

# OBSERVANDO

Magazine of the City of Porto Alegre's Observatory



## Social Conditions of the Elderly Population in Porto Alegre - 2019

## Realization

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## **Elderly Population: a challenge to public policies**

Elderly population is on the rise worldwide bringing a whole new set of challenges and necessities that demand solutions that grow more and more complex each year. This issue has been brought into consideration many times over the years through several government instances and guides the planning and implementation of public policies towards the elderly.

However, another perspective on the elderly population is also required - a newer, modern and positive view, closer to real life than the one before. Besides the economic strength of the elderly population, it is necessary that we are able to identify and value older people in a human way, considering their life experience and wisdom and recognizing their place as productive members of society.

At the same time, we need to face the challenge of providing proper care to those elders who need public services interventions and depend on effective and firm acts coming from the government instances. Porto Alegre is the state capital with the largest elderly population in comparison to its total population, and city authorities have been taking measures to care for, protect and provide the best levels of quality of life to those who need it.

This publication aims to aid directly on the making of social public policies, allowing the optimal allocation of public resources on the areas akin to elderly population's protection while favoring the distribution of educational information about the quality of life of Porto Alegre's elderly population.

Secretariat of Institutional Relations  
City Council for the Elderly  
Secretariat of Social Promotion and Sports  
City Office for the Elderly  
**Porto Alegre City Hall**

## Defining the Elderly Population

The World's Health Organization (WHO) defines elderly population as those aged from 60 years old, according to their place of residence. This limit applies to underdeveloped countries, going up to 65 years old in developed countries\*.

The Law number 10,741 rules about the Elderly Statute, and its Article I defines people who are 60 years old and above as elders. Thus, for the purpose of this magazine, when we talk about elderly people, we refer to this stratum of our population.

### Context

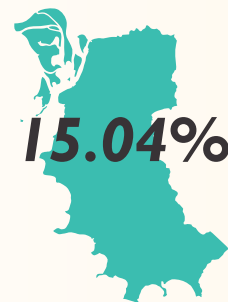
According to the WHO, the world is at the center of an irreversible demographic transition which will result in older populations all across the world. In Brasil, this transition is happening at a fast pace, the same being true to Rio Grande do Sul state and its capital, Porto Alegre. As stated by the last Census by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), the elderly population in Porto Alegre made about 15.04% of its total population, a superior percentage than in Rio Grande do Sul, with 13.66% and in Brasil as a whole, with 10.78%.



Brasil



Rio Grande do Sul



Porto Alegre

Source: Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE)

\*Profile of the elderly heads of households in Brasil 2000, page 9

In 2010, the elderly population in Porto Alegre was of 211,896 people, which represents an increase of 31.99% in relation to 2000, when it was 160,541. It is the population group that had the largest growth in Porto Alegre.



«**Elders** are the population group with the **largest increase** in **Porto Alegre.**»

Source: Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE)

**Table I - Aging index of population in Brasil, Rio Grande do Sul and Porto Alegre - 2000 and 2010**

	2000	Brasil	Rio Grande do Sul	Porto Alegre
Male		25.56	33.56	37.37
Female		32.32	46.93	65,53
Total		28.89	40.12	51,18
	<b>2010</b>			
Male		39.14	55.33	59.88
Female		50.69	76.29	101.65
Total		44.82	65.60	80.44

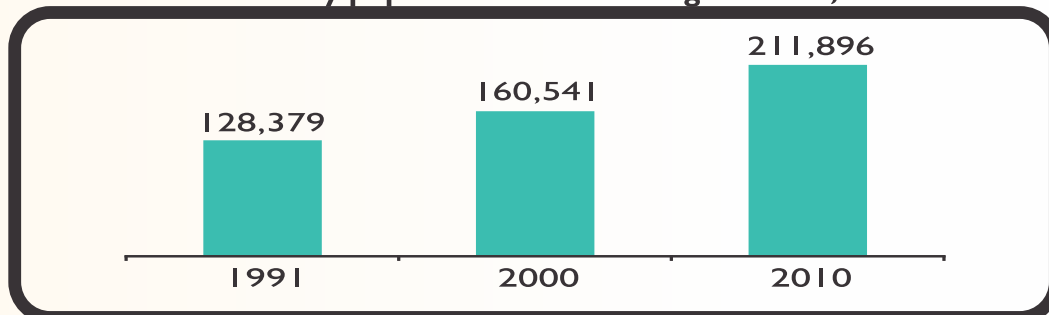
Source: Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE)

As the data gathered by IBGE can demonstrate, in Porto Alegre in 2010 there were 80 elders to each group of 100 people aged below 15 years old, while Rio Grande do Sul had 65 and Brasil had 44. This is a strong increase comparing to the year 2000, when there were 51 elders to each group of 100 people aged below 15 years old in Porto Alegre, while Rio Grande do Sul had 40 and Brasil had 29. These numbers show us that the higher this rate is, the more advanced the demographic transition stage is, demonstrating how fast the process is taking place in Porto Alegre, as it is in Rio Grande do Sul and in Brasil as a whole.

## Elderly Population characteristics

In 1991, the elderly population in Porto Alegre was of 128,379 people, making for 10.16% of its whole population. In 2000, this number grew to 160,541, representing 11.80% of the population. Finally, in the last Census in 2010, it was 211,896 people, or 15.04% of Porto Alegre's total population, according to the chart below.

**Chart I - Total elderly population in Porto Alegre - 1991, 2000 and 2010**



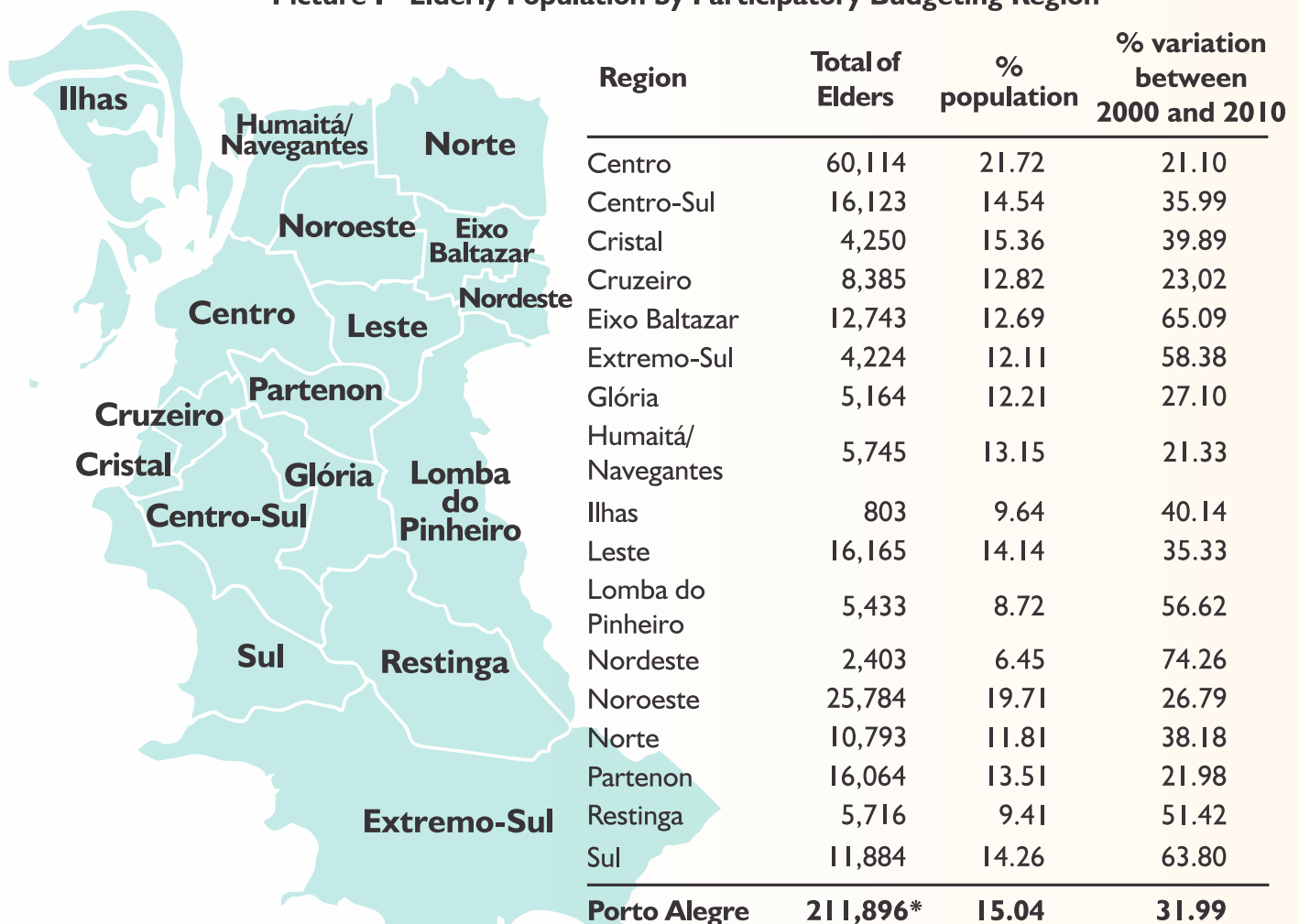
Source: Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE)

The Participatory Budgeting (PB) Region with most elders in 2000 was Centro (Center), with 60,114, followed by Nordeste (Northeast), with 25,784. Another element to have in mind is that these two regions already have consolidated basic infrastructure settings and the highest rates of access ramps for wheelchairs, pluvial draining systems, electricity, appropriate sewer system, identification tags for streets and avenues, street lighting and adequate paving in Porto Alegre. Besides that, these two regions have the lowest levels of open sewage near residences and of precarious habitation units.\*

\* From Observando as Características Urbanísticas de Porto Alegre Magazine.

## Elderly Population in Participatory Budgeting Regions

Picture I - Elderly Population by Participatory Budgeting Region



Source :Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE)

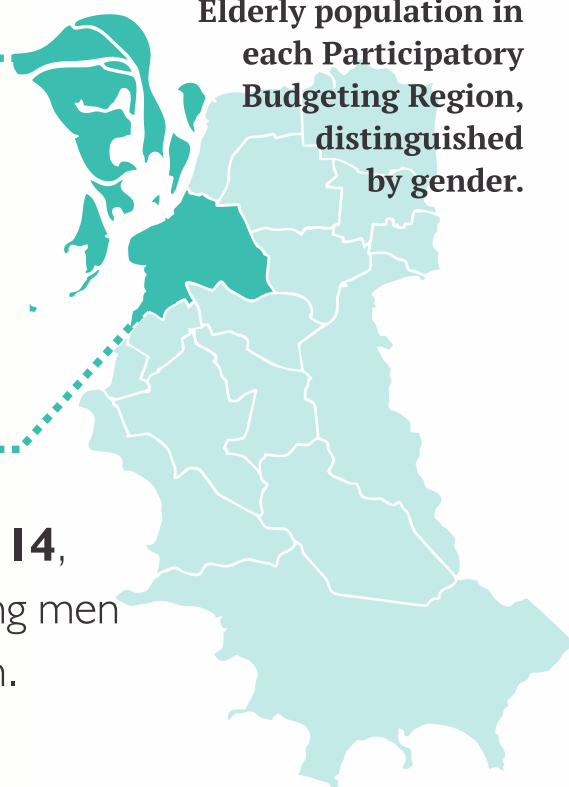
Composition - ObservaPoA - City of Porto Alegre's Observatory

\*The final numbers are bigger than the sum of all Regions. The difference is due to data restriction by IBGE to protect the privacy of the participants.

Elderly population increased in all of the Participatory Budgeting Regions. The Region with the biggest increase was Nordeste: 74.26%, rising from 1,379 to 2,403; proportionally speaking, it went from 4.82% to 6.45% of its population. Nordeste Region also had the biggest growth in total population numbers, rising 30% in the same period. On the other hand, the Region with the smallest elderly population growth was Centro, with 21.10%. The Region's total population grew 3.71%.

**Ilhas** Region had the least amount of the elders, with **803, 382** of which were men and **421** were women.

Elderly population in each Participatory Budgeting Region, distinguished by gender.

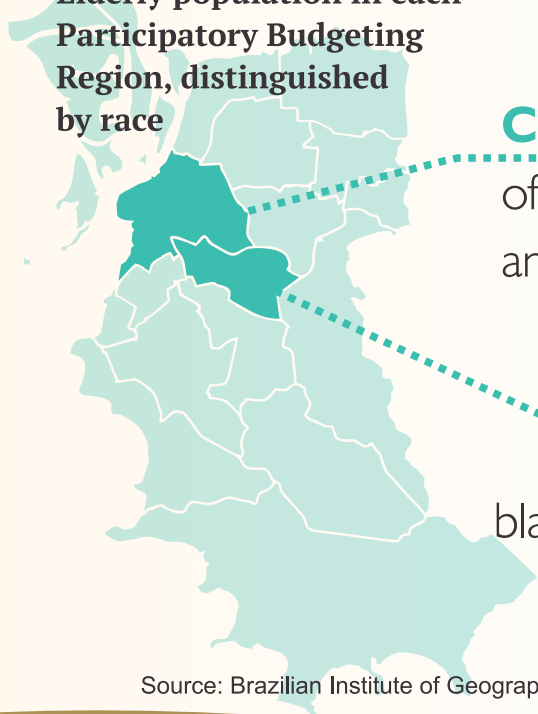


**Centro** Region had the most amount of the elders, with **60,114, 21,325** of them being men and **38,789** women.

Elderly population in each Participatory Budgeting Region, distinguished by race

**Centro** Region had the most amount of the white (**56,734**), Asians (**226**) and Indians (**78**) elders.

**Partenon** Region had the largest population of black\* elders, with **3,466** persons.



Source: Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE). Creation: City of Porto Alegre's Observatory ( ObservaPOA).  
\*The black category unites two other categories used by IBGE: black and brown



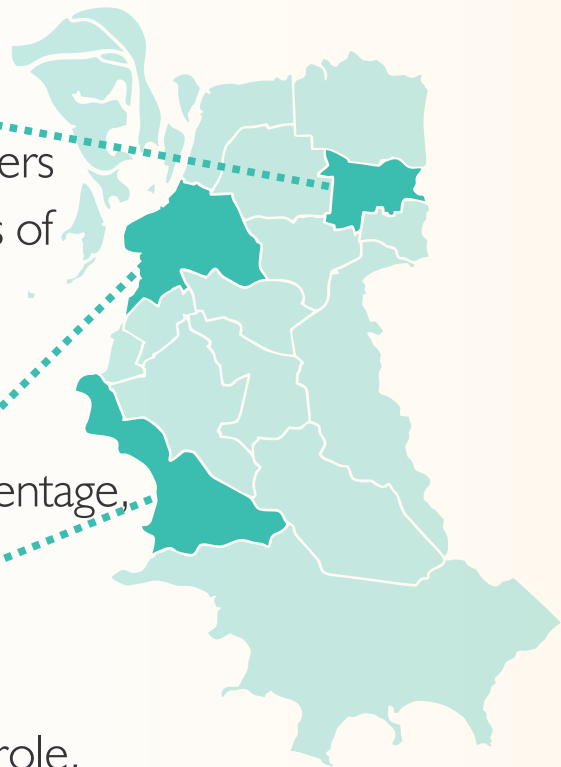
## Heads of Household

**Eixo Baltazar** Region had the smallest percentage of elders above **80** years old and heads of household in their families, with **24.71%**.

**Centro** Region had the biggest percentage, with **54.55%**.

**Sul (South)** Region had the smallest percentage of elders between 60 - 69 years old in that role, with **60.29%**, and also in the 70 - 79 gap, **60.51%**.

Source: Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE).



## Elders Living Alone

There were 43,121 elders living alone in the city of Porto Alegre in 2010, which made for 20.36% of entire elderly population - 1 out of 5.

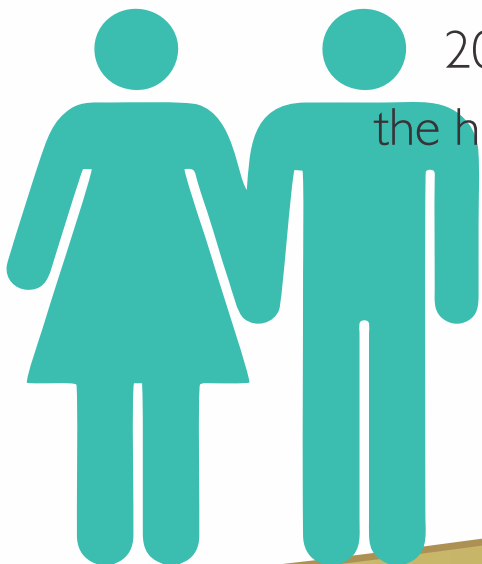
## With whom the elders lived?

Only **10.99%** of the elders aged 80 years old or more lived with their spouse in

2010 in **Porto Alegre**. The region with the highest percentage, **Centro**, had 7,69% of them- still a very small number.

**Lomba do Pinheiro** Region had the lowest percentage, with **3.44%**.

Source: Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE).



## Income

The average income of the elders was higher than the average income of those below 60 years old. In 2010, the average income for the elders was R\$ 3,094.19, while the "non-elder" had an average of R\$ 2,422.70 - nearly a third lower.

The biggest difference in income between elders and non-elders was in the **Cruzeiro** Region, with



**76.23%**. The smallest percentage was in **Cristal** Region, with **8.30%**.

Source: Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE). .

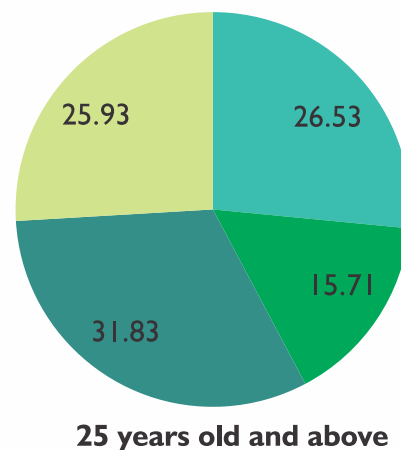
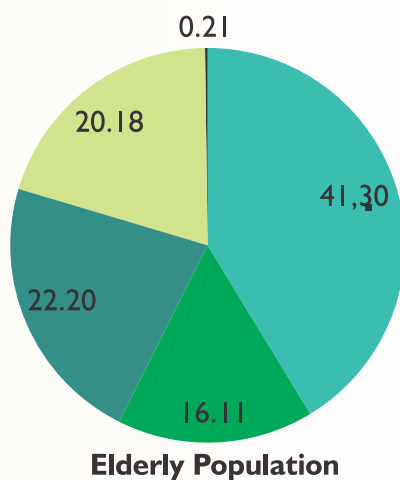
\* The regions Humaitá/Navegantes and Ilhas (Islands) were put together as one for technical criteria by IBGE.

## Education Level

The chart below shows the education level of both the elderly population and the general one (from 25 years old and above, elders included) in 2010. The parallel between the two population groups demonstrates that the elderly population had lower levels of education than the general population.

**Chart 2 - Education levels of both the elderly population and the population from 25 years old and above.**

- No education and unfinished elementary school
- Finished elementary school and unfinished high school
- Finished high school and unfinished higher education
- Finished higher education
- Undetermined



Source: Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE).  
Atlas of Human Development in Brazil

Regarding the Participatory Budgeting Regions, except for Centro, the majority of the elderly population had not finished elementary school or had no education at all. Nordeste had the highest percentage of elders who were uneducated or had not finished elementary school (78.93%). Centro had both the lowest percentage of elders who were uneducated or had not finished elementary school (18.72%) and the highest percentage of elders who had finished higher

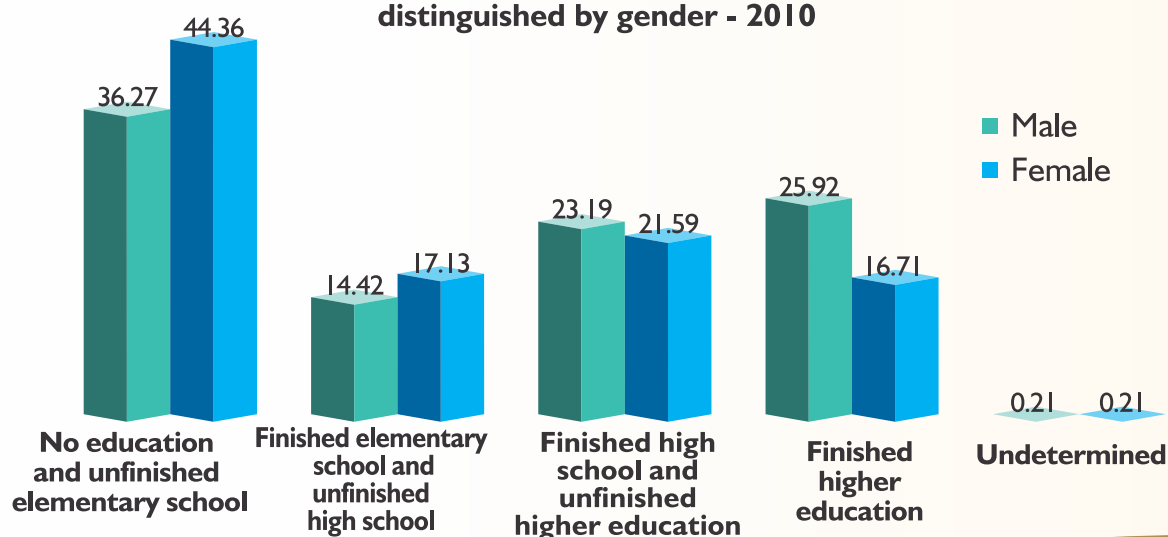
**Table 2 - Education levels of the elderly population in Participatory Budgeting Regions - 2010**

Participatory Budgeting Regions	No education and unfinished elementary school	Finished elementary school and unfinished high school	Finished high school and unfinished higher education	Finished higher education	Undetermined
Centro	18.72	14.62	28.09	38.36	0.21
Centro-Sul	49.21	19.40	19.74	11.40	0.25
Cristal	34.77	23.45	18.53	23.25	0.00
Cruzeiro	46.66	16.55	21.52	15.27	0.00
Eixo Baltazar	56.50	16.27	20.16	6.95	0.12
Extremo-Sul	65.19	16.16	13.32	5.33	0.00
Glória	59.36	17.69	14.96	7.99	0.00
Humaitá/ Navegantes e Ilhas*	54.35	18.42	18.05	9.18	0.00
Leste	49.01	14.58	21.00	14.99	0.43
Lomba do Pinheiro	75.86	13.25	7.68	3.22	0.00
Nordeste	78.93	11.17	7.56	2.34	0.00
Noroeste	34.91	16.56	28.29	19.88	0.36
Norte	73.92	14.84	7.65	3.24	0.35
Partenon	46.70	17.35	22.18	13.77	0.00
Restinga	73.04	12.88	12.65	1.07	0.36
Sul	32.07	18.43	23.90	25.30	0.30
<b>Porto Alegre</b>	<b>41.30</b>	<b>16.11</b>	<b>22.20</b>	<b>20.18</b>	<b>0.21</b>

Source: Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE)

\* The regions Humaitá/Navegantes and Ilhas were put together as one for technical criteria by IBGE

**Chart 3 - Education levels of the elderly population distinguished by gender - 2010**



Source: Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE).

## Violation of Human Rights of the Elders

The information and data presented in this section came from Disque 100 (Call 100), which is a service provided by the Human Rights National Secretary (SDH/PR). It is tied to the National Ombudsman on Human Rights, and it is set to receive complaints about Human Rights violations, especially those which involve vulnerable groups such as children and teenagers, elderly people, disabled people, LGBT\*, homeless people and others, like quilombolas (maroons), gypsies, Indians or people with limited freedom of movement.

\*Lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transsexuals, transgenders, transvestite.

### Complaints of Violations Against Elderly People

**Table 3 – Number of complaints of violation of rights of elderly people in Rio Grande do Sul and in Porto Alegre - 2011 to 2016**

Year	Rio Grande do Sul	Porto Alegre	%
2011	417	72	17.27
2012	1,349	280	20.76
2013	2,438	396	16.24
2014	1,927	351	18.21
2015	2,229	347	15.57
2016	1.997	296	14.82
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,357</b>	<b>1,742</b>	<b>16.82</b>

Source: Disque 100.

**Table 4 – Percentage of elderly people victims of violation, by gender, in Porto Alegre – 2011 to 2016**

Year	Male	Female	Undetermined
2011	22.78	70.89	6.33
2012	20.79	71.62	7.59
2013	26.19	66.37	7.45
2014	27.96	63.22	8.82
2015	24.88	66.42	8.71
2016	26.35	62.87	10.78
<b>Total</b>	<b>25.33</b>	<b>66.14</b>	<b>8.53</b>

Source: Disque 100.

Disque 100 reports that more than 50% of the elderly victims of violations were white, followed by black\* people (15.68%). Unfortunately, there is a large percentage of undisclosed color/race (31.87%), which compromises the accuracy of the analysis. However, it is important to take note that 85.93% of the elderly population in Porto Alegre were white, while 13.54% were black.

\*The black category unites two other categories used by IBGE: black and brown.

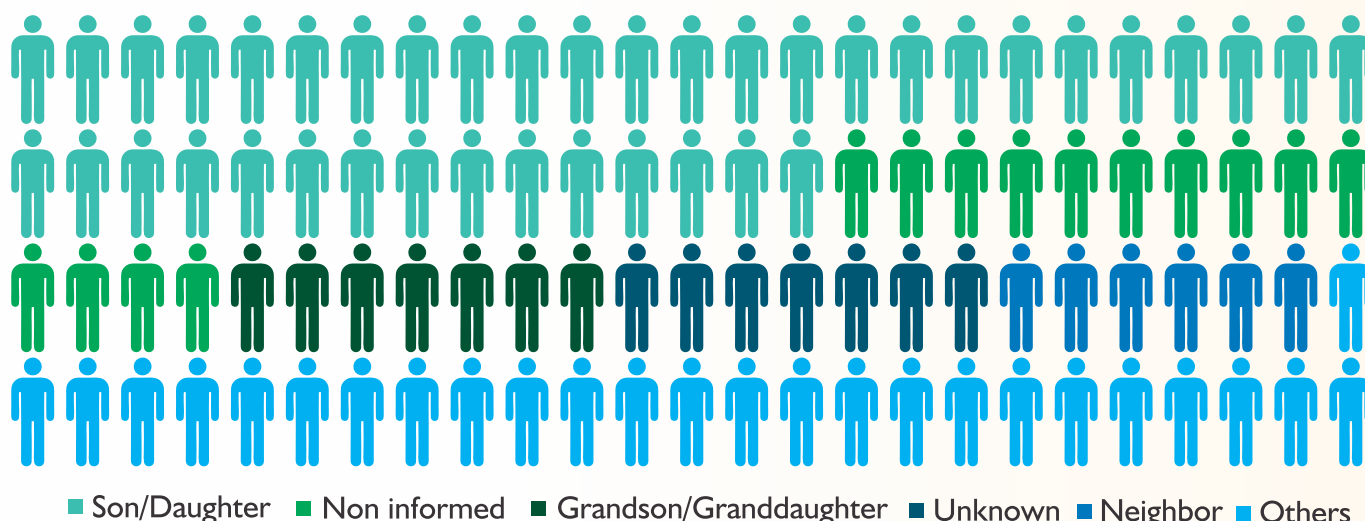
Source: Disque 100.

## Type of Violation

Among the main types of violations against elderly people, Neglect neglect was the most common (37.37%). It consists of the absence of care and accountability, such as neglect in feeding, cleaning, hygiene and health care. Psychological violence, like insults, threats and other kinds of verbal aggressions were 28.23% of the total of complaints. Financial and economical abuse were 17.28% of the accusations, and physical violence were 15.55%. As shown in the chart below, these numbers tend to oscillate through the years.

## Relationship suspect/victim

Chart 4 - Relationship with the suspects of violation of Human Rights of the elders in Porto Alegre - 2011 to 2016



Source: Disque 100.

## Homeless Elders

The percentages of the records tend to oscillate.

In **2007**, **3.2%** of the elderly people were homeless. In **2011**, this rate grew to **7.5%**, but in **2016** it was **7%**.



Source: Research Profile and World of Homeless Adults in Porto Alegre/2007; Database of Homeless Adults in Porto Alegre, 2011, and Database and World of Homeless Adults in Porto Alegre/RS.

## Special Social Protection Network



In **2015**, the main reason for elderly people to seek shelters was illness (**33.50%**), followed by the breaking of family bonds (**21.50%**). In **2016**, the main reason became the breaking of family bonds (**29.06%**), followed by illness (**28.08%**).

## Recreational Units

Picture 2 - Recreational Units divided by Participatory Budgeting Regions - 2016

Participatory Budgeting Regions	Recreational Units
Centro	José Montauray Tennis Park; Moinhos de Vento Park; Tamandaré Park; Ramiro Souto Park; Ararigóia Park; Tesourinha Public Gymnasium. Lupi Martins Gymnasium; CECOPAM.
Centro-Sul	None.
Cristal	CEGEB.
Cruzeiro	CEVI.
Eixo Baltazar	None.
Extremo-Sul	None.
Glória	None.
Humaitá/Navegantes	Mascarenhas de Moraes Park.
Ilhas	None.
Leste	Edgar Graeff Square.
Lomba do Pinheiro	None.
Nordeste	None.
Noroeste	CECOFLOR; CEPRIMA; Alim Pedro Park; Germânia Park.
Norte	CECOVE.
Partenon	Darcy Azambuja Square.
Restinga	CECORES.
Sul	None.

Source: SME - City Secretariat for Sports, Recreation and Leisure

Physical, sports, cultural and leisure activities, besides being a right, are necessary to insure a long, healthy and qualified life to the elderly population. In 2016, Porto Alegre had 19 Recreational Units offering specific activities to Budgeting this population group, especially in the most populated Regions of the Participatory

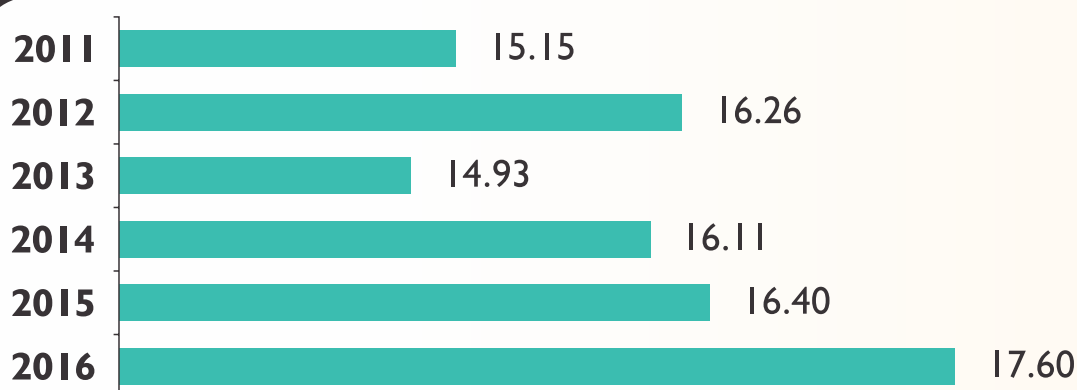
## Participation in the Participatory Budgeting

A worldwide reference on popular participation practices, the Participatory Budgeting is an important channel for direct participation of the population in the city's co-management. Through PB, it is possible to discuss and define the budget and the destination of public resources.

The Assemblies are an important step in the PB cycle, as it is the moment for direct participation, to decide on investment priorities and to choose the counselors. Throughout its history, thousands of people have participated in the process.

According to data from the chart below, it can be seen that the participation of the elderly population has increased in recent years and the highest percentage of participation of elderly people in the Assemblies (17.60%) happened in 2016.

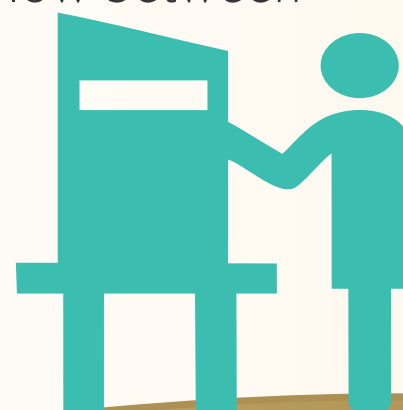
**Chart 5 - Percentage of elderly participation in the Participatory Budgeting in Porto Alegre - 2011 to 2016**



Source: PROCEMPA - Data Processing Company of Porto Alegre.

## Electorate - Able to Vote in Porto Alegre

The variation in the percentage of voters in the age group from 60 to 69 years old has remained low between **2002** and **2017**, always between **52%** and **54%**. The percentage of elderly voters from 70 to 79 years old has been decreasing since **2002** when it was **35.61%**, to **28.99%** in **2017**.



Source: TSE - Superior Electoral Court.


## Final Considerations

Observando (Observing) the Social Conditions of the Elderly Population magazine sought to gather a set of information that make up, albeit not in its entirety, a diagnosis of the reality of the elderly population residing in Porto Alegre.

The expressive age transformation that the city's population has been through for the last 30 years needs to be understood and demands specific public policies. The data compiled and analyzed in the present journal is intended to assist in their formulation, as well as to contribute to a better understanding of this process.

It is from the monitoring, the construction of measurement instruments for the actions, the diagnoses and propositions of goals for the solution of the problems identified through the indicators that derive some possibilities of insertion, and thus we can build a city in which people are more active and are protagonists of their own development.

Knowledge about the social conditions of the elderly population helps both public managers and the general population to understand the need to design a more welcoming and friendly society for the elderly. Providing such information on this and other topics is one of the fundamental purposes of the City of Porto Alegre's Observatory (ObservaPOA) and its publications.

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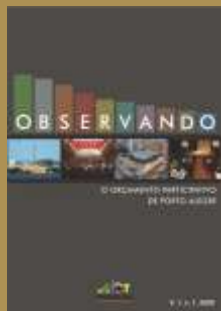
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OBSERVANDO is a periodical publication that analyzes certain Porto Alegre themes together with experts from related Secretariats, Universities and partner Institutions, based on research and social indicators of our city. The indicators are tabulated and made available in the Porto Alegre em Análise app on ObservaPOA website.

### Who we are

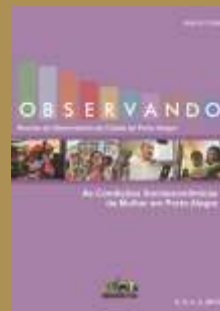
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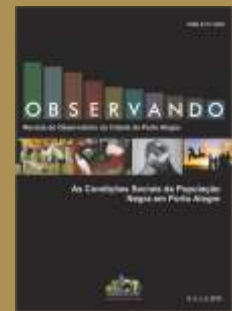
Observando the Participatory Budgeting in Porto Alegre. V. 1, no. 1, 2009



Observando the Socioeconomic Conditions of Women in Porto Alegre. V. 2, no. 1, 2012



Observando the Socioeconomic Conditions of Women in Porto Alegre. V. 3, no. 1, 2013



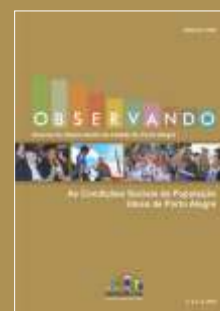
Observando the Social Conditions of the Black Population in Porto Alegre. V. 3, no. 2, 2013



Observando the Urbanistic Characteristics of Porto Alegre. V. 4, no. 2, 2014



Observando the Profile and Perception of Participants of the Participatory Budgeting Assemblies of Porto Alegre. V. 5, no. 1, 2016



Observando the Social Conditions of the Elderly Population of Porto Alegre. V. 5, no. 2, 2016



Municipal Fund for the Elderly



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Prefeitura de Porto Alegre

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City Hall of Secretariat of Institutional Relations