RESULTS:

The results presented in this paper refer to a total of 1695 immigrants (791 men and 904 women), 684 returned Portuguese emigrants (2168 men and 1726 women) and 35493 non-emigrant Portuguese persons (11677 men and 18616 women) studied. Age distribution was different between the three subpopulations (Table 1).

OBJECTIVE:

To compare epidemiological indicators of health status, health determinants and health care use between never migrant Portuguese, returned Portuguese emigrants and immigrants living in private households in Portugal.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The Portuguese Health Interview Survey is a general purpose survey conducted by the Ministry of Health and Statistics Portugal on a representative multistage, stratified, cluster, probabilistic sample. It is the only health and health care survey covering the whole Portuguese population living in private households.

CONCLUSIONS:

Preliminary results suggest:
1. A healthy immigrant effect among immigrants in Portugal.
2. Accessibility to health care by the immigrant population in Portugal is similar to never migrant and returned former immigrant Portuguese.
3. Returned Portuguese immigrants have specific characteristics different from the other two subpopulations.
4. Further analysis will use:
   a) Comparison of immigrants and never migrant Portuguese populations.
   b) Recent case definition: "Country of birth, Years living in Portugal, Years since return to Portugal.
   c) Standardisation for other variables (education) / Indirect standardisation / Statistical Modelling.