

Immigrant Women's Roundtable Report

*A comprehensive look at immigrant women
and their families living in Cambridge*

Cambridge, Massachusetts
January 2012

Prepared by:



CAMBRIDGE COMMISSION
ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

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Cambridge Immigrant Women Roundtable

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Introduction

This report offers community leaders, city departments, agencies, and others a practical, convenient way of looking at immigrant women and their families living in Cambridge today.

This report is a response to community members who voiced their concern that immigrant women's influence is typically neglected, especially in quantitative city-wide statistics. The absence of any accurate source of data concerning immigrant women living in Cambridge not only hinders their participation in, and use of, the programs and services that are available to them, but also conceals the gaps in service that still exist.

In late 2008, sixty Cambridge community stakeholders and policy and program leaders attended the Women's Data Workshop on the *Report on the Status of Women and Girls in Cambridge*, a comprehensive, first-of-its-kind report on the status of women and girls in the city (www.cambridgewomenscommission.org/download/StatusReport2008.pdf). Written by the Cambridge Women's Commission, in collaboration with the Institute for Community Health and the Cambridge Public Health Department, the report is an accessible resource that enables policymakers, program developers, and others to see a current picture of women and girls in Cambridge in five key areas: economic issues, older women, women's health, women's safety, and young women/girls.

While supporting the significance of this report, participants noted that certain women's voices were not sufficiently represented in the data. Participants stressed that we needed to lead the charge to increase gender-based data collection for these groups, including Cambridge's immigrant population. Subsequently, the Immigrant Women's Roundtable was formed.

Chaired by the Cambridge Women's Commission, the Immigrant Women's Roundtable is composed of agencies, program providers and immigrant women. Its mission is to improve the mechanisms to reach and serve marginalized communities in the city and to engage them not only as immigrants, but as women. The report was developed to gather data to better connect with elected officials, city departments and agencies.

The report comprises data from a variety of sources. The main source is the 2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey. The survey was written and developed by the Immigrant Women's Roundtable. Some questions were based on a survey included in the *New American Media, Women Immigrants: Stewards of the 21st Century Family* report. While printed only in English, the survey was vetted and edited by Community Engagement Team Outreach Workers. The Outreach Workers also helped develop



a comprehensive written introduction for survey participants and a Frequently Asked Questions sheet that accompanied each survey. Surveys were distributed and collected by the Outreach Workers and Immigrant Women Roundtable members. The Immigrant Women's Roundtable received 196 completed questionnaires.

Other sources of data include the United States Census, the American Community Survey, Cambridge School Department and the Community Learning Center.

Executive Summary

Those in the community with an interest connecting immigrant women and their families in Cambridge with community programs, and looking to find what types of services and programming are working, and what services and programs are missing, are invited to use this report.

Some interesting highlights of the report include:

- Nearly two-thirds of those interviewed had been in the United States for 10 years or less.
- Most women moved here to create a better life for their children.
- 27% of children enrolled in Cambridge schools speak a language other than English at home.
- No woman reported using a family childcare or a preschool center for their children.
- Over 40% of women had at least one year of college or other post high-school education.
- 40% of immigrant women in Cambridge reported having household income of less than \$25,000 a year; less than 10% reported having annual household income of more than \$50,000.
- Of those women with children, about 7% reported that their children do not receive vaccinations.
- 32% of the sample does not understand their rights as immigrants in Cambridge; 20% have "OK" knowledge of their rights.
- 52% are aware of the existence of laws protecting women.
- More than 20% do not understand spoken English well and are not comfortable asking questions in English. Almost 50% have taken English classes in Cambridge.

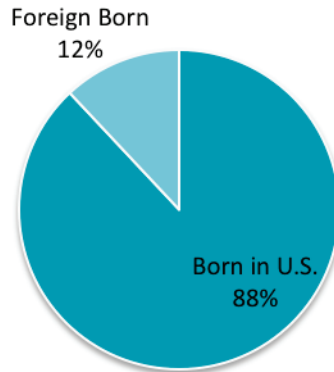
Moving forward, our goal is for readers to examine the data as it relates to their own agencies, programming and policies. Each organization and community stakeholder can use the information to inform future decisions and program planning. The Immigrant Women's Roundtable will be organizing more events and discussions throughout the community to continue the discussions sparked by this data.



I. Demographics

Countries of Origin, Gender, Age

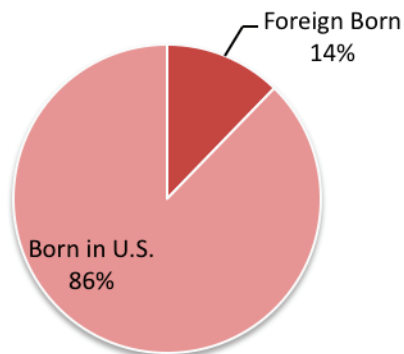
Foreign Born vs. U.S. Born: United States of America



Source: U.S. Census Bureau,
2005-2009 American
Community Survey

Of the total population of the United States, 12% were born outside of the country.

Foreign Born vs. U.S. Born: Massachusetts

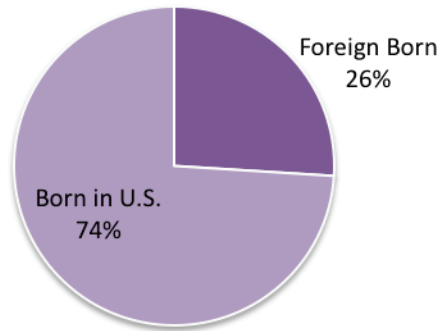


Source: U.S. Census Bureau,
2005-2009 American
Community Survey

Of the total Massachusetts population, 14% were born outside of the country.



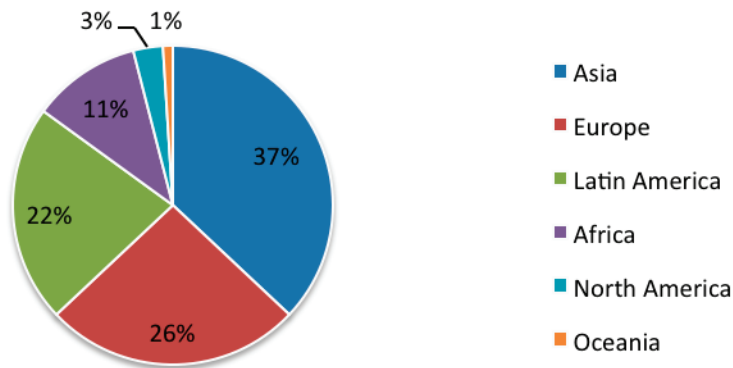
Foreign Born vs. U.S. Born: Cambridge, MA



Source: U.S. Census Bureau,
2005-2009 American
Community Survey

Of the total Cambridge population (105,061), 26% (27,316) were born outside of the United States. The percentage of foreign born residents of Cambridge is more than twice the national average, and nearly double the immigrant population of Massachusetts.

Foreign Born Cambridge Residents: Where are they from?



Source: U.S. Census
Bureau, 2005-2009
American Community
Survey

Of the 26% of Cambridge residents who are foreign-born, 37% were born in Asia, 26% were born in Europe, 22% were born Latin America, 11% were born in Africa, 3% were born in Northern America, and 1% were born in Oceania. A more specific breakdown can be found in the following graph.



Countries of Origin for Foreign Born Cambridge Residents

TOTAL	27,316	Ukraine.....	119
Europe:	7,106	Bosnia and Herzegovina.....	25
Northern Europe:.....	1,603	Yugoslavia.....	64
United Kingdom (inc. Crown Dependencies): .	912	Serbia.....	42
United Kingdom, excluding England		Other Eastern Europe.....	63
and Scotland.....	453	Africa:	3,065
England.....	360	Eastern Africa:.....	2,082
Scotland.....	99	Eritrea.....	110
Ireland.....	243	Ethiopia.....	1,402
Denmark.....	51	Kenya.....	54
Norway.....	111	Other Eastern Africa.....	516
Sweden.....	205	Middle Africa:.....	77
Other Northern Europe.....	81	Cameroon.....	17
Western Europe:.....	1,649	Other Middle Africa.....	60
Austria.....	67	Northern Africa:.....	386
Belgium.....	85	Egypt.....	62
France.....	581	Morocco.....	214
Germany.....	634	Sudan.....	53
Netherlands.....	160	Other Northern Africa.....	57
Switzerland.....	122	Southern Africa:.....	122
Southern Europe:.....	1,952	South Africa.....	90
Greece.....	202	Other Southern Africa.....	32
Italy.....	712	Western Africa:.....	340
Portugal.....	746	Cape Verde.....	66
Spain.....	284	Ghana.....	170
Other Southern Europe.....	8	Liberia.....	7
Eastern Europe:.....	1,902	Nigeria.....	68
Albania.....	85	Other Western Africa.....	29
Belarus.....	9	Africa, n.e.c.....	58
Bulgaria.....	186	Asia:	9,964
Croatia.....	46	Eastern Asia:.....	5,466
Czechoslovakia (includes Czech Republic		China:.....	3,536
and Slovakia).....	120	China, excluding Hong Kong and Taiwan..	2,606
Hungary.....	17	Hong Kong.....	355
Latvia.....	63	Taiwan.....	575
Lithuania.....	24	Japan.....	754
Moldova.....	35	Korea.....	1,176
Poland.....	273	South Central Asia:.....	2,585
Romania.....	271	Afghanistan.....	10
Russia.....	502		



Bangladesh	623	West Indies	21
India	1,525	Other Caribbean	10
Iran	217	Central America:	1,331
Kazakhstan	21	Mexico	588
Nepal	35	Costa Rica	32
Pakistan	109	El Salvador	246
Sri Lanka	34	Guatemala	163
Other South Central Asia	11	Honduras	112
South Eastern Asia:	741	Nicaragua	32
Laos	31	Panama	149
Malaysia	25	Other Central America	9
Philippines	146	South America:	1,669
Singapore	126	Argentina	403
Thailand	177	Bolivia	18
Vietnam	236	Brazil	527
Western Asia:	1,172	Chile	61
Iraq	10	Colombia	144
Israel	355	Ecuador	112
Jordan	15	Guyana	29
Kuwait	11	Peru	275
Lebanon	105	Venezuela	93
Saudi Arabia	40	Other South America	7
Turkey	341	Northern America:	894
Armenia	140	Canada	877
Other Western Asia	155	Other Northern America	17
Oceania:	301		
Australia and New Zealand Subregion:	293		
Australia	227		
Other Australian and New Zealand Subregion	66		
Fiji	8		
Americas:	6,880		
Latin America:	5,986		
Caribbean:	2,986		
Barbados	211		
Cuba	53		
Dominican Republic	456		
Haiti	2,053		
Jamaica	115		
Trinidad and Tobago	67		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey



Most Common Countries of Origin for Foreign Born Cambridge Residents



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey

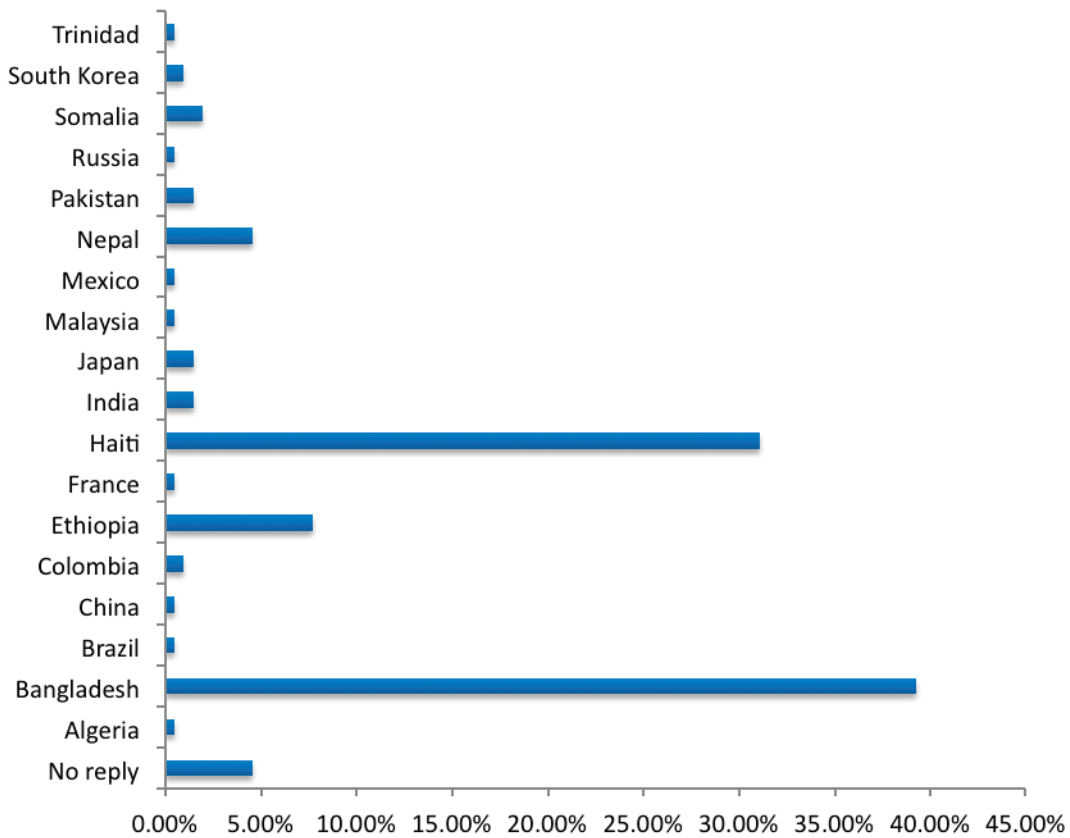
The US Census data captures all immigrants living in Cambridge, including those here temporarily for study and research. Undergraduate and graduate students, along with their families, are an important subset of Cambridge's foreign-born population. At Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge's two largest universities, 2010 numbers indicated that 6,900 foreign born women and men were studying at one of these two universities: 855 from China, 771 from Canada, 586 from Korea, 502 from India, 196 Singapore, and 190 from Taiwan. These students are largely graduate students. Breakdown by gender was not available.

For the purpose of the June 2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Report, these individuals were not included in the survey outreach efforts because their need for services are different than those who settle here permanently.

(Source: MIT Institutional Research, Office of the Provost; Harvard International Office)



Country of Origin: 2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey

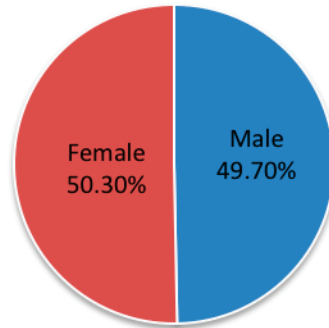


Source: June 2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey

Close to 40% of 196 participants from the 2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey are from Bangladesh and 30% are from Haiti. The remaining 30% are from 16 additional countries. Since the survey was conducted in partnership with the Cambridge Learning Center, with the help of CET Outreach Workers, certain populations were more readily accessible and were therefore represented in higher numbers than the general Cambridge immigrant population.



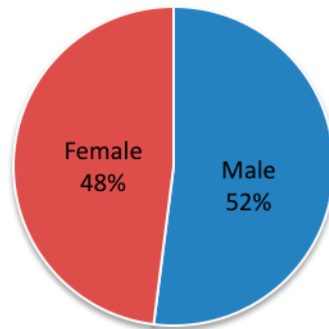
Total Cambridge Population: Gender Breakdown



Source: U.S. Census Bureau,
2005-2009 American
Community Survey

Just over 50% of Cambridge residents identify as female, and 49.7% identify as male.

Cambridge Foreign-Born Population: Gender Breakdown

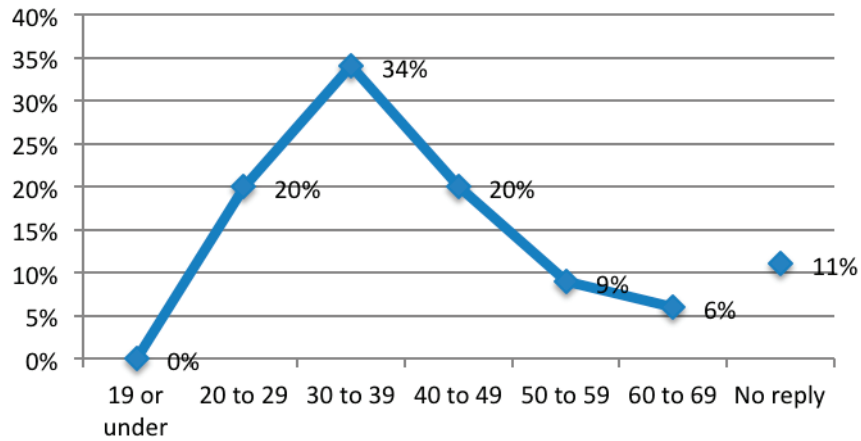


Source: U.S. Census Bureau,
2005-2009 American
Community Survey

In the total foreign-born population of Cambridge, 48% (13,166) identify as female, and 52% identify as male.



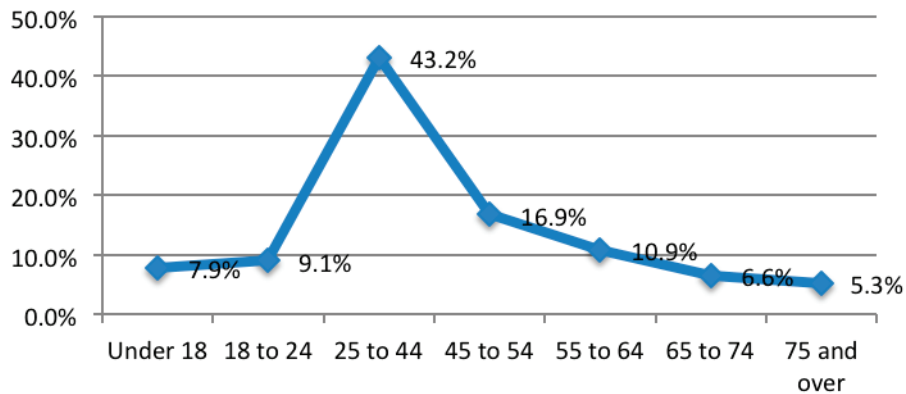
Age of Foreign-Born Women: 2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey



Source: June 2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey

Of the women who took the survey, 1% were 19 or under, 20% were in their 20's, 34% in their 30's, 20% in their 40's, 9% in their 50's, and 6% in their 60's.

Age of Foreign-Born Women: US Census Data



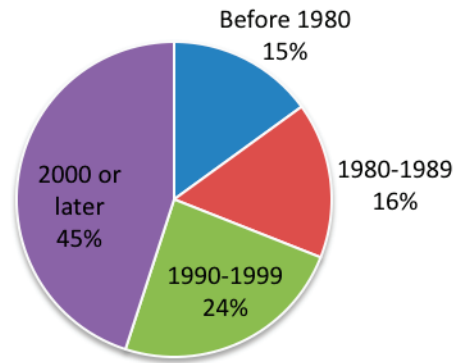
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey

Ninety-two percent of foreign-born females in Cambridge are over 18 years old.



II. Immigration Trends

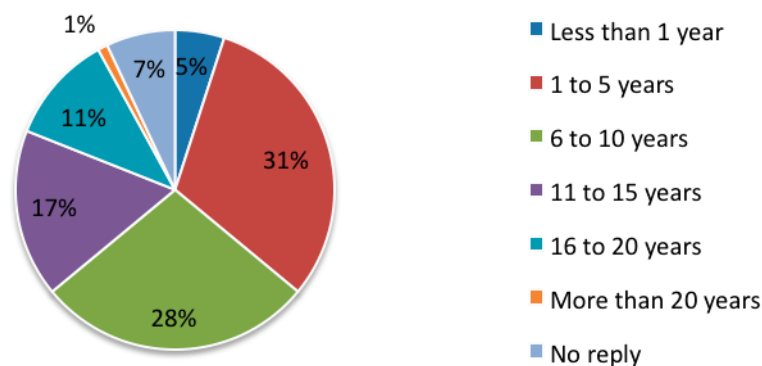
Year Entered the United States: Cambridge Immigrants



Source: U.S. Census Bureau,
2005-2009 American
Community Survey

Of the total number of foreign-born persons living in Cambridge, 15% immigrated to this country before 1980, 16% immigrated between 1980 and 1989, 24% immigrated between 1990 and 1999, and 45% immigrated after 2000. This number includes students who are in Cambridge temporarily.

Years Living in the United States: 2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey

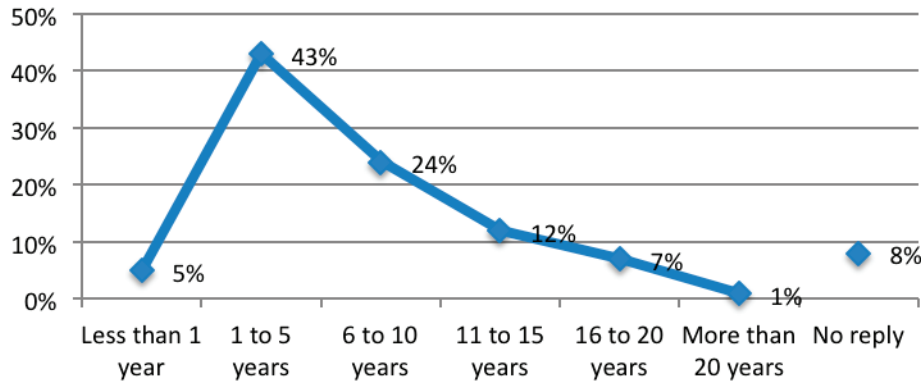


Source: June 2010
Immigrant Women's
Roundtable Survey

Overall, 34% of respondents have been in the United States 10 years or more. Over 52% of Haitian women responded that they had been in the United States for more than 10 years while only 27% of Ethiopian women and 17% of Bengali women had been here 10 years or more.



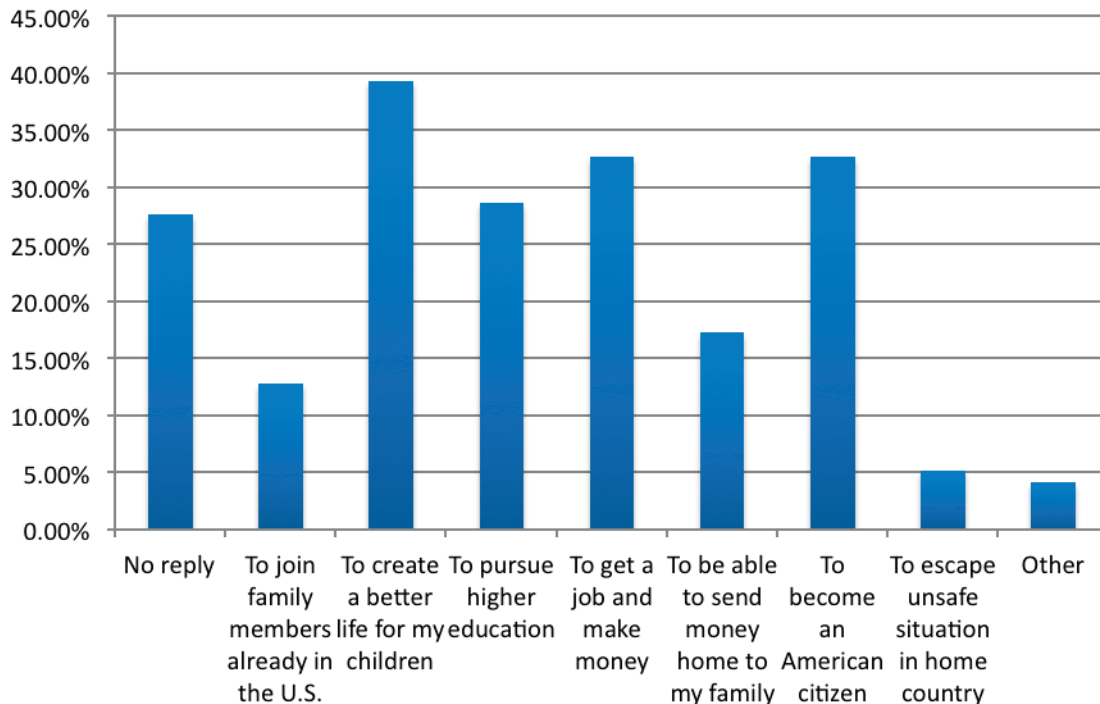
Years Living in Cambridge: 2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey



Source: June 2010
Immigrant Women's
Roundtable Survey

Eighty-eight percent of the sample has lived in Cambridge for more than a year. Nearly 43% have lived in Cambridge for more than 5 years. In addition, families from Bangladesh are the most recent immigrants to Cambridge. More than 10% of Bengali respondents have been here less than a year.

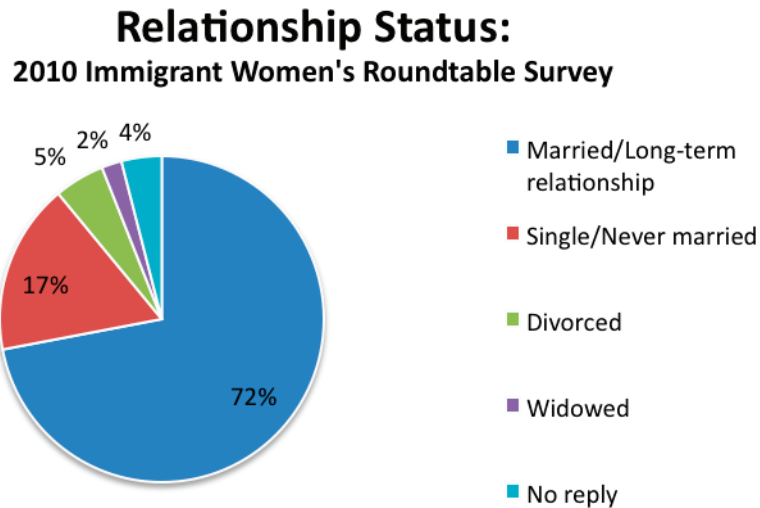
Why did you move to Cambridge?



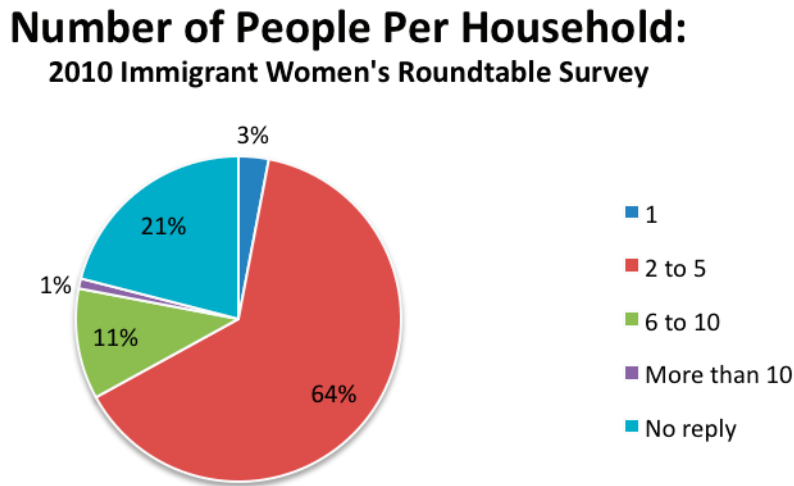
Source: June 2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey

Just under 40% of the women moved to Cambridge to create a better life for their children. Respondents were able to choose multiple reasons.

III. Family Life and Children



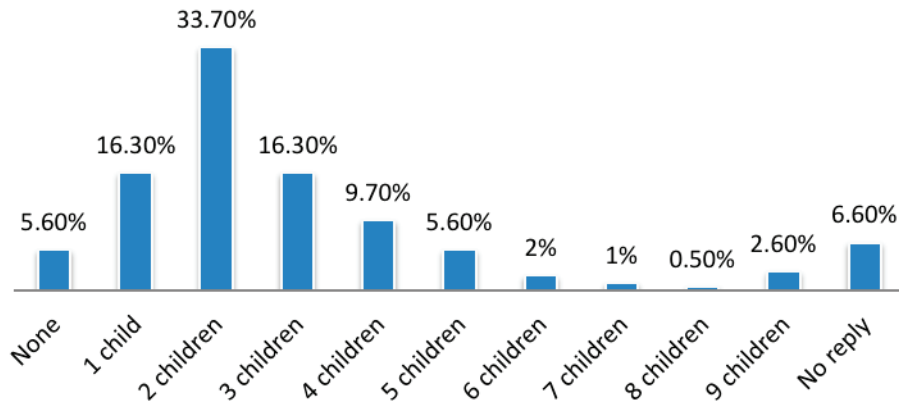
72% of the sample are married or in long-term relationships. Less than 5% are divorced.



Twelve percent of the women are living in a household with 6 or more people.



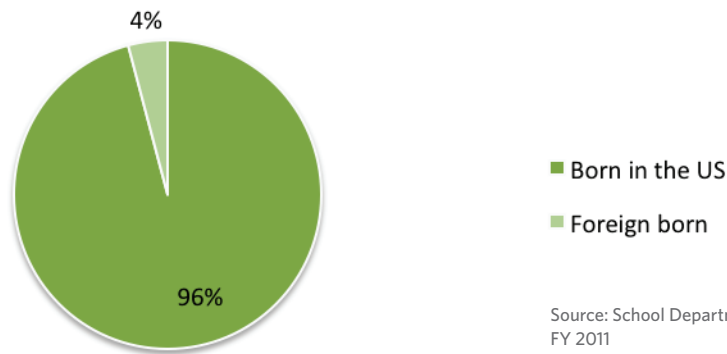
Number of Children Per Household: 2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey



Source: June 2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey

Eighty-eight percent of the women report having at least one child. Twenty-one percent have 4 or more children.

Birthplace of School Children: Cambridge, MA

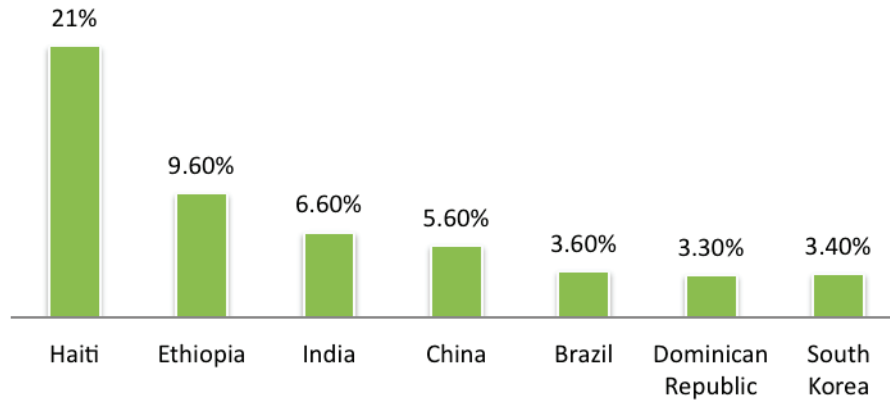


Source: School Department,
FY 2011

In the 2010-2011 school year, 6,060 children enrolled in Cambridge public schools. Just over 4% of these children were not born in the United States. This number does not reflect American-born children of immigrant parents.



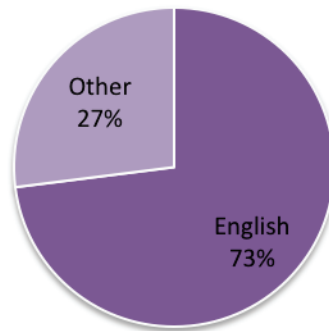
Birthplace of Foreign-Born School Children Cambridge, MA



Source: Cambridge School Department, FY 2011

Of the 4% of children enrolled in the Cambridge School system who are foreign born, 21% are from Haiti.

Language Spoken at Home: Cambridge School Children

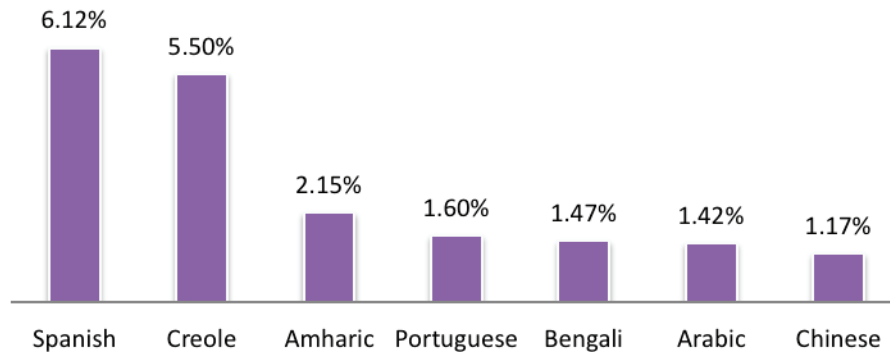


Source: School Department, FY 2011

While only 4% of Cambridge school children are foreign born, 27% (1,644) of children enrolled in Cambridge schools speak a language other than English at home, illustrating the larger numbers of first and second generation families.



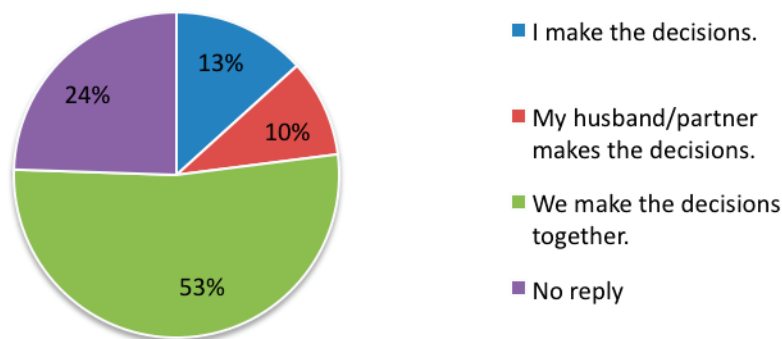
Most Common Foreign Languages Spoken at Home: Cambridge School Children



Source: School Department, FY 2011

Twenty-seven percent of children (1,644) surveyed speak a language other than English at home. While Spanish, Creole, Amharic, Portuguese, Bengali, Arabic, and Chinese make up nearly 20% of languages spoken at home, the remaining 7% include forty-nine other languages.

Decision to have Children: 2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey

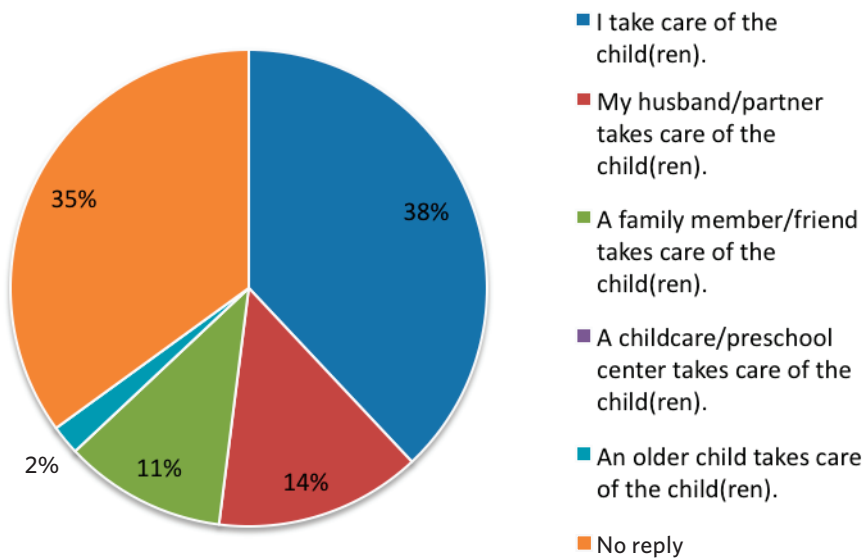


Source: June 2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey

Women responded that they were involved in the decision to have children 66% of the time.



Childcare: 2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey

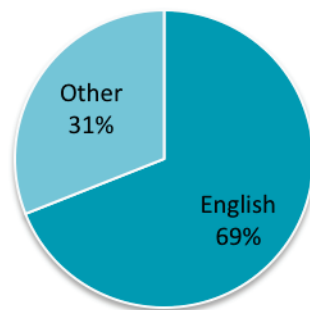


Source: June 2010
Immigrant Women's
Roundtable Survey

Thirty-eight percent of the women provide care for their children themselves. None reported using a family childcare or a preschool center.

IV. Language Skills

Languages Spoken at Home: Cambridge, MA

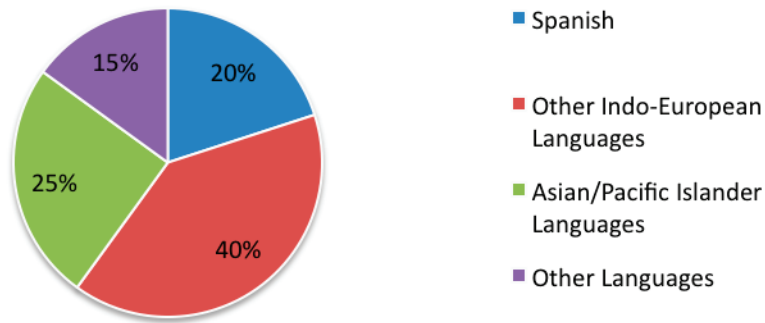


Source: The 2005-2009
American Community
Survey 5-Year Estimate

Among people at least five years old living in Cambridge, 31% spoke a language other than English at home. This is slightly higher than the 27% of Cambridge public school students who speak a language other than English at home.



Languages Spoken at Home Other than English



Source: The 2005-2009 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate

Out of the 31% of Cambridge residents that do not speak English at home, 40% speak other Indo-European Languages (non-Spanish), 25% speak Asian or Pacific Islander Languages, 20% speak Spanish, and 15% speak other languages. A further breakdown of languages can be found in the following table.

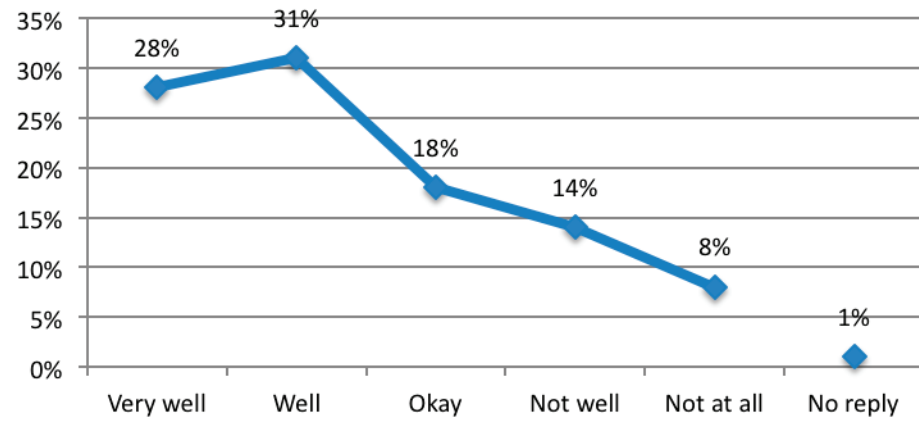
Language Spoken at Home, Cambridge Residents

Language	number of people who speak the language
(Only) English	70,213
Spanish or Spanish Creole	6,104
Chinese	4,512
French (incl. Patois, Cajun)	2,426
French Creole	2,343
African languages	2,316
Portuguese or Portuguese Creole	1,505
Korean	1,316
Other Indic languages	1,145
Italian	929
Other Asian languages	820
Japanese	722
German	713
Russian	712
Hindi	659
Arabic	652
Other Indo-European languages	492
Greek	410
Hebrew	374
Gujarati	354
Other Slavic languages	313
Polish	281
Scandinavian languages	279
Other West Germanic languages	239
Armenian	202
Persian	190
Vietnamese	190
Thai	167
Tagalog	125
Urdu	91
Serbo-Croatian	88
Hungarian	72
Laotian	31
Yiddish	29
Mon-Khmer, Cambodian	20
Other Pacific Island languages	16
Other and unspecified languages	11

Source: The 2005-2009 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate



Ability to Understand English: 2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey

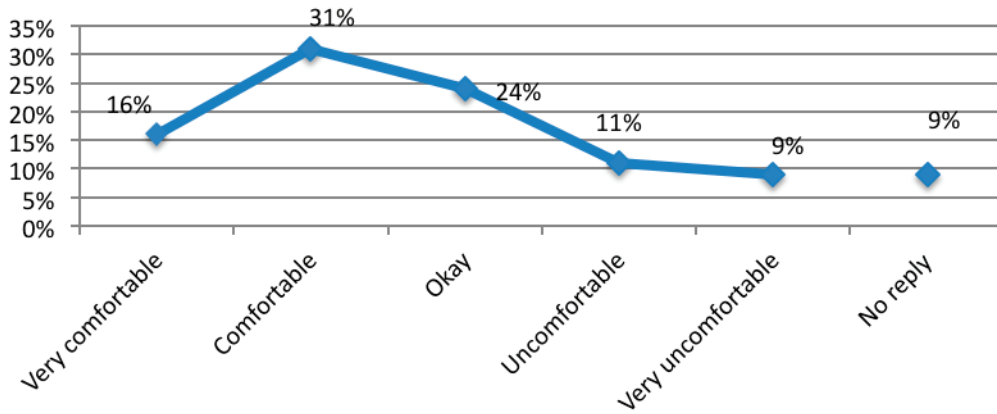


Source: June 2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey

When asked, "How well do you understand English when someone is speaking to you?", nearly 60% of women responded that they could understand English "very well" or "well." Twenty-two percent of the women responded they could understand English "not well" or "not at all." While only 15% of Haitian women said that they could not understand English well, and all Ethiopian women spoke English "OK" or better, over a third of Bengali women, 36%, said their comprehension of English was poor. In addition, older women were much less likely to feel comfortable understanding English than younger women.



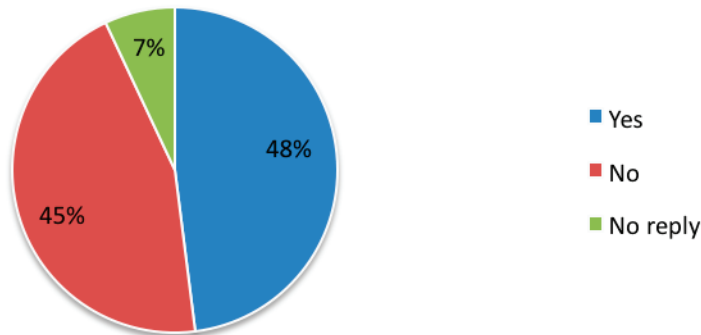
Ability to Speak Basic English: 2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey



Source: June 2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey

When asked "How comfortable are you asking general questions in English?", almost half of women answered "very comfortable" or "comfortable", while 20% of the women answered "uncomfortable" or "very uncomfortable." While the vast majority of Ethiopian and Haitian women are comfortable asking basic questions in English, 37% of Bengali women do not feel comfortable asking basic questions in English. In addition, older women were much less likely to feel comfortable asking questions in English than younger women.

Participation in an English Class: 2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey



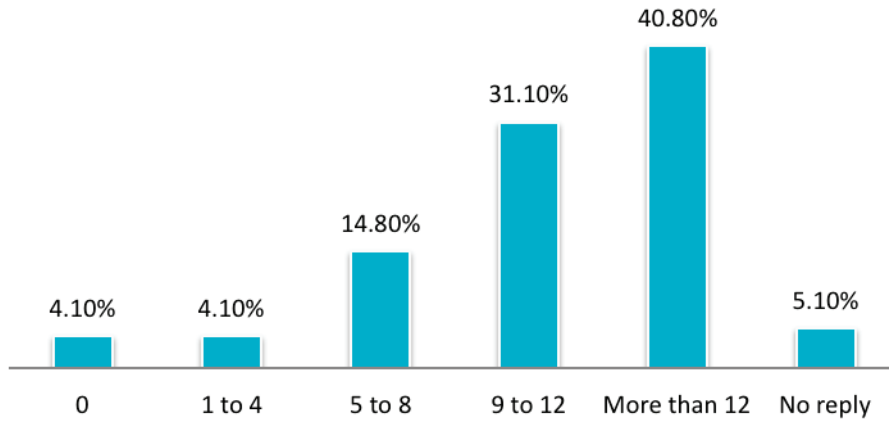
Source: June 2010
Immigrant Women's
Roundtable Survey

Almost half of the women have taken an English class in Cambridge.



V. Education

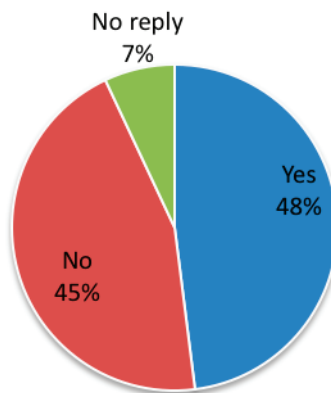
Years of Schooling in Home Country:
2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey



Source: June 2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey

Seventy-two percent of the women had 9 or more years of schooling in their countries of origin. Forty percent had at least one year of college or other post high-school education.

Participation in an English Class
2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey

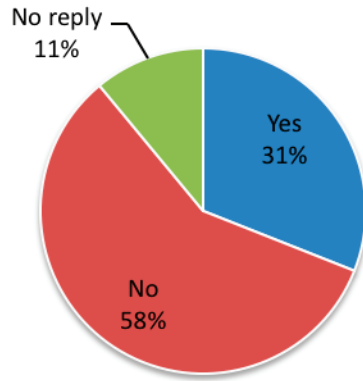


Source: June 2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey

Forty-eight percent of the women have taken an English class in the United States.



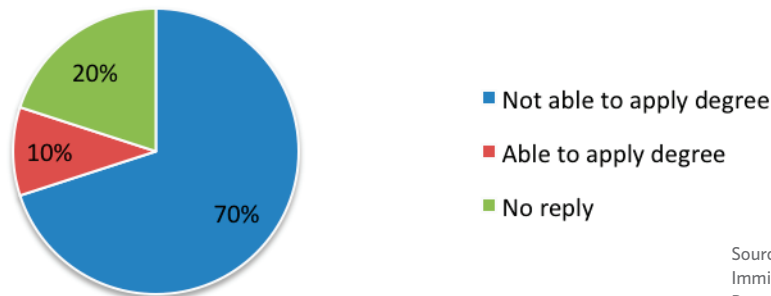
Participation in a Computer Class 2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey



Source: June 2010
Immigrant Women's
Roundtable Survey

Thirty-one percent of the women have taken a computer class in the United States.

Application of Foreign Degrees in the United States: 2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey



Source: June 2010
Immigrant Women's
Roundtable Survey

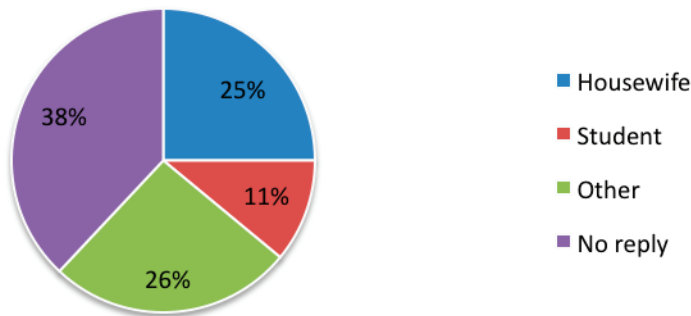
For those women who had a higher education degree, just over two-thirds of them were not using their degrees in the United States.



VI. Economics

Work and Income

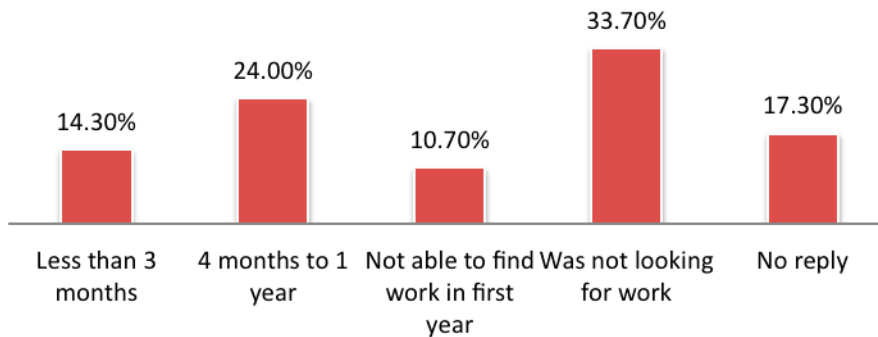
Occupation in Home Country:
2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey



Source: June 2010
Immigrant Women's
Roundtable Survey

The most common occupation for women in their countries of origin was a housewife. Other fields or occupations included banking, business, medical (doctor, nurse, etc.), teacher/school, accountant, service, NGO, cashier, social worker/psychologist, officer, farmer, engineer, childcare, dancer, secretary, seamstress, electrician, and hairstylist.

**Length of Time to Find Work
in the U.S. (Women):**
2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey



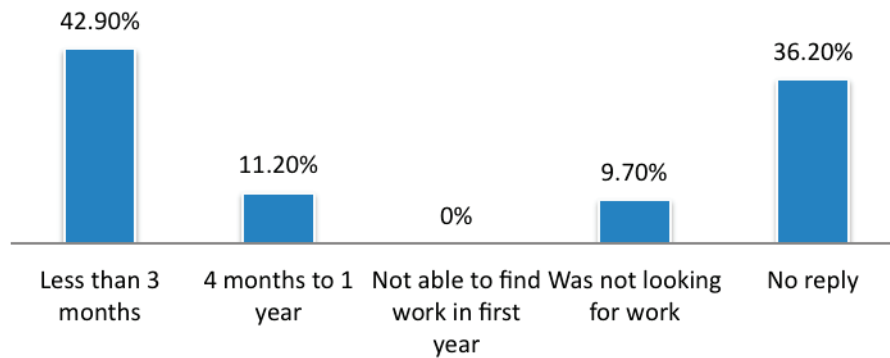
Source: June 2010
Immigrant Women's
Roundtable Survey

When the women first arrived in the United States, 38% were able to find work within the first year.



Length of Time to Find Work in the U.S. (Men):

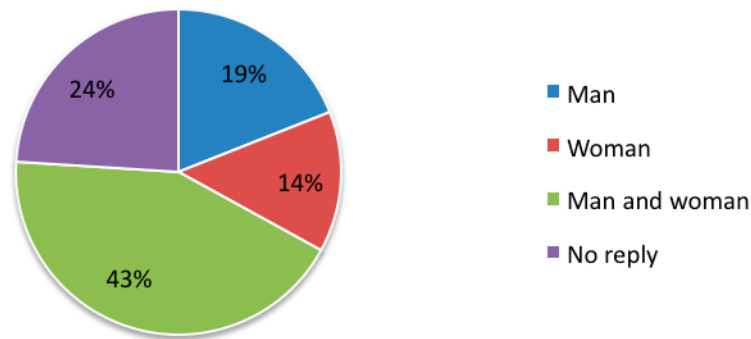
2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey



Source: June 2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey

The women reported that within the first year after arriving in the United States, 54% of their husbands were able to find work.

Financial Decision Making: 2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey

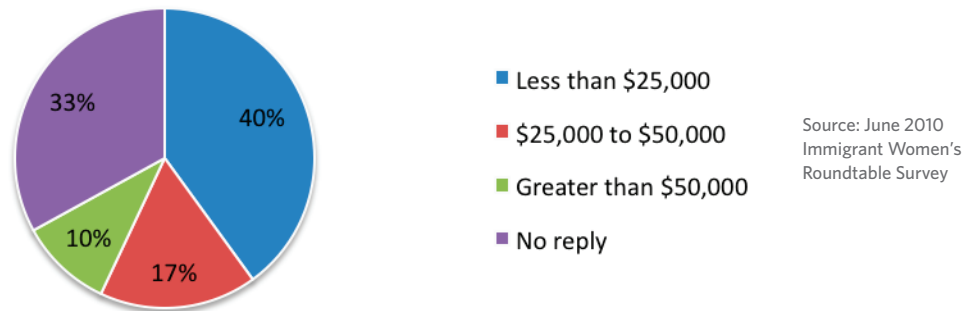


Source: June 2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey

When asked "Who makes the financial decisions in your family?", 19% of the women say that the men make the financial decisions in the household. Thirty-eight percent of Bengali women said this was the case.

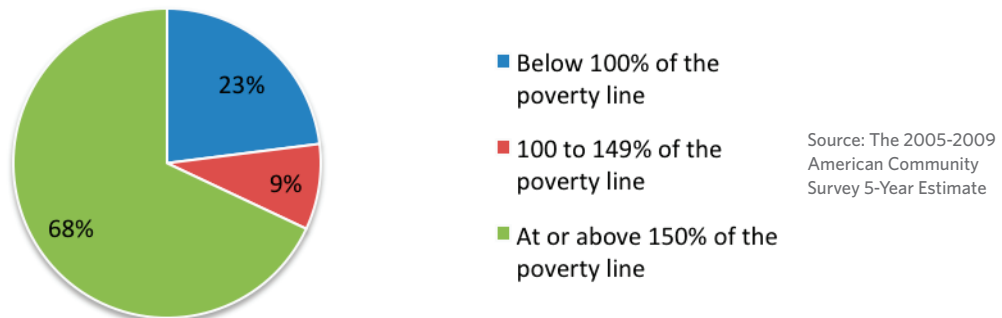


Household Income: 2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey



The majority of immigrant women in Cambridge have a household income of less than \$25,000 a year (40%); less than 10% have an annual household income of more than \$50,000; and almost 33% chose not to disclose this information.

Poverty Status of Foreign-Born Cambridge Residents



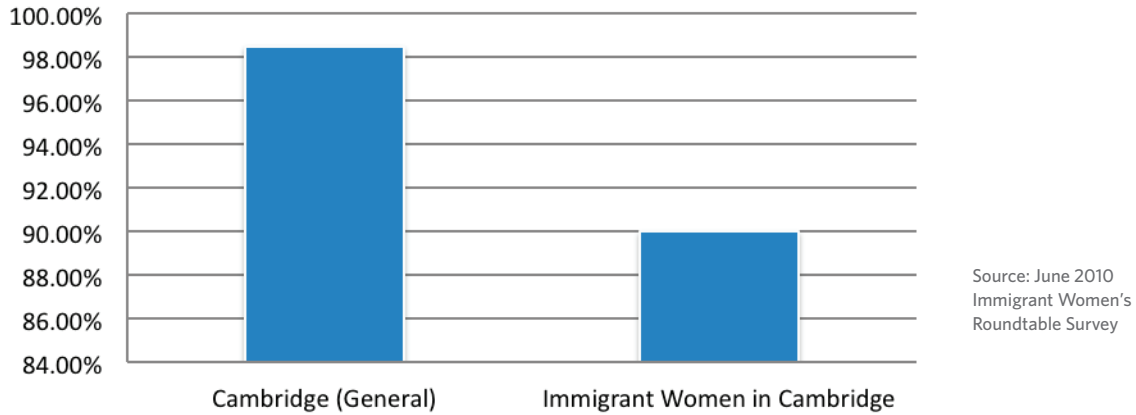
Twenty-three percent of foreign-born residents in Cambridge are living below 100% of the poverty line. The overall poverty rate in Massachusetts is 10%, and in Cambridge it's 15%.

For 2011, the federal poverty threshold for two adults and two children is \$22,356. For a family of one adult and two children, the threshold is \$18,540.



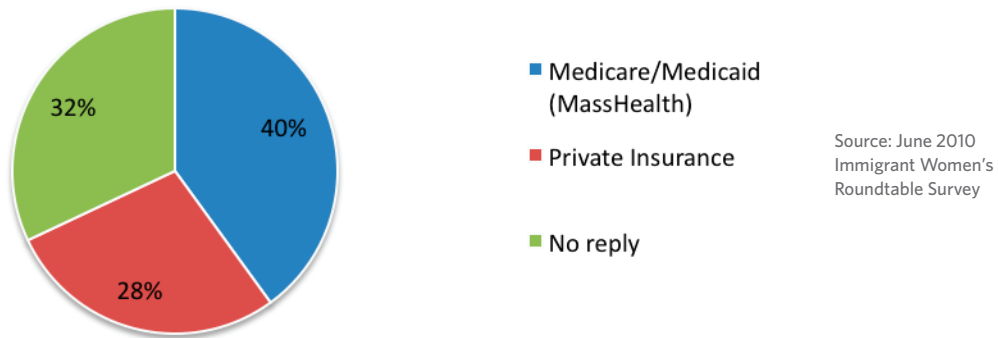
VII. Health and Safety

Health Insurance:
2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey



While 90% of foreign-born women in Cambridge have health insurance, the overall rate of coverage in Cambridge is much higher, at around 98-99%. Haitian women were least likely to have health insurance—only 84% reported having insurance. Only 45% of women who have been in the US for less than a year had health insurance. For those who have been here longer, much higher rates of insurance were reported.

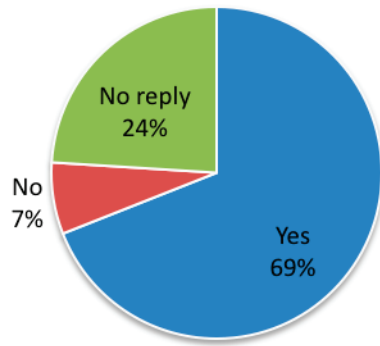
Type of Medical Insurance:
2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey



Forty percent of the women rely on MassHealth Insurance.



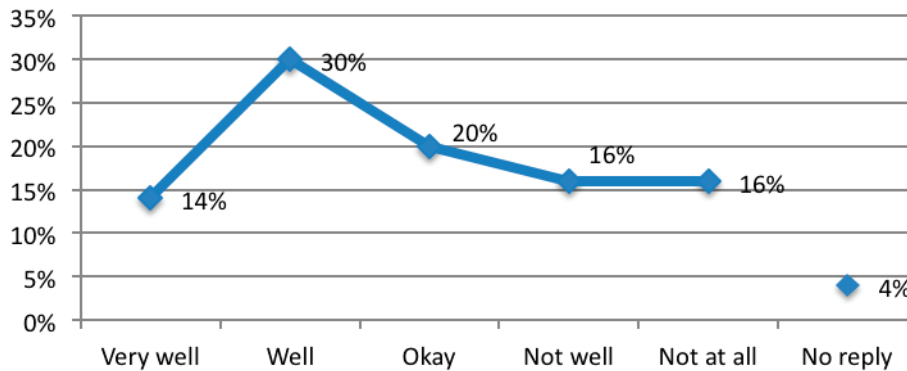
"Do your children receive vaccinations?" 2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey



Source: June 2010
Immigrant Women's
Roundtable Survey

Sixty-nine percent of the women have their children vaccinated. Women who are in the US longer are more likely to get their children vaccinated.

"How well do you understand your rights as an immigrant woman?" 2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey

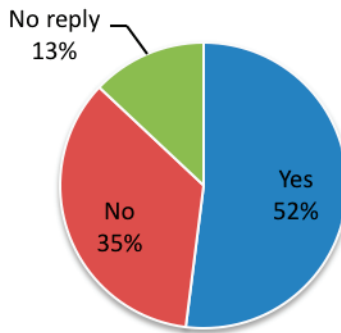


Source: June 2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey

When asked, "How well do you understand your rights as an immigrant woman?", 44% of the sample understood their rights as immigrant women "well" or better, while a third (32%) of women responded they did not know their rights well or "not at all." However, 59% of women from Bangladesh indicated that their understanding of immigrant rights was not strong ("not well" or "not at all.")



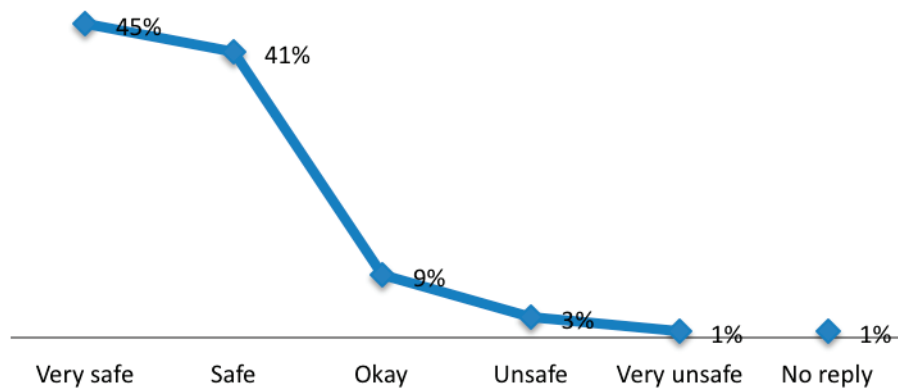
"Do you know there are laws here that protect women and children?" 2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey



Source: June 2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey

When asked, "Do you know there are laws here that protect women and children?", a little over half of the women knew there were laws in the United States to protect women and children.

Perception of Safety in Home: 2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey



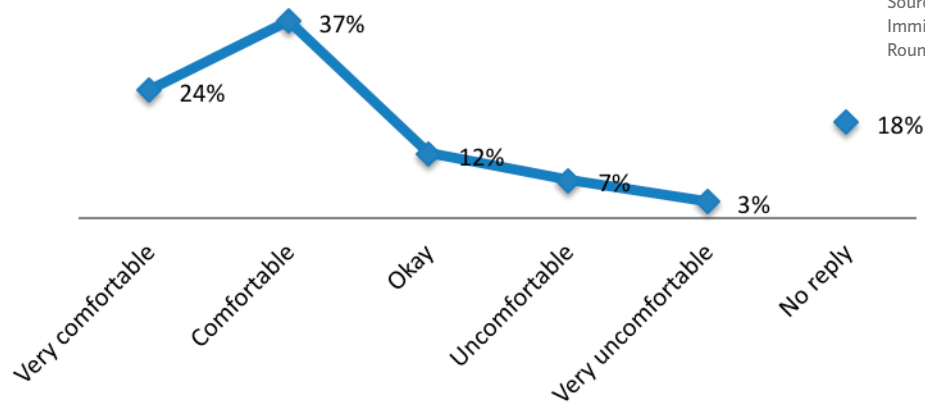
Source: June 2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey

Eighty-six percent of the women felt "safe" or "very safe" in their homes.



Perception of Safety Outside Home: 2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Report

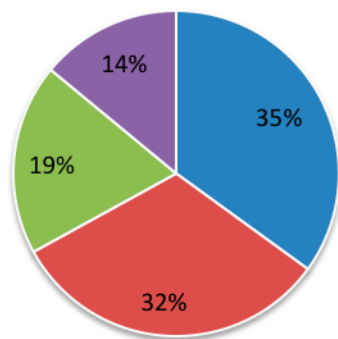
Source: June 2010
Immigrant Women's
Roundtable Survey



Sixty percent of the women felt "comfortable" or "very comfortable" when leaving the home.

VIII. Cambridge Resources

Class/Program Participation: 2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey



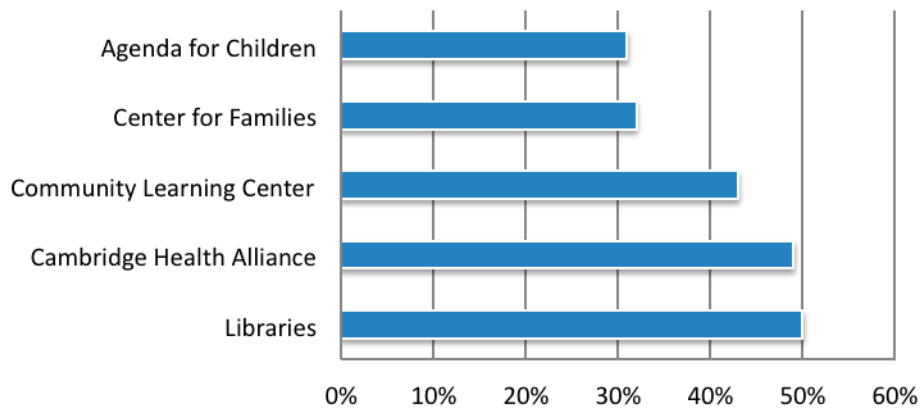
- Classes provided free childcare
- Classes offered at more convenient times
- Classes offered in different languages
- More outreach

Source: June 2010
Immigrant Women's
Roundtable Survey

Women responded they would be most likely to attend free classes in Cambridge if the programs also offered free childcare.



Program Participation: 2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey



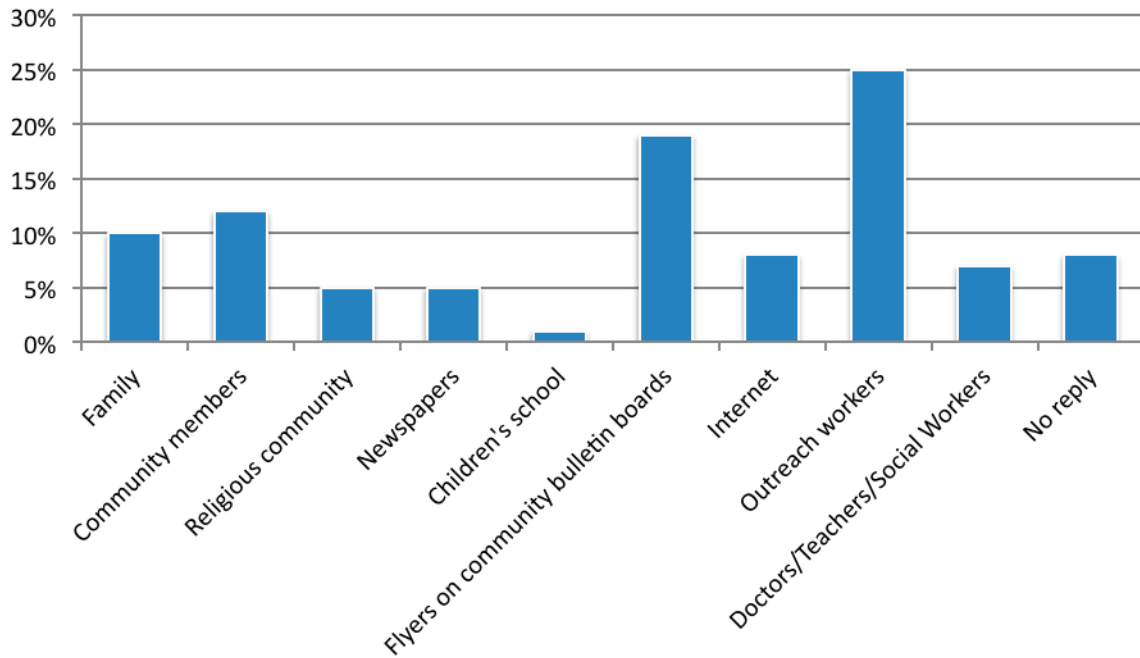
Source: June 2010
Immigrant Women's
Roundtable Survey

Of the programs and services offered in Cambridge, the most popular ones among our sample are the libraries (50% of the sample have utilized the libraries); Cambridge Health Alliance (49% of the sample have utilized CHA); Community Learning Center (43% of the sample have utilized the Center); Center for Families (32%); and Agenda for Children (31%). While the large majority of the respondents have children, women who do not have children were more likely to utilize the libraries (73%) than those women with children (49%). Conversely, 51% of women with children have used programs at the Cambridge Health Alliance, compared with 18% of women with no children.

Other programs mentioned include a Church or Mosque or Synagogue (26%), the Family Resource Center (25%), the Childcare Resource Center (22%), After School Programs (21%), the Guidance Center (15%), CEOC (14%), the YWCA (13%), the Multi Service Center (10%), Child Care Programs (13%), the Neighborhood Youth Centers (7%), Fuel Assistance (5%), Families First (4%), and the Women's Center (0%).



How do you find out about programs? 2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey



Source: June 2010 Immigrant Women's Roundtable Survey

The women found out about programs in Cambridge most often through outreach workers (25%) and flyers (19%). Older foreign-born women (over 60) are more likely to find about community programs from other family members than younger foreign-born women. Younger women (under 40) rely more on flyers posted on community bulletin boards. Women over 50 report looking at newspapers and the internet equally to find out about programs, while younger women (under 40) are twice as likely to use the internet as to read newspapers. Haitian women are the group most likely to hear about programming from their religious community (26%).



Resources for Women in Cambridge

Though not an exhaustive list, the following are some resources that Cambridge women may find helpful:

General

Cambridge Women's Commission 617.349.4697
51 Inman Street, Cambridge

The Women's Center 617.354.8897
46 Pleasant Street in Cambridge near Central Square
Has lists of resources and provides peer-led support groups for women on many issues.

Childcare Resources

The Child Care Resource Center 617.547.9861
Maintains a list of area centers and provides information about available slots and income eligibility.

City of Cambridge Department of Human Service Programs 617.349.6200
Provides a number of child care and out-of-school time programs.

Domestic Violence

Emergency 911

Cambridge Police DV Unit 617.349.3371
DV Liaison (weekdays)

Transition House Hotline 617.661.7203
Transition House was New England's first battered women's shelter and currently offers an emergency shelter and transitional housing for victims of domestic violence, as well as education and prevention programs (24 hours).

SafeLink 877.785.2020
(24 hours, English/Spanish)

Cambridge Public Health Department 617.665.3816
Violence Prevention Coordinator

Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence
Helpline 617.338.2355
Office Telephone 617.338.2350

Primarily serves immigrants and refugees from East, South, and Southeast Asia currently living in Massachusetts and New England suffering from, or at risk of suffering from, domestic violence.



Education/Training

Community Learning Center 617.349.6363

Provides free services to Cambridge residents. They serve adults who need basic education, English for speakers of other languages, GED, college transition, and employment skills. CLC staff also create curriculum and work with adult education teachers from other agencies and with other community groups. Classes are run year-round, morning, afternoon, and evening.

Bunker Hill Community College: Cambridge Satellite 617.228.2420

Offers evening classes during the fall and spring semesters at the Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School, 459 Broadway, Cambridge. The college offers a variety of courses in the computer, accounting, and early childhood development areas, as well as mathematics, English, and writing. The satellite campus offers a range of student services, including academic advising/counseling, enrollment information and information on federal financial aid and other tuition assistance programs.

Lesley University, Center for the Adult Learner 617.868.9600

This Center was created to support adults, many of whom are juggling work and family responsibilities, to achieve their personal and professional goals.

Cambridge College 617.349.3480

Offers a unique environment where working adults can build their education on a lifetime of learning. Cambridge College recognizes diversity as an asset to the classroom, the community, and to society. Their innovative teaching and learning model helps adult students meet the challenges of higher education.

Housing Issues

Cambridge Housing Authority www.cambridge-housing.org

Develops, manages, and administers subsidized affordable housing for low-income elderly, family and disabled households. They develop and manage safe, good quality, affordable housing for low-income individuals and families in a manner that promotes citizenship, community and self-reliance.

Cambridge Human Rights Commission 617.349.4396

A city law enforcement agency that investigates complaints of discrimination that occur in Cambridge-in housing, employment, education and public accommodations.

Immigrant Women Resources

Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers (MAPS), Cambridge Office
617.864.7600



Works with and for the Brazilian, Cape Verdean, Portuguese and other Portuguese-speaking communities to increase access and remove barriers to health, education and social services through direct services, advocacy, leadership and community development.

Ethiopian Community Mutual Assistance Association 617.492.4232
Provides information and referral services to low-income Ethiopian refugees and immigrants who are residents of Cambridge.

Haitian Coalition 617.625.6400
Helps Haitians organize to improve the economic, political, physical, and social environments in Somerville and Cambridge and provides services to Haitians living in surrounding communities.

Legal Assistance

Community Legal Services and Counseling Center 617.661.1010
The only volunteer-based agency of its kind in the area, combining legal assistance and mental health counseling.

Mental Health

Cambridge Health Alliance Psychiatric Emergency Services 617.665.1560
The Cambridge Hospital campus has a separate Psychiatric ER, which helps people in severe emotional distress.

Reaching Out About Depression (ROAD) www.reachingoutaboutdepression.org
A community-based program created by and for women in low-income neighborhoods who are suffering with depression and its related issues. All services are offered free-of-charge.

About the Cambridge Women's Commission

Established in 1977 as a City department, the Cambridge Commission on the Status of Women (CCSW) works in an inclusive manner to promote equality and justice for all women and girls. The CCSW works with other City departments and officials, local organizations, and state government to increase opportunities through program development, policy recommendations, and public education in key areas significantly affecting women and girls. The scope of programming is inclusive: offering outreach and education on issues concerning young women and girls; providing information on health and violence prevention; preserving Cambridge women's history; supporting new artistic mediums; and exploring better ways of connecting with more marginalized groups in the community, such as immigrant women and women who are homeless.