

TITLE: Incidence of tuberculosis in Santo André, SP, 2006-2014: association with age, sex or schooling?

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Tuberculosis (TB) is a serious public health problem. This bacterial disease has an effective treatment but it continues to be a major cause of mortality in developing countries. The objective was to characterize tuberculosis in Santo André, in the Greater ABC, São Paulo, investigating the association between disease incidence with age, gender or education. We performed an epidemiological study from the quantitative and qualitative analysis of secondary data from the municipality, from 2006 to 2014, as well as interviews with health professionals. It was observed in the period, a total of 1972 new cases of tuberculosis in Santo André, and an average notification of 218 cases / year. The lowest number of cases was recorded in 2007 (186) and the highest in 2011 (244). Thus, incidence of the disease ranged from 27.5 to 36.1 / 100,000 inhabitants, while in Brazil in 2014, the incidence was 38 / 100000hab and in São Paulo, 37.2 / 100,000 inhabitants. Our study also showed that the pulmonary tuberculosis is the majority of the cases (82% of cases), affecting mainly men (68.2% of cases), age between 20-49 years (70% of cases), and alcoholism (26.2% of the cases) and AIDS (19.8% of the cases) are the main health problems related to TB. These results confirm the information obtained from health professionals, about the favorable conditions for the development of the disease: males in productive age, with exhaustive work routine by being responsible for the sustenance of the family, who do not eat well, with sleep deprivation, lack of exercise, conditions exacerbated by alcohol and other drugs. Regarding schooling, studies have been reporting that the precarious education would be one of the factors that favor the development of the disease. In this study, however, the greatest number of cases refers to individuals with Secondary (34.4%), and the test "paired student t" showed that the difference between the incidence is significant in the different study levels. In Santo André, the number of new cases has not decreased annually at odds with the global reduction and elimination of tuberculosis recommended by the WHO. Considering the characteristics of the disease in the city, would be recommended actions to enhance the discovery of new cases and their treatment, as well as educational activities to raise awareness about the importance of adopting healthy lifestyle habits to prevent disease.

Keywords: Santo André; Tuberculosis; Descriptive Epidemiology.

Development Agency: Fundação Santo André