

Needs and Access to Health Services for adolescents in Six Northern Argentine Provinces. A Comparative Study

ABSTRACT

Daniel Maceira¹

Naturally adolescents have low morbidity and mortality compared to other age groups. However, they present specific health problems that can affect their health and life, without having standard specific policies devoted to improve their ability to translate needs into consultation to the health care system, as well as improving healthy habits within a personal and institutional strategy of life-span health behavior. Based on recent literature on health care strategies and cycle of life (WHO, 2010 among others), the goal of this study is to identify the obstacles that hinder adolescents' access to health care in the six northern provinces of Argentina, contributing to the design, orientation and elaboration/re-elaboration of public policies for adolescents. The research plan included the development of an original self-administrative, multiple choice questionnaires distributed in public high schools, reaching a final dataset of 5,020 adolescents in urban and peri-urban setups. Descriptive statistics and logistic regressions were implemented in order to define determinants related to eating disorders, addictions, unwanted pregnancies, accidents and suicide among others based on family and individual characteristics, social insurance coverage and health systems interventions such as communication campaigns, integration of services, and health care system network performance.

¹ Ph.D. in Economics. Senior Researcher CEDES/CONICET, Argentina. Correspondence to danielmaceira@cedes.org