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Service (sector) Administration - CIENCIAS VISUAISNº CEP

Profile of visual impairment in people older than 40 years of age in a specific territory: application of the self-reported eye health concept.

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Purpose: Evaluation of the eye health status in people older than 40 years of age, dwellers in a specific territory, applying a self-rated eye health analysis obtained from one of the responses to a population based inquiry.

Methods:

I – Self-assessment eye health condition data collected in a household survey applied in a specific territory in the period October 2002 – March 2003.

II – Treatment, data processing and analysis of data.

Results: Data analysis showed an association of “self reported eye health” with: “income”, “health condition”, “race”, “age group” and “health plan ownership”. It was also observed that the “overall health status” and “daily needs” are in direct correlation with self reported eye health status. The variables “brown color” and “age group” have shown opposite behavior when compared with “health plan ownership”. The analysis showed that “brown color” people without “health plan” have a higher chance to self report a better eye health status. Nevertheless, this is reversed when comparing “brown color” amongst the race group with health plan ownership. Regarding “age group” and “health plan ownership”, the latter had a stronger correlation in the 40 to 44 years “age group”. Here, health plan owners showed 3 times higher chance of having a self reported eye health as “bad” or “very bad”. In addition, in the 45 or more years “age group” “health plan ownership” didn’t have any effect in the self reported eye health evaluation. Other relevant direct positive association were “income” with: “self reported eye health”, “all teeth” or “almost all teeth”, and “health plan ownership”. Finally, despite positive linear association between “self reported overall health status” and “self reported eye health status” there is a divergence between them: 33.6% of the individuals attested a bad or very bad eye condition but a good or very good overall health status

Conclusions:

I – In the period considered (October, 2002- March, 2003), for the target population, the study show an association between the self reported eye health with: socioeconomic and demographic situation, social integration profile, overall health status, mental health, daily living skills, and health services utilization. II -. In the absence of other means (like the ophthalmologic exam) to approach the eye health status of the population of a specific territory, the self reported eye health obtained through the response to a questionnaire on overall life conditions, can be a valuable tool to estimate the eye health status of the population of a specific territory. III – In comparative studies in different regions using the same approach one have a

reasonable criteria to plan the implementation of more costly definitive ophthalmologic services.