



INFECTIOUS DISEASES (BACTERIAL, FUNGAL, VIRAL, PARASITIC, INFESTATIONS)

## LEPROSY: BRAZIL'S EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION BETWEEN 2014 AND 2017.

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**INTRODUCTION:** Leprosy is a chronic infectious contagious disease caused by *Mycobacterium leprae*, which mainly affects the skin and peripheral nerves, and may develop with physical incapacity if not treated early. The disease is still endemic in some regions of the world and represents a public health problem in Brazil. In this context, it is necessary to study the epidemiology of the disease.

**OBJECTIVE:** To describe the epidemiological profile of confirmed cases of leprosy in Brazil between 2014 and 2017.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS:** This is an ecological study that used data from leprosy reports, linked to DATASUS, from the period between 2014 and 2017. Exploratory (descriptive) analyzes of the data were done and the results were organized tables and graphs.

**RESULTS:** There were 116,723 cases of leprosy in the period, of which 57% were male and 43% female, with the majority of patients being between 15 and 49 years old. Regarding clinical forms, predominance of the dimorphic form (49%), followed by the Virchowian form (20%) was observed, and most of the patients were classified as multibacillary (72%).

Considering the mode of diagnosis of the disease, 37.8% of the cases were diagnosed through referral and 32.8% through spontaneous demand.

**CONCLUSIONS:** It was possible to identify the epidemiological profile of the cases diagnosed in the period. It was observed a predominance of male individuals, in the age group between 15 and 49 years old, with a dimorphic form, classified as multibacillary form and diagnosed through referral. Therefore, the work evaluated the epidemiological aspects of the disease, so that it serves to redirect the control actions of the country and the world and that makes it possible to correct the social deficiencies and increase the quality and life of the patients.

