



## LIVING IN POVERTY IN SURREY

# 7 immigrants

**Our research shows that almost 40% of the population in Metro Vancouver was born elsewhere and had immigrated to Canada. This includes 151,695 people who had moved to Metro Vancouver between 2001 and 2006.**

Within the City of Surrey, approximately 38% of the population was born elsewhere including 29,230 who moved to Surrey between 2001 and 2006 from outside of Canada.



**this** is a campaign to end poverty in Surrey.  
transportation / housing / income / support



Between 2001 and 2006, over 29,000 new immigrants made Surrey their home.

**this**

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IS HOW WE  
END POVERTY  
IN SURREY

## **What we know from our research**

### **There is significant diversity in Surrey**

Not only is there significant diversity within the population in Surrey but Surrey is home to a large percentage of recent immigrants and newcomers to Canada. Between 2001 and 2006, Metro Vancouver welcomed approximately 151,695 new immigrant families and individuals, of which 29,230, or approximately 1 in 5, made Surrey their home.

### **Access to work opportunities for new immigrant families and individuals**

Of recent immigrants (those moving to Surrey between 2001 and 2006), approximately 24,445 were 15 or older. Furthermore, of these, approximately 16,675 were part of the labour force while 7,750 were not. There were also 1,890 recent immigrants who were in the labour force and looking for work at the time of the 2006 Census. This translates into an unemployment rate of approximately 11% among recent immigrants living in Surrey.

### **Access to work opportunities for new immigrant youth (15 to 24)**

Among younger recent immigrants (those 15-24) the unemployment rate was approximately 12%, which translated into 370 individuals who were looking for work at the time of the 2006 Census.

### **The quality and nature of work opportunities**

Of the recent immigrants who were part of the labour force, approximately 5,055 (31%) reported that they worked for a full year, full time. There were an additional 10,721 (66%) who worked part-time and 3% where the nature of their employment was undefined. Of those who worked full-time, their average earnings were \$30,721 while the median earnings were \$27,752. Among those working part-time, the average earnings were \$14,877 while median earnings were \$10,721.

### **Average hourly earnings for full-time employment**

Based on average annual earnings of \$ 30,721, the average hourly wage among recent immigrants who worked for a full-year, full-time was approximately \$15.75 per hour assuming a 37.5 hour week and 52 weeks of employment. The median hourly wage was \$14.23.

### **Access to employment opportunities for recent immigrants**

Of recent immigrants who were part of the labour force, 11,065 reported that that they travel to a usual place of work. Of those who travel to a usual place of work, 4,785 (43%) reported that they work in Surrey while 5,950 (54%) reported that they worked elsewhere in the Metro Vancouver. The remaining 335 (3%) worked outside of Metro Vancouver.



### Travel to work

There were approximately 13,955 recent immigrants living in Surrey who provided information on how they get to work. Of these approximately 2,620 (19%) reported that they take public transit to work while 10,650 (76%) reported that they take a vehicle to work either as a driver (7,505) or as a passenger (3,145).

### Access to education and other opportunities

Approximately 18% of recent immigrants living in Surrey reported that they did not have a certificate, diploma or degree in 2006. There were an additional 21% who reported that they had at least high school or the equivalent. Approximately 61% reported having a certificate, diploma, or degree from a college, university, apprenticeship, or trades program with 79% of all those in this category reporting that they have a university degree.

**TABLE 1** ALL IMMIGRANTS IN LOW INCOME

	All Immigrants	Total Immigrants in Low Income	Immigrants in Low Income	Immigrants (1996-2000)	Immigrants in Low Income (1996-2000)	% in Low Income (1996-2000)
Metro Vancouver	829,870	223,230	26.90%	148,565	49,295	33.20%
<b>Surrey</b>	<b>150,130</b>	<b>33,410</b>	<b>22.30%</b>	<b>26,330</b>	<b>6,930</b>	<b>26.30%</b>
Burnaby	101,840	31,590	31.00%	20,620	7,895	38.30%
Coquitlam	44,745	13,025	29.10%	9,535	3,310	34.70%
Delta	27,015	4,915	18.20%	3,775	1,130	29.90%
Greater Vancouver A	5,050	2,080	41.20%	1,180	390	33.10%
Langley	4,165	1,060	25.50%	545	190	34.90%
Langley	15,875	2,355	14.80%	1,870	385	20.60%
Maple Ridge	11,690	2,185	18.70%	1,340	265	19.80%
New Westminster	18,345	4,245	23.10%	3,130	625	20.00%
North Vancouver	16,385	4,295	26.20%	3,170	1,010	31.90%
North Vancouver D	25,985	5,210	20.10%	4,270	1,125	26.30%
Pitt Meadows	3,240	565	17.40%	395	135	34.20%
Port Coquitlam	14,730	3,035	20.60%	3,020	715	23.70%
Port Moody	8,035	1,690	21.00%	1,535	415	27.00%
Richmond	99,535	33,095	33.20%	21,985	9,230	42.00%
Vancouver	260,065	75,990	29.20%	42,520	14,500	34.10%
West Vancouver	15,450	3,640	23.60%	2,485	915	36.80%
White Rock	4,375	740	16.90%	480	95	19.80%
Other*	1630	95	--	140	35	--

\*Other includes Anmore, Belcarra, Bowen Island and Lions Bay

**TABLE 2** RECENT IMMIGRANTS (1996 TO 2006) IN LOW INCOME

	Total # of Immigrants (1996-2000)	Total # of Immigrants (1996-2000) in low income	% of Immigrants (1996-2000) in low Income	Total # of Immigrants (2001-2006)	Immigrants in low income (2001-2006)	% in low Income
Greater Vancouver	148,565	49,295	33.2%	151,455	68,245	45.1%
<b>Surrey</b>	<b>26,330</b>	<b>6,930</b>	<b>26.3%</b>	<b>29,230</b>	<b>10,100</b>	<b>34.6%</b>
Burnaby	20,620	7,895	38.3%	21,690	11,065	51.0%
Coquitlam	9,535	3,310	34.7%	8,930	4,380	49.0%
Delta	3,775	1,130	29.9%	3,695	1,335	36.1%
Greater Vancouver A	1,180	390	33.1%	2,100	1,245	59.3%
Langley City	545	190	34.9%	700	190	27.1%
Langley District	1,870	385	20.6%	2,350	805	34.3%
Maple Ridge	1,340	265	19.8%	1,420	575	40.5%
New Westminster	3,130	625	20.0%	4,250	1,715	40.4%
North Vancouver City	3,170	1,010	31.9%	3,470	1,355	39.0%
North Vancouver District	4,270	1,125	26.3%	4,075	1,875	46.0%
Pitt Meadows	395	135	34.2%	445	105	23.6%
Port Coquitlam	3,020	715	23.7%	2,045	870	42.5%
Port Moody	1,535	415	27.0%	1,535	655	42.7%
Richmond	21,985	9,230	42.0%	18,760	10,015	53.4%
Vancouver	42,520	14,500	34.1%	43,380	20,450	47.1%
West Vancouver	2,485	915	36.8%	2,300	1,310	57.0%
White Rock	480	95	19.8%	530	195	36.8%
Other*	140	35	--	140	15	--

\*Other includes Anmore, Belcarra, Bowen Island and Lions Bay

**TABLE 3** MORE RECENT IMMIGRANTS AS A % OF ALL IMMIGRANTS IN LOW INCOME

	All Immigrants	All Immigrants in low income	All immigrants (1996 to 2006) in low income	% of all immigrants in low income
Greater Vancouver	829,870	223,230	117,540	52.7%
<b>Surrey</b>	<b>150,130</b>	<b>33,410</b>	<b>17,030</b>	<b>51.0%</b>
Burnaby	101,840	31,590	18,960	60.0%
Coquitlam	44,745	13,025	7,690	59.0%
Delta	27,015	4,915	2,465	50.2%
Greater Vancouver A	5,050	2,080	1,635	78.6%
Langley City	4,165	1,060	380	35.8%
Langley District	15,875	2,355	1,190	50.5%
Maple Ridge	11,690	2,185	840	38.4%
New Westminster	18,345	4,245	2,340	55.1%
North Vancouver City	16,385	4,295	2,365	55.1%
North Vancouver District	25,985	5,210	3,000	57.6%
Pitt Meadows	3,240	565	240	42.5%
Port Coquitlam	14,730	3,035	1,585	52.2%
Port Moody	8,035	1,690	1,070	63.3%
Richmond	99,535	33,095	19,245	58.2%
Vancouver	260,065	75,990	34,950	46.0%
West Vancouver	15,450	3,640	2,225	61.1%
White Rock	4,375	740	290	39.2%
Other*	1630	95	50	--

\*Other includes Anmore, Belcarra, Bowen Island and Lions Bay

**TABLE 4 IMMIGRANTS 1996 TO 2006 IN LOW INCOME (BEFORE AND AFTER TAX)**

	<b>Total # of Immigrants (2001-2006)</b>	<b># of Immigrants (2001-2006) in low income (Before Tax)</b>	<b>% of Immigrants (2001-2006) in Low Income (Before Tax)</b>	<b># of Immigrants (2001-2006) in low income (After Tax)</b>	<b>% of Immigrants (2001-2006) in Low Income (After Tax)</b>
Greater Vancouver	151,455	68,245	45.1%	57,350	38%
<b>Surrey</b>	<b>29,230</b>	<b>10,100</b>	<b>34.6%</b>	<b>8,179</b>	<b>28%</b>
Burnaby	21,690	11,065	51.0%	9,322	43%
Coquitlam	8,930	4,380	49.0%	3,829	43%
Delta	3,695	1,335	36.1%	1,218	33%
Greater Vancouver A	2,100	1,245	59.3%	1,050	50%
Langley City	700	190	27.1%	125	18%
Langley District	2,350	805	34.3%	702	30%
Maple Ridge	1,420	575	40.5%	509	36%
New Westminster	4,250	1,715	40.4%	1,528	36%
North Vancouver City	3,470	1,355	39.0%	1,180	34%
North Vancouver District	4,075	1,875	46.0%	1,667	41%
Pitt Meadows	445	105	23.6%	57	13%
Port Coquitlam	2,045	870	42.5%	716	35%
Port Moody	1,535	655	42.7%	583	38%
Richmond	18,760	10,015	53.4%	8,630	46%
Vancouver	43,380	20,450	47.1%	17,340	40%
West Vancouver	2,300	1,310	57.0%	1,058	46%
White Rock	530	195	36.8%	196	37%
Other*	140	15	--	0	0%

\*Other includes Anmore, Belcarra, Bowen Island and Lions Bay

### The incidence of poverty among recent immigrants

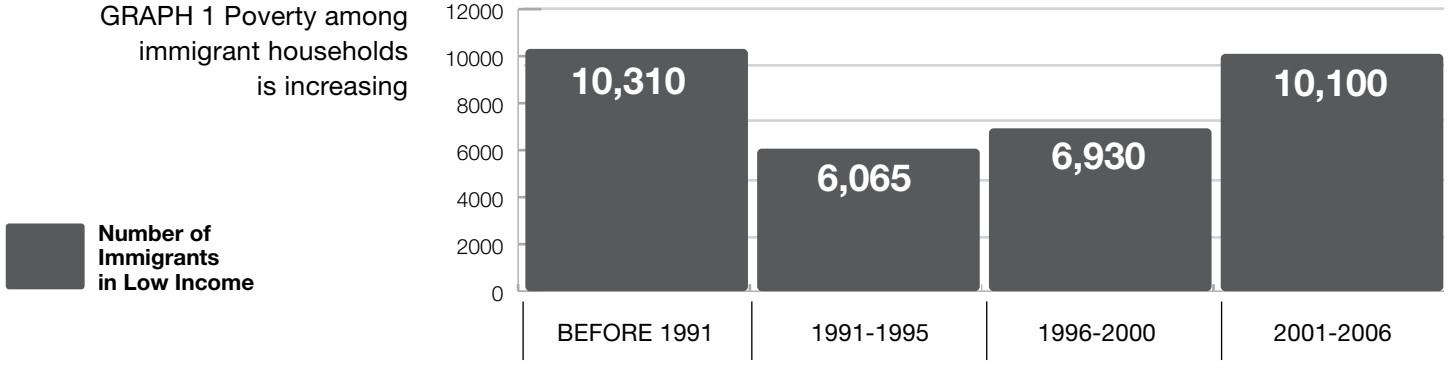
Our research shows that of the 151,695 recent immigrants moving to Metro Vancouver between 2001 and 2006, approximately 68,263 had incomes which were below the poverty line. This translates into a poverty rate of approximately 45% among all recent immigrants.

Within the City of Surrey, there were approximately 10,230 recent immigrants who were living in poverty representing approximately 15% of all recent immigrants living in poverty in Metro Vancouver or approximately 35% of all recent immigrants living in Surrey.

## How does poverty affect immigrant households?

NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS IN LOW INCOME

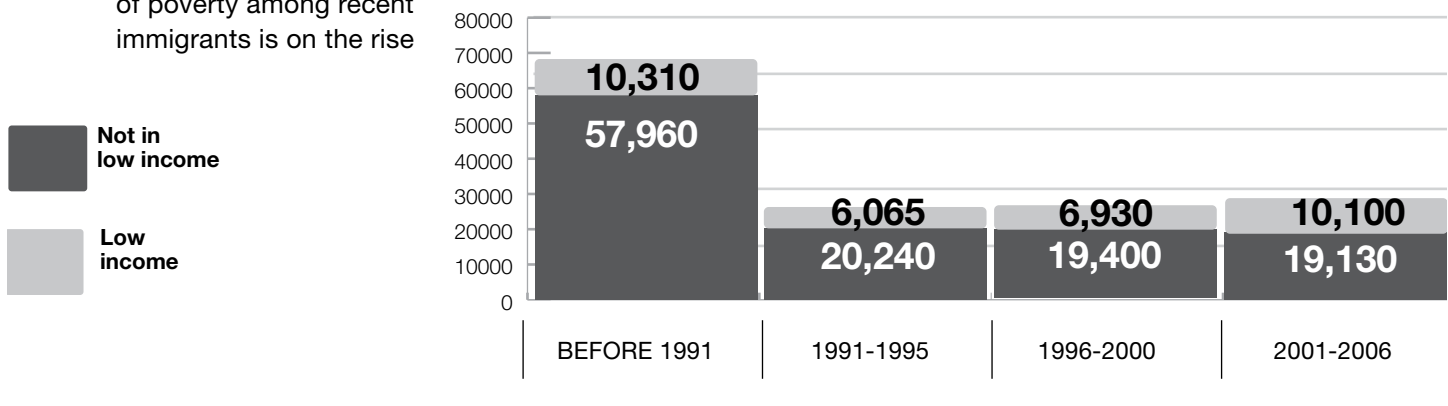
GRAPH 1 Poverty among immigrant households is increasing



## Does length of time in Canada make a difference?

LOW INCOME AMONG IMMIGRANT POPULATIONS BY DATE OF IMMIGRATION TO CANADA

GRAPH 2 The prevalence of poverty among recent immigrants is on the rise



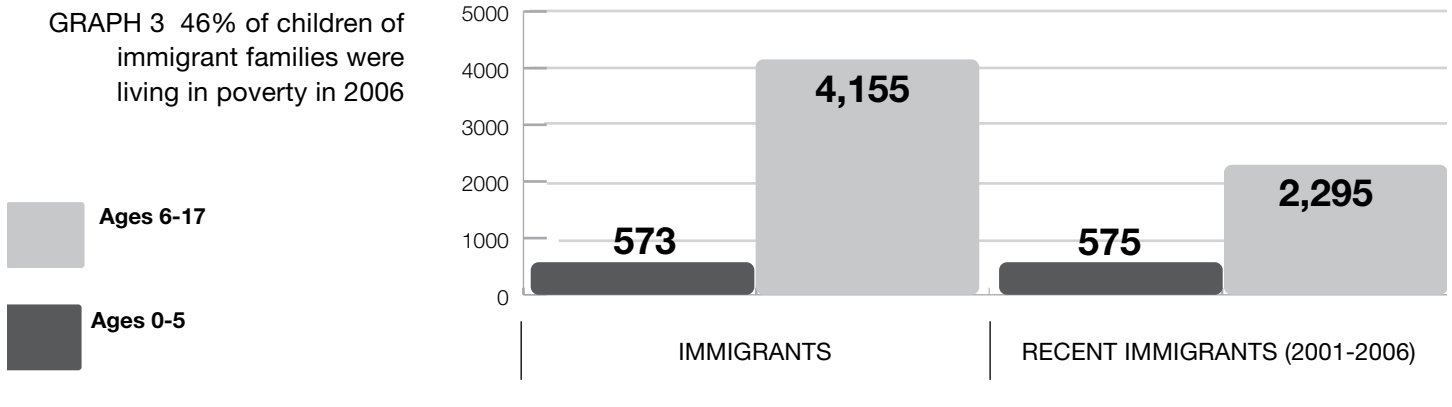
### Immigrant children living in poverty

Of the 29,230 recent immigrants who moved to Surrey between 2001 and 2006, approximately 6,295 were between the ages of 0 and 17 including 1,175 between the ages of 0 and 5. The remaining 5,120 were between the ages of 6 and 17. Children between the ages of 0 and 17 represent almost 22% of all recent immigrants.

Our research also shows that, of 6,295 recent immigrants between the age of 0 and 17, approximately 46% were living in poverty.

## How are immigrant children affected by poverty?

IMMIGRANT CHILDREN IN LOW INCOME



### Immigrant seniors living in poverty

Among all immigrants living in poverty in Surrey, approximately 22,855 were 65 or older. This includes approximately 1,380 who were recent immigrants. Of all immigrants 65 or older, approximately 19% were living in poverty. Immigrant seniors living in poverty were less likely to be recent immigrants and more likely to have moved to Canada in a prior period.

### Immigrant families living in poverty

Of the 16,100 economic families living in poverty in Surrey, almost two-thirds (10,100) had children 18 or under living at home. Of these, approximately 6,875 (42%) were immigrant families. This includes approximately 5,600 immigrant couples with children and 1,275 immigrant-led single parent family households.

### Immigrant women living in poverty

Among all immigrants living in poverty in Surrey, women accounted for approximately 54%. Our research also shows that the highest incidence of poverty among immigrant women is among those in the 24 to 34 age cohort, where 56% of all immigrants living in poverty in 2006 were women.





Of the 4,555 immigrant-led renter households in core housing need in Surrey in 2006, 1,260 were in “worst case” need.

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### **Immigrant households in core housing need**

Across Metro Vancouver, there were 79,365 renter households in core housing need. Of these, 34,145 were immigrant-led households. This represents approximately 43% of all renter households in core housing need.

Within Surrey there were 10,430 renter households in core housing need in 2006. Of these, 4,555 were immigrant-led households. This represents 13% of all immigrant-led households in core housing need across Metro Vancouver and approximately 44% of all renter households in core housing need in Surrey.

### **Immigrant households in “worst case” need**

Of the 34,145 immigrant households in core housing need in 2006 in Metro Vancouver, 12,110 were in need and spending at least half of their income on their housing costs (INALH). This represents approximately 35% of all immigrant-led households in core housing need in Metro Vancouver. These are households that are considered to be in “worst case” need; that is, households where a change in their income or an increase in their rent could push them deeper into poverty and homelessness.

Of the 4,555 immigrant-led renter households in core housing need in Surrey in 2006, 1,260 were in “worst case” need. This represents 28% of all immigrant-led renter households in core housing need in Surrey.

### **Homelessness among newcomers to Canada**

The 2011 homeless count identified 360 individuals who were homeless on the night of the count in Surrey. Of these, approximately 12 individuals (3%) identified themselves as a newcomer to Canada.