

## What do Brazilians think are the necessities of life for children?

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It is now accepted that measures of poverty need to reflect its multidimensional nature. The global SDGs require countries to report progress in tackling '*poverty in all its dimensions*' for children, men and women, according to national definitions by the year 2030. As such, countries need to develop valid, reliable, and child-relevant indicators. Brazil currently lacks a means to do this effectively – 'official' measures of poverty rely on household income/expenditure, and do not account for the distinct needs of children. The Consensual Approach to assessing poverty is an internationally-recognised method to addressing such limitations. Our paper presents the first ever use of the Consensual Approach in São Paulo city, to produce socially realistic indicators of people's living standards; importantly, we assess the extent of child and adult poverty separately. The study is a collaboration between Cardiff University, UNICAMP, and the Brazilian Public Ministry of Labor. Data were collected in July 2021 from a representative sample of 2,303 households across metropolitan Sao Paulo. Results are representative of the population, and across socio-economic groups. The survey built on earlier fieldwork with focus groups, which examined Brazilians' understandings of child poverty, and what they think to be necessary for a decent standard of living for all in Brazil today. The survey included questions on people's understanding of what age-appropriate items and activities they considered 'necessities', which no one should lack due to insufficient resources. Results show almost universal agreement (90% or more) about what items are necessities for children. Deprivation is common, with one-third of households unable to afford items like after-school reinforcement classes for education (34%), and education costs for children (20%); nearly half (46%) of households with children lack financial savings for an emergency, over one-third (39%) cannot afford to eat meat every day or afford repairs to their home (34%). Such items are judged by an overwhelming majority of the population to be necessities, and to have between 1 in 3 and 1 in 5 children deprived of these items is a concern. We argue that these domains of deprivation and disadvantage are clearly relevant and linked to international agreements about poverty and to fundamental economic and social rights as set out in Brazil's Constitution.