Nativity and health in the Russian Federation: Is there a healthy migrant effect?

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What is the importance of nativity for variations in health in the Russia? In recent decades, Russia has experienced serious declines in health, while also serving as an important migrant destination. Do migrants report better health than native born Russians? Using the 2004 Gender and Generations Survey, I examine the relationship between country of origin and self assessed health, chronic health conditions, and reported physical limitations. I find differences in migrant selectivity by sending region, with migrants from Slavic countries and Kazakhstan displaying a health disadvantage relative to the native born, while non-CIS and Central Asian natives displaying health advantages. In multivariate models controlling for socio-demographic, cultural, and resource indicators, migration is weak, while sex (Male) and age (Younger) emerge as positive health determinants. Non-Russian native language is significantly associated with better health outcomes across the models. Individuals with non-Slavic backgrounds, born in and moving into Russia, display better health.

Table One. Health Indictors in the Russian Federation, by Nativity and Region of Origin, Gender and Generations Survey 2004

Nativity Status/ Region of Birth	Very Good or Good Self Assessed Health	Any Identified Chronic Health Issues	Any Self-Reported Physical Impairment	N
Native Born	29.3%	41.7%	8.4%	10,125
Foreign Born	30.4%	40.8%	7.3%	1,113
-----of which:				
Born in Slavic Regions	23.8%	47.6%	9.3%	462
Born in Caucasus Region	37.2%	37.2%	9.3%	118
Born in Central Asian Region	34.9%	35.4%	4.2%	192
Born in Kazakhstan	28.9%	38.6%	5.7%	210
Born in Baltic Region	26.7%	40.0%	0%	15
Born in Other Region	45.3%	30.8%	6%	117
TOTAL	29.5%	41.6%	8.3%	11,238

Table Two. Logistic Regression Models Assessing the Link between Migration, Socio-demographic Characteristics, Resources and Self Assessed Health, Log Odds, Russian GGS 2004

Independent Variables	Model One : Migration Origin	Model Two: Migration and Socio-Demographic Variables	Model Three: Migration, Socio-Demographic Variables, and Resource Measures
Migrant from Outside CIS	1.751** (.170)	1.182 (.205)	1.186 (.205)
Migrant from Slavic Regions	.757* (.107)	1.030 (.132)	1.036 (.132)
Migrant from Central Asia	1.183 (152)	1.165 (.179)	1.181 (.180)
Migrant from Caucasus	1.151 (.188)	.768 (.220)	.821 (.222)
Migrant from Kazakhstan	.864 (.154)	.712+ (.162)	.705+ (.179)
Male		2.081*** (.049)	2.068*** (.049)
Age		.920*** (,002)	.922*** (.002)
Non-Russian Ethnicity		1.012 (.111)	.996 (.111)
Non-Russian Language		2.458*** (.127)	2.548*** (.127)
Few sources of social support			.713*** (.078)
Significant difficulty making ends meet			.655*** (.061)
Model R-Square		.354	.361
N	11,261	11.261	11,261

Table Three. Logistic Regression Models Assessing the Link between Migration, Socio-demographic Characteristics, Resources and Chronic Conditions, Log Odds, Russian GGS 2004

Independent Variables	Model One : Migration Origin	Model Two: Migration and Socio-Demographic Variables	Model Three: Migration, Socio-Demographic Variables, and Resource Measures
Migrant from Outside CIS	.657* (.184)	.891 (.200)	.890 (.200)
Migrant from Slavic Regions	1.248* (.098)	1.021 (.110)	1.016 (.110)
Migrant from Central Asia	.772+ (154)	.784 (.168)	.784 (.168)
Migrant from Caucasus	.847 (.186)	1.158 (.205)	1.144 (.205)
Migrant from Kazakhstan	.910 (.114)	1.014 (.158)	1.012 (.158)
Male		.586*** (.045)	.588*** (.045)
Age		1.052*** (.0021)	1.052*** (.001)
Non-Russian Ethnicity		1.005 (.098)	1.011 (.098)
Non-Russian Language		.567*** (.117)	.564*** (.117)
Few sources of social support			1.159* (.057)
Significant difficulty making ends meet			1.081 (.050)
Model R-Square	.029	.204	.204
N	**11,259**	**11,259**	**11,259**

Table Four. Logistic Regression Models Assessing the Link between Migration, Socio-demographic Characteristics, Resources and Reported Limitation, Log Odds, Russian GGS 2004

Independent Variables	Model One : Migration Origin	Model Two: Migration and Socio-Demographic Variables	Model Three: Migration, Socio-Demographic Variables, and Resource Measures
Migrant from Outside CIS	.522 (.437)	.787 (.447)	.803 (.447)
Migrant from Slavic Regions	1.138 (.179)	.914 (.193)	.889 (.194)
Migrant from Central Asia	.546+ (.368)	.554 (.409)	.553 (.409)
Migrant from Caucasus	1.115 (.331)	1.719 (.347)	1.595 (.349)
Migrant from Kazakhstan	.752 (.306)	1.007 (.315)	.978 (.317)
Male		1.135 (.08)	1.178* (.081)
Age		1.063*** (.003)	1.061*** (.003)
Non-Russian Ethnicity		.882 (.193)	.917 (.192)
Non-Russian Language		.837 (.224)	.811 (.224)
Few sources of social support			1.470*** (.093)
Significant difficulty making ends meet			1.566*** (.083)
Model R-Square	.002	.143	.153
N	11,256	11,256	11,256

References