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Epidemiological Profile of Tuberculosis in Paraíba

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ABSTRACT

Tuberculosis (TB), an age-old, infectious, chronic disease caused by the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* bacillus. It affects several organs, the most common is the lung. They are most susceptible: malnourished individuals, chronic alcoholics, prisoners, and / or with immunosuppressive disease. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), globally in 2014 1.5 million people died of tuberculosis. In the State of Paraíba, the priority municipalities for TB are: João Pessoa, Bayeux, Santa Rita, Campina Grande, Cajazeiras and Patos, needing attention. To describe the epidemiological profile of tuberculosis in the State of Paraíba in 2013. Ecological, descriptive and quantitative study of secondary tuberculosis data was collected from the database of the Notification Information System (SINAN) of the Paraíba State Health Department in 2013, from March to June 2015, provided by DATASUS. The variables were year of diagnosis, sex, age, total cases of cure, abandonment of treatment, death and area of residence. There were 1,143 new cases of tuberculosis of all clinical forms, including 679 were smear-positive. The numbers of male cases were 778 (68.07%) and female 365 (31.93%). A majority of 852 (74.54%) were aged between 20-59 years. In both sexes the cases of cure were 717 (24.56%). They abandoned treatment 144 (26.23%). The number of deaths was 44 people (27.33%). The disease was identified throughout the territory of Paraíba, but there was a greater concentration in the municipalities considered priority. Men and women in reproductive ages were the majority in cases of tuberculosis in the state. The goals recommended by the WHO to achieve 85% cure were not reached and the number of cases was also high. The percentages of abandonment of treatment and death are also worrisome. It is hoped that the spatial identification made by this research of the incident areas for tuberculosis in the State of Paraíba, can facilitate and guide the need for planning actions to treat all cases of tuberculosis and to reduce or even prevent the emergence of new cases of tuberculosis. Professional nurses have a crucial role in the diagnosis, monitoring and treatment of this disease which unfortunately is still neglected. Based on the findings, the nurse should invest more in the directly observed treatment, the active search for cases that fail to go to the health unit, among other types of activities in assistance to health that public.

Keywords: Ecological studies; Incidence; Tuberculosis

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