

The U.S. Immigration System

BY THE NUMBERS

2015 Refugees & Asylees

The United States provides refuge to persons who have been persecuted or have a well-founded fear of persecution through two programs: a refugee program for persons outside the United States and an asylum program for persons in the United States and their immediate relatives. This infographic provides information on persons admitted as refugees or granted asylum in the United States in Fiscal Year 2015.

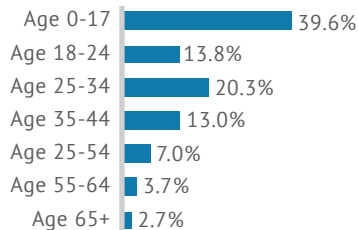
Refugees

2015 TOTALS

69,920 persons were admitted to the United States as refugees in Fiscal Year 2015.

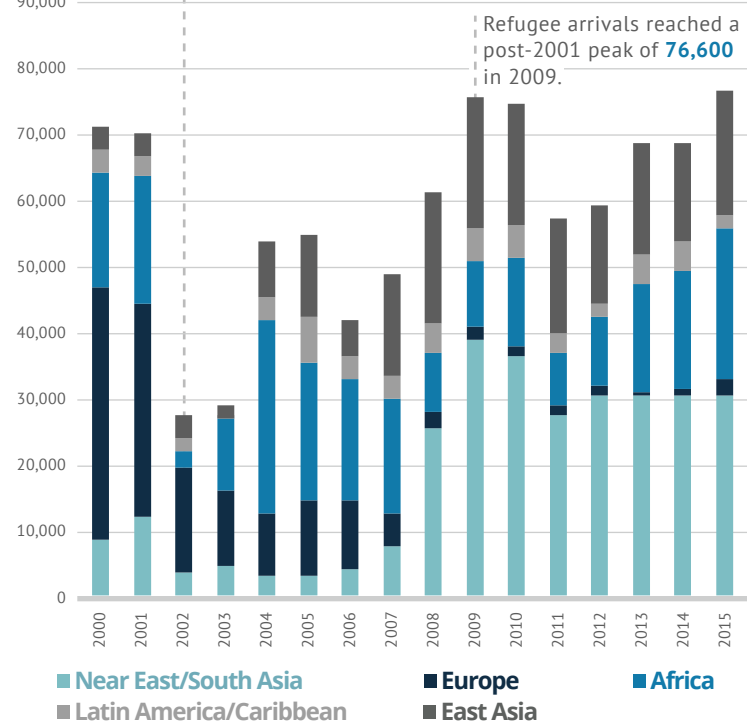
REFUGEE ARRIVALS BY AGE

In 2015 the median age of refugees arriving in the United States was **23 years**; in contrast, the median age of the overall population was **37 years**.



REFUGEE ARRIVALS BY REGION OF NATIONALITY

Admissions decreased to a low point in 2002, due in part to security procedures and admission requirement changes after September 11, 2001.



Asylees

2015 TOTALS²

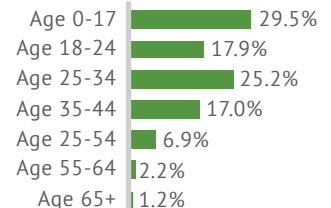
26,124 individuals were granted asylum in Fiscal Year 2015.

WAYS OF OBTAINING ASYLUM

- 1 Affirmatively through U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).
- 2 Defensively before an immigration judge of the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) of the Department of Justice.
- 3 Through derivative asylum status as the spouse or child of an asylee.

ASYLEE GRANTEES BY AGE¹

In 2015, **60%** of persons granted affirmative asylum were between the ages of **18 and 44**. The median age of affirmative asylees was **26 years**.



TOP COUNTRIES OF NATIONALITY²

Asylum grants represented over 80 countries, including:

People's Republic of China

6,192 | 23.7%

El Salvador

2,173 | 8.3%

Guatemala

2,082 | 8.0%

Egypt

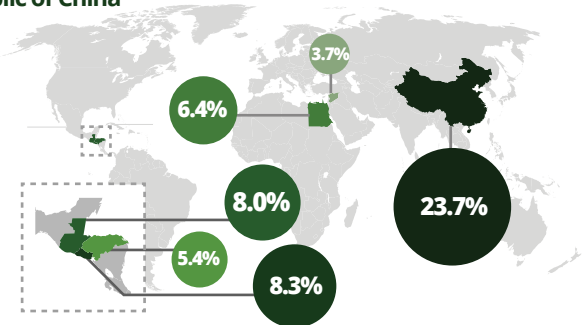
1,666 | 6.4%

Honduras

1,416 | 5.4%

Syria

974 | 3.7%



More individuals sought affirmative asylum from the Northern Triangle Countries (El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras) in the last three years than the prior 15 years combined.

¹ Affirmative asylees | ² Affirmative and defensive asylees

