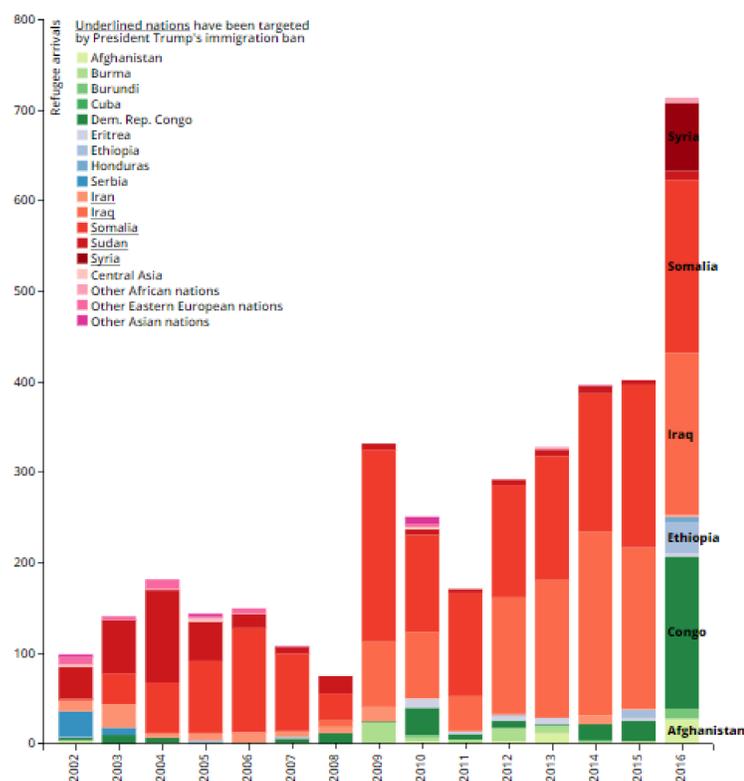


Introduction

While internal medicine residents at Maine Medical Center provide care for many refugee and immigrant patients, there is not a formal international health curriculum to equip residents to care for this vulnerable and growing population. Since 2002, 3,793 refugees have arrived in Maine for resettlement. The pace of Maine's new refugee arrivals increased markedly in 2016 with a surge in immigration from Syria (75 refugees), Ethiopia (34), and the Democratic Republic of Congo (168). Our aim was to survey residents about their interest in additional international health instruction and, if indicated, design and implement additional educational curriculum for internal medicine and internal medicine-pediatrics residents at Maine Medical Center.

Refugee Arrivals by Year and by Nation



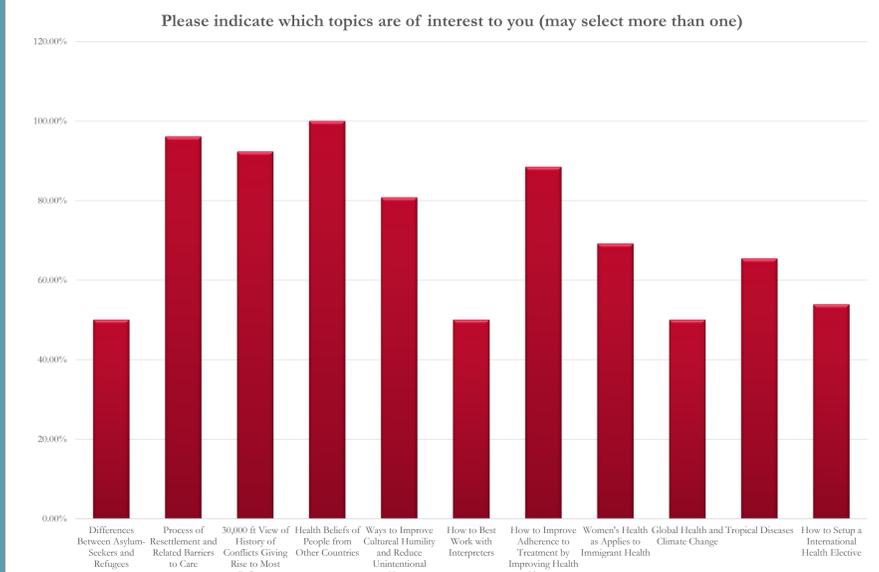
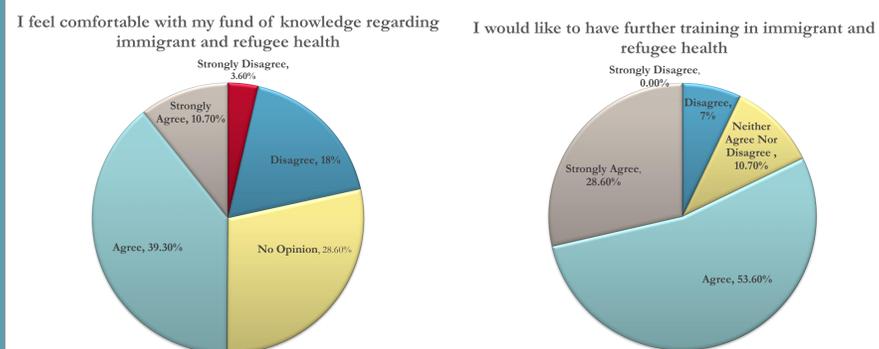
Methods

We performed a needs assessment of 59 internal medicine, internal medicine-pediatrics and preliminary year residents between June 1 through June 8 2018. We queried trainees on their knowledge, attitudes, and experiences caring for refugee and immigrant patients as well interest in potential educational interventions. We submitted 6 questions through an online survey with 28 of 59 (47%) residents completing the survey.

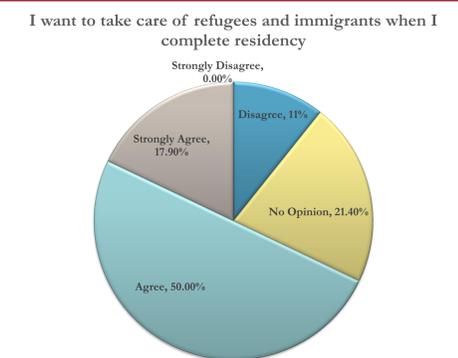
Results

14 of 28 (50%) residents did not feel comfortable with their fund of knowledge regarding immigrant and refugee health with 23 of 28 (82%) interested in further training in international health. Lunch & learn (77%), grand rounds (69%), academic half day (65%) and formal electives (65%) were the most popular venues of educational interventions. 28 of 28 (100%) surveyed residents were interested in learning about health beliefs from other cultures. 19 of 28 (68%) had plans to take care of immigrants and refugees as providers following graduation.

Survey Questions



Survey Questions Continued



Discussion

Trainees were strongly interested in further training on international health. Most residents (68%) had plans to take care of immigrants and refugees as providers following graduation. Based on our survey results, we have initiated several curricular items. These include expanding Friday conference for international health to two full academic half days and the creation of a global health club. Future curriculum may include grand rounds presentations, incorporation of online modules into pre-existing ambulatory curriculum and creation of an international health elective. We will conduct post-surveys after the incorporation of additional curriculum to re-assess resident education on international health.

Where Our Patients Are From



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