Migrant Healthcare in Informal Settlements: A Latin American Literature Review

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Introduction
- Latin America has seen an increase in intraregional migrations, specifically emigration from Venezuela
- Migrants tend to live in conditions of informality and thus be more vulnerable to the impacts of COVID
- Quantitative research on informal settlements is scarce

Objective
At a time when the COVID pandemic especially harms vulnerable populations and has a global impact that many Americans are not aware of, I wanted to aid the efforts against the spread of the virus and gain experience in (remote) ethnographic fieldwork while learning more about Latin American systems of healthcare and governance.

Reflection
- The literature review we created will help guide ongoing ethnographic research and data collection in Perú, and hopefully help the research team do so in an effective and multifaceted manner
  - Given the scarce amount of research about migrants and informal healthcare in Latin America, we had to expand our scope to literature from around the world
  - This prompted important discussions of why research about informal healthcare did not have an equal geographic distribution, as well revealing important themes apparent regardless of location

Looking Ahead
- I want to expand the work that has been done to understand informal healthcare internationally
- I can see myself conducting research specific to migrant healthcare in relation to COVID for my junior paper or during my senior year

Questions
- What are the most prevalent alternatives to medical professionals that Latin American immigrants tend to seek, and why?
- How do settlement-specific factors affect health-seeking behaviors?

Conclusion
- Researching migrant and/or informal healthcare is not only imperative to equalizing access to health globally but is also academically reinvigorating.

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