

**BRAZILIAN SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTION ON THE HEALTH OF THE WORKER IN
THE THESES AND NURSING DISSERTATIONS****PRODUÇÃO CIENTÍFICA BRASILEIRA ACERCA DA SAÚDE DO
TRABALHADOR NAS TESES E DISSERTAÇÕES DE ENFERMAGEM****LA PRODUCCIÓN CIENTÍFICA BRASILEÑA ACERCA DE LOS TRABAJADORES
DE LA SALUD EN TESIS Y DISERTACIONES DE ENFERMERÍA**

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ABSTRACT

Objective: To describe the panorama of the Brazilian scientific production developed on occupational health by the Nursing masters and doctorate courses informed and cataloged from 2009 to 2014. **Method:** It was a descriptive, documentary, quantitative study developed from six catalogs of the Center of Studies and Research in Nursing comprising the abstracts of nursing dissertations and theses developed from 2009 to 2014 in Brazilian universities. **Results:** 161 studies on occupational health were detected, predominantly dissertations (73.91%), conducted in the Southeast Region (62.8%), in hospitals (70.8%), and whose subjects were the nursing team (52.2%). **Conclusion:** There are continuous studies on occupational health despite the evident regional disparities in this knowledge production process.

Descriptors: Occupational Health; Education, Nursing, Graduate; Scientific Publication Indicators.

RESUMO

Objetivo: descrever o panorama da produção científica desenvolvida acerca da saúde do trabalhador pela Enfermagem brasileira nos cursos de mestrado e doutorado, os quais foram informados e catalogados entre os anos de 2009 a 2014. **Método:** estudo descritivo, documental, quantitativo, desenvolvido a partir seis catálogos do Centro de Estudos e Pesquisas em Enfermagem, compreendendo os resumos das dissertações e teses de enfermagem desenvolvidas no período de 2009 a 2014 nas universidades brasileiras.

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Resultados: detectou-se 161 estudos desenvolvidos acerca da saúde do trabalhador, predominando: dissertações (73,91%), realizados na Região Sudeste (62,8%), em hospitais (70,8%); cujos sujeitos do estudo foram a equipe de enfermagem (52,2%). **Conclusão:** há estudos contínuos sobre saúde do trabalhador ainda que se evidenciem disparidades regionais no processo de produção desse conhecimento.

Descritores: Saúde do trabalhador; Educação de pós-graduação em enfermagem; Indicadores de produção científica.

RESUMEN

Objetivo: describir el panorama de la producción científica desarrollada en la salud del trabajador por la enfermería brasileña en máster y cursos de doctorado, que se informaron y catalogado entre los años 2009 a 2014. **Métodos:** estudio descriptivo, documental, cuantitativo, desarrollado a partir de seis catálogos del Centro de Estudios e Investigaciones en Enfermería, comprendiendo los resúmenes de las disertaciones y tesis de enfermería desarrolladas en el período de 2009 a 2014 en las universidades brasileñas. **Resultados:** Hemos detectado 161 estudios desarrollados sobre la salud ocupacional, predominando: disertaciones (73,91%), llevadas a cabo en el Sudeste (62,8%), hospitales (70,8%); cuyo estudio los sujetos fueron el personal de enfermería (52,2%). **Conclusión:** Hay estudios en curso sobre la salud del trabajador también que son evidentes las diferencias regionales en la producción de este proceso de conocimiento.

Descriptor: Salud laboral; Educación de posgrado en enfermería; Indicadores de producción científica.

INTRODUCTION

Scientific research enables the conduction of studies on a whole variety of topics and discoveries that contribute to the scientific and technological development of professions. Universities play a significant role in this development by training human resources and producing knowledge through their researchers, especially those part of stricto sensu graduate programs.¹ In the nursing context, research activities were crucial to the scientific development of the profession with occupational health as one of the many themes studied.

The Brazilian Constitution of 1988 establishes occupational health as one the attributions of the Unified Health System (SUS), which emerged as an area of Collective Health that studies the associations between work, health, and environment.² The enactment of Law 8.080/90 introduced this norm, instituting the conditions for the promotion, protection, and recovery of workers' health, with the concern of including strategies and actions aimed at the workers' quality of life in the work environment.³

Additionally, it is currently one of the most relevant issues and part of the Ministry of Health's national priorities for research and health since 2008.⁴ Workers' quality of life has been attracting great interest of scholars and business leaders as a support for the binomial: personal satisfaction at work and production.

It was observed that the number of Brazilian scientific productions on occupational health has been increasing, following the trend of other areas of knowledge. In this context, the progress observed in the amount of studies on occupational health in collective health reveals the growth potential of this area.⁵ Furthermore, the constant search for performing different activities intensifies the labor burdens on people, leading to the occurrence of physical, psychological, and emotional diseases, which contributes to the search for scientific evidence on the forms of occupational illness, as well as for methods to face and prevent occupational illness and accidents.⁶

In this perspective, it is important that nurses conduct studies on health and environment as part of the themes life, health, and work. Thus, the guiding questions for this study were: Which Brazilian regions published scientific research on this subject? Which health institutions are being considered? Who are the subjects studied in these institutions?

Given the above, the analysis of the scientific production on occupational health developed by nurses, based on their theses and dissertations, awakens the reflection on nursing practice and the knowledge construction in this sector, structured in the different Postgraduate Programs where nurses conduct their training. Therefore, the importance of the bibliometric study of scientific products of this nature is justified, as it allows to understand the directions of the Occupational Health sector, its strengths and weaknesses, its interfaces and possibilities for improvement.

This study aimed to describe the panorama of the Brazilian scientific production developed on occupational health by the Nursing masters and doctorate courses informed and cataloged from 2009 to 2014.

It is hoped that the resolution of these questions will increase the nurses' knowledge on the subject, specially promoting the improvement of the quality of life of health workers in the workplace.

METHOD

This is a bibliometric, descriptive, and quantitative study with retrospective documentary analysis conducted from the six catalogs of the Center of Studies and Research in Nursing (CEPEn), comprising the abstracts of nursing dissertations and

theses developed from 2009 to 2014 in Brazilian universities.

The survey of the abstracts with the mentioned topics occurred in the following sequence: accessing ABEn website (www.abennacional.org.br); then the link of the CEPEn channels in the catalog of theses and dissertations; and the volumes of the catalogs (volume XXVIII, 2009; volume XXIX, 2010; volume XXX, 2011; volume XXXI, 2012; volume XXXII, 2013; volume XXXIII, 2014).

There were 2,688 dissertations (master's degree) and 947 theses (doctorate), which represented the universe of the study. The population comprised 161 studies that met and presented topics related to occupational nursing; health of healthcare workers from the institution; occupational accident; quality of life; exposure to biological agents; and occupational diseases. Studies in which the subjects of the research were not health workers were excluded.

Data collection took place in January 2016. For selecting theses and dissertations on occupational health, we searched for the Health Sciences Descriptors (DeCS) registered in the Virtual Health Library, namely: Occupational Health; Occupational Health Nursing; Absenteeism; Accidents, Occupational; Working Conditions; Occupational

Diseases; Burnout, Professional; Quality of Life; and Occupational Risks.

Abstracts were submitted to an exploratory, selective, and analytical reading, attempting to identify and answer the previously determined questions in a data collection instrument produced by the authors, whose adequacy to reach the proposed objectives was previously verified. With the analysis of the abovementioned production, the results were presented in tables, enabling a better visualization and understanding of the phenomenon researched.

The ethical and legal aspects were respected, without requiring the consent term of the subjects and evaluation of the Research Ethics Committee, once the dissertations and theses analyzed are public documents.

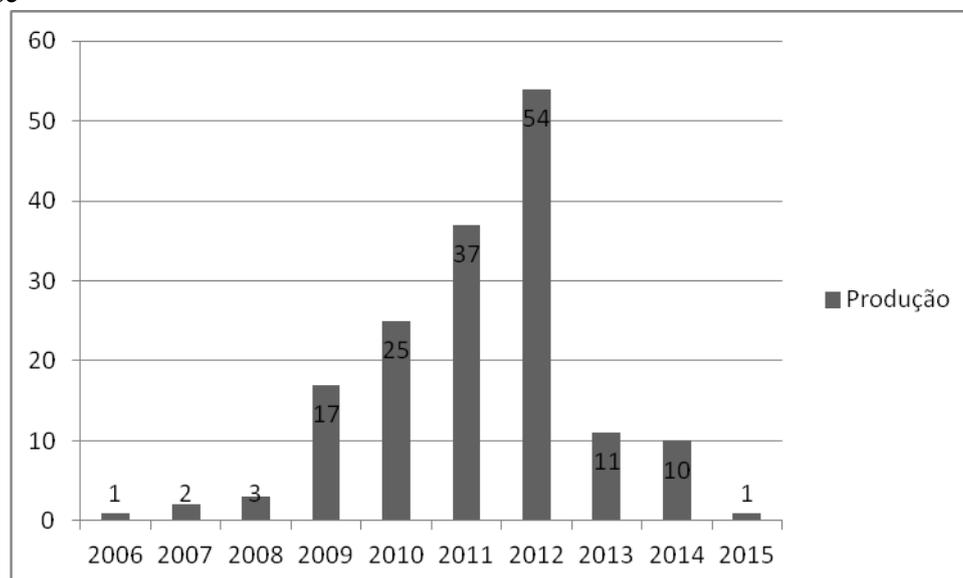
RESULTS

From the reading and analysis of the abstracts, there were 3,635 studies produced by nurses in Brazil, informed and cataloged from 2009 to 2014. Of this total, 161 corresponded to the research object "Occupational Health", representing 4.43% of the national production of nurses. Of these, 119 (73.91%) referred to dissertations and 42 (26.09%) to theses.

Graph 1 presents the absolute distribution of the scientific production on

Occupational Health, second year of defense (2006 to 2015).

Graph 1: Characterization of abstracts published in CEPEn catalogs from 2009 to 2014, year of defense



The catalogs of CEPEn surveyed refer to the period from 2009 to 2014, however, it is worth mentioning that the catalog date corresponds to the year in which the studies were received, organized, and systematized by CEPEn, it does not necessarily reflect the year of publication of the study. Consequently,

studies from different years of publication (since 2006) were found, but cataloged and organized in the period specified above.

Table 1 describes the abstracts published in the CEPEn catalogs from 2009 to 2014 according to the geographic area of the study.

Table 1 – Characterization of the abstracts published in CEPEn catalogs from 2009 to 2013 according to geographical area.

Region	Geographical area	n	%
Southeast	São Paulo	55	34.2
	Rio de Janeiro	31	19.3
	Minas Gerais	15	9.3
South	Rio Grande do Sul	13	8.1
	Santa Catarina	9	5.6
	Paraná	4	2.5
Northeast	Bahia	8	5.0
	Paraíba	6	3.7

	Ceará	2	1.2
	Pernambuco	2	1.2
	Rio Grande do Norte	2	1.2
	Piauí	1	0.6
Central-West	Goiás	7	4.4
	Distrito Federal	4	2.5
	Mato Grosso	1	0.6
North	Pará	1	0.6

Source: CEPEn catalogs from 2009 to 2014.

According to table 1, regarding the geographical areas of the study, the majority came from the Southeast Region (62.8%). The production of the South Region totaled 26 (16.2%) works among theses and dissertations. Studies presented in other areas included 21 in the Northeast

(12.9%); followed by the Central-West, 12 (7.5%); and the North Region, with only 1 (0.6%) study.

Table 2 shows the abstracts published in the CEPEn catalogs from 2009 to 2014 according to health institutions and research subjects.

Table 2 – Characterization of the abstracts published in the CEPEn catalogs from 2009 to 2013 according to health institutions and research subjects.

Variables	n	%
Health institution		
Hospital	114	70.8
Primary Healthcare Unit	19	11.8
Did not specify	14	8.7
SAMU	9	5.5
Emergency Care Unit	2	1.3
Dialysis Clinic	2	1.3
Psychosocial Rehabilitation Center	1	0.6
Subjects involved		
Nursing team	84	52.2
Nurses	40	24.8
Nursing team and health professionals	24	14.9
First responders	5	3.1
Nursing technicians	5	3.1
Nursing technicians and nursing assistants	3	1.9

Source: CEPEn catalogs from 2009 to 2014.

Among the works published in the period considered, 14 authors did not

specify in the abstract where data collection took place. Among those who

mentioned it, most of the samples were conducted in hospitals, 114 (70.8%), followed by primary healthcare units (11.8%), SAMU (5.5%), emergency care units and dialysis clinics, both with 2 studies each (1.3%), and only one (0.6%) study was developed at a psychosocial rehabilitation center.

Regarding the subjects, 84 (52.2%) studies involved the nursing team, 40 (24.8%) addressed only the nurses, 24 (14.9%) approached other professionals from the multidisciplinary health team besides the nursing staff. There were 5 (3.1%) studies developed with first responders and the same amount with nursing technicians. Moreover, there were 3 (1.9%) studies developed with nursing technicians and nursing assistants.

DISCUSSION

In Brazil, the first *stricto sensu* Nursing graduate program was created in 1972 with the first master's degree at the Nursing School Anna Nery, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. Exactly ten years later, in 1982, the first PhD in nursing began with the Inter-Units Doctorate Program, through a partnership between two units of the University of São Paulo (USP), the Nursing School of the capital and the Nursing School of Ribeirão Preto.⁷

Currently, the register of the Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel (CAPES) indicated the existence of 67 Nursing graduate programs in Brazil, with a total of 98 courses comprising 50 master's degrees, 15 professional master's degrees, and 33 doctorates.⁸ Therefore, it indicates a greater prevalence of master's courses, hence explaining the higher number of dissertations presented in this study.

With regard to the year of publication of the studies, it is believed that the publication of a new ordinance in 2009, regarding the National Network for Workers' Comprehensive Health Care (RENAST) through the structuring of the

Occupational Health Reference Centers (CEREST) network, has aroused interest in the subject.⁹ Additionally, the National Occupational Safety and Health Policy (PNSST) was established in 2011, representing a historic advance in the area, marked by the struggle for the rights of the working class, with the structuring of RENAST as one of its strategies.¹⁰

In 2014, the data import for building the catalog was not made directly from the CAPES Thesis database, due to the transition of the system change, with the implementation of the Sucupira platform. For this reason, the information of the works defended in 2013 and 2014 were not yet available in the Thesis database¹¹, thus reducing the publication of studies developed in those years (Graph 1).

Most of the nursing research groups registered in the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development are in the Southeast Region, followed by the South, Northeast, Central-West, and North Regions, respectively. These data reflect both the beginning of the Nursing Post-Graduation growth and the concentration of a greater number of Nursing Graduate Programs in the Southeast and South Regions of Brazil, respectively¹², justifying the number of dissertations and theses found in the present study and revealing the supremacy of the Southeast Region (Table 1).

On the other hand, it is worth mentioning the small scientific production in the North Region, which needs to invest in the development of researches to understand the nuances and particularities of occupational health. This is about the need to democratize the knowledge and management of the innovation process to promote a possible decentralization in the Brazilian regions of the production at universities, seeking the regional balance in the training for the health research sector.¹³

Regarding the health institution where the studies took place, it was observed that 70.6% of these were

performed in hospitals, followed by studies with health professionals working in primary healthcare units (11.8%). Such interest occurs given the fact that hospitals present risks and vulnerabilities related to work accidents with biological material, resistance, inappropriate use of personal protective equipment, and work overload. While in the primary healthcare units, these are mainly related to the lack of resources to perform work, to physical and moral violence, and to emotional exhaustion given the socioeconomic-cultural context in which work is inserted.¹⁴

As for the subjects, the researchers' objective intentionality was focused predominantly on the investigations with the nursing team, covering nurses, nursing technicians, and nursing assistants.¹⁵ Therefore, it is observed the interest in developing researches that evaluate the occupational health conditions of all nursing workers in health institutions.

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the 161 abstracts developed on occupational health in the stricto sensu Brazilian post-graduation from 2009 to 2014, the predominant aspects verified were: dissertations (73.91%), carried out in the Southeast Region (62.8 %), in hospitals (70.8%), and whose subjects were the nursing team (52.2%). It was identified that there are continuous studies on occupational health despite the evident regional disparities in this knowledge production process.

As a limitation, it should be noted that some of the analyzed productions did not present data relevant to their identification, such as the health institution where the study took place. This indicates the need for greater attention when publishing studies, since this variable constitutes significant information for characterization of scientific production.

In this context, this study contributes not only to the identification of the knowledge produced by nursing on

occupational health, but also provides support for graduate programs when it comes to the analysis of the information issued for future research.

Hopefully, in the future, there will be a greater integration between researchers and managers so that the research is implemented aiming at the better adaptation of the actions in the perspective of improving workers' health, life, and working conditions.

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