Healthcare Challenges within Refugee Populations

Presented by Monica Harris and Kayla Davis
Refugee
+
Patient
What is a Refugee?

A refugee is someone who is forced to leave their home country due to violence, war, or persecution (or the credible threat of persecution based on their ethnicity, religion, or political affiliation).
110 million people forcibly displaced worldwide by May of 2023

35.3 million refugees displaced across borders

62.5 million internally displaced people

5.4 million asylum seekers

2X people displaced in 2013

76% live in low- and middle-income countries

Worldwide Displacement in 2022

USA for UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency
Refugee Resettlement at a Glance

TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL

Receive word of a family’s arrival date and size from the US Conference of Catholic Bishops and begin preparations. Contact any friends or family members.

Find an apartment at a fair market rate in a safe neighborhood, with access to groceries, schools, transportation and services.

Furnish the apartment with all furniture and household supplies according to the family’s size.

Pick up the family from the airport. An interpreter or someone who speaks their native language must be present.

Provide a hot meal the night of arrival and groceries to last a day. Make a follow-up home visit within 24 hours and take the family grocery shopping.

Cultural orientation begins on day one. Walk the family through emergency procedure and cultural norms the night of their arrival.

FIRST 10 DAYS

Arrange job interviews and ensure the refugee secures employment.

Enroll children in school within 30 days. Provide ongoing school support, including educating parents on the U.S. school system, interpretation at parent-teacher meetings, homework help and school supplies.

Help the family to sign the lease, register their mailbox, and sign on to utilities. Teach them how to use public transportation. Provide information on budgeting.

Help the family apply for social services like cash assistance and food stamps. Obtain work documents, employment authorization, and a social security card.

Arrange medical appointments for all family members and provide transportation. Children need vaccinations to begin school. Help the family apply for health insurance.

Refugees must be self-sufficient within 90 days. After that their government assistance runs out.

FIRST 90 DAYS AND BEYOND

Engage donations and volunteers. Connect the refugee with community resources.

Continue cultural orientation over the course of three official sessions and a final assessment. Cultural education and orientation should be ongoing with every interaction.

Provide case management to respond to any unmet needs. Make available counseling services and support.

Provide ESL, transportation, medical case management, transportation, interpretation services, school support, immigration legal services, cultural orientation...

Remain part of the refugees’ community and a primary contact as any life situations arise. Refugees lack a support network when they arrive. We are the people they trust.

SUPPORT SERVICES:

Up to 3 years (or more)

Learn more and get involved: CatholicCharitiesCamden.org/Refugee-Immigration
Healthcare Challenges

- Cultural Differences
- Language Barriers
- Health Literacy
- Navigation of the US healthcare system
- Financial insecurity
- Trauma/Mental Health
Healthcare Challenges

Exercise

PCP Appointment  Hospital Stay

Emergency
Healthcare Challenges

Language

Culture

Health Literacy

Trauma/Mental Health
Book Recommendations

Pathologies of Power

The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down

Cutting for Stone

Bridge Refuge Services Inc.
Questions?
Thank you very much!

Presented by Sandra Haro