



# Refugee Health Screening Fact Sheet

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## Fast facts

- ▲ Refugee: A person who leaves his or her country of origin because of well-founded fear of being persecuted. This status is usually granted by the Immigration and Naturalization Service prior to coming to the United States.
- ▲ The Hennepin County Public Health Clinic is on the fourth floor of the Health Services Building at 525 Portland Ave. S. in Minneapolis.

## What is Domestic Refugee Health Screening?

All newly arriving refugees are entitled to a comprehensive health assessment, according to the 1980 Federal Refugee Settlement Act. The state Department of Health administers the program in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control, but the health screenings are provided by the county. In Hennepin, the screenings are done at the Hennepin County Public Health Clinic.

Domestic refugee health screenings focus on the individual's health, screen for infectious diseases and help link refugees to primary care. Prior to coming to the United States, the refugee's health is examined and only people without communicable diseases, physical or mental disorders, drug abuse or addictions are granted permission to enter the United States.

The county's health screening includes:

- ▲ Immunization assessment and update.
- ▲ Tuberculosis screening.
- ▲ Hepatitis B screening and vaccination.
- ▲ Intestinal parasite screening.
- ▲ Sexually transmitted disease screening.
- ▲ Lead screening.
- ▲ Assessment and referral.

## How many refugees come to Hennepin?

There were 2,867 new refugee arrivals to Minnesota in 2007, and about 42 percent of them -- or almost 1,200 -- were screened at Hennepin's Public Health Clinic. The refugees came from 17 different countries, with the majority arriving from Somalia, Liberia and Ethiopia. Almost half -- 49 percent -- are between the ages of 15 and 24.

## How do refugees access these services?

Seven resettlement agencies in Minnesota work with the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the State Department to determine where refugees will settle. Currently, only refugees who are being reunited with family members can come to the Twin City metro area.

## For more information

Go to [www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/refugee](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/refugee).