

Patterns in Participation, Engagement, and Informal Caring



Joining in

- In 2000, 48% of all immigrants to Canada were members of an organization, group, club, or union. The membership rate among Canadian-born residents was 51%.
- The longer immigrants live in Canada, the more likely they are to belong to an organization. Among those in Canada for less than six years, 31% were members of voluntary organizations, compared to 56% of those who had lived here for 26 years or more.
- Immigrants are far more likely than Canadian-born residents to participate in groups that have a religious affiliation (19% compared to 12%). Membership in faith-based organizations was highest among established immigrants. Canadian-born residents were more likely to join work-related groups such as unions or professional associations (22% compared to 17% of immigrants).

Membership, by type of organization, 2000

Immigrant and Canadian-born individuals aged 15 and older

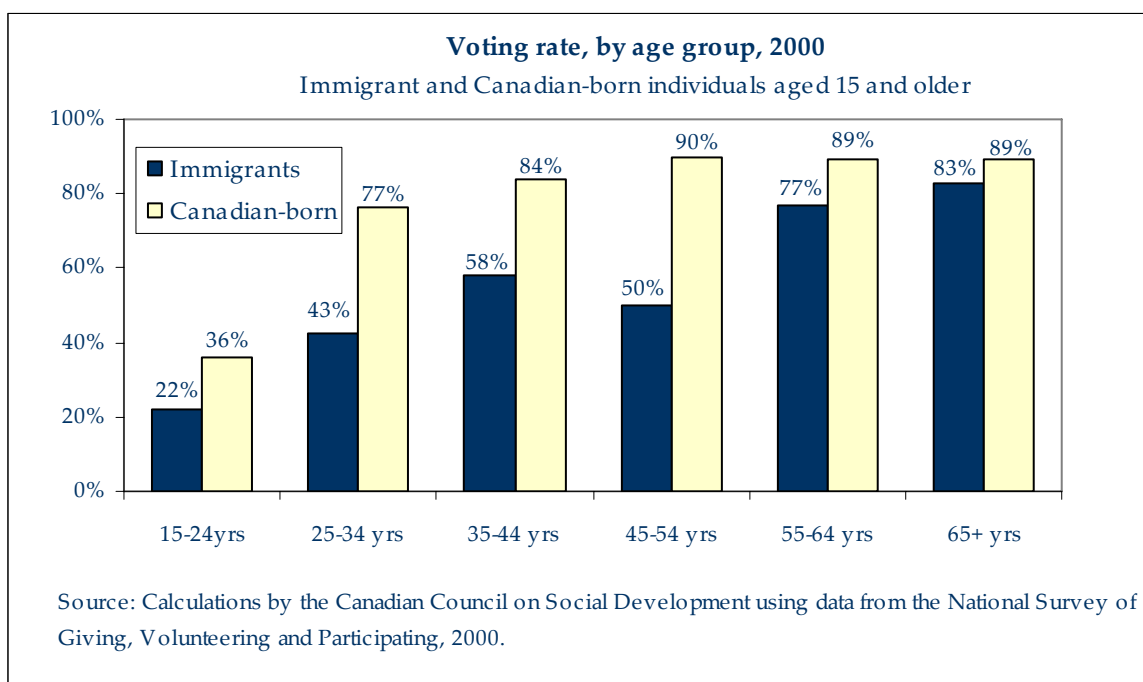
Organization type	Immigrants (%)	Canadian-born (%)
Religious	19	12
Work-related (unions, professional assoc.)	17	22
Sports or recreation	12	19
Cultural, educational or hobby	9	10
Neighbourhood or community	8	10
Fraternal or service club	6	8
Political	3	4
Other	2	2

Source: Calculations by the Canadian Council on Social Development using data from the National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating, 2000.

Speaking up

- In 2000, 64% of immigrants reported voting in a federal, provincial, or municipal election. This compares to 76% of Canadian-born residents.
- Voting rates among immigrants increase with age. In 2000, 83% of immigrant seniors voted, as did 22% of immigrants aged 15 to 24, and 43% of young adults aged 25 to 34. These voting rates are considerably lower than for the Canadian-born population. In particular, the voting rate for young Canadian-born adults was 77%.

- In both 2000 and 2003, seven of 10 immigrants to Canada said they followed the news and current affairs every day (73% in 2000 and 70% in 2003).
- Levels of interest were highest among those who had lived in Canada for more than 26 years: 81% compared to 63% for recent immigrants. Just over two-thirds of Canadian-born residents said they followed the news daily (67% in 2000 and 68% in 2003).



Helping Out

- Nine of 10 immigrants provided financial support directly to others and supported organizations through in-kind donations.
- In 2000, 40% of immigrants gave money to relatives living outside their households – a larger proportion than among Canadian-born residents.
- Among both immigrant and Canadian-born residents, providing direct personal care and assistance to others far exceeds the formal rates of volunteering. In 2000, 73% of immigrants provided unpaid care and assistance to others; among Canadian-born, the rate was slightly higher (79%). Immigrants who had lived in Canada for six to 15 years were the most likely to provide this type of informal assistance, while recent immigrants had the lowest rate.