

**BIBLIOMETRIC STUDY OF THE JOURNAL OF NURSING AND HEALTH CARE  
SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTION (2012-2022)****ESTUDO BIBLIOMÉTRICO DA PRODUÇÃO CIENTÍFICA DA REVISTA DE  
ENFERMAGEM E ATENÇÃO À SAÚDE (2012-2022)****ESTUDIO BIBLIOMÉTRICO DE LA PRODUCCIÓN CIENTÍFICA DE LA  
REVISTA DE ENFERMERÍA Y CUIDADOS DE SALUD (2012-2022)**

Darlene Mara dos Santos Tavares<sup>1</sup>, Adriana Cristina Nicolussi<sup>2</sup>, Elizabeth Barichello<sup>3</sup>, Leiner Resende Rodrigues<sup>4</sup>, Maria Helena Barbosa<sup>5</sup>, Mariana Torreglosa Ruiz<sup>6</sup>, Raquel Pan<sup>7</sup>, Suzel Regina Ribeiro Chavaglia<sup>8</sup>, Thais de Oliveira Gozzo<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Graduated in Nursing and Public Health from USP, Specialization in Collective Health from UFTM, Master's Degree in Fundamental Nursing and Doctorate in Nursing from USP. Full Professor at UFTM; Vice-rector of UFTM; Scientific editor of the Journal of Nursing and Health Care.

<sup>2</sup> Graduation in Nursing and Midwifery, Master in Nursing and Doctorate in Sciences, by the EERP of USP. Adjunct Professor 3 at the DEAH of the Undergraduate Nursing Course and Lato Sensu Graduate Course - Integrated Multidisciplinary Residency in Health at UFTM. Associate Editor of the Journal of Nursing and Health Care (REAS).

<sup>3</sup> Graduated from EERP - USP, master's degree in Fundamental Nursing from EERP-USP and PhD in Fundamental Nursing from EERP-USP. Associate Professor III at UFTM, Nursing course. Coordinator of the stricto sensu Graduate Program in Health Care from 2021 to the present date.

<sup>4</sup> Graduated in Nursing from UFTM, Master in Psychiatric Nursing and Doctorate in Psychiatry from USP. Professor at UFTM.

<sup>5</sup> Graduated in Nursing from the Herminio Ometto Foundation, Master's in Nursing and PhD in Adult Health Nursing from USP. Full Professor at UFTM. Coordinator of the stricto sensu Graduate Program in Health Care (2011 to 2015, 2017 to September 2021).

<sup>6</sup> Graduated in Nursing from the Faculty of Medicine of São José do Rio Preto. Master in Public Health Nursing from the School of Nursing of Ribeirão Preto-USP. PhD in Sciences from the School of Nursing of Ribeirão Preto-USP. Adjunct Professor IV of the Nursing graduation course at UFTM, responsible for the discipline of Nursing in Gynecology and Obstetrics and the Graduate Program in Health Care at UFTM.

<sup>7</sup> Graduated in Nursing from the School of Nursing of Ribeirão Preto at USP, Specialization in Nursing in Oncology and Ph.D. in the Interunit Doctoral Program at the School of Nursing of Ribeirão Preto at USP. Sandwich Doctoral Internship at Utrecht University, Utrecht, Netherlands. Adjunct professor I at the Department of Nursing at PUC Minas, Poços de Caldas campus. Adjunct Professor of the Graduate Nursing Course at UFTM. Deputy Coordinator of DEAH at CGE / UFTM. Tutor of the Multiprofessional Integrated Residency in Child Health. Member of the Brazilian Society of Burns, the SBQ Nursing Committee, the Prevention Committee, SBQ Deputy Scientific Director, Deputy Secretary and one of the ISBI Representatives; member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society Of Nursing; member of the International Society for Burn Injuries, the Nursing Committee of the International Society for Burn Injuries, the Prevention Committee of the International Society of Burn Injuries, and the Education Committee; member of the Society of Pediatric Nurses. Representative of South America on the ISBI Executive Committee (2022-2024).

<sup>8</sup> Full Professor at UFTM. Graduated in Nursing from FCM UNICAMP. Master's and Doctorate in Nursing from EERP - USP. Postdoctoral fellow at EPE UNIFESP. Nursing undergraduate course, in the Emergency/Trauma Residency Program and in the stricto-sensu Graduate Program in Health Care. Member of the Bank of Assessors of the National Higher Education Assessment System - BASIS - MEC/INEP. Member of the Iberoamerican Network for Research in Nursing Education - RIIEE. Leader of the Research, Teaching and Extension Group in Emergency, Trauma and Intensive Care-CNPq-GEPETECCI. Associate Editor of the Journal of Nursing and Health Care.

<sup>9</sup> Graduated in Nursing from EERP USP. Specialist in Obstetric Nursing from USP and in Oncology Nursing, master's and doctorate in Nursing from EERP-USP. Postdoctoral fellow at the University of Surrey, UK. Associate Professor (Livre Docente) at EERP-USP. Deputy Coordinator of the Nursing Area of the Multiprofessional Residency Program in Cancer Care at the Hospital das Clínicas of the Faculty of Medicine of Ribeirão Preto, University of São Paulo (HCFMRP-USP). Full advisor in the graduate program Public Health Nursing at EERP-USP.

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## ABSTRACT

**Objective:** To analyze the scientific production published in the Journal of Nursing and Health Care (REAS) between 2012 and 2022. **Method:** Bibliometric study that analyzed the scientific production of REAS published in the period from December 2012 to July 2022. Data were independently extracted by nine researchers. The articles were analyzed descriptively as to origin, type of study, population group, thematic areas and field of study. **Results:** We analyzed 277 scientific articles with a predominance of publications in 2018 (17.32%); from the Southeast region (53.76%); original articles (71.48%) with quantitative approach (45.85%); developed with the adult population (38.93%); occurred in tertiary care (32.29%), addressing women's health themes (11.18%). **Conclusion:** The publications of REAS are diversified, cover various areas of knowledge, study sites and population groups, favoring to reach a multiprofessional group and enabling the translation of knowledge in health care.

**Descriptors:** Journal article; Bibliometrics; Nursing; Delivery of Health Care.

## RESUMO

**Objetivo:** Analisar a produção científica publicada na Revista de Enfermagem e Atenção à Saúde (REAS) entre 2012 a 2022. **Método:** Estudo bibliométrico que analisou a produção científica da REAS publicada no período de dezembro de 2012 a julho de 2022. Os dados foram extraídos por nove pesquisadores, de forma independente. Os artigos foram analisados, descritivamente, quanto à origem; tipo de estudo; grupo populacional, áreas temáticas e campo de estudo. **Resultados:** Foram analisados 277 artigos científicos com predomínio das publicações em 2018 (17,32%); oriundas da região Sudeste (53,76%); artigos originais (71,48%) com abordagem quantitativa (45,85%); desenvolvidos com a população adulta (38,93%); ocorreram na atenção terciária (32,29%), abordando as temáticas da área da saúde da mulher (11,18%). **Conclusão:** As publicações da REAS são diversificadas, abrangem diversas áreas do conhecimento, de locais de estudo e de grupos populacionais, favorecendo alcançar um grupo multiprofissional e, possibilitando a translação do conhecimento na atenção à saúde.

**Descritores:** artigo de revista; bibliometria; Enfermagem; Atenção à Saúde.

## RESUMÉN

**Objetivo:** Analizar la producción científica publicada en la Revista de Enfermería y Cuidados de Salud (REAS) entre 2012 y 2022. **Método:** Estudio bibliométrico que analizó la producción científica de REAS publicada en el periodo comprendido entre diciembre de 2012 y julio de 2022. Los datos fueron extraídos de forma independiente por nueve investigadores. Los artículos se analizaron descriptivamente en cuanto a procedencia; tipo de estudio; grupo poblacional, áreas temáticas y campo de estudio. **Resultados:** Se analizaron 277 artículos científicos con predominio de publicaciones en 2018 (17,32%); procedentes de la región Sudeste (53,76%); artículos originales (71,48%) con abordaje cuantitativo (45,85%); desarrollados con población adulta (38,93%); ocurridos en atención terciaria (32,29%), abordando las temáticas del área de salud de la mujer (11,18%). **Conclusión:** Las publicaciones de REAS son diversas, abarcan varias áreas de conocimiento, lugares de estudio y grupos poblacionales, favoreciendo llegar a un grupo multiprofesional y, posibilitando la traslación del conocimiento en la atención a la salud.

**Descriptor:** Artículo de revista; Bibliometría; Enfermería; atención a la Salud.

## INTRODUCTION

Scientific production has increased over the years and journals have become important sources of information both for the socialization<sup>1</sup> and for knowledge transfer.

For this purpose, the Journal of Nursing and Health Care (REAS) launched its first issue in December 2012, in Portuguese, and from 2016 onwards began bilingual publication (Portuguese and English). Until 2021, it was published every six months, when it began to publish three numbers a year, and in the third number of that year, it also began to be published in Spanish. Since its inception, it has had two special editions, in 2013 and 2018. It is noteworthy that it has maintained periodical publications over the years and has expanded the languages in order to provide greater accessibility and visibility in scientific publication.

REAS is an open-access electronic journal linked to the Graduate Program in Health Care (PPGAS) with support from the Graduate Nursing Course at the Federal University of Triângulo Mineiro (UFTM). Its scope is the priority dissemination of the results of scientific investigations, in addition to theoretical studies, critical reviews of the literature and experience reports that can guide the health care of populations in health promotion; disease prevention, recovery and biopsychosocial

rehabilitation. In addition, it has the mission of publishing, in an integrative way and with complementarity of knowledge, scientific articles that contribute to the development of Nursing and related areas.<sup>2</sup>

Upon completing ten years of regular publication, it is the reflection on the scientific production conveyed by REAS, as well as its adherence to its scope. In this perspective, this article aimed to analyze the scientific production published in REAS between 2012 and 2022.

## METHOD

This is a bibliometric study that analyzed the scientific production of REAS, which is indexed in the following databases: Cumulative Index of Nursing Allied Health Literature (CINAHL), Database of Nursing (BDENF), Latindex, REd Ibero Americana (REDIB), CUIDEN, Google Scholar and Virtual Health Library (VHL).

The guiding question of the research was: what are the characteristics of the articles published in REAS in the ten years of publication? Original and review articles, experience reports, theoretical and methodological studies published between December 2012 and July 2022 were included. Editorials, letters to the editor

and annals of an event published in REAS were excluded.

The articles analyzed were available on the REAS website.<sup>2</sup> To extract the data from the articles, an instrument was created by the group of associated editors and the editor in charge of the journal, containing the following items: authors; year of publication; geographical location of the study; kind of study; population group, thematic area and field of study. Data were extracted by nine researchers, independently, in August and September 2022. Meetings were held between researchers to discuss and standardize data collection. During data collection, the doubts that still remained were discussed and reached consensus among the researchers.

The articles analyzed were characterized as to: origin, considering the country and for national articles the geographic region (north; northeast; midwest, southeast and south); type of study: original research (quantitative, qualitative and quanti-qualitative); review article; report of experiences, theoretical study and methodological study; population group: adult; elderly; adolescent; child; nurses; healthcare professional; community health agents; professors, university students and technical nursing students. The thematic areas were characterized in: women's

health; elderly health; mental health; adult health; child health; health service management; Worker's health; nursing education; sociodemographic and clinical profile; nursing process; adolescent health; work processes; non-communicable chronic diseases; obstetrics; Health education; oncology; critical care; maternal and child health, neonatology and epidemiology. And finally, the place where the study was developed: primary attention; secondary care; tertiary care; community; educational institution, long-stay institutions for the elderly (ILPI) and emergency service.

Data were analyzed using Microsoft Excel spreadsheets and descriptive analysis was performed. After completing the instrument for data extraction, a descriptive synthesis of the studies was carried out considering the analysis variables, the results were interpreted, discussed with the relevant literature, and the knowledge was synthesized.

## RESULTS

A total of 277 scientific articles that met the eligibility criteria established for this study were analyzed. It was found that the years with the highest number of articles published were in 2018 (17.32%), followed by 2020 (13.36%) and 2021

(13.36%) and the lowest in 2012 (3.61%).  
2019 (4.70%) and 2022 (4.70%) (Table 1).

ATable 1 presents the number of articles published per year from 2012 to 2022.

**Table 1.** Frequency distribution of articles published in REAS (2012-2022), according to year of publication. Uberaba, Minas Gerais, 2022.

Publication year	Articles	
	(n=277)	%
2012	10	3.61
2013	30	10.83
2014	20	7.22
2015	20	7.22
2016	21	7.58
2017	28	10.10
2018	48	17.32
2019	13	4.70
2020	37	13.36
2021	37	13.36
2022	13	4.70

Most published articles come from Brazil and the Southeast region (53.76%), with a lower percentage for the Midwest region (4.30%). Publications of original articles prevailed (71.48%) and, among these, the quantitative approach (45.85%).

Methodological studies were those with the lowest percentage of publication (1.08%) (Table 2).

Table 2 shows the publication by region and type of study.

**Table 2.** Frequency distribution of articles published in REAS (2012-2022) according to geographic location and type of study. Uberaba, Minas Gerais, 2022.

Geographic location	Articles	
	(n=277)	%
Brazil		
Southeast	150	53.76
South	53	19.00
North	16	5.73
North East	45	16.13
Midwest	12	4.30
Spain	two	0.72
USA	1	0.36
Kind of study	n=277	%
Original research		
Quantitative	127	45.85
Qualitative	61	22.02
Quantitative-qualitative	10	3.62
Review article	49	17.69
Experience report	23	8.30
Theoretical study	4	1.44
Methodological study	3	1.08

Considering that the same study can address more than one population group and field of study, the number considered for these variables is greater than the number of studies analyzed (277).

There was a predominance of articles developed with the adult population (38.93%), followed by the elderly (15.12%) and nurses (12.05%). The research participants with the lowest percentage were technical nursing students

(0.28%), community health agent (0.56%) and professors (0.85%) (Table 3).

As for the field of study, most occurred in tertiary care (32.29%), primary (23.26%), with the mobile emergency services (0.35%) and ILPI (1.05%) the least addressed (Table 3).

Table 3, below, presents the population group of the participants and the field of study, published by REAS in the period.

**Table 3.** Frequency distribution of articles published in REAS (2012-2022) according to population group and field of study. Uberaba, Minas Gerais, 2022.

population group	Articles	
	n= 357	%
Adult	139	38.93
Elderly	54	15.12
Nurses	43	12.05
University student	29	8.12
Child	29	8.12
Adolescent	26	7.28
Health professionals	15	4.20
Teachers	3	0.85
Community health agent	two	0.56
Nursing technician student	1	0.28
Not applicable	16	4.49
field of study	n= 288	%
Tertiary care	93	32.29
Primary attention	67	23.26
Community	42	14.58
Educational institution	34	11.80
Secondary care	22	7.65
ILPI	3	1.05
Emergency mobile service	1	0.35
Not applicable	26	9.02

The articles addressed several themes and, sometimes, more than one, expressed in the number (313) greater than the number of articles analyzed (277). The highest percentages were for studies in the area of women's health (11.18%), the elderly (8.95%), mental health (7.99%) and

adults (7.67%). The least addressed areas were epidemiology (1.60%), neonatology (2.24%) and maternal and child health (2.24%), (Table 4).

Table 4 presents the percentages of the thematic areas published in REAS.

**Table 4.** Frequency distribution of articles published in REAS (2012-2022) according to thematic area. Uberaba, Minas Gerais, 2022.

thematic area	Articles	
	n= 313	%
Women's health	35	11.18
Elderly Health	28	8.95
Mental health	25	7.99
Adult health	24	7.67
Child health	21	6.71
Health services management	20	6.39
Worker's health	14	4.47
Nursing Education	12	3.83
Sociodemographic and clinical profile	12	3.83
Nursing Process	11	3.51
Adolescent health	10	3.19
Work processes	10	3.19
Non-communicable chronic diseases	10	3.19
Obstetrics	9	2.87
Health education	8	2.56
Oncology	8	2.56
Critical care	8	2.56
Maternal and Child Health	7	2.24
Neonatology	7	2.24
Epidemiology	5	1.60
Others	29	9.27

## DISCUSSION

REAS, launched in 2012, is in line with a study that highlights the growth of scientific production worldwide in recent decades<sup>3</sup>, motivating publications and the creation of journals.

During this decade of edition of REAS, there was variation in the number of articles published annually. A similar situation was identified in a bibliometric study that analyzed editorials published in a scientific journal over three decades.<sup>4</sup> This condition was also identified in a



Brazilian study that analyzed the production of nursing research worldwide.<sup>3</sup>

This oscillation may be related to the number of submitted studies, as well as the investment in Brazilian scientific production and the impact on publications in recent years.<sup>5-6</sup> It is noteworthy that, since March 2020 with the COVID-19 pandemic decree by World Health Organization (WHO), the editorial teams were faced with numerous challenges and demands related to the publication process, among them: the need to constantly update the content about the new coronavirus, as well as to streamline the stages of the evaluation process of the surveys.<sup>7-8</sup>

In addition to this context of the publishing process, in the specific case of REAS, the year in which the journal presented the highest number of published articles (2018) is related to a supplementary edition published in October. At this time, the publication frequency was half-yearly, which became quarterly in 2021, explaining the greater number of articles published. On the other hand, a 2019 edition was published in early 2020, resulting in a larger publication in 2020 and a smaller one in 2019. Finally, in the years 2012 and 2022, only one edition was computed, considering that the journal was launched in December 2012 and the data collected for this study in 2022, when there was only one published edition.

In the studied period, the predominance of research publications developed in the Southeast region, corroborated a study that identified similar characteristics.<sup>6</sup>

In this research, as well as in the findings of other bibliometric studies<sup>9,6,10,11</sup>, a preponderance of original and quantitative articles was obtained. This result related specifically to the original articles is in line with the scope of the REAS in which it must disclose, as a priority, results of scientific investigations in addition to other types of studies with theorists, critical reviews of the literature and reports of Nursing experience.<sup>2</sup> By On the other hand, there is an incentive, for the indexing of journals in databases, that original articles represent at least 70% of publications.

When analyzing the scientific production of journals focused on Caribbean nursing, it was identified that the reviews are responsible for a percentage of less than 10% of the research<sup>8</sup>, contrasting the results of this research, in which the rates were higher.

In relation to the population group most studied by the REAS publications, the results show, in part, similarity to the bibliometric study carried out in nursing journals that obtained adults and nursing students.<sup>12</sup> However, the research that evaluated the production of high impact

factor journals in which women and students were the main populations investigated.<sup>13</sup> It is noteworthy that in the REAS the teachers, community health agents and technical nursing students were the groups with the lowest number of publications.

There was a predominance of studies developed in tertiary care, similarly to what was found in a bibliometric study on nursing publications.<sup>12</sup>

In the analyzed period (2012-2022), REAS published different themes, the same was observed in a study that analyzed the editorial themes of a Brazilian magazine.<sup>4</sup> In relation to the themes addressed, women's health, the elderly and mental health predominated; with less approach in epidemiology, neonatology and maternal and child health. Research with the 100 most cited articles in the area, identified the themes: mental health; simulated teaching; spiritual care for the patient and safety in drug administration.<sup>10</sup>

Another bibliometric study that investigated the production of articles with high impact factor, found preponderance of publications in the areas: general nursing; pediatrics; gynecology and obstetrics; teaching and education and, chronic cardiovascular diseases, with greater production in oncology.<sup>13</sup> Research that evaluated the six most cited journals in the area of nursing obtained more than 5

thousand different themes, highlighting the work process in nursing: satisfaction and working conditions of nurses; collaborative practices and leadership.<sup>12</sup> The research findings show a possible change in the focus of scientific productions, previously based on the health-disease process and treatments, for a trend of studies that seek to recognize symptoms, trace nursing diagnoses, prevention of diseases and diseases and the work of nurses.<sup>13</sup>

Research that analyzed global nursing research from 2000 to 2019 describes that Brazil occupies the fifth place in world scientific production, however, it has as challenges the irregular production, the language that can consist of a limiter for worldwide dissemination and the indexing of journals. For the strengthening of research and the comparability of data, they suggest greater funding for research and international cooperation.<sup>3</sup> Research reinforces that, to the detriment of funding restrictions noted in education, science and technology, investment and encouragement in public education are important, with the expansion of research groups and strengthening of scientific production.<sup>6</sup>

In this context, REAS has been building its journey over the ten years facing the various challenges seeking to disseminate scientific production in nursing and health care, among them, the

increase in periodicity, the expansion of languages and the expansion of indexing in databases of data. In this perspective, it is highlighted that the heterogeneity of themes published in REAS denotes its contribution in the health care of populations for the promotion of health; disease prevention, recovery and biopsychosocial rehabilitation, as described in its scope.<sup>2</sup>

## CONCLUSION

A total of 277 articles published in REAS from 2012 to 2022 were analyzed, with 2018 being the most published year, followed by 2020 and 2021. Publications from the Southeast region predominated; original articles with a quantitative approach; developed with the adult population, followed by the elderly and nurses; occurred in tertiary and primary care, addressing themes in the area of women's health; elderly, mental and adult health.

Despite the challenges in scientific editing, REAS publications are diverse, covering different areas of knowledge, study sites and population groups, favoring reaching a multidisciplinary group and enabling the translation of knowledge in health care.

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