

Social Resilience, Migrants and COVID-19

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Presentation for National Metropolis Conference, March 16, 2023



Takeaways



Immigrant COVID-19 deaths early in pandemic about twice that of other Canadians: Statscan

HINA ALAM
VANCOUVER
THE CANADIAN PRESS
PUBLISHED JUNE 10, 2021



HEALTH Low COVID-19 vaccine uptake in vulnerable Ottawa neighbourhoods blamed on barriers

By Craig Lord · Global News
Posted August 11, 2021 1:01 pm · Updated August 11, 2021 3:58 pm

How local volunteers are helping Toronto's least vaccinated community get shots in arms



Only 57% of residents over 18 are immunized against COVID-19 in Taylor-Massey

Michelle McCann · Posted: Jul 10, 2021 4:00 AM ET | Last Updated: July 10, 2021



Community ambassadors stand outside an apartment building in the east end neighbourhood of Massey-Taylor. Volunteers have been knocking on doors in the area to encourage residents to get vaccinated. (Submitted by WoodGreen Community Services)

- COVID-19 revealed and heightened inequalities
- Institutions mitigated the unequal impacts of COVID-19
- Social resilience is relevant, especially during a pandemic
- Advantages of social resilience approach:
 - Relational
 - Dynamic
 - Social and geographical differences
 - Allows for transformation



Purpose

- Examine how institutions mitigated unequal impacts of COVID-19 on migrants to illustrate the value of a social resilience approach .
 - Impacts of COVID-19 on migrants
 - Institutional responses to COVID-19
 - A social resilience approach

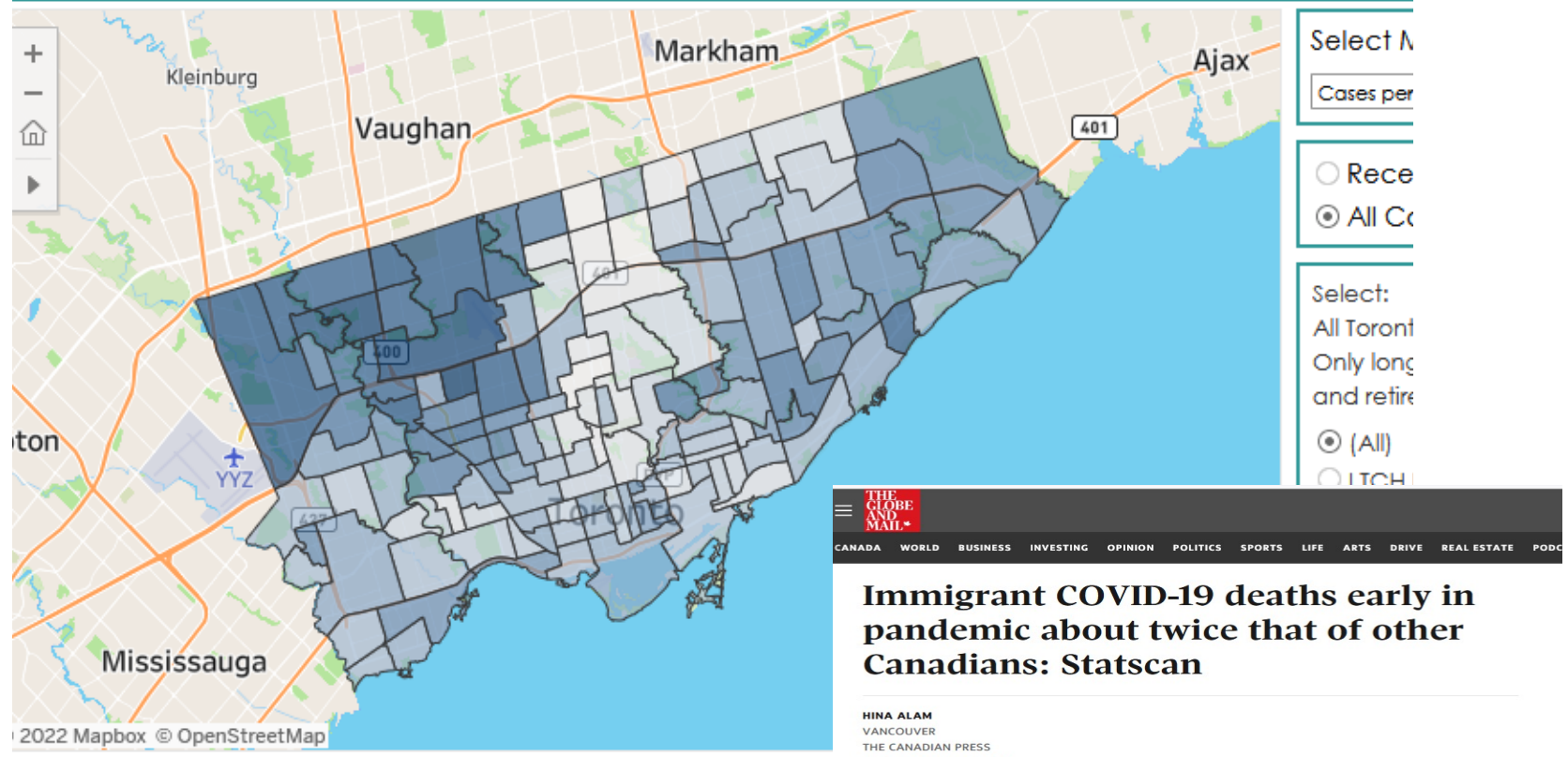


Unequal Impact of COVID on Migrants

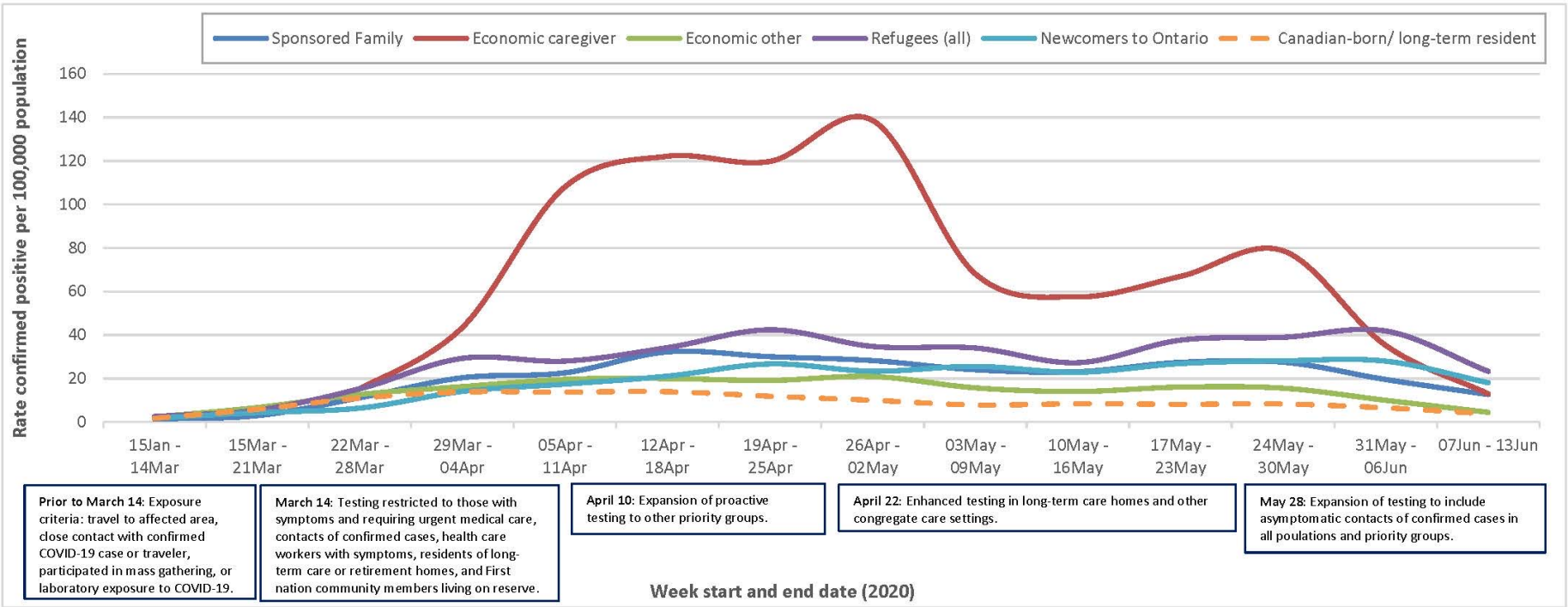
HEALTH
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Map of Cumulative COVID-19 Rates by Neighbourhood - January 21, 2020 to February 18, 2022

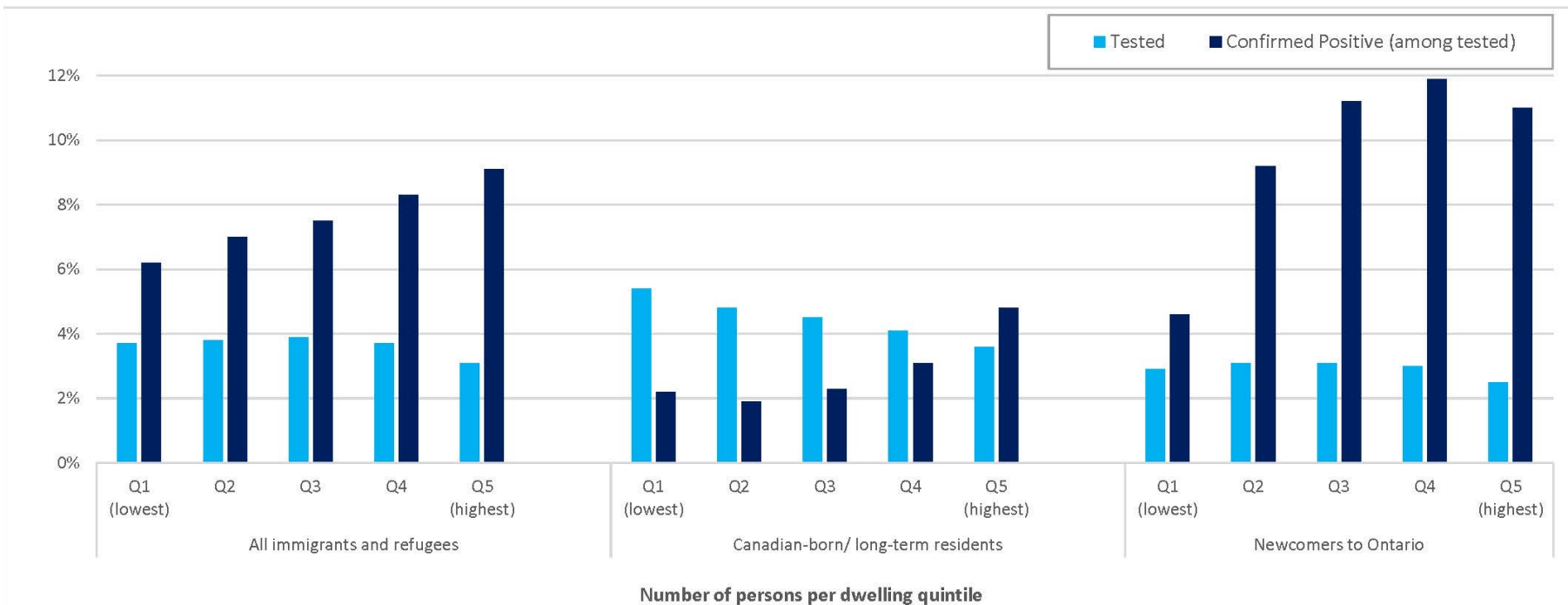


Weekly number of individuals in Ontario confirmed positive for COVID-19 per 100,000 population, by immigration category, January 15 to June 13, 2020



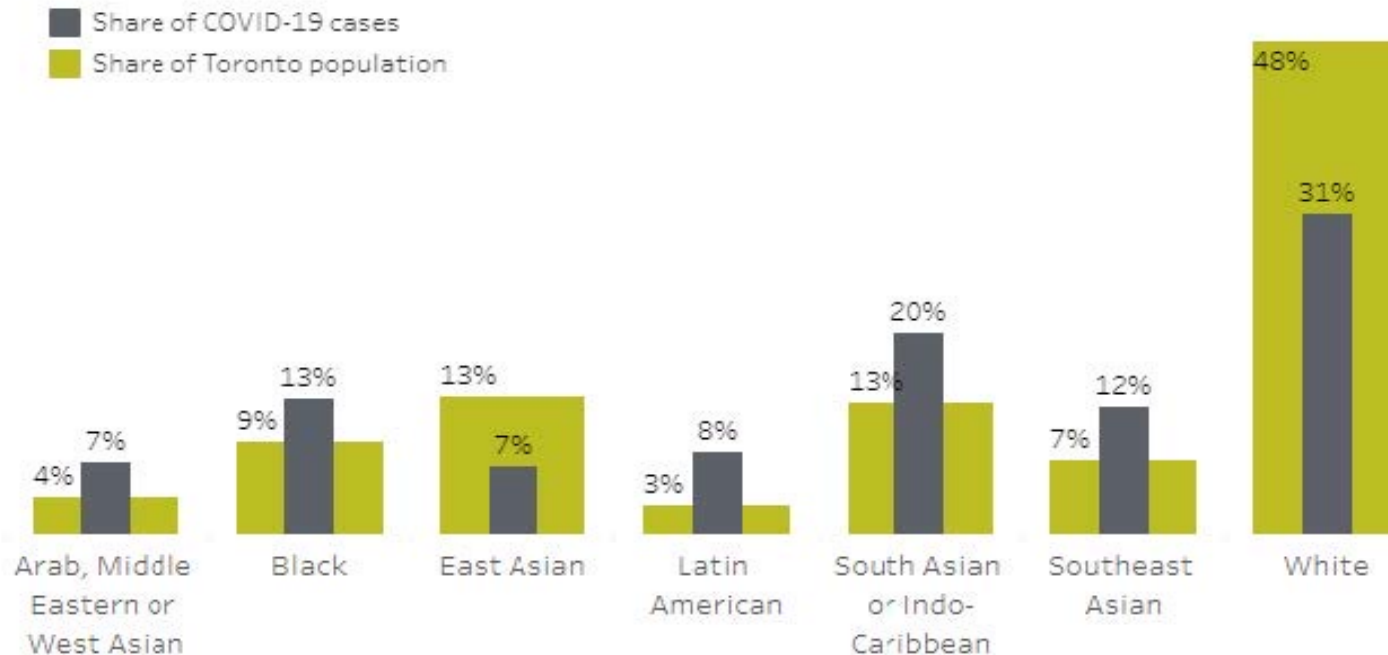
Key Findings: While the pattern of weekly positive tests per capita among economic caregivers showed a steep incline in March with a peak across three weeks in April, in almost all immigration categories, the number of positive cases peaked later but plateaued for a longer period in April and May. From April onward, per capita positivity was higher in all immigration categories compared to Canadian-born and long-term residents.

Proportion of Ontario residents tested for COVID-19 and percent positivity in those tested, by immigration status and number of persons per dwelling, as of June 13, 2020



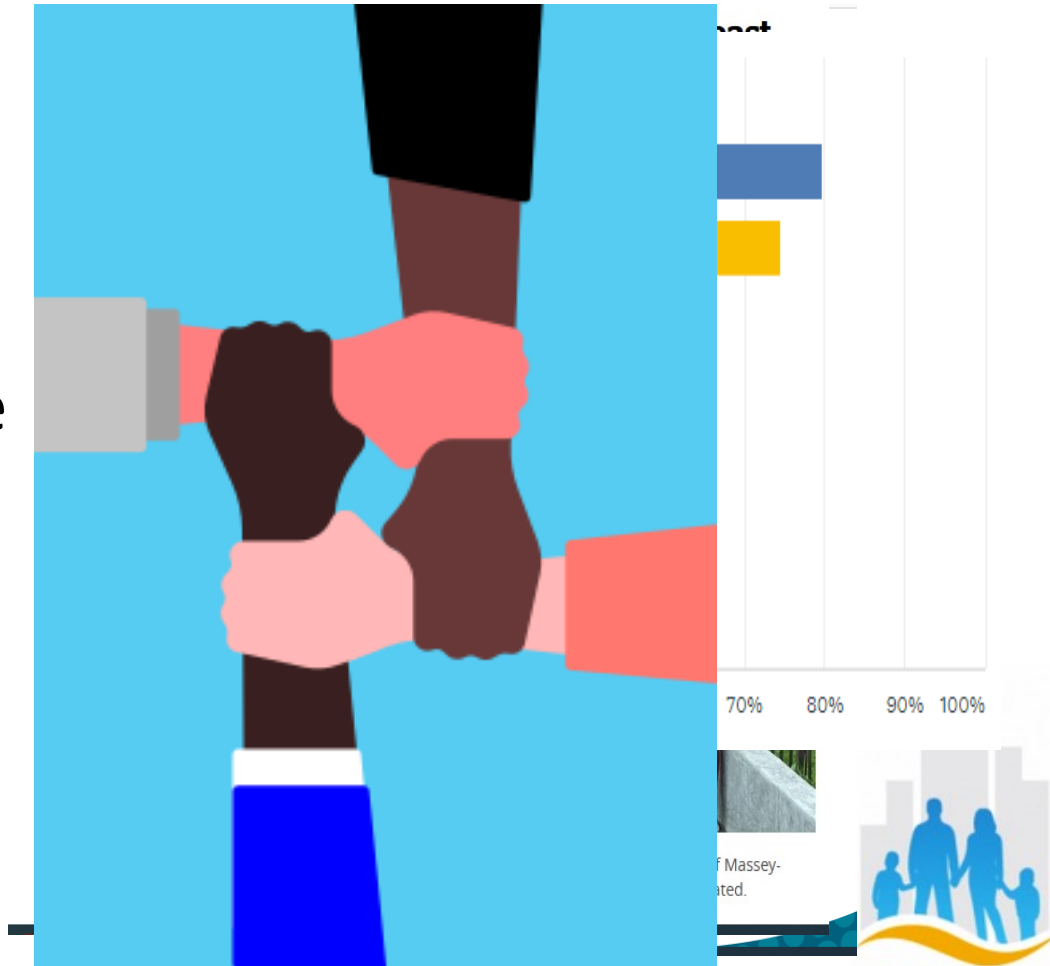
Key Findings: Across all groups, testing was the lowest in those living in neighbourhoods with the lowest number of persons per dwelling. The trend for percent positivity generally showed an increase as the number of persons per dwelling increased across all groups although immigrants, refugees and other newcomers had higher rates of positivity than Canadian-born and long-term residents in the same neighbourhood quintile.

Share of COVID-19 cases among ethno-racial groups compared to the share of people living in Toronto, with valid data up to December 31, 2021 (N=139,965)



Institutional responses

- Service provision
- Information exchange
- Collaboration
- Advocacy



Resilience and the Pandemic



Global Agenda | COVID-19 | Risk and Resilience | Pandemic Preparedness and Response

3 keys to a resilient post-pandemic recovery



History shows that in times of disruption, resilience depends on adaptability and decisiveness



Social Resilience Approach

- The capacity of migrants to navigate resources and institutional supports to overcome settlement challenges.
 - Relational
 - Learned and dynamic
 - Shaped by institutional context
 - Potentially transformative for migrants and institutions

“the key to building immigrant resilience is the same as building resilience in all of us: providing a deep sense of connection – connection to other people and to the community” (Shields and Lujan 2019).



Enabling Social Resilience in a Pandemic

- Diverse organizations:
 - Well-funded, stable organizations
 - Small, emerging organizations
- Collaborative organizations
- Involvement across multiple scales;
from neighbourhood to national
- Flexible and adequate funding

Questions/Comments
Thank you

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Building Migrant Resilience in Cities/Immigration et résilience en milieu



<http://bmrc-irmu.info.yorku.ca/>



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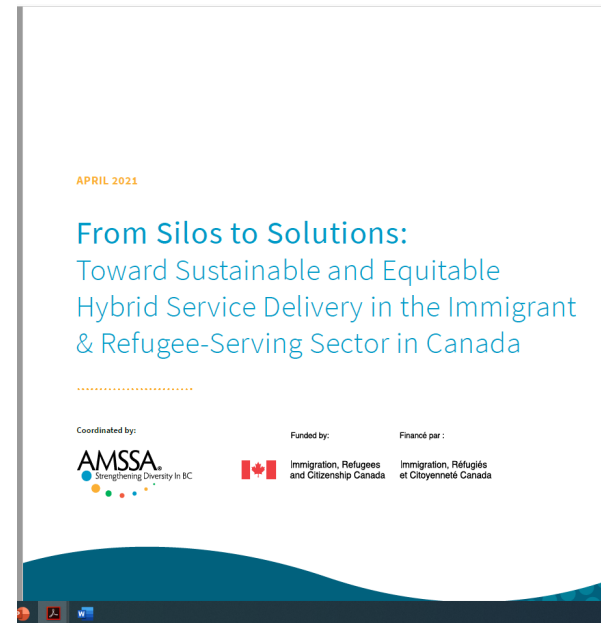
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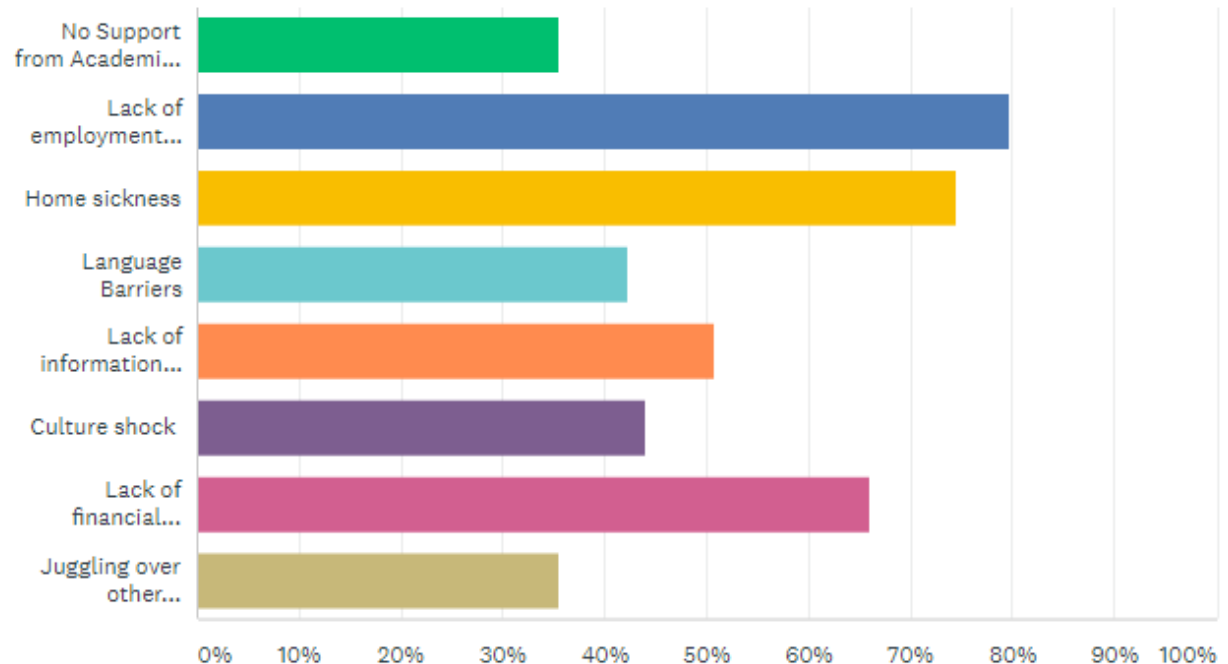
Institutional Responses: Service Provision

- Put services online
 - Accelerated technological change
 - Expanded eligibility for services
- Maintained critical in-person services
- Assisted with volunteer efforts



Institutional Responses: Information Exchange

Factors Affecting International Students' Mental Health

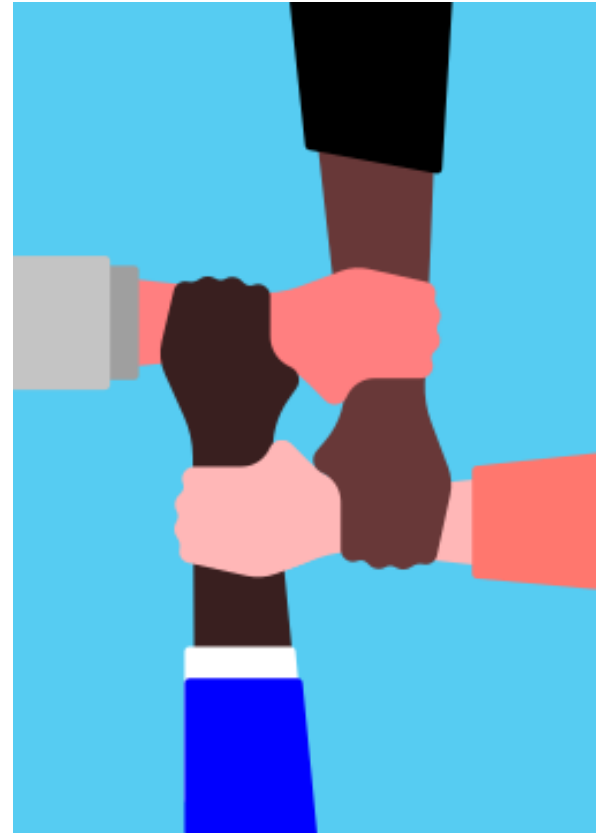


COSTI, 2021. *International Student Connect Survey*.

- Consultation tables
- Information needs

Institutional Responses: Collaboration

- Evolving relationships:
 - Existing relations deepened, e.g., schools
 - With new partners, e.g., food banks
- Diverse relationships:
 - Settlement agencies and other non-profits
 - Municipal, provincial, and federal governments
 - Ethnocultural groups, faith organizations, etc.
- Reflected past experience:
 - Syrian refugee initiative



Institutional Responses: Advocacy



No One is Illegal, May 2021, <https://www.facebook.com/CiteSansFrontieres/photos/pcb.3916681261719838/3916666808387950/>

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