Cancer mortality by migrant background in Belgium

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The Mission

Map out cancer mortality differences by migrant background in Belgium

Look into possible determinants of the observed patterns
Back to basics

“Are migrants really healthier than natives?!”

Healthy migrant effect

Salmon bias

Migration = accelerated epidemiological transition
An accelerated epidemiological transition

Non-western country

Western country

Increased duration of stay/generation

Communicable diseases

Health advantage

Chronic diseases
Why cancer?

Burden of mortality and morbidity

Geographical variation

Hints about aetiology

Multicausality
Mind the gap

No focus on site-specific cancer

Methodological heterogeneity

Migrants from industrialized countries

Other factors
Why (brave) little Belgium?

- Belgian at birth: 81%
- Attained Belgian nationality: 8%
- Foreign nationality: 11%

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Marokko; 7,0%

Italië; 13,2%

Nederland; 12,0%

Frankrijk; 12,8%

Spanje; 4,6%

Duitsland; 3,3%

Portugal; 3,2%

Verenigd Koninkrijk; 2,1%

Andere lidstaten van de EU-15; 3,1%

Andere landen van de 12 nieuwe lidstaten van de EU; 1,6%

Bulgarije; 2,0%

Roemenië; 4,3%

Polen; 5,1%

Turkije; 3,2%

Andere landen Europa buiten EU; 4,3%

Landen uit Noord-Afrika; 1,4%

Landen uit Sub-Saharaans Afrika; 6,1%

Aziatische landen; 6,9%

Noord-Amerikaanse landen; 1,2%

Latijns-Amerikaanse landen; 1,8%

Oceanische landen; 0,1%

Vluchtelingen, staatlozen en onbepaald; 0,7%
Data

Census 2001

- SEP
- Socio-demographics

Cause-specific mortality & Emigration (Mortality & Population Registries)

2001 2011
Migrant background

Nationality at birth

Italians, French, Dutch, Turkish & Moroccans

Generation
Crunching the numbers

Men aged 25-84

Indirect standardization

Poisson regression models

Age

Urbanicity

Socioeconomic Position

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All cancer indirectly standardized mortality rates, men aged 25-84, Belgium (2001-2011)
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All cancer mortality rate ratios, men aged 25-84, Belgium (2001-2011)
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Observations & Remarks

A cancer mortality transition?

Where & how you live

“Merely” mortality
Migrant background = determinant of differential cancer mortality?
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