

RESETTLED REFUGEES IN THE UNITED STATES: PROCESS AND OUTCOMES



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U.S. Resettlement Program

- 70,000 resettlement places per year in recent years; 85,000 target in FY 2016 and 100,000 in 2017.
- 3 departments of government principally involved
 - Department of State
 - Department of Homeland Security (USCIS)
 - Department of Health and Human Services (ORR)

A Public-Private Partnership





The Resettlement Process (overseas)

- Presidential Determination of #, nationalities, categories
- Referrals (mostly UNHCR) and Applications
- Resettlement Support Center (prepare dossier)
- USCIS Adjudication (interview required)
- Security checks (5 agencies)
- Health checks and travel arranged by IOM (loan for travel)



The Resettlement Process (US)

- 9 national voluntary agencies (NGOs), with 315 local affiliates in 180 communities, contract with State Department + private resources
- Allocations Committee of Volags + State Dept.
- Family reunification (refugees with family in US will usually join them)



Resettlement Support

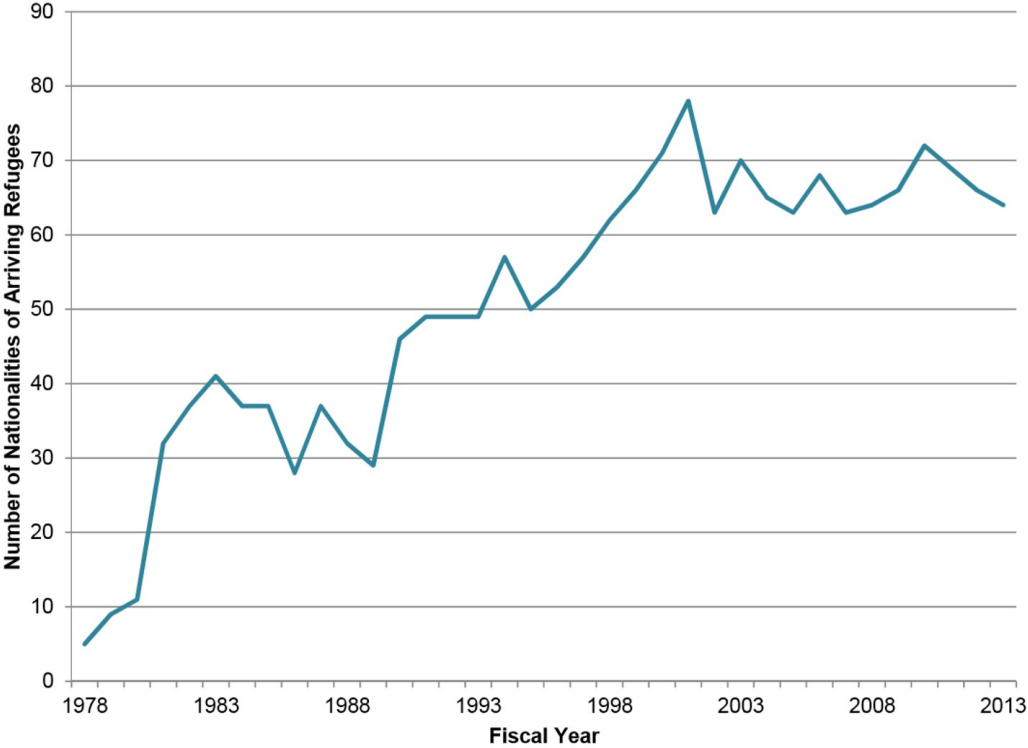
- Reception and Placement grant to Voluntary Agencies for 30-90 days
- Refugee-specific support for 7-8 months (ORR)—includes cash, medical, training
- Access to federal, state and local services
- Emphasis on early employment and self-sufficiency
- Estimated total cost to USG of resettling 70,000 refugees is \$1.1 billion



REFUGEE CHARACTERISTICS AT ARRIVAL



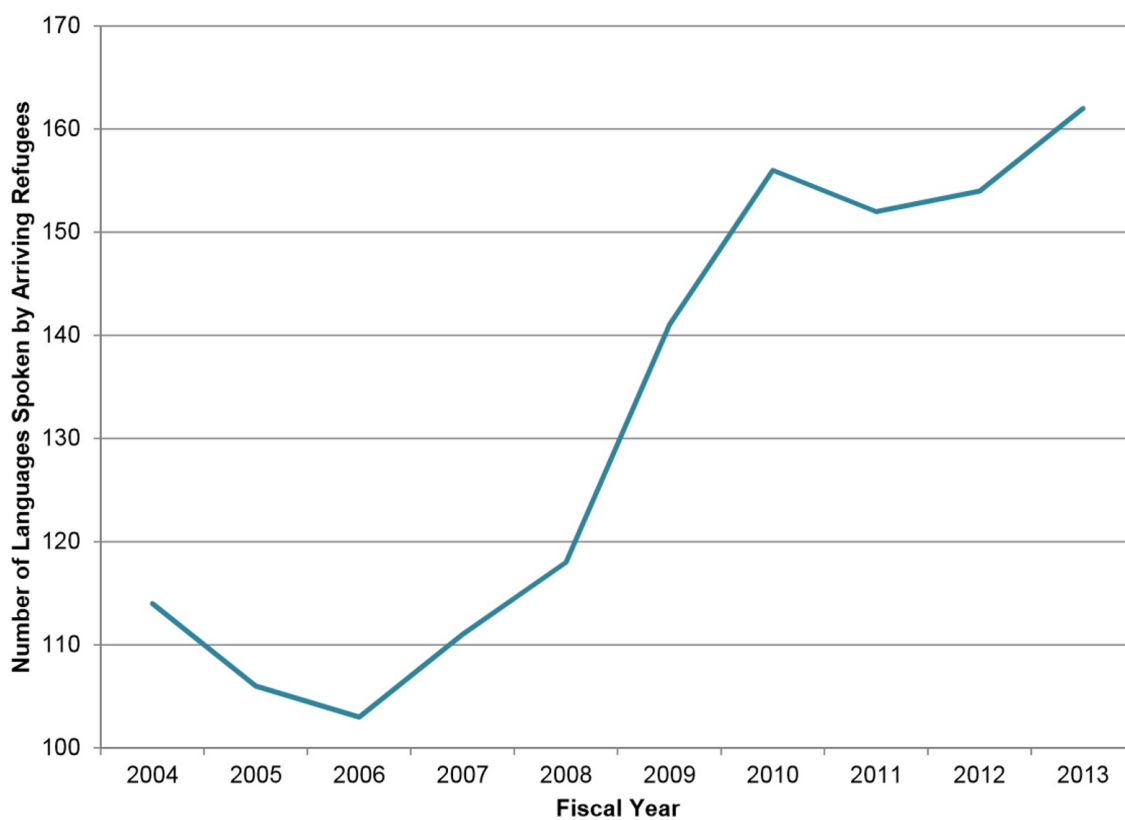
Refugees are increasingly diverse in national origin.



Source: MPI analysis of data from the Worldwide Refugee Admissions Processing System (WRAPS) for individual years FY 1978 – 2013.



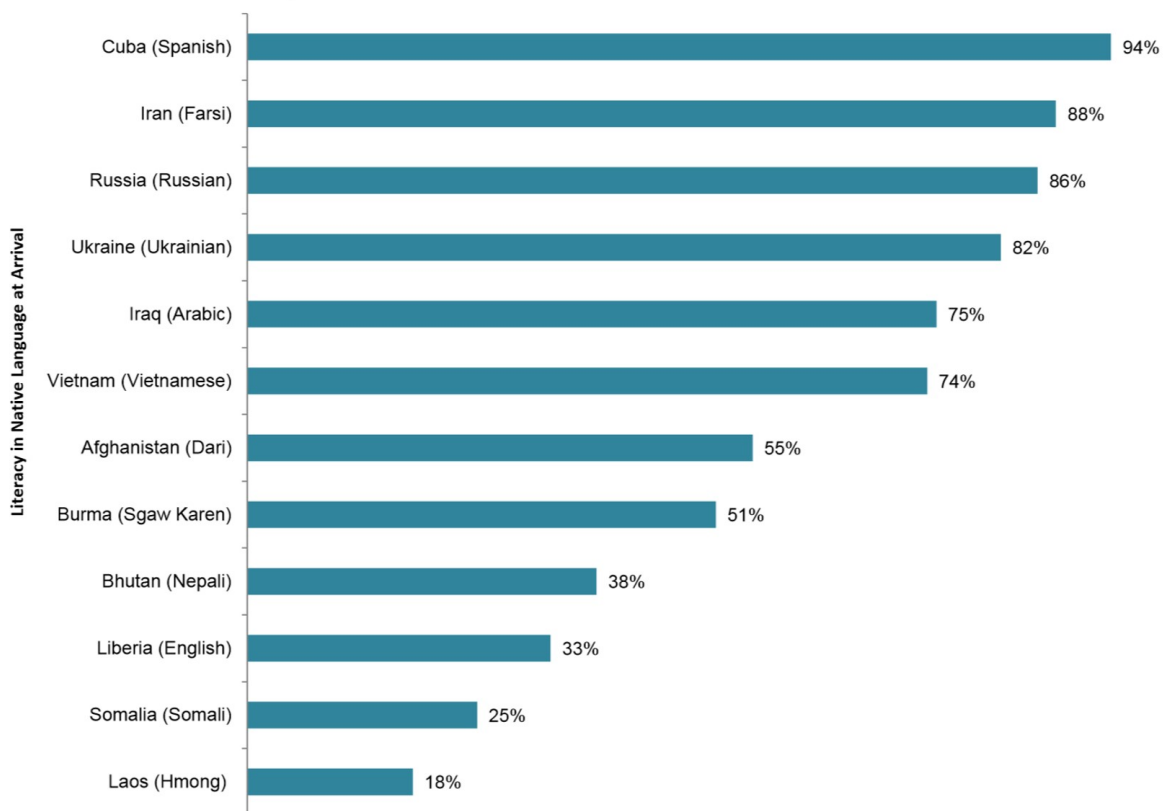
Refugees are linguistically diverse, and increasingly so.



Source: MPI analysis of WRAPS data for individual years FY 2004 -13.

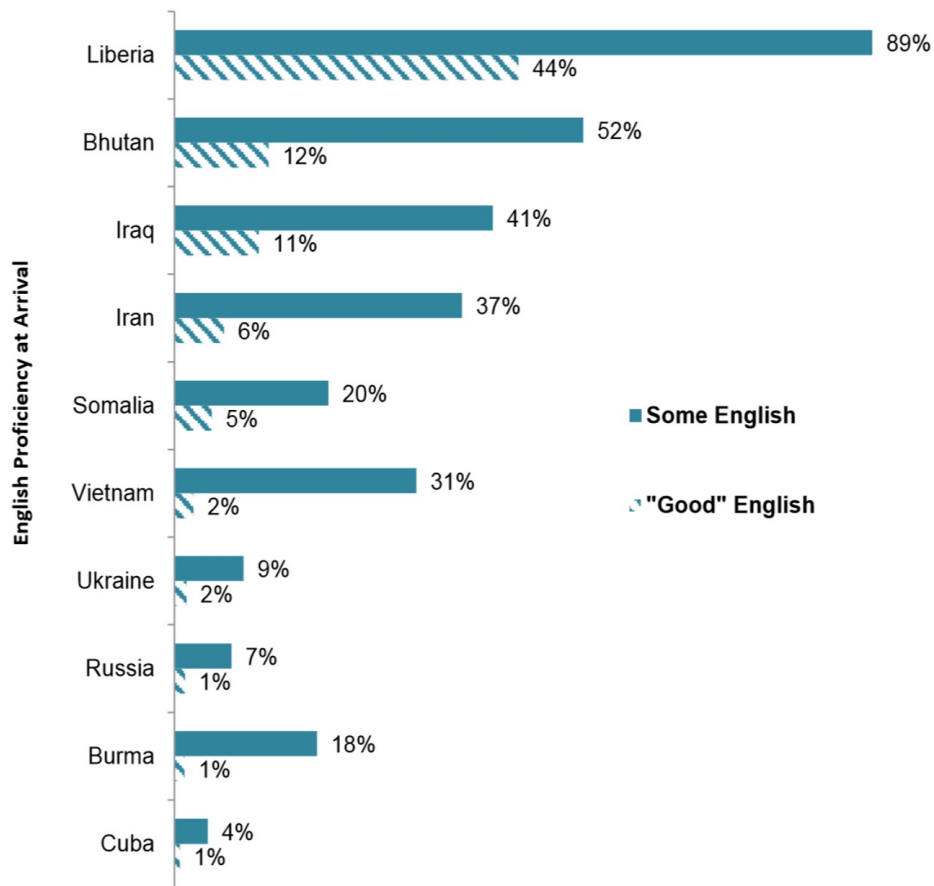


Literacy in native language varies by nationality.



Source: MPI analysis of WRAPS data for FY 2004 – 13, pooled.

Refugees have varied English proficiency levels.



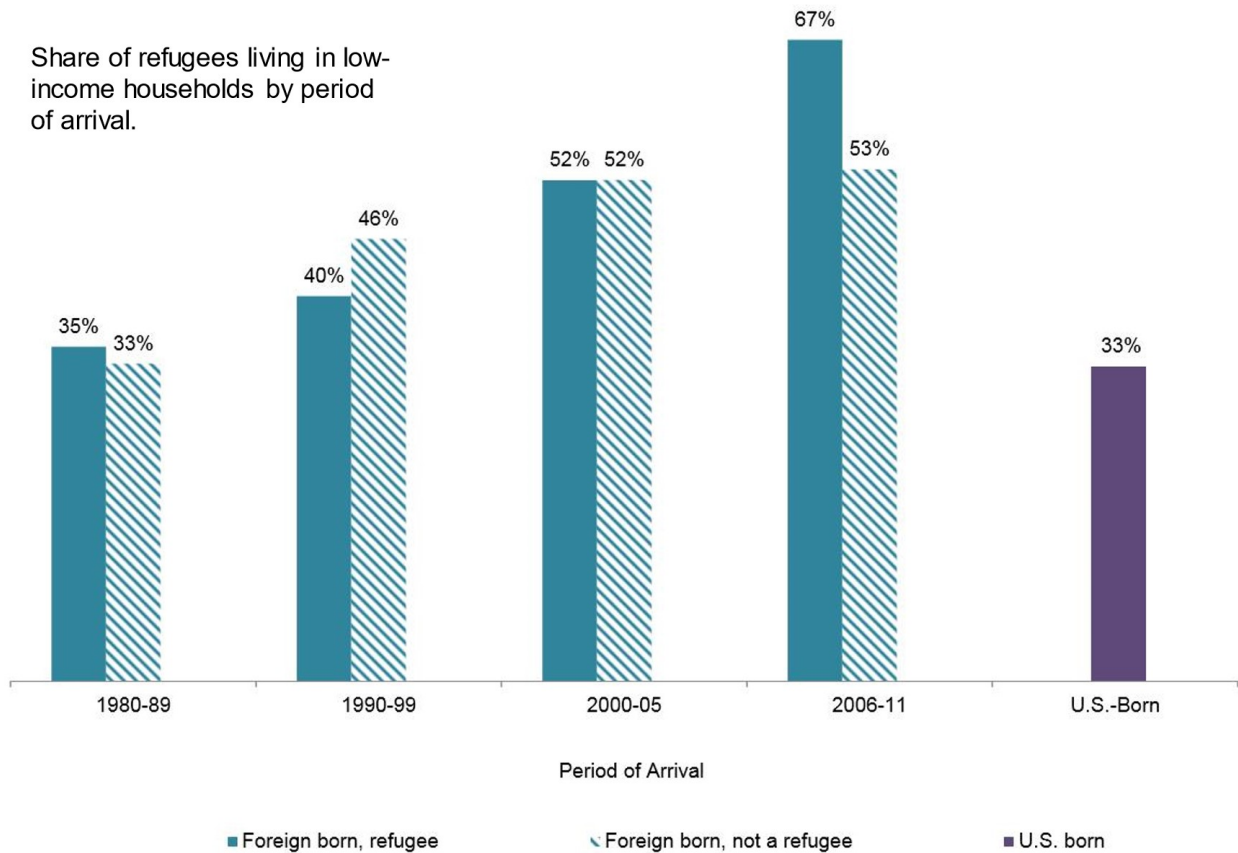
Source: MPI analysis of WRAPS data for FY 2004 – 13, pooled.



REFUGEE OUTCOMES OVER TIME

Refugee incomes rise with length of stay.

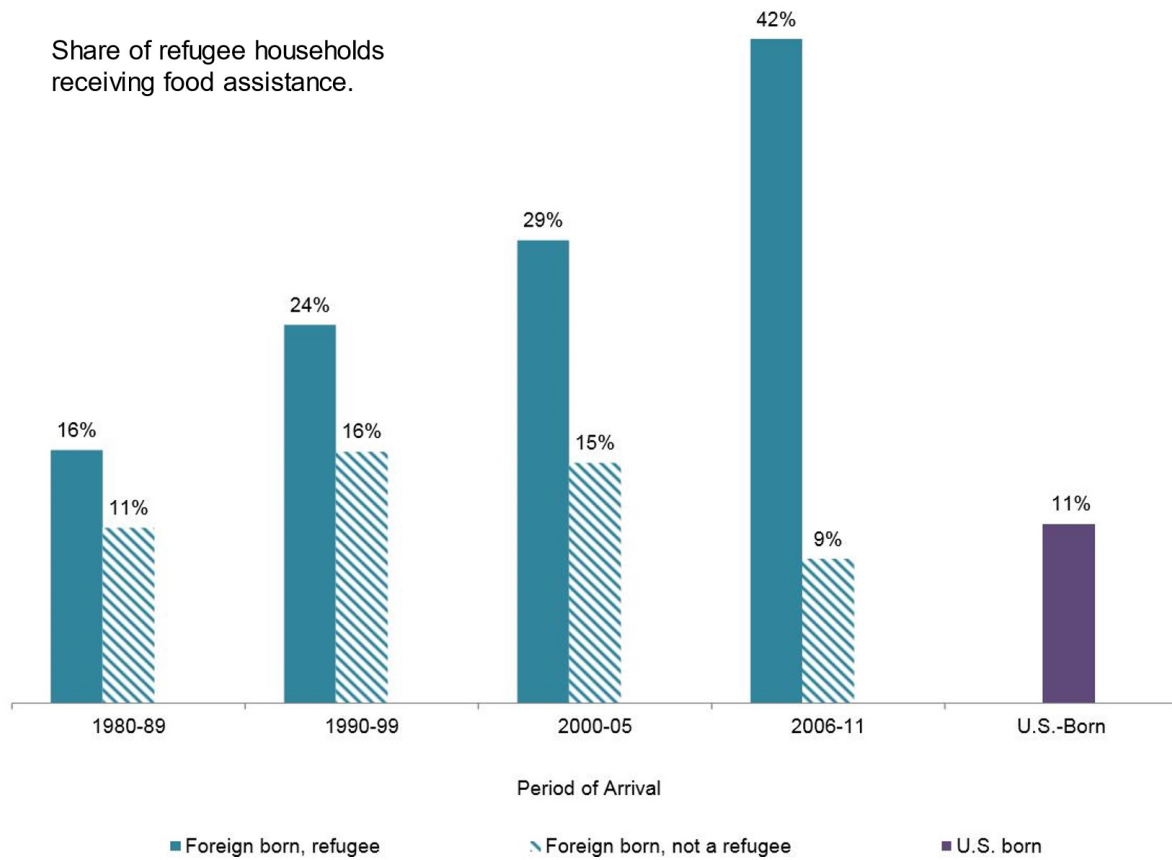
Share of refugees living in low-income households by period of arrival.



Note: Low-income households have annual incomes below twice the federal poverty level.
Source: MPI analysis of 2009 – 11 ACS data, pooled.

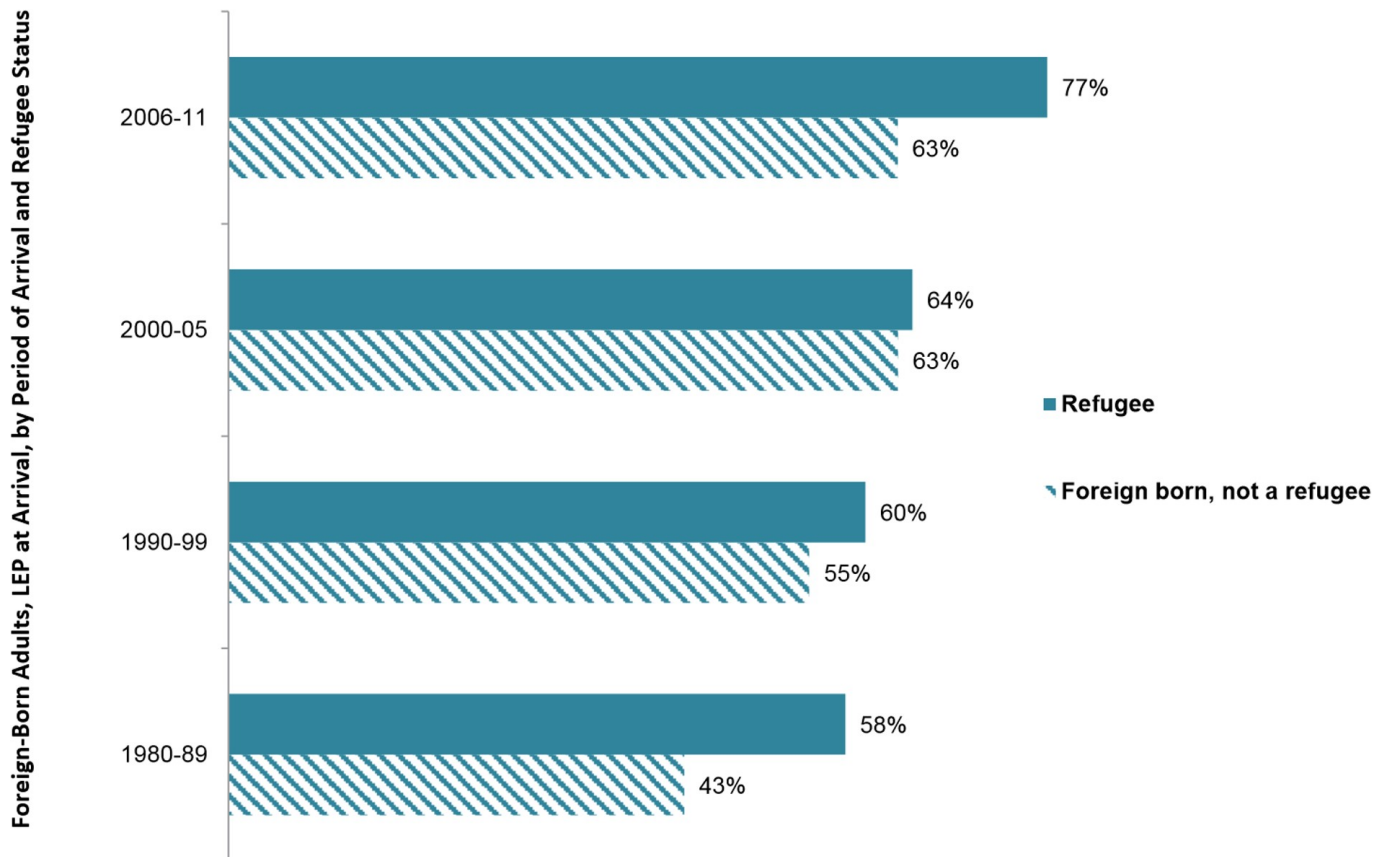
Reliance on public benefits declines.

Share of refugee households receiving food assistance.





English proficiency increases over time.



Source: MPI analysis of data from the American Community Survey (ACS), 2009 - 11 pooled.



LONG-TERM PROSPECTS: THE BIG SUCCESS STORY IS IN THE SECOND AND LATER GENERATIONS

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