

**PREVENTIVE ACTIONS IN BRAZILIAN LEGISLATION: AN ANALYSIS OF THE
LEVELS OF PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN AND
ADOLESCENTS IN THE FAMILY SPHERE**

***AÇÕES PREVENTIVAS NA LEGISLAÇÃO BRASILEIRA: UMA ANÁLISE DOS
NÍVEIS DE PREVENÇÃO À VIOLÊNCIA CONTRA CRIANÇAS E ADOLESCENTES
NO ÂMBITO FAMILIAR***

***ACCIONES PREVENTIVAS EN LA LEGISLACIÓN BRASILEÑA: UN ANÁLISIS DE
LOS NIVELES DE PREVENCIÓN DE LA VIOLENCIA CONTRA NIÑOS Y
ADOLESCENTES EN EL ÁMBITO FAMILIAR***



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ABSTRACT: This study mapped the Brazilian legislation for the prevention of violence against children and adolescents in the family environment, analyzing the levels of prevention present in them. A qualitative documentary research was conducted in four sources: Official Gazette of the State of Alagoas, Legislative Assembly of Alagoas, Brazilian Federal Legislation and Municipal Legislation of Maceió, using the descriptors “violence against children and adolescents” or “parenting”. A final sample of nine legislations was obtained. The results indicate that the legislation covers all three levels: primary, more present, with educational actions; secondary, focused on the early identification of the population at risk; and tertiary, aimed at continuous monitoring and family reintegration. It is concluded that the Brazilian legislation offers mechanisms of articulated actions, but its practical effectiveness faces challenges, requiring the strengthening of protection networks and professional training.

KEYWORDS: Prevention. Child and Adolescent Violence. Legislation. Public Policies.

RESUMO: Este estudo mapeou as legislações brasileiras de prevenção das violências contra crianças e adolescentes no âmbito familiar, analisando os níveis de prevenção nelas presentes. Realizou-se uma pesquisa documental qualitativa em quatro fontes: Diário Oficial do Estado de Alagoas, Assembleia Legislativa de Alagoas, Legislação Federal Brasileira e Legislação Municipal de Maceió, utilizando os descritores “violência contra criança e adolescente” ou “parentalidade”. Obteve-se uma amostra final de nove legislações. Os resultados indicam que a legislação contempla os três níveis de prevenção: a primária, mais presente, com ações educativas; a secundária, focada na identificação precoce da população em risco; e a terciária, voltada ao acompanhamento contínuo e à reintegração familiar. Conclui-se que a legislação brasileira oferece mecanismos de ações articuladas, mas sua efetividade prática enfrenta desafios, exigindo o fortalecimento das redes de proteção e a capacitação profissional.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Prevenção. Violência Infantojuvenil. Legislação. Políticas Públicas.

RESUMEN: Este estudio mapeó las legislaciones brasileñas para la prevención de la violencia infantil y juvenil en el entorno familiar, analizando los niveles de prevención presentes en ellas. Se realizó una investigación documental cualitativa en cuatro fuentes: Boletín Oficial del Estado de Alagoas, Asamblea Legislativa de Alagoas, Legislación Federal Brasileña y Legislación Municipal de Maceió, utilizando los descriptores “violencia contra niños y adolescentes” o “parentalidad”. Se obtuvo una muestra final de nueve legislaciones. Los resultados indican que la legislación contempla los tres niveles: primario, más presente, con acciones educativas; secundario, centrado en la identificación temprana de la población en riesgo; y terciario, orientado a la supervisión continua y la reintegración familiar. Se concluye que la legislación brasileña ofrece mecanismos de acción articulada, pero su eficacia práctica enfrenta desafíos que requieren el fortalecimiento de redes de protección y formación profesional.

PALABRAS CLAVE: Prevención. Violencia infantil y juvenil. Legislación. Políticas pública.

INTRODUCTION

Violence is characterized by the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or a group, resulting in harm of various natures (Krug et al., 2002). In the case of children and adolescents, violence involves actions or omissions by family members or guardians that harm physical, emotional, and social development (Toledo, 2013), constituting the main form of intrafamily violence in the country (Minayo, 2020).

In 2024, more than 289,000 reports of violence against children and adolescents were registered on Disque 100, a free government service for the registration and referral of reports of human rights violations (Brasil, 2024). The 2025 Atlas of Violence identifies Alagoas as the state with the second-highest homicide rates among the population aged 0 to 19 between 2013 and 2023, approaching 60 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants (Cerqueira & Bueno, 2025).

Data from the Ministry of Health's Notifiable Diseases Information System (SINAN/MS) corroborate the gravity of the scenario: 48,200 cases of violence against children and adolescents were registered in the state of Alagoas during the analyzed period. Of this total, 9,871 occurred only in Maceió, the state capital, with 1,198 in just the last year of the period (Brasil, 2025). The domestic environment stands out as the primary location of occurrence, which reveals the centrality of family relationships (Cerqueira & Bueno, 2025).

In health, an approach based on three levels of prevention is adopted: I) Primary — comprises actions developed before the occurrence of violence and are aimed at the general population; II) Secondary — involves immediate interventions after the occurrence, directed at at-risk groups identified early; and III) Tertiary — consists of long-term measures to reduce consequences, providing specialized follow-up, resocialization and rehabilitation processes for those involved, in addition to the prevention of recurrences (Oliveira et al., 2022).

Despite the relevance of the topic, there is a scarcity of scientific literature on preventive strategies (Miura et al., 2019). Given this scenario, the importance of intersectoral public policies that coordinate health, education, social assistance, and security is reinforced in the construction of integrated strategies to achieve common goals for a phenomenon with multiple causes (Oliveira et al., 2022). In this process, actions with families are fundamental, as they represent both potential protective and risk factors.

Furthermore, this research arises from the encounter between concerns developed in the field of practice and issues raised by recent literature. The experience of our research group, which comprises the Observatory of Violence Against Children and Adolescents of the State of Alagoas (ObserVio), has enabled us to monitor the challenges faced in interventions with

families (Miura et al., 2019) and in the development of preventive actions that can effectively reach them (Miura et al., 2024), as well as identified that interventions are predominantly concentrated at the tertiary level (Pessoa, 2024), with primary and secondary prevention initiatives aimed at families still being infrequent. It was from the convergence of these field experiences and scientific evidence that the need arose to map, analyze, and discuss Brazilian legislation related to the prevention of violence against children and adolescents, taking the different levels of prevention as a reference.

Thus, in light of the above, the objective is to map Brazilian legislation aimed at preventing violence against children and adolescents within the family environment, as well as to identify and discuss the actions proposed at each of the three levels of prevention.

METHOD

This is a qualitative documentary research. Documentary research is characterized by the search for concrete data in primary sources, such as official documents that have not yet received analytical treatment (Gil, 2019). It is a process that employs specific methods and techniques, using a heterogeneous database, that is, a dataset that gathers information from different sources, formats, and structures (Lima Junior et al., 2021).

The qualitative approach allows for a more detailed and contextualized analysis of the collected data, seeking to interpret the meanings and nuances of the studied phenomenon (Minayo, 2014). In this sense, the combination of documentary research and a qualitative approach allows for the collection of information and critical interpretation, contributing to in-depth knowledge of the object of study.

The development of this research was carried out based on metasynthesis, carefully systematized into the following stages: definition of the object; identification of sources; determination of document types and composition of the sample, which involves the phases of I) exploration (definition of descriptors and the source where the documents will be selected); II) refinement (in-depth reading of the selected documents); III) cross-referencing (checking for duplicates); IV) description (presentation of data on the selected documents); V) analysis (in-depth analysis of the documents) (Oliveira et al., 2015).

The object of study of this research was Brazilian legislation on the prevention of violence against children and adolescents, with a focus on actions developed with families. The sources defined for the search were primary and digital, and the type of document established to compose the analysis corpus was official documents, such as laws, decrees, government

programs, regulations, and ordinances. All these documents are available on government portals *online*, whose public and free access guaranteed the legitimacy and scope of the investigation.

In the exploration, carried out between the months of September 2024 and January 2025, four databases were selected: Official Gazette of the State of Alagoas, Legislative Assembly of Alagoas, Brazilian Federal Legislation, and Municipal Legislation of Maceió/AL. Next, documents were searched for in these databases using the following descriptors: “violence against children and adolescents” OR “parenting”. The searches were conducted using one term at a time, given the impossibility of the databases associating the two descriptors in a single search.

The regional delimitation considered the state of Alagoas due to the high rates of violence against children and adolescents recorded in SINAN (Brasil, 2025) and the need to strengthen public prevention policies with families. Furthermore, Maceió, the capital, was chosen because it concentrates a large portion of these occurrences and is the center of the actions of the interinstitutional project “Schools in the Child Violence Protection Network,” linked to the Institute of Psychology and executed by the Observatory of Violence against Children and Adolescents (ObserVio) of the Federal University of Alagoas (UFAL).

In the refinement phase, the systematization and selection of data were carried out by reading the titles, abstracts, and sections containing the descriptors, and, when necessary, the full document, selecting those that most closely aligned with the object of study. It is worth noting that the mere appearance of the descriptor did not imply the selection of the document, considering that the focus of the survey was related to the actions developed with families.

Thus, to compose the analysis corpus, exclusion and inclusion criteria were established. Materials that did not directly address prevention with a focus on families as active agents were excluded, as well as revoked documents. On the other hand, normative documents that replaced revoked acts and bills converted into laws or decrees during the research were included, which were reclassified and analyzed according to their new legal status. This approach ensured that only relevant and current documents were included in the final analysis, which guaranteed the timeliness and relevance of the study.

Based on the searches with the descriptors separately, a total of 81 results were found, distributed as follows: 30 in the Official Gazette of the State of Alagoas; 17 in the Legislative Assembly of Alagoas - Legislative Process Support System; 16 in the Brazilian Federal Legislation; 18 in the Municipal Legislation of Maceió/AL. During the cross-referencing,

duplicates were analyzed, resulting in the exclusion of 16 documents, thus leaving 65. After applying all the criteria, from the list of remaining materials, a total of nine documents were obtained for full and in-depth reading, which comprised this review.

RESULT

Based on the selection criteria, the search resulted in a final sample of nine documents, distributed among different spheres: one in the municipal sphere, located in the Municipal Legislation of Maceió/AL; one in the state sphere, from the Legislative Assembly of Alagoas; and seven in the federal sphere, from the Brazilian Federal Legislation.

Table 1.
Information about the analyzed documents

Identification of the normative act	Syllabus	Home institution
Federal Law No. 8,069 of July 13, 1990	Provides for the Child and Adolescent Statute and other measures	Brazilian Federal Legislation
Municipal Law No. 6,378 of April 6, 2015	Provides for the municipal policy for the protection of the rights of children and adolescents, and provides other measures	Municipal Legislation of Maceió/AL
Federal Decree No. 10,570 of December 9, 2020	Establishes the National Strategy for Strengthening Family Bonds and its Interministerial Committee	Brazilian Federal Legislation
Federal Decree No. 10,770 of August 17, 2021	Establishes the Cross-cutting and Multisectoral Agenda for Early Childhood	Brazilian Federal Legislation
Federal Decree No. 11,074 of May 18, 2022	Amends [...], to establish the Comprehensive Protection Program for Children and Adolescents - Protege Brasil and its Steering Committee.	Brazilian Federal Legislation
Federal Law No. 14,344 of May 24, 2022	Creates mechanisms for the prevention and combating of domestic and family violence against children and adolescents [...]	Brazilian Federal Legislation
Federal Law No. 15,069 of December 23, 2024	Establishes the National Care Policy	Brazilian Federal Legislation
Federal Law No. 14,826 of March 20, 2024	Establishes positive parenting and the right to play as intersectoral strategies for the prevention of violence against children; and amends Law No. 14.344, of May 24, 2022	Brazilian Federal Legislation
State Law No. 9,501 of April 1, 2025	Establishes the program for the promotion of positive parenting in the state of Alagoas, setting strategies for the prevention of violence against	Legislative Assembly of Alagoas

children and adolescents, and provides for other measures.

Note. Author's own.

Regarding the type of document, six are laws and three are decrees. Laws are legal norms created by the legislative power and have general and abstract force, being applicable to all citizens. Decrees, on the other hand, are normative acts issued by the executive branch for the purpose of regulating existing laws (Constitution, 1988).

The selected documents were implemented between 1990 and 2025, with emphasis on the years 2024 and 2022, which recorded two implementations each. In contrast, the years 1990, 2015, 2020, 2021, and 2025 recorded only one publication each. These data highlight the concentration over the last five years, which represents an advance in discussions on the subject within the judicial sphere.

Regarding the target audience of the selected documents, the majority have multiple audiences, but it is possible to group the documents as follows: four aimed at children and adolescents, families, and the protection network; three aimed at children and adolescents; and two focused on families and parental guardians.

Furthermore, the documents have different objectives from one another, with four being on the protection and rights of children and adolescents; three are on parenting policies and family support; and, finally, two documents are on the promotion of early childhood and child development.

DISCUSSION

The selected documents were subjected to thematic content analysis, in accordance with the methodological proposal of Minayo (2014). This procedure enabled the identification of three analytical categories corresponding to the levels of prevention of violence against children and adolescents.

Primary prevention

The analysis of the documents made it possible to identify intervention actions for the prevention of violence against children and adolescents aimed at families, as well as to understand the different levels of action provided for in the legislation. Seven documents address primary prevention actions, that is, interventions that act before violations occur, are

directed at the general population, including families, and are educational and informative in nature, with the purpose of preventing the incidence of violence. Such actions reveal a preventive strategy articulated between national and local spheres, demonstrating how legal frameworks materialize into concrete protection practices.

At the national level, the Child and Adolescent Statute (ECA) provides that:

The Union, the States, the Federal District, and the Municipalities shall act in a coordinated manner in the development of public policies and in the execution of actions aimed at curbing the use of physical punishment or cruel or degrading treatment and disseminating non-violent forms of education for children and adolescents. (Brasil, 1990, p. 18)

Article 70-A of the Statute mandates the development and implementation of public policies aimed at the eradication of physical punishment and the promotion of non-violent educational practices. This legal guideline is not limited to a prohibition, but advances to the construction of alternatives, manifesting itself in concrete actions such as family guidance programs, educational campaigns, and the inclusion of early childhood in protective strategies (Brasil, 1990). This approach takes concrete form when Decree No. 10.570/2020, which establishes the National Strategy for Strengthening Family Bonds, whose objective is the strengthening of family bonds, proposes an integrated system of actions that articulates already existing social programs; awareness and training on positive parenting practices; and the valuing of childhood and adolescence as a family and social priority (Brasil, 2020).

Complementing the previously mentioned ECA guideline, the Cross-cutting and Multisectoral Agenda for Early Childhood (Brasil, 2021) offers an operational roadmap for primary prevention. It proposes specific actions aimed at the family unit, articulating three fundamental axes through specific Transversal Actions (TA): I) the strengthening of responsible parenthood through the promotion of family and community bonds (TA11); II) the development of the protective capacity of families, reducing situations of violence and fostering family resilience (TA49); and III) the dissemination of a culture of peace and positive parenting (TA54).

The year 2022 represented a decisive milestone in child and adolescent protection policy, with the enactment of two complementary regulations that redefined the preventive approach in the country. This year, the Henry Borel Law comes into force and creates mechanisms for the prevention and combating of domestic and family violence against children and adolescents. This legislation acts on the three dimensions of prevention and on the primary

one, and expands the scope of article 70-A of the ECA by including the promotion of educational programs for positive parenting, reinforcing the preventive nature of the original standard (Brasil, 2022a).

In parallel, Decree No. 11,074 established the Comprehensive Child and Adolescent Protection Program - Protege Brasil, organizing preventive actions into two complementary national plans: one aimed at the prevention of early sexual risks, developing educational strategies for risk reduction; and another for combating violence, with a focus on training parents and guardians, offering tools for the development of parenting skills, demonstrating the breadth achieved by the national prevention policy (Brasil, 2022a).

In 2024, two important legislative advances reinforced this preventive framework. Federal Law No. 15,069 (2024), by establishing the National Care Policy, recognizes care simultaneously as a fundamental right and essential work for social well-being (Art. 5, item I). This legislation has transformative potential by promoting equitable gender co-responsibility in caregiving (Art. 5, item IV), acting directly on the prevention of female overload—a recognized risk factor for situations of intrafamily violence (Saffioti, 2001). By distributing care responsibilities more fairly between men and women, the policy contributes to reducing parental stress and strengthens the conditions for the practice of healthier and non-violent parenting.

Additionally, Federal Law No. 14,826/2024 establishes positive parenting and the right to play as intersectoral strategies for violence prevention (Brasil, 2024). The law recognizes the family as the central unit in the healthy development and protection of the physical and mental integrity of children and adolescents. More than that, the legislation expands the protective mechanisms already provided for in the Henry Borel Law (Brasil, 2022b), acting in a complementary way to promote positive educational practices and transform family dynamics into an environment of active protection.

In the context of primary prevention, parenting—when exercised in a conscious, responsible, and non-violent manner—constitutes a central mechanism of prevention. This approach reduces harm at the individual level, by strengthening secure bonds and teaching conflict management strategies, and at the collective level, by denaturalizing violence as a disciplinary method and promoting alternatives such as positive discipline (Cravo et al., 2025). Thus, the 2024 laws not only reaffirm rights but also create the cultural and institutional foundations for the consolidation of a culture of peace within the family sphere.

At the state level, the recent Law No. 9.501/2025 of Alagoas stands out, which represents the adaptation of these national guidelines to the local context. By establishing the Positive Parenting Promotion Program, this legislation has as its main focus the prevention of all forms of intrafamily violence, especially those resulting from inadequate or violent parenting practices. The program operationalizes federal principles through concrete actions such as courses and workshops, of an educational and formative nature, for families, which address topics such as non-violent communication, positive conflict management, and the development of parenting skills based on respect and affection. This illustrates how general guidelines gain specificity at the different levels of the federation (Alagoas, 2025).

At the municipal level in Maceió, the analysis of Law No. 6,378 of April 2015 demonstrates how these national guidelines are operationalized at the local level. The legislation advances beyond compliance with federal regulations, establishing other concrete mechanisms for action at the municipal level. Among these, the development of a Municipal Action Plan by the Municipal Council for the Rights of Children and Adolescents (CMDCA); the conducting of informative and educational workshops for families; and the strengthening of community networks stand out. These initiatives illustrate the local adaptation of primary prevention actions, with a focus on social transformation and the strengthening of family relationships (Maceió, 2015).

The effectiveness of these actions, however, is intrinsically linked to the quality of the intersectoral protection network. As highlighted by Aguiar and Marinho (2019), working in a network is not limited to the simple coexistence of services, but demands qualified integration between different sectors (health, education, social assistance) and a horizontal and complementary relationship, with professionals trained to avoid processes of revictimization and blaming. This perspective proves essential to ensuring that preventive actions transcend the normative level and effectively reach families and communities.

Among these sectors, the school emerges as a strategic space for working on the primary prevention of violence, due to its capacity to promote critical discussions on the topic and reach the community, especially families. However, this potential is not realized in isolation, requiring coordination with the protection network and an interdisciplinary approach with the professionals involved (Miura et al., 2023).

However, the challenges to this consolidation remain significant. Firstly, gaps persist in the professional qualification of the actors involved and in the adequate funding of the initiatives. The underreporting of cases emerges as another critical obstacle, as it compromises

the true understanding of the problem, hinders the development of epidemiological indicators, and, consequently, reduces the transfer of financial resources that could be allocated to preventive actions (Aguiar & Marinho, 2019).

The analysis developed suggests two common aspects of preventive actions: intersectoral coordination and the informative and educational content. The effective prevention of violence against children and adolescents requires more than the existence of legal norms (Sinhorinho & Moura, 2022). It requires the development of contextualized local strategies, supported by strengthened intersectoral networks with adequate notification flows and committed to the transformation of family realities (Batista & Quirino, 2020). In this sense, primary prevention is configured not as an isolated set of actions, but as a structuring axis of the rights guarantee system, which must be articulated with the other levels of protection.

Furthermore, it is possible to see that the informative and educational actions developed address content that facilitates an understanding of childhood and adolescence, the recognition of the forms of violence to which these groups are subject, and, above all, the role of the family and the responsible exercise of parenthood in this regard. These preventive actions demonstrate their relevance by acting to reduce the risk factors for violence, preventing it from happening. However, such educational strategies must be conceived as part of a continuous protection network, in which coordination with other levels of prevention is also essential (Muniz et al., 2022).

SECONDARY PREVENTION

Secondary prevention emerges as an essential component in the continuity of actions against child and adolescent violence, characterized by interventions aimed at situations of violence that are already established or imminent. The analysis of the documents reveals that this level of prevention is realized through specific mechanisms for the early identification of the at-risk group and qualified referral to specialized services. These actions have a resolute character, aiming both at interrupting the cycle of violence and mitigating its immediate effects.

▣ Five of the examined documents present strategies aligned with this approach, demonstrating their relevance in the Brazilian protective system, namely: the ECA, the Cross-Cutting Agenda for Early Childhood, the National Plan of the Protege Brasil Program, the Henry Borel Law, and the Municipal Law of Maceió No. 6,378/2015.

At the national level, the ECA, in article 70-A, item III, by determining professional training for the identification and confrontation of violence, establishes a model of agile and specialized response when a risk situation is detected (Brasil, 1990). Complementarily, item VI establishes actions aimed at families in situations of violence, highlighting the dual dimension of secondary prevention: on one hand, the immediate protection of the victim; on the other, intervention in the family unit to break violent patterns. This normative provision reflects an understanding of the complex nature of violence, demanding simultaneous interventions at multiple levels.

In this context, the Transversal and Multisectoral Agenda for Early Childhood (Brasil, 2021) develops this approach through two complementary actions: AT13, which establishes comprehensive care for children in situations of violence, and AT55, which organizes home visits. The latter assume a secondary role when directed at families with an identified history of violence, functioning as a mechanism for monitoring and preventing recurrences.

The terminology employed, “children in situations of violence,” is particularly significant, as it delimits the target audience of the intervention (identified victims) and the timing of the action (post-occurrence), which are defining characteristics of secondary prevention. Other actions will include the term “victim,” which is also a way to identify secondary-level actions. An example is the National Plan for Combating Violence against Children and Adolescents of the Protege Brasil Program, which provides in Art. 125-F, item V, for the improvement of strategies for integrated, priority, and specialized care for children and adolescents who are victims or witnesses of violence (Brasil, 2022a).

In this same perspective, the Henry Borel Law presents secondary prevention by explicitly establishing that the System for Guaranteeing the Rights of Children and Adolescents has the purpose of: putting an end to violence when it occurs and preventing its recurrence. It mandates that anyone who witnesses or is aware of domestic violence must report it through available means, enabling early identification and rapid intervention (Brasil, 2022b).

At the municipal level, Maceió Law No. 6,378 (2015) establishes local guidelines for secondary prevention, with an emphasis on specialized assistance for victims of violence. The legal provision provides for medical and psychosocial care, adopting the term “victim”—in line with other laws—to demarcate the target audience for the interventions. This position reflects the need for the recognition of this group, ensuring them priority access to protection and reparation mechanisms.

This analysis allowed for the identification of three central axes of secondary prevention in the Brazilian context: qualified detection of risk situations; coordination with specialized services; and immediate family intervention, complementary to primary prevention and directly related to tertiary prevention. However, the effectiveness of this model faces challenges, such as professional training and agility in the flows between services (Batista & Quirino, 2020), and the analyzed documents, despite offering a concrete normative framework, make little progress on operational mechanisms to ensure this integration, which is a gap still to be explored in future public policies.

TERTIARY PREVENTION

Tertiary prevention constitutes the most advanced level of intervention in addressing violence against children and adolescents, focusing on the reduction of long-term consequences, the rehabilitation of those involved, and the prevention of recidivism. This level of prevention is characterized by specialized actions aimed at full recovery, social and family reintegration, and continuous monitoring (Azevedo & Guerra, 2025; Oliveira et al., 2022). The analysis of the selected documents reveals that this approach is present in three of them, articulating multisectoral services.

At the national level, the ECA establishes the foundations for tertiary prevention by providing, in Art. 101, item V, for protective measures that include the requisition of medical and psychological treatment. This legal provision ensures that victims have access to specialized services to deal with the consequences of violence, accompanied by professionals (Brasil, 1990).

The Henry Borel Law advances in this area by mandating the promotion of integrated care to minimize the sequelae of violence. Furthermore, it dedicates a chapter to the assistance of children and adolescents in situations of domestic and family violence, which determines the coordination between different systems (Health, Social Assistance, Public Security). This ensures multidisciplinary care, which includes family and institutional foster care programs, specialized health treatment, and continuous psychosocial monitoring (Brasil, 2022b). These measures reflect a systemic understanding of violence, in which reparation requires not only one-off interventions, but a sustainable support network to prevent revictimization.

At the municipal level, Maceió Law 6.378/2015 reinforces tertiary prevention at the local dimension by including, in Art. 21, family reintegration and the strengthening of bonds as

a goal of the Municipal Action Plan. This policy provides for the implementation of specialized reference services that act in post-violence follow-up, ensuring not only immediate care but also continuous support. One of the central pillars of this approach is family reintegration, which seeks to strengthen bonds and rebuild protective environments, ensuring that victims return to a safe and welcoming space. Furthermore, the law emphasizes the importance of school and community reintegration programs, aiming to restore normalcy in the lives of these young people and promote their full development (Maceió, 2015).

According to Cavalcante et al. (2010), the family plays a fundamental role in the resocialization of children and adolescents, acting to minimize the impacts of violence and avoid revictimization. For this reintegration to be successful, it is essential to strengthen affective bonds, which are built and maintained through proximity, intimacy, and affection (Pessoa, 2024). In this process, social programs must encourage the active role of family members, empowering them to autonomously rebuild such bonds, ensuring that the family, when duly supported, feels able to resume its duties and obligations toward children and adolescents.

Beyond the family dimension, reintegration also occurs in the community dimension. The community, together with the family, represents a support for children and adolescents, contributing to the reconstruction of a social identity and their affective bonds (Barbosa et al., 2016). Given this, it is necessary for public policies to adopt a multidisciplinary and intersectoral perspective, promoting the coordination of community resources (Cavalcante et al., 2010). This approach includes ongoing training for professionals in the field, equipping them to analyze the feasibility and risks of returning to the family environment. The ultimate goal is to prioritize systematic professional support for the victim and their family, in order to prevent further rights violations and revictimization (Barbosa et al., 2016).

However, as with the other levels, the effectiveness of these actions faces challenges, such as the discontinuity of care and the lack of coordination between services after the initial reception phase (Batista & Quirino, 2020). Despite the well-structured guidelines and broad coverage, the lack of resources for long-term programs and the need for training family members and professionals limit the reach of the initiatives (Aguiar & Marinho, 2019). This perspective reinforces the importance of the various levels of prevention and the coordination between them for the proper functioning of addressing violence against children and adolescents, going beyond immediate protection to ensure effective recovery and social

reintegration, in which tertiary actions reach their maximum potential in reducing long-term harm.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

The confluence of the severity of indicators of violence against children and adolescents in the state of Alagoas, the difficulty of protection network services in locating and implementing preventive actions with families, and the finding of a scarcity of works aimed at the three levels of prevention, was what motivated this research. These movements, empirical and analytical, experienced in the work of the research group with ObserVio (<https://ip.ufal.br/observio/>), converged on the need to map, analyze, and discuss Brazilian legislation in light of the levels of prevention.

This study mapped nine pieces of legislation aimed at families in combating violence against children and adolescents, identifying that, although in a non-systematized way, they include actions at the three levels of prevention. The analysis revealed a systemic understanding of the phenomenon, with articulated interventions capable of acting before, during, and after the occurrence of the violations. This organization highlights that integral protection presupposes a coordinated network of action, in which the family occupies a central position, whether as a recipient of support or as an active agent in the construction of protective environments.

However, the analysis also revealed persistent challenges. The continuous training of professionals, effective coordination between services to avoid fragmentation and revictimization, as well as the guarantee of stable funding and periodic evaluations of implemented policies, constitute indispensable conditions for the effectiveness of the actions. A significant gap still remains between legal provisions and their practical realization: the existence of laws and decrees, in itself, does not ensure adequate implementation or the concrete transformation of the reality experienced by families.

In this context, it is essential to investigate to what extent the implemented public policies align with legal provisions, evaluating their applicability, territorial reach, and real impact on the target audiences. Future research could deepen the analysis of care flows, the coordination of protection networks, and the institutional conditions necessary for the full implementation of the different levels of prevention.

Despite the identified limitations, the analyzed legislation presents significant potential by recognizing and valuing the role of families in preventing violence. By considering their knowledge, capabilities, and support needs, public policies can strengthen bonds, break cycles of violence, and consolidate safer environments for child and adolescent development. The continuous improvement of this field depends on the dialogue between academic production, normative formulation, and institutional practices, contributing to the strengthening of the child protection system in Brazil.

This work allowed the researchers to systematize the legislation, with the construction of an analytical framework that organizes preventive actions by levels of operation, serving as a quick reference tool for professionals in the protection network who need to identify which norms support their interventions with families. Furthermore, the exercise of articulating legal requirements with concepts of prevention developed the capacity to translate legal provisions into concrete practices and identify gaps between the law and its implementation. This competence has been essential in ObserVio's research, teaching, and outreach activities, training researchers prepared to work at the interface between scientific production, normative formulation, and institutional practices.

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