

Regionalizing Immigration, Health and Inequality: Iraqi Refugees in Australia

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Key Words:

Australia, refugees, regional resettlement, support services, vulnerability

Research aim:

The study aims to examine some of the conditions that characterize regional resettlement and raise key questions for public health policy. Structural vulnerabilities and discrimination impact upon physical, mental and social well-being, leading to further exclusion, with negative long-term implications.

Results/Conclusion:

Low socio-economic status, language dispossession, and insufficient and poor familiarity of health, welfare and other services (e.g., housing assistance) inhibit successful resettlement. These factors compound to reinforce social disadvantage and a poorer standard of living. In the context of questioning the rights of refugees, both to refugee status and to standard government support, the contributions they might bring to their new home are largely overlooked. However, the gains of migration cannot be accrued unless investment is made in their settlement. This investment needs to be formulated with the ultimate goals of social inclusion, freedom from discrimination and access to economic resources. In this sense, there is a critical need for the recognition of the effects of social positioning on health and well being, legitimized through evidence-based practice to increase the allocation of resources (medical, social service, and political) to improve the settlement experiences of refugees.

Implications:

Cultural Group(s):

Refugees

Location of study:

Age group:

Number included in study:

Type of participants:

Refugees

Research approach:

Type of data:

Mixed qualitative and quantitative

Secondary data sources used:

Specific scales or analytical techniques used:

Implications/ Recommendations:

Notes: