

# Refugees in Nebraska

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April 19, 2017  
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# Who is a Refugee

Any person who is outside any country of such person's nationality or, in the case of a person having no nationality, is outside any country in which such person last habitually resided, and who is unable or unwilling to return to, and is unable or unwilling to avail him/herself of the protection of, that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.



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# What Other Services do Refugees Receive?

Our government provides many benefits to help with the resettlement process.

- no interest travel loan to the United States
- 8 months Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA)
- food stamps
- housing assistance, furnishing, food and clothing
- social security card
- school registration for children
- referral for medical appointments and other support services
- employment services
- case management through community based non-profit organizations
- adjustment of status from refugee to legal permanent resident (green card)

# Office of Refugee Resettlement Arrival numbers by Fiscal Year for Nebraska

2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
816	818	738	764	997	1076	1200	1441

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/resource/refugee-arrival-data>

# Nebraska Refugee Health Screening Services

- Laboratory Testing
- Medical History
- Physical Exam
- Vaccinations
- Referrals

\*no female or male exams

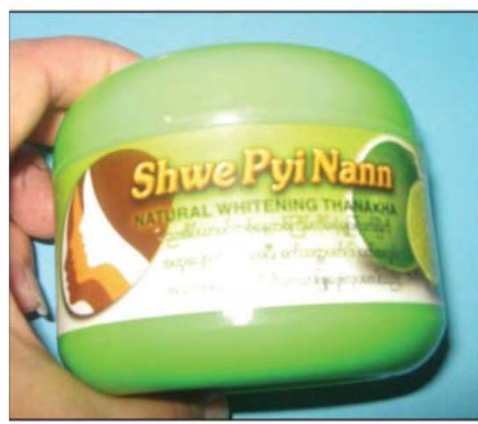


(photo credit: Camy Retzl, former Nevada Refugee Health Coordinator-picture in Rwanda)

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# Common Findings

- Unresolved chronic health issues
- Hepatitis
- Latent Tuberculosis
- Parasites
- Lead
- Nutritional issues
- Mental Health issues



# Additional Refugee Health Issues

- Chronic disease
  - Diabetes
  - High blood pressure, cholesterol, obesity, malnutrition
- Mental health
- Dental health
- OB/GYN issues
- Developmental disabilities
- Injuries
- Cultural barriers to address problems
- Vision
- Violence
- Preventative Health Care



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# Challenges to Refugee Health

- Language barriers
  - Lack of trained interpreters
- \*Lack of Cultural Understanding\*
- Basic Living Skills
- Poverty, current poor economic situation
- Cost for Services
- Provider's lack of knowledge
- Transportation
  - Driving, accessing bus route, driver's license, literacy
- Do not know where to go, site not convenient





# Refugee Language Issues in Nebraska

- Law
- Medicaid
- Family members not recommended
  - Children
- Nebraska Appleseed
- Liability



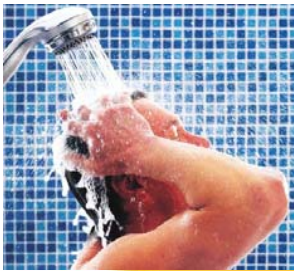
# Refugee Language Issues in Nebraska continued

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- CLAS Standards (Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services)
- Certification/Licensure
- Cost
  - ▶ Lack of reimbursement
- Illiteracy
- Male/Female Preference

# Health Education

- Ongoing
- Basics can never be repeated too much
- Consider literacy needs
- Style may be different from traditional American ways
- Resource availability
- Consider sex preference
- Emphasize power of independence in U.S.
- Consider partnerships with colleges/schools



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