

THE UNIVERSITY *of York*



HOW CAN WE PROMOTE THEIR HEALTH IF WE DON'T KNOW
WHO THEY ARE?

DESCRIBING THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH OF IMMIGRANTS IN CHILE

Baltica Cabieses, Helena Tunstall and Kate Pickett

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OUTLINE

The context: Chile



What do we know about immigrants in Chile?



What can we add? Study results



Discussion of results

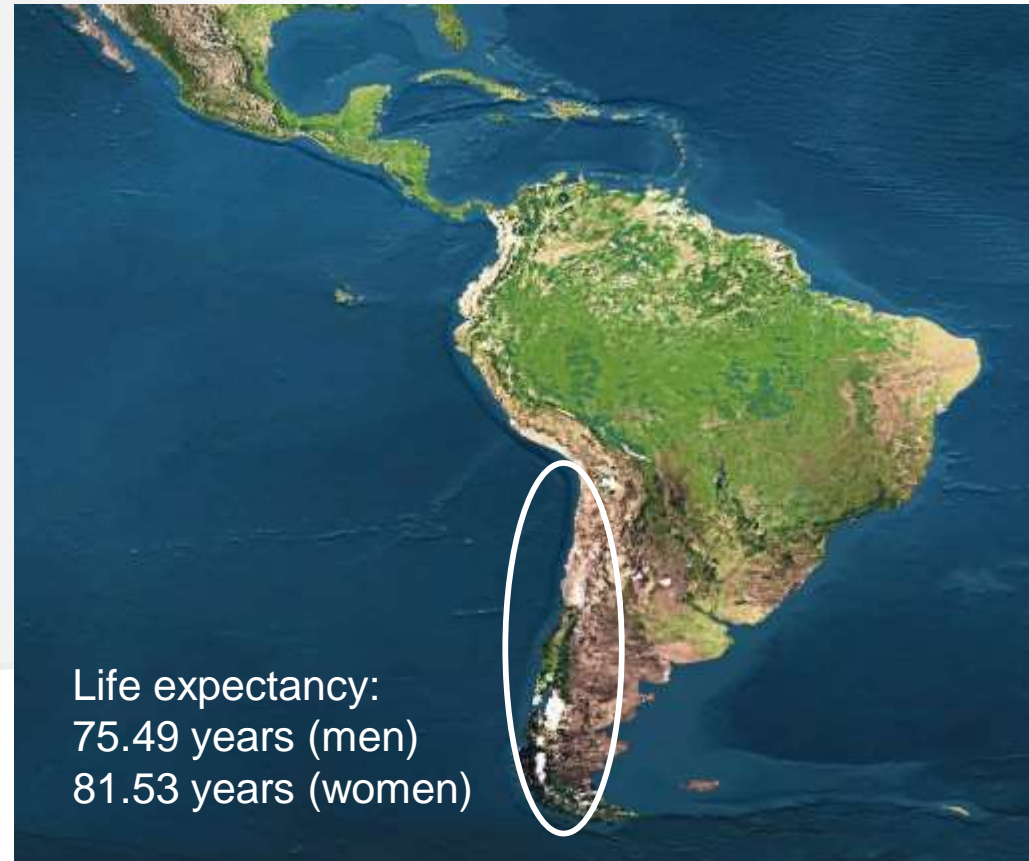
THE CONTEXT: CHILE

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE
IMMIGRANTS IN CHILE?

STUDY
RESULTS

FINAL
DISCUSSION

- A middle-income country currently experiencing a demographic and epidemiological transition
- Stable economic growth in recent decades
- Located in the south-west area of South America



Life expectancy:
75.49 years (men)
81.53 years (women)

Bordered by

Santiago, the capital,
where 40% total
population lives

Only 13.40% of the
population living in
rural areas (CASEN 2003)



THE CHILEAN HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

- Chile had a public health system prior to Health Reform in 1981
- Since 1981: Mixed system including
 - Public (a social and solidarity-based public fund called FONASA)
 - Private (competitive and individual-based firms called ISAPREs)
- Individuals right to access these different systems depends on their income

72% public, 16% private, 3% other, 9% not registered (CASEN 2003)

- Chile has experienced a progressive improvement in the health status of its population in the past decade
- But not all socio-economic groups have benefited or experienced the same degree of improvement and significant inequalities persist in the country
- Further health reform has taken place in the last decade:
The new Chilean Health Reform began in 2005

Equity in health has become a major issue in Chile and significant achievements have been made in recent years, but no specific policies have been introduced during the most recent Health Reform to protect and promote the health of the immigrants

At the same time

Research has been conducted in the country in the last decade, mostly qualitative, describing the poor living conditions and urgent health needs of some immigrants in Chile

(E.g. Martínez 2003, Stefoni 2005, IOM & Chilean Ministry of Health 2008a-b, Nunez-Carrasco, 2008)

- International immigration to Chile has not been large in scale, immigrants comprise 1.6-1.8% of the total population, but it has been significant for services' innovation and economic growth
- South American populations have increased their rate of immigration to Chile, accounting for 67.8% of total immigrants, most are from Peru, Argentina, Bolivia and Ecuador

Immigrant's characteristics:

On average young,
with a decreasing rate of
professionals,
economically active,
living in Santiago and other
urban cities,
and a growing rate of women
migration (handmaids,
industry and maid services)



Cross-sectional secondary analysis of data from a national survey conducted in Chile in 2006 :

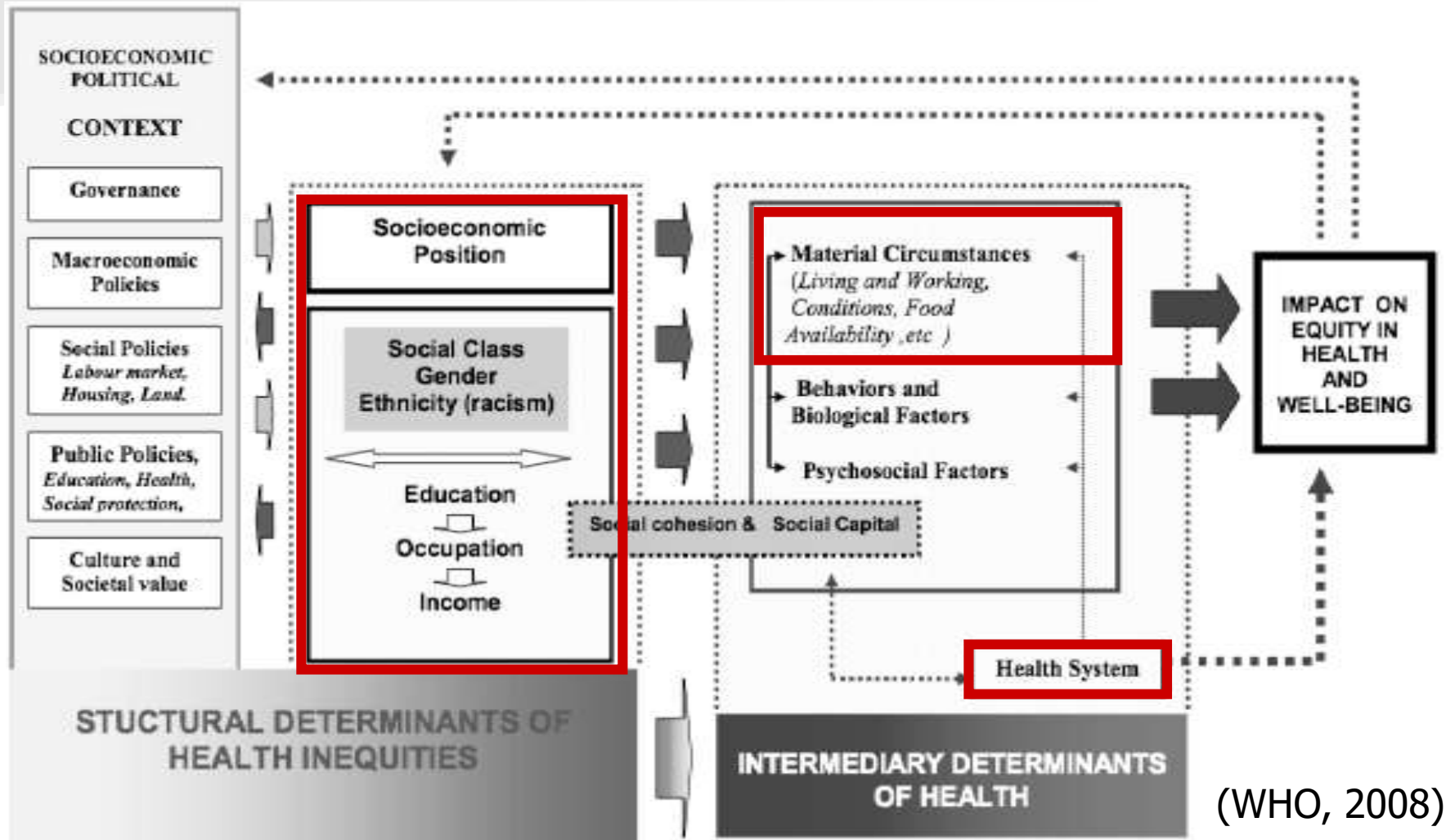
The CASEN survey (**C**Aracterización **S**ocio-**E**conómica **N**acional)

- National population based survey carried out by the Chilean Ministry of Planning since 1987
- 2006 version included questions on migration status for the first time
- Sample size: 268,873 participants from 73,720 households

THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH?

“Social conditions in which people live and work and that affect their health;
in other words, the social characteristics within which life has place”

(Marmot & Wilkinson 1999, Tarlov 1996, McGinnis, Williams-Russo & Knickman, 2002)



Migratory status	Percentage %
International immigrant	0.96
Missing values (did not report migration status)	0.67

Among those who reported being immigrants:

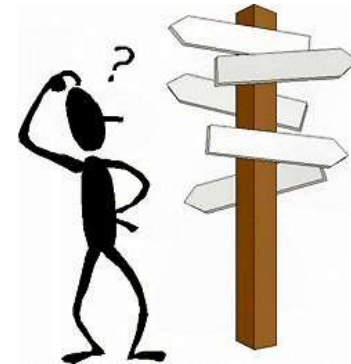
- Mean period of 11 years in Chile, but a third had lived less than a year in Chile

Country of origin	Percentage %
Peru	27.9
Argentina	26.1
Bolivia	5.7
Ecuador	5.0

Among those who reported being immigrants:

Different health outcomes were analysed...

- Disability
- Any chronic condition/cancer past year
- Any hospitalization past year,
- Any mental health treatment last 3 months.



No clear association was found between the health outcomes and relevant separate socioeconomic variables like income, education and occupation.

Moreover, immigrants were somewhat polarised by their socioeconomic status (SES).

Therefore, cluster analysis was adopted to group them by their socioeconomic status and to explore more meaningful measures of SES for later interpretation of results.

WHO ARE THE INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANTS IN CHILE?

When grouping them by socio-economic status (SES)*:

Better SES Worse SES

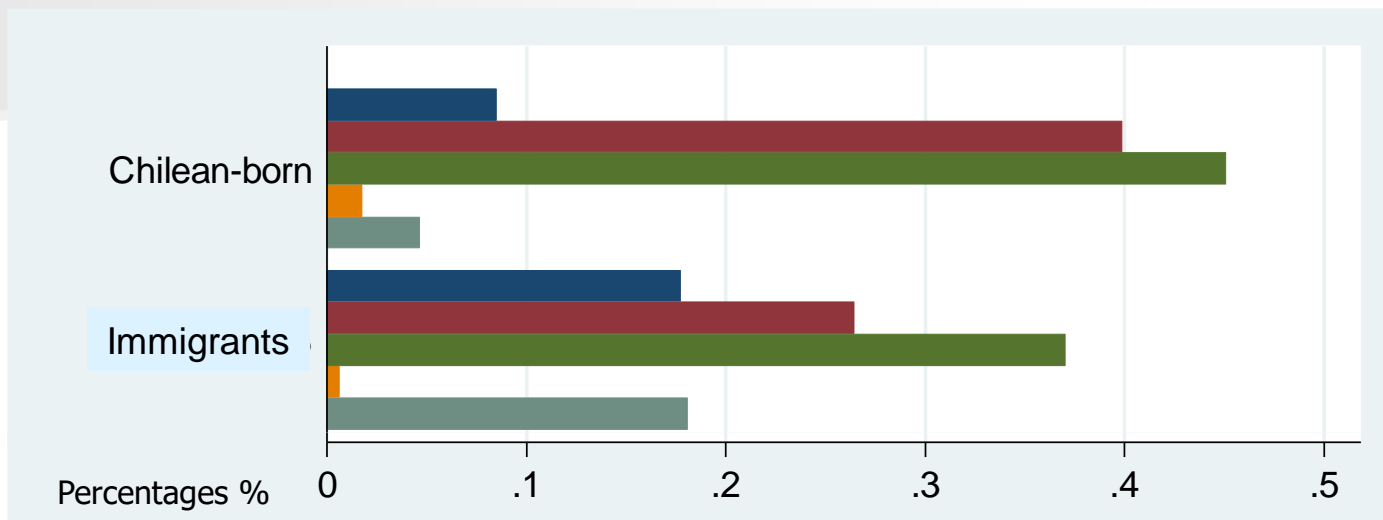
High SES	Medium SES	Low SES
48% women	54% women	60% women
94% 16-65 years	All age categories	30% < 15 years
60% professional	All except University level	Up to high school only
60% richest quintile	>50% quintiles 3 & 4	2 poorest quintiles
63% employed	64% employed	42% employed
8% managers 59% private sector	All categories	No heads or managers

* Hierarchical cluster analysis combining income, educational level and being employed 15

WHO ARE THE INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANTS IN CHILE?

Health Outcomes	High SES % (95%CI)	Medium SES % (95%CI)	Low SES % (95%CI)	Chilean-born population % (95%CI)
Disability	2 (1-5)	4 (2-6)	6 (3-9)	7 (6-7)
Chronic condition or cancer	3 (1-6)	3 (1-6)	5 (2-12)	6 (5-6)
Hospitalization or surgery	7 (5-11)	5 (3-9)	3 (1-5)	6 (5-6)
Mental health attention	16 (11-21)	12 (9-16)	15 (9-24)	16 (16-17)

Access to different types of health provision by migration status in Chile, CASEN 2006



- 1 International immigrants have a higher rate of “no provision” and “other provision” than the Chilean-born

OTHER FINDINGS AMONG INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANTS IN CHILE...

When conducting statistical models to explore the independent relationship between each provision type and the different social determinants of health [socio-demographic, socio-economic, material living standards]:

- **Chilean-born:** wide range of social determinants affecting their access to the different health provision types [sex, age, living standards, income, education]
- **International immigrants:** access to health care mostly affected by their socio-economic status [income and educational level in particular]

TAKE HOME MESSAGES

1. Who are the international immigrants living in Chile?
2. What does this study add to the current knowledge on immigrants in Chile?
3. What do we still need to understand about international immigrants in Chile?



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