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USE OF PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES BY BRAZILIAN STUDENTS, PREVENTION AND PNAD: AN INTEGRATIVE REVIEW

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ABSTRACT
Some aspects of the lives of Brazilian students were impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, such as the use of psychoactive substances, which brings out the value of prevention actions. It is known that since 2019 there have been changes in the National Drug Policy (PNAD) and this fact can interfere with public health actions. The objective of this study was to map data on the use of psychoactive substances among Brazilian students of basic education, to coordinate information on prevention actions and to relate them to the new PNAD, aiming to integrate knowledge and reflect on this public health issue. A systematic review was carried out in four main databases between June and December 2023, with an eight-year historical series. A survey of institutionalized prevention actions in Brazilian capitals and their relations with the new PNAD was carried out during the year 2024. It was observed that the use of psychoactive substances by basic education students is a Brazilian reality, for different socioeconomic profiles, substances and patterns of use, with alcohol being the predominant substance. Prevention actions were evidenced in most Brazilian capitals and there are interfaces with the new PNAD. It is concluded that there is a need for greater dissemination, coverage and dissemination of preventive actions for education and health promotion and, for people who use psychoactive substances, actions that emphasize health care, in the logic of harm reduction.

Keywords: Elementary and High School. Covid-19 pandemic. Students. Psychoactive Substances. Prevention.

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INTRODUCTION

The use of psychoactive substances among children and adolescents has become a public health issue. The presence of drugs in the school environment has grown over the years, as shown by data collected by the four editions of the National School Health Survey – PeNSE (BRASIL, 2019). Among the substances most used by students are alcohol and tobacco, which are legal drugs, and marijuana, as an illicit drug, in addition to the use of psychoactive medications, without a medical prescription. The use of inhalants, crack and cocaine, respectively, is also considerable, and these are also illicit drugs (BRASIL, 2019).

Late childhood and adolescence are marked by emotional and physiological transformations. In these phases, the school is the main environment for social interaction for elementary and high school students and, consequently, can be the main social means of communication between peers and the exchange of diverse knowledge, including those related to psychoactive substances (REIS, 2022).

In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic, between the beginning of 2020 and mid-2022, brought complications to the personal and academic lives of Brazilian students, especially in the context of adapting to the new reality of social isolation and virtual classrooms, culminating in changes in habits and a greater propensity to stress and anxiety. Consequently, social behaviors and psychoactive substance consumption may have been impacted (SILVA, 2021).

According to the United Nations World Drug Report on Drugs and Crime – UNODC (2021), the pandemic has increased the risk of addiction in all age groups around the world. It also states that during the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, about 275 million people used drugs in the world and of these, more than 36 million suffered from disorders associated with drug use.

According to the UNODC analysis (2021), there is a lower perception of the risks of drug use by people, especially young people, and this discrepancy between the risks and the population's knowledge of such risks has been associated with higher rates of drug use. The report makes a point of highlighting the need to close the gap between perception and reality in order to educate young people and safeguard public health.

It is worth highlighting the historical role of alcohol as the most consumed psychoactive substance among people, especially among children and adolescents, according to the WHO, and it is also one of the substances consumed earlier, with first contact at the age of twelve, on average (RAPOSO, 2017). Such inferences are important

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for reflection on the basis for future decision-making, in other possible moments of pandemics and social isolation.

Considering an integrative look at the public health issue that is the use of psychoactive substances by basic education students in Brazil, it is necessary to think about the institutionalized approaches adopted in the country, as it is understood that the National Policy is like a large umbrella and that the actions of all spheres will probably be linked and supported by it. Thus, it is essential to highlight that in April 2019, the Federal Government signed Decree No. 9,761, instituting a new National Drug Policy (PNAD), revoking Decree No. 4,345 and resolving the legal incentive for harm reduction (DR) practices in Brazil (BRASIL, 2019). It is noteworthy that there was the implementation of a prohibitionist policy in the context of issues arising from the use of psychoactive substances, emphasizing abstinence as the only public policy for people who have already used some psychoactive substance (PEREIRA, 2021).

In this context, another relevant factor for the understanding and reflection on this issue in Brazil lies in the scarcity of studies that have carried out, in addition to the survey on the pattern of use of psychoactive substances by students, the mapping of preventive actions, their methodologies and approaches and, especially, the mapping of the evaluations of these actions to prevent the use of psychoactive substances, both by the executors and by the participants (target audience).

Therefore, the study presented here is of fundamental importance, as it aims to map data on the use of psychoactive substances among Brazilian students of basic education, to gather information on the institutionalized prevention actions existing in Brazilian capitals and to relate them to the new PNAD, aiming to integrate knowledge and reflect on this public health problem.

METHODOLOGY

This study consists of an integrative literature review on the use of psychoactive substances by Brazilian students in basic education (elementary and high school), from the public and private networks. In addition, a survey was also carried out on the official pages related to Brazilian capitals, such as municipal health departments, to gather information on institutionalized prevention actions and relate them to the new PNAD, aiming to integrate knowledge and reflect on this public health issue.

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It is known that integrative review is a method that can contribute to promoting an interface between empirical and theoretical literature, as well as accepting various study methodologies, facilitating a broad approach and the integration of multiple objectives (SOUZA, 2010). This justifies the choice of this method for the present study.

METHODOLOGY

The first part of the study followed the parameters of the international guide PRISMA-ScR (TRICCO, 2018). The databases used were the National Library of Medicine (PubMed), CAPES Journals, Google Scholar, Virtual Health Library (VHL) and Sciencedirect. With time filter for the time series from 2015 to 2023, based on the following descriptors (DeCS/MeSH Terms): students, Covid-19, pandemic, drugs, psychoactive substances, adolescents, elementary and high school, medications. This part of the study was carried out between June and December 2023.

According to the pre-established criteria from a free search in PubMed, prior to the systematic process, the following were included in the review on the use of psychoactive substances by students: quantitative and qualitative primary studies and epidemiological studies, published in the selected databases, as well as course completion papers. All works were published in the period from 2015 to 2023. Case reports, literature reviews, and studies that addressed students from higher education or from other countries were excluded. In addition, a survey of institutionalized prevention actions in Brazilian capitals during the year 2024 was carried out on the official websites related to the municipalities and their relations with the new PNAD were evaluated.

RESULTS

The presentation of the results will follow the logic of the objective of this study and will be carried out in stages. First, the results and discussion regarding the literature review on the use of psychoactive substances by Brazilian students of basic education (elementary and high school) will be presented, namely:

Nine articles were obtained from the PubMed database, five of which were discarded in the screening phase, by title, and four articles included for eligibility. In the CAPES Journals, eighteen articles related to the research were found. Thirteen were discarded in the screening phase, and five were included for eligibility. On Google Scholar, only one course completion work related to the topic was found, which was included for

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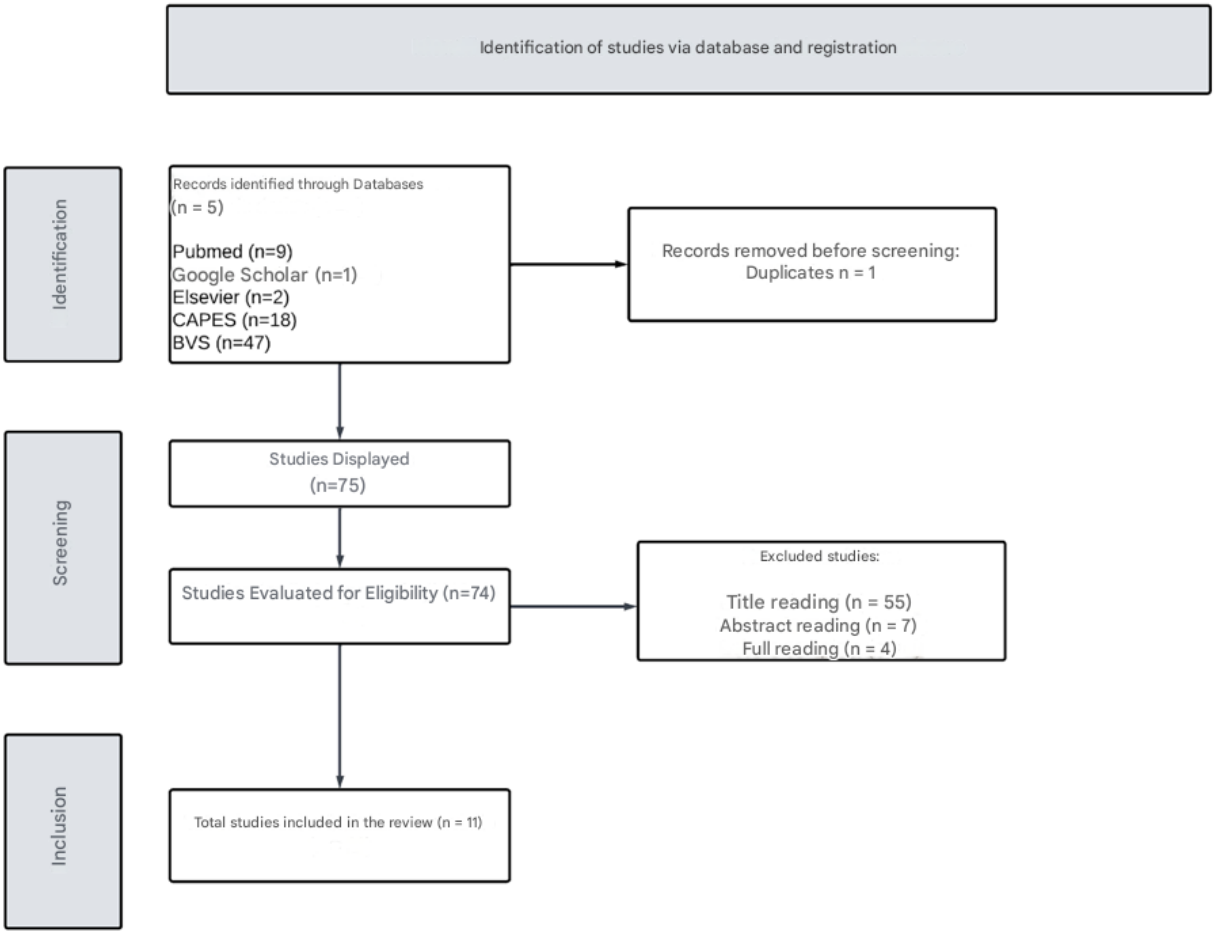
eligibility. And in ScienceDirect/Elservier no articles corresponding to the purpose of this research were found or counted in duplication. In the VHL database, 47 articles were found, however, all were excluded in the screening phase, as they were not elementary and high school students or were not Brazilian students.

After the screening and eligibility procedures, eleven (11) studies were included in this systematic review. The flowchart for the selection of papers is shown in figure 1 and the academic papers used for systematic review are listed in chart 1, both presented below.

Work Selection Flowchart



Source: Authors, 2025

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Chart 1: Articles included in the review according to authors/year, objective, territorial scope of the study, and study design.

Author/Year	Goal	Territorial coverage	Study design
Andrade *et al.* (2017).	To analyze the prevalence of exposure to psychoactive substances in public elementary school students and sociodemographic correlation.	Aracaju and São Paulo Cristóvão and Sergipe - Brazil.	Cross-sectional survey conducted from March to September 2015, involving 1,009 elementary and high school students in 20 public schools.
Reis, J. P. S (2022).	To identify the prevalence of consumption of licit drugs (alcohol and tobacco) in high school students from a school unit in Chapadinha/MA.	Chapadinha, Maranhão, Brazil.	Survey, qualitative, confidential, optional questionnaire. Students in the 1st year - high school. Age: 15.5 years. Sample 115 students.
Oliveira *et al.* (2021).	To investigate the prevalence of severity of drug use among high school students.	Ceará, Brazil.	This is a descriptive study, with a quantitative approach - 933 students - four high schools - a municipality in the north of Ceará. A questionnaire was used to screen for the use of alcohol, tobacco and other substances (ASSIST-WHO)
Gonçalves *et al.* (2020).	To analyze the use of alcohol, tobacco and marijuana and their repercussions on the quality of life of adolescents attending high school.	São Carlos, São Paulo, Brazil.	Analytical study - 169 high school students. Questionnaire containing sociodemographic assessment, Screening test for involvement with alcohol, cigarettes and other substances, and Quality of life assessment scale.
Santos *et al.* (2021).	To address the relevant aspects in the incidence of drug consumption by adolescents in the context of social isolation.	Penaforte, Ceará, Brazil.	Qualitative research. Debate with elementary and high school students in the Cariri region in the year 2020.
Faria *et al.* (2019).	To estimate the prevalence and factors associated with smoking among schoolchildren in the city of Itaúna-MG.	Itaúna, Minas Gerais, Brazil.	Cross-sectional survey. 340 adolescents, high school, between 14 and 20 years old.
Silva *et al.* (2021).	Developing pedagogical intervention in a remote-emergency teaching scenario: Critical discussions on psychoactive substances.	São Gabriel, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.	Qualitative research. Debate with students from two elementary schools. Ninth grade students.
Horta *et al.* (2018).	Defining the prevalence and conditions associated with the use of illicit drugs in life: National School-based Health Survey, 2015.	Brazil.	Analysis of data from the 2015 National Adolescent School-based Health Survey (PeNSE). About experimentation with marijuana, cocaine, crack, glue, loló, lança perfume, ecstasy or oxy. Descriptive analysis and Poisson regression (crude and adjusted prevalence ratios).

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Reis *et al.* (2018).	To analyze the main problems and challenges in the implementation of public policies for Brazilian adolescence based on a narrative review of PeNSE.	Brazil.	Theoretical essay on public policies produced from a narrative review of the three editions of PeNSE. Elementary and high school students.
Freitas et al. (2015).	Analysis of the prevalence of drug use and family relationships among adolescent students in Cuiabá, Mato Grosso: a cross-sectional study, 2015.	Cuiabá, Mato Grosso, Brazil.	A quantitative study conducted in 2015 among basic education students in Cuiabá, MT, Brazil, aged 10-19 years; the use of drugs (except alcohol and tobacco) in life was analyzed, according to sociodemographic, school and family variables; Data by Poisson regression. With 1,221 students in 12 schools.
Raposo *et al*. (2017).	OBJECTIVE: To estimate the prevalence of illicit drug use and its association with *binge drinking* and sociodemographic factors among adolescent students.	Olinda, Pernambuco, Brazil.	This was a cross-sectional study, probabilistic cluster sample. 1,154 students, aged 13 to 19, from the public school system of Olinda, PE. Youth Risk Behavior Survey questionnaire, validated for use with Brazilian adolescents.

Source: Authors, 2025.

Based on the articles included in this literature review, the use of psychoactive substances by elementary and high school students probably begins from the ninth grade of elementary school. According to the studies, although the onset of use in life occurs from the age of 12, the age group of students that presented the highest consumption was that of students in the ninth grade and high school, between the ages of 15 and 17 years. The average frequency of consumption is 2 to 3 times a week, in the case of alcoholic beverages. Male students showed a greater tendency to consume psychoactive substances, with the exception of Gonçalves (2020) who studied about the "Use of alcohol, tobacco and marijuana: repercussions on the quality of life of students", in which alcohol consumption was higher among females.

In general, the most consumed psychoactive substance was alcoholic beverages, which, despite being legalized for those over eighteen years of age, causes psychic and physical changes in the development of the human being and has been used by age groups below that approved in legalization. After alcohol, the second most consumed drug by students is tobacco, which is also legal, but its harm can be irreversible for the development phase and directly contribute to the development of diseases of the respiratory system and other systems (REIS, 2022; OLIVEIRA, 2021; SANTOS, 2021).

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Regarding the most consumed illicit drugs, there are: marijuana, crack, cocaine, inhalants, hallucinogens, and ecstasy (REIS, 2022; OLIVEIRA, 2021; SANTOS, 2021).

When it comes to the use of psychoactive drugs in Brazil, especially non-rational use, it is necessary to consider the possibility of important toxicological damage (PANDE, 2020). According to data from the National Health Surveillance Agency – ANVISA, on the sale of industrialized medicines, there was an increase in the sale of some psychotropic drugs during the Covid-19 pandemic. The psychoactive drugs with the highest increase in sales in 2020 and 2021 were sertraline and clonazepam (BRASIL, 2020).

According to UNODC (2021), in the face of surveys with health professionals in 77 countries, 42% stated that the use of *Cannabis* increased during the pandemic. In addition, there was also an increase in the non-medical use of psychoactive drugs, corroborating the findings of the present study. It is important to highlight that, although the UNODC Report has a global scope, different from the scope of this research, this report includes the most current data on the use of psychoactive substances by people of all age groups.

In view of this, after analyzing the studies included and selected for the review, concomitantly with the aforementioned stage, a survey of the actions to prevent drug use was carried out, carried out in the capitals of Brazil, chart 2, presented below, illustrates the title of the actions and the methodology used, categorized as expository (those based on lectures, seminars and classes), dialogued expository (which includes actions involving conversation circles and/or chats with students) and interactionist (this category includes those actions of a dynamic nature, in which didactic and even gamified resources are used, such as games, quizzes, awards, among others). There is also a record of the evaluation of these actions, when reported, in addition to the classification of the approach used in each action, as well as their relationship with the PNAD.

Chart 2: Survey of drug use prevention actions in Brazil

States	Prevention actions	Approach	Evaluation	Method*	Relationship with PNAD
AC	"Strong Families", "Elos Game" and #Tamojunto (ACRE NEWS AGENCY, 2016).	Interactionist	No	RD	Prevention
AM	White July: Combating drug use by children and adolescents (SEJUSC, 2021).	Exhibition	No	P	Abstinence
RO	National Drug Policy Week (SESAU/RO, 2023)	Interactionist	No	RD	Prevention
RR	Educational Program for Resistance to Drugs and Violence (PROERD, 2022)	Exhibition	No	P	Abstinence

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AP	Campaign is 'Don't let drugs control your life' (AMAPÁ, 2019).	Exhibition	No	RD	Prevention
PA	White July (PUBLIC PROSECUTOR's Office).	Exhibition	No	P	Abstinence
I'm	"State Day for the Prevention and Fight against Drugs" (TOCANTINS, 2019)	Exhibition	No	RD	Prevention
MA	Project: Who chooses your path? You or the drugs? (MPMA, 2022)	Interactive	No	RD	Prevention
PI	Campaign "With Drugs Everyone Loses" (PIAUÍ, 2023)	Exhibition	No	P	Abstinence
	Project "Se Liga – Prevenção que Transforma, Futuro que Inspira" (PIAUÍ, 2023)	Interactive	Qualitative evaluation with young people.	RD	Prevention
EC	Law 11.244 - White June. (Fortaleza City Hall, 2018)	Exhibition	No	P	Abstinence
	"Blitz in favor of life" campaign (Fortaleza City Hall, 2018)	Dialogued exhibition	No	RD	Prevention
	"Tamo Junto" Event (Fortaleza City Hall, 2018)	Dialogued Interactive	No	RD	Prevention
RN	Programs: "#TamoJunto"; "Strong Families"; "Links" (Natal City Hall, 2018)	Interactive	No	RD	Prevention
PB	National Day to Combat Alcoholism and Drugs. (City Hall of João Pessoa, 2023)	Interactive	No	RD	Prevention
PE	Cool Project (Recife City Hall, 2023)	Dialogued exhibition	Pre-assessment by EA33	RD	Prevention
AL	Proerd (Maceió City Hall, 2023)	Exhibition	No	P	Abstinence
IF	Law No. 9,085/2022, 'White June. (Legislative Assembly of the State of Sergipe, 2023)	Interactive	No	RD	Prevention
BA	Project for the Prevention of Drug Abuse in School Environments in the State of Bahia (Government of the State of Bahia, 2023)	Dialogued exhibition	No	RD	Prevention
MT	"Open talk" project (City Hall of Cuiabá/MS, 2023)	Interactive	No	RD	Prevention
GO	Municipal Anti-Drug Program (PROMAD) (Goiânia/GO City Hall, 2023)	Exhibition	No	RD	Prevention
MS	Proerd (Campo Grande/MS, 2023)	Exhibition	No	P	Abstinence
	19th National Week and the 2nd State Anti-Drug Week (Campo Grande/MS)	Exhibition			
MG	Minas Gerais Intersectoral Plan for Care/Treatment and Prevention of the Use/Abuse of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs (Government of Minas Gerais, 2023)	Exhibition	Qualitative evaluation: goals.	RD	Prevention
ES	Prevention of the use of Alcohol and other Drugs for public schools in the state network (Government of Espírito Santo, 2023)	Exhibition	Evaluation by managers	RD	Prevention

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	Project "Say yes to Life!" (Government of Espírito Santo, 2023)	Exhibition	Without endorsement.		
	Creative writing: popular education prevention with adolescents (Government of Espírito Santo, 2023)	Interactive	Evaluation by managers		
	"Open Talk on Drugs" Project (Government of Espírito Santo, 2023)	Dialogued exhibition	No		
RJ	FioCruz "prevention and research" project (Rio de Janeiro, 2023)	Interactive	No	RD	Prevention
SP	Proerd (Government of the State of São Paulo, 2023)	Expository	No	P	Abstinence
	São Paulo Campaign Against Drugs (. Civil House of the State of São Paulo, 2023)	Interactive	No	RD	Prevention
PR	"#Tamojunto" Program and "Elos Game" (Curitiba City Hall, 2023)	Interactive	No	RD	Prevention
SC	Campaign "Drugs. We can no longer accept it" (Government of the State of Santa Catarina, 2023)	Interactive	Evaluation by managers	RD	Prevention
	Educational Program for Resistance to Drugs and Violence (Proerd) (Government of the State of Santa Catarina, 2023)	Expository	No	P	Abstinence
RS	Drug Misuse Prevention Week (State of Rio Grande do Sul, 2023)	Interactive	No	P	Abstinence
	State Plan for Drug Policies (State of Rio Grande do Sul, 2023)	Undefined actions	Evaluation by public agencies	RD	Prevention
DF	"Drugs: Prevention and Action"; "You choose your path" "Jiu Jitsu in Schools" (Federal District, 2023)	Interactive	No	RD	Prevention

***Method:** P = Prohibitionist; RD = Harm Reduction./**Source:** Authors, 2025.

DISCUSSION

At the global level, according to the World Drug Report 2021 (UNODC, 2021), in view of epidemiological data, there was an increase in the risks of addiction to psychoactive substances during the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition, the UNODC Executive Director states that: "Lower perception of the risks of drug use (by people who use) has been associated with higher rates of drug use" (UNODC, 2021).

The findings of this research, in addition to corroborating data from UNODC (2021), are also in line with the III National Survey on Drug Use by the Brazilian Population, carried out by Fiocruz (BASTOS, FIPM et.al., 2017) which highlights the problem of alcohol consumption by the population, since this survey showed that more than half of the Brazilian population aged 12 to 65 years reported having consumed alcoholic beverages at

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least once in their lives. And that about 46 million (30.1% of the survey sample) reported having consumed at least one dose in the previous 30 days. And approximately 2.3 million people met criteria for alcohol dependence in the 12 months prior to the survey. As a result, when people in clear physical and psychological development, such as adolescents, are evaluated, this picture becomes more alarming.

One of the triggering factors for the consumption of psychoactive substances may be the transition from childhood to adolescence. In addition, the use of psychoactive substances can also be influenced by triggers of psychic suffering, such as anxiety, frustrations, and family problems (SANTOS, 2021). During the pandemic, social isolation, combined with grief, accentuated these psychosocial problems. In view of the results obtained in the studies selected for this review, one point that should be highlighted is the family aspect, as some references suggest that the consumption of psychoactive substances in the family is a factor influencing the use by adolescents. The main reason for this consumption, according to SANTOS (2021), is the lack of structured interaction on the part of the family in relation to the adolescent, which also suggests that this aspect was aggravated by social isolation.

Considering the scope of this review, the socioeconomic profile of the students was diverse and variable, as well as the territorial coverage and, likewise, the type of psychoactive substance used was diverse. In addition, there were variations in terms of aspects of sex-related vulnerability (PEREIRA, 2021; OLIVEIRA, 2021; SANTOS, 2021). In general, in the case of alcohol and tobacco, consumption was higher among students with greater socioeconomic vulnerability. For illicit drugs, it was observed that the pattern of use of national and international epidemiological research is followed (UNODC, 2021).

Also, within the scope of this review, making a free comparison between the studies, regarding the use of psychoactive substances before the pandemic (2015-2019) and during the pandemic (2020-2023), the age variant was similar in both periods, from 15 to 17 years. In addition, by combining and comparing data from the four editions of the National School-based Health Survey (PeNSE), namely, 2009, 2012, 2015 and 2019 (BRASIL, 2019; REIS, 2018), there is an increase in the use of psychoactive substances by this public. Likewise, by comparing the III National Survey on Drug Use by the Brazilian Population (BASTOS, FIPM *et. al.*, 2017) and the UNODOC World Report (2021), it is possible to observe the increase in the use of psychoactive substances, especially in the

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Covid-19 pandemic period, and shed light on the problem of the use of these substances by Brazilian adolescents.

Within the scope of the new PNAD (BRASIL, 2019), considering the need for a critical look at the public health issue, which is the use of psychoactive substances by basic education students in Brazil, it is necessary to reflect on the institutionalized approaches adopted in the country. It is known that a National Policy works as an "umbrella", in which institutionalized actions from all spheres are fostered and linked or supported by said Policy. In the most recent case of Brazil, with the changes that were made in 2019, the new PNAD provides a foundation for the transition from the approach focused on harm reduction to the approach focused only on abstinence.

Among the actions defended in the new PNAD, considerations about the social, cultural and scientific aspects of the Brazilian population stand out, in order to reject drug legalization initiatives, with the purpose of resolving such initiatives in favor of public health. An important point is the emphasis described by the new policy, in an attempt to level the abusive use of licit substances (alcohol and tobacco) and the abusive use of illicit substances (marijuana, cocaine, crack, hallucinogens, ecstasy, etc.) on the same level. According to the new PNAD, theoretically, the prevention of the use of all these substances should have the same direction and importance. (PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE OF THE STATE OF PARANÁ, 2019.)

In view of this scenario, when analyzing the actions to prevent drug use, institutionalized in Brazilian capitals and states, it is possible to observe that most of the actions do not accurately highlight the guiding framework of the intervention used. In addition, predominantly, the actions take place in the expository format and some of them are aimed at reductionist measures, which favor the prevention and reduction of the use of these substances by young people and adolescents, and not only consider abstinence as the only solution.

For most of the actions found, it was not possible to confirm the efficacy of the chosen methods, since some report that there is an evaluation, however, they do not present such results. For only one of the actions, the publication about a pre-assessment study (Evaluability Study – EA) carried out by OLIVEIRA, *et al,* (2023) was found. In addition, it is valid to consider that exclusively expository didactics becomes less attractive, considering students as the target audience of the actions (CADENA, *et al,*. 2020). On the other hand, active methodologies, which reconcile information exposure with dialogical and

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gamified resources (AUSANI, ALVES, 2020), enable students to recognize and develop their skills in engagement, strategy planning and, consequently, strengthen school and, perhaps, family bonds, increasing protective factors and reducing risk and vulnerability factors for these adolescents (AUSANI, ALVES, 2020).

In addition, some authors warn that the dialogue on the use of psychoactive substances needs to be reinforced in the home environment, considering that such action contributes to the reflection on the topic in a more in-depth and affective way, hence the importance of actions in schools, so that students can be multipliers of this knowledge (TANIGUCHI, 2019).

CONCLUSION

Considering the scope of this study, an increase in the use of psychoactive substances among Brazilian elementary and high school students was observed over the historical series of the last eight years. In addition, there was evidence of a direction towards the fact that this increase has been aggravated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

With the mapping of the articles, it was demonstrated that studies on the impact of the pandemic on the use of these psychoactive substances by the public of basic education are still incipient. Since few articles were found with results during and after the pandemic, especially, there are no comprehensive surveys within Brazil, despite the relevance of this type of study, evidenced by the analysis of the four editions of the PeNSE survey. Currently, the country lacks this epidemiological diagnosis referring to the period of the health emergency related to Covid-19. The limitation of the analysis in the present study may be related to the small number of findings.

In the same sense, it is known that such comprehensive surveys are important for decision-making, both in terms of emergency actions and for medium and long-term actions. In the case of the most lasting strategies, we sought to coordinate information on the prevention actions existing in Brazil and relate them to the new PNAD, which is in force to date.

In this context, when analyzing the prevention actions regarding the use of psychoactive substances, which are institutionalized in Brazilian municipalities and states, especially in the capitals, aiming to integrate knowledge and reflect on this public health issue, it was possible to observe that such actions do not accurately evidence the theoretical, pedagogical and guiding framework for the conception and execution of

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intervention strategies. nor the evaluation methodologies. It was observed that some actions are conducted with an expository methodology and a prohibitionist approach, which makes us reflect on the efficiency of such actions in relation to the adolescent public, although they are aligned with the current PNAD.

Considering that, according to PeNSE, there has been an increase in the consumption of psychoactive substances among schoolchildren, it may be necessary to ensure an open dialogue, in the sense of humanization, the construction of bonds and health care for these students, emphasizing that the repercussions of prevention and health education actions usually conquer the territory outside the schools, covering the general population. Thus, strategies must be sufficiently effective to address this public health problem.

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