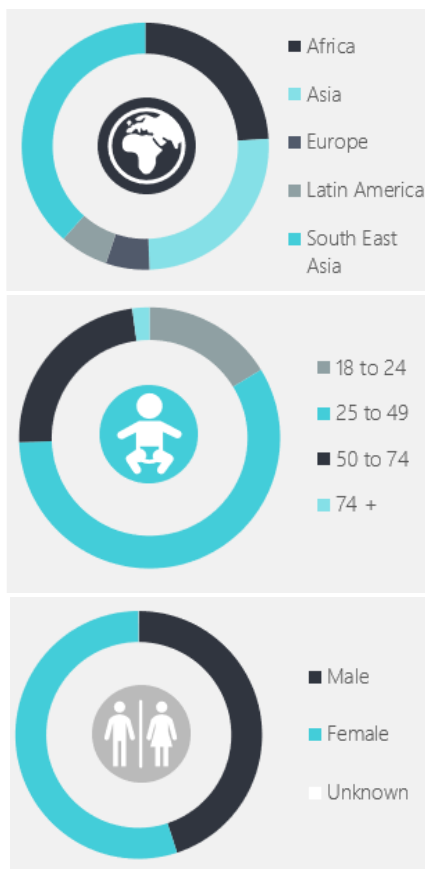




The American Dream – Refugee's Find Hope

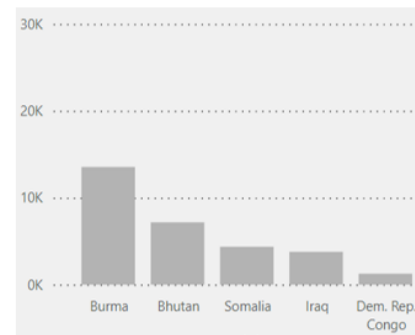
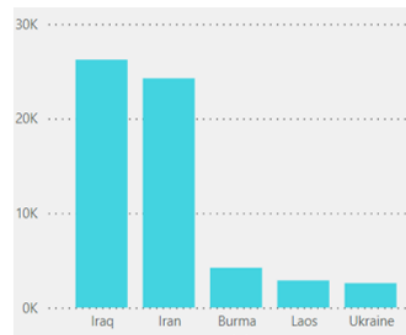
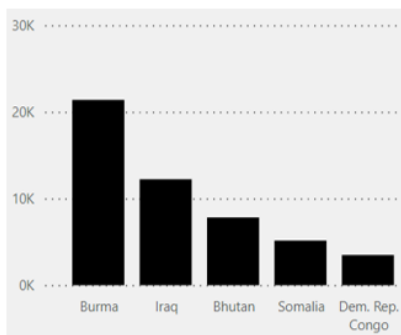
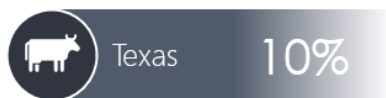
Refugee's fleeing from their home country where the state of affairs has become unsafe find solace in acceptance into the United States. Those who choose to stay in the United States integrate into the workforce in a variety of ways. With the increased acceptance of refugee or recently integrated people by business incubators, a higher percentage of this demographic can become more successful in their transition into life in the United States.



Who they are and what they look like...

The majority of refugee's coming into the United States have come from the entirety of Asia. Another continent with a high population of refugees to note is Africa. Most of these people are between the ages of 25 and 49. In addition, most of these people are female.

Being inspired to become a business owner can be classified as an entrepreneur. Brandon Gaille states that 57% are under the age of 44 and 29% are between the ages of 20-34. The majority of incoming refugees to the United States fall into this age category.



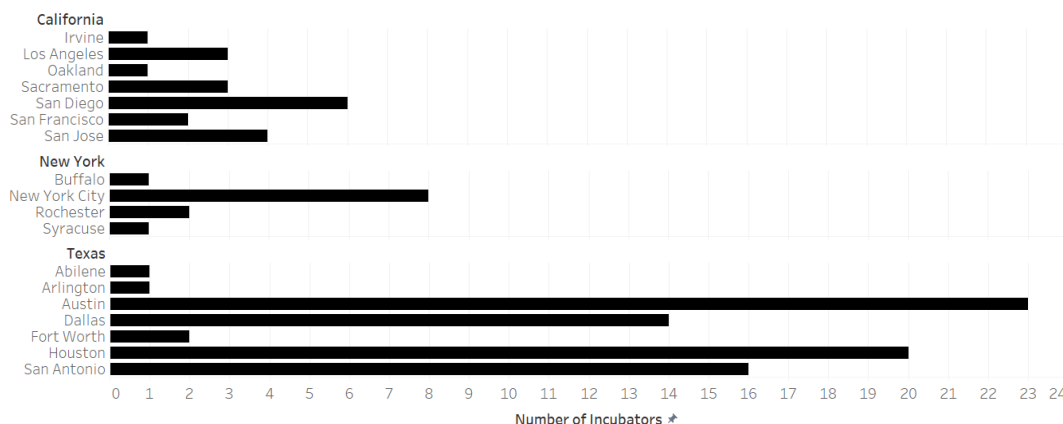
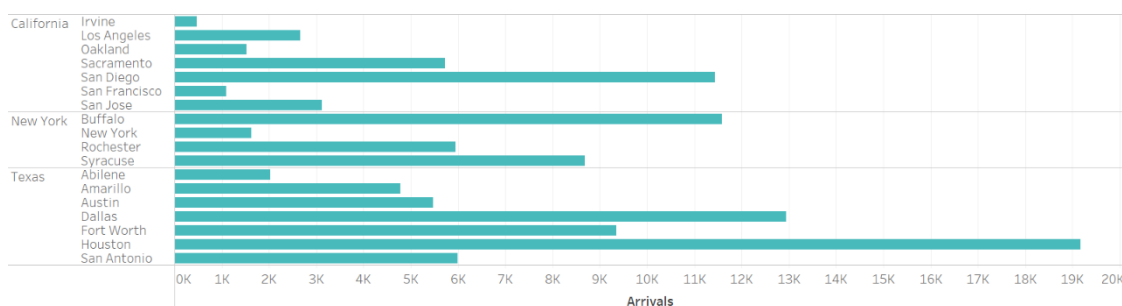
Where's Waldo?

While there are refugees that settle in almost all 50 states, there are a few that welcome more refugees than others. Between the years of 2005 and 2015, California welcomed 11% of the total number of refugees looking to come into the United States. The significant majority of refugees were fleeing from Iraq and Iran, with between 2,000 to 4,000 in the next three countries. Adding the three trailing countries together would still miss the population from Iran or Iraq by over 12,000 people. Closely behind is Texas, with 10%. Less people from Iraq settled here, but a large majority is from Burma. Also, New York welcomed 6% of all refugees within this time. New York also welcomed a lot of refugees from Burma, in addition to Bhutan and Somalia. All three of these states have many similar countries settling there. California is the most unique in having Iran, Laos, and Ukraine, while Texas and New York have all the same countries.

Incubating Change

For those who choose to stay in the United States, launching into the work force may not always be easy. Business Incubators are places that provide a variety of business related services for low to no cost. It is a program that must be applied to and has requirements on time spent at the program.

In addition to teaching classes about the different aspects of business, there are also often spaces available and venture capital for entrepreneurs.



Every city in each of the three most popular states that is welcoming refugees also has at least one business incubator located somewhere in the city. In California, San Diego has the greatest number of refugees incoming in the entire state. It also happens to have the largest number of incubators of the cities featured at 6. Buffalo is the city in New York with the largest incoming number of refugees, featuring just one incubator. Texas, the go big or go home state, has the largest overall population incoming into Houston at just over 19,000 refugees. With that, there are 20 business incubators in Houston, the only city topping this is Austin at 23.

If these business incubators focused part of its efforts on accepting and educating a greater number of resettled refugees, there is the possibility of increased economic flow into the United States. Young individuals from other countries come into the United States looking for safety and opportunity for a better life. By giving them this chance and the resources to do so, more small businesses could arise and grow into larger business or corporations with time. Having a jump start into a career could shave off many years of waiting for the right moment, and have less risk involved with their increased knowledge on all things business.