

POPULATION MOBILITY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Apostolopoulos • Sönmez
EDITORS

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Population Mobility and Infectious Disease moves beyond traditional behavioral and demographic theories of disease diffusion to focus on larger issues of social ecology and public health. With depth rarely seen in the international literature, it explores the complex and varied roles of mobile, transient, and displaced populations in the worldwide spread of airborne, waterborne, and sexually transmitted infections.

The book argues that while biomedical events cause disease, social forces such as poverty and marginalization magnify them by giving them new opportunities to take hold. Population mobility—either voluntary or forced—brings contact between populations with different disease prevalence rates; outbreaks in turn are compounded by inequalities in access to medical care. From Katrina to Darfur, and from influenza to AIDS, an expert panel of health and social scientists bring the socioeconomic context of epidemics into clear focus.

- Historical perspectives on migration, development, and epidemics
- Social resources and health barriers among migrant groups
- The role of mobile labor populations (e.g., migrant workers, truckers, the military) in disease transmission
- War, refugees, resettlement: health effects on the world scale
- Natural disasters and climate change: their local and global disease impact
- Leisure travel and health risks, from spring-break binges to commercial sex tourism
- Methodological and design issues confronting researchers
- The politics of prevention: ethical concerns in migration-related illness

The unique scope of this book makes it as timely as the next health crisis and relevant to a gamut of interrelated fields, including public and international health, epidemiology, psychology, sociology, anthropology, human rights, and development and planning. By expanding concepts, examining trends, and pinpointing areas for intervention, it is a critical resource for the academic, research, practice, and policy sectors.

“...At a point of history where the only constant is the endless and growing movement of populations, in both frequency and numbers, *Population Mobility and Infectious Disease* brings to the fore a long-overdue comprehensive work of prime value for students, researchers, and practitioners...”

—From the Foreword by Janet Hatcher Roberts
Director, Migration Health Department
International Organization for Migration

PUBLIC HEALTH

ISBN 978-0-387-47667-4



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Library of Congress Control Number: 2006940353

ISBN-10: 0-387-47667-9
ISBN-13: 978-0-387-47667-4

eISBN-10: 0-387-49711-0
eISBN-13: 978-0-387-49711-2

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9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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Foreword

Globalization has created new challenges to our paradigm of population movement, health and disease, challenges which call us to find new approaches, models and perspectives to address global inequities and the impact these inequities have on migrant populations. Governments, intergovernmental organizations and other stakeholders have increasingly recognized the influence of mobility on the disease burden of populations, identifying factors at different stages of the migration process.

Population mobility and the health of those who move are increasingly a concern for public health professionals around the world. Public health professionals, policy makers and governments alike are finding that they are not only addressing the traditional diseases, including infectious diseases, but also new and emerging diseases. Within such contexts, the critical links to the significant determinants of health such as poverty, equity literacy and environment can not be overlooked.

Much has been accomplished, yet more can be done. Appropriate application of public health tools and research can be used to strengthen national health systems to address issues relating to migrants' health. This groundbreaking book, *Population Mobility and Infectious Disease*, delves into several variations of population mobility (e.g. labour migration, forced migration, internal migration, disasters, trafficking, military, and tourists) and discusses their effects on the health of migrants and receiving countries. Readers who are not familiar with migration issues will find this book an excellent resource. In addition, this volume can be particularly helpful in the identification of public health interventions for mobile populations.

Contributors to this fine volume include some of the most distinguished scholars in the field. Throughout the book, the work of governments, international organizations, academe, research institutions and individual researchers are highlighted. This is of particular significance as global intersectoral collaboration is critical to building effective, sustainable and evidence-based solutions for future management of migration health.

At a point of history where the only constant is the endless and growing movement of populations, in both frequency and numbers, *Population Mobility*

and Infectious Disease brings to the fore a long-overdue comprehensive work of prime value for students, researchers, and practitioners. This book has the added potential to become a catalyst for additional and more authoritative works on the state of health, dynamics, and management of mobile populations around the globe.

Janet Hatcher Roberts
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February 2007

Preface

In an increasingly globalized world, humans and materials—transported by automobiles, cargo ships and airplanes in a matter of hours—are the most effective vectors of infectious pathogens. Over the course of human history, some of the deadliest disease outbreaks have been traced back to one type or another mobile population or to transport routes. In this context, our own intimate research involvement with several mobile populations in the U.S. such as vacation travelers, long-haul truck drivers, and floating Latin farmworkers as well as thrilling fieldwork with pastoralists (nomads) in southern Ethiopia brought into light the critical role of the complex spectrum of population mobility and infectious disease.

This book is long overdue and is intended to fill a serious gap in the international public health literature. It is the first transdisciplinary volume that provides a comprehensive overview of what happens to the health of people when they migrate from countrysides to cities, from one city to another, or from one country to another, regardless of the voluntary or forced nature of that movement. One of the major strengths of this book lies in its transdisciplinary approach—spanning across anthropological, demographic, economic, epidemiological, geographical, historical, legal, mathematical, political, psychological, sociological perspectives.

In the over two years that it has taken to complete this book, it has overcome several hurdles and gone through numerous phases. This book would never have materialized without the collective support of all individuals and organizations involved. It was a great challenge to locate, commission, and coordinate high-caliber international scholars and practitioners in various facets of public health. However, the quality of their work made the review and revision process highly enjoyable tasks.

We would like to extend our thanks to Bill Tucker at Springer publishers for his encouragement, guidance, and especially his immense patience, understanding and support during this process. We would also like to thank our colleagues Rich Rothenberg, Jennie Kronenfeld, Dale Stratford, Mario Bronfman, Rebecca Clark, Vivian Levy, Shabbir Ismail, Johan Helland, Tadesse Wuhib, Aklilu Kidanu, Keith Bletzer, Hailom Banteyerga, and

Lucia McLendon for their valuable advice and assistance during various phases of the project. Last, but certainly not least, we extend our heartfelt thanks to all the U.S. truckers, Latin migrant farmworkers, Ethiopian pastoralists, and U.S. spring-breakers who taught us so much.

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