



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
**LABOR & ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITY**

**GLOBAL
MICHIGAN**

Emerging Health and Demographic Trends for Michigan's Refugee and Immigrant Newcomer Population

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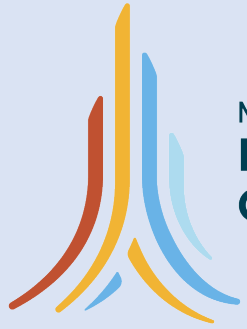
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About the Audience

By a show of hands, how many of you have worked with refugee and immigrant communities in your programs?

Which organizations have you partnered with to reach refugee and immigrant populations?



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Mission

The Office of Global Michigan works to make Michigan welcoming and inclusive.

The office supports:

- economic and community development
- newcomer integration initiatives
- state agencies and a host of local partners in delivering services with equity
- elimination of barriers to accessing services

Our goal is to strengthen the connection between communities by ensuring state programs and opportunities are accessible, inclusive, and positioned to have the best possible impact.



Equity & Inclusion



Refugee Services



Commissions Administration

The Commission's Administrative Team provides support through community events and partnerships, resources, research, and informed advocacy initiatives.

- Research informed advocacy
- Community events and support
- Support to commissions
 - Hispanic Latino Commission
 - Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs
 - MI Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission
 - MI Immigrant and Refugee Council
 - LGBTQ Commission





Equity & Inclusion



Refugee Services



Commissions Administration

The Equity and Inclusion Team works to ensure equity in and access to state services and programs.

- Supports the state's DEI work and the state's Equity and Inclusion Officers
- Immigrant Inclusion in Workforce Development
- Talent growth in the state
- State agency and partner training and technical assistance
- Statewide Language Access Planning and Support



2023 Public Act 241:

Meaningful Language Access to State Services Act

Departments/Agencies will:

- ✓ At no cost to the public, provide equal language access to public services for individuals with limited English proficiency (e.g. interpretation, translation)
- ✓ Have a designated Department/Agency Language Access Coordinator(s)
- ✓ Implement a Language Access Plan
- ✓ Identify and translate Vital Documents
- ✓ Provide reports to the Office of Global Michigan

2023 Public Act 242:

Statewide Meaningful Language Access Coordination Act

Office of Global Michigan (OGM) is:

- ✓ Leading Departments/Agencies' initiatives in providing meaningful language access to public services
- ✓ Providing technical support and trainings to Departments/Agencies





Equity & Inclusion



Refugee Services



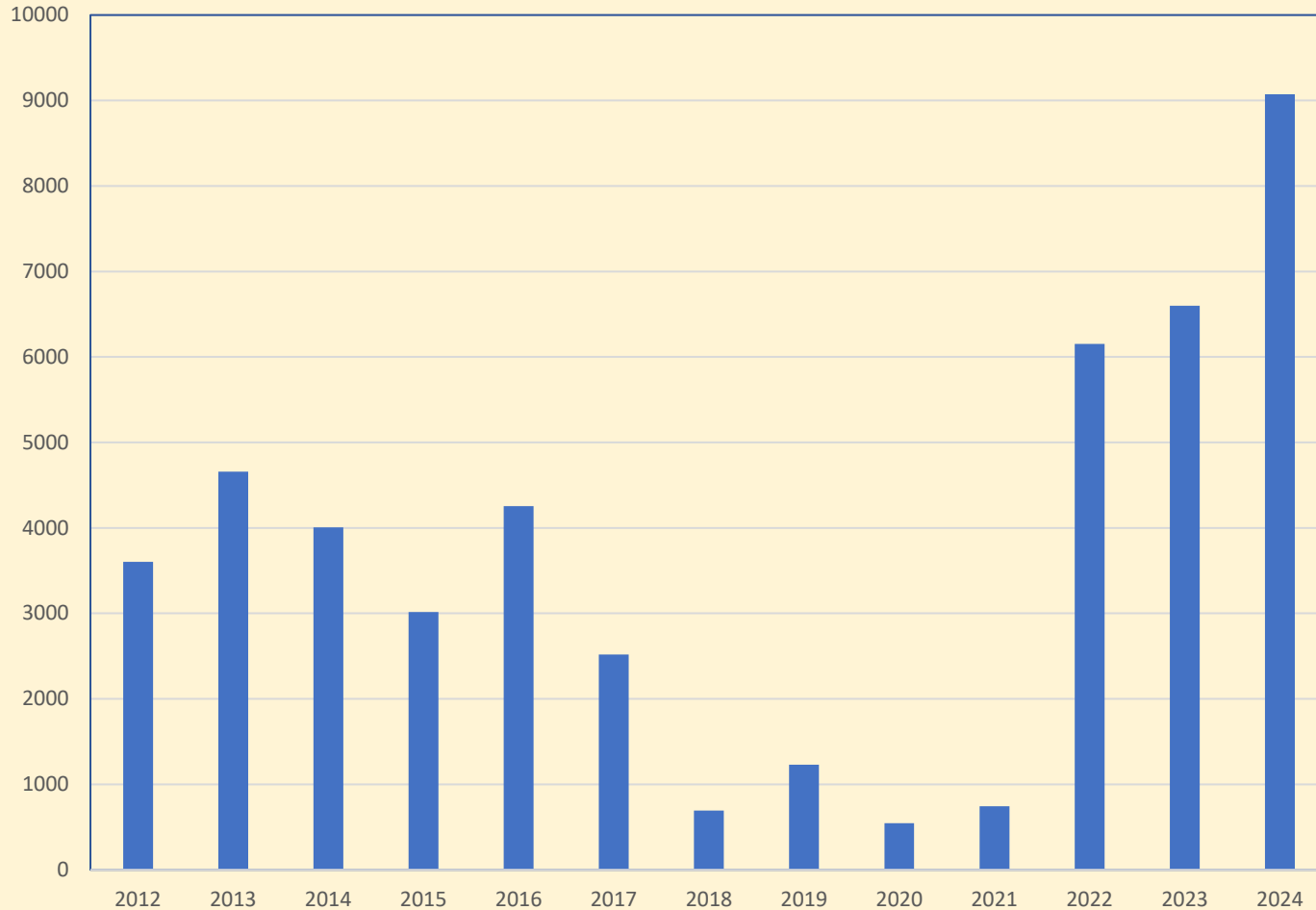
Commissions
Administration

The Refugee Services Team leads programs and services that support the effective resettlement and integration of newcomers in Michigan.

- Resettlement & Integration
- Employment Services
- Education supports
- Health programming
- Digital literacy/ ESOL
- Sponsorship programs
- Youth supports
- Unaccompanied Minors
- Data & Reporting
- State's refugee policy



ORR Eligible Populations 2012-2024



FY23 Individuals served: 8,981

FY24 ORR-eligible estimates

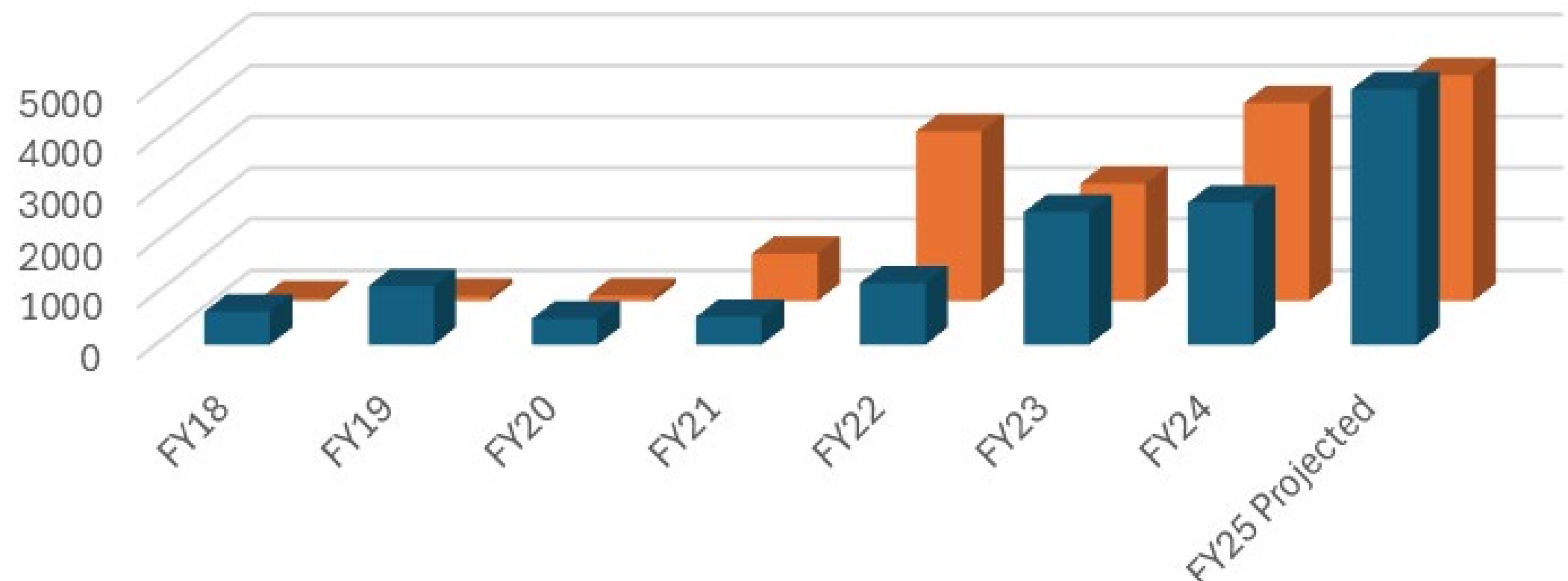
- Asylees: 384
- Cubans/Haitians: 1,300
- Refugees: 3,675
- SIVs: 214
- Ukrainians: 3,500

TOTAL: 9,073

Other Populations

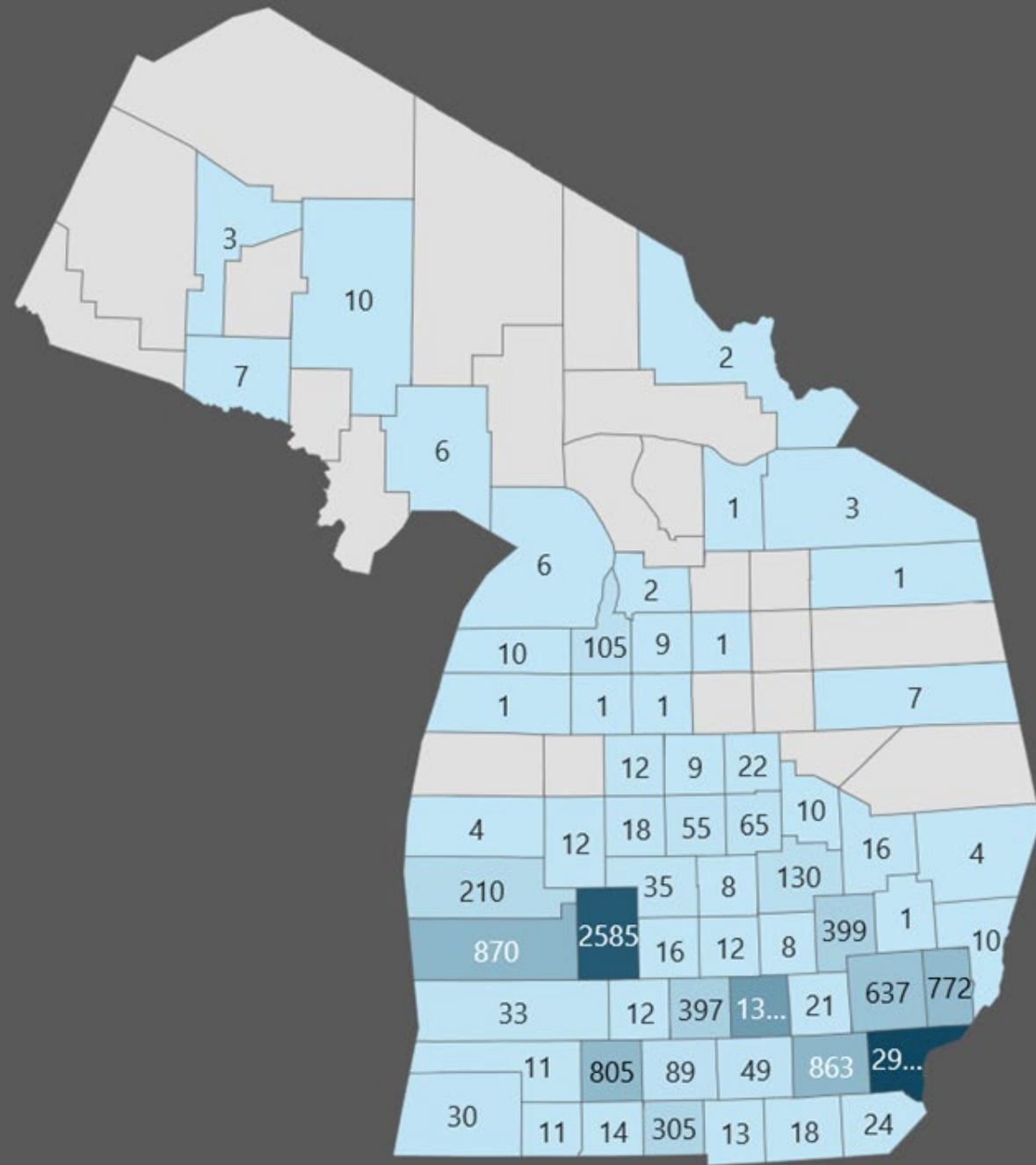
- Venezuelans
- Mauritians
- Senegalese
- Colombians
- Nicaraguans
- More

Michigan Arrival Data



■ Refugee Arrival Data ■ Other Newcomer Arrivals

Newcomer Arrivals FY23 & FY24 YTD



Global Michigan's Strategic Plan for FY24-26

- Community Engagement: Strengthen connections between communities & the State of Michigan.
- Operations: Ensure State of Michigan programs and opportunities are accessible and inclusive.
- Advocacy & Visibility: Educate communities about the work of Global Michigan through consistent and accurate messaging.



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Some things we are very proud of...

- OGM structure
- Newcomer Rental Subsidy
- Regional Community Collaboratives
- MI Immigrant & Refugee Council
- NYLC and Youth successes
- New partner development/engagement
- Sponsorship supports (CHNV, U4U, WC)
- Afghan Family Strengthening Intervention
- Growing mental health programing





Photo credits: Scott Gardner/The Hamilton Spectator

Refugee Health

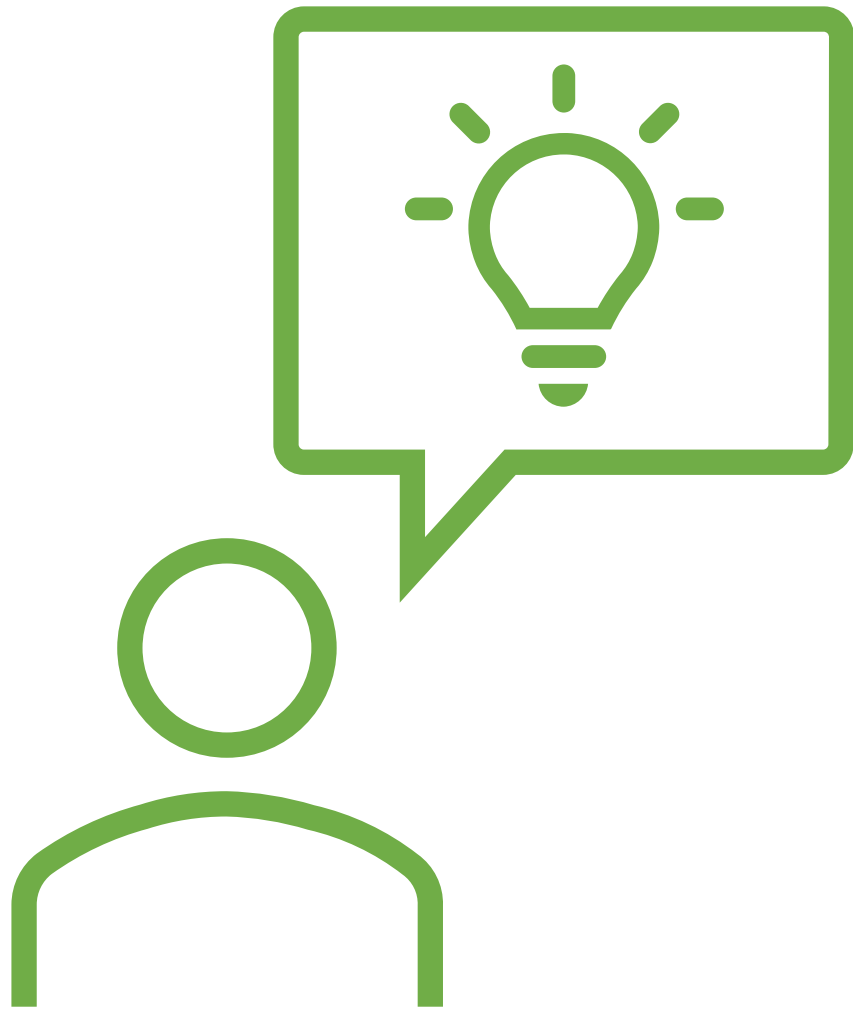
- Domestic medical screening
- Newcomers establish medical homes and access ongoing health care
- Support health education
- Create new partnerships and outreach in the community



Factors affecting refugee health prior to U.S. arrival

- Geographic origin
- Living conditions (refugee camp) or other conditions with crowding and limited resources
- Access to healthcare services
- Exposure to infectious diseases
- Susceptibility to poor nutrition and chronic illnesses, such as diabetes
- Traumas from conflict, displacement, and resettlement, which can cause mental health concerns, such as post-traumatic stress disorder or depression





Factors affecting
refugee health after
U.S. arrival



Factors affecting refugee health after U.S. arrival

- Challenges navigating the U.S. health care system
- Limited English proficiency
- Barriers to finding culturally and linguistically appropriate health education resources and care
- Available social and community support systems
- Cost of health coverage and services
- Resettlement location



Health Profiles



Ukraine* – latent TB, parasites, hepatitis C, (mental health)

Syria – anemia, diabetes, hypertension, mental health

DRC – parasitic infections, mental health, sexual and gender-based violence

Afghanistan* – dental, elevated lead, mental health

Iraq – diabetes, hypertension, malnutrition



Metal Cookware – A Previously Unrecognized Source of Lead Exposure in the United States



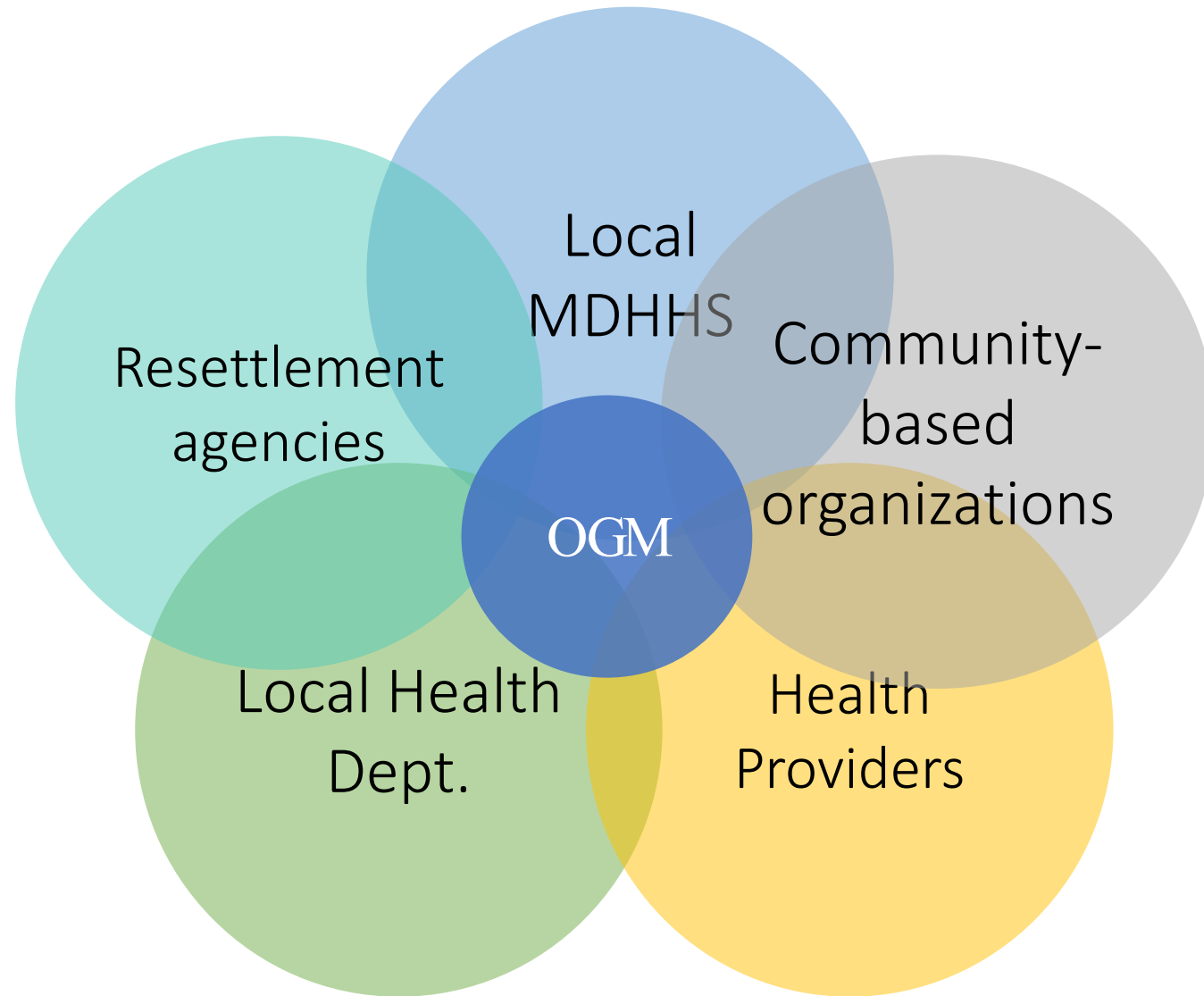
Traditional Afghan pressure cooker purchased from Etsy.
Avg lead conc. 8,000 ppm (0 – 66,000 ppm).



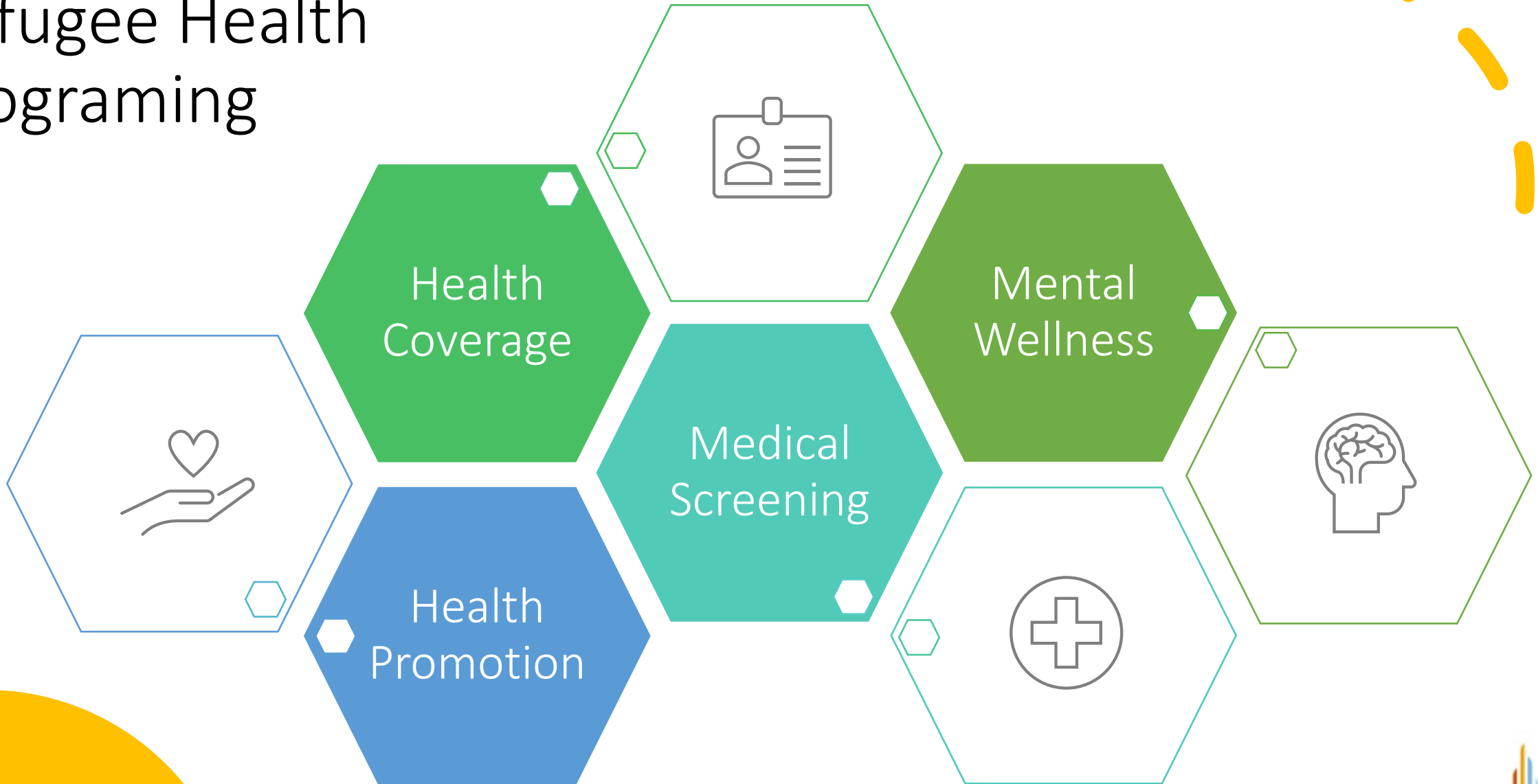
Donated aluminum cookpot from Afghanistan.
Avg lead conc. 5,000 ppm (0 – 33,000 ppm).



It takes a village




Refugee Health Programing





Health Coverage

- 
- **Medicaid**, TANF, SNAP, cash assistance (SSI)
 - Federal ORR benefits (up to 12 months post-arrival)
 - **RMA** – Refugee Medical Assistance
(if ineligible for Medicaid)
 - **RCA** – Refugee Cash Assistance
(if ineligible for SSI)





Medical
Screening

Domestic Medical Exam

- Comprehensive medical exam completed within the first 90 days of arrival
- Enables successful resettlement



Assess

Identify health conditions that threaten successful resettlement

Treat

Interrupt disease process

Refer

Primary care and specialists for ongoing care, disease prevention, and health education



Domestic Medical Exam

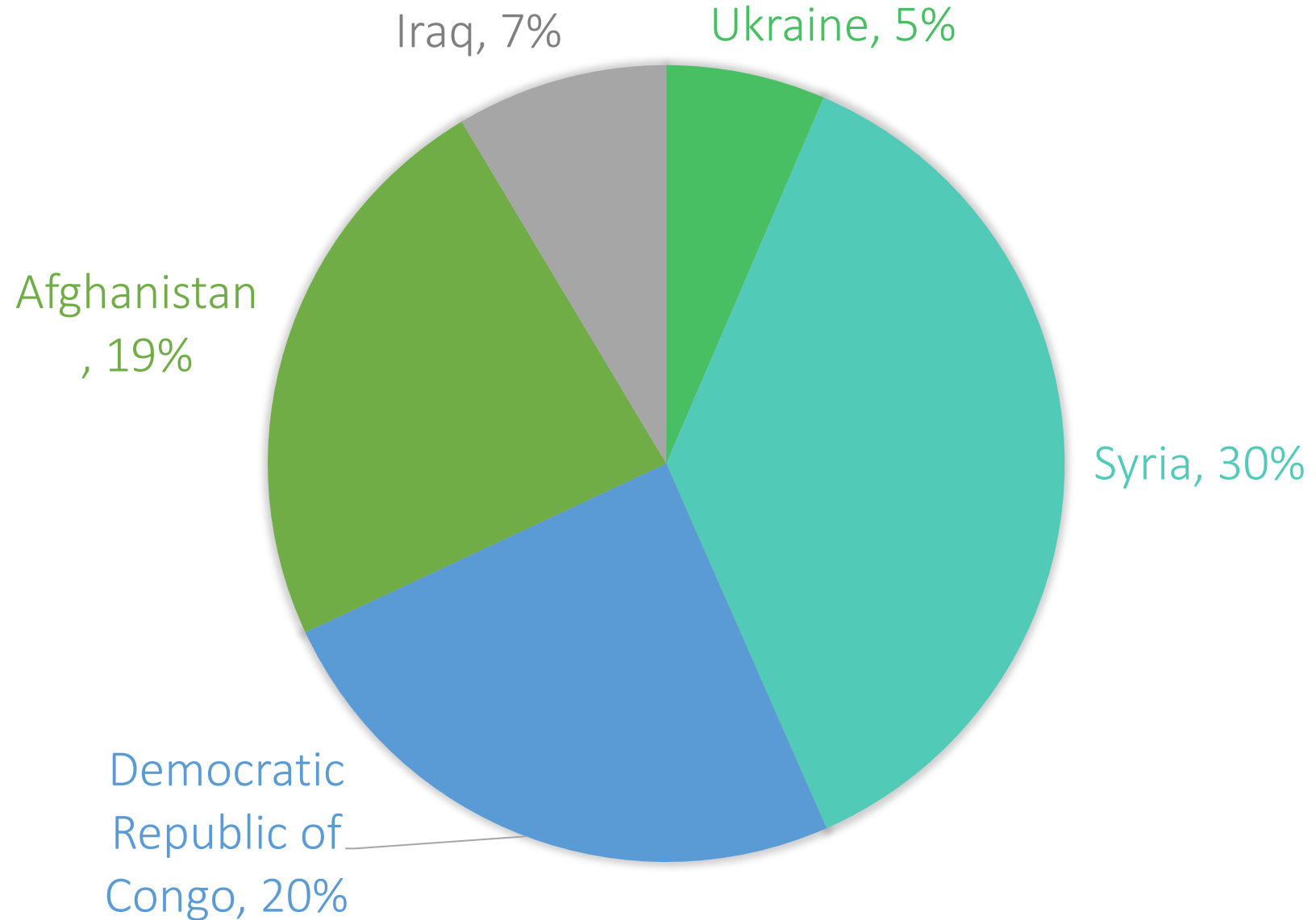


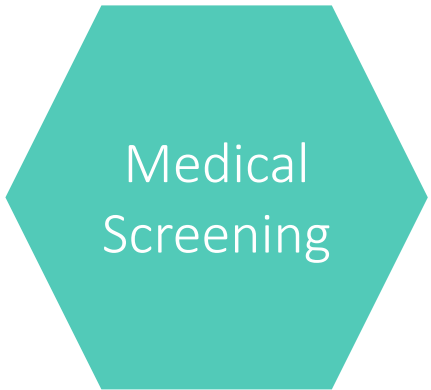
- Laboratory testing
- Cancer screening
- History and physical
- HIV screening
- Immunizations
- Intestinal parasite testing/
presumptive treatment
- Lead screening
- Mental health screening
- Malaria testing/presumptive treatment
- Nutrition and growth
- Sexual and reproductive health
- Tuberculosis screening
- Viral hepatitis screening



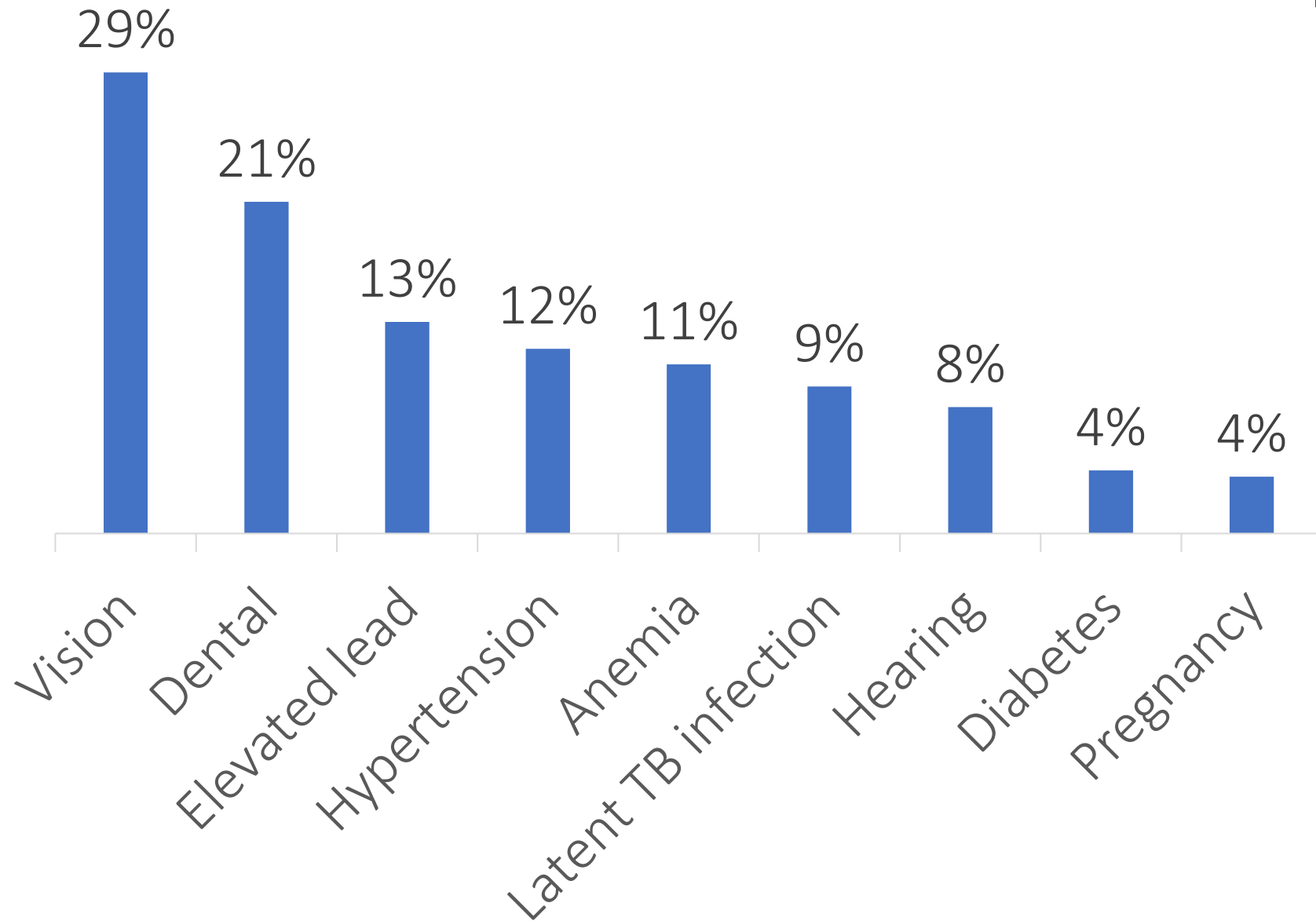
Medical
Screening

Domestic Medical Exam FY 2024





Domestic Medical Exam FY 2024





Health Promotion

1. Provide opportunities to increase health literacy
2. Coordinate physical and mental health care
3. Organize wellness groups

- Health education classes (*diabetes, oral health, nutrition*)
- Targeted health outreach to individuals (*immunization clinics, health fairs*)
- Medical and mental health navigation and support (*specialist referrals, managing insurance*)
- Adjustment groups, skill-building networks, and peer support meetings (*women's groups, sewing circles*)





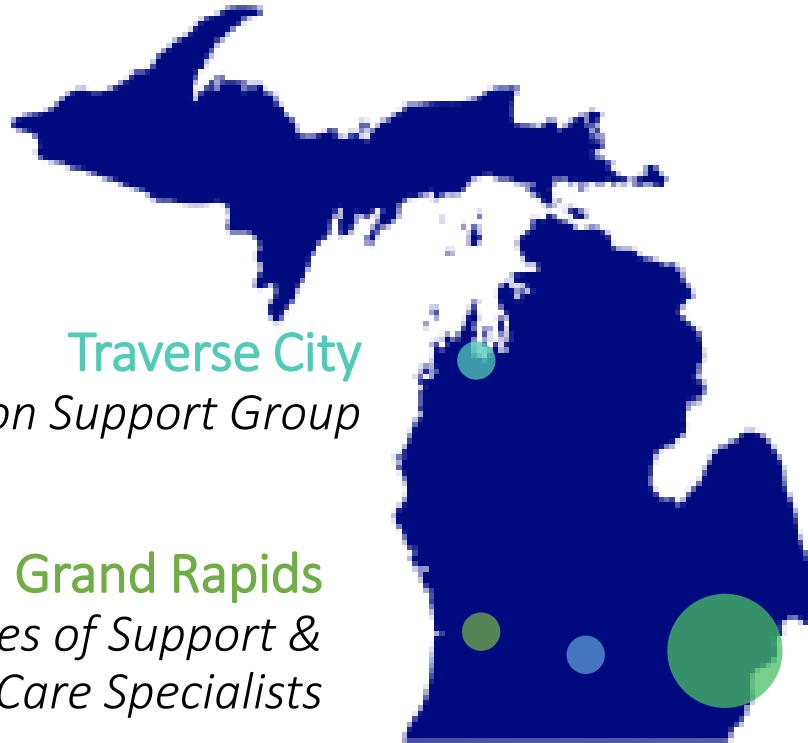
Mental Wellness

- Raise awareness and remove stigmas
- Encourage culturally competent mental health screenings
- Facilitate strengths-based mental health case management services
- Develop partnerships to increase access to care; and
- Promote resiliency factors and mental health education





Mental
Wellness



Traverse City

Community Connection Support Group

Grand Rapids

*Circles of Support &
Collective Care Specialists*

SEMI

- *Henry Ford Zero Suicide*
- *Afghan Family Strengthening Intervention*
- *Refugee Mental Health Literacy & Wellness*
- *Refugee Behavioral Health Education*
- *Social Support for Afghan Mothers (SFAM)*
- *Creative Therapies*
- *Ukrainian Mental Health Support*

Lansing

- *Afghan Family Strengthening Intervention*
- *Refugee Women's Empowerment Circles and Networking (WECAN)*
- *Newcomers on the Move*
- *Mental Wellness Education (MWE)*





Formation of Regional Community Collaboratives (RCC)

- Enhance Communication with Grassroots Organizations
- Foster Increased Collaboration within the Region
- Strengthen Local Partnerships
- Build Trust and Transparency



Ethnic Commissions: Strengthening Intersectional Collaboration

- Expansion of Commissions
- Opportunities for Intersectional Work
- Intentional Community Outreach
- Onboarding Commission Manage



Terminology and Definitions

“Refugee 101”

Under United States law, a refugee is someone who:

- Is located outside of the U.S.
- Is of special humanitarian concern to the U.S.
- Demonstrates that they were persecuted or fear persecution due to race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group.
- Is not firmly resettled in another country.
- Is admissible to the U.S.



Refugee “Equivalents”

Eligible for services to the same extent as a refugee

- Asylee
- Derivative Asylee
- Victim of Human Trafficking
- Afghan and Iraqi Special Immigrant Visas (SIV)
- Cuban and Haitian Entrants*
- Afghanistan Humanitarian Parolees (arrived through OAW)*
- Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees*



NOT “1 0 1” ANYMORE

New Arrivals for FY23 and Beyond

CHNV Parolees - Cuban, Haitian, Nicaraguan, and Venezuelan Parole Sponsorship

- Expanded the process used for Venezuelans to Cuban, Haitians and Nicaraguans
- Program for an application process for family outside the United States to be paroled for up to two years
- Eligible for SSNs and Work Authorization
- ONLY Cubans and Haitians are eligible for public benefits

Welcome Corps

- Private sponsorship model that allows Americans to sponsor refugees arriving through the US Refugee Admissions Program, arrive with refugee status
- Groups of 5 or more people needed to sponsor, not for individuals or family reunification
- Refugees would not arrive through the resettlement agencies, but the sponsors would provide supports for 90 days
- Arrivals could be resettled outside traditional refugee resettlement areas, where the sponsors are located
- Starting with 5,000 arrivals from Sub-Saharan Africa (Likely Eritrean and Congolese)

DIFFERENCES

in recent arrivals from traditional refugee resettlement

- ✓ **Afghanistan Humanitarian Parolees** were evacuated and placed on military bases until they were able to be placed with a refugee resettlement agency and relocated to their final destination. Arrivals from Afghanistan under OAR/OAW need to apply and be approved for asylum if they seek to remain in the United States.
- ✓ **Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees** are mostly arriving under a sponsorship model (U4U) without the assistance and support of a refugee resettlement agency. UHPs are often left to navigate the system without the help of an experienced agency and rely on community supports instead. UHPs are expected to return to Ukraine once the conflict is resolved.
- ✓ **Cuban/Haitian Entrants** have been arriving to Michigan for many years, but the path to arriving in the United States has changed recently. Many individuals arriving from Cuba or Haiti present themselves at the US border to seek asylum. USCIS has also reinstated the Cuban Family Reunification, so family still residing in Cuba may be approved to reunify with family residing in the United States. Entrants are paroled into the US while they await immigration hearings.

ALTERNATIVE PATHWAYS:

New lawful entry pathways outside traditional refugee resettlement

Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees (U4U)

- Must have a supporter in the U.S.
- Up to 2-years parole / eligible for SSNs and Employment Authorization
- Eligible for public benefits

Cuban, Haitian, Nicaraguan, and Venezuelan Parole Program (CHNV)

- Must have a supporter in the U.S.
- Up to 2-years parole / eligible for SSNs and Employment Authorization
- ONLY Cubans and Haitians are eligible for public benefits

WELCOME CORPS

- Refugees seeking freedom and safety
- Supported by Private Sponsor Groups (PSG)
- Arrive with refugee status
- Eligible for SSNs, Employment Authorization, and public benefits

WHO CAN BE A PRIVATE SPONSOR?

U4U PROGRAM

- A person with a lawful status in U.S.
- Must fill out an I-134 form
- No fees associated with application
- Sponsor and beneficiaries vetting
- Sponsor's responsibilities
- Beneficiaries are eligible for public benefits in the U.S.

CHNV PROCESS

- A person with a lawful status in U.S.
- Must fill out an I-134 form
- No fees associated with application
- Sponsor and beneficiaries vetting
- Sponsor's responsibilities
- Only Cuban and Haitian nationals are eligible for public benefits in the U.S.

WELCOME CORPS MODEL

What is the Welcome Corps?

- Resettlement is supported by community members
- Individuals form a Private Sponsorship Group (PSG)
- PSGs receive support from a Private Sponsor Organization (PSO)
- PSG provide services similar to traditional resettlement format
- Refugees are eligible for public benefits in the U.S.
- PSGs can match with a refugee, or apply to sponsor a specific refugee
- Education and Employment options:
 - Welcome Corps on Campus
 - Welcome Corps at Work

PSG's RESPONSIBILITIES | RESETTLEMENT SUPPORT

FIRST 90 DAYS

- ✓ Airport reception
- ✓ Financial support
- ✓ Housing
- ✓ Basic needs
- ✓ Documentation
- ✓ Health & Mental Health services
- ✓ Public Benefits and services
- ✓ Education and childcare
- ✓ Language acquisition
- ✓ Interpretation & Translation
- ✓ Community and cultural connections
- ✓ Orientation
- ✓ Employment
- ✓ Transportation
- ✓ Transition from sponsorship
- ✓ Reporting and feedback

<https://welcomecorps.org/wp-content/uploads/Core-Private-Sponsorship-Services-Welcome-Corps.pdf>



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PRIVATE SPONSOR ORGANIZATION (PSO)

Role of a PSO

- Assist in identifying Private Sponsor Groups (PSGs)
- Provide support to PSGs
 - ✓ Pre-arrival application and preparation support
 - ✓ Post-arrival mentorship to PSGs
 - ✓ Solicit, receive and review 30- and 90-day reports
 - ✓ Intervene on issues and alert CSH
 - ✓ Receive and communicate case updates
 - ✓ Support during the 90 days transition

Lead PSO in Michigan
Zaman International



- welcomecorps@zamaninternational.org

WHY A COMMUNITY BASED MODEL?

- Knowledge of local communities
- Provide holistic services
- Friendship & emotional support
- Refugees have a built-in community
- Opportunity for additional regions to welcome refugees
- You are not alone in this!



Discussion

In groups of 6-8 people, consider and discuss the following. Select one group member to be the presenter to share out with the larger group.

1. Considering your programs and partnerships, how are you currently reaching refugee and immigrant newcomer audiences?
2. How could you adapt your programs to be more inclusive of newcomer populations?

We will reconvene after 10 minutes, and will call on volunteers to share as time allows.



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Thank you!!

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