


## MODELING OF CRIMES MOTIVATED BY HOMOPHOBIA THAT OCCURRED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN THE STATE OF PARÁ, BRAZIL

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### ABSTRACT

It was observed that there is little debate about violence against LGBTQIAP+ people. Thus, the study is necessary for a better understanding, proposing to investigate and expand the discussions about crime in the state of Pará during the Covid-19 pandemic period with a focus on the LGBTQIAP+ population. An analysis of scenarios of complaints received by public security agencies will be addressed to identify the prevalence, motivations, forms and factors in relation to the violence that occurred and the spatial and temporal distribution of these events that involves gender relations and sexual diversity in their multiple daily lives, in addition to drawing a profile related to the complainants and aggressors. Thus, the objective is to improve the management of knowledge about homophobia. Therefore, it is an applied study with a quantitative characteristic of the descriptive and exploratory type, using the descriptive statistical technique and logistic regression to demonstrate violence against LGBTQIAP+ people. The information used was obtained from the Assistant Secretary of Intelligence and Criminal Analysis, linked to the State Secretariat of Public Security and Social Defense of Pará. With the methodology used, it was intended to verify whether or not during the pandemic period there was an increase in cases of violence motivated by homophobia. In addition, it is expected that with the results found, through the indicators of public security and social defense, they can contribute to a better understanding, in addition to proposing the creation and implementation of strategic initiatives in the sense of continuous improvement of social prevention and combating violence and crime against this population in a time horizon and effective future public policies.

**Keywords:** Modeling. Descriptive Statistics. LGBTQIAP+. Pandemic Period.

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## INTRODUCTION

It cannot be denied that Brazil has made great advances in citizenship and the rights of the LGBTQIAP+ population, especially in the legislature, however, even after the effectiveness of PLC 122/06, homophobic violence in the country is worrying. Brazil is still one of the countries that kills the most LGBTQIAP+ in the world! Every 16 hours, a person is murdered because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. At least 8,027 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transvestite, transsexual, queer, intersex and pansexual (LGBTQIAP+) people were killed in hate crimes motivated by homophobia between 1963 and 2018, according to the Gay Group of Bahia (GGB), which for years has been compiling data that appears in the media and in family reports. And it doesn't stop there: Brazil is also the absolute champion of deaths of trans people on the planet, being responsible for almost 50% of murders worldwide, according to a survey by the NGO Transrespect Europe in its report (BALZER; LAGATA; BERREDO, 2016) and, according to the Brazilian Association of Gays, Bisexuals, Transvestites and Transsexuals (ABGLT), 70% of Brazilian LGBTQIAP+ students have already suffered discrimination in schools. And, it should be noted that these data, however, do not represent the totality, since there is no official data with the focus on gender identity and sexual orientation, by official government institutions, since the police reports are registered as racism.

As can be seen, homophobia is a phenomenon present not only in Brazil, but internationally and, with the event of the Covid-19 Pandemic in the years 2020 to 2021 in which there was social isolation, some worrying indices emerged regarding this type of violence. The movement created by the WHO entitled "Stay Home" that made a request to the population to stay at home, with the purpose of preventing the spread of Covid-19 caused, in addition to economic instabilities, an increase in violence due to the following aspects: a) assiduous presence closer to the aggressor in the same environment as the victim; b) weakening of the relationship with social support networks and institutions for LGBTQIAP+ people due to the decrease in the search for help; c) perpetuation of violence and the discouragement of LGBTQIAP+ people from taking action against the perpetrator.

In this regard, it is necessary to understand the dynamics of crimes committed against LGBTQIAP+ people in the state of Pará, in the period from 2020 to 2021, and data from 2022 were included for post-pandemic comparison, based on the use of data contained in the SIAC/SEGUP-PA databases, from their records of police occurrences. The analysis of the records will help to understand the current panorama of homophobic violence and its characterization, its causes, the relationships between perpetrator and victim, among other relevant aspects, an essential tool for the planning and execution of

preventive actions, with the development of policies that can curb such practice, thus justifying the importance and relevance of this research.

Thus, the present study intends to make theoretical and investigative reflections on violence motivated by homophobia, seeking to verify the profile and incidence of violence against LGBTQIAP+ people in the state of Pará, in the context of the Covid-19 Pandemic, thus mapping the indicators of the phenomenon.

## METHODOLOGY

An analysis of scenarios was carried out regarding the complaints received by the civil police stations in order to identify the prevalence, motivations, forms and factors in relation to the violence that occurred and the spatial and temporal distribution of these events that involves gender relations and sexual diversity in their multiple daily lives, in addition to drawing a profile related to the complainants and aggressors. Therefore, it is an applied study of quantitative characteristics of the descriptive and exploratory type, using the descriptive statistical technique, modeling and logistic regression to demonstrate violence against LGBTQIAP+ people. The information used was obtained, in July 2023, from the Deputy Secretariat for Intelligence and Criminal Analysis, linked to the State Secretariat for Public Security and Social Defense of Pará. With the methodology used, it was intended to verify whether or not during the pandemic period there was an increase in cases of violence motivated by homophobia.

This is an applied study with a quantitative, descriptive nature and an exploratory approach. The data refer to crimes of violence against LGBTQIAP+ people in the state of Pará, located in the northern region of Brazil, with a territorial area of 1,059,466 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of 8,442,962 inhabitants (IBGE, 2023), and the information was broken from January 2020 to December 2022.

The data used are of a secondary nature and were made available, in July 2023, by the Assistant Secretariat for Intelligence and Criminal Analysis (SIAC) linked to the Secretariat of State and Public Security and Social Defense of Pará (SEGUP-PA) which is responsible for organizing criminal statistics in the state of Pará.

With the data base, descriptive analysis of the data was performed using frequency and percentage tables, as well as graphs and synthesis measures (BUSSAB; MORETTIN, 2013), with the objective of characterizing cases of violence against LGBTQIAP+ people. Subsequently, the data were exported to Minitab 19 software to develop the multiple binary logistic regression model, considering the response variable "Presumable Cause" of the crime ( $Y_i$ ), coded at 1 if the crime was caused by Homophobia and 0 if the crime was

caused by another reason. Considering the predictor variables: Place of occurrence (coded at 1 if the crime occurred in a private residence and at 0 if the crime occurred in another location); Victim's gender (coded at 1 if the victim is female and at 0 if the victim is male); Sex of the aggressor (coded at 1 if the aggressor is male and at 0 if the aggressor is female); and Year of the fact (coded in 1 if the crime occurred in 2021 and in 0 if the crime occurred in 2022). Simple logistic regression explains the relationship, based on a model, between a qualitative response variable and an independent variable, called a covariate. In the case of only one independent variable, we have Simple Binary Logistic Regression. Thus, the model is given by  $X_i$

$$E(X_i) = \frac{\exp(\beta_0 + \beta_1 X_i)}{1 + \exp(\beta_0 + \beta_1 X_i)} \quad (1)$$

where  $\beta_0$  and  $\beta_1$  are the regression coefficients to be estimated by the maximum likelihood method and  $X_i$  is the independent variable, where  $i=1,2,\dots,n$ . Multiple Logistic Regression, which is an extension of model (1), is composed of two or more independent variables ( $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_p$ ) and, by their respective regression coefficients  $\beta_1, \dots, \beta_p$ . Therefore, we have  $\beta^t X = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_{(i,1)} + \dots + \beta_p X_{(i,p)}$ . Therefore, the model extends to Multiple Logistics, given by

$$E(X_i) = \pi(X_i) = \frac{\exp(\beta^t X)}{1 + \exp(\beta^t X)} \quad (2)$$

Thus, the independent variable is obtained where the term is the random error of the model and represents the difference between the observed value of and the conditioned expected value of the data, being a dichotomous variable, assuming only the values 0 or 1. The values of the parameters are estimated using the maximum likelihood method. The odds ratio is used for the analysis of binary data, which is the ratio between the chance of an event occurring in one group and the chance of occurring in another group. Where the  $Y_i Y_i = E(X_i) + \varepsilon_i$ ,  $\varepsilon_i Y_i Y_i X_i Y_i \beta_0, \beta_1, \dots, \beta_n$  chance is the probability of occurrence of the event by the probability of the non-occurrence of the same event (AGRESTI, 2003). In this way, the odds ratio is given by:

$$chance_i = \frac{P(X_i)}{P(X_i)} = \frac{\pi(X_i)}{1 - \pi(X_i)} \text{ and } RC = \frac{\frac{\pi(X_i=1)}{1 - \pi(X_i=1)}}{\frac{\pi(X_i=0)}{1 - \pi(X_i=0)}} \quad (3)$$

Next, an analysis of the results was carried out, in order to verify whether or not there is a prevalence of violence against LGBTQIAP+ people in the family environment in relation

to other spaces, in addition to the influence of other variables such as the year of the fact, and the profile of the aggressors and victims.

## RESULTS

It was identified that most of the homophobic crimes that occurred in the pandemic period, especially in 2021, showed more chances of occurrences when compared to the years 2020 and 2022 (post-pandemic). Most of them occurred in private residences, residential condominiums (34.28%), with emphasis on the crime of injury in the 3 years studied. From the multiple logistic regression, it was possible to evidence that in the pandemic year 2021, there was also a prevalence of violence against LGBTQIAP+ people, outside the residence.

## DISCUSSION

According to Table 1, of the total number of records that occurred in 2020 (33), 2021 (105), and 2022 (90), the most frequent crimes against LGBTQIAP+ people were: Injury in 2020 (33.34%), 2021 (47.63%), and in 2022 (25.57%). Most crimes occurred in the afternoon in 2020 (39.40%) and in 2021 (37.14%), while in 2022 most occurred at night (33.33%). Regarding the day of the week, Sundays stand out, in 2020 (21.21%), in 2021 (20.00%) and in 2022 (20.00%).

Table 1: Quantity and Percentage of Crimes against LGBTQIAP+ people in the municipality of Belém do Pará, in the Period from 2020 to 2022, by Type of Crime, Shift and Day of the Week.

Variable	Category	2020		2021		2022	
		N (33)	%	N (105)	%	N (90)	%
Type of Crime	Injury	11	33,34	50	47,63	23	25,57
	Bodily injury	6	18,18	12	11,43	16	17,78
	Menace	10	30,3	12	11,43	9	10
	Practice Discrimination/Prejudice	-	-	21	20	7	7,78
	Racial slur	-	-	-	-	22	24,44
	Defamation	4	12,12	6	5,71	3	3,33
	Other	2	6,06	4	3,8	10	10,1
Shift	Dawn	1	3,03	7	6,67	12	13,34
	Morning	8	24,24	27	25,71	26	28,89
	Afternoon	13	39,4	39	37,14	22	24,44
	Night	11	33,33	32	30,48	30	33,33
Day of the Week	Sunday	7	21,21	21	20	18	20
	Second	4	12,12	14	13,33	16	17,78
	Tuesday	2	6,07	21	20	11	12,22
	Fourth	4	12,12	17	16,19	9	10
	Fifth	4	12,12	14	13,33	8	8,89
	Friday	7	21,21	7	6,67	10	11,11
	Saturday	5	15,15	11	10,48	18	20

Source: SIAC-SEGUP/PA, JULY/2023

Table 2 shows that most of the crimes that occurred in 2021 were in private residence, residential condominium (34.28%). Most victims were female in 2020 (60.61%), in 2021 (61.90%) and in 2022 (55.56%). Regarding the sex of the aggressor, in 156 crimes it was not possible to obtain information on the sex of the perpetrator, and among the 72 crimes analyzed, 13 (100.00%) were for a male aggressor in 2020, 21 (67.74%) crimes in 2021 and 21 in 2022 (75.00%).

Table 2: Quantity and Percentage of Crimes against LGBTQIAP+ people in the municipality of Belém do Pará, in the Period from 2020 to 2022, by Place of Occurrence, Sex of the victim and Sex of the aggressor.

Variable	Category	2020		2021		2022	
		n	%	n	%	n	%
Place of Occurrence	Public road, Public place	16	48,49	29	27,62	30	33,34
	Private residence, Residential condominium	12	36,36	36	34,28	26	28,89
	Other	5	15,15	40	38,1	34	37,77
Victim's Gender	Female	20	60,61	40	38,1	40	44,44
	Male	13	39,39	65	61,9	50	55,56
Sex of the Aggressor	Female	-	-	10	32,26	7	25
	Male	13	100	21	67,74	21	75

Source: SIAC-SEGUP/PA, JULY/2023

Table 3 presents the results of the multiple logistic regression of crimes against LGBTQIAP+ people in the municipality of Belém do Pará, where the estimates of the adjusted parameters of the model, given by 1 (Homophobia), according to the predictor variables ( $X_i$ ) were obtained.

Table 3: Estimates of the Parameters of the Multiple Logistic Regression Model for Crimes against LGBTQIAP+ People in the municipality of Belém do Pará, in the Period from 2020 to 2022.

Predictor Variable	Category	Coefficient	Standard Error	p	Odds Ratio	95% CI	
						READ	LS
Constant	-	-0,832	0,375	0,018	-	-	-
Place of Occurrence	Private Residence	-0,152	0,294	0,605	0,86	0,48	1,53
	Other Locations*	-	-	-	-	-	-
Victim's Gender	Female	-0,301	0,328	0,359	0,74	0,39	1,41
	Male*	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sex of the Aggressor	Male	0,321	0,348	0,356	1,38	0,70	2,73
	Female*	-	-	-	-	-	-
Year of the Fact	2021	0,968	0,293	0,001	2,63	1,48	4,67
	2022*	-	-	-	-	-	-

Note: \*Reference Category;  $p \leq 0.05$ ; LI: Lower Limit, LS: Upper Limit.

## CONCLUSION

This work identified that most of the crimes due to Homophobia that occurred in 2021 (pandemic period) showed about 3 times more chance of occurrences when compared to the years 2020 and 2022, the period before and after the pandemic. Most of them occurred in private residence, residential condominium (34.28%), with emphasis on the crime Injury

in the 3 years studied. Regarding the gender of the victim and the aggressor, the most prominent was male gender in 2021 and 2022. From multiple logistic regression, it was possible to evidence that in the pandemic year in 2021, there was a prevalence of violence against LGBTQIAP+ people, possibly motivated by the assiduous and closer presence of the aggressor in the same environment as the victim, where they were pointed out in this study. Thus, the importance and need to re-discuss and develop new strategies in the political, social and legal panorama in Brazilian government institutions for the promotion of citizenship and the guarantee of the rights of this population is emphasized.

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