


**PROFILE OF SUICIDE CASES IN A PENITENTIARY IN THE PERNAMBUCO HINTERLAND** <https://doi.org/10.56238/sevened2024.037-210>**Alecrides Marques Alencar<sup>1</sup>, Alessandra Gomes Marques Pacheco<sup>2</sup>, Beatriz Medrado de Souza<sup>3</sup> and Edson Jorge Pacheco<sup>4</sup>.****ABSTRACT**

The research seeks to present the profile of suicide cases in a penitentiary in the hinterland of Pernambuco. For this, it was necessary to understand triggering factors of suicide; to identify precipitating factors for the commission of suicide and to propose protective factors for the development of a suicide prevention policy. The research addressed legal aspects related to penal execution, contextualizing suicide in the prison environment, through the proposal of a qualitative, exploratory and descriptive cross-sectional methodology, with the survey of information on completed suicides recorded in a prison settlement, from 2007 to 2019, based on documentary analysis, with quantification and tabulation procedures as a form of data systematization. As the main result of the study based on the profile, 07 cases were found, and it was observed that in most of the events (4 cases), the individuals had arrived at the prison by recent transfer from another distant unit, located in the same state.

**Keywords:** Death. Suicide. Penitentiary.

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## INTRODUCTION

The occurrence of suicide has always been an intriguing and important topic for society, since it affects not only the victim's family, but can also influence other people who experience problems that are difficult to be faced by the human psyche.

When addressing the topic of suicide in the prison context, there is much in terms of complexity due to the institutional dynamics involved. Likewise, the issue of suicide is propitious in this same context.

It is observed that, nationally, there are 748,009 re-educates, of which 362,547 are in a closed regime. In the state of Pernambuco, the region of the survey carried out, there are 33,641 in total, 16,185 (48.11%) in a closed regime (SERES, 2020). As for the research location, Petrolina-PE, with regard to the structural aspect of accommodation, 830 re-inmates are possible, but it has, on average, the occupancy is around 1,214 inmates, data presented by the Executive Secretariat for Resocialization of Pernambuco, at the Doutor Edvaldo Gomes Penitentiary (SERES, 2020). The reality presented in statistics, at the three federative levels, represents a contextual reality of overcrowding. When we look at the cases of suicide in the general population, according to the latest data released by the WHO, 11,000 deaths per year are observed, with Brazil occupying the 8th position in the world in relation to this episode and adding this to the prison context, studies reveal inmates as groups of greater vulnerability to such an occurrence.

It is believed that conducts guided by normative precepts and practical management of the institutional routine can promote aspects that prevent or prevent the occurrence of suicide within the prison system. For the development of the study, several observations were necessary to the state penal norms (Pernambuco), to the federal ones, such as the Penal Execution Laws, to the related bodies, such as the National Council of Justice.

The definition of suicide considered in the study, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), "[...] is any act in which the individual causes injury to himself, whatever the degree of lethal intent and knowledge of the true motive of the act".

The WHO also points out that the average suicide rate in penitentiaries, that is, with people already sentenced in a closed regime, is three times higher when compared to the general population. And, in systems that serve sentences in a shorter time, the rate becomes up to ten times higher, again compared to that of the general population. It is worth mentioning that the WHO has already carried out studies on suicide in different types of imprisonment, including an investigation of the period of imprisonment to analyze the possible impicators of such a phenomenon in this type of context (SERES, 2020).

The study in question refers to the analysis of the profile of suicide cases in a penitentiary, in addition to comparing the data collected in this institution located in a Pernambuco hinterland to the national average, analyzing the possible impicators for such occurrence and pointing out the possible protective and preventive aspects to the occurrence of suicide in the place object of the study.

The proposal of this study, therefore, also involved the desire to understand the related factors and the situation in which the occurrence occurred, in order to be able to instrumentalize future intervention and prevention actions.

## DISCUSSION

To understand the entire framework presented so far, two dimensions that surround the theme of suicide in the prison system are below, starting with the very basis that is the normative and related to the moment of penal execution when in a closed regime, which characterizes institutional coexistence, the focus of the research, along with the second point that refers to the need to contextualize suicide in the prison system.

## LEGAL ASPECTS RELATED TO PENAL EXECUTION

As seen in the history of the institution, presented by the Executive Secretariat for Resocialization of the State of Pernambuco (SERES, 2020), the Penitentiary System emerged as the grouping of the various existing penal establishments, so it is started, from the beginning, from the idea of precariousness in terms of organization, especially in terms of functional and structural aspects.

The Secretariat (SERES, 2020), curiously, states that one of the first prison units was the Agricultural Penitentiary of Itamaracá, which was inaugurated on October 19, 1940, with the shelter of convicts in open and semi-open regimes. In the temporal sequence, regulatory devices were created, such as the Private Court of Criminal Executions and the Superintendence of the State Penitentiary System (SUSIPE), the latter through Decree-Law No. 299 of May 19, 1970 (SERES, 2020).

Decree No. 2,340 of 1971 brings the content that regulates the functioning of the penitentiary system of the State of Pernambuco, with the aim of integrating and standardizing the administration and management conducts of the system. Then, decree No. 2,341 (State Penitentiary Regulation) came with the goals to be established (SERES, 2020).

Along with the evolutionary process of political and normative assistance aimed at the penitentiary system, there are actions of a destitutive nature, such as the deactivation of

the Recife House of Detention, in 1973, with the necessary transfers already carried out to environments that were adequate, as stipulated for the time (SERES, 2020).

In continuity with the normative aspects, Law No. 7,698 (State Penitentiary Code) was presented in 1978, with the perspective of humanizing the technical-administrative processes of the penitentiary. As for the structural aspect, the Superintendence of the Penitentiary System (SUSIPE) was created through Decree No. 7,420 of 1981 and in 1985 the Deputy Superintendence, the Psychology Division, the Nutrition services, the Department of Administration and the Casa do Albergado were created (SERES, 2020).

The nomenclature of the current Executive Secretariat for Resocialization (SERES) has already had other names, such as Superintendence of the Penitentiary System (SUSIPE); Directorate of the Penitentiary System, with the acronym DISIPE; Secretariat of Justice and Human Rights (SJDH), but with the perspective of resizing practices for the improvement of management. As SERES (2020), its mission is to comply with the Penal Execution Legislation (LEP) in the institution's area of competence, with the priority of social integration of the re-educated.

The daily practice of social reintegration activities is observed in multiple spheres, such as: social, economic, academic, religious, professional and others, given in practice by encouraging and investing in workshops, lectures, teaching and other general activities.

As for the presentation, the structure of the Executive Secretariat for Resocialization (SERES, 2020), is composed of the following sectors: Chief of Staff; Intelligence and Organic Security Management; Planning and Monitoring Management; Electronic Monitoring Center for Re-educandos; Chief of Staff Secretariat; Chief of Staff; Head of Press Office; Permanent Bidding Committee; Special Bidding Committee and Permanent Disciplinary Committee.

In this second part, the managements and supervisions are observed, as follows: Technical Support Manager; Ombudsman; General Administrative-Financial Management; Information Technology Management; Architecture and Engineering Management; Management of Projects and Agreements; Logistics and Production Management; Contract supervisor; Planning and Budget Supervisor, as well as Financial Supervisor.

The third part includes the superintendencies and managements, including those of a technical nature, namely: Superintendence of Training and Resocialization; Technical-Legal and Criminal Management; Technical-Legal and Administrative Management; Management of Education and Vocational Qualification; Management of Psychosocial Support, Health and Nutrition, in addition to the Penitentiary School of Pernambuco.

The last part includes the most specific axis, such as: Superintendence of Prison Security; Security Operations Management; Prison Management; Prof. Everardo Luna Criminological Observation and Screening Center.

The three axes complement each other due to a whole system of operation, but when viewed by the parties, it becomes possible to verify the specialized areas, whether technical or administrative, which can enable a complexity that aims to encompass the demand presented and the effectiveness of the resolutions.

Also of a structural nature, SERES includes the Rehabilitation Centers, penal colonies, Custody and Psychiatric Treatment Hospitals, prisons and penitentiaries throughout the state of Pernambuco. The units that make up the Executive Secretariat for Resocialization are: Agreste Resocialization Center; Women's Penal Colony of Abreu e Lima; Women's Penal Colony of Buíque; Women's Penal Colony of Recife; Custody and Psychiatric Treatment Hospital; São João Agroindustrial Penitentiary; Dr. Edvaldo Gomes Penitentiary; Dr. Ênio Pessoa Guerra Penitentiary; Juiz Plácido de Souza Penitentiary; Penitenciária Professor Barreto Campelo; Lawyer Brito Alves Prison; Igarassu Prison; Salgueiro Prison; Prison of Santa Cruz do Capibaribe; Vitória de Santo Antão Prison; Judge Augusto Duque Prison; Dr. Rorinildo da Rocha Leão Prison; ASP Marcelo Francisco de Araújo Prison; Frei Damião de Bozzano Prison; Judge Antônio Luiz Lins de Barros Prison (SERES, 2020).

The aforementioned Secretariat has the following mission: To control and maintain the State penitentiary system in operation, through the custody and administration of prison establishments, seeking the rehabilitation of the convict, aiming at their protection and the guarantee of their fundamental rights, being one of the organs that is part of the Secretariat of Justice and Human Rights - SJDH, manages 21 Prison Units and 58 Public Jails (SERES, 2020).

Law No. 15,755, of April 4, 2016, establishes the Penitentiary Code of the State of Pernambuco. The code, logically, follows the precepts of the Penal Execution Law (LEP) and the Federal Constitution (1988), according to article 1, as an objective.

Still on the Penitentiary Code of the State of Pernambuco, Law No. 15,755, of April 4, 2016, states that measures depriving liberty have axes, such as: social reparation, reintegration of the person deprived of liberty into society and the conduct of life in a socially responsible manner. Next, the paragraphs, § 1 and § 2, respectively, state that the deprivation of liberty also serves as a way to contain, in defense of society, certain violence and prevent crimes, in the sense of breaking, sometimes, a cycle of criminal incidence.

Paragraph 2 emphasizes that the deprivation of liberty maintains, even with limitations, the fundamental rights, except for what is necessary for the execution of the sentence.

According to this same law, on the institution of the Penitentiary Code of the State of Pernambuco, article 4 expresses, precisely, the person, in the private sense, which recalls, in a developed way, the process of individualization of the penalty, so that the identity recognition of that individual deprived of liberty to serve a sentence in a closed regime is preserved. In the items of article 4, the execution includes the care governed by the defense of the prison community, stimulation of reintegration and promotion of the co-responsibility of the re-educated, including on matters of general interest.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that the Penitentiary Code of the State of Pernambuco follows the precepts of the Penal Execution Law (LEP) and the Federal Constitution (1988).

In items I, II, III, V and VI of article 6, there are: the individualization, security and custody of persons deprived of liberty; the promotion of social reintegration, through educational, professional, religious, therapeutic and many other activities; the assistance extended to the families of the inmates and any other activities that are pertinent to these perspectives.

Article 55 of Law No. 15,755 of 2016 refers to the psychosocial study of the person deprived of liberty, with the use of an appropriate methodology, so that, according to article 56, the individual readaptation plan is approved, which must contain: I - The objectives to be achieved and the actions to be developed for this purpose, mentioned; II - The type of psychological support, professional training and health care to be made available; and III - The insertion and family relationship to be developed; the schooling to be attained and the work and cultural, recreational and sports activities to which the person deprived of liberty will be assigned. The sole paragraph of this same article provides:

Sole Paragraph. The Technical Classification Commission will propose to the manager of the penal establishment an individual rehabilitation plan.

By way of emphasizing, article 57 presents the members of the Technical Classification Commission, which is composed of the following members: I - manager of the establishment, as president; II - security supervisor; III - one physician; IV - a psychologist; V - a social worker; and VI - a lawyer.

Regarding assistance to persons deprived of liberty, articles 61 and 62 enter with the perspective of compliance, but allied to that of assistance, observe:

Article 61. The care of the person deprived of liberty, the patient in compliance with a security measure and the ex-offender is the duty of the State, aiming to prevent crime and guide the return of the person deprived of liberty to live in society.



Article 62. The material, legal, health, educational, social, psychological and religious assistance provided to the person deprived of liberty and to the ex-prisoner shall comply with the procedures established by the legislation in force, observing the complementary provisions of this Penitentiary Code.

What is provided for during the execution of a sentence in a closed regime, also creates expectations for the re-educating when he regains his freedom, so they must be offered assistance to the ex-offender, such as work and social assistance.

The issue of visitation is another point that is recognized as crucial and should allow the contact of the family, which can serve as one of the components of social reintegration, with exceptions to the minor, who can only enter accompanied by the legal representative or by written court order. The code also presents the other exceptions such as cases of interruption of visits or visits on non-regulatory days and times and the regulation of conjugal visits, all under the cloak of the perspective of social reintegration.

In this regard, it is essential to understand the transfer process, according to article 106 of Law No. 15,755 of 2016, which would take place the removal of the person deprived of liberty from one prison unit to another, by court order and in the following circumstances: I - by decision of progression and regression of regime; II - for judicial presentation inside and outside the district; or III - in any circumstance more appropriate to the execution of the judgment, in another State of the Federation.

According to the law, it is the responsibility of the executive secretary of rehabilitation or superintendent of prison security to determine, on an exceptional basis and by a duly justified act, the removal of the person deprived of liberty from one prison unit to another, within the State, according to the following items and paragraphs:

- I - In the case of illness, which requires hospital treatment of the person deprived of liberty, when the prison unit does not have adequate infrastructure, and the request must be made by the medical authority and ratified by the unit manager;
- II – To guarantee the life and physical integrity of the person deprived of liberty, in cases of threats founded and passed on by the security and intelligence organs of the State;
- III – In cases in which the security and intelligence organs of the State inform of the possibility of escape of the person deprived of liberty or when his participation in rebellion or riot movements within the prison is confirmed.

Paragraph 1 - The removal shall be communicated within twenty-four (24) hours to the competent criminal execution court and/or to the prosecuting court.

Paragraph 2 - The decision to transfer shall be preceded by the hearing of the person deprived of liberty, unless there are objections based on security reasons.

Paragraph 3 - Transfer without a prior court order shall only be allowed between prison units belonging to the same jurisdiction, in accordance with the division of the Code of Justice.

Judicial Organization of the State.

Article 113 of the law deals with situations of death and other accentuated situations such as serious accidents or transfer of the re-educating person to another institution and, preferably, the spouse or closest relative will be immediately informed.

Depending on the context in which the situations mentioned above occur, a disciplinary process may be incurred, if there is any disciplinary transgression or infraction in the institution's environment.

If there are several conducts in the same episode that the person deprived of liberty may commit in the institutional sphere, the following are observed:

Sole Paragraph. In the event of committing more than one fault on the same occasion, the penalty must correspond to the most serious sanction.

Regarding the adaptation of the inmate, it is worth remembering that, according to the Law of Penal Executions, the individualization of the sentence must be observed in three moments: in the commutation of the sentence made by the Legislator; at the time of the application of the penalty made by the Judiciary; and at the time of criminal execution. According to the following article, regarding the purpose of the Technical Classification Commission:

Article 6. The classification will be made by the Technical Classification Commission that will prepare the individualizing program of the appropriate custodial sentence for the convicted or provisional prisoner.

It is worth mentioning that the classification exam differs from the criminological exam. Article 8 of the Penal Execution Law states that:

The person sentenced to serve a custodial sentence, in a closed regime, will be submitted to a criminological examination to obtain the necessary elements for an adequate classification and with a view to the individualization of the execution.

## CONTEXTUALIZATION OF SUICIDE IN THE PRISON SYSTEM

Foucault's (2009) work, *Discipline and Punish*, starts with a critical-analytical description of modern institutions, about the modulation of norms and rules, imposing restrictions or even impediments to the subject's freedom. These aspects are common to prisons, as well as to asylums (a term used at the time), schools and others, with the objective of "training", "domestication" of subjects and instrumentalization of their bodies for the exercise of work.

Suicide in the prison system, when deepened, in terms of discussion, makes it possible to observe the importance of public policies as ways of providing care, without



ignoring the qualification and organization with which professionals work to correspond to these policies (CFP, 2009).

The normative proposals consider the most relevant social issues, in line with public policies. Political guidelines aim at actions that try to correspond to social demands and, therefore, have social relevance as forms of contribution (CFP, 2009).

It is common to ask about the challenges and difficulties faced in this field and in relation to all those involved, not only the re-educating students, but also the professionals and other actors who deal with it (CFP, 2009).

Some observations of the prison context and institutional routine mention the importance of observing some essential relationships, such as: the type of professional bond established that can affect the degree of commitment and the motivational aspects intrinsic to the performance of functional activity; the care of the families of the re-educated; the treatment of chemical dependency; the performance of individual and group activities, in addition to the performance of psychological evaluation.

The joint action between professionals from the technical, administrative and security areas, in addition to management, is effective, not least because it promotes a diversity of actions in its multiple dimensions, such as emergency care and the holding of technical and administrative meetings and understanding or participation in the reception process (CFP, 2009).

There are many aspects of the institutional routine itself that provide a restricted view of the performance of professionals, due to the very mechanism that engenders the containment of violence when confused with care, this occurs with the intervention of mental problems of re-educating students, but these become the impediments themselves, since they believe that they will have losses in terms of compliance with the sentence if problems of this order are exposed, while serving time in deprivation of liberty, mainly (CFP, 2009).

The activities offered and the diversity of proposals that provide the interest of the re-educating students, according to their profile and order of interest, also have a satisfactory repercussion, even if it naturally does not mobilize the total number of re-educating students, but provides opportunities, through the specialty, for genuine interest (innovative practices) in participation (CFP, 2009).

As an institutional framework, material and human resources are used, combined with an adequate physical structure, in terms of accommodation, with the use of adapted spaces, for the development of activities. Otherwise, the reality of unhealthy and dangerous conditions, with the occurrence of acts of violence, resulting from overcrowding, morbidities,

especially infectious diseases, family abandonment, among others, can make it impossible to seek a physically and psychologically healthy environment.

The organization of work must dispense with an ethical-professional training that conjectures the possibility of re-educating the person preparing him for the return to social life, starting with his own socio-family interaction.

It is known that the process of institutionalization promotes a redimensioning of the daily life that was external until then, that is, in society, which due to the commission of crimes, this type of socio-family bond was broken (NEGRELLI, 2006).

The physical structure can also promote or can also compromise the educational and resocializing aspects, depending on how the practices can intervene in this process or because this physical structure does not support group activities, or any other convenience for people who serve sentences in a closed regime, mainly (NEGRELLI, 2006).

It is known that mental disorders are part of the scenario of institutions, especially in the prison context, due to the high incidence that can cause many inmates to enter the system promoted by uncared for psychiatric conditions. This reality can even lead to the execution of crimes, even due to the vulnerability of confinement. Both situations suggest a high risk of suicide, including the combination of a series of factors, such as institutional and peer conflicts, personal history and experiences in general (NEGRELLI, 2006).

It is pertinent to work with themes that surround the daily challenges of re-educates, such as prejudice, chemical dependency and others. The male re-educating students, as is the case of this research, also verify the social construction of which the man, culturally, believes that he should not expose emotional difficulties. Therefore, preventive and interventional actions are necessary, as well as with emphasis on the community, so that the actions do not only surround institutionally, because acting in a community network is fundamental, especially in moments of regime progression, conditional release or even freedom itself.

The authors Bogo and Almeida (2019) emphasize the importance of organizing and maintaining records, with systematization of information. In the research, this same importance was also recognized since the information was physically recorded, which can lead to the loss of some information or case due to non-compliance. In addition, complete and correctly manipulated data can more easily make issues of public interest visible (BOGO; ALMEIDA, 2019).

There is no doubt that, in obedience to the legal precepts and in order to standardize procedures, the State has full responsibility for keeping all records regarding the prisoner,

since he has the guardianship of the individual in compliance with the sentence of deprivation of liberty (BOGO; ALMEIDA, 2019).

The National Policy for Comprehensive Health Care for Persons Deprived of Liberty in the Prison System and Standards for its Operationalization, aims to allow the population deprived of liberty access to comprehensive care in the Unified Health System, in addition to promoting access of inmates to comprehensive care; guarantee the autonomy of health professionals; promote intersectoral relations; qualify and humanize health care; foster and strengthen social control (CONASS, 2013).

The National Health Plan in the Penitentiary System, Interministerial Ordinance No. 1,777 of 2003, refers to actions aimed at health care for people deprived of liberty who are serving sentences in a closed regime. Note that the perspective is not reductionist, but integrative, the Ministry of Health with the Ministry of Justice in the main logic of the Unified Health System (SUS). The specialty applied to health policy in the prison system seeks to correspond to the contextualized demands and recognized as the responsibility of the State.

For a better understanding of specialized care, the environment of Brazilian prisons is revealed as vulnerable to the development of infectious diseases, especially, for this reason, they need to contribute to the control and/or reduction of these diseases (BOGO; ALMEIDA, 2019).

The profile of the inmates who committed suicide is fundamental information to verify the risk conditions, both due to the vulnerability of isolation and exposure to the unhealthy and violent environment, in this case, the prison system.

It should be noted that, due to the need for secrecy of the research and the preservation of the identity of the individuals, their names were replaced by letters, following the chronological order of occurrence.

Chart 1 - HISTORY OF THE RE-EDUCATED.  
CONSTANT HISTORY IN THE PRISON SETTLEMENT

PERSON	INTER TIME. APPROXIMATE (YEARS)	RECIDIVISM	DATE OF THE ACT INF. FACT
The	3	YES	28 / 11 / 2017 Asphyxiation / hanging
B	1 Sentenced to 12 years in prison.	NO	30 / 09 / 15 28 / 09 / 15 Transferred from Petrópolis - PE
C	Not listed	YES	10 / 07 / 14
D	2 12/11/11 – Arrested	YES	11 / 10 / 13 Asphyxiation by Hanging 27/11/12 –

			Transferred from Pesqueira PE
And	<sup>2</sup> 26/06/06 Arrested	YES	29 / 12 / 08 12 / 11 / 08 Transfer
F	<sup>2</sup> 05/08/2005 Arrested	YES	08 / 03 / 07 09 / 02 / 07 Progression of Semi-open regime
G	Not listed	Not listed	31 / 07 / 07 28 / 07 / 07 Transfer by security measure

Table 1. Produced by the authors.

The table presented above indicates that of the seven re-educating inmates, five are recidivists, which demonstrates that these inmates had already experienced living in some prison for a certain period of time. According to IPEA (2015), the vast majority of them are recidivists, in the face of the Brazilian reality, which, regarding the theme of suicide, refers to an already known context, with the possibility of having or not the adaptation. Therefore, it is possible that the transference episode was one of the factors that led to the occurrence of suicide, since four of the seven cases presented went through this condition, some even with the fatal conduct that occurred very close to the event. This event, added to other factors, including those implicit in the condition of suffering inherent to the transference, may have been of significant influence of the violent act.

Of all the seven re-educates, only one of them was in regime progression, in compliance with a semi-open regime, which is in line with the national average, which points out that compliance in a closed regime favors the occurrence of suicide, when compared to other forms of sentence compliance regime.

The role of forensic examination to verify the cause of death is highlighted, by differentiating suicide from simulation, and the latter would bring responsibility as to authorship. The two forms naturally have repercussions, according to their specificities, from the emotional point of view to the other inmates and their families, if there are links with them, as well as the civil liability of the State. It is worth mentioning that only the cases that were forensic and that were found to be suicide were considered for inclusion in the research.

Another issue that involves the method used to commit suicide is the profession, according to the Ministry of Health (2017), for example, the use of medication for this purpose used by health professionals or firearms by security professionals. In the case of the prison context, the most frequent method occurs through hanging, due to the

improvisation with which they intertwine sheets and the use of the bars themselves for hanging.

When mentioning the issue of physical structure, the place where the research took place can have a brief description that allows emphasizing the aspects of greater covered space, with the possibility of some mobility on the part of the inmates. It also allows for a coexistence that prioritizes, to a large extent, the collectivity and, according to the routine, spaces of time for more restricted coexistence in cells, with a smaller number of people. This contrasts, once again, with the national scenario, where the situation of overcrowding is commonly observed, according to Negrelli (2006), which is pointed out as one of the factors that influence the increase in the number of suicides, as it increases the deficiencies and precariousness of the prison system.

Chart 2 – PSYCHOSOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RE-EDUCATED.

CONSTANT IN THE PRISON SETTLEMENT						
PERSON	AGE	PROFESSION	MARITAL STATUS	NUMBER OF CHILDREN	NATURALNESS	SCHOOLING
A	22	Not listed	Stable union	1	Petrolina	Illiterate
B	57	Not listed	Not listed	0	Ibimirim	Not listed
C	28	Driver	Not listed	0	Petrolina	Fundamental
D	36	Contador	Stable union	1	São Paulo	Medium
E	35	Farmer	Stable union	1	Not listed	Fundamental
F	48	Farmer	Married	3	Not listed	Literate
G	34	Not listed	Not listed	0	Not listed	Not listed

Table 2. Produced by the authors.

There is a significant difference in the age group of the inmates who committed the act, when compared to each other and compared to the general national average in relation to suicide, which is from fourteen (14) to twenty-four (24) years old (BRASIL, 2017), but it is known that the context of imprisonment has peculiar and aggravating characteristics.

Due to the multiplicity of education levels of the individuals surveyed, this information cannot be verified as a relevant characteristic in relation to this occurrence.

It is observed that, although the prisoner researched offers school activities in its own structure, where there is the possibility of continuing studies, operating a state school internally, in addition to the existence of technical courses, such as carpentry, baking and others, the re-educating person himself, by his own choice, ends up not opting for education, probably due to the feeling of incapacity and lack of stimulus from the State.

As for the professions most related to suicide risk, the Ministry of Health (2017) presents, in the result of the general panorama, as health and security professionals, but it is again observed that, in the prison context, it is not possible to establish a relationship of significance linked to this information

Regarding marital status, it is noted that the majority, 3 out of 4 cases (two cases did not have information), had some marital bond, and it can be interpreted that the fact of the existence of the family bond may have influenced the occurrence of the act. In relation to the general population, research by the Ministry of Health shows that people with some type of bond, whether married or in a stable union, have protective aspects against suicide, when compared to single people or widows (BRASIL, 2017). In the prison context, in the face of inmates who committed suicide, it should be noted that family life is weakened or even broken in most cases, enhancing the complexity of the variables involved in the context of imprisonment.

As observed, three inmates are in the group that did not have a child or that was not registered, three of them had one child and one had three children, even so, the protective factor "having a child", according to the Ministry of Health (BRASIL, 2017), was not enough, within a context of non-interaction, but rather of isolation and confinement.

As for place of birth, two inmates are from Petrolina – PE, one from Ibimirim – PE, one from São Paulo – SP, and three who do not have recorded data. There is no significance in this information, since there is a variation in the places of origin of the individuals who practiced the act. When incarcerated, the inmates take their cultural identity with them, however, in the internal scope of this context, there is interaction with other cultural identities and, above these identities, institutional identities stand out, incurring the process of acculturation.

The existence of conflicting power relations is undeniable, because while the re-educating person is in the institution, there is a process of acculturation, where he is subjected to a process of modeling or exchange of two different cultures, which ends up suffering or exerting influence on each other, because of their coexistence. It is worth noting that this process of acculturation is foreseen not only by the interaction of the re-educated with each other, but also by legislation that imperatively guides the individual's procedure within the penitentiary service, dictated by the institutional power.

It is common to observe in prisons a higher incidence of crimes involving drug trafficking, followed by crimes against property and against the person (INFOPEN, 2016). In the context in which the research was carried out, it can be seen that the highest incidence refers to property crimes, followed by the incidence of crimes against sexual freedom and,

finally, drug trafficking. When dealing with suicide, usually related to factors such as impulsiveness and aggressiveness, cases of people who have committed crimes against the person are common, as pointed out by the research carried out by Negrelli (2006), but which can also turn into self-violence. It is noteworthy that in relation to the characteristic of recidivism, for the most part, it is possible to infer that other crimes may have already been committed, and it is not possible to verify which type of crime was committed before the apprehension that the inmates were responding to until the culmination of the suicide.

The discussion of the information collected was accompanied by the lack of data that are not included in the records, but one cannot fail to recognize the importance of these records, not only for conducting research, but mainly for the institutional analysis of the occurrence of suicide, in addition to other relevant issues. The standardization of information is also essential to make it possible, with this standardization, to understand several institutional phenomena that can be confirmed by the reiteration of data.

It should be noted that research on suicide in the prison system is still incipient, for a number of reasons, including the issue mentioned above, sometimes regarding the gap in data in existing records. The general characteristics of the distribution of suicide in prison populations can be presented differently, as can be observed even by the information presented here, which confirms this.

## FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

In view of the exhibitions made during the development of this research, several reflections arose about all the actors present in this scenario in which the prison is a place conducive to psychic suffering. Not only to the re-educated, but also to all the professionals involved in such a complex institutional dimension.

Although the study involves the inmates and the incidence of suicide, it also ends up involving the performance of these professionals, from understanding to appropriate technical management, and must undergo constant improvements. The other inmates, the family and the professionals involved with the person who committed suicide may present ambivalent feelings, such as anger, guilt, impotence or the loss of socio-family ties, and may even be involved, in some way, with the very influences of the occurrence of such an act.

The study was able to perceive that the moment of arrival of the re-educated, in compliance with the transfer determination, may mean the need for more effective psychosocial monitoring, probably due to some factors, such as family distancing or the real difficulty of adapting to another reality, sometimes completely different.



Consequently, it can be concluded that the most relevant result of this research is to draw the attention of the authorities involved, as well as the family and society as a whole, to the real need for psychosocial monitoring of convicts who may be transferred from prison units, in order to prevent the occurrence of this aggressive and violent phenomenon.

Therefore, by returning to the objectives of this research, it is believed that it was possible to understand the psychosocial phenomenon, and it was possible to verify, from the institutional point of view, possible triggering factors, precipitating factors and possible protective factors for the development of a prevention policy, including as proposed by Negrelli (2006).

Finally, it is interesting to highlight the limitations of the research, both in relation to the lack of some data, and in relation to the short period of study, perceiving the need to extend the same type of research to women's institutions, mainly because they have a high rate of occurrence in the national average on suicide, as well as to encourage scientific studies related to the theme of suicide and the prison system.

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