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IDENTIFYING UNDIAGNOSED DIABETES IN THE BRAZILIAN NATIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM

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Purpose: The Brazilian Ministry of Health is restructuring its primary care activities for programmatic management of diabetes. Pursuant to this goal, a nationwide community screening program for adults ≥ 40 years covered by the system was conducted, achieving coverage of an estimated 73% of the target population. Those with capillary glucose values ≥ 270 mg/dl by glucose meter were directed to immediate medical treatment; those with fasting values 126–269 mg/dl, or casual values 200–269 mg/dl were scheduled for diagnostic confirmation and medical follow-up. The aim of this report is to estimate the proportion of adults without previous knowledge of diabetes participating in screening who met cut points for diabetes based on a single capillary glucose value.

Methods: We selected 50 participating Brazilian primary health care services by stratified two-stage sampling and evaluated, in each, the screening results of approximately 2000 randomly selected individuals.

Summary: ver tabela no artigo on-line

The estimated 829 503 subjects who exceeded diabetes cut points and as such receiving priority for diagnostic confirmation comprised 25% of the estimated 3 285 560 screen-positive individuals without previously known diabetes identified during the Campaign.

Conclusions: A massive number of adults (4% of the target population) were identified as likely to have diabetes and immediately referred for confirmation. We are currently investigating the primary care system's response to this challenge.