

Social and Health issues of Immigration

*2nd Short-term exchange in Italy
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MIGRANTS AND DISEASES

Refugees have the right to get health services.

Italy provides a wide range of health care possibilities.

There are a lot of different diseases and ways to catch the illness.

The WHO is trying to strenghten all the different health services



The Arrival of Migrants

1. The arrival of each migrant cannot be considered a **medical emergency**;
2. Only in case of clear, evident signs of disease the migrant is visited just when he/she arrives;
3. To prevent the risk of contracting infections it is more useful to set up reception centres with **clean and appropriate spaces** and furniture;
4. First approach consisting of **conversation**;
5. Medical visits and **diagnostic tests**.



The Italian Health System



- Immigrants legally living in Italy have the right to join the National Health Service
- Free access to a package of essential health services is guaranteed by a national act
- With regard to health, it is important to discover the epidemiological profile of the immigrants and to investigate their access to health services



Essential Health Services

- emergencies
- maternal clinics
- child clinics
- compulsory vaccinations
- hospital and ambulatory care for conditions which could represent a severe long-term health risk if left untreated



NonCommunicable Diseases (NCDs)

The exposure of refugees and migrants to the risks associated with population movements – psychosocial disorders, reproductive health problems, higher newborn mortality, drug abuse, nutrition disorders, alcoholism and exposure to violence – increase their vulnerability to noncommunicable diseases (NCDs).



Migration and noncommunicable diseases

NCDs

NCDs are common causes of preventable morbidity and mortality. The main NCDs are cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancer and chronic lung diseases; and the prevalence of NCDs such as diabetes and hypertension in adults in certain low- and middle-income countries is as high as 25–35%.



Migration and NonCommunicable Diseases NCDs

Refugees and migrants with NCDs may be more vulnerable due to the conditions prevalent during their travel.



NON COMMUNICABLE DISEASES ***(NCDs)***

Pregnancy-related:
violence on women
affecting childbirth
and neonatal health

Hypothermia: the
long sea crossing in
the open air causes
severe hypothermia

CAUSES

**Cardiovascular
diseases**

**Gastrointestinal
diseases**

**Accidental injury
and burns:**
transport of people
risking contact with
fuel tanks



Migration and communicable diseases CDs

- Tuberculosis
- Malaria
- AIDS



VACCINATIONS



What is a vaccine?

A vaccine is a substance that protects the body against a disease by causing the immune system to produce antibodies.

Why are vaccines important?

Vaccination protects children from serious illnesses and complications



Fear of infections



When they arrive in a country, migrants have to do some medical visits.

NATIONS	OBLIGATORY VACCINATIONS
Italy	diphtheria, tetanus, polio, hepatitis B
France	diphtheria, tetanus, polio, tuberculosis
Greece	diphtheria,tetanus, polio
Portugal	diphtheria,tetanus, polio
Belgium	Polio



RECOMMENDED VACCINATIONS

AGE	PATHOGEN
Before 3 months	Whooping cough (Pertussis), Haemophilus influenzae b virus, <i>Neisseria meningitis</i> , <i>Streptococcus Pneumoniae</i>
13-15 months	Measles, mumps, rubella
1-6 years	<i>Neisseria meningitidis</i>
12 years up	Papilloma virus, chicken pox
Every year (At-risk subjects)	Influenzae sp. virus



Psychological Problems of Migrants

A growing number of migrants suffers from psychological problems:

- Post traumatic stress disorders
- Depression
- Anxiety



In general, the mental disorders are higher in women especially if they are victims of sexual violence. Often invisible wounds and traumas appear gradually and bring to mind the violence, the drama of a risky journey, the death of friends and family.

