Building Connected Communities: Peel, Brampton – 2016 Census Older Immigrants

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80% of the population aged 65+ in Brampton are immigrants.

Most immigrants over the age of 65 in Brampton are racialized.

Visible Minority Groups

As a comparison, in Brampton the total population of people who are visible minorities is 73%.

For those who are 65+ in Brampton who are immigrants

- South Asian: 47%
- Black: 12%
- Filipino: 4%
- Latin American: 2%
- Chinese: 2%

(all others are 1% or less, or 3% N.I.E.)

Visible Minority Groups

% of people in Brampton over age of 65 who are visible minorities

- 64% (50-64)
- 59% (65+)
- 62% (65-74)
- 56% (75-84)
- 45% (85+)

Live Alone Vs. Live with Others

% of immigrants 65+ in Brampton - time period of immigration

- pre 1971
- 1971-1980
- 1980-Present

- 25%
- 21%
- 54%

Individuals who immigrated before 1971 are also more likely to report living alone in later life than individuals who immigrated later, but who are the same age.

More adults age 65+ who immigrated to Canada pre 1971 live alone (19%) than those immigrated later (4%) – but just as likely to live alone as non-immigrants (23%).

Individuals who are ages 85+ who immigrated to Canada pre-1971 are just as likely (45%) to live alone as those who were not immigrants (43%).

Those who immigrated to Canada pre-1971 are less likely to be a visible minority (75% reported they are not a visible minority).
Median Income Differentials

Immigrants who are age 65+ have substantially lower median incomes than non-immigrants who are 65+.

Men and women who are immigrants both make less compared to their non-immigrant counterparts. However, immigrant women make substantially less than immigrant men.

The difference is more substantial when considering the time frame when someone immigrated to Canada.

Lack of access to Old Age Security and other benefits programs is a likely explanation for this striking difference in the more recent years, but cannot account for all differences.

Racialized Immigrants

Racialized immigrants ages 65+ report lower median incomes than non-racialized immigrants 65+. It is more pronounced for South Asian immigrants 65+, who make 0.57 for every dollar made by non-racialized immigrants.

Considerations for the City of Brampton

Of all cities/towns in the Region of Peel, the City of Brampton has the highest percentage of older adult immigrants aged 65+, the majority of whom are racialized and immigrated from South Asia. The provision of services to low-income immigrants who are not fluent in English is an area of need specific to the City of Brampton.

In regard to income levels, all recent immigrant groups are at a disadvantage when compared to non-immigrants, with racialized immigrants at the greatest disadvantage. Brampton’s South Asian immigrants have reported particularly low levels of income.

Most immigrant seniors in Brampton live with family – however, older adult immigrants may still experience social isolation and/or feelings of loneliness while living in multigenerational households.

For details about this research study and other resources in this Toolkit visit https://source.sheridancollege.ca/centres_elder_building_connected_communities/