What is already known?

- Chile has received a growing proportion of international immigrants in recent years.

- The CASEN survey is a national representative dataset available in Chile. Given its large sample size, it allows the analysis of the association between the living conditions and health status of smaller subsets like international immigrants living in the country without affecting statistical power, but also the relatively high rate of missing values on the same question of migration status.

- International evidence has suggested that those that prefer not to report their migration status usually correspond to undocumented immigrants in fear of future prosecution.

What does this study add?

- This study is the first nationally representative exploration of the living conditions and health status of people that do not report their migration status in a social survey in Chile. A wide range of both health outcomes and socio-demographic factors are analysed.

- In comparison to respondents that stated they were immigrants those who did not report their migration status are younger and living in greater socioeconomic and material deprivation. They also report poorer health status for some health outcomes than immigrants.

- Those who preferred not to report their migration status may be undocumented immigrants but it is very difficult to identify direct evidence to support this. However, whatever their migration status, this is a vulnerable group that needs special consideration in Chile.