

APPLICATION OF PUBLIC POLICIES IN THE REDUCTION OF FEMICIDE IN GOIÁS: A STUDY FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF EFFECTIVENESS



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ABSTRACT

Domestic and family violence against women, due to gender, is a topic that is currently much discussed, due to the high incidence of the crime of femicide throughout the national territory. Aiming at the protection of women, victims of domestic and family violence, due to gender, the Maria da Penha Law and Law 13.104/2015 were approved, including the creation of public policies aimed at providing assistance, protection and support services to women victims of these types of violence. Thus, this research sought to analyze the influence of public policies to combat femicide in Goiás, based on bibliographic and statistical data, in order to understand the effectiveness of these policies and identify possible gaps. A qualitative approach was carried out, with data in public documents available in virtual environments of the legislation in force, especially SINESP and FBSP; Transparency Portal of the Government of Goiás. The results prove that the gender issue is a main factor in the registration of femicide occurrences. Even with the approval of laws to support women, many are victims of aggression, domestic and family violence, others lose their lives. It is considered of great importance the action of women's defense agencies to record any type of violence suffered, in order to intimidate the aggressor and prevent the realization of femicide.

Keywords: Femicide. Femicide Law. Maria da Penha Law. Woman. Violence.

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INTRODUCTION

Violence against women is a subject that attracts the attention of jurists and professionals who work in activities related to the protection of women. The press, national and international, daily publicizes cases of violence against women, and many of these occurrences end with the practice of the crime of femicide. However, it is very likely that a large part of femicides are covered up as cases of accidental deaths or suicide (Caidedo-Roa, Bandeira, Cordeiro, 2022).

In this context, observing the scenario that occurs in Brazilian society, recurrent to the murder of women in the domestic environment, Law No. 13,104/2015 was approved, which amends article 121 of the Penal Code approved in December 1940, and article 1 of Law No. 8,072, of July 1990. With these changes, femicide came to be seen as a qualifying circumstance of a qualified crime, in addition to including it in the list of heinous crimes (Brasil, Law n. 13.104/2015).

To be characterized as femicide, the reason for the occurrence of the crime against the woman is the female gender, that is, the victim is killed because she is a woman. Crimes involving domestic and family violence, contempt and discrimination against the victim's condition as a woman are considered reasons for this criminal classification. When the family bond is broken or terminated, it becomes a source of crime for the practice of crimes, inside and outside the family environment. Women are the main victims of moral harassment, mistreatment and aggression, when this bond is broken, which can even lead to the death of the victim (Almeida, 2020).

It is observed that public policies aimed at combating violence against women have become prominent factors throughout Brazilian society, with the expansion of assistance, protection, and support services for women who are victims of domestic violence, mistreatment, discrimination, and sexual abuse (Aguar, D'Oliveira, Shraiber, 2020). In this sense, this article seeks answers to the following question: What is the influence of public policies to combat femicide in Goiás in reducing the rates of these crimes and how do these data reflect the effectiveness of the actions implemented?

In addition to answering this question, the general objective of this article is to analyze the influence of public policies to combat femicide in Goiás, based on the effectiveness of the actions. Among the specific objectives, the following stand out: to identify the public policies implemented to confront femicide in Goiás; evaluate the

effectiveness of these public policies; propose suggestions for the improvement of public policies to combat femicide in Goiás.

To achieve these objectives, this research used a qualitative approach, based on a bibliographic and statistical survey. The bibliographic analysis had as main sources of research: academic articles, books and legislation on the subject. While the statistical data were obtained from public sources and in the public domain, such as: Brazilian Forum on Public Security; Maria da Penha Institute; Brazilian Yearbook of Public Security; Transparency Portal of the Government of Goiás.

In addition to this introduction, the text consists of three sections, which theoretically discuss the practice of femicide in Brazilian society, public policies to combat crimes against women and the effectiveness of these policies in Brazil; presentation of the results obtained, their analysis and discussions; and the final considerations.

LITERATURE REVIEW

This section provides a theoretical basis, based on the thinking of several authors, on the practice of femicide in Brazilian society, public policies to combat crimes against women, and the implementation of these policies in Brazil.

FEMICIDE: A QUESTION OF GENDER

The word "gender", when used in the Social Sciences, is based on an understanding of inequality between men and women, not only as a biological factor, but also as a social being that men represent for society. In this context, it seeks to understand gender as something relational, as it is through it that the social relationship between subjects permeates, generating the dichotomy between domination-exploitation (Azevedo and Oliveira, 2024). Therefore, Araújo and Wenceslau (2023) point out that the difference in treatment between the sexes and social roles can be changed over time, through new ways of thinking and acting.

Almeida and Borba (2022) describe that, in today's society, in relation to the role of gender, violence is part of one of the roles of masculinity. This type of violence is practiced against women, especially in the private sphere (intimate and/or domestic) or in the public sphere (as an example of individual or collective rape). Domestic and Family Violence against Women (VDFcM) is contextualized as a multicausal problem that generates moral,

physical, psychological, sexual or property damage to the victims, and afflicts about 29% of the Brazilian female population (Melo Costa and Dias Júnior, 2024).

The macho culture is present in all Brazilian social sectors, even with all the achievements that women have been obtaining through educational campaigns aimed at combating the practice of crimes against women and their redefinition in the social space (Araújo and Wenceslau, 2023; Azevedo and Oliveira, 2024). Until the mid-twentieth century, there was a social incentive for men to demonstrate their strength through the practice of aggressive acts against women (Gonçalves, 2022). In this historical context, the conception that the man was the owner of the body of his wife, lover or girlfriend prevailed. The jealousy provoked by the woman was the outcome for the practice of violent acts, being justified and legitimized as something natural to the exercise of masculinity and virility of the man.

In the 1990s, the Institute of Femicide carried out a feminist movement that gained prominence at the international level. Through the banner of struggle in the fight against domestic and family violence, the theme aroused attention in international conventions, opening space for the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women. However, it was only with the Beijing Convention, held in 1995, that the idea and concept of gender underwent changes in the theme of violence (Almeida, 2020). In this author's view, world data on homicides committed between couples indicated that 38% of the crimes that had the woman as a victim were carried out by a person of intimate contact, that is, husband, boyfriend, ex-partner. The Brazilian Forum on Public Security reported that at least 10,655 women were victims of femicide between 2015 and 2023 (Bueno et al, 2024).

Thus, living in a macho culture where men were always right, women were seen as responsible for taking care of the home and family. This sexist conception encouraged, and even naturalized, domestic violence, which was reflected over the years in Brazilian legislation (Gonçalves, 2022). Domestic violence is not only contextualized as physical aggression, but encompasses all aggressions that lead to the rupture of the woman's integrity, generating the occurrence of femicide.

BRAZILIAN LEGISLATION AS A RULE TO COMBAT FEMICIDE

The Federal Constitution, approved in 1988, brings in its context the recognition of several rights of support for women. Even with this equality of rights, violence against

women, as the most fragile gender, continues to mark Brazilian society. In this sense, the International Treaties ratified by the Brazilian State (American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, Convention of Belém do Pará, Pact of San José de Costa Rica and Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women) and article 226 of the Federal Constitution aim to create mechanisms to prevent and curb the practice of domestic and family violence against women (Araújo and Wenceslau, 2023).

However, it was only with the enactment of Law 11.340/2006, known as the Maria da Penha Law (LMP), that Brazilian women, victims of domestic violence, began to receive legal protection in a more expressive way in order to combat this type of crime (Siqueira and Oliveira, 2023). The name "Maria da Penha" is in honor of Maria da Penha Maia Fernandes who, for several years, fought for justice against her aggressor (Siqueira and Oliveira, 2023).

According to article 5, and its subparagraphs, of Law 11.340/2006, domestic and family violence against women is defined as any action or omission based on gender, which causes death, injury, moral or property damage, physical, sexual or psychological suffering. When referring to the domestic environment, this legislation is mentioning the space of permanent coexistence, in the family environment, in communion by affinity, consanguinity or any type of intimate relationship that has occurred between the victim and the aggressor (Brasil, 2006).

Article 7 of Law 11.340/2006 points out five forms of family and domestic violence against women, namely: physical, psychological, sexual, patrimonial or moral violence (Brasil, 2006). According to item I, of article 7, of Law 11.340/2006, physical violence is understood as any type of conduct that offends the integrity or bodily health of the woman. On the other hand, item II of the aforementioned article presents psychological violence as any conduct that causes emotional or psychological distress to self-esteem, manipulation, control of decisions, isolation from family, work, friends, persecution or any type of conduct that may cause damage to the psychological health of women. Item III of the aforementioned article emphasizes sexual violence as libidinous conduct or any sexual act without the consent of the victim, through threat, use of force or intimidation. Item IV, of article 7, of the aforementioned Law, points out as patrimonial violence the retention, subtraction or total or partial destruction of objects, documents, work instruments, value or economic resource. Finally, item V, of article 7, of the Maria da Penha Law, describes that

moral violence is that which hurts the victim's honor, dignity, character, image, imposing slander, injury or defamation (Brasil, 2006).

Thus, based on article 2 of Law 11,340/2006, all women enjoy the fundamental rights guaranteed to them, regardless of sexual orientation. Transvestites, transsexuals and transgender people are also protected by this legislation, because as a result of homophobia, a woman can also commit domestic violence (Azedo and Oliveira, 2024). Agreeing with this understanding, presenting the requirement of the special quality of being a woman, lesbian, transvestite, transsexual or transgender, all are protected by the Maria da Penha Law.

In this sense, the approval of Law 11.340/2006 represents an advance in the fight against the practice of femicide in Brazil. This law created ways to curb the practice of family and domestic violence against women and assumed an important role in the public sphere, by recognizing violence against women as a violation of human rights. Thus, feminism seeks to build a critique that links the exclusion of women in the public sphere and their submission in the domestic sphere (Almeida and Borba, 2022).

Arising from national and international pressures, the Maria da Penha Law is considered special in several ways, as it devotes special attention to domestic and family violence and combats the violation of women's rights, its article 8 addresses public policies to confront violence against women (Araújo and Wenceslau, 2023). These public policies must be articulated by the Union, States, Federal District and municipalities.

Brazilian legislation also highlights Law No. 13,104/2015, known as the Femicide Law, which amends Article 121 of the Penal Code, in order to provide for femicide as a crime of intentional homicide, including it in the list of heinous crimes. Intentional homicide is any crime resulting from family and domestic violence, due to the condition of sex, discrimination and contempt for the female condition (Sobral, 2024). This law was approved based on the Maria da Penha Law, in order to try to reduce the crime rate against women in Brazil. Its content qualifies femicide as a heinous crime in Brazil. Its context was based on the historical gender inequality, in which many men feel superior to women, whether they are their wife, partner or any other degree of coexistence (Tricote Jr., 2016).

It is possible to verify a concern regarding the application of Law No. 13,104/2015, as it is directed to the taxable person, who must be female. However, by typifying gender violence as "femicide", Law No. 13,104/2015 provides subsidies for the understanding that the occurrence of damage to the morality of other genders, such as transsexuals,

homosexuals, transvestites, lesbians, among others, must be treated in the case of a crime committed against women due to gender (Pereira and Pereira, 2017).

By creating Law No. 13,104/2015, the legislator makes explicit, the description of factors that qualify femicide, the need for the taxpayer to be female, avoiding any form of gap for another interpretation. As the main factors for qualifying the crime as femicide, Law No. 13,104/2015 highlights: psychological or physical aggression, sexual harassment or abuse, genital mutilation, torture, beatings or any other form of violence that causes the death of a woman (Pereira and Pereira, 2017).

It is important to note that Law 13.104/2015 presents three hypotheses in which the crime of femicide can have an increase of 1/3 (one third) to half, when it is committed: "I – during pregnancy or in the 3 (three) months after childbirth; II – against a person under 14 (fourteen) years of age, over 60 (sixty) years of age or with a disability; III – in the presence of a descendant or ascendant of the victim." If the agent is not aware of these factors, there is no way to add 1/3 (one third), even half of the penalty, having seen the absolute prohibition of the institute of absolute responsibility in the Criminal sphere (Tricote Jr., 2016).

In addition to legislation that aims to punish cases of death of women and crimes against women, it is necessary to apply public policies that offer psychological support, welcoming, support, listening, as well as factors involving security and legal aspects. The following content addresses the main public policies aimed at supporting women victims of domestic and family violence, as well as the rate of femicide in Brazilian society.

IMPLEMENTATION OF PUBLIC POLICIES TO REDUCE FEMICIDE IN BRAZIL

In addition to what the Maria da Penha Law proposes, which guarantees prevention, awareness, protection and assistance to women, it is necessary to include public policies aimed at combating violence against women. According to Saravia and Ferrarezi (2006, p. 28), public policies correspond to "a flow of public decisions, aimed at maintaining social balance or introducing imbalances aimed at modifying this reality." They are considered as strategies that point to different ends, which are sought by all who participate in the decision-making process.

Public policies to combat violence against women gained greater prominence from 2003 onwards, when they began to rely on broad social networks, with the creation of standards and service, support and incentives for the constitution of support networks, the

creation of educational projects to prevent violence, and broad access to justice (Gonçalves, 2022; Almeida, 2020).

According to Almeida (2020), the National Policy to Combat Violence against Women was structured from the National Plan for Women's Policies (PNPM). Gonçalves (2022) describes that this public policy was developed based on the First National Conference on Policies for Women, held in 2004 by the National Council for Women's Rights (CNDM) and the Secretariat for Women's Policies (SPM). The confrontation does not refer only to the issue of combat, but encompasses prevention, assistance and guarantee of women's rights. The structuring axes of this public policy are: prevention (it is directed to educational and cultural actions that interfere with sexist patterns); assistance (corresponds to the strengthening of the service network and training of public agents); confrontation and combat (covers punitive actions and compliance with the Maria da Penha Law); and access to guaranteed rights (requires compliance with national/international legislation and initiatives for women's empowerment). In this sense, the National Policy to Combat Violence against Women prioritizes prevention through educational and cultural actions that interfere in the deconstruction of sexist patterns, favoring assistance and strengthening the service network and training of public agents, aiming to confront and combat actions of violence against women. It also prioritizes the application of punitive actions and compliance with the Maria da Penha Law, guaranteeing human rights (Brasília-DF, 2011).

Regarding the National Policy for Women, Almeida (2020) describes that its principles aim at equality and respect for diversity, equity, secularity of the State, social justice, women's autonomy, universality of policies, transparency of public acts, and social participation and control with regard to women's participation. Its guidelines are aimed at ensuring compliance with international treaties, conventions and agreements signed and ratified by the Brazilian State, regarding the fight against violence against women. It also recognizes gender, ethnicity, and race violence as structural and historical violence that needs to be addressed as a matter of security, education, justice, public health, and social assistance. Another guideline is the fight against the various forms of appropriation and commercial exploitation of women's bodies and lives, in order to reduce trafficking in women and sexual exploitation. It seeks the implementation of public policies in an integral and intersectoral manner in the areas of health, education, communication, assistance, tourism, human rights, culture and justice. Finally, it seeks to train professionals to face violence against women and provide assistance in the Assistance Networks for Women

who are victims of violence in the States, Federal District and Municipalities (Almeida, 2020).

Therefore, it is up to the Government, in the three spheres, and civil society to offer support, support and protection services to women victims of domestic and family violence. Partnerships should be established between governmental and non-governmental agencies, in order to provide knowledge of the instruments and services available in the networks to combat violence against women. It is important to disseminate content related to equality, human rights, and gender perspectives (Araújo and Wenceslau, 2022; Brasília-DF, 2006).

According to Azevedo and Oliveira (2024), the State's preventive form is to curb crimes of any form of violence against women, through programs, actions, police patrols or any other means that protect women's integrity. Thus, it is possible to enable the common good, the life and health of women, providing adequate support for each of their interventions.

The Network for Assistance to Women in Situations of Violence covers the following services: Specialized Police Stations for Assistance to Women (DEAMs); Reference Centers for Women's Care; Women's Service Centers; Temporary Shelters; shelters; Forensic Medical Institute; Women's Defenders' Offices; Women's Service Centers or Stations in the Common Police Stations; Civil Police and Military Police; Domestic and Family Violence Courts; Women's Service Center – Call 180; Women's Ombudsman of the Secretariat of Policies for Women; Health Services focused on the care of cases of sexual and domestic violence, Humanized Service Station at Airports and Women's Center of Casa do Migrante (Almeida, 2020; Aguiar, D'Oliveira, Scharaiber, 2020; Gonçalves, 2022).

Moraes and Ribeiro (2012) point out that, since their creation in 1985, the Special Police Stations for Assistance to Women represent a Brazilian institutional innovation in the fight against crimes against women, generating repercussions in other Latin American countries. The services provided by the DEAMs are personalized and have reduced the fear that women victims of domestic and marital violence had to go to the police to register the practice of such crimes.

According to the Department of Public Security, the State of Goiás has created several services aimed at combating femicide, the main one being the Goiás Pact for the End of Violence against Women. Several actions were developed to end violence against women in the State of Goiás. In collaboration with the Department of Public Security, within

the Goiás Mais Seguro application, the Maria da Penha Alert tool was created and made available, in order to facilitate the activation of the military police to help women who are in situations of violence. Also, with the support of the government of Goiás, she created the advertising company "Todos por Elas", which aims to combat femicide and violence against women. To train teachers from the state education system on the Maria da Penha Law, the Maria da Penha at School program was created. Another relevant contribution is the creation of a lilac room, in the SSP's Superintendence of Technical-Scientific Policy, to offer body and crime examinations to women victims of violence (Gonçalves, 2022).

However, even with the effort and support of public policies by the Federal Government and the State of Goiás, the practice of femicide and criminality against women is a variable that needs to be fought throughout the Brazilian federation. The following content brings a quantitative study addressing the practice of violence against women and femicide in the State of Goiás.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This article consisted of an applied, qualitative, descriptive, documentary and bibliographic research that brings a study from the perspective of the effectiveness of public policies in the fight against femicide in Goiás. To prepare this article, a bibliographic and descriptive research was used, with a qualitative approach, based on the view of several authors on public policies and the fight against domestic and family violence against women in Brazilian society.

Through the collection of public data available in virtual environments of the legislation in force and public agencies, addressing the rate of femicide, which occurred in the last five years in Goiás, to see the influence of the public policies adopted, they contribute to the reduction of domestic and family violence against women. In general, qualitative research uses statistical and quantifiable data to interpret phenomena and answer questions about the researched topic (Oliveira, 2018). Therefore, this research is qualitative because it analyzes statistical data available in virtual environments to analyze the practice of femicide and domestic and family violence, involving women in gender issues.

As for the objectives presented, it is a descriptive research that, according to Oliveira (2018), is carried out through the use of secondary data, referring to the selected theme, to carry out a more in-depth research. Thus, this research seeks an analysis of the practice of

femicide in Brazilian society, highlighting the Brazilian legislation in the fight against femicide and the importance of public policies to reduce the type of crime.

As for nature, it is an applied research, whose purpose is to produce knowledge that can be put into practice and its objectives must be previously defined (Maria, 2022). In this context, the purpose of this research is to generate knowledge for the application of public policies in the fight against femicide in Goiás.

With regard to procedures, first, searches were carried out regarding the Maria da Penha Law, then public policies and finally femicide. The channels used to collect materials were: Google Scholar, Scielo and surveys especially in the Brazilian Forum on Public Security; Maria da Penha Institute; Brazilian Yearbook of Public Security; Transparency Portal of the Government of Goiás. The keywords used to collect materials were: Maria da Penha Law, Implementation, Public Policies, Processes, Femicide Law, Femicide, Violence against Women. The data search for this research was carried out in October 2024, obtaining a total of 41 articles on the subject; with the delimitation of the period of the last five years of the application of the Maria da Penha Law, public policies and femicide in Goiás, it was possible to select 16 articles for the development of this research, 04 were discarded for not contributing to the research, in addition to the agencies addressed that present statistical data on the theme in focus.

Following Resolution No. 510, of December 7, 2016, issued by the National Health Council/Ministry of Health (Brasil, 2016), it is informed that the present study does not need to be submitted to the research ethics committee, as it uses publicly accessible information and does not work with primary data from human beings. The following content presents the results obtained through the data collected for this research.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The following content shows, in quantitative terms, an analysis of the practice of femicide in Brazil and, in particular, in the State of Goiás, in the last five years. It also highlights the application of public policies to reduce domestic and family violence against women in Goiás and femicide. Statistical data were collected in virtual environments, especially from the Brazilian Forum on Public Security, the National Public Security Information System (SINESP) and the State Secretariat of Public Security of the State of Goiás (SSP-GO).

Before the approval of the Maria da Penha Law, sanctioned in 2006, the death of women from domestic and family violence was not treated differently from other crimes (Siqueira and Oliveria, 2023). With the approval of the Maria da Penha Law, femicide is now accounted for with a history of violence that needs to be reduced. The Femicide Law was sanctioned in March 2015, but only from January 2016 onwards, it is possible to obtain available data that show statistics regarding cases of femicide in Brazilian society. Until the approval of this law, Table 1 shows, in absolute numbers, the increase in the practice of femicide in Brazil, from 2015 to 2023.

Table 1: Victims of femicide in Brazil, from 2015 to 2023.

YEAR	VICTIMS OF FEMICIDE (ABSOLUTE NUMBERS)
2015	449
2016	892
2017	1.151
2018	1.229
2019	1.330
2020	1.354
2021	1.347
2022	1.440
2023	1.463
TOTAL	10.655

Source: Prepared by the author, based on data available at the Brazilian Forum on Public Security (FBSP, 2024).

According to Table 1, it is possible to verify that, even after the approval of Law 13.104/2015, the rate of femicide in Brazil continues to increase in Brazilian society. The data presented were collected through police reports by the civil police of the Federal District and all Brazilian states (FBSP, 2024). Comparing the last five years, it is possible to identify that 2023 is the year with the highest record of femicide, which indicates that 1,463 women were victims of femicide in Brazil, that is, for every group of 100 thousand Brazilian women, there is a rate of 1.4 women killed. Comparing the year 2023 to the year 2022,

there is an increase of 1.6% in the crime of femicide in Brazil and the highest number of cases ever recorded after the approval of the Femicide Law. Thus, it is not necessary to go back to the past, as the data presented show that domestic and family violence against women, based on gender, continues to prevail in Brazilian society.

Table 2 shows the absolute numbers of femicide that occurred in the five Brazilian regions in the last five years.

Table 2: Absolute number of femicides in Brazilian regions in the last five years.

Region	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
North	100	137	149	133	137	656
Northeast	396	409	403	392	399	1.999
Midwest	142	164	155	162	166	789
Southeast	448	434	414	510	538	2.344
South	244	210	226	243	223	1.146
TOTAL	1.330	1.354	1.347	1.440	1.463	6.934

Source: Prepared by the author, based on data available at the Brazilian Forum on Public Security (FBSP, 2024).

According to Table 2, it is possible to identify, in absolute numbers, the increase in the practice of femicide in Brazil in the last five years (2019 to 2023). The Southeast region points to the highest absolute number of this type of crime, that is, 2,344 women were victims of some type of crime resulting from domestic and family violence due to gender; followed by the Northeast region, with 1,999 occurrences; the South region, with a total of 1,146 occurrences; the Midwest region, with 789 registered cases of femicides; and the North region, with 656 records of femicide. Even with the approval of Law 13.104/2015, femicide continues to mark the lives of thousands of Brazilian families; not all governors have given the necessary attention to apply public policies aimed at protecting women who are victims of domestic and family violence due to gender, culture, and ethnicity (FBSP, 2024).

Table 3 highlights the occurrence of gender-based violence in the Federation Units in the last five years.

Table 3: Femicides: Brazil and Federation Units – 2019-2023.

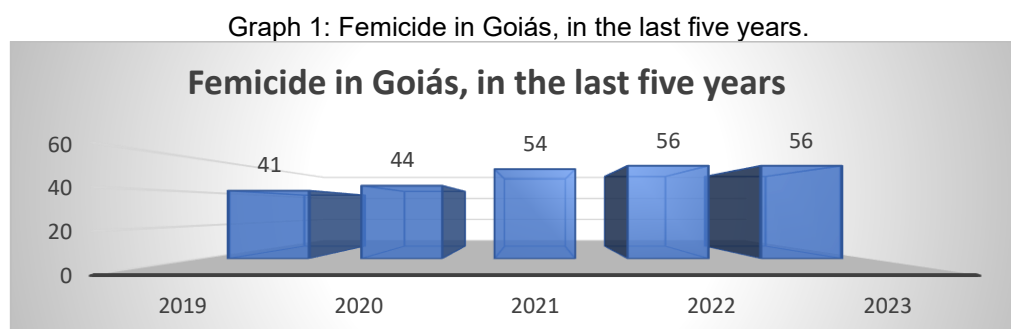
Brazil and Federation Units	FEMICIDES (ABSOLUTE NUMBERS)					TOTAL (LAST FIVE YEARS)
	20191	20201	20211	20221	20232	
Brazil	1.330	1.354	1.347	1.440	1.463	6.934
Acre	11	12	12	9	10	54
Alagoas	44	35	25	31	19	154
Amapá	7	9	4	8	4	32
Amazonas	12	16	23	21	23	95

Bahia	101	113	93	107	108	522
Ceará	34	27	31	28	42	162
Distrito Federal	32	17	25	19	24	117
Espírito Santo	35	26	38	33	35	167
Goiás	41	44	54	56	56	251
Maranhão	51	65	58	69	47	290
Mato Grosso	39	62	43	47	46	237
Mato Grosso do Sul	30	41	33	40	30	174
Minas Gerais	144	151	155	171	183	804
Pará	47	67	67	54	54	289
Paraíba	38	36	32	26	34	166
Paraná	89	73	75	77	81	395
Pernambuco	57	75	87	72	81	372
Piauí	29	31	37	24	28	149
Rio de Janeiro	85	78	85	111	99	458
Rio Grande do Norte	21	13	20	16	24	94
Rio Grande do Sul	97	80	96	110	87	470
Rondônia	7	14	16	24	19	80
Roraima	6	9	5	3	6	29
Santa Catarina	58	57	55	56	55	281
São Paulo	184	179	136	195	221	915
Sergipe	21	14	20	19	16	90
Tocantins	10	10	22	14	18	74

Source: Prepared by the author, based on (1) SINESP – Ministry of Justice and Public Security; (2) Brazilian Forum on Public Security (FBSP, 2024).

Considering the variation by federation unit, according to Table 2, there is a differentiation of this index when compared to the national scenario. In the highest number of registered occurrences of femicide, in the last five years, is the State of São Paulo (with 915 records of femicide); followed by Minas Gerais (804 occurrences recorded); Bahia (with 522 occurrences of femicide); Rio Grande do Sul (with 470 occurrences); Rio de Janeiro (with 458 occurrences); Paraná (with 395 occurrences); Pernambuco (with 372 occurrences); Maranhão (with 290 occurrences); Santa Catarina (with 281 occurrences); Goiás (with 251 occurrences); the other states of the federation had records of less than 251 femicides in the last five years. It is important to highlight that in the federative units that had a lower number of registrations, it is not necessarily due to greater security for women in these states, but to a large extent from how these occurrences are recorded (FSPB, 2024). The fight to combat violence against women, in terms of gender, continues to exist, which makes it necessary to sanction public policies to protect women from aggressors, with whom they maintain an intimate relationship of affection. These public policies must take into account that violence against women is an issue of gender inequality, in a society still marked by machismo, which considers men superior to women (Almeida and Borba, 2022).

Through data available on the website of the Ministries of Justice and Public Security System (Sinesp, 2023) and the Brazilian Forum on Public Security (FSPB, 2024), it was possible to verify that the occurrences of domestic and family violence due to gender, ethnicity and culture, in the State of Goiás, have not changed in the last two years, when compared to the other states of the federation, as shown in Graph 1.



Source: Prepared by the author, based on data available at SINESP – MJSP; Brazilian Forum on Public Security (FBSP, 2024).

As shown in Graph 1, analyzing the State of Goiás, which addresses this study, it is verified that the records of femicide have not undergone major changes in the last five years, which represents the importance of the application of public policies to combat domestic and family violence due to gender, ethnicity and culture, by the government and other agencies responsible for reducing the crime of femicide in Goiás. According to the Goiás State Department of Public Security (SSP-GO), the Military Police of Goiás has the support of the Maria da Penha Battalion (BMP), a unit created in 2015 after the approval of the Maria da Penha Law, which is currently in charge of the ostensible policing service of public security, providing differentiated care to women victims of domestic and family violence. Outstanding services provided by the BMP are: specialized care for the victim and their families; preventive actions, such as solidarity and community visits (SSP-GO, 2024).

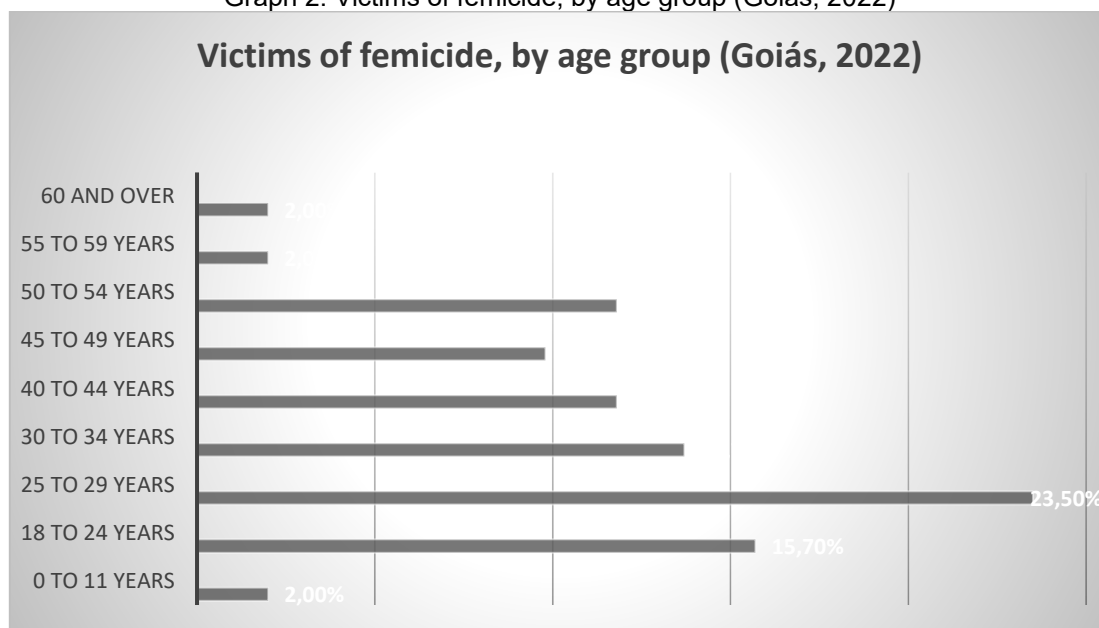
According to Table 2, in the Midwest region, composed of the states of Goiás, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul and the Federal District, the occurrence of crimes resulting from domestic and family violence due to gender is frightening. Even with the approval of the Maria da Penha Law and Law 13.104/2015, it is verified that many women continue to be victims of this type of crime. It is essential for the agencies to defend women to act and the action, in order to comply with all the structuring axes of this public policy are: prevention; assistance; confrontation and combat; and access to guaranteed rights, as presented in the National Policy to Combat Violence against Women (Almeida, 2022).

Through data available on the SINESP (2024) and FBSP (2024) websites, it was possible to verify that the occurrences of domestic and family violence due to gender, it was possible to draw a comparison between the three states and the Federal District, which form the Midwest region, as shown in Graph 2.

Comparing the federative units and the Federal District, which are part of the Midwest region, it is possible to verify that the State of Goiás has the highest number of records of femicide in the last five years. In order to reduce this type of crime, the State of Goiás created the State Police Station for Specialized Assistance to Women (DEAEM), expanded the operations of the two Specialized Police Stations for Assistance to Women (DEAM) in Goiânia, in addition to having the support of the Maria da Penha Battalion. Throughout the State of Goiás there are 26 Deams that aim to strengthen the network to combat violence against women (SSP-GO, 2024). It draws attention to an investigative analysis of the support services for women victims of domestic and family violence due to gender, as well as the formation of partnerships between governmental and non-governmental agencies, in order to facilitate the activation of the services provided by these agencies to help women who are in situations of violence.

To be characterized as femicide, Article 5 of Law 11.340,2006 points out the following requirements: family and domestic violence against women; violence must come from an action or omission based on gender; and be due to the domestic, family or any intimate relationship of affection. Thus, the active subject of the criminal type can be either a woman or a man, as long as these three requirements are characterized (ALMEIDA, 2020). The victims of femicide in Goiás are, for the most part (23.5%), women in the age group of 25 to 29 years, as shown in Graph 2.

Graph 2: Victims of femicide, by age group (Goiás, 2022)

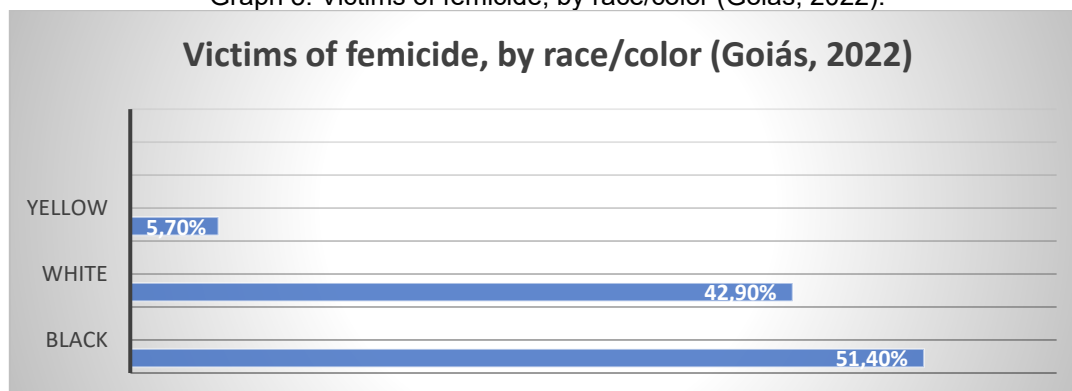


Source: Prepared by the author, based on data available at the Forum on Security Against Women (2024).

The data presented in Graph 2 draw attention to the age group of 25 to 29 years, which has the highest rate of femicide in Goiás. The second group that suffers the most violence is 18 to 24, that is, 15.70% of all records. But an alarming fact is that children, from zero to eleven years old, are also victims of femicide in Goiás. Therefore, it is necessary to seriously face all the structuring axes of the National Policy to Combat Violence against Women, especially prevention.

Taking into account the race/color factor, most of the victims of femicide in Goiás were black women, as shown in Graph 4.

Graph 3: Victims of femicide, by race/color (Goiás, 2022).



Source: Prepared by the author, based on data available at the Forum on Security Against Women (2024).

The results addressed show the need to create more effective public policies in the fight, prevention and repression of the crime of femicide in Goiás. The increase in the number of violence against women is due to the difficulty of access to judicial bodies that provide support services to women victims of femicide in Goiás. Even with 26 units of State Police Stations for Specialized Assistance to Women, there is a need to continue investing in public policies aimed at complying with the Maria da Penha Law and the Femicide Law in Goiás.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

The content addressed in this article analyzed the influence of public policies to combat femicide in Goiás, based on bibliographic and statistical data, aiming to understand the effectiveness of these policies and identify possible gaps. The statistical data presented show that domestic and family violence, as a result of gender, continues to mark Brazilian society. Many women are killed in their homes where they live with the aggressor.

The objectives were achieved, as the content addressed in this research analyzed the influence of public policies to combat femicide in Goiás, based on the effectiveness of the actions. It also identified the public policies implemented to confront femicide in Goiás, taking into account the statistical data presented in official documents in the last five years.

The contributions of this research favor the understanding of the gender issue as a main factor in the registration of femicide occurrences and the legal support available to all women victims of domestic and family violence. Many women who are victims of this type of violence feel inferior to their partners, and they take advantage of the feeling of inferiority to attack them and even take their lives. Thus, it is of great importance for women's defense agencies to record any type of violence suffered, in order to intimidate the aggressor and prevent the realization of femicide.

The limitations of this research refer to the lack of knowledge by a large part of the female population regarding the legal protection granted to all women victims of femicide, which contributes to the occurrence of this type of crime in Brazilian society. The application of the Maria da Penha Law and the Femicide Law brings expectations of changes in attitudes in gender relations, however, it is important to support victims and their families so that they overcome the traumas and sequelae arising from this type of violence. Public policies are effective to reduce femicide, both in Brazil and in Goiás, as long as government

agencies and private entities for the protection and support of women, work together providing services in all units of the federation.

Violence against women in the family and domestic spheres is contextualized as a public problem, which requires State intervention in civil society in order to protect women. The government of Goiás has been fighting to reduce the rate of femicide, but many women continue to be raped because of their gender. As suggestions for the improvement of public policies to combat femicide in Goiás, it is important to form partnerships between government and private agencies for the protection and support of women victims of domestic and family violence, in order to facilitate the activation of the services provided by these agencies.

As it is a complex subject, it is presented as suggestions for actions to combat femicide in Brazil, the realization of future research addressing the effectiveness of the application of public policies aimed at the protection of women victims of family and domestic violence. In this sense, it is essential to develop future research addressing the services provided by women's defense agencies and the protection that Brazilian legislation offers to all women. In addition, to compare statistical data regarding femicide in Goiás in the last five years and to identify possible gaps in the fight against the crime of femicide, which was not possible to develop in this study due to time.

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