Refugee Health

Refugee:
"The Immigration and Nationality Act defines a refugee as an individual who has experienced past persecution or has a well-founded fear of persecution on account of their race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion."

The US Refugees Assistance Program provides referrals to potential refugees. Once approved for resettlement, refugees are admitted to the United States.

The Church World Service (CWS) Durham welcomed 109 refugees in 2022 from 14 countries. CWS Durham is one of four local agencies in the triangle area that assist with refugee resettlement. Additional resources can be found through the US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, Lutheran Family Services in the Carolinas, and World Relief Durham.

69% of refugees from 2022 are women and children.

CWS Durham successfully filled 132 jobs with an average wage of $14.98/hour in 2022.

Afghan Placement Assistance Program
Following the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan, CWS Durham welcomed 306 Afghans in 2022.

President Biden increased the cap of the number of refugees for Fiscal Year 2022 and 2023 to 125,000 people - the highest ever.

The average age of women and children from 2022 is 21.70%.
Refugee resettlement agencies such as CWS Durham, refer new refugees to the Durham County Department of Public Health for medical exams and screenings.  

Communicable Disease Routine Screenings offered at the Health Department:  

All adult refugees:  
- Hepatitis B & C  
- Tuberculosis (TB)  
- HIV  
- Varicella  

Children under 18 years old:  
- Tuberculosis (TB)  
- HIV  
- Hepatitis B  

Refugees over 14 years old:  
- Syphilis  

At the Health Department, Latent Tuberculosis is the most common diagnosis followed by Chronic Hepatitis B.  

Number of Adult and Child refugees seen at Durham County’s Refugee Health Clinic.  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Adults</th>
<th>Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>247</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The sharp increase in refugee intake in 2022 is a result of Durham County aiding Ukrainian refugees while also aiding another North Carolina County with their refugee program.

Services offered at Durham County’s Refugee Health Clinic:  
- Communicable Disease Screening  
- Immunizations  
- Introduction to US healthcare system  
- Services provided with area relieve agencies, service organizations, local healthcare facilities and providers  
- Interpreters and Language lines are available  
- Referrals for medical care  

The Durham Refugee Health Clinic is located at 414 E Main St Durham, NC 27701 on the first floor in clinic 6.  

Clinic hours: Monday-Friday 8:30am - 5:00 pm.  

New refugee screenings are provided every Wednesday and Thursday by appointment only.

Resources:  
3. Durham County Department of Public Health.