



New Mexico Department of Health Refugee Health Program 2011 Legislative Session

The NM Refugee Health Program

Funded 100% with Office of Refugee Resettlement funds directly through a grant, and indirectly through a General Services Agreement with the NM Human Services Department under Title 8, Chapter 119 (Refugee Resettlement Program). There are **no state general funds supporting this program.**

Refugee Health Main Functions

- **Mandatory health screenings** (provided at the Southeast Heights Public Health Office, Albuquerque) within 90 days of arrival
 - TB, sexually transmitted infections, hepatitis B and C & chronic conditions
 - Vaccinations
 - Referrals for care
- **Mental health assessments** as needed (only a few other states provide this essential service)
- **Interpreter and translation services**
 - For health screenings
 - For translations of essential documents
- **Refugee mental health education and training** for both refugees and health care providers

Program Importance to New Mexico

- Health screening and mental health assessments serve as an entry point into the U.S. health system, **preventing unnecessary emergency room visits**
- **Prevents transmission** of communicable diseases to the public
- **Ensures follow-up** for conditions affecting personal well-being or impeding a refugee's ability to effectively resettle and function in the US society (economic self-sufficiency and/or unnecessary admin/clinical costs)

The percent of refugees resettled in NM by country of origin
2nd half of 2009 vs 1st half of 2010

