The behavioral impact of COVID-19 on refugee population in the Salt Lake Valley

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ABSTRACT
The COVID-19 pandemic has been detrimental in every corner of the world. Thus the refugee population has not been exempt. The refugee population is a vulnerable population that any change in their daily routine could be challenging wherever they may be settle in the world. To understand how COVID-19 has affected a portion of the refugee population resettle in Salt Lake City (SLC), Utah, an exploratory study was conducted. Current data with a sample of 29 participants indicate that the refugee population may be at great danger of getting the disease because of their pre-existing underlying conditions and their behavioral practices.

RESULTS/DISCUSSION
The COVID-19 pandemic has been detrimental in every corner of the world. Thus the refugee population has not been exempt. The refugee population is a vulnerable population that any change in their daily routine could be challenging wherever they may be settle in the world. To understand how COVID-19 has affected a portion of the refugee population resettle in Salt Lake City (SLC), Utah, an exploratory study was conducted. Current data with a sample of 29 participants indicate that the refugee population may be at great danger of getting the disease because of their pre-existing underlying conditions and their behavioral practices.

INTRODUCTION
What is COVID-19?
An infectious disease that spreads from person to person who are physically near each other.
Deadly to people with underlying conditions and senior citizens.
Could be prevented by following CDC guidelines on how to stop the spread of germs.

Why the refugee population?
Resettlement of the refugee population happen after some difficult times.
Refugee population may have underlying conditions from the trauma during their flee.
Working conditions may put them at risk of getting COVID-19.
Limited access to healthcare may contribute to severe illness in this population.

Aim:
Describe the behavioral pattern of the refugee population in response to COVID-19 in Salt Lake City.

METHODS
• 33 Exploratory survey questions
• Survey shared through University of Utah clinics and refugee organizations
• Participants: >18 years of age
• IRB # 00134002
• Hypothesis
  ○ H₀: Age, economics, underlying conditions will make refugee population comply with CDC guidelines
  ○ H₁: There will be no difference
• Data analysis: Chi-square

Conclusions
• We are 95% confident that age and economics do not motivate the refugee population to follow CDC guidelines against COVID-19.
• We are also 95% confident that participants with underlying conditions follow CDC guidelines against the COVID-19 pandemic.
• 82.6% of the population believe the can protect themselves and 65.5% believe they can protect others.
• 48.3% of at risk population believe Social distancing had caused them stress and 62.1% believe it has caused stress to their family members.
• Given the small sample size, data can not be generalized.

REFERENCES

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
I would like to extend my special thanks to Anna Gallegos at the Redwood Health Center for her assistance in recruiting study participants.