|  |
| --- |
| **Epidemiology of protective factors: exploring possible associations between religious experience in people of the saints communities and health** |
| **Background/Objectives**  The research "Popular Practices of Health Care in People of the Saints Communities" carried out in thirteen communities in Brazil concluded by the existence of health promoting practices within the communities. Salutogenesis is a theoretical model developed to improve the understanding of the relationship between stressors, adaptation and health. Our objective isDescribe the results and behavior of the SOC scale in populations of participants from different People of Saints Communities in Brazil and to verify the variation in the score of the SOC scale according to the degree of involvement (initiation time) of the participants in the activities of the communities.  **Metodology**  Participants were identified in three different locations for this exploratory study: João Pessoa (PB), Águas Lindas de Goiás (GO) and Campinas (SP). The field research occurred between the months of January and March of 2015. The SOC scale of 29 items was applied through individual interviews to 30 participants, ten of each community. In the analysis process, the participants were classified accordingly to their onset time and were correlated with the SOC score.  **Results**  The SOC median of our study may be considered high in comparison with other studies, indicating that the "new" birth in religiosity is in itself a protective factor of health and confers on the SOC predictive capacity regarding positive health events.  **Discussion**  This "positive" perspective of "exposure" and "outcome" in epidemiology would pave the way for exploring more "how" and "why" religious activities would benefit people's health.  **Keywords:** protective factors, religion, African matrix, health promotion |