

Refugee Profile and General background

Profile of the average Syrian refugee (download the fact sheet)

<http://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/profile-syrian-immigrants-united-states>

- Age is 47 compared to native american average of 36
- More likely to work in high-skilled occupations and have higher earnings than overall foreign or native populations
- Most Syrians come through refugee resettlement, asylum status, and temporary protected status (TPS)
- Most are settled in California, Texas and Michigan
 - Top four countries with syrian immigrants-- LA county in CA, Cook County in Illinois, Kings County in NY, and Passaic County in NJ
 - **One third of the Syrian population in the US**
 - **LA, NY, Chicago and Detroit** account for 47% of the immigrant pop
- Some families are rejected by states**
- 39% of Syrians have at least a bachelors (30% for immigrant and 29% for native)
- 47% of college grads have a graduate degree (42% for immigrant and 37% for native)
- 26% haven't completed high school
- Women aren't integrated into the labor force
- Syrian men earned an avg of 66,000 per year on average. 38,000 for immigrant men overall and 51,000 for U.S. born men
- Syrian family earns an average of \$62,000. 53,000 for immigrant family and 68,000 for native born families
- 2x as likely to have incomes below the federal poverty level as native born families

So some potential issues to look at-- how do we integrate women? Should we account for the disparities in education of refugees?

Female refugees and asylum seekers: the issue of integration

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2016/556929/IPOL_STU\(2016\)556929_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2016/556929/IPOL_STU(2016)556929_EN.pdf)

- Preventing isolation of refugee women is a precondition to allowing them to enjoy policies implemented to help refugees
- NGOs stereotype these women as "fragile, needing, and not independent subjects"
- Need to directly involve refugee and asylum-seeking women in the planning, implementing and monitoring phases
- Consider that they may have had negative experiences with public officials, the service sector, housing providers, etc
- **Need to respond to 4 basic fields of intervention:**
 - **Housing and living conditions**
 - **Training and language courses**
 - **Labor inclusion measures**

- **Healthcare services and psychological support**
- Policies can't be gender-neutral, b/c women have gender-specific challenges
- Aim at **empowerment and independence**
- Probably have more trauma and psychological scars than other immigrants
- **Integration process implies multiple dimensions-- legal, economic, social, linguistic**

<http://www.culturalorientation.net/providing-orientation/toolkit/welcome>

Cultural Orientation of Refugees (overseas)--

- Where is CO provided overseas?
 - 40+ countries in europe, asia, middle east, africa, and caribbean
- Refugees receive an average of 16-21 hours of orientation while abroad. Sometimes an abbreviated session of 3 hours
- What is the content of overseas CO? 11 primary topics
 - Pre-departure processing
 - Role of resettlement agency
 - Housing
 - Employment
 - Transportation
 - Education
 - Health
 - Money management
 - Rights and responsibilities
 - Cultural adjustment
 - Travel
- **All groups receive instruction on the 11 topics, but sessions are tailored to groups' background (i.e. urban professionals vs. farmers with little formal education)**

Cultural Orientation of Refugees (domestic)--

- Required to receive orientation to housing and personal safety within 5 working days of arrival, and other topics within 30 days of arrival
- Topics
 - Role of resettlement agency
 - Housing
 - Employment
 - Transportation
 - Education
 - Health
 - Money management

- Rights and responsibilities
 - Cultural adjustment
- Orientation is provided by a case manager
 - Discussion, interviews, hands-on demonstrations, conversation, and q&a sessions