

Social determinants and access to tertiary health care in quilombola communities in the Amazon: Literature Review

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REVIEW TITLE AND BASIC DETAILS

Review title

Social determinants and access to tertiary health care in quilombola communities in the Amazon: Literature Review

Original language title

Determinantes sociais e o acesso à atenção terciária em saúde nas comunidades quilombolas da Amazônia: Revisão de Literatura

Review objectives

Population: quilombola population in the municipality of Santarém, state of Pará. Intervention: Social Determinants that influence access to tertiary health care. Comparison: non-quilombola populations. Outcome: access to tertiary health care, quality of care, impacts on the health-disease process

SEARCHING AND SCREENING

Searches

The sources that will be searched include Google Scholar, PubMed, Scopus, and Web of Science. The search will cover publications from 2020 to 2024, with no specific language restrictions mentioned.

Study design

The review includes a range of study designs that provide insights into the social determinants affecting access to tertiary healthcare services among Quilombola communities. Eligible study designs include observational studies such as cohort studies, case-control studies, cross-sectional studies, and qualitative studies like ethnographic research or in-depth interviews. These designs are chosen because they offer valuable perspectives on the social, cultural, and economic factors influencing healthcare access.

There are no restrictions on the types of studies based on their design, as long as they focus on the relevant social determinants and healthcare access for Quilombola communities. However, the review excludes studies that do not provide primary data or are purely theoretical without empirical evidence. Additionally, studies focused solely on experimental designs like randomized controlled trials (RCTs) that do not consider the broader social context are not included unless they directly address the review's focus on social determinants of health.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Condition or domain being studied

The systematic review focuses on the healthcare domain of access to tertiary healthcare services among Quilombola communities in the Amazon region. Quilombolas are descendants of African slaves who established settlements in remote areas to preserve their safety and cultural heritage. Over time, these communities, often located in rural or riverine areas, face significant challenges in accessing healthcare services, particularly those requiring specialized or advanced medical care. The review aims to identify the social determinants that influence their access to tertiary healthcare, considering factors such as geographic isolation, cultural barriers, economic constraints, and structural challenges. This study highlights the disparities in healthcare access for Quilombola communities and seeks to provide insights into improving equity and quality of healthcare delivery in these marginalized populations.

Population

The participants or populations being studied in the review are individuals belonging to Quilombola communities in the municipality of Santarém, located in the state of Pará, Brazil. These communities, with their unique cultural and historical background, face distinct challenges in accessing healthcare, particularly tertiary healthcare services. The review aims to focus on studies that specifically address the social determinants influencing this access for Quilombola communities. It includes studies that may offer comparisons with non-Quilombola populations in similar geographic or socio-economic contexts to provide a broader understanding of the disparities in healthcare access.

The review excludes studies that do not center on Quilombola communities or fail to provide specific data related to these populations. It also excludes studies that do not directly examine the impact of social determinants on access to tertiary healthcare services, as well as those conducted outside the Amazon region or lacking relevant data for the state of Pará. Additionally, studies that focus solely on primary or secondary healthcare access, without addressing the

challenges related to tertiary care or offering insufficient detail on the healthcare access issues faced by Quilombola communities, are excluded from the review.

Intervention(s) or exposure(s)

The review examines the social determinants of health that influence access to tertiary healthcare services among Quilombola communities in the Amazon. These determinants include geographic isolation, economic status, cultural beliefs, and structural barriers within the healthcare system.

The review includes studies that specifically analyze how these factors impact access to specialized medical care for Quilombola populations. This includes research providing data on transportation challenges, financial constraints, cultural differences, and the availability of healthcare resources.

The review excludes studies that do not directly address these social determinants or focus on access to primary or secondary healthcare services. Additionally, studies lacking clear evidence on the impact of these factors on healthcare access among Quilombola communities are not considered.

Comparator(s) or control(s)

not applicable

OUTCOMES TO BE ANALYSED

Main outcomes

The main outcomes of the review focus on evaluating the access to tertiary healthcare services among Quilombola communities in the Amazon region, as influenced by social determinants of health. Access to tertiary healthcare services is defined as the ability of Quilombola communities to obtain specialized medical care provided at facilities typically located in urban areas. This outcome is measured by factors such as the utilization rate of tertiary services, the time taken to reach these services, and the availability of necessary resources, including transportation and financial means.

The review also examines the quality of healthcare received by Quilombola individuals at tertiary healthcare facilities. This outcome is assessed through patient satisfaction, adherence to treatment protocols, and health outcomes following care. The quality of care is measured using patient surveys, clinical outcomes, and assessments from healthcare providers.

Additional outcomes

Additionally, the review measures the broader impact of access to tertiary care on health outcomes within Quilombola communities. This includes changes in morbidity and mortality rates, the prevalence of chronic diseases, and improvements in overall health status resulting from specialized care. These measurements are considered when determining the inclusion of studies in the review, ensuring that the focus remains on how social determinants influence these critical health outcomes for the Quilombola population.

DATA COLLECTION PROCESS

Data extraction (selection and coding)

Studies will be selected for inclusion in the review through a systematic process. First, titles and abstracts will be screened to identify studies that meet the inclusion criteria, focusing on those addressing social determinants of health influencing access to tertiary healthcare among Quilombola communities. Studies that do not align with these criteria will be excluded at this stage.

Next, full-text articles of the remaining studies will be retrieved and reviewed in detail to confirm their relevance. Any discrepancies in study selection will be resolved through discussion among reviewers, with a third reviewer consulted if needed. The selection process will be documented using a PRISMA flow diagram, detailing the number of studies screened, assessed for eligibility, and included in the final review.

Data extraction will involve collecting detailed information from each selected study, including study design, location, population, social determinants examined, methods used to assess healthcare access, and key outcomes related to healthcare access and quality. Both quantitative and qualitative data will be extracted, including statistical results, measures of association, and qualitative insights into the social determinants affecting healthcare access. Two independent reviewers will conduct the data extraction using a standardized form to ensure consistency and accuracy. Discrepancies between the reviewers will be resolved through discussion or by involving a third reviewer. All extracted data will be recorded in a secure database for systematic analysis and synthesis in the review. This process ensures that the review accurately reflects the evidence on how social determinants impact access to tertiary healthcare services among Quilombola communities.

Risk of bias (quality) assessment

The review will assess key characteristics of the included studies, such as study design, sample size, population characteristics, data collection methods, and outcome validity. The focus will be on evaluating how well studies control for confounding factors, the appropriateness of their statistical methods, and the transparency of their findings.

For formal risk of bias assessment, the Critical Appraisal Skills Programme (CASP) checklist will be used. This tool helps evaluate the quality of various study designs by examining the clarity of the research question, the appropriateness of the methodology, the thoroughness of the analysis, and the reliability of the results. The review will also consider potential biases, including selection, measurement, and reporting biases.

Each study will be systematically rated based on these assessments, and the results will contribute to an overall evaluation of the evidence quality. This ensures that the review's conclusions about the social determinants of health influencing access to tertiary healthcare among Quilombola communities are based on robust and reliable evidence.

PLANNED DATA SYNTHESIS

Strategy for data synthesis

The data synthesis in this review will be tailored to the diverse nature of the studies included, combining both quantitative and qualitative approaches to provide a comprehensive understanding of the social determinants of health that influence access to tertiary healthcare among Quilombola communities.

For quantitative data, a narrative synthesis will be conducted if a meta-analysis is not feasible due to heterogeneity in study designs, populations, or outcomes. This narrative approach will

involve summarizing the findings from individual studies, identifying patterns and trends across the studies, and interpreting these in the context of the broader literature. When possible, statistical data will be pooled using meta-analytic techniques to provide summary effect estimates, particularly for outcomes like healthcare access rates or health outcomes following tertiary care. Heterogeneity among studies will be assessed using the I^2 statistic, and subgroup analyses will be performed to explore potential sources of variation, such as differences in geographic location or specific social determinants.

For qualitative data, a thematic synthesis will be employed. This will involve coding the qualitative findings from each study to identify key themes related to barriers and facilitators of healthcare access. These themes will then be compared and contrasted across studies to provide a richer understanding of the lived experiences of Quilombola communities in accessing tertiary healthcare.

The results from both quantitative and qualitative syntheses will be integrated to draw holistic conclusions about how social determinants affect healthcare access in Quilombola communities. This mixed-methods approach ensures that the review captures both the measurable impacts and the contextual factors influencing healthcare access.

Analysis of subgroups or subsets

Not applicable

REVIEW AFFILIATION, FUNDING AND PEER REVIEW

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Funding source

not applicable

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TIMELINE OF THE REVIEW

Review timeline

Start date: 29 August 2024. End date: 30 December 2024

Date of first submission to PROSPERO

18 August 2024

Date of registration in PROSPERO

29 August 2024

CURRENT REVIEW STAGE

Publication of review results

The intention is not to publish the review once completed.

Stage of the review at this submission

Review stage	Started	Completed
Pilot work		
Formal searching/study identification		
Screening search results against inclusion criteria		
Data extraction or receipt of IP		
Risk of bias/quality assessment		
Data synthesis		

Review status

The review is currently planned or ongoing.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

PROSPERO version history

- Version 1.1 published on 29 Aug 2024
- Version 1.0 published on 29 Aug 2024

Review conflict of interest

None known

Country

Brazil

Medical Subject Headings

Health Services Accessibility; Humans; Social Determinants of Health; Social Factors

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