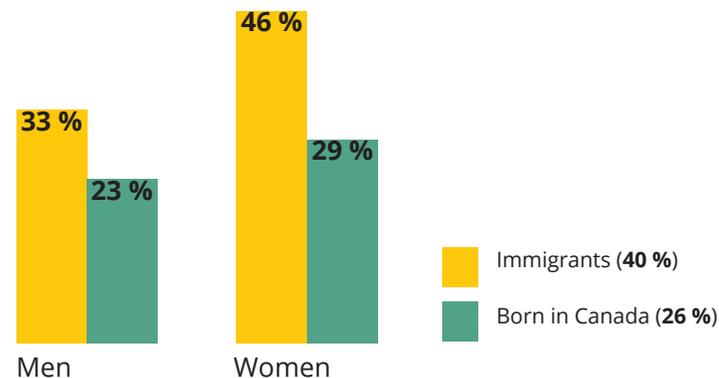
A higher proportion of immigrant seniors are without a diploma compared to those born in Canada, **40% as opposed to 26%**.

Among seniors, immigrant women are the most likely to have no diploma at all: almost half (46%).

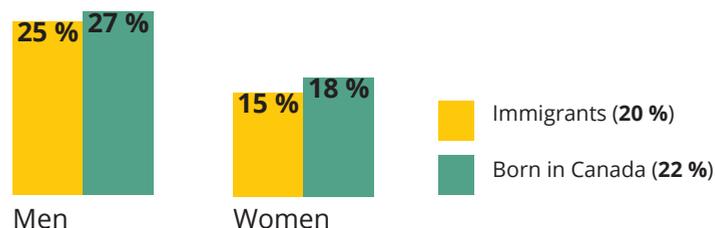
Women, whether immigrant or Canadian-born, are less likely than men to have a university degree.

Among immigrant seniors, **1 in 5 (20%)** have a university degree, a proportion comparable to that of Canadian-born seniors (**22%**).

Population aged 65 and over without a diploma, 2016



Population aged 65 and over with a university degree, 2016



ABILITY TO SPEAK CANADA'S OFFICIAL LANGUAGES: GAPS BY AGE AND GENDER

14% of immigrant seniors do not speak either English or French.

Immigrants aged 65 and over who do not know any of the official languages by gender and age group, 2016



The proportion of immigrant seniors who do not understand any of the official languages is higher among women (**18%**).

27% of immigrant seniors aged 85 and over do not know any of the official languages.

LOW-INCOME CUT-OFFS BY FAMILY SIZE

The low-income cut-off is the amount below which a family is considered likely to spend a more substantial portion of its income on essential needs such as food, shelter and clothing in comparison to an average family.

After-tax low-income cut-offs by family size, communities of 500,000 people and over, 2015

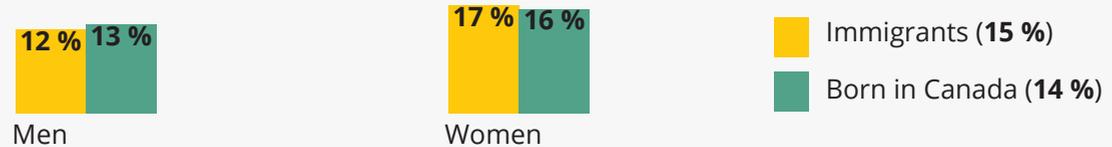
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|-----------|------------------|
| 1 person | 20 386 \$ |
| 2 persons | 24 810 \$ |
| 3 persons | 30 895 \$ |
| 4 persons | 38 544 \$ |
| 5 persons | 43 890 \$ |
| 6 persons | 48 675 \$ |
| 7 persons | 53 460 \$ |

Statistics Canada, 2019

WOMEN ARE MORE LIKELY TO HAVE LOW INCOMES

In Montreal, **15%** of immigrant seniors live below the low-income cut-off (LICO), a proportion comparable to that of Canadian-born seniors (**14%**).

Population aged 65 and over below the after-tax low-income cut-off, 2015

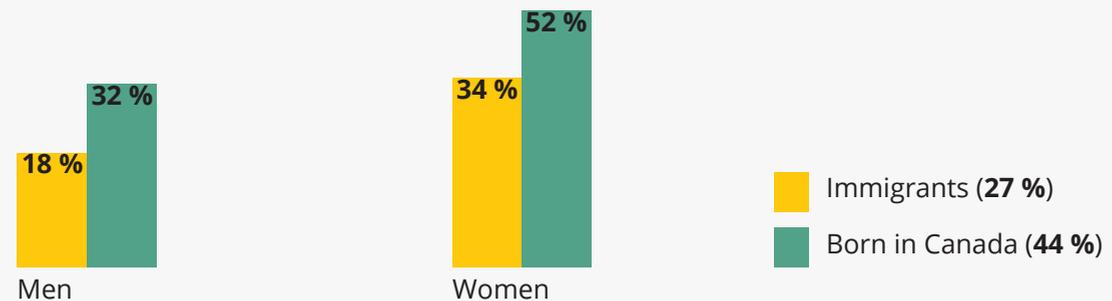


Among both immigrant and Canadian-born seniors, women are more likely to live below the LICO.

LIVING ALONE, A LESS COMMON REALITY AMONG IMMIGRANT SENIORS

Immigrant seniors are less likely to live alone than those born in Canada, **27%** of immigrant seniors live alone compared to **44%** of those born in Canada.

Population 65 years of age and over living alone, 2015



As with low income, women are more likely to live alone, both among immigrant seniors and those born in Canada.

Are Seniors Who Have Arrived in Montreal More Recently More or Less at Risk than Other **Immigrant Seniors**? A Nuanced Portrait

Seniors who have immigrated **since 2006** account for **5,650 people**, or 4% of immigrant seniors in Montreal.

These recent immigrants are more likely to:

- have a university degree (**28% compared to 19%** for seniors who arrived before 2006)
- not know either official language (**44% compared to 12%** for seniors who arrived before 2006)
- live below the low-income cut-off (**30% compared to 14%** for seniors who arrived before 2006)

They are mostly sponsored immigrants (**65%**) and are less likely to live alone (**10% compared to 28%** for seniors who arrived before 2006).

In terms of numbers, seniors who immigrated before 2006 are therefore much more likely to have no knowledge of either official language or to live below the low-income cut-off.



ECONOMIC IMMIGRANTS

This category includes immigrants who have been selected for their potential to contribute to the Canadian economy through their ability to meet labour force needs, own and manage or start a business, invest a significant amount of money, have their own jobs or meet specific provincial or territorial labour force needs.



REFUGEES

This category Includes immigrants who have received permanent resident status due to a well-founded fear of returning to their country of origin. It also includes persons who feared persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or their political opinions (refugees as defined in the Geneva Convention), as well as individuals who have suffered severe and personal harm as a result of civil war, armed conflict or massive human rights violations.

SPONSORED IMMIGRANTS

This group includes immigrants who were sponsored by a Canadian citizen or permanent resident and who received permanent resident status because of their relationship with that sponsor, whether as a spouse, partner, parent, grandparent, child or other relative.



The terms "family class" or "family reunification" are sometimes used to refer to this group.

AVENUES FOR REFLECTION

In general, the living conditions of immigrant seniors are no more or less favourable than those of Canadian-born seniors. Nonetheless, it is noteworthy that some factors can increase vulnerability in terms of access to services, participation or quality of life:

- Having immigrated to Canada after 2006;
- Being a woman;
- Not knowing one of the two official languages;

This requires that all seniors be guaranteed universal and inclusive access to services. For instance, the use of communications tools adapted to allophone seniors and multilingual services may be considered.

Also, to provide equal opportunities for social participation, it is essential to consider the specific characteristics as well as cultural and linguistic practices of all seniors. This requires an inclusive approach, with greater

consideration given to immigrant seniors in the planning of activities, community engagement and all opportunities given to them to be active members of their community.

Thus, to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate, various initiatives may be undertaken:

- French-language programs for seniors;
- Offering diversified and inclusive community activities;
- Support in the cultural, administrative and community activities in Montreal and Quebec.
- Develop integration programs that are adapted to seniors who have left the labour market.

REFERENCES

Statistics Canada. (2018). 2016 Census, Table CO-1955-T2 and CO-1975-T1. Special order from the Direction de santé publique de Montréal.

Statistics Canada. (2019). Table 11-10-0241-01, Low-income cut-offs (LICO) before and after tax by community size and family size, in current dollars.

CREDITS

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