

MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING APPROACHES FOR REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

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Background

Resettlement programs address social determinants of health, including housing, income, employment, education, language skills, etc. Early identification and care for treatable mental health conditions can help refugees benefit from resettlement programs and lead to more meaningful and productive lives.

Objective

To map and characterize mental health screening approaches for refugees and asylum seekers.

Research Question

What are the characteristics of existing and emerging approaches to mental health screening for resettling refugees and asylum seekers?

Methodology

Scoping review involving a systematic search in five databases.

Screening Tools



The top 5 tools used in the past decade were:

- The Harvard Trauma Questionnaire (HTQ)
- The Refugee health screener-15 (RHS-15)
- The Hopkins Symptom Checklist-25 (HSCL-25)
- The Mini International Neuropsychiatric Interview (MINI)
- The PTSD Checklist (PCL)

Conditions Assessed

- PTSD / CPTSD
- Depression
- Anxiety disorders
- Psychosocial disorders
- Overall psychological state, wellbeing or 'mental status'



Timing



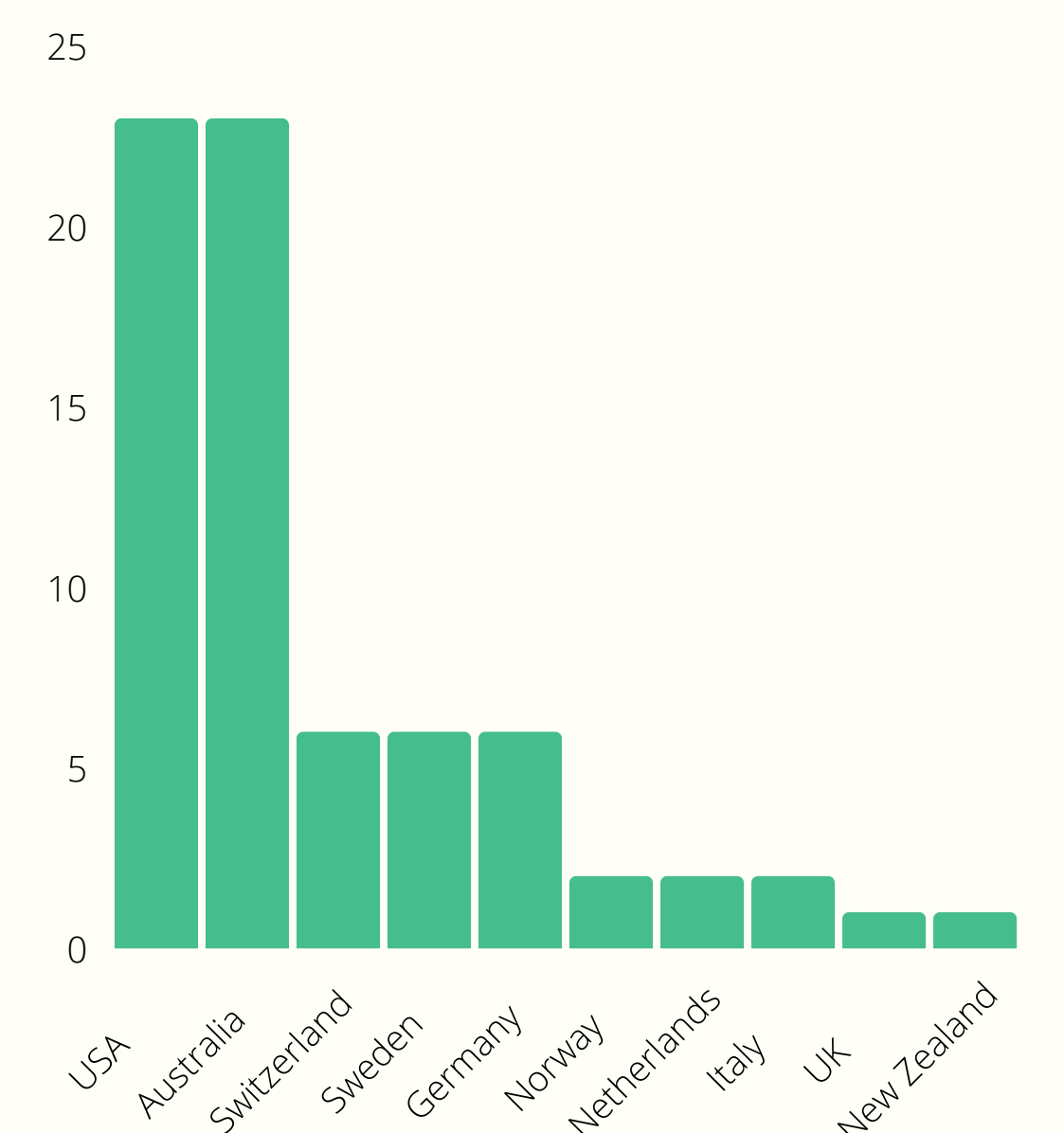
89.5% of studies (n = 51) conducted screenings post-arrival, as opposed to 10.5% (n = 6) conducted in transition

Settings of Assessment

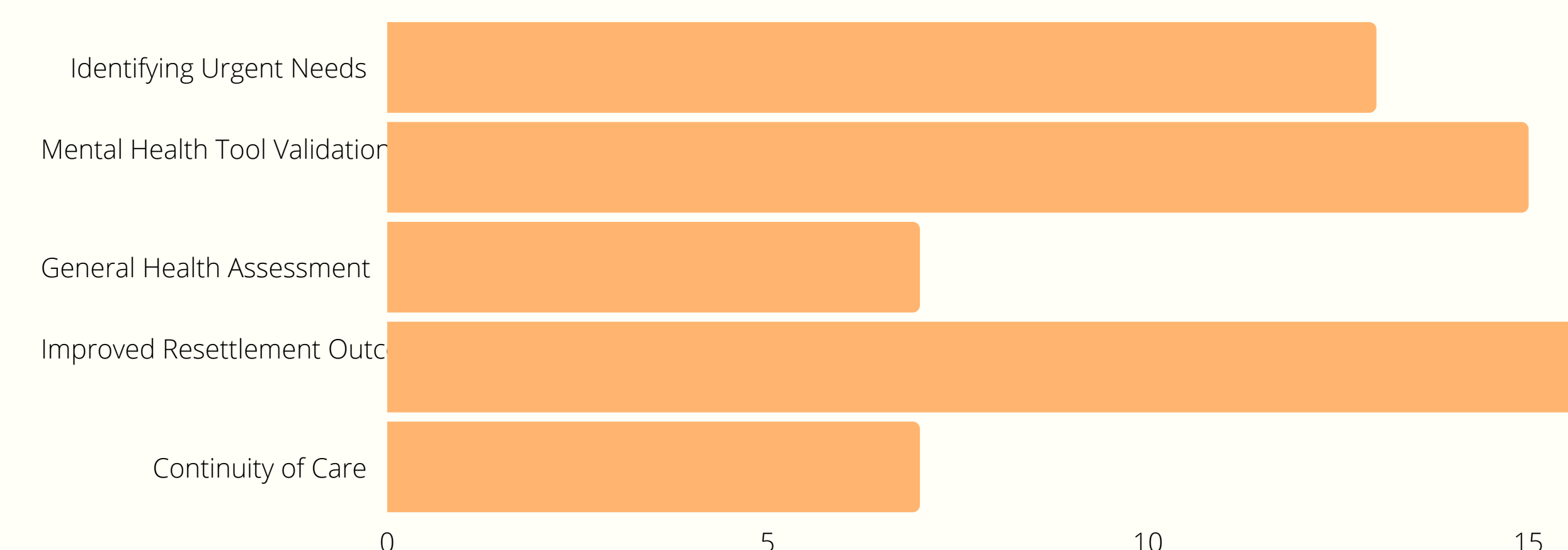
- Reception centres/asylum accommodations
- Primary care clinics
- Community health centres/ public health clinics
- Refugee health care programs
- Psychiatric/treatment centres
- Antenatal clinics



Countries



Purpose of Screening



Languages

Albanian, Amharic, Arabic, Bangali, Bosnian, Burmese, Cambodian, Croatian, Dari, English, Farsi/Persian, French, Georgian, German, Hausa, Hazaragi, Italian, Karen, Laotian, Macedonian, Mandinka, Nepali/Bhutanese, Pashto, Portuguese, Russian, Serbian, Somali, Sorani/Kurdish/ Kurmanji, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish, Tamil, Thai, Tibetan, Tigrinya, Turkish, Urdu, Vietnamese, Wolof