

ABSTRACT

Immigrants and refugees, coined under the umbrella term “migrant”, are considered vulnerable populations in healthcare due to the existence of the pre and post migration stressors they face. Migrants in the US are under special consideration given the amount of resettlement the last two decades. Iraqi migrants are particularly vulnerable; 147,000 of them have resettled in the U.S since 2001, with 87,000 entering from 2007-2013. Pre-migration stressors stem from exposure to violence, political conflicts, and religious persecution. Post-migration stressors are due to the cultural and language barriers that affect access to quality healthcare. With a group of 3500+ Iraqi migrants living in Colorado, we wanted to gain insight into the health concerns of this group of people who are living in American communities with little to no access to culturally competent and Arabic proficient providers. Our aim with this qualitative research project was to characterize Iraqi migrants’ perceptions of their health as well as their experiences accessing and navigating the U.S. healthcare system.