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PERCEPTIONS ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH IN THE CITY OF CAMPINAS (BRAZIL- SP)

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Objectives: To evaluate aspects related to the psychiatric attendance in Campinas and population knowledge about mental disorders.

Methods: Participants of a public event were invited to answer a questionnaire about sociodemographic aspects and knowledge about mental health.

Results: The 88 questionnaires showed that there was uniform distribution between sexes and that 50 % of subjects were between 41 and 65 years. The most people have concluded the primary and secondary school. About religion, 55,7 % were Catholics and 26,1% protestants. The study showed that 23% of the subjects have looked for a psychiatrist in last year, the most at primary care health, but only 4,35% said there was no psychiatrist for them. Beyond the psychiatrist, psychologists and spiritualists are looking to solve mental disorders. People consider suicide idea as a disorder that must be treated by psychiatrist more than the eating disorders. "Listen voices that do not exist" was considered as reason to look for psychiatrist, being an opinion more prevalent between Catholics than protestants (O.R = 1.67). The people with first or second grade think that spiritual works produce mental disorders more than those who are graduated. (OR=3.97). When the information about mental illness is TV the people have more chance to believe that spiritual works can produce mental disorders (OR=1.67).

Conclusion: Psychiatric attendance is accessible for most people at primary health care in Campinas. The looking for psychiatrist comes with other professionals. The concept about mental disorders is influenced by level and source of information, sex and religion.