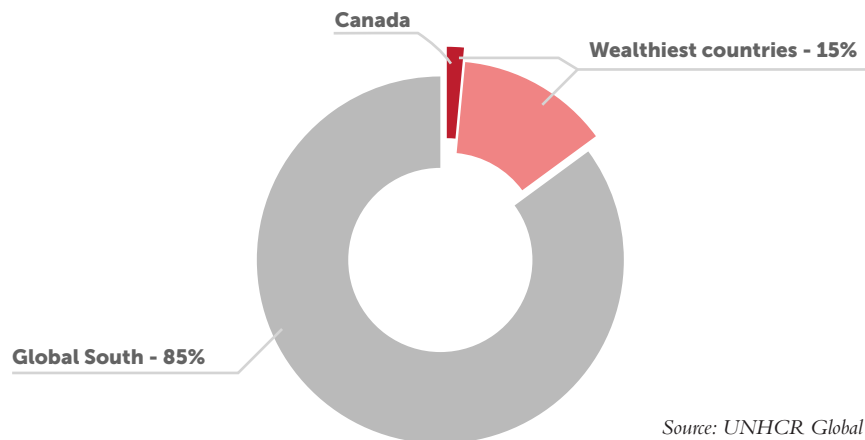




Refugees: Myths...Busted!
Choosing facts over fears

MYTH 1: Most refugees are in Western countries.

Truth: The vast majority of the world's refugees are in the Global South. Only a tiny minority of refugees are found in Canada and the rest of the wealthiest countries.



MYTH 2: Refugees just want to take advantage of Canadians' generous social programs.

Truth: Refugees were forced to flee their homes. Many had to leave behind good jobs. Most are eager to work, but may need first to learn English/French. Refugee claimants wait months for Canada to issue them a work permit.

MYTH 3: Refugees take jobs from Canadians

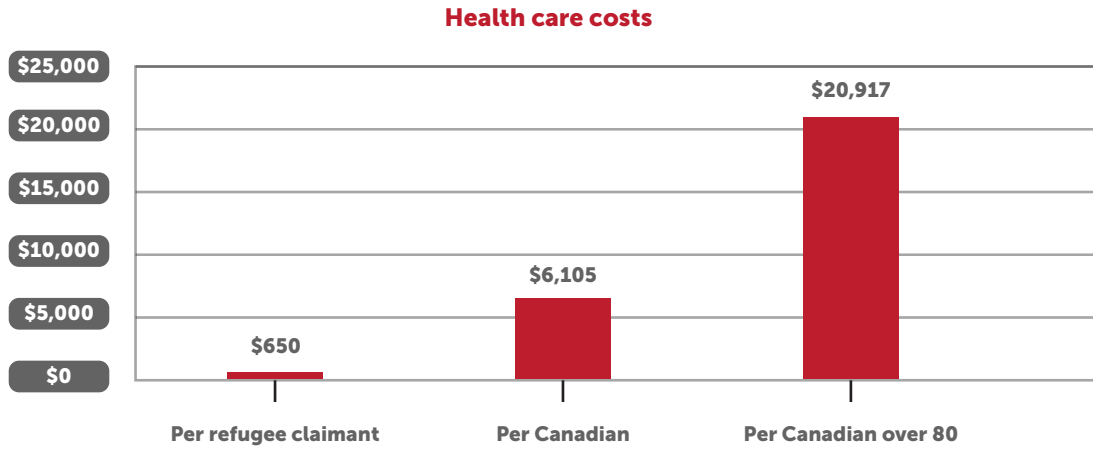
Truth: Refugees create jobs and expand the domestic market. According to OECD research, they create a job for every one they occupy.

“Many of today’s most successful business leaders were refugees from Lebanon; from the civil war in the '60s and '70s ... [They] come into Nova Scotia, create wealth, create jobs, and increase tax revenue.”

Rob Batherson, chair of the Halifax Chamber of Commerce

MYTH 4: Refugee healthcare costs are a burden for Canadians

Truth: The cost of healthcare for refugees and refugee claimants is only a fraction of that of other Canadians. Health care costs are disproportionately for the elderly: the average age of refugees is much lower than of Canadians.

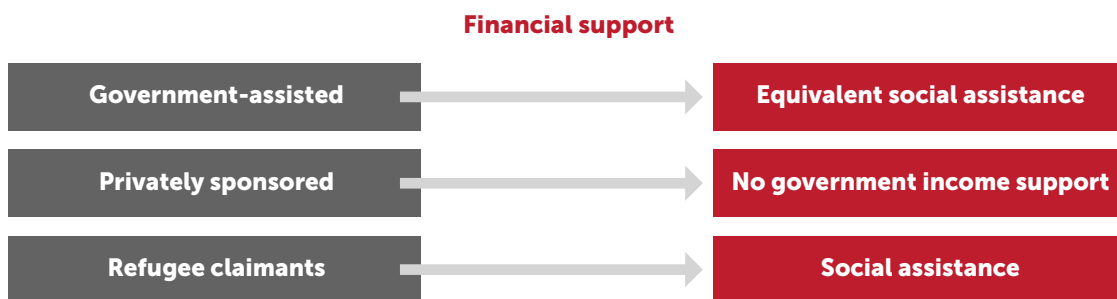


MYTH 5: Refugees receive more than Canadians on welfare.

Truth: Government-assisted refugees receive the equivalent of the minimum amount for provincial social assistance.

MYTH 6: Refugees receive more financial support than pensioners do.

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



MYTH 7: Refugees might pose a security risk to Canada

Truth: Refugees are people who are fleeing violence and seeking security. Refugees go through rigorous security checks, much more than the millions of visitors entering Canada each year.

MYTH 8: Refugees are helpless and weak

Truth: Refugees are survivors, and have shown courage, determination and resilience in escaping persecution.



MYTH 9: Refugees jump the queue over more deserving immigrants

Truth: Refugees were forced to flee, while immigrants choose to move. Canada recognizes this by having separate programs for refugees. However, refugees and their families often wait longer for immigration processing than immigrants.

Processing times in months

