

# **Policy Actors and Policy Making for Better Migrant Health in China**

*From a Policy Network Perspective*

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Migration and Health in China

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# Introduction to Working Papers on Migration and Health in China

This paper is part of a series of outputs from the research project on [Migration and Health in China](#).

China is confronted by major challenges posed by the massive population movement over the past three decades. In 2009, approximately 230 million rural inhabitants moved temporarily or permanently to cities in search of employment and better livelihoods. Such large-scale mobility has huge implications for the pattern and transmission of diseases; for China's health care system and related policies; and for health of the Chinese population in both receiving and sending areas. The health and social issues associated with population movement on such an unprecedented scale have been inadequately addressed by public policy and largely neglected by researchers. Based on interdisciplinary research across the health, social science and policy fields, this project constitutes a major effort to fill research and policy gaps. Collectively, the papers and commentaries in this series aim to provide a comprehensive assessment of the health and public policy implications of rural to urban migration in China, to inform policy and to identify future research directions.

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## Contents

Acronyms .....	ii
Abstract/Summary .....	iii
Introduction .....	1
Policy Making in a More Pluralistic China: A Policy Network Perspective.....	2
From Neglect to Inclusion: The Migrant Health Policy Shift in China .....	3
Policy Actors and Their Role in Health Policy Making.....	6
Fragmented health administration and dominance of state actors at the central level	6
Differentiated local governments .....	7
International actors in the context of globalization .....	8
Societal actors in health policy making.....	9
The exclusion of migrants from the policy-making process .....	10
Explaining Migrant Health Policy: A Policy Network Perspective .....	11
Conclusion .....	13
References .....	15

# Acronyms

<b>AIDS</b>	Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
<b>CPPCC</b>	Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference
<b>HIV</b>	Human immunodeficiency virus
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>NCMS</b>	Rural New Cooperative Medical Scheme
<b>SARS</b>	Severe acute respiratory syndrome
<b>UEBMI</b>	Urban Employee Basic Medical Insurance
<b>UNAIDS</b>	United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>URBMI</b>	Urban Resident Basic Medical Insurance
<b>USD</b>	United States dollar
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization

## **Abstract/Summary**

Given the phenomenal scale of internal migration in China, migrant health has become a prominent policy issue. Various policy actors are now involved in the development of migrant health policy. However, little is known about who the main policy actors are, what roles they play, how they interact with each other, and how they might improve their collaboration for better migrant health. This paper aims to identify the main policy actors and explore their roles in migrant health policy making. Applying a “policy network” approach, it finds that the marginalization of migrants in terms of health benefits is mainly attributed to a closed policy network resulting from the peculiar political structure and specific institutional arrangements. Based on these findings, the authors argue that an inclusive policy network is needed to overcome the major institutional barriers and better satisfy migrants’ health needs.

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Keywords: migrant health; policy networks; health policy; policy making; China.

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