

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
2011 REFUGEE FACT SHEET

1. **GLOBAL:** According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), approximately 42.5 million persons were forcibly displaced in calendar year 2011, including 15.2 million refugees, 26.4 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and approximately 895,000 asylum seekers. The country of origin for the majority of refugees was Afghanistan (2,664,400), followed by Iraq (1,428,300) and Somalia (1,077,000). In 2011, 79,800 refugees were admitted for resettlement by 22 countries worldwide. The United States had the highest number of admissions (51,500), followed by Canada (12,900), Australia (9,200), Sweden (1,900), and Norway (1,300). The top five countries in which asylum claims were registered in 2011 were South Africa (107,000), the United States (76,000), France (52,000), Germany (45,7000) and Italy (34,100).¹
2. **NATIONAL:** Each year the President of the United States proposes a cap on the number of refugees that can enter the country in the upcoming federal fiscal year (FFY). This cap, known as the refugee admissions ceiling, was set at 80,000 for FFY 2011 (October 1, 2010 – September 30, 2011) with allocations of 35,500 for the Near East and South Asia, 19,000 for East Asia, 15,000 for Africa, 5,500 for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2,000 for Europe and Central Asia, and an additional 3,000 of unallocated reserve.² According to the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, Office of Admissions, Refugee Processing Center, a total of 56,424 refugee admissions were made in FFY 2011, a decrease of 23% from 2010 (73,311 admissions). The countries of origin have changed over time. In 2005, the majority of refugees were from Somalia (10,405), Laos (8,517), Cuba (6,360), Russia (5,982) and Liberia (4,289). In 2011, the majority of refugees originated from Burma (16,972), Bhutan (14,999), Iraq (9,388), Somalia (3,161) and Cuba (2,920).³ Texas resettled the most refugees (5,627; 10%) in FFY 2011 followed by California (4,987; 9%), New York (3,529; 6%) Pennsylvania (2,972; 5%) and Florida (2,906; 5%).²
3. **CALIFORNIA:** During FFY 2007 – 2011, a total of 40,994 refugees resettled in California, the majority of which originated from Iran (15,972) and Iraq (14,610).⁴ According to data from the California Department of Social Services – Refugee Programs Bureau, California resettled 4,974 refugees during FFY 2011.⁵
4. **SAN DIEGO:** San Diego County ranked first among refugee admissions to California in FFY 2011 (2,110) followed by Los Angeles County (1,118) and Sacramento County (518).⁵ Although the number of refugee admissions to San Diego County in 2011 decreased by 51% as compared to 2010, it increased by 110% since 2006.⁶
5. **COMMUNITIES:** The top cities/communities in which refugees resettled during CY 2011 were San Diego (820) and El Cajon (677) followed by Spring Valley (62).⁶
6. **AGE:** The breakdown of refugee arrivals in CY 2010 by age group was as follows: 151 (9%) were between 0 and 4 years of age, 449 (27%) were age 5-17 years, 736 (44%) were age 18-44 years, 282 (17%) were age 45-64 years, and 62 (4%) were age 65 and over.⁶
7. **BIRTH COUNTRY:** During CY 2011, the predominant country of origin (birth) of refugees resettling in San Diego County was Iraq (1,109; 66%), followed by Burma (233; 14%), Somalia (98; 6%), Iran (48; 3%), Afghanistan (29; 2%), Uzbekistan (25; 1%) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (25; 1%).⁶

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1 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, "UNHCR Global Trends 2011," <http://www.unhcr.org/4fd6f87f9.html> (Accessed December 28, 2012).

2 US Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics, "Annual Flow Report, May 2012 – Refugees and Asylees: 2011," http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/statistics/publications/ois_rfa_fr_2011.pdf, (Accessed December 31, 2012).

3 U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, Office of Admissions – Refugee Processing Center, "Refugee Admissions Report as of 31 December 2012," <http://www.wrapsnet.org/Reports/AdmissionsArrivals/tabid/211/Default.aspx>, (Accessed December 31, 2012).

4 California Department of Social Services, Refugee Programs Bureau, "Refugee Arrivals into California by Country/Region of Origin – Federal Fiscal Years 2007 through 2011," <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/refugeeprogram/res/pdf/RptCtr/ArrivalsData/07-11FiveYrArrivalsByCountyAndRegion.pdf>, (Accessed December 28, 2012).

5 California Department of Social Services, Refugee Programs Bureau, "Refugee Arrivals into California Counties – Federal Fiscal Year 2011," <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/refugeeprogram/res/pdf/RptCtr/ArrivalsData/Arrivals2011.pdf>, (Accessed December 28, 2012).

6 California Department of Social Services, Refugee Programs Bureau – Calendar Years 2006-2011