

Study: Educational and labour market outcomes of childhood immigrants by admission class, 1980 to 2000

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The educational attainment and earnings of immigrants who arrived in Canada before age 18 differ considerably by admission class.

The new study, "[Educational and Labour Market Outcomes of Childhood Immigrants by Admission Class](#)," examines the university completion rates and annual earnings of childhood immigrants when they were aged 25 to 44 in 2011. These individuals immigrated to Canada between 1980 and 2000.

Childhood immigrants who were aged 25 to 44 at the moment of the survey and whose parents were in the business or skilled-worker class had the highest rates of university completion, with 59% of those from the business class and 50% of those from the skilled-worker class obtaining a university degree. The corresponding rate among individuals born in Canada to two Canadian-born parents was 24%.

Among childhood immigrants who were aged 25 to 44 in 2011 and who were from the family class, 21% had obtained a university degree, compared with 19% of those from the live-in caregiver class. In turn, university completion rates among childhood immigrants were 29% for those whose parents were government-assisted refugees and 32% for those whose parents were privately sponsored refugees.

Differences in university completion rates across admission classes were largely associated with differences in parental education and source region. These two factors accounted for one-third of the difference observed between childhood immigrants from the family class and those from the skilled-worker class. They also accounted for almost one-half of the difference observed between childhood immigrants from the live-in caregiver class and those from the skilled-worker class.

Annual earnings also varied considerably among childhood immigrants who were aged 25 to 44 in 2011. Those from the business class and skilled-worker class had average earnings of about \$46,000 that year, similar to the earnings of individuals born in Canada to two Canadian-born parents. In turn, childhood immigrants from the family class had average earnings of \$39,000, while those from the live-in caregiver class had average earnings of \$34,000. Childhood immigrants whose parents were government-assisted refugees earned an average of \$41,000, while those whose parents were privately sponsored refugees had average earnings of \$44,000.

Differences in educational attainment and occupation accounted almost entirely for earnings differences among admission classes. Childhood immigrants in the skilled-worker and business classes were concentrated in high-paying occupations, including managerial, finance, natural science, and social science occupations.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [5178](#).

The research paper "[Educational and Labour Market Outcomes of Childhood Immigrants by Admission Class](#)," which is part of the *Analytical Studies Branch Research Paper Series (11F0019M)*, is now available from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website, under *Publications*.

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