

Presentation on Advancing Health Equity in Refugee Women's Health

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Current global health crisis with highest rate of people displaced since WWII, reported 1 in 110 person on earth has been forced to flee.

Refugee defined by The Refugee Act of 1980 as: a person who is outside their home country and unable or unwilling to return due to persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution based on their race, religion, nationality, membership in social group or political opinion

Arizona, particularly Phoenix among top 10 state for refugee arrivals in US

There are immediately benefits and protection from previous abusive/exploitive situations, removal from hostile environment and prevention of future acts of violence and harm but also new vulnerabilities for refugees including health concerns, need to support dependent children in new environment, stress from disrupted family ties, social isolation, illiteracy in new country.

Additionally there are barriers in accessing care: limited English fluency, lack of insurance, fear of stigma in cases of female genital cutting. These social determinates of health are evident in subsequent increased risk of preterm birth, cesarean rate, as well as differences in maternal morbidity when examining refugee pregnancies and deliveries.

At Maricopa Integrated Healthcare System, Dr. Johnson-Agbakwu has established the Refugee Women's Health Clinic's. This clinic's mission is to provide patient-centered, community-driven health care to women, children, and families with additional goal as to serve as a health care model to be adapted elsewhere. The clinic has dedicated interpreters to help provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services to help reduce/eliminate health disparities and cultural barriers to care. +13 languages represented by interpreters, incorporation of culture, tradition, continuity of care to build trust and to improve health outcomes