

Violence against transgender people in Brazil: an integrative review

ARTICLE

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Abstract

The aim of this integrative research was to identify, analyze, and summarize studies that address transgender people and the various types of violence experienced by them. The research was conducted using two databases: Medline and Index Psychology, using inclusion and exclusion criteria that were rigorously and ethically established. Thus, data was collected, and the central information from the studies were extracted. A total of 15 articles were selected for analysis, all focused on the violence suffered by LGBTQIA+ people. The guiding question was: how has violence against transgender people been addressed in scientific research? The analysis identified 3 categories: studies addressing sociodemographic profiles and the temporal aspect of violence, types of violence, and psychological suffering. The texts analyzed indicated the need to implement public policies that meet the demands of this population, thus implying increased visibility and biopsychosocial care for such people.

Keywords: Transgender. Violence. LGBTQIA+.

Violências contra pessoas transgênero no Brasil: uma revisão integrativa**Resumo**

Objetivou-se por meio desta pesquisa integrativa, identificar, analisar e sintetizar as pesquisas que abordaram pessoas transgênero e as diversas violências sofridas por elas. A pesquisa foi desenvolvida em duas bases de dados: *Medline* e *Index Psicologia*, mediante critérios de inclusão e de exclusão considerados com rigor técnico e ético. Assim, foi realizada a coleta de dados, de onde foram extraídas as informações centrais dos trabalhos. Foram selecionados 15 artigos para análise, todos voltados para as violências sofridas pelas pessoas LGBTQIA+. A pergunta norteadora foi: como as violências destinadas contra pessoas transgênero tem sido abordadas nas pesquisas científicas? Dessa forma, identificou-se 3 categorias: estudos que abordaram perfis sociodemográficos e temporal da violência, tipos de violência e sofrimento psíquico. Os textos analisados indicaram a necessidade de implementação de políticas públicas que atendam às demandas dessa população, implicando-se assim com o aumento da visibilidade e cuidado biopsicossocial para com tais pessoas.

Palavras-chave: Transgênero. Violências. LGBTQIA+.

1 Introduction

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The discussion on gender identity has been taking place across various fields of knowledge. “The term transgender person refers to a group of individuals who identify within socially established gender identities” (Silva *et al.*, 2020, p. 2). The conceptual scope of the term *transgender* may also include individuals who are not considered either male or female.

Thus, there is a social rupture with gender binarism, particularly during the period of body image and self-concept transition (Silva *et al.*, 2020). “Many people transgress gender norms more intensely, such as *travestis*, transsexuals, transgender individuals, non-binary people, and those with fluid gender” (Colling, 2018, p. 34).

It is essential to distinguish between sexual identity and gender identity. The former refers to the way a person names their own sexuality, while the latter refers to the self-categorization of one’s gender. The most common sexual identities include heterosexual, homosexual, lesbian, bisexual, pansexual, and asexual (Catelan; Sardinha, 2023).

Colling (2018) discusses these issues within the field of queer studies, or *cuir* studies (as the term has been adapted in Brazil). “Queer can be translated as strange, perhaps ridiculous, eccentric, rare, extraordinary” (Louro, 2003, p. 38). For this reason, activists have attempted to reclaim and reframe the term positively, such that the queer movement now understands LGBTQIA+ individuals (lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transsexuals, queer, intersex, asexual, and other sexual orientations and gender identities) as practitioners of lives that challenge socially accepted norms. “In this sense, one of the movement’s main efforts lies in criticizing what has conventionally been referred to as heteronormativity, defended by those who view the heterosexual model as the only correct one” (Colling, 2028, p. 25).

The *cuir* movement in Brazil began through a few grassroots collectives within the broader social movement and gained momentum as a response to the need to give visibility to diversity and to combat various forms of violence and hate speech directed at these bodies.

The relevance of the debate on violence against LGBTQIA+ individuals is supported by alarming data. According to the *Associação Nacional de Travestis e Transexuais* (ANTRA – National Association of *Travestis* and Transsexuals), in the “Dossier: Murders and Violence Against Brazilian *Travestis* and Transsexuals in 2024”:

Regarding the absolute data from the past eight years, collected since 2017, when ANTRA began this research, we were able to map a total of 1,179 (one thousand one hundred and seventy-nine) murders of trans people, *travestis*, trans men, transmasculine individuals, and non-binary Brazilians (Benevides, 2025, p. 63).

Unfortunately, although the numbers are striking, experts perceive underreporting, which stems from the state's erasure of transphobia. “When the state ignores transphobia and the violence that targets gender identity, the message it sends is painful: trans lives do not matter” (Benevides, 2025, p. 63).

Cases such as that of Dandara dos Santos, a *travesti* who was beaten to death in Fortaleza, Ceará, in 2017, exemplify the severity of the violence faced by the LGBTQIA+ population: “The six defendants were convicted of triple-qualified homicide: the victim was defenseless, the crime had a vile motive, and was carried out with cruelty” (Xerez, 2025, p. 01). At the time, federal deputy Luizianne Lins drafted Bill No. 7292/17, which proposed the classification of *LGBTcide* (*LGBTcídio*, in Portuguese) as qualified homicide and a heinous crime. “The rapporteur of the commission, Deputy Erika Kokay, expanded the original text to include as *LGBTcide* the murder of homosexuals, bisexuals, transsexuals, *travestis*, and intersex individuals, since the initial version referred only to homosexuals and *travestis*” (Miranda, 2024, p. 1).

In the dossier organized by Benevides (2025), the number of murders per state is detailed. Ceará ranks third nationwide: “In 2024, São Paulo led the number of murders of trans individuals in Brazil, with 16 cases reported. Minas Gerais held the second position, with 12 occurrences, followed by Ceará, which recorded 11 cases” (Benevides, 2025, p. 65).

“A study released in May 2024 highlights that only 0.38% of formal job positions in the country are held by trans¹ individuals”, which reveals the strong prejudice faced by this group.

In the 2024 data collection, among the 86 cases in which it was possible to determine the race/color of the victims, it was observed that at least 78% of the victims were black trans people (black and brown according to the Statute of Racial Equality). Brazil continues to be the country of *transfeminicide*. Transvestites and trans women account for 97% of deaths (Benevides, 2025, p. 75 e 76).

These data highlight why Brazil remains, for the 15th consecutive year, the country that kills the most trans people in the world, according to TGEU (Transgender Europe). The concern with violence against the most vulnerable groups has been addressed by the authors at the Gender, Sexuality, and Psychology Studies Laboratory (LABGESP) of the Maurício de Nassau University Center, which aims to promote reflections on gender and sexuality within the context of psychological interventions, seeking to train professionals who are more aware, inclusive, and technically sensitive.

In this context, the objective of the research was to identify, analyze, and synthesize studies that addressed transgender individuals and the various types of violence they suffer, using two databases: *Medline* and *Index Psicologia*. For this purpose, an integrative review was conducted, with inclusion criteria comprising full texts in Portuguese, published within the last five years, containing the descriptor “transgender AND violence” in the title, subject, or abstract. Exclusion criteria included texts that did not contribute to the research scope of the study, as well as articles discussing foreign contexts experienced by the community under study.

The article is divided into four sections: this introductory section, providing the study’s contextualization, problem statement, objective, and methodology; the methodological section, detailing the research design; analysis and discussion of results; and final considerations.

¹ G1, Study reveals that 0.38% of jobs in the country are held by trans people, **GloboNews - Jornal das Dez**, 15 May 2024. Available at: <https://g1.globo.com/globonews/jornal-das-dez/noticia/2024/05/15/estudo-revela-que-038percent-dos-postosde-trabalho-no-pais-sao-ocupados-por-pessoas-trans.ghtml>. Accessed on: March 18, 2025.

2 Methodology

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The research was characterized as an integrative review which, according to Souza, Silva, and Carvalho, “is a method that provides knowledge synthesis and the incorporation of the applicability of significant study results into practice” (2010, p. 102). Thus, a survey was conducted to highlight the main findings and the possibilities that emerge from them.

The integrative review [...] It also combines data from the theoretical and empirical literature, and incorporates a wide range of purposes: defining concepts, reviewing theories and evidence, and analyzing methodological problems of a particular topic (Souza; Silva; Carvalho, 2010, p. 103).

According to Souza, Silva, and Carvalho (2010, pp. 104–105), the integrative review consists of six stages: 1) formulation of the guiding question; 2) literature search or sampling; 3) data collection; 4) critical analysis of the included studies; 5) discussion of the results; and 6) presentation of the integrative review.

2.1 Formulation of the guiding question

Defining the research problem, or the question intended to be answered, is crucial, as without this initial inquiry there is no reason to conduct the research. The problem also aids in selecting the studies to be included. For this study, the guiding question was: How has violence against transgender individuals been addressed in scientific research?

2.2 Sample search in databases

Initially, the Health Sciences Descriptors (DeCS) were consulted to define the descriptors to be used in the research repositories. The term “transsexual” was initially intended for use; however, the listed descriptor was “transgender person,” so this designation was chosen. Although other terms were used throughout the study, such as

transgender, transsexual, and trans person, this variation mainly depended on the source that informed the writing.

Next, the search began in the Virtual Health Library (BVS) using the descriptor “transgender” without any inclusion or exclusion criteria. We identified 9,382 works; when filtering for Medline, this number dropped to 80. Subsequently, the following inclusion criteria were applied: full text, in Portuguese, published within the last five years. To further specify the search, a new descriptor was combined using the Boolean operator AND. By entering “transgender AND violence,” nine articles were found, all of which were read in full, and eight were selected for analysis.

The same procedure was replicated in *Index Psicologia*. In the initial search, 85 articles were found; with the combined descriptor “transgender AND violence,” this number was reduced to 10 articles, of which seven were incorporated into the research. Thus, 16 studies comprise this review.

Box 1 — Database Search

Platform	Descriptor	Results Quantitative
BVS	transgender	9.382 articles
Medline	transgender	80 articles
Medline	transgender AND violence	9 articles
Index Psicologia	transgender	85 articles
Index Psicologia	transgender AND violence	10 articles

Source: Prepared by the authors.

2.3 Data collection

For data collection, it was decided to extract the central information from the selected articles, namely: title, objectives, authorship, year, database, and type of production, which are systematized in Box 2. Important aspects that may ensure that the entirety of the data is considered and, above all, that maintain greater relevance to the research problem will be discussed in the critical analysis of the included studies. Box 2 is available for consultation in the Zenodo repository at the following link:

<https://zenodo.org/records/15392623> (Quadro 2 — Materiais bibliográficos identificados na triagem).

3 Results and Discussion

3.1 Critical analysis of the included studies

Fifteen articles were selected for analysis, all addressing issues related to LGBTQIA+ individuals and the violence experienced by this population. Emphasis was placed on aspects concerning transgender people. Many articles were part of thematic dossiers, which reinforces the importance of such collections for the advancement and dissemination of research in this field. The studies were grouped as indicated in Box 3.

Box 3 — Themes of the articles analyzed

Quantity	Thematic
3	Sociodemographic and temporal profiles of violence
5	Types of violence
7	Psychic Suffering

Source: Prepared by the authors

Of the total, three studies provide insight into the sociodemographic and temporal profile of violence against LGBTQIA+ individuals, outlining the characteristics of victims and perpetrators as well as the geographic distribution of cases throughout the country. Among the types of violence, homophobia, inter- and intrapersonal violence, and self-inflicted violence stand out. Regarding psychological suffering, the vulnerability of transgender people is evident, including cases of depression and suicidal ideation. A brief summary of each article will follow.

The study by Lacerda and Azevedo (2024) is characterized as a cross-sectional study that, using data from SINAN/DATASUS, defined sociodemographic profiles.

Socioeconomic and demographic characteristics correlated with the context of violence experienced by LGBTQIA+ individuals have been identified in research. The issue of race also emerges as a significant factor: Black transgender women experience more violence than white transgender women. Black transgender men suffer more violence than white transgender men. The situation of *travestis* is even more severe, with 65% of violence cases involving Black *travestis*, whereas white *travestis* represent 31% (Cerqueira; Bueno, 2023).

A statistically significant difference was observed in the frequency of repeated episodes of violence perpetrated by intimate partners against transgender individuals. In the South region, a higher frequency of repeated cases stood out, especially among those with only primary education and among people with physical disabilities or mental disorders. A disparity was also noted among groups in the North region, where individuals of Asian or Indigenous descent and lesbians were less frequently referred (Lacerda; Azevedo, 2024, p. 10).

The concentration of cases in these two regions suggests geographic specificities, and caution is needed when interpreting the data. It does not mean, for example, that there is more violence in the South and fewer cases in the North. For an accurate analysis, it is necessary to investigate prevention policies, support networks for people in vulnerable situations, the ease or difficulty of accessing support services, awareness of rights, among other factors that may either facilitate or hinder reporting.

Dias *et al.* (2024) also address the sociodemographic profile, but in relation to access to social assistance and health services among trans and *travesti* individuals experiencing homelessness in Salvador. As systematized in Box 3, “the sample profile consisted of young, Black, single trans women with informal occupations” (p. 2). The difficulty in accessing health or social assistance services is multifactorial, but the lack of identification documents and experiences of social/racial discrimination stand out as key issues. Prejudice against people experiencing homelessness and the lack of training among professionals must also be considered.

Marinho Neto, Tomazelli, and Girianelli (2024, p. 2) emphasize how complex the phenomenon of violence is and focus on two types: self-inflicted violence and interpersonal violence. Self-inflicted violence is defined as “an act of self-harm by the individual, causing

minor or severe injuries and even suicidal behaviors” (p. 2). Interpersonal violence, in turn, occurs when there is “the use of physical force, power, or psychological influence to dominate or exclude another person” (p. 2), and it can be domestic (when perpetrators are family members or cohabitants) or community-based (when perpetrators are strangers or acquaintances without family ties). The research also shows that:

It was identified that 1.7% of all reported cases of violence in the country involved the trans population. Both self-inflicted and sexual violence increased between 2015 and 2022. Nearly half of Brazilian municipalities are now reporting cases of violence affecting this population (Marinho Neto; Tomazelli; Girianelli, 2024, p. 2).

Among these reports, the majority involved interpersonal violence (66.6%). Although the percentage of reports of self-inflicted violence (28.9%) is lower, it has been increasing. Among the types of interpersonal violence, physical violence stands out (87.5%), followed by psychological violence (35.3%). “Most reports of violence against the transgender population referred to women, accounting for 82.0% of interpersonal violence and 77.6% of self-inflicted violence” (Marinho Neto; Tomazelli; Girianelli, 2024, p. 7).

The study by Hentges *et al.* (2024) focuses on sexual violence against trans women and *travestis* (MTT), showing that, out of 1,317 trans women and *travestis* interviewed, 698 (53%) had experienced sexual violence at some point in their lives, with 186 of these reporting that it occurred during their first sexual encounter.

Most of the MTT respondents were between 18 and 29 years old (46.5%), identified as Black or Brown (70.8%), had 8 to 11 years of formal education (54.2%), and earned up to one minimum wage (49.5%). Of the participants, “41.4% declared themselves as sex workers, and 73.4% had engaged in commercial sex at some point in their lives. In the 12 months prior to the study, 55.2% had used some form of illicit drug” (Hentges *et al.*, 2024, p. 04).

Regarding sexual violence in the Hentges *et al.* (2024) study, of the MTT who had experienced it, 64.4% reported that it was not an isolated episode, but had occurred on more than one occasion. The most frequent perpetrators were strangers (36.4%). Most victims did not seek health services (93.2%), did not report violence to the police (93.9%), and did not seek support from family or friends (86.5%). “[...] sexual violence among MTT is associated with factors such as inadequate housing, involvement in transactional sex at

some point in life, difficulties accessing health services, and poorer emotional well-being” (Hentges *et al.*, 2024, p. 5).

Consistent with the study by Lacerda and Azevedo (2024), intimate partner violence is prevalent among the trans population. According to Dias *et al.* (2024), sexual violence is more frequent among homeless trans women and *travestis* or those living in shelters.

In the article *Interpersonal Violence Among Transgender and Cisgender Women in Brazilian Municipalities: Trends and Characteristics*, Marinho Neto and Girianelli (2024) revisit the issue of interpersonal violence. The authors expand their analysis to include notifications involving both cisgender and transgender individuals. The study analyzed 605,983 cases, of which 11,211 involved transgender women (1.8%).

Regarding the municipalities reporting violence, 84.8% recorded cases involving cisgender women, ranging from 74.0% in the Northeast region to 92.7% in the Southeast. In contrast, only 31.7% of municipalities reported violence against transgender women, ranging from 20.2% in the Northeast to 46.9% in the Southeast (Marinho Neto; Girianelli, 2024, p. 3).

To interpret these percentages, it is important to recall the Dossier organized by Benevides (2025), which highlights the underreporting of violence against trans and *travesti* individuals. Lacerda and Azevedo (2024) call attention to factors that may facilitate or hinder reporting. Hentges *et al.* (2024) demonstrated that over 90% of victims do not report the violence or seek help. The crime of sexual exploitation is proportionally higher among transgender women, as transsexual women and *travestis* are more frequently targeted and coerced by human trafficking networks for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

There is a vast amount of data related to violence against transgender individuals, particularly because public perception of these groups is distorted. Butler affirms:

Gender is a complexity whose totality is permanently deferred, never fully revealed in any given context. An open coalition, therefore, would affirm identities that are alternatively instituted and relinquished, according to current needs; it would be an assembly allowing for multiple convergences and divergences, without obedience to a normative and defining *te/os*. (Butler, 2003, p. 37).

Dantas *et al.* (2024) address the issue of parenthood among trans men who became pregnant before their gender transition. This experience of parenthood is subjected to strict standards of judgment and condemnation, often leading to invisibilization and even forms of violence.

In the participants' experience of parenthood, there is a desire to be recognized as fathers rather than mothers, and this shift reveals the cultural meanings of fatherhood and the individual meanings they ascribe to it (Dantas *et al.*, 2024, p. 3).

This societal resistance to change in the exercise of parenthood is influenced by structural binarism, which disregards other gender identities. It is evident that violent practices reinforce social vulnerabilities and have caused psychological suffering in trans men who become pregnant before undergoing gender transition.

The study by Lobo *et al.* (2023, p. 1) aimed to “analyze the consequences of transphobia on the health of trans men and transmasculine individuals.” The results indicate that transphobia has had both intrapersonal and interpersonal repercussions on the lives and health of trans men and transmasculine individuals who access health services.

Interpersonal repercussions: violence in private spaces, including the weakening of family ties; experiences of stigmatization and identity protection strategies; discrimination in school settings, which limits professional opportunities.
Intrapersonal repercussions: barriers to self-care and to accessing professional care; consequences for psycho-emotional health (Lobo *et al.*, 2023, p. 04).

Santos and Aléssio (2023) draw attention to homophobia among fans of the video game *League of Legends*. For their analysis, four classes were identified, grouping the majority of comments: Class 1: debate over the sexuality of champions — the inclusion of LGBTQ+ characters prompts discussions among players; Class 2: representation in *LoL* — defense of the need for Riot Games to invest in characters that challenge heteronormative standards; Class 3: the narrative conflict around Varus — tensions between the old version of the champion, which included a traditional family background, and the new one, which emphasizes LGBTQIA+ representation in *LoL*; Class 4: corporate

strategy — comments that question the intentions behind Riot Games' inclusion of homosexual characters in Varus's storyline.

The conflicts among players reveal a clash between groups: on one side, comments “mostly made by heterosexual men, who employ subtle prejudice to uphold heteronormativity” (Santos; Aléssio, 2023, p. 1); on the other side, comments that reinforce the value of diversity in digital games. What emerges are manifestations of symbolic violence rooted in gender diversity.

Boffi and Santos (2023, p. 1) explore the “perceptions and expectations of trans men regarding affective and sexual relationships in the post-transition context.” The results indicate that trans men report fewer opportunities for affective and sexual relationships after transitioning.

[Researcher] Do you think that, after your transition, the range of people you could be in a relationship with has decreased? [Felipe] Yes, a lot, because when I said I was trans, people would be like, “Hm, cool... yeah, not gonna happen.” And I'd be like, “I'm a guy either way! Do you like men? Do you like women? Then what's the big deal about being with a trans man? A man is a man either way!” But in their heads, that just doesn't exist. (Boffi; Santos, 2023, p. 5).

According to the respondents, this difficulty stems from the fact that they have not undergone sex reassignment surgery. These experiences have an impact on mental health due to the distress caused by having a body that does not conform to cisnormative expectations. Bodily issues associate being male with having a penis. Another source of discomfort is social rejection, which is linked to the devaluation, exoticization, and fetishization of transgender individuals.

Silva *et al.* (2021) discuss suicidal ideation (SI) among *travestis* and transsexuals, presenting significant data. Globally, “there are over 800,000 suicides per year, accounting for 1.4% of all causes of death (11.4 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants)” (p. 4956). In the study analyzed, the prevalence of SI among *travestis* and transsexuals was 41.4% — an alarming percentage. The prevalence was higher among transgender individuals than among *travestis* ($p \leq 0.05$).

The study revealed a high prevalence of SI among *travestis* and transsexuals assisted by non-governmental organizations in the state of Rio Grande do Norte.

This was associated with spirituality, depressive symptoms, violence in the school environment, a history of previous suicide attempts, and expulsion from the family unit due to gender identity (Silva *et al.*, 2021, p. 4961).

Rodrigues *et al.* (2022) focus on the issue of access to public restrooms for transgender women and *travestis*—a topic frequently debated on social media. Through discourse analysis, several key aspects were identified. First, “the structuring of a social classification system that places *travestis* and trans women in categories of dangerousness” (Rodrigues *et al.*, 2022, p. 1458). This implies that allowing trans women and *travestis* to use public women’s restrooms is perceived as putting heteronormative individuals at risk.

This unequal social treatment follows trans women and *travestis* throughout their lives. “The questioning of trans women regarding the use of women’s public restrooms based on the argument that they may pose a threat to cisgender women has been observed within feminist movements” (Rodrigues *et al.*, 2022, p. 1467). These groups argue that the feminist movement should not include trans women and *travestis*.

One participant stated: “They should create a separate bathroom for trans people, obviously—she’s not a woman, she’s trans!” [sic]; “Men’s bathrooms are unsafe for trans people, but women have the right to feel uncomfortable. The right thing is to build one for each gender” (ibid., p. 1471). From this statement, we highlight an often-overlooked aspect: the use of restrooms also represents a space of violence and vulnerability for *travestis* and trans women.

According to Albuquerque and Souza (2022), for many LGBTQIA+ individuals, school was a particularly conducive environment for experiencing violence. Their accounts included:

[...] homophobic comments (93.1%); spreading of rumors and lies (61.5%); exclusion (85.7%); physical assault (48.1%); sexual harassment (61.5%); and cyberbullying (50%). Among the 25 participants who identified as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or questioning, 80% reported discomfort when their sexual orientation or gender identity was disclosed to people at their school. Furthermore, 58.6% said they heard homophobic comments made by teachers or school staff, and 30.8% reported that school personnel never took any action when present during these homophobic remarks (Albuquerque; Souza, 2022, p. 17).

According to the authors, homophobia is present in educational institutions in multiple forms; it can occur among students or even be perpetuated by teachers or staff members—those who are expected to educate and protect students.

Silva Filho, Nascimento, and Castro (2021) analyze mental health care for the trans population at two Psychosocial Care Centers (CAPS – *Centros de Atenção Psicossocial*). According to the authors:

It is observed that, even though the care teams understand the mental health needs of trans patients as being linked to discrimination, violence, and marginalization, there remain deeply rooted understandings based on stereotypes—such as the notion that equity for trans patients would imply granting them privilege (Silva Filho; Nascimento; Castro, 2021, p. 56).

The number of trans individuals seeking care at Psychosocial Care Centers (CAPS) has increased, and the healthcare professionals interviewed acknowledge that there is still widespread prejudice against this population, highlighting the need for better training and preparation.

Shihadeh, Pessoa, and Silva, in their article *The (In)Visibility of Welcoming Practices in the Healthcare Field: Discussing the Experiences of LGBTQIA+ Community Members* (2021), similarly to the previously presented study, describe actions marked by LGBTphobia and a lack of respect toward individuals from this community.

Lins and Mesquita (2020, p. 252) “draw attention to the organization of trans social movements in Brazil and the political awareness of *travestis* and transsexuals in the city of Maceió, who are part of the Associação das Travestis e Transexuais de Alagoas (Astal – Association of *Travestis* and Transsexuals of Alagoas).” The results identified three categories: institutional and party politics; the specific politics of the LGBTQIA+ movement; and politics related to citizenship and public policies.

First, there is strong criticism of representational spaces, due to the erosion and discrediting of institutions. It seems that the representative model has reached a point of saturation and has proven insufficient from a broader societal perspective. Regarding the specific politics of the LGBTQIA+ movement, “there is an understanding that traditional

politics has ‘contaminated the movement,’ leading to the reproduction of clientelist practices within it” (Lins; Mesquita, 2020, p. 259). As for politics associated with citizenship and public policy, the evolution of the trans movement reveals an ongoing struggle for human rights, since, as evidenced in several of the studies analyzed, trans individuals are more vulnerable to various forms of violence.

3.2 Discussion of the results and perspectives pointed out in the studies

The study by Lacerda and Azevedo (2024) highlights the need to strengthen strategies that promote equity in access to services. This requires professional training to address gender diversity and the promotion of culturally sensitive services regarding the different forms of violence. The authors also emphasize the imperative to develop broader research that explores aspects such as social support and systemic discrimination, which have the potential to shed further light on repetition patterns of violence.

For Dias *et al.* (2024) and Marinho Neto, Tomazelli, and Girianelli (2024), the implementation of public policies that meet the demands of this population is fundamental. This implies the need to increase visibility for these groups.

Marinho Neto and Girianelli (2024) point out that the violence notification form must allow for the identification of the entire LGBTQIA+ population, as it still excludes, for example, asexual and intersex individuals. The study by Dantas *et al.* (2024) indicates the need to construct the concept of transparency (*transparência*), which may have consequences at both the social and health levels.

Lobo *et al.* (2023) advocate for the dissemination and discussion of issues that affect health in connection with gender diversity, aiming to expand awareness of the specific needs of transgender people. This is necessary so that the Brazilian Unified Health System (SUS – *Sistema Único de Saúde*) can fully exercise its guiding principles: universality, comprehensiveness, and equity in healthcare.

In the study by Santos and Aléssio (2023), the premise is that the inclusion of homosexual characters in video games can foster debate around new standards of representation, contributing to the fight against prejudice.

Through Boffi and Santos (2023), we observe the processes that regulate and shape affective relationships in the context of gender transition. This understanding should support the planning of strategies for mental health care and support.

Silva *et al.* (2021), by identifying suicidal ideation among individuals assisted by four non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Rio Grande do Norte, provide two key insights: 1. the importance of actions aimed at suicide prevention and intervention in these realities; and 2. “the associative and collective nature of the research participants involved in NGOs may have offered a protective factor for the development and tracking of suicidal ideation” (p. 4965).

Rodrigues *et al.* (2022) recommend “the urgent need for new studies that consider geographic and identity specificities, as well as the narratives of people who experience these dynamics in their daily lives” (p. 1473). The issue raised in their work—whether or not to create exclusive spaces for *travestis* and trans women—reveals a paradox. The creation of such spaces may reinforce *cisheteronormativity* and binary gender norms in environments like restrooms and prisons. However, on the other hand, their creation may help preserve the lives of people who have their rights routinely violated, and who are frequently insulted and subjected to violence.

In the study by Silva Filho, Nascimento, and Castro (2021), there is again a reference to the need for healthcare professionals to receive training for a more humane and inclusive approach—one capable of overcoming misunderstandings and prejudices in the care of transgender individuals. Shihadeh, Pessoa, and Silva (2021) also address the need for professional training, dialogue, and adherence to legislation that supports inclusive and comprehensive healthcare services.

Finally, Lins and Mesquita (2020), by analyzing the political awareness of *travestis* and transsexuals who participate in an association, enable reflection on how the

experience of activism can serve as a tool for strengthening collective identity and solidarity.

3.3 Educational interventions

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Hentges *et al.* (2024) highlight the need to prevent violence against transgender women. To this end, they advocate for the development of public policies that fundamentally address transphobia in an institutional and intersectoral manner, involving managers from educational, health, and security institutions.

The implementation of educational public policies that guarantee access, retention, and success for transgender students, while combating transphobia, is essential. Some possibilities have been proposed, such as a federal law that would ensure affirmative action policies specifically for transgender people. Currently, such quotas are implemented through municipal or state initiatives, or internal policies of public or private organizations.

Education thus emerges as an important formative space. The inclusion process presupposes public policies that encompass people with disabilities (PwD), LGBTQIA+ people, Black people, and Indigenous people.

For schools to provide an inclusive and safe environment, it is fundamental to invest in teacher training. The lack of knowledge and awareness about gender diversity can generate prejudice and discrimination. The following statement from a student illustrates the need for such training: “If we only stayed here, with what we learn at school, we would never know that there was a lesbian transsexual” (Bonfim; Ribeiro, 2020, p. 8).

These trainings need to address concepts such as gender identity and sexual identity, enabling teachers to understand the experiences of transgender people. It is also necessary to be familiar with laws and regulations that protect the rights of these individuals, such as the right to social name and recognition of gender identity (Decree No. 8,727/2016). Training should also include pedagogical strategies that meet specific needs and respect diversity.

Pointing out the school as often a space of homophobic violence, Albuquerque and Souza (2022) make several suggestions regarding the school curriculum, which could allow the adoption of diverse pedagogical strategies such as anti-bullying programs and the promotion of an educational policy centered on human rights.

Regarding the curriculum, we also emphasize the need to include content about gender and diversity. This is similar to the achievements through Law 10,639, which reinforced the importance of addressing Afro-Brazilian history and culture, as well as ethnic and racial diversity.

It is urgent to develop educational materials such as textbooks, software, videos, and educational games, as well as to use existing productions. Additionally, activities that allow the construction or transformation of the school environment into an inclusive space are highly recommended.

Box 4 — Activities to promote inclusion

Activity	Action
Conversations	Spaces for students to share experiences and learn to respect diversity
Reading club	Reading literary texts that deal with LGBTQIA+ characters
Awareness campaigns	Actions that promote inclusion and combat prejudice and stereotypes
Reporting channels	Mechanisms for students to report cases of bullying or discrimination
Diversity Committees	Groups of students and teachers working to promote inclusion
Lectures and events	Invite representatives of support groups and activists to share experiences and knowledge
Partnerships with families	Family participation in diversity projects
Research	To collect information on the perception and demands of students, teachers and parents
Evaluation	Produce summaries with the results of the analysis of all the actions and share them with the community

Source: Prepared by the authors

4 Final considerations

For this research, the guiding question was: how has violence against transgender people been addressed in scientific studies? We identified three categories: studies that addressed sociodemographic profiles and the temporality of violence, types of violence, and psychological suffering.

The studies presenting sociodemographic and temporal profiles of violence against LGBTQIA+ people allow an understanding of the characteristics of victims and aggressors, as well as the distribution of cases across the country. Among the types of violence, homophobia, inter- and intrapersonal violence, and self-inflicted violence stand out. Regarding psychological suffering, the vulnerability of transgender people is evident, including cases of depression and suicidal ideation.

The importance of addressing this topic in educational institutions is highlighted. Bonfim and Mesquita (2020) published a thought-provoking text titled *Nunca falaram disso na escola: um debate com jovens sobre gênero e diversidade* (*They never talked about this at school: a debate with youth about gender and diversity*), whose objective was to analyze the ways young people participate in discussions about gender and sexuality within the school institution. The research points to troubling data: "The school institution appears as one of the main spaces where LGBT people declare having suffered, or still suffering, violence" (Bonfim; Mesquita, 2020, p. 3).

It is necessary to discuss gender in various spaces and give visibility to all people. In schools, the topic has been marginalized due to the formulations surrounding the so-called "gender ideology":

In Brazil, since 2014, the fight against so-called "gender ideology" has been used by various groups as a mobilization strategy to remove references to gender and sexual orientation from documents that regulate guidelines and outline strategies for building a democratic school (Bonfim; Mesquita, 2020, p. 02).

Resistance to the so-called "gender ideology" has been employed as the main argument to defend the notion that the school's function is limited to the transmission of content. However, the analyzed texts indicate the need for the implementation of public policies that address the demands of the LGBTQIA+ population, which requires greater visibility for these groups and improvements in the training of professionals across different sectors, such as education, health, and security. It also highlighted the importance of understanding recurring profiles of victims and aggressors, as well as the locations with the highest incidence of violence, in order to develop effective training and prevention strategies.

Thus, future research can more directly establish the relationship between LGBTQIA+ individuals and schools, encompassing teacher training, the role of schools in confronting violence against transgender people, inclusion of content on gender and diversity in the curriculum, and affirmative educational policies for the LGBTQIA+ population. All of this, persistently implemented, can help prevent violence.

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