Creating safe spaces, addressing health inequalities

If individuals
Health is promoted, their illness is prevented
With support from:
Their condition is treated
Throughout my pregnancy, I did not visit a doctor. I was afraid because I was undocumented. So I continued my work as a cleaner. I went to the hospital only when the pain was unbearable....The labour was already advanced. There was so much blood....I had a caesarean section, but the baby did not survive. I have a photograph of her. I named her Claire. I stayed in the hospital for two weeks. During that time, nurses and doctors told me I’m in the country “illegally” and should be reported. A short time later, the police came and said that I must leave the country.

Sam is an undocumented child. He and his family live in a country where all children have the right to free vaccinations. His parents would like him to be vaccinated, but they are reluctant to take him to see a health professional because they don’t have confidence that health providers won’t contact the police or other authorities. In the end, Sam’s vaccinations are delayed and he does not have the regular medical check-ups that other children his age receive.

Based on:
Based on:
Nordic School of Public Health Report (2014)

Who is an Undocumented Migrant?
Undocumented (or irregular) migrants are people who do not have authorisation to stay in the country they are in. Some entered the country irregularly. Many had authorisation at some point, and later lost it - perhaps due to an unsuccessful application for international protection, expiry or loss of a permit that is dependent on a particular job or personal relationship.
Health systems are NOT WORKING FOR ALL

How should the health system work?

They seek HELP

Health is promoted, their illness is PREVENTED

Their condition is TREATED

What happens to people without a valid residence permit (undocumented migrants)?

They suffer TOO LONG

They need costly EMERGENCY CARE

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**HEALTH CARE SECTOR**

- Care is provided based on **need**, not immigration status.
- Health care practitioners pursue **medical ethics**, and are not coopted for immigration enforcement.
- Patient data is not shared with migration authorities without consent.
- All patients feel safe to seek health care.

**MIGRATION AUTHORITIES**

- Authorities are trained to respect the firewall.
- Immigration enforcement does not interfere with access to health care.
- Safe spaces are respected.
- Health professionals' **independence** and patients' **privacy** upheld.

**THE FIREWALL:**

Clear separation of roles
WHAT CAN WE ACHIEVE?

...for everyone’s benefit

- Upholding medical ethics
- Addressing health inequalities
- Advancing public health goals, including prevention
- Promoting more efficient health systems
- Respecting human rights
- Fairer migration governance
- Resisting racism & discrimination
They suffer.

What happens to people without a valid residence permit (undocumented migrants)?

They seek.

If individuals

Health is promoted,

their illness is prevented.

Their condition is treated.

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Health inequality due to immigration status AFFECTS LIVES

FIREWALL and HEALTH LEARN AND SHARE

WWW.PICUM.ORG

Find out how the 'firewall' works in practice, and what you can do

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