

# Housing Insecurity and Homelessness Among Immigrant Older Adults in Canada



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## Overview

- The 2021 census reveals that more than four in 10 Canadians are now old or getting old, a trend that will accelerate over the next two decades and beyond.
- Older adults are increasingly represented in the homeless population.
- Immigrant older adults have additional risk factors compared to their Canadian born counterparts that exacerbate the risks and vulnerabilities associated with older adults who experience homelessness.

## Older Immigrants in Canada

- The immigrant and refugee population in Canada is growing.
- The 2011 National Survey reported 4.5 million older adults were born outside of Canada, a number which is projected to comprise 40% of the Canada's by 2055.

## Defining Homelessness

- Homelessness describes the situation of someone who is without stable, permanent and appropriate housing. Along the continuum there are four main categories of homeless: unsheltered, emergency sheltered, provisionally accommodated and at risk of homelessness. Can be categorized as **Chronic**,
- **Late-life**, or **Hidden homelessness**

## Conclusion: Call to Action

- Given the paucity of information on this at-risk population future research is critical.
- Prioritizing the voices of older immigrants who are at risk, are experiencing, or have experienced housing insecurity or homelessness in shaping research, policy and practice is recommended.

## Study Design

- We conducted a literature review to gain an understanding of the existing literature and debates surrounding the topic of housing insecurity and homelessness among older immigrants in Canada through the micro, mezzo, and macro levels.
- We employed an intersectional lens to navigate the nuance of older immigrants across various dimensions including: gender, age, race, disability and more).

## Findings

- Thematic analysis of the literature revealed that homelessness for older immigrant adults is multilayered across micro meso, and macro levels (see Figure 1)

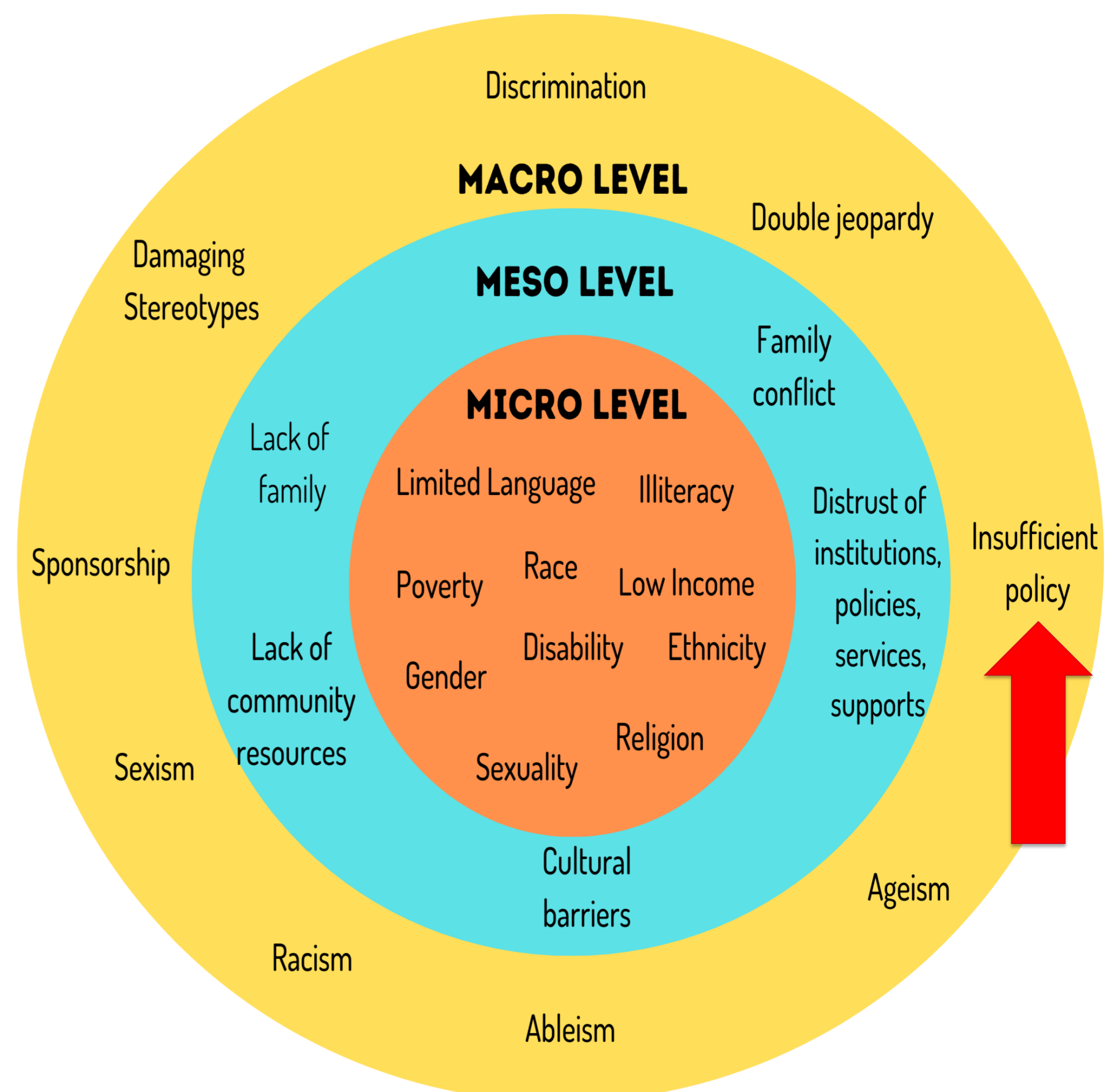


Figure 1. Multilayered Complexities of Housing Insecurity and Homelessness Among Older Immigrants

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