

The Life and Vulnerabilities Trajectory of Adolescent Victims of Homicide in Ceará

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The present study approaches themes in poverty, deprivation, material well-being, and inequality regarding urban violence issues and highlights the victimization of female and/or feminized bodies in the dynamics of peripheral and impoverished territories in Ceará. According to statistics compiled by the Department of Public Security and Social Defense (SSPDS), 348 teenagers and young people from Ceará aged from 10 to 29 were victimized in the last two years, even in the period of social isolation caused by the pandemic. Thus, this study aimed to recommend public policies through evidence of the vulnerability processes that led to the exponential increase in the number of homicides of girls aged from 10 to 19 in 2018 on the Ceará. The research was composed of two stages, qualitative and quantitative. From the quantitative perspective, a survey was carried based on databases provided by the Department of Health (SESA) and SSPDS. During June, July, and August 2019, we interviewed, through the application of a questionnaire, a total of 62 families who had their daughters as victims of homicide in eight cities of Ceará. For our control group, we applied the same questionnaire in 71 adolescents with a similar profile as the victims. These data were used to improve the accuracy of the analyses relative to protective or risk elements to homicide. Furthermore, narrative interviews were carried out in the qualitative stage to dive into eight emblematic cases. This method appreciates the possibility of recreating the adolescents' stories through contact with the affective network of these girls. The research presented a survey design, and the quantitative data from this process were analyzed using SPSS (version 21), with frequency analysis (central tendency and dispersion), chi-square association tests, and Student's t-test. The field diaries and the narrative interviews were analyzed using the software IRAMUTEQ, similarity analysis and Descending Hierarchical Classification (DHC) were performed. The research results expanded knowledge about feminicides in the dynamics of urban violence, from the repeated violation of rights, sexism, restriction of freedoms, fatalism, and fragmented opportunities to identify coping strategies to be supported. Crime dynamics organizations are involved in the lives of adolescent girls who reside in territories controlled by the factions. Therefore, women and girls have their social relationships watched over and are vulnerable to homicide due to family or emotional relationships with people from those high controlled territories. All in all, the research implications include a set of nine clusters of recommendations to ground gender-

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sensitive actions, programs, or participatory research in gun violence territories. In addition, it offers subsidies for advocacy or studies in similar contexts of armed violence, resilience, and protective factors and strengthens support networks that mitigate the risks to which adolescent girls are subjected.