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Types of precarious immigration status among children/youth:

- Permanent resident permit
- Temporary visitor's permit
- Study permit
- Work permit
- Working holiday permit
- Refugee claimant
- Refugee whose claim has been denied/dismissed
- Dependent on parent/guardian's status
- Nonstatus
- Held in Immigration Detention

Children/Youth's Entry into Canada with Precarious Status

- Unaccompanied minors
- Minors who are principal applicants; with or without an accompanying adult
- Minors dependent on a parent/guardian(s)' immigration status

Children/youth who no longer have status due to:

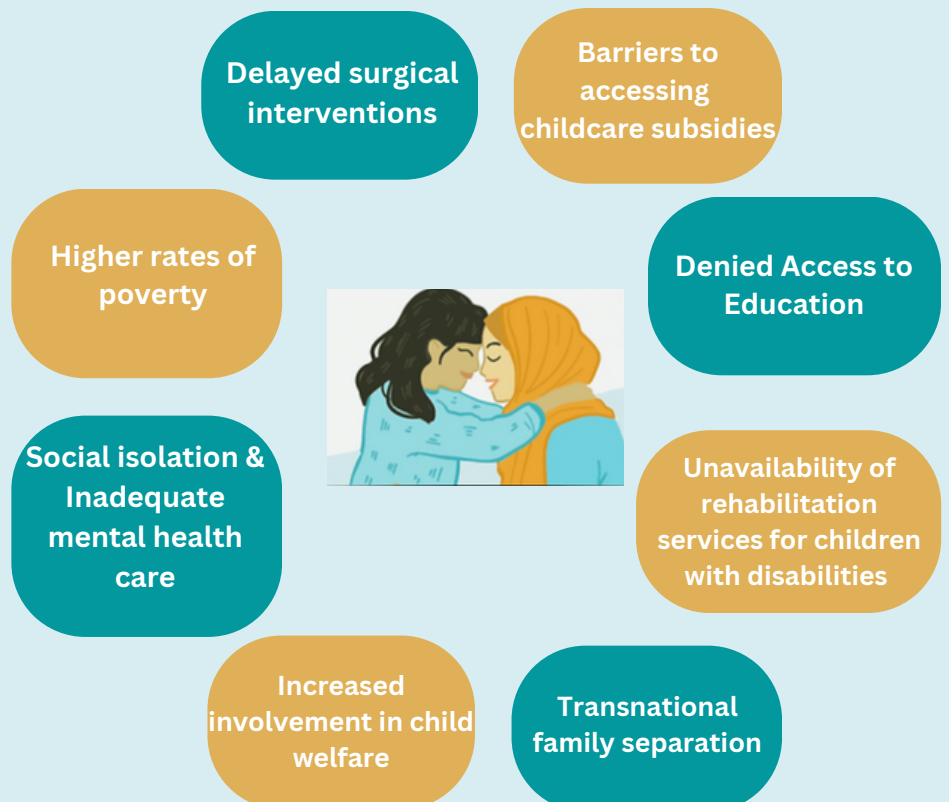
- Expired permit
- Sponsorship breakdown with their parent/guardian
- Sponsorship breakdown between parents
- Refugee claim denied or dismissed

INTRODUCTION

This fact sheet offers a snapshot on the societal conditions impacting children/youth living in Canada with precarious immigration status. Canada admits a growing number of immigrants on temporary permits to study, work, or reunite with their families, and people seeking humanitarian protection. Immigrants with precarious status, however, often face systemic inequalities that hinder access to education, social and health services, and quality life.^{1,2}

Precarious status also leads to higher rates of poverty, social isolation, poor mental and physical health, denied access to education, and prolonged transnational family separation. As a majority of new immigrants are racialized minorities, they also face higher risk to racial profiling by police and child welfare intervention, which can result in detention or deportation.

EFFECTS OF PRECARIOUS STATUS



1. Bernhard, J. K., Goldring, L., Young, J., Berinstein, C., & Wilson, B. (2007). Living with precarious legal status in Canada: Implications for the well-being of children and families. *Refuge, 24*, 101
 2. Meloni, F., Rousseau, C., Montgomery, C., & Measham, T. (2014). Children of exception: Redefining categories of illegality and citizenship in Canada. *Children & Society, 28*(4), 305-315.

Immigration, Refugee & Citizenship Canada publishes quarterly and annual reports for immigrants who have temporary status (<https://search.open.canada.ca/opendata/>).

Data on children and youth who have a precarious status are either limited or unavailable, making it hard to identify issues that immigrant children face, including access to education, public benefits, and involvement in child welfare and criminal justice systems.

We need:

- Disaggregated data that focusses on children
- More clarity on how children and youth are defined
- Coordination between the federal, provincial and territorial governments to support children with precarious status

LEGAL SUPPORT & INFORMATION

1. West Coast Leaf:
<https://www.westcoastleaf.org>
2. Canadian Council for Refugees:
<https://www.ccrweb.ca/en>
3. Childhood Arrivals Support and Advocacy (CASA) Program: <https://jfcy.org/en/casa/>
4. Justice for Children and Youth Childhood Arrivals Support and Advocacy Program:
<https://jfcy.org/en/casa/>
5. Stepping Stones for Youth:
<https://www.stepstonesforyouth.com/resources/youth-resources/>
6. Immigration and Refugee Legal Clinic:
<https://www.irlc.ca/about/>

CONTACT US

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Children With a Valid Study Permit (2016)

0-14 years:
17,707

15-29 years:
355,976

Children/Youth in the Temporary Foreign Workers Program (TFWP) (2016)

0-14 years:
6

15-29 years:
13,051

Children/Youth in the International Mobility Program (IMP) (2016)

0-14 years:
2

15-29 years:
166,215

Asylum Claimants (2022)

Ontario

0-14 years:
17,707

15-29 years:
355,976

British Columbia

0-14 years:
190

15-29 years:
370

Resettled Refugees (2022)

Ontario

17y and under:
15,870

18y and above:
23,065

British Columbia

17y and under:
3,345

18y and above:
4,675

*The data above represents publicly available data where children/youth are mentioned and can be accessed on IRCC's webpage: <https://search.open.canada.ca/opendata/>

*Children age range <18 ; Youth age range <29.