

COMMUNITY RELATIONS & FAMILY DEVELOPMENT IN SITUATIONS OF SOCIAL VULNERABILITY: RESEARCH AND PARTICIPATORY INTERVENTION

Many communities in Brazil must find their own ways to address the needs of children and families with limited resources. Research to help vulnerable communities is most effective when it actively engages community members, agencies and other stakeholders in solving complex social problems. It is also important for interventions to be sustainable.

Strengthening families using a community-based participatory approach

Researchers from Nebraska and Brazil are working to address the needs of a high-risk, low-resource neighborhood in Porto Alegre using a community-based participatory research (CBPR) approach. This work leverages the principal investigators' experience working with community agencies (medical clinics, schools, churches and police) and engaging them in interventions to improve outcomes for youth and families in vulnerable communities.

- Interventions will be developed collaboratively alongside community members .
- Caixoeirinha was selected for its high rates of trauma, low income and low educational achievement.
- University partners will assess the community's needs and facilitate community organizing to generate targeted interventions that use resources effectively.
- This is a larger-scale CBPR intervention that builds on work from a previous pilot program in another Porto Alegre community (Florecendo pelo Educação/Blooming for Education).

RESEARCH GOALS

- Gather data on the baseline of health and development for the children, youth and family functioning in the community.
- Learn about the strengths and weaknesses of the relationships between families and community agencies.
- Determine how to best leverage community agencies to address the needs of children in the community.

LOCATION

Caixoeirinha, suburb of Porto Alegre, Brazil.



WHY IS THIS RESEARCH NEEDED?

- To identify the needs of children and youth living in Caixoeirinha, a vulnerable neighborhood.
- To better understand the relationship between community risk factors and family social support within the community.
- To leverage community support to develop sustainable interventions that strengthen families.

COLLABORATORS

CESUCA da Cruzeiro do Sul Educacional

- Bruna Larissa Seibel, Ph.D. (Principal Investigator)

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- Paul Springer, Ph.D. (Principal Investigator)
- Cody Hollist, Ph.D.

NEXT STEPS

- Collect community needs assessment data
- Share the needs assessment outcomes with community agencies and leaders
- Conduct focus group meetings with community members to brainstorm potential intervention methods.
- Report the focus group outcomes to the community and determine a starting point.