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PROFILE OF WOMEN ASSISTED BY THE MARIA DA PENHA PATROL IN THE PARÁ STATE

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ABSTRACT

The importance of this study is to understand the factors associated with domestic violence against women who, although legally protected, remain in a situation of vulnerability, as is the case of the women protected by the Maria da Penha Patrol in the Pará State. In this context, the objective of this study is to show the profile of women victims of domestic violence, who are under the protection of the Maria da Penha Patrol of the Pará State. For this purpose, a quantitative and descriptive survey was carried out on police records, where information was obtained: (i) at the Court of Justice of the Pará State, (ii) at the Division of Specialized Care for Women, (iii) at the Assistant Secretariat of Intelligence and Criminal Analysis, and (iv) at the Military Police Office; and refer to all women victims of domestic violence protected by the Maria da Penha Patrol of the Pará State, from 2016 to 2019. Most of the protected victims are single women with 31 to 50 years of age, who have a job and do not have children with the aggressors. We found that women seeking protection from the Public Security System of the Pará State, regarding domestic and family violence against women, have a high level of education and financial independence, and few bonds with their aggressors. It is also understood that the Emergency Protective Measures have their effectiveness intertwined with the personification of the State in the form of the Maria da Penha Patrol, and that the current ineffectiveness of the Maria da Penha Patrol in the Pará State segregates the right to protection, as it only assists women living in the State capital.

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INTRODUCTION

It is a historical and cultural understanding that the respect for men is fixed by means of oppressive mechanisms. The issue of gender arises in Brazil timidly in the late 1980s, from the feminist movement, relating the issue to gender inequality, which relies on the stigma of male virility and female submission (LOURO, 1997). Duarte *et al.* (2015) argue that gender studies have broadened the knowledge about the dynamics of the relations between men and women, in order to indicate the conditions of life of women that result from the inequalities of power, determining a serious scenario associated with violence. Despite the social changes that have taken place, the influence of gender categories on domestic and family violence is easily perceived.

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There is an implicit family model that serves as a standard from which the generations inherit the patriarchal vision, which persists in interfering in the formation of family units and interpersonal relationships in the present day, where the attributes separated in genders value the men, as a result of the domination of the male and, by contrast, the female inferiority (DUARTE *et al.*, 2005). The inherited sexism (or *machismo*) rooted in the patriarchal role of men before society and their immediate family puts them in the leading position, while other members of the same structure are treated as subordinates, coerced and without active voice (GEBARA *et al.*, 2000). According to Article 1 of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women (Convention of Belém of the Pará), violence against women is any act or conduct, based on gender, which causes death or physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women. According to

Article 4, every woman has the right to have her life respected, as well as her physical, mental and moral integrity. In its turn, Article 6 establishes that every woman has the right not to be subjected to torture and not to be discriminated against (BRASIL, 1994). Among the legal literature, such violence is described "as a rupture of any form of the victim's integrity: physical integrity, psychological integrity, sexual integrity and moral integrity" (SAFIOTTI; BONGIOVANI, 2004). The Convention of Belém of the Pará conceptualized violence against women as a violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, limiting in whole or in part the respect, enjoyment and exercise of such rights and freedoms (BRASIL, 1994). In order to enable the conditions to break the cycle of violence, the Convention created obligations for signatory States through criminal, civil and administrative rules (BRASIL, 1994). Following the recommendations of Report N° 54, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva promulgated the Law 11340/2006 on August 7, 2006 (BRASIL, 2006). Such legislation was the result of an interministerial study and became the main legal instrument to punish and especially restrain the cases of domestic violence in Brazil (BRASIL, 2006).

The current law determines in its Article 5 that domestic and family violence against women can be characterized by actions and omissions based on gender, capable of causing death, injury, physical, sexual or psychological suffering, and moral or property damage within the domestic unit, the family sphere, or in any intimate relationship of affection, regardless of cohabitation (BRASIL, 2006). Article 7 defines the forms of physical, psychological, sexual, patrimonial and moral violence, followed by forms of assistance to women in situations of domestic and family violence, addressing, for example, public policies, operational integration and the promotion of educational programs (BRASIL, 2006). Bianchini (2013) points out that the Emergency Protective Measures, established in a merely explanatory list in Articles 18 to 24 of Law N° 11340/2006, constitute one of the main innovations of the Maria da Penha Law, since they allowed the increase of the protection of women, adding the system for the prevention and combat of such violence. The Emergency Protective Measures are divided into: (i) those that compel the aggressor and, (ii) those that are addressed to the victims, due to personal, patrimonial and labor relations, such as the removal of the aggressor from the house, no-contact orders, reinstatement of the victim to the home, referral to protection or care programs, temporary prohibition to conclude acts and contracts, and suspension of registered letters of authorization and letter of delegations. They may be applied in isolation or cumulatively, as well as substituted at any time, according to the specific case, whenever legally recognized rights are threatened or violated, according to Article 19, §2 of Law N° 11340/2006 (BRASIL, 2006).

In a new attempt to prevent violence against women, Law N° 13641/2018 was enacted in April 2018, adding Article 24A to the Law N° 11.340/2006, thus defining as a criminal offense the noncompliance with a legal decision that had granted any of the emergency protective orders provided for by the Maria da Penha Law, and establishing as a punishment 3 months to 2 years of detention (BRASIL, 2018). Article 8 of Law 11340 (BRASIL, 2006) explains that the struggle against domestic and family violence against women will be carried out through an articulated set of actions among government entities, including the integration of the operation of the Judiciary, the

Public Prosecutor's Office (*Ministério Público*) and the Public Defender's Office (*Defensoria Pública*) with the areas of public security, and also the celebration of agreements, protocols, adjustments, terms or other instruments of partnership promotion, aiming at the implementation of programs to eradicate such violence. In this sense, several actions have been implemented, such as the creation of the "Brazilian woman's house" (*a casa da mulher brasileira*) and the "panic button" (*botão do pânico*), aiming at reducing the cases of domestic violence and making Maria da Penha Law more effective. The Maria da Penha Patrol (PMP) is provided for in the National Plan for Public Security, with infrastructure and equipment provided by the Federal Government, and the effective force consisting of the Municipal Guard, or Military Police, which is responsible for supervising compliance with the protective orders (BRASIL, 2017). The first PMP was created in 2012, initially operating only in the four "Peace Territories" of Porto Alegre, located in neighborhoods with high rates of violence, crime and death. Spaniol and Grossi (2014) also explain that PMP's main objective is to avoid criminal threats and recidivism. In the Pará State, the PMP emerged in December 2015, as the pioneer of the Northern Region of the country, through a Technical Cooperation Agreement between the Court of Justice of the Pará State (TJ-PA), the State Secretariat of Public Security and Social Protection (SEGUP) and the *Pro Paz Mulher* Program, with the objective of integrating public policies focused on the prevention and eradication of domestic and family violence against women, through the supervision of the protective measures (PARÁ, 2015).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The method of study developed was quantitative, in which the researcher considers that all data can be quantifiable, in order to classify and analyze them by using statistical tools. The research was based on descriptive and exploratory techniques. The means of investigation used was documentary research, which is carried out through "documents kept inside public and private institutions of any nature, or with people" (VERGARA, 2011). The research was carried out at the Court of Justice of the State of Para (Coordination of Domestic and Family Violence), and at the *Pro Paz Mulher* Foundation in Belém, the base of the Maria da Penha Patrol, the base of the Division of Specialized Care for Women, and at the Assistant Secretariat of Intelligence and Criminal Analysis, linked to the Secretariat of Public Security of Para. The municipality of Belém, capital of the state, was chosen as the place for the development of the research due to the jurisdiction of its three Courts of Domestic Violence against Women. The period of analysis was established between January 2016 and February 2019, considered as the time frame of the research. The data collection was made from the availability of information from the questionnaires of the 154 victims assisted by the PMP-PA, which were supplemented by the information extracted from the statistical database provided by Secretariat of Intelligence and Criminal Analysis (SIAC), through a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet and generated directly from the Integrated System of Public Security (SISP-WEB). The Microsoft Excel software was used to build the database, the tables and the graphs. The variables used were: neighborhood, age, gender, ethnicity, educational level, marital status, employment status, profession, number of children, number of children with the aggressor, and relationship with the aggressor.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The majority of the women victims of domestic violence assisted by the PMP-PA are in the 31-50 age range (72.73%) (Table 1). It is noteworthy that most of these women are older than women victims of domestic violence in the Metropolitan Region of Belém, according to a study by Ramos *et al.* (2011), in which the majority of the victims were in the 20-30 age group. Neme and Sobral (2019), when presenting the victimization of women in Brazil, showed prevalence of younger females, with 42.6% of them in the 16-24 age group, a percentage that tends to decrease as the women get older. Alencar *et al.* (2018), when studying domestic violence in lesbian relationships, show that the predominant age group is that between 35 and 45 years of age, which is close to the age group of the women assisted by the PMP-PA.

Table 1. Quantity and Percentage of Women Protected by the Maria da Penha Patrol of the Pará State, from 2016 to 2019, by Age, Race, Level of Education and Marital Status

Variable	Category	Quantity	Percentage
Age(in Years)	18 to 30	17	11.04
	31 to 40	62	40.26
	41 to 50	50	32.47
	> 50	25	16.23
	Total	154	100.00
Race	Brown / Black	112	72.73
	White	42	27.27
	Total	154	100.00
Level of Education	Illiterate	1	0.65
	I.P.E.	18	11.69
	C.P.E.	17	11.04
	I.S.E.	12	7.79
	C.S.E.	58	37.65
	I.H.E.	23	14.94
	C.H.E.	18	11.69
	PhD	7	4.55
	Total	154	100.00
	Marital Status	Single	89
Married		26	16.88
Informal Marriage		23	14.94
Divorced		12	7.79
Widow		4	2.60
Total	154	100.00	

Note: Made by the Authors.

Regarding the women victims of domestic violence assisted by the Maria da Penha Patrol in Salvador, the highest percentage of victimization is found among those who self-identified as black (28.4%), followed by those who identified themselves as brown (27.5%), and in a lower percentage, those who declared themselves white (24.7%) (SANTIAGO, 2019). Similar results were obtained in relation to the victims protected by the PMP-PA, since the number of black and brown women reached 72.73%, and only 27.27% of them were white (Table 1). Neme and Sobral (2019) argue that racism and its consequences aggravate the risk of violence against black and brown women. According to FBSP (2019), only 24.7% of women who were victims of domestic violence considered themselves white. According to Santos and Grelin (2017), among the more than 16 million Brazilian women who may have suffered some type of violence within a year, most were black women (31%). In cases of moral violence, the index is higher among black women (browns and blacks) (45%), compared to white women (35%).

The survey also pointed out that between 2003 and 2013, black female deaths increased by 54%, while the same rate against

white women decreased by 9.8% (SANTOS; GRELIN, 2017). The index found as a result of the link between the mortality rates for both races had an increase of 190.9% in relation to black women throughout the country, a number that exceeds 300% in some states, as is the case of the Pará State (SANTOS; GRELIN, 2017). Among the victims assisted by the PMP-PA, we observed that, in relation to those who declared to be illiterate, the index does not reach 1%. The higher concentration regarding the education of the women is on the *complete secondary education* category (37.65%) (Table 1). As demonstrated by Alencar *et al.* (2018) on the records of domestic violence in lesbian relationships, both aggressors and victims have, on average, complete secondary education (29.41% and 35%, respectively), in a greater proportion than the other categories. FBSP (2017) points out that women with higher levels of education, who have at least complete secondary education, and an income higher than five minimum wages, tend to report cases of violence more often than women with lower income and schooling. Ramos *et al.* (2011) showed that the majority of women victims of domestic violence have complete secondary education (32.36%). However, he analyzes that

The low percentage of literate (0.18%) and illiterate (0.92%) women in the records of the social sector of *DEAM* cannot be interpreted as absence of violence among women with such characteristics, but, on the contrary, it is indicative that the issue is even more serious, since it does not reach the public authorities (RAMOS *et al.*, 2011).

Most women protected by the PMP-PA identified themselves as single (57.79%) (Table 1). The same occurs with victims of domestic violence in lesbian relationships, of whom 72.08% are single (ALENCAR *et al.*, 2018). Similarly, Neme and Sobral (2019) and Ramos (2017) observed that single and divorced women report more aggressions than those who remain in their relationships. Regarding the women's occupation, most of the victims assisted by the PMP-PA have a job (67.53%), either in the Commercial Sector (25.48%), in the Informal Sector (21.57%), as domestic workers (11.76%), or in the Service Sector (10.46%) (Table 2). The numbers differ from the results by Ramos *et al.* (2011), which showed that women victims of domestic violence are either housewives (30.97) or perform services in the informal sector (27.05%). Seventy percent of the victims of domestic violence interviewed in a survey carried out by *Data Popular Institute* and *Patrícia Galvão Institute* (2013) were part of the economically active population, with the majority working as self-employed (27%), followed by signed employees (23%), and housewives and employees without a formal contract (both with 12%). According to a FBSP (2017) survey, the victimization of women having an income greater than 10 minimum wages occurs more frequently at home (52%) than at work (23%), while for low-income women (up to 2 minimum wages) the victimization is more distributed between the house (43%) and the streets (44%). Most of the women assisted by the PMP-PA have one or two children (60.38%), followed by those who do not have any (15.58%) (Table 2). In addition, 40.40% of these women do not have children with the perpetrators of the aggressions, from whom they are legally protected (Table 2). According to Brazil (2015a), more than 82% of women victims of domestic violence that contacted the Women's Assistance Center (*Ligue 180*) in 2013 had children. In addition, 68.2% of women victims of domestic violence who participated in the 2nd edition of the Visible and Invisible

(*Visível e Invisível*) survey on the victimization of women in Brazil had children (FBSP, 2019).

Table 2. Quantity and Percentage of Women Protected by the Maria da Penha Patrol of the Pará State, from 2016 to 2019, by Employment Status, Number of Children, Number of Children with the Aggressor, Social Program and Housing

Variable	Category	Quantity	Percentage
Employment Status	Yes (has a job)	104	67.53
	No (does not have a job)	50	32.47
	Total	154	100.00
Work Situation and/or Work Sector	Business Sector	39	25.48
	Informal Sector	33	21.57
	Housewife	18	11.76
	Service Sector	16	10.46
	Public Sector	8	5.23
	Student	7	4.58
	Educational Sector	6	3.92
	Industrial Sector	5	3.27
	Retired	2	1.31
	Other	19	12.42
Total	153	100.00	
Number of Children	None	24	15.58
	One	51	33.11
	Two	42	27.27
	Three	20	12.99
	>Three	17	11.05
Total	154	100.00	
Number of Children with the Aggressor	None	61	40.40
	One	47	31.12
	Two	25	16.56
	>Two	18	11.92
Total	151	100.00	
Degree of relatedness with the Aggressor	Ex-husband/Formal spouse	97	62.97
	Husband/Partner	28	18.18
	Son	7	4.55
	Ex-Boyfriend	7	4.55
	Brother	5	3.25
	Brother-in-law	2	1.30
	Uncle	2	1.30
	Cousin	2	1.30
	Neighbor	1	0.65
	Boyfriend	1	0.65
	Stepson	1	0.65
	Nephew	1	0.65
	Total	154	100.00

Note: Made by the Authors.

Regarding the relationship between the victims and the suspects, 86.35% of the violations were perpetrated by people with whom the victims were not blood-related, but with whom they lived intimately in affective relationships (Table 3). Of these victims, 67.52% no longer maintain affective bonds with their ex-boyfriend, ex-husband or ex-partner, and 18.83% are in a current relationship with the aggressor (boyfriend, husband and partner) (Table 3). Family members, such as son, stepchild, brother and uncle, for example, represent only 13% of the offenders (Table 3). Women interviewed by the Data Senado Research Institute, in partnership with the Women's Observatory against Violence, pointed out the husband or partner as the main aggressor (49%). However, when categorized by the regions, the survey showed that in the Northern side of the country the rate of aggression due to old relationships (24%) was lower than that of women beaten by their current husband or partner (35%) (BRASIL, 2015b). On the records served by *Ligue 180*, about 62.8% of women reported the aggression, 19% of them regarding former relationships, and 10.2% against relatives (BRASIL, 2015a). According to Madureira *et al.* (2014), while presenting the profile of partner aggressors caught in the act and the violence perpetrated against women in Paraná, also pointed out the

husband/partner as the main aggressor (61.5%), followed by the ex-husband/ex-partner (15.4%), and, to a lesser extent (8.5%), the victim's own son.

Conclusion

Based on the general characteristics of female victims of domestic violence assisted by the PMP-PA, we conclude that most of these women are single, brown or black, between 31 and 50 years old, having a job and with complete secondary education or incomplete higher education. Most of them have one or two children, but none with the aggressor. In most cases, the offender is the victim's ex-boyfriend, ex-partner or ex-husband. Also, the victims protected by the PMP-PA are women who have more access to information and who seek their rights by reporting the aggression to the police authorities, requesting protective measures and reporting noncompliance with legal orders. They wish to end contact with the aggressor and seek an effective protection from the State.

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