

There are currently 10.5 million refugees and as many as 43.7 million uprooted civilians in their own countries, so-called internally displaced people.

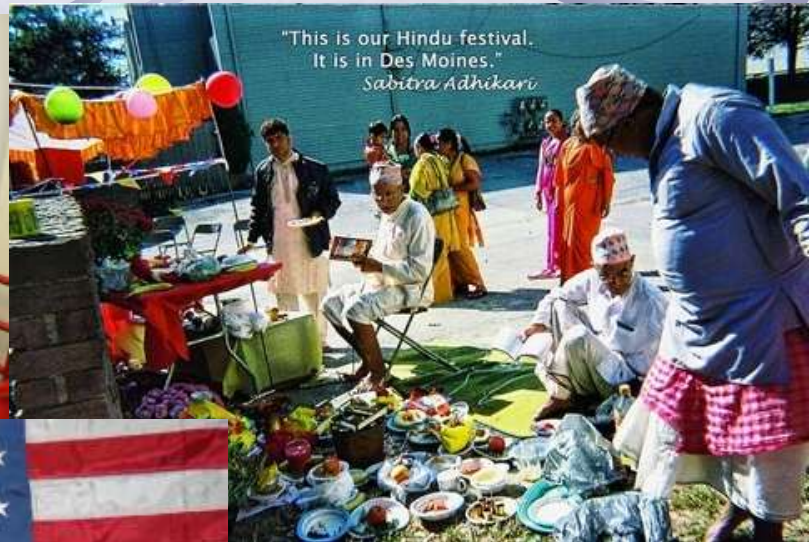


Sudanese refugees fleeing from war

Refugees







Refugees/Asylees

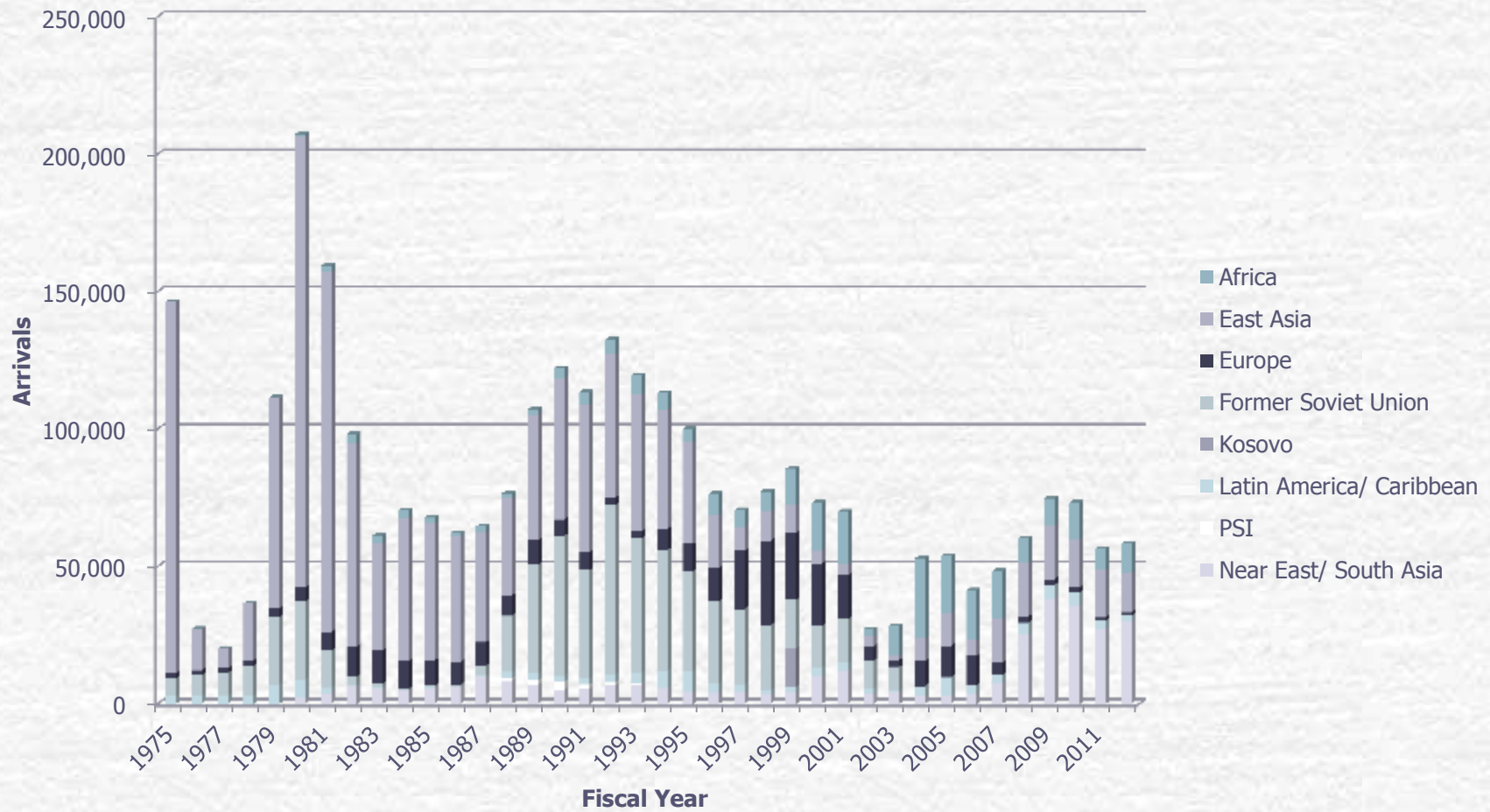
... who are they

- ☛ Persons who have suffered persecution or have a well founded fear of persecution because of their race, religion, nationality, social group or political opinion
- ☛ Refugees - living abroad
- ☛ Asylees - in-country or at a port-of-entry

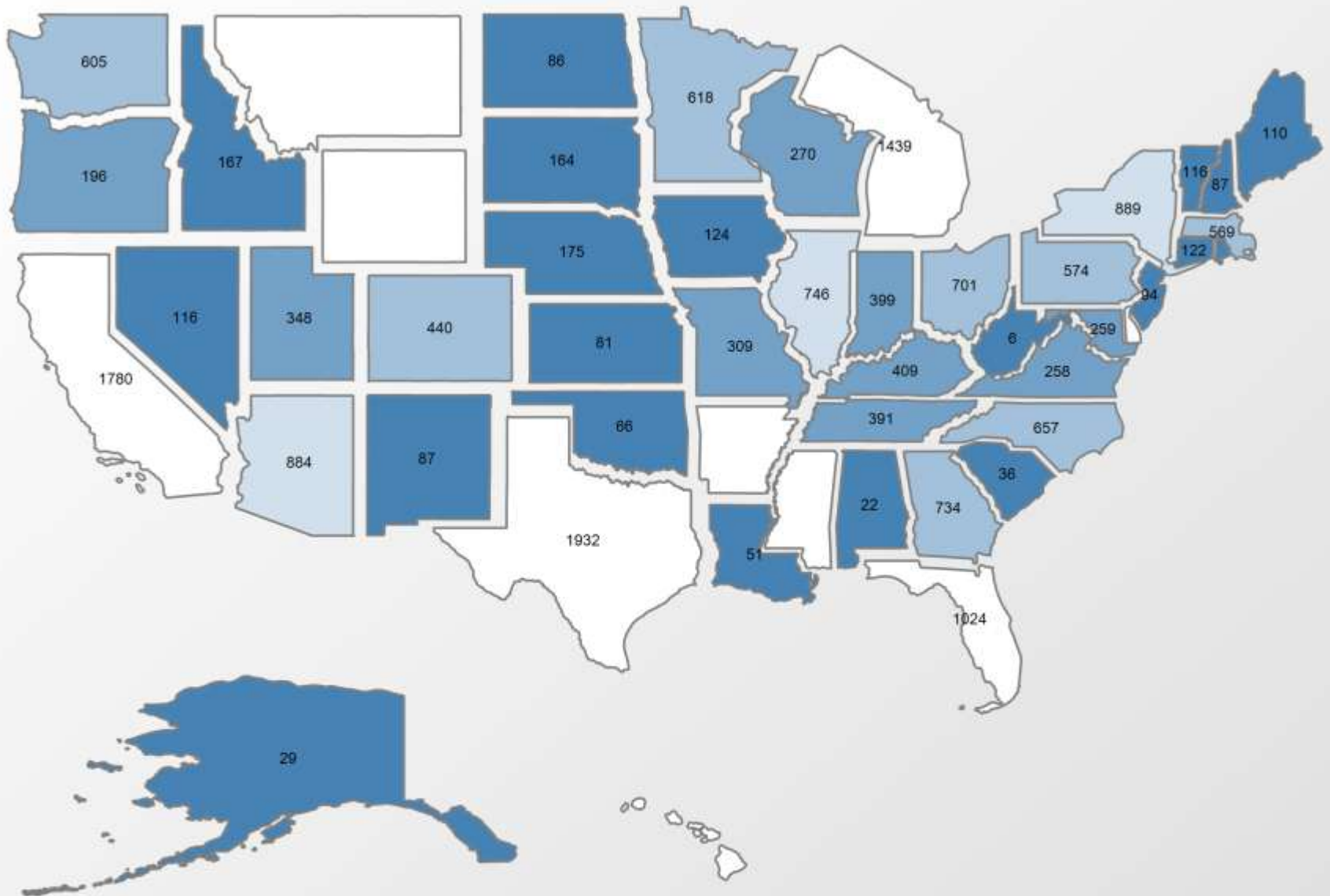
Refugees

- Since 1975 over **3 million** refugees have resettled in the United States.
- Refugees **legally enter** the United States in search of freedom, peace, and opportunity for themselves and their families.
- Persons are admitted as refugees after they are granted status by the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration at the U.S. Department of State and by the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Refugee Admissions



Arrivals by State



Refugee Arrivals

Year	United States	Iowa
2003	39,550	227
2004	79,432	461
2005	69,702	281
2006	57,979	356
2007	48,281	435
2008	60,191	564
2009	74,654	909
2010	73,311	330
2011	56,424	334
2012	58,238	439

U.S. REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT POLICY

- Return to home country from country of first asylum as soon as circumstances permit
- Resettle in country of first asylum or neighboring country
- Resettle in a third country, such as the United States

Eligibility Criteria For Refugee Admission Into U.S

- ✓ The applicant must be otherwise admissible under United States law; and
- ✓ The applicant must not be firmly resettled in any foreign country.

HOW ARE THE U.S. ADMISSION NUMBERS SET?

- Each year, the President of the United States, after consulting with Congress and appropriate agencies, determines the designated nationalities and processing priorities for refugee processing for the upcoming year. The President also sets annual ceilings on the total number of refugees who may enter the U.S. from each region of the world.

Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services Interview

- BCIS Officer Comes To Foreign Service Processing Post To Interview Applicants.
- BCIS Officer accepts, approves or denies the case.



Over Seas

Preparation For Departure

- Medical exams, inoculations and necessary treatment
- Limited cultural orientation (4hrs - week)
- Sign promissory note for travel loan administered by International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Case Assignment

- Biographical data for case sent to the Refugee Processing Center in Washington DC
- At weekly allocations meeting case assigned to national Voluntary Resettlement Agency (VOLAG)
- Case assigned to one of the local affiliates of the VOLAG

Types of Cases

- ✓ **US Ties**- Immediate family, parents, grandparents
- ✓ **Free** - No relatives in U.S.

Core Services

- ✓ Basic needs first 30 days
 - Housing
 - Food
 - Clothing
- ✓ Apply for Social Security Card
- ✓ Refugee physical
- ✓ Enroll children in school
- ✓ Refer for employment services
- ✓ Orientation

Basic Assistance

- ☛ Refugee Cash Assistance – Limit 8 months
Grant \$183 single and \$361 couple
- ☛ Refugee Medical Assistance – Limit 8 mos
- ☛ FIP – 5 year life time limit
 - Cash Assistance – 183, 361, 426, 495, 548, 610
 - Title XIX
- Food Stamps



Iowa Bureau of Refugee Services

The Bureau of Refugee Services can trace its roots back to 1975 when Governor Robert Ray established the Governor's Task Force for Indochinese Resettlement. Since that time, the State of Iowa has developed a wonderful history of assisting thousands of refugees to settle in a new land and start a new life.



Refugee Resettlement in Iowa

- ☛ 1975 – 1993
- ☛ 1993 – 2001
- ☛ Post 9/11/01 – 2008
- ☛ 2008 – Present
- ☛ Future???

1975 - 1993

- ✓ Priority of Governor
- ✓ Emphasis on Employment
- ✓ Southeast Asians
- ✓ State Wide
- ✓ Sponsors/Volunteers
- ✓ Federal Safety Net

1993 - 2001

- ✓ Southeast Asian program slowing down
- ✓ End of Cold War and Former Soviet Union
- ✓ Bosnian Resettlement
- ✓ Resettlement primarily in few counties
- ✓ Welfare Reform
- ✓ Reduction of Federal Resettlement Funds
- ✓ More dependence on refugee relatives and fewer sponsors

Post 9/11 - 2008

- New security and processing procedures
- Low arrivals – end of Bosnian resettlement and all but few Vietnamese
- African resettlement becomes primary
- Resettlement eventually focused in Polk County
- Agency resettlement rather than sponsors

2008 - Present


- Burmese, Bhutanese, and Iraqi cases
- Resettlement concentrated in Des Moines
- Financial crisis – more limited services
- Case load high need and high barrier
- Lutheran Services of Iowa and Bureau of Refugee Services stop resettling refugees
- New resettlement agencies
- Increasing secondary migration

Future Trends

- ✦ Inadequate federal funding
- ✦ Affordable Care Act
- ✦ Frequently changing refugee populations that are being resettled – multiple languages
- ✦ On going secondary migration
- ✦ Resettlement concentrated in very limited locations
- ✦ Increasing need for state, local, private funding and resources



Challenges and Opportunities

- ✓ Housing
 - ✓ Mental Health
 - ✓ Case Management
 - ✓ Emergency Assistance
 - ✓ ESL – Especially pre-literate
 - ✓ Transportation
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Resettlement Offices

- US Committee on Refugees and Immigrants
- 100 East Euclid Avenue, Ste 105
- Des Moines, Iowa 50313
- 515-528-7521
- Catholic Charities
- 601 Grand Ave, Des Moines, IA 50309
- 237-5095

Resettlement Agencies

- ✓ Catholic Charities
- ✓ 1430 Second Avenue SE
- ✓ Cedar Rapids, IA 52403
- ✓ 319-364-7122
- ✓ World Relief 3115 Avenue of the Cities
- ✓ Moline, Illinois 6125
- ✓ 309-764-2279



Bureau of Refugee Services

401 SW 7th St, Suite N

Des Moines, Iowa 50309

 1-800-362-2780 Toll free in Iowa

 1-515-283-7999

 Vietnamese, Tai Dam, Tai, Laotian,
Bosnian, Nuer, Arabic, Somali,
Swahili, Burmese, and Chin

 www.dhs.state.ia.us/refugee

