

Methodological challenges in research involving adolescents and youth from marginalized urban communities: insights from a multisite study in five Brazilian capitals

Daniela Riva Knauth <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8641-0240>¹; Simone Monteiro <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2009-1790>²; Vanessa do Nascimento Fonseca <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4423-3298>³; André Luiz Machado das Neves <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7400-7596>⁴; Laio Magno <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3752-0782>⁵; Andréa Fachel Leal <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1947-9579>⁶; Regina Maria Barbosa <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3390-2137>⁷

Abstract *This article aims to discuss the methodological challenges and strategies involved in conducting research with adolescents and young people living in marginalized communities in large urban centers. The experiences and data presented are drawn from a study conducted in peripheral communities of five Brazilian capital cities: Porto Alegre, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Salvador, and Manaus. The research employed a qualitative approach. Data were generated through observations in the social spaces frequented by adolescents and young people in each community, semi-structured interviews, and focus groups. The main methodological challenges encountered included: determining the appropriate age range for participants; ethically including individuals under the age of 18; identifying and reaching adolescents and youth; engaging local mediators to access participants; and ensuring data quality. The methodological challenges identified in this study provide valuable insights into the lived realities of young people in marginalized communities in major Brazilian cities. Beyond presenting research strategies, we argue that both the difficulties encountered and the successful strategies adopted offer a deeper understanding of today's youth.*

Key words Qualitative methodology, Youth, Sexuality, Adolescent

¹ Faculdade de Medicina, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul. R. Ramiro Barcelos 2400, Santa Cecília. 90610-264 Porto Alegre RS Brasil. daniela.knauth@ufrgs.br

² Instituto Oswaldo Cruz, Fundação Oswaldo Cruz. Rio de Janeiro RJ Brasil.

³ Universidade Federal Fluminense. Volta Redonda RJ Brasil.

⁴ Escola Superior de Ciências da Saúde, Universidade do Estado do Amazonas. Manaus AM Brasil.

⁵ Instituto Gonçalo Moniz, Fundação Oswaldo Cruz. Salvador BA Brasil

⁶ Departamento de Sociologia, Instituto de Filosofia e Ciências Humanas, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul. Porto Alegre RS Brasil.

⁷ Núcleo de Estudos de População, Universidade Estadual de Campinas. Campinas SP Brasil.

Introduction

Adolescents and young adults are commonly seen as disruptive. They often question established norms, break with traditional customs and practices, and bring new ideas and movements. Researching this segment of the population involves keeping pace with this movement, rethinking traditional research methods, and seeking strategies that are more appropriate to the target audience, context, and timeframe of the study. Some researchers have invested in this rethinking of research for young audiences, bringing to the table methodologies that can capture the practices and conceptions of young people and adolescents about their daily lives¹⁻³. In this article, we want to join these initiatives, understanding that methodological choices are also theoretical, and what works or does not in terms of research also reveals the object being researched.

The experiences and data underlying this article originated during fieldwork for the research “Contexts of HIV vulnerability among low-income youth: a multicenter study in five Brazilian cities”. This study aimed to understand the contexts of exposure to HIV and other STIs among adolescents and young people at the community level and identify regional diversity within this segment. It was conducted in suburban communities of Porto Alegre, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Salvador, and Manaus.

Fieldwork was conducted during the pre-emergence of COVID-19 (2019), the pre-vaccination pandemic period (2020), and the vaccination phase of the majority of the population (2021), which imposed significant limitations on data collection activities. The varying contexts of the epidemic in the cities where the project was being developed influenced the timing of field research. They required adopting several methodological strategies to address the challenges. Notably, although COVID-19 prevention regulations directly impact the research objective – observing HIV vulnerability in youth social settings – except for school attendance, the pandemic in the communities studied appears not to have prevented young people from meeting in their usual settings. Thus, the setbacks are instead closely related to researchers’ access to young people, taking appropriate precautions to prevent COVID-19 transmission.

The research adopted a qualitative approach. Data were produced through observations of adolescents and young people’s social gath-

ering spaces in each of the five communities, combined with semi-structured interviews and focus groups. In total, 137 interviews were conducted with women and men aged 15-24, 11 focus groups with young people from the communities, and a set of observation reports was conducted in youth social spaces in the communities studied, such as squares, bars, party venues, sports facilities, and others.

Adolescents and young people were identified and invited to participate in interviews and focus groups through contacts with local leaders, health service professionals, and members of social organizations, as well as through engaging with people in community social spaces. Interviews and focus groups were conducted in locations agreed upon with participants – such as social organizations or local health services, homes, squares, and commercial establishments – and were recorded after consent. Most interviews and focus groups were conducted in person. However, some interviews and focus groups were conducted virtually, via WhatsApp calls or Google Meet meetings.

The pandemic delayed the onset of fieldwork and posed challenges, such as the use of safety equipment (masks and hand sanitizer), the privilege of open spaces for interviews, and the use of digital communication tools. Thus, the strategies adopted and the data produced in the study significantly contribute to methodological reflection in the Social Sciences and Humanities, particularly regarding studies with young people.

Given this context, this article aims to discuss the challenges and methodological strategies that can be adopted in qualitative research with young people and adolescents living in suburban communities of large cities. The proposed reflection provides insights into research with youth segments, also considering the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The pandemic context posed challenges for conducting field research in traditional ways. It also required developing methodological strategies that can be adapted to research with this population segment, such as the use of local mediators, contact with young people via social media (mainly WhatsApp), and more targeted interviews, as well as discussion groups. Notably, the pandemic produced changes in social relations and forms of communication, education, and work that persist even after the end of the emergency period, as evidenced by the spread of teleworking, virtual meetings, distance learning, and livestreams.

Methodological challenges

Below are the main research methodological challenges, as well as the strategies adopted to overcome these challenges.

Who should we study?

Research on youth involves, first of all, addressing the terms and age groups to be considered. Terms such as youth, young people, adolescents, and adolescence refer not only to a stage of life but also, particularly in Health, to an age group⁴. Thus, studies on this topic first define which age group to consider. Most studies adopt the World Health Organization (WHO) definition, which states young people are those aged 15-24 and adolescents are those aged 10-19. In Brazil, we also have the Child and Adolescent Statute (ECA), which classifies individuals aged 12-18 as adolescents.

The age range chosen for the study, in turn, determines the preferred location for accessing the defined population, as well as the type of data we will access. Studies with adolescents generally recruit participants through schools, as a large proportion of them are still enrolled in educational institutions². On the other hand, the young population is more difficult to reach because it is dispersed, showing significant social class differences depending on their occupied space, be it the job market, universities, and social settings.

Researching adolescents and young people thus implies definitions that consider the age issue, which, in turn, refers to different spaces and social positions. As Sposito et al. (2018)⁵ highlight, although the dechronologized and deinstitutionalized society are considered characteristics of contemporary times, age remains an important marker of difference in the position held in the social structure, particularly in the younger segments of the population^{6,7}.

A primary challenge in the youth study is which age group to consider. Choosing the age group involved two dimensions. The first is that, because the fieldwork was initially conducted in São Paulo and Porto Alegre, we identified that, among working-class groups, young people aged 18-24 are already essentially in more “stable” emotional and sexual relationships. Therefore, the study’s overarching objective of identifying social spaces and practices at most significant risk for HIV/STIs would not have been achieved if we had limited the participants to this age group. Therefore, we needed to in-

clude young people aged 15-17 in the study, who, based on our empirical experience, are already in situations of greater social and economic vulnerability and greater exposure to HIV/STIs. Thus, another ethical question arose: how could a publicly funded study, whose objective was precisely to guide health policies, be conducted without including the population that genuinely needed to be understood in order to propose educational interventions appropriate to the sociocultural reality of this segment of the population? Furthermore, in the preliminary fieldwork, the adolescents themselves expressed more interest in participating in the study and telling us about social spaces (parties, social gatherings, and dances) than those aged 18 and over.

How to access young people and especially the youngest

The second dimension of the discussion about who would be included in the study concerned research ethics. Including young people under 18 has ethical implications, since Resolution no. 510/2016 of the National Health Council (CNS), which establishes ethical standards for research in the Humanities and Social Sciences⁸, requires the signing of an Informed Consent Form by a guardian and an Assent Form by the participant themselves when they are under 18 years old. These ethics and research guidelines in the national context have induced that a large portion of studies, particularly in Health, focus on young people aged 18 and older.

How do we access young people under 18 and obtain their permission to participate in the research? Beyond a formal question from the Research Ethics Committee, we were concerned about whether these young people would be able to give their consent independently. Based on this consideration, we believed that requesting permission from parents or guardians to discuss private matters – relating to young people’s perceptions and experiences in sexuality, sexually transmitted infections, access to prevention materials, and use of health services – could jeopardize their privacy.

This situation led us to the Statute of Children and Adolescents (ECA)⁹, supported by Law no. 8.069/1990, which guarantees the right to access information, freedom of expression, non-discrimination, and to the guidelines of the Ministry of Health that guarantee the care of adolescents in health services, even without the presence or authorization of parents or

guardians¹⁰. Another relevant aspect concerns the recommendations of the Brazilian Society of Pediatrics¹¹ and the Brazilian Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics Associations¹², as both state the importance of guaranteeing privacy regarding the sexual and reproductive health of adolescents. This set of guidelines indicates that adolescents can authorize or deny their participation and serves as the basis for seeking exemption from parental authorization as a way to protect the privacy and autonomy of young people aged 15-17.

Based on these considerations, we submitted a request to the Research Ethics Committee (REC) of the institution responsible for the study to waive the use of the Informed Consent Form and to use only the Informed Assent Form. The REC, in turn, forwarded the request to the National Research Ethics Commission (CONEP), which issued a favorable opinion on waiving the need for the signed consent form in interviews and focus groups with adolescents aged 15-17 and authorized us using only the Informed Assent Form signed by the participants themselves. This authorization was granted to guarantee access to this age group, which is commonly excluded from research.

Where can we find adolescents and young people?

Accessing the research group is a central issue in qualitative research, as it determines the profile of the study participants. To ensure group diversity, it is essential to map the different profiles and seek strategies to access them. In this study, observing youth social gathering spaces, conducted in all five communities, was the primary strategy for identifying and accessing the different “groups” of young people.

Using local mediators (residents, social leaders, and local professionals), researchers attempted to reach young people in several spaces of youth social interaction within the community, including around schools, sports courts, soccer fields, open spaces, alleys, streets, and around cafes and bars. Researchers also attempted to reach young people through schools in São Paulo, Porto Alegre, and Salvador. Only in Salvador, where local schools had strong links with health services, was the identification of young people in the school environment successful. Other social facilities used by adolescents and young people, such as sports and cultural centers, community libraries, and public squares, were also used to reach young

people with different profiles. Partnerships with health services, primarily through health workers, were also an important way to reach young people. However, we were careful not to limit ourselves to this form of access, as it was strategic to reach those who do not attend health units in their areas.

Interestingly, although most young people expressed willingness to participate in the study, few recommended a friend to participate. Thus, the snowball technique, initially conceived as one of the recruitment strategies in the several youth networks mapped, was ineffective with the group studied. Another difficulty was scheduling interviews. They were frequently rescheduled due to other commitments, despite confirmations.

The fact that the young person was contacted in a leisure context may also have contributed to their reduced willingness to provide testimony. Therefore, interviewing at the time of first contact and invitation to participate in the study, when the young person expressed availability, was the most successful strategy, sometimes conducted at the very location of contact, as mentioned above. In this sense, being able to rely solely on the young person's permission was essential for conducting the interviews. Returning potential respondents with the consent form signed by their parents proved unfeasible.

The context of the COVID-19 pandemic and new lessons

Fieldwork in the five cities was conducted at different points in time. The research began in São Paulo and Porto Alegre from 2018 to 2019. Later, seeking greater regional diversity and with new funding, Rio de Janeiro, Salvador, and Manaus were included. In these three capitals, fieldwork was conducted during the pre-vaccination pandemic period (2020) and during the vaccination phase of most of the population (2021). It was necessary to adapt the research to the health regulations in force in each city and at each of the institutions with which the researchers were affiliated.

While these restrictions posed significant limitations to fieldwork, typically undertaken in qualitative studies, they also brought new challenges and methodological experiences. Thus, diverse methodological strategies were employed to address the limitations posed by the pandemic. We should emphasize that care was taken to avoid increasing the risk of exposure to COVID-19 and to obtain the approval of

Ethics Committee. Therefore, it was agreed that masks and hand sanitizers would be required for the interviews. In addition to their use by the researcher, these supplies were provided to all young people interviewed. Public and open spaces were preferred for the interviews to minimize the risk of virus transmission.

The interposition of physical “barriers” – distancing space and face masks – in contact with respondents created a new situation in qualitative interviews. This situation required extra effort from the interviewers to make the interview more intimate and informal, allowing for deeper exploration of the proposed topics. Added to this context are the social and cultural differences that often materialized in this encounter, where the researcher was protected and the respondent was not – despite masks being offered by researchers to the young participants, who were for the most part, not using these. Notably, the field teams were primarily composed of researchers with training and/or experience in research in the Social Sciences and Humanities in Health.

In short, the precautions and restrictions of the pandemic period, as observed in our fieldwork, differed in the social and institutional contexts of the researchers and in the communities studied. In the communities, restrictions on movement and mask use varied significantly. This situation was due to the need for commuting and exposure imposed by work, as well as to the physical limitations of housing, difficulties with internet access, family care, and the like.

In Rio de Janeiro, the possibility of relying on qualified researchers, community residents who were circulating locally and engaged in COVID-19 response efforts, was a deciding factor in beginning fieldwork. Research assistants were selected after reviewing their resumes and interviewing candidates recommended by professionals with knowledge and experience in the community. The selected candidates included a master’s student, a doctoral student, and a young undergraduate student who played an important role as a community leader.

The research assistants participated in training on the fundamentals of social research and the project’s objectives and were monitored by the project’s researchers through regular virtual meetings. All received safety equipment (masks and hand sanitizer) and followed the guidelines established by the Ethics Committee, which included signing a commitment form.

A few weeks after the local interlocutors began working, due to the relaxed physical dis-

tancing measures, one of the researchers joined the field team. She also conducted regular observations in the community, sometimes alongside the local interlocutors, and conducted interviews. Although few in the community wore masks, she continued to wear them and always made them available to residents.

We should underscore that the strategy of recruiting local interlocutors in Rio de Janeiro was crucial for the researcher’s movement within the community, providing information on historical facts and community codes, including dress codes. The participation of these interlocutors was also important for her safety, given drug trafficking and armed conflicts. Furthermore, it contributes to the recording of scenes from everyday life, to contact with adolescents and young people, and to the understanding of local dynamics. The participation of “inside” interlocutors (residents recruited as scholarship holders) and an “outside” researcher (a member of the project team) allowed for the production of diverse and complementary perspectives to broaden and enrich the understanding of the local context¹³.

In Manaus, during the pandemic restrictions, hybrid interviews were attempted, facilitated by a young research assistant who lived in the community. Interviews were scheduled by the research assistant, who would go to the agreed location and contact the interviewer remotely to conduct the interview. These interviews were also not very successful, both due to technical issues (such as internet connection issues) and the difficulty in creating a suitable setting for in-depth exploration of specific topics. Thus, the most significant fieldwork was actually conducted only after the decline in COVID-19 cases in the municipality and relaxed travel restrictions, with the interviews conducted in person by the researchers.

Similarly, in Salvador, fieldwork involving observations of youth social spaces, interviews, and focus groups only began after a significant decrease in COVID-19 cases in the city. In this city, the fieldwork involved collaboration with the Family Health Strategy team, which was developing work specifically focused on young people in the community.

The use of local mediators to access young people

The use of local mediators in research to access specific profiles of young people is a strategy already used in anthropological research, as

shown in the study developed by William Foote Whyte in the late 1930s with young children of immigrants who were members of street gangs, in the Boston suburbs¹⁴. More than 90 years have passed since this classic study was conducted, and this resource remains an important research strategy for this population group. In our research, we used different types of mediators: young community leaders, community leaders with a good relationship with the youth, and community residents who serve as role models for the youth. These different types of mediators enabled a diverse selection of young participants in the study.

Our field research experience in the five cities revealed that young people, in general, are inhibited and suspicious of invitations from strangers to give testimonies. Therefore, they try to postpone the interview schedule. Contact via local mediators was crucial in this approach, providing greater security for both participants and researchers.

The mediators also played an important role in identifying the cultural diversity of the different groups of young people in the community, translating the terms used, entering spaces dominated by drug trafficking, and facilitating participation in local events (dances and home parties or *resenhas*). They were instrumental in identifying and observing social spaces in the communities studied, as many of these spaces were only accessible in the company of a community member. They also had information about the events attended by young people and conducted observations in these locations, with or without the participation of other researchers. Finally, they were crucial in organizing the return of research findings to the communities studied.

About data quality

A first aspect to highlight is the impact of new forms of communication, particularly WhatsApp, Facebook, and Instagram, on young people's ways of expressing themselves. The intensive use of these forms of communication – through audio, short messages, and images – imposes a particular rhythm on interviews, whether conducted in person or remotely. These interviews are generally shorter, and resuming some questions is more difficult, requiring written or audio messages. Although these interviews were rare, conducted primarily in Manaus and Porto Alegre, the existing cases indicate that these testimonies were much more succinct. Of-

ten, it was not possible to delve deeper into specific topics. Therefore, data from observations conducted in the communities' social spaces were essential for the analysis.

The COVID-19 pandemic affected part of the research fieldwork and brought with it the need and possibility of contacting young people and conducting remote interviews. While for us, researchers, remote contact was uncomfortable, as it made it hindered establishing a closer relationship between researcher and subject, it was pretty familiar to the young people, particularly those interviewed between the ages of 15 and 18. They seemed comfortable with this distance, expressing less embarrassment or shame, mainly if the contact or interview did not involve video.

The few remote focus groups conducted with young people (one in São Paulo and one in Porto Alegre) did not have the same effect as individual interviews. Young people were more reluctant to accept the invitation, and some who had confirmed their participation did not log in on the agreed-upon day and time. Thus, while remote individual interviews afforded young people greater privacy, the meeting, even remotely with other young people, appears to have had the opposite effect.

The resumed contact and in-person interviews did not mean the pandemic's impact on young people's communication was erased. Post-pandemic, in-person interactions are not the same, particularly with young people. In several cases, we noticed some discomfort and impatience among young people during interviews, resulting in shorter interviews than expected. On the other hand, the in-person focus groups were successful because they allowed young people to reconnect after months of social distancing. The snacks provided by the researchers in the groups provided moments of relaxation and fellowship, allowing young people to more freely express their ideas regarding the proposed topics and interact with the other participants.

Discussion

The points presented above prompt us to reflect on how the methodological challenges identified in the research help us understand the world of young people in the suburban communities of large Brazilian cities. Thus, beyond providing research strategies, we believe that the difficulties and the successful strategies speak to

us about today's youth. The changes seen in recent decades in terms of expanded communication via social media, the use of dating apps, precarious work, and the pandemic's effects impact how we research young people.

Regarding the characteristics of young people and adolescents, the present research was conducted in five cities and revealed significant differences regarding social markers such as gender, age group, and vulnerability. Concerning gender, notably, female respondents spoke more easily than males, especially among young people under 17. Young men were more hesitant when answering questions and responded more objectively, without going into much depth. Girls, on the other hand, shared their experiences and often took the opportunity to ask questions when they felt comfortable with the interviewer. We did not notice any significant differences in the interviews based on the interviewer's gender. We should highlight that these differences identified in the interviews are indicative of the gender differences that persist among young people. Thus, despite all the advances observed in expanding sexual and reproductive rights for adolescents and young people,¹⁵ the telling of intimate experiences and affective-sexual trajectories remains a female domain¹⁶.

Participation in social projects was another difference observed regarding the ease of delving deeper into the themes brought up in the interviews and focus groups¹⁷. Young people who had some experience participating in social projects, both community-based and promoted by non-governmental organizations, showed greater knowledge of prevention, AIDS, and STIs, and greater ability to express themselves. Despite their "salvationist" nature and the fact that they often take on State functions¹⁸, participation in projects creates opportunities for reflection on concepts and experiences and can promote more egalitarian practices in terms of gender and sexual rights¹⁹.

Expanding the empirical research scope to include the 15-to-17-year-old age group highlighted not only the importance of including this age group in youth studies but also the limited autonomy of these adolescents. Because the study's theme involved issues related to affective-sexual trajectories, STIs, and AIDS, embarrassment and shame hindered the interviews. Although this article did not present specific findings regarding their exposure through social media or the consumption of various types of sexually-charged products (such as music, dances, and videos), adolescents still do not feel

comfortable or appropriate with the topic of sexuality. Many have active sex lives, but they still lack information about pleasure, sexual orientation, STIs, and AIDS prevention.

It is interesting to note that schools, a place where a significant portion of young people in this age group are located², were not mentioned by young people as a space to seek information or discuss issues related to sexuality. Notable is the dismantled public policies on gender and sexuality aimed at adolescents and young people, especially in the last decade, which used schools as a privileged space for discussion²⁰⁻²³.

Recruiting respondents from different social spaces within the communities studied allowed access to adolescents and young people in situations of greater social vulnerability. Contact with these young people highlighted the social inequalities within peripheral communities, where minors are exposed to prostitution and lack internet access or smartphones. Furthermore, they are subject to food insecurity and reside in the most undervalued and dangerous areas of the communities.

They are generally Black and face prejudice and discrimination, especially when they visit spaces outside the community²⁴. Due to their social position, these young people tend to be more reticent in their speech and more cautious when interacting with the interviewer. Thus, as José Machado Pais⁷ reminds us, "in analyzing the transition to adulthood, we cannot fail to intersect biographical choices and social structures [...] I am suggesting that the cartography of everyday life must be dynamic and encompass temporality. It is not enough to be photographic; it must be filmic" (2017). This intersection allows us to bring the diversity of adolescents' and young people's experiences into the research landscape, identify the contexts of greatest vulnerability, and understand the nuances and changes within the youth universe.

Another methodological consideration that emerges during the research process, directly related to the research subject, is that meetings with researchers, whether during observations or interviews, are employed by young people as opportunities to clarify doubts. Given the lack of discussion spaces on gender and sexuality, the research provides an opportunity for young people to seek such information, while exchanging opinions and having their ideas and experiences heard.

On the other hand, local leaders seek to bring some symbolic or material benefit to the community by participating in the study. This

fact shows the need for public policy investment in the communities studied, particularly with regard to youth and adolescents. There is recognition of the need to train young leaders in the communities, and the research is seen as an opportunity to bring young people into the debate.

Final considerations

The reflection undertaken in this article, based on the difficulties and methodological strategies employed in the research “Contexts of HIV vulnerability among low-income youth: a multicenter study in five Brazilian cities”, aims to contribute to the expansion and debates of studies on Brazilian youth. The changes over the last two decades, with the expanded internet and social media, coupled with rampaging urban violence and health events, have brought important implications for the behavior of young people and how social research should be conducted with this population group. Our data indicate the importance of expanding the age range, including adolescents aged 15 to 17 in studies, and the consequent discussion about re-

search ethics procedures that should be adopted to protect study participants, without requiring parental authorization. In sensitive topics, requiring legal guardians to consent can represent a violation of young people’s privacy.

Although more than 80% of young people aged 15-17 are enrolled in school, research participants struggled and were embarrassed to discuss sexuality and STI prevention. Including the topic of sexuality among youth in research is essential for adolescents and young people to have a pleasurable and safe sex life. Bizzaria *et al.*²⁵ show that this topic is virtually absent from national and international youth research. The setting investigated highlights the urgent need to develop public policies aimed at incorporating gender and sexuality into school curricula.

Finally, it is necessary to consider qualitative research strategies capable of creating a closer bond with young people, whether through local mediators or diversified data collection techniques to complement interview data, such as participant observation and focus groups. Bringing young people into research also means renewing our classic arsenal of research and reflection!

Collaborations

DR Knauth coordinated the project and participated in data analysis and writing the article. S Monteiro coordinated the project in Rio de Janeiro and participated in data analysis and writing the article. V Fonseca conducted fieldwork in Rio de Janeiro and participated in data analysis and writing the article. A Machado coordinated the project in Manaus and participated in data analysis and writing the article. L Magno coordinated the project in Salvador and participated in data analysis and writing the article. AF Leal coordinated the project in Porto Alegre and participated in data analysis and writing the article. RM Barbosa coordinated the project in São Paulo and participated in data analysis and writing the article.

Data availability statement

The data sources adopted in the research are indicated in the article's body.

References

1. Cassab C. Imagens e narrativas: uma proposta de construção de metodologia para pesquisa sobre juventudes e cidade. *Caminhos Geogr* 2023; 24(95):145-159.
2. Pais JM. *Sociologia da vida quotidiana: teorias, métodos e estudos de caso*. Lisboa: Imprensa de Ciências Sociais; 2002.
3. Pais JM. *Tribos urbanas: produção artística e identidades*. Lisboa: Imprensa de Ciências Sociais; 2004.
4. Silva CS, Borba PLO. Encontros com a diferença na formação de profissionais de saúde: juventudes, sexualidades e gêneros na escola. *Saude Soc* 2018; 27(4):1134-1146.
5. Sposito MP, Souza R, Arantes e Silva F. A pesquisa sobre jovens no Brasil: traçando novos desafios a partir de dados quantitativos. *Educ Pesqui* 2018; 44:e170308.
6. Pimenta MM. *Ser jovem e ser adulto: identidades, representações e trajetórias* [tese]. São Paulo: USP; 2006.
7. Pais JM, Lacerda MPC, Oliveira VHN. Juventudes contemporâneas, cotidiano e inquietações de pesquisadores em Educação – uma entrevista com José Machado Pais. *Educ Rev* 2017; 64:301-313.
8. Conselho Nacional de Saúde (CNS). Resolução nº 510/2016 – Dispõe sobre a pesquisa em Ciências Humanas e Sociais. Brasília: MS; 2016.
9. Brasil. Presidência da República. Lei nº 8.069, de 13 de julho de 1990. Estatuto da Criança e do Adolescente (ECA). *Diário Oficial da União* 1990; 14 jul.
10. Brasil. Ministério da Saúde (MS). *Saúde, um direito de adolescentes*. Brasília: MS; 2007.
11. Sociedade Brasileira de Pediatria (SBP). Diretrizes para atenção à saúde de adolescentes [Internet]. [acessado 2024 out 13]. Disponível em: http://www.sbp.com.br/pdfs/adolescencia_contra_etica_diretrizes.pdf
12. Federação Brasileira das Associações de Ginecologia e Obstetrícia (FEBRASGO). [acessado 2024 out 13]. Disponível em: https://www.febrasgo.org.br/media/k2/attachments/07-SEXUALIDADE_NA_ADOLESCENTE.pdf
13. Monteiro S, Fonseca V. Trabalho de campo com pesquisadores locais: relato de experiência em uma favela do Rio de Janeiro. In: Valente P, organizador. *História oral e questões de ciência e saúde: atravessamentos*. São Paulo: Letra e Voz; 2024. p. 37-57.
14. Whyte WF. *Sociedade de esquina*. Rio de Janeiro: Jorge Zahar; 2005.
15. Chandra-Mouli V, Ferguson BJ, Plesons M, Paul M, Chalasani S, Amin A, Pallitto C, Sommer M, Avila R, Eceéce Biaukula KV, Husain S, Janušonytė E, Mukherji A, Nergiz AI, Phaladi G, Porter C, Sauvarin J, Camacho-Huber AV, Mehra S, Caffé S, Michielssen K, Ross DA, Zhukov I, Bekker LG, Celum CL, Dayton R, Erulkar A, Travers E, Svanemyr J, Maksud N, Digolo-Nyagah L, Diop NJ, Lhaki P, Adhikari K, Mahon T, Manzenski Hansen M, Greeley M, Herat J, Engel DMC. The political, research, programmatic, and social responses to adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights in the 25 years since the International Conference on Population and Development. *J Adolesc Health* 2019; 65(6S):S16-S40.

16. Leal AF, Knauth DR. A relação sexual como uma técnica corporal: representações masculinas dos relacionamentos afetivo-sexuais. *Cad Saude Publica* 2006; 22(7):1375-1384.
17. Freitas MFQ, Batista MF. Jovens e projetos sociais: experiências e aprendizados na perspectiva da Psicologia Social Comunitária. *Psicol Argum* 2021; 39(107):1163-1180.
18. Cecchetto F, Corrêa J, Farias P. Quando o projeto era moda: projetos sociais, juventudes e a política de “pacificação” no Rio de Janeiro. *Brasiliana* 2016; 4(2):483-512.
19. Monteiro S, Fonseca VN, Nascimento M. “Como eu fui me transformando”: juventude, prevenção do HIV e a contribuição de projetos sociais comunitários no Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brasil. *Interface (Botucatu)* 2024; 28:e230206.
20. Sartori TL. Análise da educação brasileira em face ao estudo da sexualidade: marginalização da educação sexual na BNCC. *Rev Bras Psico Educ* 2022; 23(00):e022001.
21. Leite VJ. “Impróprio para menores”? *Adolescentes e diversidade sexual e de gênero nas políticas públicas brasileiras contemporâneas* [tese]. Rio de Janeiro: Uerj; 2014.
22. Leite VJ. A captura das crianças e dos adolescentes: refletindo sobre controvérsias públicas envolvendo gênero e sexualidade nas políticas de educação. *Serie-Estudos* 2019; 24(52):11-30.
23. Junqueira RD. A invenção da ‘ideologia de gênero’: a emergência de um cenário político-discursivo e a elaboração de uma retórica reacionária antigênero. *Rev Psicol Polit* 2018; 18(43):449-502.
24. Silva MEB, Anunciação D, Trad LAB. Violência e vulnerabilização: o cotidiano de jovens negros e negras em periferias de duas capitais brasileiras. *Cien Saude Colet* 2024; 29(3):e04402023.
25. Bizarria FPA, Figueredo IB, Cavalcante SDN, Silva EJD, Barbosa FLS. Políticas públicas de saúde para a juventude: estudo bibliométrico e agenda de pesquisa com base na Web of Science. *Cien Saude Colet* 2022; 27(10):3975-3985.

Article submitted 30/07/2024

Approved 02/07/2025

Final version submitted 04/07/2025

Chief editors: Maria Cecília de Souza Minayo, Romeu Gomes, Antônio Augusto Moura da Silva, Vania de Matos Fonseca