MCHP Report: The Diversity of Immigrants to Manitoba, Migration Dynamics and Basic Healthcare Service Use

Who's coming to Manitoba?

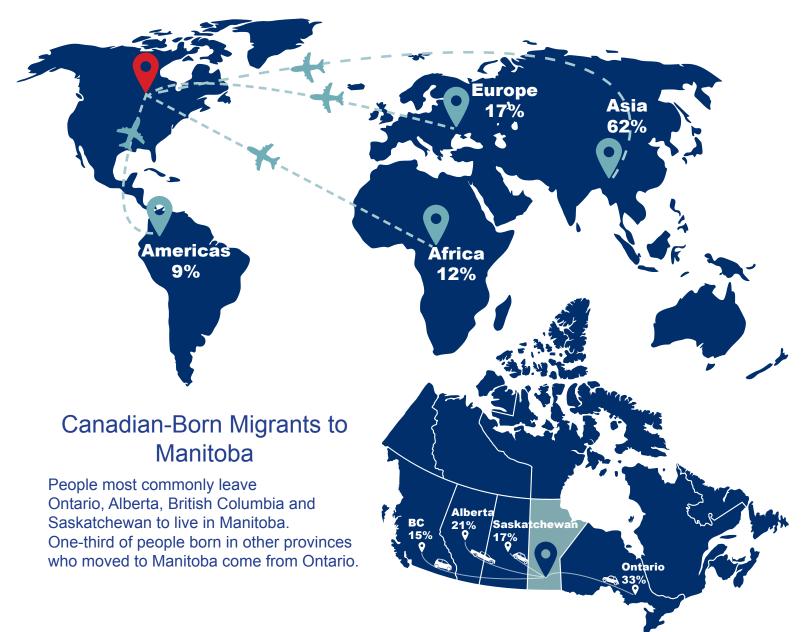
Immigration is a key part of our social fabric. Immigration enriches our cultural life, supports the growth of our economy, and is the main source of population growth. This is the first study to look at who is coming to Manitoba, where they came from, if they are staying, and the health services they are using.

Immigration data is new to the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy's Data Repository. When data is brought into the Repository it is <u>de-identified</u>. The addition of immigration data to the Repository opens many opportunities to study this important population.

Where are people coming from?

Most of the immigrants who have come to Manitoba were born in Asia. Of the people who choose Manitoba as their new home, 62% were born in the Middle East or Asia.

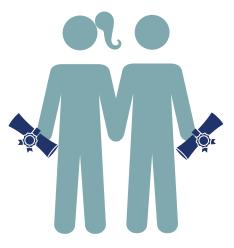
Not all immigrants who live in Manitoba started here. About 10% of immigrants first resided in other provinces, most of them in Ontario.



Who are the people moving to Manitoba?

If we paint a picture of the usual immigrants, they are working age adults at arrival. They are very likely to be married and will likely have a university degree. They are very likely to have come as a skilled worker. Since 2002, more than 60% of immigrants are skilled workers.

Many refugees call Manitoba home. The number of refugees coming to Manitoba since 1985 has risen slightly in recent years. The overall number of refugees peaked in 2016. This peak was driven by the Syrian resettlement program.



Are people staying in Manitoba?

Knowing the number of people who stay in Manitoba after moving here can tell us if attracting people to move to Manitoba is working. It also helps with better predictions of population and economic growth.

Since 1985, there has been an increase in the number of people staying in Manitoba. People born in other provinces are less likely to stay in Manitoba than those born in other countries. In recent years both people born in Canada and other countries are staying in Manitoba longer. Over the last decade more than 80% of immigrants continue to live in Manitoba after five years, compared to about 55% of Canadians who came to Manitoba from other provinces.

Are new Manitobans using health services?

To compare people who were born in Manitoba to those born in other countires we matched them by the same birth year, sex, and where they live.

Most people new to Manitoba visited a doctor in the first year here but they had fewer visits to a doctor than people born in Manitoba, and they were less likely to need hospital care. Over 80% of immigrants live in Winnipeg. About 60% of migrants from other provinces live in Winnipeg.

Mortality rates among immigrants are much lower than people born in Canada. This could in part be due to immigrants being healthier or, returning to their places of origin after retirement or due to health concerns.

This study is a start to knowing about the health of new Manitobans. Future studies will tell us more about this important part of our population.

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The Manitoba Centre for Health Policy is a research unit in the Department of Community Health Sciences at the University of Manitoba's Max Rady College of Medicine, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences.

MCHP conducts population-based research on health services, population and public health, and the social determinants of health.