

Review of: "Demographic and Clinical Characteristics of Refugee Children Utilizing Healthcare Services of Türkiye (2021-2022): A Single-Centre Study"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this important paper on the characteristics of refugee children using health services in Türkiye. The literature background is informative on child health in refugee populations. The presentation of data on the clinical characteristics of the children is also informative, as is the data on the high level of presentations of these children at ED departments. The two main findings I draw from this paper are (a) high utilization of the hospital for non-urgent cases, especially in the ED, and (b) presence of a potentially high level of preventable diseases/conditions or conditions which would be better managed at primary care facilities.

It seems from reading this paper that the findings not only reflect the need for more informed hospital management of cases, but also for improved primary care for both primary and secondary prevention purposes. This being the case, I would recommend to the authors the following:

(1) provide more discussion on the findings from other countries on why refugee populations are not utilizing primary care facilities outside hospitals but instead present more at EDs and hospital outpatients.

(2) provide limited policy discussion on what research needs to be undertaken to ascertain the barriers to primary care for refugee populations [I see that this is taken up in part in the conclusion of the paper].

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to review this paper, and I look forward to seeing it published.