This study examined changes in traffic accident mortality, examining different types of victims according to each development region in the state of Pernambuco, and estimated expected years of life lost. A descriptive and ecological study was carried out, using secondary data describing traffic collision deaths from the Ministry of Health Mortality Information System, from 1998 through 2007. Spatial analysis techniques were used: Mortality Coefficient Estimates by the Local Empiric Bayesian Method and Moran Spreading Diagram, applied over the digital cartographic databases from Pernambuco. Percentage variation in the coefficient showed a 16.5% decline between the first and the last years in the series. Linear regression showed a negative trend and was statistically significant at the 5% level. The observed decline in traffic collisions resulted mainly from a 35.5% reduction in pedestrian mortality rates, although all the other types of accidents contributed to this decrease, except for motorcycle mortality, which saw an increase of 297%. From the 255 municipalities, 16 encompassing five clusters were identified with an average mortality rate ranging from 5.66 to 11.66 per 100,000 inhabitants, were considered critical areas. Three clusters were located in the area known as Sertão and two in the Agreste of the state. These results point to a greater risk of dying due to motorcycle accidents outside of the Metropolitan areas, and within the identified ones. This suggests that intervention measures that take into consideration the economic, social and cultural contexts are critical.

HPV VACCINATION: KNOWLEDGE, PRACTICE AND BEHAVIOURAL INTENTIONS ABOUT PREVENTION OF CERVICAL CANCER AND STDS IN FRENCH GIRLS

Objectives To examine knowledge about HPV vaccination and behaviour towards STD among 14–23-year-old (yo) girls and determine the correlation with HPV vaccination status.

Methods From 11/2008 to 04/2009, 316 girls were recruited by general practitioners in a cross-sectional study and filled a self-administered questionnaire. Twenty-eight were interviewed by a sociologist.

Results Of the 316 girls, HPV vaccination was reported by 135 (42.7%). Parents were involved in the decision of vaccination for 62.4% of the 14–20 yo. Majority of unvaccinated girls preferred to wait (34.2%), did not feel concerned (27.3%) or intended to get the vaccine soon (25.5%). During the interviews, the 10 vaccinated girls declared having the same opinion as their parents and uncertain girls thought they were not yet concerned. Knowledge of HPV and pap-smear, need of pap-smear despite HPV vaccination was higher in vaccinated girls (13.3% vs 5.5%, 60.6% vs 34.9% in 14–16 yo girls and 60% vs 25.6% in 21–23 yo girls respectively). Overall, 87.2% cited condom for STD prevention and 88% of sexually active girls used it, irrespective of HPV vaccine status. Conditions for stopping condom use were more often reported by vaccinated 14–16 yo girls (24.2% vs 11.1%).

Conclusion Knowledge about CC prevention was poor but seemed higher among vaccinated girls. Knowledge and behaviours about STD prevention seemed appropriate, whatever the HPV vaccination status. HPV vaccination should be widely proposed to adolescent girls and their parents and information on it and on CC prevention should be reinforced.