The health and access to care of uninsured migrants in Montreal

M8 Alliance Expert Meeting on Migrants’ and Refugees’ Health

Valéry Ridde
Public Health Research Institute
University of Montréal,

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Rome
No municipal or provincial budget to cover uninsured

Limited community initiatives, professionals who “fit them in”

Uninsured regularly billed 3x more than the rate of RAMQ services
Research Methods

Mixed method project:
Survey, qualitative sub-sample, file review
Confidential survey questionnaire (30-60 min)

Recruitment so far
633

Broad community
(n=400)

Medical clinic of Doctors of the World
(n=500)

Multidisciplinary and multilingual research team with strong public and community partners connection
Recruitment strategy

Venue-based sampling:
133 fieldwork activities, mainly in public spaces and community organizations and events

People approached so far:
16,606 (06 June 2017)

Direct contact by interviewer: 74%
Reference by a community organization: 6%
Reference by friends or family: 6%
Snowball recruitment: 5%
Communication campaign: 4%
Age of participants

- Max = 87
- Average = 41
- Min = 18

Marital Status

- Married or law spouses: 55%
- Single: 29%
- Other: 16%

35% Men
65% Women

Total N = 615
Nationalities (N=616)

On average in Quebec for 5.6 years

Without Insurance
3.2 years
Immigration Status (N=614)

- Without status: 39.2%
- With status: 60.8%

- None (Awaiting status, application...)
- None (No application submitted)
- Visitor
- Other temporary Resident
- Refugee claimant or refused refugee
- Student or dependant
- Temporary foreign worker
- Permanent resident
- Canadian citizen
- Accepted refugee
Social Determinants of Health

Level of education

- University diploma
- Non university post-secondary diploma
- Secondary school
- Primary school

- with status
- without status
Living Conditions

- **Food insecurity**: N=577
- **Working for a placement agency**: N=223
- **Substandard Housing**: N=382

(Vézina et al., 2011; Raynault et al., 2016; Maisonneauve et al., 2014)
Self reported bad/fair health status (N=624)

(Nanhou & Bernèche, 2014)
Distress (N=608-633)

All the time or most of the time, I feel:

- Nervous
- Hopeless
- So depressed that nothing could cheer me

[Graph showing percentages for each emotion with and without status]
Main Sources of Stress

All
N = 633

- Discrimination in health 46.5%
- Worried about accessing healthcare 56.5%
- Difficulty finding work 47.6%

Persons without status
N = 232

- Problems with immigration 59.5%
- Fear of consulting 52.6%
- Fear of being deported if use services 47.1%
- Fear of being identified by CBSA 43.2%
Use of health care services (N=599)

Quebec 2010:
77.4% have seen a doctor (MSSS, 2017)
8.9% went to the hospital at least once (Govt. of Canada, 2013)

62.3% did not consult a health professional in the last year or less

First line
- Pharmacy 70.4%
- Doctors of the world 21.9%
- Drop-in clinic 19.2%

Urgency
- Emergency hospital 18.2%

First line
- Pharmacy 62.3%
- Drop-in clinic 31.9%

Urgency
- Emergency hospital 14.9%
Barriers to Health Care (N=615)

70% felt the need for health services but did not get them.

27% could not get medication that was prescribed.
Limitations and Challenges

SAMPLE OF THE STUDY

- Overlapping of the population of uninsured between DoW and community sample
- Some nationalities may be over or under represented
- Hard to overcome the fears that some participants have
- Ethical challenges
Knowledge utilization

Practice goals:

★ Information and training for public and community agencies that support uninsured migrants in accessing health

★ Providing tools to improve access to resources

★ Improving the integration into curriculum of health professionals (Public Health, Social Work, Nursing, Medicine, Epidemiology)
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