

THE BRAZILIAN ARMY AND WOMEN: A STUDY OF THE SOCIO-  
EPIDEMIOLOGICAL PROFILE AND PREVALENCE OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED  
INFECTIONS IN WOMEN IN THE MILITARY GARRISON OF CAMPINAS IN THE  
PERIOD FROM 2017 TO 2020

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Thesis presented to the Escola Paulista de Medicina of the Federal University of São Paulo to obtain the title of Doctor in Medical Sciences

**Objective:** To evaluate the prevalence of sexually transmitted infections HIV, Hepatitis B and C, Syphilis, Human Papillomavirus, Neisseria gonorrhoeae and Chlamydia trachomatis, as well as the socio-epidemiological profile of women in the military garrison of Campinas. **Methods:** This is a cross-sectional epidemiological study, carried out with 647 women who underwent directed anamnesis, collection of cervical-vaginal material for oncotic cytology tests, hybrid capture for HPV and PCR for CT and NG, as well as collection blood for serological tests for HIV, Hepatitis B and C and syphilis by VDRL. They were divided into two age groups (<25 and ≥25 years), as well as the presence or absence of STIs. The descriptive statistical analysis of the data was processed by the Minitab 19 software, considering a significance level of 5% ( $\alpha=0.05$ ). **Results:** In the general evaluation, the largest number of women correspond to those dependents of the military, with a total of 479 women (74.03%), followed by 117 (18.08%) full-time military women and, finally, 51 (7, 88%) pensioners. Regarding the rank or graduation, in the GENERAL group, in the lowest age group, there was a preponderance of "soldiers" (63.47%) and in the highest, there was an almost equal division between enlisted and officers with 52.7% and 47.29%, respectively. Such proportions remained similar when we evaluated only women who had an STI. Most of these women did not present any signs or symptoms related to the diseases, however, when present, the complaint of discharge was the most common in the younger age group and pelvic pain in the older age group. The vast majority of women with STIs, from the younger and older age groups, 76 (80.85%), had been in relationships with up to 5 partners, and 56 (59.57%) were in stable relationships, most of these the latter, 46 (48.93%), belonging to the group over 25 years old. In this population, sexual initiation at an earlier age predisposes, proportionally, about 4 times more to the

presence of STIs. Of the infected women, Chlamydia was more marked in women under 25 years old, with 18.52% ( $p < 0.05$ ) and Gonorrhea showed the same trend ( $p = 0.070$ ). The prevalence of infections found in this group with STIs was 2.13% for hepatitis B or C, 4.25% for syphilis, 18% for HPV, 7.45% for chlamydia and 4.25% for gonorrhea. , 13.83% had a minor change in oncotic cytology and 4.25% had a major change. **Conclusions:** The largest number of women studied are linked to the Army Health System as dependents of the military and belonging to the hierarchical circle of the squares. Early onset of sexual activity favored STI contamination by about four times and, proportionally, younger women had about six times more Chlamydia infections. In the general population studied, the prevalence of hepatitis B and C was 0.15%, syphilis was 0.62%, that of HPV was 2.63%, chlamydia and gonorrhea, 1.08% and 0.62 % respectively. Therefore, the prevalence of the STIs studied was lower than expected for this population.