



IMPACT OF MIGRATION ON TB

BACKGROUND

- Internal migration: movement of people within the country, province or district
- External migration: movement of people to another country or continent. This includes refugees, tourists, cross-border traders, and undocumented people

.....the prevalence of internal migration (5%), exceeded that of the population who immigrated from outside of the country's borders (1%) in the 5 years preceding the census,

Ginsburg C, Collinson MA, Iturralde D, van Tonder L, Gómez-Olivé FX, Kahn K, et al. Migration and settlement change in South Africa: triangulating census 2011 with longitudinal data from the Agincourt health and demographic surveillance system in the rural north-east. *South Afr J Demogr.* 2016;**17**(1):133–198.

INTERNAL MIGRATION

Fofana, A.M., Moultrie, H., Scott, L. *et al.* **Cross-municipality migration and spread of tuberculosis in South Africa.** *Sci Rep* **13**, 2674 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-023-29804-5>

Cross-municipality migration among people with laboratory-diagnosed TB was positively associated with future drug-susceptible TB and drug-resistant TB incidence within municipalities.

Highly mobile age groups were 20 -39 years

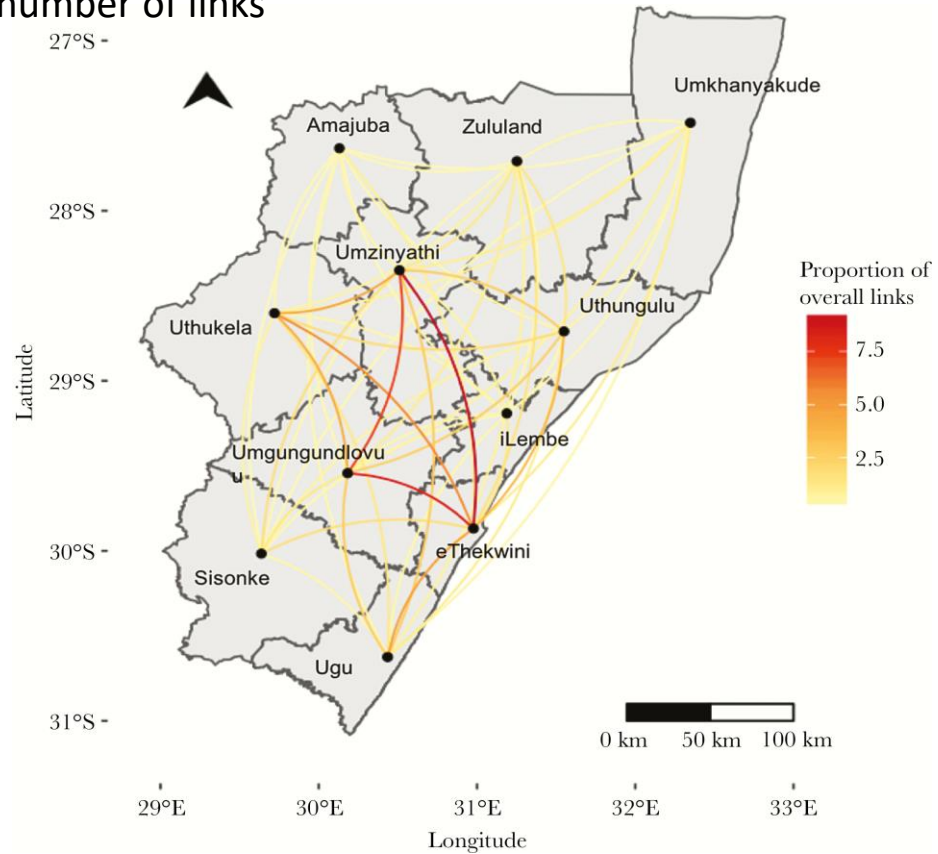
The median distance between origin and destination municipalities was 304 kilometers.

Mlangeni N, Malotle M, Made F, Ramodike J, Sikweyiya Y, Du Preez C, Thompson NS, Zungu M. **Factors associated with TB screening among agricultural workers in Limpopo Province, South Africa.** *Glob Health Action.* 2023 Dec31;16(1):2162227. doi: 10.1080/16549716.2022.2162227. PMID: 36661274; PMCID: PMC9869983.

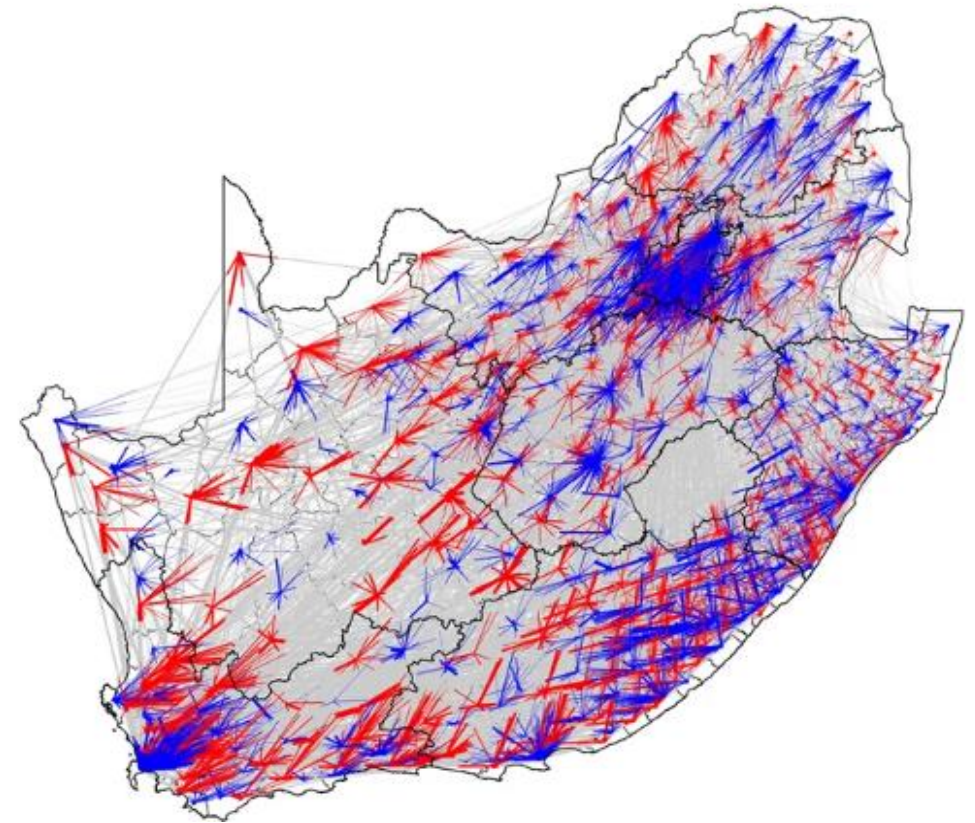
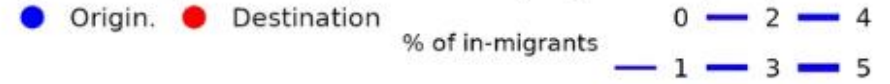
....TB screening was more likely if workers had access to health services in the workplace, were non-migrant workers, and had tested positive for HIV. TB services for agricultural workers should ideally be situated in the workplace and be available to seasonal as well as permanent workers.....

INTERNAL MIGRATION

The proportion of genomic links between each district out of the total number of links

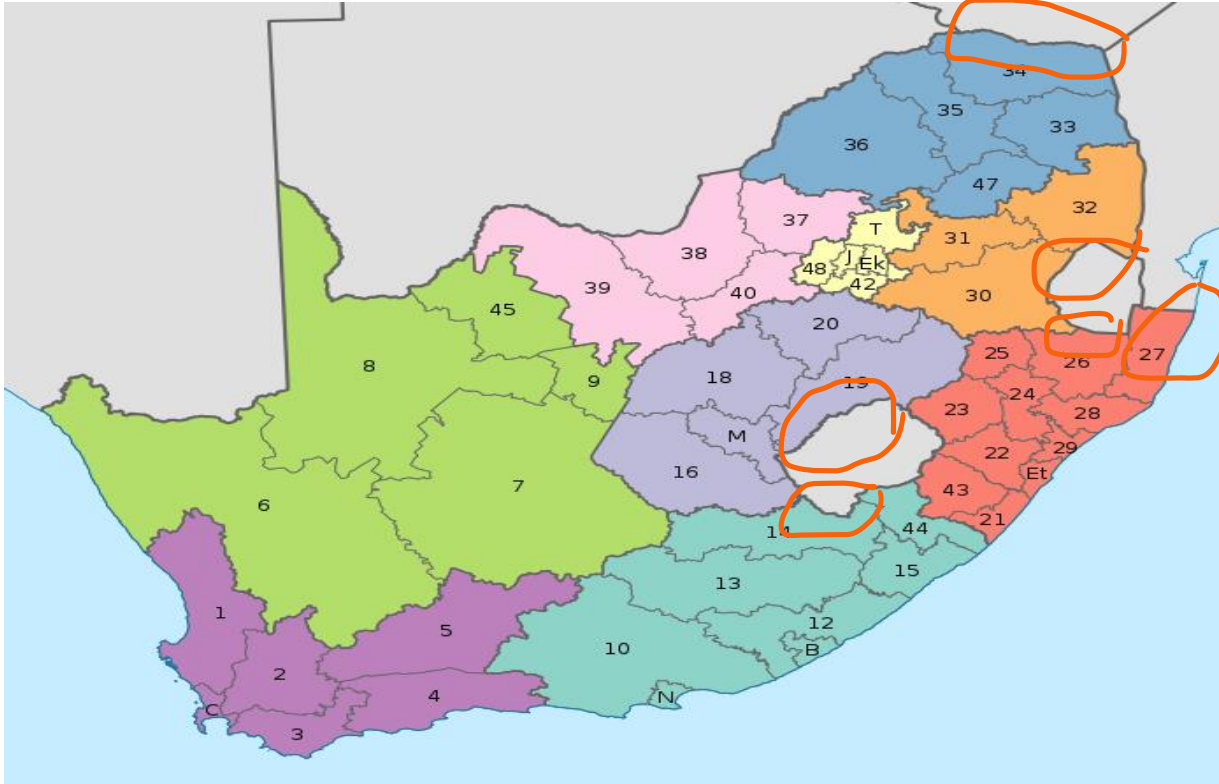


Percentage of in-migrants among residents by origin municipality



Fofana, A.M., Moultrie, H., Scott, L. *et al.* **Cross-municipality migration and spread of tuberculosis in South Africa.** *Sci Rep* 13, 2674 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-023-29804-5>

EXTERNAL MIGRATION (INTERCOUNTRY)



- Provinces affected by cross border movement to seek care are:
 - Free State
 - Eastern Cape
 - KwaZulu-Natal
 - Mpumalanga
 - Limpopo
- Agreements in place
- District to district collaboration to address patients on treatment
- Difficult to quantify

REASONS FOR MIGRATION

- Economic – poverty, unemployment
- Seeking better quality care – perceptions of better treatment and care in big cities, South Africa, despite harmonization of guidelines in the region
- Displacement due to political instability, natural disasters etc

ALL THESE ARE ISSUES BEYOND THE TB PROGRAMME

CHALLENGES FACED BY MOBILE POPULATIONS

- Poor access to health facilities
- Lack of knowledge on where to access treatment
- Stigma and discrimination
- Healthcare worker attitudes
- Long queues and waiting times in public health facilities
- Language barriers
- TB being the least in the list of priorities
- Fear of repatriation (undocumented)
- Poor living conditions

PROGRAMMATIC CHALLENGES

- Late presentation to health facilities for diagnostic and treatment services resulting in premature death due to TB
- Spread of TB disease with new hotspots development where migrant populations settle
- Compromised adherence and continuity of treatment resulting in loss to follow up
- Lack of a robust system to track people transferred and lost to follow up

WHAT ARE THE SOLUTIONS?

- Universal Health Coverage – NHI
- Electronic Medical Record
- Cross border referral system (CBRS)
- Empowerment of mobile populations – communication
- Geo location/ mapping to identify hotspots and migratory patterns
 - Outreach services to reach these areas – DOH, NGOs...
- Pre and post entry screening for immigrants

thank
you



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

