

# DISINTEGRATION AND AUTONOMY: HOMELESSNESS IN BRAZIL

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Main researcher Wellington Migliari. Postdoctoral Researcher at the Department of Sociology, Federal University of Minas Gerais and Assistant Professor at the University of Barcelona, Spain  
Supervision Dr. Ludmila Mendonça Lopes Ribeiro, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil  
Coordination Dr. Gabriela Gomes, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil  
Interviewers Juliana Rodrigues de Oliveira and Márcio Ricardo da Cruz, social workers

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## Theoretical Approach

Social disintegration means the difficulty of black people in being part of a social competitive order (Fernandes, 1964). On the other hand, autonomy refers to emotional, logical-linguistic, and cognitive aspects of individuals' intellect. Such an approach is vital for developing effective strategies in order to combat and mitigate homelessness supporting those affected in reintegrating into society (Honneth,1995).

## Questionnaires & Methodology



## Gender & Skin Colour

Semi-structured questionnaires applied between January-April 2024. The data collected (N=24 respondents) covers three dimensions: a) life trajectory; b) institutional violence; c) police violence. Total of 39 questions, but only 14 disclosed in this art. The other 25 questions are about the surrounding area of the interviewees' homes regarding public private services, infrastructure, and transport during childhood and adolescence.

90%

BLACK AND BROWN MEN



## Housing during childhood

Among the 24 interviewees 16 or 67% of them reported they lived with their parents when they were children. Those who reported living with their grandparents, it was found 4 and the other 4 said they did not ever live with their parents or combined different places. In short, around 30% of the interviewees oscillated their home environments.

67%

CHILDREN LIVING WITH THEIR PARENTS



## Housing during adolescence

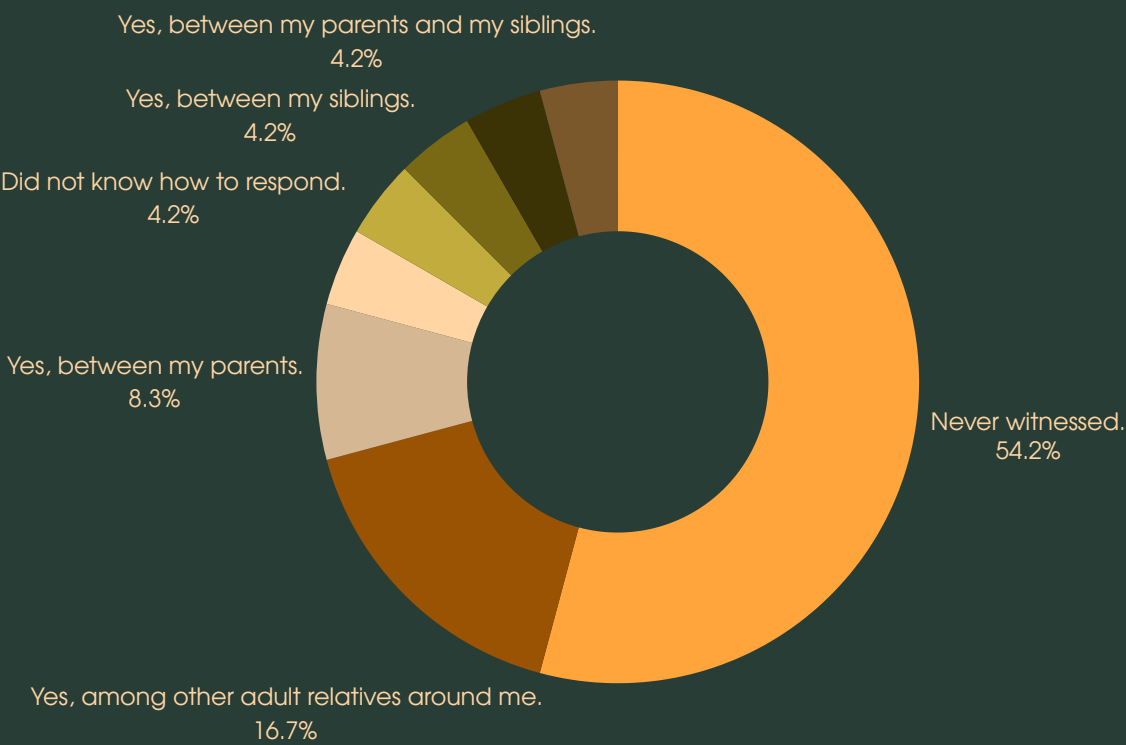
50% of the interviewees reported experiences like living on the streets or other places than the parents’ house. Four respondents said they were on the streets at that time. These experiences are considered in the research to have profound effects on emotional resilience and cognitive mechanisms necessary later in life for social integration.

50%

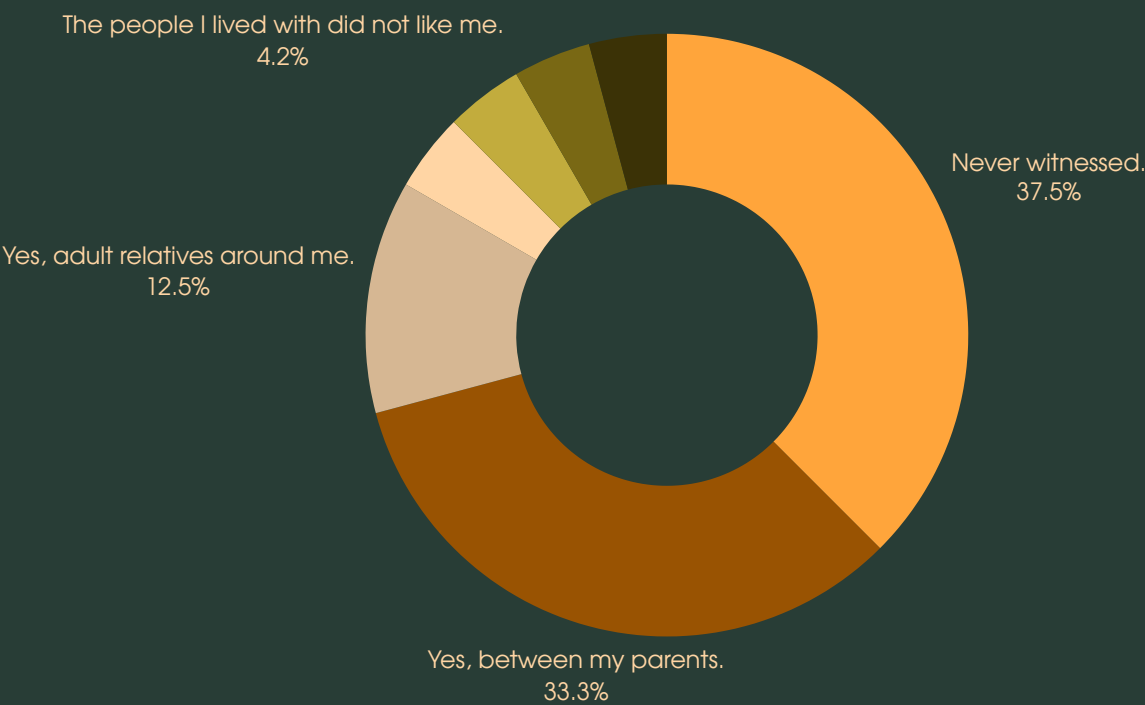
ADOLESCENTS LIVING WITH THEIR PARENTS



## Experiencing psychological aggression during childhood and/or adolescence



## Experiencing physical aggression during childhood and/or adolescence



50% (or 12) of the interviewed state they have incomplete primary education. 37.5% (or 9) individuals declaring they have either secondary education. A smaller percentage (4.2%) said they had incomplete higher education and a notable 8.3% of the respondents affirmed they could not read or write.

Half of the interviewed with less than four years at school



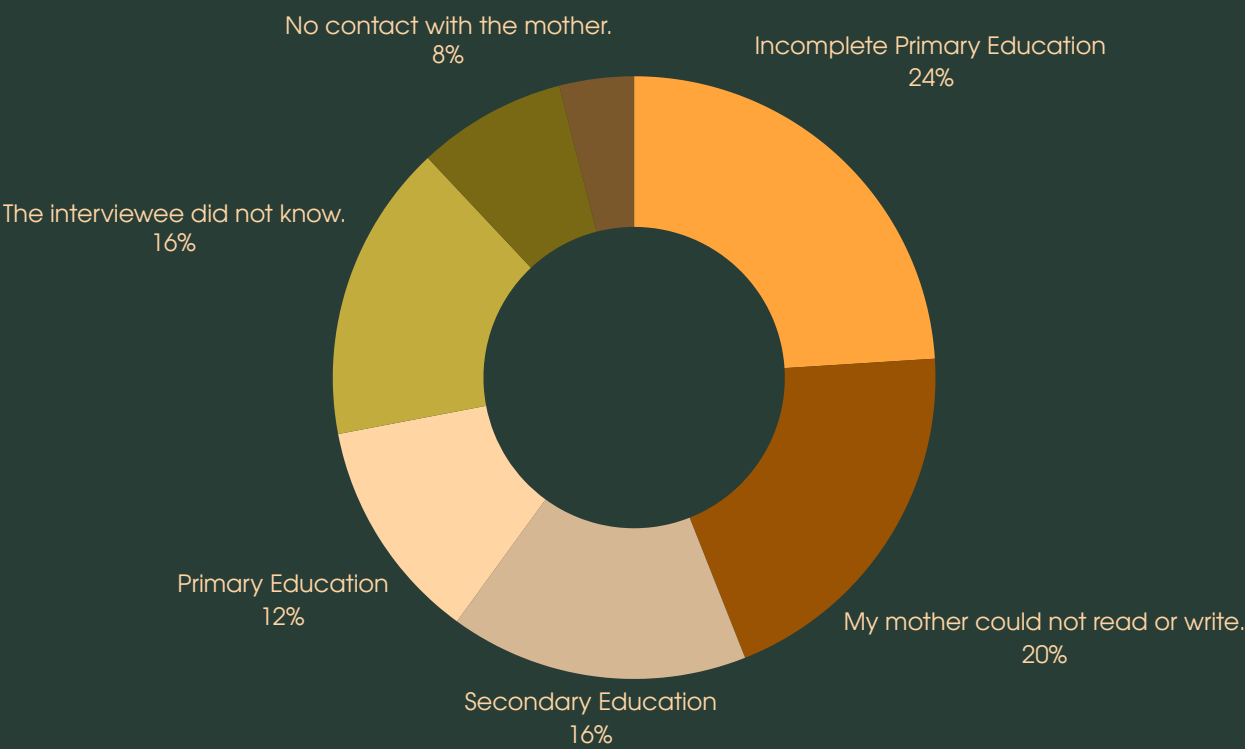
## Transference of knowledge



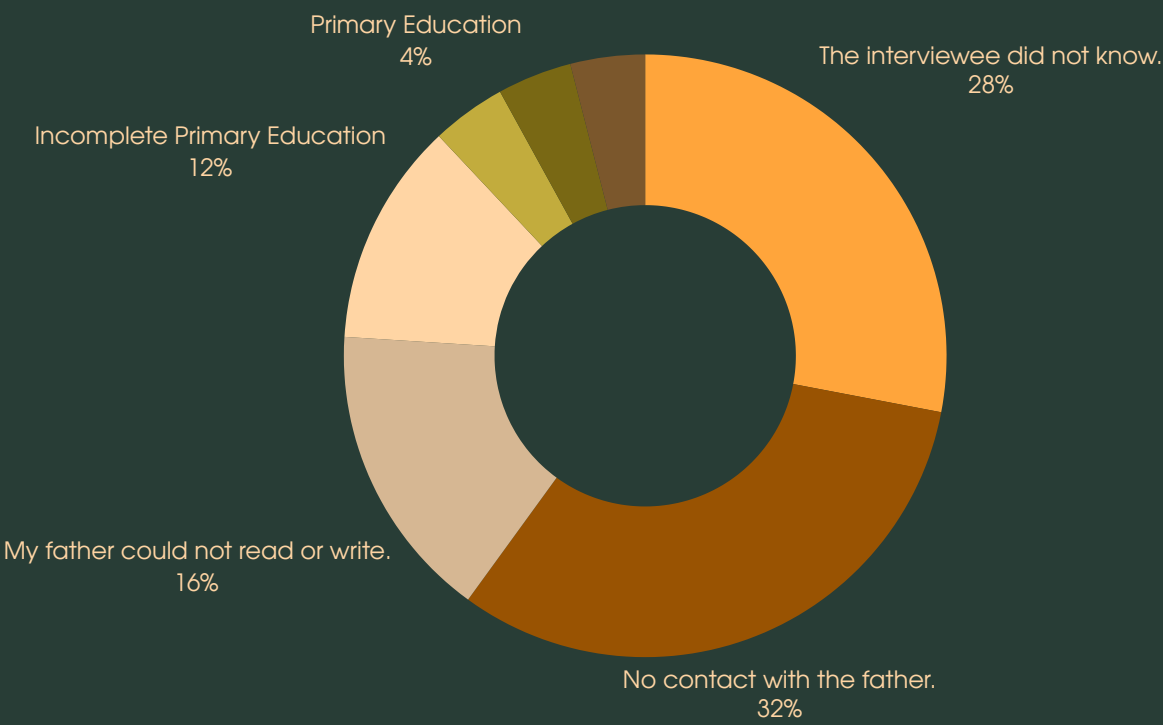
Study environment of the interviewees at home during childhood and adolescence is characterized by low interaction between the minors and the adults, low level of intellectual stimuli, and lack of ludic learning.

The most common source of knowledge or cognitive stimuli found is learning only at school, i.e., 41.7% (or 10) of the interviewees. A significant portion of 33.3% (or 8) learnt from school and watched television. Other combinations of school with radio and television or just school with radio account for smaller percentages 8.3% (or 2) and 4.2% (or 1), respectively. Other 12.5% (or 3) of the respondents had unconventional learning sources, such as listening to music with their mothers or watching television at a neighbour’s house, indicating the lack of formal education and structured knowledge transfer. The research takes into consideration the moments of free time when not necessarily children, adolescents, and adults are exclusively dedicating their time in learning academic contents.

## Education level of the interviewee’s mother



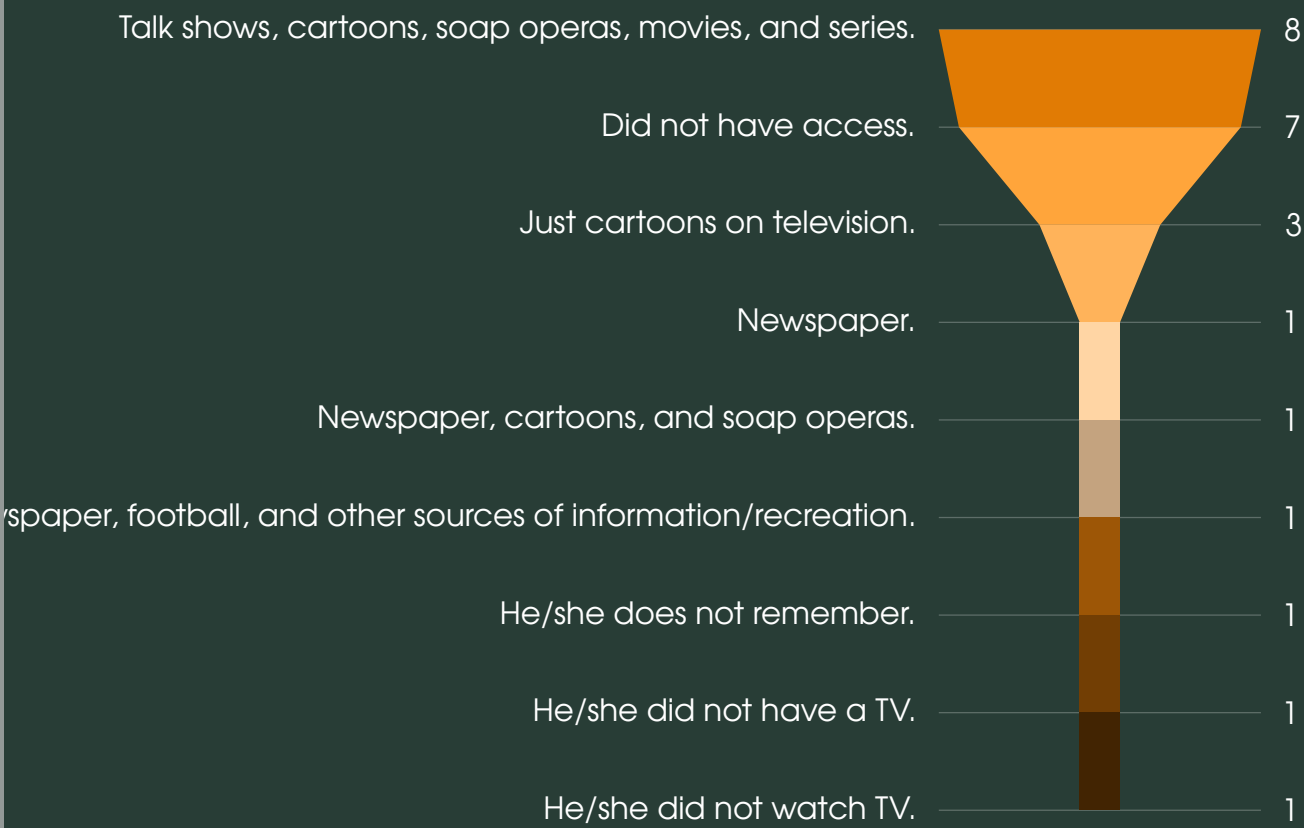
## Education level of the interviewee’s father



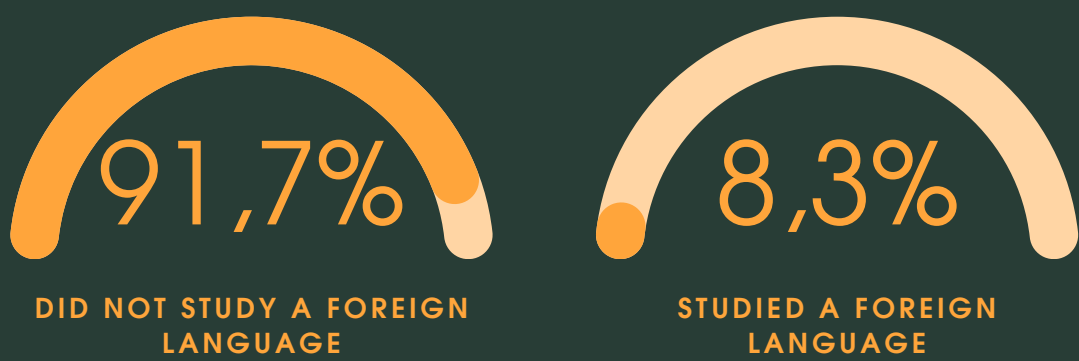
Reading skills and reading



Leisure time



Foreign languages



Parents experiencing homelessness



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The use of a mixed-method approach in studying homelessness in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, offers significant insights and has notable implications for both research and policy development. This methodology allows for a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon by capturing both life course of black men and the aspects preceding their social disintegration.

## KEY POINTS & CONCLUSIONS

- Black men represent around 90% of the interviewees;
- The figure of the mother is more present than the figure of the father making evident that women as mothers are overburdened with child care;
- 51.6% experienced psychological aggression;
- 58.3% experienced physical aggression;
- Lack of education is critical among parents, but mostly the absence of a family environment with intellectual and cognitive stimuli, prospective thoughts, and long-term life planning;
- Half of the interviewed with less than four years at school;
- More than 80% of the interviewed refer to mass media, mostly television and radio, when they mention education;
- Illiteracy, incomplete, and complete primary education represent 56% of the mothers' level of schooling;
- 32% of the interviewees reported having not contact with their fathers during childhood and adolescence;
- Around 58% of the interviewees declared not having access to reading or not interested;
- Around 91% never studied a foreign language;
- Most understood leisure time different from free time, being the former the time spent on ludic, creative, and engaging activities for children and not being thus at home watching TV;
- 50% understood leisure time as free time and declared they watched TV;
- From childhood to adolescence children tend to lose contact with their parents;
- From childhood to adolescence children constantly change their homes or live with other adults while their parents work or are not with them;
- 16% of the interviewees declared their parents experienced homelessness.

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