Endemic study of drowning deaths in the state of Pernambuco – Brazil: support to implement more effective public prevention policies

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Background

The drowning at Pernambuco-Brazil, as a endemic, require a specific strategic plan. The register of Brazilian Ministery of Health shows that the media of drowning death between 1992 and 2012 is 287 shared at 122 cities, also, the mortality rate is 3.7 death/ 100.000 habitants.

It occurs systematically and constantly to local population, without time perspective to solve this problem, with cyclic and seasonal variety, denoting a drowning endemic at Pernambuco.

The mortality comparison with illnesses like Dengue, Tuberculosis, traffic accidents, shark attacks and Lethal Intentional crimes shows that drowning represents a security and heath public problem.

2012 recorded 200 fatalities distributed in 97 of the 187 cities of Pernambuco, including 18 at Recife,13 at Petrolina, 4 at Olinda and 4 at Santa Maria da Boa Vista; already in 2004, the highest incidence, had 397 occurrences divided into 128 cities, of which 28 at Recife, 18 at Ipojuca and 13 at Olinda.

Between 1992 and 2012, numerically, the drowning fatality (6019) is close to tuberculosis (8049), is higher than deaths from dengue (32) and deaths by shark attack (22).

Since 2008 to 2012, drowning (1364) was inferior to the occurrences of Letal Intentional crimes (18.900).

The introduction of integrated public policies to bring knowledge and drowning prevention ways for vulnerable communities is a viable alternative to reduce this kind of deaths at Pernambuco.