

# Minnesota Refugee Health Report 2023

Welcome to the annual Refugee Health County Reports. Based on number of arrivals, counties or regions receive individualized reports. The regions include the Central and North East, South East, South West, and West Central districts. The state and regional data can provide a comparison for counties.

We encourage counties to use this report as a tool to evaluate the success the health screening services offered to newly arrived people with humanitarian immigration statuses - refugees, derivative and U.S.-granted asylees, parolees, Cuban/Haitian entrants, special immigrant visa (SIV) holders, Amerasians, and certified Victims of Human Trafficking; these will be collectively referred to as “refugees” throughout this report. The Minnesota Department of Health’s Refugee Health Program (RHP) sets the objectives used in these reports to evaluate some key components of our state’s performance. This county-specific data can also be used for planning and development of appropriate public health responses to immediate and emerging health issues.

Some points to keep in mind with this report:

- The report focuses on the primary refugees who arrived in Minnesota between January 1 and December 31, 2023. Counties and/or clinics submitted domestic refugee health screening results for those who arrived in 2023. Data were reported via the Refugee Health Assessment Form (“pink” form), electronically through eSHARE, or on the Outcome Form. Due to the multi-month treatment regimen for latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI), the findings for objectives 4 and 5 reflect data from 2022 arrivals.
- Primary refugees who were not screened because they moved out of state, moved to an unknown destination, had incorrect contact information, had no insurance coverage options, or died before screening are excluded from the screening rate calculation.
- Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees (UHP) arrivals and Cuban/Haitian entrants (CHE) are not included in the screening objectives reports and are reported separately in each county’s or region’s summary report. Because MDH is not systematically notified of every UHP arrival to Minnesota this report only reflects the UHP CHE arrivals for whom MDH was notified and does not represent all UHP or CHE arrivals to the state.

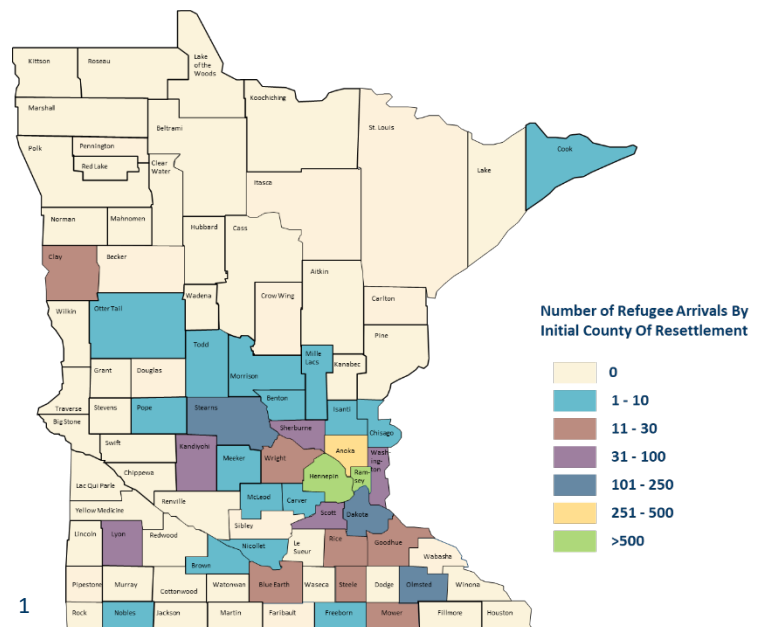
In 2023, there were 3,274 new primary arrivals with humanitarian statuses to Minnesota; 2,045 (62%) arrived with a refugee visa, and 991 (30%) had arrived as Ukrainian parolees. The remainder arrived as asylees, Cuban/Haitian entrants, SIV-holders, and certified victims of trafficking. These will be collectively referred to as “refugees” throughout this report. The largest arriving populations in 2023 were from Ukraine (1,031 arrivals), Somalia (653 arrivals), Democratic Republic of the Congo (242 arrivals), and Burma (205 arrivals).

## 2023 Primary Refugee Arrivals (N=3,274)

Anoka (263)	Unknown (1)
Blue Earth (24)	
Clay (15)	<b>Central and North East:</b>
Dakota (166)	Benton (6)
Hennepin (1,123)	Chisago (4)
Kandiyohi (32)	Cook (2)
Lyon (33)	Isanti (7)
Mower (15)	Mille Lacs (1)
Olmsted (102)	Morrison (5)
Ramsey (971)	Todd (6)
Rice (26)	<b>South East:</b>
Scott (70) & Carver (7)	Freeborn (4)
Sherburne (73)	Goodhue (12)
Stearns (169)	Steele (12)
Washington (58)	
Wright (24)	

**South West:**  
Brown (3)  
McLeod (1)  
Meeker (8)  
Nicollet (8)  
Nobles (6)

**West Central:**  
Otter Tail (7)  
Pope (10)



In 2023, the RHP was notified of 44 secondary refugees, or refugees who moved to Minnesota after initially resettling in another state. 21 (48%) of these were from Somalia, 15 (34%) from Ukraine, and 8 (18%) from 4 other countries. The top counties of residence included Hennepin (16), Stearns (9), and Blue Earth (6). Of these, 23 (52%) were eligible for a health screening in Minnesota and 23 (100%) were screened.

Individuals with refugee status often decide which community and county to settle in based on family, community ties, access to housing, or employment. Hennepin and Ramsey counties continued to receive the majority of newly arriving refugees to Minnesota in 2023.

## Health Screening Indicators

The Refugee Health Program has set these measurable objectives below to evaluate the implementation of the Minnesota Refugee Health Assessment for newly-arrived primary refugees. On the following page, the columns on the right of the chart highlight the health screening indicators specific to your county, showing how effectively these objectives were met. Together with Significant Findings and Trends and Health Status data summary, this report is a snapshot of the newly-arrived primary refugees' demographics and their health needs.

**Objective 1.** Within 90 days of arrival, 95% of newly arrived refugees who are eligible\* will have initiated a health assessment.

**Objective 2.** Ensure immunizations will be initiated or continued according to the recommended MDH child and adult immunization schedules on 90% of persons provided a health screening.

**Objective 3.** Ensure evaluation for 100% of refugees arriving with infectious TB disease, non-communicable for travel purposes (Class A) and 95% with non-infectious TB disease (Class B1).

**Objective 4.** On an ongoing basis, 85% of persons in need of therapy for latent TB infection (LTBI) will have been placed on such therapy.

**Objective 5.** On an ongoing basis, 70% of persons placed on therapy for latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) will have completed therapy.

**Objective 6.** On an ongoing basis, 95% of persons provided a health screening will receive a hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) test.

**Objective 7.** On an ongoing basis, 90% of adult refugees 18 years and older provided a health screening will receive a hepatitis C antibody test (anti-HCV).

**Objective 8.** On an ongoing basis, 95% of persons without evidence of pre-departure antihelminthic treatment and provided a health screening will get tested for parasitic infections and/or receive presumptive treatment.

**Objective 9.** On an ongoing basis, more than 95% of all children ages 16 and younger who receive a health screening will be screened for lead poisoning.

**Objective 10.** On an ongoing basis, more than 95% of persons provided a health screening will receive a Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) test.

**Objective 11.** On an ongoing basis, 85% of adult refugees 18 years and older will be screened for mental health using the Minnesota Well-being and Emotions Check (WE-Check) tool.

**\*Ineligible if:** moved out of state, moved to unknown destination, unable to locate due to invalid contact information, never arrived to county, no insurance, died before screening, or were already connected to care prior to being granted asylum.

## Minnesota 2023 Health Screening Indicators

All results are based on domestically completed screenings.

### Health Screening Rate

Objective	Measure	Data for Year 2023
Within 90 days of arrival, 95% of newly arrived refugees who are eligible* will have initiated a health assessment.	# of newly arrived refugees to Minnesota who received at least the first visit of their health assessment within 90 days of arrival / # of newly arrived refugees to Minnesota who were eligible for a screening	<b>State:</b> 1,845/(2,229-127) (88%)

### Immunizations

Objective	Measure	Data for Year 2023
Ensure immunizations will be initiated or continued according to the recommended MDH child and adult immunization schedules on 90% of persons provided a health screening.	# of newly arrived refugees to Minnesota with immunization series initiated or continued / # of newly arrived refugees to Minnesota who received a screening	<b>State:</b> 1,771/2,066 (86%)

### TB Class Evaluations

Objective	Measure	Data for Year 2023
Ensure evaluation for 100% of refugees arriving with infectious TB disease, non-communicable for travel purposes (Class A) and 95% with non-infectious TB disease (Class B1).	# of newly arrived refugees to Minnesota designated as TB Class A or B1 and who are appropriately evaluated / # of newly arrived eligible refugees to Minnesota designated as TB Class A or B1	<b>State:</b> 0/0 (n/a) Class A 86/92 (93%) Class B1

### LTBI

Objective	Measure	Data for Year 2022
85% of persons in need of therapy for latent TB infection (LTBI) will have been placed on such therapy.	# of newly arrived refugees to Minnesota in need of LTBI therapy and placed on such therapy / # of newly arrived refugees to Minnesota in need of LTBI therapy	<b>State:</b> 180/235** (77%)
70% of persons placed on therapy for latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) will have completed therapy.	# of newly arrived refugees to Minnesota in need of LTBI therapy and who have been placed on and completed LTBI therapy / # of newly arrived refugees to Minnesota placed on LTBI therapy	<b>State:</b> 147/180** (82%)

### Hepatitis B

Objective	Measure	Data for Year 2023
95% of persons provided a health screening will receive a hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) test.	# of newly arrived refugees to Minnesota who received HBsAg test / # of newly arrived refugees to Minnesota who received a screening	<b>State:</b> 2,002/2,066 (97%)

## Hepatitis C

Objective	Measure	Data for Year 2023
At least 90% of adult refugees 18 years and older provided a health screening will receive a hepatitis C antibody test (anti-HCV).	# of newly arrived refugees ages 18+ years old to Minnesota who received anti-HCV test / # of newly arrived refugees ages 18+ years old to Minnesota who received a screening	<b>State:</b> 1,117/1,155 (97%)

## Intestinal Parasites

Objective	Measure	Data for Year 2022
At least 95% of persons without evidence of pre-departure anthelmintic treatment and provided a health screening will get tested for parasitic infection and/or receive presumptive treatment.	# of newly arrived refugees to Minnesota who did not receive pre-departure anthelmintic treatment and were tested for parasitic infections (O&P and/or serology) and/or received presumptive treatment / # of newly arrived refugees to Minnesota who did not receive pre-departure anthelmintic treatment and received a screening	<b>State:</b> 262/291 (90%)

## Lead Poisoning

Objective	Measure	Data for Year 2023
At least 95% of all children ages 16 and younger who receive a health screening will be screened for lead poisoning.	# of newly arrived refugees to Minnesota who are < 17 years old and screened for lead poisoning / # of newly arrived refugees < 17 years old to Minnesota who received a screening	<b>State:</b> 844/859 (98%)

## HIV

Objective	Measure	Data for Year 2023
At least 95% of persons provided a health screening will receive a Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) test.	# of newly arrived refugees to Minnesota tested for HIV / # of newly arrived refugees to Minnesota who received a screening	<b>State:</b> 2,014/2,066 (97%)

## Mental Health

Objective	Measure	Data for Year 2023
At least 85% of adult refugees 18 years and older will be screened for mental health using the Minnesota Well-being and Emotions Check (WE-Check) tool.	# of newly arrived refugees 18+ years old to Minnesota screened for mental health using WE-Check / # of newly arrived refugees 18+ years old to Minnesota who received a screening	<b>State:</b> 909/1,155 (79%)

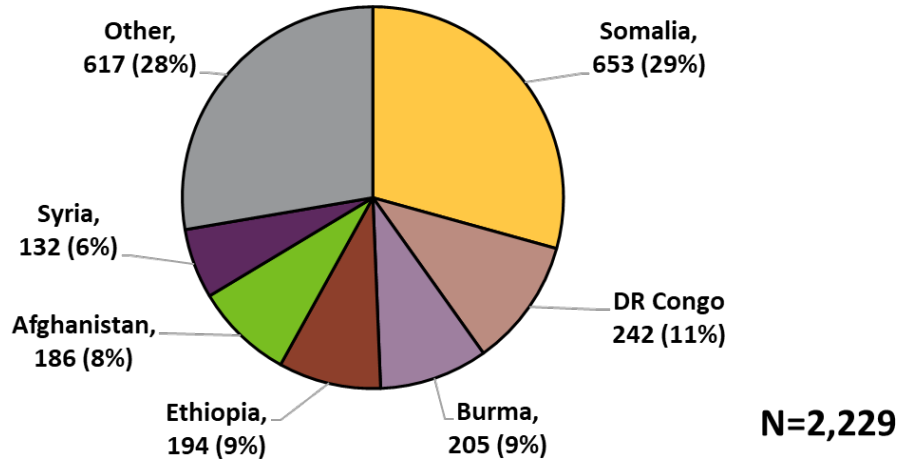
\*Newly arrived refugees refers to all newly arrived refugees **eligible** for refugee health screening in Minnesota

\*\*Based on 2022 data which reflects the most recent completion date for 9-month treatment protocol. Also includes Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees and Cuban/Haitian entrants diagnosed with LTBI.

\*\*\*2,019/1,066 (98%) of those screened, regardless of overseas treatment history, were evaluated for eosinophilia through a complete blood count. Of those, 128 (6%) had an elevated eosinophilia count.

\*\*\*\*Of those not screened using WE-Check, 153/246 (62%) adults were screened for mental health using a different mental health screening tool (i.e. PHQ-2 or 9, RHS-15).

## Number of Primary Arrivals<sup>o</sup> to Minnesota 01/01/2023 through 12/31/2023



"Other" includes Eritrea (73), Guatemala (57), South Sudan (56), Moldova (52), Vietnam (52), Ukraine (40), Nicaragua (38), Belarus (32), El Salvador (31), Sudan (25), Venezuela (24), Honduras (22), Cameroon (19), Russia (13), Central African Republic (11), Ivory Coast (8), Pakistan (8), Iran (6), Iraq (6), Yemen (5), Colombia (4), Kazakhstan (4), Kenya (4), Mexico (4), Djibouti (3), Haiti (3), Tajikistan (3), the Bahamas (2), China (2), Dominican Republic (2), Sri Lanka (2), Chad (1), Ecuador (1), India (1), Laos/Hmong (1), Nigeria (1), and Uzbekistan (1).

<sup>o</sup>Primary arrival is a refugee who is residing in the state listed as the initial point of destination with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. Refugees are free to move from state to state, but sponsors, resettlement agencies, and state refugee programs are generally designed to serve only newly arrived primary refugees to the state. Excludes Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees and Cuban/Haitian Entrants.

### Screening Rate

- State Indicator Objective 1 (to initiate screening within 90 days of arrival):  
Of the 2,229 new primary refugee arrivals, 2,102 were eligible for a health screening and 1,830 (87%) were screened within 90 days.
- Overall screening rate:  
Of the 2,012 eligible for a health screening, 2,066 (98%) were screened.

### Outcome for Those Not Screened

- Of the 127 ineligible for screening: 60 moved out of Minnesota, 58 could not be located due to incorrect contact information, 8 did not have insurance, and 1 who had their status granted in Minnesota had already been connected to care.
- Of the 36 eligible for screening: contact failed for 13, 13 missed their screening appointments, 6 refused screening, and 4 were screened but no results were reported.

### Flat Free Reimbursement<sup>¥</sup>

- Three refugees received full flat fee reimbursement in Minnesota.

<sup>¥</sup>Federal funds used to cover screening costs for those without insurance

### Health Status of New Refugees, Minnesota, 2023

Health Condition	No. infected among screened (%)
TB infection*	391/1,984 (20%)
Hepatitis B infection**	46/2,002 (2%)
Hepatitis C antibody	21/1,925 (1%)
Parasitic infection***	442/1,712 (26%)
Syphilis infection	9/1,684 (1%)
HIV infection	14/2,014 (1%)
Elevated Blood Lead****	50/844 (6%)
Positive Mental Health Screening*****	132/1,062 (12%)

Total number of health screenings: N<sub>Minnesota</sub>=2,066 (98% of 2,102 eligible refugees)

\* Persons with LTBI (QFT+ or ≥ 10mm induration w/ normal CXR) or suspect/active TB disease

\*\* Positive for Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg)

\*\*\* Positive for at least one intestinal parasite infection

\*\*\*\*Children <17 years old (N<sub>Minnesota</sub>= 859 screened); Lead Level ≥5 ug/dL

\*\*\*\*\*Adults 18+ years old (N<sub>Minnesota</sub>= 1,155 screened); Screened positive for mental health concerns using any mental health screening tool(s)

## Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees (UHP) and Cuban/Haitian Entrants (CHE) 01/01/2023 through 12/31/2023

### Screening Rate

- MDH was notified of 991 UHP and 54 CHE arrivals to Minnesota.
- Of the 1,045 UHP and CHE arrivals, 861 (82%) were eligible for a health screening and 752 (87%) received a complete refugee health screening.

### Outcome for Those Not Screened

- Among those ineligible for a health screening:
  - Twenty-two moved out of MN; 1 of these provided MDH with required post-arrival test results.
  - One-hundred forty-three did not qualify for insurance at the time of their U.S. arrival; 52 of these provided MDH with required post-arrival test results.
  - Nineteen could not be located to schedule a screening.
- Among those eligible for a health screening:
  - Attempts to schedule a full screening failed for 8.
  - Fourteen missed their scheduled screening appointments; 2 of these provided MDH with required post-arrival test results.
  - Seventy-six declined a full screening; 55 of these provided MDH with required post-arrival test results.
  - Eleven were screened but results could not be obtained.

### IGRA/TST Results

Age at U.S. arrival	No. arrivals	No. received IGRA and/or TST (%)	No. with positive IGRA and/or TST (%)
<2 years	29	12 (41%)	0 (0%)
≥2 years	1,016	837 (82%)	87 (10%)

### Immunizations\*

Age at U.S. arrival	No. arrivals	No. received any immunizations** (%)
<18 years	236	120 (51%)
≥18 years	516	231 (45%)

\*Among those who received a complete refugee health screening (N=752)

\*\*Received any immunizations after arrival to Minnesota

### Health Status of New UHP Arrivals, 2022\*

Health Condition	No. infected or positive among screened (%)
Hepatitis B infection**	5/706 (1%)
Positive Hep C antibody	18/697 (3%)
Parasitic infection***	52/592 (9%)
Syphilis infection	4/538 (1%)
HIV infection	2/704 (<1%)
Elevated Blood Lead****	0/201 (0%)
Positive Mental Health Screening*****	78/479 (16%)

\*Among those who received a complete refugee health screening (N=752)

\*\* Positive for Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg)

\*\*\* Positive for at least one intestinal parasite infection

\*\*\*\*Children <17 years old (N<sub>Hennepin</sub>= 179 screened); Lead Level ≥5 ug/dL

\*\*\*\*\*Adults 18+ years old (N<sub>Minnesota</sub>= 516 screened); Screened positive for mental health concerns using any mental health screening tool(s)

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