

Identification of facilitators and barriers for the access to healthcare for asylum seekers of afghan and erythrean origins in the canton of Vaud, Switzerland, and proposals for actions

The aim of this study is to explore the provision of healthcare to asylum seekers of afghan and erythrean origins in the canton of Vaud, Switzerland. For this qualitative research, we use interviews and focus groups. We consulted with asylum seekers and community interpreters, as well as with health care professionals of the emergency department and the nurse-led clinic for asylum seekers (Unité de soins aux migrants, PMU).

The main objective is to promote realistic interventions answering to the specific needs of this diverse population. Access to timely and pertinent health care could be facilitated. It would diminish misunderstandings, ease tension and increase efficiency of the health care system (reduction of the number of missed appointments, inappropriate use of the emergency services, timely referral for mental health difficulties).

Research team

Françoise Maillefer, main applicant, CHUV

Emilie Bovet, main applicant, HESAV,
CHUV

Laure Jaton, co-applicant, CHUV

Patrick Bodenmann, co-applicant,
CHUV

Françoise Ninanne, co-applicant, CHUV

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Département universitaire de médecine
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(CHUV)

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