



# 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

# CHOP

- 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



# Jefferson Nemours Pediatrics

- 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)
- Health Profiles of Newly Arrived Refugee Children in the United States, 2006 – 2012 (CHOP in Minnesota DOH, Washington State DOH, Colorado DOH, and University of Minnesota)
- 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!!!