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Title: Tuberculosis and migration: Predictors of epidemiological trends

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Body: Last years economic migration to the big cities of Russian Federation (RF) from other regions of RF and former Soviet republics has considerably increased. Since 2011 free diagnosis of tuberculosis (TB) and free TB-treatment are not available for foreigners in St. Petersburg, RF. Objective: to determine the impact of health care changes on the incidence of TB. Methods: The study was conducted in the district of St. Petersburg. The population of this district was 178,000. From 01.01.2008 an office for migrants has opened at the TB dispensary. All persons including migrants who addressed the TB dispensary during 2008-2011 were examined. The causes for examination were symptoms of tuberculosis or casual radiological findings. Examinations and treatment were free for all patients. Until 2008, there was no systematic recording of TB in migrants. Results: During 2008-2010 the number of new TB cases in local population decreased, the number of infectious TB has decreased in local population and in migrants. The number of new cases of TB in children (local population and migrants) has decreased. In 2011, the trend reversed.

Number of TB cases

	2008	2009	2010	2011
TB in migrants	35	31	37	22
sputum-positive PTB in migrants	17	16	13	10
TB in children (migrants)	7	5	4	2
TB in local population	80	72	54	66
sputum-positive PTB in local population	43	33	19	30
TB in children (local population)	6	4	2	6

Conclusions: To ensure effective control of tuberculosis free access to health care is required for all TB patients, including migrants.