Pediatric Refugee Research

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Disclosures

- I have no disclosures
Background

- Iraqi refugees increasingly migrating to US
- Iraq’s health care system more sophisticated than other countries of refugee origin
- Thus, Iraqis adjust to the US health care system differently from other refugee groups
- Research shows navigating US health system a challenge for refugees
- Limited data on Iraqi refugees health care experiences
Objectives

- To qualitatively examine the perceptions of newly arrived Iraqi refugees about their health care experience in the US

- To describe the unique challenges Iraqis face in health care utilization
Methods

- **Study Design**: Prospective cohort study
- **Study Setting**: Refugee Wellness Clinic at Einstein
- **Study Population**: Newly arrived (<2 years) Iraqi Refugees (> 10 years of age)
- **Study Method**:
  - Interviews grouped by household, conducted either face-to-face or via telephone.
  - Open-ended & guided questions
  - Arabic interpretation provided
  - Questions about access, satisfaction with care, cultural sensitivity, interpretation
Results

- Total # of families interviewed: 6 (n= 17)
- Males: 59 %
- Minors: 35 % (Age < 18 years)
- Major themes identified:
  - Appointment scheduling
  - Language barrier
  - Gender roles
  - Clinic visits and prescriptions
  - Health orientation
  - Other
Conclusions

- Pediatric experience rated higher than Medicine
- Overall experience is good, but challenges remain

Future directions:
- Improving appointment scheduling & prescribing
- Creating culturally competent health care orientation
- Being more sensitive to gender preferences
Nutrition study
- Interviewing Burmese, Bhutanese, and Congolese patients
- Aim to assist providers in nutrition counseling and identifying nutritional deficiencies
  - Identify nutrient rich traditional/cultural foods
  - Understand barriers to improving vitamin and micronutrient deficiencies
  - Understand caregivers concerns about their child's nutrition
  - Identify dietary changes since arrival to the US
Submitted for publication a study about weight gain trajectories in first year post-arrival

- ED utilization
- Effects of dietary education
- Promptness of TB screening results (QI project)
JFMA

- Immunization surveillance with CDC
- Domestic lead screening with CDC
- Differences in the Prevalence of Stunting and Overweight among Refugee Children within Two Years of US Resettlement (Washington State and CHOP)
- Hepatitis B immune status: Refugee children at the time of arrival in the United States, 2006-2012 (CHOP, Minnesota DOH, Washington State DOH, Colorado DOH, and University of Minnesota)
THANK YOU!!!