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Seroprevalence of Chagas Disease Among Blood Donors in the State of Bahia, Brazil

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Background: Chagas disease affects 5.7 to 7 million individuals in the world. In the state of Bahia, Brazil, its prevalence has reached 25.1%. There is an association between CD and the social profile of the population and a risk of re-emergence of the disease also due to non-vectorial transmission, such as blood transfusion. Objective: Describe the seroprevalence of *T. cruzi* infection among blood donors in the state of Bahia, Northeastern Brazil, and their epidemiological profile in the last 10 years. Methods: Descriptive, cross-sectional study, conducted through database review. Data was gathered from patients who had a non-negative result for *T. cruzi* infection over the last 10 years. Findings: 3,084 (0.62%) non-negative samples were identified in a first sample, and 810 (0.16%) were again defined as non-negative for *T. cruzi* infection in a second sample. Correlation between infection and age (30 years and older) and infection and lower educational level (12 years or less) in both samples was statistically significant. Males presented a higher risk for *T. cruzi* infection only in the first sample. 99,52% of the municipalities of Bahia were identified as cities of residence among all blood donors. Livramento de Nossa Senhora was the most prevalent city in both samples and the capital, Salvador, presented the greatest recurrence of cases. Main conclusions: The seroprevalence found in these populations is lower compared to other similar studies conducted in Brazil, but some condensed areas with higher prevalence were found. In general, the epidemiological profile was in agreement with previous studies.