Family planning and reproductive health needs of Afghan refugees in the United States: a literature review.
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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
Persecution status in U.S.
Most Afghans in the U.S. are parolees

- Afghanistan has had decades of unrest
- Increased number of Afghan refugees
- Mostly women and children
- Family planning a public health approach
- Benefits realized in developed countries
- Family planning (FP) underutilized in developing countries
- Sexual and Reproductive health needs (SRH) of Afghan refugees are not understood
- 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

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RESULTS

Knowledge
Beliefs
Attitudes
Family Planning

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

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