



CONVEGNO NAZIONALE

La ricerca per la promozione della
salute dei migranti:
capire dalle evidenze per agire

24 settembre 2026

organizzato da

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Centro Nazionale per la Salute Globale



Strengthening public health monitoring and evidence base on migrants' health by including migration-related variables in the routine collection of health data

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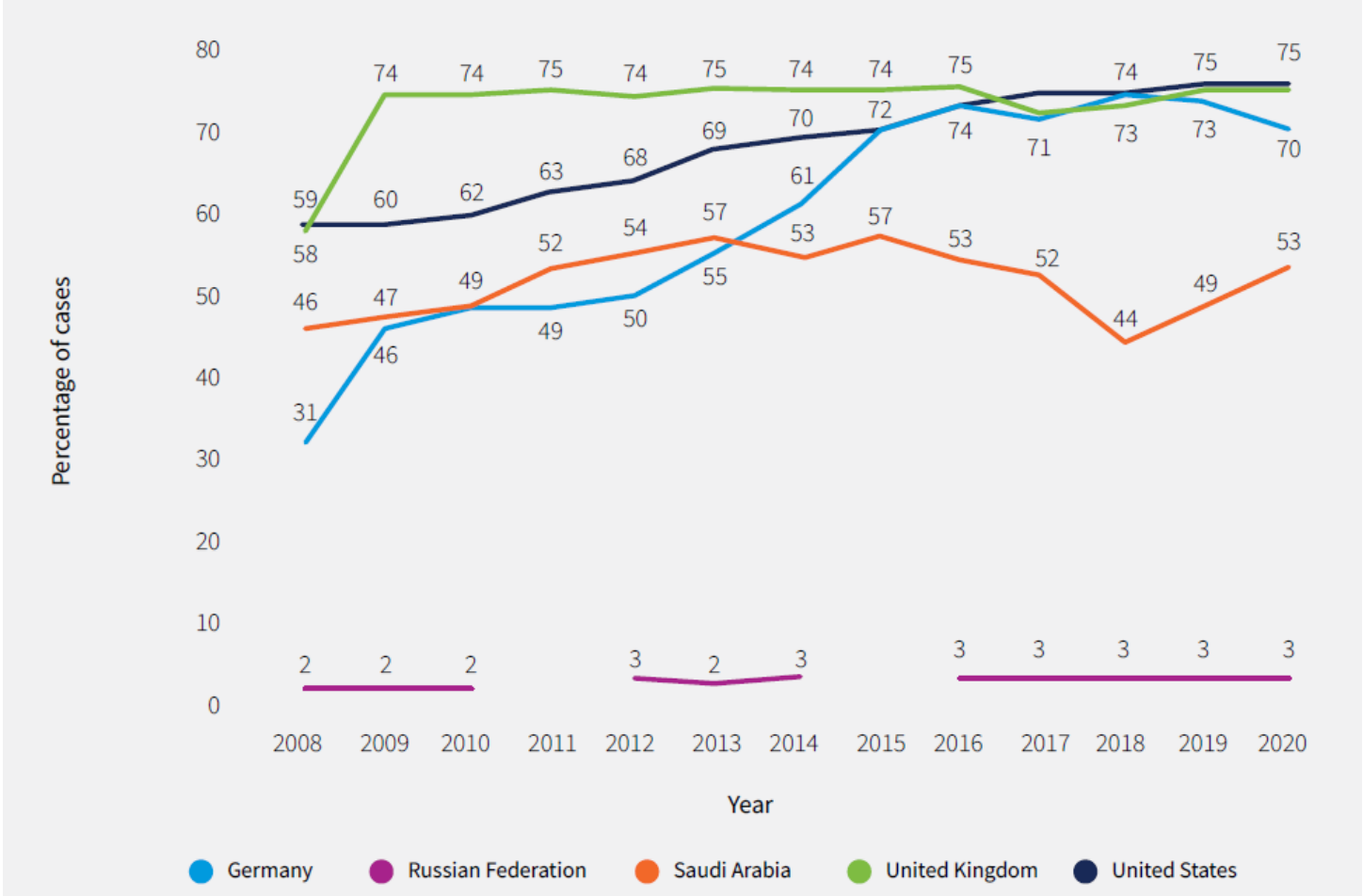


WHO Collaborating Center
Migration and Health
Data and Evidence

Why do we need migration data for health of migrants?

- Migration & Migratory status is a social determinant of health

Proportion of tuberculosis cases attributable to foreign-born individuals in major destination countries for international migrants, 2008–2020



Why do we need migration data for health of migrants?

- Migratory status is a social determinant of health
- For evidence informed policy making
 - Where does the evidence come from?

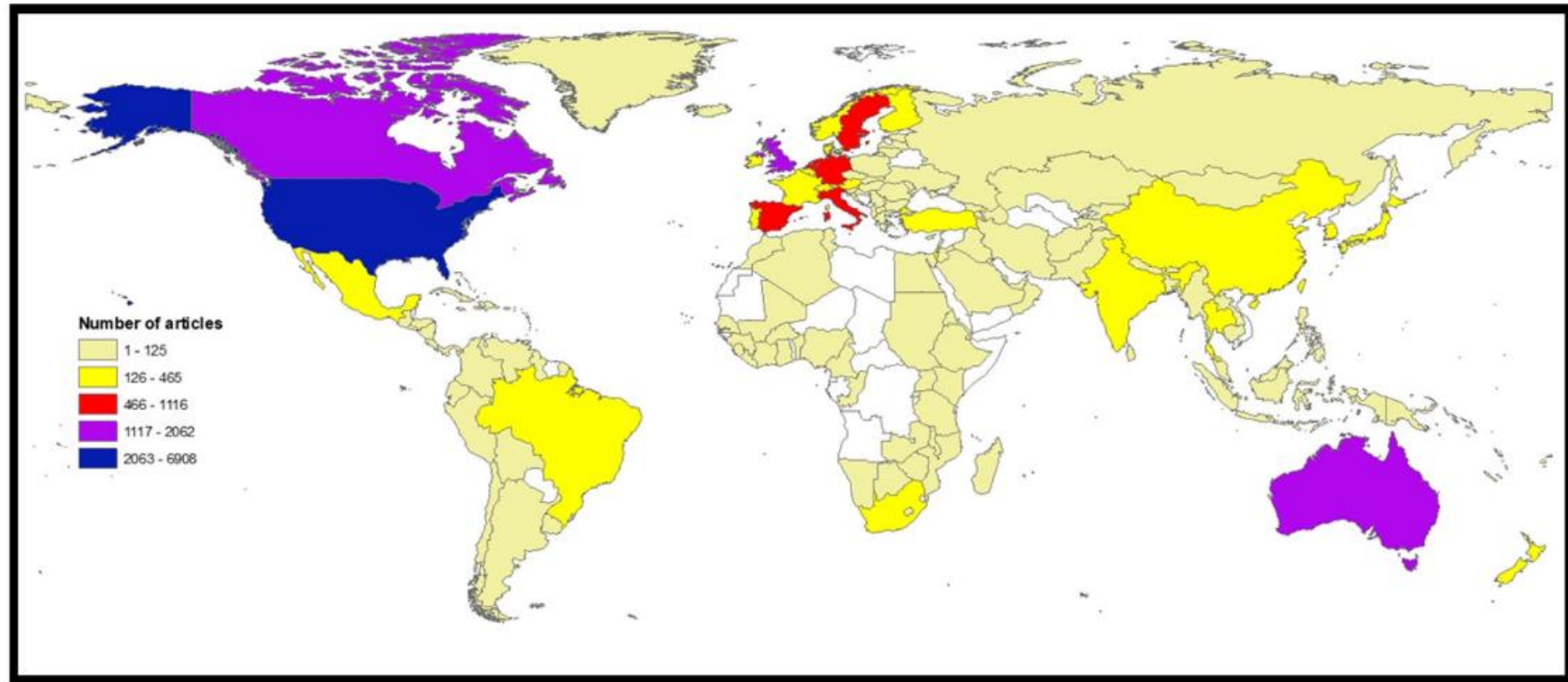
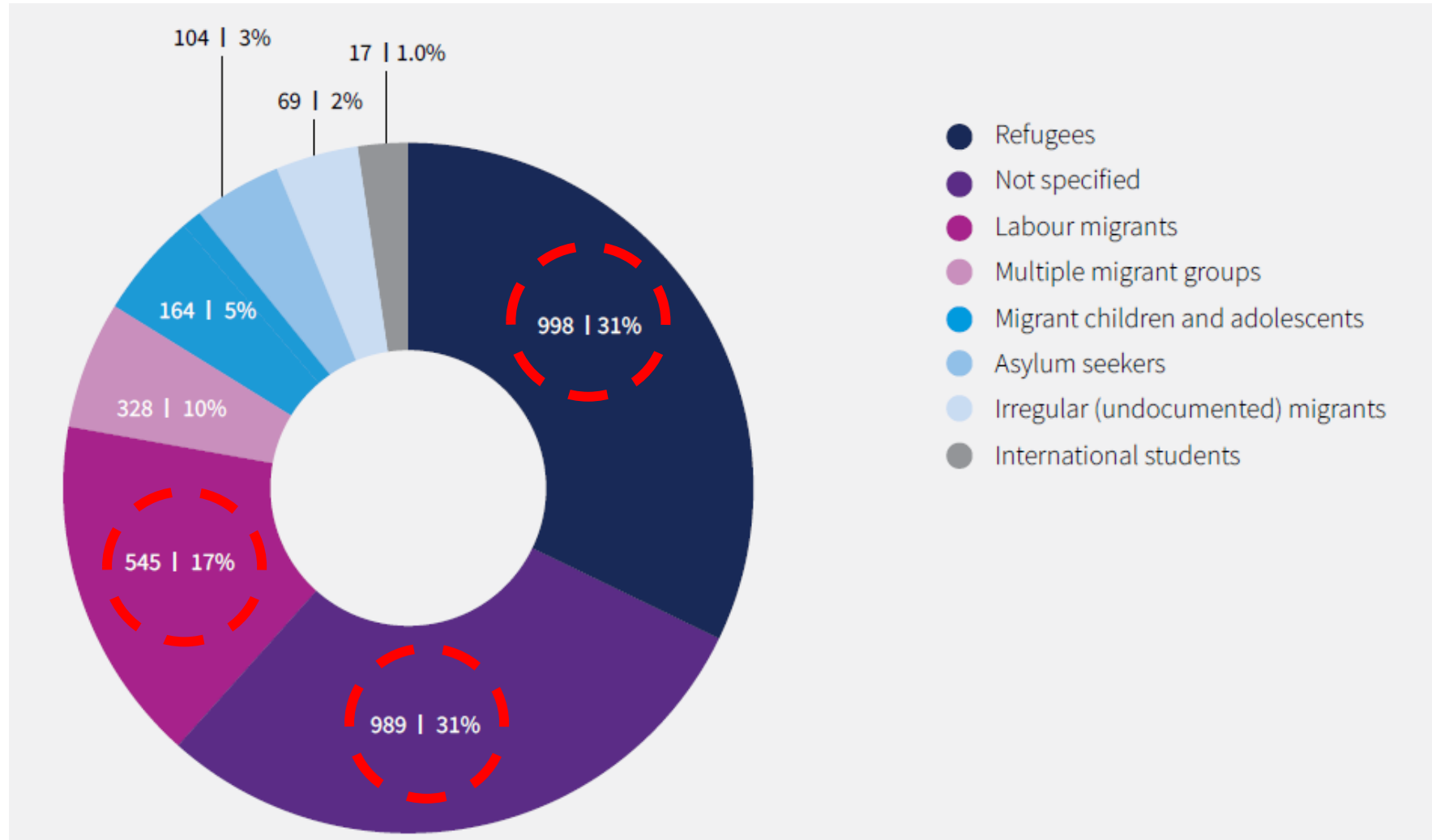
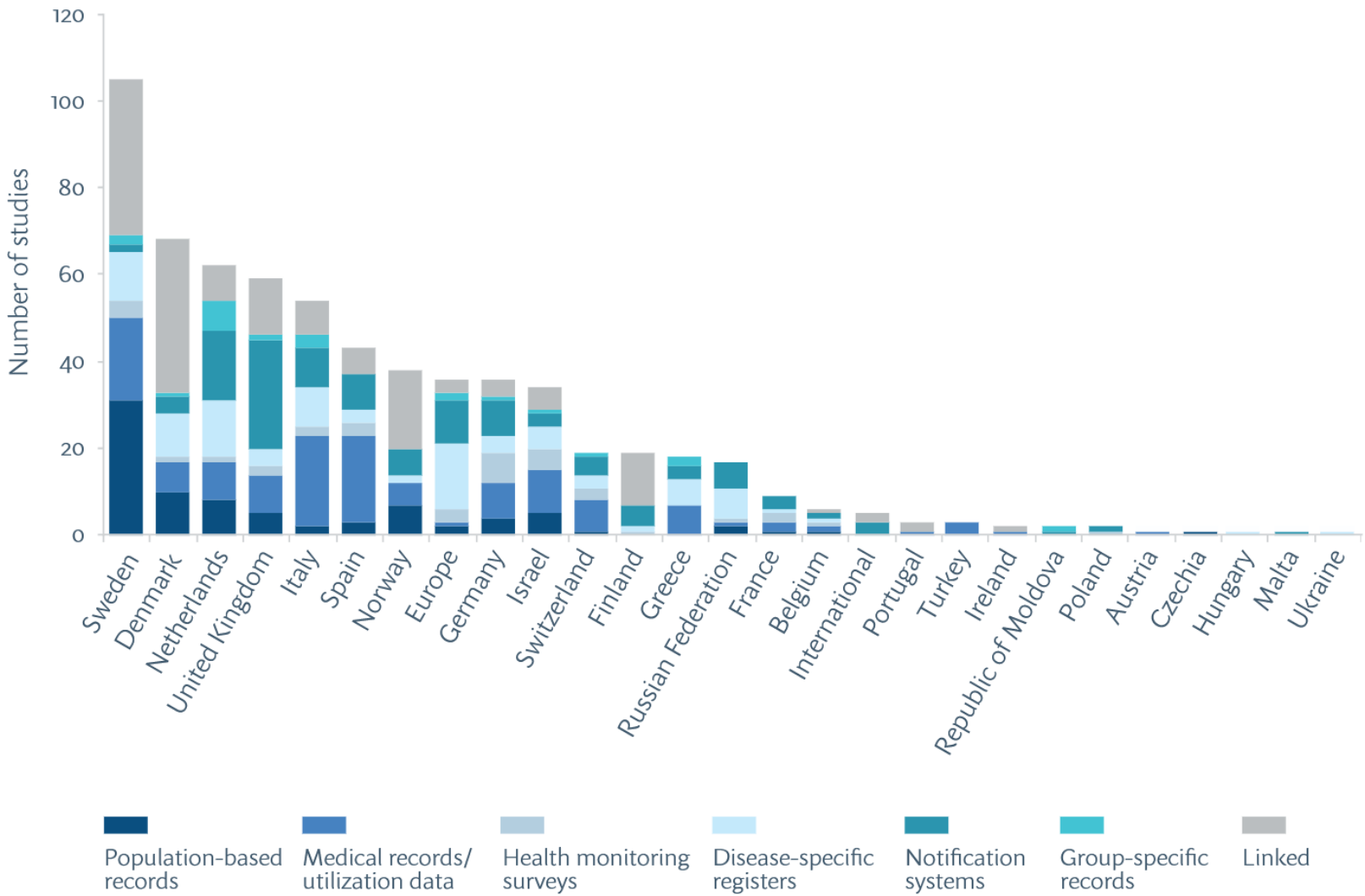


Fig. 3 Geographical distribution of retrieved documents in GMH (2000–2016). Areas with no color in the map represent regions with no data available or no research output in the field of GMH

Main groups of migrants studied



Number of studies by country and type of data source





Collection and integration of data on refugee and migrant health in the WHO European Region

Technical guidance



Support tool to strengthen health information systems

Guidance for health information system assessment
and strategy development

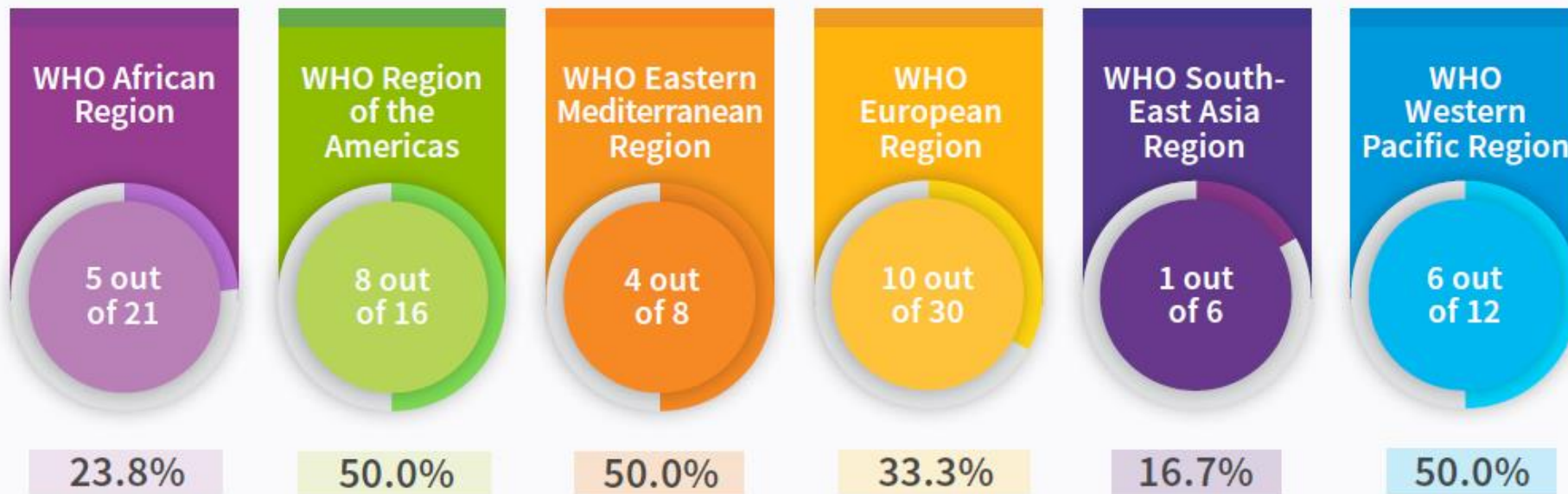
Second edition



Integration of migrant health data into national Health Information Systems (HIS) – Status Quo

- Varying definitions – not comparable
 - Migrant, immigrant, emigrant, internal Vs. External, foreign born, foreign background, first generation, second generation, refugees, asylum seekers
- **Health data available** but cannot be disaggregated by migratory status
- **Migratory status data exists**, but not connected to health data
- Stand alone data collection systems
- Data not representative of migrant population (hard to reach)
- Data protection and sharing concerns

Routine collection, analysis and dissemination of data on migratory status, as part of the national health information system, by WHO region



Source: first GAP survey results.

Opportunities



HIS Resources

Personnel:
involve migrants
, cultural
mediators

**Legislative,
Regulatory:**
Global compacts,
IHR, GDPR

**Logistics
support:**
Translation

ICT: data linkage

Indicators

Variables:
Core, &
Recommended
Integrated into
National HIS

Data Sources

**Traditional
sources + data
linkage**

**Medical
Screenings**

**Qualitative data
sources**

Big data

Data Management

Data Collection:
oversampling,
electronic
sources,
multilingual
surveys

**Data Storage &
Flow:** central data
repository,
anonymization,
safeguard against
surveillance

**Data Processing
& Analysis:** data
linkage , data
quality
assessment

Information Products

**Data
transformed
into
information :**
Joint monitoring
frameworks

**Basis for
evidence and
knowledge:**
access to data
for researchers

Dissemination and Use

**Info readily
accessible:**
publish data
regularly

**Incentives for
use of info:**
Policy forums,
websites/dashb
oards, Evidence
Briefs for Policy,
workshops



Questions and variables used in surveys to identify migratory status in global surveys

Survey	Variable name or number, label and question	Response choices	Response used to assess migratory status
MICS6	WB15/MW15: Duration of living in current place Question: How long have you been continuously living in [name of current city, town or village of residence]?	No. of years 95 = Always/since birth 99 = No response	Always/since birth (to identify non-migrants)
	WB16/MW16: Place of living prior to moving to current place Question: Just before you moved here, did you live in a city, in a town or in a rural area? (Note: used only by Gambia and Togo; other countries or areas used WB17/MWB17)	1 = City/urban 2 = Town 3 = Rural area Overseas/outside of country	Overseas/outside of country (international migrants) City/town in the country (internal migrants)
	WB17/MWB17: Province prior to moving to current place Question: Before you moved here, which region did you live in?	Places in the country 96 = Outside of (country), specify/overseas	Overseas/outside of country (international migrants) Places in the country (internal migrants)
DHS-VII	V104/MV104: Years lived in place of residence Question: How long have you been living continuously in [name of current city, town or village of residence]?	No. of years 95 = Always 96 = Visitor 97 = Inconsistent 98 = Don't know	Always (non-migrants)
	V105A/MV105A: Region of previous residence Question: Before you moved here, which [province/region/state] did you live in?	Regions of the country 96 = Abroad	Abroad (international migrants) Regions of the country (internal migrants)
ESS	Ctzcnr: Citizen of country	Yes No	Yes (non-international migrant) No (international migrant)
PISA	IMMIG: Index immigration status	Native, second generation, first generation	Native (non-immigrant) First- and second-generation (international migrant)
Examples of surveys included in BADEHOG			
Argentina (EPH 2019)	CH15: Where were you born?	Bordering country/other country	Born outside of the country
Colombia (GEIH 2019)	P756S3: Where were you born?	Other countries	Born outside of the country
Uruguay (ECH 2019)	E37: Immediate place of residence after birth	Other country	Foreign residence at birth

Migratory status variables

CORE VARIABLES (4)

- Country of Birth (COB)
- Country of Citizenship
- Year & Month of Arrival
- COB of Both Parents

RECOMMENDED VARIABLES (4)

- Reasons for Migration
- Ever Resided Abroad
- Knowledge of the official language(s) of the host country
- Legal Status

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Policy considerations



National level

Create inventory of current data sources within the national HIS

Organize a Multi-stakeholder national working group

Develop a strategy for collection/integration of migration health data within national HIS

Integrate 'core variables' into routine data collection systems

Modify/clarify regulations to allow for collection and sharing of relevant data

Introduce measures to prevent unauthorized access/use of the data

Provide training for data collectors

Establish electronic data collection systems as best practice

Consider innovative sampling strategies

Use multilingual survey instruments, interpreters and cultural mediators

Use data linkage techniques

Collect qualitative migration health data as well

Make available anonymized data in an easily accessible and usable format

Analyze & publish available data at regular frequencies & facilitate public access

Regional level

Organizations should develop guidelines and resolutions to call upon MS to collect migration health data

International and intergovernmental organizations should act as liaising agents

Integrate core migration health variables into already existing reporting frameworks

A supra national body could initiate the creation of a regional dataset for migration health

Organizations should facilitate the processes necessary to develop consensus on the definition of 'migrant'

Thank you!

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