

Family planning and reproductive health needs of Afghan refugees in the United States; a literature review.

Diana Namumbejja Abwoye, FNP-BC

INTRODUCTION

1 billion people migrate globally 281 million are international migrants 84 million are forcibly displaced 48 Million are internally displaced BACKGROUND: 26.6 are refugees 4.4 million are asylum seekers Parole status in U.S. Most Afghans in the US are parolees

- Afghanistan has had decades of unrest¹⁰
- Increased number of Afghan refugees⁹
- Mostly women and children¹⁷
- Family planning a public health approach¹³
- Benefits realized in developed countries¹³
- Family planning (FP) underutilized in developing countries⁸
- Sexual and Reproductive health needs (SRH) of Afghan refugees are not understood⁸
- Political, cultural and social structure in Afghanistan
 - low level of education
 - low levels of contraceptive uptake
 - extended exposure to political unrest
 - devotion to religion
 - traditional patriarchal social structures

OBJECTIVES

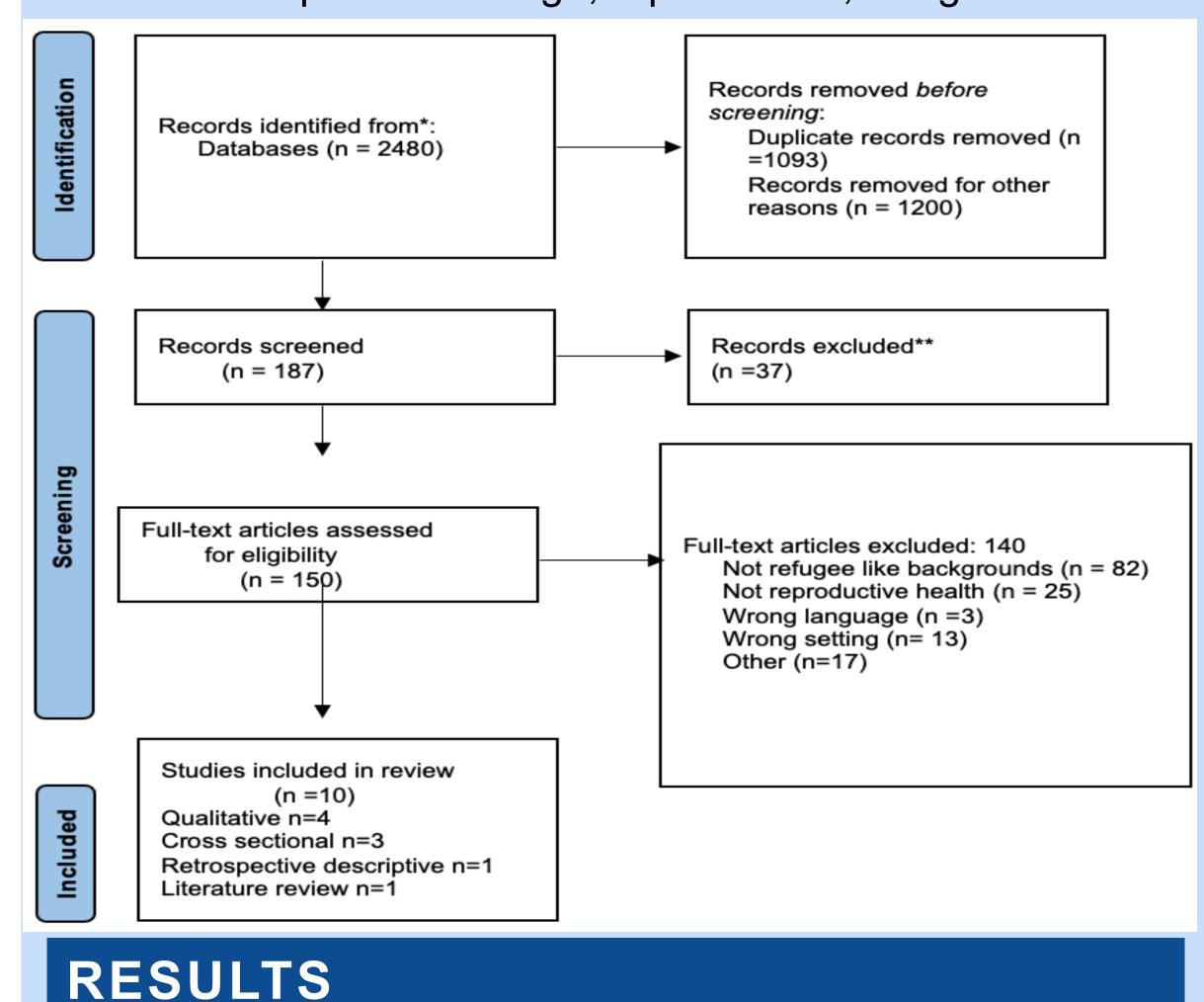
Aim was to explore factors that influence family planning decision making among Afghan refugee women in the U.S.

• Identify factors that influence choice, uptake and adherence to family planning.

METHODS

A search of studies of migrants, forcibly displaced and refugee women of reproductive age was conducted in Scopus and Ovid.

Search concepts: Knowledge, reproductive, refugee



Knowledge Beliefs Attitudes Family Planning

Community
Culture, religious beliefs

Institutional
Navigating healthcare system
Cost

Interpersonal
Treatment from healthcare
providers, translators

Personal
Knowledge
Attitudes
Concerns of health risk
from hormonal
contraception

Key influences were knowledge and awareness of SRH, access and affordability as well as communication, culture, religion, language, refugee experience and limited literacy.

Implications for practice:

- -Increased access to health care
- -Education
- -SRH culturally appropriate health promotion
- -Inclusive FP conversations with providers

REFERENCES

