

Black and brown women: vulnerabilities occurred from 2010 to 2018 in the extreme southern of Bahia

Mulheres pretas e pardas: vulnerabilidades ocorridas de 2010 a 2018 no extremo sul baiano

Bárbara Ferraz Barbosa^{1*} , Camila Bordignon Barbosa¹ , Debora Neves de Santana² , Cosme Andrade de Almeida³ , Vivian Miranda Lago^{3,4} 

¹University of Aquino Bolivia, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, BO, Bolivia.

²Pythagoras College of Teixeira de Freitas, Teixeira de Freitas, BA, Brazil.

³South Bahia College, Teixeira de Freitas, BA, Brazil.

⁴Pythagoras College of Medicine of Eunápolis, Eunápolis, BA, Brazil.

*bferraz.barbosa@hotmail.com

ABSTRACT

Violence alters our society in countless ways, being disproportionate in relation to women, especially blacks and browns in situations of vulnerability, which leaves them prone to traces that influence their daily lives. The objective of this theme was to analyze the prevalence of domestic, sexual and / or other conditional violences in black and brown women in the period from 2010 to 2018, in the extreme south of Bahia. For the concreteness of this research an epidemiological, cross-sectional and descriptive approach was the chosen methodology, which was enabled by the secondary information provided by the Ministry of Health in the DATASUS database, evaluating the state and the macro-region of the Far South, correlating with the number of psychological / moral violence in both. Upon entering the questions that guided this study, it was noticed that in view of the universe researched, the results show a growing number of cases, from 873 cases in 2010 to 25,872 in 2018 in the state, when the macro-region was analyzed, there were a total of 1,751 cases, as for phycological/ moral violence, the maximum peak occurred in 2018, in both regions; the study shows an exorbitant increase in physical abuse in relation to black and brown women at risk in Bahia, especially in the macro-region. It is concluded that it is necessary to increase measures aimed at providing greater protection and care for the victims, since the home is "the most dangerous place for these women", which often culminates in long-term violence.

Keywords: Domestic violence. Ethnic violence. Intimate partner violence. Rape.

RESUMO

A violência altera a sociedade de inúmeras formas, sendo desproporcional em relação às mulheres, principalmente, pretas e pardas em situação de vulnerabilidade, o que as deixam propensas a marcas que influenciam seu cotidiano. Objetivou-se com esta temática analisar a prevalência de violência doméstica, sexual e/ou outras condicionantes em mulheres pretas e pardas no período de 2010 a 2018, no extremo sul baiano. Para a concretude da presente pesquisa, no campo metodológico optou-se pela abordagem epidemiológica, transversal, descritiva por meio das informações secundárias fornecidas pelo Ministério da Saúde na base de dados DATASUS, avaliando o estado e a macrorregião do Extremo Sul, correlacionando com o número de violência psicológica/moral em ambos. Ao adentrar as questões que nortearam este estudo, percebeu-se que diante do universo pesquisado os resultados evidenciam um número de casos crescentes, sendo 873 casos em 2010 para 25.872 em 2018 no estado, quando analisada a macrorregião, houve um total de 1.751 casos, quanto à violência Pisco/moral, o pico máximo ocorreu em 2018, em ambas as regiões; o estudo mostra um aumento exorbitante da violência em relação às mulheres pretas e pardas em situação de risco na Bahia, sobretudo na macrorregião. Conclui-se que é necessário um aumento de medidas que vise maior amparo e cuidado às vítimas, uma vez que o lar é "lugar mais perigoso para essas mulheres", o que culmina, frequentemente em violência de longa duração.

Palavras-chave: Estupro. Violência doméstica. Violência étnica. Violência por parceiro íntimo.

INTRODUCTION

Domestic violence can present itself in different ways, such as physical, psychological / moral and sexual, together, they constitute a serious violation of human rights. Many issues are related to this: such as financial or psychological dependence on a partner and even believing that it is natural for men to exercise domination, with women as their submissive, in a sexist society which fights for the need of female empowerment. Thus, it constitutes a serious health problem, perpetuated mainly by the fact that there is an affective emotional relationship between the victim and the aggressor.

Dealing with domestic violence suffered by black and brown women, is to describe what this character has represented to society until the present time. The construction of social inequalities was the great vector for the growth of violence, leading to some criminal practices. According to recent data, “violence against women is the most tolerated violation of human rights in the world” (United Nations, 2015).

Sexual abuse, violence against women, female vulnerability, all these headlines are even more evident when one realizes that in addition to being oppressed, most of these women are black and brown (Carrijo & Martins, 2020). The set of prejudiced convictions related to ethnicities, which was instituted in Brazil during the colonial period, persists to the present day in social culture (Riscado et al., 2010). Historically, the black woman fills the last position within society, as she has a specific biological element: the concentration of melanin present in the skin. These women struggle daily against racism, misery, chauvinism and consequently, violence, especially within their own home (Fórum Brasileiro de Segurança Pública, 2019).

When it comes to the type of domestic violence, it is important to highlight one of the most persistent characteristics: psychological violence; which is represented by all the actions relevant to the transgression of the victims' moral values, affecting various aspects of their lives and leaving deep traumas (Hajnasiri et al., 2016; Bacchus et al., 2018). It has been assessed by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO, 2020) that violence against women takes many forms, including physical, sexual and emotional violence, rape, coercion, trafficking and femicide. caused primarily by the intimate partner (PAHO/WHO, 2020). Issues related to violence in its most diverse forms affect society in general, however, it has a disproportional prevalence against black women (Sabri & Gielen, 2019).

The objective of the present study was to analyze the prevalence of domestic, sexual and/or other violence in vulnerable black and brown women that occurred from 2010 to 2018 in the extreme south of Bahia, specially when related to psychological / moral violence.

An epidemiological survey is necessary, in order to understand the prospect of violence, through indicators that help to understand the problem and aim to improve programs that encourage and support victims, as well as the implementation of public policies aimed at breaking the cycle of violence.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

An epidemiological, cross-sectional, retrospective, descriptive study was carried out on domestic, sexual and/or other violence in black and brown women, using secondary information made available by the Ministry of Health, in the database consultation system of the Information Department in SUS (DATASUS/TABNET), classified as Notifiable Diseases Information System - (SINAN), through data entered in the record of domestic, sexual and/or other violence, from 2010 to 2018, being quantified by filters.

For the insertion of inclusion factors, the female sex was established, people who identify themselves in the records as being black or brown. The chosen sampling context was the state of Bahia, so the prevalence of psychological / moral violence in relation to the health macro-region of the Far South was investigated within the state. In the concreteness of the present study, regarding

the exclusion criteria, data provided by the system such as male, blank or unknown gender were not analyzed; in relation to race, the population classified as white, yellow or indigenous were not analyzed, as well as data from files where race was not established, data related to other states within Brazil other than the state of Bahia were also excluded. As this research was carried out with data in the public domain, without identification of the participants, it was not necessary having approval by the Research Ethics Committee (CEP). After analyzing the statistics, the Microsoft Excel 2010 program was used to calculate the percentage and percentage increase in the total.

The descriptive analysis was based on articles and journals published by the World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization (2020), United Nations Organization (2020) and on studies on the topic addressed, aiming at the theoretical foundation necessary for an epidemiological study, and especially in the research by Day et al. (2003), in which, despite representing a current publication, confirms the estimate made in the research when compared to recent epidemiological data made available by the Notifications Disease System (SINAN) managed by the Ministry of Health.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Regarding the presented results, the object investigated is illustrated by the idea that makes up the quote by Crenshaw (2002), when he points out that intersectionality is a conceptualization of the problem that seeks to capture the structural and dynamic consequences of the interaction between two or more axes of subordination. It specifically addresses the way in which racism, patriarchy, class oppression, and other discriminatory systems create basic inequalities that structure the relative positions of women, races, ethnicities, classes, etc. Thus, it is worth remembering that, despite the elements in relation to susceptible people on domestic violence, black and brown women are in a high number of vulnerable situations.

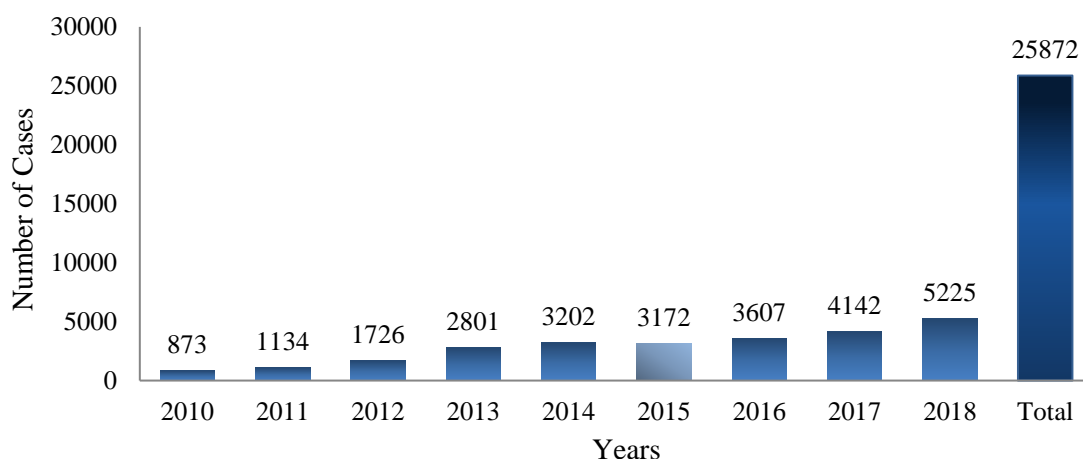


Figure 1. Analysis of the number of cases of domestic, sexual and/or other violence against black and brown women – Bahia – 2010 - 2018.

Source: The authors; data extracted from the Informatics Department of the Brazilian Unified Health System (DATASUS), frames in the Notifiable Diseases Information System (SINAN).

According to the aforementioned, a total of 25,872 cases of domestic, sexual and/or other violence against black and mixed race women were observed in the period from 2010 to 2018, with an increase in the frequency over the years, as evidenced through Figure 1. It is exemplified that 2018 was the year with the highest number of notifications, showing an approximate increase of 26% compared to 2017. It is important to note that in 2015 there was a reduction of 30 cases in relation to the number of notifications in the previous year, which can be related to numerous

factors. In an attempt to explain this scenario, it is believed that the underreporting is due to the lack of complaint by the victim regarding the violence suffered.

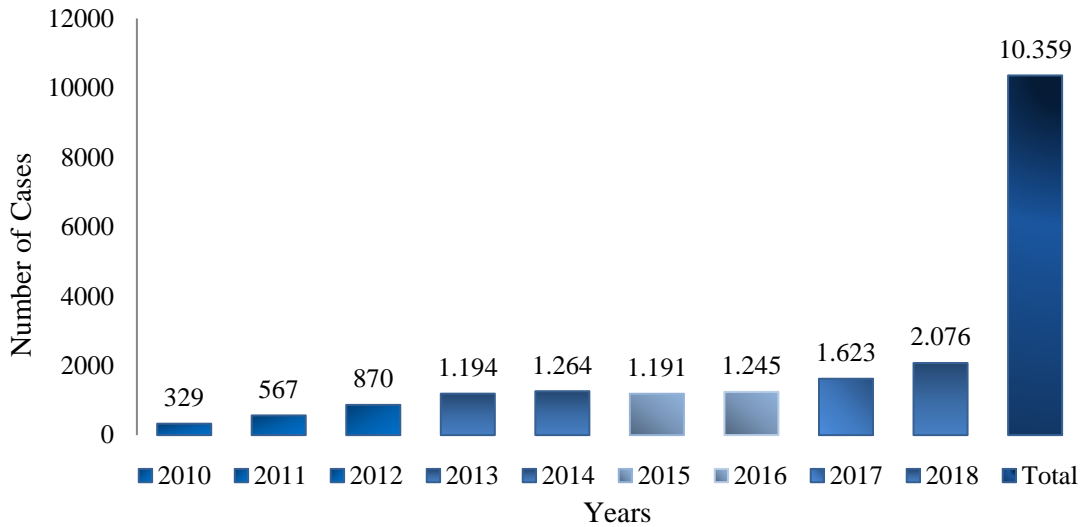


Figure 2. Analysis of the number of cases of psychological / moral violence in black and brown women - Bahia - 2010 - 2018.

Source: The authors; data extracted from the Informatics Department of the Brazilian Unified Health System (DATASUS), framed in the Notifiable Diseases Information System (SINAN).

In Figure 2, the notification rates related to psychological / moral violence can be analyzed, having the entire state of Bahia as the epidemiological study area, the total number of cases was 10,359, with a marked increase in the number of cases reported in a period of time of almost a decade, as in 2010 there were 329 cases observed, which contrasts with the value of 2,076 reported cases in 2018. With the exception of the years of 2015 and 2016, which showed a decrease in the number of cases in relation to the growth pattern of the year 2014, returning to rise in the year 2017, there was an increase in the cases in the evaluated period as seen in the study of general violence across the state (Figure 1). The drop from 2015 and 2016 was observed for both total cases of violence and for the type of psychological / moral violence.

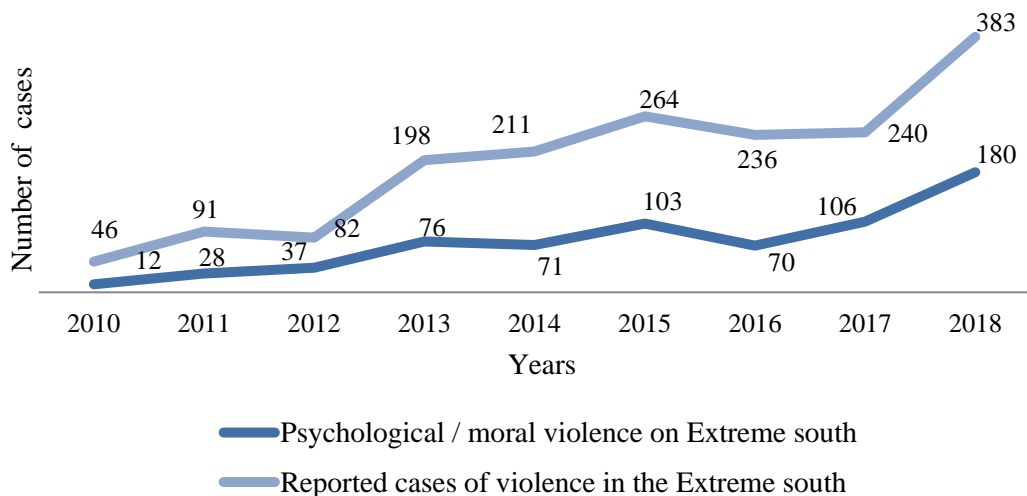


Figure 3. Analysis of the number of cases of total and psychological / moral violence in black and brown women – Extreme south of Bahia – 2010 - 2018.

Source: The authors; data extracted from the Informatics Department of the Brazilian Unified Health System (DATASUS), framed in the Notifiable Diseases Information System (SINAN).

Analyzing the notification data of the same types of violence in black and brown women, in the period of 2010 to 2018, in the health macro-region of the Extremo Sul (NRS - Teixeira de Freitas), a total of 1,751 cases were observed, with rapid frequency increase in the period of time studied, maintaining values below 100 cases/year, in the first three years of study. But, in 2013, the results are more than double the previous year, maintaining the pattern of growth over the years, with a small decrease in 2016 and 2017, with 28 fewer cases reported in 2016 and 24 fewer cases in 2017 compared to 2015. In 2018, there was an increase of 143 cases compared to the previous year, as can be seen in Figure 3.

The data presented in Figure 3 show a prevalence of psychological / moral violence in this portion of the studied population, in the same period of time, observing the total results of the macro-region of health of the Extremo Sul da Bahia (NRS – Teixeira de Freitas) and the number of notifications of psychological / moral violence against black and brown women in the same area, with a total of 683 notifications. With a growing increase over the years and a notable decrease of 33 cases in 2016 compared to 2015, unlike the notification values per year for the entire state that had gradual declines in both years.

When analyzing the reports of violence in general over the years across the state, an increase of around 498% was evidenced. Worrying data when the extreme south is highlighted in relation to psychological / moral violence, which separately presents a total of 39% of the total number of reported cases of domestic violence and other contributors, with 2010 being the year with the lowest prevalence with approximately 2 %, compared with 2018, which presented a total of 26.3%.

Table 1

Analysis of the number of cases of psychological / moral and sexual violence in black and brown women – Extreme South of Bahia – 2010 - 2018.

REPORTED YEAR	PSYCHOLOGICAL VIOLENCE	SEXUAL VIOLENCE
2010	12	4
2011	28	8
2012	37	15
2013	76	22
2014	71	15
2015	103	25
2016	70	22
2017	106	38
2018	180	48
TOTAL	683	197

Source: The authors; data extracted from the Informatics Department of the Brazilian Unified Health System (DATASUS), framed in the Notifiable Diseases Information System (SINAN).

Based mainly on the study by Day et al. (2003), a simple quantitative analysis of the data was carried out, which showed a probable result: the approximate number of potential victims of sexual abuse was estimated based on the number of reported cases of psychological/moral violence in the year of highest prevalence only in the extreme south, through the numbers observed in Figure 3. Regarding the extreme south of Bahia, the year with the highest prevalence was 2018 with 180 reported cases, and it is estimated that approximately 45 to 90 of these women also suffered some type of sexual abuse. When the results were filtered through the Sistema de Agravo de Notificação (SINAN), managed by the Ministry of Health, through the DATASUS TABNET database, the actual results remained within the estimated rate, with 48 cases of sexual violence being reported in women who also suffered psychological / moral violence. The total number of cases reported per year can be analyzed in Table 1.

Young, poor and socially invisible women who suffer domestic violence, mainly through psychological violence, practiced by their intimate partner is a quarter to half of the time, also accompanied by forced sex (Day et al., 2003). Through this analysis, given the number of inhabitants, mainly in the Far South, there is a concern with the number of cases of psychological / moral violence in the entire state, which is considered alarming by the extract from the sample.

Studies point to the existence of a fixed pattern of violence, being more present and occurring mostly through psychological / moral violence, being this its initial form. Which often due to cultural factors, end up favoring the non-effectiveness of the complaint. Accordingly, a set of measures has been taken to reduce the rates of violence against women. Ordinance No. 104 of January 25, 2011 made the notification of violence compulsory in an attempt to mainly reverse underreporting while aiming at a better health surveillance, increasing the visibility of violence and improving public and social policies, as well as support and better treatment for victims (Alcantara et al., 2016; Federal Senate, 2016).

It is important to emphasize that domestic violence against women involves important affective issues, because the aggressor is usually an intimate partner, who starts the cycle of violence, thus making it difficult to break this relationship. So that, in many cases, underreporting is due to the victim's tendency to blame herself for the violence suffered, along with fear, threats, psychological violence and other factors that make the victim end up fearing for her life and the physical integrity of her children, so that is no reporting of the violence suffered (Senado Federal, 2016). When estimating risk factors for intrafamily violence, the estimated prevalence of physical or sexual violence by a partner is approximately 30% throughout life, analyzing women globally (Yakubovich et al., 2018).

CONCLUSION

In view of the results, 25,872 cases of domestic, sexual and/or other violences were observed throughout the state in the period evaluated. It was found that 2018 had the highest prevalence of cases reported, in which both zones had an increase of approximately 26% compared to the previous year throughout Bahia.

There was an increase of 498% in reports of general violence over the state of Bahia during the examined period, showing particularly worrying results in the far south of Bahia in regard to psychological / moral violence due to a lower population density. The study shows a growing and exacerbated increase in the number of violence against women, “home can be the most dangerous place for these women” and, in most cases, the aggression is caused by the intimate partner.

With the outline given by the research, it is fitting to point out a phrase from ONU (2015): “violence against women is the most tolerated violation of human rights in the world”. The maximum subjugation of women through their extermination has historical roots in gender inequality and has always been made invisible and, consequently, was tolerated by society. [...].

Finally, it is about violence, it is about promoting new discussions on the subject in an attempt to reduce / end the violence against women.

REFERENCES

- Alcantara, M. C., Souza, R. R., Caetano, L. G., Louzada, C. F., Silveira, A. R., Lima, J. d., . . . Machado de Melo, E. (2016). Subnotificação e invisibilidade da violência contra a mulher. *Revista Médica de Minas Gerais*, 313-317.
- Bacchus, L. J., Ranganathan, M., Watts, C., & Devries., K. (2018). Recent intimate partner violence against women and health: a systematic review and meta-analysis of cohort studies. *BJM Open*, 1-20. doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2017-019995

- Carrijo, C., & Martins, P. A. (2020). A violência doméstica e racismo contra mulheres negras. *Revistas Estudos Feministas*, 28(2), pp. 1-14. doi: 10.1590/1806-9584-2020v28n260721
- Crenshaw, K. (2002). *Documento para o encontro de especialistas em aspectos da discriminação racial relativos ao gênero*. University of California – Los Angeles.
- Datasus. *Sistema de informação de agravos de notificações 2007 em diante*. TabNet; DataSus - TabNet; Pesquisa realizada entre o período correspondente de 15 a 31 de Julho de 2020.
- Day, V. P., Telles, L. E., Zoratto, P. H., Azambuja, M. R., Machado, D. A., Silveira, M. B., . . . Blank., P. (2003). Violência doméstica e suas diferentes manifestações. *Revista de Psiquiatria do Rio Grande do Sul*, 25, 9-21. doi: 10.1590/S0101-81082003000400003
- Fórum Brasileiro de Segurança Pública. (2019). *Visível e Invisível: a vitimização de mulheres no Brasil*. 2.^a ed.
- Hajnasiri, H., Gheshlagh, R. G., Sayehmiri, K., Moaf, F., & Farajzadeh., M. (2016). Domestic violence among Iranian women: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Iranian Red Crescent Medical Journal*. doi:10.5812/ircmj.34971
- OPAS/OMS. (2020). *Violência Doméstica e Violência Sexual*. OPAS Brasil.
- Organização das Nações Unidas. (2015). *Violência contra a mulher e a violação de direitos humanos mais tolerada no mundo*. Nações Unidas Brasil.
- Riscado, J. L., Oliveira, M. A., & Brito., Â. M. (2010). Vivenciando o racismo e a violência: um estudo sobre as vulnerabilidades da mulher negra e a busca de prevenção do HIV/aids em comunidades remanescentes de Quilombos, em Alagoas. *Saúde e Sociedade*, 19, 96-108.
- Sabri, B., & Gielen, A. (2019). Integrated multicomponent interventions for safety and health risks among black female survivors of violence: a systematic review. *Trauma, violence & abuse. PubMed Central*, 20, pp. 720-731. doi: 10.1177/1524838017730647
- Senado Federal. (2016). *Panorama da violência contra as mulheres no Brasil: indicadores nacionais e estaduais*. Senado Federal, Observatório da Mulher contra a Violência.
- Yakubovich, A. R., Stöckl, H., Murray, J., Melendez-Torres, G., Steinert, J. I., Glavin, C. E., & Humphreys., D. K. (2018). Risk and protective factors for intimate partner violence against women: systematic review and meta-analyses of prospective-longitudinal studies. *American Journal of Public Health*, 108(7), pp. 1-11. doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2018.304428