

Editorial

The issue 16/1 of *Saúde e Sociedade* offers an interesting mosaic of themes that constitute public health, revealing its richness as an area of action and studies. Multiple foci are presented in this issue.

Some of the articles deal with the action of the health system, its attempts to reach universalization and integral care, but also its limitations and difficulties. The manuscript by Tanaka and Oliveira outlines some parallels between the reforms that were made to the British health system in 1997 and Brazil's National Health System, identifying some lessons to the Brazilian one. The next article, written by Spink, proposes that the principle of integral care is fractal, reflecting worldviews that are coherent inside their micro-contexts, but are not always able to understand the diverse worldviews present in the interpersonal interactions of the network of care for health demands. One example of the limitations of the implementation of integral care is provided in Varga's text, concerning policies that combat malaria in Maranhão, the state with the highest percentage of rural population in Brazil. Medeiros and Padial also approach, in their article, some aspects of social exclusion and gender discrimination, experienced by patients suffering from Coronary Artery Disease, verified in a research study carried out with women after menopause in treatment at a Coronary Diseases clinic in São Paulo.

Aspects of health education and information are discussed in two articles, one about the Family Health strategy as object of health education and another one about Information Systems of Integral Assistance Nuclei in Family Health. The relationships between perception and education and perception and practice were investigated in two other manuscripts: one of them deals with the teacher's role according to dentistry students; the other approaches the theme of food security among members of a Food Security

Reference Center. Alimentary and nutritional aspects of users of a popular restaurant in the city of Fortaleza were also reported in an article by Araújo, Almeida and Bastos.

Another current theme that has been increasingly present in the Brazilian public health agenda is the assistance and care provided for the elderly. Two articles focus on this theme in different ways. One of them highlights the characteristics of elderly people in the Northwest of the state of Paraná aiming to contribute to the management of nursing care. The other article deals with elderly people with cognitive decline, in the city of São Paulo, studied as part of the project SABE (Health, Wellbeing and Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean), reporting on home arrangements that contribute to meet the assistance demands of these dependent elderly people.

Finally, the theme of environmental sanitation is approached in two articles in the present issue. Giatti discusses the fact that, although Amazonia displays the greatest abundance of water resources in the world, it is the Brazilian region that presents the worst indices of access to drinking water to supply its population, with a strong impact on the regional public health. The article by Araújo and Günther discusses the attempt to solve a problem of environmental sanitation that is typical of large urban areas in Brazil: construction and demolition waste, through the use of metallic containers which, in turn, cause some impacts on the urban environmental health.

The complexity of the many public health problems and of all the forms to face them is a theme that can be highlighted in all the articles.

At the end, the mode of health care at a primary health unit of Porto Alegre, state of Rio Grande do Sul, is presented as an experience report, pointing to the importance of discussion and of hearing spaces to the construction of new modes of working with health.