

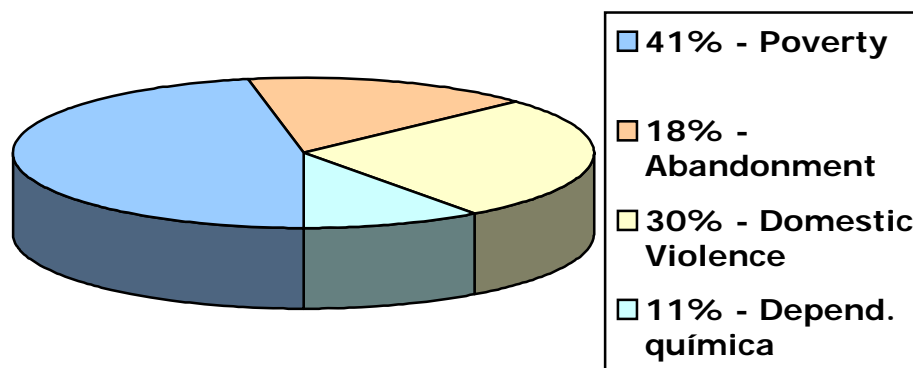
## The Right to live in a Family and Community: Homes for Children and Teenagers in Brazil<sup>1</sup>

A study conducted by the IPEA (Research institute of Applied Economy) in partnership with the National Council of the Rights of the Child and Adolescent (CONANDA), in 2004, brings together the results of a national inquiry into homes for children and teenagers of the network SAC (Services of Continued Action). The report is part of the national field of action and comprises of 589 institutions that are attended by 19,370 children and adolescents. It is estimated that the total corresponds to approximately 40% of the number of institutionalised children and adolescents in the country, which assumes an average of 50 thousand children living in institutions throughout the national territory.

### REASONS FOR BEING TAKEN INTO CARE

In the chart below, that presents the reasons behind the institutionalisation of children and adolescents in Brazil, it can be assumed, like in the investigation carried out in Rio de Janeiro, that a large part of these children are from poor families, which lack the basic conditions for an adequate development.

Amongst the principal reasons for the insitutionalisation of the children and adolescents investigated are a family's lack of material resources; abandonment by the parents or guardians; domestic violence and drug dependence of the parents or guadians.



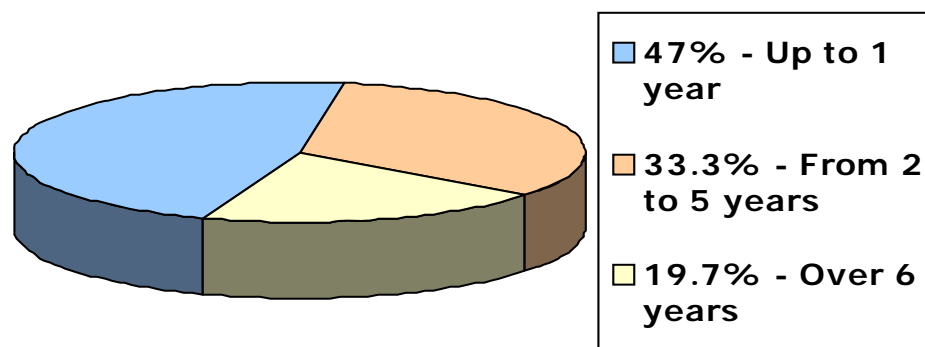
### LENGTH OF CARE

In the 589 shelters investigated throughout Brazil, the data accounts for the fact that almost a third of the children and teenagers remain for more than two

---

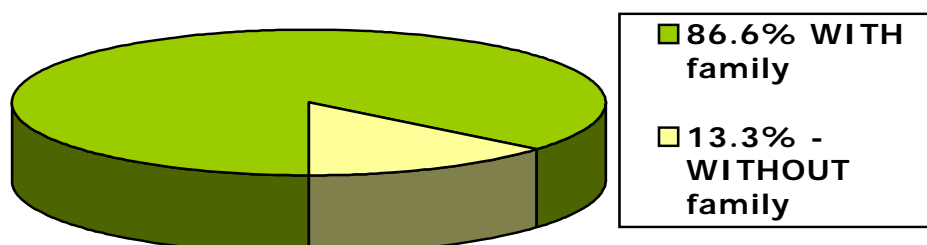
<sup>1</sup> The data used in this document was taken from the book *The Right to Live in a family and Community: Homes for children and adolescents in Brazil* (IPEA / National Council of Right of Children and Adolescents; 2004) and is the responsibility of its authors. The complete content of the Study can be accessed through the website: [www.ipea.gov.br](http://www.ipea.gov.br).

years in the institutions, which results in serious setbacks that affect not only the maintenance of family ties but also the individuality of these children.



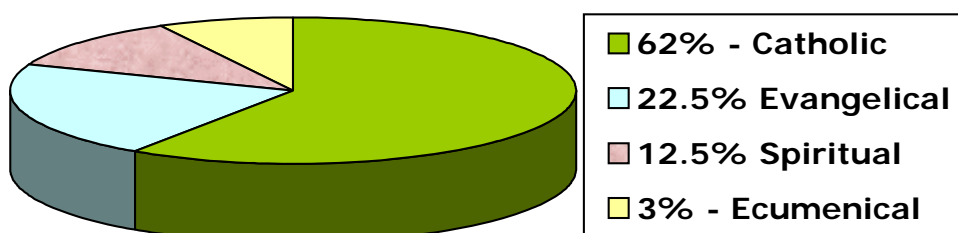
### CONDITION OF THE FAMILY RELATIONSHIP

Contrary to popular belief, the majority of the children and adolescents that live in care are not orphans: 86.7% of those investigated have a family. Of these, 58.2% maintain a relationship with their family, despite being removed from the home the families still visit them periodically. Merely 13.3% do not have a family and are available to be adopted.

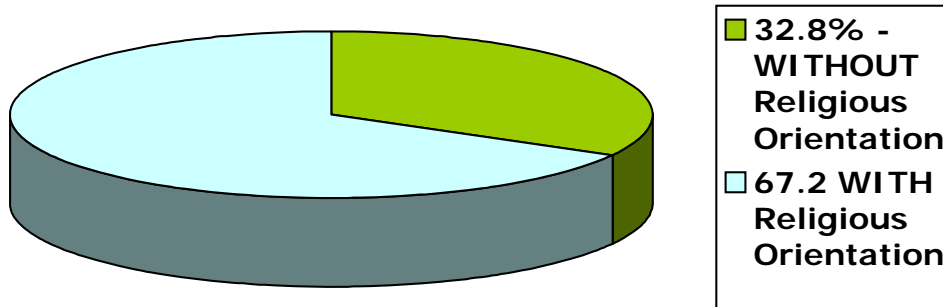


### RELIGIOUS ORIENTATION

In accordance with the data investigated by the IPEA study, the vast majority of shelters have a religious tie or orientation, of these, more than 60% follow the Catholic religion. It is not a surprise that a large number of institutions have a religious orientation, like in Rio de Janeiro, as since the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century the care of orphans and abandoned children was assumed by the Santas Casas de Misericórdia (Holy Houses of Mercy).



### ***TYPE OF RELIGION PRESENT IN THE INSTITUTIONS***



### **FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE INSTITUTIONS**

In the IPEA inquiry, we can note that the majority of financial support is on behalf of the government (municipal, state and federal). The private resources, which consist of personal and business donations, and NGOs etc. also make up an important part of the contribution. It is interesting to note also that some institutions generate their own revenue, through lending of services, organizing events and promotions, etc.

