

Social inclusion: Promising practices targeted at immigrant women in the Niagara Region

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Background

Approximately 1.2 million new immigrants were admitted to Canada between 2011 and 2016. Migration offers employment or asylum, yet immigrant residents experience exclusion due to multiple social inequalities. Immigrant women are particularly susceptible to exclusion due to intersections of gender, race, class, and other social identities as well as structural systems of power and oppression. Social exclusion of immigrant women has been closely linked to key social determinants of health. In partnership with Tools of Empowerment for Success Niagara, we responded to the issue of social exclusion of immigrant women in our community.

Aim of the study

The aim of this study was to gain insights from community service providers and immigrant women to understand social exclusion/inclusion experiences and identify promising practices that will increase feelings of social inclusion and belonging for immigrant women and their families.

Methods

A qualitative research approach was used to conduct virtual or telephone interviews. We recruited participants through community contacts. Semi-structured interview guides were informed by a conceptual model and data was analyzed using Braun & Clarke's methods.

Results

Data collection and analysis are in progress. Thus far, 14 community service providers, and 8 immigrant women have been interviewed. Main results will be presented at the conference.

Conclusions and implications

The findings will provide important insights to guide intersectoral action in tailoring strategies for immigrant women and families in Niagara. This research may be of significance to those who work with immigrant women in similar contexts to promote social inclusion in their communities.