

# Call for the study addressing the healthcare needs of Ukrainian refugees.

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## BACKGROUND

- On February 24, 2022, the Russian invasion of Ukraine prompted a refugee wave in Ukraine. In less than three months since the start of the war, about 5 -7 million people left Ukraine (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2022; Spiegel, 2022). With increasing numbers of Ukrainian refugees, the health needs of this group will require the attention of health providers of the receiving countries. There is a risk of an impending public health crisis in Europe with rising numbers of Ukrainian refugees (Su, 2022; Spiegel, 2022).
- There is an increased demand for adequate and accessible healthcare resources to meet the needs of this group. In anticipation of the new influx of newcomers, public health agencies of the hosting countries need to be prepared to provide services to this population. Yet, the needs of this cohort are not explored.
- There is a gap in empirical literature exploring Ukrainian refugees' health issues and necessities. Previous studies examined the health concerns of immigrants and refugees from Ukraine in conjunction with the cohort of Russian-speaking immigrants from the former Soviet Union (FSU) (Amburg et al., 2022). These studies indicate unhealthy lifestyles, negative health indicators, and poor engagement in health promotion and screening behaviors among this aggregate (Amburg, 2019; Ivanov et al., 2010; Kostareva et al., 2022). Et al.

- Since the start of the war, many Ukrainians no longer identify Russian as their preferred language of communication and might desire to separate themselves from the Russian-speaking cohort (Amburg et al., 2022).
- Limited publications addressing the health issues of recent Ukrainian refugees report mental health problems, communicable diseases, and pre-existing illnesses (Murphy et al., 2022; Spiegel, 2022). There is an imminent need for further research addressing the health needs of Ukrainian refugees.

## PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

- This study aims to conduct a health needs assessment of recent refugees from Ukraine. The ultimate goal of this research is to identify the health necessities and priorities for this aggregate.



## METHODS

- A quantitative study will include an anonymous survey exploring the needs of recent refugees from Ukraine. The Needs Assessment Survey of Refugees from Ukraine (NARU) contains demographic characteristics, inquiries on self-reported health status, current personal and family health demands, and self-reported long-term illnesses.
- The survey will also include queries about experiences with healthcare systems in the hosting countries, health-related resources, current support systems, and health literacy questions. This survey will be administered electronically to Ukrainian refugees ages 18 and older who left Ukraine after February 24, 2022. It will be available in Ukrainian, Russian, and English.
- The data collected by the survey will assess the current health needs of Ukrainian refugees. Data analysis will identify health management priorities for this aggregate. The findings of this study will be shared to guide the development of health promotion and disease prevention interventions and health-related resources for Ukrainian refugees in the hosting countries.

## REFERENCES

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