

Commentary on Brazil's domain ranks in the 2015 Global AgeWatch Index

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Enabling environment commentary written by HelpAge.



Global AgeWatch Index rank

56

out of 96

Brazil ranks moderately at number 56 in the overall Index. It performs best in the income security domain (13), with high pension income coverage (86.3%), low old age poverty (8.8%) and the highest relative welfare rate regionally. It ranks moderately in the health domain (43), with a life expectancy at 60 (21 years) of one year less than the regional average.

Brazil ranks moderately in the capability domain (58), an increase from last year due to revision of education attainment data and a rise in employment rate among older people.

It ranks lowest in the enabling environment domain (87) due to below the regional average satisfaction with safety (28%) and public transport (45%).



Income security

13

81.5/100

According to the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, in December 2013, there were 23.5 million older people in Brazil. Of these, 21.52 million (81.9%) had a pension or other social assistance. Of this total, 86.1% were men and 78.5% women.

Despite the persistent imbalance in coverage between men and women, there has been a trend towards expansion of social security protection, from 74.1% in 1992 to 81.9% in 2013 (PNAD/IBGE). This increase is due in part to greater participation of women in the labour market; and the implementation of the Special Insurance category that allowed for expansion of the coverage of social security in rural areas. In the long term this trend may reduce disparities in social protection between older men and women.

It should be noted that while poverty reduction is seen in all age groups, this positive impact is more concentrated among older generations. Therefore, we can say that poverty decreases as age increases, reaching the lower limit of 10% for the population aged 70 and over. If the social security transfers were to disappear, there would be a point at which poverty would once again increase to nearly 70% of the population over 70 years.



Health status

43

57.4/100

No analysis available.



Capability

58

29.9/100

In 2009, 1.5 million people in Brazil were illiterate (IBGE). Older adults have spent an average of 3.4 years in education (IBGE).

The main source of household income is the pension and social welfare. According to the Secretary of Social Security Policies, this is due the high level of informal employment and high turnover of young people in the labour market, which means families depend on the pension as the only fixed income.

The 8 percentage point increase in this domain for the 2015 Index reflects greater involvement of older people in the labour market, combined with the improved educational attainment of new generations of older adults aged 60 and over.



Enabling environment

87

54.6/100

According to the call service regarding complaints against human rights violations, in 2014 the Secretariat for Human Rights received 27,178 reports of elder abuse. While negligence has been identified as the most frequent form of abuse reaching near 76% of the cases, the Federal District showed the highest number of complaints per capita (354.73 for every 100,000 inhabitants).¹

In this context, the Ministry of Social Development (MDS) through the Specialized Reference Centre for Social Assistance (CREAS) offers specialised and ongoing services to families and individuals who are exposed to or are victims of some form of abuse or violation of rights.²

The Elderly Statute created in 2003 allows people over 65 to have free access to public transport in urban and suburban areas. Additionally, older people whose income is equal to or less than twice the minimum wage, have a right to discounted travel or free interstate transport passes.³

Brazil's Sports Ministry acknowledged in 2012 "The Healthy Living Program", which aims to encourage older people's social interaction through the implementation and development of 'Recreation and Sports-Recreational Centres' in various regions of the country to ensure the right to leisure of the older population.⁴ Furthermore, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Elderly Statute (Estatuto do Idoso) in 2013, the 'Presidential Decree National Commitment for Active Ageing' was launched, coordinated by the Human Rights Secretariat and with the participation of other twelve ministries (Ministerio da Saude).⁵

¹ Brazil Communications Company, EBC, 15 June 2015, <http://www.ebc.com.br/cidadania/2015/06/negligencia-ainda-e-principal-forma-de-violencia-contr-o-idoso>

² Ministry of Social Development, [www.mds.gov.br](http://www.mds.gov.br/assistenciasocial/protecaoespecial/creas), accessed 01/09/15, <http://www.mds.gov.br/assistenciasocial/protecaoespecial/creas>

³ Presidência da República, Casa Civil, Subchefia para Assuntos Jurídicos, 2003. http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/leis/2003/L10.741.htm

⁴ Programa Vida Saudável, Ministério do Esporte, accessed 01/09/15. <http://www.esporte.gov.br/index.php/institucional/esporte-educacao-lazer-e-inclusao-social/esporte-e-lazer-da-cidade/vida-saudavel-vs>

⁵ Ministério da Saude, accessed 01/09/15, <http://portalsaude.saude.gov.br/>

The Global AgeWatch Index ranks countries by how well their older populations are faring.

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