How Is Cutting Health Care For Refugees Affecting Refugees in Canada?

Mariam Hamaoui
(647)4580908
mhamaoui@my.yorku.ca

Course Instructor: Paul Baxter
York University

Faculty: Liberal Arts & Professional Studies (LAPS)
Course: AP/CRIM 2653

Abstract:
The federal government initiated the IFH program in 1987 for humanitarian reasons. Beginning June 30, 2012, the federal government of Canada under the Conservative party of Prime Minister Stephen Harper implemented amendments to the IFH program (Healthcare for Refugees which resulted in a significant reduction in refugee health care services. The statement currently stands, refugees are only treated if the disease is deemed to be infectious or if there is evidence that point to an illness becoming a public health concern. This can have a significant impact on the health of refugees living under difficult circumstances and will be without very basic health care.

Literature Review:
- Refugee Health Care Cuts in Canada: System Level Costs, Risks and Responses by Marilyn Soni.
- The study analyzes the changes in the IFH program and the new policy and how it affects refugees in Canada. The study shows that the changes to the IFH program have had a significant impact on the health of refugees in Canada.
- The Impact of Policy Changes on the Health of Recent Immigrants and Refugees in the Inner City by Beals, Lemieux-Charles, Clark, and Glazer.
- The authors examined the policy changes and the changes made to the health care system in Canada and the effects on refugees and immigrants, specifically in Toronto. According to the findings, because of the policy changes, it has had an impact on the health of refugees in Canada.

Research Question:
How is cutting health care for refugees affecting refugees in Canada?

Methods:
- In Marilyn's study, there was a usage of qualitative in-depth interviews, with 16 participants, and that were conducted by Tanya Green January 2015. In this study, the researcher interviewed refugees and their families to understand the impact of the IFH program changes on their health and level of care.
- The study by Beals, Lemieux-Charles, Clark, and Glazer, used mixed methods, including surveys and interviews, to examine the impact of the IFH program changes on the health of refugees in Canada.

Results:
- The cutting of health care for refugees will result in cuts to 11 of the 12 healthcare access to health care for refugees. There will also be an increase in the number of refugees seeking care in the emergency room.
- The IFH program changes have led to a reduction in the number of refugees seeking care in the emergency room.

Conclusion:
The cutting of health care for refugees is a significant reduction in the lives of refugees, but can be a risk to their overall well-being. It is essential to consider the cost of the IFH program changes and ensure that refugees have access to necessary healthcare services.

Emergency Room Visit Characteristics of Refugee Claimants BEFORE IFHP Funding Cuts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CTAS 1 (%)</th>
<th>CTAS 2 (%)</th>
<th>CTAS 3 (%)</th>
<th>CTAS 4 (%)</th>
<th>CTAS 5 (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Emergency Room Visit Characteristics of Refugee Claimants AFTER IFHP Funding Cuts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CTAS 1 (%)</th>
<th>CTAS 2 (%)</th>
<th>CTAS 3 (%)</th>
<th>CTAS 4 (%)</th>
<th>CTAS 5 (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>