

## NC REFUGEE HEALTH PROGRAM

**Refugees** are individuals fleeing from persecution in their homelands who have been designated for resettlement elsewhere in the world. In order to make determination of refugee status, representatives of the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) - Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) interview and approve refugees overseas who are found to have a valid persecution claim and are deemed admissible to the United States after careful criminal background checks and health/mental health screening. Refugees are required to apply for Legal Permanent Resident status one year after entry into and physical presence in the United States.

Locally provided services for newly arrived refugees generally include communicable disease screening, physical exams, vaccinations, outreach, referrals for follow-up care, and interpreter services. These services are generally provided at local health departments and are coordinated through a designated Refugee Health Contact.

The **North Carolina Refugee Health Program** in the Division of Public Health coordinates refugee health assessments and screenings for newly arrived refugees and other eligible populations. Refugee health assessments provided by designated local health departments generally include medical history, physical examination, review of documents, determination of immunization status/upgrade vaccinations, tuberculosis screening, ova and parasite testing, sexually transmitted disease testing, other lab tests as indicated and treatment or referral as appropriate. Recommended disease screenings for refugees may include but are not limited to tuberculosis, hepatitis B, and HIV.

To reach the North Carolina State Refugee Health Office, please contact:

North Carolina Refugee Health Coordinator  
Phone: 919-733-7286 Ext. 106