

## Children of Migrants: The Impact of Parental Migration on their Children's Education and Health Outcomes

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### Abstract

China is experiencing a rapid economic growth and accompanying this change is the massive migration of workers from rural to urban areas. Such migration inevitably affects the children of those workers. Currently China has more than 50 million rural children who grow up without parents since they work in urban areas. Understanding how the children's health and education are affected is very important both to ensure their current wellbeing and future development of human capital. Using the Rural-Urban Migration in China (RUMiC) Study, we show that paternal migration has a sizable cumulative effect on children's health and education outcomes. Children whose fathers were away for one quarter of the children's lives tend to be a 0.95-standard-deviation shorter, and attain 5-percentage-points lower score for a mathematics test compared to children whose fathers were never away from rural home.