

Impact of the Recession on Refugee Resettlement

Church World Service Affiliate Network Survey and Recommendations



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

May 2009

Acknowledgements

The Church World Service Immigration and Refugee Program thanks the CWS Affiliate Advisory Group for its guidance and input to the survey questions, and The KonTerra Group for designing and conducting the survey. Deep appreciation goes to our colleagues in CWS affiliate offices and sub-offices, members of the CWS Immigration and Refugee Program Committee, and state coordinators of refugee resettlement who participated in this study.

Photo captions and credits:

Cover: Bhutanese refugees resettled to New Hampshire. Photo by Ken Ramsey.

Page 3: Palestinian refugees from Iraq, in Jordan. Photo © UNHCR / A. van Genderen Stort.

Page 4: Capitolene Nduwimana from Burundi, employed at Butterball® Farms, Inc., in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Photo by Carol Fouke-Mpoyo.

Page 5: Ilya Abramenko from Russia, employed in Glendale, Arizona, at Rapid Recovery, which manufactures and assembles parts for refrigerant recovery machines. Photo courtesy of Lutheran Social Ministry of the Southwest.

Page 6: Resettled refugees from Burma, arranging donated bedroom furniture in an apartment for a refugee family arriving in Grand Rapids the next day. Photo by Carol Fouke-Mpoyo

Page 7: At the New Horizons Summer School of Journey's End Refugee Services in Buffalo, New York, youth mentor Bilal Musse from Somalia and community volunteer Peggy Besant working with Mohamed, who recently arrived from Somalia. Photo by Liz Garofano/JERS.

Table of Contents

i. Acknowledgements

1. About the U.S. Refugee Program

1. About Church World Service

2. Introduction

3. Executive Summary

4-10. Detailed Findings

Finding #1: General assessment of recession's impact on resettlement

Finding #2: Finding jobs for refugees is more challenging

Finding #3: The 180-day goal of employment is unrealistic

Finding #4: Affiliates are struggling to cover unemployed clients' rents

Finding #5: Private cash contributions for local resettlement are down

Finding #6: Mobilizing donated goods has become more challenging

Finding #7: Recruiting congregational cosponsors is harder

Finding #8: Recruiting local volunteers is more challenging

Finding #9: Local communities remain welcoming of refugees

Finding #10: Out-migration is increasing

Finding #11: Current federal funding for resettlement is inadequate

11. Conclusions and Recommendations

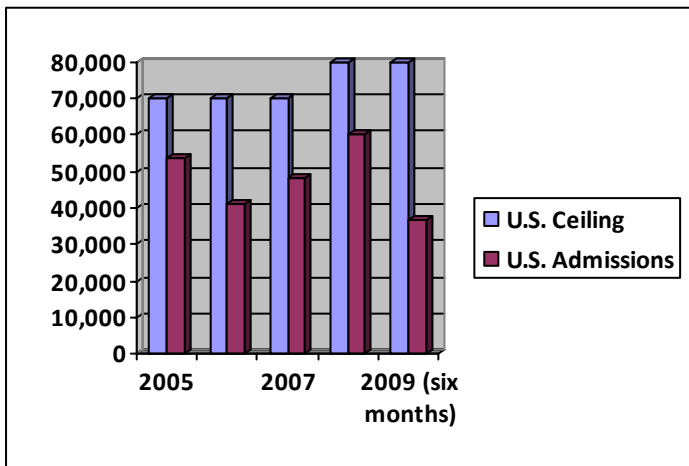
12-14. Appendices

- A. State and City or Metropolitan Unemployment Rates 2004-2009
- B. Unemployment rates for specific demographics
- C. Refugee Admissions, Total Admitted, CWS Arrivals FY 2005-2008
- D. CWS affiliates participating in the survey
- E. Sources of statistics in this report

About the U.S. Refugee Program

Close to 14 million people in our world today are refugees – people driven from their countries by war, civil conflict, persecution or human rights abuses. Some will return home eventually when conditions improve; others will integrate into their countries of first asylum. For still others, third-country resettlement is the only hope for safety and a new chance at life.

U.S. Refugee Ceiling and Admissions FY 2005-08 & First Six Months of FY 2009



The United States has a long-standing heritage of welcome for refugees. Each year, the U.S. State Department invites a number of the most vulnerable refugees to resettle here.

The 30-year-old U.S. refugee program is a “public-private partnership” between the federal government and voluntary sector that supports newly arrived refugees with basic services for a limited time, expecting they will

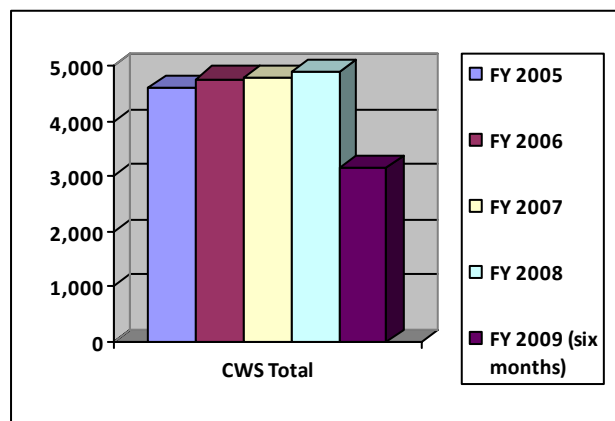
find work and be paying their own way within a few months. Their investment of time and resources helps refugees recover their self-reliance and dignity, become productive members of their new communities, earn their living and support their families. In turn, refugees enrich America with their diversity, personal gifts and strong work ethic.

About Church World Service

The global ecumenical relief, development and refugee protection agency Church World Service is one of the nine national voluntary agencies plus one state agency (Iowa) entrusted by the U.S. government to receive, place and help refugees get established in their new communities. Since 1946, CWS has resettled nearly 475,000 refugees.

CWS Admissions FY 2005-April 30, 2009

Constituent involvement has been the hallmark of the CWS Immigration and Refugee Program from its very beginning. Together with seven participating denominations, CWS works with and through a local affiliate network to resettle about 5,000 refugees each year to communities in 23 states. Key local partners include congregational cosponsors, individuals, businesses, schools, health care providers, employers, foundations and other organizations that contribute funds, goods and time toward the goal of refugees’ early self-sufficiency.



Introduction

Job losses and rising unemployment resulting from the current economic recession have impacted communities across the United States. Since the recession's start in December 2007 through March 2009, 5.1 million jobs were lost, 3.3 million in the last five months alone, and the unemployment rate increased from 5 percent to 8.5 percent.

As the recession has deepened, Church World Service has heard increasingly from its local resettlement affiliates of the growing strain on their refugee clients' ability to achieve self-sufficiency quickly – and on affiliates' ability to help. Church World Service undertook this study to test the anecdotal evidence against quantifiable data.

Of CWS's 33 local refugee resettlement affiliates, 27 completed the on-line survey. Respondents included 19 directors and eight other affiliate staff. Their combined experience working in refugee resettlement total 348 years (12.8 years each, on average), with 200 of those years in their current positions (7.5 years each, on average).

The on-line survey and telephone interviews with several directors, members of the CWS Immigration and Refugee Program Committee, and state coordinators of refugee resettlement were completed March 11-17, 2009.

The survey captured data from the last half of 2008, offering a “snapshot in time” of the impact of a recession that subsequently has worsened. Survey data will be compared to the official data for the same period as collected in the 180-day employment reports, which will be available at the end of June.

The interpretation of the data, along with comments and recommendations, are from Church World Service and do not necessarily represent the views of any particular affiliate or of the affiliate network as a whole.

Note: Since this survey was conducted, the U.S. State Department announced that it would be providing “refugee emergency housing assistance to assist the most vulnerable refugees that have extreme unmet housing needs in paying rent and other associated housing costs during their first 90 days in the U.S.” This assistance, available to FY 2009 arrivals, is greatly appreciated. However, much more remains to be done to adequately support new refugee arrivals and the agencies charged with ensuring refugees' successful integration.

Executive Summary

The recession clearly is making it harder for newly arrived refugees to find jobs, thus slowing their progress to early self-sufficiency. As the months pass and their modest “start-up” assistance runs out, growing numbers of refugees have no choice but to turn to their local resettlement agencies for extra help with such essentials as rent, utilities and food. CWS affiliates report this is stretching their resources to the breaking point.

In addition, helping refugees in the extended job search is requiring refugee resettlement affiliate staff to work longer hours than their government contracts reimburse. Raising cash and in-kind donations is taking more affiliate staff time for a diminishing return, as is recruiting congregational cosponsors and other volunteers.

Since it was established under the Refugee Act of 1980, the U.S. refugee program has been and remains one of our government’s best endeavors, saving millions of lives. But the U.S. government’s once-adequate contribution to this life-saving program has declined over the years and now covers less than half the cost of resettlement even in good economic times. Some communities, churches and even refugees are asking whether admissions should be scaled back until the economy improves.

Refugees are looking to us to save their lives. They can't wait for the recession to end. It's time to increase federal funding, not cut admissions.



Church World Service strongly opposes a reduction in refugee admissions, especially now that admissions have returned to pre-9/11 levels. The U.S. refugee program is a rescue operation. Refugees are looking to us to save their lives. We cannot tell them to wait a few years until the recession ends. We must not waiver in our commitment to them.

The private sector will continue to bring its passion, creativity, resources and voice to the work of refugee resettlement. Our affiliates remain resilient and committed to refugee resettlement.

Church World Service will continue to press the U.S. government to do its part, especially urging Congress to allocate adequate funding to the Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration and the Office of Refugee Resettlement. And we will continue to work with our federal partners on reforms that will ease the current pressures and strengthen the U.S. refugee program for the long term.

Detailed Findings

Respondents first were asked for their general assessment of the recession's impact on refugee resettlement. Then the survey probed the specific impact on finding employment, obtaining and paying for affordable housing, securing donations of goods and funds, and recruiting cosponsors and volunteers.

FINDING #1: 85 percent of respondents agreed, most of them “strongly,” that “the current economic crisis is impacting resettlement in ways not seen since I have been involved in this work.”

- *“Expenses are up, employment is down, donations are down, and refugee expectations remain high.”*

Impact on employment

FINDING #2: 80 percent of respondents agreed that finding jobs for refugees newly resettled to this country was more challenging during the last half of 2008 than in July-December 2005-2007, and nearly as many (70 percent) expect job placement to get harder before it gets easier.

Their strong connections with some employers notwithstanding, affiliate staff are putting in many more hours than their government contracts reimburse to accompany their clients on more interviews and follow-up calls over a greater number of weeks with increasingly far-flung employers for lower-paying jobs.



Employers are being more selective in their hiring, and refugee applicants have more competition from laid-off Americans with work experience and fluent English. Overall, respondents affirmed their optimism that their clients will find jobs and become self-sufficient, but say it will take a few months longer than in past years.

“It will take longer to find lower-paying jobs.”

where there is no hiring freeze vs. big hotels and factories, our traditional employers.”

- *“Our staff is working very hard getting individual jobs rather than for a group of clients (3-6) as in the past. We are far behind at this point, still working on June/July 2008 cases for employment.”*
- *“We are hoping it will not get worse. Spring and summer months hiring usually picks up. We are approaching smaller companies where there is no hiring freeze vs. big hotels and factories, our traditional employers.”*
- *“I suspect some may be laid off although that hasn't started happening yet. Others will hold on to their initial job rather than quit to look for a higher-paying job or a job with more suitable hours.”*

FINDING #3: 80 percent of respondents agreed that the 180-day goal of employment is unrealistic in the present economic downturn.

The recession has adversely affected the ability of affiliate staff to find jobs for their refugee clients within the 180-day timeframe specified by the U.S. refugee program. Respondents urged an easing of the program's expectation that refugees be working for at least six weeks at the 180-day point post-arrival.



- *From our experience...a very low percent are working in three to four months. It takes at least a couple of months to get a place furnished, get the children in school, get to know the area, and then start looking for a job."*
- *"I think we will still have more than 90 percent working at 180 days...but (only) about 70 percent counted 'employed' on the 180-day report. They will be working at 180 days but will not have been working for six weeks."*

The 180-day employment reports for CWS clients who arrived in January-June 2008 showed employment rates remained between 78 and 85 percent. But 180-day reports for clients who arrived in July-December 2008 are likely to document a

decline in outcomes, with further deterioration in outcomes for January-June 2009 arrivals. In comments, some respondents said they expect their outcomes to decline to 60, 50, even 25 percent; others expect outcomes in the 75 to 80 percent range.

Impact on housing

FINDING #4: Nearly 70 percent of respondents said it is getting more difficult for their affiliates to cover clients' rent during the extended job search, with 50 percent reporting pressure from rising rents. Nearly 70 percent were seeing greater competition with other community residents for affordable housing.

Affiliates said they were not aware of any clients entering homeless shelters, but they expressed concern that clients not fall into homelessness – especially newly arrived refugees still searching for their first job, but also earlier arrivals who have been laid off.

- *"My big concern now is the potential for working refugees to be laid off and being unable to pay their rent and take care of themselves. I worry about them becoming a part of the homeless population."*
- *"Our most challenging housing issue currently is single adults, as they can't pay for even the smallest of apartments."*

"Affordable housing is not a problem in our area. The problem is getting jobs and income to pay for the housing."

Affiliates' good relationships with local landlords are helping to mitigate the recession's impact on housing.

- *“We have had a housing program that provides subsidies and case management for refugees who were homeless or in jeopardy of becoming homeless. It has led to great relationships with landlords who are willing to work with us. Also, most of our current populations live in a couple complexes, where the landlords work with us.”*

Impact on private support

FINDING #5: Just over half of respondents said private cash funding to support local resettlement has decreased. Churches, individuals, foundations, corporations and special events continue to contribute funds, but not necessarily at the same levels.

The recession is making it harder to mobilize private resources, respondents confirmed. Affiliate staff are having to devote more time and develop new strategies to raise funds.

Funding from individuals, churches and other private sources has not yet declined dramatically. But the recession means more needs in U.S. communities and fewer available resources, and affiliates worry that donations for refugee resettlement will decline significantly if the economy does not improve.

“The threat of donor fatigue to the refugee program is very real especially due to the current economic crisis and the potential of shifting priorities.”

- *“Our congregational donors still gave, just slightly less than normally. Funding is more competitive, but there is local will to support programs that have very specific outcomes.”*
- *“We seem to be receiving about the same amount in donations from individuals. That is our main private cash funding stream. I expect these amounts will begin to decrease as the year goes on.”*

FINDING #6: About 4 in 10 respondents indicated that mobilizing donated goods has become more challenging while just over 3 in 10 did not see a decline in donations of goods and just under 3 in 10 noted no difference.

Many affiliates rely heavily on donations of household goods to furnish apartments for newly arriving refugees. Whatever is not donated must be purchased.

- *“People are selling goods that they would have normally donated. Churches are helping their congregations more with housing and food assistance that they would have normally donated to CWS.”*
- *“Donations are needed for so many people right now, so there is more competition for donated goods.”*
- *“People are not replacing their furniture with new. They are uncertain about their job*



situation and don't want to spend money now. Maybe when the economy turns around, there will be more donated goods."

FINDING #7: About half of the respondents agreed that recruiting congregational cosponsors became more challenging July-December 2008.

The Church World Service Immigration and Refugee Program and its participating denominations work with CWS affiliate agencies to enlist local congregations as cosponsors of refugees. Generally, cosponsors are asking to make a three-month commitment to assist refugees with core services. They also are an important source of emotional support.

Cosponsor checklist

- ***Ready the apartment.***
- ***Airport pickup.***
- ***Community and cultural orientation.***
- ***School enrollment.***
- ***Learn the bus system.***
- ***Accompany to clinic.***
- ***English practice.***
- ***Help with job applications and interview skills.***

Due to the recession, survey respondents said, some churches have turned their attention to helping unemployed congregation members and to supporting such local assistance programs as homeless shelters, soup kitchens and food pantries. Moreover, churches are struggling to preserve their own programs and staff as giving declines due to the recession.

- *"The churches that have always co-sponsored are continuing to do so. New churches or some that have worked to resettle maybe one family in the past are saying there are too many needs out there at this time and they are trying to address many of those needs in the community today."*
- *"Churches are facing their own financial concerns, as giving has decreased. This has resulted in many churches trying to hold on to staff and programs they currently have and feeling they have an obligation to the unemployed and homeless in their community."*

FINDING #8: About one-fourth of affiliates agreed that recruiting local volunteers became more challenging in the last half of calendar year 2008, while just over half disagreed and one-fourth indicated volunteer recruitment was no harder or easier than before.

Volunteers are a critical resource in refugee resettlement for the affiliates. They provide a wide range of services to refugees and to the resettlement process.

Most commonly, volunteers provide transportation, help with the job search, provide home furnishings, teach English, tutor students in academic subjects, provide cross-cultural preparation and serve as interpreters, according to survey respondents.



Other volunteer services include but are not limited to distributing food from food pantries to refugees, providing clerical assistance, helping move furniture, organizing apartment set ups, mentoring K-12 youth, assisting seniors, making home visits, budget counseling, getting refugees to medical and social services appointments, shopping for groceries and helping refugees set up bank accounts, sort through mail and fill out forms.

In some communities, rising unemployment has meant more volunteers; in others, fewer. Some affiliates said the recession has increased local competition for volunteers. Rising transportation costs have discouraged some seniors and students. Recession-related anxiety has caused some people to cut back on volunteering and focus more on their jobs; for others, the recession has unleashed a greater spirit of volunteerism.

- *“Some people, who are out of work, but not in immediate need of income, have volunteered.”*
- *“The cost of transportation increased, so that it has been difficult for volunteers to travel to the office (mainly seniors and students).”*
- *“There are too many volunteer opportunities and too few volunteers. People are busy with their paid work and worried about the economy, and are not finding time to volunteer for nonprofits.”*
- *“We really have had people come forward to volunteer because of the challenging times.”*

“More people who volunteered [now] are looking for the paid jobs. People are not able to afford volunteering as much as they used to.”

Impact on local community attitudes

FINDING #9: Most affiliates said their communities remain welcoming of refugees, with none reporting violence against refugees at home, work or school.

Asked whether, “given the present economic crisis, the arrival of refugees is creating a negative impact on my geographical area of responsibility,” just under one in five respondents said yes. Nearly half said no, and one-third noted no change one way or the other.

Several reported that some church groups, community members and refugees are questioning the wisdom of bringing in large numbers of refugees during a severely depressed economic time. Some cite competition for jobs and social services as their greatest concerns; others say the question comes from a concern for the well-being of the refugees who are arriving here.

“The community is positive about supporting refugees but [feels] the U.S. program does not do its part to help affiliate agencies and local communities resettle refugees.”

- *“The local community expresses fear of competition and concern that more individuals are added to the pool of unemployed people.”*
- *“Our community is very supportive of refugees. The School District program*

for the refugees offers individual tutoring for the new arrival children. Every school has a teacher who speaks the language of the child. Health screening staff are available who speak the language of the client. Our community has many sub-communities of refugee groups, so population centers exist that provide a supportive environment including jobs. There never has been any negative media or violence yet.”

- *“If the economic situation does not improve soon or deteriorates further, we will need to be aware of any acts of harassment or untoward behavior towards the refugees.”*

Some respondents said secondary in-migration was having some negative impact and a few indicated that the arrival of refugees coupled with rising numbers of unemployed local residents is leading to more intense competition for jobs.

Significant impact is being felt by local health and social services as applications for Medicaid and food stamps increase – leading to backlogs. In spite of these difficulties, local communities continue to be supportive of and welcoming to refugees.

Impact on out-migration

FINDING #10: One in three respondents reported an increased out-migration to other areas since July 2008. Most frequently, refugees moved to another state to join relatives, find better employment possibilities, find a lower cost of living, and/or find better public assistance programs. None left to escape hostility or an unreceptive community.

Federal funding

FINDING #11: All but one respondent agreed, most of them “strongly,” that federal funding does not meet the goals of the U.S. refugee program in the present economic climate. Many commented that government resources are woefully inadequate even in good times, not covering even 50 percent of the cost of resettlement.

The U.S. refugee program was established 30 years ago as a “public-private partnership.” Over the years, the once-adequate government contribution has shrunk in proportion to private donations and now covers less than half the cost of resettlement, even in good economic times. The voluntary sector, while unflagging in its commitment to this important humanitarian protection program, now bears the greater share of the cost.

Survey respondents overwhelmingly agree that current Congressional appropriations to the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM); Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) are inadequate to meet the present resettlement goals, citing specific areas where more funding could benefit the resettlement process.

“We should be using private resources as a supplement to federal resettlement dollars and not the main source of money to resettle refugees.”

Currently, PRM pays a one-time \$900 per capita Reception and Placement grant. Church World Service allocates half to the refugee and half to pay for the affiliate's case management services.



“The ‘per cap’ needs to be increased to \$2,000.”

- *The recession “is only making a bad situation worse. The Reception and Placement grant is woefully inadequate, especially for high-maintenance cases (medical, mental health, developmentally disabled, wounded, traumatized). Is there any other social service that expects six months of case management on a \$450 per capita reimbursement rate?”*
- *“The Reception and Placement per capita of \$450...doesn’t even come close to being realistic. At our affiliate, in order to meet the true costs of resettlement, we are having to use the entire [\$900] ... to pay the expenses of refugees who have not found employment going on 5 to 6 months.”*
- *“We need to be able to hire more caseworkers. It most definitely takes one caseworker more time to place a refugee in a job than it did one year ago. Also the initial resettlement grant does not stretch very far any more. Sometimes, for a single person or a couple, it’s not even enough to pay a security deposit and one month’s rent.”*

Respondents stressed the importance of increasing the Reception and Placement grant particularly through this period of economic downturn so that responsible resettlement can take place.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The current economic recession is a reminder that “resettlement” in and of itself is not a durable solution. Social and economic integration, including work that pays a living wage, are necessary components of a truly durable solution.

In good economic times, most newly arrived refugees are able to find jobs within 180 days as the U.S. refugee program’s emphasis on early self-sufficiency prescribes. In this recession, the job search is taking several extra months. The solution is not to cut the number of refugee arrivals, it is to increase government resources in support of the resettlement of these most vulnerable people. CWS urges:

- A “right-sizing” of federal funding and more flexibility to administer the program in such a way as to meet refugees’ different individual needs and today’s highly heterogeneous caseloads. The \$900 Reception and Placement grant should be at least doubled. Congress needs to appropriate adequate funds for PRM, ORR and HUD to do their jobs.
- An increase in “Matching Grant” slots. The Matching Grant program provides resources and incentives for refugees to achieve early employment, but it is not available to all clients who could benefit and thus more fully contribute to their communities and the U.S. economy.
- Greater support for specialized assistance to refugees with mental and physical health problems, common among survivors of persecution and war, including treatment for problems with PTSD and torture trauma.
- The creation of mechanisms for responding quickly to situations of secondary migration when refugees who have been resettled in one city migrate to accept jobs in communities in which the services they still need as recent arrivals to the United States are not provided.
- More rental assistance. Subsequent to this survey, the U.S. State Department announced emergency housing assistance for certain refugees arriving during FY 2009. While helpful, it only meets part of the need.
- A recognition that it takes longer than four to six months, especially in today’s economic climate, for newly arrived refugees to find jobs.
- New funding must include attention to the needs of all refugees resettled within the past 18 months.

The private sector will continue to bring its passion, creativity, efforts and voice to the work of refugee resettlement. Our affiliates remain resilient and committed to refugee resettlement. CWS celebrates the return of U.S. refugee admissions to pre-9/11 levels and strongly opposes a reduction in refugee admissions. Refugees are looking to us to save their lives. We must not waiver in our commitment to them. We will continue to work with our federal partners on reforms, including funding increases that will ease the current pressures and strengthen the U.S. refugee program for the long term.

Appendix A: State and City or Metropolitan Unemployment Rates 2004-Jan. 2009
(Reflects revised population controls, model estimation and seasonal factors)

State	City	Dec. 2004	Dec. 2005	Dec. 2006	Dec. 2007	Dec. 2008	Mar. 2009*
Arizona		4.5	4.5	3.9	4.3	6.6	7.8
	Phoenix	3.8	3.6	3.1	3.8	6.1	7.2
California		5.9	5.1	4.9	5.9	8.7	11.2
	L.A	5.8	5.0	4.3	5.5	9.5	11.3
	Sacramento	5.0	4.4	4.6	5.9	8.7	11.3
Colorado		5.5	4.9	3.9	4.1	5.8	7.5
	Denver	5.5	4.8	3.9	4.4	6.3	8.2
Connecticut		4.7	4.6	4.3	4.9	6.6	7.5
	New Haven	4.2	4.2	4.0	4.7	6.6	7.6
Florida		4.4	3.5	3.5	4.8	7.6	9.7
	Miami	5.2	4.0	3.9	5.0	7.0	7.8
Georgia		5.1	5.1	4.5	5.1	7.5	9.2
	Decatur/Atlanta	4.9	4.7	4.1	4.5	7.6	9.1
Illinois		6.0	5.4	4.5	5.6	7.2	9.1
	Chicago	5.9	5.2	4.0	5.2	6.9	9.3
Indiana		6.0	5.4	4.5	5.6	7.2	10.0
	Indianapolis	4.8	4.6	3.9	3.9	6.7	8.7
Kentucky		5.3	6.3	5.5	5.5	7.6	9.8
	Louisville	5.1	5.9	4.9	5.4	7.6	10.2
	Lexington	4.0	4.6	3.9	3.9	5.4	unk
Massachusetts		4.9	4.8	4.7	4.5	6.4	7.8
	Malden/Boston	4.3	4.2	4.0	3.7	5.8	7.4
Michigan		7.2	6.7	7.1	7.3	10.2	12.6
	Grand Rapids	6.3	5.5	5.7	5.9	8.8	11.3
Minnesota		4.3	4.3	4.4	4.8	6.6	8.2
	Minneapolis	3.9	3.8	3.9	4.5	6.4	8.4
Nebraska		3.9	3.8	3.0	2.7	3.9	4.6
	Omaha	4.3	3.9	3.2	3.1	4.1	5.1
	Lincoln	3.3	3.2	2.4	2.4	3.3	4.6

*Preliminary data.

State	City	Dec. 2004	Dec. 2005	Dec. 2006	Dec. 2007	Dec. 2008	Mar. 2009*
New Hampshire		3.6	3.5	3.6	3.5	4.3	6.2
	Concord	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.2	4.1	6.5
New York		5.4	4.9	4.3	4.6	6.6	7.8
	Buffalo	5.5	5.0	4.6	5.2	7.2	9.2
	Syracuse	5.2	4.7	4.2	4.6	6.9	8.5
	Rochester	5.0	4.4	4.0	4.8	6.7	8.3
N. Carolina		5.3	5.0	4.7	5.0	8.1	10.8
	Durham	4.1	3.8	3.6	3.7	6.1	7.6
Ohio		6.0	5.6	5.5	5.8	7.4	9.7
	Columbus	5.1	4.07	4.3	4.8	6.2	8.1
Oregon		6.7	5.6	5.2	5.3	8.3	12.1
	Portland	6.1	5.0	4.5	4.8	8.1	11.8
Pennsylvania		5.3	4.7	4.3	4.6	6.4	7.8
	Lancaster	3.4	3.3	3.0	3.2	5.2	7.3
Tennessee		5.6	5.4	4.7	5.3	7.6	9.6
	Knoxville	4.3	4.1	3.5	4.0	6.4	8.2
Texas		5.6	5.3	4.6	4.4	5.6	6.7
	Dallas	5.5	4.8	4.1	4.3	6.0	7.1
	Austin	4.6	4.1	3.3	3.6	5.2	6.2
	Ft. Worth	5.1	4.6	4.0	4.1	5.6	6.8
	Amarillo	3.9	3.5	3.1	3.2	3.8	4.4
	Houston	5.7	5.3	4.1	4.2	5.5	6.5
Virginia		3.5	3.3	2.9	3.3	5.0	6.8
	Richmond	3.7	3.3	2.9	3.4	5.5	7.8
	Harrisonburg	3.2	2.7	2.1	2.6	4.3	6.4
Washington		5.9	5.0	4.8	4.6	6.5	9.2
	Seattle	4.9	4.3	4.0	3.8	6.0	8.4

*preliminary data

Appendix B: Unemployment Rates for Specific Demographics

Population Group	Quarter III 2008	Quarter IV 2008	Dec. 2008	Jan. 2009	Feb. 2009
All Workers	6.0	6.9	7.2	7.6	8.1
Adult Men	5.8	6.8	7.2	7.6	8.1
Adult Women	5.0	5.6	5.9	6.2	6.7
Teenagers	19.7	20.7	20.8	20.8	21.6
White	5.4	6.3	6.6	6.9	7.3
African	10.7	11.5	11.9	12.6	13.4
Hispanic	7.8	8.9	9.2	9.7	10.9
Asian					6.9

Note: Preliminary U.S. unemployment rate at the end of April 2009 was 8.9 percent

Appendix C: Refugee Admissions, Total Admitted, and CWS Arrivals FY 2005-08

FY	Refugee Admissions Ceiling	FY Total Admitted	CWS FY Total Arrivals
2005	70,000	53,813	4,614
2006	70,000	41,279	4,765
2007	70,000	48,282	4,772
2008	80,000	60,191	4,889*

*Includes 56 Iraqis and Afghans with Special Immigrant Visas

Appendix D: CWS Affiliates Participating in the Survey

The 27 respondents were from Arizona (Phoenix), California (Los Angeles and Sacramento), Colorado (Denver), Connecticut (New Haven), Florida (Miami), Georgia (Decatur), Illinois (Chicago), Indiana (Indianapolis), Kentucky (Louisville and Lexington), Massachusetts (Malden), Michigan (Grand Rapids), Minnesota (Minneapolis), Nebraska (Omaha), New Hampshire (Concord), New York (Rochester), North Carolina (Durham), Ohio (Columbus), Oregon (Portland), Pennsylvania (Lancaster), Tennessee (Knoxville), Texas (Houston and Amarillo), Virginia (Harrisonburg and Richmond) and Washington (Seattle).

Appendix E: Sources of Statistics for This Report

U.S. State Department Bureau of Population, Refugee and Migration www.wrapsnet.org

U.S. Census Bureau www.census.gov

U.S. Conference of Mayors www.usmayors.org

U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Statistics www.bls.gov/eag



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

www.churchworldservice.org

212-870-3300