

## FROM YOUTH TO HIGH PERFORMANCE: HOW MANY BAHIAN ATHLETES GOT BOLSA ATLETA? AN OVERVIEW FROM 2005-2023

*DA BASE AO ALTO RENDIMENTO: QUANTOS ATLETAS BAIANOS  
CONSEGUIRAM BOLSA ATLETA? PANORAMA DE 2005-2023* 

*DE LA BASE HASTA AL ALTO RENDIMIENTO: CUANTOS ATLETAS  
BAIANOS LOGRARÁN BECAS? PANORAMA 2005-2023* 

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 **Flora Morais\*** <floranogm@gmail.com>

 **Kizzy Fernandes Antualpa\*\*** <kizzy.antualpa@uftm.edu.br>

 **Gisele Teixeira de Souza Silva\*** <giseletx@msn.com>

 **Luciana da Silva Lirani\*\*\*** <lucianalirani@gmail.com>

 **Thais do Amaral Machado\*** <thais.amaral@ufba.br>

\* Universidade Federal da Bahia (UFBA). Faculdade de Educação (FACED),  
Departamento de Educação Física, Salvador, BA, Brazil.

\*\* Universidade Federal do Triângulo Mineiro. Uberaba, MG, Brazil.

\*\*\* Universidade Estadual do Norte do Paraná (UENP). Jacarezinho, PR, Brazil.

**Abstract:** The granting of Bolsa Atleta is a means of promoting sports. However, it is unknown how many scholarships were allocated to athletes from Bahia. The objectives of this study were: verify how many athletes obtained Bolsa Atleta, in the period from 2005 to 2023; identify the modalities covered, team and individual; analyze the geographical and gender distribution, and quantify grant categories per year, identified from the documentary analysis of the Official Union Gazette and the Inteligência Esportiva website. The results showed 2,113 sponsorships distributed to athletes from Bahia in 18 years. Individual sport athletes received the most support. Salvador was the city most benefited. Males were the most favored. The most favored category was Atleta Nacional. It can be concluded that the investment was 2% compared to the total scholarships for Brazilians, indicating that the number of supported athletes is low compared to other Brazilian states.

**Keywords:** Athletes. Public Policy. Athletic Performance. Sports.

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

Contemporary sport is characterized as a space of ambiguities, a plural phenomenon of different manifestations and meanings portrayed by the expansion of its scenarios, protagonists, and practices (Galatti *et al.*, 2018). Article 217 of the 1988 Brazilian Federal Constitution establishes that it is the state's duty to encourage both formal and non-formal sports practices, as an individual's right, ensuring participation in sports activities under the terms of the law, with Sport-Education, Sport-Participation, Sport-Performance (Brasil, 1988) and Sport-Training (Brasil, 2015). From this perspective, sport is linked to its objective and service. Sport-Education aims to provide education and practical experiences about physical and sporting activities in contemporary sport, with access to all people, at different levels of practice; Sport-Participation is geared towards the well-being and participation of the practitioner, on a voluntary basis, to contribute to the integration of individuals into social life; Sport-Performance contemplates respect for the rules and codes in sporting disciplines, with the aim of obtaining results and performance (Brasil, 1988). Since 2016, another action has been expanded, called Sport-Training (Law No. 13.155 of 2015), characterized by the promotion and initial acquisition of sports knowledge that guarantees technical competence in sports intervention.

After 20 years of efforts to develop the document, the General Sports Law was approved (Law 14.597 – sanctioned in 2023), which provides for the National Sports System (Sinesp) and the National Sports Information and Indicators System (SNIIE), the sports economic order, sports integrity and the National Plan for a Culture of Peace in Sport. The new law recognizes sport as an activity of social interest, through rules and regulations that ensure the right to sports practice for the entire population, across different levels of sport (Brasil, 2023a).

Brazil, in its vast territorial extension, promotes sports practices through public policy projects that are free to the population. However, there are limited government resources to subsidize all sports practices, which reflects the disorganization of the agencies responsible for promoting sport in the country (Faria *et al.*, 2021). This can also be seen in the study by Almeida *et al.* (2012), which points out that federal resources are distributed disproportionately among the dimensions of sport, with the largest amounts going to high-performance sports and the mega-events that took place in Brazil during the Olympic decade.

There is also great inequality between Brazilian regions, states and municipalities. Several factors may be related to these inequalities, such as the number of inhabitants (Caetano *et al.*, 2020; Sentone *et al.*, 2020), population density (Caetano *et al.*, 2020; Sentone *et al.* 2020), the Human Development Index (HDI) (Bueno *et al.*, 2020), sports facilities (Caregnato; Ordonhes; Cavichioli, 2016), resources for sports development (Galatti *et al.*, 2021), the age of the cities, among others (Baker *et al.*, 2009).

The Northeast accounts for approximately 26% of the country's population in around 20% of Brazil's land area, with 54.6 million inhabitants spread over 1.6 million km<sup>2</sup> (IBGE, 2023). But when we analyze the sports development of the regions of

the country that concentrate the majority of athletes – present in federative rankings – from entry level to high performance, we see that the vast majority of sports, such as volleyball (Collet *et al.*, 2021; Machado *et al.*, 2018, 2021), athletics (Sentone *et al.*, 2018); basketball (Beneli; Galatti Montagner, 2017; Faria *et al.*, 2021); swimming (Ordonhes; Luz; Cavichioli, 2016); tennis (Silva *et al.*, 2017) and artistic gymnastics (Caetano *et al.*, 2020; Lima, Schiavon, 2023), take place primarily in the Southeast and South of the country. This scenario reflects how sports centralization occurs in Brazil, with movements that act beyond sports practice, and which can impact investment and promotion actions in practice at different sports levels.

With regard to Bahia, some structural actions have already been carried out, through partnerships with the Bahia Sports Superintendence (SUDESB), seeking to provide spaces for the practice and development of different sports in the state: implementation of the Pan American Judo Center (CPJ), currently called the Bahia Sports Arena (Bahia, 2022a); the Bahia Gymnastics House – CAGIBA (Bahia, 2023); the Boxing and Martial Arts Center (Bahia, 2022b); and the Canoeing Training Centers (Centro de Canoagem..., 2022).

Another important action will be the pilot project by the Ministry of Sport, which will be ready to integrate the sports system in practice with states and municipalities. Bahia will be the first partner state to pilot the creation of the Sports Development Network, which, among other actions, will map existing sports equipment in public spaces (Brasil, 2023c).

Investing in the implementation, revitalization and maintenance of sports structures in Bahia is a way of decentralizing the organization, which is mainly focused on high performance in Brazil. However, it remains to be seen whether these ventures, although important for promoting sports in Bahia, will be sufficient for a large state like Bahia.

One of the ways of providing resources for athletes to stay in sport is the Bolsa Atleta Program (a government athlete support program). Law No. 10.891 (Brasil, 2004), an incentive program for athletes, instituted in 2004 by the Federal Government, starting in 2005, was created after the country's sporting dissatisfaction at the Sydney Olympic Games (2000) and the difficulty athletes had in getting sponsors. The proposal came about as a way of subsidizing the Olympic preparation of Brazilian athletes by directly benefiting the athletes, without the resources passing through the institutions that organize and control the sport (Camargo, Mezzadri, 2017; Corrêa *et al.*, 2014; Guimarães, 2009).

The program aims to assist Olympic and Paralympic athletes and non-Olympic sports, guaranteeing the minimum conditions for sportspeople to dedicate themselves exclusively to training and competitions, thereby maintaining competitive levels (Brazil, 2023d).

At the moment, the program has six grants categories: Basic, for athletes up to the age of 19, who have excelled in the grassroots categories of high-performance sport; Student, for athletes up to the age of 20, who have achieved up to third place in individual sports or who have been elected among the six best athletes in each team

sport at national student events recognized by the Ministry of Sport; National, athletes who have achieved up to third place in the national ranking or the highest event of the national season; International, for athletes who have been part of the Brazilian national team, having achieved up to third place; Olympic/Paralympic, athletes who have been part of the Brazilian Olympic, Paralympic or Deaflympic delegations; and Podium, which includes athletes who are among the top 20 in the world according to the official ranking of individual Olympic, Paralympic and Deaflympic sports. All of them last 12 months and are renewable annually, according to established criteria (Brasil, 2023d).

Despite its importance for sports management and support for Brazilian athletes, the reach of this incentive and the way in which the program's resources are allocated in the Northeast, especially in Bahia, remain unknown. With this in mind, the aim of this study was to find out how many athletes received support via Bolsa Atleta in the state of Bahia between 2005 and 2023, to identify the sports covered, whether team or individual, the geographical distribution, the sex of the participants, and to check the categories of grants per year.

## 2 METHODS

### 2.1 STUDY DESIGN

This study is characterized as descriptive (Gil, 2002), based on documentary research, according to the list published in the *Diário Oficial da União* (Brazilian Federal Official Gazette) and on the *Inteligência Esportiva* website, of the athletes covered in all Olympic sports by the Bolsa Atleta Program between 2005 and 2023.

### 2.2 CATEGORIES OF GRANTS

All the categories of the Bolsa Atleta Program were analyzed, including Basic Athlete, Student Athlete, National Athlete, International Athlete, Olympic, Paralympic, and Deaflympic Athlete, and Podium Athlete.

### 2.3 PROCEDURES AND DATA ANALYSIS

The period was chosen from the start of the program in 2005 until 2023, the last year of beneficiaries. For this study, only athletes practicing sports in the Summer Olympic Games were counted.

Initially, the data was tabulated in a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet® 2016 based on data provided by ordinances published in the *Diário Oficial da União* (DOU) and on the website *Inteligência Esportiva* Program of the Universidade Federal do Paraná (UFPR/Ministry of Sport) (IE)<sup>1</sup>, with information such as athlete, gender, sport, type (individual or team), city of birth, year the grant was awarded and grant categories. It should be noted that the grants are named according to the athlete's place of birth.

1 *Inteligência Esportiva*. Available at: <https://www.inteligenciaesportiva.ufpr.br/>. Accessed on: 2 Apr. 2024.

Both the DOU and the IE were used for this research, since data is not automatically updated in both places.

The analyses used descriptive analysis, frequency analysis and the independent G-test, with a significance level of  $p < 0.05$ . The frequency graphs took into account the geographical quantity per city. Also, the difference between men and women, sports covered, individual and team, athletes' cities of birth, year of grant, comparison between grants awarded at the national level and those received in the state (number of grants in Brazil x number in the state) and finally the geographical distribution of these grants across the state.

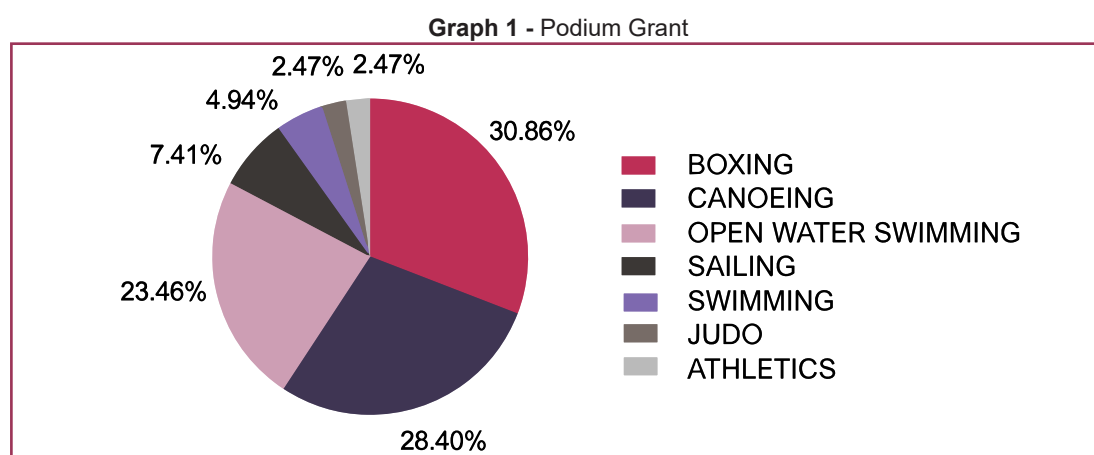
### 3 RESULTS

The results are presented in two topics: 3.1 Diagnosis of the Bolsa Atleta Program – distribution of grants over the period evaluated and 3.2 Differences between the points of analysis.

#### 3.1 DIAGNOSIS OF THE BOLSA ATLETA PROGRAM

Based on the results found in this study, it was observed that 2,113 athletes from the state of Bahia benefited from the Bolsa Atleta Program between 2005 and 2023. There were 33 sports covered during this period, with canoeing (496) and boxing (389) standing out the most, followed by sport shooting (145). The following graphs show the distribution of grants by sport, based on the grant category (Basic Grant, Student Grant, National Grant, International Grant, Olympic Grant and Podium Grant).

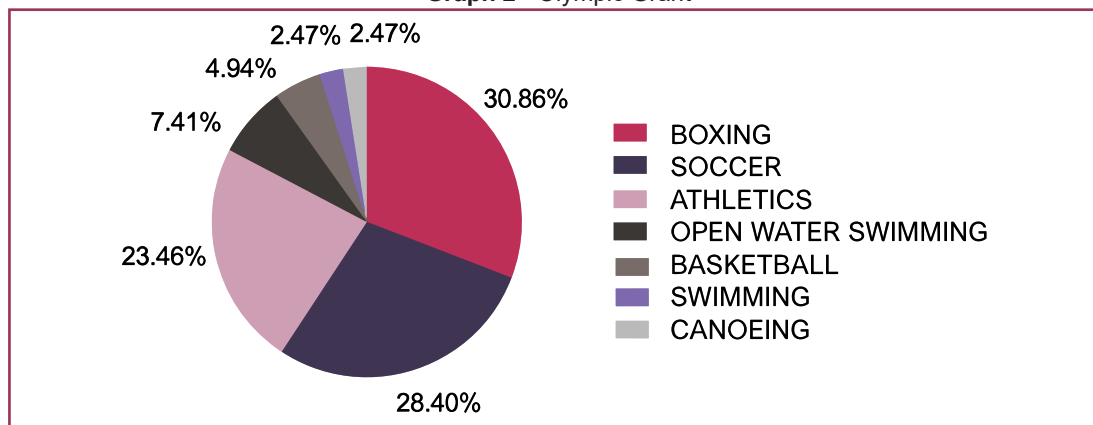
Graph 1 shows that the predominant sports in the Podium Grant were boxing, canoeing, and open water swimming.



Source: prepared by the authors (2024).

With regard to the Olympic Grant, boxing once again appears as the most covered sport, followed by soccer and athletics (Graph 2).

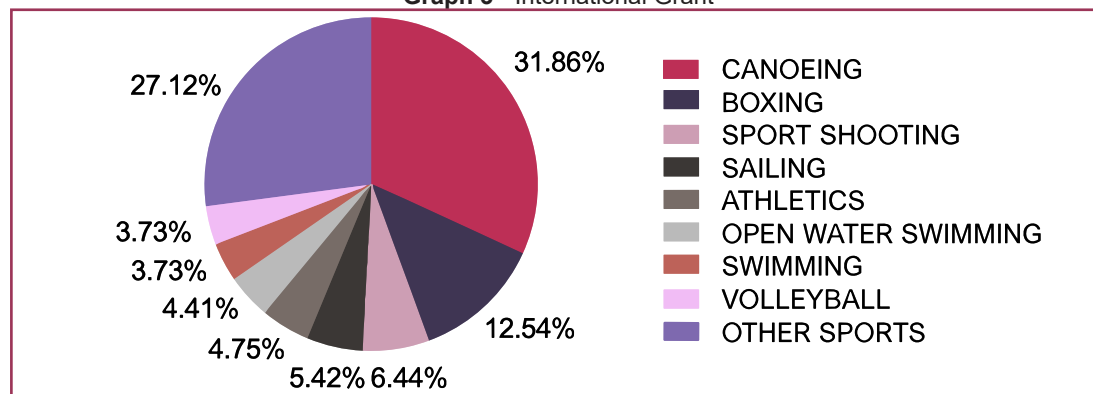
**Graph 2 - Olympic Grant**



Source: prepared by the authors (2024).

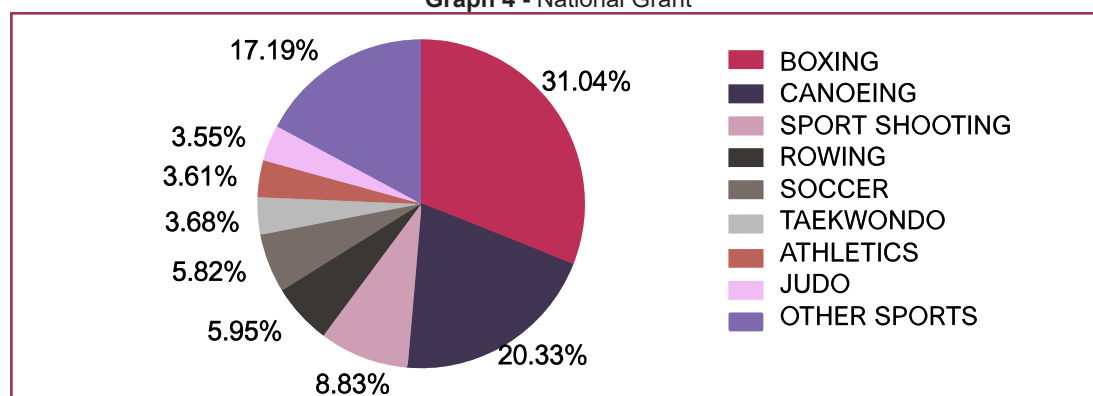
Looking at the International and National Grants, it can be seen that in addition to the sports mentioned most prominently in general (canoeing and boxing), sport shooting appears as the third most covered sport (Graphs 3 and 4).

**Graph 3 - International Grant**



Source: prepared by the authors (2024).

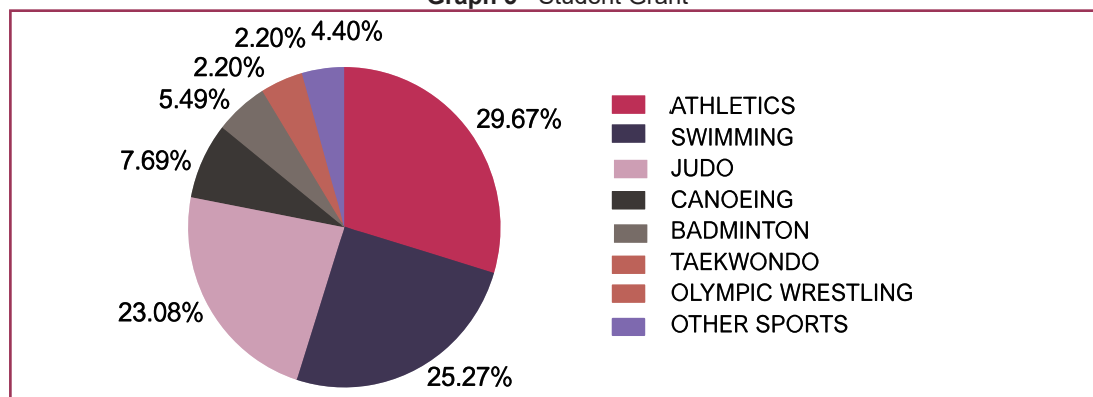
**Graph 4 - National Grant**



Source: prepared by the authors (2024).

When analyzing the sports covered by the Student Grant category, athletics, swimming and judo stand out (Graph 5).

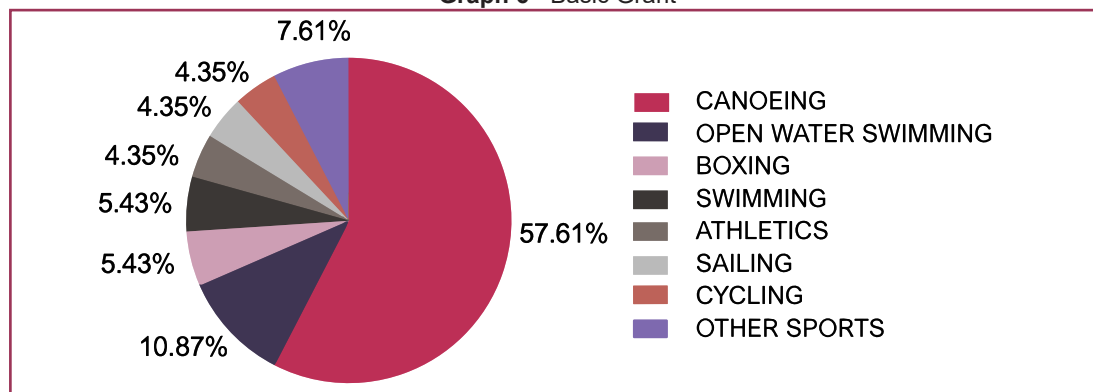
Graph 5 - Student Grant



Source: prepared by the authors (2024).

In Graph 6, canoeing is once again in the spotlight, followed by open water swimming and boxing.

Graph 6 - Basic Grant



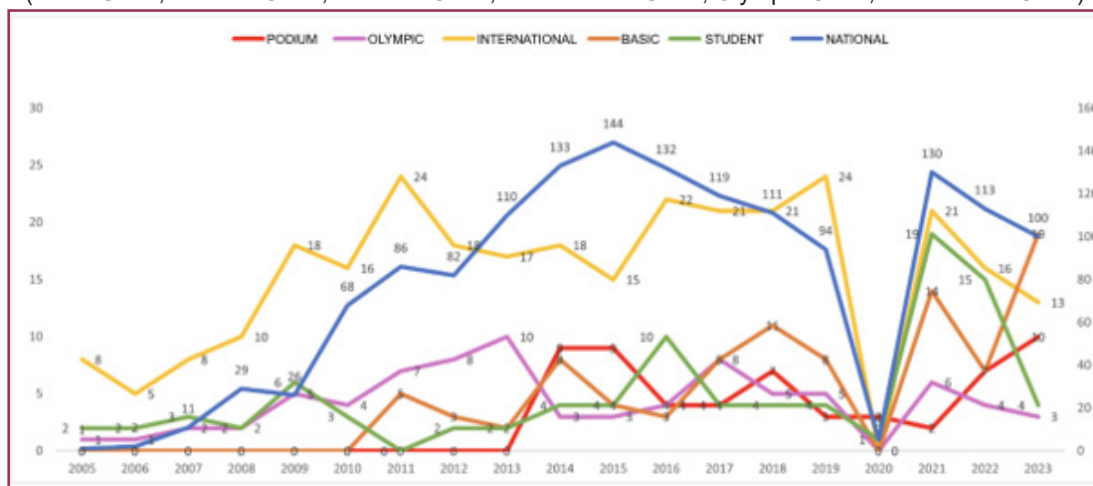
Source: prepared by the authors (2024).

In terms of classification, there were significant differences in the predominance of athletes benefiting from individual sports (1923) compared to team sports (190).

According to the analysis of the six categories of grants in the period studied, the National category (1,496) had the highest number of recipients, followed by International (295), Basic (92), Student (91), Olympic (81) and Podium (58) (Graph 7).

Graph 7 shows two axes, one on the right representing the number of grants on a scale of 0 to 160, which includes the National Grant, and another on the left representing the number of grants on a scale of 0 to 30, which includes the other grant categories. It can be seen that, in general, there have been increases and decreases in the number of grants awarded since the start of the program in all categories. However, the National category, despite also showing this variation, showed the greatest growth. It should also be noted that in 2020 there was a sharp drop in almost all categories, with the exception of the Podium Athlete category, the only one with a call for applications published in 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Graph 7** - Annual distribution of athletes receiving grants under the Bolsa Atleta Program by category (Basic Grant, Student Grant, National Grant, International Grant, Olympic Grant, and Podium Grant).



Source: prepared by the authors (2024).

The three municipalities that received the most grants were Salvador (884), Itacaré (161) and Ubaitaba (156).

### 3.2 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE POINTS OF ANALYSIS

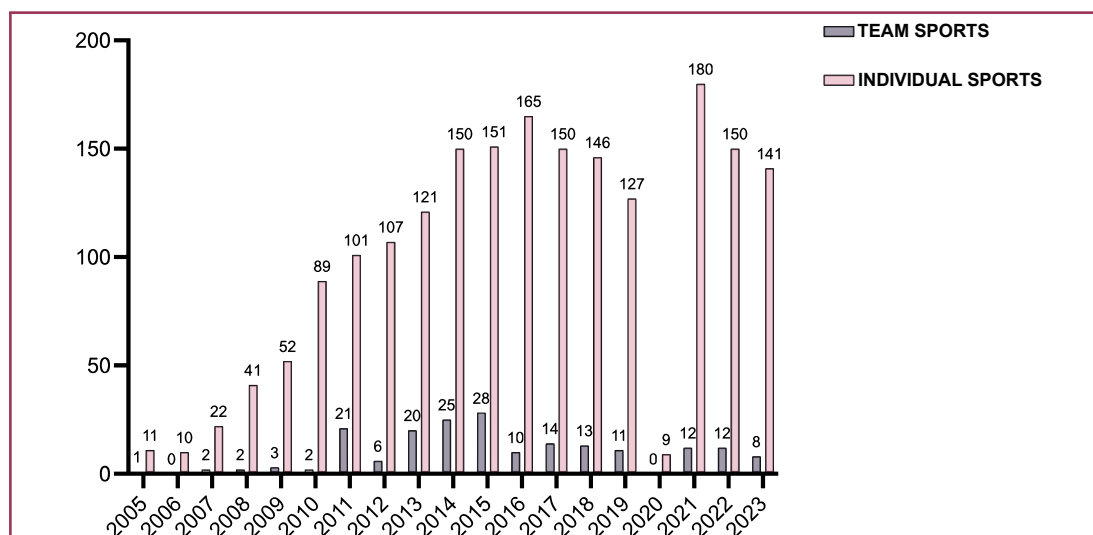
In this section, the results show a summary of the municipalities that received grants (Figure 1) and the differences observed between the sports that received grants ( $p=0.01$ ) and the sex of the athletes ( $p=0.02$ ) (Graph 8).

**Figure 1** - Map of Bahia highlighting the municipalities of the athletes who have received the most grants over the 18 years of the Bolsa Atleta Program.



Source: prepared by the authors (2024).

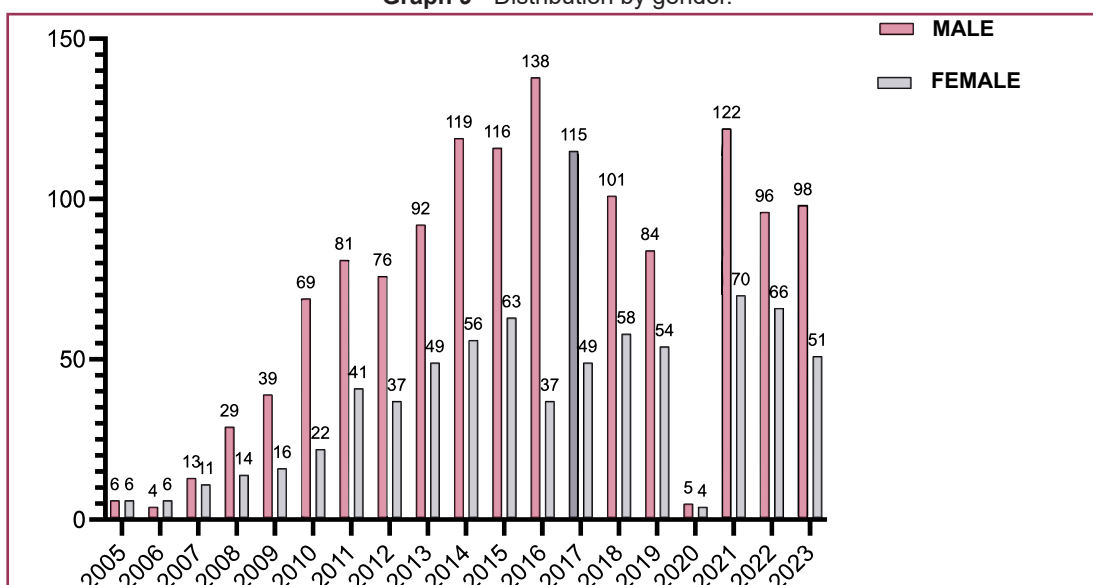
**Graph 8 - Differences between team and individual sports.**



Source: prepared by the authors (2024).

When looking at the gender distribution, the male gender stands out with 1,403 athletes and the female gender with 710 athletes. The results of the G-test  $p < 0.02$  showed significant differences.

**Graph 9 - Distribution by gender.**



Source: prepared by the authors (2024).

## 4 DISCUSSION

Between 2005 and 2023, a total of 96,165 grants were made available in Brazil. Of this total, Olympic athletes from the state of Bahia received 2,113 grants, which corresponds to approximately 2% of the total offered in the program's 18-year history throughout Brazil. In the last ten years, when comparing the nine northeastern states, it can be seen that the states that received the most grants were Pernambuco (2,283) and Bahia (2,113), while the state that received the least was Sergipe (464). In the same period, the Northeast received 9,680 grants, while the Southeast received

37,825 grants, which corroborates the findings of Machado *et al.* (2018, 2021), Collet *et al.* (2021), Sentone *et al.* (2018), Faria *et al.* (2021), Ordonhes, Luz, Cavichioli (2016), Silva *et al.* (2017) and Bueno *et al.* (2020), which show the southeastern and southern regions as the ones that concentrate most sports, given the preponderance of sports confederation headquarters in these regions of the country, especially in the states of Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, possibly due to better sports infrastructure, administrative centers for various sports, and a large concentration of athletes, clubs and sponsors.

Club culture in the Southeast and South allows for the possibility of the “athlete member”, i.e. someone who uses the club and its facilities for sports development purposes without having to pay monthly fees to the institution (Alexandrino, 2019; Borges; Tonini, 2012; Galatti, 2010). However, the city of Salvador appears to have a different configuration to these regions, with clubs being leisure-related spaces. In Salvador, sports are represented by third-party organizations that use the club’s space for training. In this model, the club becomes just a place to practice, and not a representation of the club through its institutional name.

Overall, with regard to sports disciplines, it is observed that boxing and canoeing are the ones that have received the most grants from the Bolsa Atleta Program. This directly reflects the results obtained at the Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020/2021 Olympic Games and the medals won for Brazil, with Robson Conceição (Rio 2016) and Herbert Conceição (Tokyo 2020/2021) winning gold and Beatriz Ferreira (Tokyo 2020/2021) silver in boxing and Erlon Souza (Rio 2016) silver and Isaquias Queiroz (Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020/2021) bronze, silver, and gold medals in canoeing. These results suggest that this type of public investment, through Bolsa Atleta over the last 13 years, which totals 39 grants for the athletes mentioned alone, contributes to the development and permanence of athletes in training and competitions in various aspects. Although the amount does not cover all the expenses an athlete has (for example, food, transportation, lodging, sports materials, among others), it does help to provide some support in these aspects.

Thus, it can be seen that different disciplines such as open water swimming, women’s soccer, swimming (Paris 2024, 2023), athletics (Bahia, 2024), sport shooting (Gavini, 2016) and judo (Judoca baiano..., 2025) have shown great prominence in student, national and international events. These results may have been boosted by the support obtained through the Bolsa Atleta Program.

In terms of the number of participants, individual practices were awarded more benefits than group practices in all the grant categories. Individual sports seem to have more medal possibilities than team sports. In sports such as Artistic Gymnastics, Rhythmic Gymnastics, Swimming and Athletics, the same athlete has the chance to compete in different events and can therefore win a greater number of medals. In team sports, athletes compete for one medal over a longer period of time.

A counterpoint to the data concerns the development plan for the sport/athlete. In certain sports, there seems to be no planning or minimum structure to achieve significant results, since some of the achievements seem to be the result of individual

effort (Mazzei, *et al.*, 2015). It is observed that professionals sometimes promote the practice of certain sports using their own resources. For instance, José Roberto Guimarães, the coach of the Brazilian women's volleyball team, utilizes his personal assets to sustain a high-performance team (Cesarini, 2024). These initiatives build and develop a local culture of the sport, which, after expressive results, draws the attention of society and public authorities to the actions, generating the implementation of public policies, or even attracting sponsorship. With regard to public policies, a good example is boxing in the city of Salvador, which, after more than 30 years of significant achievements, whether at Olympic or world level, has been awarded a Martial Arts Training Center. This was the result of a promise from the former governor of Bahia to Olympic champion Robson Conceição, after he won the gold medal at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro (Aragão, 2022).

Salvador was the municipality that received the most grants, followed by Ubaitaba and Itacaré. When the distribution of Bolsa Atleta grants for the state of Bahia is analyzed, the incompatibility of sports activities between municipalities becomes clear. The various analyses carried out in this study showed imbalances in the promotion of athletes between municipalities at different sporting levels. Authors such as Green and Houlihan (2005) highlight factors that influence the development and success of young talent in sports, such as social and family support (family, coaches, community); psychological aspects (self-efficacy, group cohesion) and motivational aspects (motivational climate by the coach, intrinsic and extrinsic factors); physical, technical, and tactical development; resources (financial incentives, athlete grants) and infrastructure (materials and spaces suitable for practicing sport), and finally, the socio-cultural and economic context (Gross Domestic Product, Human Development Index).

This imbalance points to issues that may be related to the development of cities. Salvador, which has been the city with the largest number of beneficiaries of the program throughout its history, receives more resources than cities in the countryside because it is the capital. In addition, it has a GDP per capita of 21,706.06, unlike the cities of Itacaré, with a GDP of 14,680.53 and Ubaitaba, with a GDP of 13,137.19, in second and third place (IBGE, 2021). Salvador also has the highest Municipal Human Development Index in the state, equivalent to 0.759 (IBGE, 2012) and is the most populous city in Bahia, with 2.4 million inhabitants (IBGE, 2023). Both factors have been linked to greater sporting success and consequently lead to more benefits and greater value invested (Caetano *et al.*, 2020; Sentone *et al.*, 2018; Souza *et al.*, 2023).

The differences in the predominance of men in the Bolsa Atleta Program may be related to historical and cultural issues. Only 33% of the grants have gone to women since the program began. In Brazil, there was a period of prohibition on women's access to sports, which began in 1941 with the decree Law No. 3.199, Art. 54, which determined: "Women will not be allowed to practice sports incompatible with the conditions of their nature, and for this purpose, the National Sports Council must issue the necessary instructions to the country's sports entities" (Brazil, 1941). It was only in 1979 that the measure was repealed, representing almost 40 years of

prohibition and a disparity in the representation of women in sports that persists to this day.

The first women's participation in the Brazilian delegation to the Olympic Games took place in Los Angeles, USA, in 1932. It had only 1.18% of women in its delegation, while female participation from other countries represented 10% of the Olympic athletes in the total delegation. This mark was only reached in 1980 by Brazilian women (Giglio *et al.*, 2018).

Only in the last few decades have women begun to be the subject of research in competitive sports (Devide *et al.*, 2011), such as soccer (Alcântara *et al.*, 2024), as well as in most sports. Even so, there are still numerous inequalities in the cultural, political, and economic spheres. Furthermore, at the last Rio 2016 Olympic Games, female participation was 45%, corresponding to 6,200 men and 5,200 women (Mendes, 2016). In Tokyo 2020/2021, 48.7% were women (5470) and the rest (5893) men. Following the social movement for gender equality (Sorice, 2024), in Paris 2024, parity was achieved between participants of both genders, with 5,250 men and 5,250 women (Brasil, 2024c).

However, much still needs to be done, as the difficulty of women's inclusion in sports also occurs in other areas, due to their lack of representation in clubs (Silva *et al.*, 2017), coaching positions, team delegation leadership, training courses, appropriate strategies to make girls feel welcome and want to continue practicing sports (Ávila *et al.*, 2021; Passero *et al.*, 2020; Urizzi *et al.*, 2024). In addition, there is a gap in the training of managers, especially sports managers in the Northeast, with a predominance of men (Bavaresco *et al.*, 2024), which is reflected in the results of this article.

In addition, sometimes the hostile environment for women also contributes to the maintenance of disparate relationships. The lack of female representation in these positions is alarming and derisory, which discourages and distances women from taking on these occupations, leading to a lack of identification with management functions and consequently a lack of gender variation in sports management (Cardoso *et al.*, 2023; Guimarães, 2009; Santos *et al.*, 2022; Sawiuk, Lewis, Taylor, 2021; Silva *et al.*, 2017). This fact firmly points to the role of institutions and managers involved in sports in promoting policies that incorporate more women into the sports field.

Changes are slowly being implemented to reduce these discrepancies. A recent example is the publication of Law No. 14.614/23, which amends Law No. 14.597, of June 14, 2023 (General Sports Law) (Brasil, 2023b) guaranteeing pregnant or postpartum athletes, within the scope of Bolsa Atleta, respect for maternity and the rights that protect them, such as the protection of the benefit during the pregnancy plus the period of up to six months after the birth of the baby, in a total of up to 15 successive monthly installments, with a longer period to prove the sporting results.

With regard to the grant categories, it was noted that the National category had the highest number of beneficiaries, both in Bahia and nationwide. This can be explained by the fact that it is the category with the highest number of applications to the Program (Brasil, 2023d). On the other hand, the Podium category had the lowest

number of beneficiaries in the state, which is justified by the specificity of the category, which only includes the best individual sports athletes at the international level and with significant results in the sport. Another factor that may be related to this issue is that the category is more recent, having only started in 2014 (Brasil, 2023d).

It is worth noting that in the Student Athlete category, it was notable that the disciplines that stood out at the state level (canoeing, boxing and sport shooting) are not included in this category. This is possibly due to the fact that these disciplines are not present in the competition indicated by the national body, in this case, the National Student Games – school or university – (CBDU, 2020; Comitê Olímpico do Brasil, 2024), which contributes to a lower number of grants for Bahian athletes. In addition, studies at the national (Zanatta *et al.*, 2018) and state levels (Ávila *et al.*, 2021) point to the need for specific training in sports management for professionals working in sports management positions, which does not always happen, and this is particularly lacking in the Northeast region (Bavaresco *et al.*, 2024). This could help to take a closer look at these gaps in terms of the diversification of sports.

When analyzing the categories of grants by year, there was an increase in beneficiaries at certain times. However, in some years there was a drop in recipients, such as during the pandemic. It should be noted that the period of greatest Brazilian investment was during the mega events (Pan American and Parapan American Games, FIFA World Cup, Olympic and Paralympic Games), which corresponded to the Olympic decade, resulting in an increase in the number of grants offered, with the exception of 2012. The main year of decline was 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to a halt in national and international competitions, resulting in a significant reduction in grants, both in Bahia and in Brazil.

## 5 CONCLUSIONS

The Bolsa Atleta Program aims to encourage and support high-performance athletes, as well as to ensure that outstanding athletes at entry level are able to remain in the sport until they reach high performance, seeking significant results with minimal financial support.

Mapping the receipt of sports incentives for athletes via Bolsa Atleta between 2005 and 2023 showed that over the 18 years of the program, 2,113 grants were awarded to Bahian athletes, with a predominance of grants for boxing, canoeing and sport shooting. Team sports accounted for just 8% of all grants. The city of Salvador had the largest number of beneficiaries, with a predominance of males receiving grants under the program.

It is clear that the number of grants available is still not enough to cover all athletes, which points to the need for greater investment for athletes in the state of Bahia. It also demonstrates the need for all those involved to commit to promoting policies that integrate different people in the sports environment. There is also a need for actions that allow women to participate effectively in the various scenarios, whether

on the sidelines of a court or in management roles, broadening the perspective of female participation in sports.

In addition, this lack of grants for athletes from Bahia highlights the discrepancy between the reality of the Northeast region in relation to the Southeast and South regions, which could affect the continuation of a career for an athlete who started their practice in their birthplace and does not have other means of sustaining their sports career, or who may be forced to relocate to regions with better infrastructure and conditions for athletic development.

As limitations of the present study, we can mention the exclusion of the evaluation of Paralympic grants and non-Olympic sports. As for future directions, it is suggested that studies be conducted analyzing women, the value of financial aid, and the receipt of incentives by both Olympic and Paralympic athletes. It is also important to examine the place of birth, the location where the athletes started their practice, and the development of the sports careers of those awarded the Bolsa Atleta Program grant.

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**Resumo:** A concessão do Bolsa Atleta é um meio para o fomento esportivo. Entretanto, não se sabe quantas bolsas foram destinadas a atletas da Bahia. Os objetivos deste estudo foram: verificar quantos atletas conseguiram Bolsa Atleta, no período de 2005 a 2023; identificar as modalidades contempladas, coletivas e individuais; distribuição geográfica, por sexo e quantificar as categorias de bolsas por ano, identificados a partir da análise documental do Diário Oficial da União e do sítio Inteligência Esportiva. Os resultados apontaram 2.113 bolsas distribuídas aos baianos em 18 anos. Atletas de esportes individuais foram os que mais receberam o incentivo. Salvador apresentou mais beneficiados. O sexo masculino foi o mais contemplado. A categoria mais favorecida foi Atleta Nacional. Conclui-se que o investimento foi de 2% em atletas baianos em relação ao total de bolsas distribuídas a brasileiros, indicando que a quantidade de atletas contemplados é pouca quando comparada a outros estados brasileiros.

**Keywords:** Athletes. Public Policy. Athletic Performance. Sports.

**Resumen:** La concesión de la Bolsa Atleta es una forma de promocionar el deporte. Se desconoce cuántas becas fueron asignadas a deportistas bahianos. Los objetivos fueron: verificar cuántos deportistas obtuvieron Beca Atleta, en el período de 2005 a 2023; identificar las modalidades beneficiadas, colectivas e individuales; distribución geográfica, por sexo y cuantificar las categorías de becas por año, identificadas por el análisis documental del Diário Oficial da União y del sitio Inteligencia Deportiva. Los resultados arrojaron 2.113 becas distribuidas a bahianos en 18 años. Los atletas de deportes individuales fueron los que más recibieron el incentivo. Salvador tuvo más beneficiarios. Los hombres fueron los más favorecidos. La categoría más favorecida fue Deportista Nacional. Se concluye que la inversión fue del 2% en deportistas bahianos en relación al total de becas distribuidas a brasileños, lo que indica que la cantidad de atletas beneficiados es baja en comparación con otros estados brasileños.

**Palabras clave:** Atletas. Política Pública. Rendimiento Atlético. Deportes.

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## CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The authors declare that this work involves no conflict of interest.

## AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

**Flora Morais:** Conceptualization of the study idea; Writing; Data analysis; Document revision.

**Kizzy Fernandes Antualpa:** Writing of the study; Document revision.

**Gisele Teixeira de Souza Silva:** Writing of the study; Data analysis; Document revision.

**Luciana da Silva Lirani:** Writing of the study; Data analysis; Document revision.

**Thais do Amaral Machado:** Conceptualization of the idea; Writing of the study; Document revision.

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## EDITORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

 Alex Branco Fraga\*

 Elisandro Schultz Wittizorecki\*

 Guy Ginciene\*

 Mauro Myskiw\*

 Raquel da Silveira\*

\* Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Escola de Educação Física, Fisioterapia e Dança, Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil.