

CULTURE SENSITIVE ANALYSIS OF PSYCHOSOMATIC COMPLAINTS IN MIGRANTS IN GERMANY

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Background: To ensure an adequate health care of migrants, differentiated information on the association of cultural background and migration related factors and psychosomatic complaints are necessary.

Method: Cross-sectional questionnaire based survey regarding psychosomatic complaints of migrants from Turkey (n=77), Italy (n=95), and Spain (n=67) and ethnic German resettled from the states of the former Soviet Union (n= 196). Questionnaires distributed by non-health specific counselling agencies of welfare associations.

Results: The cultural background was a relevant factor for psychosomatic complaints, showing Turkish and ethnic German resettled migrants a higher likeliness, also compared to a sample of age corresponding Germans. Whereas Spanish and Italian migrants showed a lower risk for psychosomatic complaints. Also gender, feeling unwell in Germany and fatalism showed a significant association with psychosomatic complaints.

Conclusion: Migrants in Germany do not have per se a higher risk for psychosomatic complaints. A distinct differentiation by cultural background is necessary.