

TITLE: EPIDEMIOLOGY OF COVID-19 IN THE PERIOD FROM MARCH 2020 TO JULY 2021 IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TEIXEIRA DE FREITAS, BAHIA, BRAZIL

AUTHORS: FORTUNA, J.L.¹; FORTUNA, D.B.S.²

INSTITUTION: ¹UNIVERSIDADE DO ESTADO DA BAHIA (UNEB), CAMPUS X (AV. KAIKAN, S/N – UNIVERSITÁRIO, CEP: 45.992-294, TEIXEIRA DE FREITAS-BA, BRAZIL).
jfortuna@uneb.br

²UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DO SUL DA BAHIA (UFSB), CAMPUS PAULO FREIRE (PRAÇA JOANA ANGÉLICA, 58 – SÃO JOSÉ, CEP: 45988-058, TEIXEIRA DE FREITAS-BA, BRAZIL).
danbiologa@gmail.com

ABSTRACT:

SARS-CoV-2 is a betacoronavirus subtype that emerged in an outbreak in China, in December 2019. After its worldwide spread, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 as a pandemic. Given the importance of epidemiological studies to understand the evolution of the disease in order to support actions and contribute to appropriate decision making to cope with it, this work sought to outline the epidemiological profile of COVID-19 cases in the city of Teixeira de Freitas-BA in the period from 23/03/2020 (1st confirmed case) to 31/07/2021. A cross-sectional, documentary and retrospective epidemiological study was carried out based on secondary data extracted from the epidemiological bulletin of the city's Mayor's Office. Variables analyzed: confirmed cases, recovered cases, deaths, number and apex of active cases and hospitalizations, calculation of recovery and lethality rates, deaths by age group and sex. Until 31/07/2021, 17.804 confirmed cases, 17.504 recovered cases and 270 deaths, of which 121 (44.8%) in 2020 and 149 (55.2%) until July 2021, were recorded from COVID-19. The peak of active cases occurred on 24/08/2020 with 631 cases and on 02/05/2021 with 196. The highest numbers of hospitalizations occurred on 20, 27/11 and 02, 03/12/2021 with 50 people hospitalized and on 31/05/2021 with 76 hospitalizations. Of the 270 deaths, the age group with the highest rate was 71-90 years, with 114 (42.2%), followed by the 51-70 range, with 98 (36.3%) deaths. With regard to deaths according to sex, 152 were men (56.3%) and 112 were women (41.5%), with six (2.2%) people with no sex information. The youngest death occurred in the case of an 11 year-old boy, and the oldest death in the cases of one 95 year-old man and one woman with the same age. The recovery rate was 96.4% in 2020 and 98.3% in 2021 and the fatality rate was 1.32% (2020) and 1.73% (2021), with the month of February 2021 having the highest rate (2.44%). Although the number of hospitalized people is decreasing, probably due to the advance of vaccination in the city, it is still not possible to consider the epidemic under control because of the continued transmission of confirmed cases, hospitalizations and deaths. In addition, in July 2021, less than 8% of Teixeira de Freitas' population had been immunized with two doses. Therefore, the protocols of preventive measures continue to be needed, including social distancing, the use of PFF-2 masks, hand washing and mass vaccination of the population.

Keywords: SARS-Cov-2; Coronavirus; Virology; Pandemic; Lethality.