

***Child and adolescent sexual abuse:
the case of Campos dos Goytacazes-RJ-BRASIL***

Derli Barbosa Rodrigues¹
Elzira Lúcia de Oliveira²

INTRODUCTION

In Brazil, the exclusion of children and adolescents³, as well as of their families, from mainstream society is, in most cases, an output of the existing social inequality. Social problems resulted from this reality are serious: malnutrition, violence, poverty, land occupation, drug trafficking, prostitution. Many of these problems are directly connected to children and adolescents and are the cause of school exclusion, infantile mortality, child labor, sexual exploitation.

The problem of sexual violence against children and adolescents is all society's responsibility and implies that, not only public policy, but also the relation between family and society must be discussed.

This paper analyzes some data from "Programa Sentinela" which is a social program managed by the Municipal Foundation of the Infancy and Youth from the city of Campos of the Goytacazes - RJ/Brasil. Its objective is to study the social-demographic profiles of sexual abuse victims, between zero and eighteen years old, that spontaneously seek help from "Programa Sentinela" or yet are referred by other existing institutions in the city.

Multifaceted child and adolescent abuse

In specialized literature, some authors like Habigzang & Caminha (2004), and Azevedo and Guerra (2001), have similar points of view on the violence phenomenon. These authors highlight four basic child abuse categories. Habigzang & Caminha define violence as mistreatment divided in: physical abuse, emotional abuse, recklessness and sexual abuse. Azevedo and Guerra recognize and focus the violence in the familiar scope. For these authors, the domestic violence can be characterized by physical violence, psychological violence, recklessness and sexual violence.

Sexual abuse is considered a form of violence that can be defined as

Every sexual act or game, hetero or homosexual relation, whose aggressor's psychosexual development is more advanced than the child or adolescent. Its purpose is to sexually stimulate him/her or to use him/her to get sexual stimulation. These erotic and sexual practices are imposed to the children or to the adolescents with physical violence, threat or induction of their will. It can vary in acts that do not demand physical contact, but involve the body. (HABIGZANG and WALKS, 2004, p. 25).

Moreover, it is understood that there can be sexual abuse by physical contact, involving physical/genital acts, including sexual relations with vaginal penetration, attempt of sexual relations, caresses in the genital organs, masturbation, verbal sex and anal penetration.

There are also several other types of sexual violence perpetrated against children and adolescents different from carnal contact as, for example, obscene and opened conversation

¹ Master degree at Candido Mendes University- UCAM- Campos dos Goytacazes – RJ-Brasil and Social assistant at Municipal Foundation of the Infancy and Youth from the city of Campos of the Goytacazes - RJ/Brasil.

² Professor at Candido Mendes University- UCAM- Campos dos Goytacazes – RJ-Brasil

³ Regarding as children individuals under the age of 12 and as adolescents the ones between 12 and 18 years old, according to "artigo 2º do Estatuto da Criança e do Adolescente – ECA".

about sexual activities, exhibitionism and voyeurism. All of that is also considered violent acts, once they engage children in sexual games.

Infancy mistreatments are expressed in many different ways, having no limits whatsoever, there having been an interdependence among the categories. According to Habigzang & Caminha (2004), the abuse often occurs from primary recklessness, incurring into emotional abuse or other categories, which, in turn, can occur simultaneously (comorbidity). Interaction among categories are not only possible, but also probable. Moreover, children and adolescents submitted to sexual abuse can also be victims of negligence, emotional and physical abuse.

This process might be detected from the narratives of the victims, when they are threatened or suffer physical aggressions during the sexual abuse, as well as in the citation of contemptuous words used by the aggressor. The lack of care and attention from the part of relatives or parents also corroborates for the existence of child and adolescent abuse.

METHODOLOGY

This data was collected from 369 inquiries filled in the Reference Center for Child and Adolescent Victims of Violence – *Centro de Referência da Criança e Adolescente Vítimas de Violência* – specifically for “Programa Sentinela” in Campos dos Goytacazes, in the state of Rio de Janeiro, between July, 2002 and December, 2006, by means of psychosocial interviews. Several case studies used in the analysis of the results had been also extracted from these inquiries.

In order to identify the socio-demographic profile, a descriptive analysis of variables of interest by means of simple and cross frequencies was carried through. As to identify the treatment duration pattern, considering the ones that were released as much as the runaways, the adopted methodology was survival risk assessment, specifically, descriptive analysis by means of free model distribution (Kaplan Meier) to esteem survival functions for each one of the situations according to sex.

RESULTS

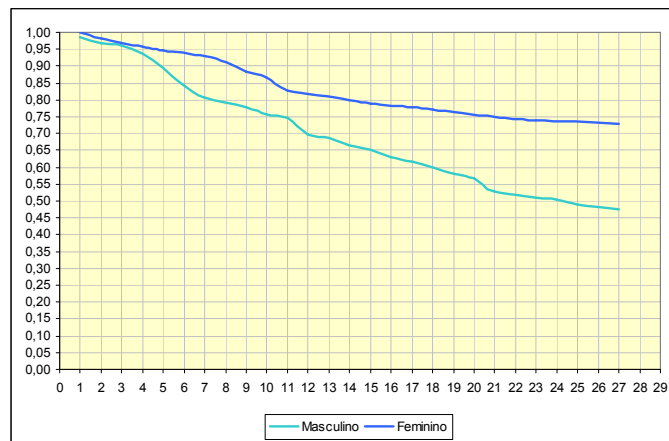
The city of Campos dos Goytacazes occupies an area of 4.032 Km² and is strategically located in the north of the state of Rio de Janeiro, especially related to three important economic, cultural and political Brazilian centers, which are: Rio De Janeiro (274 km), Belo Horizonte (670 km) and Vitória (230 km). With a population of 407.168 inhabitants, according to the census of 2000, it is the seventh most densely populated city in the state and the first out of Rio’s metropolitan area.

In every year of the research, sexual abuse surpassed the total sum of cases of other forms of violence, which justifies the concern of this work. The fact that boys lead the statistics within the group of sexually abused children and adolescents deserves attention. Although sexual violence occurs at any age, one perceives that, despite the relationship between victim and abuser, the predominance of this crime is among 10 and 14 year-old boys or girls. The results show the significant existence of the intrafamilial violence, being the father, mother, other relatives or the stepfather the main aggressors. It is clear that boys, in spite of the age, are set free or run away from the psychosocial treatment before the girls. This evasion causes concerns, according to the “Programa Sentinela” professionals, once the interruption in the treatment might, among other consequences, transform the victim into a future aggressor. (see table 1, figure 1 and table 2).

TABLE 1
CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS ACCORDING TO AGE, BY VIOLENCE TYPE AND TREATMENT BEGINNING YEAR
CAMPOS DOS GOYTACAZES (2002-2006)

Type of Violence	Absolute Values			Relative Values			
	SEX		Total	SEX		Total	
	Year	Male		Female	Male		Female
Sexual Abuse	2002	38	14	52	15,3	5,6	20,9
	2003	33	21	54	13,3	8,4	21,7
	2004	12	17	29	4,8	6,8	11,6
	2005	28	28	56	11,2	11,2	22,5
	2006	18	39	57	7,2	15,7	22,9
	9999	0	1	1	0,0	0,4	0,4
	Total	129	120	249	51,8	48,2	100,0
Physical violence, psychological and negligence	2002	19	24	43	16,7	21,1	37,7
	2003	11	6	17	9,6	5,3	14,9
	2004	10	5	15	8,8	4,4	13,2
	2005	4	7	11	3,5	6,1	9,6
	2006	9	18	27	7,9	15,8	23,7
	9999	1	0	1	0,9	0,0	0,9
	Total	54	60	114	47,4	52,6	100,0
Ignored	2003	0	2	2	0,0	33,3	33,3
	2004	1	2	3	16,7	33,3	50,0
	2005	1	0	1	16,7	0,0	16,7
	Total	2	4	6	33,3	66,7	100,0

Source: "Centro de Referência da Criança e Adolescente Vítimas de Violência (Programa Sentinela 2002/2006)" data.



Note: Statistics test Log Rank (Mantel-Cox): 12,654 significance: 0,000

FIG1: RELEASED VICTIMS TREATMENT SURVIVAL CURVE

SOURCE: "CENTRO DE REFERÊNCIA DA CRIANÇA E ADOLESCENTE VÍTIMAS DE VIOLÊNCIA (PROGRAMA SENTINELA 2002/2006)" DATA.

TABELA 2
CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS ACCORDING TO AGE GROUP, BY SEX, AND RELATIONSHIP
CAMPOS DOS GOYTACAZES (2002-2006)

Relationship	Age groups / quinquennium (Absolute)					Total	Age groups / quinquennium (Relative) (%)					Total	
	0 a 4	5 a 9	10 a 14	15 a 19	Ignorado		0 a 4	5 a 9	10 a 14	15 a 19	Ignorado		
Male	Father	6	10	9	4	0	29	3,2	5,4	4,9	2,2	0,0	15,7
	Mother	6	8	4	4	1	23	3,2	4,3	2,2	2,2	0,5	12,4
	Stepfather	1	8	17	7	0	33	0,5	4,3	9,2	3,8	0,0	17,8
	Relative	6	8	11	5	1	31	3,2	4,3	5,9	2,7	0,5	16,8
	Neighbor	1	13	7	2	0	23	0,5	7,0	3,8	1,1	0,0	12,4
	Acquaintance	0	3	4	3	0	10	0,0	1,6	2,2	1,6	0,0	5,4
	Love partner	0	0	1	3	0	4	0,0	0,0	0,5	1,6	0,0	2,2
	Other	1	7	4	4	1	17	0,5	3,8	2,2	2,2	0,5	9,2
	Ignored	1	4	5	4	1	15	0,5	2,2	2,7	2,2	0,5	8,1
	Total	22	61	62	36	4	185	11,9	33,0	33,5	19,5	2,2	100,0
Female	Father	4	16	23	9	1	53	2,2	8,7	12,5	4,9	0,5	28,8
	Mother	6	5	11	1	0	23	3,3	2,7	6,0	0,5	0,0	12,5
	Stepfather	1	12	8	4	0	25	0,5	6,5	4,3	2,2	0,0	13,6
	Relative	4	4	11	2	1	22	2,2	2,2	6,0	1,1	0,5	12,0
	Neighbor	0	7	8	1	1	17	0,0	3,8	4,3	0,5	0,5	9,2
	Acquaintance	0	1	5	2	0	8	0,0	0,5	2,7	1,1	0,0	4,3
	Love partner	0	0	4	0	0	4	0,0	0,0	2,2	0,0	0,0	2,2
	Other	2	4	9	5	0	20	1,1	2,2	4,9	2,7	0,0	10,9
	Ignored	2	2	5	2	1	12	1,1	1,1	2,7	1,1	0,5	6,5
	Total	19	51	84	26	4	184	10,3	27,7	45,7	14,1	2,2	100,0
Both genders	41	112	146	62	8	369	11,1	30,4	39,6	16,8	2,2	100,0	

SOURCE: "CENTRO DE REFERÊNCIA DA CRIANÇA E ADOLESCENTE VÍTIMAS DE VIOLÊNCIA (PROGRAMA SENTINELA 2002/2006)" DATA.

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