Barriers to Breast Cancer Screening from the Perspective of Primary Care Professionals

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INTRODUCTION

In Brazil, breast cancer screening has been conducted opportunistically; however, evidence suggests that it has not achieved the expected outcomes.

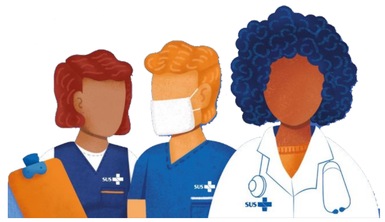
To evaluate factors related to the low impact of current São Paulo programmes, this study investigated knowledge related to breast cancer, profile of primary health care workers, and barriers perceived by these professionals to adhere screening practices.

PARTNERS

METHODS



50 Primary Health Care units randomly selected in São Paulo state, Brazil



400 professionals randomly selected

Multinomial logistic regression was used to examine associations between **perceived barriers and professionals profile and knowledge**

RESULTS



- ✓ 82.8% women
- ✓ 52.9% under the age of 44
- ✓ 88.2% employed in the health sector
- ✓ 32.6% working in nursing
- ✓ 60% familiar with the guidelines for breast cancer screening
- ✓ 64% aware of the law ensuring cancer diagnosis within 30 days
- ✓ Higher awareness among nurses
- ✓ 73% agreed that the absence of an information system for screened women compromises the effectiveness of screening programs

Main barriers



35% — Long waiting times



33% — Difficulty in search target population



32% — Excessive demand



Working as nurses or physicians



Working in Metropolitan regions

Main predictors for breast cancer screening barriers

CONCLUSION

The implementation of an organized breast cancer screening program requires strategic actions.

These strategies may be tailored according to the professional role and geographic region of primary care.

Ongoing training to enhance the knowledge of healthcare and administrative personnel is essential for addressing barriers —particularly those related to delays in screening.

A robust and well-integrated information system is also critical to support the effective screening and follow-up of the target population.

Collectively, these strategies are being undertaken to guide the establishment of an organized, sustainable, and population-based breast cancer screening program in São Paulo, Brazil.

FUNDING

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