

PREVENTION AND PROMOTION OF WELFARE

The importance of conducting community screenings for HIV infection

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Introduction

In Portugal, HIV infection represents a major problem in Public Health, revealing the biggest rates of new diagnostics in the Europe. Most diagnosed cases occur in individuals aged 15 years or older, with the highest rate in men aged 25 to 29 years. In addition to the other important primary prevention, the early diagnosis through the tracing continues to prove to be fundamental to the epidemiological knowledge of the population.

Results

The results showed that the participants were mostly Portuguese (83%) and aged over 60 (62%), since we included data obtained from screenings carried out within the framework of the projects - In.Porto.Me I and II - aimed at the elderly population of Porto and Coimbra. Older participants (> 60 years) have low levels of schooling (4th or 6th degree – primary/middle school), and many refer to misconceptions about HIV and AIDS. Younger people are mostly in their 12th year of schooling and show more knowledge. The behaviors identified as risk and screening inducers were "unprotected sex" (46%) and with several partners over the years (32%), "pregnancy" (8.5%). 48% of the participants (N=248) prefer not to respond to this item because they feel uncomfortable or because they do not want to admit their sexual orientation.

Goals

To characterize and identify risk behaviors in the participant population in screenings HIV, in a community context, during 2017.

Methods

Analysis of the data collected through a questionnaire (N=2613) and pre and post test interviews, when the screening was performed.



Conclusions

The results obtained with this initiative made it possible to perceive the serological status of the participants, including older people of whom little was known and contributed to the awareness of preventive measures related to HIV and other STIs in all participants, mainly through pre and post counseling test.