

A Portrait and a Mirror: Cohort of Dementia Patients and the Reflection of Brazilian Healthcare System Fragilities

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"Dementia in Brazil is not just a medical issue—it's a social and systemic crisis. Our cohort reveals that geographic diversity and lack of family support create a perfect storm of underdiagnosis and inadequate care, demanding urgent policy implementation."

INTRODUCTION	METHODS	RESULTS	CONCLUSIONS	REFERENCES
Brazil faces a rapidly growing dementia burden, yet comprehensive national data on patient profiles and systemic barriers to care remain critically scarce. With an estimated 77% of cases undiagnosed and primary care ill-equipped for cognitive screening, the gap between patient needs and healthcare capacity threatens to widen as the population ages.	Data from 122 patients with dementia who died in a geriatric and convalescent hospital in the city of São Paulo in Brazil were analyzed for sex, age, geographic origin (Brazilian state/international), and family support status. Descriptive statistics were used to summarize the cohort.	Demographic Profile: Total Cohort: N = 122 Sex: 52.5% male (n=64), 47.5% female (n=58) Mean Age: 78.7 years Geographic Distribution (Top 3 States): São Paulo: 40 (32.8%) Bahia: 16 (13.1%) Minas Gerais: 15 (12.3%) International: 5 patients (Portugal, China, Italy, Lebanon) Family Support: 81.1% (n=99) lacked structured family support. Only 18.9% had organized caregiver networks Length of Stay: Highly variable (1 day to 75 years), reflecting heterogeneous care pathways	This cohort highlights the diverse geographic and social landscape of dementia in Brazil and underscores the critical gap between patient needs and systemic capacity. Urgent implementation of national policies, expansion of specialist networks, and strengthening of primary care are essential to address underdiagnosis, regional inequalities, and the growing dementia burden.	Ministério da Saúde. (2024). <i>Relatório Nacional sobre a Demência: Epidemiologia, reconhecimento e projeções futuras</i>. Brasília, DF. https://aps.saude.gov.br/ Nichols, E., Steinmetz, J. D., Vollset, S. E., Fukutaki, K., Chalek, J., Abd-Allah, F., et al. (2022). Estimation of the global prevalence of dementia in 2019 and forecasted prevalence in 2050: An analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2019. <i>The Lancet Public Health</i>, 7(2), e105-e125. Lei nº 14.878/2024. (2024). <i>Política Nacional de Cuidado Integral às Pessoas com Doença de Alzheimer e Outras Demências</i>. Diário Oficial da União.
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