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HIGH CARDIOVASCULAR RISK
IN AN ADULT POPULATION OF THE FRENCH WEST INDIES: WIDE SOCIAL INEQUALITIES

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## Objective

To assess the relationship between socioeconomic factors and the expression of multiple cardiovascular risk factors in an adult Caribbean population.

## Design and method

CONSANT was a cross-sectional study carried out in 2007 on a representative sample of the adult Guadeloupean population. Included were 1,005 subjects aged $25-74$ years, drawn through stratified random sampling. The expression of multiple cardiovascular risk factors was defined by the presence of 3 or more risk factors in the same individual, including: hypertension (diagnosis based upon 2 consultations, i.e., 6 blood pressure measurements), diabetes and dyslipidemia (diagnoses based upon declared treatments), abdominal obesity (measured waist circumference $\geq 102 \mathrm{~cm}$ for men, or $\geq 88 \mathrm{~cm}$ for women), and tobacco consumption.

## Results

Relationship between high cardiovascular risk and socioeconomic factors among the 25-54 age group:

*: among tobacco consumption, diabetes, dyslipidemia, hypertension, abdominal obesity.
**: OR adjusted for age, sex, income and education levels.

Among subjects younger than 55 years, 20\% of those who only had an elementary education level (< 6 years of schooling) presented 3 or more cardiovascular risk factors, compared to $2.7 \%$ of those who had secondary education level or higher. For that same age group, $10.6 \%$ of those with a very low income level (welfare recipients) presented 3 or more risk factors, compared to $3.5 \%$ of those with higher income levels.

Using logistic regression analysis, the ORs of presenting 3 or more risk factors are estimated at 4.00 ( $p: 0.004$ ) for subjects with elementary education level, and at 2.91 ( p : 0.033 ) for subjects who are welfare recipients.

## Conclusion

Low levels of education and income were strongly associated with the expression of multiple cardiovascular risk factors in subjects aged 25-54 years.

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