

Access to health care for undocumented women: research and practical implications

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Background

- CH: 75'000-300'000 undocumented migrants
- Economically driven
- Domestic labour > construction
- Multiple communities
- Constant changes in epidemiology



Geneva

- 7-15'000
- Women predominate (63%)
- Child bearing age
- 3 generations
- GE: latin american > asian > european > west african
- Possible access to health insurance, no subsidy

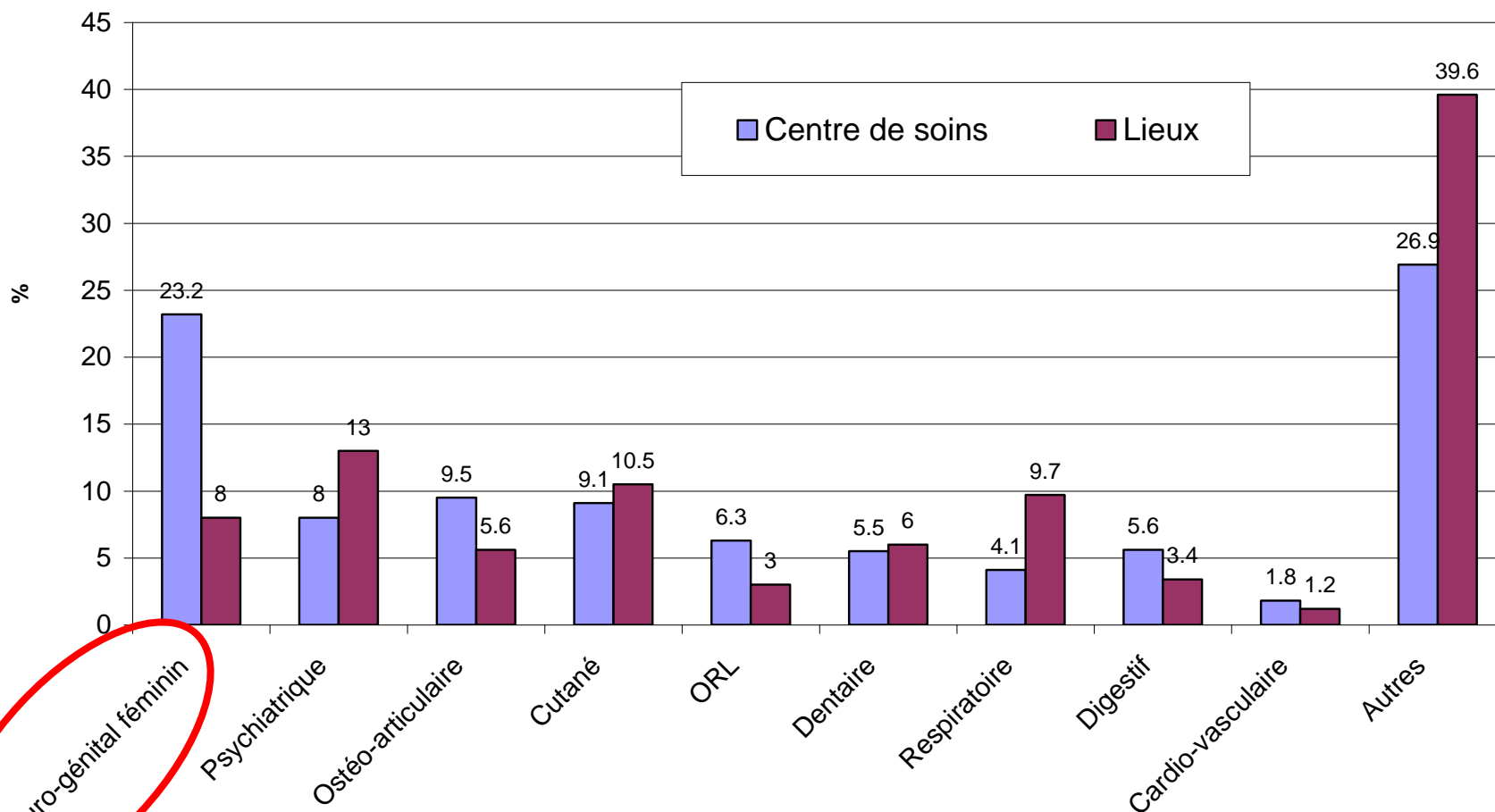


UMSCO

- 1996: unité mobile de soins communautaires
- Access to global health care
- 10'000 consultations per year (~3000 pts)
- Gate-keeping towards specialists

Reason for consulting

Motifs de consultations Umsco 2006: centre de soins vs. lieux d'accueil





Female Health

- Access to gyneco-obst. wards, HUG
- Family planning
- Private practitioners
- Fondation genevoise pour le dépistage du cancer du sein



Reproductive health

- ~100 pregnancies
- ~ 60-80 births
- > 150 voluntary termination of pregnancy in Hospital
- Frequent reports of self abortion (cytotec®)



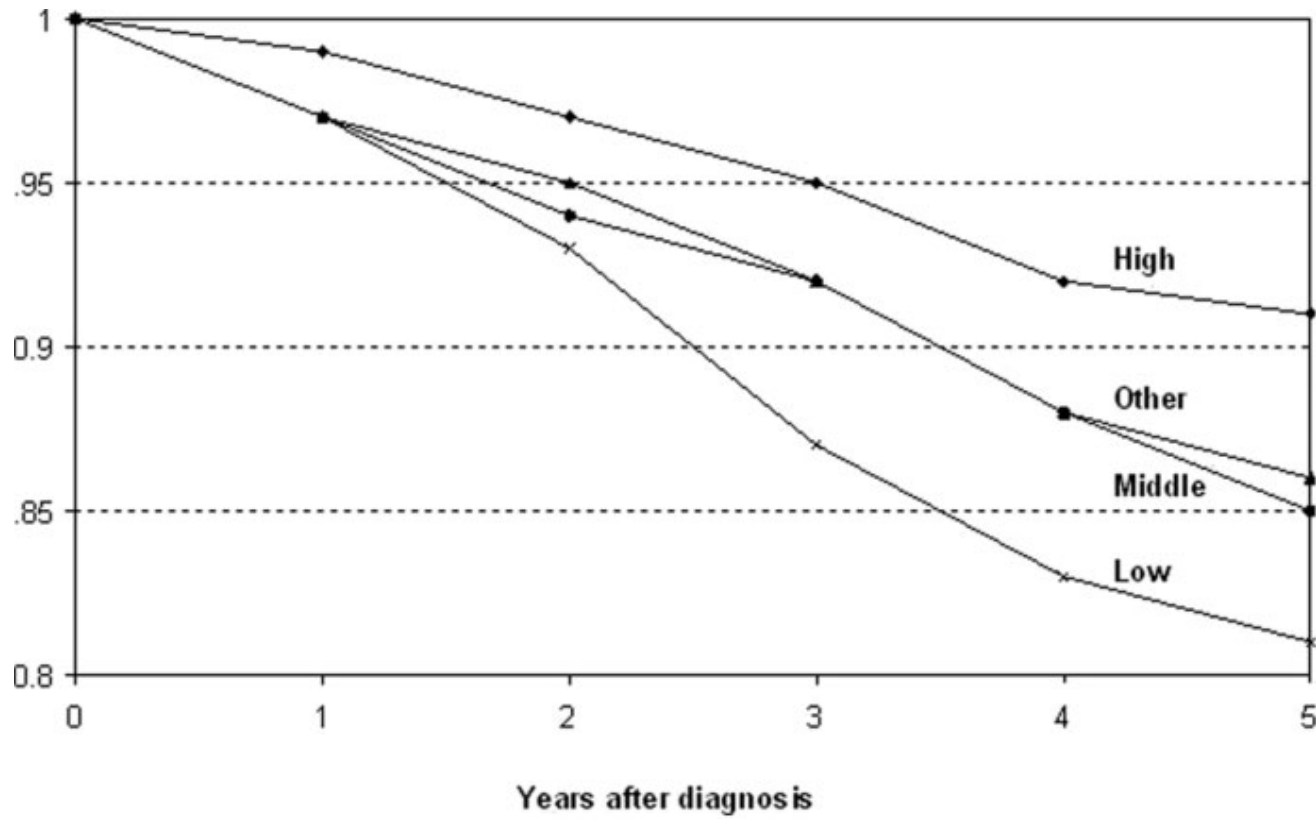
What do research
shows in
undocumented women
health ?



Prevention

- Never had cervical smear: 13 vs 0% ($p < 0.0001$)
- Cervical smear > 3 y. ago: 4.8 vs 2.1% ($p < 0.15$)
- Never had breast exam 29.7 vs 3.9% ($p < 0.0001$)

Survival with breast cancer in Geneva according to social class





Prevention

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Importance of education and access to routine preventive care



Pregnancy

- Wolff 2002-3
Questionnaire 134 pregnant undocumented women (HUG)
Wolff H et al. Social Science & Medicine 2005;60:2149-54
- Wolff 2005-6
Prospective cohort study
161 undocumented pregnant women
233 control women (legal, pregnant)
Wolff H et al. BMC Public Health 2008;8:93-100



Pregnancy

- Unintended pregnancy 75.2 vs 20.6 % ($p < 0.0001$)
- Ignorance of emergency contraception
61 vs 9% ($p < 0.0001$)
- Lack of contraception or misuse 79%
- Previous VTOP 27 vs 24 % ($p = 0.15$)



Pregnancy

- Delayed prenatal care (>12 weeks)
12.6 vs 8% ($p < 0.001$)
- Exposure to violence during
pregnancy 11.2 vs 1.3% ($p < 0.0001$)



Pregnancy

- Complication during pregnancy 33 vs 31% ($p=0.70$)
- Premature delivery 8.5 vs 3.9% ($p=0.09$)
- Healthy baby 96.2 vs 95.6% ($p=0.53$)



Pregnancy

- Need for information and access to adequate contraception (pre-post conception)
- Favor early access to prenatal care
- Screening for violence during pregnancy



Actions in Geneva

- Easy access to female health care (cost, administration, culture, language, confidentiality)
- Networking with key players
- Information in communities
- More research... (self termination of pregnancy,...)



Needs

- Reaching communities (hidden)
- Trust through quality
- Assessing priorities
- Developing culturally sensitive programs
- Overcoming ignorance: health care workers and patients

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Merci de votre
attention



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