Refugee Health in Worcester, MA
Population Health Clerkship

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WHAT IS A REFUGEE?
Refugee: The United Nations Refugee Agency defines a refugee as “someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war, or violence.
Asylee: Someone who enters a country, fleeing persecution, war, or violence, however not under refugee status. In order to be granted asylee status, they must meet the definition of a refugee (Office of Refugee Resettlement, 2012).

Do you know?
The New Citizen’s Center is an ESL school in the Worcester Public School System dedicated to helping children without prior formal education or interrupted education when they arrive in the city!

WHAT ARE VOLAGS?
Local, federal and international organizations that support refugees in the process of relocating

WHAT IS THE RESETTLEMENT PROCESS?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number of Refugees Arrived in Worcester, 2007-2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bhutan</td>
<td>617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Burma</td>
<td>272</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Burundi</td>
<td>112</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Somalia</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Liberia</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Democratic Republic of Congo</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Central African Republic</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Department of State, 2012)

After arriving in Worcester, Resettlement Agencies have 90 days to establish:
- Housing
- Employment
- Social Security Number/Income
- School Placement/ESL
- Health Insurance (MassHealth)
- Two Health Assessments
- Immunizations
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- General measures to facilitate assimilation

Refugee registers with U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees who confirms qualification under international law

What is current information and resources are available for providers and patients alike?

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
We would like to thank Frank Murphy (ACE), Meredith Walsh (WRAP), Jose Ramirez and the providers at Edward M. Kennedy Community Health Center, Olga Valdman and Lucy Candib from Family Health Center of Worcester, Judy Nordberg, and Heather-Lyn Haley for meeting with and educating us about the processes and challenges Refugees must undertake in their transition to America.

PROJECT GOALS
1. Learn about the refugee and immigrant populations in Worcester, MA
2. Learn about the resettlement process and specific health needs of refugees
3. Become directly involved with the community with members of the refugee population
4. Generate a library guide with information and resources for clinicians and the general public

OUTCOME AND FUTURE WORK
In the future, it is important that the most current information and resources are available for providers and patients alike.

REFUGEE SUPPORT

REFUGEE SUPPORT

Worcester Refugee Assistance Project (WRAP)

What is involvement within the community with members of the refugee population?