



Annual Report on Refugee Resettlement in South Dakota December 2018

Introduction

This report provides an overview of information regarding refugee resettlement in South Dakota. Refugees are defined as individuals who are unable to return to their home country due to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality and membership in a particular social group or political opinion. While all refugees are immigrants, not all immigrants are refugees. Immigrants choose to leave their homes and may come to the U.S. with temporary visas, allowing them to remain for a certain period of time or under certain conditions (such as students or tourists), or they may have permission allowing them to remain indefinitely. Refugees arrive with temporary residency and may apply for legal permanent residency after one year. After five years, legal permanent residents may apply for U.S. citizenship. All refugees arrive eligible for employment.

Description of Services Provided

At the request of the state, LSS assumed oversight of refugee resettlement in South Dakota in 2000. The primary goals for all services are self-sufficiency and community integration. To assist refugees in achieving those goals, the following services are provided:

- Community Orientation & Education
- Case Management
- Employment Services
- English Language Training
- Immigration Services
- Interpreter Services

LSS greets new arrivals at the airport and with the assistance of grant funding and donations, provides initial housing and basic needs items. Through federal funding, refugees are eligible for up to eight months of cash assistance to cover basic necessities until self-sufficiency is reached. To receive this support, employable adults must cooperate with an employment program and case manager, attend at least six hours a week of English language training, and attend community orientation.

A 30 hour community orientation is provided to all new arrivals. Topics presented include laws in the U.S., driver's license information, rental agreements, shopping, health care, parenting, immigration, citizenship, education and employment. Guest speakers from the community, including law enforcement, are invited to participate. Interpretation is provided. A proficiency exam is administered upon completion of orientation. Any individual who does not demonstrate proficiency receives one-to-one follow-up from their case manager.

LSS case management and employment services are available to new arrivals for up to five years. All refugees are legally qualified for employment upon arrival. Employment services assist employable adults in finding their first job as well as job upgrades.

English language training is available four days and two evenings a week. Classes focus on oral and written English skills. LSS immigration attorneys assist refugees who are pursuing permanent residency or U.S. citizenship.

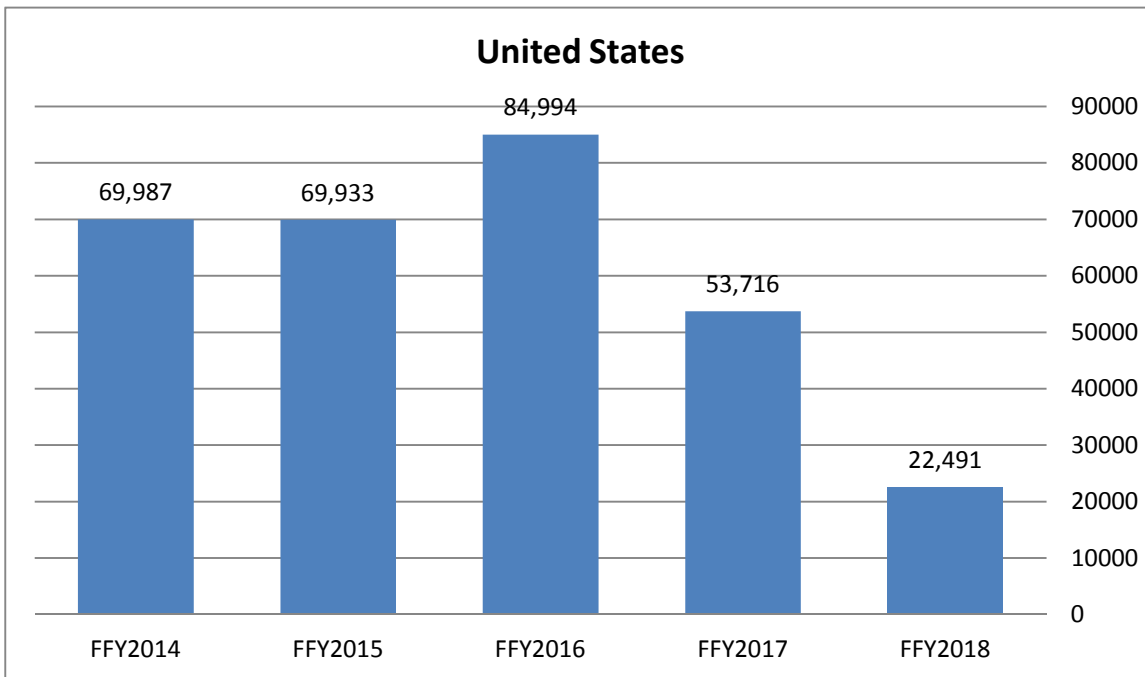
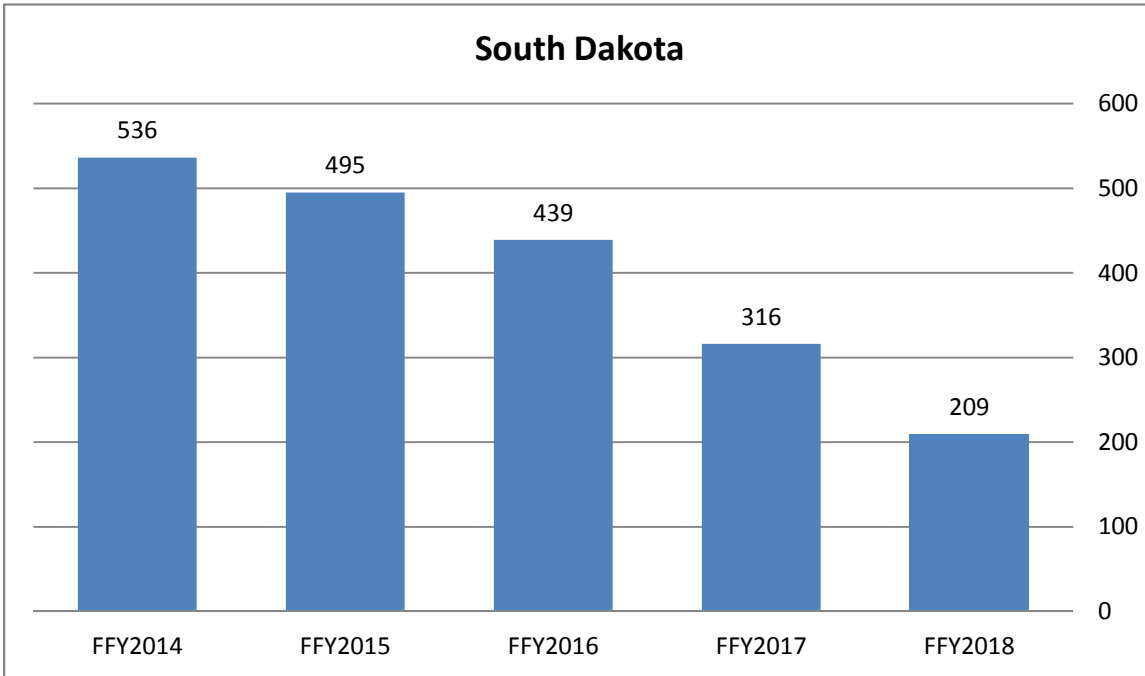
Areas Receiving Refugees

LSS receives direct arrivals in Sioux Falls. Direct resettlement in Huron ended in September 2016.

During Federal Fiscal Year 2018, LSS maintained a staff presence in Huron and Aberdeen in order to support refugees who arrived either through secondary migration from communities outside South Dakota or in the case of Huron, who arrived prior to the end of direct resettlement in Huron in October 2016. Secondary migration refers to refugees who were initially resettled in other states and later chose to move to South Dakota.

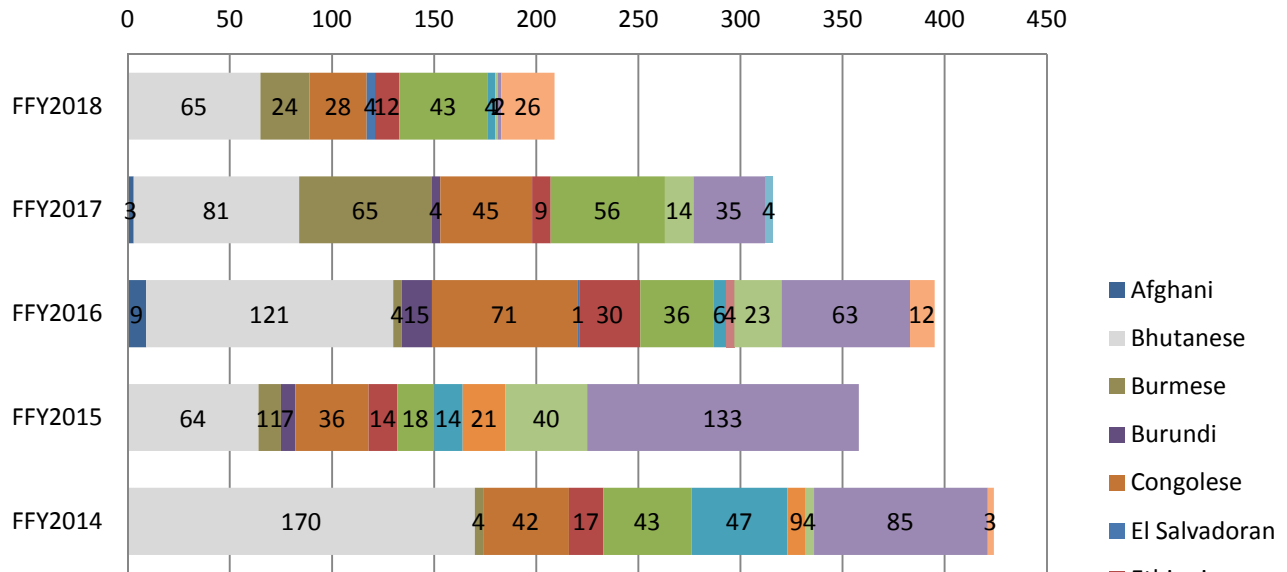
Direct Resettlement Totals

Below a chart and table of individuals directly resettled in South Dakota during the past five federal fiscal years. Data on South Dakota arrivals is based on LSS refugee arrival data. Data on national refugee arrivals is based on data available from the Refugee Reprocessing Center.



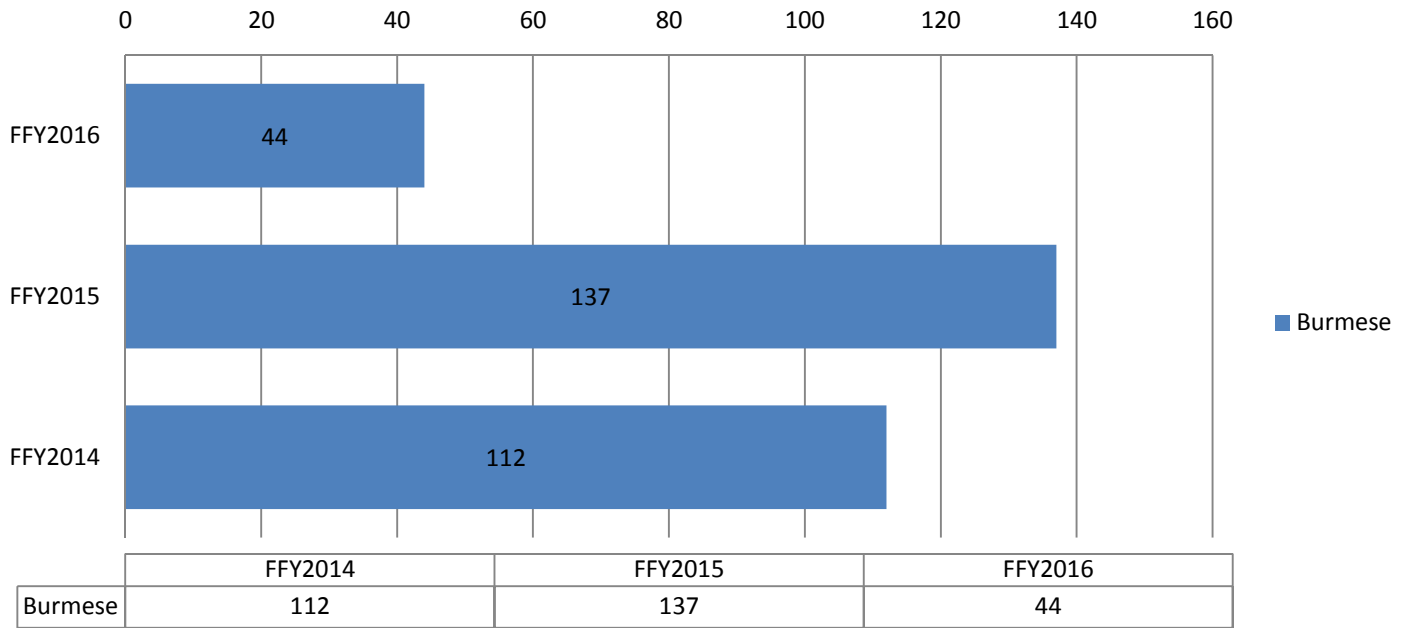
Demographic Overview

Direct Resettlement - Sioux Falls

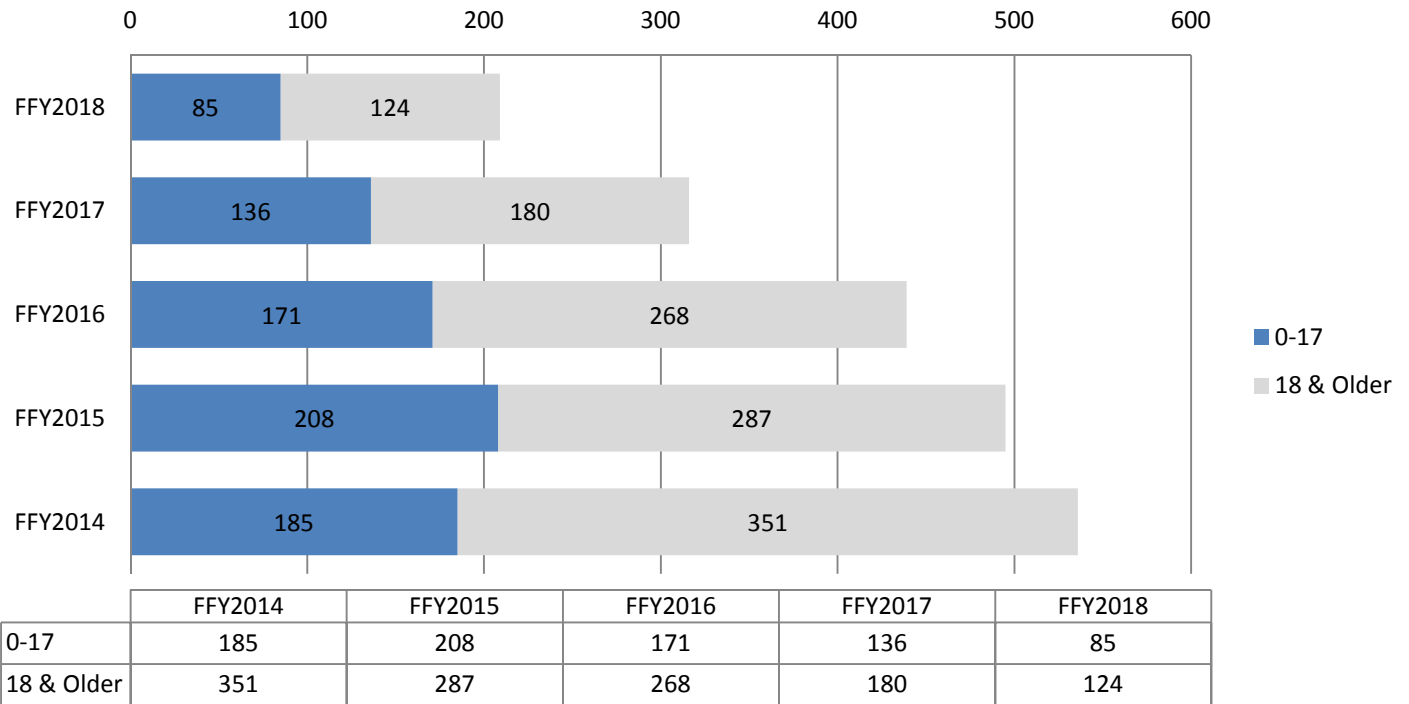


	FFY2014	FFY2015	FFY2016	FFY2017	FFY2018
Afghani			9	3	
Bhutanese	170	64	121	81	65
Burmese	4	11	4	65	24
Burundi		7	15	4	
Congolese	42	36	71	45	28
El Salvadoran			1		4
Ethiopian	17	14	30	9	12
Eritrean	43	18	36	56	43
Iraqi	47	14	6		4
Kunama	9	21			
Liberian					
Pakistani			4		
Sudanese	4	40	23	14	1
Somali	85	133	63	35	2
Syrian				4	
Ukranian	3		12		26

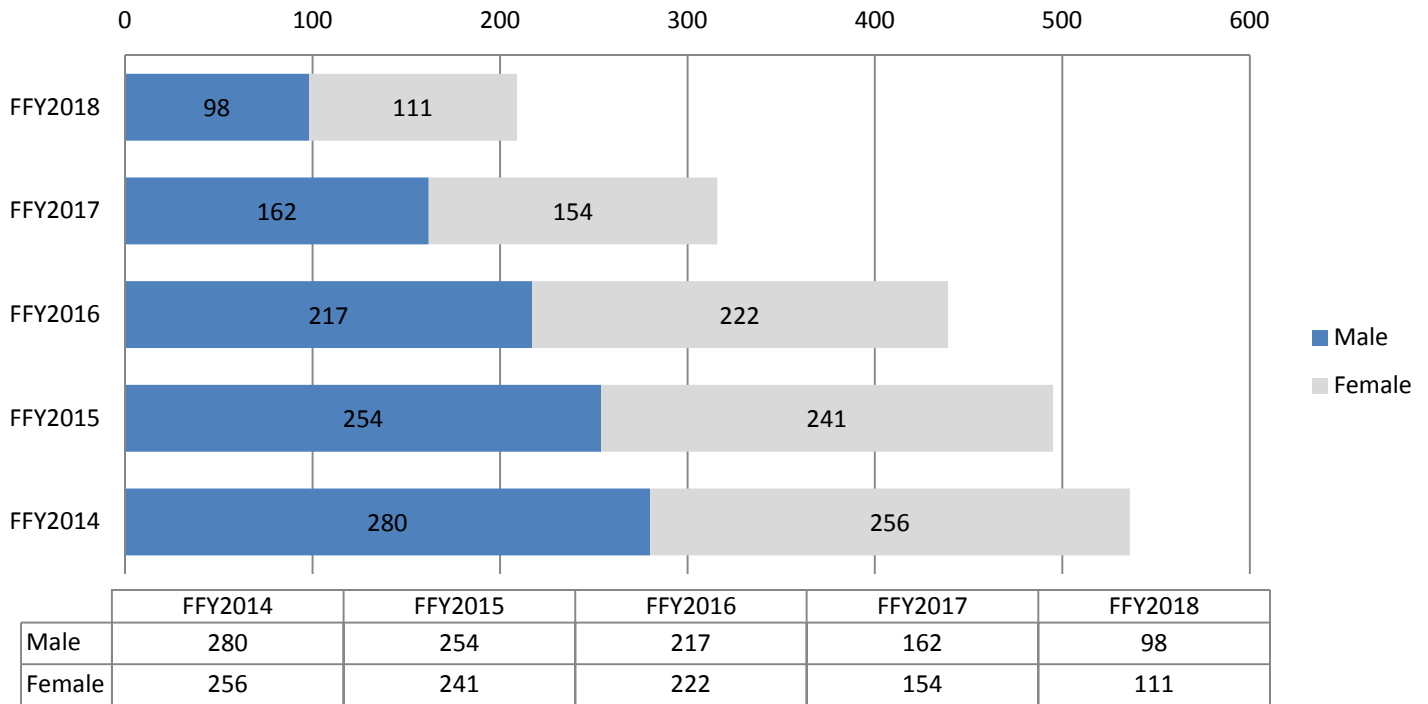
Direct Resettlement - Huron



New Arrivals by Age



New Arrivals by Gender



Trends in Refugee Resettlement

In October of each year, the President of the United States makes a determination on the maximum number of refugees that will be accepted into the United States during the coming federal fiscal year. For FFY2019, that threshold was set at 30,000, which reflects a continued trend of overall lower numbers of refugee arrivals to the United States.

The maximum number of refugees who may arrive directly to South Dakota in FFY2019 is not projected to exceed 150 and may ultimately end up being lower.

FFY	Presidential Determination	Actual Arrivals	Arrivals in SD
2014	70,000	69,987	536
2015	70,000	69,933	495
2016	85,000	84,994	439
2017	50,000*	53,716	316
2018	45,000	22,491	209
2019 PROJ	30,000		150

*President Obama established a determination of 110,000 in October 2016 for FFY17, but that was lowered to 50,000 by President Trump upon taking office. The presidential determination was exceeded in FFY17 due to legal challenges surrounding the travel ban.