

This study was conducted to determine the prevalence of several common respiratory illnesses among MEDLIFE patients in Lima, Peru. MEDLIFE is an international non-profit organization that provides basic health care services to low-income communities in South America. The patients receiving these services have minimal access to healthcare and as a result suffer from diseases and illnesses that would otherwise be treated. This study was carried out in order to examine the proportion of patients who were suffering from respiratory illnesses. At the beginning of the five-day data collection period, a list of common respiratory illnesses was prepared and each illness was assigned a number. All physicians giving care to patients during the data collection period were given a copy of this list. Whenever a diagnosis was made that corresponded with one of the listed conditions, the number for that condition was then noted on that patient's information sheet. In total, 138 patients received a diagnosis corresponding with one of the listed illnesses. This indicates that a significant proportion of all patients receiving care during this period were suffering from respiratory illnesses.