

RISK OF GUN INJURIES IN IMMIGRANT CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Question

Do immigrant children and youth in Ontario have a higher risk of firearm injuries than Canadian-born youth?

Background

Test the immigrant paradox:

Even though immigrants may be more socially disadvantaged, they tend to have better health outcomes than nonimmigrants.

Study

- Population-based cohort study using data available and linked at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences' (ICES)
- Ontario residents 24 years and younger from 2008 to 2012
- Authors estimated rate ratios of firearm injuries by immigrant status using Poisson regression models with Generalized Estimating Equations

Results

Person-years in the analysis:

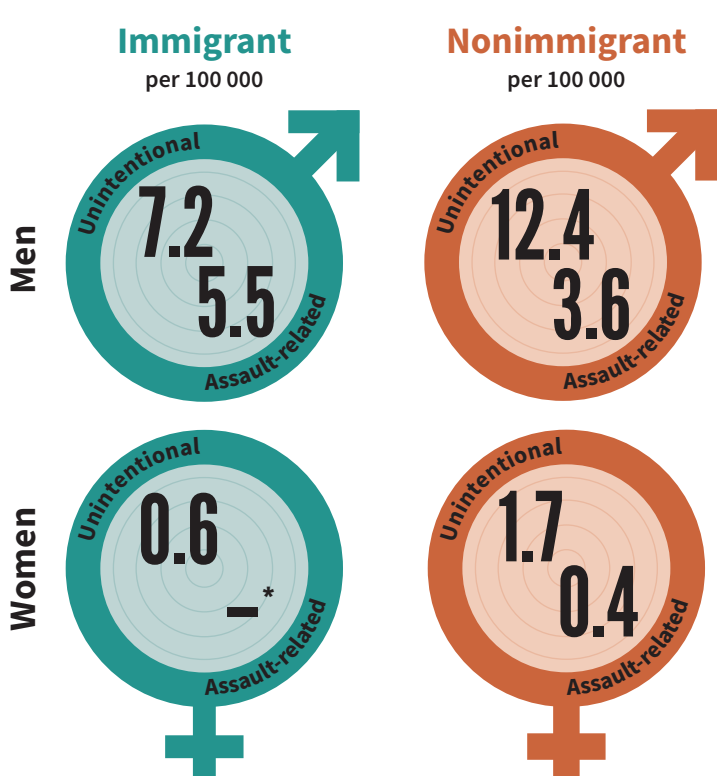
4 551 291 immigrant

15 866 954 nonimmigrant



Almost 1 child or youth was injured by a firearm **every day** in Ontario

75% unintentional **25%** assault-related



Compared with nonimmigrants:

Nonrefugee immigrants had a

55%
lower risk

of unintentional firearm injury

Refugees had a

43%
higher risk

of assault-related firearm injury

Immigrants from **Africa and Central America** accounted for **43%** of unintentional firearm injuries among immigrants & **68%** of assault-related firearm injuries among immigrants

Interpretation

- Nonimmigrant youth had the highest rates of unintentional firearm injury, supporting a healthy immigrant effect for some but not all groups
- The risk of assault-related firearm injury was higher among refugees and immigrants from Africa and Central America compared with nonimmigrants
- Prevention strategies for firearm safety should target nonimmigrant youth as well as these newly identified high-risk immigrant populations