

SCOPING REVIEW ABOUT THE HEALTH STATUS AND ITS DETERMINANTS OF MIGRANTS IN SPAIN

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Background: During the last decade of last century, Spain became one of the preferred destinations for migrants from low-income countries, making it one of the countries with the highest proportion of migrants in Europe. This demographic change requires to update and analyze the needs and priorities generated by this situation in all areas, including health research. This scoping review aims to synthesize scientific knowledge on the health status and care utilization by immigrant population in Spain, and its determinants in the frame of the CIBERSP Subprogram.

Methods: We searched scientific literature (1998-2013) in Spain in PubMed and MEDS-databases. The combination of terms Mesh were related to immigration ("Emigrants and Immigrants", "Emigration and Immigration", Transients and Migrants ""Ethnic Group"), geographical filter, and specific mesh terms related to health and/or illness. The inclusion criterion was original articles which studied health and its determinants among economic immigrants carried out in Spain. Data were analyzed to describe main topics, methodological characteristics and migrant status characterization.

Results

A number of 2703 studies were obtained and screening. Applying the inclusion criteria, 1221 were selected through title and abstract and 719 included after full-text revision. From the 12 groups participating, up to now 7 completed the final selection of its studies [Mental and occupational health, Inequalities, Health policies, Cancer, Nutrition and Molecular epidemiology]. Of these groups, 176 studies has been reviewed and completed the data extraction. 92% used a quantitative study approach (n=162), mainly transversal study design (55%). The majority of them compare migrant with native population (75%) and 81% used the country of born to defined immigrant population. Few studies considered the legal status of immigrants in the results (19.8%).

Conclusions

Health research and immigration in Spain is vast and diverse. There is an extensive body of literature examining. Much of this work is descriptive.