Migrant Populations

Health issues and infectious disease management in China
Diversity of Population

• 144 million people at 2000 census:
  – 80 million moving to different counties; 60% men and women aged 15-29

• By 2006, 20 million child migrants.
Main health needs of Migrants

- Men:
  - Occupational safety

- Women:
  - Safe birth

- Children:
  - Immunizations
Main infectious disease issues

• Tuberculosis
  – Migrants have low cure rates and high loss to follow-up treatment and care.

• Vaccine-preventable diseases
  – Migrant children have low immunization rates

• HIV
  – Young woman migrants linked to commercial sex through entertainment jobs
Barriers to Migrant Health

• Fee for service: lack insurance, employment coverage, residency permits
• No sick leave
• Poor/isolated housing dormitories
• Gender
Policy Implications

• National
  – Extend medical access and insurance coverage regardless of residence and employment status
  – Extend national policy to local implementation
Policy Implications

• Community
  – House-to-house childhood immunizations
  – Strengthen community health clinics
  – Vocational training for young women
Policy Implications

- Employers
  - Improve living conditions
  - Support health-seeking behaviors of migrant employees, including on-site directly-observed treatment for TB
Thank you

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