

#### 484 PREDICTORS OF FOLLOW-UP AND ASSESSMENT OF SELECTION BIAS USING INVERSE PROBABILITY WEIGHTING

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##### ABSTRACT

**Background:** Dropouts in cohort studies can introduce selection bias; however, inverse probability weighting (IPW) can evaluate this potential bias. **Objectives:** To assess: a) predictors of retention in a cohort, b) whether differential follow-up introduced selection bias. **Design and Methods:** Baseline assessment and follow-up were done using mailed questionnaires. We compared retained participants with drop-outs after two years. We used Cox regression to estimate the relative risk (RR) of hypertension for obesity. We used IPW to adjust for confounding and selection bias, thus evaluating whether differential follow-up affected RR estimates. **Results:** We recruited 9,907 participants from December 1999 to January 2002. The 2-year follow-up questionnaire was answered by 87% of them. Missing information at baseline, younger age, smoking, marital status, and overweight were associated with attrition. The univariate RR of hypertension for obesity was 6.4; 95% confidence interval (CI) 3.9–10.5. Adjustment for confounding using IPW attenuated the estimate (RR = 2.4, 95% CI: 1.1–5.3). Additional adjustment for selection bias did not modify it. **Conclusion and Discussion:** Follow-up through mailed questionnaires of a geographically disperse cohort in Spain is possible. Despite existing differences between retained and lost to follow-up participants, this does not necessarily have an important impact on the RR estimates.

#### 485 ASSOCIATION BETWEEN FOLATE, VITAMIN B6 AND VITAMIN B12 INTAKE AND DEPRESSION IN THE SUN COHORT STUDY

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##### ABSTRACT

**Background:** An association between low blood levels of B-vitamins or high serum homocysteine levels and a higher prevalence of depressive symptoms has been reported in several epidemiological studies. **Objectives:** To assess the association between the baseline intake of B-vitamins categorized in quintiles and the prevalence of depression. **Design and Methods:** Cross-sectional analysis of 9,670 participants in the SUN cohort study. We used a validated semi-quantitative food frequency questionnaire (136 items) to ascertain B-vitamins intake. **Results:** Among women, Odds ratios (OR) (95% CI) for the third to fifth quintile for vitamin B12 intake were 0.58 (0.41–0.84), 0.56 (0.38–0.82) and 0.68 (0.45–1.04) respectively. When we considered together the three upper quintiles of vitamin B12 as a group, the OR for depression among women was 0.59 (95% CI = 0.43–0.81). The results indicated an inverse dose-response relationship ( $p$  for trend = 0.006). Among men with a low level of anxiety and for current smokers we found a significant positive association between a low folate intake and the prevalence of depression (ORs for the first quintiles of intake were 2.85 (1.49–5.45) and 2.18 (1.08–4.38) respectively, compared to the upper

quintiles (Q2-Q5) considered as a group. No significant associations between vitamin B6 intake and depression were found.

#### 489 REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH DETERMINANTS OF IMMIGRANT LATIN AMERICAN WOMEN IN BARCELONA

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##### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** Understand the reproductive health beliefs, attitudes, values and behaviour of Latin American immigrant women in Barcelona, following the rise in immigration since 2001. **Methods:** Ethnographic method and conversational technique used. 4 key informants interviewed and 4 semi-structured focus groups done. Purposeful sample of 31 women of reproductive age from Central and South America. Focus group discussion recorded and transcribed. Inductive categorization for content analysis done, using categories and supercategories. Triangulation of methods and researchers. Study period from January to September 2005. **Results:** Motherhood has great personal and social value. Sexism determines the nature of partner relationships. Adolescent pregnancy is an irresponsible act. Women from rural areas and those with a low socio-economic level have more children because of lack of access to education, and health resources, as well as a desire for security in old age. Contraceptive methods are highly valued. Religion, Catholic or Evangelical, can reduce their use. For some, abortion is a crime, while others accept it under certain circumstances. A minority see it as a right. **Conclusions:** Contraceptive use is considered very important. More information and better access to contraceptive methods is requested. Educational and socio-economic level determine beliefs, attitudes, values and behaviours regarding reproductive health.

#### 491 PREVALENCE, AWARENESS, TREATMENT AND CONTROL OF HYPERTENSION IN THE PORTUGUESE GENERAL POPULATION

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##### ABSTRACT

**Background:** Hypertension has a strong impact in the burden of disease. **Objectives:** To calculate prevalence, awareness, treatment and control of hypertension in a population-based sample of Portuguese adults, and their evolution over time. **Methods:** In a health survey, 2011 adults aged  $\geq 40$  years were randomly selected from the general population (1889 had blood pressure measurements). Hypertension was defined as blood pressure  $\geq 140/90$ mmHg or being treated. We stratified for period of recruitment – before/after December 1999 (median of distribution). Proportions were compared using the chi-square test. **Results:** Hypertension was found in 58.8% (95%CI 55.9–61.6) of 1163 women (no change over time: 59.9% to 57.8%,  $p = 0.48$ ) and 59.9% (95%CI 56.2–63.5) of 726 men (57.3% to 62.8%,  $p = 0.13$ ). Among hypertensives, 61.3% of women and 47.1% of men were aware of hypertension (no change over time),  $p < 0.01$ . The proportion receiving treatment (women: 65.1% to 77.3%,  $p = 0.006$ ; men: 56.4% to 73.1%,  $p = 0.01$ ) increased over time, but not the proportion achieving control (women: 13.0% to 18.1%,  $p = 0.23$ ; men: 12.3% to 19.7%,  $p = 0.25$ ). **Conclusions:** The prevalence of hypertension was high. Women were more often aware of hypertension. The proportion receiving treatment increased over time in both sexes, but this did not result in more efficacious blood pressure control.