

Passi surveillance and health professionals' attitude toward healthy habits and citizenship in Italy

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Background:

The Italian Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (PASSI) collects data through a standardized questionnaire. Since 2008 it monitors the attention of healthcare workers to 18-69 year-old people's physical activity, alcohol and smoking habits. Aim of the study is to evaluate the association between health professionals' attitude toward health behaviors and citizenship.

Methods:

Weighted data from a representative sample were considered. Non-Italian people were divided into European, American, Asian, North-African and sub-Saharan. Associations between social determinants, lifestyle and doctor's advice were evaluated through multivariate analysis.

Results:

Data from 334567 interviews (15277 from non-Italians), 2008-2016 period, have been analyzed. Sedentary people that reported a received advice to practice regular physical activity were 31% Italians, 27% from other advanced developed countries, 19% from countries with strong migratory pressure. 54% of Italian smokers and 40% of foreigners reported the advice to stop smoking.

Time of residence in Italy increases the probability to receive advices without eliminating the differences. The multivariate analysis by age, gender, education, economic situation and place of residence confirms the effect of citizenship, underlying differences with a disadvantageous gradient going from Asia to North Africa up to sub-Saharan Africa, with a relatively better situation of Europeans and Latin Americans.

Conclusions:

A little part of population reports to have received the advice to improve lifestyle by a health worker. Furthermore, all foreigners report to have received less advice than Italians. This could indicate both cultural differences in giving importance to healthy lifestyles and also difficulties of health workers in relationship with people perceived as different; specific training could be an effective action, increasing the attention to these issues, focus on conditions of potential disadvantage for health.

Key messages:

- Italian healthcare workers show little attention to lifestyles' themes.
- Citizenship could influence the attitude of professionals in health counseling, with a gradient penalizing disadvantaged people.