ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION

Since 1975, over 3 million refugees have been resettled in the United States. They have begun their new lives in communities throughout the country, but this process is not easy. Refugees face a myriad of challenges that need to be overcome in order for them to acculturate into their local resettlement communities. The purpose of this study was to identify the primary needs of the newly arriving refugees in the process of resettlement in Jefferson County, KY.

METHODS

This project involved secondary data analysis from the Newly Arriving Refugee Surveillance System (NARSS) database for refugees arriving into Jefferson County during January through September 2015. A needs analysis survey was conducted on refugees seen at the vaccine clinic in Louisville, KY.

RESULTS

This project involved secondary data analysis from the NARSS database for refugees arriving into Jefferson County during January through September 2015. A needs analysis survey was conducted on refugees seen at the vaccine clinic in Louisville, KY to evaluate the concerns of transitioning, concerns about healthcare, and concerns about living a health life. Refugees had the option to choose multiple answers pertaining to each question about the type of concerns.

CONCLUSIONS

This study shows that the greatest perceived needs among newly arriving refugees is an overall understanding of the US health care system. Some of the biggest healthcare related concerns were help with over-the-counter medications, help with information at the doctor’s office, with help with depression closely behind these two issues. This study suggests that newly arriving refugees need an in-depth health orientation and health care professionals need to be better educated regarding refugee health needs and the complexities they bring with them.

With the number of refugees arriving in the U.S., the need will continue to grow and persist until something is put in place to improve these problems. Not only does the refugee population need assistance, healthcare providers also face challenges in managing care for this population. These barriers that stand between refugees and healthcare need to be resolved through the development of programs to aid the process of transitioning.

REFERENCES