Men of refugee and migrant backgrounds resettled in Australia: A scoping review of sexual and reproductive health research

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Background:
Traditionally, SRH research involving people from migrant and refugee backgrounds largely focuses on the needs and experiences of women. However, refugee and migrant men and women may have different SRH needs, preferred sources of care and outcomes after resettlement. This review aimed to synthesise the available evidence on the SRH of men from migrant and refugee backgrounds in Australia.

Methods:
A scoping review methodology was applied. We conducted a systematic search of peer reviewed literature in PubMed, Scopus and Psynfo. Thematic analysis informed by the socioecological model was used to synthesise and interpret the results.

Results:
We identified and included 38 papers (24 sexual health, 5 reproductive health, 3 intimate relationships, 2 cancer and 4 ‘other’). Most of these studies examined the topic of HIV/AIDS and other STIs. The analysis shows that the burden of STIs including HIV/AIDS is higher among migrant and refugee men compared to Australian born men. In addition, navigating intimate sexual relationship was complex for these men due to past trauma, resettlement challenges and change of gender roles after resettlement.

Conclusions:
SRH literature on refugee and migrant men largely focuses on STIs, meaning other areas of SRH are poorly understood. The review identified key gaps including research on experiences of, and access to, comprehensive SRH care for contraception and fertility. Limited literature considered the impact of gender roles and psychological health related to sexual counselling. This is needed to evaluate and inform national and state policy on men’s health.

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