Screening for Refugees for Medical Problems

WIAAP
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Disclosures: NONE

Objectives
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• To describe some demographics about which refugee groups are coming to Wisconsin.
• To discuss some of the mental health issues in refugees.
• To discuss some of the main medical problems we screen for in refugees.
• To come out of here totally juiced up to begin working with refugees.

Important Points:

• You are not alone!
• Lots of resources to help do this properly.
• You can bill Medicaid for this (hey, at least it’s something).
• You already know how to do this (you probably just don’t realize it).
Refugees and Asylee’s: Who are They?

- In 2014, Wisconsin resettled 1,132 refugees, mostly from Burma, Iraq, or Somalia (Office of Refugee Resettlement, 2015)Recent countries of origin?
- Where do they settle? Mainly SE Wisconsin, & Dane County

Secondary Migration for Wisconsin - 2003

So What?
- Suffer disproportionately: These aren’t the Garden Spots of the Globe
So What?

- Suffer disproportionately
- High levels of trauma

We don’t know how to ask about trauma

- 2003 – Latino Primary Care Patients in LA
  - 54% had experienced political violence
  - 8% personally suffered torture
  - Twice as likely to be Depressed
  - Twice as likely to be suffering from PTSD
  - 3% ever told doctor
  - 0% ever were asked by doctor
- Estimates of the proportion of asylum seekers who have been tortured vary from 5 - 30%, depending on the definition of torture used and their country of origin.

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- 2008 Iraqi refugees in Salt Lake, Utah
  - 55% adults tortured (primary or secondary)
  - 7% of children tortured
So What?

- Suffer disproportionately
- High levels of trauma
- Arrive in US and face improved personal security but now are stressed w/ assimilation/poverty/separation/cultural isolation/etc.

Lack of Health Workforce recognition of this problem

Physical and Mental dimensions

Cultural Competencies

Lack of resources to address their needs: both a quantitative issue and a qualitative issue
Pre-Departure Screening Forms (or lack thereof)

Part I

Class B - TB
(This is important)

Post-Arrival Screening Forms (or lack, thereof)

Part II
Screening is NOT primary care

• It’s more like speed dating

Vaccinations!
(pssst: this is important, too)

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