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Immigration and risk of sexually transmitted diseases, United States: The national health interview survey 2000-2020

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Objectives: The purpose of the study was to investigate differentials between immigrant women and US born native women on selected sexually transmitted diseases in the United States.

Method: Data utilized were from the US National Health Interview Survey, 2000 and 2019. Logistic regression models fit to the data, and analyses were limited to women between 18 and 49. This age group was selected due to childbearing potential.

Findings: It was observed that immigrant women had much higher odds of reporting sexually transmitted diseases than their US born counterparts even after adjusting for the possibly confounding effects of socioeconomic status. Age was significantly associated with STDs with a higher concentration in the age group 18 to 24. Among immigrant women, the odds of STDs varied depending on region of origin, housing tenure and duration of US residence. Among native born women, single status was associated with sexually transmitted diseases, but housing tenure was irrelevant.

Among all women marital status was significantly associated

with greater odds of sexually transmitted diseases. Single status had an especially pronounced association.

Conclusion: It was concluded that there are differences in odds of getting sexually transmitted diseases by immigration/nativity status. The association does not seem to be mitigated by socioeconomic status. Policies about reducing morbidity by education are likely to be successful, but more attention may need to be placed on identifying whether some cultural differences may be at work for immigrant women.

Keywords: Immigration, Nativity, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, US.

Speaker Biography

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