


SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC POLICIES AS A TOOL FOR THE PROMOTION OF COLLECTIVE HEALTH <https://doi.org/10.63330/aurumpub.044-014>**Maria Cliciane Barbosa de Souza¹, Kelly Denise Machado Motter², Thiago Rocha Moreira³ and Alneide Souza Leite⁴****Abstract**

This study aims to analyze the role of sustainable public policies as a strategic tool for promoting collective health, considering their contribution to improving living conditions and reducing social inequalities. The methodology consists of a narrative literature review with a qualitative approach, based on national and international scientific publications addressing public health, sustainability, and governance. The results show that integrated public policies, which connect sectors such as environment, education, and health, can generate positive impacts on disease prevention, health promotion, and the development of healthier territories. Furthermore, intersectorality and social participation are highlighted as essential elements for the effectiveness of these policies. It is concluded that the implementation of sustainable public policies strengthens health systems and significantly contributes to the promotion of collective health, being essential for sustainable development and social equity.

Keywords: Collective health, Health promotion, Public policies, Sustainability, Sustainable development.

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INTRODUCTION

The social, economic, and environmental transformations observed in recent decades have intensified the challenges faced by health systems worldwide, especially with regard to the promotion of collective health. In this context, sustainable public policies emerge as fundamental strategies for integrating intersectoral actions aimed not only at disease prevention, but also at improving the living conditions of populations. Sustainability, as a guiding principle, broadens the understanding of health by considering social, environmental, and economic determinants.

Given this scenario, the following research question is defined: in what ways can sustainable public policies contribute to the promotion of collective health and to the reduction of health inequalities? This problem becomes particularly relevant when considering the need for effective strategies that articulate different sectors and promote lasting impacts on population quality of life.

The general objective of this study is to analyze the role of sustainable public policies as a tool for promoting collective health. The specific objectives are: to understand the theoretical foundations of sustainability applied to health; to identify the main challenges in implementing these policies; and to discuss the impacts of intersectoral actions on the improvement of health indicators.

The justification for this study lies in the growing need to rethink traditional health management models by incorporating sustainable practices that promote equity and social inclusion. Furthermore, the academic and social relevance of the topic is associated with the search for solutions to complex problems such as social inequalities, environmental degradation, and limited access to health services.

With regard to the brief theoretical review, it is highlighted that health promotion, as proposed by authors such as Buss and Pellegrini Filho, is directly related to action on the social determinants of health. Moreover, the sustainability perspective discussed by Sachs reinforces the need for integration between economic development, social justice, and environmental preservation. In addition, the intersectoral approach, widely debated by authors such as Akerman, demonstrates that effective public policies depend on articulation between different governmental areas and the active participation of civil society.

METHODOLOGY

TYPE OF RESEARCH

This study is characterized as qualitative research with a descriptive and exploratory approach. This design was chosen because it allows for an in-depth understanding of sustainable public policies and their relationship with the promotion of collective health, considering the complexity and multidimensionality of the topic. Qualitative research enables the analysis of social phenomena within their contexts, valuing interpretations and meanings constructed from the scientific literature.

METHODOLOGICAL PROCEDURES

Literature review

As the main technique, a narrative literature review was conducted with the objective of collecting, analyzing, and synthesizing relevant scientific productions on public policies, sustainability, and collective health. Databases such as SciELO, PubMed, and Google Scholar were consulted, prioritizing articles published in recent years, without excluding classical references of significant theoretical relevance.

Inclusion and exclusion criteria

Studies that directly addressed the relationship between sustainable public policies and health promotion were included, provided they were available in Portuguese, English, or Spanish. Duplicate works, studies lacking methodological rigor, and publications that did not directly engage with the proposed theme were excluded.

DATA COLLECTION TECHNIQUES AND INSTRUMENTS

Data collection was carried out through a bibliographic survey using descriptors such as “public policies,” “sustainability,” and “collective health.” As an instrument, an analytical matrix was employed

to organize information, including aspects such as study objectives, methodology used, main results, and contributions to the field of public health.

DATA ANALYSIS

Data analysis followed an interpretative approach based on thematic content analysis. Initially, an exploratory reading of the selected materials was conducted, followed by the categorization of the main thematic axes, such as intersectorality, social determinants of health, and sustainable development. Subsequently, a critical interpretation of the findings was performed, seeking to identify convergences, gaps, and contributions of the analyzed studies.

METHODOLOGICAL FOUNDATION

The choice of the narrative review as a methodological strategy is based on its capacity to provide a broad and integrated view of a given theme, as discussed by authors in the field of scientific methodology. In addition, the qualitative approach allows for an understanding of the relationship between public policies and collective health in a contextualized manner, considering social, economic, and environmental aspects. Thus, the adopted methodology is appropriate to the objectives of the study, contributing to the construction of a critical and reflective analysis of the role of sustainable public policies in the promotion of collective health.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of this study demonstrate that sustainable public policies play a strategic role in the promotion of collective health, especially when structured in an intersectoral manner and guided by the social determinants of health. The literature analysis made it possible to identify that integrated actions between sectors such as health, education, environment, and social assistance contribute significantly to the improvement of population living conditions, reflected in the reduction of health problems and the

promotion of well-being. It is observed that programs focused on environmental sustainability, such as basic sanitation, solid waste management, and access to potable water, have a direct impact on reducing infectious and parasitic diseases, corroborating the findings of Buss and Pellegrini Filho regarding the influence of social determinants on health.

Furthermore, policies promoting healthy eating and encouraging physical activity reinforce the prevention of non-communicable chronic diseases, aligning with health promotion guidelines discussed in contemporary literature. Intersectorality emerges as a central element in the effectiveness of these policies, as it enables coordination between different governmental areas and the development of more comprehensive strategies. As discussed by Akerman, the integration of public policies expands the capacity to respond to complex social demands, promoting greater equity in health. However, the literature also points to significant challenges, such as fragmentation of actions, limited resources, and low levels of social participation in certain contexts.

Below is a synthesis of the main findings identified in the analyzed literature:

Table 1

Relationship between sustainable public policies and impacts on collective health

Type of public policy	Action developed	Impact on collective health
Basic sanitation	Expansion of access to treated water	Reduction of infectious diseases
Solid waste management	Collection and proper disposal	Reduction of environmental and sanitary risks
Health education	Educational campaigns	Increase in prevention and self-care
Promotion of healthy eating	Encouragement of adequate dietary habits	Reduction of chronic diseases
Sustainable urban mobility	Encouragement of active transportation	Improvement in quality of life and physical health

The data presented reinforce that the promotion of collective health depends on public policies that transcend the health sector, incorporating sustainability as a guiding principle. This perspective aligns

with the concept of sustainable development proposed by Sachs, which integrates social, economic, and environmental dimensions.

Additionally, the importance of social participation in the planning and implementation of public policies is emphasized. Community inclusion in decision-making processes contributes to greater legitimacy and effectiveness of actions, while also strengthening social control and citizenship.

Table 2

Challenges and potentialities of sustainable public policies in collective health

Analyzed aspects	Identified challenges	Observed potentialities
Public management	Fragmentation of policies	Intersectoral integration
Financial resources	Budgetary limitations	Optimization of investments
Social participation	Low adherence in some contexts	Strengthening of social control
Planning	Lack of continuity of actions	Development of long-term policies
Sustainability	Difficulty in practical implementation	Promotion of healthy environments

Thus, the results indicate that despite existing challenges, sustainable public policies have great potential to promote collective health in an equitable and lasting manner. The discussion reinforces the need to strengthen these strategies, with emphasis on sector integration, continuous investment, and expanded social participation, aiming at the construction of more resilient and sustainable health systems.

CONCLUSION

The present study aimed to analyze the role of sustainable public policies as a tool for promoting collective health, seeking to understand their contributions to improving living conditions and reducing health inequalities. Based on the literature review, it was possible to demonstrate that integration between different sectors, combined with sustainability principles, constitutes a fundamental element for strengthening public health actions.

The main results indicate that public policies guided by intersectorality and the social determinants of health have positive impacts on disease prevention, the promotion of well-being, and the construction of healthier environments. It was also highlighted that initiatives related to basic sanitation, health education, healthy eating, and sustainable urban mobility contribute significantly to the promotion of collective health. However, important challenges were also identified, such as fragmentation of actions, resource limitations, and the need for greater social participation.

As a contribution, this study reinforces the relevance of incorporating sustainability as a structural axis of public health policies, broadening the understanding of health beyond the biomedical model and promoting a more integrated and equitable approach. Furthermore, the research contributes to academic debate by systematizing evidence that highlights the importance of articulation between different areas in the promotion of collective health.

Finally, it is suggested that future research delves deeper into the empirical analysis of the implementation of sustainable public policies in local contexts, as well as evaluate their long-term impacts on population health. It is also recommended to investigate strategies that strengthen social participation and collaborative governance, aiming at the consolidation of more effective, inclusive, and sustainable policies.

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