

Elderly men and the use of health services in Brazil: Individual and contextual aspects

P1-A15

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The factors associated with the *use of health services by elderly men* in Brazil were represented by *unfavorable social issues*, and it was identified that the *use of services is conditioned, mainly the presence of illness or comorbidity, with an emphasis on curative care.*

BACKGROUND

The demographic and epidemiological transition experienced worldwide in recent years has resulted in population aging with a consequent increase in the demand for health services by the elderly. Historically, men use health services less than women, reach the elderly stage with more severe morbidities and are little explored in scientific research.

The objective was to analyze the individual and contextual factors associated with the use of health services by Brazilian elderly men.

METHODS

- Population-based sectional study;
- Secondary databases from the National Health Survey in 2019;
- Were included 19203 elderly men;
- The dependent variable was composed of questions relating to the use of health services using Latent Class Analysis method.
- Simple and multiple logistic regression models were applied with significance of 5%.
- The results were expressed as Odds Ratio (OR).

RESULTS

Four types of use of health services were established, with a predominance of 70.3% of elderly men who had not used health services in the last year (class 1).

Table 1: Adequacy and adjustment results for each of the models tested for the latente classes of Use of Health Services, 2019.

Statistical Criteria	Number of classes				
	2	3	4	5	6
AIC	265307.80	256953.25	251781.87	248710.59	248222.64
BIC	265787.43	257676.63	252748.99	249921.46	249677.26
BIC adjusted	265593.57	257384.26	252358.11	249432.06	249089.34
Entropy	1.000	1.000	1.000	0.866	0.838
Vuong-Lo-Mendell-Rubin - LRT	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.1070
Lo-Mendell-Rubin - LRT	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.1086

Caption: AIC: Akaike Information Criterion; BIC: Bayesian Information Criterion; LRT: Likelihood Test.

Source: Prepared by the authors.

RESULTS CONTINUED

In household variables, sporadic use of services (class 2) or use in the last year with hospitalization (class 3) were associated with more precarious and socially and economically disadvantaged home contexts.

At the individual level, some use profiles were found in older black men, widowed or single, without health insurance and without retirement. Finally, necessity factors such as diagnosis of chronic disease, poor perception of health status, difficulty in carrying out daily activities, continuous use of medication and history of falls were those that most revealed risks for using the three class of health services, compared with the reference class: Frequent use of primary care and medium complexity health services (class 4).

CONCLUSIONS

The factors associated with the use of health services by elderly men in Brazil were represented by unfavorable social issues, and it was identified that the use of services is conditioned, mainly the presence of illness or comorbidity, with an emphasis on curative care.

In this context, specific policies and actions for this public should encourage the reduction of the effect of socioeconomic inequalities and encourage contact with health services in a more preventive way.

ADDITIONAL KEY INFORMATION

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