



The availability of racial information to reduce health inequalities in Brazil

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Abstract:

This research analyses the coverage and reliability of the self-declaration of the race-color item, from data of the national information system on health of Brazil - DATA-SUS, and from questionnaires applied to the health personnel working at the municipality of Camacari, Bahia in Brazil. Methods included a descriptive analysis of administrative data from national sources and a survey applied at municipal level. Results show that the information on race-color available in the national system of health has a very low coverage and quality, and that the municipality doesn't have a local data base to orient management and policies. The main factors explaining the low coverage and quality of data on race-color are the diversity and heterogeneity of formats to fill in health services, a lack of integration of the information in health, the resistance of health personnel to ask and to complete data on race-color, and the absence of a local data-base. The questionnaire applied to health workers shows that there are resistances in attitudes and practices that hinder the improvement of the coverage and quality of this item. These limitations to collect racial information, which is fundamental for the elaboration and planning of social policies and health actions, contribute to the maintenance of the situation of discrimination and exclusion of black people in health, since it camouflages the racial peculiarities and diversities existing in the country and makes implementing policies and actions to reduce racial inequalities.

Biography

She is a doctor of medicine from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. He specialized in Public Health, Worker's Health and Human Ecology at the National School



of Public Health of the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He studied for a master's degree in Population and Development at Flacso México and obtained a doctorate in Population from the Colegio de México. He has degrees in Executive Management, Negotiations and Strategic Thinking from Cornell University, Ithaca, USA.

Publication of speakers:

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