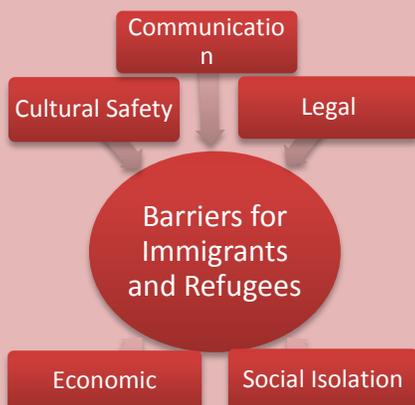


# Neighbours, Friends and Families Immigrant and Refugee Communities Campaign Hamilton Fact Sheet

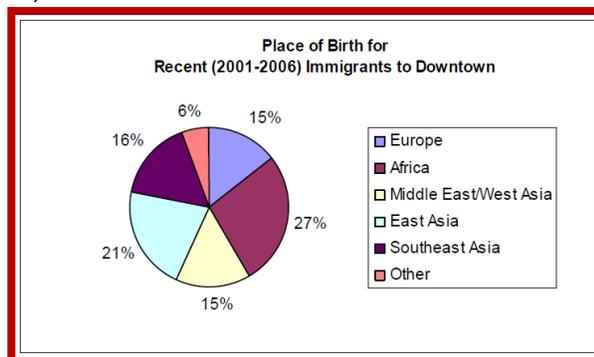
Summer 2015

## Key Facts

- More than 24% of Hamilton's population was born outside of Canada
- 16,560 new immigrants settled in Hamilton from 2001 to 2006 compared to 13,800 in the previous five-year period
- 79% of Downtown's recent immigrants are from Africa and Asia, compared to 66% for Hamilton overall
- Visible minorities are 33.5% of Hamilton's immigrant population and 6.1% of Hamilton's non-immigrant population
- Downtown is home to 2% of City's population, but 7% of City's recent immigrants



Hamilton is the third destination of choice for new immigrants to Ontario. The 2001 and 2006 Censuses of the Hamilton region indicated that there was slower population growth yet increasing diversity and income disparities compared to the previous period (1996 to 2001).



Source: City of Hamilton, n.d.

Employment inequities affect immigrant and refugee communities and impact women's ability to access to financial independence. Female immigrants in 2011 had a 51.2% labour force participation rate versus 65.7% of Canadian-born females. Visible minority women were 40 percent more likely to be unemployed than were their counterparts who were not visible minorities. (Hamilton Community Foundation, 2012)

Further, precarious immigration status is a legal barrier that can increase the risk of violence against women and limits their ability to leave and seek supports. Women are put in positions where they rely on and remain with their sponsor (likely a spouse or family member) to stay in Canada. They are often unaware of the laws that protect them and discouraged from leaving abusive relationships that could result in jeopardizing their status in Canada.

Immigrant and refugee communities also experience a number of other barriers to accessing information, resources, and other supports. These can include communication, lack of cultural safety, and social isolation.

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