**Study on access to social protection policies by homeless people during the COVID-19 pandemic**

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The study analyzed the access of homeless people (HP) to health and social protection policies, including emergency measures, during the COVID-19 pandemic in Belo Horizonte (BH), capital of the state of Minas Gerais, Brazil. Its main objective was to provide data on the profile of HP in the municipality, in addition to evaluating existing public policies focused on HP, based on the time frame of the health emergency. Study with mixed methods design with triangulation of quantitative and qualitative data. It used official databases in parallel with document analysis, interviews and focus groups. As a result, the cartography showed that in the first months of the pandemic the municipality had difficulty reorganizing the health system, which underwent constant protocol updates, consolidating, however, over the months. Important emergency interventions in the municipality of BH involved activities that facilitated HP's access to the provision of services, including intersectorality between health services, social assistance and the third sector. The temporary offer of various intersectoral services, simultaneously with the offer of daytime shelters by organized civil society, was considered a key factor for the expansion and intensification of care networks for HP during the emergency phase. Itinerant services were among those with the greatest positive evidence of service to HP, with emphasis on the 'Consultório na Rua'. The study concluded that understanding the profile of homeless people in BH and the intersectoral variables that impact HP contributes to better directing investments in interventions for these individuals and increasing the effectiveness of health and social protection systems, in line with with the work carried out by the third sector.
**Key messages:**
- Understanding the inter-sector variables that impact Homeless People contributes to better targeting of investments in interventions in protection social.
- Knowing the profile of the homeless population makes it possible to organize more effective health care and social assistance.