

STATISTICS CANADA

DATA SOURCES

ON

IMMIGRANT WOMEN

Produced by Statistics Canada for Status of Women Canada

Introduction

This document was produced by Statistics Canada to give users an indication of the diversity of data available on immigrant women. The report summarizes the general purpose, periodicity, geography, available characteristics, and sample size for immigrant women in the Census and in other on-going sample surveys that include this population. It also includes a contact name and number for each survey.

Users should note, however, that for most surveys other than the Census, the sample size for immigrant women may be quite small and, as a result, the range of variables and possible disaggregations may be limited. For these surveys, users should consult the survey contact directly.

This report was prepared by Marcia Almey of the Target Groups Analysis Project. Questions about the report should be directed to her by phone: (613) 951-9293; fax: (613) 951-0387; or e-mail almemar@statcan.ca.

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GUIDE TO STATISTICS CANADA DATA ON IMMIGRANT WOMEN

Census of Population

Background

The Census of Population collects data from all Canadians and is the major source of demographic, socio-economic statistical information on the population. It is required by law in order to define federal electoral districts. It is also used to calculate federal transfer payments to the provinces.

The Census collects basic demographic information, such as age, sex and marital status from all residents of Canada. More detailed social, cultural and economic information is collected from a 20% sample of the population.

The Census provides the benchmark against which all surveys are developed and measured. In addition, it provides the only source of data for small areas, such as cities, towns, villages and even postal codes. It also provides historical data and many consistent time series. Comparable data are available for some census questions as far back as 1971; in some cases, comparable historical information is available for even earlier periods, to 1951 and beyond.

Periodicity

The Census is conducted every five years. Post-Confederation Censuses were taken every 10 years starting in 1871, but with the introduction of a shorter Census in 1956, they now occur every five years. Starting in 1986, the mid-decade Censuses have been almost as large and comprehensive as the decennial ones.

Geographic coverage

Data from the Census are available for Canada, the provinces and territories, Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs), other cities, towns and villages, and for areas as small as postal codes. For data on immigrant women, the level of geographic coverage would depend on the number of respondents in that geographic area and the need to protect their confidentiality.

Other characteristics available

The Census provides a broad range of data that can be linked to immigrant status. These include:

- * age
- * sex
- * marital status
- * living arrangements
- * fertility
- * ethnic origin

- * visible minority status
- * place of birth
- * country of citizenship
- * period or year of immigration
- * age at immigration
- * educational attainment
- * major field of study
- * household activities (1996 Census only)
- * labour force activity
- * industry
- * occupation
- * income from all sources
- * housing information

Population size

The 1991 Census counted a total number of 2,212,900 immigrant women for Canada. The Public Use Microdata File for individuals contains 66,683 unweighted records for female immigrants.

Dissemination media

Data from the Census are available in a wide variety of formats. Print media include catalogued publications and special tabulations, while electronic media comprise microdata files, summary data files, tape and diskette.

While in the past, the primary format for dissemination was print publications, future plans include fewer print products. The main vehicles will be electronic products such as CD-ROMs, diskettes, and tapes. Some data will be available free-of-charge at Statistics Canada's Internet site, www.statcan.ca.

Contact

For further information on immigrant women in the Census, users should contact Jane Badets, Housing, Family and Social Statistics, at (613) 951-2561, or e-mail badejan@statcan.ca.

General Social Survey

Background

The General Social Survey (GSS) was initiated in 1985 to fill gaps in the national statistical system with respect to data on socio-economic trends. The survey has two principal objectives: to gather data with a degree of regularity on social trends in order to monitor changes in

Canadian society over time; and to provide information on specific policy issues of current or emerging interest.

The GSS is conducted in cycles, with key topics repeated every five years. It includes three components: a classification component which remains relatively constant from cycle to cycle and includes variables such as age, sex, marital status, place of birth, income, and education; a core content component which monitors long-term social trends and includes topics such as social support, time use, health, personal risk, the family, work, and education; and, generally, a focus component, sponsored by clients, which provides information dealing with a specific policy or social problem. Among the focus topics covered by the GSS cycles to date are language, alcohol and drug use, tobacco use, the effects of tobacco smoke, and transition into retirement.

Periodicity

The GSS is a continuing program with a single survey cycle each year, with major topics repeated every five years. In future, however, the periodicity may be reduced.

Geographic coverage

The GSS is a national survey, with data available at the national and provincial levels. Its sample size is generally large enough to allow extensive analysis at the national level, some analysis at a regional level, and more limited analyses at a provincial level. The sample is allocated to

provinces in proportion to the square roots of their population sizes, and to the strata within provinces in proportion to their population. This design has the effect of allowing more reliable estimates to be produced for the provinces with smaller populations. For immigrant women, however, the level of geography would depend on confidentiality and quality constraints.

Other characteristics available

The following lists the major topics and the reference period covered in GSS Cycles 5-10:

Cycle 5 (1990) - Family and Friends

- * the availability and frequency of contact with parents, siblings, children and friends;
- * children and their living arrangements;
- * fertility intentions;
- * marriage and common-law history;
- * division of labour in the household;
- * social support.

Cycle 6 (1991) - Health

- * chronic health problems;
- * short-term disability;
- * health care contacts;
- * flu vaccinations;
- * long-term disability;

- * health status indicators;
- * sleep patterns;
- * smoking and alcohol consumption;
- * occupation and health;
- * health-care utilization measures.

Cycle 7 (1992) - Time Use

- * time spent on daily activities;
- * unpaid work, including domestic work, childcare, and volunteer work;
- * participation in sport and cultural activities.

Cycle 8 (1993) - Risk and Victimization

- * accidents;
- * criminal victimization;
- * fear and personal safety;
- * childhood injuries;
- * perception and attitudes to the criminal justice system;
- * alcohol and drug use.

Cycle 9 (1994) - Education, Work and Retirement

- * transition into retirement;
- * post-retirement activities;
- * work interruptions;

- * current education;
- * computer knowledge and usage.

Cycle 10 (1995) - Families

- * family and marital history, including blended families;
- * joint custody arrangements;
- * child leaving;
- * family origins;
- * fertility intentions;
- * values and attitudes regarding some areas of family life;
- * work interruptions;
- * effects of environmental tobacco smoke;
- * wartime service.

Sample size

For immigrant women, the sample sizes are:

Cycle 5 - 1,150

Cycle 6 - 1,050

Cycle 7 - 750

Cycle 8 - 900

Cycle 9 - 975

Cycle 10 - 950

Dissemination media

Data from the GSS are available in three formats: print publications, microdata files, and by special request. Data on immigrant women, however, would only be available by special request; in addition, dissemination of these data would be subject to confidentiality and reliability constraints.

Contact

For more information, contact Jeanne Sarault, Housing, Family and Social Statistics, at (613) 951-0230.

Longitudinal Immigration Database

Background

The Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB) is based on administrative records. It is a file of linked immigrant and tax records going back to 1980. It contains data on immigrant characteristics at landing, as well as earnings, location, and demographic data for each year in which the immigrant filed a tax return. It can support cross-sectional, historical and longitudinal analyses.

Periodicity

The IMDB contains annual data for the period 1980-1994, with data for 1995 soon to be added.

Geographic coverage

The IMDB is national in scope. Data are available for Canada, the provinces and some CMAs.

Some Census tract data may be available on a cost-recovery basis.

Other characteristics available

The IMDB includes information on class of immigrant, country of origin, age, location, language ability, education, intended occupation, earnings and income, labour market activity, industry, unemployment, self-employment, and inter-urban mobility.

Sample size

The IMDB includes over 1,300,000 female immigrants.

Dissemination media

A series of statistical tables will be available on CD-ROM, at a price that has yet to be determined. Special requests can be generated in any medium requested by the client.

Contact

For further information, contact Mike Nagrodski, Small Business and Special Surveys, at (613) 951-0875.

Survey of Consumer Finances

Background

The Survey of Consumer Finances (SCF) provides data on the incomes of individuals and of families (economic or "extended" families, as well as census or "nuclear" families). It collects detailed income data by source and amount, and all information is linked to the Labour Force Survey (LFS), creating a database containing detailed income, demographic and labour characteristics. SCF data can be used to determine average and median incomes, distributions and quintile shares, and the impact of transfer payments and income taxes. High profile data include average family income, earnings of men and women and female/male earnings ratios, and low income rates for persons (e.g., children and the elderly) and for families. Income tabulations are available for individuals and families by age, sex, educational attainment, occupation, and type of family (e.g., lone-parent families, two-parent families).

Periodicity

The Survey of Consumer Finances is conducted annually as a supplement to the Labour Force Survey.

Geographic Coverage

The SCF covers the total population residing in private households, with income collected for all persons aged 15 and over. It excludes people in the two territories, in military barracks, on Indian reserves, and in institutions. Data are available for Canada and the provinces. For immigrant women, the level of geography would depend on confidentiality and quality constraints.

Other characteristics available

For immigrant women, the SCF can provide information on income by virtually all labour force and demographic characteristics collected by the Labour Force Survey, including by age, educational attainment, labour force status and family status.

Sample size

In 1995, the SCF included 4,400 immigrant women in the sample.

Dissemination Media

Data from the SCF are available in a variety of formats, including a series of annual print publications, microdata files, and custom tabulations. Data on immigrant women, however, are only available by special request and are subject to confidentiality and quality constraints.

Contact

For further information, users should contact Réjean Lasnier, Household Surveys Data Dissemination Unit at (613) 951-4633, or e-mail income@statcan.ca.

Household Facilities and Equipment Survey

Background

The Household Facilities and Equipment Survey (HFE) provides data on the ownership of a wide range of household facilities and equipment, from bath facilities and principal heating fuel to computers and CD players. It can be used to give information on dwelling characteristics and on ownership of household amenities by characteristics such as age, sex and household type.

Data from the HFE are linked with the SCF to provide information on the ownership of household facilities and equipment by household income. This database, called Household Income, Facilities and Equipment (HIFE), provides data on dwelling characteristics and the

ownership of household amenities and equipment by characteristics such as income group, age, and household type.

Periodicity

The HFE is conducted annually each spring as a supplement to the Labour Force Survey.

Geographic Coverage

The HFE includes only people aged 15 and over, and it excludes people in the two territories, in military barracks, on Indian reserves, and in institutions. Data are available for Canada and the provinces. For immigrant women, the level of geography would depend on confidentiality and quality constraints.

Other characteristics available

For immigrant women, the data include ownership of household facilities and vehicles by income, age, geography, household size and family type. Data on tenure by family type are also available.

Sample size

In 1996, the HFE included in the sample over 4,000 households with immigrant women.

Dissemination media

Data from the HFE and HIFE are available in a variety of formats, including a series of annual print publications, microdata files, and custom tabulations. Data on immigrant women, however, are only available by special request and are subject to confidentiality and quality constraints.

Contact

For further information, users should contact Réjean Lasnier, Household Surveys Data Dissemination Unit, at (613) 951-4633, or e-mail income@statcan.ca.

Family Expenditure Survey

Background

The Family Expenditure Survey (FAMEX) collects information from households across Canada about their expenditures during the previous calendar year. The survey's data relate household expenditure to household income and other household characteristics, and are used to monitor and update the weights used in the computation of the Consumer Price Index.

The FAMEX survey collects information on the household reference person and spouse only; data are not collected on all other household members. It provides information on household expenditures by type of expenditure, family type, and income. It also provides data on family

size and on the age of the family head. Comparisons over time and between provinces and CMAs are also possible. It should be noted, however, that most of the households' expenditures can not be attributed to individuals in the household.

Periodicity

While most family expenditure surveys have been conducted approximately every two years, the most recent FAMEX survey referred to the 1992 calendar year and the next will refer to the 1996 calendar year.

Geographic coverage

FAMEX surveys have varied in their geographic coverage. In 1992, the survey included private households in the 10 provinces, as well as Whitehorse and Yellowknife. However, the coverage for most of the surveys has been restricted to selected cities. In fact, only four of the previous FAMEX surveys have been national, covering smaller urban and rural areas: 1969, 1978, 1982 and 1986. The 1996 survey will also be national in scope. For households with immigrant women, the level of geography would depend on confidentiality and quality constraints.

Other characteristics available

FAMEX asks the education, country of birth, and year of immigrant arrival of the reference person and spouse only. Depending on the sample sizes, some further classifications such as

income and geography could be done for households with an immigrant woman as reference person or spouse.

Sample size

The 1992 FAMEX includes about 1,200 immigrant women.

Dissemination media

Data from the FAMEX are available in a variety of formats, including print publications, diskettes, computer readable tape, and custom tabulations. The FAMEX public-use file indicates the sex, country of birth and immigrant year of arrival of the reference person and spouse.

Contact

For further information, users should contact Réjean Lasnier, Household Surveys Data Dissemination Unit, at (613) 951-4633, or e-mail expenditures@statcan.ca.

Food Expenditure Survey

Background

The Food Expenditure Survey collects data from households about their expenditures on food during the year. This information is used to monitor and periodically update the weights used in the computation of the Consumer Price Index (CPI). In addition, the survey information links food expenditure data to other variables such as income and household type to provide the basis for market analysis and nutrition studies.

The Food Expenditure Survey collects information on the household reference person and spouse only; data are not collected on all other household members. In addition, it should be noted that most of the households' expenditures can not be attributed to individuals in the household.

Periodicity

The Food Expenditure Survey covers the same reference period as FAMEX and has the same periodicity. In the past it was conducted approximately every two years, but the most recent survey was for 1992 and the next one will refer to the 1996 calendar year.

Geographic coverage

Food Expenditure Surveys have varied in their geographic coverage. In 1992, the survey included private households in the 10 provinces, as well as Whitehorse and Yellowknife. However, the coverage for most of the surveys has been restricted to selected cities. In fact, only three of the previous surveys have been national, covering smaller urban and rural areas: 1969, 1982 and 1986. The 1996 survey will also be national in scope. For households with immigrant women, the level of geography would depend on confidentiality and quality constraints.

Other characteristics available

The Food Expenditure Survey can provide data on expenditure patterns on food by household type and size, family type, age of head, tenure, employment status of spouses, and by income. It also provides information on the allocation of food purchases by type of store, and on food eaten away from home. The survey asks the education, country of birth, and year of immigrant arrival of the reference person and spouse only. Depending on the sample sizes, some further classifications such as expenditures and geography could be done for households with an immigrant woman as reference person or spouse.

Sample size

The 1992 Food Expenditure Survey includes about 1,200 immigrant women.

Dissemination media

Data from the Food Expenditure Survey are available in a variety of formats, including print publications, diskettes, computer readable tape, and custom tabulations. Detailed tabulations are also available on microfiche. The public-use file indicates the sex, country of birth and immigrant year of arrival of the reference person and spouse.

Contact

For further information, users should contact Réjean Lasnier, Household Surveys Data Dissemination Unit, at (613) 951-4633, or e-mail expenditures@statcan.ca.

National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth

Background

The National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY) is the first Canada-wide longitudinal survey about children. It collects information on children and their families, their education, health, development, behaviour, friends, and activities. The target population is children ranging in age from newborns to 11 years.

While there are some female immigrant children included in the sample, the numbers are relatively small and the data may not be fully reliable.

Periodicity

The NLSCY follows a representative sample of children over time, collecting information at two-year intervals. The first cycle of data was collected in early 1995, and the second cycle, with some modifications, will be in the field in 1997.

Geographic coverage

Data from the NLSCY are available for Canada and the provinces. Children in institutions and on reserves are not included. Data on female immigrant children may only be available at the Canada level.

Other characteristics available

The NLSCY collects a broad range of data about both children and their families. The data on the children include demographics and health, perinatal history, education, including absenteeism and behaviour problems, literacy, activities, behaviour, motor and social development, family and custody history, and child care history. The family data include demographic and ethno cultural information, education, income, physical and mental health, housing and social support. Data are also gathered about the children from their teachers and principals. The availability of data on female immigrant children would depend on the level of geography, as well as confidentiality and reliability constraints.

Sample size

There are 175 female immigrant children in the sample.

Dissemination media

Data from the first cycle of the NLSCY is available on CD-ROM, and users can also request custom tabulations. Data on female immigrant children are only available by special request, and their dissemination would depend on quality and confidentiality constraints.

Contact

For further information, contact Michael Sivyer, Special Surveys Dissemination and User Support, at (613) 951-4598, or e-mail special@statcan.ca.

National Population Health Survey

Background

The National Population Health Survey (NPHS) is designed to collect data on the economic, social, demographic, occupational and environmental correlates of health. It collects cross-sectional data, as well as longitudinal information from a panel of individuals over time.

The NPHS includes both the residents of private households and those in institutions. Proxy responses were accepted for the institutions survey. For the households component, some limited information was collected from all household members, while one person, aged 12 or over, was randomly selected for a more in-depth interview. The results of the in-depth interview are processed into the Health file, while the data from the questions administered to all household members are stored in the General file.

Periodicity

The NPHS is conducted every two years, with the first cycle of data collection in 1994.

Geographic coverage

The NPHS is national in scope. However, the private household component does not include the populations on Indian Reserves, Canadian Forces Bases, and in some remote areas in Ontario and Quebec. As well, separate surveys were conducted to cover the two territories. Data are available at the provincial level.

Other characteristics available

The NPHS includes questions on health status, chronic conditions, functional ability, activity restriction, health care utilization, use of medication (both prescription and over-the-counter),

alcohol and tobacco use, social support, and physical activities. For immigrant women, data availability would depend on confidentiality and quality constraints.

Sample size

For the General file, the counts of immigrant women are 3,600 and for the Health file, 1,300.

The Institutions file from the NPHS includes 300 immigrant women.

Dissemination media

A microdata file of data from the first cycle of the households component of the NPHS is available on diskette and CD-ROM. For the institutions component, the microdata file is on diskette only. Special tabulations on both surveys can also be requested.

Contact

For further information, contact Daniel Dekoker, Health Statistics Division, at (613) 951-1653, or e-mail nphs@statcan.ca.

Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics

Background

The Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID) is a longitudinal household survey designed to capture changes in the economic well-being of individuals and families over time, as well as the determinants of their well-being. Individuals selected for the survey are interviewed once or twice a year for six years to collect information about their labour market experiences, income, and family circumstances. In order to obtain complete information on families and to obtain cross-sectional data, people who live with the original respondents at any time during the six years are also interviewed.

Starting in 1993, SLID follows the same respondents for six years. A second set of respondents started in 1996, and will continue for another six years. A third panel will start in 1999, and this pattern will continue every three years.

Periodicity

The SLID survey is conducted annually, with a split-interview format: labour topics are covered in January, and income topics in May. Both sets of questions refer to the previous year.

Geographic coverage

SLID is national in scope. Its target population is all persons living in Canada, except for the two territories, the population on Indian Reserves, the residents of institutions, and full-time members of the Armed Forces living in barracks. Data are available at the provincial level.

Other characteristics available

SLID covers topics such as the demographic and personal history of respondents, family dynamics and their relation to economic well-being, labour market dynamics and transitions, income dynamics, and the determinants of income changes experienced by individuals and families. For immigrant women, however, the release of data would depend on the level of geography and data quality and confidentiality constraints.

Sample size

The first wave of SLID includes 1,700 immigrant women.

Dissemination media

A microdata file from the 1993 SLID wave is available on CD-ROM, along with Ivision software that allows users to do their own data manipulations. Custom tabulations are also available. Data

on immigrant women, however, are only available by special request and are subject to confidentiality and reliability constraints.

Contact

For further information, contact Réjean Lasnier, Household Surveys Data Dissemination Unit at (613) 951-4633, or e-mail dynamics@statcan.ca.

Demography Division

Statistics Canada's Demography Division receives and publishes information from Citizenship and Immigration Canada on immigrants. Data include counts, by year, country of last permanent residence, province of destination, and intended occupation. While most of the information is not published by gender, some data on female immigrants may be available by special request.

Contact

For further information, contact Lise Champagne, Dissemination, Demography Division, at (613) 951-2320 or e-mail chamlis@statcan.ca.

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"Living with relatives," *Canadian Social Trends*, Autumn 1996

Report on the Demographic Situation in Canada: Current Demographic Analysis, Catalogue

No. 91-209

"Visible minorities: a diverse group," *Canadian Social Trends*, Summer 1995

Data in many forms . . .

Statistics Canada disseminates data in a variety of forms. In addition to publications, both standard and special tabulations are offered. Data are available on the Internet, compact disc, diskette, computer printouts, microfiche and microfilm, and magnetic tape. Maps and other geographic reference materials are available for some types of data. Direct online access to aggregated information is possible through CANSIM, Statistics Canada's machine-readable database and retrieval system.

How to obtain more information

Inquiries about this publication and related statistics or services should be directed to: Target Groups Analysis Project, Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0T6 (telephone: (613) 951-9293; e-mail: almemar@statcan.ca) or to the Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre in:

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Description of Data Source	National Population Health Survey	Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB)	Family Expenditure Survey	Food Expenditure Survey	Survey of Consumer Finances	Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics	National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth
Periodicity	Biennial	Annual	4 Year Cycle	4 Year Cycle	Annual	Annual	Biennial
Reference Period	1994	1980-1994	1992	1992	1995		1994
Sample Size/Target Population	22,000	Immigrant Taxfilers	9,492 hhlds	10,848 hhlds	70,344 hhlds	31,000	23,059 respondents
Female Immigrant Sample Size	3,600 (general file) 1,300 (health file) 300 (institutions file)	1,300,000	1,000	1,000	4,400	1,700	175
Lowest Geographic Level	Provinces	Sub-provincial	Provinces	Provinces	Provinces	Provinces	Provinces
SELECTED VARIABLES							
Ethnic Origin	X					X	X
Place of Birth	X	X	X	X		X	X
Place of Birth of Spouse			X	X			
Place of Birth of Parents							X
Citizenship	X						X
Landed Immigrant Status	X				X		X
Period/Year of Immigration	X	X	X	X		X	X
Race	X						
Age at Immigration		X	X	X		X	
Age at Immigration of Spouse						X	
Children Born After Immigration						X	
Member of Visible Minority Group						X	
Country of Last Permanent Residence		X					
Class/Category at Immigration		X					

n.a. = not applicable/not available

Note: A potential data source on immigrants is the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada (LSIC), which will be designed to study immigrant integration over time. This survey is in the planning stages, with a pilot test to be conducted in March 1997 and the first wave of the full survey planned for 1997-98. The testing of the survey is being conducted by Statistics Canada for Citizenship & Immigration Canada.