


Social inequalities and access to rights of black women in Brazil: An intersectional analysis

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ABSTRACT

This article aims to analyze the access to social rights of black women in contemporary Brazil, considering the intersectionality of race and gender. The rationale for this study lies in the need to understand the structural inequalities faced by this population group, as well as the urgency of promoting equity and social justice. The problem addressed involves the barriers faced by black women in accessing health, education, work and housing services, due to structural racism and gender discrimination. The methodology adopted includes the analysis of statistical data from the 2022 Demographic Census, official documents from the Ministry of Health, and works that address intersectionality and structural racism. The results highlight the need for concrete actions to ensure equity in access to social rights, aiming to combat structural inequalities and promote the inclusion and well-being of black women in Brazil. We also highlight that the study is part of a set of actions of the Observatory for Combating Violence against Women and Girls in Latin America organized by the State University of Goiás North Campus, Uruaçu Headquarters, in partnership with the Center for Legal Practices of the Faculty of Law of the same university, with the Autonomous Faculty of Law (FADISP) and the Federal Institute of Goiás Campus Uruaçu.

Keywords: Law, Health, Blackness, Gender.

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INTRODUCTION

When talking about social inequalities in the country, it is essential to discuss their origins, especially in the enslavement and reproduction of capitalism since the sixteenth century. It is also known that these inequalities are structural and intersectional⁴, especially because they are prolonged in Brazilian geography and history, in addition to having even more expressive marks when we carry out a gender and race cut. but not always limited to these.

This is equivalent to saying that black women⁵ are even more impacted by social inequalities and deprivation of human rights, a fact that underlies the present study, which proposes to analyze the first census results of 2022⁶, released in subsequent years. To this end, the understanding of the data of the Brazilian universe in the largest survey carried out by the IBGE in a recent context, the Demographic Census, presents us with an overview of the advances obtained from the implementation of constitutional foundations, laws, international agreements on human rights, as well as public policies to confront social inequalities and violence in the country.

However, even before analyzing the large-scale statistical data, we have the dimension that the Brazilian advances for human rights, especially of black women, are far from a rupture with the structures of reproduction of power and maintenance of the *status quo* strongly fostered by colonization and its structural roots still present in the country. This is because other studies by institutions such as the IBGE itself, IPEA (Institute of Applied Economic Research), DIEESE (Inter-Union Department of Statistics and Socioeconomic Studies), the Ministry of Health and the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz), point to the continuity, and even intensification, of inequalities and structural violence in Brazil with regard to the black population.

Black women face significant inequalities in access to health services, a complex reality that originates historically and can be understood by the intersection between race, gender, and social class in Brazil. These disparities have a profound impact on the physical and mental health of these women, contributing to the perpetuation of a cycle of social exclusion and distancing of rights.

In view of the above, the study aims to identify the situation of black women in Brazil today, such as the situation of housing, education, work, basic sanitation and violence, with the

⁴ In this study, we understand structural aspects as elements that transcend time and space, that is, they manifest themselves for long periods and everywhere. Like enslavement, even with the legal end of this historical process in the country, its roots remain and manifest themselves in the form of greater incarceration, high rates of violent deaths, poverty, among others. Intersectionality, according to Akotirene (2019), is a theoretical framework that aims to analyze power relations and social inequalities from the interconnection of different social markers, such as race, gender, social class, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, among others. The author refutes the idea that oppressions operate in isolation, but rather that they intersect, creating different layers of inequality and vulnerability.

⁵ In Brazil, the black and brown population are considered black. According to the latest studies by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), this is the majority of the resident population since the 2010 Demographic Census.

⁶ The Demographic Census is the largest study on the resident population in Brazil, conducted periodically every ten years by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE). Due to the new coronavirus pandemic and funding cuts for the promotion of the study, the study scheduled for 2020 was carried out two years later. The first results of the Demographic Census were released by the IBGE in 2023 and 2024.



problematization of access to social rights guaranteed by the fifth article of the Federal Constitution of Brazil of 1988. Based on a theoretical and critical review, associated with statistical data, maps, graphs and other sources, such as laws and public policies, we will analyze the situation of the Brazilian population in access to social, health and basic sanitation rights, with a focus on black women.

Finally, in the final considerations, we will present the elements that highlight the urgency for the attention to black women in Brazil today in order to deepen the studies of the social situation and violence that most affect girls and women in Brazil. In the future, the study will achieve greater scalability, with a Latin American panorama, based on studies by the Observatory of Violence against Women and Girls in Latin America.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

To begin the proposed studies, we searched for a series of works that help us define our theoretical framework on the subject. Akatirene (2019) contributes to the discussion about intersectionality, a mark of historically reproduced power relations that, among other factors, aims to criminalize black bodies and reproduces racism. Grada Kilomba and Djamila Ribeiro offer complementary and essential contributions to the understanding of the oppressions faced by black women.

Kilomba (2019) explores how structural racism and everyday microaggressions perpetuate exclusion and symbolic violence against these women, affecting their mental health and well-being. Ribeiro (2017) highlights the importance of acknowledging the place of black women's speech, arguing that their experiences and claims must be centralized to dismantle dominant narratives that often ignore or minimize racial and gender inequalities.

The documents of the Ministry of Health present us with the National Policy for the Integral Health of the Black Population (BRASIL, 2009), the Thematic Bulletin of the Library of the Ministry of Health on the black population contribute to the understanding of the particularities of the health of blacks. The IBGE data present us with an overview of the population, households, as well as the ethnic-racial identification, sex and age of Brazilians. And in the text "Birth in Brazil", Fiocruz presents data on the use of health services according to maternal skin color, age and "class".

In the end, we will make a critical analysis that dialogues with the literature, with official documents and statistical data in order to understand the situation of black women in the most current context, which the references allow us to make, in order to problematize the violations of rights under the prism of spatiality and temporality.



FROM THE THEORETICAL FOUNDATION TO THE STUDY

In her work on intersectionality, Carla Akotirene addresses the complexity of oppressions experienced by Black women, who are situated at the intersection of multiple forms of discrimination (Akotirene, 2019). The author points out that the concept of intersectionality, a term first introduced by Kimberlé Crenshaw, is crucial to understanding how gender, race, and class inequalities overlap, creating unique experiences of oppression that cannot be adequately understood through isolated analyses of each factor. According to the author, black women face specific barriers in accessing social rights due to this intersection of oppressions, which is reinforced by social and political structures that perpetuate marginalization (Akotirene, 2019).

In turn, in "Lugar de Fala" Djamila Ribeiro emphasizes the importance of recognizing the social position from which narratives are constructed, highlighting that the experience of black women is often made invisible in discussions about social rights (Ribeiro, 2017). The author argues that the struggle for black women's social rights cannot be dissociated from the struggle against structural racism, which systematically prevents these women from accessing resources and opportunities equally. In this reading, he suggests that the recognition of the place of speech is essential to dismantle dominant narratives that ignore or minimize racial and gender inequalities (Ribeiro, 2017).

In "Plantation Memories: Episodes of Everyday Racism", Grada Kilomba addresses how daily racism and microaggressions contribute to the perpetuation of black women's social exclusion (Kilomba, 2019). The author utilizes a psychosocial approach to explore how structural racism affects the mental health and well-being of Black women, exacerbating their vulnerability and exclusion. It argues that symbolic and physical violence, including gender-based violence, is a tool used to keep these women, especially black women, in subordinate positions, denying them access to fundamental rights (Kilomba, 2019).

In this analysis, the deprivation of social rights of black women in Brazil is an evident and historical manifestation of structural racism, which operates through discriminatory public policies and institutional practices, or even by the absence of them. In the field of education, for example, black women face higher school dropout rates and fewer opportunities to access higher education, resulting in a cycle of poverty and exclusion (Akotirene, 2019). In health, lack of access to quality services and institutionalized racism within the health system result in worse health indicators for black women, including higher maternal mortality (Ribeiro, 2017).

In the labor market, Black women are often relegated to low-paying jobs and precarious conditions, facing discrimination in both hiring and career progression. The intersectionality of race and gender results in a double penalty, where employment policies do not adequately address the specific barriers faced by these women (Akotirene, 2019). In addition, inadequate housing conditions



and lack of basic sanitation disproportionately affect black women, reflecting the continuity of structural inequalities from colonial times to the present day (Kilomba, 2019).

In conclusion, black women's access to social rights in Brazil is deeply influenced by structural racism, which manifests itself through multiple forms of intersectional discrimination. The analysis proposed by Akotirene, Ribeiro, and Kilomba offers a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics of oppression and exclusion, highlighting the need for public policies that recognize and address these inequalities in an integrated and intersectional manner (Akotirene, 2019; Ribeiro, 2017; Kilomba, 2019).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

CENSUS DATA ON ACCESS TO BASIC SANITATION IN BRAZIL TODAY

The Brazilian population exceeded two hundred million inhabitants, with higher demographic density, i.e., population concentration, in the southeast and south regions of the country (IBGEa, 2023, p. 30).⁷ It should also be noted that the study pointed to considerable changes in mortality and fertility rates⁸ since the 1940 series, with emphasis on the 6.5% growth of the Brazilian population since the last demographic census in 2010.

The IBGE studies began collecting data on "color" in 1872, which was changed to "color and race" after the 1991 census. Along the way, racial identity was again modified with the inclusion of indigenous populations, in addition to phenotypic understanding⁹ (IBGE, 2023b, p. 6). In the document "Ethnic-racial identification of the population, by sex and age: Results of the Universe", the (IBGE, 2023b) points to a country that is mostly black (53.7%), with more than 92 million brown people (43.5%) and more than 20 million black people (10.2%).

Geographically, we perceive a concentration of the brown population living in the Northeast and Southeast regions of the country (71%) and, adding the black declarants, they make up 78.1% of the black population living in these locations (IBGE, 2023b, p. 46), map 1.

⁷ The data released from the 2022 Demographic Census are based on July 31, 2022 for the population count and other preliminary figures.

⁸ Mortality can be defined as the total number of deaths in a population during a given period of time. It is an important indicator for understanding the health of the population and can be influenced by several factors, such as the level of socioeconomic development, living conditions, and epidemiological profile. Fertility refers to the number of children per woman during her reproductive life. The IBGE collects data on fertility through studies such as the National Health Survey (PNS), the National Household Sample Survey (PNAD) and the Demographic Census.

⁹ Basic sanitation consists of essential services for the health and well-being of the population. It is about access to drinking water, sanitation, waste management and urban drainage.

Map 1: Predominant color or race by municipalities - Brazil - 2022.



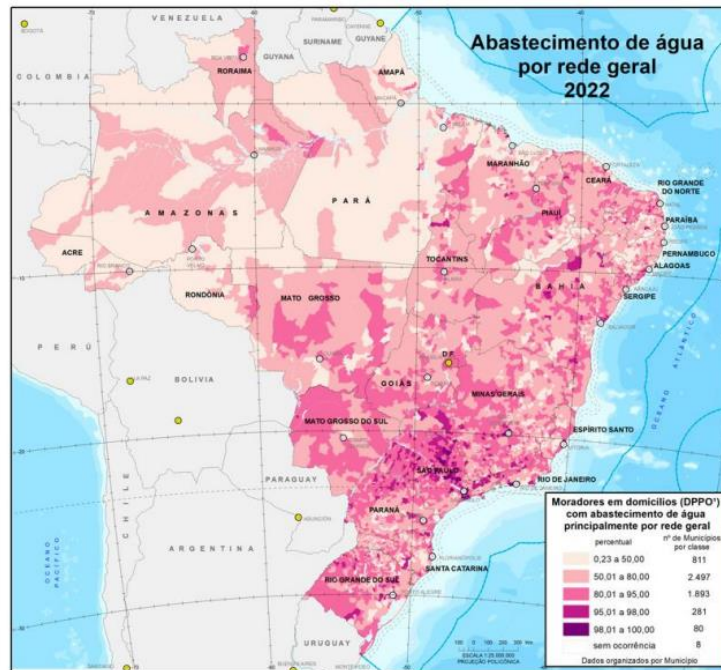
Fonte: IBGE, Censo Demográfico 2022.
 Nota: O total de pessoas indígenas compreende as pessoas declaradas por meio do quesito de cor ou raça e aquelas declaradas por meio do quesito "se considera indígena".

Source: IBGE (2023a). Data source: 2022 Population Census.

The first census data released by the IBGE from 2023 onwards present the situation of households and basic sanitation in the country, with the possibility of identifying the conditions of black populations. The majority of Brazilian households consist of houses (84%), followed by apartments (12.5%), in addition to 2.7% of the population residing in other types, such as "village house or condominium", "dwelling in a house with rooms or tenements", "indigenous housing without walls or maloca" and "degraded or unfinished permanent residential structure".

With regard to the situation of basic sanitation, we started the analysis with access to water supply. The majority of the population residing in the country is served by the general network, 82.9%, (IBGE, 2023c). It should be noted that where the highest percentage of black population resides, the Northeast region, 68 municipalities were identified that are supplied by water tankers, as well as 24.3% of the households in the North region, with a significant indigenous population, have access to water through deep or artesian wells, as shown in map 2. It is concluded, therefore, that the Brazilian regions with the lowest attendances by the general water distribution network are the North and Northeast, regions predominantly of brown, black and indigenous people.

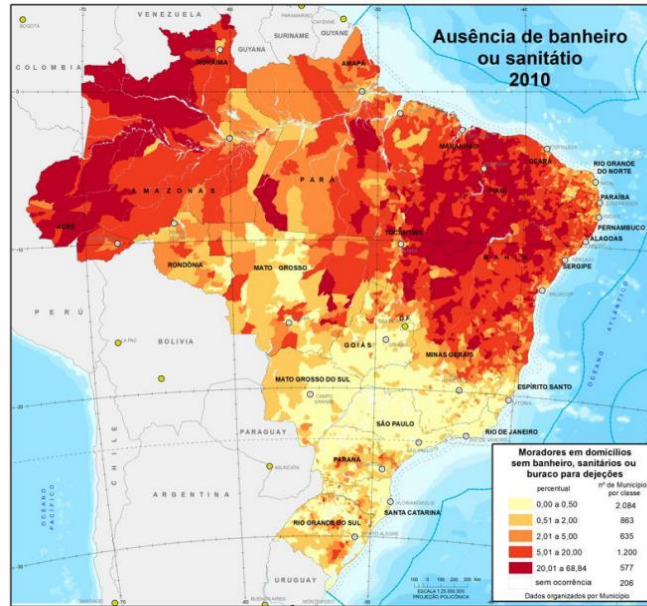
Map 2: General water distribution network - Brazil - 2022.



Source: IBGE (2023c). Data source: 2022 Population Census. Note 1: Data on permanently occupied private households are considered.

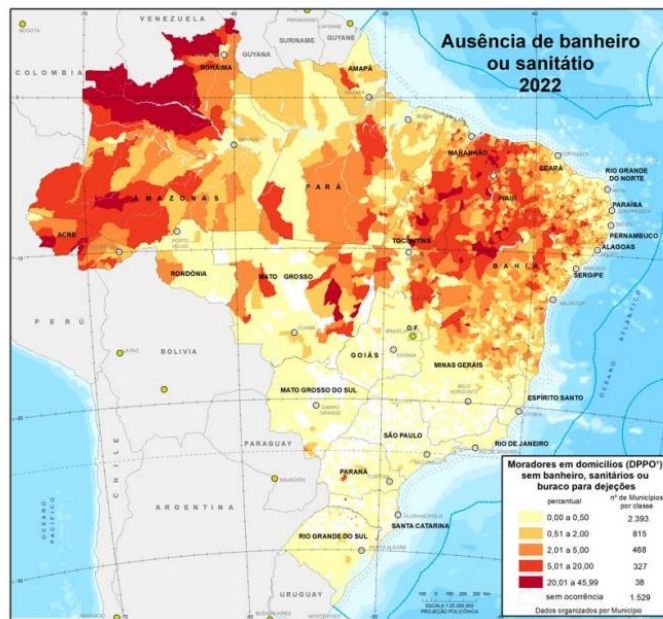
An important element for the analysis that comprises the IBGE data is the existence of bathrooms for exclusive use in the home. In this regard, we also observed a geographic (regional) inequality in the country. In addition, maps 3 and 4 show the situation in 2010 and 2022, showing a significant change: presence from 75.5% to 90.5% in the North Region and from 83.4% to 95.3% in the Northeast Region, the two regions with the lowest percentages in the two sections identified by the last demographic censuses carried out in the country. However, even with considerable quantitative expansion, the North and Northeast regions still have the lowest percentages of households without toilets or toilets for exclusive use in the country.

Map 3: Absence of toilets for exclusive use in the home - Brazil - 2010.



Source: IBGE (2023c). Data source: 2022 Population Census.

Map 4: Absence of toilet or toilet for exclusive use in the home - Brazil - 2022.



Source: IBGE (2023c). Data source: 2022 Population Census.

Another relevant data for the analysis is the spatiality of access to sanitary sewage by collection network. This is explained by the fact that only 58.3% of the Brazilian population was served by a general or rainwater network in 2022. On the other hand, the other households are mostly served by septic tanks (septic or rudimentary).¹⁰ Again, we have the dimension of regional inequality that is directly related to the racial issue in Brazil: only 17.7% of households in the North Region and

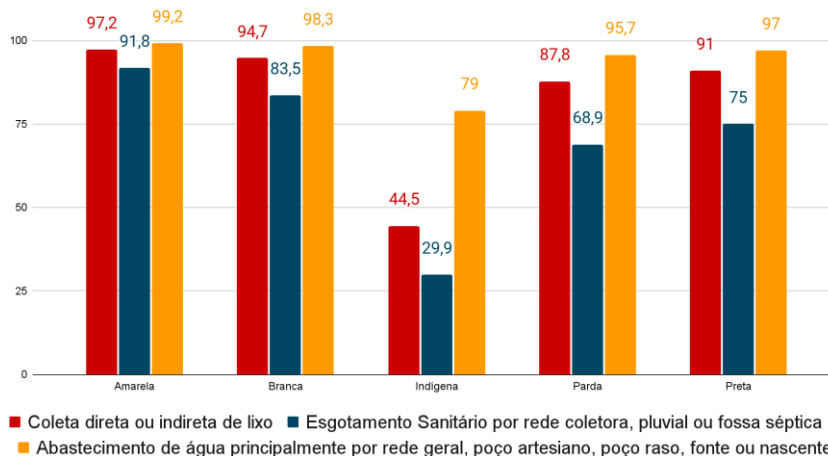
¹⁰ Septic tanks are underground structures designed to receive household waste, including waste from the bathroom and kitchen. They are built with the aim of separating and decomposing part of the solids present in the sewage, reducing the pollutant load before the residual liquid is absorbed by the soil or released into a drainage system. Rudimentary cesspools are also underground structures, but without the compartments for separating household waste. They consist of vertical cuts in the relief, surrounded by bricks, stones or concrete, usually present in locations where there is no sanitary sewerage.

38.3% in the Northeast Region have access to basic sanitation supply through the general or rainwater network, map 3. On the other hand, it is noted that the Southeast Region has the highest attendance in this regard, 84% of households, a location with a large percentage of black resident population.

As for garbage disposal, census data point to direct or indirect collection (90.9%), according to data from the 2022 Demographic Census (IBGE, 2023). Once again, there are still significant regional inequalities that, in our analysis, intersect aspects of race. The North Region remains with the lowest percentage of the population served by household garbage collection in 2022, with the Northeast Region having the second lowest service (82.4%) and the Southeast Region at the highest level (96.9%).

When we analyze the data on access to basic sanitation from the perspective of the population by color and race, we again have the dimension of the reproduction of historically and geographically structural inequalities (IBGE, 2023). In a comparative analysis, we highlight that the lowest percentage of the population declared itself "yellow", and it is this group with the greatest access to direct or indirect garbage collection (97.2%), sanitary sewage through a collection network, rainwater or septic tank (91.8%) and water supply mainly through the general network, artesian well, shallow well, source or spring (99.2%). Graph 1.

Gráfico 1: Proporção dos moradores em domicílios particulares permanentes com características selecionadas, segundo a cor ou raça, 2022



Source: IBGE (2023c). Data source: 2022 Population Census.

It is also noted that the indigenous population has the least access to the three services, direct or indirect garbage collection, sanitation and water supply. Therefore, despite the expansion of access to social rights in the country, the indigenous and black population have less access to basic sanitation services, especially if they live in the North and Northeast regions. In this plan, we highlight the situation of the black population in terms of access to sanitation, 68.9% among browns



and 75% among blacks with access through a collection network, rainwater or septic tank (IBGE, 2023c, p. 51).

The situation of black women in education in Brazil is marked by persistent challenges, as evidenced by the data presented in the documents. In 2022, the illiteracy rate among black women was 6.9%, while for white women it was 3.4% (BRASIL, 2023). In addition, the disparity in access to higher education is notable, with black women accounting for approximately half of that of white women.

Education plays a crucial role in individual and social development, directly impacting quality of life and employment opportunities. Data reveal that in 2018, nearly 48% of employed black women were in informal occupations, compared to less than 35% of white women (MINISTRY OF HUMAN RIGHTS, 2023). This reality reflects the worse insertion of black women in the labor market, in part due to the lower level of education.

The data presented in the documents highlight the importance of addressing educational inequalities and promoting the appreciation of ethnic-racial diversity in the Brazilian educational context. Although there have been significant improvements in the schooling indicators of black women, racial inequalities in education remain at considerable levels. To reverse this scenario and ensure equal opportunities for all women, it is essential to implement measures that combat structural racism and promote inclusion and equity in the education system and the labor market.

The situation of black women in the labor market in Brazil reflects a reality of inequality and precariousness, as evidenced in the data presented in the documents. In 2018, almost 48% of employed black women were in informal occupations, compared to less than 35% of white women (BRASIL, 2023). This increased presence in the informal sector is associated with precarious work and a lack of social protection, limiting access to basic rights such as adequate pay and retirement (MINISTRY OF HUMAN RIGHTS, 2023).

The more precarious insertion of black women in the labor market is also reflected in their earnings. In 2018, the average income of black women was less than 60% of that of white women, showing a significant disparity (IBGE, 2019). In addition, when compared to white men, black women have an income indicator of less than 45%, highlighting the intersectionality of gender and race inequalities in the labor market (IBGE, 2019).

This income inequality is directly related to poverty. According to IBGE data, considering an income threshold proposed by the World Bank of US\$5.50 PPP, it is estimated that 33.5% of black women live in households with per capita income below the poverty line, compared to just over 15% of white women (IBGE, 2019). This disparity highlights the difficulties faced by black women in accessing decent living conditions and well-being.



To reverse this scenario of inequality in the labor market, it is essential to adopt public policies that promote gender and racial equity, ensuring equal opportunities for all women. Valuing black women's work, promoting inclusion in the formal market, and implementing social protection measures are essential to ensure equal rights and opportunities in the workplace (DIEESE, 2023).

Violence against black women is an alarming reality in Brazil, as evidenced by the data presented in the documents. In 2022, more than 61% of the victims of femicide in the country were black women, highlighting the vulnerability of these women in the face of gender-based violence (ANDIFES, 2019). In addition to femicide, black women face various forms of violence, including physical, psychological, and sexual assaults, often in a context of intersectionality with structural racism.

Violence against black women is a reflection of the social and structural inequalities present in Brazilian society. The lack of effective protection and prevention policies, combined with the perpetuation of stereotypes and prejudices, contributes to the vulnerability of these women to violence (ANDIFES, 2019). The invisibility and lack of recognition of the violence suffered by black women are also factors that perpetuate this alarming scenario.

To address violence against Black women, it is critical to adopt an intersectional approach that takes into account the multiple forms of discrimination these women face. The implementation of integrated public policies, which consider the specificities of gender and race, is essential to ensure the protection and empowerment of black women (ANDIFES, 2019). In addition, it is crucial to promote awareness, education, and the fight against racism and sexism, in order to build a fairer and more equal society for all women.

FROM THE NATIONAL POLICY FOR COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH OF THE BLACK POPULATION

Established by Ordinance No. 992 of 2009, the National Policy for the Integral Health of the Black Population (PNSIPN) represents an important milestone in the struggle for the formulation of public health care policies in Brazil. Not least because the institutional document recognizes the existence of institutional racism, a¹¹ structural element that manifests itself as a social determinant of health and an obstacle to the realization of the human right to health, in this case.

In addition, the PNSIPN recognizes that, in order to ensure the well-being of the black population, it is essential to value Afro-Brazilian culture and identity, with a view to strengthening

¹¹ Institutional racism, as presented in the National Policy for the Integral Health of the Black Population (PNSIPN), refers to the way in which the structures, practices, and policies of an institution, such as the health system, perpetuate inequality and discriminate against people based on their race or ethnicity. This form of racism operates in subtle and often unintentional ways, but it has significant impacts on the health and well-being of Black people, distancing them from their fundamental rights.



self-esteem, in addition to combating stereotypes and discrimination. It is also noted that this policy seeks to ensure the social participation of the black population in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of public health policies.

In this sense, the PNSIPN is a consolidated document to think about the health situation of the black population in Brazil, highlighting elements that distance the subjects from social rights. Even if it admits the reduction of ethnic-racial inequalities in health and guarantees universal and quality access to health care for the black population, subsequent data warn of the permanence of structures that impede constitutional guarantees.

OTHER DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE HEALTH OF THE BLACK POPULATION IN BRAZIL TODAY

The concept of health encompasses a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, going beyond the simple absence of disease or infirmity. In the comprehensive approach to women's health, it is essential that sexual and reproductive rights are recognized as human rights, considering the diversity and specific needs of women. Any women-focused approach to health must not only consider the gender dimension, but also incorporate race/ethnicity issues, ensuring that health indicators include these variables.

Historically, black women have faced multiple systems of oppression, being discriminated against by gender, social class, and race/ethnicity. To ensure equal access to health services for black women, it is crucial that the State and its agents recognize their specific realities and demands. This entails recognizing racism, sexism, and class exploitation as obstacles to full access to health care and taking steps to overcome them.

To enrich the debate, it is necessary to analyze studies on the situation of black people in relation to genetic and hereditary diseases, which profoundly affect public health and the quality of life of these groups. The document "National Policy for the Integral Health of the Black Population: a policy for the SUS", from the Ministry of Health (BRASIL, 2017), highlights four diseases prevalent in the black population: sickle cell anemia, type II diabetes mellitus, arterial hypertension and glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) deficiency.

Sickle cell anemia, according to the document, is a common hereditary disease among the black population, resulting from a genetic mutation that leads to the formation of hard, sickle-shaped red blood cells. Its prevalence is higher in the black population, with 6% to 10% of individuals carrying the gene and 1% to 3% with complete disease (BRASIL, 2017, p. 10).

Type II diabetes mellitus is a chronic disease characterized by insulin resistance and high blood glucose levels. Genetic and environmental factors contribute to its development, with the black population being more susceptible, with up to 9% more cases in men and 50% more in women than



in the white population (BRASIL, 2017, p. 10). Glycemic control, lifestyle changes, and regular medical follow-up are essential to prevent serious complications.

Hypertension is a silent disease, characterized by high blood pressure, with a higher prevalence in the black population (BRASIL, 2017, p. 10). Genetic, environmental, and socioeconomic factors contribute to its development, and prevention measures, early diagnosis, and drug treatment are essential to control blood pressure and prevent cardiovascular complications.

G6PD deficiency is a genetic disorder that results in the reduction of the G6PD enzyme, which is crucial for the protection of red blood cells. Its prevalence is higher in individuals of African descent, and early diagnosis, precaution, and specialized medical follow-up measures are important to prevent hemolytic crises and their complications (BRASIL, 2017, p. 10).

The 2013 National Health Survey (PNS), according to the Ministry of Health (BRASIL, 2017), reveals disparities in access to crucial preventive exams for women's health, such as mammography. Only 54.2% of black women and 52.9% of brown women had taken the test in the two years prior to the survey, compared to 66.2% of white women. This discrepancy is also seen in prenatal visits, with 69.8% of black mothers having at least six visits, compared to 84.9% of white mothers (BRASIL, 2017, p. 14).

The study also indicates variations in the quality of prenatal care among different ethnic groups. Only 73% of black pregnant women had their first prenatal visit in the first three months of pregnancy, compared to 85% of white women. This disparity is worrisome, as adequate access to prenatal care is essential to ensure maternal and child health (BRASIL, 2017, p. 15).

Infectious disease detection rates are highest among black women, the study found. In 2013, the detection rate of syphilis in pregnant women was higher among black women, followed by brown and indigenous women. Black women account for the majority of maternal deaths in Brazil, which highlights the urgency of specific studies and actions to reduce and eliminate inequality in access to maternal health (BRASIL, 2017, p. 15).

In addition to inequalities in access to health services, black women also face discrimination and unequal treatment in health services. According to the 2013 PNS, more than 10% of black women reported having been discriminated against or treated inferiorly in health services, highlighting the urgent need to address institutional racism and promote equity in the Brazilian health system (BRASIL, 2017, p. 17).

According to the Ministry of Health (BRASIL, 2021), the intersectionality of factors such as gender, race, and class implies the reproduction of historical oppressions that cannot be ignored in comprehensive care for fundamental rights, including health. An example is obstetric violence, linked to precarious or non-existent access to complete gestational follow-up for black women. The



greater the intersectionality of factors, the greater the vulnerabilities and their impacts on the lives of black girls and women in Brazil.

Several factors motivate the continuity of research on the health of black women in Brazil. Greater exposure to painful procedures without adequate analgesia, violation of the right to the presence of a companion during childbirth, lower numbers of prenatal consultations, and distancing from maternity hospitals are problems highlighted by the "Birth in Brazil" survey, conducted by Fiocruz (2014).

In addition, understanding health requires considering factors such as illness and mortality of the population, especially among blacks and browns. The high mortality rates from various diseases, combined with historical violence, reflect the lethality of the black population in Brazil. Studies such as those by Fiocruz (2014) highlight suicide as a significant concern among the black population.

The debate about violent deaths, which are more common among young black men and black women, has a number of important meanings. Black bodies are the target of specific violence: young black women are the main victims of urban violence and black women of gender-based violence. These nuances motivate the continuous analysis of public policies aimed at addressing the specificities of race, gender, and class in the country.

FINAL THOUGHTS

This study highlighted the persistent social inequalities faced by black women in contemporary Brazil, demonstrating how the intersectionality of race and gender is crucial to understanding the complexity of these oppressions. The analyses highlighted the profound influence of structural racism in perpetuating barriers to access to fundamental social rights, such as health, education, work, and housing. From the methodology adopted, which included the analysis of statistical data and official documents, it became evident that black women continue to be disproportionately affected by inadequate public policies and discriminatory institutional practices.

The justification for this study was even more pressing as the urgency of political interventions that recognize and address the specificities of inequalities faced by black women became evident. Intersectionality, as discussed by theorists such as Akotirene, Ribeiro and Kilomba, offers an essential theoretical framework for the formulation of public policies aimed at social justice. Current policies fail to address the multiple dimensions of social exclusion in an integrated way, and need an approach that simultaneously considers the impacts of racism and sexism.

The results highlight the need for concrete and immediate actions to ensure equity in access to social rights. The implementation of intersectional public policies is imperative to combat structural inequalities and promote the inclusion and well-being of black women. The disparities found in the data related to health, education, work, and housing not only reflect the continuity of



structural racism, but also signal the urgency of a reformulation of public policy strategies that are truly inclusive and equitable.

In addition, it is critical that future research continues to deepen the analysis of the intersections between race and gender, expanding the scope to other regions and contexts, both within Brazil and in Latin America. Collaboration between academic institutions and civil society organizations is vital to foster an ongoing and effective dialogue on best practices and strategies to combat inequality. This study, as part of the actions of the Observatory to Combat Violence against Women and Girls in Latin America, represents an important step in this direction, by bringing together inter-institutional efforts to promote meaningful change.

Finally, and without exhausting the theme, we highlight that the data point to the urgent need for a renewed commitment to social justice and equity. Black women, historically marginalized, must be placed at the center of public policies and development agendas. Only through a truly intersectional and inclusive approach will it be possible to create an environment where all women can fully access their social rights and live with dignity and equality. It is essential that we continue to advance in the fight against structural racism and gender discrimination, recognizing and valuing the contributions and resistance of black women in building a more just and equitable society.



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