



EPIDEMIOLOGICAL PROFILE OF COVID-19 IN THE CITY OF ITAJAÍ-SC, FROM MARCH 2020 TO FEBRUARY 2022

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INTRODUCTION

COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by the new coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, transmitted through contact between contaminated individuals, droplets, or aerosols. Effective treatment options for COVID-19 are scarce so far and prevention is through vaccines, social distancing, and the use of masks.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

This is an epidemiological, retrospective, descriptive and analytical study of a historical series. The population of this study covers all reported cases of COVID-19 in the city of Itajaí, from March 2020 to February 2022. Data were collected from Epidemiological Bulletins and panels of cases and deaths made available by the City Hall in its website from the compulsory notifications, which are also registered with the Ministry of Health.

RESULTS

During the period analyzed, there were 44,935 confirmed cases in Itajaí, 43,627 cases cured and 847 deaths, with 89.7% having some type of comorbidity such as hypertension (29.0%), diabetes (20.9%), heart disease (15.7%) and obesity (14.2%). The peak of new cases confirmed was registered on 17 January 2022 (1,713 cases) and the peak of active cases was

registered on February 7, 2022 (5,634 cases). The months with the highest number of deaths were March 2021 (115 deaths), April 2021 (95 deaths), July 2020 and December 2020 (both with 64 deaths). There was a predominance of cases in females (51.9%), while the predominance of deaths was in males (58.0%). The most affected age group in relation to deaths was 71 years or more (37.5%). The immunization of the population (85.1%) contributed to the reduction of active cases and deaths in the city.

CONCLUSIONS

The characterization of COVID-19 cases in the city of Itajaí in the studied period allowed us to relate the highest transmission of the virus from January to February 2022, a period with greater urban mobility due to vacations and holidays, with favorable weather conditions and drastic reduction in restrictive measures, together with the prevalence of the most transmissible variant, Ômicron. In addition, it is noteworthy that the number of deaths did not follow the increase in cases due to the protection induced by vaccination.

