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THE IMPROVEMENT OF BRAZILIAN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE PROGRAM (ESTRATÉGIA SAÚDE DA FAMÍLIA) BASED ON PMAQ EXTERNAL AVALIATION

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The Brazilian Primary Health Care System, composed of *Estratégia Saúde da Família* (ESF) teams (one physician, one nurse, one dentist, health technicians and community health workers), is part of the Brazilian unified health system (SUS), which was structured on the principles of universal coverage and health as a right of all citizens. The need for its improvement has made the government to invest, in the last years, in a monitoring and evaluation policy for SUS. The *Programa Nacional de Melhoria do Acesso e Qualidade da Atenção Básica* (PMAQ-AB), standing for National Program for Primary Health Care Quality and Access Improvement, is responsible for evaluating the ESF teams and has already performed two external evaluation (2012 and 2014). The present study used the information regarding the system organization to observe if there has been improvement on the Primary Health Care System over this period. Ten indexes were created based on the information available: Professional Valorization, Planning, Matrix Support, Patient Reception, Health Attention, Prenatal Care, Child Attention, Health Promotion, Home visit/Social participation, School Health. Additionally, an overall quality index was also created based on the mentioned indexes. A total of 17,202 ESF teams were evaluated in 2012 and 29,778 in 2014. Significant changes were observed in all indexes (t-test, $p < 0.001$), where all, but Matrix Support index, presented improvement over the two year investigated. The overall grade went from 64.23 to 71.40 (in a 0-100 scale). It can be concluded that improvements in ESF occurred and that PMAQ may be aiding this progress.

Biography

Anya P G F Vieira-Meyer has completed her PhD in 2005 from the University of Toronto. She is currently a visiting scholar at the University of California in Berkeley (until May 2016). She is a senior researcher at Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (FIOCRUZ) – Brazil, as well as the Coordinator of the Family Health Master Program. She has published more than 40 papers in reputed journals and has been serving as an scientific editor for the *Revista Brasileira em Promoção da Saúde* journal. Themis Xavier de Albuquerque Pinheiro has completed her PhD in 2003 from the Universidade Estadual do Rio de Janeiro. She is a professor and a researcher at Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte (UFRN). Severina Alice da Costa Uchoa has completed her PhD in 2003 from the Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro. She is currently a visiting scholar at the Instituto de Higiene e Medicina Tropical da Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal (until April 2016). She is a professor and a researcher at Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte (UFRN).

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