Socio-Spatial Initiatives to Foster Belonging Among Refugee Families Resettled in Canada: A Narrative Review and Future Directions

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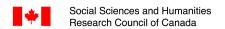
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Executive Summary

Background

Displacement and resettlement can be a destabilizing experience for refugee families, exacerbating feelings of isolation and detachment. Refugee families arrive in the receiving country after facing a variety of challenges ranging from traumatic stress reactions related to living in a war-affected context to stress during displacement journeys. Displacement and resettlement in an unfamiliar place far from their country of origin has important impacts on virtually every aspect of families' socio-spatial environments including cultural norms, religious traditions, and support networks. Despite the importance of both the social and physical environments in supporting wellbeing and belonging among refugee families, programs and policies that assist in the resettlement of refugee families often do not explicitly address elements related to place. Therefore, our narrative review focused on socio-spatial initiatives that help refugee families to maintain their cultural identities and connections with their country of origin and establish a new sense of belonging in their communities of resettlement.

Objectives

To describe the state of knowledge on socio-spatial approaches to fostering belonging among refugee families in resettlement communities.

To uncover key components of refugee families' sense of belonging amenable to socio-spatial initiatives.

To make practice and policy recommendations that incorporate family-focused and place-based considerations to foster a sense of belonging for refugee families.

Results

We included 54 sources in this narrative review with a socio-spatial approach or family focus to fostering belonging. Most of the sources were qualitative studies (90%) suggesting that available research on this topic is in its early stages. Studies were predominantly exploratory in nature, had small sample sizes of refugees, utilized interview methods, and analyzed qualitative data thematically. While a socio-spatial approach to understanding refugee family belonging remains in its infancy, the strength of this developing body of knowledge is its nuanced and participant-driven representations of belonging.

Refugee families' sense of belonging is multidimensional and can be characterized by four socio-spatial considerations: (1) the importance of transnational

belonging—maintaining connections to the family's country or origin while forging new connections in resettlement communities (2) language can help or hinder the process of belonging to the resettlement community (3) feelings of safety and security are intertwined with refugee families' sense of belonging, and (4) homemaking through everyday family routines is integral to establishing familiarity and connection which can foster refugee families' belonging to their resettlement communities.

Family focused and place-based implications for policy and practice include:

- Family-focused programs that reflect the day-to-day activities of families: mealtimes, religious gatherings, holidays are valuable for creating belonging. The strength of day-to-day family practices and routines to create security and feelings of belonging should be recognized in program design.

- Policies should consider how to increase the stability and permanence of housing allowing refugee families to undertake the active process of homemaking and foster belonging and attachments to locations.

- Policies should ensure 'freedom of movement' by allowing refugee families to make choices about what spaces and places bring about meaningful activities and foster belonging in their lives. For example, dispersal policies in Canada could benefit from greater flexibility regarding where refugee families resettle. This approach values the agency of refugees in shaping their own environments and reflects the changing needs of displaced families along their resettlement trajectories.

- While Canada is one of the world leaders in immigrant and refugee integration, future policy, practice, and research should more fully incorporate the direction and input of refugee families. Understanding the nuances of refugee families' sense of belonging is pivotal in designing programs that are culturally specific, responsive, and effective.

Methodology

We identified relevant sources from 2012-2022 reviewing academic literature, policy documents, and key resources recommended by experts and local refugee-serving organizations. Information from retrieved sources was categorized and summarized using a data matrix which is useful for organizing large amounts of descriptive information in a visually accessible format. We employed a narrative approach to synthesize the knowledge and allow the insights shared by refugees in these studies to drive our recommendations and implications for practice and policy.

Background

At the end of 2020, there were 82.4 million people forcibly displaced from their homes and over 26.4 million refugees forced to cross their nation's borders in search of safety (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 2021). Two-thirds of these refugees came from just five countries: Syria, Venezuela, Afghanistan, South Sudan, and Myanmar (UNHCR, 2021). Current research is still exploring how the protracted COVID-19 pandemic affected the trajectory of today's global conflicts, if at all. However, it is clear that the pandemic has precipitated a global economic crisis that has greatly impacted the world's most vulnerable, including those who have been forcibly displaced.

Resettlement is a critical way to protect some of the world's most vulnerable populations who are facing urgent protection risks. Canada has a longstanding humanitarian tradition of assisting refugees, currently resettling the second highest number of refugees per capita in the world (UNHCR, 2020). In 2019, Canada led the world in the number of resettled refugees per capita by resettling 30,087 refugees (Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada, 2021) or 756 refugees per million residents. Australia (510), Sweden (493), and Norway (465) followed Canada with the next highest refugee resettlement numbers per million residents (Radford & Connor, 2019). But the COVID-19 pandemic led to Canadian border closures, thereby dramatically reducing resettlement options for refugees. In 2020, the second year of the pandemic, Canada resettled just over 9,000 refugees, half of any national total since 2015, yet still 40% of the global number of resettled refugees.

Displacement and resettlement can be a destabilizing experience for refugee families, exacerbating feelings of isolation and detachment. Refugee families arrive in the receiving country after facing a variety of challenges ranging from traumatic stress reactions related to living in a war-affected context to stress during displacement journeys. Displacement and resettlement in an unfamiliar place far from their country of origin has important impacts on virtually every aspect of families' socio-spatial environments including cultural norms, religious traditions, and support networks. While some research has emphasized the importance of a multi-generational perspective when conducting research with individuals, research with refugees rarely emphasizes the family as a unit of analysis. Without understanding the resettlement experiences of family systems, practice and policy cannot address the challenges facing families. Consequently, relying solely on individual approaches may limit effective analysis of the dynamic challenges refugees face in an emerging asocial society.

Despite the importance of both the social and physical environments in supporting wellbeing and belonging among refugee families, programs and policies that assist in the resettlement of refugee families often do not explicitly address elements related to

place. A socio-spatial understanding of place is critical to refugees who have been forced to flee their beloved homes and communities. For refugee families, people *and* place can represent a protective physical, social, and emotional environment where individual family members can grow in safety and security (Jack, 2008). When resettling, refugee families often work to create stable environments conducive for wellbeing. However, certain social and physical environments can also increase feelings of isolation and loneliness, compromising these places' intended protective elements. A socio-spatial lens which includes both elements from the social environment (people) and physical environment (place) is useful to explore initiatives that foster a sense of belonging among refugee families.

Objectives

The overarching goal of this project is to produce a narrative synthesis of available resources from the last ten years (2012-2022) on socio-spatial initiatives that foster belonging and connection among refugee families in resettlement communities.

This work aims to address the Global Challenge of "the emerging asocial society" identified by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) as part of its Imagining Canada's Future initiative. Two specific themes identified by SSHRC as integral to addressing this global challenge—*physical surroundings* and *expressions of belonging*—are at the forefront of this synthesis. In particular, we focus on socio-spatial initiatives that help refugee families to maintain their cultural identities and connections with their country of origin and establish new connections in their communities of resettlement as antidotes to the potential for isolation, loneliness, and detachment as a result of displacement.

Specific objectives include:

- To describe the state of knowledge on socio-spatial approaches to fostering belonging among refugee families in resettlement communities.
- To uncover key components of refugee families' sense of belonging amenable to socio-spatial initiatives.
- To make practice and policy recommendations that incorporate family-focused and place-based considerations to foster a sense of belonging for refugee families.

Methods

Our narrative review process included an initial focusing strategy to arrive at the inclusionary criteria, followed by the searching, screening, and extraction of data from relevant sources. A data matrix was used to organize source information which was then synthesized for dominant themes and corresponding recommendations. These steps are discussed in greater detail below.

Search Strategies and Criteria

To set an initial course for our search strategy, we began by identifying well-known academic journals that had a focus on refugees and forced migration. We examined these journals (listed in Appendix A) for relevant article titles, common keywords, and subject headings. This process was instrumental in setting the search criteria that was applied to our wider search of research databases, grey literature, policy documents, and key resources recommended by experts and local refugee-serving organizations.

Following the focusing strategy described above, our team (the first and second author and two student research assistants) searched selected electronic databases that were available through the host institution and websites of key international and Canadian policy and research repositories (for a complete list of searched databases see Appendix B). We also inspected reference lists of identified sources for relevant citations. Additionally, we sent requests for recommended resources on refugees' belonging to local refugee-serving organizations that we had previous working connections to.

The following search criteria were applied:

(1) Published or made available from January 2012 to August 2022
(2) Published or made available In English
(3) Refugee or forced migration populations
(4) Incorporated concept of belonging
(5) Incorporated a family focus or one or more socio-spatial approaches such as locations (dwellings, community centres, green spaces), activities (homemaking, family practices, everyday interactions with others), or a methodological approach (spatial analysis, ethnographic fieldwork)

We used search terms that included various approximations of the target concepts for this review–refugee, belonging, and place. Appendix C lists the search terms employed.

We excluded second-generation immigrant or refugee samples, immigrant or migrant samples from stable countries (those not fleeing country involuntarily, out of persecution, threat to safety, etc), articles that had central holding or detention centres for asylum-seekers as the 'place' of study, and sources that were available as dissertations only.

Screening and Data Extraction Procedures

The title and abstract for potential sources were screened by the first author and two research assistants. Final inclusionary decisions were made in consultation with the second author who has subject matter expertise in socio-spatial perspectives and refugee studies.

Relevant information from retrieved sources was categorized and summarized using a data matrix template which is useful for organizing large amounts of descriptive information in a visually accessible format. Information extracted from each source included:

- Participant Demographics
- Sample Size
- Unit of Analysis/ Intervention
    - family, individual, community, other
- Geographical Region of Focus
- Objective/ Purpose
- Theoretical Framework
- Methods
- Analysis
- Results
- Descriptions of Belonging
- Place-based Approach
    - yes/no
    - description of
- Wellbeing Indicators
    - yes/no
    - description of
- Effectiveness Study
    - yes/no
    - effectiveness results
- Program/ Practice Identified
    - yes/no

- ○ description of
- Policy Recommendations
- Conclusions
- Gaps in the Research
- Limitations
- Future Implications

The data matrix serves a dual purpose in that it was the primary tool for identifying aggregate patterns to inform practice and policy recommendations and it will continue to be utilized as a way for others to access source links and summary information after the synthesis is concluded. The final data matrix is available [here](#).

Data Synthesis

A review of the information collected from each source included in the matrix revealed that the majority of these sources were small qualitative exploratory studies with refugee samples. As such it was determined that a thematic analysis of the information from the data matrix on results, recommendations, conclusions, and gaps in the literature was best suited to meet our goal of synthesizing the knowledge and application of socio-spatial initiatives to foster belonging in refugee families. Furthermore, this narrative approach would allow the insights shared by refugees in these studies to drive our recommendations and implications for practice and policy.

In addition, to describe the body of literature reviewed, we generated numerical counts to capture the types and characteristics of the sources. For example, what methodology was used (e.g. qualitative, quantitative, mixed method)? Was the source a study of effectiveness? Did it contain indicators of interest (e.g. refugee wellbeing, place-based approaches, family-focused)? This meta-data was used to ascertain the state of knowledge on the topic of socio-spatial initiatives and refugee families' sense of belonging, which we describe in the following section.

Results

Results from our narrative review of socio-spatial initiatives to foster refugee families' belonging in their resettlement communities are presented thematically. Our discussion starts with the tricky task of defining belonging for refugee families and defining place. Presenting a more nuanced understanding of refugee family belonging allows us to then make evidence-based recommendations about possible ways to influence refugee families belonging using a socio-spatial approach.

First we provide a descriptive overview of the sources we reviewed.

Description of Sources Included in this Review

There were 54 sources included in this knowledge synthesis review. The majority of sources in our review were qualitative studies (90%) with individual qualitative interviews being the most frequently employed primary method (53%). Other qualitative methods included observation (20%), reviews (14%), case studies (10%), and Delphi (1 study). There were 7 literature review articles that were also considered "qualitative" in that the authors did not conduct a systematic review or meta-analysis, instead producing a scoping or narrative review. Table 1.0 shows the types of studies included in this review.

Table 1. Number and type of sources reviewed

Type of Source	Frequency	Percentage

Qualitative
        Individual Interviews
        Observational
        Reviews
        Case Studies
        Delphi
	49
	    26
	    10
	     7
	     5
	     1
		90%
		    53%
		    20%
		    14%
		    10%
		     3%

Quantitative (All surveys)	2	4%
Mixed Method (both qualitative and quantitative)	3	6%
Total Number of Sources	**54**	**100%**

Notions of place permeate the refugee experience. As such it is a useful concept by which to view practices, policies, and research with refugee families. Because of its ubiquitousness, place is an abstract concept, and therefore its role in the human experience is often taken for granted. In the sources we reviewed, socio-spatial approaches included locations (dwellings, community centres, green spaces), activities (homemaking, family practices, everyday interactions with others), or methodological approaches (spatial analysis, ethnographic fieldwork). There were 38 sources that incorporated identifiable place-based elements. Table 2 shows the number of socio-spatial sources grouped by type.

Table 2. Type of socio-spatial element (n=38)

Socio-Spatial Element	Frequency	Percentage
Locations (e.g. dwellings, community centres, green spaces)	20	37%
Activities (e.g. homemaking, family practices, everyday interactions with others)	13	24%
Methodological approach (e.g. spatial analysis, ethnographic fieldwork)	5	9%
Sources with no identifiable socio-spatial elements	16	30%
Total	**54**	**100%**

Table 3 lists the sources that included indicators of refugee family wellbeing. There were only 2 quantitative sources that included measurable indicators of refugee wellbeing, both emanating from the same cross-sectional survey data set (Bakker, Cheung, & Phillimore, 2016; Cheung & Phillimore, 2017). These quantifiable indicators included measures of health (physical, mental), integration outcomes (education, employment, housing), and social networks (personal, ethno-religious, and formal). While quantitative measures of refugee family wellbeing were scarce, there were 19 sources (all qualitative) that endeavoured to investigate general indicators of wellbeing in an effort to better understand the relationships among wellbeing and belonging and place. Both the measurable indicators and the general indicators impart important information about how refugee family wellbeing can be conceptualized and potentially measured in this field.

Table 3. Sources with "Indicators" of Refugee Families' Wellbeing

Citation	Qualitative/ Quantitative	Description of Wellbeing Indicator
Albers, T., Ariccio, S., Weiss, L. A., Dessi, F., & Bonaiuto, M. (2021).	Lit Review	Place attachment and refugee wellbeing
Bakker, L. Cheung, S. Y. & Phillimore, J. (2016).	Quant	health (mental, physical), social networks
Barnes, M., Amina, F., & Cardona-Escobar, D. (2021).	Lit Review	Feelings of belonging and positive experiences in the classroom
Biglin, J. (2021).	Qual	Locations that create positivity. Places with a "wellbeing enhancing effect"
Cheung, S. Y. & Phillimore, J. (2017).	Quant	Gender differences in social networks, health (physical, mental), and integration outcomes (education, employment, housing)
Chopra, V., & Dryden-Peterson, S. (2020).	Qual	Symbolic boundaries of belonging
Earnest, J., Mansi, R., Bayati, S., Earnest, J. A., & Thompson, S. C. (2015)	Qual	Belonging and social status, support, lack of discrimination and a peaceful environment
Hart, H.C. (2021).	Qual	Links between occupation and wellbeing, suggesting that meaningful occupation can increase the wellbeing of forced migrants.
Johnson, S., Bacsu, J., McIntosh, T., Jeffery, B. and Novik, N. (2019).	Lit Review	Social isolation and loneliness among senior refugees in Canada
Kauko, O., & Forsberg, H. (2018).	Qual	Pathways to housing for refugees and feelings of belonging and wellbeing
Moris, M. (2021).	Qual	Social exclusion in rural areas

Muir, J., & Gannon, K. (2016).	Qual	Psychological wellbeing (safety, relaxation) and how it is affected by location
Ngo, B. (2015)	Qual	How belonging is affected by culture
Nicolais, C., Perry, J. M., Modesti, C., Talamo, A., & Nicolais, G. (2021).	Qual	Place attachment and birth country of refugees who have positive social integration experiences
Phillimore, J. (2021).	Qual	How locality, relationships, support, family reunification, can shape refugee integration and increase mental health and belonging
Radford, D. (2017).	Qual	How locals and newcomers interact with specific places in small communities and with one another leading to inclusion or exclusion.
Senthanar, S., MacEachen, E., Premji, S., & Bigelow, P. (2021).	Qual	The effects of family separation on mental health among refugees
van Liempt, I., & Miellet, S. (2021).	Qual	Access to support, belonging, and wellbeing
Verdasco, A. (2019).	Qual	Ontological security
Wernesjö, U. (2015).	Qual	Social inclusion/exclusion of refugee youth among peers and overall sense of belonging
Wessendorf, S. (2019).	Qual	Experiences of racism and social inclusion/exclusion in an urban centre

State of Available Knowledge

The disproportionate number of qualitative studies (90%) included in this review suggests that available research on this topic is in its early stages. Studies were predominantly exploratory in nature, had small sample sizes of refugee populations, utilized interview methods, and analyzed qualitative data thematically. The few sources with a quantitative component were focused on cross-sectional survey data. There were no effectiveness studies evaluating any socio-spatial focused programs to foster refugee family belonging.

While a socio-spatial approach to understanding refugee family belonging remains in its infancy, the strength of this developing body of knowledge is its nuanced and participant-driven representations of belonging. The perspectives of refugees themselves were well documented and offer a fertile source for thinking about practices and policies that are culturally specific and responsive to refugee families' experiences.

Definitions of Belonging

Definitions of belonging are complex, nuanced, multifaceted, incorporating both social and contextual factors. Chen and Schweitzer (2019) characterize the experience of belonging as "a transactionary and mediated process that is undertaken with others in the environment." (p. 1987) According to Eltokhy (2020), belonging is both an individual and collective issue, and a precondition to quality of life. Other sources also highlight the multidimensional nature of belonging, and indeed the expansive body of knowledge on belonging (outside the scope of this review) touches on issues of power, class, emotions, race, economics, citizenship, and legal rights. For a comprehensive review of belonging, we suggest Marlowe (2017) and Painter (2013) among others.

For our specific focus on socio-spatial considerations to fostering the belonging of refugee families in resettlement contexts, Lahdesmaki et al. 's (2016) five thematic elements of belonging, surmised from their review of the literature across multiple disciplines are useful. They describe a *spatiality of belonging* often prompted by migration, mobility, and displacement. The spatiality of belonging considers the roles of "place-attachment" and "place-making" in refugees' everyday lives. *Intersectional and multiple belonging* recognizes that identities and belonging are temporal and situational with refugees belonging to a variety of people and places simultaneously (such as their homeland and resettlement country) and changing over time. The way in which people make contact with their physical surroundings and how these contacts can contribute to their sense of belonging to a place or to a community is referred to the *materiality of belonging.* Finally, the notion of *non-belonging* implies the process of inclusion and exclusion acknowledging the politics and power inherent in the granting of belonging. It also inadvertently defines belonging as something positive to be achieved.

Exploring refugee families' belonging to their resettlement community through a socio-spatial lens is useful for incorporating both the social aspect of belonging (such as connections with family members, friends, community members) and the element of place (home, neighbourhood, city, country) to which refugee families can build feelings of attachment. Furthermore, a socio-spatial approach recognizes the multidimensional nature of belonging, as well as the integral role place plays in the displacement and resettlement experience.

Key Elements Of Belonging For Refugee Families

There were several elements that emerged from our review as key to furthering our understanding of refugee family belonging in resettlement contexts. Salient socio-spatial considerations included (1) feelings of belonging to both families' country of origin and resettlement country; (2) the pivotal role language plays in facilitating or impeding belonging in the resettlement country; (3) places of safety and security as necessary for the development of belonging; and, (4) the power of everyday mundane activities to building refugee families' sense of belonging. Illuminating these unique aspects of belonging for refugee families can reveal potential ways to positively affect the development of belonging using socio-spatial focused strategies.

(1) Transnational Belonging: One Foot In Two Worlds

Sources described a sense of belonging for refugee families that straddles two countries or cultures–a family's homeland and adopted land (Magan & Padgett, 2021). This "transnational" belonging (Kim & Hocking, 2018) or biculturalism is reportedly common among refugee families and in the knowledge reviewed is linked to wellbeing and positive adjustment of refugee families in their resettlement communities.

Belonging to both their country of origin and resettlement country is common for families forced to flee their home country without choice or much forethought. Attachments to families' homes, neighbourhoods, and social networks do not abruptly stop when one abruptly leaves. Indeed it is possible and perhaps beneficial for refugee families' continuity of cultural identity to hold attachments to both places. In their qualitative exploration of place attachment and identity, Nicolais, Perry, Modesti, Talamo, & Nicolais (2021) describe the identity of the successfully integrated refugee as "an identity that does not deny its origins and roots, but which has now settled in a new place, [...] and therefore feels that it belongs there" (p. 17) Families continue to practice cultural traditions, speak their preferred language, and recall memories and stories of home, all while forging new connections to their resettlement community. Vasta (2013) explains that refugee families can "...maintain transnational identities, multiple geographical sites that they call home, multiple belongings and engagement without any sense of confusion or divided loyalties." (p. 210)

Transnationalism is reported to be positively linked with increased engagement in the resettlement country as well as in the country of origin (Vasta, 2013). In their meta-analysis of studies investigating the relationship between biculturalism and adjustment, Nguyen and Benet-Martinez (2013) report "...a significant, strong, and

positive association between biculturalism and adjustment (both psychological and sociocultural). This biculturalism adjustment link is stronger than the association between having one culture (dominant or heritage) and adjustment." (p. 122)

Similar to notions of belonging to two countries, refugee families are often connected to their own ethno-cultural community within the resettlement country. Drolet and Moorthi (2018) note the importance refugees placed on social connections with their ethnic communities in the resettlement country of Canada. In their study of the nature of social networks, social support, and social capital among 100 Syrian refugees arriving in Canada during 2015 and in 2016, 88% of refugees identified the importance of the Syrian community in Canada. Refugee families may rely on local or online networks such as Whatsapp group chats for connection and belonging to others in their ethno-cultural group. This connection can be important for refugees to share information and resources with others and for socialization or support (Strang & Quinn, 2019). Connections with specific groups such as friends, family members, or to memories of their countries of origin are tied to feelings of belonging (Chen & Schweitzer, 2019).

Belonging to one's country of origin and resettlement community at the same time offers further support for the consensus in the literature that belonging is multidimensional and "non-linear" (Albers et al., 2021; Radford, 2017). There is also much agreement that maintaining connections to refugee families' homeland while creating new ties to the resettlement country makes positive contributions to wellbeing. So much so that New Zealand's resettlement strategy explicitly states the objective of "hav[ing] a strong sense of belonging to their own community *and* [emphasis added] to New Zealand" ([Immigration New Zealand, 2013](#)) However, (Wernesjö, 2015) cautions that "...a shared country of origin as a basis for stable belonging should not be overemphasised, since such relationships may also be characterised by exclusion and conflict. Belonging, thus, is a complex process, and how individuals identify and understand their belongings may be contradictory and may change over time" (pp. 463).

(2) Connecting Through Language

One of the most immediate and apparent ways belonging to the resettlement country can be facilitated is by learning the dominant language of the receiving country. Language barriers are frequently identified by refugees as a significant challenge to seeking housing, healthcare, and employment and are linked to isolation and loneliness (Earnest et al., 2015; Johnson, Bacsu, McIntosh, Jeffery, & Novik, 2019; Mianji, Tomaro, & Kirmayer, 2020; Moorthi, Elford, & Drolet, 2017; Stewart et al., 2012). Syrian families resettled in Western Canada from Oudshoorn et al. (2020)'s study of resettlement and housing spoke of the isolation they felt due to their lack of fluency in English. Some said that not speaking English prevented them from making Canadian

friends. Others felt that they wanted to socialize more with Canadians to learn the language better. Not being fluent in English was an obstacle present for many of the families with negative effects in multiple domains of living (for example, communicating with landlords).

Language acquisition may come easier for some refugee family members than others. In particular, Earnest et al. (2015) report that youth refugees, in their study of resilience and integration, acquired the dominant resettlement language faster and with greater ease than their parents. As well, gender differences in language fluency and literacy are noted with women having significantly lower levels of language proficiency and enrollment in language classes earlier in their resettlement experience. However, these gender differences are found to dissipate over time spent in the resettlement country (Cheung & Phillimore, 2017).

(3) Incorporating Feelings Of Safety and Security

Refugee families often flee violence, persecution, and instability in their countries of origin. These experiences influence refugee families' search for belonging in a new place impacting multiple areas of their lives and leaving refugee families questioning the stability of their future (Eltokhy, 2020). A sense of safety and stability in the physical environment is integral to fostering belonging for refugees (Chopra & Dryden-Peterson, 2020; Kauko & Forsberg, 2018). Dromgold-Sermen (2022) explains "...secure belonging is a foundational dimension of their [refugee] individual and familial sense of belonging. Particularly in experiencing resettlement as families, parents prioritise secure belonging when considering their children and family's current and future well-being, life circumstances and overall sense of belonging…" (p. 643)

Resettlement environments that offer safety and security afford refugee families the "safe space" in which to focus on everyday activities such as attending school or work and envisioning the future. Refugee families also endeavor to create their own sense of safety in a new place. For example, repetition of daily routines like mealtimes, sleep, and social activities can foster predictability and familiarity (Kauko & Forsberg, 2018). According to Muir and Gannon (2016), for refugees to "...regain control and independence in certain places, even domestic micro-spaces of belonging may help to promote feelings of safety and relaxation." (p.286) Other ways refugee families work to bring stability and safety into their daily lives include developing "...structures of solidarity and networks of support (i.e. sporting clubs and community offices), which are crucial sites for individual and collective attempts to 'feel at home' while on the move…" (Castillo, 2016, p. 287).

(4) The Power Of Mundane Everyday Activities

In forced migration there is a loss of familiar routines and places of everyday common activities for refugee families. These mundane activities, such as walking to the market and talking to neighbours along the way, are vital for social connection and belonging (Herslund, 2021; van Liempt & Staring, 2021). Picton and Banfield (2020) assert that "belonging is deeply embedded and embodied in the routines, the 'habitus' (Bourdieu, 1990) of daily life." (p. 843) In this sense, creating belonging is carried out in refugee families' everyday interactions, banal intercultural interactions, and mundane activities (Wessendorf, 2019).

Upon resettlement, refugee families begin to reconfigure their everyday lives by re-establishing routines or creating new ones (Kim & Hocking, 2018). As refugee families explore and interact with their neighbourhood to make it familiar or "make it their own", they begin to develop attachment to their new contexts (Muir & Gannon, 2016). These neighbourhood places are sites where refugee family belonging can arise in social encounters and everyday interactions with others. Refugee families contribute to the everyday spaces in which they carry out their lives, actively making places familiar by repetitive actions, while asserting their presence and right to belong (Huizinga & van Hoven, 2018).

Understanding refugee family belonging through a socio-spatial lens by considering the importance of preserving connections to the family's country of origin, forging new connections in their resettlement community through language and everyday activities and routines, and honouring the refugee family's need for safety and stability suggest a number of recommendations and implications for practice and policy affecting refugee families' sense of belonging.

Implications for Practice and Policy

The implications for practice and policy emanating from this review are grouped by our guiding socio-spatial framework and emphasis on family-focused considerations. Given the multidimensional nature of refugee family belonging and the integral role that place plays in the displacement and resettlement experience, a socio-spatial lens is useful to view practices, policies, and research with refugee families. It also recognizes the plural avenues to impact a sense of belonging from the family to the community to the larger nation-state. We organize our recommendations for practice and policy into those with a (1) family focus and (2) a place focus.

(1) Family-Focused Recommendations

Based on our review, we advise four key family-focused areas that hold promise for fostering a greater sense of belonging for refugee families in their resettlement communities: everyday activities and routines of families, families making a home for themselves, the importance of a decent home for the family unit, and family connection through family reunification.

Everyday Activities and Routines

Refugee families' belonging is fostered in repetitive activities, routines, and encounters within everyday life. These activities can be routines shared by family members in the home such as mealtimes or impromptu interactions with others in the neighbourhood. Policies that create stable and secure living circumstances (like housing and employment policies) give refugee families the opportunity to cultivate feelings of belonging through daily routines, activities, and connections with others and local places. The impact of what can be perceived as mundane or banal components of everyday life should not be underestimated (van Liempt & Miellet, 2021). Family-focused programs that reflect the day-to-day activities of families–mealtimes, religious gatherings, holidays–are critical for creating a sense of belonging. Emphasis on these everyday family practices can help support families by creating a space for family members to connect and engage in family practices that are important to them.

Homemaking: A Place of One's Own

When considering the impact of place on a sense of belonging for families, thoughts of housing and home readily come to mind. The distinction between 'house' and 'home' has been previously established by scholars (see Blunt & Dowling, 2006; Duyvendak,

2011; Easthope, 2004). House implies a built structure, whereas home implies something with emotional meaning. The dwellings in which families live undoubtedly contribute to experiences of home and homemaking, but simply having a place to live does not necessarily lead to feelings of belonging for families.

Homemaking involves making "a place of one's own" in which refugees have their own space and can exert their independence and agency. This sense of ownership or control over even micro-spaces such as the domestic space can foster feelings of safety and relaxation that may be particularly needed by families forcibly displaced from their homes in their country of origin (Muir & Gannon, 2016).

Homemaking also involves gaining knowledge of a locality (e.g. the neighbourhood of resettlement), thus, involving both private and public places such as the corner market, community park, or nearby mosque. Local public spaces, as shown by van Liempt and Staring (2021) in their study utilizing walking interviews and photos with Syrian refugee families resettled in Dutch neighbourhoods, '...play an important role in refugees' homemaking processes, because they facilitate attachment to places and are also vital in the process of claiming control over new lives. …it is both the claim to belong as well as the claim to exert control over their own lives that plays an important role in newly arrived Syrians' homemaking processes." (p. 322)

Homemaking is an active process on the part of refugee families to create familiarity and security in their new living contexts. Practice and policy can play a role in either inhibiting or supporting the homemaking efforts of refugee families (van Liempt & Miellet, 2021). Policies that prolong a sense of unfamiliarity, such as the frequent relocation of refugee families as they seek adequate housing, overlook the importance of making a home to foster a sense of belonging in refugee families (Kauko & Forsberg, 2018).

The Impact of Housing on the Family Unit

In our review of socio-spatial initiatives, we have focused more on ideas of home and homemaking to foster refugee families' belonging. As such, sources discussing the broader topic of housing programs and policies were excluded. However, our interest in seeking out family-focused knowledge led us to consider the impact of housing on the family unit and families' experiences of home and belonging.

Recently resettled Syrian refugee families, interviewed by Oudshoorn, Benbow, and Meyer (2020) about their housing experiences in Western Canada, expressed a clear challenge in finding housing that was available, affordable on social assistance, and safe. Even more recently, housing has only gotten more unaffordable and scarce for families on low or fixed incomes since the COVID-19 pandemic. Housing options for

larger families (with 3-5 children) tend to be rental units that are typically too small and mismatched for their family's needs. Dwellings often offer family members little to no privacy and limited space, requiring rooms to be dual purpose (e.g. dining or living room areas transformed to sleeping quarters at night.). When more appropriate housing was found–for example with families being reunited–the municipality found them larger suitable housing; but this was often in a larger town and required relocation (Herslund, 2021). Also noted by Chen, Carver, Sugiyama, and Knöll (2021) was the lack of safe spaces for children to play. Indoor spaces (within the home) are too small for play and parents experience difficulty in keeping children quiet enough indoors to minimize disturbing other residents. Outdoor spaces may be perceived as unsafe places to play for a variety of reasons including unfamiliarity.

An accumulation of these sub-par circumstances of living puts added pressure on the family unit that is already strained by having to leave their homes and countries out of fear of war, violence, or persecution. The transient nature of housing, expressed by refugee families from Eltokhy (2020) as having to move frequently between apartments, caused a great deal of stress within the family affecting other domains of their lives such as family planning. Policies should consider how to increase the stability and permanence of housing allowing refugee families to undertake the process of homemaking and thereby foster belonging and attachments to locations.

Family Reunification and Refugee Family Wellbeing

Being separated from one's family during the resettlement process weighs heavily on family members. Separated families may still be located in their country of origin or resettled to other cities or provinces within the host country. Family separation has been found to cause psychological, social, and economic harm to the wellbeing of refugees (Phillimore, 2021). For example, in Canada, government assisted refugee women are more likely to "experience negative mental health effects stemming from separation from family members" (Senthanar, MacEachen, Premji, & Bigelow, 2021, p. 583). Extended family members provide valuable support such as childrearing advice or care and company. Drolet and Moorthi (2018) report that the majority of refugee participants from their study gather with family or friends outside their homes at least once a day (38%) or once a week (47%).

Family reunification policies have the power to help or hinder refugee families' sense of belonging. van Liempt and Miellet (2021) assert that refugees' "unresolved uncertainties about family reunification" affect their wellbeing and feelings of being "at home" in their resettlement communities. Similarly, Earnest et al.'s (2015) study of refugee youth

resilience and integration identifies the importance of connecting to family members who still reside in their countries of origin and the reliance on technology to do so.

The 2021 Immigration, Refugees, Citizenship Canada's annual report to parliament on immigration states that in 2020, 49,290 individuals were reunited with close family members during the pandemic which is much lower than the 91,311 reunited in 2019 and lower than the admission range projected for family reunification entries in 2023 of 94,000 to 113,000 (IRCC, 2022). One of the biggest challenges for this entry program is the long wait time to enter Canada. In 2011, the wait time was approximately eight years (Belanger & Cadiz, 2020). Since then, the Government of Canada introduced several administrative measures to attempt to reduce wait times for families. Additionally, the One Year Window (OYW) provision of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act permits resettled refugees in Canada to identify for resettlement, within one year of arrival, family members abroad who were unable to travel with them (IRCC, 2006). Most recently, Canada has prioritized reuniting family members of Afghan and Ukrainian nationals.

(2) Place-Focused Considerations

When thinking about fostering refugee families' sense of belonging to their resettlement communities, there are several salient place-focused considerations including: the importance of places that promote wellbeing, the availability of safe spaces for refugee children to play, and the impact of location characteristics and dispersal policies on resettlement experiences.

Community Spaces for Refugee Family Belonging

Sources in this review highlight the importance of places that promote wellbeing through their restorative or peaceful elements such as parks (Albers, 2021; Rishbeth, Blachnicka-Ciacek, & Darling, 2019), nature or green spaces (Biglin, 2021), community gardens (Strunk & Richardson, 2019), community centres (Muir & Gannon, 2016) and religious spaces (Drolet and Moorthi, 2018; Earnest el al., 2015).

In their study of the use of greenspace by refugees, Rishbeth et al. (2019) explore the links between wellbeing, resettlement experiences, and greenspaces. Refugee families with children identified greenspaces and parks as places for leisure and socialization. Large neighbourhood parks with facilities and playgrounds for children in ethnically diverse neighbourhoods were frequently preferred. Refugees also identified a preference for larger urban parks and town squares as they provided places to fit in among the large number and diversity of park users. As places of belonging,

> *"...urban greenspaces can offer opportunities to create footholds in new environments for asylum seekers and refugees… [...] [Refugees] can develop moments of belonging in, and through, public space. Parks and greenspace thus offer opportunities for the establishment of such footholds. They have the potential to pause the bureaucratic constraints of asylum and refugee status, and focus instead on other aspects of everyday life in the city – from urban nature and memories of past environments, to shared pleasures of gardening, sport, or exploring new habitats." (p.132)*

Albers et al. (2021) also highlights the familiarity of parks and greenspaces for newcomers who may have come from more rural areas. Additionally, participating in community activities like gardening may promote connections to the resettlement community for refugees who were farmers in their country of origin. (Albers et al., 2021). Community gardens in particular can help refugees create "more inclusive places that reflect their cultural practices, identities, and presence in the city" (Strunk & Richardson, 2019, p. 30)

Other public spaces have what Biglin (2021) refers to as a "wellbeing enhancing effect" (p. 4). Locations outside of the home (first place) or workplace (second place) can facilitate sociability, community, support and offer emotional retreat and restoration. In their study, refugee participants photographed urban public green spaces, public libraries, and religious faith buildings. In comparison to home or work, these "third places" were "key sites where participants were able to (re)connect with identities, develop a sense of belonging, and maintain and foster cultural and transnational ties in ways that promoted wellbeing." (Biglin, 2021, p. 8)

Both community centres and religious locations are important places of respite for refugee families. In Drolet and Moorthi's (2018) exploration of social connections of 100 Syrian refugees resettled in Alberta, Canada, 60% participated in religious activities at least once a week. Similarly in Earnest et al (2015), most refugee youth attended church or mosque several times a week and described it as a place to meet others from the same faith and feel happy. These public gathering places offered refugee families space to practice their faith freely and exchange mutual support and information (Magan & Padgett, 2021).

Safe Spaces for Refugee Children's Play

As identified earlier, the mismatched and subpar housing refugee families find themselves living in during the early part of their resettlement process can also have impacts on children's experiences of place. Small rental units in unsafe neighbourhoods present several challenges for refugee families with children. A narrative review of the

impacts of the built environment on refugee children's physical activity by Chen et al. (2021) reveals limited availability of indoor space within the home for refugee children to play and limited access to large parks with sports areas and playgrounds where they can engage in formal places of play. Their review also emphasizes the importance of informal spaces for spontaneous play (which may be preferred by refugee parents who want to closely supervise their children) and issues of safety. According to Chen et al. (2021):

> *"...refugee children need to adapt to new, unfamiliar environments when they come to their host country. Since they may have escaped from war situations or have experienced military occupation…, they may be more cautious and sensitive about safety issues than non-refugees... Such concerns by their parents are particularly salient, as where children can play typically dictated by their parents… Future research needs to pay particular attention to how refugee children and parents perceive danger in surrounding environments..." (p. 6)*

Location of Resettlement

There is much interest in the impact that location characteristics have on refugee families' resettlement experiences, belonging and place attachment, and the success of those locations in securing the permanency of resettlement. One of the more obvious location distinctions is the size of the resettlement community or whether it is regarded as a rural or urban setting. Reviewed sources revealed benefits and limitations for both.

In their study of 100 Syrian refugees resettled in Alberta, Canada, Drolet and Moorthi (2018) report that refugees resettled in smaller cities had greater connections to the community and social service organizations; however, refugees noted the limited availability of ethno-cultural resources. In van Liempt and Miellet's (2021) exploration of dispersal practices on refugees' place attachment, larger cities were perceived to hold greater opportunity for employment, education, and co-locating with other residents of the same ethnicity. Limitations to smaller towns and rural areas included fewer public transit options, lack of affordable housing, and the temporariness of locating in a smaller town. For example, in a study of belonging in rural settings, Herslund (2021) reports that half of refugees relocated to larger cities and towns within a few years. Herslund concludes that a sense of belonging is impacted by the structural characteristics of small towns and that belonging is difficult to build and sustain in a place that may be temporary.

Both internationally and in Canada there is recent support for dispersal policies that see refugee families resettling in more geographically diverse communities (Herslund, 2021; Hynie, 2018). In general the success of dispersal policies is based on the assumption

that resettled refugee families will not relocate out of the resettlement community (van Liempt & Miellet, 2021). Further rationale includes addressing location-based worker skills gaps or shortages, repopulating declining areas of a country, and reducing burden on arrival cities (Phillimore, 2021). In Nordic countries, like Sweden and Finland, refugee integration is considered to be among the best in the world. In these places, rural diversity is greater than the European Union average and recent trends have seen progressively more refugees being settled in regional towns and rural areas (Herslund, 2021).

The dispersion of refugees across Canada is a key component of Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)'s overall objective of encouraging a more balanced geographic distribution of newcomers. The IRCC has a direct role in determining the resettlement destination of refugees. In particular, refugees resettled as part of the Government-Assisted Refugees (GARs) Program are assigned to designated communities across Canada prior to their arrival (www150.statscan.gc.ca). To illuminate the impact of designated destinations, among other social and contextual factors, on the success of retaining GARs in their original resettlement communities, Gure and Hou (2022) examined the mobility patterns of refugees after their initial resettlement. Maintaining GARs in their original resettlement communities was positively associated with the presence of co-ethnic communities and an increased number of refugees resettled in the same community in the same year (referred to as cluster resettlement). The availability of resettlement services in their community, specifically Resettlement Assistance Program Service Provider Organizations (RAP SPOs), was also associated with high retention rates.

It is reasonable to expect that refugee families might move in the future and doing so is a natural part of the resettlement process. However, relocation may be more likely when families are dissatisfied with their assigned location and want to self-correct the mismatch between their family's needs and place resources (van Liempt & Miellet, 2021). If refugee families feel they were assigned a resettlement destination with little input, it may impact their commitment to build an attachment and subsequently belong to a place that lacks meaning for their family. Their intention may be to move as soon as they are able to relocate to other cities where they have existing family or friends already resettled or where culturally-specific services are more available. While the countries refugee families find themselves fleeing from are often vastly different from the receiving resettlement countries, localities could be matched to optimize refugee families' familiarity with the geography or environment. For example, resettling urbanites to larger cities and farmers to rural locations may facilitate the process of belonging by way of increasing place-familiarity and continuity of family identity. Greater involvement of refugees in settlement case planning and choosing their resettlement locations to best match their needs is recommended (Moorthi, Elford, & Drolet, 2017).

Canada has recently set ambitious targets for population growth through immigration by accepting over 500,000 newcomers into the country annually by 2025 (Canada.ca). Employing dispersal strategies, such as the Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot, both to address local labour gaps and manage the resettlement needs of incoming future citizens is a key component to the plan. While 60% of admissions are expected through the economic class of entry into Canada, support in response to global crises by offering a safe haven to those facing persecution has also been highlighted as a tenet of the initiative, thus having implications for future refugee family resettlement. The success of this initiative will rest on moving beyond simply addressing population and labour shortfalls to building a sense of belonging to the country in a large and diverse resettlement cohort. For refugee families in particular, belonging grows from everyday routine activities, interactions and connections with others, homemaking, all while honouring ties to families' country of origin. Program and policy design should consider the plural levels of belonging and multiple opportunities to impact feelings of belonging from the family to the community to the larger nation-state.

(3) Incorporating refugee families' perspectives in policy and planning to foster belonging

The potential of refugee families to positively affect their environments is often undervalued or neglected (Albers et al., 2021). However, a socio-spatial approach recognizes the bidirectional nature of the relationship between people and place. We often think of places impacting people but people can undoubtedly also influence place. Acknowledging how refugee families utilize their environments to generate feelings of wellbeing counters the "trauma discourses that both neglect context and frame refugees as 'passive victims rather than active survivors' (Summerfield, 2000, p. 234)" (Muir & Gannon, 2016).

In their exploratory study of separated children arriving in Canada between ages four and 17, Denov and Akesson (2013) noted that youth brought meaning and significance to places traversed during their migratory journeys, developing attachments and connections with particular places along the way. The efforts of placemaking undertaken by youth were found to serve as a form of healing and sometimes an act of defiance in systems of authority. Strunk and Richardson (2019) also highlight the agency of refugees in reshaping location in their study of placemaking and urban gardens. Local community gardens, primarily tended to by recent refugees, incorporated their cultural influences, knowledge of agriculture, and personal identities reflecting their presence in the community and impact on a feature of the local community setting.

Refugee families' belonging can be encouraged with practices and policies that recognize the contributions refugee families make to their everyday environments through acts of placemaking, building familiarity to places of resettlement, and thus easing the place-bonding process (Albers et al., 2021). Furthermore, Albers et al., (2021) assert that "refugees should be involved in the development of interventions as much as possible. This will increase their sense of autonomy and relatedness in their integration process" (p. 7).

The perspectives and voices of refugees were well represented in the literature we reviewed on socio-spatial initiatives to foster belonging. Key sources included qualitative open-ended or semi-structured interviews, observational data of participants' lives and use of space, and creative methods such as refugees taking photos of locations important to them–all more accessible and inclusive ways to engage marginalized groups. These refugee-focused methods generated valuable information on their own notions of belonging. For example, feelings of safety and security are intertwined with belonging, language is a significant barrier to establishing connections to the resettlement community, and everyday activities and mundane routines allow for belonging to grow in organic ways. Understanding these nuances to refugee families' sense of belonging has the potential to make initiatives more culturally relevant, responsive, and effective. While Canada is one of the world leaders in immigrant and refugee integration, future policy, practice, and research should more fully incorporate the direction and input of refugee families.

Future Directions

As the knowledge we reviewed was dominated by qualitative methodologies with small sample sizes, there is a **notable gap in the availability of sources implementing and evaluating socio-spatial programs to foster refugee families' belonging**. We located one randomized controlled trial registered in the Cochrane Library that tested a belonging intervention for Finnish high school students with modest effectiveness that dissipated over time for immigrant and refugee students (Marksteiner, Janke, & Dickhauser, 2020). A similar absence was found of studies that measured refugee families' wellbeing in rigorous and systematic ways. Wellbeing is vaguely defined in some sources while not discussed at all in others. Very few sources have scales to measure wellbeing, given their qualitative methods and small sample sizes. There is however an established knowledge base on quantifiable indicators of integration (for example, see the Migration Integration Policy Index for international comparative data). Integration indicators such as employment and income, as well as stable housing, are regarded by some as necessary precursors to a sense of belonging and wellbeing

(Eltokhy, 2020; Hart, 2021): "A strong sense of belonging to a local community is an important indicator of social integration. It is also associated with positive quality of life indicators such as being more hopeful about the future as well as better physical and mental health" (www.150statscan.gc.ca).

Practice and policy supporting the belonging of refugee families to their resettlement communities could benefit by **moving from individual understandings of refugee experiences to understanding family-focused or collective experiences.** In our assessment of sources, typically there is a focus on a part of a family, such as women or children. But rarely is the focus on the whole family unit. This gap overlooks the intertwining of individual and family wellbeing and belonging which is particularly salient for refugee families whose cultures often elevate the role of extended family members in contributing to child rearing, advice, and participation in cultural and family traditions. A future consideration is to incorporate understandings of intergenerational sense of belonging. Family reunification policies have implications for maintaining intergenerational ties and preserving the continuity of family identities (Bragg, 2014).

While making new contacts is vital to the resettlement process, reconnecting with one's "own" friends and family is also crucial for homemaking. Concerns about the uncertainty of family members being reunited in their new countries weighs heavily on refugee families' wellbeing and on developing a sense of feeling at home (van Liempt & Miellet, 2021). As our review points out, **transnational belonging cannot be underestimated in its importance to refugee families' overall sense of belonging**. As a mechanism to support transnational belonging, increased mobility and growing digital spaces allows refugees to form communities in a more accessible way (Marlowe, 2017). Anecdotally we know of many displaced families using technology (such as Whatsapp or Signal) to stay connected to their families "back home" and to connect with other similar families in their resettlement communities.

Digital spaces are being created and used by refugee families to stay connected to networks in their country of origin and to build a sense of belonging to communities being created here, however this strategy was not well represented in the sources we reviewed. This absence may be a product of our search for place-based initiatives (physical environments) while digital spaces are part of a virtual "place". Or perhaps this represents a lag in the published literature on refugee use in particular. We suspect there is ample knowledge on connecting online for non-refugee samples especially during the pandemic. We must also acknowledge the barriers to accessing technology that might be present for refugee families. For example, a refugee family may have only one shared cell phone upon arrival to their new host country.

Our review underscores the potential of a socio-spatial focus for informing practice and policy in pursuit of greater refugee family belonging and wellbeing in the global context of an emerging asocial society. Place is inherent in the resettlement experience and refugee families can belong to more than one place. Developing a sense of belonging is tied to multiple interactions and exchanges between both people and place and occur from micro to macro spaces. Future practice, policy, and research efforts would be wise to **incorporate a more explicit focus on place for refugee families' sense of belonging and wellbeing**, additionally taking a longitudinal perspective on the changing needs of displaced families along their resettlement trajectories anticipating how place influences families and how families shape places over time.

Knowledge Mobilization (KMb) Plan

Three main priorities guide our knowledge mobilization strategies:

> (1) influencing policies and practices that will shape the future reception and integration experiences of refugee families to Canada,

> (2) impacting direct services provided to newly arrived refugee families, and

> (3) providing key stakeholders with accessible information for developing and implementing socio-spatial initiatives aimed at improving the wellbeing and connection of refugee families to their new Canadian communities.

Our multi-pronged knowledge mobilization plan will reach multiple audiences with an emphasis on informing service providers and program and policy developers. Table 4.0 provides an overview of our knowledge mobilization outputs and purposes. All outputs will be easy-to-access in language, format, and dissemination outlet in accordance with SSHRC's Open Access policy. The reach of these products will be tracked by capturing the number of unique visits to the online data matrix, number of video views, and number of citations for journal articles within the first year of publication.

Table 4. Knowledge Mobilization Outputs

Output	Objectives/Purposes
Data Matrix	- Allows users to interface with a spreadsheet populated by the 54 sources that were used to inform the findings and recommendations - Contains summary information from each source included in the knowledge synthesis review - Publicly accessible [data matrix](#)
Final Report	- A comprehensive account of the methodology and findings of our narrative review of socio-spatial initiatives that can foster belonging among refugee families in their resettlement communities - To present the synthesized evidence for the purposes of decision-making and the envisioning of promising practices to positively impact refugee families' sense of belonging and wellbeing - To act as a source document for the creation of other accessible knowledge mobilization products - Publicly accessible on the [Global Adversity and Wellbeing Research Group](#) website affiliated with Dr. Bree Akesson's Canadian Research Chair (Tier II) in Global Adversity and Wellbeing (2020-2025)
Evidence Brief	- To promote knowledge synthesis findings in an abbreviated accessible format to audiences across public, private and community sectors. - Publicly accessible on the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada's website <link to evidence brief forthcoming>

Podcast Episode	● To discuss key socio-spatial considerations when thinking about ways to positively influence belonging of refugee families to their resettlement communities through research, practice, and policy ● Publicly available through CRSP Talk, a KMb platform hosted by the Centre for Research in Security Practices (CRSP) at Wilfrid Laurier University <link to podcast episode forthcoming>
3-minute Animated Video	● To visually represent key messages derived from the knowledge synthesis review ● To showcase implications and recommendations for practice in a quick and impactful way ● To facilitate the uptake of knowledge synthesis results by service providers and program managers who are often constrained by time and competing priorities when accessing research evidence to inform practice ● To increase the reach of results to other stakeholder groups by being promoted widely with the assistance of refugee-serving networks in Canada and internationally ● Publicly available on the Global Adversity and Wellbeing Research Group YouTube channel [GAWB Research](#)
Peer-reviewed Journal Articles	● To reach academic audiences conducting research in the areas of refugee families' wellbeing and resettlement experiences ● To inform the development of future research agendas ● To be accepted for publication in a refugee-focused journal (See Appendix A for list of target journals)

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*References marked with * indicate that they are included in the companion [data matrix](#) used to summarize sources included in the narrative review.*

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Appendix A: Refugee-Focused Journals

Journal Title
Canadian Ethnic Studies Journal
Comparative Migration Studies
Ethnic and Racial Studies
European Journal of Migration and Law
Forced Migration Review
International Journal of Migration, Health and Social Care
International Journal of Refugee Law
IZA Journal of Migration
Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies
Journal of Identity and Migration Studies
Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health
Journal of Immigrant and Refugee Studies
Journal of International Migration and Integration
Journal on Migration and Human Security
Migration, Mobility & Displacement
Migration Studies
Refuge: Canada's Journal on Refugees

Appendix B: Key Electronic Sources and Databases Searched

Name of Resource
Campbell Collection
Cochrane Library
EbscoHost, *selected databases:*
Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL)
eBook Academic Collection
eBook Collection
Education Source
ERIC
Social Work Abstracts
European University Institute Research Repository (https://cadmus.eui.eu)
European Website on Integration (https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration)
Government of Canada–Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada Research Reports (https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/reports-statistics/research.html)
Migrant Integration Policy Index (https://www.mipex.eu)
Proquest, *selected databases:*
APA PsychArticles
PsychBooks
PsychINFO
Canadian Research Index
International Bibliography of the Social Sciences
PTSDPubs
Publicly Available Content Database
Sociology Collection-ASSIA
Sociological Abstracts
Sociology Database
New Zealand Immigration (https://www.immigration.govt.nz)
Statistics Canada–Analytic Studies Branch Research Paper Series (https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/catalogue/11F0019M)

Appendix C: Search Terms

Target Search Term	Target Approximations
Belonging	Connection, connected (Antonym) Disconnection, disconnected Community (sense of) Community integration (Antonym) Isolation, isolated
Refugee	War-affected Forced migrant, forced migration
Socio-spatial	Place Place-making Place attachment Emplacement Home