

## **The development of methodologies to better get information from health services in Brazil.**

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The Survey of Medical Care (AMS) is a census of health facilities conducted by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) since 1975, and its latest issue was in 2009. The aim of this paper is to describe the different methods used in AMS for the collection of the information. Looking to respond for intense changes that the health facilities have suffered over the past 30 years, AMS sought to adapt its questionnaires and research methodology to meet the information needs of the health sector. In 2009 AMS used three different models for the structural survey questionnaire and a financial questionnaire to a sample of private facilities. Through personal interview, facilities were identified as the object of research and then the type of questionnaire and filling forms (paper or Web) were selected. AMS 2009 identified 97,460 facilities in activity, 45,402 private ones. Over 8,000 were selected and a financial questionnaire response rate of more than 80% was obtained. To achieve this coverage AMS lay hold of telephone survey.

In addition, we found very difficult to identify the relation between the health facilities and the financial reports of the enterprises. The characteristics of the health sector provide special arrangements when many enterprises can work together to provide medical care to an individual, sometimes, in the same place. In the other hand health sector in Brazil is enduring a rearrange process, when individual facilities and are being incorporated in chains and acquisitions and fusions are taking place.

This experience points to a progress in the evaluation of the health sector and its finances by the use of complementary methodologies.

Survey methodology

Health care

Health facilities

Financial information