

COVID-19 familial disparities in Quebec (Canada)

**A comparative analysis of exposure risks, consequences,
and government support among Immigrants and Natives**

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Plan of the presentation

- 1 Background and objectives
- 2 Methodology
- 3 Results
- 4 Conclusion

Background and objectives

Background

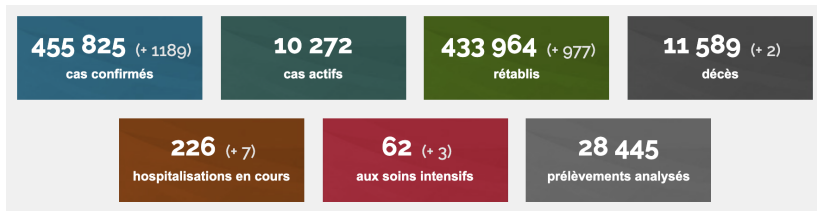


Figure 1: Covid-19 situation in Québec, December 6, 2021

Background

- COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the vast ethnic, social, economic, and health disparities in high-income countries
- One of the most vulnerable segments of these affluent societies is the immigrant population
 - Has become widely diversified
- COVID-19 brought new challenges for the immigrant populations:
 - Increases tensions between immigrants and native population (Coates 2020)
 - Exacerbates existing language barriers, low social capital, housing insecurity, and severe poverty

Background

- Measures put in place to mitigate the pandemic may also affect them differently:
 - Essential workers where social distancing
 - Sanitary precautions,
 - Self-isolation (Reid, Ronda-Perez, and Schenker 2021)

Background

- Research on the racial and ethnic health disparities during the COVID-19 crisis can be divided into two main categories:
- 1 Studies addressing the socio-economic determinants of health (Drefahl et al. 2020; Greenaway et al. 2020; Lopez, Hart, and Katz 2021; Pacheco et al. 2020; Sundaram et al. 2020).

Background

- Research on the racial and ethnic health disparities during the COVID-19 crisis can be divided into two main categories:
 - 1 Studies addressing the socio-economic determinants of health (Drefahl et al. 2020; Greenaway et al. 2020; Lopez, Hart, and Katz 2021; Pacheco et al. 2020; Sundaram et al. 2020).
 - 2 Studies examining the delivery of health interventions and policies (Aragona et al. 2020; Cross and Gonzalez Benson 2021; Desai and Samari 2020; Doyle 2020; Gilman et al. 2020; Hargreaves et al. 2020; Langellier 2020; Nezafat Maldonado et al. 2020;).

Background

- Several knowledge gaps in the existing literature:
 - Lack of household data
 - Limited to very specific outcomes variables
 - Ignore the situation of the immigrants population, especially in Quebec/Canada
 - Limited to individual and not to the situation of the family

Objectives

- 1 Understand the familial situation due to COVID-19 in terms of :
 - Exposure
 - Consequences
 - Assistance from Governments
- 2 Compare the immigrant and native Quebec populations

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- 2 Compare the immigrant and native Quebec populations
- 3 Compare the different groups within the immigrant population

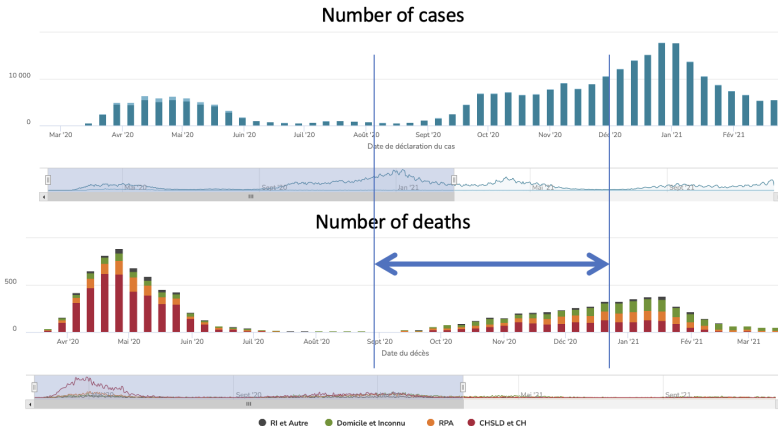
Methodology

Data

- Original collection of biographical data on immigrants and the native population of Quebec (TRAJIPAQ)
 - Study their participation in Quebec society in various domains (social, economic, cultural, etc.)
- Limited to recent immigration (past 15 years)
- Retrace the life course of individuals since the age of 15
- In total, 1,563 people were surveyed:
 - 1,063 immigrants and 500 natives

Data

■ Data collected from August to November 2020



Data

- COVID-19 component of the survey used a **reduced version of the harmonized questionnaire on exposure and the impact of Covid19 on the family (CEFIS)**
- Questions divided into three parts:
 - Exposure to the disease
 - Consequences
 - getting resources
 - abilities to perform usual duties
 - on employment and income
 - Assistance from federal and provincial governments
- Characteristics of the respondents, their immigration history, their educational and family background

Dependent variables

1 Exposure to the disease: Measured by eight questions

- A family member continued to work away from home (essential worker)
- A family member is a health care provider / first responder providing direct care
- We quarantined ourselves due to travel or possible exposure
- Has a family member been exposed to someone with COVID-19?
- Has a family member shown symptoms or been diagnosed with COVID-19?
- Has a family member been hospitalized for COVID-19?
- Was a family member in the intensive care unit (ICU) for COVID-19?
- Has a family member died of COVID-19?

Dependent variables

2. Consequences on getting ressources

- We had difficulty obtaining food
- We had trouble getting medicine
- Our family lived separately for health, safety or employment reasons
- We had difficulty getting health care when we needed it
- We lost health insurance / benefits
- We missed an important family event or it was canceled (for example, wedding, graduation, birth, funeral, travel (including vacations))

Dependent variables

2. Consequences on the ability to perform usual duties

- Ability to care for your child with an illness / condition
- Ability to take care of other children in your family
- Ability to care for the elderly or disabled in your family
- Our family lived separately for health, safety or employment reasons
- How family members get along

Dependent variables

2. Consequences on employment and income

- A family member had to reduce their working hours?
- A family member had to stop working (expect to be called back)?
- A family member lost their job permanently?
- Our family income has decreased

Dependent variables

3. Assistance from provincial and federal government

- Measure only for only people who had any consequences on employment or income
 - Did you receive temporary assistance for workers from the Government of Quebec (PATT)?
 - Have you benefited from the Canadian Government's Emergency Benefit (PCU)?
- We create a unique variable

Main independent variables

- 1 Immigrant status coupled with visible minority status
 - Majority group
 - Racialised immigrant (Immigrant and a visible minority)
 - Non-racialised immigrant (Immigrant but not a visible minority)
 - Others (Not considered in the analysis)
- 2 Control variables

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 - Age, sex, level of education, length of residence, marital status, employment status

Methods

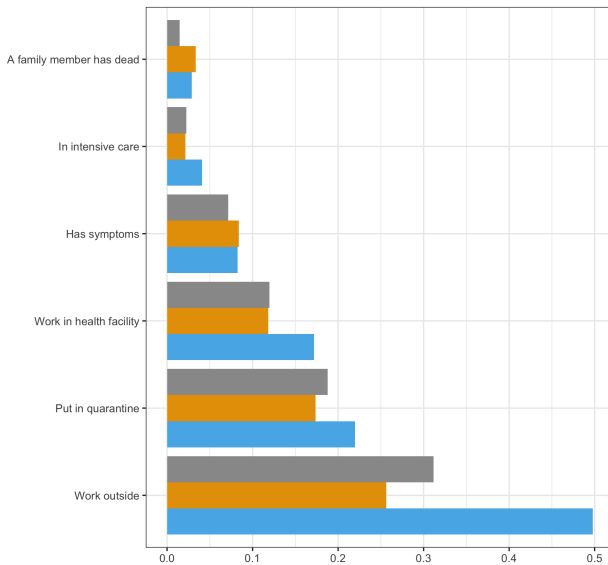
- 1 Logistic regression for binary outcomes
 - Exposure variables
 - Variables on the consequences on getting resources variables
 - Variables on the consequences on employment and income
 - Government assistance variables
- 2 Ordained logistic regression for ordained outcome
 - Variables on the ability perform usual duties are measured in a 5 point Likert scale

Results

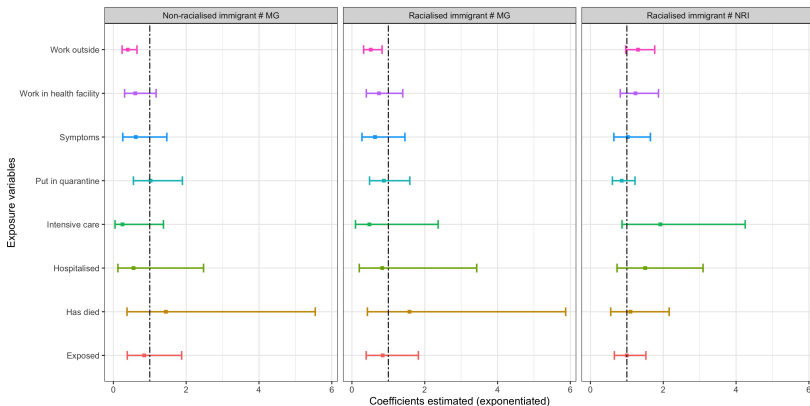
3.1 Sample distribution

	Sample (2020)	Census (2016)
Immigrants	10,5	13,7
Non-immigrants	89,5	
Visible minority	18,6	13,0
Not a visible minority	77,2	
NA	4,2	

3.2 Immigrant's status and exposure to COVID-19



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Key findings on the consequences

- Racialised immigrants and non-racialised immigrants are **more likely** to having difficulty to get health care compared to a person of the majority group, all other factors held constant.

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- Racialised immigrants and non-racialised immigrants are **more likely** to having difficulty to get health care compared to a person of the majority group, all other factors held constant.
- Compared to the majority group or to the non-racialised immigrants, the racialised immigrants are **more likely** to have difficulty getting food or to loose family insurance, all other factors held constant.

Key findings on the consequences

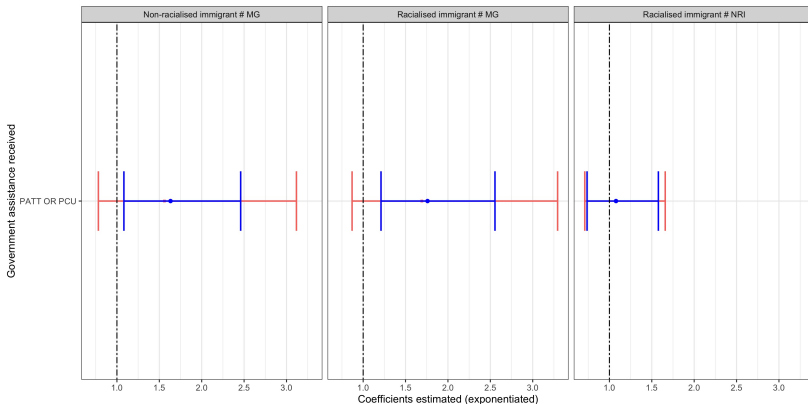
- The non-racialised immigrants and the racialised immigrants have lower difficulty to care for illness children in their family, compared to the majority group
- Racialised immigrants are more likely to to have a family member stop working (compared to non-racialised immigrants), lost his job or have reduced income (compared to the two other groups), all other factors held constant.

Key findings on the consequences

- The non-racialised immigrants and the racialised immigrants have lower difficulty to care for illness children in their family, compared to the majority group
- Racialised immigrants are more likely to to have a family member stop working (compared to non-racialised immigrants), lost his job or have reduced income (compared to the two other groups), all other factors held constant.
- There is no difference between the majority and the non-racialised immigrants for these outcomes

Key findings on the government assistance

- No difference between the groups in terms of the assistance received



Conclusion

Conclusion

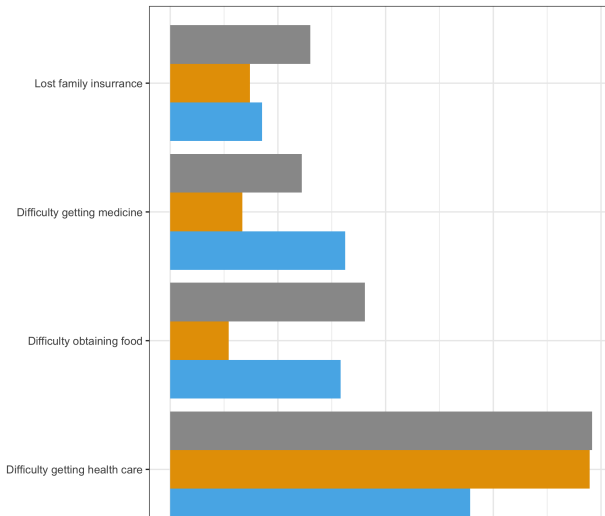
- This study highlights the importance to go beyond individuals to consider the situation of the family during the pandemic
- Large differences emerge between the different groups of the population with more severe consequences on the racialised immigrants
- In subsequent analysis, it might be interesting to
 - assess how the situation differ by level of education
 - and document the family member who is the most affected
- Limits: the sample size is too small to reveal some differences between the group

Thanks

- Researched funded by the Ministry of Immigration, Francization and Integration of Quebec (MIFI), in collaboration with the Quebec Research Fund - Society and Culture (FRQSC) as part of the Concerted Actions program.

Results from the key findings

3.3 Immigrant's status and abilities to getting ressources due to COVID-19



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■ Racialised immigrants are more affected

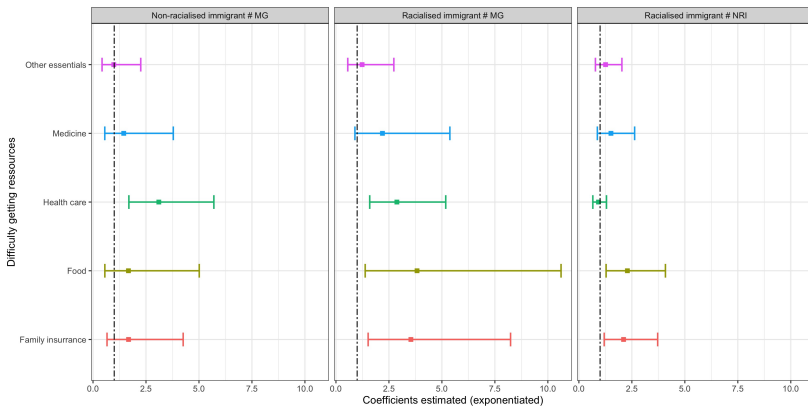
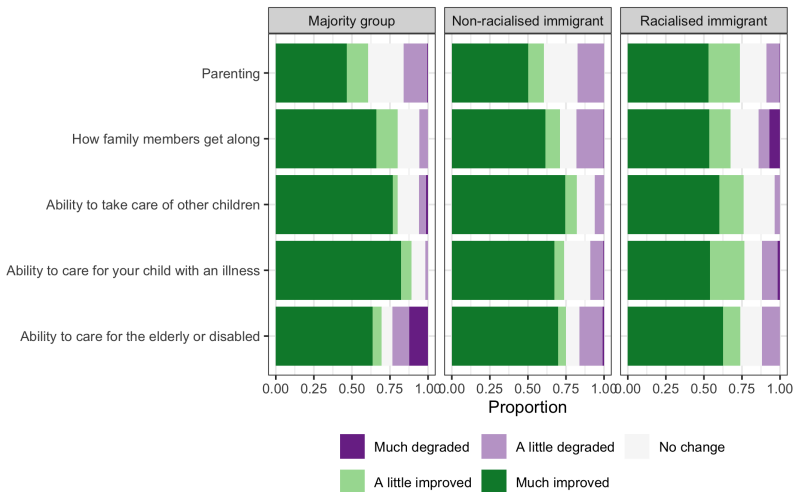
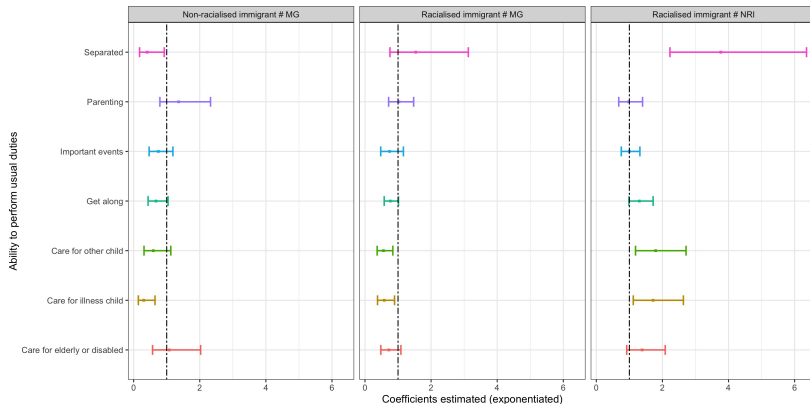


Figure 2: Difficulty getting resources

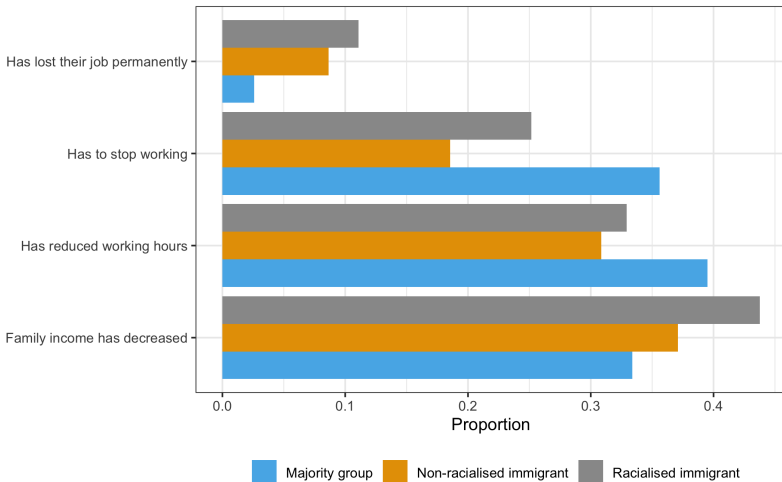
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3.5 Immigrant's status and employment and income due to COVID-19



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