

**Dispersal Outcomes for Asylum Seekers across the UK: Comparing Ethnic Patterns of Onward Migration and Integration**

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One of the key reforms introduced in the UK's 1999 Immigration and Asylum Act was compulsory dispersal, a policy implemented from 2000 onward that was designed to 'spread the burden' of housing asylum seekers across the UK on a no-choice basis and to discourage long-term settlement in London and South East England. Little research has explored the abiding integration outcomes of a policy regime that determines the geography of refugees' movements. Instead, much of the dispersal literature has critiqued the policy as part of a restrictive, deterrent UK asylum apparatus and focused on the negative consequences for individuals who are removed from their kinship networks, social networks and community organizations, realities which may lead to onward migration and increased destitution. Drawing on quantitative analyses and in tandem with qualitative research on refugees who were dispersed across the UK, we explore the divergent ways in which individuals have responded to dispersal by examining mobility patterns and integration outcomes within different ethnic communities in the UK. Research results indicate a greater prevalence in onward migration practices among some ethnic groups even as the motivations for movement vary, such as relocating for employment opportunities versus desiring to live among ethnic kin. Teasing apart these nuances help to explain where and why people move, in addition to developing a deeper understanding of how moving (or not) affects the long-term integration of individuals and ethnic groups living in the UK.