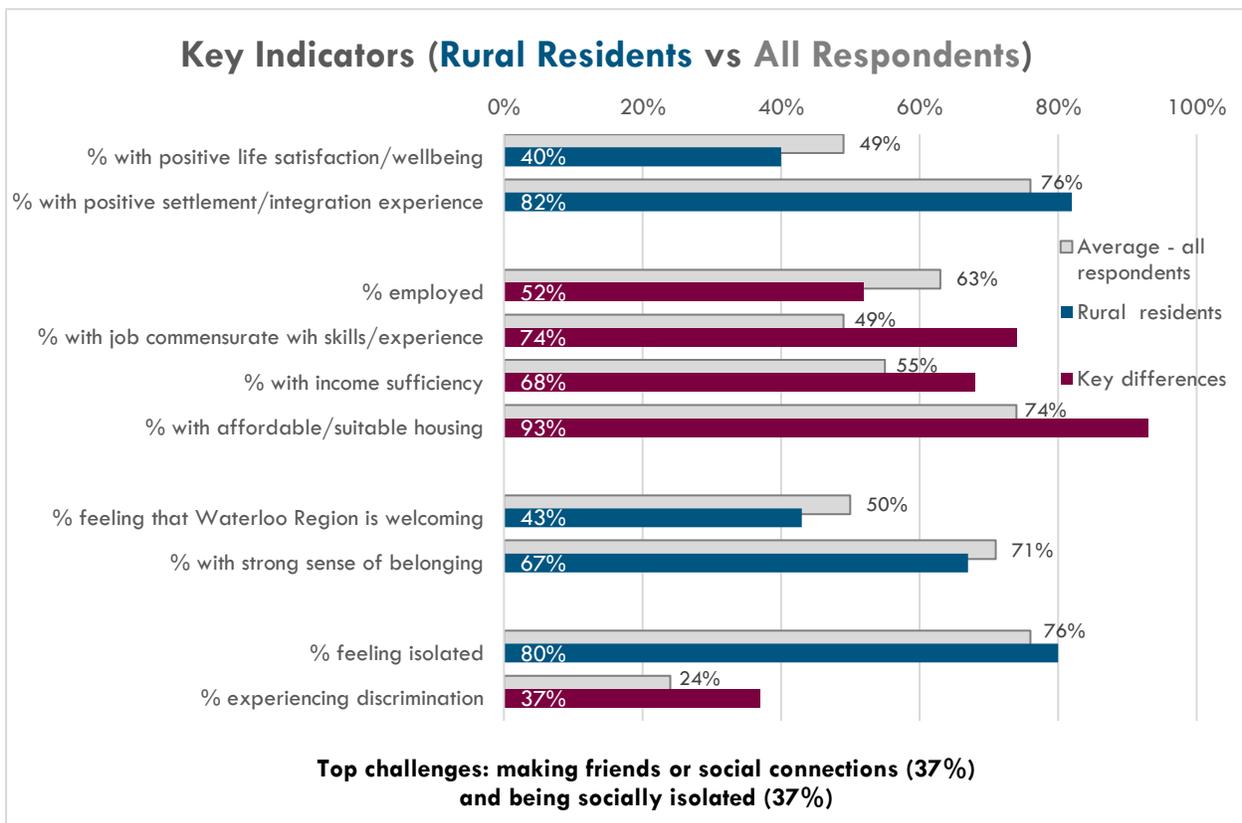


Immigrants Living in Rural Areas

2021 Immigrant Survey Profile

This profile highlights the experiences of 38 immigrants living in Waterloo Region’s four rural townships (North Dumfries, Wellesley, Wilmot, and Woolwich Townships) as reported in the Immigration Partnership’s 2021 Immigrant Survey. It is a subset of a regional survey of 1,507 immigrants focused on their experiences of living in Waterloo Region. Full analysis of survey findings and details about the methodology are available in the 2021 Immigrant Survey Summary Report at www.immigrationwaterlooregion.ca/ImmigrantSurvey. Because of small sample sizes, the findings below should be interpreted with caution.



Key Insights

- Rural residents were less likely than survey respondents overall to have immigrated in the past 5 years (37% vs 49%) and less likely to be racialized (41% vs 70%)
- They were more likely to experience discrimination (37% vs 24%)
- They were more likely to have English as a first language (37% vs 16%). Rural residents with non-English first languages were more likely to speak English well or very well (83% vs 70%)
- Their top challenges were being socially isolated and making friends or social connections

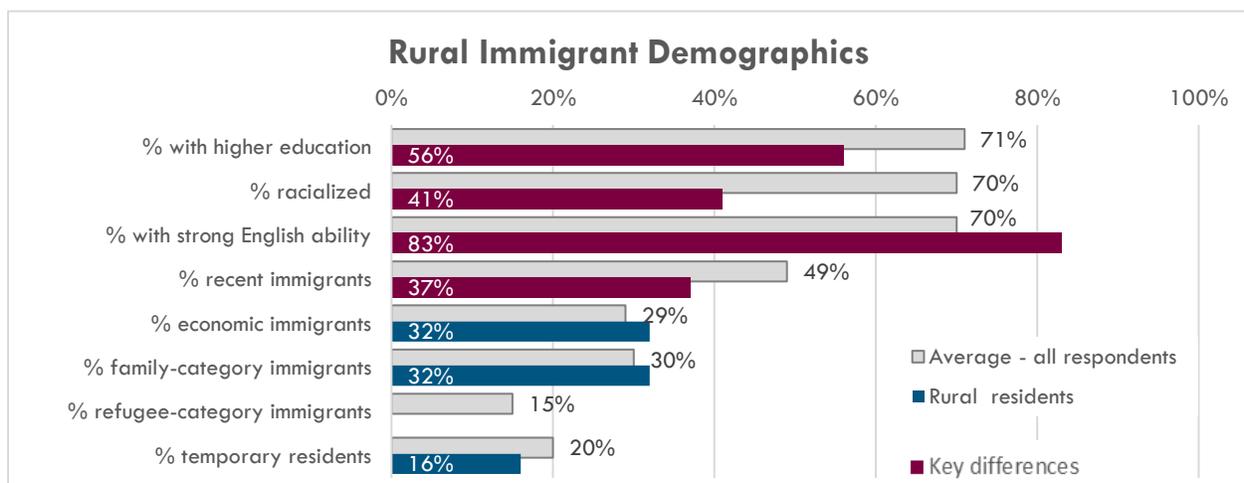
- Rural residents rated services that they had used in the past year as follows:

	Accessed Service	Rated Positively	Rated Negatively
Education	50%	67%	33%
Employment and/or skills training	48%	**	**
English language learning	32%	**	**
Health	90%	75%	25%
Housing	55%	71%	29%
Interpretation/translation	35%	55%	45%
Legal	42%	62%	38%
Local government/bylaw	52%	63%	38%
Mental health	48%	60%	40%
Police	55%	71%	29%
Settlement/immigrant services	30%	**	**
Small business/entrepreneurial supports	35%	55%	45%
Other community services	24%	**	**

** too small to report

- Compared to all Immigrant Survey respondents, rural residents were more likely during the pandemic to use in-person services (45% vs 32%) and less likely to use virtual online services (55% vs 62%)
- Rural residents were less likely to say that employment services they used in the past year were useful in helping them find employment (54% vs 68%) but more likely to say that housing services were useful in helping them find housing (75% vs 61%) or language learning services were useful in helping them learn English (100% vs 89%)

Demographic Profile of Rural Respondents



The percentage of rural residents that immigrated as refugees was too small to report

- Compared to all Immigrant Survey respondents, rural residents were more likely to be Christian (44% vs 38%) and more likely to not be a member of a faith community (48% vs 27%)

This profile only highlights larger differences between this population and all immigrant survey respondents across Waterloo Region. In the charts, "Key differences" are variables with more than 10% difference between this population and all survey respondents.

To request an alternate format of this document, call 519-575-4400 or TTY: 519-575-4608.

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