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# Health and COVID: the work of the Endemic Workers during COVID-19 pandemic in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



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## Introduction

The Brazilian vectorial "control" is characterized by the intensive use of pesticides (agrotoxics), such as organochlorines, organophosphates, carbamates, pyrethroids, benzoylureas; some of them banned worldwide or restricted by international agreements. Continuous exposure to these neurotoxic and / or carcinogenic products has resulted in damage to the health of Endemic Workers, leading to a process of illness and cancer deaths. Thus, because they have chronic diseases and are immunocompromised, due to exposure to agrotoxics, this population is more susceptible to COVID-19, a situation that is aggravated by workplaces and working conditions, which place them at risk, due to frequent circulation and the need for entry into residences.

## Materials and Methods

This study is part of a multicenter research with Endemic Workers from the State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The total questionnaire consists of 107 questions and divided into 6 components. We evaluate the component "COVID-19 health & Pandemic" to investigate the work during the pandemic.

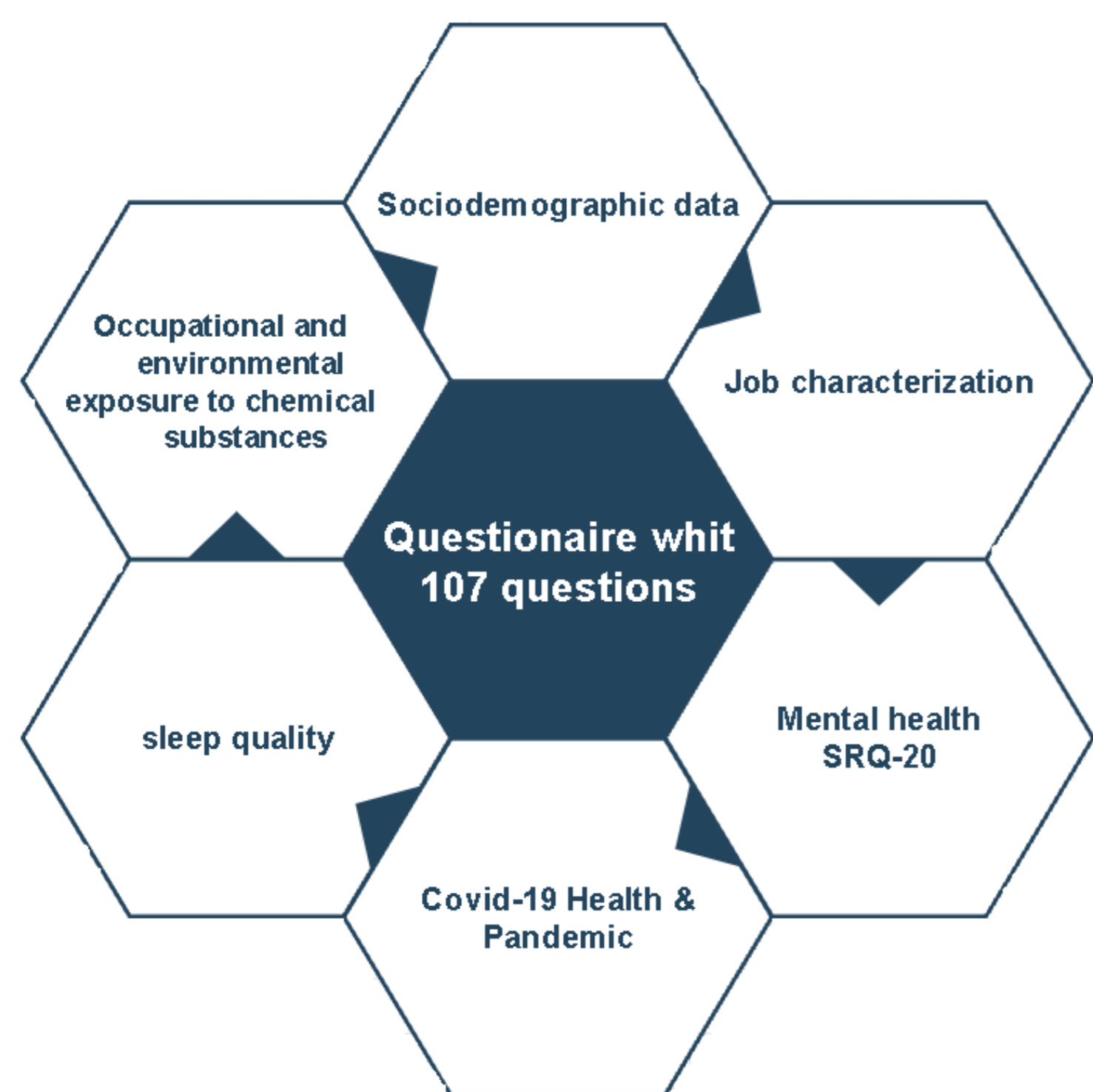


Figure 1. Questionnaire and its six (6) components.

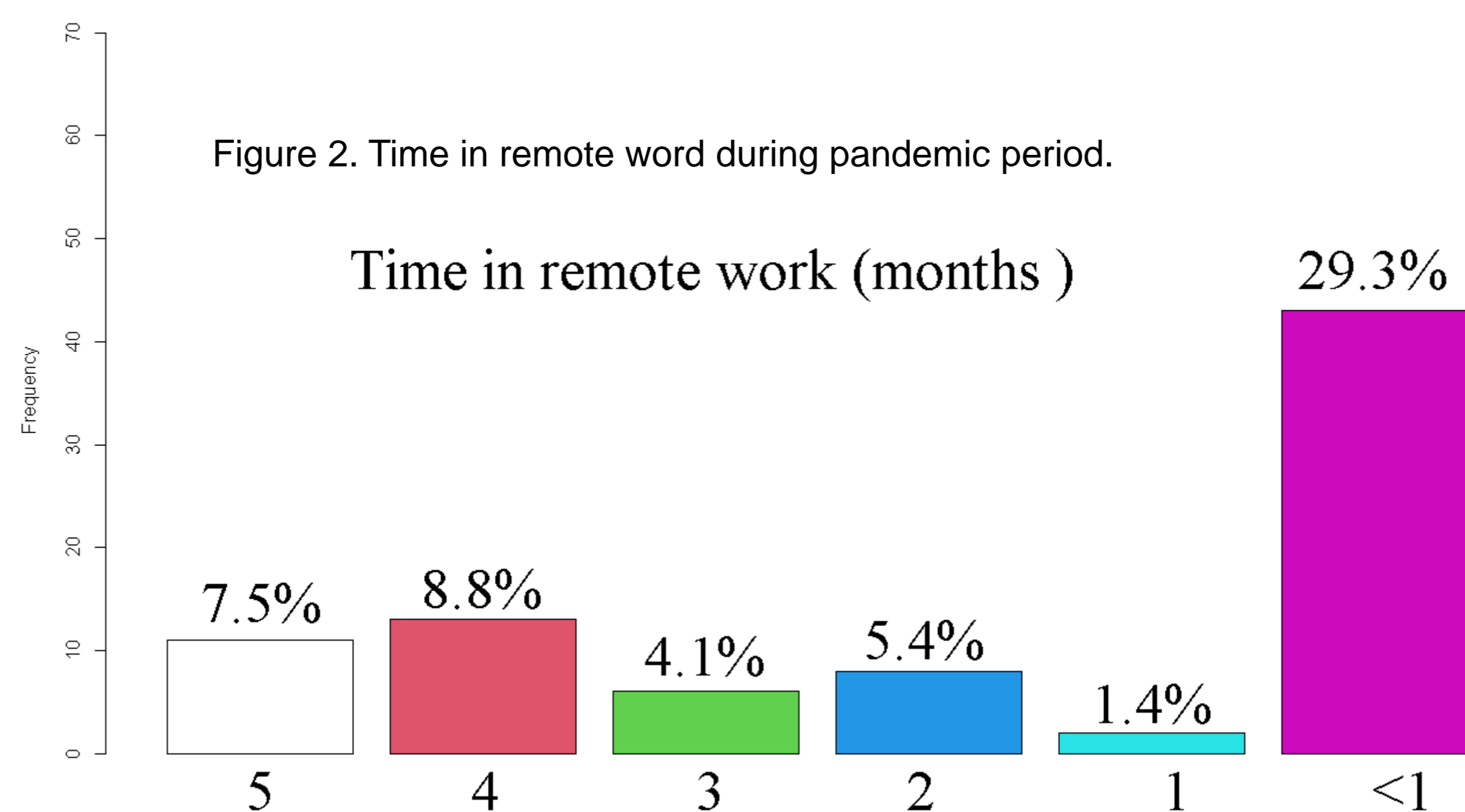


Figure 2. Time in remote work during pandemic period.

## Results / Discussion

Preliminary results from the 140 responses to the questionnaire demonstrate that: 78% of the Endemic Workers have reported diagnosed disease and from these, 70% have comorbidities. The most frequent are hypertension (49%), diabetes (22%), respiratory problems (22%) and malfunction of the liver and kidneys (17%).

Regarding remote work: 2% reported working at home, 29% are working in scale and / or alternate time and 53% are working full time. Workers who stayed longest time in remote work (five months) were only 8% , with 31% remaining in full time presential work during the period in which isolation and detachment measures began in Brazil (Figure 2).

Although 88% did not have COVID-19, 64% reported having co-workers and / or family members with COVID-19.

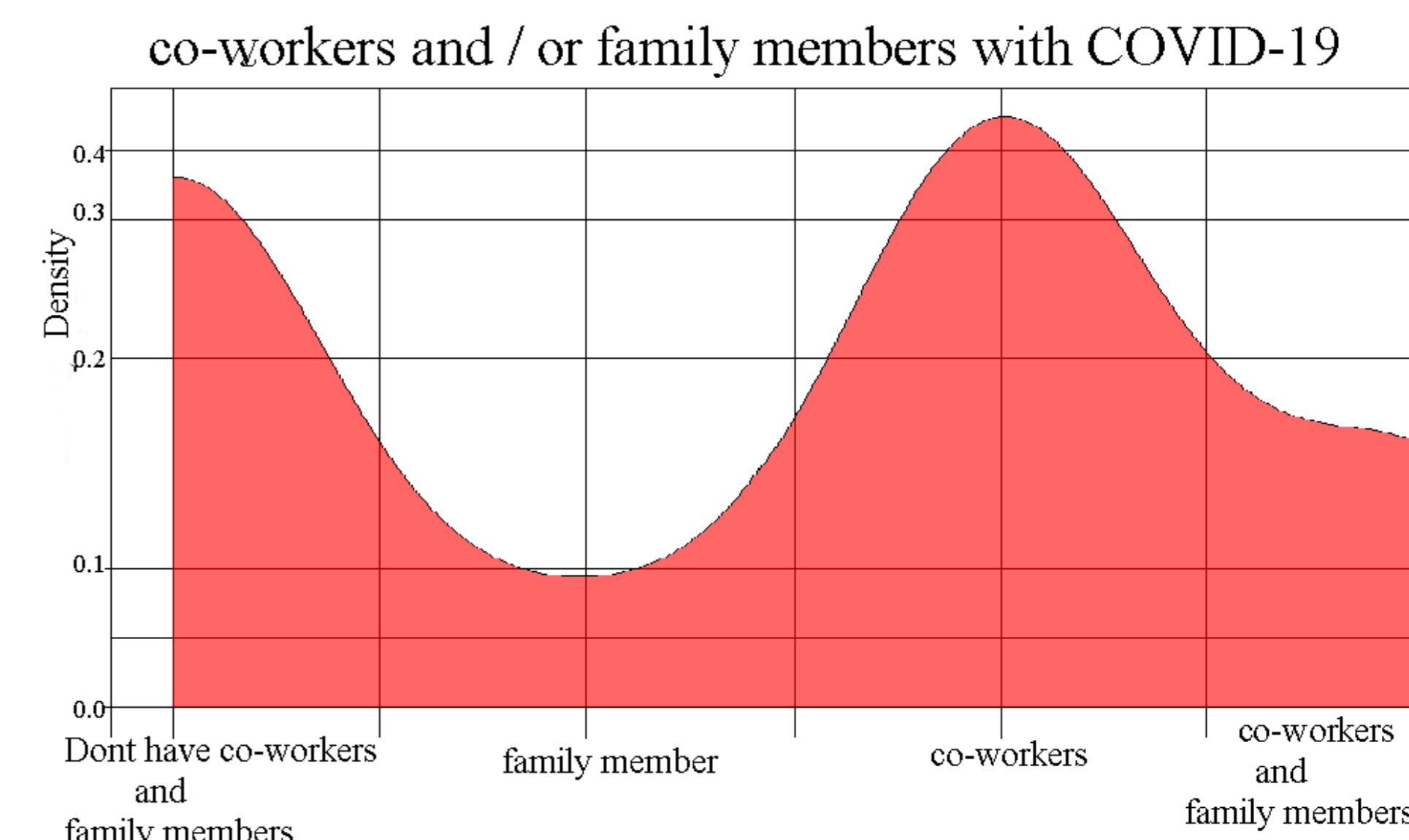
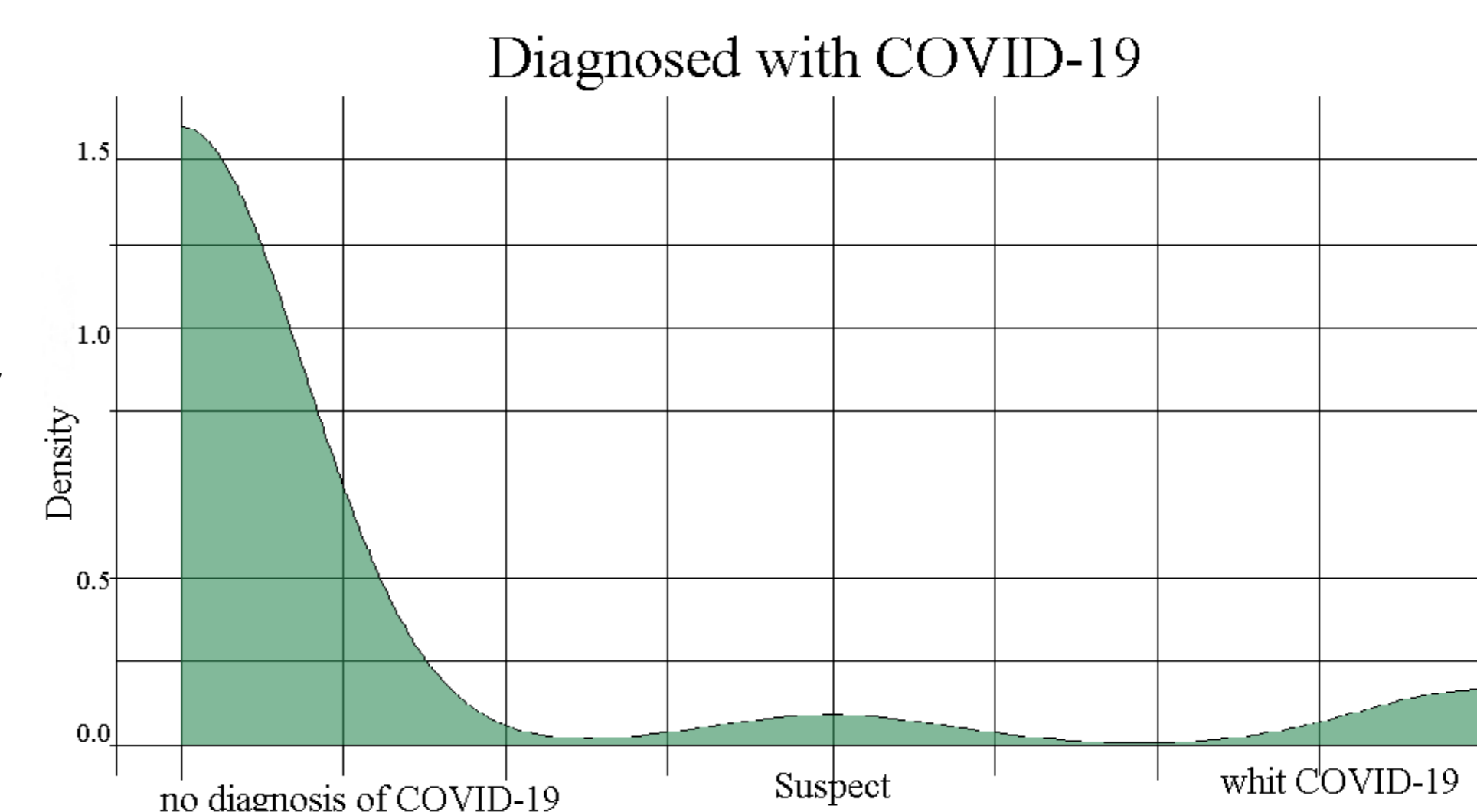


Figure 3. Workers who declared not diagnosed COVID-19 and people around whit COVID-19.

## Conclusion

Protective measures to the health of these workers and the assisted population that prevent the transmission of SARS-Cov-2, are necessary to implement health protection policies, including other exposures at work, such as agrotoxics.

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