



Refugee Health



**SNOHOMISH
COUNTY** 
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

What is a Refugee?

- 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.
- 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.

Connection to Public Health

- Identify infectious and non-infectious diseases and ensure they are treated, thus improving both individual client and population health
- Refugees are at increased risk for health problems due to challenges accessing healthcare, language barriers, previous inadequate access to food, water, and sanitation, or discrimination in their country of origin.

History of Refugee Health Program

- Contract with DSHS for the past 25 years for comprehensive refugee health services
- Prior to that, provided refugee health services to targeted demographics since mid-1970s

Our Team

- Keri Moore, Program Supervisor 1.0 FTE
- Manreet Nijjer, Public Health Nurse 1.0 FTE
- Samantha Kelleher, Public Health Nurse .5 FTE
- Barb Sheets, Program Assistant II 1.0 FTE
- Anastasiia Bennett, Community Outreach Worker 1.0 FTE
- Brittany Wampler, Maxim Temporary Nurse .5 FTE



Program Goal

To provide trauma informed and culturally competent care to local refugees



Program Objectives

- To complete initial health screenings within 90 days of client arrival
- To educate clients regarding the importance and safety of immunizations
- To ensure clients are connected to health care including mental, dental, and eye health providers as needed
- To follow up with Class B clients and provide preventive treatment as needed
- To complete I-693 paperwork with returning clients one year after arrival

Data

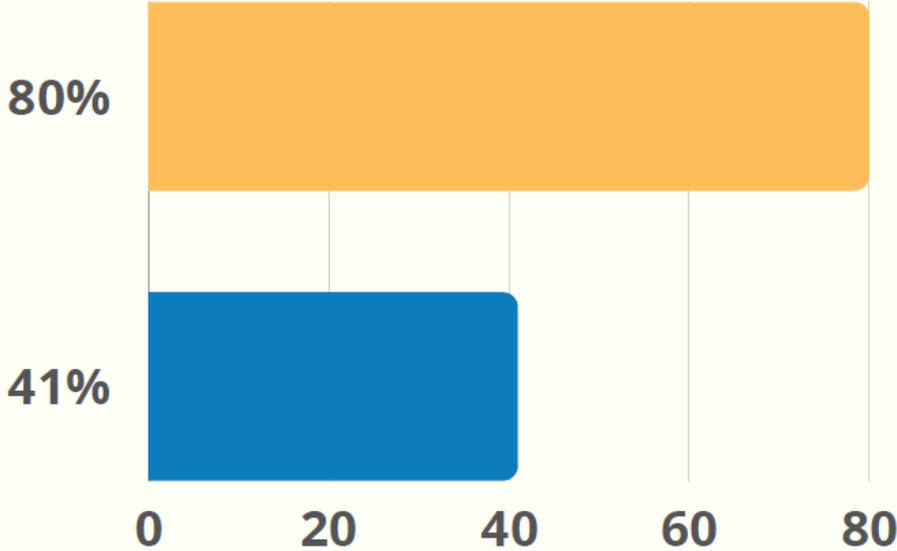
- Washington State is consistently in the top 10 states for refugee resettlement
- Snohomish County Fiscal Year 2021-2023
 - 828 refugees
 - Ukraine and Afghanistan most common
 - Emerging: Syria, El Salvador, Guatemala

Health Screenings

Health Screenings Completed Within 90 Days of Arrival: 2021-2023

Snohomish County Health Department

WA State Average



Emotional Wellness

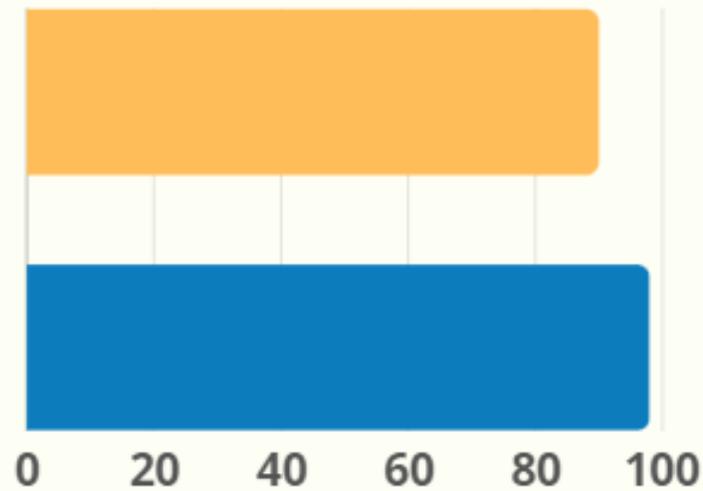
Percentage of Clients Screened for Emotional Wellness: 2021-2023

2022

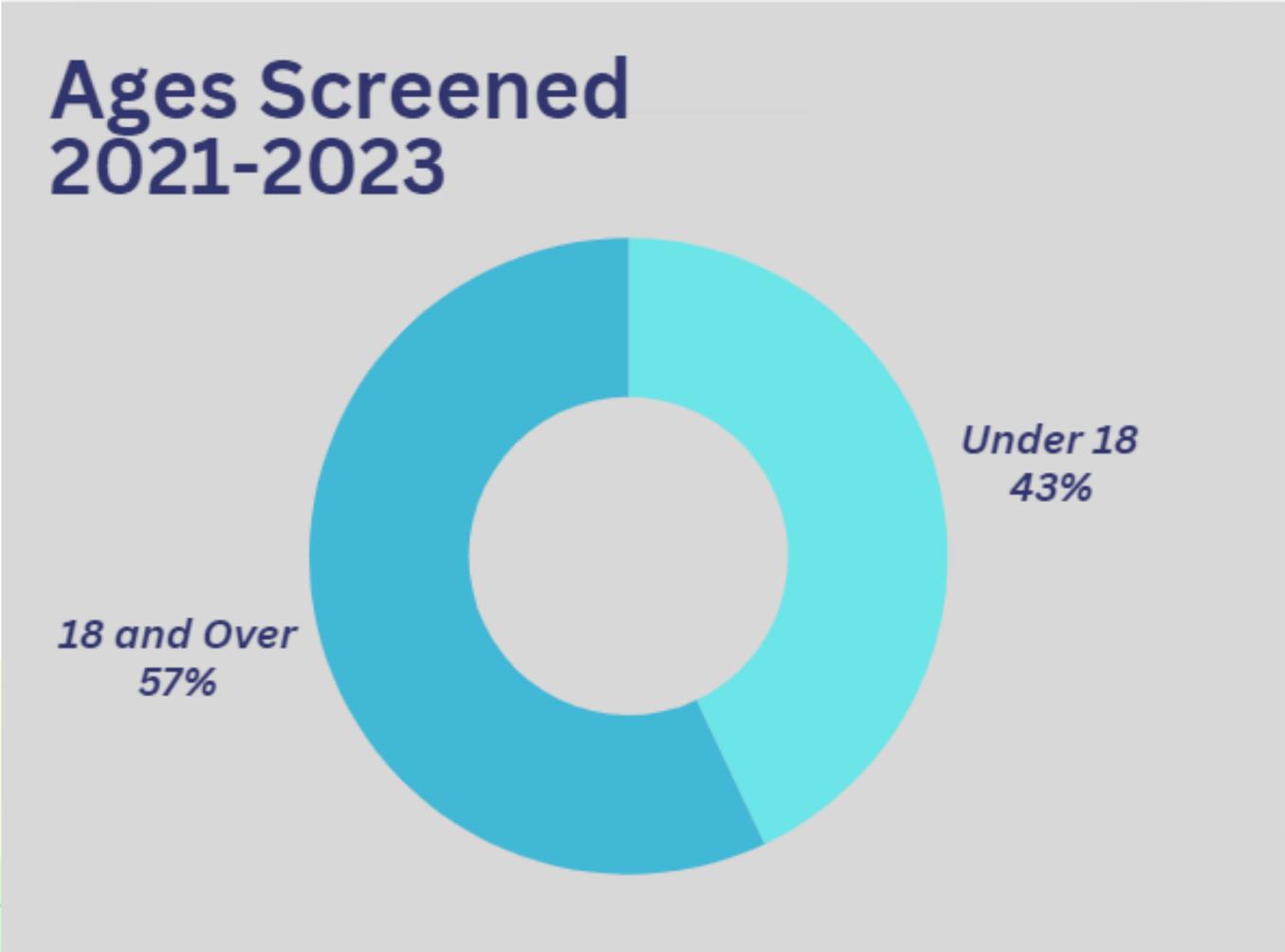
90%

2023

98%



Client Ages



Lead Screening: 2021-2023 Biennium

- 99% of children screened for lead
- 24% of those screened test positive

Identified Needs

- Dental
- Vision
- Emotional distress
- Blood lead level

Exams



Impact



Next Steps

- Continue to complete initial health screenings, I-693 visits, and Class B follow-up as staffing allows
- FY 2023-2025 projections: 1,175 refugees
- Forward progress on vaccine uptake in the Russian and Ukrainian populations
- Expand parasite treatment



Questions?

PUBLIC HEALTH
always working for a safer & healthier
SNOHOMISH COUNTY