

World Refugee Day

June 20, 2004

“To Feel at Home”



TO FEEL AT HOME


Refugees are forced to flee their homes due to war and persecution. Often they remain in exile for years with no hope of return to their home countries while it is beset by civil strife. Uprooted from their homes, refugees struggle to rebuild a semblance of their previous lives in other countries, to feel a part of a community and to hope for their future and the future of their children. Refugees living in camps awaiting a more permanent solution, returning to their home country or resettling to other countries, like the United States, these children, women and men share one goal: to feel at home.

All refugees, regardless of circumstances, must contend with starting over, often in a totally foreign environment. Recapturing lost feelings of security and sanctuary largely depend on the availability of food, shelter, family, friends, and resources refugees may have at their disposal. "Home" is not merely a house or shelter but membership in a community, a feeling of belonging and a sense of security.



Florida Refugee Health Program

Bureau of TB & Refugee Health


- Offers a **health assessment and immunization services** (at no charge) to persons eligible for refugee services within 90 days of their arrival.
 - **Refugee:** someone who has fled his or her country of origin due to a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, social group or political opinion.
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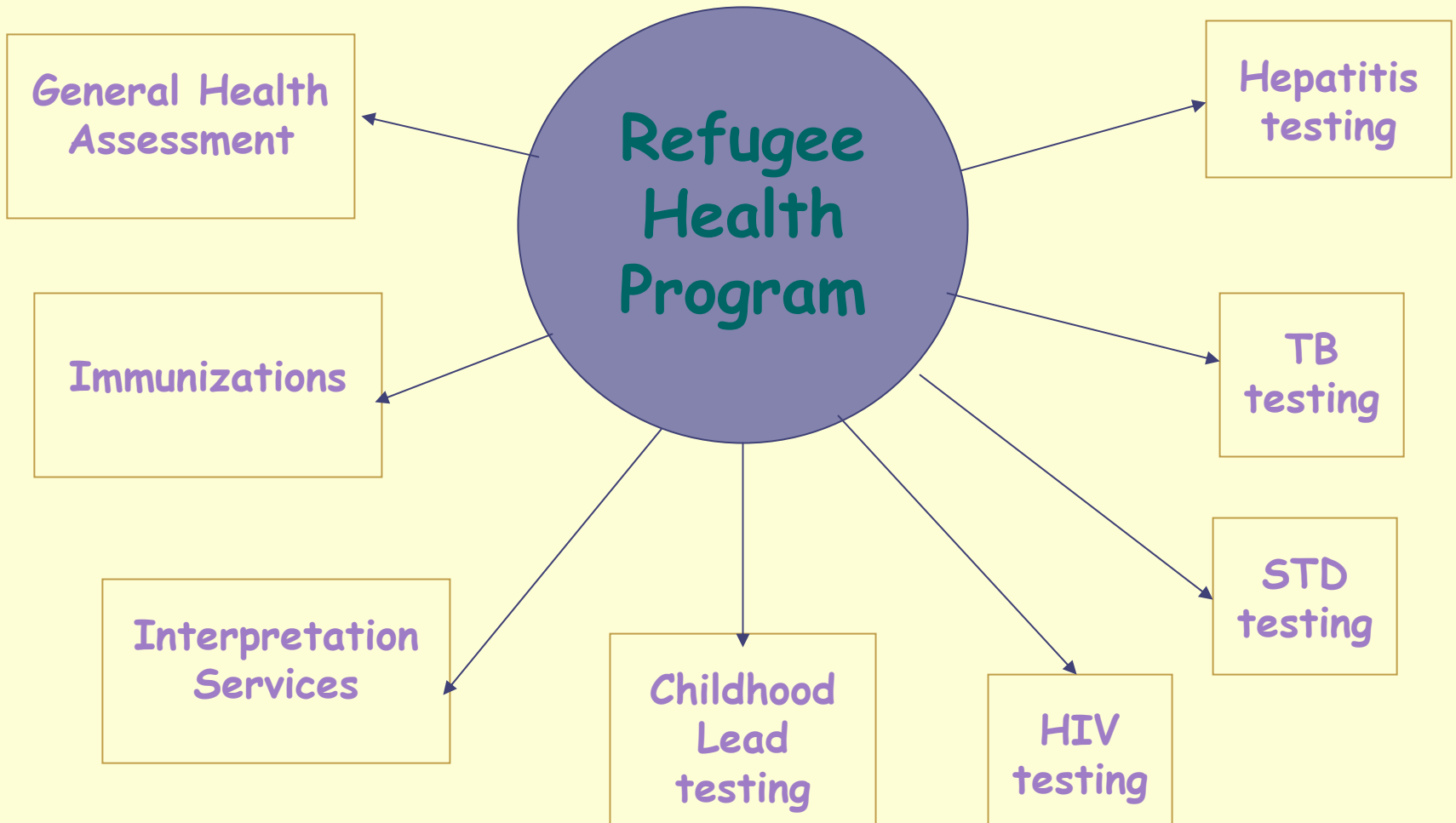
Statistics

Florida receives more persons eligible for refugee services than any other state, averaging approximately 20,000 eligible new arrivals each year.

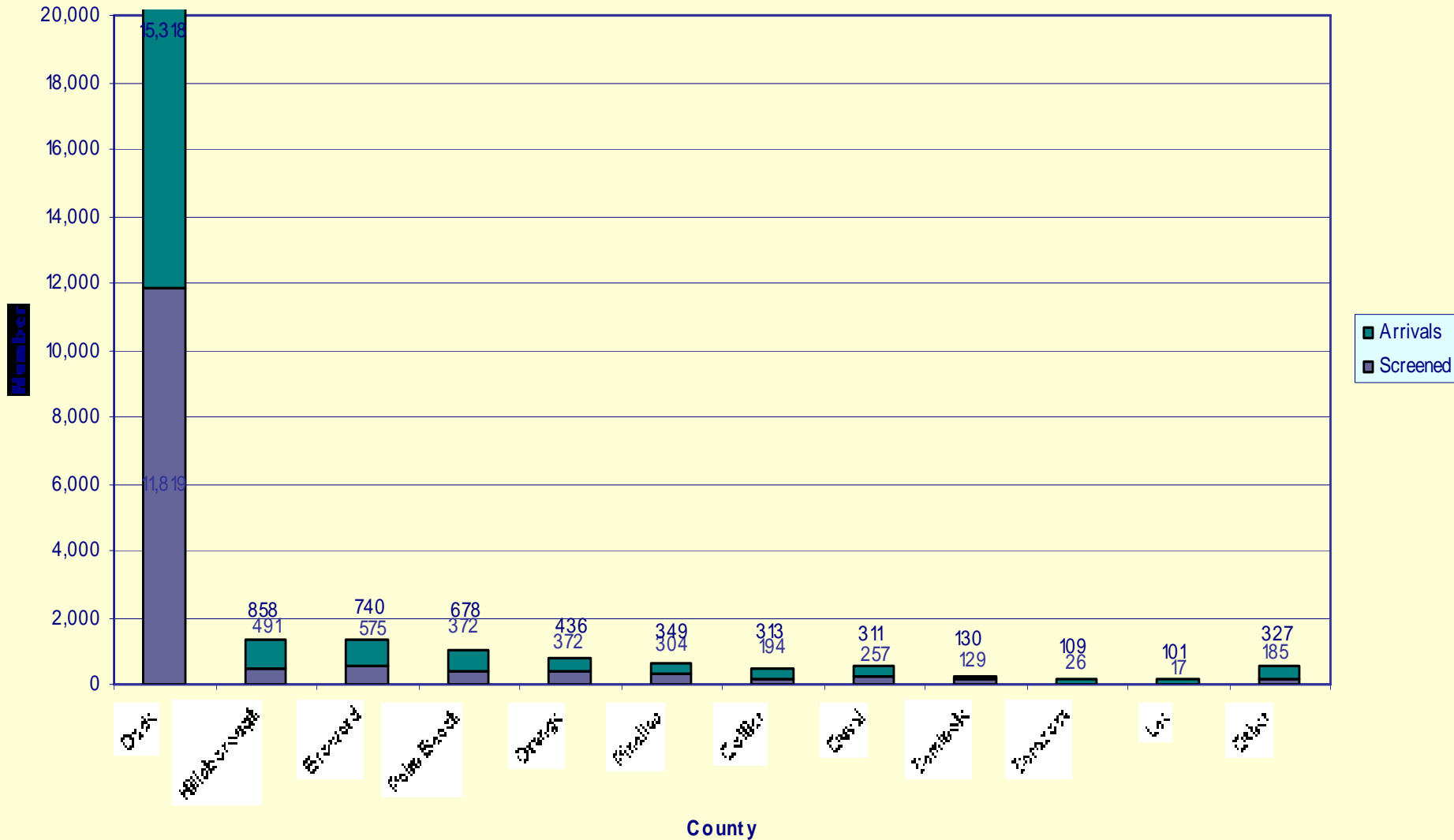
Florida receives approximately two times as many new arrivals than received by California and three times as many received by New York State.



Array of Services



Top Eleven Counties by Arrivals and Health Screenings Provided
 Florida Refugee Health Program
 2003





Refugee Health Care Enhancement Projects

ENABLERS PROJECT - A project designed to distribute Items, such as bus tokens and gas cards, to enable refugees to complete health assessments, follow-up health care, and immunizations

BASIC DENTAL HEALTH PROJECT - A statewide collaborative project with Florida Baptist Convention to provide basic dental care to refugees.

BICYCLE SAFETY AND HELMET PROJECT - A collaborative project with voluntary agencies, Epilepsy State Prevention and Education Program to provide bike helmets to refugee youth in three pilot counties: Duval, Dade and Hillsborough/Pinellas.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT (QI) PROJECT – A project designed to assist refugee health clinics to improve health care delivery to refugees. This also includes improving clinic’s partnership and collaboration with DCF Task Force membership.

