

New International Residents: Immigrant & Refugee Communities in the South Hills



General Overview & Refugees:
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Bhutanese Refugees:
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Latino Immigrants:
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General Overview*

Since 2000, Allegheny County's foreign born population grew by **18.5%** and continues to grow.

The Asian community grew by **52%**, the Latino community grew by **50%**, and the African community grew by **58%**

Estimated 40% of recent refugees live in the South Hills area

Allegheny County is receiving more **Refugees:**

From 2011 to 2014, approximately **1900 refugees** were directly settled in the Pittsburgh area

*Source: DHS-Immigrants and International Resources & PA State Refugee Program

Refugees

Definition:

A refugee is someone who has fled from his or her home country and cannot return because he or she has a well-founded fear of persecution based on religion, race, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group.

Many refugees spend years and sometimes decades in substandard refugee camps. Less than 1% of all refugees get the chance to leave a camp and resettle in the U.S., Canada, Sweden, Australia, or another country which resettles refugees.

Refugees in Pittsburgh

Recent Arrivals in Pittsburgh:

Bhutanese

Iraqi

Burmese-Chin

Congolese

Challenges:

Language

Literacy

Cultural barriers

Health related issues (mental, behavioral, others)

Bhutanese

- First batch of Bhutanese refugees came to Pittsburgh in March 2008.
- Estimated to be over 5,000 in the Allegheny county spread in over 10 neighborhoods.
- Mostly in the South Hills.
- Speak Nepali language and share many cultural aspects with Nepalese from Nepal.
- Mostly vulnerable and no prior education.
- Language and cultural barriers a challenge for them to navigate life in the U.S.
- Peace Loving, quiet, and non-confrontationist,

BCAP

- ✓ Established in June 2012 as a community organization to serve the community better by mobilizing resources in the region and preserving and sharing the cultures.
- ✓ Obtained its Tax Exempt Status in 2014.
- ✓ Have a first office and a few paid staff in Dec 2014!
Obtained an ORR grant in 2014 and Jefferson Regional Grant recently.
- ✓ Also received mini-grants twice from Vibrant Pittsburgh while JFCS served as our lead agency and fiduciary partner.
- ✓ Our projects: ESL/Civic Education to Elders, Parent-Child Clubs, Women Leadership Trainings, Youth Programming, RoboCalls, Career Counselling to Students, Community gardening and Referral and Family Intervention.

Latino Community

Youngest and fastest growing population nationally

Estimated to be 1.6 % of the population in Allegheny county and 2.3% in the city of Pittsburgh (*however there is reason to believe these numbers are not accurate due to undocumented immigrants*)

Mixed Status Families:

Undocumented: Individuals (Fathers, mothers, children) who do not have the proper documentation to live and work in the United States.

Latinos in Allegheny County are *coming* primarily from: México, Guatemala, Puerto Rico, Honduras, and El Salvador.

There is no “barrio” in Allegheny County as the Latino community is spread out throughout the county, however there are some concentrations in: Beechview, Brookline, East Liberty, Highland Park, Monroeville, Robinson).

Concerns: Language barriers, fear of deportation, domestic violence

Latino Family Center

Opened in 2009 at the request of Latino families and the support of DHS

Programs:

Home visiting program- child development

ISAC- Service Coordination

Classes: Pre-natal (Birth Circles), Nutrition (Adagio Power Up), Adult ESL, Sewing, Latino Parents United in Action (A+ Schools/Vibrant Pittsburgh), Chats with Dr. Diego (Salud Para Niños), Learning Together, and monthly Family Fun Nights!

Moving to Hazelwood on July 1st!

THANK YOU!



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