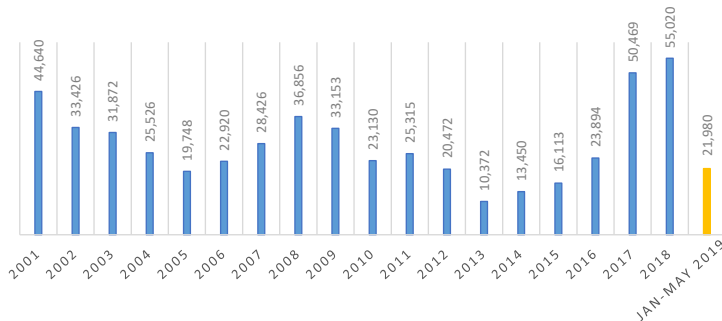
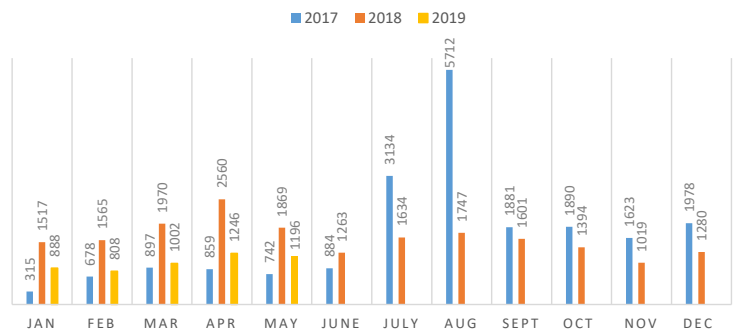


HOW MANY?

ASYLUM CLAIMS IN CANADA 2001 - 2019



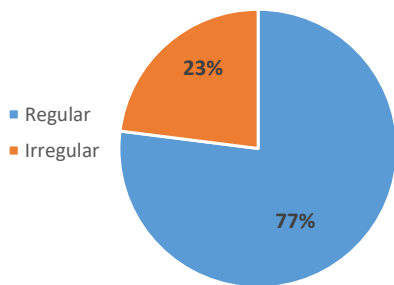
IRREGULAR ARRIVALS IN CANADA COMPARISON 2017- 2019



- Based on current trends, Canada is set to receive about the same number of asylum claims as in 2017-2018.

- The total number of refugee claimants who crossed the Canadian border at an unofficial entry point during the first 5 months of 2019 dropped by almost half (46%) compared to the same period last year.

ASYLUM CLAIMS DISTRIBUTION 2019



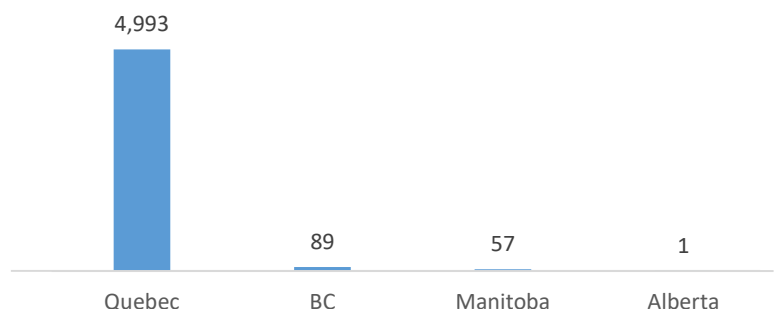
- 77% of claims made in the first 5 months of 2019 were made at an official border post or inland office.

Under Canadian and international law, it is not a punishable offence to cross a border without authorization **IF** this is to seek asylum. Due to circumstances they are fleeing, asylum seekers are often compelled to enter a territory without the required travel documents or authorizations.

WHERE?

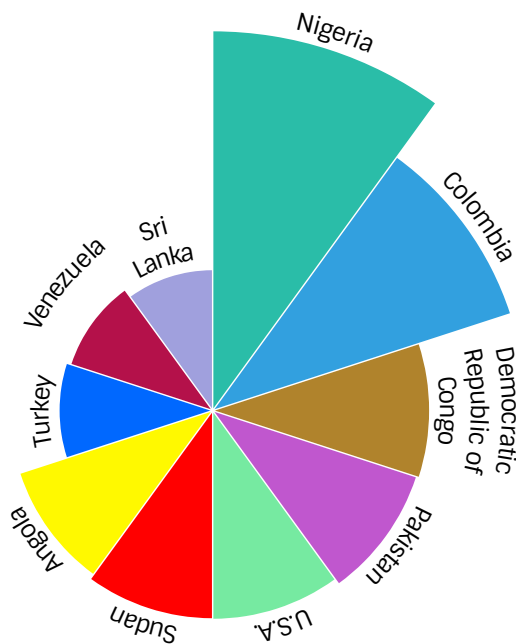
- The majority of irregular arrivals continue to take place in Quebec.
- Why Quebec? Roxham Road is the busiest irregular entry point in Canada due to the ease and safety of the crossing as well as the publicity it has received in the media since 2017.

IRREGULAR ARRIVALS BY PROVINCE JAN-MAY 2019



WHO?

TOP 10 COUNTRIES among irregular arrivals in Jan - Apr 2019:



Some of those countries are at war; others struggle with serious human rights issues.

Top 3:

Nigeria → Nearly 2/5 of the refugee claimants who crossed irregularly in 2018 were Nigerians. Their numbers started however to decrease from May 2018 onwards and now represent 1/5 of irregular arrivals.

Colombia → Colombian claims have been among the top 10 source countries of asylum claim in Canada and at the border for the last two decades.

Democratic Republic of Congo → Has climbed in 3rd position not so much due to an increase in DRC claims but rather a decrease of American claims (U.S.-born children of non-American citizens).

FAMILY COMPOSITION AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS



Most asylum seekers crossing the border irregularly are a mix of families or single parents with children, couples and persons traveling alone. About 1/3 of irregular arrivals in Quebec in the first few months of 2019 were children accompanying their parents.

As persecution can affect persons from all walks of life, asylum seekers arriving through the Canadian borders were of varying socio-economic/academic backgrounds.

WHY?

CLAIMS FOR PROTECTION BASED ON:

Colombia

- Victims of non-state armed groups, paramilitary or organized crime
- Political opinion – activism
- Domestic violence
- Sexual orientation
- Racial discrimination/persecution of Afro-Colombians

Nigeria

- Criminality and corruption (mainly family feud and personal vendetta)
- Sexual orientation
- At risk of female genital mutilation
- Domestic violence, forced marriage
- Religious persecution

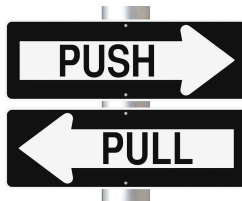
Democratic Republic of Congo

- Political opinion
- Activism

DECISION TO CROSS THE U.S.-CANADA BORDER:

Asylum seekers mention a mix of push/pull factors. They include:

- Having family/community ties in Canada
- Perceived better support for refugees in Canada
- Perception that their asylum claim have better chances of being accepted in Canada



- U.S. only used as a transit point to claim asylum to Canada (U.S. visa reportedly easier to obtain than Canadian one)
- Lengthy asylum process in the U.S.
- Fear of perceived hostile U.S. rhetoric towards immigrants and foreigners
- Fear of deportation

STATUS AND TIME SPENT IN THE U.S.



The majority of asylum seekers had valid status in the U.S. at the time of crossing (often a visitor visa) and only transited in the U.S. for a short period with the intention of claiming asylum in Canada, the American visa being reportedly easier to obtain than the Canadian one.



Others had stayed in the U.S. for a number of years, including persons with pending/denied asylum claims and to a lesser extent, persons whose status in the U.S. had expired.



Under the **Canada-U.S. Safe Third Country Agreement (STCA)**, individuals in the U.S. **cannot** make a claim at the Canadian official border post **unless** they qualify for an exception to the agreement, such as having a close family member in Canada.



The STCA **does not apply** to those who cross the border in-between official border posts, as at the time they claim asylum, they are already in Canada.

IMPACT AND RESPONSE

SECURITY CHECK

All those entering Canada, including through irregular means, are checked by both the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and the Canadian Border Service Agency (CBSA) regarding potential security and public health threats.



Luggage search



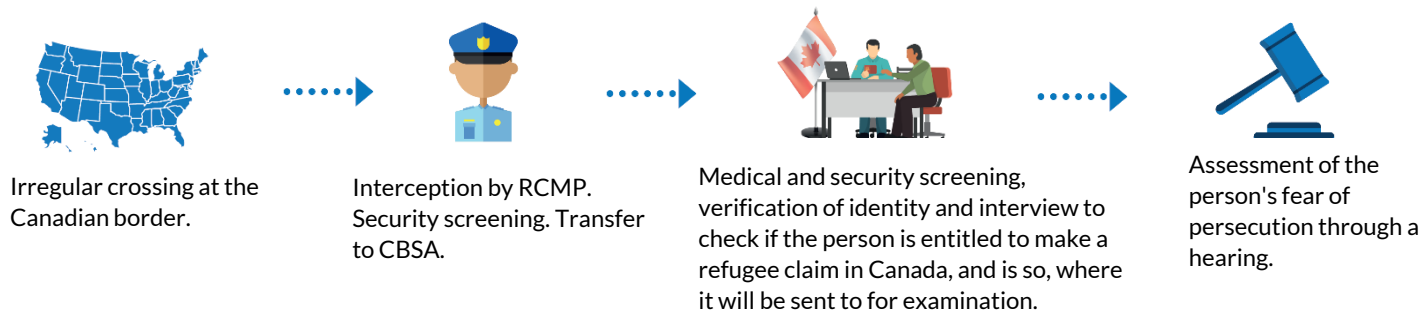
Fingerprinting & verification of identity



Background checks in Interpol, Canadian and American databases

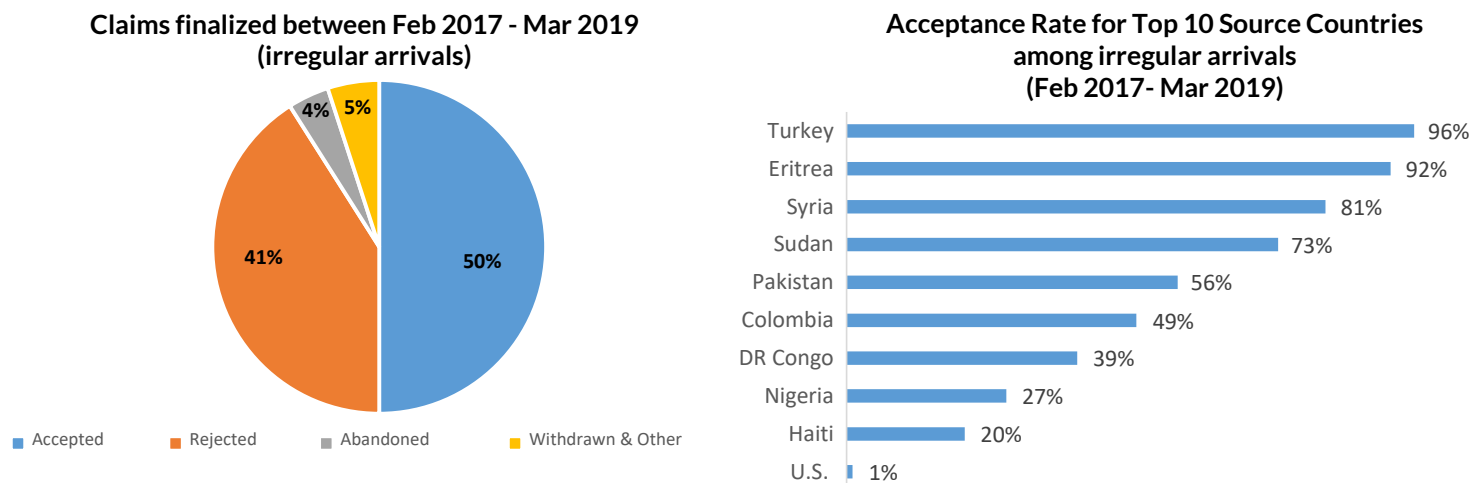
Less than 0.5% of the asylum seekers crossing the border irregularly had a serious criminal background between February 2017 and March 2019.

INDIVIDUAL ASSESSMENT



As for all asylum claims, the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) - or alternatively an official of Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada if their file is ineligible to be referred to the IRB - will assess whether those who have crossed the border irregularly have a well-founded fear of persecution in their home country. Their files are not processed before, or prioritized over, those who make their claims at an official port of entry or at an inland office. The merits of each claim is assessed on an individual basis.

33% of those who crossed the border irregularly since February 2017 had their claims finalized at the end of March 2019. Half of them have obtained refugee status:



GOVERNMENT RESPONSE MECHANISMS/CONTINGENCY PLANS

While the special measures put in place in 2017-2018 by the different levels of government have been maintained and refined in the event of another influx, **new ones were introduced in 2019.**

Increased capacity of border officials as well as immigration and RCMP officers.

Simplified processing and improved reception conditions at the border to accommodate larger numbers of asylum seekers.

Processing of work permit applications within 30 days to minimize pressures on provincial social services.

Outreach and public awareness campaign to dispel misinformation among groups of potential asylum seekers about the Canadian asylum system.

Additional funding to support provinces and municipalities (Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba) in providing temporary accommodation.

70% increase in processing capacity of claims at the IRB between 2016 and 2018

Additional funding towards managing irregular migration (2018 federal budget), **strengthening processes at the border and accelerating the processing of claims and removals (2019 federal budget)**, including CAD 208 million allocated to the IRB to hire 85 new decision makers and process 50,000 asylum claims per year by 2020-21 fiscal year.

Legislative amendments to the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act "to better manage, discourage and prevent irregular migration."