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Youth of São Paulo less exposed to violence

Bruno Paes Manso

The cities in São Paulo, including the capital, are among the safest in Brazil for young people between 12 and 29 years of age. On the other extreme are the **cities** in the northeastern states of Pernambuco and Bahia. There, in addition to being poorer and having less access to jobs and schools, young people are more likely to be murdered or die in traffic accidents. These data come from a study by the Brazilian Forum of Public Safety (FBSP), done at the request of the ministry of justice. In the study, an Index of Juvenile Vulnerability to Violence was created to analyze the level of safety of youth in 266 Brazilian cities with more than 100 thousand residents.

Cubatão, the Paulista city where youth and adolescents find themselves most vulnerable to violence, appears at 53rd place in the ranking. The capital of São Paulo is the best placed among the country's capitals, and holds 192nd place in the general ranking. Among the 42 Brazilian cities with the lowest vulnerability indexes, 26 are in the state of São Paulo. The safest in the country is São Carlos, followed by São Caetano and Franca.

The inverse situation applies in northeastern cities. Of the 53 cities with more than 100 thousand residents, 22 had high or very high vulnerability indexes for young people. Pernambuco has eight cities at this level, and Bahia seven. However, the data of the study come from 2006 and therefore don't register the improvement in the Pernambucan indexes of violence, which dropped by 13% this year. "As this index considers variables of income in addition to indicators of violence, poor northeastern cities gain prominence. On the other hand, Fox do Iguaçu, violent but relatively rich, remains lower," explains sociologist Ignacio Cano, professor at UERJ.

The study also shows that, although serious, the situation in large cities has not become chaotic. Only 15.4% of the 51.5 million young people age 12 to 29 live in cities with high or very high risk. This happens because the majority of capitals have medium to low vulnerability. Only six capitals – Macció, Porto Velho, Recife, Belém, Macapá, and Teresina – present greater danger to young people.

INCOME

Rio de Janeiro, in 64th place, and Vitória, in 107th, earned points (just as did other capitals) because of **income variables**. The states of Rio and of Espírito Santo, however, found themselves poorly positioned. Of the 26 municipalities in Rio with more than 100 thousand residents, 7 have high risk. In Espírito Santo's case, four of the eight biggest cities are in this situation. "Capitals have more capability to invest in safety policies," says the sociologist Renato Lima, of FBSP.

ESTUDO			
O ranking do risco		Índice é calculado com base em homicídios, mortes em acidentes de trânsito e indicadores sociais	
Índice de Vulnerabilidade Juvenil à Violência			
POSIÇÃO NO RANKING	MUNICÍPIO	ÍNDICE	
Em pior situação			
1. ^a	Itabuna (BA)	0,577	
2. ^a	Marabá (PA)	0,574	
3. ^a	Foz do Iguaçu (PR)	0,568	
4. ^a	Camaçari (BA)	0,561	
5. ^a	Governador Valadares (MG)	0,550	
6. ^a	Cabo de Santo Agostinho (PE)	0,539	
7. ^a	Jaboatão dos Guararapes (PE)	0,516	
8. ^a	Teixeira de Freitas (BA)	0,516	
9. ^a	Linhares (ES)	0,516	
10. ^a	Serra (ES)	0,502	
Em melhor situação			
1. ^a	São Carlos (SP)	0,238	
2. ^a	São Caetano do Sul (SP)	0,239	
3. ^a	Franca (SP)	0,248	
4. ^a	Juiz de Fora (MG)	0,252	
5. ^a	Poços de Caldas (MG)	0,252	
6. ^a	Bento Gonçalves (RS)	0,257	
7. ^a	Divinópolis (MG)	0,263	
8. ^a	Bauru (SP)	0,267	
9. ^a	Jaraguá do Sul (SC)	0,270	
10. ^a	Petrópolis (RJ)	0,271	
Capitais em pior situação			
		POSIÇÃO GERAL*	
1. ^a	Maceió (AL)	13. ^a	0,496
2. ^a	Porto Velho (RO)	19. ^a	0,483
3. ^a	Recife (PE)	22. ^a	0,481
4. ^a	Belém (PA)	34. ^a	0,458
5. ^a	Macapá (AP)	40. ^a	0,455
Capitais em melhor situação			
		POSIÇÃO GERAL*	
1. ^a	São Paulo (SP)	192. ^a	0,325
2. ^a	Brasília (DF)	172. ^a	0,334
3. ^a	Goiânia (GO)	163. ^a	0,338
4. ^a	Porto Alegre (RS)	161. ^a	0,342
5. ^a	Florianópolis (SC)	157. ^a	0,346

* As primeiras posições representam maior índice e, portanto, pior situação

Migrant chose the “right path”



SUCESSO – Givanilson Góes viu amigos serem assassinados; hoje atua como instrutor de ciência

20-year-old Givanilson Lima Góes’s parents moved from the interior of Bahia to the periphery of São Bernardo do Campo in the mid-1990’s, when Góes was seven years old. In spite of having arrived in a time when the city was still suffering from a high murder rate, which only began to decrease after 1999, Góes entered public school and made friends with a group of children who loved to study.

Although sure of the course he would like to follow in life, Góes had friends in his neighborhood of Baeta Neves who were murdered, others who became addicted to drugs, and some who ended up in prison. “I always wanted to achieve my goals by studying hard, even knowing that it’s the longer and harder path. Crime and drugs are an easy way to get what you want. It seems like things fall from the sky, but as time goes on those who choose that path end up behind.”

Opportunities came his way. When he was taking a technical course in electronics, he joined Reading Circles, classes offered by the Fernand Braudel Institute in the capital, where young people discuss literary classics. He went every Saturday. Through the same organization, in 2006 he became an instructor at the Academia de Ciências, bringing more practical methods of teaching science to public schools. “We go beyond chalk-and-talk lectures. To teach electromagnetism, we put together a telegraph. We teach optics with a box camera, we give

classes in Astronomy, and some of our students were medalists in the Astronomy Olympiad they competed in. They began to look at the sky in a new way.”

Góes is getting an Associate’s Degree in advertising technology, and has used what he has learned to create a website for the Academia de Ciências (www.academiaciencia.org.br). He wants to get his degree in physics. “Here, there are opportunities for those who fight for them.”●

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Federal funds do not reach the worst cities

Among the 43 cities in which youth run the greatest risk of violence, 58%, or 25 cities, still have not received funds from the National Public Safety Program (**com Cidadania**) (Pronasci). For example, Itabuna, in Bahia, and Marabá, in Pará, ranking first on the Index of Juvenile Vulnerability to Violence, still have not joined the program.

115 cities have already agreed to join Pronasci, which was created by the Ministry of Justice in August of 2007 and gives funds for Brazilian cities to develop public safety programs. Through November of this year, Pronasci has sent R\$900 million to programs that invest in salary benefits for police and create local committees to manage these funds, among other actions.

The minister of justice, Tarso Genro, present yesterday at the **announcement** of the study at the **Secretary of State of Justice and Defense of the Citizenry**, in Sao Paulo, celebrated the results of the study. “We are happy with the results because they **highlight the work we’re doing together at all levels of government, in the city and the state,**” he said. “We believe that the **leadership of local government is fundamental in this area,** carrying out preventive measures aimed at young people,” said Tarso.

The minister asserted that those cities joining Pronasci have already been able to advance conditions of public safety, and because of this, they present higher indexes than the rest. According to the study, however, the municipalities with high or very high indexes of vulnerability are proportionally more affiliated with Pronasci. “This shows that we are getting our focus right, since investments should prioritize the cities in the worst conditions,” responded Regina Miki, the special adviser to the Minister of Justice.

BUDGETS

In relation to investment in public safety, the results presented yesterday show that the more cities spend in this area, the lower the index of vulnerability of youth. The cities with lower risk invest, on average, 1.3% of their budget in this area. Those with very high vulnerability spend only 0.4% of their funds on safety. Young people also face lower risks in cities that spend more on policing by municipal guards.