

# ATLANTIC IMMIGRATION SPOTLIGHT ON DATA



## NEWCOMER CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN ATLANTIC CANADA

The majority of permanent resident admissions to Atlantic Canada are children and youth.

**In 2024, people under the age of 30 accounted for 55% of admissions to the region, with similar numbers in previous years.**

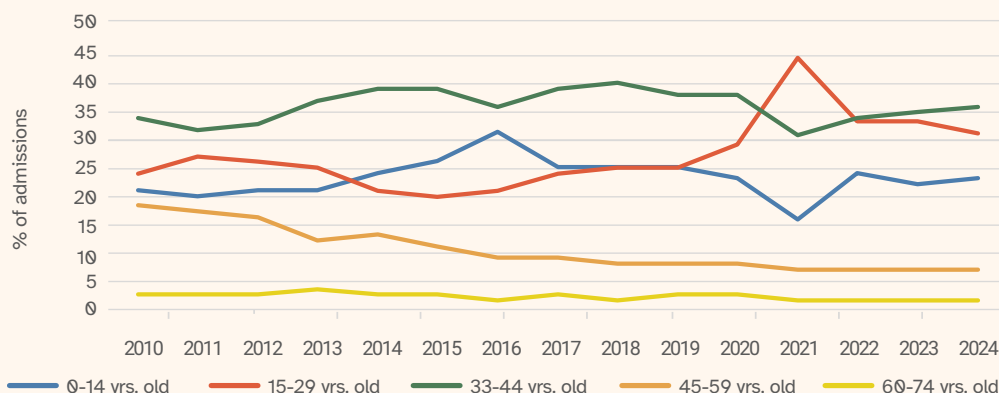
Newcomer children and youth have unique needs that should be considered when designing programs and services, such as interrupted education, the need for school-related support, and lack of employment experience. Targeted education and employment programs for children and youth can support their integration into Canadian society. Moreover, family-oriented programs can support integration by leveraging the important roles children and youth play in their families and communities.

### What is the data?

Figure 1 shows permanent resident admissions to Atlantic Canada according to age group. Data is combined for the four Atlantic provinces and presented for 2010 to 2024. Figure 2 breaks down the data for each Atlantic province for 2024 (the most recent year with complete data).

- **Age group.** Age at admission to Canada. Each age group is shown as a percentage of total admissions in a given year.
- For the purpose of this report, **children** are aged 0 to 14 and **youth** are aged 15 to 29. Data is excluded for permanent residents aged 75 years and older because they comprise less than 1% of admissions.

### Permanent resident admissions to Atlantic Canada, by age group (2010-2024)



**Figure 1:** Permanent resident admissions to Atlantic Canada according to age group, 2010 to 2024.

## Permanent resident admissions by age group (2024)

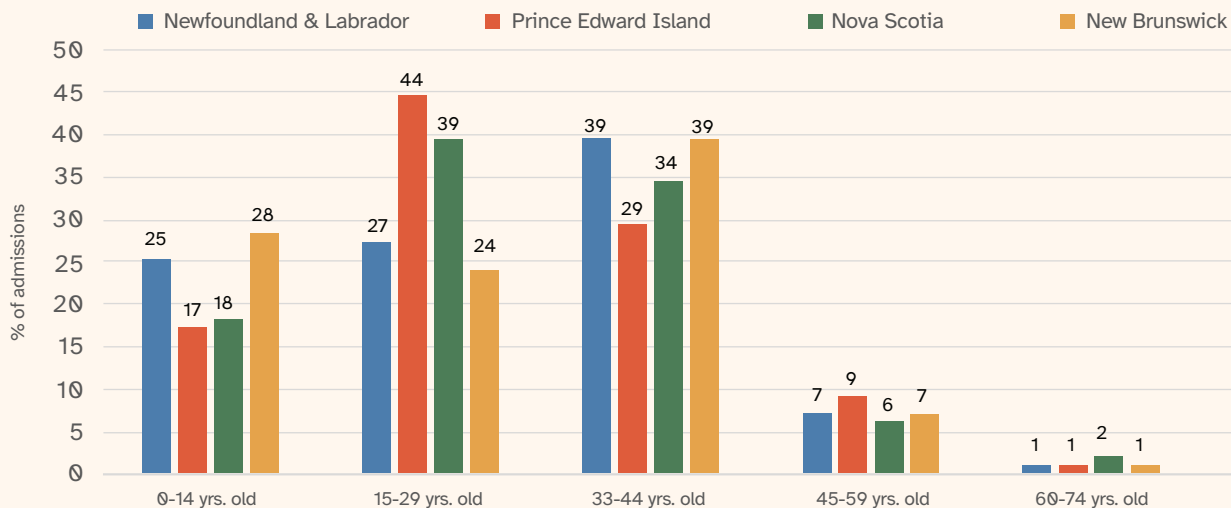


Figure 2: Permanent resident admissions to the Atlantic provinces in 2024, according to age group.

## What does the data say?

- Children and youth together comprise the largest proportion of permanent resident admissions to Atlantic Canada. **Since 2016, people under the age of 30 have accounted for the majority of permanent resident admissions**, peaking at 61% in 2021. In 2024, they comprised more than half of admissions for every Atlantic province (ranging from 52% to 61%), although the balance between children and youth varies.
- The age distribution of permanent resident admissions fluctuates considerably for year and province.** For example, between 2010 and 2024, youth ranged from a fifth (21% in 2015) to nearly half (45% in 2021) of admissions to the region. In 2024, youth similarly ranged from a quarter (24%) of admissions in New Brunswick to almost half (44%) of admissions to PEI.
- Available data suggests that children and youth comprise the majority of admissions for different immigration pathways. **Children and youth may arrive in Canada as refugees, through family sponsorship, or as dependents of economic immigrants.** While most available data does not disaggregate permanent resident admissions by both age group and immigration pathway, some limited data is available. Of the 22,195 refugees admitted to Atlantic Canada between January 2015 and March 2025, 46% were under the age of 18 ([Open Government, Resettled Refugees](#)). For Syrian refugees admitted between November 2015 and March 2025, 56% were under the age of 18 ([Open Government, Syrian Refugees](#)).

## What does the data mean for settlement and integration?

- Targeted services for children and youth are essential to settlement and integration. **Children and youth have unique experiences, needs, and challenges, and settlement services should be designed to address these.** For example, while many newcomers require employment support, youth may face unique challenges such as interrupted education or lack of work experience (both in Canada and internationally). As such, targeted employment programs can help youth find meaningful employment and enter the workforce.
- Support with education and schooling is especially important for integration.** A large proportion of refugees are under the age of 18. Refugee youth are especially likely to have interrupted schooling, lack fluency in English or French, and have experiences of trauma. Education-related support can include accessing [settlement worker in schools \(SWIS\)](#) services, homework groups, and mental health support.
- While newcomer children and youth face unique challenges, they also express particular resilience. They tend to gain skills, acquire language fluency, and build social networks more readily than adults. As such, children and youth may become intermediaries to Canadian society within their families and communities. For example, they may act as interpreters for their parents or grandparents. **Family-oriented programs can support integration by connecting multiple generations with other newcomer communities and the broader community.** Such programs include recreational activities, community gardens, and multicultural festivals.



**SOURCES:** Data was provided by the [Atlantic Research Group on Economics of Immigration, Aging and Diversity \(ARGEIAD\)](#) through a data-sharing agreement with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). Data has been combined for Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick.

Similar data is also available on IRCC's monthly updates on Open Government: IRCC, "[Permanent Residents – Monthly IRCC Updates](#)," Open Government. Record ID f7e5498e-0ad8-4417-85c9-9b8aff9b9eda.