



***Understanding the effect of migration on health status: a study of the adult population of Indonesia.***

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The relationship between health and migration has been the source of extensive debate in the scholarly literature. Health selective migration has often been cited as creating or maintaining social disadvantage, but empirical research has presented conflicting results (Larson *et al.* 2005; Norman *et al.* 2005; and Verheij *et al.* 1998). These differences can generally be traced to variations between studies in the way health status or migration are defined and measured, and the experience of individual age-sex groups. In Indonesia, research has focussed on migration and health as separate phenomena, and analysis of the relationship between migration and health remains sparse. In this paper we take some first steps to address this gap by conducting life course analysis on migration and health using data from the 1993, 1997 and 2000 Indonesian Family Life Survey (IFLS). The IFLS is a national longitudinal survey that contains extensive histories on each family member's life course including migration and current health status (general health status, ability in daily activities, and body mass index). Results from the logistic regression analysis show that migration is both positively and negatively associated with health status. Long distance and labour-oriented migration are positively related to good health. In contrast, short distance migration has negative impacts on health status. In addition, rather than the factor of migration itself, the analysis also examines the issue by controlling for individual-level characteristics, which may associate with health status.