

Immigration, health and social participation: A qualitative content analysis

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Introduction: Building health and community services that address the needs of immigrants is becoming increasingly necessary across the world. However, researchers have explored immigrants' involvement in health, community and social activities in different ways. There is limited focus on the participation of voluntary immigrants and definition of participation in the academic literature requiring to be addressed.

Objectives: The study aimed to address this gap by exploring how studies have approached immigrants' participation in community and health services.
Methods: A qualitative content analysis of literature method was applied. 17 articles were included, sourced through the major databases (e.g., PubMed, ASSIA, PsycINFO, AMED). Data were analysed through content analysis.

Results: Participation was mostly identified by measuring the number of attendances in health related services or self-report in health related or social situations. Four themes were identified: aspects of participation, contributing factors to participation, approaches to study immigrants' participation, outcomes of participation, non-participation.

Conclusions: Participation was mostly considered through attendance and physical presence. Subjective experience of participation and its value in health and well-being of immigrants have not been addressed in most included publications. Enabling factors such as positive attitude of the immigrants, and providing support to immigrants can facilitate their participation pattern.