



**Centre of Learning
& Development**

Stronger Communities Together

Barriers and Outcomes in the Housing Search for New Immigrants and Refugees in Toronto

**Immigrant Women Integration Program (IWIP)
Centre of Learning & Development (CL&D)**

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🔍 Why we chose this topic

Refugees and newcomers often face significant barriers in Toronto's rental market.

As newly immigrated individuals in Toronto, we have personally experienced the housing crisis that is in front of us. We are conducting this research to help provide what the barriers are and help overcome them for the diverse group of people living in Toronto.



How We Conducted Our Research & Who is Affected?

How We Conducted Our Research

 Surveys (35 Responses)

 In-Depth Interviews (10 Participants)



Who is Affected & Where?

 Geographic Focus: Toronto

 Newcomers & Refugees



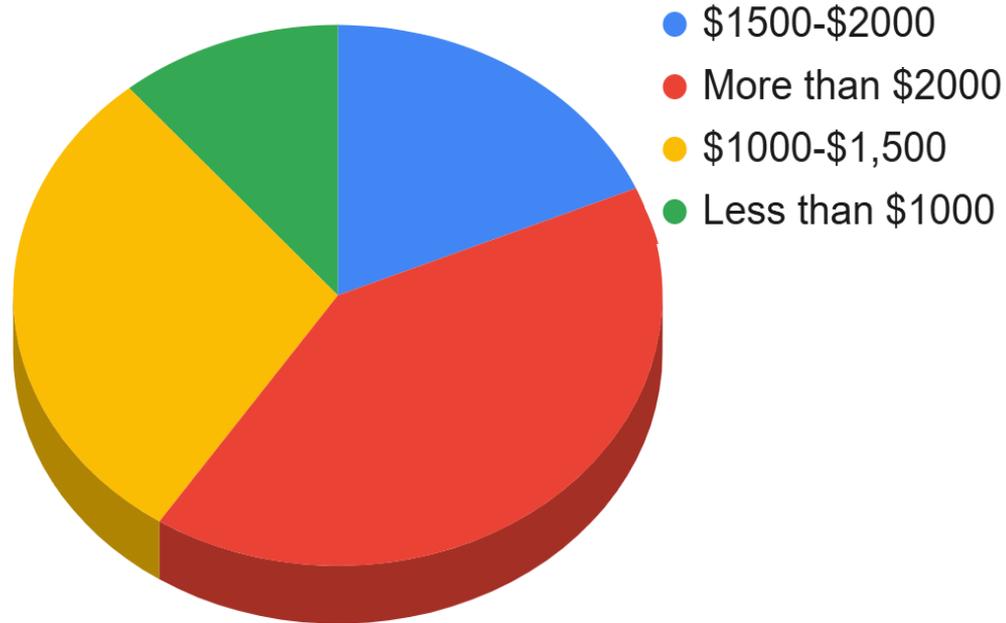


Housing Situation & Affordability



The Reality of Housing Costs for Newcomers

**High Rental
Costs**

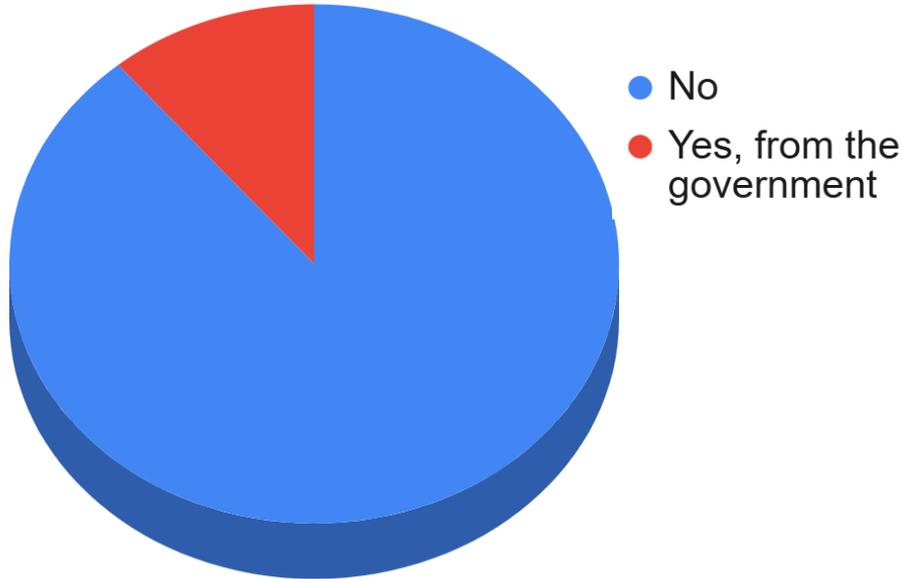




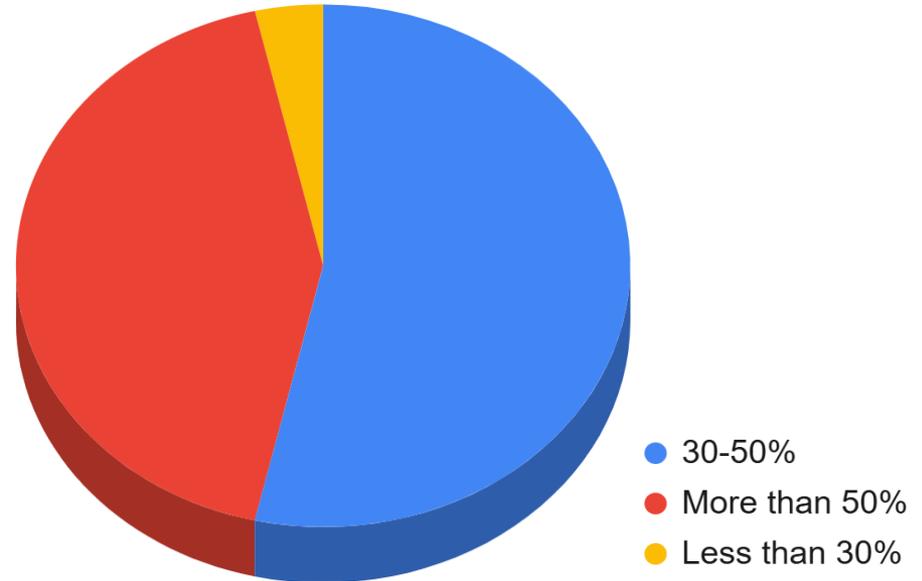
Housing Situation & Affordability

(Continued...)

Limited Financial Assistance



Monthly income goes directly to housing costs

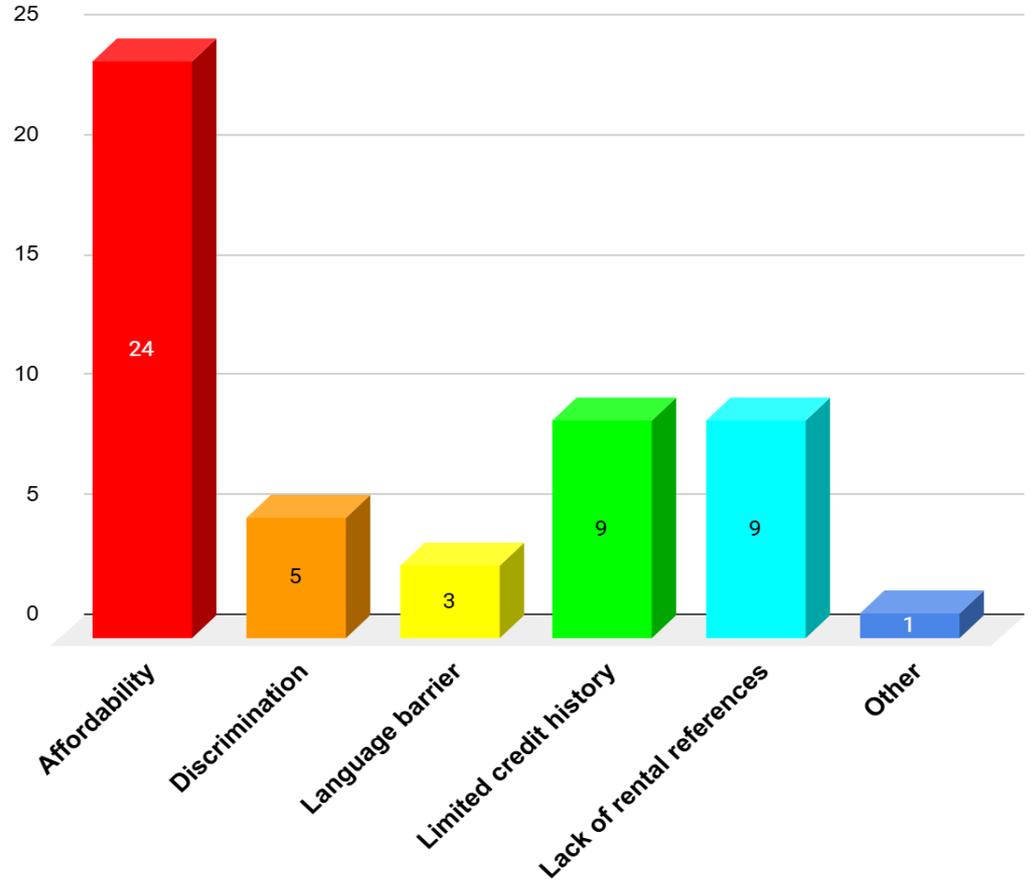




Challenges in Finding Housing

⊘ Barriers Preventing Newcomers from Securing Housing

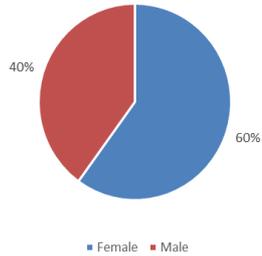
- 1 High Rental Costs
- 2 Lack of Rental History & Credit Score
- 3 Discrimination
- 4 Limited Affordable Housing Options
- 5 Long Waiting Lists



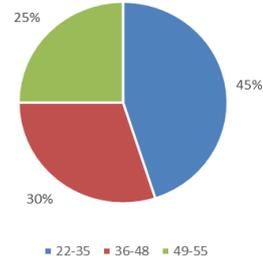


Key Findings – From The Interviews

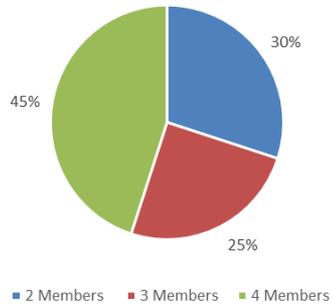
Gender



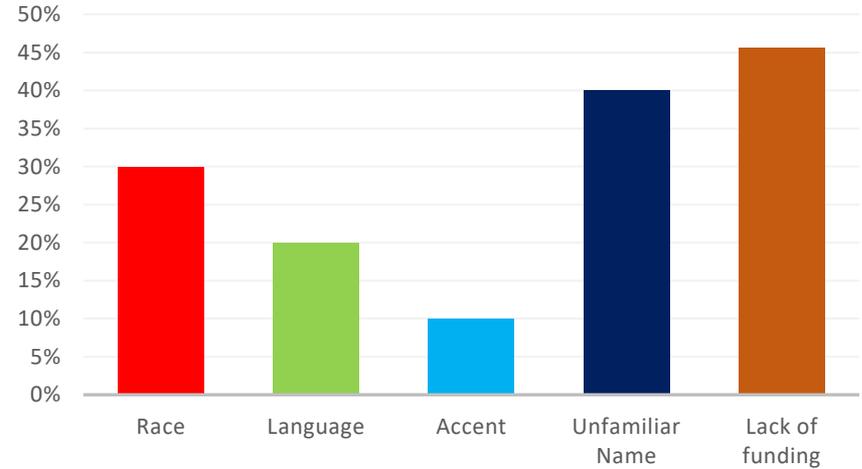
Age



Family Size



Barriers





Impact & Challenges



"It feels like my name decides whether I get a call back, not my ability to pay rent."- Bangladeshi Newcomer Women



"I thought finding a home would be the easy part, but landlords want local history I don't have".- Arab Refugee



"Even with support programs, being a refugee makes landlords hesitate—it's like starting life with a 'maybe' attached to everything."- Social Worker



Data Gaps in Housing Support

1. Limited Insights into Long-Term Housing Stability

📌 Lack of Data: Hard to track long-term housing stability.

📌 Measurement Issues: Difficult to assess long-term success of housing programs.

2. Need More Data on Support Program Effectiveness

📌 Program Impact: Limited insights into how well support programs work.

📌 Tracking Challenges: Hard to monitor long-term outcomes.





Call to Action

25% of responders indicated dissatisfaction with their housing situation

88.5% of responders indicate they don't receive any financial assistance

- o Organize a petition to increase government subsidies
- o Collaborate for better housing policies
- o Conduct meetings with policy makers
- o Organize community meetings
- o Develop a campaign to inform about available housing assistance programs
- o Leverage crowdfunding initiatives to support individuals

Contact and Closing

Housing is a shared challenge, but together, we can drive a change!

Contact Us

Immigrant Women Integration Program

- Lidet Woldesenbet lidet.woldesenbet@iwip.tcclld.org
- Shanthy Vijayan shanthy.vijayan@iwip.tcclld.org
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- Yasmeen Faruqi yasmeen.faruqi@iwip.tcclld.org

Get Involved!

- Join our initiative
- Share our message
- Advocate for better housing policies



Let's work together for a future where housing is accessible to all!

References

Toronto Rental Market Report (January 2025) Source:

<https://liv.rent/rental-listings/city/toronto>

Social Housing Waitlist Report (2023) Source:

<https://www.municipalworld.com/feature-story/social-housing-waitlists-growing/>

Barriers to Housing for Newcomers Source:

<https://housingrightscanada.com/reports/sorry-its-rented-2022/>

