

Bread & Borders: Exploring Fears, Facts & Impacts about Refugee Claimants Refugee Quiz & Answer Key

Purpose:

To explore/deepen participant understanding about recent Refugee Claimant arrivals to Canada by providing access to accurate information and helpful resources.

Materials required:

1. Copies of the *Quiz on Refugees* handout (enough for each participant).
2. Copies of the *Quiz on Refugees: Answer Key* handout (enough for each participant).
3. *Common Myths/Misconceptions About Refugee Claimants* handout (as required).

Process:

1. Explain the purpose (above) of the activity.
2. Give each person a *Quiz on Refugees* handout, and instruct them to answer each question by selecting the response they think is correct. Allow sufficient time for all to complete (approximately 5-10 minutes).
3. Debrief using one of the following formats:
 - a. Read out the first question and ask for volunteers to share their answers. After some have been shared, provide the answer (using the *Quiz on Refugees: Answer Key*), and invite comments/questions. Repeat this process for all questions and then provide each person with the *Quiz on Refugees: Answer Key*.
 - b. Provide each person with the *Quiz on Refugees: Answer Key*. As a group, go through each question, and read out the answers, inviting comments/questions along the way.
4. To end activity, invite participants to share a new learning or question they have as a result of completing the quiz. If it's evident that further clarifications would be helpful, provide copies of the *Common Myths/Misconceptions About Refugee Claimants* handout.

Alternatives

- ❖ Divide the group into 2 teams. For the first question, invite a member of each team to the front (or to a designated area) and have them compete to provide the answer (i.e., game show-style = press a button, squeeze a horn, etc.). Let the group know if the answer provided was correct (and/or read the correct answer) and, using the *Refugee Quiz: Answer Key*, provide a brief explanation. Repeat the process for the remaining questions.
- ❖ Divide the group into pairs/triads. Provide the *Refugee Quiz* to each pair/triad and have them discuss and answer each the question. Once they have done this (approximately 15 minutes), provide them with the *Refugee Quiz: Answer Key* and invite them to check their answers/read the explanations.

Quiz on Refugees

- 1. In 1939 Canada turned away a ship of over 900 Jewish refugees fleeing Germany.**
 True False
- 2. How many refugees were there (worldwide) by the end of 2016?**
a. 2.8 million b. 22.5 million c. 40.3 million d. 65.6 million
- 3. In response to the immigration policies introduced by the Trump Administration, human rights organizations like Amnesty International started to oppose Canada's *Safe Third Country Agreement* with the United States.**
 True False
- 4. Evidence shows that refugees from the countries included in the Trump Administration's travel ban pose a greater risk to the safety and security of Americans.**
 True False
- 5. Over the past 16 years, what was the average annual number of Refugee Claimants arriving in Canada?**
a. 1,100 b. 13,300 c. 25,500 d. 30,700
- 6. In 2016, which country received the highest number of refugees?**
a. Lebanon b. Germany c. Canada d. Turkey
- 7. What percentage of the world's refugees are ever resettled?**
a. 1% b. 5% c. 10% d. 25%
- 8. How many Syrian refugees did Canada resettle between November 4, 2015 and January 29, 2017?**
a. 3,930 b. 14,270 c. 21,880 d. 40,080
- 9. Refugees receive significantly more money in income assistance than Canadian senior citizens who are collecting a pension.**
 True False
- 10. Refugees have higher unemployment rates than people who were born in Canada.**
 True False

Quiz on Refugees: Answer Key

1. **In 1939 Canada turned away a ship of over 900 Jewish refugees fleeing Germany.**

True

The St. Louis sailed from Hamburg in 1939. There were 937 Jewish refugees on board who were fleeing a dangerous situation in Europe. After being turned away by Cuba, their original destination, the ship sought safe haven in the United States, and then in Canada. Canada, like the other countries, refused to admit these refugees. The ship returned to Europe where 254 of the passengers died in the Holocaust.

Source: <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/ms-st-louis/>

2. **How many refugees were there (worldwide) by the end of 2016?**

b. 22.5

By the end of 2016 there were record levels of displacement worldwide. There were a total of 65.6 million forcibly displaced due to persecution conflict, violence or human rights violations (22.5 refugees + 40.3 internally displaced + 2.8 million asylum seekers). More than half (51%) of these refugees are children under 18. 75,000 unaccompanied children under the age of 18 (i.e., those separated from their families) claimed asylum in 70 countries in 2016.

Source: <http://www.unhcr.org/globaltrends2016/>

3. **In response to the immigration policies introduced by the Trump Administration, human rights organizations like Amnesty International started to oppose Canada's *Safe Third Country Agreement* with the United States.**

False

The Canadian Council for Refugees and Amnesty International have both opposed the Safe Third Country Agreement since it came into effect in 2004 because of longstanding concerns about the protection of refugees in the United States (U.S.). Because of U.S. laws and how they are implemented, some refugees who receive protection in Canada are denied refugee status in the U.S. In 2007, the Federal Court of Canada agreed with these organizations, ruling that the U.S. does not always protect refugees as required under international law.

Source: <http://www.amnesty.ca/blog/tell-your-mp-usa-isnt-safe-refugees>

4. Evidence shows that refugees from the countries included in the Trump Administration’s travel ban pose a greater risk to the safety and security of Americans.

❑ False

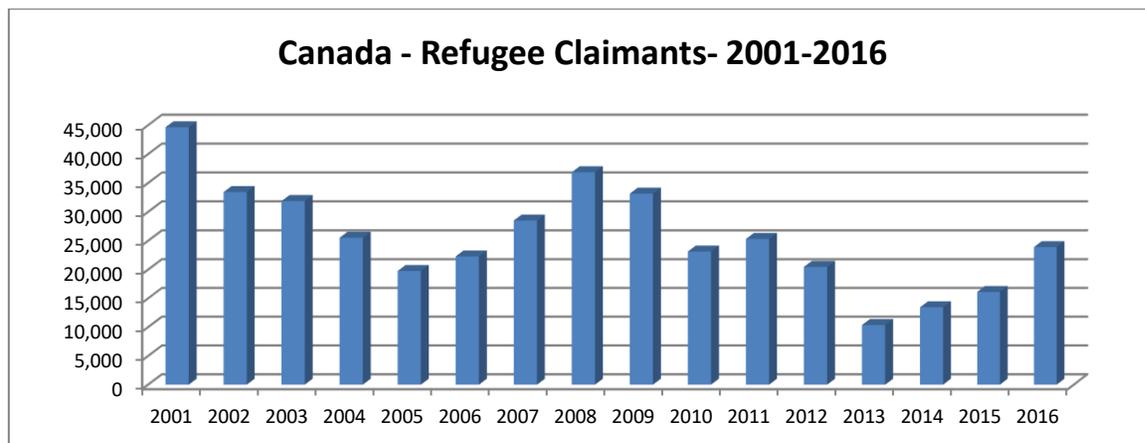
There is no evidence to support the argument that an increase in the number of Refugee Claimants is associated with decreased security for North Americans. The CATO Institute published a comprehensive study of the risk of terrorism from different categories of immigrants in the United States. Since 1975, there have been no terrorist attacks by refugees or Asylum Seekers from the countries named in the Trump Administration’s travel ban (Iraq, Iran, Syria, Somalia, Sudan, Libya, and Yemen).

Sources: <https://www.newamerica.org/international-security/blog/trumps-travel-ban-would-not-have-prevented-single-death-jihadist-terror/>
<https://www.cato.org/blog/five-reasons-congress-should-repeal-trumps-immigrant-refugee-ban>
<https://www.cato.org/publications/policy-analysis/terrorism-immigration-risk-analysis>

5. Over the past 16 years, what was the average annual number of Refugee Claimants arriving in Canada?

c. 25,500

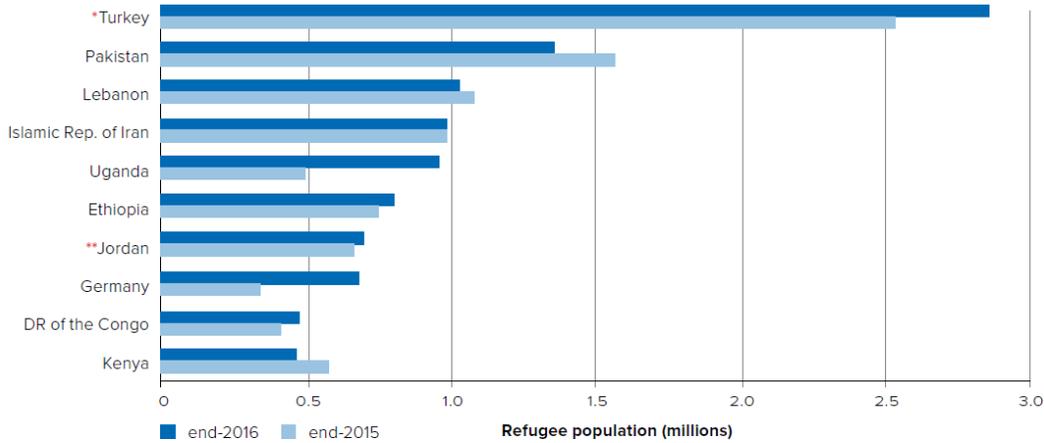
Although the number of annual claims has gone up and down over the years, 25,000 refugee claims per year has been the approximate annual average for more than 20 years in Canada. **Canadians are noticing a recent increase in the number of Refugee Claimants at some border crossings, but this is only an increase compared to the unusually low numbers of claims in the past few years.** In 2016, there were a total of 23,894 refugee claims in Canada which is consistent with the historical average.



Source: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/infographic-asylum.asp>

6. In 2016, which country received the highest number of refugees?
d. Turkey

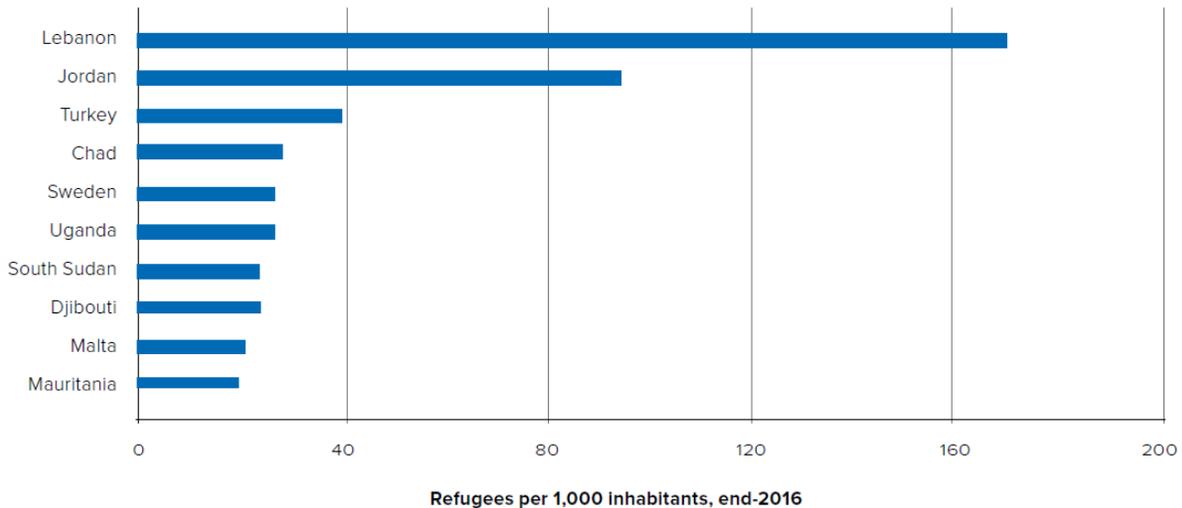
Turkey has 2.9 million refugees.



* Refugee figure for Syrians in Turkey was a Government estimate.
 ** Includes 33,100 Iraqi refugees registered with UNHCR in Jordan. The Government estimated the number of Iraqis at 400,000 individuals at the end of March 2015. This includes refugees and other categories of Iraqis.

Source: <http://www.unhcr.org/globaltrends2016/>

Lebanon has the highest number of refugees per capita – 169 for every 1,000 people in Canada.



Source: <http://www.unhcr.org/globaltrends2016/>

Only a small minority of refugees and Asylum Seekers make claims in the world’s richest countries, including Canada. By the end of 2016 Canada had just about 3 refugees for every 1,000 people living in Canada.

7. What percentages of the world's refugees are ever resettled?

a. 1%



Source: <http://www.unhcr.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Canada-Resettlement-Fact-Sheet-March-2017.v2.pdf>

The need for refugee resettlement far exceeds the opportunities for resettlement. According to the UNHCR, less than 1% of the world's refugees will ever find a safe haven by being resettled. Refugee camps are not orderly processing centres where claimants arrive, take a number, and are processed in a systematic fashion. The process of resettlement operates more like a lottery than a queue. It is only a lucky few who are able to find permanent resettlement, and start the process of rebuilding their lives in safety.

Many refugees know that it is unlikely they will be selected for resettlement by the UNHCR. If the mythical refugee queue actually existed, refugees joining at the end of the line might have to wait for 100 years to get to the front. As such, some refugees resort to taking what is often a dangerous journey in search of safety for themselves and their families.

8. How many Syrian refugees did Canada resettle between November 4, 2015 and January 29, 2017?

d. 40,080

Government-Assisted Refugee	21,876
Blended Visa Office-Referred Refugee	3,931
Privately Sponsored Refugee	14,274
TOTAL	40,081

Source: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/welcome/milestones.asp>

9. Refugees receive significantly more money in income assistance than Canadian senior citizens who are collecting a pension.

False

For many years, a persistent chain email has been circulating claiming that refugees receive significantly more money in income assistance than Canadians collecting a pension. The information, which is based on a letter published in the *Toronto Star*, is false. The record has been set straight by the federal government and the Canadian Council for Refugees.

Refugees come to Canada in different ways but, no matter the category, receive very limited income assistance from the government (if any). No category receives more than the minimum amount for provincial social assistance.



Sources: Canadian Council for Refugees, *Refugees and Income Assistance - Rebutting the Chain Email ("Pensioners' Myth")*. <http://ccrweb.ca/en/pensioners-myth>
Canadian Council for Refugees, *Refugees: Myths... Busted! Choosing Facts over Fears*. <http://ccrweb.ca/en/refugee-myths-busted-choosing-facts-over-fear>

10. Refugees have higher unemployment rates than people who were born in Canada.

True and False

Refugees are prepared to work hard to become financially self-sufficient but they face many barriers to finding employment, such as: discrimination; lack of professional networks; language and skills differences; and lack of documentation to prove their education and training. Partly due to these barriers, the employment rate for newcomers is initially lower when compared to persons born in Canada.

The majority of refugees eventually succeed in overcoming barriers and finding gainful employment. **Refugees eventually attain equivalent employment rates to the Canadian average once they have had a chance to get settled.**

Sources: Statistics Canada, *2011 National Household Survey - Data Table 99-010-X2011046*. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/dp-pd/index-eng.cfm>
Statistics Canada, *CANSIM Tables - Labour Force Characteristics by Immigrant Status of Population*. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/tables-tableaux/sum-som/l01/cst01/labor90a-eng.htm>
Transatlantic Council on Migration, *The Economic Integration of Refugees in Canada: a Mixed Record?* L. Wilkinson and J. Garcea. April 2017. <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/economic-integration-refugees-canada-mixed-record>