

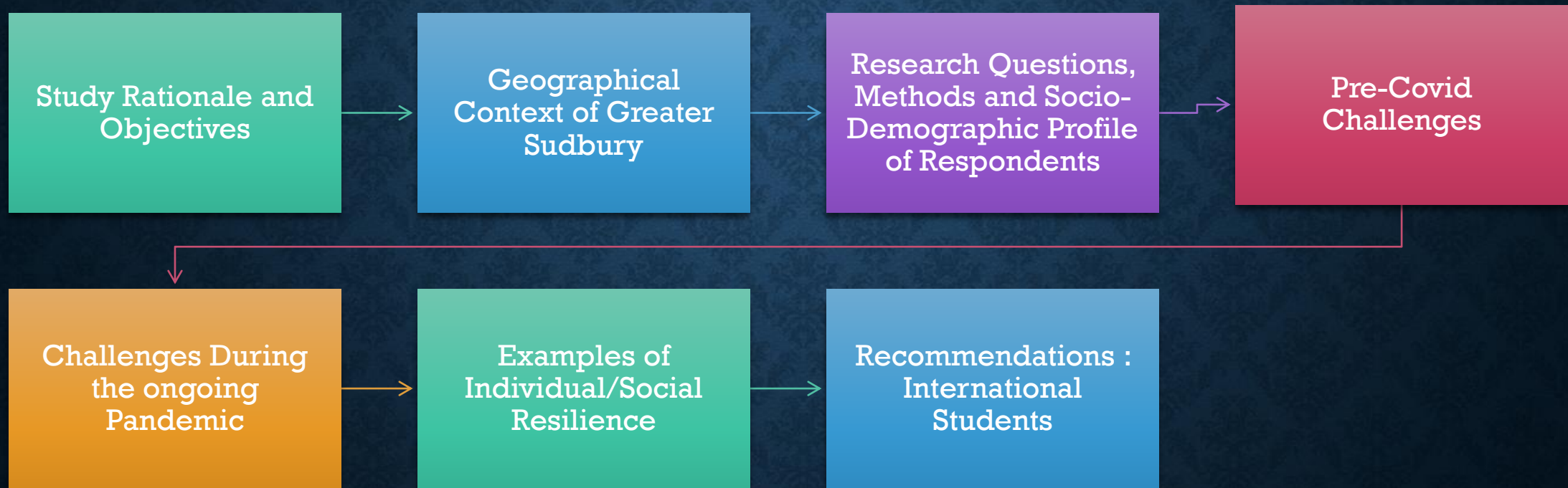
COVID-19 CHALLENGES OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN GREATER SUDBURY

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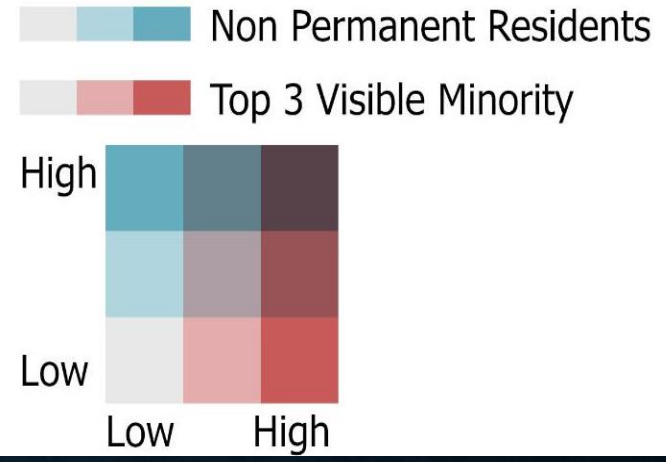
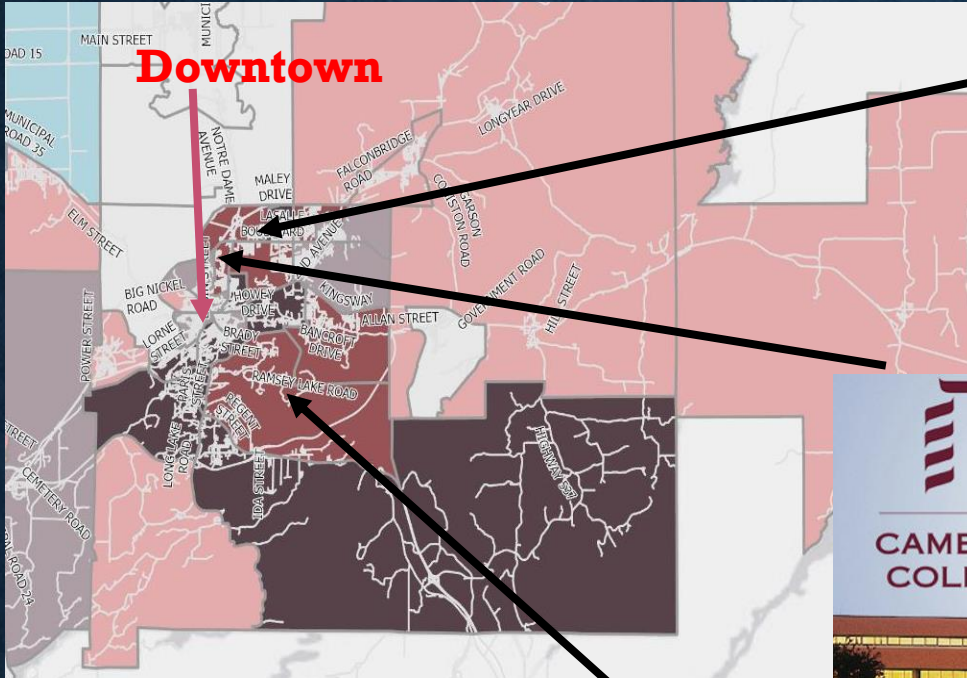
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Environmental Studies)**

OUTLINE

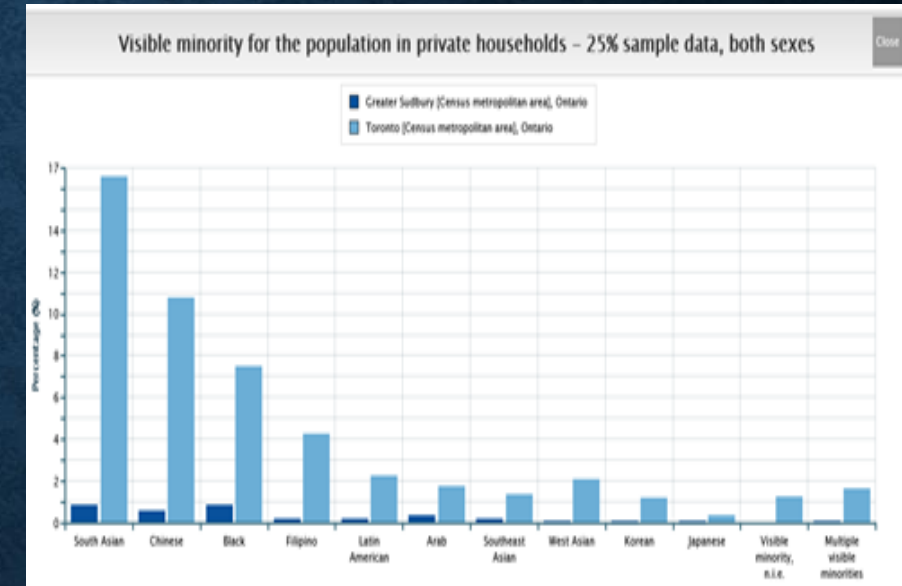
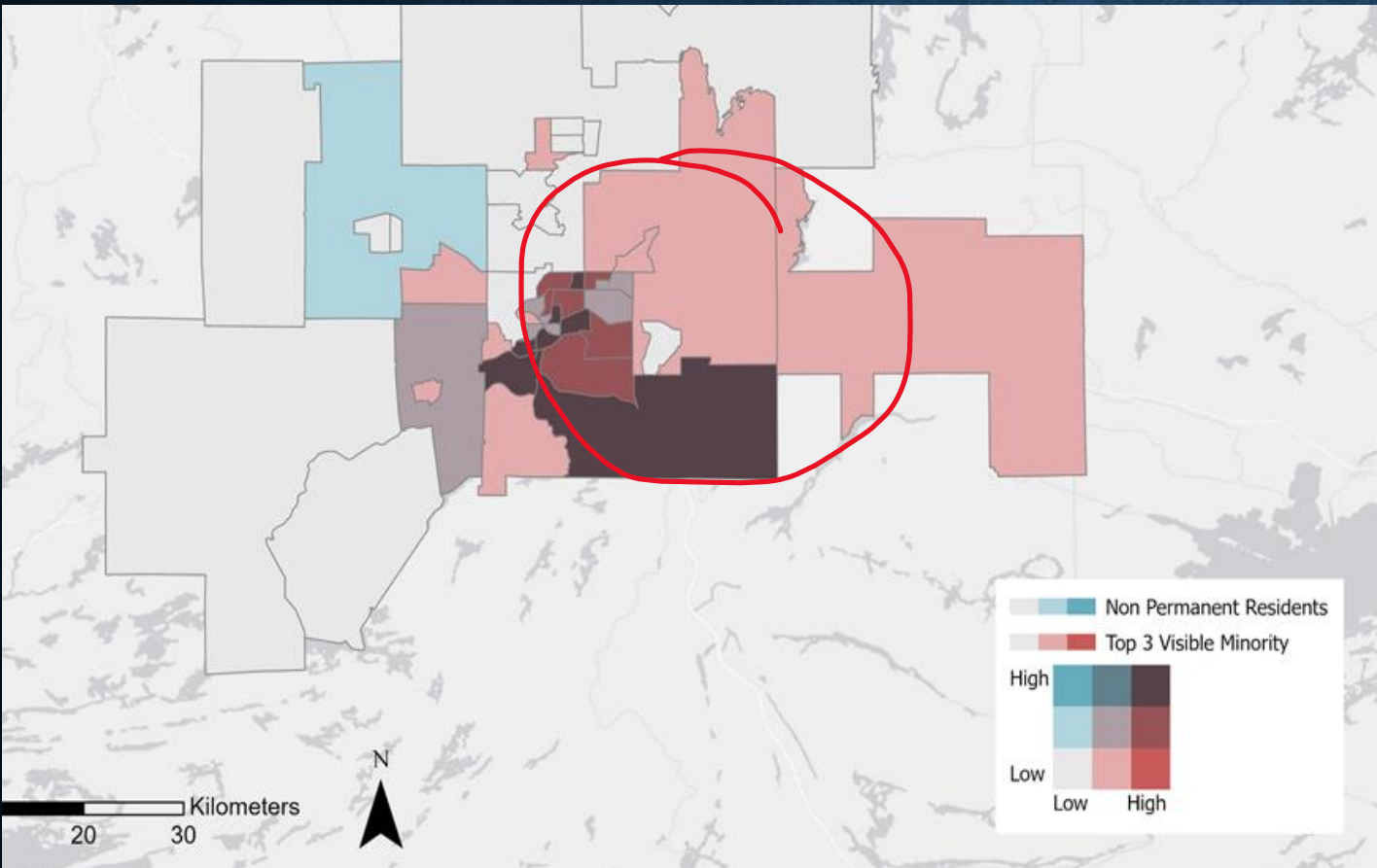


ABOUT THE PROJECT

Given the paucity and lack of research on international students in *third tier* cities, particularly in Northern Ontario, this study focuses on Greater Sudbury



NON PERMANENT RESIDENTS TOP 3 VISIBLE MINORITY GROUPS CENSUS 2016

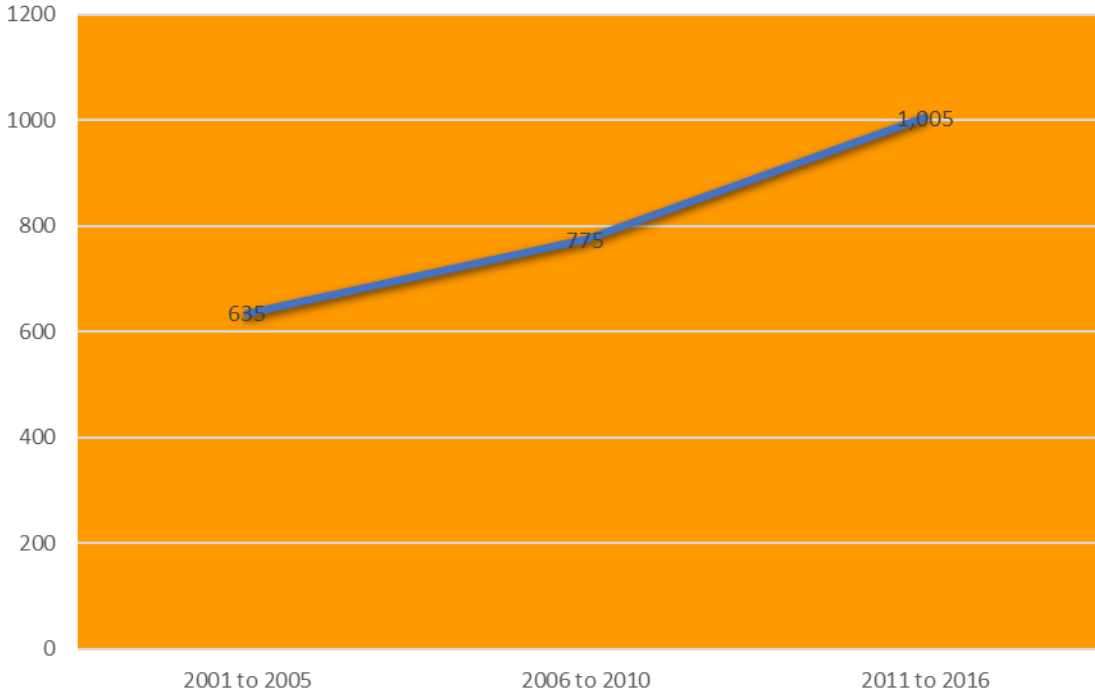
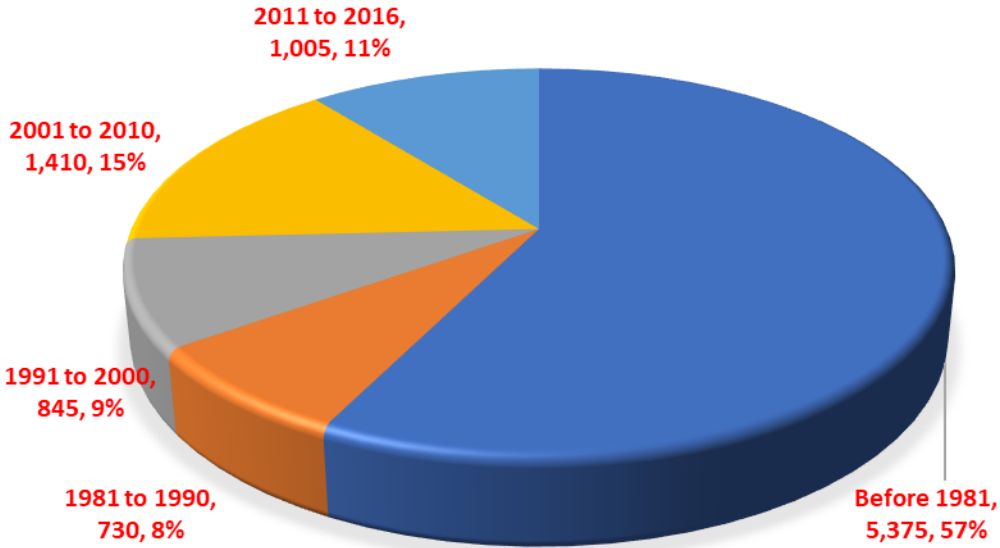


South Asian

Black

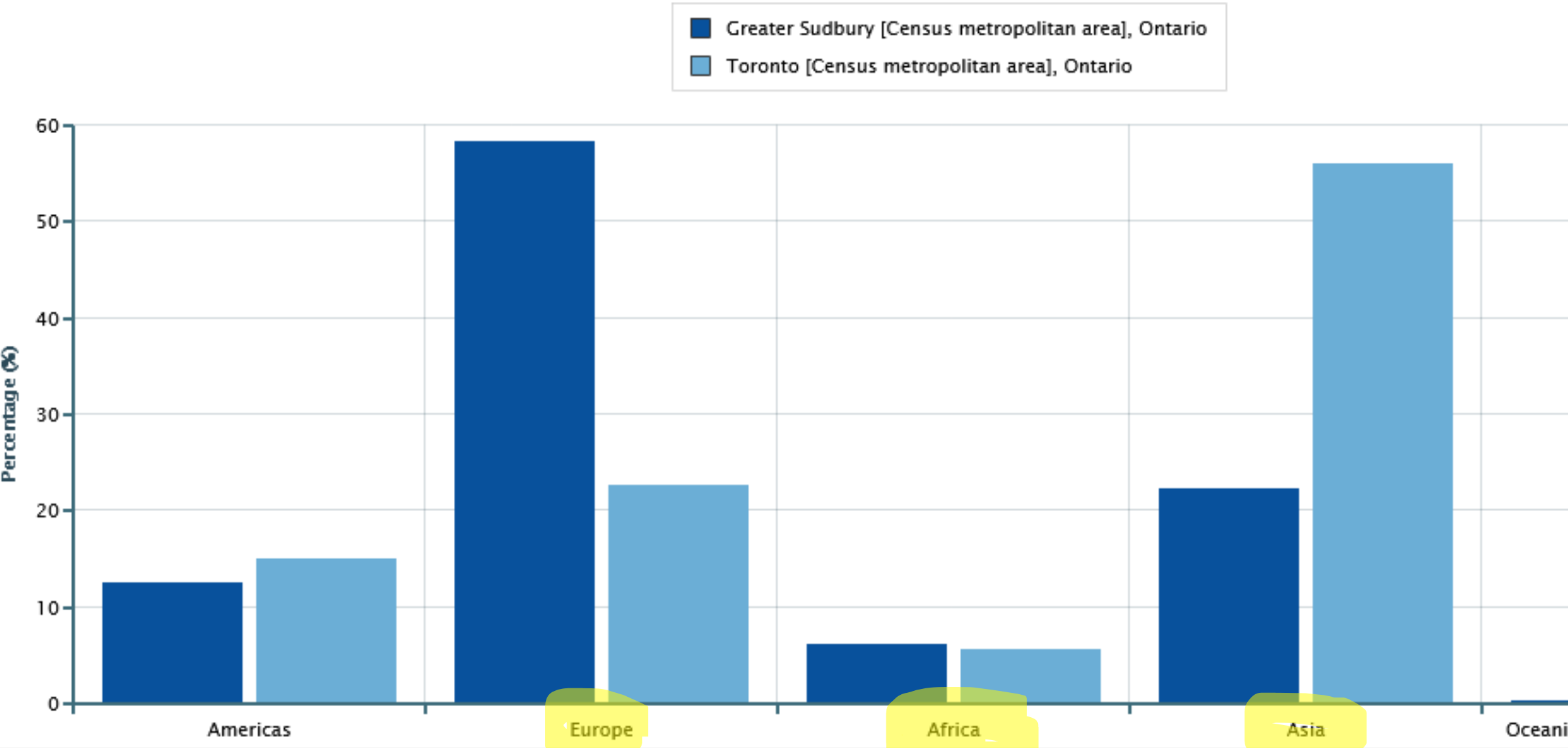
Chinese

IMMIGRATION IN GREATER SUDBURY BY PERIOD OF MIGRATION



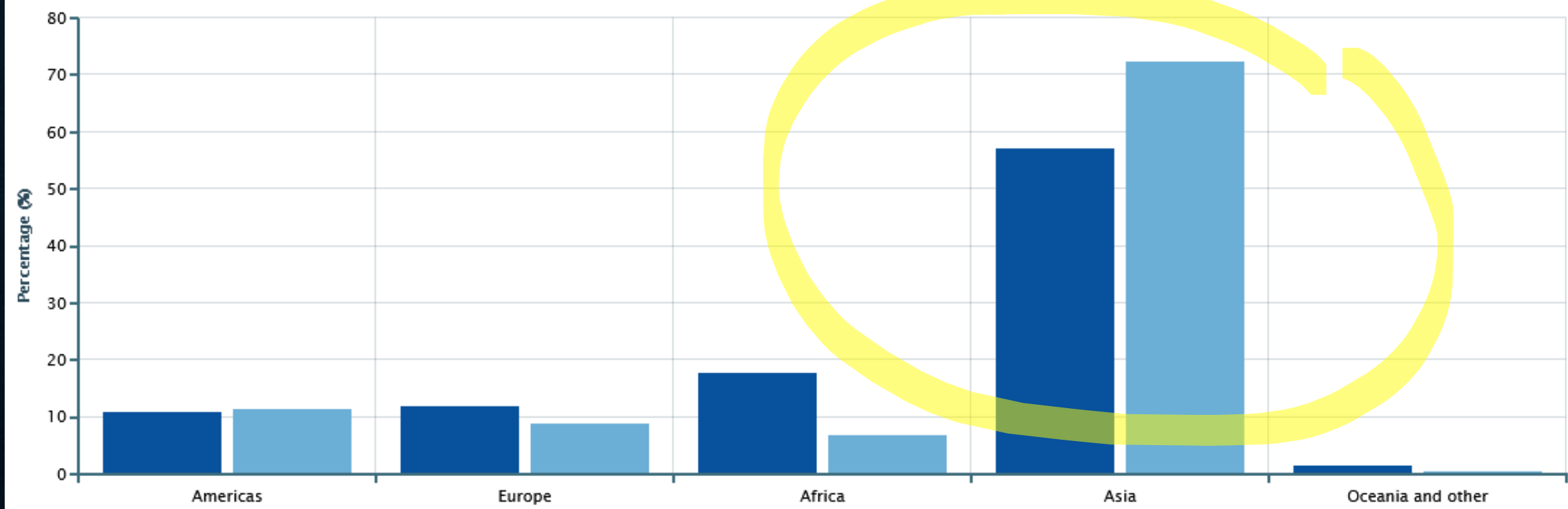
Source: Census, 2016

Selected places of birth for the immigrant population in private households – 25% sample



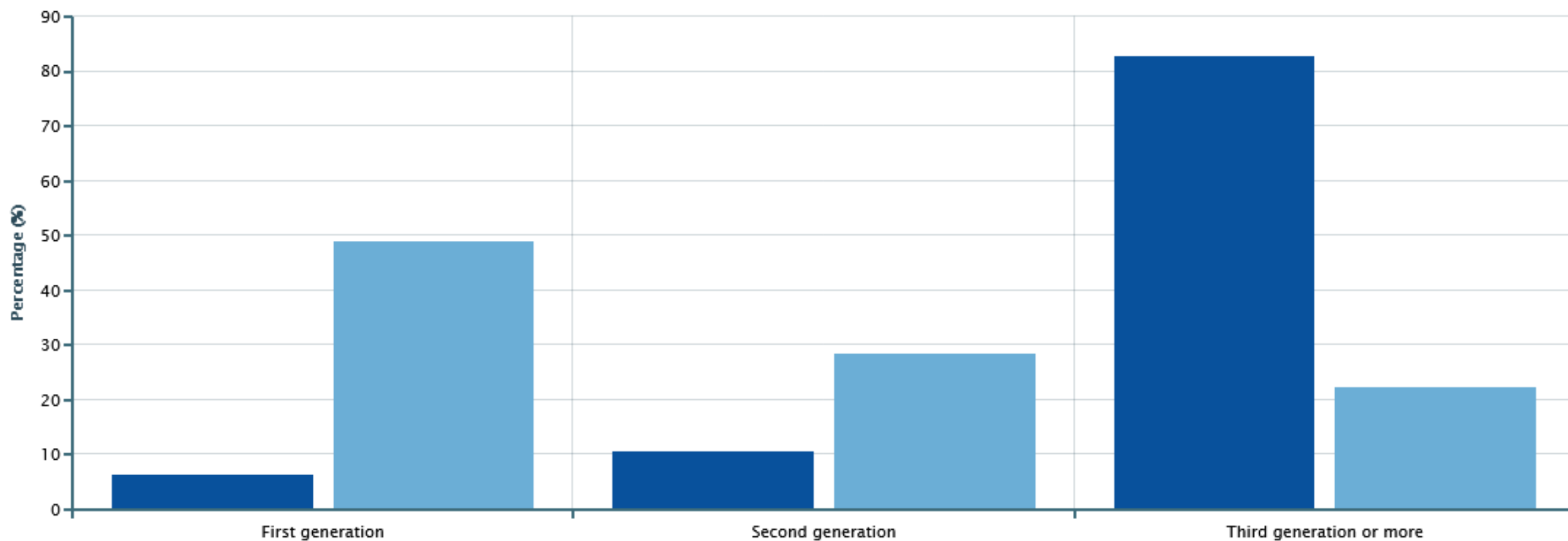
Selected places of birth for the recent immigrant population in private households – 25% sample data, both sexes

Greater Sudbury [Census metropolitan area], Ontario
Toronto [Census metropolitan area], Ontario



Generation status for the population in private households – 25% sample data, both sexes

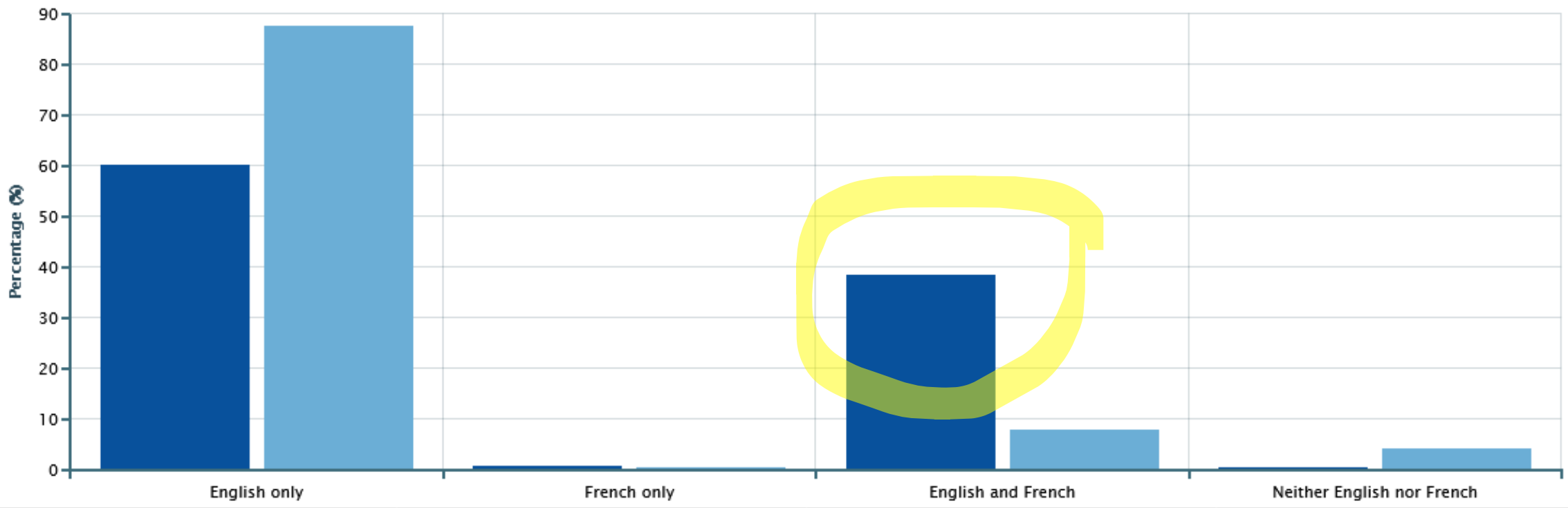
■ Greater Sudbury [Census metropolitan area], Ontario
■ Toronto [Census metropolitan area], Ontario



Knowledge of official languages for the total population excluding institutional residents – 100% data, by sexes

Close

■ Greater Sudbury [Census metropolitan area], Ontario
■ Toronto [Census metropolitan area], Ontario



RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND METHODS

Questions:

- (1) What were the pre-pandemic challenges of international students and the institutions supporting them
- (2) What were their challenges during the pandemic; and
- (3) What strategies, resources and networks did they use, to adapt to the rapidly evolving crisis and/or prepare for future crises

Methods: 'Mixed'

Statistical Analysis + Field Observations + In-Depth Key Informants Interviews (9)+ In-Depth Interviews with International Students (36) living in Greater Sudbury before the pandemic, during, and at the time of Interview

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

Gender:

19 (M) and 17 (F)

Age:

20 -25 years (69%)
26-35 (27%)

Language:

English: 27 (75%)
French: 9 (25%)

Place of Birth:

Asia 20 (55%)
Africa: 15 (41%);
Caribbean: 1 (3%)

TOP 3 PRE-COVID CHALLENGES OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Academic

- **Internal Characteristics:** Accent Related Stigmatization/Lack of Knowledge regarding the Canadian System
- **Structural (Institutional) Issues:** Lack of Adequate Equipments, Facilities, and Training

Employment

- **Individual Characteristics:** 'Race' and Accent Related Discrimination/Lack of Knowledge regarding the System
- **Structural (Institutional):** Lack of Guidance from University and College

Food Insecurity:

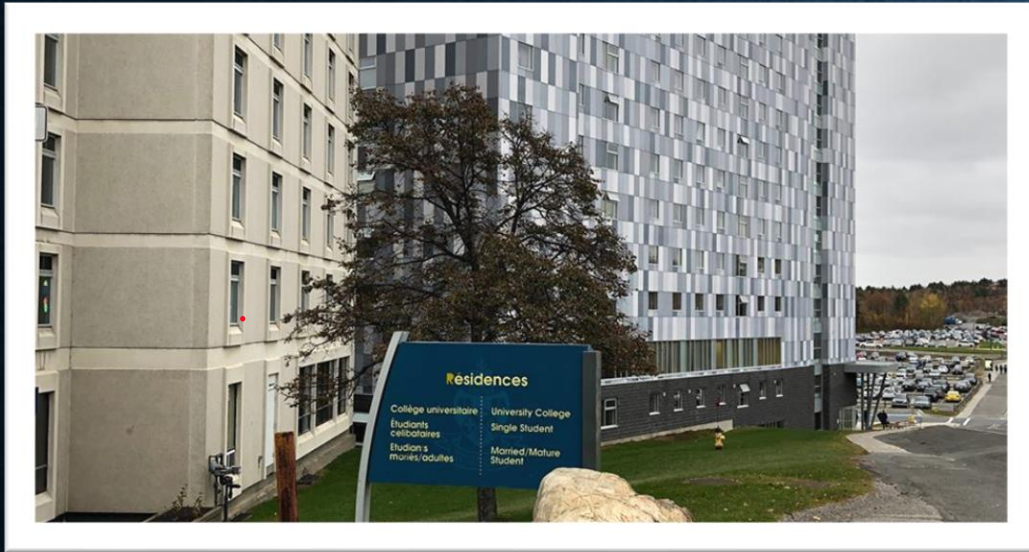
- **Availability:** Lack of Culturally Specific Food
- **Accessibility:** Lack of Funds
- **Utilization:** Inability to cook due to landlord discrimination/lack of facilities/ and time constraints

“The big challenge here was learning how to use the computer regularly while keeping up the learning pace which was really difficult. For example, here we have an optional course that is done online, although I have never had such a thing in my country. It was so difficult because there were deadlines to submit the work and I didn't know it. I didn't know how to navigate the school computer system to find the details I needed ” (#Sophia: DRC, Francophone, College Boreal)

“No one helped me find the job Laurentian has international student orientation, but it is not helpful at all (# Darshan, India, Anglophone, Laurentian U)

“Throughout my first year I struggled with the price of food. Because the price that is marked in the products increases by a percentage because of the taxes so that makes the food a little more expensive” (# Celio, DRC, Francophone, College Boreal)

CHALLENGES DURING THE ONGOING PANDEMIC: HOUSING (ON-CAMPUS)



\$1000/per month



Laurentian University / Université Laurentienne

Academics Services Research A

Residence	Double	Single	Deposit	Meal Plan
University College	\$7,260*	\$8,487*	\$500	Required
Single Student	\$7,260*	\$8,487*	\$500	Required
West Residence	----	\$8,739*	\$500	Required
East Residence	----	\$8,739*	\$500	Required
Mature Student Residence	----	\$9,376	\$500	Optional
Huntington University**	\$5,460	\$6,510 - \$7,560	\$550	Required for 1st year students

*A refundable damage deposit is included.
** Indicates a Federated Residences.

Laurentian University / Université Laurentienne

Academics Services Research About

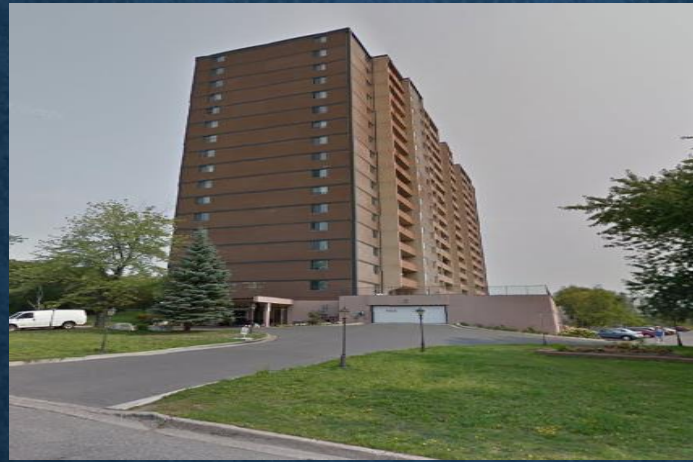
Designated Residences - Meal Plans

Students residing in a Laurentian University residence (Single Student, University College, West Residence and East Residence) or are a 1st year student at Huntington Residence are required to purchase a meal plan. A number of meal plan options are available to choose from:

Meal plan	Cost
Freedom	\$5,120.00
This plan offers maximum flexibility for dining at Laurentian. With the Freedom Plan you enjoy unlimited access to the Dining Room during regular hours of operation. Eat breakfast, lunch, dinner; drop in for coffee and muffins or afternoon snacks.	
Hearty Eater	\$4,949.00
With the Hearty Eater Plan you can enjoy breakfast, lunch or dinner up to 375 times. Plan-holders may enter the Dining Room once during any meal period.	
Commuter	\$4,494.00
With the Commuter Plan you can enjoy breakfast, lunch or dinner up to 320 times. Plan-holders may enter the Dining Room once during any meal period.	
Light Eater	\$3,879.00
With the Light Eater Plan you can enjoy breakfast, lunch or dinner up to 250 times. Plan-holders may enter the Dining Room once during any meal period.	

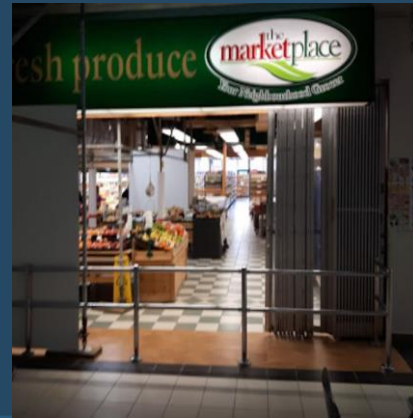
Includes \$200 tax free Flex Dollars, plus five guest passes.
Includes \$300 tax free Flex Dollars
Includes \$400 tax free Flex Dollars
Includes \$650 tax free Flex Dollars

CHALLENGES DURING THE ONGOING PANDEMIC: HOUSING (OFF-CAMPUS)

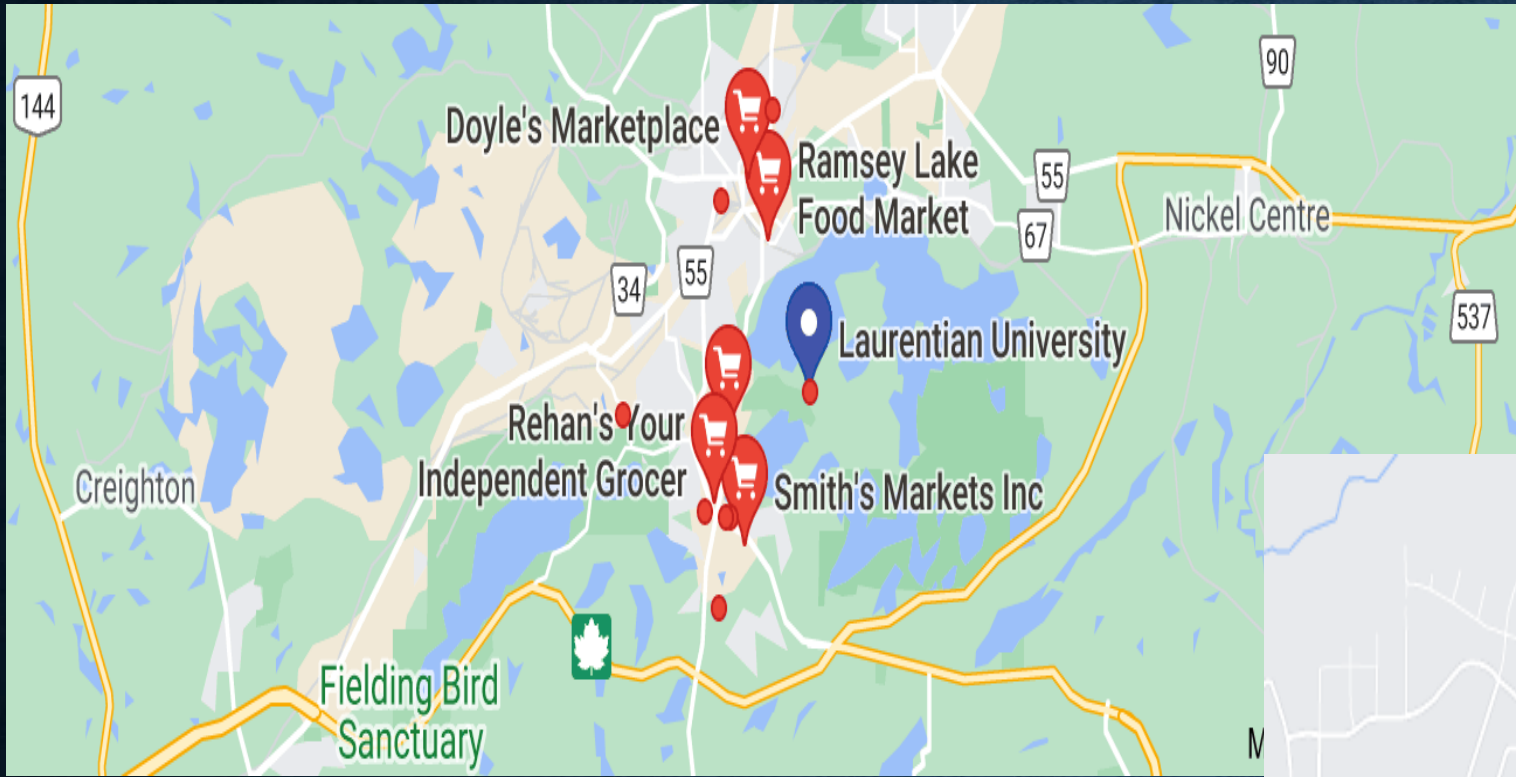


Rent Per Month:

- Basement: (Student Room) \$600
- 1 bedroom in an apartment building (High or Low Rise) : 850 to 950 per month
- 2 Bedroom: 1500 to 2000 per month
- 3 Bedrooms: >\$3000 per month



TYPES OF GROCERY STORES: *LACK OF ETHNIC STORES*



Nearest Store > 1 km



Nearest Store > 1 km

DISTANCE TO GROCERY STORES

ACCESS TO PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Home > Local News

Suspension of city bus pass agreement due to COVID-19 takes Laurentian students by surprise

Student union rep says it doesn't make sense to compel students to purchase discounted bus passes when only 1% of classes being held in-person



[Heidi Ulrichsen](#)

Aug 7, 2020 9:00 AM

Updated Aug 7, 2020 9:21 AM



(File)

“ I would say it wasn't really that interesting to take classes because it all went online. For morning classes, you wake up a little late and just turn on your computer while staying in bed and watching. It's like you're no longer taking the course. Let's say that I had a decrease in attention for my classes at this level” (# Alex , Cameroon, Francophone, College Boreal)

“During the pandemic I could not find any job – on campus or off campus ...when I came to the GTA my Aunt told me to find a job and I worked for the Molly Maid company – I want to be a surgeon and all I did was rubbing floors” (#Alex 2, DRC, Bilingual, Laurentian U)

“.....The store where I was going to get African food was closed so I had to go to their website and order online. And sometimes that's a problem because they can bring you other food than the one you have chosen” (#Sophia: DRC, Francophone, College Boreal)

COMPOUNDED CHALLENGES....

“When the lockdown was declared I saw everyone’s parent is coming to pick them up but I had no one who would help me at all. I had to stay put in the residence as the rent was prepaid.....when it hit mid-March I could not go to my job [downtown] or get any groceries on a regular basis, because our bus passport was already discontinued...to go from the residence to the grocery store [where she found work] was about 45 minutes walk...I did that for some days but then it was too much” (Alex, DRC, Laurentian U)

SOCIAL ISOLATION

I was in the house all the time moving from my bedroom to my living room. It made me so anxious or I would say nervous because the online classes were from 8 am to 4 pm there was a lot to do and I felt like my head was going to explode. I wanted to go out for a walk but I couldn't, it was forbidden. I was also afraid of COVID and of being exposed" (Sophia, Francophone: Boreal)

INDIVIDUAL/SOCIAL RESILIENCE

Most Sought Help from the Academic Institutions/City/YMCA – but none received assistance

Most Moved to GTA/Montreal

**MAIN
RECOMMENDATIONS:
INTERNATIONAL
STUDENTS**

Citizens of Greater Sudbury should be more considerate toward the situation of International Students

More support is needed from the municipal government (City) and the academic institutions