

Objectives

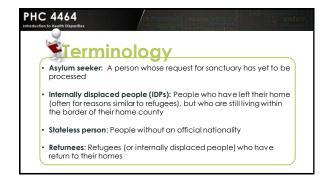
- Understand how the "refugee experience" can influence health outcomes
- Describe health needs among several refugee populations
- · Recognize the importance of culturally congruent health promotion and services



PHC 4464

1951 Refugee Convention

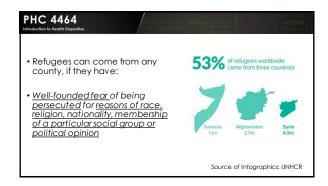
- Ratified by 145 State parties
- · Defines the term "refugee"
- Refugees should have access to health services equivalent to that of the host population
- Core principle is non-refoulement



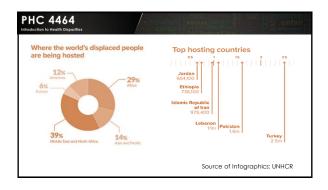


A that with the state of the st

Source of Infographic: UNHCR



PHC 4464 Total Control Contro



PHC 4464

Health of refugee population

- Traumatic events prior to leaving a home country
- Limited resources when escaping their homeland
- Refugee camps vary greatly in their infrastructure and
- availability to provide resources • Often physically safer, but lack resources
- Lack of water and food
- Crowded conditions

PHC 4464

Health of refugee population

- High risk of mortality
- Greater risk for many illness, including:
- Diarrheal diseases, malnutrition
- Infectious diseases such as measles, acute respiratory infections, malaria, etc.
- Reproductive and sexual health services vary
 Many have experienced rape

Health of refugee population

- Refugee health remains a concern even after resettlement to a foreign country New systems of care
 - · New culture
 - Physical health
 - Mental health
 - Depression
 - · Post-traumatic stress disorder

PHC 4464

United States Policies on Refugees: The Refugee Act of 1980

- Created The Federal Refugee Resettlement Program
- Effective resettlement of refugees and to assist them to achieve economic self-sufficiency as quickly as possible after arrival in the United States

PHC 4464

United States Policies on Refugees: Other policies

- Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 (TVRA) · People who have suffered from torture may be in need of rehabilitation services
- Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000/ Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008
 - Combats trafficking in persons, especially into the sex trade, slavery, and involuntary servitude
 - Reauthorizes certain Federal programs to prevent violence against women, and for other purposes

PHC 4464

U.S. refugee populations

- In 2016, the highest number of refugees came from:
 - Democratic Republic of Congo: 16,370 Svria: 12,587

 - Burma (Myanmar): 12,347 Iraq: 9,880
 - Somalia: 9,020

Source: Kroastad & Radford IPew Research Centerl. 2017

PHC 4464

Refugees entering the United States

- Refugees enter the U.S. already approved by the <u>State</u> Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration.
- Applications are screened by the State Department, the Department of Homeland Security's U.S Citizenship and Immigration Services and other federal agencies.
- · Once approved, refugees undergo a health screening, and most also go through cultural orientations outside of the U.S.
- Process can take up to 18 to 24 months.

PHC 4464

Refugees resettling in the United States

- California, Texas, and New York: Together home to almost 25% of the US refugees in 2016
- Other states taking in significant numbers of refugees included: Michigan, Ohio, Arizona, North Carolina, Washington, Pennsylvania and Illinois
- Delaware and Hawaii took in no refugees.

Source: Krogstad & Radford (Pew Research Center), 2017

US Refugee Services

- The Office of Refugee Resettlement proposes and implements national policy for the refugee resettlement program
- Six guiding principles:
 - Appropriate Placement and Services
 Client-Centered Case Management
 - Newly Arriving Refugees
 - Health and Mental Health Services
 - Outreach
 - Data Informed Decision-Making

PHC 4464

US Refugee Services: Health Promotion

- Incorporates a framework of health services from arrival to self-sufficiency, ranging from attending health orientation and education classes, to accessing health services, and obtaining affordable ongoing health care.
- A special emphasis placed on:
 - Health literacy
 - Access to health and emotional wellness services, and
 - Access to affordable health care beyond the initial services provided upon arrival into the United States.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2016

PHC 4464

US Refugee Services: Health Insurance

- Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA)
 - Available for up to eight months
 - Some refugees may be eligible for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
- Eligible for health coverage options under the Affordable Care Act (ACA)

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2016

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2016

PHC 4464

US Refugee Services: Mental Health

- Mental health, or emotional wellness, and physical health are linked
- Emotional wellness is essential to a person's well-being, interpersonal relationships, and the ability to live a full and productive life.
- Special focus on:
 - Raising awareness and removing stigmas
 - Conducting culturally competent mental health screenings
 - Facilitating strengths-based mental health case management services
 - Developing partnerships to increase access to care
 - · Promoting resiliency factors and mental health education

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2016

PHC 4464

Health concerns of US based refugees

- Major depression
- Impairment in daily activities due to pain
- Poor self-reported health
- High rates of chronic diseases

Source: Yun, Mohamad, Kiss, Annamalai, & Zimmerman, 2016

PHC 4464 Introduction to Health Disparilies

References

- Krogstad, J. M. & Radford, J. (2017). Key facts about refugees to the U.S. Pew Research Center, Retrieved from: http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/01/30/key-factsabout-refugees-to-the-u-s/
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2016). Office of Refugee Resettlement. Retrieved from: <u>https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr</u>.
- Yun, K., Mohamad, Z., Kiss, L., Annamalai, A., & Zimmerman, C. (2016). History of Persecution and Health Outcomes Among US Refugees. Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health, 18(1), 263-269.