

# Snohomish County Health Department Refugee Health Program

## Purpose

The Refugee Health Screening Program, administered by the Snohomish County Health Department, provides comprehensive health screenings for newly arrived refugees from foreign countries who resettle in the county. Health screenings include:

- Basic health screening interview
- Immunization record review
- Referrals for other health conditions
- Tuberculosis (TB), anemia, communicable diseases, and vital sign screenings
- Provide presumptive parasitic treatment (if applicable)
- Ensure individual/family are connected with primary care provider, dentist, eye doctor, mental health support

## Background

A refugee is a person who is unable to return to their home country because of persecution, or a well-founded fear of persecution due to race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. Other individuals who are eligible for services on the same basis as refugees include: persons granted asylum; certain Amerasians from Vietnam; Cuban/Haitian entrants; Iraqi and Afghan special immigrants; and victims of human trafficking.

- The Refugee Act of 1980 created The Federal Refugee Resettlement Program to provide for the effective resettlement of refugees and to assist them to achieve economic self-sufficiency after arrival in the U.S. Title IV, Chapter 2 of the Immigration and Nationality Act contains the provisions of the Refugee Act.
- Washington State is home to a diverse refugee community and is one of the top ten states for refugee arrivals.
- Washington State Department of Health partners with DSHS Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance (ORIA) and community partners to ensure refugees receive a health screening within 90 days of arrival to the United States.

## Funding

Below is an overview of funding provided to the Snohomish County Health Department for this work:

**Federal Funding** - Funds come to Washington State from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Refugee Resettlement, which is in the Office of the Administration for Children and Families. <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr>

**Local Funding** - Funding for programmatic work at the Health Department comes via a contract with the Department of Social and Health Services Office of Immigrant and Refugee Assistance. Below is a summary of the funding provided to the Health Department:

- FFY25 - \$414,100
- FFY24 - \$300,000

- FFY23 - \$287,000

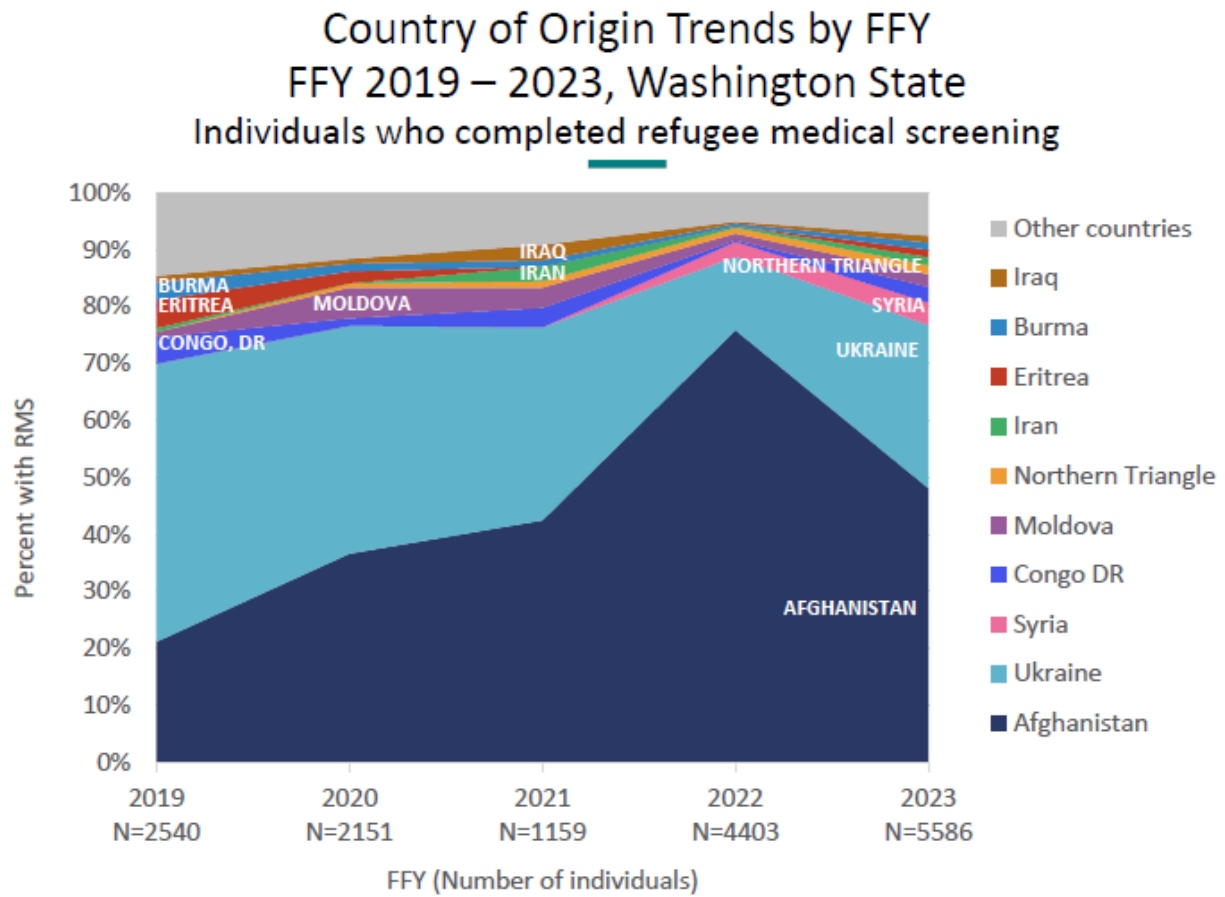
### Potential future issues

- The FY 2025 budget appropriations did not propose any cuts to this area of HHS.
- At this time it is unclear if the incoming Administration would make adjustments to this program's budget.
- During the last Trump administration, the number of refugee resettlements dropped to 11,814 in 2020. As a comparison, for fiscal year 2024 there were 100,034 refugees resettled in the U.S.
  - Estimated number of arrivals into Snohomish County for 2025 range from 400 – 1,200 individuals.
- The program could be suspended while the new administration reviews the program.
- Additional restrictions could be placed on which countries the U.S. would accept refugees from.
- There is the possibility that the new administration would halt the temporary legal status of Ukrainian and Afghan parolees.
  - A "refugee with parolee status" refers to an individual who has been granted refugee status but is currently allowed to be in the United States on "parole," meaning they are temporarily permitted to enter or remain in the country due to urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit, even though they haven't been formally admitted as immigrants under normal immigration procedures; essentially, they are considered a refugee but their current legal status within the U.S. is "parole."

### Additional information

The following pages include data available from the Washington State Department of Health on trends in refugee medical screenings.

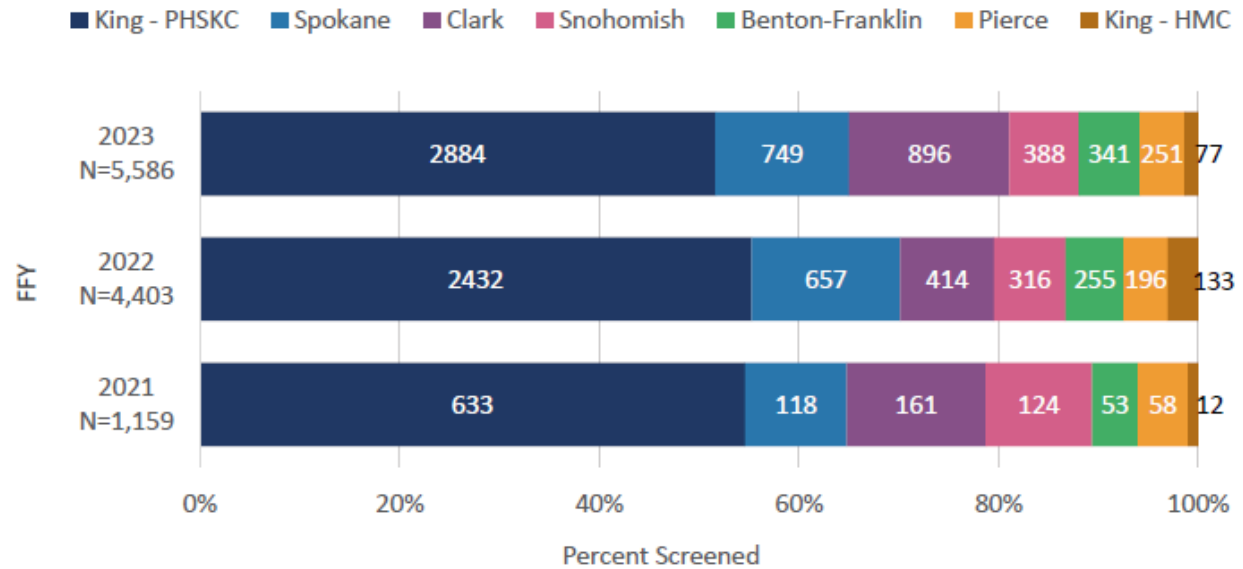
Data provided by WA State Department of Health



FFY=Federal Fiscal Year (Oct-Sep)

Northern Triangle includes El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

# Location of Refugee Medical Screening by FFY FFY 2021 – 2023 Washington State



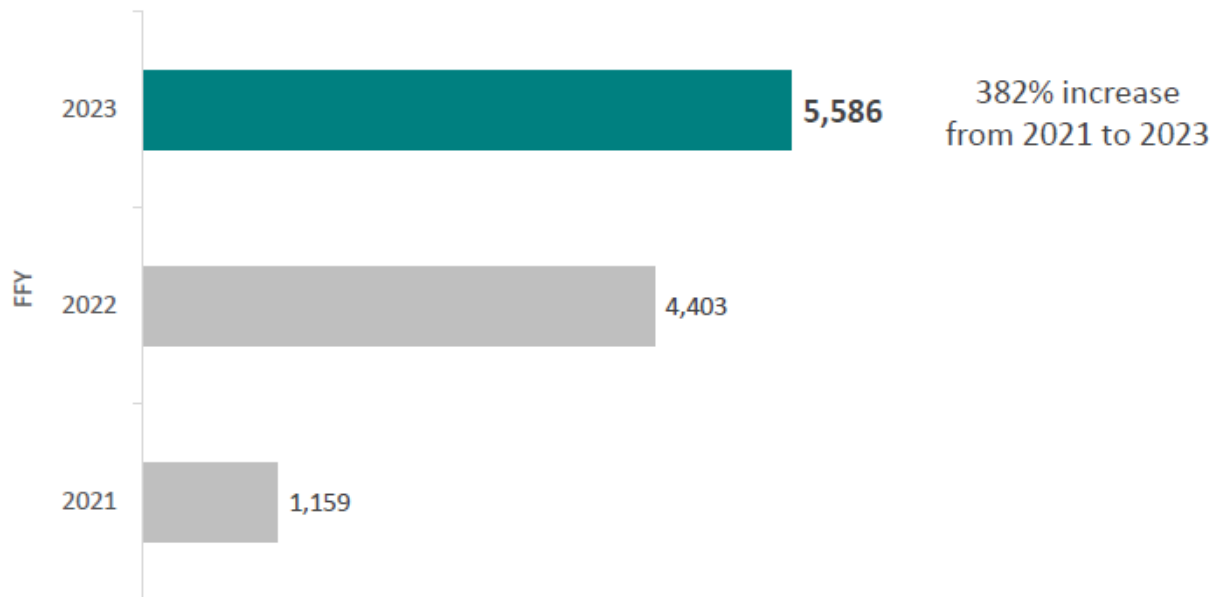
The bars represent the proportion of screenings by clinic; the bar labels denote the number of clients screened.

\*FFY=Federal Fiscal Year (Oct-Sep)

PHSKC=Public Health – Seattle and King County

HMC=Harborview Medical Center

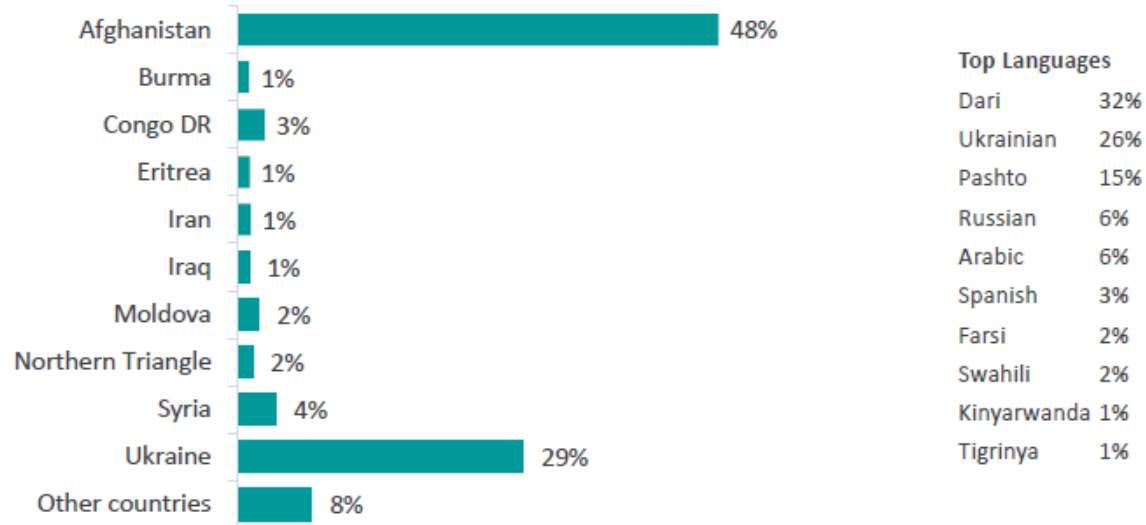
Individuals who completed refugee medical screening  
FFY 2021 – 2023  
Washington State



# Country of Origin and Language

## FFY 2023

### Washington State, N=5,586



Other countries include (in order of arrivals volume): Russia, Somalia, Colombia, Vietnam, Kyrgyzstan, Ethiopia, Uzbekistan, Rwanda, Sudan, Venezuela, Kenya, Jordan, Cuba, Uganda, Chad, Zambia, Lebanon, Senegal, Tanzania, Belarus, Tajikistan, Malaysia, Thailand, Nigeria, Armenia, Ecuador, Haiti, China, South Sudan, Guinea, Indonesia, Pakistan, South Africa, Egypt, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Cameroon, Central African Republic, and Nicaragua.

# Country of Origin by County of Screening

## FFY 2023, Washington State, N=5,586

Snohomish, n=388

