

**UNDERREPORTING OF  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
AGAINST WOMEN  
IN THE CITY OF RIO  
BRANCO AC AMAZÔNIA  
OESTE**

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## INTRODUCTION

The culture of patriarchy is well marked in several stories of different peoples, giving power to men, privileging them in prominent positions. This disparity in patriarchy is reflected in the gender discrepancy of people in positions of power, the way this happens over the course of history generates structural inequality, where women are seen in a submissive way, in which they have to be serving the man, the Male superiority is veiled in many situations, leaving subtle traces in many behaviors in society, being the main cause of violence against women.

Domestic violence against women has always been present in history and involves situations of physical, sexual, psychological and economic violence committed by intimate partners, whether former partners or current spouses (Jong, 2008). There is a difficulty in breaking myths and social and cultural parameters that maintain women's submission to the desires and impositions of men that reflect in all areas of society.

These attacks cause long-term physical and emotional damage that impact the development and psychological health of women, which can lead to the development of psychosomatic illnesses, such as depression (Fonseca, 2012) and in some more tragic cases, result in feminicides.

The main victims are poor and black women, mainly from the north and northeast regions, where a patriarchal culture is still very prevalent, in which the man is the financial provider of the household and the woman is responsible for raising the children and the house (Gomes, 2012). In these situations, women are more susceptible to suffering physical and psychological violence from their partners (INMACULADA, 2008).

In this context, many women victims of domestic violence do not report the attacks because they believe that they are to blame

for the violence suffered or that the violent actions of their partners are normal attitudes. When women make complaints, the victim is not received correctly, subjecting her to an embarrassing and intimidating situation, leading her to give up the complaint (MELO, 2022).

Therefore, despite the federal constitution guaranteeing all rights to women, these rights are not completely supported by the state. And the data on domestic violence against women is drastic and alarming, but it does not reflect the real situation and there is a clear underreporting of these cases.

## THEORETICAL REFERENCE

Women are stigmatized as the "weaker sex" in society. However, they must have a completely opposite meaning, as they are subjected to pressures that are not generally applied to men, such as being a prominent professional, juggling domestic activities, raising children, physiological changes such as menstruation, pregnancy, childbirth, the postpartum period. and menopause. Because they are seen as fragile, they often suffer situations of violence such as physical, psychological and property attacks, both in the workplace and at home, the latter being the focus of this work.

In the Bible, the figure of God is linked to the male image and the savior, the messiah, too. In Genesis, a woman appears as a character, Eve, who was created from the rib of a man, Adam, to keep him company, and was also responsible for the creation of sin, when she was led by a snake to eat the fruit. prohibited, which caused them to be expelled from paradise. Ephesians, chapter 5 of verses 22 to 24:

Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as to the Lord, for the husband is the head of the wife, just as Christ is the head of the church, being himself the savior of the body.

So that, just as the church is subject to Christ, so women are subject to their husbands in everything.

The Myth of Pandora, reported in ancient Greek culture, also has this misogynistic look in which the woman, when opening a box that must not be opened, spread evil to the world.

These stories become embedded in people's subconscious and, even though they may appear innocent, they end up legitimizing and consolidating the misogynistic culture, which provides the basis for committing violence against women. There are still many countries, especially Arab countries, where women's rights are not supported. Narratives are created to spread ideas of submission to women to legitimize gender superiority.

Violence against women is one of the main forms of violation of their human rights, affecting their rights to life, health and physical integrity. Such acts can be committed inside or outside the home. It was created based on the Maria da Penha Law (Federal Law number: 11,340/2006), which aims to protect against physical, sexual, psychological, moral or patrimonial violence, and that domestic violence against women is independent of their sexual orientation; in addition to raising awareness in society.

In 2012, the Federal Supreme Court ruled that anyone, not just the victim of violence, can file a complaint against the aggressor. Complaints can be made at the Specialized Women's Assistance Police Stations (DEAM) or through Dial 180. In 2015, the Femicide Law (13,104/2015) was sanctioned, providing for qualifying circumstances for the crime of homicide and including femicide in the list of heinous crimes. The law considers murder to involve domestic and family violence, disregard or discrimination against the condition of women.

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AROUND THE WORLD**

One in every 3 women around the world suffers physical or sexual violence from their partner, around 736 million people, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), in 2021.

An analysis conducted by the WHO with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the Medical Research Council, based on data from 80 countries, found that, worldwide, almost a third (30%) of all women who have been in a relationship suffered physical and/or sexual violence or violence from their partner. Prevalence estimates range from 23.2% in high-income countries and 24.6% in the Western Pacific region to 37% in the World Health Organization Eastern Mediterranean region and 37.7% in the Southeast Asia region. Intimate partner violence is the most common form of violence against women. Globally, up to 38% of murders of women are committed by an intimate male partner. Among the factors associated with an increased risk of perpetrating violence are low education, child abuse or exposure to violence in the family, harmful use of alcohol, violent attitudes and gender inequality (OPAS).

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AT NATIONAL LEVEL**

For decades, perhaps centuries, the violence that women suffer in their homes has been a daily problem in women's lives. In the first half of 2022 alone, the call center registered 31,398 reports and 169,676 violations involving domestic violence against women, according to the ministry of women, family and human rights. These are data from the National Human Rights Ombudsman. (Portal gov.br). Law Nº 14,448 was created on September 9, 2022, and the "Lilac August" law was sanctioned as a month to protect women, a national campaign carried out in the month

of August to combat domestic violence against women. Original Proposition: PL 3855/2020, Origin: Legislative Branch. The objective of the actions is:

They are guiding people and publicizing the measures that can be adopted in the case of this type of violence, both judicially and administratively. The bodies and entities involved, the available support networks and the existing communication channels for complaints must also be disclosed. (Câmara de Notícias Agency)

However, this law was already known because it was already a campaign that was established by State Law, number: 4,969/2016, in the state of Mato Grosso do Sul.

For Laura Frade, (psychologist and doctor in sociology) says that one of the first signs that a woman is experiencing a cycle of violence is her withdrawal from her family and friends. “We must be alert when a man seeks to remove his wife from his protection network,” she says.

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN RIO BRANCO- ACRE**

Data from the intelligence department of the Acre Civil Police show that in the period from January 2021 to June 30, 2022, 2,566 reports of violence against women were recorded. In 2021, there were four cases of femicide. (RODRIGO FARIAS, 2022)

According to Iryá Rodrigues:

In 2022, Acre will once again be one of the states with the highest rate of femicide in the country, according to the Public Security Yearbook. In 2021, the state of Acre recorded 29 intentional homicides against women, a number 6.4% lower than that recorded in 2020, when 31 women were killed. Regarding cases of femicide, there was an increase from 12 to 13 records in one year. In 2020, Acre had ranked fourth among the states with the highest rates of femicide. At the time, the rate was 2.7 for every 100 women and the state was behind Mato Grosso, which had a

rate of 3.6, Roraima (3) and Mato Grosso do Sul (2.9). The yearbook also shows that last year 60 attempted murders against women were recorded, and in 2020 there were 42 cases. Regarding attempted femicide, 22 cases were recorded, an increase of 22% compared to the previous year, when there were 18 attempts.

There is this divergence in the number of cases between data from city hall and communication portals. It is very common in the news to show cases of femicides that no longer cause much impact, society seems to have gotten used to the injustices that women suffer, people become statistical numbers, few policies and laws are created, and when they are created it is after it happens. many injustices. How many women needed to be killed to create the Maria da Penha law?

## **JUSTIFICATION**

Understand the reasons why women do not report aggressions suffered in the domestic environment, and carry out a secondary comparative analysis between the data obtained from the portal database – DATASUS and Health Epidemiological Surveillance/SEMSA, highlighting or not the underreporting of domestic violence in Rio Branco.

## **RESEARCH QUESTION**

What factors are associated with underreporting of domestic violence against women in Rio Branco, Acre, in the last 5 years?

## **GOALS**

### **IN GENERAL**

To analyze the underreporting of domestic violence against women in Rio Branco, Acre, in the last 5 years.

## **SPECIFIC ONES**

Describe the most common types of violence they suffer and in which contexts feminicides occur most.

Assess which factors are associated with domestic violence in homes.

Describe the institutions that support women.

## **METHOD**

### **SEARCH TYPE**

Retrospective ecological time series study, based on official secondary databases from the Ministry of Health/DATASUS and complementary secondary data from the Health Epidemiological Surveillance/SEMSA information system. It is noteworthy that this raw data does not identify the victims and fully respects resolutions 466/2012, 510/2016 and their interinstitutional prerogatives.

### **SEARCH LOCATION**

Study with secondary analysis based on the TABNET/DATASUS and Health Epidemiological Surveillance/SEMSA portal bases, which we equate with official data and verify the number of cases that affect the female population, whether or not they demonstrate the reality, and how the Governments from all spheres adopted public policies and measures that could control or better curb such facts that violate human rights and the Federal Constitution, which lead our society to a setback of rights. The statistics reveal the situation in Rio Branco-AC, being reported by secondary and official data, explaining through graphs, underreporting.

### **STUDY DESIGN**

Carried out in the municipality of Rio Branco, Capital of the State of Acre, compared to that exposed by DATASUS/ TABNET,

which aims to collect, process and disseminate information throughout the national territory.

### **POPULATION AND SAMPLE**

The sample consisted of all records of violence against women in Health Epidemiological Surveillance/SEMSA and DATASUS carried out from 2018 to 2022 in the municipality of Rio Branco-Acre.

### **INCLUSION CRITERIA**

All amounts of records carried out from 2018 to 2022 in the municipality of Rio Branco-Acre, by DATASUS and Health Epidemiological Surveillance/SEMSA, were included.

### **EXCLUSION CRITERIA**

All records registered in duplicate or that had any errors in the information system notification or technical problems that could result in a change in the result were excluded from the sample.

### **STUDY VARIABLES**

- Physical violence: beatings, kicks, injuries with sharp objects, suffocation, throwing objects, injuries caused by firearms, among others.
- Sexual Violence: any sexual act or attempt to obtain a sexual act through violence or coercion, attacks, unwanted sexual comments or advances, activities such as human trafficking or directly against a person's sexuality, regardless of the relationship with the victim.
- Psychological violence: insults, humiliation, contempt, embarrassment, threats, manipulation, blackmail, isolation, ridicule, limitation of the right to come and go or any other situation that causes harm to psychological health.



- Moral Violence: any conduct that results in slander, when the aggressor falsely claims that he committed a crime that he did not commit; defamation; When the aggressor attributes facts to a woman that tarnish her reputation, or insults, he offends the woman's dignity.

- Patrimonial Violence: any conduct that constitutes retention, subtraction, partial or total destruction of your objects, work instruments, personal documents, assets, values and rights or economic resources, including those intended to satisfy your needs.

### **DATA STRATIFICATION**

The data used were obtained from access to the national platform DATASUS/TABNET and the Health Epidemiological Surveillance/SEMSA in the city of Rio Branco, data collected by basic health units from medical records, between January 2018 and December 2018. 2022. The DATASUS platform contains a number of records divided by municipality. The number of records contains the information necessary for this research and which is described in the next section on the research variables. The notification data present in Health Epidemiological Surveillance/SEMSA are due to compulsory notification and collected by professionals from the respective institution who are kept confidential.

### **STATISTICAL ANALYSIS**

The analysis was descriptive and comparative based on data obtained from the SINAN/NET information system in Health Epidemiological Surveillance/SEMSA and TABNET/DATASUS/MS, the statistics are publicly accessible.

### **LEGAL AND ETHICAL ASPECTS**

As this is a research with a secondary database, it was not submitted to the Research Ethics Committee (CEP/CONEP), however, the recommendations of resolutions 466/2012, 510/2016 and their prerogatives were fully respected. interinstitutional. It is worth noting that all this information was protected, respecting the confidentiality of the victims and will only be disclosed for academic and scientific purposes, without any identification of peers.

### **RISKS, MEASURES AND PRECAUTIONS**

The research was carried out based on the ethical and legal precepts required in studies with human beings. There was no identification of patients, with minimal risks or possible harm to the victims. As the data will be provided by SEMSA itself, with the amounts of violence, the types of violence suffered by the victims, thus excluding the possibility of identity exposure. With regard to research in a virtual environment, through DATASUS/TABNET the quantity is exposed for any citizen to have access to. This research was not carried out using questionnaires, interviews or observation, with research procedures remaining restricted to official government bodies. This way, the research can be considered to pose minimal risk to users.

This way, given the need to minimize risks, access to the SEMSA system's restricted database, the professionals who provided the records undertake to maintain confidentiality and respect for human dignity. The database was created without the victim's name and was only in the online system, not remaining on any researcher's computer. The results obtained in the study were made available only through the publication of articles in scientific journals, , without the need to carry it out through other means, such as the press

or social networks.

## **BENEFITS**

The analysis of domestic violence data allows us to understand and classify the most common types of violence and the factors that contribute to the increase in rates. In view of this, one can outline the panorama of possible behaviors that could be developed to reduce rates in the population of Rio Branco-AC. Furthermore, it will also be possible to identify the profile of the victim most susceptible to suffering these types of violence. Therefore, this made it possible to establish improvements in the structuring of public prevention policies, as well as in the application of punitive measures to aggressors.

## **WAY OF APPROACHING RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS**

As the data that were used are secondary and timeless data, thus exempting the application of the Free and Informed Consent Form to the victims of the research, considering respect for the confidentiality provided by law as well as respect for human dignity, only the numbers were counted and its aggravating factors to the respective types of violence, with no collection of confidential data or data of any nature that could be infringing the victims' rights.

## **RESULTS**

The sum of all violence cited in the period from 2018 to 2021, in Rio Branco-AC, is 3379. The registration number for the year 2022 is not included in DATASUS.

Moral violence was placed as VP (psychological violence) because the system includes Psychological/Moral Violence, the number of cases did not differentiate.

## **DISCUSSION**

The verification of factors associated with domestic violence against women has a strong relationship with socioeconomic level, education level, emotional dependence, as well as the cultural environment of women's submission. Furthermore, it is possible to verify that, although there are cases where there are totally favorable contexts such as well-structured families, such injustices still occur. The fear of reporting is so great that many victims want to withdraw the complaint or do not even register the complaint for fear of suffering retaliation from the aggressor. Despite there being a protective measure that can be requested when registering the complaint, many women end up foregoing this resource.

According to Acosta et al., 2018 in the study of nurses' social representations about domestic violence against women: a study with a structural approach corroborates this theme about domestic violence, demonstrating that violence against women goes beyond the barriers of their homes, noting that in all environments they are violated, where the fear of both professionals and victims of the aggressor, with submission being the cause of violence, concluding that bodily injuries and blaming the victim make care actions difficult. However, for Silva et al., 2017 in research on intimate partner violence and maternal educational practice, resulting in the prevalence of intimate partner violence was 24.4% and violent maternal educational practice was 93.8%, and Children are more likely to suffer psychological aggression whose mothers reported violence by an intimate partner, concluding that the violence suffered by the mother interferes with parental education.

Year/ Violence	Physical violence	Sexual Violence	Psychological violence	Moral Violence	Patrimonial Violence	Total
2018	363	252	74	VP	1	<b>690</b>
2019	698	226	99	VP	0	<b>1.023</b>
2020	503	215	214	VP	1	<b>933</b>
2021	384	146	205	VP	0	<b>735</b>
2022	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1.948</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>VP</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>

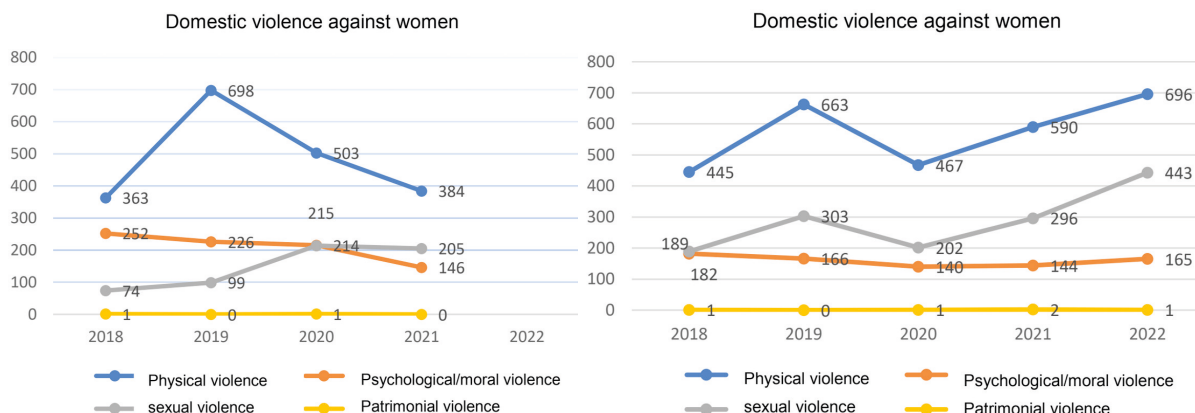
Table 1- Cases of violence against women in Rio Branco- Acre in the period 2018 - 2022, based on data made available by the DATASUS/TABNET information system.

Source: DATASUS/TABNET, 2023

Year/ Violence	Physical violence	Sexual Violence	Psychological violence	Moral Violence	Patrimonial Violence	Total
2018	455	182	189	VP	1	<b>827</b>
2019	663	166	303	VP	0	<b>1.132</b>
2020	467	140	202	VP	1	<b>932</b>
2021	590	144	296	VP	2	<b>735</b>
2022	696	165	443	VP	1	<b>1.305</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2.871</b>	<b>797</b>	<b>1.443</b>	<b>VP</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-</b>

Table 2- Cases of violence against women in Rio Branco- Acre, in the period 2018 - 2022, based on data made available by the SINAN/NET system of SEMSA's epidemiological surveillance.

Source: SEMSA/Department of health surveillance/Information sector/SINAN NET, 2023



Source: DATASUS/TABNET. 2023

Source: SEMSA/Department of health surveillance/Information sector/SINAN NET, 2023

## CONCLUSION

There are underreportings of domestic violence against women in Rio Branco, AC, with physical violence predominating in

relation to other violence, such as sexual, property, psychological and moral in the reality of women.



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