



# Impact of H.R.1 on Refugee Communities

Pima County



**123.2 million**

At the end of 2024, 123.2 million people were forcibly displaced.

**1 in 67**

This equates to 1 in every 67 people on Earth.

**x2**

Displacement nearly doubled during the last decade.



## Global Snapshot

<b>Refugees Registered</b>	<b>36.8 million</b>
Asylum Seekers	8.4 million
IDP's	73.5 million
Other people in need of protection	5.9 million

**49** MILLION  
are children

At the end of 2024, of the 123.2 million forcibly displaced people, an estimated 49 million (40 per cent) are children below 18 years of age.

# Who Is A Refugee?

A **refugee** is a person who has been forced to flee their home country because of a **well-founded fear of persecution** due to their:

- Race
- Religion
- Nationality
- Political opinion
- Membership in a particular social group



Photo Credit: IRC

Based on **international law** (1951 UN Refugee Convention) and **U.S. law** (Refugee Act of 1980). Refugees are unable or unwilling to return home because their safety or freedom would be at risk.



# International Conventions & US Statutes

- 1951—United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees: Defined 'refugee', their rights and the legal obligations of states—Non-refoulement
- 1980—Refugee Act (USA): Formalized U.S. commitment to resettling refugees; affords resettled refugees the same rights as any legal permanent resident, and opportunity to naturalize after 5 years.



Photo Credit: IRC



## Refugee Vetting Process

### THE REFUGEE VETTING PROCESS

Screenings involve these government agencies  
and take up to 36 months



Department of  
Homeland Security



Federal Bureau of  
Investigation



Department of  
Defense



Department of  
State



United States  
Intelligence Community



Department of Health  
& Human Services

Rescue.org





A photograph of a man in a white shirt standing in a room, possibly a resettlement center. The image is dark and serves as a background for the title.

# US Refugee Resettlement Program

## Built on the following objectives:

- Ensures a clear definition of a refugee.
- Establishes Federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) within the Department of Health and Human Services.
- Provides resettlement support services to newly arrived refugees to make them “as self-sufficient as quickly as possible after their arrival.”
- Ensures integrity of resettlement program through a comprehensive security vetting process.
- Provides cultural orientation.
- Partnership with community-based organizations
- US Refugee selection based on vulnerability (not religion, skill set, or race).



## Where Do Refugees Come From in Pima County?

*Department of Economic Security Refugee Resettlement Program FY25 Arrivals Report*

	Languages:	Countries of Origin:	Cities Resettled to:
1	Spanish	D.R. of the Congo	Tucson
2	Dari	Afghanistan	Vail
3	Kinyarwanda	Syria	
4	Arabic	Guatemala	
5	Swahili	Somalia	



Photo Credit: IRC

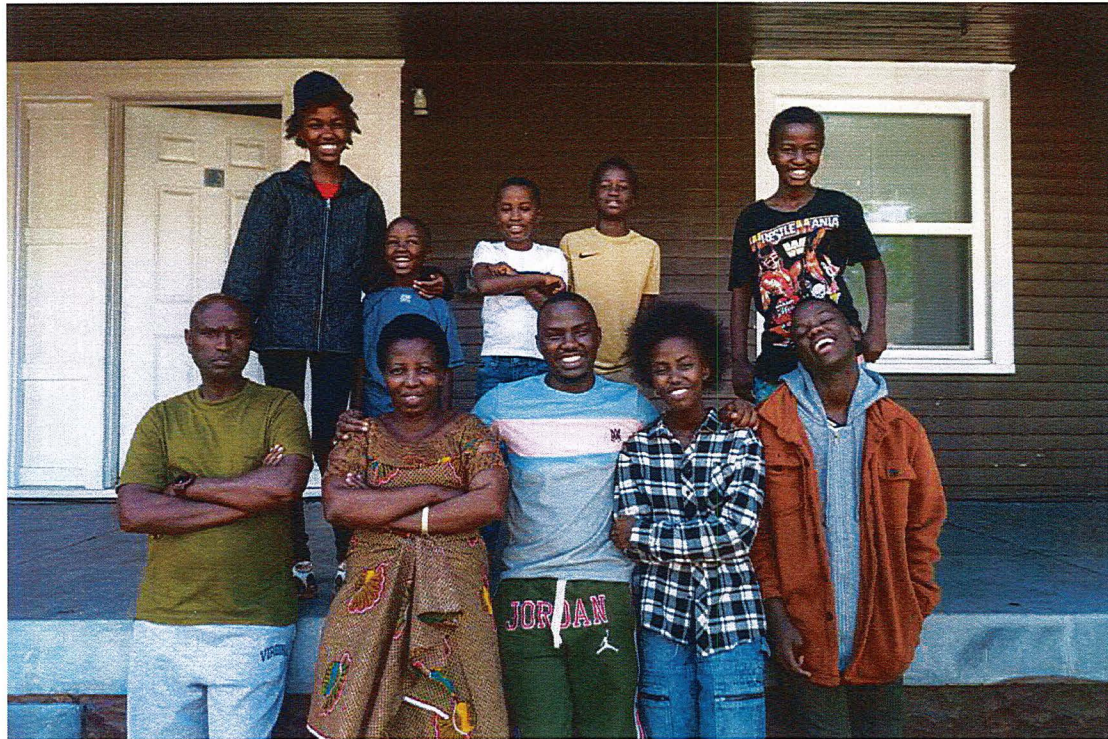


# Resettlement in AZ





## How Refugees Contribute Economically



*Photo Credit: IRC*



# Economic Empowerment & Economic Contributions



## 203 JOBS

Over the last fiscal year, IRC made 203 job placements. Our largest employers are ABM Industries, Amazon, and Hilton East.



## FILLING GAPS

Refugee workers fill critical labor shortages in sectors where local employers struggle to find sufficient talent; hospitality, healthcare, & manufacturing/warehouse.



## \$20B IN TAXES

In 2022, refugees paid over 20 billion in taxes, and generated over 31 billion in taxes to local and national economies. Historically, refugees contribute more in taxes than they consume in public benefits.



## CREATING JOBS

Refugees display high rates of entrepreneurship, creating jobs and boosting local economies. In 2019, the U.S. boasted nearly 188,000 refugee entrepreneurs, generated 5.1 billion in business revenue. IRC Tucson assists clients to establish small businesses through our Micro Enterprise Development program.



Photo Credit: IRC

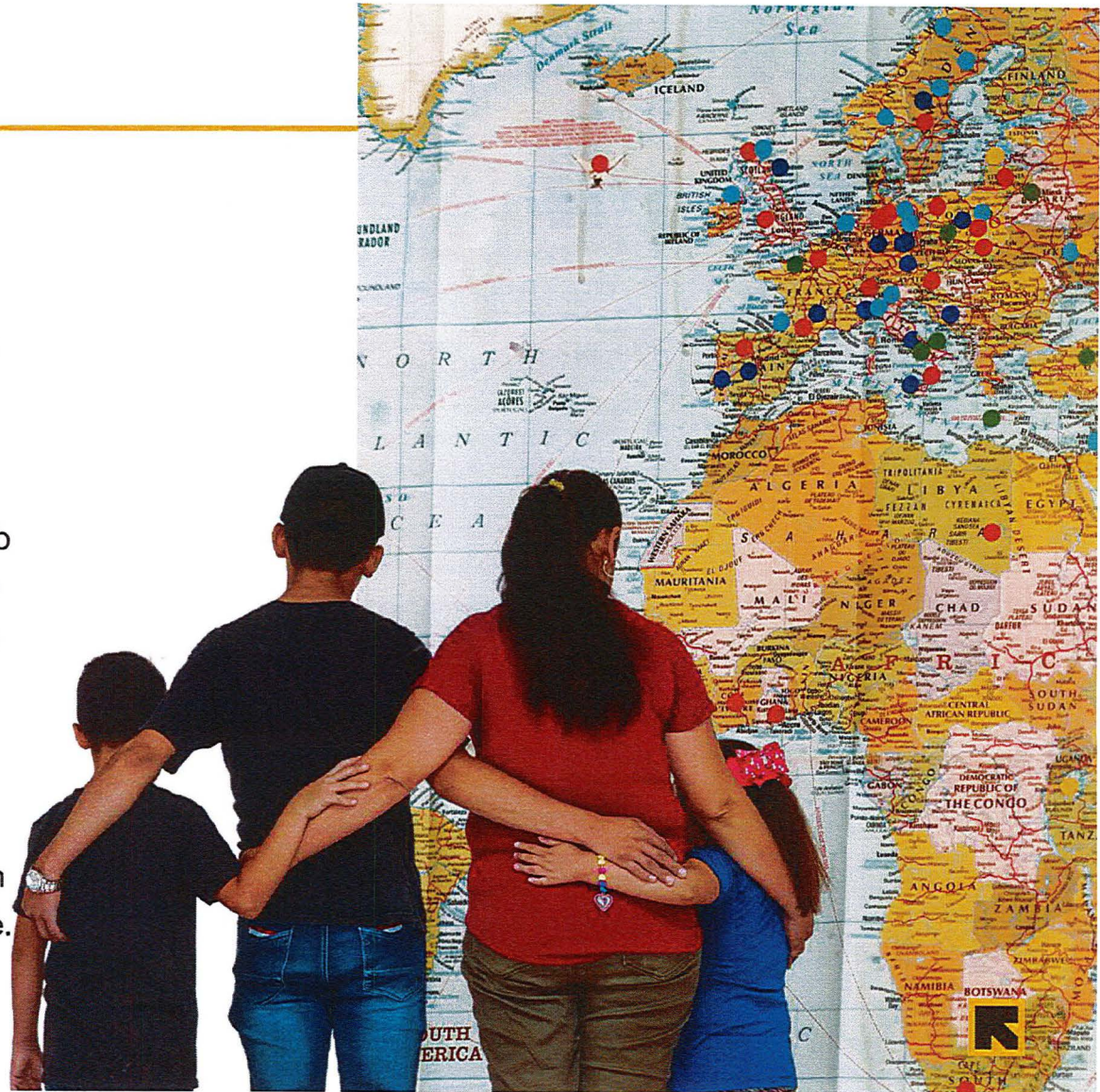


# Employment **CHALLENGES**

→ We face **barriers engaging employers** due to concerns about work authorization & safety

→ **Refugees have indefinite legal authorization to work in the US.** Our job is to ensure the hiring process is as easy as possible, we assist with E-verify documents

→ By the time they arrive in the United States, **refugees have been vetted more extensively than almost any other group entering the country**, making them a safe and reliable addition to any workforce.





## Executive Order Timeline 2025



The U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) was suspended.

Stop work orders were received by resettlement agencies, which ordered them to stop providing integration services to refugees who had recently arrived in the U.S.

Executive order on South Africa was issued, providing an exception to the refugee resettlement suspension.

Resettlement agency agreements were terminated. The administration abruptly ended federal contracts with resettlement agencies nationwide, dismantling the infrastructure that had helped refugees integrate into American communities for decades.

First 90-day report on restarting the resettlement program was due. The report has yet to be published publicly.

A new travel ban was issued. The ban blocks people from twelve countries from entering the U.S. and partially restricts people from an additional seven countries.



"One Big Beautiful Bill Act" was adopted.

Second 90-day report on resettlement program was due, which has yet to be published publicly.

Presidential Determination on refugee admissions for fiscal year 2026 was due.



# **H.R.1 Enacts Major Eligibility Cuts to Federal Supports/Benefits:**

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Medicare
- Medicaid
- Affordable Care Act (ACA)
- Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIPs)

In order to be eligible for these benefits you must have legal permanent residence (Green Cards)



# **H.R. 1 SNAP cuts in AZ**

Effective date July 4, 2025

States had 4 months to implement: Nov 1, 2025

## **Information from AZ State DES & RRP:**

As of Nov 1, 2025 those who do NOT have legal permanent residence/Green Cards are no longer eligible for SNAP, including refugees, asylees and victims of human trafficking:

- Applied or renewed before Oct 1<sup>st</sup>: *notices of termination*
- Applied or renewed post Oct 1<sup>st</sup>: *denials*
- ABAWD notices of benefits changes: *Implemented since July 2025*



# **Able Bodied Working Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD)**

Effective date July 4<sup>th</sup> 2025

## **Information from AZ State DES & RRP:**

- SNAP recipients need to fulfill 80 hours of work or school per month.
- Applicable Age limits
  - Before H.R.1: 18 - 54
  - Post H.R.1: 14 – 64



## **Benefits Access/Eligibility tied to LPR/Green Cards**

Refugee families arriving in the last year are not eligible to get green cards until after 1 year of being in the U.S.

- DES RRP Pima County Data: 402 men, women & children (360 refugees, 41 asylees, 1 VOT) – 42% children/53% adults/4% elderly

Many refugee families who have been here more than 1 year have not yet applied for their green cards

- 61% of those on SNAP benefits

Barriers to applying for green cards

- Costs
- Access to low bono/pro bono legal services

Those still eligible for SNAP will see a reduction in benefits



October 2025 RRP's Consultation  
Arrival Summary

## Arizona Refugee Resettlement Program FFY'25 Data Overview

(October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025)

All numbers reported below are based on the **2025 Federal Fiscal Year (FFY)** and information entered into the Arizona Refugee Resettlement Program Online Data System. Data includes those with refugee status and other eligible populations.

### Arrivals by Status for State and County

Immigration Status	Number of Arrivals <i>Maricopa County</i>	Number of Arrivals <i>Pima County</i>	Number of Arrivals <i>Other Counties</i>	Total Number of Arrivals - AZ
Cuban/Haitian Entrant	786	19	28	833
Refugee	867	360	72	1,299
Special Immigrant Visa	111	35	13	159
Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolee	3	-	-	3
Asylee	59	41	2	102
Amerasian	2	-	-	2
US-born child of ORR-eligible clients	12	7	1	20
URM	9	-	-	9
Human Trafficking	3	1	-	4
Afghan Humanitarian Parolee	-	1	-	1
Total	1,852	464	116	2,432

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Arrival Summary

## Top Five for Arizona

	Languages:	Countries of Origin:	Cities Resettled to:
1	Spanish	Cuba	Phoenix
2	Arabic	D.R. of the Congo	Tucson
3	Dari	Afghanistan	Glendale
4	Kinyarwanda	Syria	Mesa
5	Swahili	Burma	Peoria

## Top Five for Maricopa

	Languages:	Countries of Origin:	Cities Resettled to:
1	Spanish	Cuba	Phoenix
2	Arabic	Afghanistan	Glendale
3	Dari	D.R. of the Congo	Mesa
4	Rohingya	Burma	Peoria
5	Kinyarwanda	Syria	Tolleson

## Top Five for Pima

	Languages:	Countries of Origin:	Cities Resettled to:
1	Spanish	D.R. of the Congo	Tucson
2	Dari	Afghanistan	Vail
3	Kinyarwanda	Syria	
4	Arabic	Guatemala	
5	Swahili	Somalia	

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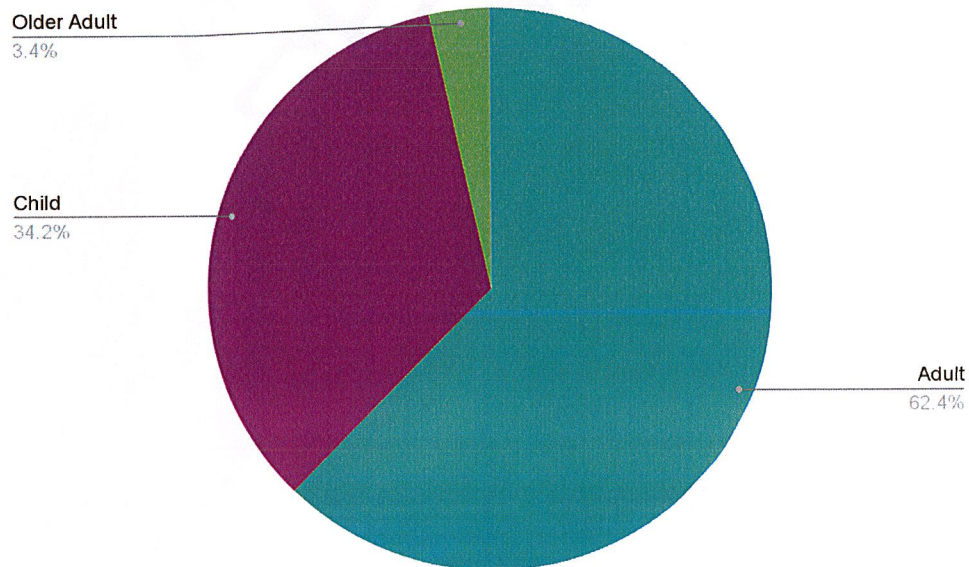
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## Top Five for Other Counties

	Languages:	Countries of Origin:
1	Spanish	D.R. of the Congo
2	Somali	Cuba
3	Swahili	Afghanistan
4	Pashto	Somalia
5	Kinyarwanda	Burundi

## Age Distribution - Arizona

Age Demographic	Average Age
Older Adults (65+)	65.9 years of age
Child (17 & under)	9.6 years of age
Adult (18-64)	34.6 years of age

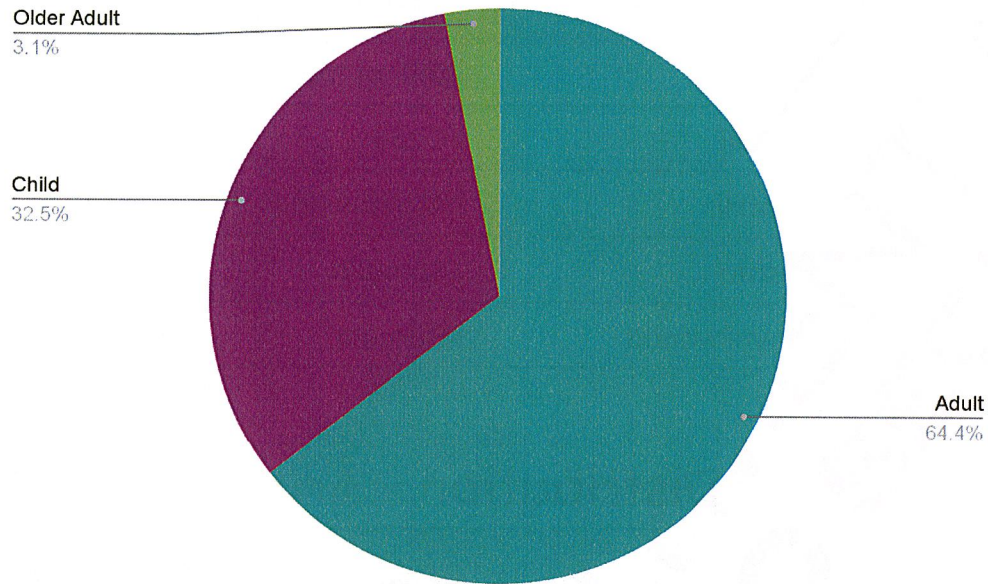


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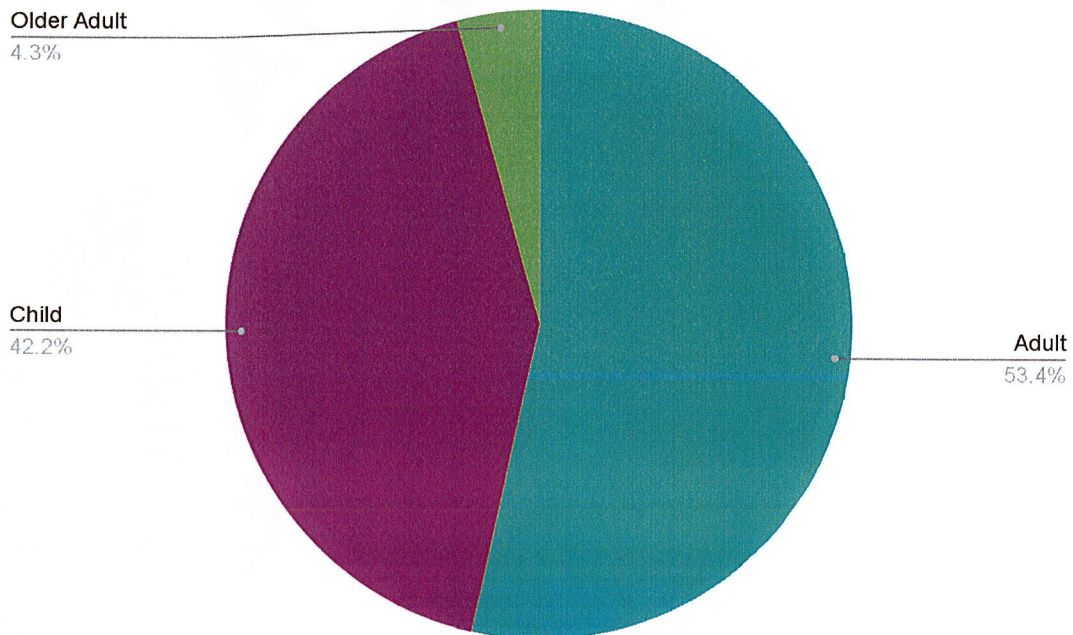


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## Age Distribution - Maricopa



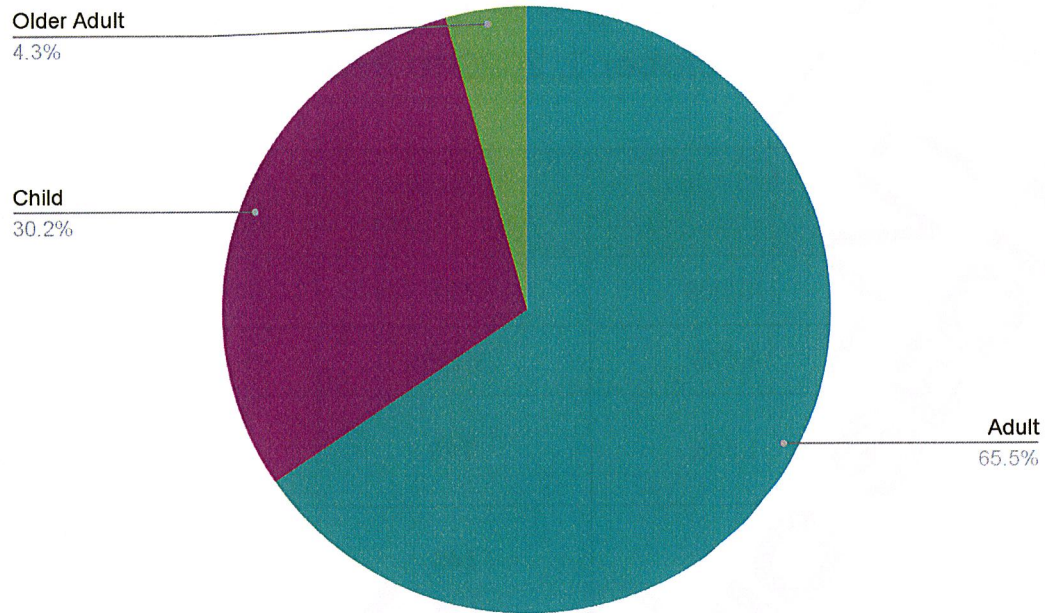
## Age Distribution - Pima



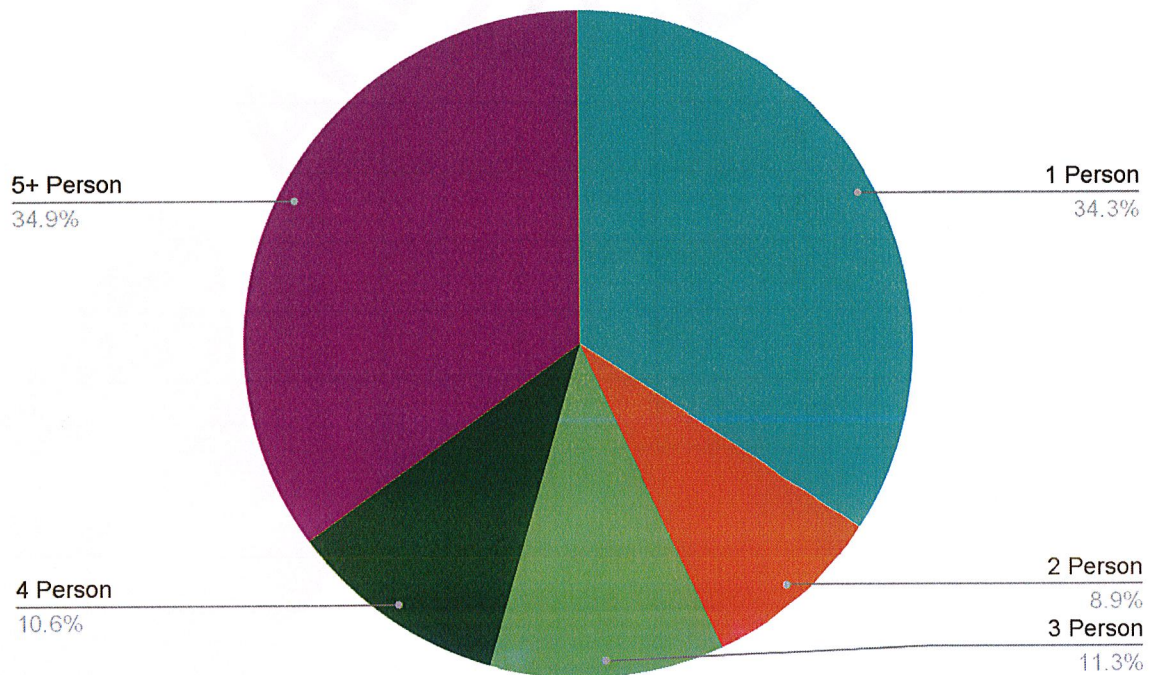


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## Age Distribution - Other



## Household Size Breakdown - Arizona



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## ORR Potentially Eligible Clients - Past 5 Years

Arrivals from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2025

Immigration Status	Arrivals - <i>Maricopa County</i>	Arrivals - <i>Pima County</i>	Arrivals - <i>Other Counties</i>	Total Arrivals - <i>Arizona</i>
Cuban/Haitian Entrant	10,809	321	780	11,910
Refugee	6,030	3,122	343	9,495
Afghan Humanitarian Parolee	1,585	543	117	2,245
Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolee	619	143	131	893
Special Immigrant Visa	649	275	48	972
Asylee	241	104	6	351
US-born child of ORR-eligible clients	142	34	3	179
Amerasian	60	-	2	62
URM	39	-	-	39
Human Trafficking	27	5	3	35
Other	-	1	2	3
Total	20,201	4,548	1,435	26,184

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