



**CHILD AND YOUTH VIOLENCE IN THE
CAPITAL OF THE STATE OF AMAZONAS:
AN ANALYSIS OF THE PROGRESSIVE
INCREASE IN CRIMINAL OCCURRENCE
RECORDS**

**VIOLÊNCIA INFANTO-JUVENIL NA CAPITAL DO
ESTADO DO AMAZONAS: UMA ANÁLISE DO
AUMENTO PROGRESSIVO DOS REGISTROS DE
OCORRÊNCIA CRIMINAIS**

**VIOLENCIA INFANTIL Y JUVENIL EN LA
CAPITAL DEL ESTADO DE AMAZONAS: UN
ANÁLISIS DEL AUMENTO PROGRESIVO DE LOS
INFORMES DE INCIDENTES DELICTIVOS**

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the progressive increase in criminal incident records related to child and adolescent violence in the capital of the State of Amazonas, Manaus, between the years 2020 and 2024. Using data from the Specialized Police Department for the Protection of Children and Adolescents (DEPCA) and. Disque 100, the research seeks to understand the growth trends in reports of violence against children and adolescents, identifying possible causes and implications of this increase. The analysis considers socioeconomic factors, such as poverty, inequality, and lack of access to quality public services, which may contribute to the vulnerability of this population. Furthermore, the study

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explores the impact of educational campaigns and support programs, such as Disque 100, on raising public awareness and increasing reports. The paper also discusses underreporting and the difficulties associated with recognizing and recording cases of abuse and neglect. The research concludes that the increase in reports reflects both greater public awareness and the worsening of child and adolescent violence, requiring more effective protection measures and public policies to guarantee the rights of children and adolescents in Manaus.

Keywords: Violence. Child. Adolescent. Underreporting. Prevention.

RESUMO

Este estudo tem como objetivo analisar o aumento progressivo dos registros de ocorrências criminais relacionadas à violência infanto-juvenil na capital do Estado do Amazonas, Manaus, entre os anos de 2020 e 2024. Utilizando dados da Delegacia Especializada em Proteção à Criança e ao Adolescente (DEPCA) e do Disque 100, a pesquisa busca compreender as tendências de crescimento nas denúncias de violência contra crianças e adolescentes, identificando possíveis causas e implicações desse aumento. A análise considera fatores socioeconômicos, como a pobreza, a desigualdade e a falta de acesso a serviços públicos de qualidade, que podem contribuir para a vulnerabilidade dessa população. Além disso, o estudo explora o impacto das campanhas educativas e dos programas de apoio, como o Disque 100, na conscientização da população e no aumento das denúncias. O trabalho discute também a subnotificação e as dificuldades associadas ao reconhecimento e ao registro de casos de abuso e negligência. A pesquisa conclui que o aumento nos registros reflete tanto a maior conscientização da população quanto o agravamento da violência infanto-juvenil, exigindo medidas mais eficazes de proteção e políticas públicas para garantir os direitos das crianças e adolescentes em Manaus.

Palavras-chave: Violência. Criança. Adolescente. Subnotificação. Prevenção.

RESUMEN

Este estudio tiene como objetivo analizar el aumento progresivo de los registros de ocurrencias criminales relacionadas con la violencia infanto-juvenil en la capital del Estado de Amazonas, Manaus, entre los años 2020 y 2024. Utilizando datos de la Comisaría Especializada en Protección al Niño y al Adolescente (DEPCA) y del Disque 100, la investigación busca comprender las tendencias de crecimiento en las denuncias de violencia contra niños y adolescentes, identificando posibles causas e implicaciones de este aumento. El análisis considera factores socioeconómicos, como la pobreza, la desigualdad y la falta de acceso a servicios públicos de calidad, que pueden contribuir a la vulnerabilidad de esta población. Además, el estudio explora el impacto de las campañas educativas y de los programas de apoyo, como el Disque 100, en la concientización de la población y en el aumento de las denuncias. El trabajo también discute la subnotificación y las dificultades asociadas al reconocimiento y al registro de casos de abuso y negligencia. La investigación concluye que el aumento en los registros refleja tanto una mayor concientización de la población como el agravamiento de la violencia infanto-juvenil, exigiendo medidas más eficaces de protección y políticas públicas para garantizar los derechos de los niños y adolescentes en Manaus.

Palabras clave: Violencia. Niño. Adolescente. Subnotificación. Prevención.

INTRODUCTION

Violence against children and adolescents is a serious social problem that reflects structural inequalities, the absence of effective public policies, and institutional weaknesses. In Manaus, the capital of Amazonas, records of child and adolescent violence occurrences show an alarming increase, demanding broader attention from society as a whole. This paper seeks to analyze recent data on violence against children and adolescents in Manaus, highlighting the implications of underreporting and the importance of educational campaigns to combat this problem. Minayo (2017) points out that violence against children and adolescents is a reflection of social inequalities and institutional weaknesses, which require specific and effective public policies.

The need to understand and confront child and adolescent violence in Manaus is pressing, considering the alarming data that evidence the severity of the situation. In 2024, more than 4,000 police reports related to domestic child violence, mistreatment, neglect, abandonment, and rape of children and adolescents were registered in the city. These numbers reflect not only the vulnerability of children and adolescents but also the urgency of effective interventions aimed at protecting and ensuring the well-being of this population group (DEPCA-AM, 2025).

This growth in the number of records, however, should not be interpreted exclusively as a worsening of violence, but rather as a reflection of the greater visibility of these crimes, driven by progress in combating underreporting. The expansion of reporting channels, the implementation of public policies aimed at protecting children, and the more effective action of security forces and protection agencies have encouraged victims and witnesses to report cases that previously remained hidden.

The culture of silence, previously dominant in many family and community contexts, has been challenged by educational campaigns and institutional actions that encourage reporting. The strengthening of the child protection network, through initiatives such as Dial 100, specialized police station services, and the work of civil society organizations, has been essential in this process. However, although the number of reports has increased, this does not necessarily mean a proportional decrease in violence, as the structural conditions of Amazonas still hinder the effective accountability of aggressors.

The continuous increase in reports of violence against children and adolescents in Manaus raises crucial questions about the factors contributing to this escalation and about the effectiveness of existing public policies. Between 2009 and 2016, 2,200 cases of violence against this population were reported in the state of Amazonas, with a rate of 149.1 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in the capital.

These data suggest possible gaps in protection systems and the implementation of preventive measures, in addition to pointing to the need for an in-depth analysis of the circumstances surrounding this violence (Oliveira *et al.*, 2020).

Underreporting is a structural factor that distorts the true dimension of child and adolescent violence. Many victims and their families, due to fear, shame, or emotional and financial dependence on the aggressor, do not report cases to the competent authorities. Underreporting in cases of violence against children is attributed to structural barriers, such as emotional dependence, fear of retaliation, and lack of trust in the competent authorities (Silva *et al.*, 2020).

Among the main reasons for underreporting are emotional and financial dependence, fear of retaliation, distrust in institutions, and misinformation and lack of knowledge about rights. Many children and adolescents are inserted in contexts where the aggressor is an authority figure or economic provider, such as parents, stepfathers, or close relatives, creating emotional and practical barriers to reporting.

Lack of trust in authorities and the perception that the protection system may be ineffective or slow also discourages reporting. Many families do not know how or where to seek help. The lack of educational campaigns in vulnerable communities contributes to the perpetuation of silence.

This study's main objective is to analyze the progressive increase in criminal occurrences involving child and adolescent violence in the capital of the State of Amazonas, Manaus. Specifically, it seeks to: Analyze the temporal evolution of criminal occurrence records related to child and adolescent violence, aiming to understand trends and possible factors associated with the increase in these cases; Evaluate the effectiveness of existing public policies and protection mechanisms, identifying challenges and proposing improvements for the prevention and confrontation of violence against children and adolescents in Manaus.

By addressing these issues, it is expected to contribute to the development of more effective strategies for protecting and promoting the rights of children and adolescents, in addition to raising awareness among society and public managers about the importance of integrated and continuous actions in combating child and adolescent violence.

This study is characterized as qualitative and quantitative research of a descriptive and exploratory nature. The qualitative approach is adopted to understand the sociocultural and economic factors contributing to the increase in child and adolescent violence in Manaus. The quantitative approach is used to analyze statistical data regarding criminal occurrence records, enabling the identification of patterns and trends over the years.

The choice of a mixed approach is justified by the need to understand the phenomenon of child and adolescent violence broadly, considering both the numbers that reflect the reality of the Amazonian capital and the social, cultural, and institutional factors that impact these records. The use of secondary data from official sources guarantees reliability and scientific support for the study, while the qualitative analysis enables the construction of a broader vision of the social dynamics that contribute to this growing problem.

Furthermore, this research aims to contribute to the scientific production on child and adolescent violence in the Northern region of Brazil, assisting in the formulation of strategies for prevention and combating violence against children and adolescents.

1 CHILD AND YOUTH VIOLENCE

Child and adolescent violence is a phenomenon that deeply impacts society, compromising the development of children and adolescents and reflecting in a series of emotional, physical, and social consequences. This type of violence can take various forms, including physical, psychological, and sexual abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and is characterized by a complex cycle of socioeconomic, family, cultural, and structural factors that are often interconnected. With the increase in records of violence against children and adolescents in different contexts and regions of Brazil, it becomes imperative to discuss the causes and consequences of this violence, as well as the approaches adopted to confront it (Oliveira *et al.*, 2020).

Simbine (2023) defines child and adolescent violence as any form of aggression practiced against children and adolescents, capable of causing physical or psychological harm. This violence can take different manifestations, among which stand out physical violence, characterized by the use of bodily force against the victim, including assaults, beatings, and burns; psychological violence, which occurs through attitudes capable of generating emotional suffering, such as threats, humiliations, and practices of social isolation; and sexual abuse, which corresponds to any act of exploitation or forced sexual contact, leaving deep and lasting marks on the child's or adolescent's psychological development.

Another identified modality is neglect, marked by the omission of parents or guardians regarding the basic needs of survival and development, such as food, education, and access to health. Added to this is child exploitation, which occurs in the use of children for profit, whether in child labor or commercial sexual exploitation. Thus, violence against children and adolescents has multiple

facets, all with serious repercussions on the well-being, dignity, and integral formation of these developing individuals.

Child and adolescent violence is not limited to a single form but often occurs in a combined manner, further aggravating the consequences for victims.

Violence against children and adolescents is the result of a complex interaction of individual, family, social, and cultural factors. Several studies indicate that the causes of child and adolescent violence are deeply linked to the conditions of vulnerability in which children find themselves, such as those deriving from poverty, social exclusion, and economic inequality (Nascimento; Deslandes, 2016).

Conditions of poverty and social inequality are determining factors for the increase in child and adolescent violence. According to Olivera *et al.* (2020), poverty is one of the greatest catalysts for violence, as it creates an environment of stress in families, which can result in neglect, physical and psychological abuse. Children who grow up in poverty, especially in the most peripheral regions of cities, are exposed to a greater probability of violence, both inside their homes and on the streets.

Lack of access to health services, quality education, and leisure also aggravates this situation, creating a cycle of exclusion that perpetuates conditions of vulnerability and increases the risk of involvement in illicit activities, such as drug trafficking and child labor (Simbine, 2023). Furthermore, economic inequality accentuates social tensions, generating an environment conducive to the increase in violence occurrences.

Family violence, especially physical and sexual abuse, is one of the most common forms of violence against children and adolescents. Family breakdown, with the presence of marital conflicts, psychoactive substance abuse, and parental neglect, is directly linked to the increase in cases of child and adolescent violence (Vieira, 2015). In many situations, those responsible for the child, when immersed in situations of economic and emotional stress, project their frustrations onto the most vulnerable victims in the family.

Domestic violence is a preponderant factor that can seriously affect the emotional and psychological development of children, often resulting in permanent trauma (Oliveira *et al.*, 2020). Studies such as those by Simbine (2023) and Vieira (2015) indicate that children who witness or experience domestic violence are more likely to reproduce this behavior in their adult lives, creating an intergenerational cycle of violence.

The culture of violence, which normalizes the use of aggression as a way of resolving conflicts, is another important factor in the perpetuation of child and adolescent violence. In some communities, especially those with high rates of social inequality, violence is seen as a legitimate

way to resolve disputes or impose power (Oliveira *et al.*, 2020). In some cases, this perception is transmitted to children from early childhood, resulting in a normalization of violence.

Furthermore, exposure to violent content in the media and on social networks has also been associated with increased aggressiveness among young people, exacerbating violence in the social context. The association between violent media consumption and the increase in aggressive behavior has been observed in several studies (Simbine, 2023). Violence also manifests itself symbolically, as in the case of school bullying, which can emotionally affect victims and result in significant psychological damage (Vieira, 2015).

The consequences of child and adolescent violence are devastating, not only for immediate victims but also for society as a whole. Children who experience or witness violence face serious difficulties in cognitive, emotional, and social development. According to Oliveira *et al.* (2020), the effects of violence can result in psychological disorders, such as depression, anxiety disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder, and difficulties in interpersonal relationships.

Furthermore, child and adolescent violence can lead to long-term health problems, including eating disorders, psychoactive substance use, sexually transmitted diseases, and difficulties in accessing education (Simbine, 2023). Children and adolescents who are victims of violence often have difficulties in their school performance, which limits their future opportunities and perpetuates the cycle of poverty and social exclusion.

2 MATERIALS AND METHODS

For the preparation of this research, official data sources from DEPCA were used, with emphasis on Police Report (BO) records involving cases of violence against children and adolescents in the city of Manaus and other regions of the state of Amazonas. The analyzed period comprises the years 2020 to 2024, in order to identify recent trends and evaluate the evolution of child and adolescent violence rates.

In addition to the quantitative data extracted from DEPCA, government and non-governmental organization initiatives aimed at protecting children and adolescents were examined. To this end, institutional awareness campaigns on child violence, social and psychological assistance programs for victims, and public policies implemented to mitigate cases of child and adolescent violence were analyzed.

Among the main initiatives aimed at confronting violence against children and adolescents, actions of a national and local nature stand out that seek both the reporting and prevention of these

practices. Disque 100 (Human Rights Hotline) constitutes one of the most relevant instruments in this context, functioning as a national service channel coordinated by the Ministry of Human Rights and Citizenship. Its objective is to receive and forward complaints, including anonymously, regarding human rights violations, covering cases of abuse and mistreatment committed against minors.

Another important front is represented by educational campaigns, which play a fundamental role in raising society's awareness. Among them, the program "Faça Bonito: Proteja Nossas Crianças e Adolescentes" (Make it Beautiful: Protect Our Children and Adolescents) stands out, held annually in partnership between the federal government and various institutions, focusing on social mobilization and awareness about the rights of children and adolescents. In addition, initiatives promoted at the regional level, such as the campaigns of the Public Security Secretariat of Amazonas (SSP-AM) and the Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (MMFDH), reinforce the need for dissemination of information and strengthening of protection networks, contributing to the construction of a culture of prevention and confrontation of child and adolescent violence.

The research was developed based on a mixed approach (qualitative and quantitative). The quantitative study focused on the analysis of occurrence record data, allowing verification of statistical variation and geographic distribution of child and adolescent violence in Amazonas. The qualitative part aimed to contextualize the collected numbers, identifying possible causes for the increase or reduction of child and adolescent violence, as well as the impact of combat and victim support policies.

The adopted methodology allowed not only understanding the evolution of crime rates against children and adolescents in the state of Amazonas but also relating these numbers to the social and economic factors of the region. Thus, the study sought not only to quantify child and adolescent violence but also to qualitatively analyze the confrontation mechanisms, institutional weaknesses, and possible gaps in public policies aimed at protecting children and youth.

Furthermore, the research incorporated a survey and critical analysis of educational campaign initiatives and existing support programs, seeking to understand their effectiveness in raising public awareness about the problem and mitigating violence. The study also investigated the role of Disque 100, an essential service for reporting abuse and violence against children and adolescents, evaluating the frequency and nature of complaints registered in the analyzed period (2020-2024).

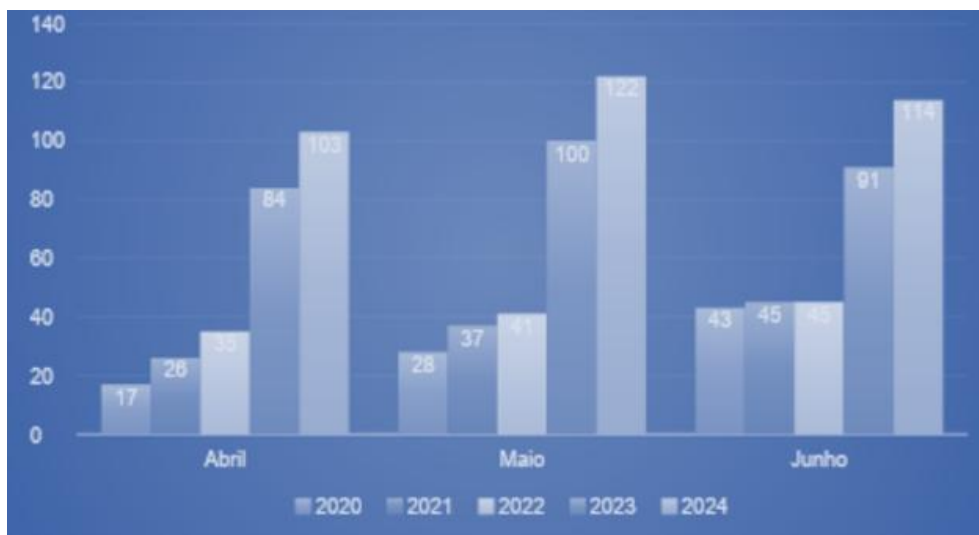
Finally, the book chapter sought to articulate data and empirical evidence to provide a broad view of the problem of child and adolescent violence in the city of Manaus-AM. Thus, the research intends to offer scientific subsidies for the development of more effective public policies in

preventing violence and protecting the rights of children and adolescents in the context of the Amazonian capital.

3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The analyzed data were obtained from DEPCA records in the capital of Amazonas, covering the months of April, May, and June of the years 2020 to 2024. The analysis followed a quantitative approach, identifying trends and correlations between the numbers of complaints. The data reveal a significant increase in complaints over the years, as shown in Graph 1.

Graph 1. Reports Registered by the DEPCA



Source: DEPCA, 2025.

The collected data indicate a progressive increase in complaints over the years, especially in the months of April, May, and June. In 2020, records were relatively low, with 17 complaints in April, 28 in May, and 43 in June. In 2021, there was already an increase, reaching 26, 37, and 45 complaints in the same months. Growth continued in 2022, with 35, 41, and 45 records.

The most significant increase occurred in 2023 and 2024. In 2023, numbers jumped to 84 complaints in April, 100 in May, and 91 in June. In 2024, records peaked, with 103 complaints in April, 122 in May, and 114 in June. These data reflect not only a possible increase in child violence but also greater societal awareness and an improvement in reporting channels.

Several socioeconomic factors may be associated with the increase in cases of child and adolescent violence in Amazonas:

Economic and Social Crisis: Events such as the drought in the Northern region of Brazil in 2023-2024 negatively impacted the local economy, affecting sectors such as tourism and industry. Communities dependent on these activities faced economic difficulties, which may have contributed to increased social vulnerability and, consequently, violence against children and adolescents (Brasil, 2023).

Socioeconomic Inequalities: Amazonas presents significant economic disparities among its municipalities. While Manaus has a high Gross Domestic Product (GDP), other regions face economic challenges that may influence violence rates (IBGE, 2019).

Public Health Issues: The Yanomami humanitarian crisis in 2022-2023 highlighted the precariousness of health services and the vulnerability of indigenous populations in the state. Malnutrition and lack of access to basic services increase the exposure of children and adolescents to risky situations (Brasil, 2023).

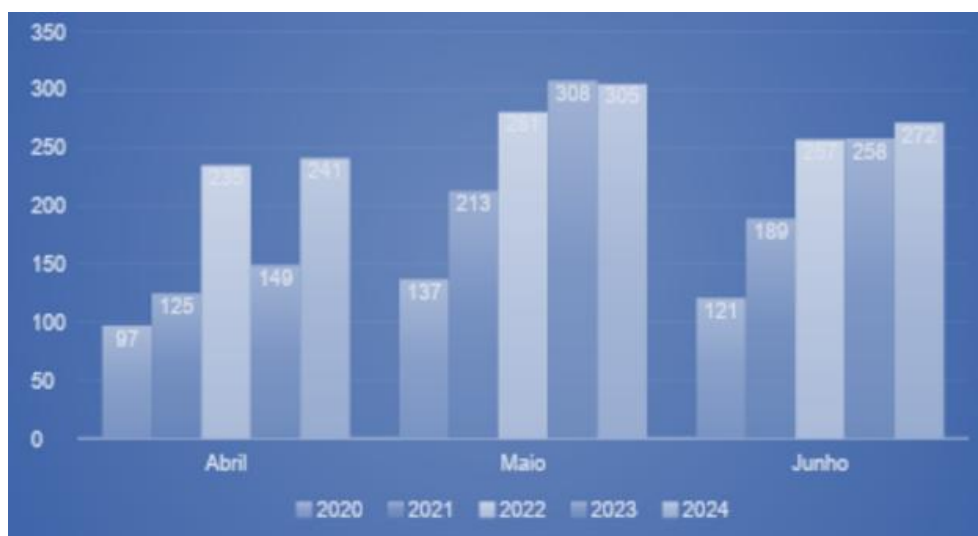
Regional Specificities: The geography of the state of Amazonas imposes unique challenges to confronting child and adolescent violence. The extensive territorial area, the predominance of riverine communities, and limited access to security and justice services make the flow of complaints slower and often ineffective. In remote regions – which exist even within the municipality of Manaus – the lack of nearby specialized police stations and the difficulty of victims traveling to urban centers contribute to crimes remaining unpunished. Furthermore, the precariousness of victim service structures, the scarcity of multidisciplinary teams, and the deficit of police officers further aggravate the scenario.

Education and Awareness: The implementation of educational campaigns and support programs, such as Disque 100, may have led to an increase in complaints, reflecting greater public awareness of the importance of reporting cases of violence (Brasil, 2025).

The correlation between the increase in records of violence against children and adolescents and socioeconomic factors in Amazonas suggests the need for integrated public policies that address both the improvement of economic and social conditions and the strengthening of protection and reporting mechanisms. Investments in education, health, and infrastructure, combined with awareness campaigns, are essential to reduce these rates and promote child and adolescent well-being in the region.

The detailed analysis of Disque 100 complaint records regarding violence against children and adolescents in Manaus between 2020 and 2024 indicates a progressive increase in the number of registered occurrences, as shown in Graph 2.

Graph 2. Reports Received through Dial 100



Source: DEPCA, 2025.

The relationship between the intensification of educational campaigns and the increase in complaints to Dial 100 is evident. These initiatives not only inform the population about the existence of the service but also encourage them to use the channel to report human rights violations. Consequently, a continuous growth in the number of registered complaints is observed, reflecting a more aware and proactive society in protecting fundamental rights.

Several factors may have contributed to this increase in complaints. Among them, the following stand out:

Awareness and Educational Campaigns: Initiatives such as "Maio Laranja" (Orange May) have been fundamental to broaden the population's knowledge about the importance of reporting and the means available to do so (Brasil, 2022).

Improvement in Reporting Channels: Easier access to channels such as Dial 100 and digital platforms may have encouraged more victims and witnesses to report cases of violence (Souza, 2023).

Impacts of the Pandemic: The COVID-19 pandemic brought significant challenges to child protection, increasing the vulnerability of children and adolescents and making more evident the need for effective reporting mechanisms (Dornelles *et al.*, 2021).

"Maio Laranja" is a national movement that seeks to combat sexual abuse and exploitation of children and adolescents. During this period, several actions are promoted to raise public awareness on the topic and encourage reporting. As shown by the data, the month of May presents peaks in complaints, which may be directly related to the intensification of awareness campaigns and encouragement to report (Silva *et al.*, 2021).

The "Maio Laranja" campaign aims to mobilize society for child protection, alerting about signs of abuse and encouraging reporting. According to Martins and Passos (2024), awareness campaigns play a vital role in reducing the underreporting of child violence cases.

Based on the presented data, it appears that the increase in complaints in May may indicate greater trust in the protection network and in the safety to report cases of violence. Studies indicate that fear and lack of information often prevent children and adolescents from reporting abuse situations (Silva *et al.*, 2020; Souza, 2023).

Despite the increase in complaints, underreporting remains a major challenge. Many victims do not report due to fear, shame, or lack of access to information about their rights (Silva *et al.*, 2020). Experts point out that the real numbers of child violence cases may be significantly higher than those recorded, making it essential to expand public policies for victim protection and support.

The progressive increase in the number of records both at DEPCA and Disque 100 suggests a scenario in which violence against children and adolescents has become a growing concern, resulting in more complaints and consequently demonstrating a restlessness of the general population regarding the topic. This growth can be attributed to several factors, including greater public awareness of the reporting process and the expansion of educational campaigns. Furthermore, socioeconomic and cultural factors also play a significant role in this increase, especially in contexts such as Amazonas, where social inequality and economic crisis directly impact the vulnerability of children and adolescents.

Several studies point out that, in economically disadvantaged regions, the lack of access to public health, education, and social protection services increases the risk of violence. A study by Costa *et al.* (2021) revealed that in areas with greater economic and social inequality, the increase in violence against minors is often related to the lack of adequate public policies and the overload of assistance services.

For example, the disparities between the capital (Manaus) and the municipalities in the interior of Amazonas are evident, with some localities presenting high rates of poverty and unemployment, factors that contribute to an environment conducive to violence. The most vulnerable populations, such as families in extreme poverty, are more prone to living in risk contexts, including domestic violence and child sexual exploitation (Oliveira, 2022).

The implementation of support programs, such as Dial 100, and the constant expansion of coverage of educational campaigns are positive steps to increase awareness and the number of complaints. However, socioeconomic factors remain a major challenge to reducing violence rates. The increase in complaints may also be interpreted as a reflection of greater societal recognition of

the importance of reporting, but it is important to highlight that the numbers do not necessarily represent a real increase in violence, but rather an improvement in visibility and coverage of cases (Brasil, 2025).

4 UNDERREPORTING: THE WEIGHT OF SILENCE

Underreporting of child and adolescent violence cases is an alarming reality, being one of the biggest obstacles in combating this serious violation of rights. Many victims of violence, whether physical, psychological, or sexual, remain silent due to a series of factors that prevent reporting, resulting in the invisibility of cases and the absence of adequate protection and intervention measures. The scientific literature reveals that underreporting is closely related to fear, lack of trust in institutions, and lack of awareness about reporting channels, which has a direct impact on the effectiveness of public policies to combat child and adolescent violence.

Research by Fernandes *et al.* (2020) points out that underreporting in the Brazilian context is a significant phenomenon, especially regarding sexual violence against children and adolescents. They state that approximately 70% of child sexual abuse cases in Brazil are not reported, which represents an immense challenge for efforts to combat this type of violence. Underreporting compromises the collection of real data on the magnitude of the problem, hindering the planning of efficient public actions and the allocation of resources to confront violence.

Several factors contribute to this lack of reporting. One of the main ones is the victims' fear of suffering retaliation from aggressors, especially when they are part of the family nucleus. This fear is further intensified by the shame and guilt that many children and adolescents experience. In their research, Silva and Pereira (2020) argue that family sexual abuse is particularly challenging, as victims often feel isolated and cannot trust anyone to seek help. The research also highlights that lack of information about reporting channels and the feeling that nothing will be done if the abuse is reported also contribute to underreporting.

Underreporting is also associated with the lack of adequate training for frontline professionals, such as teachers, doctors, and psychologists. Studies indicate that many of these professionals are not trained to identify signs of abuse or to handle reports in a sensitive and effective manner. According to Oliveira *et al.* (2021), training these professionals is crucial to increasing notifications of child and adolescent violence. The lack of clear action protocols in health and education services results in an inefficient protection system, which contributes to underreporting and the perpetuation of violence.

Another factor that prevents reporting is distrust in the institutions responsible for welcoming victims and punishing aggressors. Research by Pereira and Lima (2018) suggests that many families and victims do not believe that authorities will take concrete action regarding reported cases. The lack of transparency in reporting processes, combined with impunity in many cases, creates an environment of discredit in institutions, discouraging victims from seeking help.

Social inequality also plays an important role in underreporting. According to studies by Souza *et al.* (2020), poverty and lack of access to specialized health and education services in the most remote regions of Brazil contribute to many cases of child and adolescent violence not being reported. In these areas, the lack of infrastructure and distance from urban centers hinder victims' access to reporting and protection services. Social isolation and the scarcity of information about the rights of children and adolescents further aggravate the situation.

It is important to highlight that, in addition to the mentioned factors, underreporting has serious consequences for victims. The lack of intervention at the appropriate time can result in long-term physical and psychological sequelae. Research by Silva and Pereira (2020) points out that when violence against children and adolescents is not properly addressed, it can lead to the development of emotional disorders, such as depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder, in addition to affecting socialization ability and academic performance.

Another factor to be highlighted as an influencing factor in the persistence of many underreported cases is the feeling of impunity resulting from the conjunction of elements that foster the perpetuation of violence. When victims and communities perceive that complaints do not result in swift and effective responses, there is a disincentive to formalize new cases. The cycle of violence intensifies as aggressors do not face immediate legal consequences, reinforcing criminal behaviors and perpetuating the vulnerability of children and adolescents.

Therefore, it is essential that public policies are implemented to reduce underreporting of child and adolescent violence cases. Training health and education professionals, creating more accessible reporting channels, and raising society's awareness about the importance of reporting are essential strategies to confront this problem. Building an effective protection network and ensuring adequate care for victims are fundamental steps to guarantee the rights of children and adolescents in Brazil.

5 THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGNS FOR ENCOURAGING REPORTING

Educational campaigns play an essential role in promoting public awareness and reducing the silence surrounding domestic violence (WHO, 2016). Educational campaigns play a crucial role in confronting violence against children and adolescents, especially in combating the underreporting of crimes and encouraging reporting. Violence against this vulnerable group is a social problem that often remains invisible due to barriers such as lack of information, fear, social taboos, and distrust in institutions. In this context, educational campaigns are powerful tools to raise public awareness, broaden knowledge about rights, and mobilize communities to protect children.

Underreporting is a phenomenon that hinders the identification and confrontation of violence. Many families and even victims do not report because they are unaware of appropriate channels or do not recognize the situation they are experiencing as violence. Furthermore, fear of reprisals or emotional and financial dependence on the aggressor often prevent complaints from reaching the authorities. Added to this, cultural issues and the stigma associated with intrafamily violence contribute to the perpetuation of silence.

In this scenario, educational campaigns stand out as an essential strategy to promote significant changes. These campaigns have the main objective of informing the population about how to identify signs of abuse or neglect and how to act in situations of violence. When messages are delivered clearly and accessibly, they have the power to transform the way society perceives and reacts to these crimes. Furthermore, by publicizing reporting channels, such as Disque 100, and explaining how they work, campaigns eliminate practical barriers that often hinder the registration of occurrences.

Another important aspect of campaigns is their ability to break the cycle of silence that accompanies crimes against vulnerable individuals. By addressing the issue directly but sensitively, these initiatives help break down the taboos and myths that prevent many victims and their families from seeking help. The engagement of schools, community organizations, churches, and other social spaces enhances the impact of campaigns, as it makes the message closer and more relevant to local communities.

To achieve effective results, educational campaigns need to be well planned and executed. Using accessible language that speaks directly to different audiences is essential to ensure understanding and engagement. Furthermore, it is important that campaigns are broadcast on multiple platforms, such as television, radio, social media, and community spaces, to reach as many people as possible. Partnership with governments, non-governmental organizations, private companies, and the media is also fundamental to expand the reach and effectiveness of actions.

Successful campaigns often use real stories and testimonies to raise public awareness, showing the impact of violence and the power of reporting to change realities. More than just informing, these initiatives seek to empower communities, making them active agents in protecting children and adolescents. Examples include campaigns such as "Faça Bonito," which mobilizes society to combat sexual abuse and exploitation of minors, and efforts to popularize Disque 100, which have contributed to the increase in case registration.

The expected results of educational campaigns include a significant reduction in underreporting, since clear and accessible information encourages more people to report. With more cases registered, the protection system can identify and treat a greater number of victims, in addition to holding aggressors accountable. In the long term, consistent campaigns promote cultural changes that help deconstruct perceptions and behaviors that normalize or silence violence.

Thus, educational campaigns not only alert society to the seriousness of the problem but also create a culture of protection and care for children. They are an indispensable instrument in the fight against violence and a fundamental step to ensure that no child or adolescent suffers in silence. Through awareness and social mobilization, educational campaigns are capable of saving lives and building a safer and more dignified future for the next generations.

6 A REALITY STILL UNDERESTIMATED

Although the increase in records is an indicator of greater awareness and visibility, the real dimension of child and adolescent violence in Manaus is likely much larger. Studies indicate that for each registered case, many others remain hidden, perpetuating the cycle of violence.

As a solution to confront underreporting, the first alternative is to understand the true extent of the problem. To this end, it is necessary to promote awareness campaigns that inform the population about how to identify signs of violence and report safely, emphasizing that protecting children and adolescents is a collective duty.

Furthermore, it is necessary to strengthen reporting channels by expanding the reach of channels such as Disque 100 and creating accessible reporting platforms in remote areas, which can significantly increase the number of registered cases. Coordination between civil society and public institutions is essential to break the cycle of violence and protect the rights of children and adolescents (UNICEF, 2019).

7 FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

This article analyzed the progressive increase in criminal occurrence records related to child and adolescent violence in the capital of the state of Amazonas, Manaus, between the years 2020 and 2024. The study evidenced that, despite the significant increase in complaints, both through DEPCA and Dial 100, child and adolescent violence remains an alarming and multifaceted problem.

The collected data show a growth trend in occurrences, which can be interpreted from different perspectives. On the one hand, the increase in records may reflect a more robust process of awareness among society and victims, who are more inclined to report abuse and other forms of violence. The implementation of awareness programs and the dissemination of reporting channels, such as Dial 100, are fundamental in expanding notifications. On the other hand, the growth of violence may be directly associated with socioeconomic and cultural factors, such as poverty, lack of access to quality public services, and regional inequalities, which contribute to the vulnerability of children and adolescents.

It is important to highlight that the analysis of criminal occurrence records should not be taken as the only measure to assess the reality of child and adolescent violence. Underreporting and underestimation of many cases of abuse and neglect remain constant challenges. Furthermore, the complexity of violence against children and adolescents requires an integrated approach, involving not only police authorities but also the health, education, and social assistance systems.

Based on the observed data, it is possible to conclude that the increase in records of child and adolescent violence in Manaus significantly reflects the urgent need for greater action in public policies for prevention and victim support. Strengthening educational campaigns, expanding access to specialized services, and training professionals to identify and respond to cases of abuse are fundamental steps to guarantee the protection of children and adolescents.

Thus, the increase in occurrence records in Manaus should be analyzed from two complementary perspectives: on the one hand, the reduction of underreporting represents an advance in the fight against child and adolescent violence, as it enables a more realistic diagnosis of the problem; on the other hand, the structural, geographic, and institutional barriers of Amazonas still hinder an effective response from the justice system, increasing the feeling of impunity and allowing violence to continue to manifest. Overcoming these challenges requires continuous investments in infrastructure, professional training, and strengthening of public policies for child protection, ensuring that the right of children and adolescents to safety and dignity is fully guaranteed.

Society must understand that child and adolescent violence is not an isolated problem and that its eradication depends on a joint mobilization between government, educational institutions,

health, security, and the community itself. To this end, it is essential to invest in long-term public policies that can guarantee the rights of children and adolescents, ensure a safe and healthy environment for their development, and, above all, break the cycle of violence that compromises the future of thousands of young people in the state of Amazonas and throughout Brazil.

Finally, child and adolescent violence in Manaus is a reflection of structural and cultural problems that require immediate, integrated, and continuous actions, and, more than ever, it is necessary to ensure that the increase in records is not just a statistic, but rather an alert for the need to protect and value childhood and adolescence in the Amazonian capital.

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