

Special Presentation

The Brazilian Ministry of Health has been working in partnership with other Ministries and Secretariats to assure that health sector public policies are closely connected to the Human Rights directives that proscribe racial, ethnic, gender, and sexual orientation discrimination.

This commitment, backed by an intense mobilization of civil society organizations and also by academic institutions, is consistent with the principles of ethics, equity and social justice inherent to the well-recognized Brazilian policy of confronting the HIV/AIDS epidemic, that includes prevention at all levels and access to universal and free of cost antiretroviral drugs and to other strategic diagnosis and monitoring tools.

The papers published in this supplement were originated from the *Brazil Afroattitude Project*, which resulted in two public Calls for Research launched by the Brazilian Department of STD, AIDS and Viral Hepatitis to address the issues of vulnerability and HIV/AIDS related to the black population.

The results of these selected studies point to the impact on public health issues of the still unresolved Brazilian racial inequality, with emphasis in other key questions in confronting AIDS, such as social vulnerability and the interiorization of the epidemic, situations that hinder the access to services and prevention. It is also underscored the perspective of the Social Black Movement on racism and its repercussions.

The findings here presented will certainly help to guide government policies at all levels, to improve the strategies to address the epidemic, highlighting the importance of research to broaden our understanding of this reality in a matter so crucial to us all, Brazilian citizens.

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