

Migration and Health. The relationship between self assessment of health and diagnosed morbidity in young adults

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Abstract

Objective: Studies from the public health and epidemiologic fields consider self assessment of health as a solid measure of general health due to its predictive ability in relation to mortality. Although its use has been generalized to every rank of age, this finding has been confirmed exclusively for elderly populations. The present research tries to tackle the relationship between self-perception and objective measures of health from a different perspective, studying the relationship between self-perception of health and diagnosed morbidity in a young adult population. This topic will be further explored from a comparative perspective between immigrants and Spaniards, taking into account Spain's new demographic context of as a country receiving immigration.

Design: Data has been taken from the 2005 General Health survey for the city of Madrid (ESCM'5).

Results: There are differences in the way in which immigrants and Spaniards understand the scale or perception. Objective measures have in both cases a significant impact on the self-assessment of health although they are affected by a different structure of morbidities. The state of mind of the individual also has a significant impact in the way both groups assess their health but less than objective measures.

Keywords: Self-perception, migration, health, morbidity, young adults.