Healthcare and Immigration Vulnerability: A Global Perspective

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Disclosure

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- Employers:
  - East Orange School District, East Orange, New Jersey, USA
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Learning Objectives

• At the end of this presentation, the learner will be able to:
  • Analyze immigrants statistics and its relationship to healthcare vulnerability and impact on health
  • Identify the various reasons forces pushing/pulling migrants to various destinations worldwide or increase in migration surge
  • Display a comprehensive understanding of the major stakeholders/destination or host countries of migrants
  • Understanding the various factors predisposing immigrants to vulnerability
  • Understand global practice and policy issues that may impact immigrants in particular and the overall, public in general
Global Migration/Immigration

- Migration: the movement of people from region of the world to another for various reasons such as economic, political, social, cultural. It can be voluntary or forced.

Wickramasekara, 2014
Migrants’ Statuses

- Asylum Seekers
- Refugees
- Documented
- Undocumented/Unauthorized

Messias et al., 2015
Global Migration Reasons

- Economic
- Political
- Social
- Cultural

Maffia, 2008
Statistics

- Global: 244 million in 2015: people living in a country other than their place of birth
- U.S: Host to 47 million international immigrants ; (13%) of the national population
  - > 11.2 million undocumented immigrants and this represents about 3.7% of the total population
- U.K.: Home to 126,000 refugees (0.19%) of the total population of 64.1 million forced to flee their homes worldwide
- Spain: An estimated 11.7% of immigrants encompass nation’s total population
- Australia: 42.5 million immigrants of forced migration in 2011
  - 15.2 million are refugees and 895,000, asylum seekers
- Canada: > 500,000 immigrants arrive annually and about 100,000 to 300,000 are undocumented
Scope of the Problem: Vulnerability

- Undocumentedness
- Migration stress from hazardous travel conditions
- Healthcare disparities
- Psychological/mental health problems
- Harsh/Strict Immigration Policies/Laws

Martinez et al., 2015
Messias et al., 2014
Other Factors Leading to Vulnerability

- Poor economic status—poverty, limited income, poor living and social conditions
- Unfavorable public perception
- Language Barrier
- Strict Health Policy
- Appearance Profiling

Stimpson et al., 2010
Weerasinghe, 2012
Maffia, 2008
Tsai, 2008
Wafula & Snipes, 2014
Pussetti & Barros, 2012
Health Service Utilization and Impact on Host Country

- Fragmented healthcare
- Concerns over tax payers funds for healthcare expanses—often unsubstantiated
- Compassion care/uncompensated care/charity care (US/Canada/Spain)
- Asylums seek most care due to predisposition to poor health
- Major Countries and cares provided:
  - US: visitors, undocumented, authorized immigrants without health insurance
  - UK: Asylum seekers-only are entitled to primary and secondary care; other groups of immigrants not entitled to free care.
  - Spain: Same healthcare utilization like natives
  - Canada: Uninsured immigrant women—major recipients of care
  - Australia: Women asylum seekers used most care and probably had substandard care

Stimpson et al., 2010
Hadgkiss & Renzaho, 2014
Caulford & Vali, 2006
Joels, 2008
Common Health Issues

- Chronic Medical Problems: HTN, DM, Osteoarthritis, Cancer
- Gynecological issues
- Communicable: HIV, AIDS, TB
- Mental Health: Substance dependency, depression, anxiety, PTSD
- Emerging Healthcare Problems: Ebola Virus, Zika Virus (ZIKV)

Joels, 2008
Okie, 2007
Bunn et al., 2013
Caulford & Vali, 2006
Heymann, 2015
Nursing Practice and Policy Implications

- Barriers
- Health policy changes
- Harsh administrative decrees/laws
- Spread of infection VS cross-national travels
- Cultural Awareness
Conclusion

- Global migration is not going away, but will continue to be part of human history.
- If migrants are at risk, the generally population is also at risk.
- Unrestricted healthcare for immigrants is a health guarantee for global citizens.
- There is a relationship between international migration and global health security, hence predisposition to disease exposure.
- It is imperative that health policies compel action effecting health access to safe and reliable healthcare changes.
References


Questions