

# Working Children in Brazil and Working Street Children in Minas Gerais



**Frederico Poley Martins Ferreira**

[frederico.poley@fjp.mg.gov.br](mailto:frederico.poley@fjp.mg.gov.br)

18/04/2011



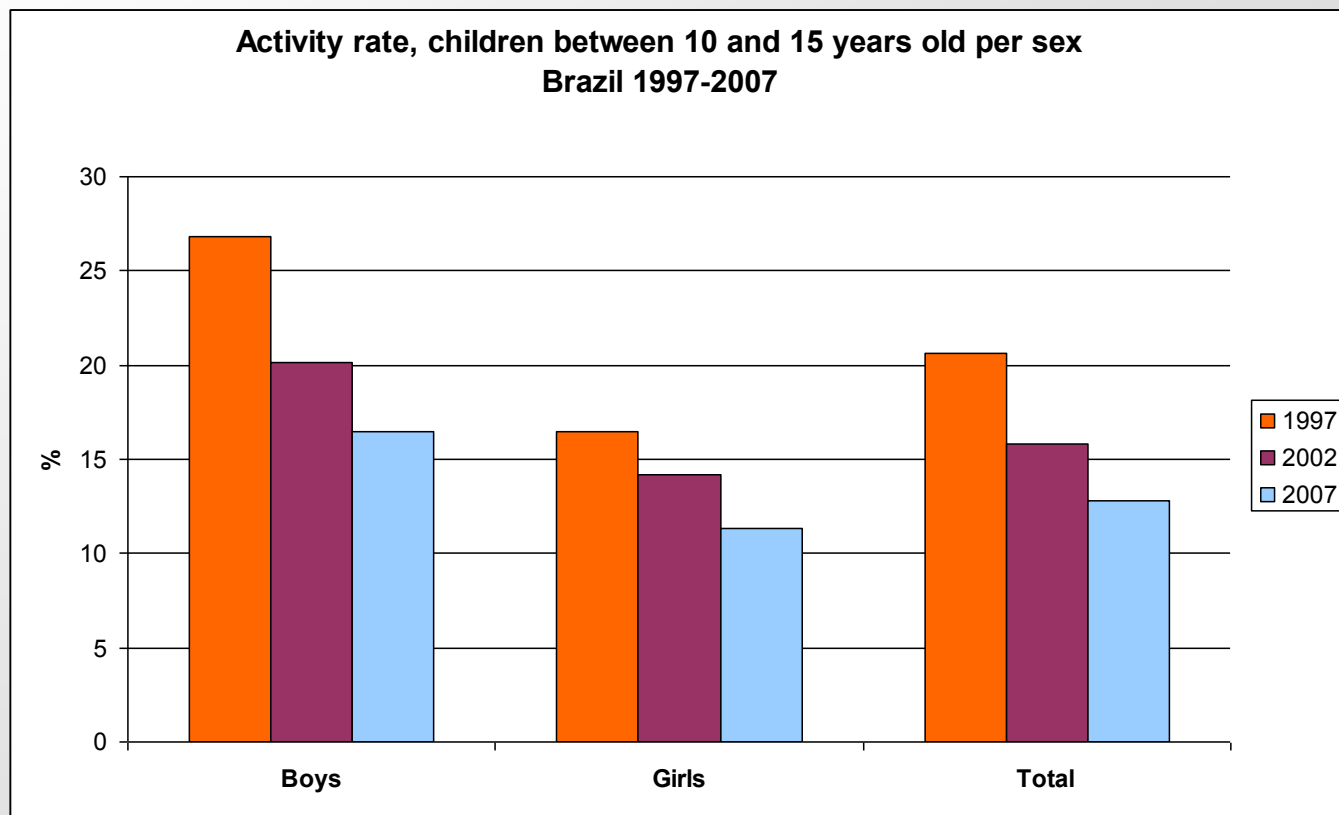
**FUNDAÇÃO JOÃO PINHEIRO**  
G o v e r n o d e M i n a s G e r a i s

# 1 – General Introduction

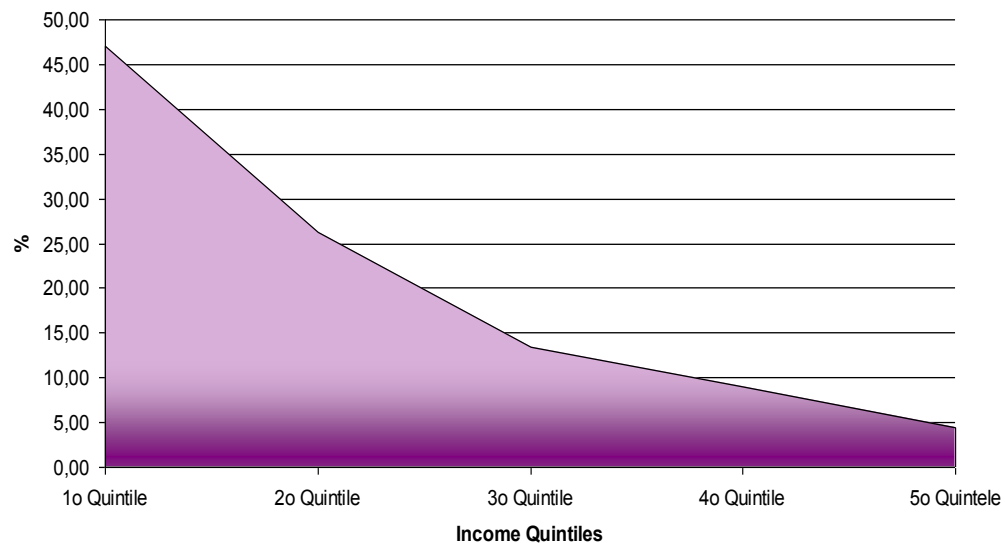
- Working children are those under the age of 18 who work full or part-time;
- Although overall levels of child labour in Brazil have fallen steadily over the last 60 years, the number of working children remains high;
- Brazil has a specific legislation and many and different kinds of public policies to deal with this question;
- The large majority of these children works in the countryside (farms, rural areas).

- It is a very complex problem involving aspects like, poverty, children rights, children care, labour market, public policies, public opinion (national and international), etc..
- Brazil has around 37,9 millions of children between 05 and 15 years old; (Brazil's Population 191 millions, in urban areas 84,0%)
- 6,6% or 2,5 millions have worked;
- These 92% are between 10 and 15 years old;

Activity Rate: (Working children specific year, age and sex) / (Total children specific year, age and sex)



**Proportion of total working children 10 - 15 years old per income quintiles  
Brazil 2007**



**Proportion of total working children 10 -15  
years old per income quintiles**

**Brazil - 2007**

Income quintiles	Number	%
1o Quintile	1.076.279	46,99
2o Quintile	602.003	26,28
3o Quintile	306.058	13,36
4o Quintile	204.572	8,93
5o Quintile	101.381	4,43
Total	2.290.293	100,00



## Working Children between 5 and 15 years old by work's place Brazil 2007

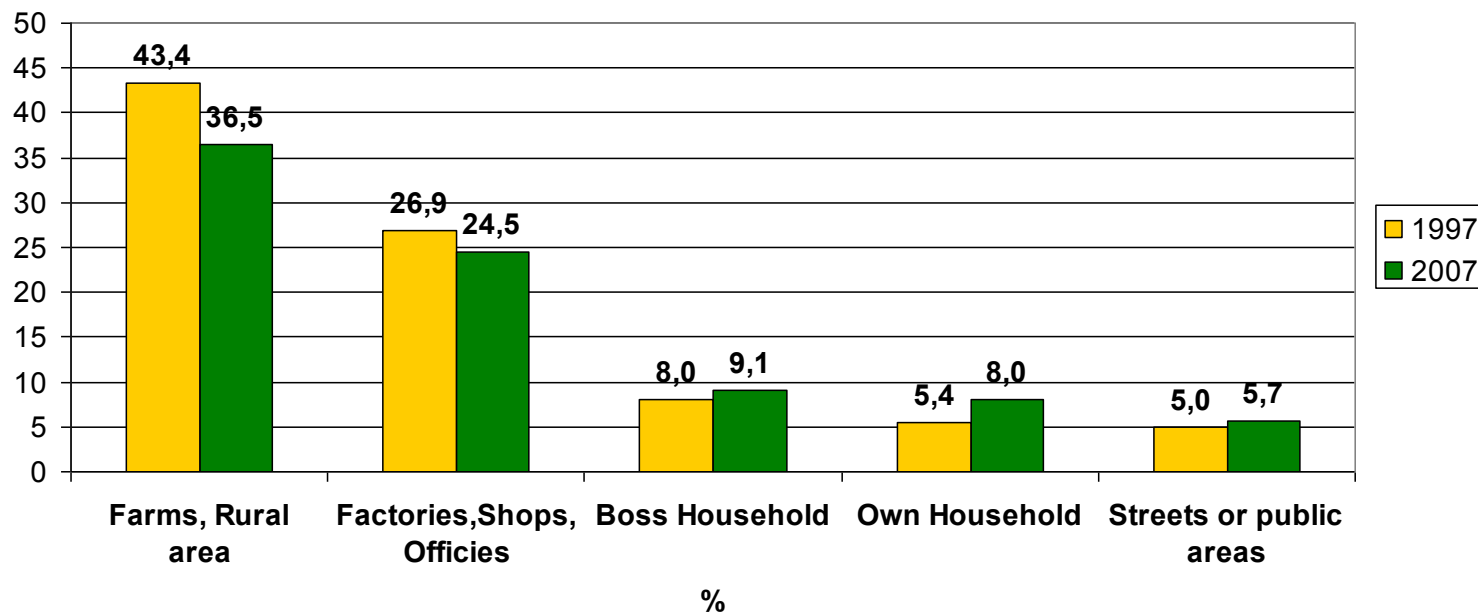


Foto: Leonardo Boloni

# 1.1 – Working Children trends

- Relatively, more and more children labour in urban areas;
- The nature of the children's work in urban areas is different from the rural areas (parents supervision, have a boss, violence, informal economy, etc).
- Usually working children in urban areas are more vulnerable than children in rural areas.
- Children's household work and work on the streets have many definitions and approaches problems (There is a lack of data/information). For example, how many children work on the streets per cities, how the public policies impact them;

# 2 - Working Street Children in Minas Gerais

## STATE OF MINAS GERAIS

- » 587 mil Km<sup>2</sup>, 853 municipalities
- » Population: 20 million inhabitants  
(second most populous state)
  - » Urban population: 84,6%
  - » Rural Poulation: 15,4%
- » Capital: Belo Horizonte: 2,4 million
- » Metropolitan area: 4,9 milion inhabitants
- » GIP US\$ 130 bilion  
(Similar to Chile in South America)





## 2.1 - Definition

- In this research we used a broad definition for street children but the focus was especially related to work on the streets:
- Definition: “Children and adolescents who transit between their houses, streets and institutions searching for protection and a place which they feel well. There are many factors which determine their exclusion process which affects each children and their families’ lives.” (Rizzini, 2005)

- The big challenge was to transform the concept into an effective instrument of measurement and analysis.
- Street children are a heterogeneous and mobile population.
- This diversity can generate methodological problems as, for example, in the identification of the target children, approaches forms and potential problems with double counting.

# 3 - Methods

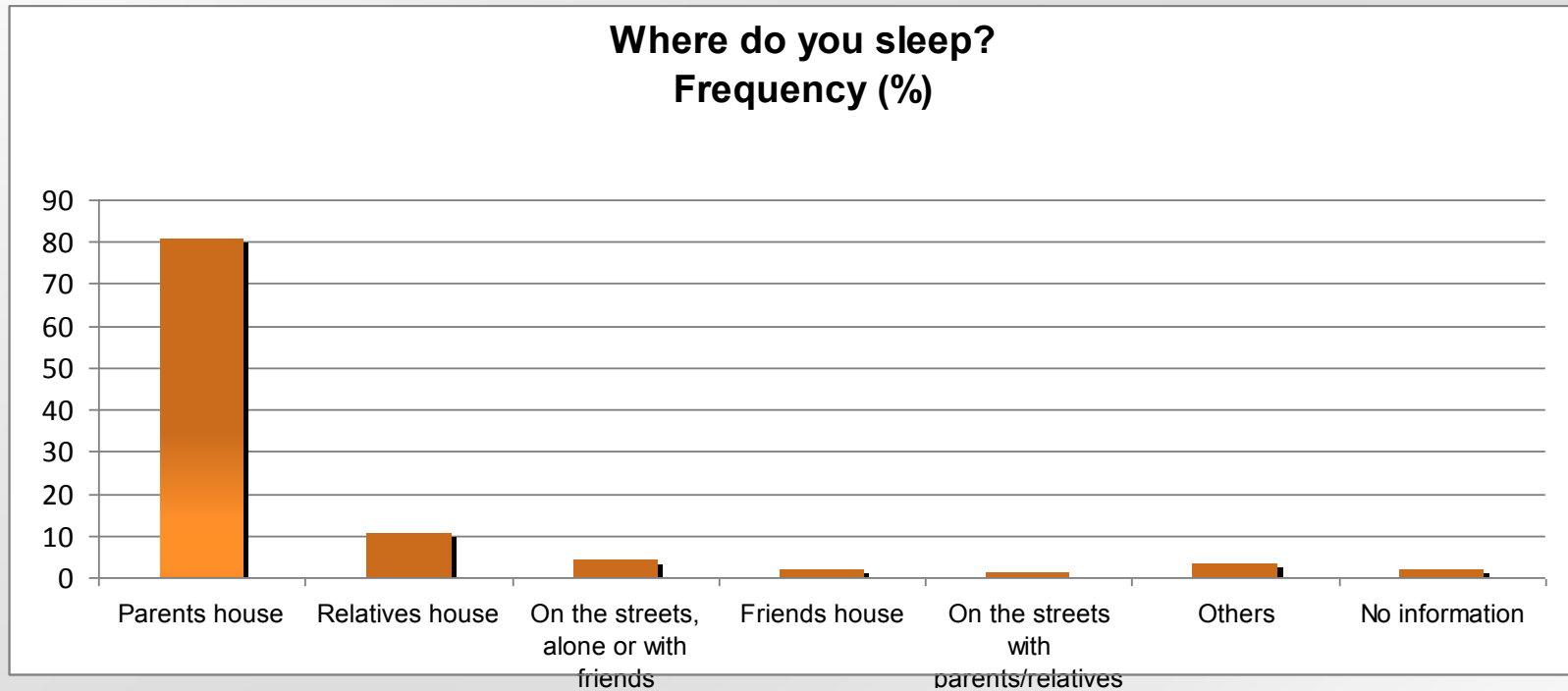
- In 21 urban areas (**municipalities from 30,000 inhabitants up 2,4 million inhabitants**) all children under 18 years old who were found working on the streets (during one reference week in **any kind of work**, during any time of the day or night) were interviewed;
- The reference week was 20 - 26 August 2007
- The research included lone children as well as children from homeless families.

- We used a questionnaire with 25 questions **specially designed for the survey**. The following issues were addressed: individual characteristics, education, occupation on the streets, place where lived, health, violence and expectations (open question);

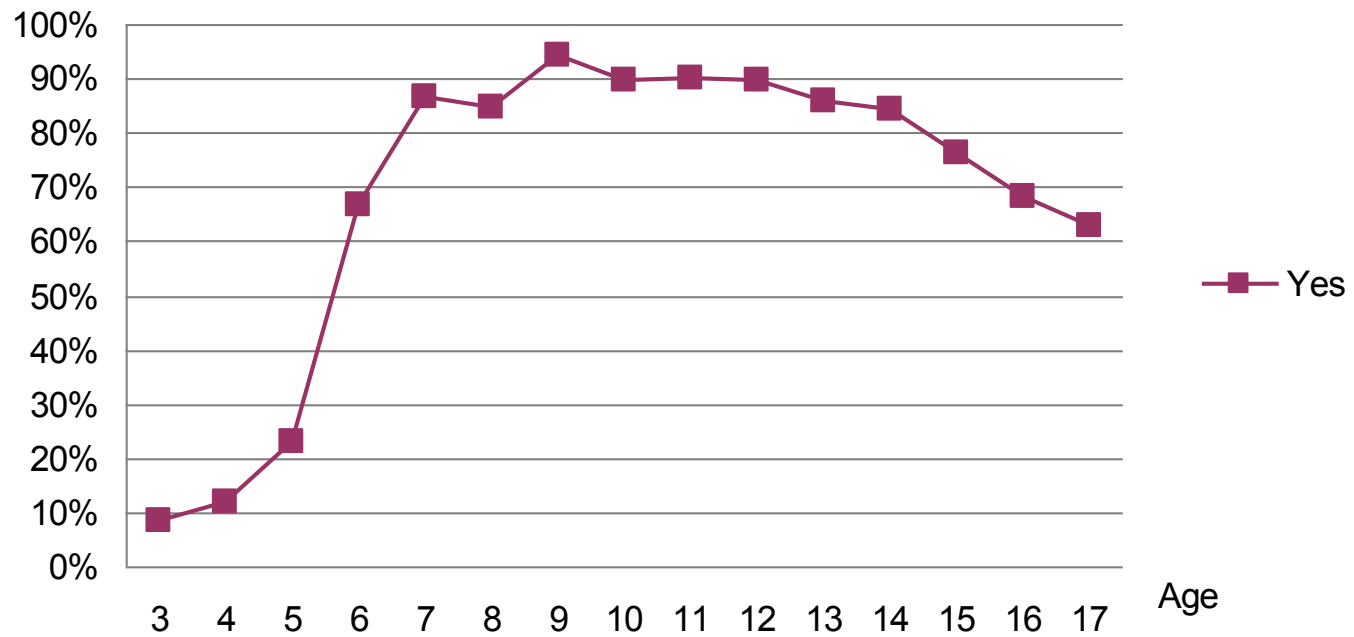


- 3,028 children were approached;
- 2,519 questionnaires were answered
- 519 refusals (the causes of refusals were registered, for example the child runaway, was forbidden by adults or colleagues, was under effect of drugs...)

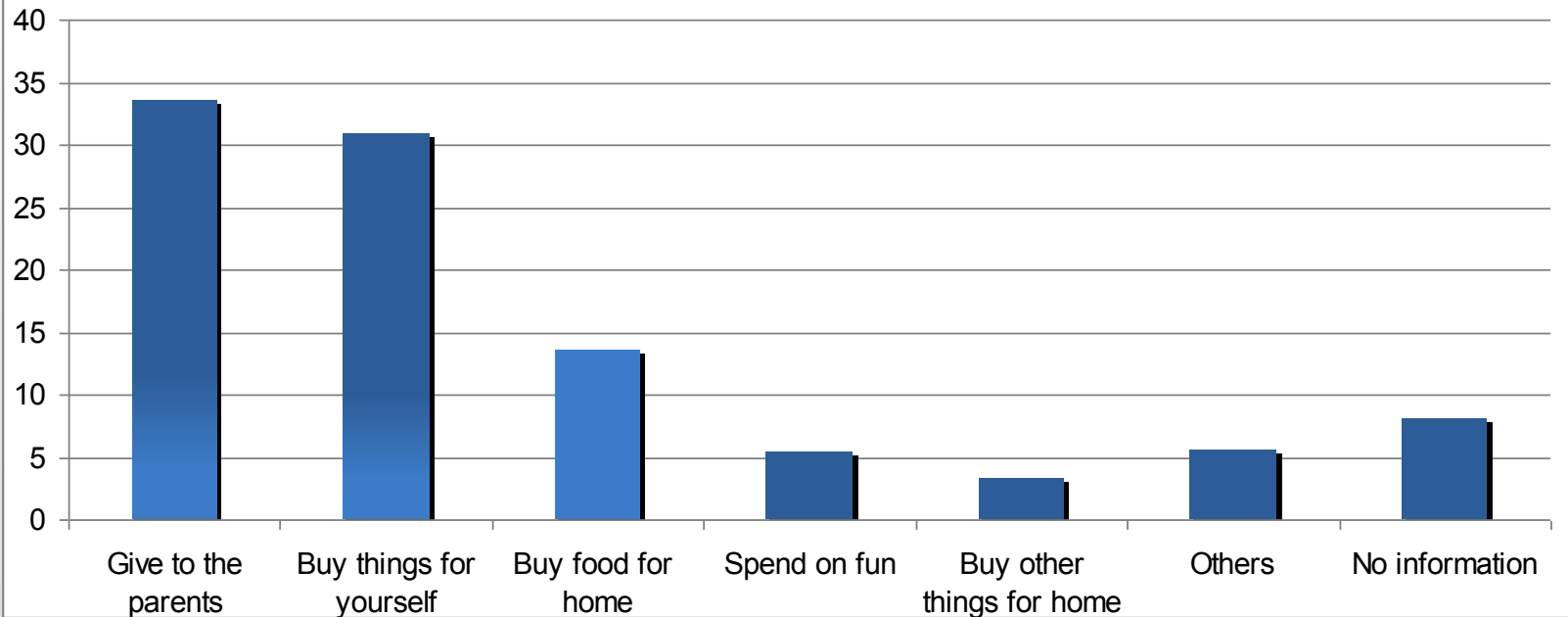
# 4 - Some Findings



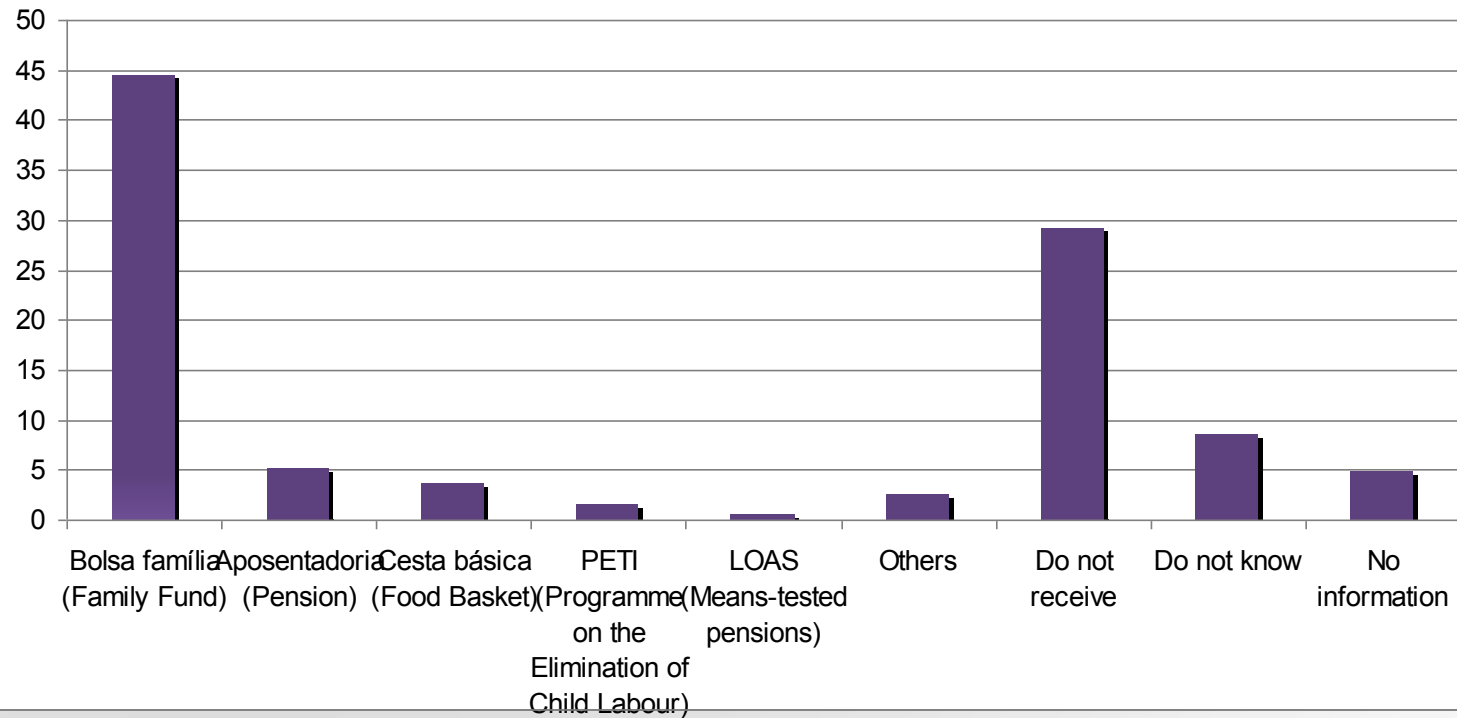
## Are you going to the school?



**What you do with the money that you earn?**  
**Frequency (%)**



**Do you know if your family receive any kind of Public Funds? Which?**  
**Frequency (%)**





# 5 - Conclusions

- The first results of this research helped to develop state and local plans against child labour;
- The research produces many other data that must be better analysed;
- Recently we carried out another research/survey with institutions who provide shelter for children and adolescents (352 Institutions) in Minas Gerais.

*Thank you very much....*

*[frederico.poley@fjp.mg.gov.br](mailto:frederico.poley@fjp.mg.gov.br)*