

HEALTH EVIDENCE NETWORK SYNTHESIS REPORT 66

What is the evidence on availability and integration of refugee and migrant health data in health information systems in the WHO European Region?

Themed issues on migration and health, X

Kayvan Bozorgmehr | Louise Biddle | Sven Rohleder | Soorej Jose Puthooppambal | Rosa Jahm



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Abstract

The recent rapid increases in population movements across borders highlight the importance of reliable data on refugee and migrant health for public health planning. This scoping report examined evidence on the availability and integration of refugee and migrant health data in health information systems in the WHO European Region. Refugee and migrant health data were available in 25 of the Region's 53 Member States, but differences existed in the availability, data types and main sources of data collection. Except for countries with population registers, the predominant data sources were medical records, disease-specific records and notification data. Data integration was often limited, and health monitoring surveys and data linkage approaches were underused. Policy considerations include harmonizing migrant definitions, promoting the coordination/governance of data collection, performance monitoring for health information systems, promoting cross-country exchange of experiences, exploiting data linkage, expanding existing health surveillance, reducing health-care barriers and strengthening general health information systems.

Keywords

HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEM, HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT, REFUGEES, MIGRANTS, MEDICAL RECORDS, POPULATION SURVEILLANCE

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ABBREVIATIONS

CPR	Civil Personal Registration (number)
DEGS	German Health Interview and Examination Survey for Adults
EEA	European Economic Area
EU	European Union
KiGGS	German Health Interview and Examination Survey for Children and Adolescents
NCD	noncommunicable disease
MeSH	Medical Subject Headings
TB	tuberculosis
TropNetEurop	European Network for Tropical Medicine and Travel Health
tw	textwords

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