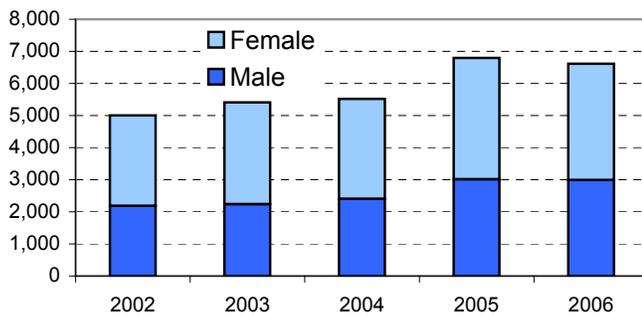


IMMIGRANT YOUTH TO BRITISH COLUMBIA 2002-2006

- During the five-year period from 2002 to 2006, an annual average of 5,868 immigrant youth¹ arrived in B.C. In 2006, the province welcomed 6,612 new immigrant youth, significantly higher than 2002 (up 32% from 2002).
- Over half (56%) of the immigrant youth who arrived during 2002 to 2006 were female.
- According to 2001 Census, there were 89,635 youth in B.C. who were born outside of Canada. They represented 17% of the total B.C. population within that age group.



Chart 1: More female than male immigrant youth came to B.C.



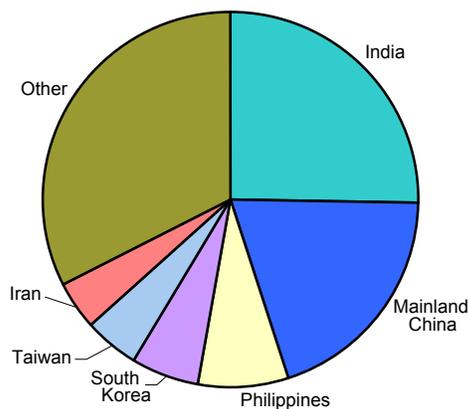
- Of the 29,339 immigrant youth who arrived in B.C. from 2002 to 2006:
 - 1% came as economic principal applicants (including skilled worker, business immigrant, provincial nominee and live-in caregiver);
 - 41% came as dependants of their economic principal applicants;
 - 48% came in the Family Class;
 - 8% came in the Refugee Class; and
 - 2% came in the Other Class.

Data for this report was extracted from CIC's administrative database in January, 2007. The data may differ slightly from the official statistics as published by CIC at <http://www.cic.gc.ca>

¹ Immigrant youth in this report refer to immigrants who come to Canada at age of 15-24.

- More than three quarters of immigrant youth came from Asia. During the five years from 2002 to 2006, India (25%) was the top source country for newcomer youth to B.C., followed by Mainland China (20%), the Philippines (8%), South Korea (6%), Taiwan (5%) and Iran (4%). In contrast, immigrants of all ages from India accounted for only 13% of immigrants to B.C., while immigrants of all ages from Mainland China represented 28% of all B.C. immigrant arrivals during the same period.

Chart 2: Where did immigrant youth to B.C. come from? (2002-2006 arrivals)



- During the five years from 2002 to 2006, over half (52%) of the immigrant youth arrived in B.C. without official language ability. A closer look at these youth shows that the group 20 to 24 years had a higher official language ability, with 55% of them capable of speaking English and/or French. In contrast, only 39% of immigrant youth aged 15 to 19 could speak either of the official languages when they first arrived in the province.
- Many immigrant youth aged 15 to 19 come to B.C. before they finish high school. Of the immigrant youth aged 20 to 24 who arrived from 2002 to 2006: 3% had no formal education; 54% had secondary or less education; 26% had college or a trade certificate; and 18% had university education.
- Approximately 84% of the immigrant youth arrived in Greater Vancouver, 6% in the Abbotsford Metropolitan Area and 2% in Greater Victoria². In contrast, of all B.C. immigrants coming over the period from 2002 to 2006, 88% arrived in Greater Vancouver, 3% in the Abbotsford Metropolitan Area and 3% in Greater Victoria.

Data Source:
Landed Immigrant Database, Citizenship and Immigration Canada
2001 Census, Statistics Canada

²Note: this only reflects immigrants' initial choice of destination and does not reflect their subsequent relocation.