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The Cancer Control Challenge:
Better Understanding It to Better Face It

TEMPORAL ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY FROM MALIGNANT BREAST NEOPLASM IN NORTHERN BRAZIL AND THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE (2009-2021).

Lucas Silva Cabeça[1], Jefferson Pereira Corrêa[1], Bruna Giovanna Bastos Aguiar[1], Maria Eduarda Amaral Fidalgo[1]

[1]Department of Medicine, Federal University of Pará, Belém, Pará, Brazil

Introduction: Malignant breast neoplasm is one of the leading causes of female mortality in Brazil and represents a significant public health challenge. Early detection and appropriate treatment are fundamental for reducing mortality; however, despite advances in diagnosis and therapy, breast cancer death rates continue to rise. In the Brazilian context, the disease affects different regions of the country unequally, particularly less developed areas such as the Northern Region, where access to specialized care is more limited. Therefore, it is crucial to analyze the temporal trend of breast cancer mortality rates in Brazil between 2009 and 2021, in order to identify patterns and guide interventions that could mitigate the impact of this condition. **Objectives:** To analyze the temporal trend and projections of mortality from malignant breast neoplasms in Brazil between 2009 and 2021. **Methods:** This is a cross-sectional, observational, and retrospective study that utilized secondary data from DATASUS. The number of deaths was used to calculate mortality rates. Temporal analysis methods and Prais-Winsten regression were applied to identify trends, with mortality rates calculated by age group and region. The annual percent change (APC) and its 95% confidence intervals were determined, categorizing the trends as increasing, decreasing, or stable. **Results:** During the period from 2009 to 2021, a total of 172,750 deaths from malignant breast neoplasms were recorded in Brazil among individuals aged 20 to 79 years, with 92,343 deaths (53.40%) occurring in the 50 to 69-year age group. Of this total, the Northern Region accounted for 7,290 deaths (4.22%), with 3,620 deaths (49.65%) occurring in individuals aged 50 to 69 years. Temporal analysis demonstrated an overall increasing trend in both Brazil and the Northern Region, with different variations across the analyzed age groups. The Annual Percent Change (APC) in the 20 to 79-year age group was 45.8% (95% CI: 50.53–41.08) in Brazil and 52.99% (95% CI: 60.03–45.94) in the Northern Region. In the 50 to 69-year age group, the APC was 28.77% (95% CI: 37.16–20.4) in Brazil, while in the Northern Region it reached 124.51% (95% CI: 141.72–107.31). **Conclusion:** The data reveal an increasing trend in mortality from malignant breast neoplasms in Brazil, particularly among individuals aged 50 to 69 years and in the Northern Region, which showed a significant rise in rates. This scenario highlights the urgent need to improve

access to healthcare services, focusing on prevention and early diagnosis, especially in regions with less developed infrastructure. The highlighted annual percent change underscores the persistence of regional inequalities in the control of this disease, emphasizing the importance of public policies aimed at expanding screening and providing equitable and appropriate treatment across the country.

Keywords: Breast cancer; epidemiology; public health.