



Immigration detention statistics 2015

The following statistics are derived from data on detention reviews held in 2015 by the Immigration Division of the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB). The data was acquired by the Canadian Council for Refugees through an Access to Information Request.

The statistics do not cover all people detained, since some are released by the Canada Border Services Agency before they are brought before the IRB for a detention review.

Although not complete, these statistics are useful in providing some information on people in detention, given the shortcomings in the detention statistics held by the Canada Border Services Agency.

Children in detention

At least 82 children were detained in 2015. This does not include children who were in detention accompanying a parent, as “guests”. Children were detained for an average of 23 days. Altogether these children spent a total of 1,922 days in detention.

	Minors detained	Average days detained	Maximum # of days	Sum of Days Detained
Montreal, QC	46	11	49	516
Toronto, ON	33	42	222	1,389
Vancouver, BC	3	6	12	17
Total	82	23	222	1,922

The data does not indicate which detainees were refugee claimants, but does indicate whether the hearing was held in private, which the law requires in cases involving refugee claimants. It is possible that in some cases not involving refugee claimants the Immigration Division decided to hold a private hearing, but such cases are not likely to be many. We are interpreting private hearings as indicating that the persons were refugee claimants.

Refugee claimant minors				
	Minor claimants detained	Average days detained	Maximum # of days	Sum of Days Detained
Montreal, QC	23	17	49	401
Toronto, ON	3	53	69	159
Vancouver, BC	1	4	4	4
Total	27	21	69	564

85% of detained refugee claimant children were detained in Montreal (at the CBSA detention centre in Laval), representing half of the minors detained in Montreal.

In both Montreal and Toronto, the children who were refugee claimants spent on average longer in detention than the children who were not refugee claimants.

Reasons for detention of minors			
Reasons for detention	Montreal, QC	Toronto, ON	Vancouver, BC
Danger & Unlikely		1	
Identity	14		
Unlikely & Identity	1		
Unlikely to Appear	30	32	3
Not reported	1		
Grand Total	46	33	3

Only one child was detained on grounds related to danger to the public or security. The others were detained on the grounds of identity not being satisfactorily established, or flight risk, or a combination of the two.

All detainees released or removed

There were in total 4,258 detainees released or removed in 2015 following a detention review. This number does not include people who remained in detention at the end of 2015 or people who were released from detention before a detention review.

Hearing location	Detainees	Average # days detained	Sum of days detained
Calgary, AB	6	20	119
Montreal, QC	1,225	45	54,577
Niagara Falls, ON	93	23	2,153
Toronto, ON	1,953	76	147,584
Vancouver, BC	981	28	27,833
Grand Total	4,258	55	232,266

The 4,258 individuals had collectively spent a total of 232,266 days in detention by the time they were released or removed.

Note: Hearing location refers to the IRB office hearing the detention review, and not necessarily the location of the detainee.

Gender	Female	Male
Calgary, AB	1	5
Montreal, QC	248	971
Niagara Falls, ON	10	83
Toronto, ON	371	1,581
Vancouver, BC	156	825
Grand Total	786	3,465

Refugee claimants*	Number	% of total detainees	Average # of Days Detained
Montreal, QC	320	26%	37
Niagara Falls, ON	13	14%	54
Toronto, ON	206	11%	99
Vancouver, BC	146	15%	54
Grand Total	685	16%	59

* files not public

Refugee claimants make up the highest proportion of detainees in Montreal, at 26% of all detainees. Refugee claimants detained in Toronto spend on average much more time behind bars than in other regions. At an average of 99 days, detained refugee claimants in Toronto are also detained longer than non-refugee claimants in Toronto.

Refugee claimants detained on identity and/or unlikely to appear grounds (no danger, security)				
	Number	% of claimants detained	Average # of Days Detained	Sum of Days Detained
Montreal, QC	305	95%	33	10,099
Niagara Falls, ON	11	85%	49	537
Toronto, ON	193	94%	89	17,116
Vancouver, BC	131	90%	40	5,185
Grand Total	640	93%	51	32,937

The vast majority (93%) of refugee claimants detained are detained on grounds of identify or flight risk, with no allegations that they represent a danger to the public or a security risk. These refugee claimants each spent on average 51 days in detention, and together were detained 32,937 days.

Detainees who are not refugee claimants*			
	Number	Average # of Days Detained	Sum of Days Detained
Calgary, AB	6	20	119
Montreal, QC	905	47	42,860
Niagara Falls, ON	80	18	1,452
Toronto, ON	1,747	73	127,290
Vancouver, BC	835	24	19,975
Grand Total	3,573	54	191,696

* Detainees released or removed after a detention review that was public.

