



Covid-19

BLACK  
PEOPLE

— Vulnerability to the  
Covid-19 pandemic



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## Goals

- Understand how African-Brazilians have been disproportionately affected by the Covid-19 pandemic;
- Provide information on why to contribute to initiatives aimed at these people during the Covid-19 pandemic.

## Data on the vulnerability of black people

### GENERAL DATA

- Brazil predominantly consists of African-Brazilians: there are approximately 112.7 million people who identify themselves as black or brown, thus representing 54.9% of the country's<sup>1</sup> population.
- Black or brown men and women have more restrictions on access to human rights when compared to white men and women<sup>2</sup>. Following is the percentage of black people that have restrictions on some rights:

- 23.9% have restrictions on Internet access;
- 44.35% have restrictions on basic sanitation;

- 31.3% have restrictions on education;
- 15.5% have restrictions to enjoy adequate living conditions; and
- 4.8% have restrictions on social protection.
- 46.1% of families in which black or brown women are the providers without a spouse and with children up to 14 years of age have restrictions on social protection and 28.5% struggle to have adequate<sup>3</sup> living conditions.

### POVERTY<sup>4</sup>

According to data from IBGE in 2019:

- 73% of people in extreme poverty are black or brown<sup>5</sup>;
- 64.4% of black or brown women who are the providers for their families without a spouse and with children up to 14 years of age are below the poverty line<sup>6</sup>.

1 Agência de Notícias. IBGE. November 24, 2017. Available at: <https://agenciadenoticias.ibge.gov.br/agencia-noticias/2012-agencia-de-noticias/noticias/18282-populacao-chega-a-205-5-milhoes-com-menos-brancos-e-mais-pardos-e-pretos>

2 Relatório de Indicadores Sociais. IBGE, 2019. Available at <https://biblioteca.ibge.gov.br/visualizacao/livros/liv101678.pdf>

3 Síntese de Indicadores Sociais. IBGE. 2017. Available at: <https://agenciadenoticias.ibge.gov.br/agencia-sala-de-imprensa/2013-agencia-de-noticias/releases/23298-sintese-de-indicadores-sociais-indicadores-apontam-aumento-da-pobreza-entre-2016-e-2017>

4 Definition of poverty and extreme poverty: The World Bank defines the poverty line of USD 5.5 per person per day, and extreme poverty as living on less than USD 1.90 a day. Agência de Notícias. IBGE. November 2019. Available at: <https://agenciadenoticias.ibge.gov.br/agencia-noticias/2012-agencia-de-noticias/noticias/25882-extrema-pobreza-atinge-13-5-milhoes-de-pessoas-e-chega-ao-maior-nivel-em-7-anos>

5 Brazil. IBGE. Extreme poverty reaches 13.5 million people and reaches the highest level in 7 years. Published on November 6, 2019. Updated on November 7, 2019. Available at: <https://agenciadenoticias.ibge.gov.br/agencia-noticias/2012-agencia-de-noticias/noticias/25882-extrema-pobreza-atinge-13-5-milhoes-de-pessoas-e-chega-ao-maior-nivel-em-7-anos>

6 Síntese de Indicadores Sociais. IBGE. 2019. Available at: <https://biblioteca.ibge.gov.br/visualizacao/livros/liv101678.pdf>



## ACCESS TO EDUCATION

According to data from IBGE in 2018<sup>7</sup>:

- The illiteracy rate for black and brown people is of 9.1%, while for white people it is of 3.9%;
- The proportion of people aged 25 years or over with at least complete high school education is 40.3% for black and brown people, while for the white people it is 55.8%;
- Among black people aged 18 to 24 years, 55.6% attend higher education, while the percentage of white people of the same age group is 78.8%.

## HOUSING AND BASIC SANITATION

According to IBGE's social indicators of 2016:<sup>8</sup>

- 73.5% of black people are more exposed to living in a household with precarious conditions.

According to data from IBGE in 2018<sup>9</sup>:

- Among black and brown people, 42.8% are not served with sewage collection, 17.9% do not have a water supply network and 12.5% do not have a waste management system.

7 Agência de Notícias. IBGE. *Black and brown people are more educated*. Available at: <https://agenciadenoticias.ibge.gov.br/agencia-sala-de-imprensa/2013-agencia-de-noticias/releases/25989-pretos-ou-pardos-estao-mais-escolarizados-mas-desigualdade-em-relacao-aos-brancos-permanece>

8 Relatório de Indicadores Sociais. IBGE. Available at: <https://biblioteca.ibge.gov.br/visualizacao/livros/liv98965.pdf>

9 Agência de Notícias IBGE. 2018. <https://agenciadenoticias.ibge.gov.br/agencia-noticias/2012-agencia-de-noticias/noticias/25882-extrema-pobreza-atinge-13-5-milhoes-de-pessoas-e-chega-ao-maior-nivel-em-7-anos>

## LABOR MARKET

According to data from IBGE in 2018<sup>10</sup>:

- Black and brown people represented 64.2% of the unemployed population<sup>11</sup> and 66.1% of the underutilized<sup>12</sup> population;
- 34.6% of white workers were in informal work, while for black workers the percentage was 47.3%;
- 47.8% of black women are in informal work and, therefore, nothing was entered in their social-security cards;
- Employed white people have an average monthly income of BRL 2,796.00, which is 73.9% higher than the average income of the black population, which is BRL 1,608.00;
- White people with higher education earn 45% more per hour than black people with the same level of education<sup>13</sup>.

10 Agência de Notícias. IBGE. *Black and brown people are more educated*. Available at: <https://agenciadenoticias.ibge.gov.br/agencia-sala-de-imprensa/2013-agencia-de-noticias/releases/25989-pretos-ou-pardos-estao-mais-escolarizados-mas-desigualdade-em-relacao-aos-brancos-permanece>

11 Definition of unemployment, according to IBGE: people who are not working in the reference week of the survey sought employment 30 days before the survey and were available to take a job in this period. Available at: <https://www.poder360.com.br/economia/desocupacao-subocupacao-e-ocupacao-entenda-os-dados-da-pnad/>

12 Definition of underutilization, according to IBGE: people working less than 40 hours weekly and would like to work more; people who searched for work but were not available to work in the reference week; or who did not perform an effective work search, but would like to have a job. Available at: <https://www.poder360.com.br/economia/desocupacao-subocupacao-e-ocupacao-entenda-os-dados-da-pnad/>

13 Image of the Social Inequalities Report by Color and Race. IBGE. 2019. Available at: [https://biblioteca.ibge.gov.br/visualizacao/livros/liv101681\\_informativo.pdf](https://biblioteca.ibge.gov.br/visualizacao/livros/liv101681_informativo.pdf)



- Of the total number of women who do domestic work in Brazil, 63% are black. Of these black women, only 27.5% have something entered in their social-security card<sup>14</sup>.

## HEALTHCARE

- The population served by the Brazilian Universal Healthcare Program (SUS) is 67% of black people<sup>15</sup>;
- While in the private network there are 4.84 intensive care unit (ICU) beds per 10,000 inhabitants, for the SUS the number of beds is almost five times less, i.e., 1.04 ICU beds per 10,000 inhabitants<sup>16</sup>;
- According to the 2018 IBGE Survey on the Profile of Brazilian Municipalities (MUNIC)<sup>17</sup>, only 28% of all Brazilian municipalities included actions provided for in the National Comprehensive Health Policy of the Black Population<sup>18</sup> in the local healthcare planning<sup>19</sup>;

14 IPEA, *Os desafios do passado no trabalho doméstico do Século XXI: Reflexões para caso Brasileiro a partir dos dados da PNAD Contínua*. Text for discussion. Brasília: IPEA, 2019. Available at: [https://www.ipea.gov.br/portal/images/stories/PDFs/TDs/td\\_2528.pdf](https://www.ipea.gov.br/portal/images/stories/PDFs/TDs/td_2528.pdf)

15 Brazil. Brazilian Ministry of Health. Healthcare of the black population. 21 November 2017. Available at: <https://portal.arquivos2.saude.gov.br/images/pdf/2017/novembro/21/20-11-2017---Populacao-negra.pdf>

16 Carvalho, Laura & Nassif Pires, Luiza & de Lima Xavier, Laura. (2020). COVID-19 e Desigualdade no Brasil. 10.13140/RG.2.2.27014.73282. Available at: <http://cebes.org.br/2020/04/covid-19-e-desigualdade-no-brasil/>

17 Research of Local Basic Information. Available at: <https://biblioteca.ibge.gov.br/visualizacao/livros/liv101668.pdf>

18 Instituted by Ordinance No. 992/2009. Available at: [https://bvsms.saude.gov.br/bvs/saudelegis/gm/2009/prt0992\\_13\\_05\\_2009.html](https://bvsms.saude.gov.br/bvs/saudelegis/gm/2009/prt0992_13_05_2009.html)

19 Article on the 10 years of the National Comprehensive Health Policy of the Black Population. Gênero e Número. Available at: <http://www.generonumero.media/10-anos-politica-saude-populacao-negra/>

- Among people who have health, medical, or dental insurance, 37.9% are white, 21.6% are brown and 18.7% are black<sup>20</sup>;
- 37.8% of the black people self-evaluate their health between regular and very poor, while only 29.7% of the white population makes this same evaluation<sup>21</sup>;
- Some diseases, which cause people to be at higher risk groups for Covid-19, affect black people more often than white people:

- 9% more black men are affected with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus compared to white men<sup>22</sup>;
- 50% more black women are affected by Diabetes Mellitus compared to white women<sup>23</sup>.

## INCARCERATION RATE

- The Brazilian prison population is 63.64% of black people; on the other hand, white people are 37.22% of prisoners but represent only 45.48% of the general population<sup>24</sup>;
- Among incarcerated women, 63.55% are black<sup>25</sup>.

20 IBGE. National Health Survey. Graph 8. 201. Available at: <https://biblioteca.ibge.gov.br/visualizacao/livros/liv94074.pdf>

21 Brazil. Brazilian Ministry of Health. Healthcare of the black population. 21 November 2017. Available at: <https://portal.arquivos2.saude.gov.br/images/pdf/2017/novembro/21/20-11-2017---Populacao-negra.pdf>

22 Idem.

23 Idem.

24 Depen. Infopen - June 2016. Available at: <http://depen.gov.br/DEPEN/depen/sisdepen/infopen/relatorios-sinteticos/infopen-jun-2017-rev-12072019-0721.pdf>

25 Depen. Thematic report on women deprived of liberty - June 2017. Available at: [http://depen.gov.br/DEPEN/depen/sisdepen/infopen-ulheres/copy\\_of\\_Infopenmulheresjunho2017.pdf](http://depen.gov.br/DEPEN/depen/sisdepen/infopen-ulheres/copy_of_Infopenmulheresjunho2017.pdf)

## GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

According to *Atlas da Violência de 2019*:<sup>26</sup>

- In 2017, the percentage of white women who suffered physical violence was 57%, while the percentage of black women was 74%. Regarding femicide rates, between 2007 and 2017, we had a 4.5% increase in homicides of white women and a 29.9% increase in homicides of black women.

## Conclusion: vulnerabilities of black people concerning the Covid-19 pandemic

The low-income population below or at the poverty line is mostly comprised of black people and they are more susceptible to contracting the new Coronavirus and dying of Covid-19. Black people are exposed to several vulnerabilities and restrictions on access to rights: they have fewer years of schooling, more residents per household, less access to basic sanitation, difficulty maintaining quarantine without losing their main source of income, in addition to composing a large part of the country's prison population<sup>27</sup>.

Black people also have worse health and medical follow-up indicators and more chances of having diseases that put them at higher risk of severe Covid-19, such as Diabetes Mellitus. Nevertheless, black women are at high risk during the pandemic: first, most of them that are providers for their household have no formal employment and, consequently, financial instability; then, considering the data of gender-based violence, they are regularly living with potential aggressors during the quarantine.

The available data on the number of confirmed and suspected cases of Covid-19 just confirm this scenario of inequalities.

- More than 90% of black domestic workers are not being released from their jobs during the pandemic<sup>28</sup>;
- According to a FioCruz survey, 64% of the population with *per capita* income below half the minimum wage reported a decrease in their family income, and 11% were without any income during the pandemic<sup>29</sup>;
- Diabetes Mellitus was the second main risk factor associated with Covid-19, causing more than 2,660 deaths recorded by the Brazilian Ministry of Health by May 8, 2020;

26 CERQUEIRA, Daniel et al. Atlas da Violência 2019. 2019. Available at: [https://www.ipea.gov.br/portal/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=34784](https://www.ipea.gov.br/portal/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=34784)

27 Carvalho, Laura & Nassif Pires, Luiza & de Lima Xavier, Laura. (2020). Covid-19 and Inequalities in Brazil. 10.13140/RG.2.2.27014.73282. Available at: <http://cebes.org.br/2020/04/covid-19-e-desigualdade-no-brasil/>

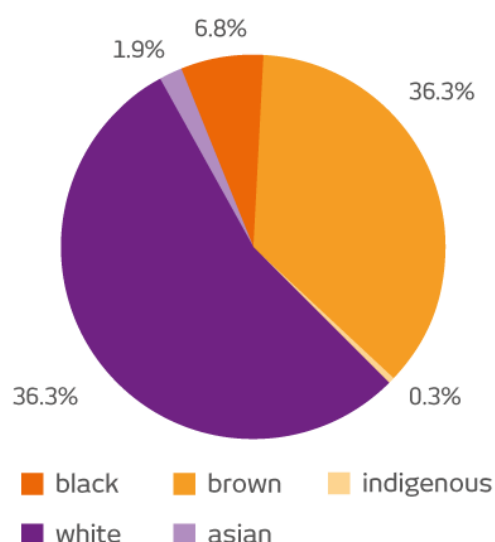
28 Agência Patrícia Galvão. "How the coronavirus pandemic most severely impacts the lives of women around the world." April 19, 2020. Available at: <https://agenciapatriciagalvao.org.br/violencia/como-a-pandemia-de-coronavirus-impacta-de-maneira-mais-severa-a-vida-das-mulheres-em-todo-o-mundo/>

29 Covid: Behavior Research. Fundação Oswaldo Cruz. 2020 Available at: [https://convid.fiocruz.br/index.php?pag=atividade\\_rotina](https://convid.fiocruz.br/index.php?pag=atividade_rotina)

- Regarding the data of 27,086 cases dated by May 8, 2020, recorded by the Brazilian Ministry of Health:

- Among hospitalizations for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome - SARS caused by Covid-19: 54.7% occurred among white people, 36.3% among brown people, and 6.8% among black people. Among these cases, 10,406 had no declaration of race or color and were not included in the analysis<sup>30</sup>.

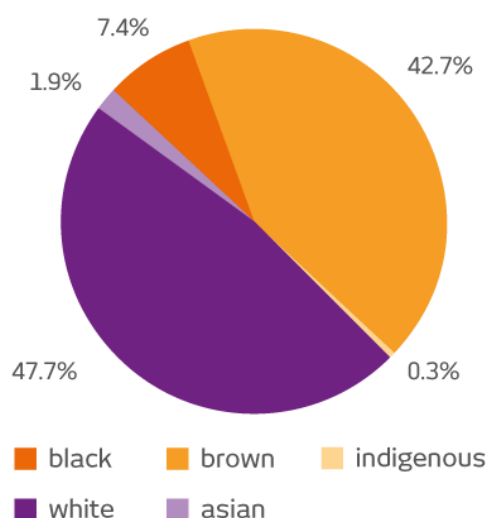
Number of cases by skin color/race in Brazil until May 8, 2020, 2 p.m.



Source: Sistema de Informação de Vigilância da Gripe. Data from May 8 2020 at 2 pm, susceptible to review. \*10,406 cases in which race/color were ignored were not considered. Available at: <https://portalarquivos.saude.gov.br/images/pdf/2020/May/09/2020-05-06-BEE15-Boletim-do-COE.pdf>.

- Among the deaths from SARS caused by Covid-19: 47.7% occurred among white people, 42.7% among brown people, and 7.4% among black people. Among these deaths, 2,896 had no declaration of race or color and were not included in the analysis<sup>31</sup>.

Number of deaths by skin color/race in Brazil until May 8, 2020, 2 p.m.



Source: Sistema de Informação de Vigilância da Gripe. Data from May 8 2020 at 2 pm, susceptible to review. \*2986 deaths in which race/color were ignored were not considered. Available at: <https://portalarquivos.saude.gov.br/images/pdf/2020/May/09/2020-05-06-BEE15-Boletim-do-COE.pdf>.

- Thus, although the percentage of black and brown people hospitalized for SARS caused by Covid-19 is lower than that of white people, black and brown people die more, therefore indicating worse healthcare and/or greater vulnerability to the disease.

30 Data from the most recent bulletin in the search period. Brazilian Ministry of Health. Epidemiological Bulletin of May 8, 2020. Available at: <https://portalarquivos.saude.gov.br/images/pdf/2020/May/09/2020-05-06-BEE15-Boletim-do-COE.pdf>.

31 Idem.

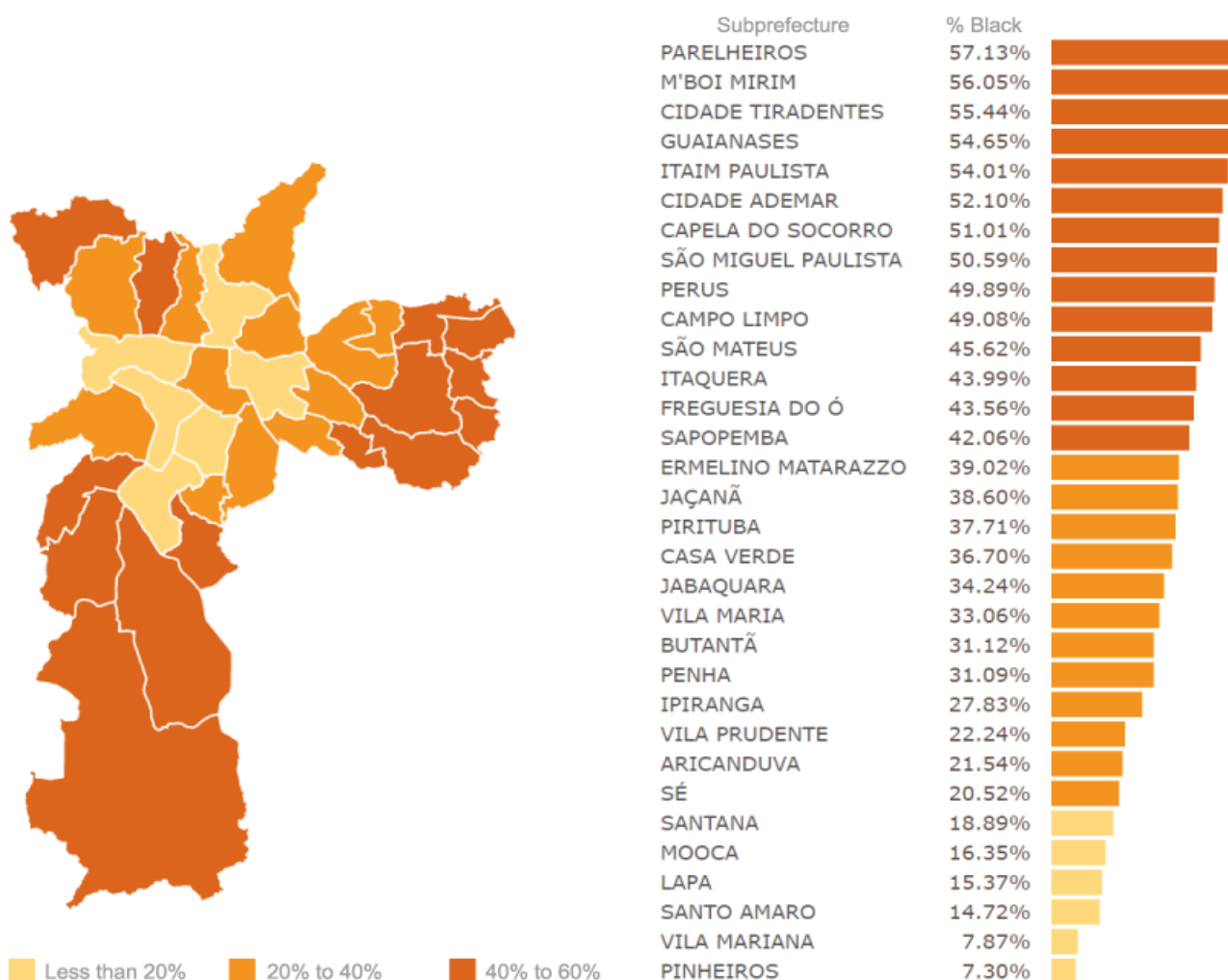


## THE CASE OF THE CITY OF SÃO PAULO: THE INEQUALITY SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY<sup>32</sup>

The State of São Paulo is one of the most affected by Covid-19 and, its capital, the city with the most confirmed cases of the disease<sup>33</sup>. From a territorial analysis, it is possible to conclude the

impact of the pandemic on the black population through the number of deaths in each different region. Thus, to analyze the inequalities distributed throughout the territory of the city of São Paulo, it is important to verify the distribution of the black population, also called afro-descendant population (*população afrodescendente*):

### CONCENTRATION OF THE AFRO-DESCENDANT POPULATION BY SUBPREFECTURE



32 Image and data available on the web portal of the City of São Paulo, conducted by IBGE, 2010. Available at: <http://www.saopaulodiverso.org.br/estatisticas/#/layout/home>

33 Infographic: "Evolution of Coronavirus throughout the cities and microregions." Estadão. Available at: <https://www.estadao.com.br/infograficos/saude/veja-a-evolucao-do-coronavirus-por-cidades-e-microrregioes-do-brasil.1089150>

As can be seen from the map above, the black population is concentrated in the peripheral regions of the city, especially in the south and east.

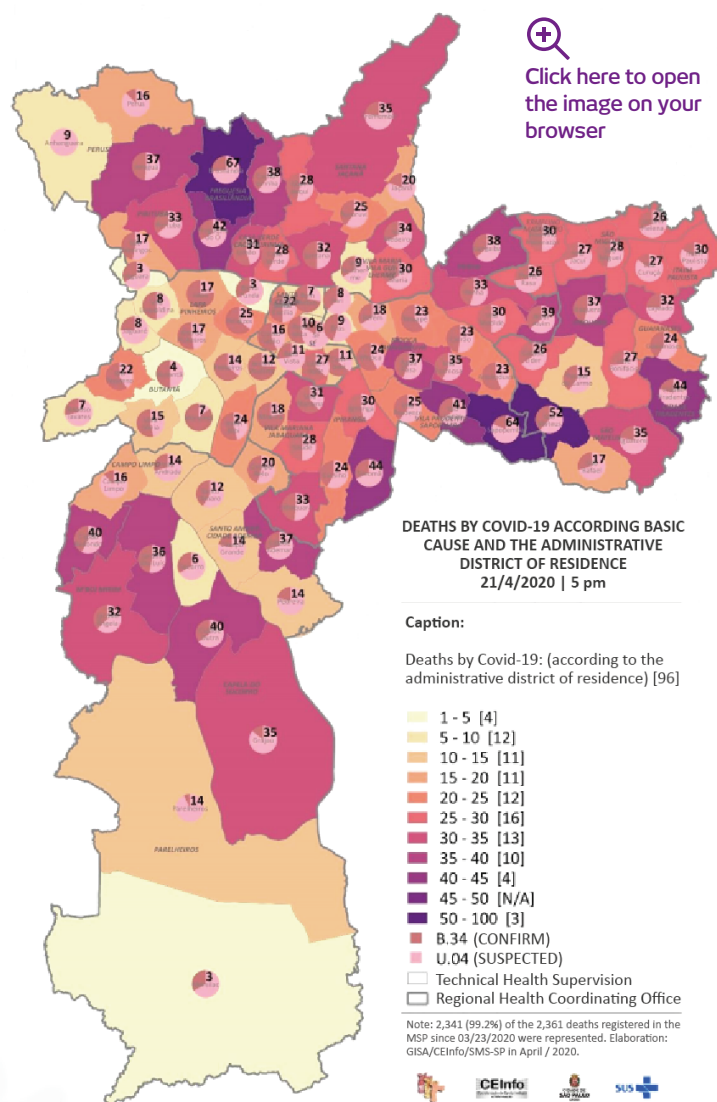
According to the Epidemiological Bulletin of the Health Department of the City of São Paulo published on April 30, 2020<sup>34</sup>:

- The Administrative Divisions of Sapopemba (307 records), Jabaquara (226 records), Itaquera (243 records), and Jardim Ângela (283 records) presented the highest number of records of confirmed cases and under investigation of Covid-19.

Concerning the deaths by Covid-19, the same Epidemiological Bulletin informs that:

- Black and brown people have a higher risk of death by Covid-19, being respectively 62% and 23% higher when compared to white people;
- The Administrative Divisions of Brasilândia (67 deaths), Sapopemba (64 deaths), and São Mateus (52 deaths) had the highest number of deaths by April 21;
- The inequality between the peripheral and central populations of the city can be confirmed by the number of deaths of people under 60 years of age:

- Campo Limpo and Parelheiros: about 50% of deaths;
- Itaim Paulista and São Miguel: about 40% of deaths;
- Pinheiros, Vila Mariana, and Santo Amaro: less than 10% of deaths.



When comparing the two maps, it is possible to verify that the more peripheral the region (except for the extreme southern zone, still considered rural), the higher the number of deaths by Covid-19 in the city of São Paulo.

<sup>34</sup> Epidemiological Bulletin of the City of São Paulo. Health Department of the City of São Paulo. April 30, 2020. Available at: [https://www.prefeitura.sp.gov.br/cidade/secretarias/upload/saude/PMSP\\_SMS\\_COVID19\\_Boletim%20Quinzenal\\_20200430.pdf](https://www.prefeitura.sp.gov.br/cidade/secretarias/upload/saude/PMSP_SMS_COVID19_Boletim%20Quinzenal_20200430.pdf)

## Recommendations

There is a proven inequality in access to human rights among the black population when compared to the white population in Brazil. During the Covid-19 pandemic, this inequality means a higher number of deaths, as well as a marked socioeconomic vulnerability of black people.

In this sense, the conclusion is that the Brazilian black population has been disproportionately affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, which is why when making donations, whatever they are, but especially of financial resources, it is necessary to look closely to select initiatives aimed at supporting this population.

Below is a list of organizations and initiatives specifically focused on the Brazilian black population:

### NATIONAL

#### *Apoio imediato para famílias negras e periféricas*

This campaign, organized by [Uneafro](#) in partnership with other organizations and social movements, aims to raise financial resources to serve black and peripheral families. The funds raised will be directed to support teachers and students of community courses and to the distribution of food baskets and hygiene kits to more than 4,500 families in situations of social and economic vulnerability in the

capitals and metropolitan areas of São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, in addition to eight quilombos (Brazilian hinterland settlements founded by people of African origin) in five states (Amazonas, Bahia, Goiás, Rio de Janeiro, and Pernambuco).

To donate: [click here](#)

#### *Impactando Vidas Pretas*

This is an initiative of the [Black Money Movement \(Movimento Black Money\)](#) to serve black families with single mothers and Afro-entrepreneurs with income transfer.

To donate: [click here](#)

#### *Fundo solidário Covid-19 para Mães das Favelas*

The [Central Única das Favelas \(CUFA\)](#) created the *Mães das Favelas* campaign for the areas where it operates in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro intending to bring income to mothers living in these areas. The Mother Voucher (*Vale-mãe*) of BRL 120.00 will benefit for two months more than one million people living in slums in these cities.

To donate [click here](#)

#### *Fundo Volta por Cima*

Created by [Banco Pérola](#), a civil society organization of public



interest, and the [Articuladora de Negócios de Impacto da Periferia](#), this fund aims to raise financial resources that will be destined to encourage entrepreneurship in peripheral areas.

To donate: [click here](#)

## SÃO PAULO

### *Fundo para mães e trabalhadoras informais afetadas pela Covid-19*

Employees and collaborators of *Cursinho Popular Chance* in Paraisópolis (São Paulo), in alliance with their students' mothers, created this campaign to offer a basic income to peripheral women, especially black women, who are without an income to provide for their families.

To donate: [click here](#)

### *Fundo de Solidariedade da Covid-19*

This is an initiative of cultural groups in the southern part of the city of São Paulo that, through the mapping of social and economic conditions and people who are in the COVID-19 higher risk groups, will benefit more than 1,300 families with financial resources to buy food and hygiene products, along with recommendations to contain the new Coronavirus.

To donate: [click here](#)

### *União São Paulo*

The initiative of several civil society groups seeks to raise donations for the purchase of food baskets and hygiene and cleaning items, which will be distributed to families in situations of social and economic vulnerability in the city.

To donate: [click here](#)

### *Associação de Mulheres de Paraisópolis*

This association is raising funds for the production of packed meals that will be distributed to the most vulnerable families of the community of Paraisópolis (São Paulo) during the quarantine. The enterprising women of the *Bistro de Mãos de Maria* group will donate their time and work to this initiative.

To donate: [click here](#)

### *União Popular de Mulheres*

This association is raising financial resources for the purchase and distribution of food baskets and hygiene items for about 350 families in the Campo Limpo area (São Paulo) living in a situation of social and economic vulnerability.

To donate: [click here](#)

### *O Legal pela Brasilândia*

This campaign, coordinated by the [ONG Banco de Alimentos](#) in partnership with the [Stop Hunger Institute](#), sponsored by several law firms, aims to help the population at social and economic risk of Vila Brasilândia (São Paulo), especially the mothers who provide for their family. The goal is to distribute 10,000 food baskets on food vouchers over three months, making it possible to purchase food and hygiene items.

**To donate:** [click here](#)

### *São Mateus em Movimento*

This cultural association is collecting hygiene items and food supplies that will be distributed to families impacted by the quarantine period.

**To donate:** [click here](#)

### *Preto Império*

The campaign, created by this civil society organization that operates in Brasilândia (São Paulo), a neighborhood with a mostly black population, aims to raise financial resources for the purchase and distribution of food supplies that compose a balanced diet.

**To donate:** [click here](#)

### *Grajaú Precisa de Você*

This campaign by [Auri Verde](#), a civil society organization that has been operating in Grajaú for 25 years, seeks to raise financial funds to help 400 families in the local area. The money will be directed for the purchase of food and hygiene products, which will be distributed to households that have lost all or part of their source of income.

**To donate:** [click here](#)

### *Heliópolis no Combate ao Coronavírus*

This campaign, an initiative of [UNAS - União de Núcleos, Associações dos Moradores de Heliópolis e Região](#), aims to ensure access to food and hygiene items to families in the region. It is possible to help with the donation of financial resources that will be directed to the purchase of food baskets and hygiene items, or with the donation of invoices.

**To donate:** [click here](#)

## RIO DE JANEIRO

### *Rio Contra Corona*

This campaign to raise financial resources is managed by [Banco da Providência](#), [Instituto Ekloos](#) and [Instituto Phi](#) and emerged from the [União Rio](#), movement, which has

several initiatives to minimize the impacts of the pandemic. The three organizations are working voluntarily and all donations are directed to local organizations.

**To donate:** [click here](#)

### **Corona no Paredão**

In this campaign, the social organization [Gerando Falcões](#) is working as a bridge, through a network with affiliated NGOs, to distribute food and meal vouchers to vulnerable families for the purchase of food and hygiene items for three months.

**To donate:** [click here](#)

### **Juntos Pelo Complexo do Alemão**

This group is raising financial resources for soap, paper towels, tissue paper, hand sanitizer, and cleaning supplies for informal workers in *Morro do Alemão* who were left without work due to the pandemic.

**To donate:** [click here](#)

### **Maré diz não ao Coronavírus**

A campaign by [Redes da Maré](#) to cope with the new Coronavirus collects food supplies, hygiene products, and financial resources for residents of *Complexo da Maré*, located in the *Baixada Fluminense*.

**To donate:** [click here](#)

### **#CoragemSolidária Campaign**

The organization [Luta pela Paz](#) created a plan to minimize the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic in communities of the *Baixada Fluminense*. To be implemented, the organization is with this campaign of raising financial resources for food baskets and hygiene and cleaning products that will be distributed to local residents.

**To donate:** [click here](#)





**MATTOS FILHO** >

Mattos Filho, Veiga Filho,  
Marrey Jr e Quiroga Advogados

**+SOMA**

