Introduction
In Latin-America, social inequalities play an important role as determinants of health conditions. This study aimed to analyse associations among social inequalities, health status and healthcare utilisation in Brazilian elderly men.

Methods
The study was based on 2859 old men living in a medium size city in Southeast Brazil. Two-stage cluster analysis was performed using socioeconomic and demographic characteristics. To verify possible associations between cluster characteristics and health variables prevalence ratios (FR) and their 95% CI were estimated.

Results
Three clusters were identified. Individuals in Cluster 1 (socioeconomically favourable) were married, owned their homes and no longer worked. In Cluster 2 (socioeconomically intermediate) were the younger and still economically active men and in Cluster 3 (socioeconomically unfavourable) were mostly widowers with few years of schooling. In comparison to Cluster 1, men in Cluster 3 had high probability of referring use of public health services (PR 1.17 95% CI 1.10 to 1.24), report chronic conditions (PR 1.12 95% CI 1.02 to 1.25) and have no regular physician (PR 1.30 95% CI 1.17 to 1.44); men in Cluster 2 had low probability of referring poor health (PR 0.62 95% CI 0.52 to 0.63), reporting chronic conditions (PR 0.70 95% CI 0.63 to 0.79) and relating regular use of medication (PR 0.77 95% CI 0.71 to 0.83).

Conclusion
Socioeconomic differences are associated with health status and use of health services in this population. Social inequalities leading to poor living conditions and other environmental exposures further enhance their vulnerability. Measures to identify these high risk individuals, reduce inequalities and facilitate the access to health services are necessary in order to reverse current standards.

Introduction
Systemic inflammatory response syndrome (SIRS) due to infection is an important cause of morbidity and mortality in children. The present prospective observational study aimed to determine correlation between Procalcitonin (PCT) and WBC, ESR and C-reactive protein in toddlers before and after treatment.

Methods
Overall, 50 patients aged 1–36 months who were hospitalised at the Paediatrics Ward in Besat Hospital in Sanandsaj city western Iran through a census sampling method were recruited. CBC was measured via cell counter; ESR by Westergren method, CRP via semi quantitative method and PCT via semi quantitative immunochromatography method. Pearson correlation coefficient was used to estimate correlation between WBC, ESR, CRP and PCT before and after treatment of SIRS.

Results
Correlation coefficients between PCT and CRP were determined as “Good” and between PCT and ESR was determined as “Mean” in the first day of trial before treatment was started. However, there was no significant correlation between PCT and WBC. In third day of treatment, no significant correlation was found between PCT and WBC count, ESR, CRP.

Conclusions
In the onset of treatment and for confirming the diagnosis of SIRS, Procalcitonin and CRP are more favourable values. PCT would be more useful marker to be considered for follow up procedures.

Introduction
The Work Ability Index questionnaire (WAI) assesses the perception of the worker in relation “how well a worker is or will be in the present or near future and how capable this worker is of performing work given the demands of the job and the health status and mental and physical capabilities of the worker.” Aims: to investigate the validity and reliability of the WAI in 1436 nurses’ work of tree public hospital of the Rio de Janeiro.

Methods
We evaluated the validity dimensional through exploratory factor analysis using polychotic correlation matrix and parallel analysis for retention of factors and correlational validity correlating the WAI with theoretically relevant constructs using Spearman correlation. The reliability was assessed by the Cronbach’s α and McDonald’s ω coefficients. The factorability of data was tested by the Meyer-Olkin index (KMO) and Bartlett’s Test of Sphericity. The R software was used for analysis.
Results The factorial analyses indicated a two-dimensional structure (perception of work ability/mental resources and diseases and health restrictions). The value of Cronbach’s α and McDonald’s ω was, respectively, 0.80 and 0.87. The theoretical hypothesis of the construct validity were confirmed with direct correlation and significant of the WAI with the scores of reward, control and self-evaluate of the health status; inverse correlation and significant with the scale of need for recovery, psychological distress, effort, overcommitment and demand.

Conclusion We found good evidence for a high reliability and construct validity of WAI questionnaire, supporting its use in future analyses in similar populations.

Introduction The City of Oshawa in Durham, Canada is a major manufacturing hub for automotive production. In 2008–2009, we witnessed an unprecedented economic crisis not seen since the great depression. A record number of auto-workers lost their jobs as a result. Little is known about how these lay-offs affected the health and well-being of the workers. This exploratory study examined the impact of being laid-off on the emotional, physical, social and financial health of auto-workers.

Methods A purposive sampling technique was employed to recruit participants from two locations: The CAW Community Action Centre and a Service Fair organised by the Durham Region Local Training Board. All participants were asked to complete an in-depth demographic and health questionnaire.

Results A total of 36 laid-off workers were interviewed between 28 October and 30 November 2009. Approximately two-third of our participants were male and the mean age was 45 (SD=6, range=30–61). The average length of time since laid-off was 13 months (SD=8, range=1–56). Half of our participants reported a feeling of burden to others and a loss of social status, and 75% reported a loss of identity and pride. With regard to the self-rated health and well-being status on a scale of 1 (very poor) to 5 (excellent) since being laid-off, our participants reported mid-level physical health (score=3.12), but relatively poor emotional health (score=2.59), social health (score=2.5) and financial health (score=1.97).

Conclusion Job loss can have a wide range of effect on one’s well-being, including physical, emotional, social and financial health.

Introduction An association between sleep duration and overweight has been reported from several countries. Comparability of those results is limited by reasons of methodological differences. In a multi-center study we analysed this association in children from northern and southern Europe.

Objectives To investigate differences and a possible effect modification by geographical region in the association between sleep duration and overweight.

Methods In the IDEFICS-Study we examined 16,223 children (2–9 years) from eight European countries. Sleep was assessed by means of a parental 24-h Recall. Logistic regression models were applied to analyse the association between overweight and sleep duration and to test for effect modification by region.

Results A dose dependent association between sleep duration and overweight was seen. This persisted after adjustment, but remained significant only for sleeping <9h if stratified by region (north:OR 2.0; 99% CI 1.3 to 3.2 vs south:OR 2.5; 99% CI 1.4 to 4.3). No effect modification by region was found. The association was stronger in older children.

Conclusion Geographic region and related aspects do not modify the association between sleep and overweight, but should be taken in consideration as a confounding factor on this association.

Introduction The association among the variables.

Results The sleep duration of 5 or fewer hours was associated with poor health status only in the female population, in the mental component of HRQL. Sleeping 10 h or more was associated with the eight SF-36 scales and the physical and mental component summary measures were the dependent variables and the principal independent was sleep duration. Simple and multiple linear regression models were used to verify the association among the variables.

Conclusion HRQL was associated only with the long sleep in the elderly men. In women, both the short and long sleep was associated negatively with the health status, in different dimensions. Considering that health self-assessment has a significant relationship with clinical status and mortality, research on health related quality of life and sleep duration become important, and this study is among the first to present this relationship.