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604 – 170 Laurier Ave. West  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1P 5V5

(613) 233-8891  
csls@csls.ca

CENTRE FOR THE  
STUDY OF LIVING  
STANDARDS

## Appendix: A Portrait of Refugees in Canada

Ghada Abid

Prepared for Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship  
Canada

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# Appendix: A Portrait of Refugees in Canada

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## **A Portrait of Refugees in Canada**

This appendix provides a portrait of refugees in Canada. It has four sections. Section one discusses definitions of the different types of refugees that Canada admits. Section two looks at trends in refugees broken down by types of refugees, country of origin and provinces of destinations. Section three examines the characteristics of refugees in terms of age and gender, education, skill level, and family status. The fourth and final section provides a brief overview of programs and benefits for the different categories of refugees.

### **I. Definitions of Types of Refugees in Canada**

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (n.d.-b), there are 20 people who find themselves forced to leave their homes every minute in hopes of finding a better life and a brighter future in another country or region. During their journey of crossing international borders, forcibly displaced persons, notably refugees and asylum seekers, are entitled to protection under international law. The 1951 Refugee Convention, read in conjunction with its 1967 Protocol, is the most important legal document that formulates the internationally-recognized definition of the term refugee as being “a person who, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country,” (UNHCR Canada, n.d.). This multilateral treaty also specifies what the definition ensues when it comes to the rights which must be granted to refugees as well as the commitment of the State parties to protect them.

As of 2018, Canada, the largest resettlement country globally, has two distinct refugee protection programs: the Refugee and Humanitarian Resettlement Program (RHRP) and the In-Canada Asylum Program (ICAP) (Government of Canada [GC], n.d.-d). The first program, that is the Refugee and Humanitarian Resettlement Program, is designed for individuals in need of protection located outside of Canada. They cannot directly apply for refugee protection, but rather must be referred by a referral organization such as the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) or by a private sponsorship group. Indeed, to be eligible for refugee protection, the individuals need to satisfy the requirements of one of the two following categories: Convention refugees abroad class or Country of asylum class.

An individual might belong to the Convention refugee abroad class if they are outside of their home country and feel threatened to go back due to a well-founded fear of persecution based on their race, religion, political opinion, nationality or membership in a particular social group ('particular social group' may include, for example, persons of a particular gender or sexual orientation). Convention refugees may be resettled under the Government-Assisted Refugees Program (supports provided by IRCC), the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program (supports largely provided by private sponsors) or the Blended Visa Office-Referred Program (supports jointly provided by IRCC and sponsors).

To meet the requirements of the Country of asylum class, individuals must be outside of their country of origin or of residence and have been seriously and personally affected by civil war or armed conflict or massive violation of human rights. Members of this class are normally privately sponsored. In both classes, refugees are expected to contribute to their resettlement costs if they have personal savings or earn sufficient income in Canada (Government of Canada, n.d.-e).

As soon as the resettled refugees land in Canada, whether they fall in the Convention refugee abroad class or the Country of asylum class and regardless of their sponsorship category, they become legal permanent residents, including access to IRCC supports to which all permanent residents are entitled such as language training. They are also entitled to work and have access to education (Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada [IRCC], n.d.-a).

The second program, the In-Canada Asylum Program, is made for refugee-claimants or asylum-seekers that have already landed in Canada and are asking for refugee protection. They would fill out an asylum claim from a port of entry, or at an inland Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) or Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) office. The CBSA or IRCC officials would then determine if the individuals are eligible to make a claim. To do so, they would need to take into consideration some factors such as whether the claimants have been convicted of a serious crime, if they have received protection in another country or if they are asking for asylum after their first claim was denied (IRCC, n.d.-a).

Once the eligibility of the claim is assessed, it will be referred to the Refugee Protection Division of the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB) for a hearing. All eligible claims are then processed on a one-by-one basis. Consequently, an asylum-seeker is an individual that wants to be a refugee but whose claim has yet to be approved. During this process, the individual would still be protected under international refugee law (OSCE, 2018:15).

After examining the claimants' files, the IRB settles on whether they meet the United Nations definition of a Convention refugee or that of a person in need of protection. According to the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, a person in need of protection is a "person in Canada who would be subjected personally to a danger of torture, a risk to their life, or a risk of cruel and unusual treatment or punishment if they were returned to their home country" (IRCC, n.d.-a.).

## **II. Trends in Refugees**

### **A. Trends in the Annual Intake of Refugees**

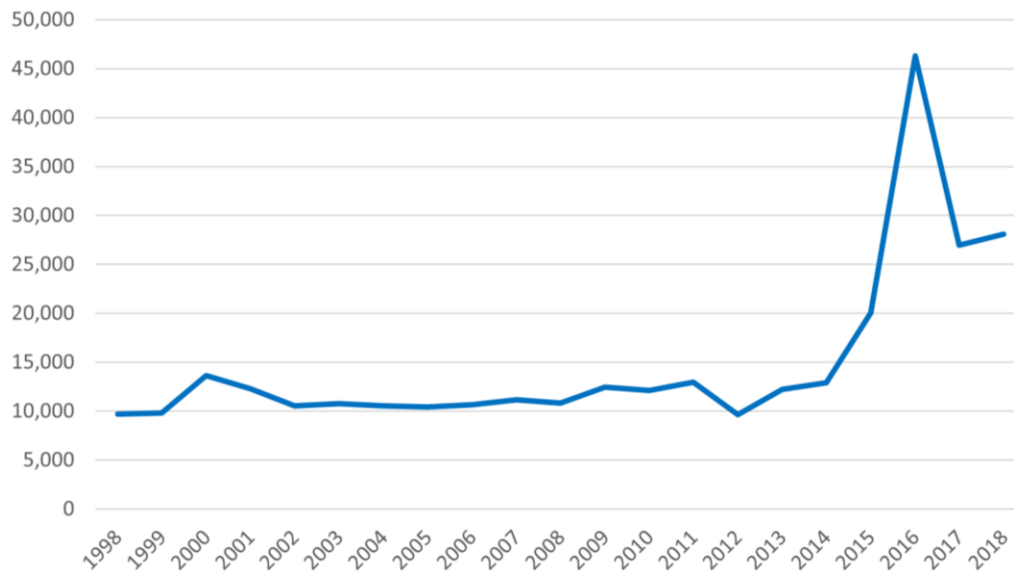
#### **a. Trends in Refugee Resettlement**

In 2017, the Government of Canada allocated a total of 25,000 resettlement spaces divided as follows: 9,000 spaces (36 per cent) for government-supported refugees and 16,000 spaces (64 per cent) for the privately-sponsored ones. Its target for 2018 was to resettle and welcome 27,000 refugees, so nearly 8 per cent higher than the previous year's total resettlement admission objective (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR], 2018, 2). The resettlement targets are just estimates for the future annual intake of refugees. In 2017, Canada exceeded its resettlement objective by welcoming 26,980 refugees (See Table 1).

From 1998 to 2018, the annual intake of refugees in Canada fluctuated over time. The year with the lowest total number of refugees welcomed in Canada was 2008 where the number of refugees was 10,800. 2016 was the year Canada's annual admission of refugees reached a historical record of over 46,000 refugees, 26,000 and 19,000 more refugees than 2015 and 2017 respectively. For 2018, the last year of data, Canada took in roughly 28,000 refugees (See Table 1).

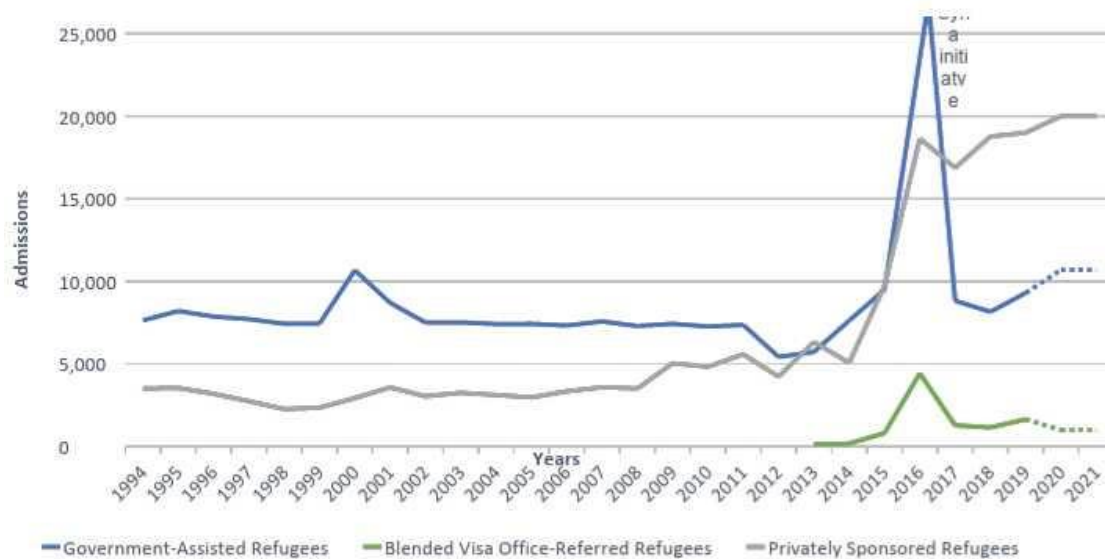
### Chart 1: Annual Intake of Refugees in Canada, 1998-2018

Panel A: Total Annual Intake of Refugees in Canada, 1998-2018



Sources: From 1998 to 2015: Open Government, 2016.-a. Retrieved May 22, 2020 from <https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/ad975a26-df23-456a-8ada-756191a23695#wb-auto-6>  
 For the year 2016: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, 2017:6. Retrieved from: <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/ircc/migration/ircc/english/pdf/pub/annual-report-2017.pdf>  
 For the year 2017: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, 2018:40. Retrieved from: <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/ircc/migration/ircc/english/pdf/pub/annual-report-2018.pdf>  
 For the year 2018: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, 2019:21. Retrieved from: <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/ircc/migration/ircc/english/pdf/pub/annual-report-2019.pdf>

Panel B: Annual Intake of Refugees in Canada by Sponsorship Stream, 1994-2021



Source: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (2020) *Review of Services & Service Delivery for Government-Assisted Refugees*. Canadian Council on Refugees Spring Consultation. Settlement and Integration Policy Branch.

## **b. Trends in GARs and PSRs Resettlements**

According to the online datasets provided by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada for the period between January 2015 and February 2020, Canada resettled approximately 153,000 refugees divided as follows: 54 per cent of them being Privately-Sponsored Refugees (PSRs), 40 per cent are Government-Assisted Refugees (GARs) and the remaining 6 per cent belong to the Blended-Visa-Office Referred (BVOR) category. The reason the PSRs outnumber the GARs for the annual refugees' intake is because of the government's 2009 initiative to increase the share of PSRs compared to GARs (Wilkinson & Garcea, 2017:4). Indeed, in the 8 years leading up to the government announcing its initiative, the cumulative total number of PSRs was 31,000 and the cumulative total number of GARs in Canada was 68,000. However, following the government's initiative that is between 2010 and 2018, PSRs and GARs were almost 90,000 and 83,000 respectively (See Table 1).

The two justifications the government provided for its desire to increase the number of PSRs compared to GARs is that private sponsorships would alleviate the government's financial burden and that PSRs become self-sufficient more quickly than the GARs. This can be partially attributed to the broader network of people PSRs have access to through their sponsors and who can help them find a job (Wilkinson & Garcea, 2017:4).

## **B. Refugees by Country of Origin**

### **a. Trends in Overall Refugees**

According to the UNHCR, Canada resettled around 26,000 refugees in 2017 coming from different regions such as Africa, Asia and Oceania, the Middle East, and the Americas. Most resettled refugees in that year came from the Middle East with 17,300 refugees (64 per cent) followed by Africa with 8,400 refugees (32 per cent) (See Table 2). The rest of the refugees were either from the Americas (1.4 per cent), Asia and Oceania (0.9 per cent) or from other regions that were not specified (1.8 per cent) (See Table 3).

Between January 2015 and February 2020, Canada welcomed a total number of 154,495 refugees originating from different countries. The top five countries of origin of resettled refugees, regardless of their sponsorship stream, were Syria (48 per cent), Eritrea (13 per cent), Iraq



(11 per cent), Afghanistan (6 per cent) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (4 per cent). Nationals from these countries represent 80 per cent of Canada's total resettled refugees (See Table 2).

With 73,500 refugees in Canada, Syria tops the list of countries of origin as Syrian refugees account for about 50 per cent of total refugees that landed in Canada between 2015 and 2020. This large flow of Syrian resettled refugees can be traced back to the civil war that broke out in the region in 2011. In fact, by the end of 2018, the number of Syrian refugees worldwide reached 6.7 million. In other words, nearly 3 out of 10 refugees worldwide were Syrian nationals (UNHCR, 2019-b, 73).

#### **b. Trends in GARs and PSRs**

Between January 2015 and February 2020, Canada resettled 61,000 GARs and 85,000 PSRs. The top five countries of origin for GARs were Syria (54.6 per cent), Iraq (8.8 per cent), DRC (8.5 per cent), Somalia (4.6 per cent) and Eritrea (4.3 per cent). Individuals from the listed countries constitute 80 per cent of Canada's GARs. The main five countries of origin for PSRs were Syria (40 per cent), Eritrea (20 per cent), Iraq (12.5 per cent), Afghanistan (10 per cent) DRC (4 per cent). Therefore, nationals from the aforementioned countries represent 86 per cent of Canada's PSRs (See Table 2).

Having a closer look at the composition of Syrian refugees, we note the similarity between the percentage of Syrian natives who are assisted by the Canadian government (45.6 per cent) and those who are privately-sponsored (46.8 per cent). Upon juxtaposing the composition of refugees in the top five countries of origin, it turns out Syria is the only country of origin whose refugees in Canada are equally distributed among the two main sponsorship streams in the Canadian context: GARs and PSRs (See Table 4).

This observation is not valid for the remaining four countries. For Eritrea, Iraq and Afghanistan, the GARs resettled in Canada exceeded the PSRs in varying proportions. The PSRs fleeing Afghanistan, which is the fourth top country of resettled refugees in Canada, were 11 times more than the GARs. As for Eritrea, which holds the second-largest total number of refu-

gees, the share of PSRs was 6 times the share of GARs. Iraq had the least striking proportional difference as the number of PSRs was 2 times more than the number of GARs. While the second, third and fourth top countries of origin for resettled refugees in Canada (Eritrea, Iraq and Afghanistan) were all characterized by a larger proportion of PSRs compared to GARs, the situation was reversed for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the fifth top country of origin. The percentage of GARs originating from DRC is 6 times greater than the percentage of PSRs (See Table 4).

## **C. Trends in Resettled Refugees by Province**

### **a. Trends in Overall Refugees**

Although refugees are resettled across all Canadian provinces and territories, Ontario always receives the biggest share followed by Quebec, Alberta, British Columbia and Manitoba. The percentage of overall refugees admitted as Permanent Residents (PRs) between 2011 to 2018 was 41 per cent in Ontario, 19 per cent in Quebec, 14 per cent in Alberta, 8.5 per cent in British Columbia and 8 per cent in Manitoba (Table 5).<sup>1</sup> Moreover, out of a total of 28,068 refugees admitted in the resettled refugee category (GARs, PSRs and BVORs) in 2018, 43 per cent of them were residing in Ontario and 20 per cent were in Quebec.

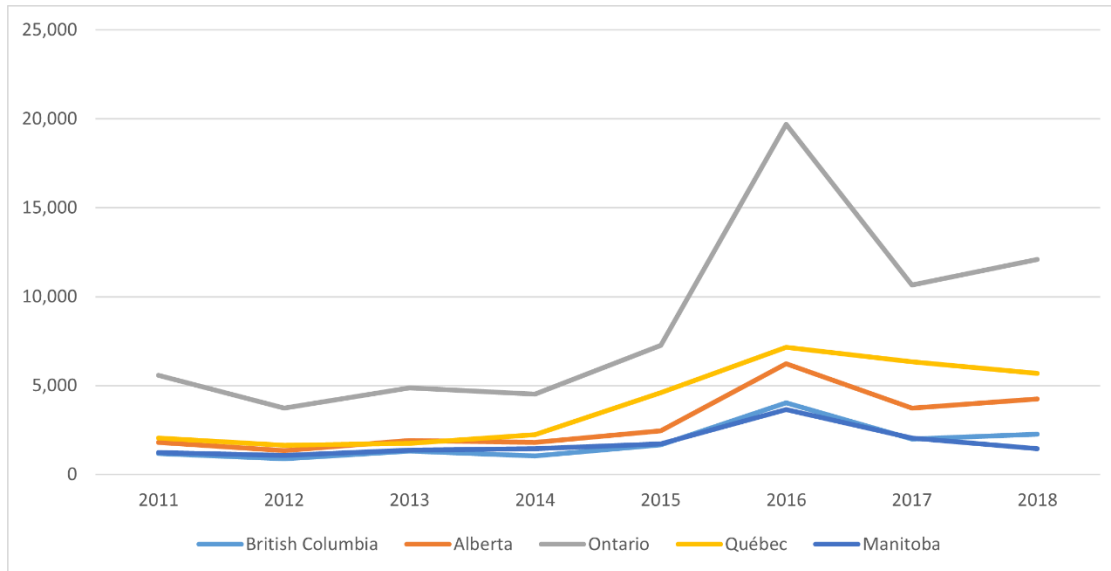
Overall, over the total period, Ontario and Quebec welcomed around 60 per cent of the refugee population whose PR application was successful. Prince Edward Island welcomes the smallest number of refugees as only 751 refugees were granted the permanent residency over a period of 7 years (2011 to 2018) which represents 0.2 per cent of overall refugees in Canada for the same period. As for Canadian territories (Nunavut, Northwest Territories and Yukon), the percentage of refugees admitted as PRs was less than 0.03 per cent of the national total.

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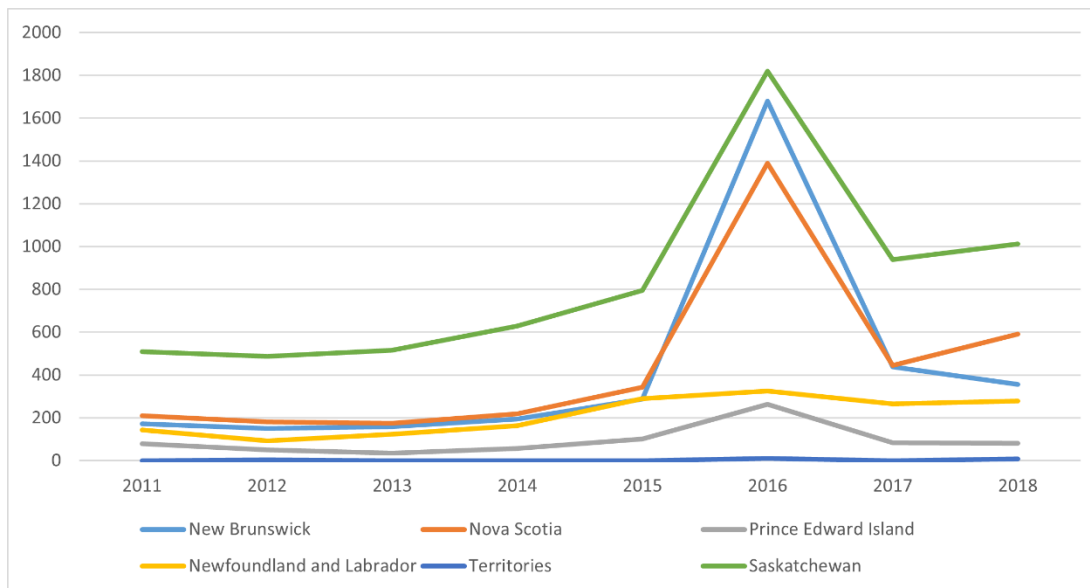
<sup>1</sup> This total includes only GARS, PSRs, and BVORs from 2011 to 2018.

## Chart 2: Number of Refugees Admitted as Permanent Residents in Canada by Province/Territory, 2011-2018

Panel A: Number of Refugees Admitted as Permanent Residents in British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, Québec and Manitoba, 2011-2018



Panel B: Number of Refugees Admitted as Permanent Residents in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Territories and Saskatchewan, 2011-2018



Source: Table 5.

### b. Trends in GARs and PSRs

In 2018, out of the 12,000 refugees that were admitted as PRs in Ontario, almost 70 per cent of them were PSRs and 26 per cent were GARs. Québec admitted 5,600 refugees. Among

this population, 76 per cent were PSRs and 24 per cent were GARs. This trend of having more PSRs than GARs applies to the rest of Canadian provinces and territories except for New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador. The percentages of GARs compared to PSRs was notably high in New Brunswick since the ratio of the total number of GARs to the total number of PSRs was 6. On the national level, Ontario has both the highest percentage of GARs (40 per cent) and PSRs (44 per cent) in Canada. Quebec comes in second place since it welcomes 17 per cent of total GARs and 23 per cent of total PSRs in Canada (See Table 6).

### **III. Characteristics of Refugees**

#### **A. Refugees by Age and Gender**

##### **a. Overall Refugees**

Out of a total number of 154,820 resettled refugees between January 2015 and March 2020, Canada had more males (52 per cent) than females (48 per cent). The percentage of refugees (males and females) who were 17 years old and under was 41.5 per cent and those who were 18 years old and above represented 58.5 per cent of the total number of resettled refugees. Consequently, the refugee population in Canada had a slightly higher male than female share and had more adults than children and adolescents. Out of 73,880 females, 58 per cent were 18 years old and above and 42 per cent were 17 years old and under. Among the 80,940 males, 41 per cent were 17 years old and under and 59 per cent were 18 years old and above.

The ratio of the percentage of males who are 18 years old and above to the percentage of males who are 17 years old and under is 1.4. Comparably, the ratio of the percentage of females who are 18 years old and above to the percentage of females who are 17 years old and under is approximately 1.4 as well (See Table 7).

## **b. GARs and PSRs**

Among the GARs, 49 per cent were females and 51 per cent were males. For PSRs, females represented 47 per cent and males represented 53 per cent of the total number of resettled refugees between January 2015 and March 2020. Both GARs and PSRs had more males than females.

It is interesting to notice that PSRs are older than GARs regardless of their gender. Indeed, the percentage of PSRs who are 18 years old and above (67 per cent) is greater than the percentage of PSRs who are 17 years old and under (33 per cent). For the GARs, the percentage of refugees who are 17 years old and under was 51 per cent versus 49 per cent for refugees belonging to the upper age group that is 18 years old and above (See Table 7).

## **B. Refugees by Schooling Years and Education Level**

### **a. Overall Refugees**

To assess the literacy level of the refugees, two indicators can be used: schooling years and the education level reached.

Among the total number of refugees welcomed in Canada between January 2015 and February 2020, 56 per cent of them had between 1 and 12 years of schooling and 55 per cent held secondary school diplomas or less. Refugees who had 0 years of schooling represented 21 per cent of the total refugee population. Those who had no education level constituted 23 per cent of the total refugee population (See Table 8).

Refugees who land in Canada before the age of 15 are referred to as refugee children. They perform as well as or better than Canadian children. 25.5 per cent of the children of refugees earn a Bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 18.5 per cent of Canadians. As for graduate studies, refugee children who earn a Master's degree or a PhD account for 6.4 per cent of the population of refugee children. Canadian children who enrol in a graduate program represent 5.5 per cent of the Canadian-born population (UNHCR, 2019.-a: 15).

### **b. GARs and PSRs**

When comparing the years of schooling accomplished, we find that that 23.2 per cent of PSRs had 13 or more years of education, compared to only 5.4 per cent for GARs and 4.6 per cent of BVORs (Table 8: Panel B).

As for the education level reached, 60 per cent of GARs and 50 per cent of PSRs belonged to the category of ‘Secondary or Less’. Refugees who were illiterate, defined as having no education, counted for 28 per cent of GARs and 19 per cent of PSRs (Table 8; Panel A). The share of individuals who pursued a graduate or postgraduate education was larger among the PSRs. For example, the proportion of GARs who had a Bachelor’s degree, a Master’s degree or PhD were respectively 2 per cent, 0.2 per cent and 0.04 per cent whereas they were 11 per cent, 1 per cent and 0.2 per cent for the PSRs. After comparing the years of schooling and education level of GARs and PSRs, we can conclude that PSRs have higher levels of educational achievement compared to GARs. Studies have also shown that PSRs enter the job market earlier than GARs (Wilkinson & Garcea, 2017:17).

## **C. Refugees by Skill Level**

### **a. Overall Refugees**

Among the total number of 97,675 resettled refugees who were 15 years old and older, the dominant group was ‘New Workers’ (Table 9), accounting for 79 per cent of the total population examined. Students represented 15 per cent of the total number. The percentage of refugees who belonged to the ‘Managerial’ category were extremely small at 0.03 per cent (Table 9).

### **b. GARs and PSRs**

As for their work experience and skill level, the majority of GARs (70 per cent) and PSRs (83 per cent) belonged to the New Workers category. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada did not provide a definition for ‘New Worker.’

## **D. Refugees by Family Status**

### **a. Overall Refugees**

Out of a total number of 153,255 refugees between January 2015 and February 2020, 38.6 per cent were principal applicants, 16.5 per cent were a spouse or a partner and 44.9 per cent were dependents (Table 10).

### **b. GARs and PSRs**

Among 60,705 GARs, 54 per cent were dependents versus 31 per cent who were principal applicants. In contrast, out of 83,880 PSRs, only 37 per cent were dependents. Versus 45 per cent who were principal applicants. In other words, GARs are more likely to arrive with dependents than PSRs as many in the latter group arrive as single individuals. This is significant as it means that GARs will have greater caregiver responsibilities than PSRs. This will have implications for overall settlement and integration.

## **IV. Programs and Benefits for Different Types of Refugees**

As Canada has different refugee protection programs, it also offers different settlement and integration services and programs. Refugees have access to programs that not only help with resettlement but also with integration. Furthermore, they guarantee refugees' access to mainstream public services (Wilkinson & Garcea, 2017:8).

Resettled refugees are eligible for the Resettlement Assistance Programs (RAP) or equivalent supports depending on the refugees' settlement stream. Only GARs are eligible for the Resettlement Assistance Program services (4-6 weeks of support) and RAP-Income Support. BVORS receive some income support, but do not receive services and PSRs do not receive either. However, BVORS and PSRs should receive equivalent levels of support from their sponsors.

Usually, refugees can benefit from these services for a duration that does not exceed a year, starting from their day of arrival in Canada. However, this period can be extended to a maximum of three years to accommodate refugees with special needs under the Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS) Program (Wilkinson & Garcea, 2017:6). In addition to RAP, Government-

Assisted Refugees receive support through other programs such as the Immigrant Loan Program (ILP) and the Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP).

The ILP consists of travel loans. GARs can use them to cover the medical examinations expenses prior to their arrival to Canada, the issuance of travel documents and also the costs of transportation from the refugee camp to Canada.

Under the IFHP, GARs - but also other eligible groups such as PSRs, BVORs, protected persons, refugee claimants, etc. - have limited and temporary insurance coverage for certain health-care services (such as emergency and primary health care, basic dental, prescription drug coverage and psychological services) while waiting to become eligible for their provincial or territorial health coverage. The IFHP claims are managed by a company called Medavie Blue Cross (GC, n.d.-f). While the IFHP mainly bears the costs of basic, supplemental and prescription drug benefits, its coverage can also be extended to some pre-departure medical services in some cases (IRCC, n.d.-b).

Lastly, RAP ensures GARs receive support for their basic needs. Services include but are not limited to “greeting at the airport, temporary housing, help with finding permanent housing, and help with registering for mandatory federal and provincial programs”. Through RAPs, GARs would also receive orientation sessions about the city where they are settling. These sessions would then provide them with information concerning public transportation, the climate, education and health care systems and Canadian laws and customs (GA, n.d.-e). Furthermore, GARs would also receive personal help when it comes to budgeting, opening a Canadian bank account and being able to successfully manage debit and credit cards. GARs would be provided with basic “life skills” and can be referred to other programs, such as those provided to all Permanent Residents through the Settlement Program. Apart from this wide range of services, GARs can also be entitled to receive income support unless they can cover their expenses on their own. The income support can take the form of a “one-time household start-up allowance” or “monthly income support payment” (GC, n.d.-e). The financial support lasts up to one year upon the refugees’ arrival in Canada or until they become financially independent, whichever occurs first (GC, n.d.-e).



Even though PSRs can also be eligible for some services guaranteed for GARs like the transportation loans and the and the interim federal health care services, they do not qualify for the specialized ones for example the federal income support. PSRs should be able to count on the help of their sponsors. What is expected is that the level of the services provided by the sponsors matches those offered through RAP, which in turn is based on provincial social assistance levels.

If GARs mainly rely on financial help from the federal government and PSRs depend on the one received from their private sponsors, refugees who arrive in Canada through the BVOR stream actually count on the help of both the government and private sponsors. The federal government financially supports the BVORs for the first six months by providing a regular monthly income support. Then, the private sponsors are required to assist BVORs not only financially for a period of six months but also emotionally and socially for an entire year (Government of Canada, n.d.-a).

While the level of services assisting refugees with resettlement explicitly depends on the settlement stream (GAR, PSR, or BVOR), other settlement and integration services are available to all immigrants. The programs include information about Canada and the local community, referral programs, language training for multiple purposes and programs that aim at increasing refugees' chances of getting employed. Refugees can access these services as soon as they arrive in Canada as it is then that they become permanent residents in Canada. However, the high demand for services like childcare or the clashes that refugees might encounter between their work times and the service hours might prevent them from accessing services (Wilkinson & Garcea, 2017:8).

As soon as the first year of RAP-income support comes to an end, most refugees and their families would then transition to mainstream public services that are simply the same services offered to Canada's residents, such as social assistance. Usually, they are either completely free or partly subsidized by one or more orders of the government. Moreover, mainstream public services consist of some income support programs namely the employment insurance program, social assistance programs and different pension programs including employment-based pen-

sions such as Canada Pension Plan (CPP), Quebec Pension Plan (QPP) as well as the age-based pensions such as the Old Age Security (OAS) and the Guaranteed Income Support (GIS).

**Table 1: Canada's Annual Intake of Refugees from 1998-2015 and from 2016-2018**

Year	Government-assisted refugees	Privately sponsored refugees	Blended Visa Office-Referred refugees	Refugees Total
1998	7,432	2,267	0	9,699
1999	7,443	2,348	0	9,791
2000	10,671	2,934	0	13,605
2001	8,697	3,576	0	12,273
2002	7,506	3,044	0	10,550
2003	7,516	3,252	0	10,768
2004	7,417	3,118	0	10,535
2005	7,425	2,976	0	10,401
2006	7,327	3,338	0	10,665
2007	7,572	3,588	0	11,160
2008	7,296	3,512	0	10,808
2009	7,429	5,037	0	12,466
2010	7,266	4,833	0	12,099
2011	7,363	5,584	0	12,947
2012	5,426	4,227	0	9,653
2013	5,728	6,328	153	12,209
2014	7,626	5,072	177	12,875
2015	9,491	9,743	811	20,045
2016	23,523	18,362	4,434	46,319
2017	8,823	16,873	1,284	26,980
2018	8,156	18,763	1,157	28,076
Total	177,133	128,775	8,016	313,924

Note: The number of Refugees landed in Canada and Refugee dependents were not available for 2016-2018.

Sources: From 1998 to 2015: Open Government, 2016.-a. Retrieved May 22, 2020 from [http://www.cic.gc.ca/opendata-donneesouvertes/data/IRCC\\_PRadmiss\\_0002\\_E.xls](http://www.cic.gc.ca/opendata-donneesouvertes/data/IRCC_PRadmiss_0002_E.xls)

For the year 2016: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, 2017, p.6. Retrieved from: <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/ircc/migration/ircc/english/pdf/pub/annual-report-2017.pdf>

For the year 2017: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, 2018, p.40. Retrieved from: <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/ircc/migration/ircc/english/pdf/pub/annual-report-2018.pdf>

For the year 2018: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, 2019, p. 21. Retrieved from: <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/ircc/migration/ircc/english/pdf/pub/annual-report-2019.pdf>

**Table 2: Top Ten Countries of Origin for Refugees in Canada January 2015 - February 2020, Various Parameters**

Panel A: Top Ten Countries of Origin for Resettled Refugees in Canada

Rank	Country	Total Number of Resettled Refugees	Percentage of Overall Refugees
1	Syria	73,500	47.6
2	Eritrea	20,445	13.2
3	Iraq	16,440	10.6
4	Afghanistan	9,095	5.88
5	Congo, Democratic Republic of the	6,645	4.30
6	Somalia, Democratic Republic of	6,405	4.14
7	Ethiopia	4,495	2.90
8	Pakistan	2,180	1.41
9	Burundi	1,735	1.12
10	Iran	1,605	1.04
11	Other Countries	11,950	7.73
12	Total	154,495	100

Panel B: Top Ten Countries of Origin for Government-Assisted Refugees (GARs) in Canada

Rank	Country	Number of GARs	Percentage of Overall GARs
1	Syria	33,480	54.6
2	Iraq	5,415	8.83
3	Congo, Democratic Republic of the	5,230	8.53
4	Somalia, Democratic Republic of	2,840	4.63
5	Eritrea	2,670	4.35
6	Central African Republic	1,265	2.06
7	Burundi	1,155	1.88
8	Iran	1,080	1.76

9	Sudan, Democratic Republic of	1,020	1.66
10	Ethiopia	865	1.41
11	Other Countries	6,290	10.3
12	Total	61,310	39.7

Panel C: Top Ten Countries of Origin for Privately-Sponsored Refugees (PSR) in Canada

Rank	Country	Number of PSRs	Percentage of Overall PSRs
1	Syria	34,430	40.7
2	Eritrea	17,210	20.4
3	Iraq	10,600	12.5
4	Afghanistan	8,370	9.90
5	Congo, Democratic Republic of the	3,495	4.14
6	Somalia, Democratic Republic of	3,410	4.03
7	Ethiopia	1,775	2.10
8	Pakistan	895	1.06
9	Burundi	820	0.97
10	Iran	490	0.58
11	Other Countries	3,020	3.75
12	Total	84,515	54.7

Note: Out of 154,495 resettled refugees, 61,310 were GARs (40 per cent), 84,515 PSRs (54 per cent) and 8,670 BVORs (6 per cent).

Source: Open Government, 2016. -b. Retrieved May 15, 2020 from <https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/4a1b260a-7ac4-4985-80a0-603bfe4aec11#wb-auto-6> 'Canada – Admissions of Resettled Refugees by Country of Citizenship and Immigration Category' on Page 1.

**Table 3: Regional Distribution of the Resettled Refugees to Canada in 2017**

Region	Number of refugees	Percentages
Africa	8,490	31.5
Asia and Oceania	235	0.87
Middle East	17,340	64.4
Americas	380	1.41
Other	480	1.80
Total	26,925	100

Source: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2018:2. Retrieved from <https://www.unhcr.org/3c5e55594.pdf> .

**Table 4: Top Twenty Countries of Origin for Resettled Refugees in Canada by Government-Assisted and Privately-Sponsored Refugees, January 2015 - February 2020**

Country	Total Refugees	GARs	Percentage of GARs	PSRs	Percentage of PSRs
Syria	73,500	33,480	45.6	34,430	46.8
Eritrea	20,445	2,670	13.1	17,210	84.2
Iraq	16,440	5,415	32.9	10,600	64.5
Afghanistan	9,095	710	7.81	8,370	92.0
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	6,645	5,230	78.7	895	13.5
Somalia, Democratic Republic of	6,405	2,840	44.3	3,410	53.2
Ethiopia	4,495	865	19.2	3,495	77.8
Pakistan	2,180	380	17.4	1,775	81.4
Burundi	1,735	1,155	66.6	490	28.2
Iran	1,605	1,080	67.3	410	25.5
Sudan, Democratic Republic of	1,490	1,020	68.5	265	17.8
Central African Republic	1,315	1,265	96.2	25	1.90
Myanmar (Burma)	1,130	705	62.4	175	15.5
Stateless	1,120	230	20.5	820	73.2
Colombia	945	840	88.9	15	1.59
South Sudan, Republic of	595	250	42.0	280	47.1
Bhutan	580	575	99.1	0	0
Ivory Coast, Republic of	480	420	87.5	50	10.4
Palestinian Authority (Gaza/West Bank)	395	195	49.4	165	41.8
Mali, Republic of	185	180	97.3	0	0
Others	3,715	1,805	48.6	1,635	44.0
Total	154,495	61,310	39.7	84,515	54.7

Note: Total Refugees include Government-Assisted Refugees (GARs), Privately-Sponsored refugees (PSRs) and Blended Visa Office-Referred Refugees (BVORs).

Source: Open Government, 2016. -b. Retrieved May 15, 2020 from

<https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/4a1b260a-7ac4-4985-80a0-603bfe4aec11#wb-auto-6>

**Table 5: Number of Resettled Refugees (GARs, PSRs and BVORs) Admitted by Province/Territory as Permanent Residents in Canada, 2011-2018**

Province/Territory	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total	Percentage of Overall Refugees
Nunavut	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northwest Territories	0	3	0	0	0	10	0	8	21	0.01
Yukon	0	0	2	0	0	17	7	11	37	0.02
British Columbia	1,168	885	1,303	1,038	1,671	4,025	1,986	2,277	14,353	8.55
Alberta	1,796	1,335	1,909	1,795	2,447	6,237	3,717	4,239	23,475	13.99
Saskatchewan	508	487	516	629	794	1,820	939	1,013	6,706	4.00
Ontario	5,586	3,744	4,863	4,508	7,257	19,698	10,660	12,083	68,399	40.76
Québec	2,045	1,631	1,739	2,234	4,597	7,142	6,329	5,684	31,401	18.71
Manitoba	1,239	1,082	1,363	1,452	1,714	3,660	2,053	1,447	14,010	8.35
New Brunswick	171	149	158	194	288	1,679	437	357	3,433	2.05
Nova Scotia	210	181	175	218	342	1,390	444	590	3,550	2.12
Prince Edward Island	79	50	34	57	102	264	84	81	751	0.45
Newfoundland and Labrador	143	93	123	164	289	324	266	278	1,680	1.00
Total	12,945	9,640	12,135	12,289	19,501	46,319	26,922	28,068	167,819	100

Source:

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, 2012-2019. *Annual Reports to Parliament on Immigration*. Retrieved from:

<https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/ircc/migration/ircc/english/pdf/pub/annual-report-2019.pdf>

**Table 6: Resettled Refugees Admitted as Permanent Residents in Canada by Province/Territory in 2018**

Province	BVORs	GARs	Percentage of Refugees who are GARs in Canada	Percentage of Refugees who are GARs in the Province	PSRs	Percentage of Refugees who are PSRs in Canada	Percentage of Refugees who are PSRs in the Province	Total (excluding not stated)	Percentage of Overall Refugees in Canada
NL	11	201	2.46	72.3	66	0.35	23.7	278	0.99
PE	5	51	0.63	63.0	25	0.13	30.9	81	0.29
NS	131	228	2.80	38.6	231	1.23	39.2	590	2.10
NB	13	296	3.63	82.9	48	0.26	13.4	357	1.27
QC	0	1,395	17.11	24.5	4,289	22.86	75.5	5,684	20.25
ON	604	3,166	38.82	26.2	8,313	44.31	68.8	12,083	43.05
MB	69	447	5.48	30.9	931	4.96	64.3	1,447	5.16
SK	62	455	5.58	44.9	496	2.64	49.0	1,013	3.61
AB	80	1,144	14.03	27.0	3,015	16.07	71.1	4,239	15.1
BC	169	772	9.47	33.9	1,336	7.12	58.7	2,277	8.11
YT	10	0	0	0	1	0.01	9.09	11	0.04
NT	3	0	0	0	5	0.03	62.5	8	0.03
NU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not Stated	0	1	N/A	N/A	7	N/A	N/A	8	N/A
Total (excluding not stated)	1,157	8,155	100	29.0	18,756	100	66.8	28,068	100
Percentage of Overall Refugees	4.12	29.0			66.8			100	

Source: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, 2019:37. Retrieved from: <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/ircc/migration/ircc/english/pdf/pub/annual-report-2019.pdf>



**Table 7: Number of Resettled Refugees by Age Group and Gender in Canada January 2015 –March 2020**

Gender and Age Group	Female			Male			Total
	17 years old and under	18 years old and above	Total Females	17 years old and under	18 years old and above	Total Males	
Number of GARs	15,220	14,825	30,045	16,250	15,035	31,290	61,335
Percentage of Overall GARs	24.8	24.2	49	26.5	24.5	51	100
Number of Privately Sponsored Refugees	13,595	25,985	39,580	14,535	30,700	45,235	84,515
Percentage of Overall PSRs	16.1	30.7	46.8	17.1	36.2	53.3	100
Number of BVORs	2,195	2,065	4,260	2,410	2,005	4,415	8,670
Percentage of Overall BVORs	25.3	23.8	49.1	27.8	23.1	50.9	100
Total Number	31,010	42,870	73,880	33,195	47,740	80,940	154,495
Percentage in the Gender Group	42	58	100	41	59	100	
Percentage of Overall Refugees	20	27.7	47.7	21.4	30.8	52.3	100

Note: Total

Refugees include Government-Assisted Refugees (GARs), Privately-Sponsored refugees (PSRs) and Blended Visa Office-Referred Refugees (BVORs).

Source: Open Government, 2016. -b. Retrieved August 14, 2020 from <https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/4a1b260a-7ac4-4985-80a0-603bfe4aec11#wb-auto-6> 'Canada - Admissions of Resettled Refugees by Province/Territory of Intended Destination, Gender, Age Group and Immigration Category' on Page 1

**Table 8: Refugees in Canada by Education Level and Schooling Years, January 2015 - February 2020**

Panel A: Number of Resettled Refugees by Education Level in Canada

Education Level	Number of GARs	Percentage of GARs	Number of PSRs	Percentage of PSRs	Number of BVORs	Percentage of BVORs	Total Number (excluding not stated)	Percentage of Overall Refugees
None	16,930	30.0	15,515	19.3	2,335	31.68	34,780	24.12
Secondary or Less	36,030	63.85	43,890	54.6	4,560	61.87	84,485	58.59
Diploma/Certificate (Trade)	560	0.99	2,635	3.28	70	0.95	3,265	2.26
Diploma/Certificate (Non-University)	625	1.11	3,640	4.53	90	1.22	4,350	3.02
Post-Secondary – No Degree	705	1.25	3,570	4.44	95	1.29	4,370	3.03
Bachelor's Degree	1,280	2.27	9,315	11.59	175	2.37	10,770	7.47
Post Graduate – No Degree	170	0.3	595	0.74	20	0.27	785	0.54
Master's Degree	115	0.2	1,050	1.31	15	0.2	1,180	0.82
Doctorate - PhD	25	0.04	180	0.22	0	0	205	0.14
Education level not stated	4,275	N/A	3,490	N/A	1,300	N/A	9,060	N/A
Total (excluding not stated)	56,430	100	80,390	100	7,370	100	144,195	100
Percentage of Overall Refugees	39.61		54.73		5.66		100.00	

Panel B: Number of Resettled Refugees by Years of Schooling in Canada

Schooling Years	Number of GARs	Percentage of Overall GARs	Number of PSRs	Percentage of Overall PSRs	Number of BVORs	Percentage of BVORs	Total (excluding not stated)	Percentage of Total Refugees
0 years of schooling	16,053	29.23	13,635	17.18	2,210	30.72	31,898	22.55
1 to 12 years of schooling	35,610	64.84	46,260	58.28	4,585	63.72	86,455	61.10
13 or more years of schooling	3,255	5.93	19,480	24.54	395	5.49	23,130	16.35
Not stated	5,805	N/A	4,505	N/A	1,475	N/A	11,785	N/A
Total (excluding not stated)	54,918	100	79,375	100	7,195	100	141,488	100
Percentage of Overall Refugees	39.6		54.7		5.65		100	

Note: Total Refugees include Government-Assisted Refugees (GARs), Privately-Sponsored refugees (PSRs) and Blended Visa Office-Referred Refugees (BVORs).

Source: Open Government, 2016. -b. Retrieved May 15, 2020 from <https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/4a1b260a-7ac4-4985-80a0-603bfe4aec11#wb-auto-6> 'Canada - Admissions of Resettled Refugees by Province/Territory of Intended Destination, Education Level and Immigration Category' on Page 1 and 'Canada - Admissions of Resettled Refugees by Province/Territory of Intended Destination, Years of Schooling and Immigration Category' on Page 2.

**Table 9: Number of Resettled Refugees by Skill Level in Canada January 2015 - February 2020**

Skill Level	Number of GARs	Percentage of Overall GARs	Number of PSRs	Percentage of Overall PSRs	Number of BVORs	Percentage of Overall BVORs	Total Number	Percentage of Overall Refugees
Managerial	10	0.03	20	0.03	0	0	25	0.03
A - Professionals	75	0.22	45	0.08	5	0.11	125	0.13
B - Skilled and Technical	175	0.52	85	0.14	20	0.44	280	0.30
C - Intermediate and Clerical	380	1.13	45	0.07	30	0.66	455	0.46
D - Elemental and Labourers	95	0.28	50	0.08	5	0.11	145	0.15
New Workers	23,485	70.1	50,060	83.4	3,450	76.4	76,740	78.6
Others Non-Workers	2,795	8.34	1,715	2.85	280	6.20	4,765	0.05
Retired	260	0.77	320	0.53	25	0.55	610	0.62
Students	6,240	18.6	7,655	12.8	690	15.3	14,515	14.9
Skill level not stated	5	0.01	--	--	--	--	10	0.01
Total	33,160	100	60,000	100	4,515	100	97,675	100
Percentage of Overall Refugees	33.95		61.43		4.62		100.00	

Note: Total Refugees include Government-Assisted Refugees (GARs), Privately-Sponsored refugees (PSRs) and Blended Visa Office-Referred Refugees (BVORs).

Source: Open Government, 2016. -b. Retrieved May 15, 2020 from <https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/4a1b260a-7ac4-4985-80a0-603bfe4aec11#wb-auto-6> 'Canada - Admissions of Resettled Refugees by Province/Territory of Intended Destination, Skill Level and Immigration Category (15 years old or older)' on Page 2.

**Table 10: Resettled Refugees in Canada by Family Status January 2015 - February 2020**

Family Status	Number of GARs	Percentage of Overall GARs	Number of PSRs	Percentage of Overall PSRs	Number of BVORs	Percentage of Overall BVORs	Total	Percentage of Overall Refugees
Principal Applicant	18,825	31.0	37,845	45.1	2,510	29.0	59,180	38.6
Spouse or Partner	8,895	14.7	14,995	17.9	1,380	15.9	2,527	16.5
Dependents	32,990	54.3	31,040	37.0	4,775	55.1	68,805	44.9
Total	60,705	100	83,880	100	8,665	100	153,255	100
Percentage of Overall Refugees	39.6		54.7		5.65		100	

Note: Total Refugees include Government-Assisted Refugees (GARs), Privately-Sponsored refugees (PSRs) and Blended Visa Office-Referred Refugees (BVORs).

Source: Open Government, 2016. -b. Retrieved May 15, 2020 from <https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/4a1b260a-7ac4-4985-80a0-603bfe4aec11#wb-auto-6> 'Canada - Admissions of Resettled Refugees by Province/Territory of Intended Destination, Family Status and Immigration Category' on Page 1.