

SINGLE MOTHERHOOD IN A POST-MIGRATION CONTEXT

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FEMINIZATION OF MIGRATION

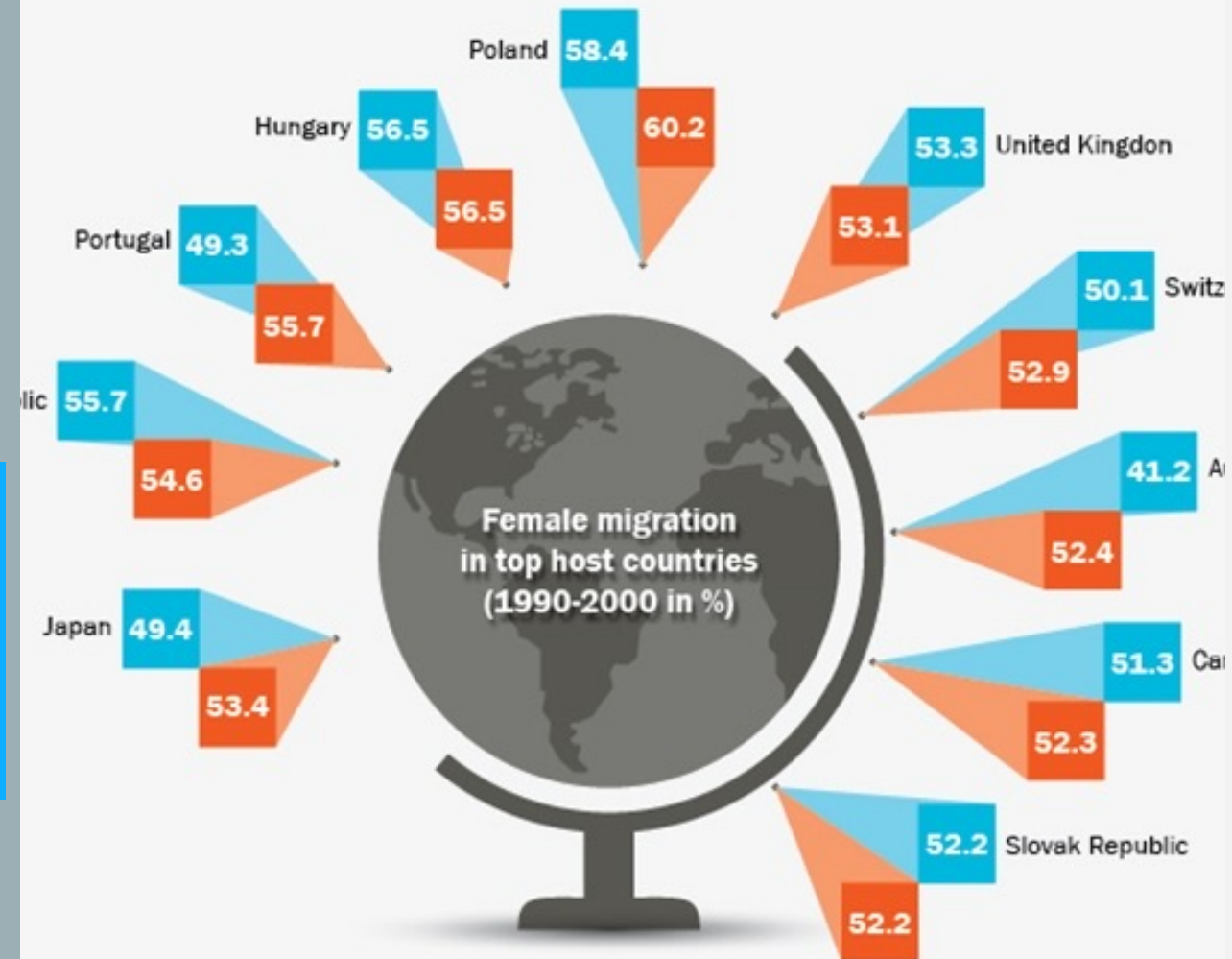
While women have more rights and freedoms than ever before, the status of women from non-western countries has declined globally.

Feminization of poverty & immigration.

Female migration on the rise 1965 and 1990 in the most important receiving countries

Comparing the status of women before and after the migration process, gender inequality is a global issue.

An immigrant woman navigates between two unequal gender regimes: her country of origin and the country of settlement.



IMMIGRANT WOMEN IN CANADA

All non-indigenous Canadians are descendants of immigrants.

2011: Number of immigrant women and girls, rising to **52.3%** from the total number of immigrants.

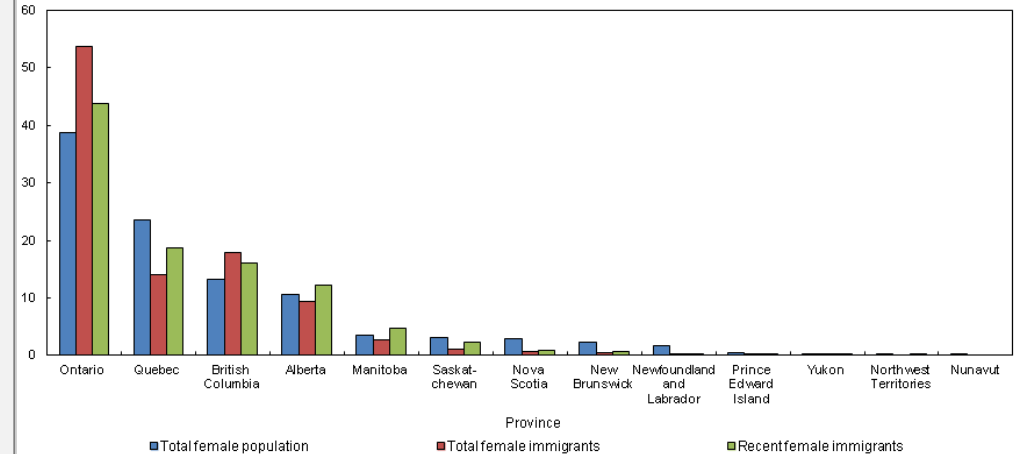
3,544,400 representing 21.2% of the country's total female population. (2011 National Survey).

The number of women and girls migrating from European countries decreased over the last few decades while the number from *Asia, the Middle East, and Africa increased.*

A more recent shift in migration patterns relates to an increase in the immigration of single women and partnered women who migrate without their families.

The number of immigrant single mothers - migrating with their dependent children is on the rise.

Chart 8
Proportion of total female population, total female immigrants and recent female immigrants by province or territory, Canada, 2011
percent



Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.

STATUS OF WOMEN IN CANADA

Women are economically vulnerable outside of marriage and common-law unions, particularly when these relationships have ended.

Women typically experience marked declines in family income after union dissolution, compared with men.

The average income of unattached women was \$8,700 less than that of unattached men (\$36,600 versus \$45,300).

The majority of females work precarious jobs: 70% of Canadian part-time employees are female (2).

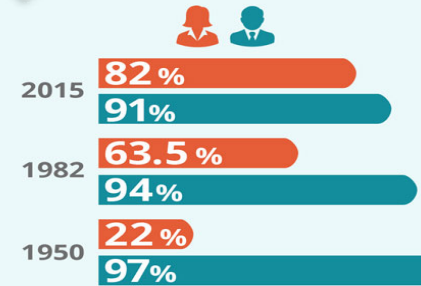
Women's risk of poverty is related to the fact that they face many systemic barriers to good employment and are over-represented in low wage, precarious work.

Women who face multiple barriers are at higher risk of poverty, such as Indigenous women, racialized women, those who are 2SLGBTQI+, newcomer women, and women living with disabilities.

Missing data: impact of lack of leisure time, wealth accumulation over time, retirement

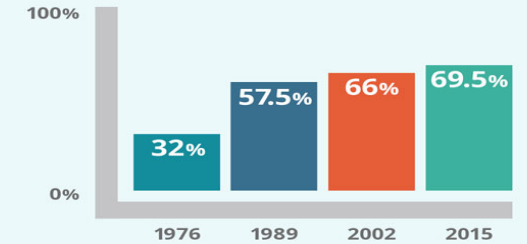
WOMEN AND PAID WORK

1 MORE AND MORE WOMEN ARE IN THE LABOUR FORCE*



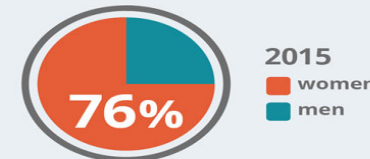
*Labour force is made up of individuals who are either working or looking for work.

2 AND MORE MOTHERS OF YOUNG CHILDREN ARE EMPLOYED



HOWEVER, CHALLENGES REMAIN...

3 THE VAST MAJORITY OF PART-TIME WORKERS** ARE WOMEN

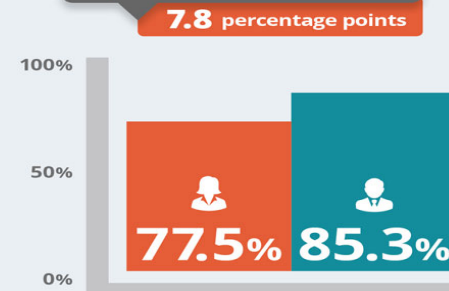


Chief among all reasons identified by women for working part-time was caring for children:

25% of women reported caring for children as their reason for working part-time, compared to **3%** of men.

** Part-time work (work hours) includes employed persons who usually worked less than 30 hours per week at their main or only job.

4 EMPLOYMENT GAP

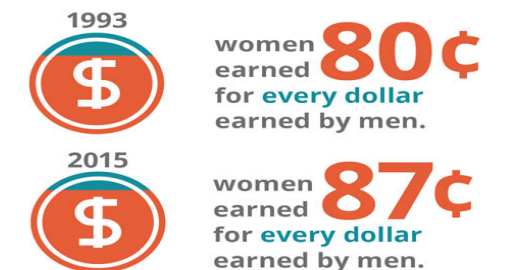


The employment gap between men and women is greater in cities with high unemployment.

5 GENDER WAGE GAP

Despite the decrease in wage gap, women still earn less than men.

There are different ways of calculating the wage gap. Based on average hourly earnings:



SINGLE MOTHERHOOD

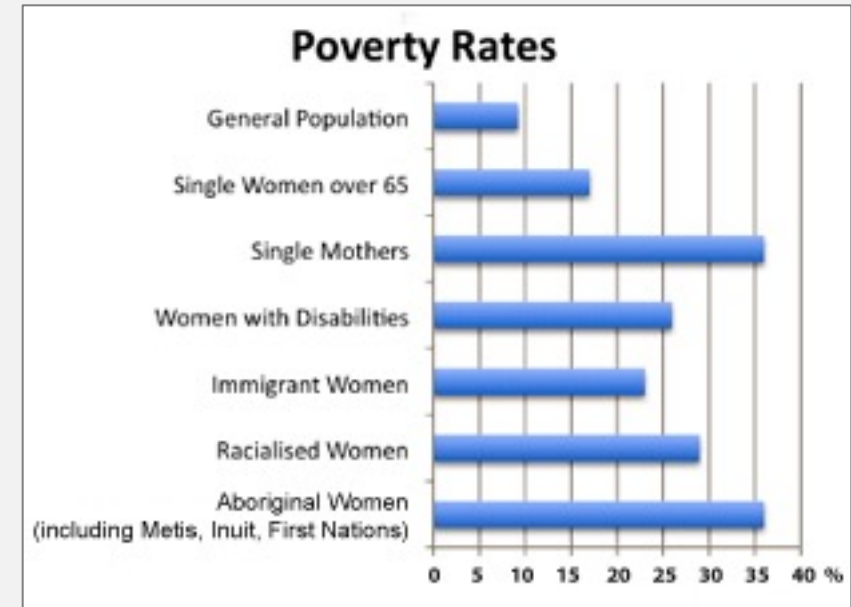
More working mothers now than ever before in history, single mothers are earning a third lower than single fathers.

Among women, lone mothers had the lowest average adjusted income (\$25,300), followed by those who were unattached (\$33,700).

The average adjusted incomes of lone fathers and unattached men were similar (around \$40,300). Notably, the average adjusted income of lone mothers was \$15,000 less than that of lone fathers.

Today, 36% of families led by females are below the poverty line (1).

Child-care costs in Canada aprox. \$1500 per month and are on the rise.



RESEARCH BACKGROUND

Topic: Parent-school collaboration

Context: In 7 provinces in Canada IOC&Y out-perform academically. In Quebec, high drop-out rates 50% more than Quebec's student population.

Inquiry:

Understanding the severe educational dis-advantage of immigrant origin children and youth (IOC&Y) in Quebec's public education system

Immigration is a developmental risk factor for immigrant children (Garcia & Coll, 2012)

"immigrant paradox," is an emergent pattern - assimilated children of immigrants have low developmental outcomes and educational achievements

School delays, school refusal, student disengagement

The education of the mother considered the most important factor for student success

THE RESEARCH STUDY

Gender-based Analysis (Status of women)

Policy Analysis

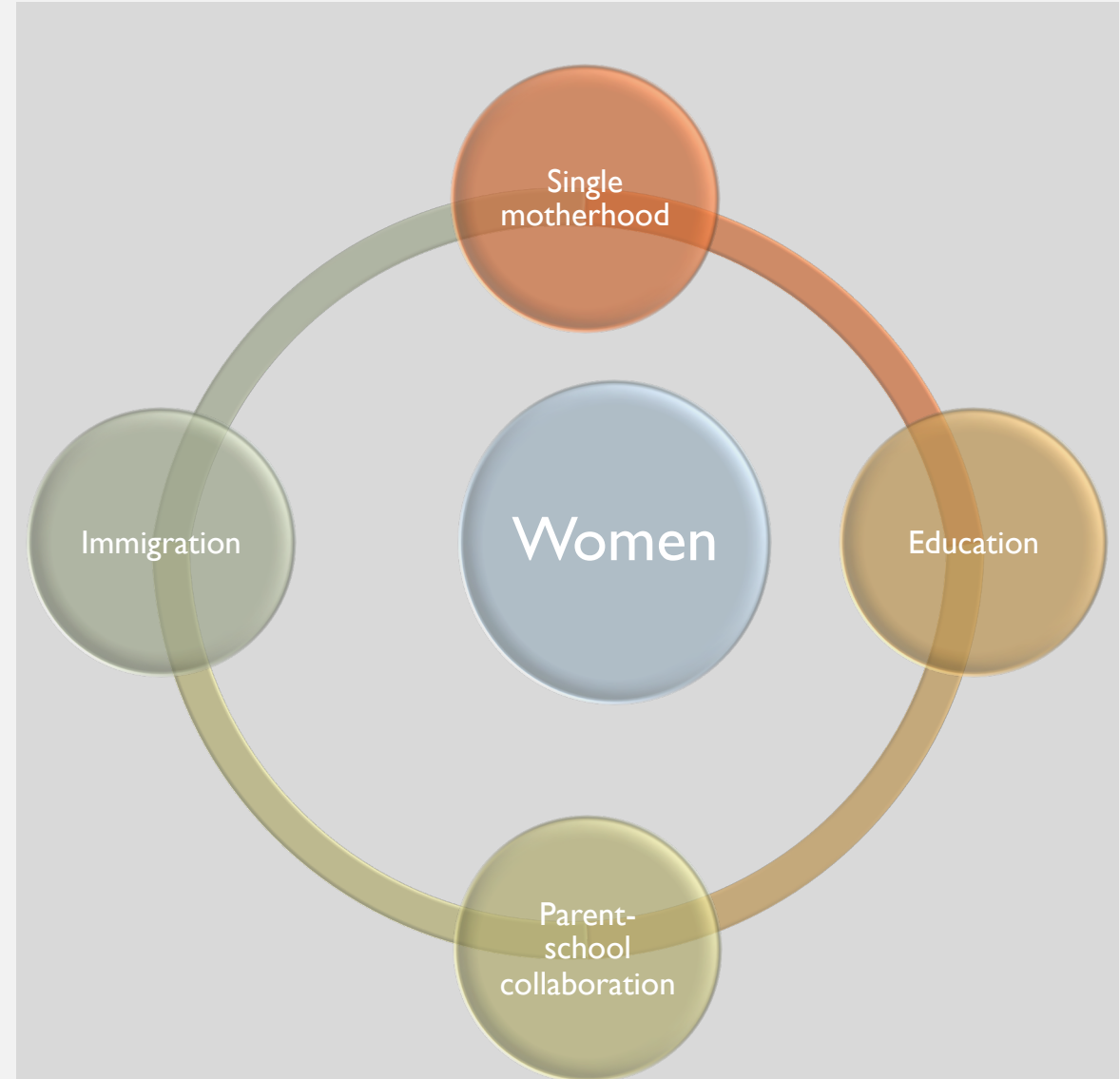
Immigration and Education

Secondary Research (Parent school interaction)

Counter-narrative

In depth conversations with English-speaking immigrant women who are also single mothers

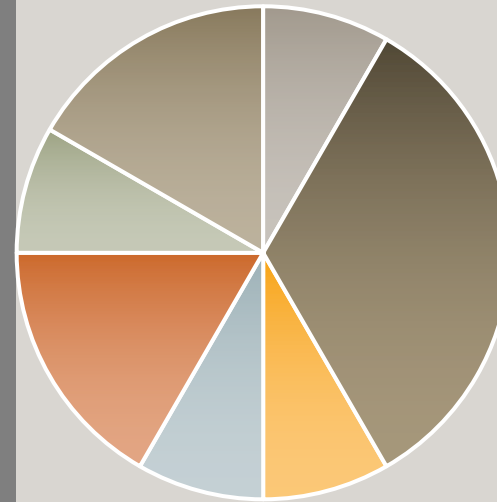
Systems Thinking & Intersectionality



THE PARTICIPANTS

Global Representation

Country of origin



Armenia

Bulgaria

China

Honduras

Iran

Saint Lucia

United States

United Kingdom

Nigeria

Syria

A photograph of a desk with a pencil holder, books, and a chalkboard background. The pencil holder is a black mesh cylinder filled with various colored pencils. To the right, there is a stack of books. The background is a chalkboard with faint, colorful markings. The text "THE EDUCATION SYSTEM" is overlaid on a black rectangular box at the bottom center of the image.

THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

MAIN FINDINGS

Immigration is a feminist practice

Pre-migration Resisting normative family structures and traditional gender roles

Post-migration: Coping with social stigma including from their own ethnic communities

Intersecting penalties - single mother families

More difficult than expected- all developmental needs of the child

Lives on hold/ starting over instead of starting a new life

Deceiving environment

Emigrating to Canada but settling in Québec – two socio-historical locations

Incongruencies between the immigration discourse that attracts new immigrants to

Canada/Quebec and the integration practices

EMPOWERING WOMEN

- More awareness – “gender equality” & equality of chances in the periphery and non-periphery countries
- More coordinated action is needed at all levels of the system
- Single motherhood is on the rise

Inequality for single mothers means a harder impact on the children, their health, educational outcomes and quality of life



IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE A CHILD