## **ORIGINALARTICLE**

# INDICATORS OF MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY BY FEMUR FRACTURES IN OLDER PEOPLE: A DECADE-LONG STUDY IN BRAZILIAN HOSPITALS

# INDICADORES DE MORBIDADE E MORTALIDADE POR FRATURAS DE FÊMUR EM IDOSOS: ANÁLISE DE UMA DÉCADA EM HOSPITAIS BRASILEIROS

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Objective: To evaluate the profile of femur fractures in older adults in Brazil between 2008 and 2018. Methods: Population-based time series study with data from the Department of Informatics of the Unified Health System (Datasus), including 480,652 hospitalizations, of adults from 60 years and over, with hip fracture (ICD10-S72). Results: There was an increase of 76.9% in the hospitalization register (mean 5.87%/year) and an average incidence rate of 19.46 fractures for every 10,000 older adults. In total, 68% of hospitalizations were female, 28% from São Paulo. The average length of stay was 8.9 days, being higher in the Northern Region (11.8) and in the Federal District (18.7). Average mortality rate was 5%, being higher in men (5.45%) and over 80 years old. Northeast Region had the lowest mortality rate (3.54%). Southeast Region had the highest rate (5.53%). Total cost of hospitalizations was R\$ 1.1 billion, with an average of R\$ 100 million/year. Average cost per hospitalization was higher in the Southern Region (R\$ 2,491.00). Conclusion: Femoral fracture is an important cause of mortality among older adults, with a higher incidence in women but higher mortality in men, with high cost to the system and regional differences. Level of Evidence II, Economic and decision analyses - developing an economic or decision model.

Keywords: Femur. Aged/Mortality. Risk Factors. Health Systems. Osteoporosis.

#### **RESUMO**

Objetivo: Avaliar o perfil das fraturas de fêmur em idosos no Brasil no período de 2008 a 2018. Métodos: Estudo de série temporal baseado em dados do Departamento de Informática do Sistema Único de Saúde (Datasus), incluindo 480.652 internações de pessoas com idade a partir de 60 anos e com fratura de quadril (ICD10-S72). Resultados: Houve aumento de 76,9% no registro de hospitalização (média de 5,87% por ano) e taxa de incidência média de 19,46 fraturas para cada 10 mil idosos. O estado de São Paulo respondeu por 28% do total de registros, e as internações de pacientes do sexo feminino corresponderam a 68% do total. O tempo médio de permanência foi de 8,9 dias, com maiores índices na Região Norte (11,8) e no Distrito Federal (18,7). A taxa média de mortalidade foi de 5% e atingiu os maiores valores entre os homens (5,45%) e os pacientes com mais de 80 anos. A região Nordeste apresentou a menor taxa de mortalidade (3,54%) e a região Sudeste teve a maior (5,53%). O custo total das internações foi de R\$ 1,1 bilhão, com média de R\$ 100 milhões ao ano. O custo médio por hospitalização foi maior na região Sul (R\$ 2.491,00). Conclusão: A fratura do fêmur é importante causa de mortalidade em idosos, com maior incidência em mulheres e maior mortalidade em homens, alto custo para o sistema e diferenças regionais. Nível de Evidência II, Análises econômicas e de decisão desenvolvimento de modelo econômico ou de decisão.

Descritores: Fêmur. Idoso/Mortalidade. Fatores de Risco. Sistemas de Saúde. Osteoporose.

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#### INTRODUCTION

Although the aging process is more advanced in Europe and North America, where one in five people were 60 or older in 2017, populations in other regions are also aging. By 2050, older adults are expected to account for 35% of the population in Europe, 28% in North America, 25% in Latin America and the Caribbean, 24% in Asia, 23% in Oceania and 9% in Africa.<sup>1</sup>

The Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), based on projection models, estimated that 13% of the population was 60 or older in 2018, which corresponds to 19.2 million. However, by 2060, the country will have more older than younger people. The association between longevity and the prevalence of chronic diseases is described in the literature. In the United States, about half (50.9%) of adults have at least one chronic condition and 26% have two or more conditions. A study with data from the National Health Survey (PNS), held in 2013 in Brazil, revealed that the prevalence of three simultaneous diseases in the age group 60 and older was 3.7 times the prevalence in the 35-59 age group, and almost 20 times the prevalence of those between 18 and 34 years old.

Insufficient muscle function and poor physical performance are also strong predictors of clinically relevant adverse events in older adults. These factors corroborate the falls, which, may predict future fractures when frequent, in addition to the likelihood of associated risk factors. Regarding hip fractures, they are a useful substitute to determine the burden of osteoporosis. Although they may account for less than 20% of all osteoporotic fractures, hip fractures account for most fracture-related health care due to high morbidity, mortality, and hospitalization costs. S.9

Determination of the individual hip fracture incidences in several countries and even in many locations within the same country has shown great variability in rates, leading to the suspicion of several factors that explain such differences, mainly the genetic, climatic, ethnic-cultural, anthropometric and geographic ones. Tools like FRAX®, specific to each country and based on national epidemiological studies, from clinical risk factors (CRF), with or without bone mineral density (BMD), may provide the likelihood of fracture of the femur and other bones over the next 10 years.<sup>10</sup> Based on the perspective of population aging as a consequence of the individual aging process, our study sought to analyze the panorama of health services utilization through the registration of femur fracture in Brazilian older adults between 2008 and 2018. Our study seeks to identify sociodemographic characteristics and the profile of assistance to users, represented by the differences between the hospitalizations of the analyzed localities to collaborate to guide regional policies for prevention and to promote the best allocation of services offer.

### **METHODS**

This is a descriptive study, population-based, in time series, from public domain data and provided by the Hospital Information System of the Unified Health System (SIH/SUS), through health information (Tabnet). It was enabled by the Health Surveillance Secretariat of the Ministry of Health, through the electronic portal of the Department of Informatics of the Unified Health System (Datasus), extracted between June 9th and June 11th, 2019 (http://www.datasus.gov.br). The system database is generated through hospital units (public and private publicly funded) that send the information of hospitalizations made through the Authorization of Hospital Admission (AIH) for Municipal and State management. Such information is processed by the Datasus and form an extensive database with hospital information from all over the Brazilian territory.

The filters referring to hospital morbidity data related to femur fracture were applied, without distinction of anatomical location, referring to the 10th International Classification of Diseases review (ICD-10 S72), in patients aged 60 years or older, between 2008 and 2018 in Brazil. The variables analyzed were: number of hospitalizations, age groups, sex, total and average cost per hospitalization, average number of days of hospital stay, deaths and mortality rate. Variables such as race, type of care and funding were not considered for analysis due to the considerable percentage of ignored records. Data were presented descriptively, proportionally and analyzed as coefficients and rate when possible.

The hospital mortality coefficient for femur fracture was obtained by the ratio between the number of deaths from femur fracture by the total number of hospitalizations for this diagnosis in the same age group as the patients.

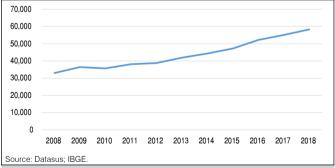
Hospitalization rate in older adults due to femur fracture was obtained by the ratio between the number of hospitalizations due to femur fracture in people aged 60 years or older, by place of residence and total population aged 60 and over, in the same period and place considered in the numerator, using the database of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) referring to population projections.

The cost projection was performed using triple time series exponential smoothing analysis, Holt-Winters. Projections were made until the year 2028.

Our study supports a regional study conducted with secondary data on the subject and was approved by the Research Ethics Committee under number CAAE: 89658718.8.0000.5553

## **RESULTS**

Between January 2008 and December 2018, 480,652 hospitalizations for femur fracture were recorded in the population over 60 years old in Brazil, accounting for 2.5% of all hospitalizations for this age group, in both sexes. In the same period, hospitalizations record increased by 76.9%, an average increase of 5.87% per year, as shown in Figure 1. Considering the IBGE annual projections for the population, the average hospitalization rate in the age group over 60 years old due to femur fracture over 10 years, for both sexes, was 19.46 for every 10,000 older adults in Brazil.



**Figure 1.** Number of hospitalizations for femur fracture in Brazil, older adults over 60 years old, between 2008 and 2018.

The number of femoral fracture records was higher among women, who represent 68% of total hospitalizations. The result is a female/male hospitalization ratio of 2.1/1. Regarding the age groups over 60 years old, the analysis shows a sustained increase of hospitalization due to femur fracture with age progression for both sexes, and the population from 80 years old and over accounts for 47.5% of the patients, increasing the hospitalization ratio between women/men in this age group to 2.9/1.

The average length of hospital stay for femur fracture in Brazil was 8.9 days for both sexes. However, there was a slight predominance of more days of hospitalization in the male population for all age groups. Between 2008 and 2018, considering the ICD S72 in the population over 60 years old, for both sexes, 24,027 deaths were recorded in Brazil, representing an average mortality rate of 5%, estimated by the ratio between the number of deaths and the number of hospitalizations in this population over 60 years old due to femur fracture.

We observed a predominance of the male population in the average mortality rate (5.45%), in all age groups above 60 years old, which represents a male/female death ratio of 1.13/1, and an ascending pattern. Mortality rate among men above 80 years old was 4.6 higher than among the age group of 60 to 64 years, representing a

variation of 38.9%. In women, the variation in mortality between these age groups is smaller (31.4%), with a rate 3.81 times greater when 80 years, as shown in Table 1.

The total cost of hospitalizations from 2008 to 2018 in Brazil was R\$ 1.1 billion, with an average of R\$ 100 million/year. The cost analysis reveals an increase of 158% in the period from 2008 to 2018, which represents 9.14% per year. The average value of each hospitalization was R\$ 2,290.80 (R\$ 1,781.62 – R\$ 2,602.18), and 80% of the total cost focused on the age group of 70 years old, regardless of sex, as shown in Table 2.

The estimated cost projection analysis for the next decade (2019-2028) is R\$ 2.16 billion, 107.0% over than the period studied, as shown in Figure 2.

Table 1. Number of hospitalizations, average length of stay, deaths and mortality rate, total by age group and by sex, between 2008 and 2018

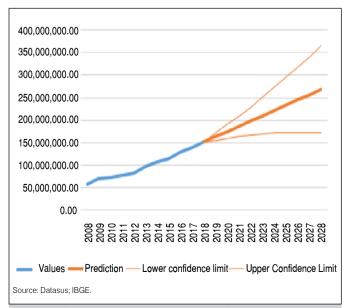
Sex	Age Group	Number of Hospitalizations	Average length of stay (days)	Deaths	Mortality Rate (%)
	Total	480,652	8.9	24,027	5.00
	60 to 64	43,834	8.9	804	1.83
Total	65 to 69	52,587	8.9	1,269	2.41
	70 to 74	68,129	8.8	2,027	2.98
	75 to 79	87,761	8.8	3,405	3.88
	80 and over	228,341	8.9	16,522	7.24
	Total	153,608	9.0	8,368	5.45
	60 to 64	22,662	9.1	435	1.92
Male	65 to 69	22,325	9.1	596	2.67
Male	70 to 74	23,758	9.0	846	3.56
	75 to 79	26,224	9.0	1,239	4.72
	80 and over	58,639	9.0	5,252	8.96
	Total	327,044	8.8	15,659	4.79
Female	60 to 64	21,172	8.7	369	1.74
	65 to 69	30,262	8.8	673	2.22
	70 to 74	44,371	8.7	1,181	2.66
	75 to 79	61,537	8.8	2,166	3.52
	80 and over	169,702	8.8	11,270	6.64

Source: Datasus.

**Table 2.** Number of hospitalizations, cost of hospitalization and average value per total hospitalization between 2008 and 2018 and per year of processing.

Year Processing	Hospitalizations (n)	Cost (R\$)	Average Value Hospitalization (R\$)
Total (2008-2018)	480,652	1,101,072,872.24	2,290.79
2008	32,950	58,704,215.87	1,781.62
2009	36,435	69,269,677.41	1,901.19
2010	35,620	72,767,862.66	2,042.89
2011	38,119	78,749,699.25	2,065.89
2012	38,755	82,170,390.49	2,120.25
2013	41,874	97,259,762.36	2,322.68
2014	44,316	107,536,595.16	2,426.59
2015	47,138	114,839,321.03	2,436.24
2016	52,130	129,496,301.52	2,484.10
2017	55,034	138,627,352.66	2,518.94
2018	58,281	151,651,693.83	2,602.08

Source: Datasus.



**Figure 2.** Cost projection for femur fracture in Brazil, over 60 years old, between 2008 and 2018.

Regarding demographic analysis, Table 3 shows an overview of the Brazilian scenario between 2008 and 2018. Considering the five regions of the country, the number of hospitalizations records for femur fractures in the same period and age groups over 60 years old, in both sexes, predominated in the southeast region (53.1%).

The state of São Paulo stands out with 136,402 hospitalizations, which represents 28% of the records for femur fracture in Brazil. Roraima (RR) was the state with the lowest hospitalization for femur fracture, with 495 records in 10 years, as shown in Figure 3. Almost half of the Brazilian states (Rondônia, Amazonas, Amapá, Tocantins, Maranhão, Ceará, Paraíba, Sergipe, Bahia, Espírito Santo, Rio de Janeiro and the Federal District) has twice the average national hospitalization time, especially

Amapá (19.5 days), Rondônia (19.2 days) and Federal District (18.7 days), reaching twice the national average (8.9 days).

The Northeast Region had the lowest mortality rate due to femur fracture in Brazil, between 2008 and 2018, with 3.54% of deaths, considering all age groups of 60 years old and over. Ceará had the lowest proportion between the number of deaths and the number of hospitalizations, with a 2.37% rate in the study period. It was followed by the state of Alagoas (2.53%), which also had the lowest average hospital stay in Brazil (6.5 days), and the state of Paraíba with 2.99% of deaths, regardless of age group or sex, representing almost half of the national average of 5%. In the overall average for the period, the Southeast Region had the highest mortality rate (5.53%) in Brazil, featured for the state of Rio de Janeiro (6.08%), as shown in Table 4.

Table 3. Number of hospitalizations, cost, average length of stay, deaths and mortality rate, total by region, between 2008 and 2018 Average Mortality Rate **Total Cost** Hospitalizations Average length Deaths Region hospitalization of stay (days) (R\$) (n) (n) (%) cost (R\$) 480,652 1,101,072,872.24 2.290.79 8.9 24.027 5 Total North Region 17,870 39,110,174.72 2,188.59 11.8 692 3.87 Northeast Region 88,452 188,705,323.81 2,133.42 9.6 3.54 3,130 Southeast Region 255.097 587.449.632.96 2.302.85 8.8 14.082 5.52 South Region 90,512 225,474,745.18 2,491.10 7.8 4,816 5.32 28,721 60,332,995.57 2,100.66 9.1 1,307 4.55 Midwest Region

Source: Datasus.

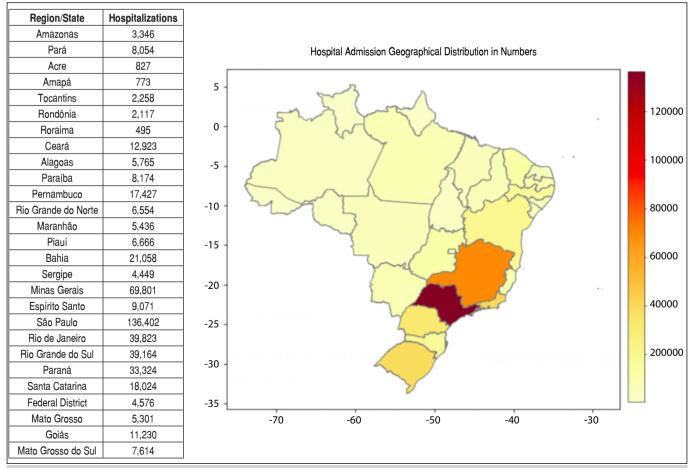


Figure 3. Number of hospitalizations due to femur fractures in patients over 60 years old by Brazilian state between 2008 and 2018.

Table 4. Number of hospitalizations, average length of stay, deaths and mortality rate, total by region/state, between 2008 and 2018. Region/State Hospitalizations Average length of stay (days) Deaths Mortality Rate (%) **TOTAL** 480,652 8.9 24,027 5.00 3.87 **North Region** 17,870 11.8 692 Amazonas 3,346 14 1 3.32 111 Pará 8.7 8.054 277 3 44 Acre 827 8.9 34 4.11 19.5 4.53 Amapá 773 35 2,258 11.4 4.65 **Tocantins** 105 Rondônia 2,117 19.2 105 4.96 Roraima 495 8.5 25 5.05 **Northeast Region** 3.54 88,452 9.6 3,130 10.3 2.37 Ceará 12,923 306 5,765 6.5 2.53 Alagoas 146 Paraíba 8,174 10.1 244 2.99 Pernambuco 17,427 9.7 548 3.14 Rio Grande do Norte 8.0 3.22 6,554 211 Maranhão 5,436 10.5 190 3.50 Piauí 7.9 3.92 6,666 261 Bahia 21,058 9.9 920 4.37 4,449 11.9 304 6.83 Sergipe 255.097 8.8 14.082 5.52 Southeast Region Minas Gerais 69,801 7.3 3,165 4.53 Espírito Santo 9,071 10.4 482 5.31 São Paulo 136,402 7.8 5.88 8,015 Rio de Janeiro 39,823 14.2 2,420 6.08 90,512 7.8 5.32 South Region 4,816 Rio Grande do Sul 39.164 8.7 1.699 4.34 Paraná 33,324 6.8 5.84 1,946 Santa Catarina 1,171 18,024 8.0 6.50 **Mideast Region** 28,721 9.1 4.55 1,307 Federal District 4,576 18.7 191 4.17 Mato Grosso 5,301 8.1 225 4.24 11,230 6.8 528 4.70 Goiás 4.77 Mato Grosso do Sul 7,614 7.4 363

Source: Datasus

Regarding the states, Sergipe recorded the highest average mortality rate in Brazil (6.83%). When considering age groups individually, 75.3% of deaths occurred in the population aged 80 and over, with a 10.25% mortality rate. Men in this age group had a higher death rate, 12.29%, more twice of the national average under the same conditions (8.96%). Santa Catarina has the highest mortality rate under the same conditions (13.03%). Alagoas and Bahia stand out, despite the lower than average mortality, the mortality rate is higher among women over 80 years old, 4.1% and 4.41%, comparing with other states, as shown in Table 5.

The average cost per hospitalization in the Southern Region (R\$ 2,491) was higher than the national average, due to the higher value for hospitalization in the states of Paraná (R\$ 2,795.62) and Santa Catarina (R\$ 2,725.61). In these, filtering by age groups and sex, the highest cost in hospitalizations over 80 years old occurs among men (R\$ 3,018.09 and R\$ 2,867.63, respectively). Cost of 21% (Paraná) and 27% (Santa Catarina) higher than the national average for the same sex and age group (R\$ 2,376.01), also shown in Table 5.

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**Table 5.** Number of hospitalizations, total and average hospitalization, number of deaths and mortality rate, by sex, in the population aged 80 and over, by region/state, Sul and Northeast from 2008 to 2018.

Sex	Age Group	Hospitalizations (n)	Total Cost (R\$)	Hospitalization Average Cost (R\$)	Deaths (n)	Mortality Ra (%)
			State: Santa Catarina			
	Total	18,024	49,126,435.18	2,725.61	1,171	6.5
Male	80 years old and over	1,896	5,437,021.32	2,867.63	247	13.03
Female	80 years old and over	6,448	17,892,549.71	2,774.90	572	8.87
			State: Paraná			
	Total	33,324	93,161,247.99	2,795.62	1,946	5.84
Male	80 years old and over	4,159	12,552,222.68	3,018.09	423	10.17
Female	80 years old and over	10,919	32,434,056.18	2,970.42	892	8.17
			State: Rio Grande do Su	ıl		
	Total	39,164	83,187,062.01	2,124.07	1,699	4.34
Male	80 years old and over	3,680	8,121,912.65	2,207.04	335	9.1
Female	80 years old and over	15,415	32,596,898.39	2,114.62	835	5.42
			State: Ceará			
	Total	12,923	28,900,973.42	2,236.40	306	2.37
Male	80 years old and over	1,442	3,237,808.28	2,245.36	61	4.23
Female	80 years old and over	4,788	10,432,863.43	2,178.96	142	2.97
			State: Alagoas			
	Total	5,765	10,405,461.29	1,804.94	146	2.53
Male	80 years old and over	758	1,319,245.37	1,740.43	22	2.9
Female	80 years old and over	1,977	3,686,575.29	1,864.73	81	4.1
			State: Sergipe			
	Total	4,449	9,117,137.19	2,049.26	304	6.83
Male	80 years old and over	586	1,233,046.04	2,104.17	72	12.29
Female	80 years old and over	1,648	3,506,065.87	2,127.47	157	9.53
			State: Bahia			
	Total	21,058	45,114,541.03	2,142.39	920	4.37
Male	80 years old and over	2,895	15,841,507.14	2,148.58	317	4.3
Female	80 years old and over	7,173	29,273,033.89	2,139.06	603	4.41
			State: Maranhão			
	Total	5,436	9,463,191.36	1,740.84	190	3.5
Male	80 years old and over	708	1,150,221.72	1,624.61	44	6.21
Female	80 years old and over	1,629	2,822,523.42	1,732.67	87	5.34
			State: Paraíba			
	Total	8,174	9,463,191.36	2,191.68	244	3.51
Male	80 years old and over	1,120	2,505,247.24	2,236.83	63	5.63
Female	80 years old and over	3,145	6,913,466.57	2,198.24	117	3.72
			State: Pernambuco			
	Total	17,427	39,302,298.70	2,255.25	548	3.14
Male	80 years old and over	2,095	4,550,246.74	2,171.96	122	5.82
Female	80 years old and over	6,220	14,128,881,19	2,271.52	255	4.1
			State: Piauí			
	Total	6,666	12,598,755.69	1,890.00	261	3.92
Male	80 years old and over	832	1,653,334.90	1,987.18	88	6.73
Female	80 years old and over	2,344	4,481,404.60	1,911.86	173	5.38
	· ·	S	tate: Rio Grande do Nor	te		•
	Total	6,554	15,888,204.17	2,424.20	211	3.22
Male	80 years old and over	890	2,246,935.87	2,524.65	44	4.94
Female	80 years old and over	2,674	6,770,452.81	2,531.96	105	3.93

Source: Datasus.

## **DISCUSSION**

There are limitations of ecological studies regarding the low applicability at their individual level about the associations between exposure and outcome, and risk for possible confounding variables.<sup>11</sup> Despite the

need for proper registration, the information systems of the Unified Health System (SUS) are powerful tools that guide analyses regarding the punctual or time series situational diagnosis. Moreover, it can base hypothesis of association of variables of interest of the subject,

stimulating the elaboration of new studies.<sup>12</sup> In addition, studies estimate that 15% of the Brazilian population does not use the SUS service, which may result in underestimated data for the total population.<sup>13</sup>

The profile is compatible with the epidemiological for osteoporosis fractures.<sup>8,9</sup> A population-based study conducted with 4,332 women in the metropolitan region of São Paulo between 2004 and 2007 showed that advanced age, menopause, previous low impact fracture and current smoking were the main risk factors associated with osteoporosis and fractures. The study also showed a 33% and 11.5% prevalence of osteoporosis and bone fragility fractures, respectively.<sup>14</sup>

The reason of the difference in regionalization about the occurrence of fractures in older adults cannot be confirmed by the methodology of our study. However, there is a possibility of discussion regarding the aspects involved with the multifactoriality of the event, such as ethnic patterns, eating habits, climate and urbanization, related to hypovitaminosis D, mobility conditions, social protection, access to the health system, notifications of the disease and life expectancy.<sup>8,9</sup>

The Northeast Region had the lowest mortality rate due to femur fracture in Brazil, except in the state of Sergipe, especially in older men. A study conducted in Sobral, Ceará, also identified a low incidence rate of hip fractures among a population living in an equatorial area.<sup>15</sup>

Studies show a 20% overall mortality rate within 12 months after hip fracture. Although the overall prevalence of fragility fractures is higher in women, men generally have higher fracture-related mortality rates. <sup>16</sup>

The American literature considers the treatment of hip fracture has improved in the last 20 years. Advanced surgical devices and movement toward replacement arthroplasty, early mobilization, better use of prophylactic antibiotics and aggressive medical management may have contributed to improvements in mortality.<sup>17</sup> These factors impact hospitalization and treatment costs. The southern states presented the highest average costs during the study period, with an increase when selected by sex and aggroup. Some studies conducted in this location reveal the Caucasian population, with longer life expectancy and risk factors for fracture incidence, as well as the profile of how femur fracture care is performed in older adults. Thus, economic factors may play a significant role in the health of this population. However, the behavior of the three states is shown to be individual when associated with means of permanence and mortality rate.<sup>18,19,20</sup>

#### CONCLUSION

The analysis performed in our study showed agreement between population aging, assessed by population projections, and fracture incidence. The highest occurrence of the event occurred in older women in the southeastern and southern states, and the lowest incidence was in the north and northeast regions. Longer stay in the Midwest and higher cost in the South. It is an important cause of mortality and functional loss among older adults, presenting a higher incidence in men over 80 years. The evaluation and monitoring of this indicator are important, considering the differences between the regions of Brazil, with consequences for the individual and economic for health systems.

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