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Service (sector) Epidemiology - CIENCIAS VISUAIS Nº CEP

Contribution to the management of the Visual Health Program in the "Capela do Socorro" Health District: conceptual and operative aspects.

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Purpose To identify the instrumental support (and its handling) to study the prevalence of visual impairment (blindness, partial vision, visual disturbances) in residents of "Capela do Socorro" Health District (year 2002). Methods I -Data collection (Data collection spreadsheet) of cases identified in the following sources: 1- Health Condition Population Inquiry applied in the territory in 2002 2- Local Health Unit Registry of ophthalmologic examination 3- Registry of Traditional Ophthalmologic Reference Centers available in the region 4- Public Health Database: SIA-SIH/SUS; SIPAC, Special Projects ("campanhas") II – Treatment, data processing and analysis through a public domain software (TabWin v. 3.2) Results Estimate of the "pooled" prevalence of visual impairment cases in the target population for the year 2002. Conclusions The expected results for the "pooled" prevalence of visual impairment cases in the target population are (or aren't) in accordance with the national and international prevalence data in the literature. In the year 2002, for the target population, the results found when compared with the above parameters could suggest the accomplishment or failure of the applied health policy, mainly in the following areas: · level of priority of the visual impairment · communication efforts toward the target population · health services adequate funding (Human resources, equipments, facilities, programmed budget, etc.)] · diagnostic effort (early and late) to identify the causes of the reported visual impairment. Taking the results found as a baseline one could project the future estimate of cases (confidence interval) influenced by the rate of population increase (IBGE) and the rate of population ageing (IBGE estimate).