

These COVID-19 Analytical Snapshots are designed to capture the latest research, information and analysis in a fast-moving environment. Topics will be repeated from time to time as analysis develops. If you have an item to include, please email us at research@iom.int.



New research & analysis on migrant health impacts

[Patients Not Passports: Migrants' Access to Healthcare During the Coronavirus Crisis](#) by Medact, Migrants Organise and New Economics Foundation

[The impact of COVID-19 on Venezuelan migrants' access to health: A qualitative study in Colombian and Peruvian cities](#) by Zambrano-Barragán et al.

[Mental health and holistic care of migrant workers in Singapore during the COVID-19 pandemic](#) by Chan et al.

[Fragmented health systems in COVID-19: rectifying the misalignment between global health security and universal health coverage](#) by Lal et al.

[Universal Health Coverage and Primary Health Care within the Covid-19 Context](#) by Katherine E. Bliss

The migration and health nexus

The [relationship between migration and health](#) is complex and covers, among other aspects, the health of individual migrants. The [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) defines good health as a “state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”. This understanding goes beyond access to health care and entails the interaction among various factors known as the [social determinants](#) of health. These factors influence the mental and physical health of migrants throughout the migration journey. Migrants' [health resilience](#) is also contingent on public health strategies of destination countries, calling for a balance between migration management objectives and health security.

“Access to health is a fundamental right, but too often still, those who need it the most – including migrants and forcibly displaced persons – are left out.”

[IOM Director General António Vitorino](#)



Mental health and psychological well-being



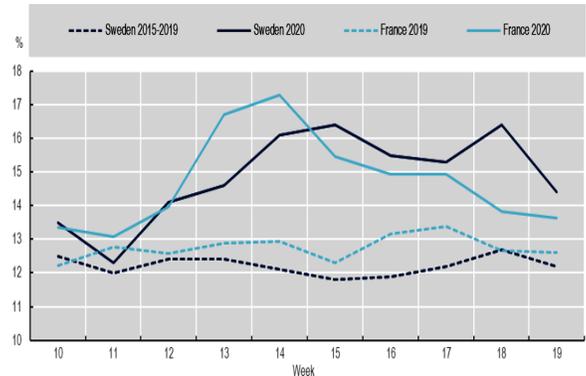
The pandemic has had a devastating impact on the physical well-being of millions, but it has also drastically affected the mental and psychological lives of many more. The uncertainty linked to the pandemic and the restrictive lockdown measures have deteriorated individuals' [mental health](#), including migrants who may have experienced traumatizing journeys and be living in precarious conditions. [Young migrants](#) have also particularly felt isolated during the pandemic. The mental health toll has been further exacerbated by greater levels of depression, fear, anxiety and loneliness. A new [survey](#) shows that the pandemic has increased health vulnerabilities. One in five migrant respondents have indicated an increase in drug and alcohol consumption.



Migrants' access to healthcare

The spread of COVID-19 has revealed structural [inequalities](#) in terms of access to healthcare. [Excluded](#) from social security systems, some migrants have experienced issues in accessing timely healthcare. Migrants have been facing [higher infection risk and mortality rates](#) compared to nationals, with over than [38,500](#) reported cases of COVID-19 among forcibly displaced people as of December 2020. Those living in precarious conditions often face additional [barriers](#) to accessing healthcare including in terms of financial resources, language proficiency and fears of being reported to the migration authorities when in an irregular situation.

Share of immigrants among deaths in France and Sweden, March-April 2020 compared with previous periods



Source: [OECD](#)



Universal Health Coverage

“[Universal health coverage](#) means that all people have access to the health services they need without the risk of financial hardship when paying for them”.

In a recent [policy brief](#), the UN Secretary-General highlighted the necessity to adopt a universal health system in order to facilitate the response to the pandemic and prepare for future crisis. [IOM and UNHCR](#) have also stressed that Covid-19 has heightened the need for universal health coverage in order to ensure that health services are inclusive to all and no one is left behind.

Migrants' Mental Health

Click [here](#) to watch a video on how IOM is providing reintegration and psychosocial support for Ghanaians who decide to return home during the pandemic.



Did you know?

[100 million](#) people are driven into poverty each year by out-of-pocket health spending.

IOM Migration Health Evidence Portal on COVID

This IOM [repository](#) includes the latest COVID-19-related research and analysis in the context of migration health.

The [portal](#) also contains scientific research and evidence-based findings on international migration and health beyond the scope of the pandemic.



This COVID-19 Analytical Snapshot has been produced by [IOM Research](#) (research@iom.int).

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