**BLOOD PRESSURE PROFILE IN A STUDENT POPULATION FROM THE METROPOLITAN AREA OF CAMPINAS, BRAZIL**

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Objective: To evaluate blood pressure profile in children and adolescents aged 7 to 18 years, male and female, from government schools at the metropolitan city of Campinas, Brazil.

Methods: A cross-sectional study through a convenient sample size from an unselected school population was carried out. Eleven schools were randomly selected, from representative city areas. Study protocol included structured questionnaire, anthropometry, and blood pressure measurement. A sample of 4,699 students

(47.1% male; mean age, 11.1±2.9 yr) was evaluated. Two readings were performed, using the oscillometric device Omron 742.

Results: About 52.7% reported no previous blood pressure measurements. Prevalence of overweight (>+1SD) and obesity (>+2SD) was 15.7% and 16% respectively.

Pre-hypertension (blood pressure ≥90th percentile and <95th percentile) was identified in 10.6% for systolic blood pressure (SBP) and 7.3% for diastolic blood pressure (DPB). Hypertensive values (95th percentile to the 99th percentile plus 5 mm Hg) were 12,2% for SBP and 6.0% for DBP; highly hypertensive values

(>99th percentile plus 5 mm Hg), were 7,8% and 5.5% for SBP and DBP, respectively.

Conclusion: Obesity plus overweight and pre-hypertension plus hypertension are highly prevalent in a young population, suggesting the epidemic characteristic of those cardiovascular risk factors in the today´s society. Association of sedentary lifestyle and unhealthy dietary habits will possibly add to future cardiovascular risk. Urgent health lifestyle programs are necessary to prevent development of CVD in the future.