

Joint Event
 7th International Conference on
Global Healthcare
 &
 4th International Conference on
Addiction Research and Therapy
 October 08, 2021 | Webinar

Migrant health policies in the European union: A comparative policy analysis

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There is an undeniable relationship between migration and health (Nagy, 2011). Despite the fact that the concept of health as a fundamental human right has been enshrined in numerous international and supranational policy instruments, health disparities between migrants and host nation populations persist. Inequities in health are perpetuated by several factors that include, but are not limited to, immigration status, lack of knowledge of health system access points, appropriateness of health care services, language barriers, and unique health profiles of migrants. The literature firmly positions migrants as a vulnerable population due to their collective risk of poor health outcomes in multiple areas.

Comparative analysis of eleven migrant health policies that broadly share the same objective to improve the health status of migrant populations provides insight into how a group of nations responded to addressing the health of migrant populations through a policy instrument. This study identified how the policies are similar and different through a two-phased analytic process that included content analysis followed by typological analysis. The coding scheme that emerged from content analysis was mapped onto a typology matrix. The result was the emergence of four themes that are a “type” of orientation toward the health of migrant populations. The theme-based typology goes beyond description and classification of the policy cases by offering a higher level of understanding of variation across the themes and cases. This is a new framework from which to compare concepts, explore dimensionality, and identify hierarchical relationships at macro and micro levels. The macro level occurs across and within emergent themes, while the

micro level is the policy case. This study aims to inform future policy making processes concerning all areas of immigration and provide context for future migrant health policy process and outcomes research.



Figure1. Policy case positioning on the migrant health policy orientation toward migrant health policy typology matrix

Biography

Jessica Currier holds a postdoctoral research fellowship with the Oregon Health & Science University’s Community Outreach, research and engagement program at the Knight Cancer Institute. Her research interests include exploring facilitators and barriers pertaining to equity of access to health care service delivery by medically vulnerable populations; spanning international and domestic contexts. Through her research, she has examined migrant health, migrant health policy, barriers to accessing mental health for stigmatized populations, and cultural competency policies implemented by single payer and tax-based health systems providing care to heterogeneous populations. More specifically, her research encompasses comparative policy analysis, community engagement and research translation, and, most recently through her postdoctoral appointment, cancer prevention and control research focused on dissemination and implementation science. A Sylff fellow with the Tokyo Foundation for policy research, she has a PhD in health systems and an MPH in international health.

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