

INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS' HEALTH

HEALTH SYSTEMS: INFORMATION SYSTEMS

SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE REVIEW SUMMARY SHEET

What will you find on this summary sheet?

This document summarizes the scientific literature regarding Information Systems in the context of health care for international migrants within the Region of the Americas. The information provided here is based on a broader scoping review of the published scientific literature regarding international migrants' health in the Region of the Americas between January 2016 and March 2023.

This summary sheet is a narrative and descriptive synthesis of main topics related to the field, with a focus on international migration and health in the Region. It does not fully represent the heterogeneity of information available internationally in terms of type of migrants, countries of origin, and study designs; however, it provides a description of general patterns often found in this literature. In this scoping review, 4 articles addressed information systems in the context of international migrants.

The results presented in the following scientific literature review summary sheet are based on selected articles from the review and is not intended to be an exhaustive review of all current literature. You can find all references in the dashboard located within PAHO's Information Platform on Health and Migration.

[Access the PAHO Information Platform on Health and Migration](#)

Are there other similar scientific literature summary sheets on international migrants' health available?

The scoping review on international migrants' health included a total of 837 academic articles categorized within three broad themes: health outcomes, health systems and health determinants. All these articles are described and presented in an interactive dashboard along with 11 other similar summary sheets are available that touch upon more specific categories within these three major themes.

MAIN FINDINGS

What can we learn from the scientific literature so far about Information Systems in the context of international immigrants' health?

Studies retrieved from the published scientific literature suggest some of the following findings:

- Health information systems collect data from the health sector, as well as other sectors to inform policies and decision-making (1). Scientific, peer-reviewed literature on health information systems focusing on migration in the Americas is very scarce and only four articles were identified.
- One study from the United States focuses on sexual and reproductive health of immigrants and identifies 29 publicly available data sources that collected data on immigration, race/ethnicity, sexual and reproductive health, and health service utilization at national-, state- and local-level. It also highlights key challenges relevant to health systems, such as restricted access to disaggregated data, variation between the type of information collected, changes in race and ethnic categories and measures of immigration and lack of detailed data on both migration and sexual and reproductive health (2).
- Another study from the United States analyzes an intervention on electronic health records to promote hypertension management in immigrant-serving primary care practices in New York City. The intervention consisted of training staff to generate hypertension patient registry routine reports and develop alerts, implementing standardized and mandatory fields within race/ethnicity, training on codes used for billing and improving reporting practices (3).
- A third study from the United States focused on diagnosis and treatment of major depressive disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder in primary care settings among Cambodian immigrant patients, through a multicomponent health information technology screening tool that used evidence-based clinical algorithms and guidelines to facilitate evidence-based care (4).
- A fourth study from Chile identifies 7 regional databases that can be used to assess international migrants' mental health: two population level surveys from Chile (2015-2016, 2016-2017), one population survey from Brazil (2008), an epidemiological study from Peru (2012), a World Health Organization led study on Global Aging and Adult Health (SAGE Wave 2) applied in Mexico (2014-2015), a population level survey from Mexico (2017) and also, a population level mental health survey from Colombia (2015) (5).
- There is use of social media platforms for COVID-19 information among some migrant populations. Some evidence associates social media use with lower participation in preventative health measures, maybe due to language barriers (6).



References

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HEALTH AND MIGRATION

MAPPING OF
SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE

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