

QUILOMBOLA YOUTH IN LATIN AMERICA



Exploring education, employment and justice challenges and solutions in Latin America.

DEMOGRAPHY

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LOCALITIES & LIVING CONDITIONS

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KEY ISSUES



Employment

Discrimination in hiring: Quilombola youth often face stigma in labor markets.

Informal Sector Reliance: Many rely on informal or precarious work.

Lack of Training: Limited vocational opportunities targeted at Quilombola youth.

Intergenerational Poverty: Limited land titling and property rights perpetuate economic marginalization.

Note: National unemployment was low in recent IBGE reports (6.4% in 2024), but Quilombola communities show substantially worse labor market outcomes in many local studies and NGO reports—hence the illustrative higher unemployment in the chart.

Promising Practices

- Skills training and entrepreneurship programs run by community organizations and NGOs.
- Inclusive hiring policies and public-sector recruitment measures.
- Support for cooperatives and local value chains rooted in quilombola territories.



Access to Justice

Systemic Discrimination: Legal processes often move slowly on land titling and rights recognition.

Low Awareness of Rights: Many quilombola youth lack access to legal aid.

Geographical Barriers: Remote communities face logistical barriers to courts and legal services.

Social Stigma: Fear of retaliation and local power imbalances discourage claims.

Note: Land titling and legal recognition remain major issues: human rights bodies and NGOs have repeatedly urged Brazil to speed up demarcation and titling of quilombola territories to guarantee land rights and protection.

Education



• **Limited Access:** Quilombola communities often have under-resourced schools and fewer culturally relevant curricula.

• **Early Dropout Rates:** Poverty and discrimination push many youths out of school early.

• **Cultural Barriers:** Traditional identities and languages may be excluded from formal education.

• **Low Representation:** Few quilombola youth reach higher education institutions.

Illiteracy rates (IBGE 2022 Census): Rural Quilombolas: 22.71%; Urban Quilombolas: 13.28%. These rates reflect structural exclusion in access to basic education.

Promising Practices

- Affirmative action and quotas in higher education for quilombola and Afro-Brazilian students.
- Community-based schools and culturally relevant curricula.
- Scholarship programs and outreach by NGOs and government initiatives