

Annelene Wengler  
SOCLIFE research training group

University of Cologne  
Hoeningen Weg 115  
50969 Cologne  
Germany

0221- 470 5497  
wengler@wiso.uni-koeln.de

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## **Abstract**

for the annual Autumn Meeting of the Research Group „Young Demography“:  
**Mortality and morbidity trends in Germany and Eastern Europe**

### **Title: Health in the context of migration**

The interrelation of socioeconomic status and health has been well established in social science research. Recently the focus shifted to observing inequalities in health status for specific groups of the population which seem to have higher risks of ill health. One of those groups is migrants. The health status of people with migrant background could not be clearly identified as better or as worse than the status of the native population so far. Since their socioeconomic status is on average lower than the status of the native population, one would expect that the health status of people with migrant background is also lower. But some evidence implies that the health status of migrants is better, especially shortly after migrating, since migrants are often young and healthy when they move from one country to another (healthy migrant effect). Assumably this health advantage decreases after a few years though.

The following research question is addressed in the presentation:

**To what extent and through which mediating effects does the health status of people with migrant background compared to the native population vary in Germany?**

This question is twofold. First it needs to be elaborated whether and to what degree the health status of people with migrant background and natives varies. The second step would be to investigate what determines those differences. Those can be factors like health related behavior (smoking, drinking, physical activities), socioeconomic status, and living and working conditions. When analyzing the relation of health and migrant status it is also necessary to take into account the heterogeneity of the migrant population. Besides the time since migration, variations in health status may also result from differences in: country of origin, reasons for migrating, and the statuses received in the host country. The aim of the presentation is to give a comprehensive overview of the health status of people with migrant background in Germany.