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

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