Appendix F: Economic and Work Data

From 2009 ORR Report on Economic Data—results associated with economic downturn and changes in refugee populations (decreased literacy/education)

Employment: 47% of refugees >16 year’s old who have been in the US less than five years are employed (compared to 59% of US population)
- 16% difference in labor participation between women and men (73 vs. 56%) which is similar to US population (13%)
- Highest employment rate by population: Latin America (66%), former Soviet Union (54%), East Asia (48%), Africa (38%), and the Middle East (29%)
- Unemployment rate was 27% for refugees, 9% for US population
- 57% of all sampled refugee households were self-sufficient (subsisting on earnings alone)
- Average hourly wage = $12.30

A) Why not looking for work?

![Reason not looking for work for Refugees 16 Years and Over: 2009 Survey](image)

B) Reasons for Not Finding Work
- English Proficiency is most common reason for inability to find work (strongly associated with average hourly wage)
- Medical: 9% received benefits from employer vs. 58% received Medicaid
- 8% had no medical coverage in previous 12 months
- Cash assistance: 38% of respondents received cash in 12 months prior to survey (SSI being most common, in 13% of households)
- 70% received food stamps
- 32% received housing assistance
- Education: average refugee education level ~9 years total prior to arrival
  - at Arrival: 15% fluent vs. 52% no English at all
  - at Survey: 22% spoke no English, 40% spoke English well/fluently

C) Time til First Employment
- Within 1 month=14% have held at least one job
- Within 3 months=35%
- Within 6 months=57%
- Within 12 months=79%