

Summary: Refugee and Asylee Resettlement in Maryland 2010-2014

(Note: All references to years are for the federal fiscal year, which runs from October 1 to September 30.)

Refugee Resettlement

- Between 2010 and 2014, 6,716 refugees from 50 countries resettled in Maryland. Forty-three percent were resettled in Baltimore City, while 34% resettled in Montgomery County, and 9% resettled in Prince George's County.
- Asian arrivals increased between 2010 (842 refugees) and 2014 (1,224 refugees), accounting 76% of the five-year totals. Two Asian countries—Burma (1666, 25% of all arrivals) and Bhut (1503, 22% of all arrivals)—accounted for the majority (62%) of Asian arrivals.
- Twenty-two percent of refugee arrivals came from Africa. The number of African arrivals increased from 271 in 2010 to 389 in 2014.
- Two agencies resettled the majority of refugee arrivals between 2010 and 2014: the International Rescue Committee (IRC, 78%) and the Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service (LIRS, 9%).
- During this period, the median age at arrival was 25. Forty-five percent of these arrivals were female and 55% were male.

Asylee Resettlement

- Between 2010 and 2014, 3,955 asylees from 73 countries resettled in Maryland. Most individuals came from Africa (82%), while 13% came from Asia, 2% from the Former Soviet Union, and from other regions—primarily Latin America. The median age was 30. Forty-eight percent were female and 52% were male.
- Fifty-five percent of asylee arrivals were resettled in Montgomery County, 18% in Prince George's County, 12% in Baltimore City, and 15% in other counties across the state.

English as a Second Language (ESL) and Vocational Training (VESL)

- Between 2010 and 2014, the average annual enrollment of refugees and asylees in ESL-VESL training programs was 1,709 individuals. The trend for the five-year period shows a fairly steady rate in annual ESL-VESL enrollment, from 1,713 clients in 2010 to 1,684 in 2014.
- From 2010 to 2014, the highest enrollments in ESL-VESL training programs were in Baltimore (45%) and Prince George's County (25%).

Employment

- Between 2010 and 2014, the annual number of enrollments for refugees and asylees in employment services increased from 852 to 1,258. The average annual number of enrollments was 1,101.
- The average annual transition rate from training to employment during this period was 82% peaking at 89% in 2011, and reaching a low of 73% in 2014.
- Job placements for asylees and refugees over the same five-year period increased from 692 in 2010 to 1,044 in 2013, with decreases in 2011 (843) and 2014 (917). The average number of job placements over the five-year period was 899.

- For the period 2010-2014, most individuals who enrolled in employment training had at minimum, a high school diploma, and most individuals placed into jobs also had, at minimum, a high school diploma. High school graduates and above accounted for 59% of all clients placed into jobs in 2014, peaking at 66% in 2013, and averaging 61% over the five-year period.
- From 2010 to 2014, the percentage of clients placed into jobs with at least one college degree rose from 17% to 25%, averaging 23% average over the period.
- Between 2010 and 2014, average wages increased from \$9.30/hr in 2010 to \$10.03/hr in 2014. The average wage over the entire period was \$9.60. There was an increase in the average hourly wage for refugees and asylees for all counties of residence, and every education level, except for college graduates (see below).
- Over the five-year period, refugees and asylees with higher levels of education tended to have higher hourly wages. Whereas the average hourly wage for individuals with no formal education was \$8.45/hr, it was \$10.88/hr for those with a college degree or above. However, individuals with no formal education saw their wages rise from \$8.05/hr to \$8.96/hr. over the period. College graduates saw their wages peak at \$11.34 in 2010, and drop slightly to \$11.04 in 2014.
- Between 2010 and 2014, 6,269 refugees and asylees from 78 countries enrolled for service with Maryland's Private Public Partnership ("PPP"). Of these, 55% came from Africa, 42% from Asia, 1% from the Former Soviet Union, and 2% from other regions—primarily Latin America. PPP enrollment over the five years showed an increase from 1,001 enrollees in 2010 to 1,133 enrollees in 2013.
- The average length of stay on cash assistance was 6.1 months for PPP enrollees between 2010 and 2014. The length of stay was slightly longer for Metropolitan Baltimore enrollees (6.2 months) than for Metropolitan Washington enrollees (6.0 months).

Health Screenings

- Between 2010 and 2014, more than 8,745 refugees and asylees completed health screenings. The majority of these individuals—97 percent—were from Africa (38%) and Asia (59%). One percent were from the Former Soviet Union, and 2% were from other regions.
- Of the 8,745 refugees and asylees, 81% were IRC clients. Forty-six percent of the refugees and asylees receiving health screenings resided in Baltimore City, 18% resided in Montgomery County, 27% in Prince George's County, and 9% in other counties.