

Harm Reduction Advances in Brazil: Theoretical and Practical Basis



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September, 2024

Context

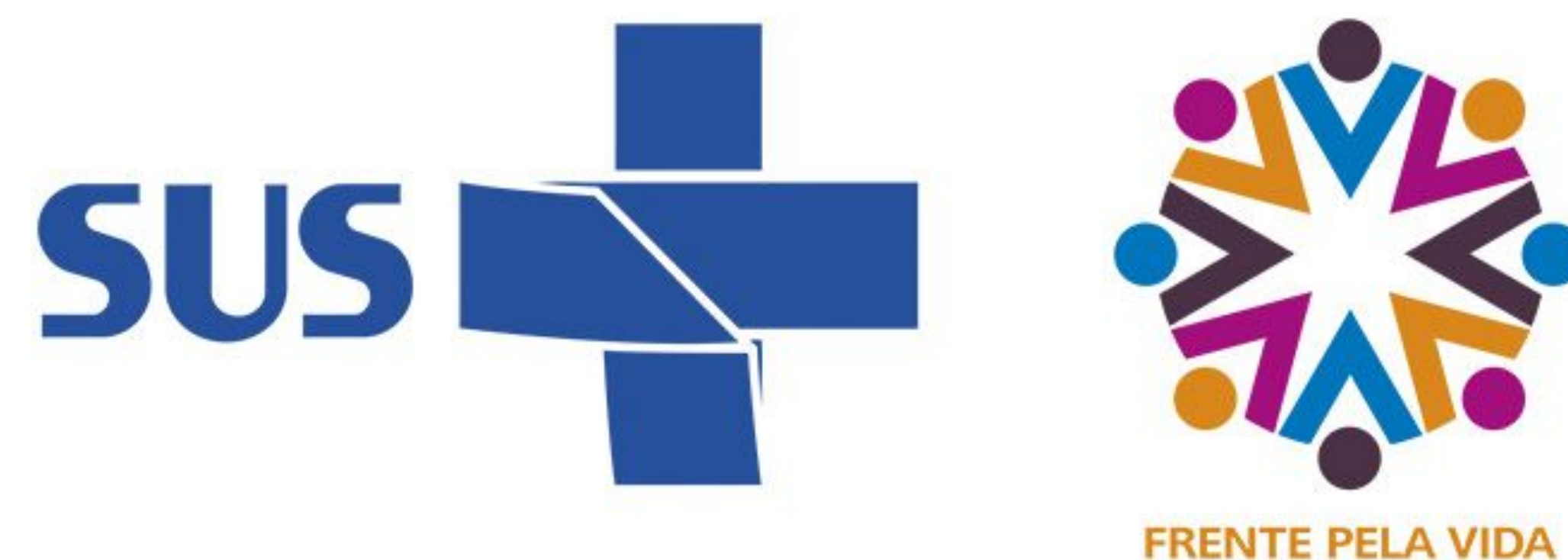
In Brazil Harm Reduction(1) was anchored in:

Community Health(2) in the 1970s, including social determinants in the health-disease process facilitating the comprehension of alcohol and other drugs use and comorbidities (HIV AIDS, Hepatitis, Tuberculosis and other

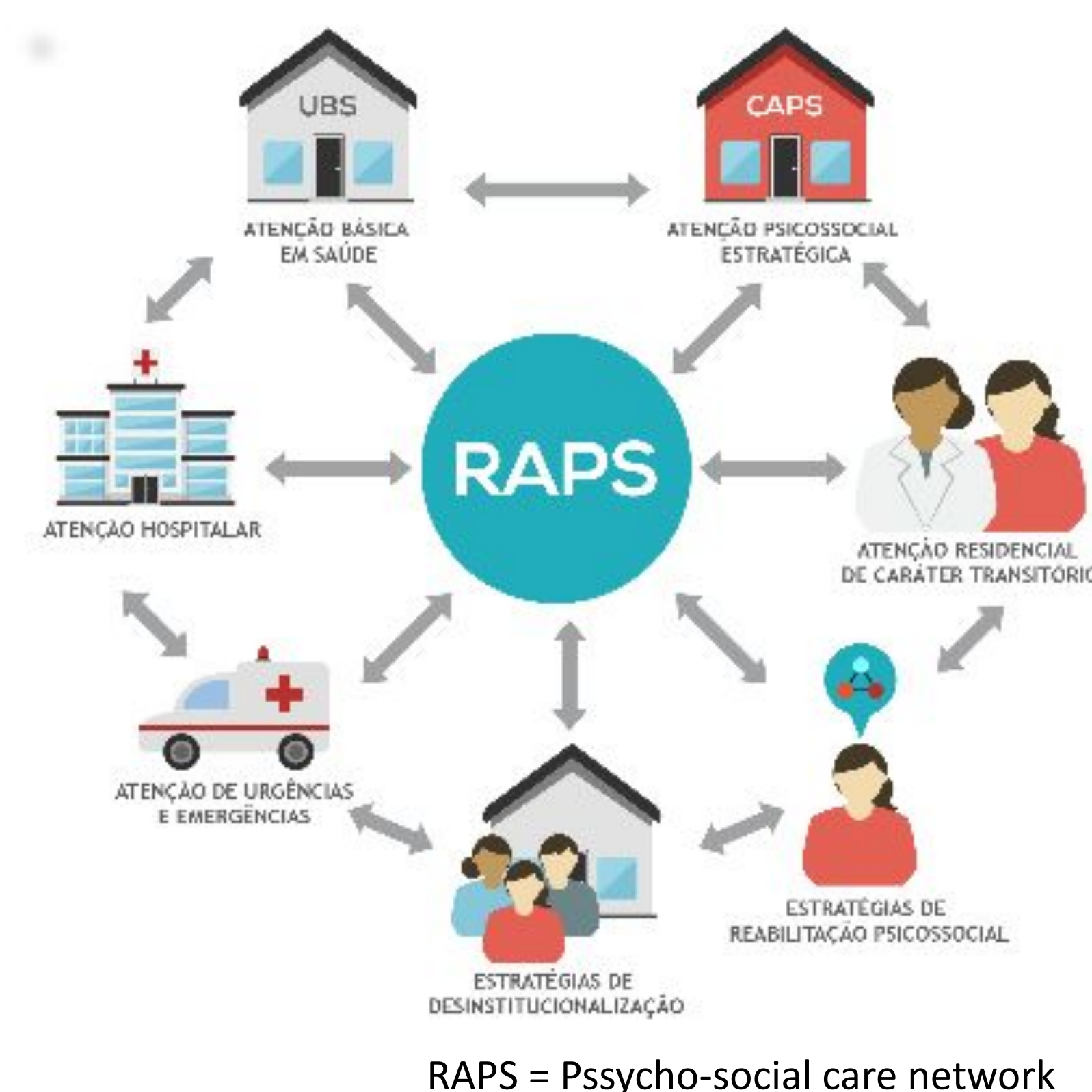
Unified Health System SUS(3)– in the 90s as a free and public policy for Brazilian population including harm reduction in community care.

Psychiatric Reform(4) in the 90s, with deinstitutionalization and the full exercise of civil rights

Alcohol and Drugs Policy(5) in 2003, with the expansion of services in a Psychosocial Care Network (RAPS) and Psychoanalysis support



O BRASIL PRECISA DO SUS



Methodology

"Brazil needs SUS"

- ✓ Care instead of healing looking for autonomy
- ✓ Focus on the person and not the substance
- ✓ Shared care supported by a network
- ✓ Health as a choice, without imposition or judgment.
- ✓ Prioritize unique strategies based on needs and desires considering service users' social networks built with harm reduction workers and team
- ✓ Encourage the use of Field Diary by outreach workers in supervision, team meetings and intersectoral networks to improve work quality share knowledge

Conclusions

We have had several gains by using harm reduction with vulnerable populations in the framework of the Unified Health System. The broad reach to people in situation of homelessness and the elimination of hepatitis in prison settings are examples of that (8). Our challenge is to transform Harm Reduction into a State Policy to expand and qualify the intersectional work with diverse groups and various contexts: vulnerable populations, immigrants, Indigenous people, quilombolas, LGBTQIA+, incarcerated people, and young people deprived of liberty, and continue strengthening the Unified Health System (SUS). For that, it is crucial to exchange experiences from different continents to move towards a model that improves the lives of people who use alcohol and other drugs.

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