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Cancer by migrant background in Belgium

Van Hemelrijck, Wanda

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1. A lower socioeconomic position among migrants does not necessarily equate to more detrimental cancer outcomes compared to native Belgians. (Chapter 2 & 4)
2. Aside from individual-level determinants, the population composition of the neighbourhood in which individuals reside is associated with tobacco-related cancer mortality. (Chapter 3)
3. Young Moroccan breast cancer patients have lower survival than Belgian patients, which cannot be attributed to lower participation in population screening programmes organised for women aged 50 to 69 years old. (Chapter 4)
4. Cancer incidence, survival, and mortality rates that vary from Belgian natives for first generation migrants often no longer differ for the second generation. (Chapter 2 & 4)
5. Colorectal and infection-related cancer risks differ by duration of stay among migrant men in Belgium, whereas the risk of non-cardia stomach cancer appears 'pre-programmed' and is less subject to change after migration. (Chapter 5)
6. Cancer outcomes by migrant background vary by cancer site, country of origin, and gender. This diversity in outcomes seems largely due to different exposures to infectious carcinogens and behavioural patterns between the country of origin and Belgium.
7. Belgium is a high-risk setting for cancer, and the population in need of cancer prevention and care is growing and diversifying.
8. Future research should examine the behavioural differences suggested by the identified patterns in cancer outcomes by migrant background more closely.
9. There is a need for cancer policy to consider the determinants of cancer risk and survival at different societal levels to be able to reduce the cancer burden in Belgium across population groups.