



The Analytics for Equity Initiative

Safety Net Participation of Refugee Communities

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Research Theme: Equity in Human Services Delivery and Outcomes

Research Questions: The proposed research will address the following interrelated questions:

1. What are the rates of safety net program participation for eligible refugee families, as measured using the ASR?
2. How does safety net program participation for eligible refugee households change over time in the US? What factors, if any, are associated with differential rates of change of access to safety net programs for eligible refugee families (e.g., English proficiency)?
3. How do results using the ASR compare to results using large population surveys (e.g., ACS)?

Data: Annual Survey of Refugees (ASR) and American Community Survey (ACS)

Abstract:

Upon resettlement in the US, refugee families are connected with support services, as well as immediate access to safety net programs. Understanding how provided services are working – or not working – for refugee families is important to ensure that services are best designed to facilitate refugee families' integration and support their long-term well-being. In our project, we plan to explore questions around refugee families' access to the US social safety net. In exploratory analyses, we will construct synthetic cohorts using the Annual Survey of Refugees (ASR) to measure access to safety net programs relative to eligibility and to examine how access and eligibility interact over time. We will also identify likely refugee families in the American Community Survey (ACS), following Capps & Newland (2015), and compare ACS and ASR results. We anticipate that our results will provide insights into whether refugee families are continuously accessing safety net programs. Ultimately, we plan to establish a broader research agenda exploring the factors that may affect social support program take-up and continued participation among eligible refugee populations, as well as the effects of safety net programs on refugee families' economic integration.

