

Epidemiological analysis of hospitalization of the elderly in Brazil between 2019 and 2023

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ABSTRACT

In Brazil, there has been an increase in the elderly population due to the drop in mortality rates. Associated with the aging process, there is an increased risk of developing comorbidities, so the health system has found it difficult to keep up with the rapid demographic transition and support this more fragile portion of the population. The objective of this study was to describe the epidemiological aspects of hospitalization of the elderly in Brazil. This is a retrospective epidemiological study, with a quantitative, in which data from the Hospital Information System and the Unified Health System, made available by the Department of Informatics of the Unified Health System, referring to the period from 2019 to 2023, were used. The following variables were analyzed: type of care, gender, race, reason for hospitalization, cause of death, and region with the highest incidence. 16,779,162 elderly people were admitted to hospitals: 78% (n= 16,069,729) were admitted as a matter of urgency. Of these individuals, 51% (n= 8,595,199) were male and 41% (n= 6,892,500) were white. Initially, 21% (n= 3,485,803) were hospitalized for diseases related to the circulatory system, but the main cause of death is pneumonia, which is related to 7% (n= 1,195,048) of these patients, being more frequent in the Southeast region with 508,696 deaths. Hospitalizations of the elderly in Brazil have an increasing trend, considering epidemiological characteristics, reduction in the number of public investments and social factors are determinants for this variation. The main related diseases are those that affect the cardiovascular and respiratory systems, accounting for almost half of the deaths in this age group. The increase in the number of hospitalizations demonstrates the need to formulate public policies to improve the quality of life of the elderly population.

Keywords: Epidemiological Analysis, Elderly, Hospitalization, Brazil.

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