



Hamilton Syrian Government Assisted Refugee Resettlement Progress Report

April 25, 2016

Hamilton Syrian GAR Resettlement Progress Report

Introduction

The following report contains demographic and statistical information on Syrian Government Assisted Refugees (GARs) that have arrived in Hamilton since December 2015. The intent of this report is to provide information to community service providers to become aware of supports in place and how they can further support Syrian GARs as they transition to permanent housing.

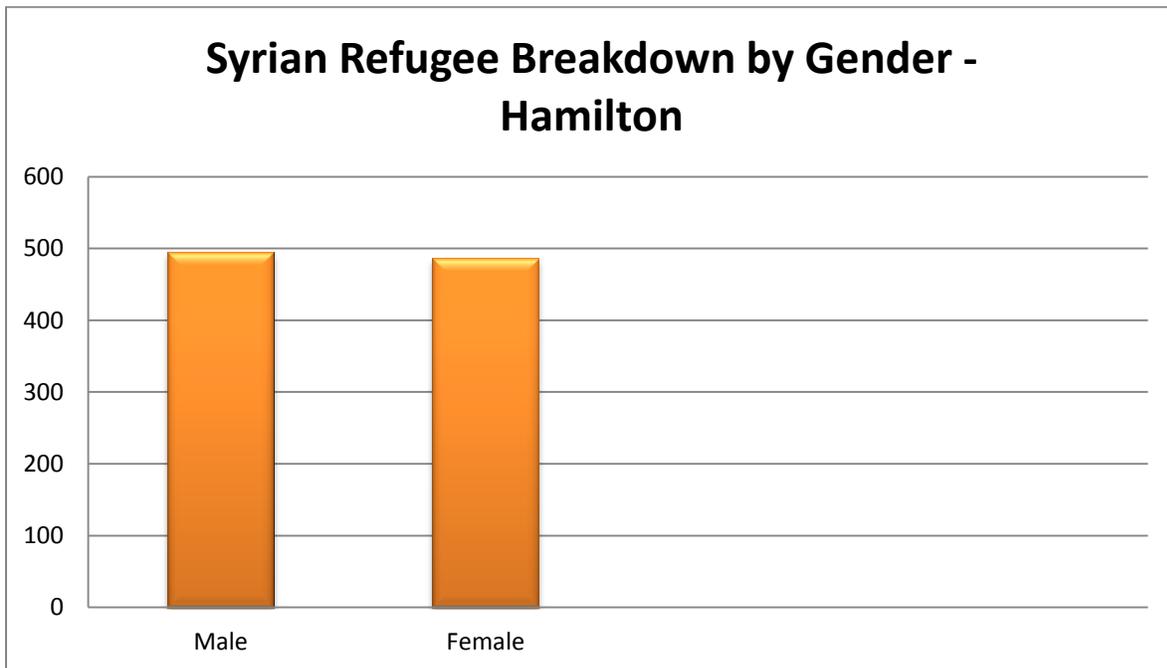
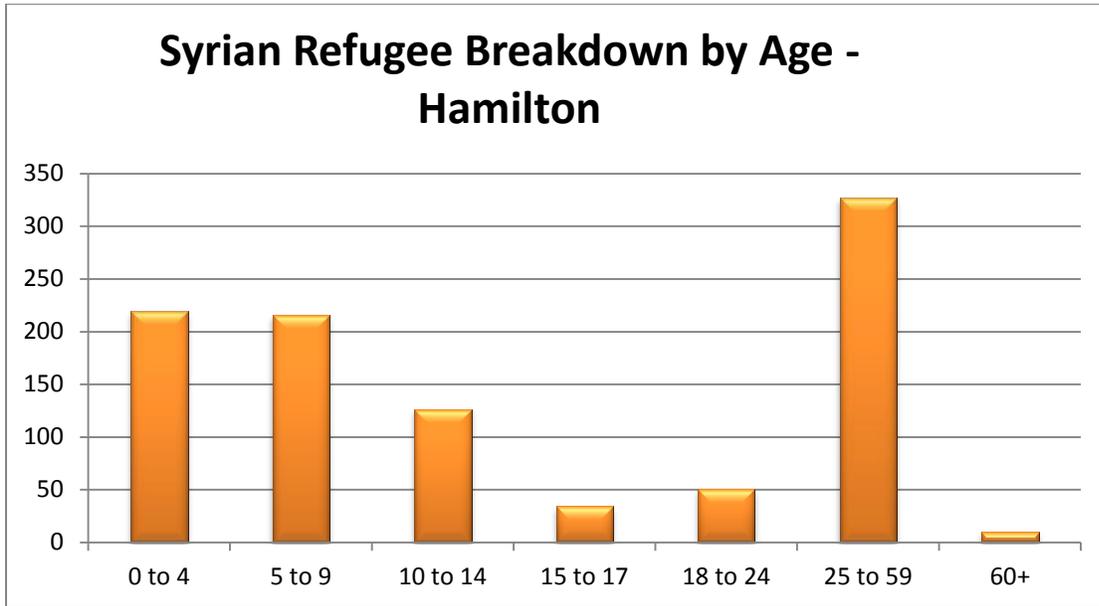
Arrivals of Syrian GARs to Hamilton began December 21, 2015. From December 2015 to April 1, 2016, Wesley has received 982 Syrian refugees.

Statistical Data

The following tables detail the age and gender breakdowns of this group.

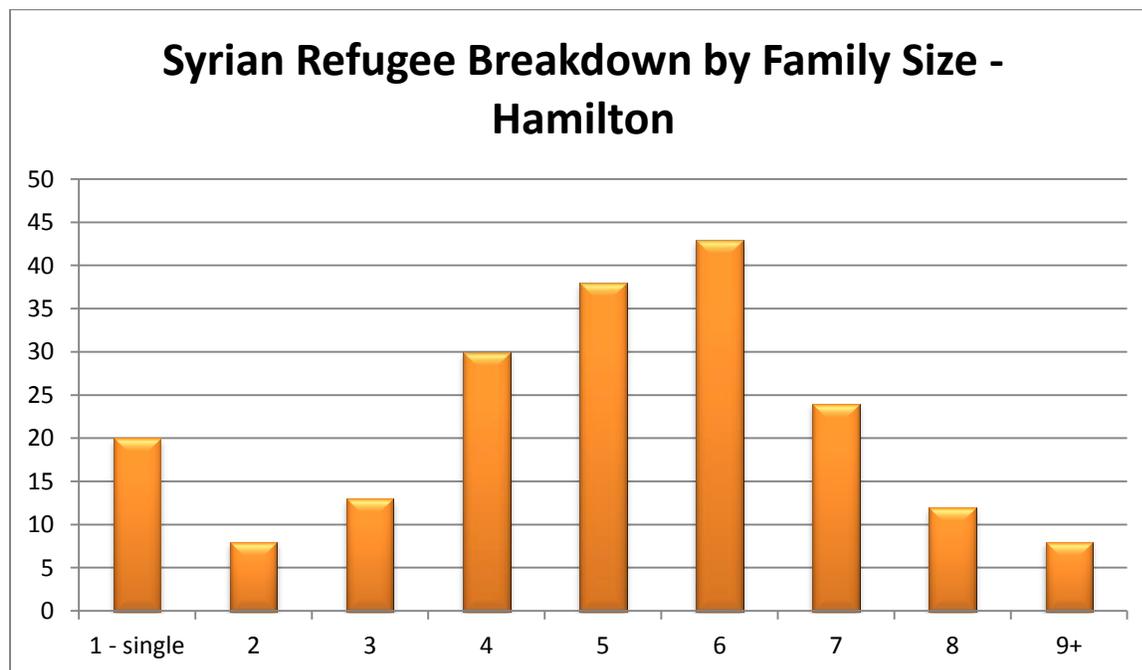
Age and Gender Breakdown

Age Range	Number of clients	Male	Female
0 to 4	219	105	114
5 to 9	216	107	109
10 to 14	126	73	53
15 to 17	34	20	14
18 to 24	50	19	31
25 to 59	327	165	162
60+	10	6	4
Total	982	495	487



The table below describes family sizes and total number of families. The average family size is 5.

Family Size	Number of Families
1 – singles	20
2	8
3	13
4	30
5	38
6	43
7	24
8	12
9+	8
Total Families:	196



Additional Statistics

Total Single clients: 20

Average family size: 5

Single parent households: 6, all female

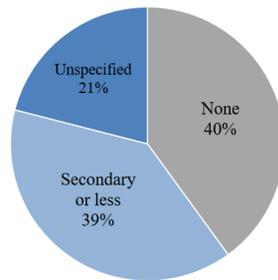
Clients with physical disabilities: 12 clients – these clients’ disabilities require permanent housing with accommodation for accessibility

Languages spoken: Arabic is the predominant language spoken among clients. A small number of clients speak: Assyrian, Kurdish, Turkish, and Aramaic. In some instances clients speak second and third languages at a beginner to intermediate level. These include: English, French, Assyrian, Turkish, Kurdish, and Aramaic.

Employment and Education:

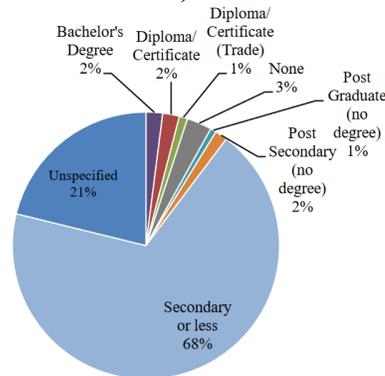
The data provided below consists of preliminary estimates of education levels of children and adults arriving in Canada and is not specific to Hamilton but will reflect the population of Syrians newly arrived to Hamilton. This data from IRCC is limited as they have been unable to specify education level lower than secondary. In addition, age ranges need to be considered when reviewing this information as IRCC data on education is limited to the age groups provided below and cannot be further broken down.

Figure 3: Education levels of persons 14 years and younger (approved GAR cases)



Source: GCMS as of January 7, 2016
 * Please note that the data are preliminary estimates, are subject to change and are different from other data provided on Syrian Refugees.
 ** The data is for exploratory analysis purposes only and should not be used for official reporting.
 ***The data may not match previous Syrian Refugee numbers that have been provided and should not be used to compare to official reports.

Figure 4: Education levels of persons 15 years and over (approved GAR cases)



Source: GCMS as of January 7, 2016
 * Please note that the data are preliminary estimates, are subject to change and are different from other data provided on Syrian Refugees.
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Source: http://www.wrwelcomesrefugees.ca/en/resourcesGeneral/Syrian_Refugee_Profile_Addendum_January_2016.pdf

Reports from visa officers abroad indicate that work experience is largely low-skilled and almost entirely limited to males. The most common occupations are driver (taxi and truck), construction worker or general labourer, cook and farmer. Though refugees may not work legally in their countries of asylum, a large number do so at risk of arrest, a sign of their resourcefulness and motivation to provide for their families, as well as their desperation. Generally, such work is irregular and differs from the refugees' occupations in Syria.

Source: http://www.wrwelcomesrefugees.ca/en/resourcesGeneral/Syrian_Refugee_Profile_Addendum_January_2016.pdf

Of the 982 Syrian arrivals in Hamilton, 377 are adults between 18 and 59. Of these adults we have been able to approximate that 68% or 256 have secondary education or less, and the remaining 120 have some post-secondary education. Of 184 males, 125 have secondary education or less and the remainder has some post-secondary education. Of 193 females, 131 have secondary education or less and the remainder has some post-secondary education.

As stated above, employment of predominantly males after leaving Syria has consisted of low-skilled jobs. In our preliminary data gathering on employment before leaving Syria, we are finding that approximately 5% of the Syrians that have arrived in Hamilton held positions requiring a high level of education such as professions in engineering, education, business and healthcare professions. The majority (70%) of these clients held positions at the low to mid-skill level such as blue collar positions, construction, transportation and other public services.

Some of the occupations that have been identified through preliminary information gathering include:

- Teacher
- Carpenter
- Agricultural Engineer
- Food and Restaurant, Butchers
- Tailor
- Sales
- Truck and Taxi Drivers
- super market owner
- Computer, data entry, service maintenance, software maintenance
- Nursing
- Welding, Plumbing, electrician, blacksmith, carpentry and other trades
- Civil and mechanical Engineer
- Lawyer
- Farmer
- Pharmaceutical manager

As we continue to gather data on education and employment of Syrians settling in Hamilton, we will continue to provide updated information specific to Hamilton communities.

Client Income:

Below is a chart outlining the start-up amounts and typical monthly income of various family compositions.

Family Size	Start-up Costs	Monthly Income	Other Income
Single Adult over 18 years	\$1037	\$768 per month	
Single parent, four children under 18	\$2,650	\$1,420 per month	-school startup of \$150.00 per child for school age children -Canada and Ontario Child Benefits per month approx. \$500/child under 18 years =\$2000

Two parents, six children, all under 18	\$2,950	\$1,500 per month.	-school startup of \$150.00 per child for school age children -Canada and Ontario Child Benefits per month approx. \$500/child under 18 years = \$3000
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Housing

Wesley's housing staff has permanently housed over 900 of the Syrian refugee arrivals. Clients are escorted by housing staff to viewings and are shown a minimum of two affordable rental units. Clients are assisted throughout the rental process around applications, leases, utilities, and other tenant obligations.

Once housed, all families are provided with a full set of linens, start up food packages, and gift cards for food and household goods based on the size of the family. New arrivals also receive winter coats and accessories upon arrival at the airport in Toronto and will continue to receive these items throughout the year.

Each family receives:

- Apartment and neighbourhood orientation
- A full set of pillows, comforters, sheet sets and blankets
- Full sets of towels
- Food start up packages including toiletries
- Hygiene product kits supplied through Johnson and Johnson including shampoo, soap, razors, Band-aids, etc.
- A full suite of furniture including beds, dressers, couches, coffee table, kitchen table and chairs
- Salvation Army vouchers to purchase clothing and household goods as needed
- Contributions of household goods through the Hamilton Mountain Mosque

Mapping of housed clients:

The markers on the map below represent addresses that have more than one client family housed. Of the 982 Syrian arrivals, over 900 have been transitioned to permanent housing. The numbers by each marker represent how many families are housed at each location. In addition to these addresses, there are approximately 30 families at locations where they are the only family at the address and as such have not been represented on this map.

Additional Supports

Wesley's Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP)

RAP welcomes and provides Refugees with support upon arriving in Hamilton by providing orientations, and temporary accommodation and meals during their initial days in Canada.

- orientations provide information about Canada, RAP and Citizenship and Immigration Overviews, Education, Employment, Family Life, Health, Housing, Services in the Community
- They also receive:
 - Health and dental assessments
 - School and language assessments
 - Social Insurance Numbers
 - Interim Federal Health Coverage
 - OHIP cards
 - Bank Accounts
 - Application for Child Tax Benefit
 - Incidental allowance of \$5 per day for the first 10 days
 - Additional support as needed

Clients are provided with Life Skills Training through RAP which includes:

- Providing information and education about life in Canada through orientations to the community and available resources, transit, activities such as grocery shopping and banking
- Escorting clients to medical appointments, housing viewings, and health and language assessments
- Providing health and safety information and instruction
- Assistance when clients moving into permanent housing with instruction on how to use household appliances and orientation to amenities in the immediate neighbourhood
- Shopping for groceries and household goods with gift cards provided through Wesley to ensure households are properly stocked with food and cleaning supplies, etc.

Friends of Newcomers project

The Friends of Newcomers project aims to assist with the matching of Syrian Government Assisted Refugees (GAR'S) with Volunteers from the Community. Information Sessions are offered through Wesley in order to recruit volunteers to connect with GAR's through this initiative. The purpose of the matching Government Assisted Refugees to the volunteers is to support the GAR's with their Social and Community Supports. The outcome of this initiative is to have the GAR feel supported in their community, have a sense of belonging as well as a feeling of inclusion. Another projected outcome is that the GAR's would be able to expand their social circle which could help them network into employment opportunities for the future. It is also anticipated that the GAR's would "graduate" from

the “Friends of Newcomer” initiative and would then return as a volunteer themselves to help support other newcomers in their community. For those interested in volunteering, please visit wesley.ca and click on the “Syrian Refugee Portal”. <http://wesley.ca/refugee-information-portal/volunteer-opportunities/>

Wesley’s Client Support Services (CSS)

Client Support Services (CSS) provides a seamless service for Government Assisted Refugees (GARs) following their work with the Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP). Here, clients are provided intensive case management support to navigate through their first year in Canada.

Clients are provided with the following support:

- Home visits, listening, support through the process of transition and settlement
- Developing an Empowerment Plan and Settlement Goals
- Coordination of medical appointments and other various appointments
- Referral to primary health care providers
- Connecting clients to language training
- Supporting and assisting with various government applications (GST, child tax benefit, 1 yr window application)
- School registration and connecting to settlement workers in schools (SWIS workers)
- Providing adults and youth with mental health supports
- Connecting families and children to social and recreational activities
- Documentation support (mail, etc.)
- Referrals to other Service Providing Organizations

Wesley’s Newcomer Youth Support Service (NYSS)

The NYSS program enhances our service offerings to GARs through the inclusion of specific programming tailored to the unique needs of children and youth arriving in Canada as Government Assisted Refugees.

Through this program, children and youth receive orientations upon arrival which are tailored to what they will experience during their first days and weeks in Canada. Following this, each youth is matched with a case manager to support them through intensive case management, conducting in depth needs assessments to provide them with the support and referrals to successfully integrate into the community, and the school/employment world in Canada.

Services

- Community education/promotion
- Mainstream and diverse inter-agency collaboration
- Initial and ongoing needs assessment

- Linkages to employment programs and community support services such as health care
- Orientation to Canadian life (Youth context)
- Mentorship program
- Social supports
- Critical life skills training

Wesley Urban Ministries would like to express its sincere gratitude to our many partners and collaborators in the resettlement efforts of Syrian refugees.