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**Peoria City/County  
Health Department**

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# RIM Survey Report 2023



## Refugee, Immigrant, Migrant

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## RIM POPULATIONS

*Refugee* - someone who has fled war, violence, conflict or persecution and has crossed an international border to find safety in another country.

*Immigrant* - someone who makes a conscious decision to leave his or her home and move to a foreign country with the intention of settling there.

*Migrant* - someone who is moving from place to place usually for economic reasons such as seasonal work.

In 2022, the Peoria City/County Health Department received a grant from Champaign-Urbana County Health Department through the Center for Minority Health Services (CMHS) to learn more about the RIM population in Peoria County and to advance community partnerships and resources currently available. As part of the grant, the PCCHD developed and distributed a RIM survey to community agencies to find out how RIM populations are accessing existing resources and programs.

Refugees, immigrants, and migrants (RIM) are members of our community who are disproportionately affected by health inequities ranging from access to healthcare to immigration. The purpose of the RIM survey is to understand the health disparities they face and improve overall health. Community partner goals include the following:

- Build community infrastructure of public health
- Increase communication and access to services
- Improve understanding of community and health issues

# SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

The survey was distributed to 42 agencies that provide services to Peoria County populations. We collected access to care and service information to better understand the populations' needs and available community resources.

13 agencies responded:

*Destiny for Women Health Clinic*

*FamilyCore*

*Goodwill*

*Greater Peoria Economic Development Council (EDC)*

*Heartland Health Services*

*Illinois Migrant Council*

*OSF HealthCare*

*Peoria Rescue Ministries*

*Peoria City/County Health Department*

*UMC Peoria (First United Methodist Church)*

*UnityPoint Health*

*Woodford County*

*HOI 211*

# SURVEY RESULTS

## Our populations

*Survey participants were asked, “What do you currently know about the RIM populations in Peoria County? For example, what County are they from, how long have they lived there, and is there a specific community the population lives in and where is it?”*

The majority responded that RIM populations in Peoria and neighboring Tazewell County include individuals and families that are Hispanic Latino, East and South Asian, asylum seekers, French Congolese, and Central American. Residential areas include Peoria East Bluff and Southside. Saint Francis Medical Center serves more than 165 undocumented patients. Most participants expressed a need for additional information about RIM populations.

# SURVEY RESULTS

## Needs and Services

*Survey participants were asked, "What are the RIM population needs (select all that apply). Health, Housing, Food, Employment."*

The majority responded that assistance and support in all areas is needed. Challenges to access resources include language barriers, cultural differences, and lack of resource knowledge.

Undocumented individuals are unable to secure jobs, housing, and seek medical care/health insurance.

*Survey participants were asked, "What services do you provide to the RIM populations? Do you have a website or work with any health facilities that provide medical care to the population?"*

Healthcare facilities provide healthcare screenings, clinics (vaccines, dental), and women's care. Other entities provide food/clothing, housing/financial, interpreters, transportation, and job assistance. Most services are free or low cost.

# SURVEY RESULTS

## Strengthening Relationships

*Survey participants were asked, “What would you need to strengthen your relationship with RIM populations?”*

The majority of respondents require more information on the populations. Communication is identified as a major roadblock to reaching these populations; translation services must be provided.

*Survey participants were asked, “How would you like to expand and strengthen your relationship with other RIM service providers?”*

The majority expressed an interest in additional collaboration with community partners - to establish contacts and meet regularly for open communication and an exchange of information.

# SURVEY RESULTS

## Sharing Information

*Survey participants were asked, "What would you be willing to contribute to a RIM newsletter - Article, Health Programs, Events."*

Most participants would contribute content to a newsletter.

*Survey participants were asked, "How would you distribute the RIM newsletter - Social Media, Website, Face to Face, Mailing."*

Most respondents would distribute the newsletter through all outlets.

*Survey participants were asked, "Would your agency be willing to be included on a RIM resource webpage?"*

Most respondents were willing to be a resource on a RIM webpage.



# KEY FINDINGS

- RIM populations are diverse groups representing many cultures, languages, religions, and regions of the world
- RIM populations in Peoria and neighboring Tazewell County include individuals and families that are Hispanic Latino, East and South Asian, asylum seekers, French Congolese, and Central American
- Families may be documented or undocumented
- Residential areas include Peoria East Bluff and Southside
- Language barriers present a challenge to accessing resources
- Communications outreach to RIM populations is a barrier
- Lack of coordination of RIM services among providers
- Jobs, housing, and medical care are current needs

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- Extend outreach into the RIM communities
- Provide interpreters at agencies and events
- Share information on jobs, housing, and care
- Coordinate provider resources
- Create a centralized location for RIM information
- Strengthen partnerships among RIM providers
- Research additional/secondary data and demographics of RIM populations

# NEXT STEPS

- Expand outreach into the RIM communities
- Consider interpreters at community events
- Network with RIM providers
- Develop a newsletter for community organizations and populations
- Create a centralized website for RIM populations and provider information
- Research additional/secondary data and demographics of RIM populations
- Review additional funding opportunities

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