

NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTION OF DISSERTATIONS AND THESES ON PALLIATIVE CARE AND MOURNING: BIBLIOMETRIC STUDY

PRODUÇÃO CIENTÍFICA NACIONAL DE DISSERTAÇÕES E TESES SOBRE CUIDADOS PALIATIVOS E LUTO: ESTUDO BIBLIOMÉTRICO

PRODUCCIÓN CIENTÍFICA NACIONAL DE DISERTACIONES Y TESIS SOBRE CUIDADOS PALIATIVOS Y LUTO: ESTUDIO BIBLIOMÉTRICO

Brunna Hellen Saraiva Costa¹
Eldia dos Santos Araújo²
Pablo Leonid Carneiro Lucena³
Maria Andrea Fernandes⁴
Thainá Karoline Costa Dias⁵
Patrícia Serpa de Souza Batista⁶

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Objective: to verify the bibliometric indicators of dissertations and theses produced in Postgraduate Programs at the national level, on palliative care and mourning. **Method:** bibliometric study developed through the survey of scientific production, from 2001 to 2020, on palliative care and carried out in the Bank of Theses and Dissertations of the Coordination of Improvement of Higher Education Personnel and in the Brazilian Digital Library of Dissertations and Theses. The sample was composed of 25 works. **Results:** of the 25 studies surveyed, 14 occurred in *stricto sensu* Postgraduate Programs of Higher Education Institutions, most located in the Southeast region. The years 2013 and 2018 presented the largest number of dissertations, and the year 2019, the largest number of theses defended. **Conclusion:** this study is expected to contribute to expand the scientific production on palliative care and mourning, as well as subsidize new research on the subject.

Descriptors: Palliative Care. Grief. Bibliometrics. Research.

Objetivo: verificar os indicadores bibliométricos de dissertações e de teses produzidas em Programas de Pós-graduação no âmbito nacional, sobre cuidados paliativos e luto. *Método:* estudo bibliométrico desenvolvido através

Corresponding author: Brunna Hellen Saraiva Costa, email: brunna.costa@academico.ufpb.br

¹ Universidade Federal da Paraíba, PB, Brazil. Orcid <https://orcid.org/000-0001-7511-9856>.

² Universidade Federal da Paraíba, PB, Brazil. Orcid <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9126-951X>.

³ Universidade Federal da Paraíba, PB, Brazil. Orcid <http://orcid.org/0000-0001-5446-64>.

⁴ Universidade Federal da Paraíba, PB, Brazil. Orcid <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6287-880X>.

⁵ Universidade Federal da Paraíba, PB, Brazil. Orcid <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7265-1350>.

⁶ Universidade Federal da Paraíba, PB, Brazil. Orcid <http://orcid.org/0000-0001-5080-1605>.

do levantamento da produção científica, no período de 2001 a 2020, sobre cuidados paliativos e luto, realizado no Banco de Teses e Dissertações da Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior e na Biblioteca Digital Brasileira de Dissertações e Teses. A amostra foi composta de 25 trabalhos. Resultados: dos 25 estudos pesquisados, 14 ocorreram em Programas de Pós-graduação stricto sensu de Instituições de Ensino Superior, a maioria localizados na região Sudeste. Os anos 2013 e 2018 apresentaram o maior quantitativo de dissertações, e o ano de 2019, o maior número de teses defendidas. Conclusão: espera-se que este estudo possa contribuir para ampliar a produção científica sobre cuidados paliativos e luto, bem como subsidiar novas investigações acerca da temática.

Descritores: Cuidados Paliativos. Luto. Bibliometria. Pesquisa.

Objetivo: verificar los indicadores bibliométricos de disertaciones y de tesis producidas en Programas de Posgrado a nivel nacional, sobre cuidados paliativos y luto. Método: estudio bibliométrico desarrollado a través del estudio de la producción científica, en el período de 2001 a 2020, sobre cuidados paliativos y luto, realizado en el Banco de Tesis y Disertaciones de la Coordinación de Perfeccionamiento de Personal de Nivel Superior y en la Biblioteca Digital Brasileña de Disertaciones y Tesis. La muestra fue compuesta de 25 trabajos. Resultados: de los 25 estudios investigados, 14 ocurrieron en Programas de Posgrado stricto sensu de Instituciones de Enseñanza Superior, la mayoría localizados en la región Sudeste. Los años 2013 y 2018 presentaron el mayor cuantitativo de disertaciones, y el año 2019, el mayor número de tesis defendidas. Conclusión: se espera que este estudio pueda contribuir para ampliar la producción científica sobre cuidados paliativos y luto, así como subsidiar nuevas investigaciones sobre la temática.

Descriptorios: Cuidados Paliativos. Dolor. Bibliometría. Buscar.

Introduction

It is clear that scientific and technological advances in the field of health in recent decades have contributed greatly to the increase in life expectancy of the population. On the other hand, longevity contributed to the increase of individuals with chronic diseases, often threatening the continuity of life, which provides the need for Palliative Care (PC)⁽¹⁾.

PC is an active and integral care, intended for all people with serious diseases that threaten life, regardless of age, fostered by a multidisciplinary team, with actions of prevention and relief of suffering, early identification, impeccable evaluation and treatment of pain and other physical, social, psychological and spiritual symptoms, with a view to improving the quality of life of the patient and his/her family members. PC is considered a global ethical responsibility and should be available in health services at all levels of care^(1,2,3).

PC should begin from the stage of diagnosis of a serious disease, and maintained throughout the course of disease progression, even after using all life-sustaining and curative treatment resources. Therefore, it is essential that the

palliative team can offer comprehensive and differentiated care to these patients, extending this care to the family members, in order to meet their emotional, social and spiritual physical needs, extending to the phase of mourning^(4,5,6).

Mourning, as a process inherent in the human condition, is experienced at some point in life, either by the loss of a loved one, or by the loss of any object of sentimental importance. It is understood that this moment must be experienced, so that the mourner can elaborate the loss and re-mean life after its occurrence⁽⁷⁾. In the context of palliative care, mourning requires the provision of care by the health team, which allows the patient and the family the necessary strengthening to overcome this phase, without disorders and somatizations⁽⁸⁾.

Considering the relevance of the theme related to palliative care and mourning to support the clinical practice of health professionals, in the context of caring for patients with diseases that threaten life continuity and the reduced number of studies on the subject in the national literature, the interest in conducting a bibliometric research is highlighted.

This type of research aims to quantify the scientific production, based on bibliometric indicators of publications, as well as their chronological development and impact on the advancement of science⁽⁹⁾. Moreover, the use of bibliometric research has been of great importance to the scientific community, quantifying metric data related to research developed in the country⁽¹⁰⁾.

Given the above, it is undeniable the importance of bibliometric research on palliative care and mourning, from dissertations and theses, in the scope of Postgraduate studies in the Brazilian scenario. The study has the following guiding question: what are the bibliometric indicators about the scientific production of dissertations and theses, produced in Postgraduate Programs in Brazil on Palliative Care and mourning?

To answer this question, the research aims to verify the bibliometric indicators of dissertations and theses produced in Postgraduate Programs, at the national level, on Palliative Care and mourning.

Article from the dissertation: COSTA, B.H.S. Palliative care and anticipatory grief: nursing care for patients with covid-19 in light of the theory of chronic sadness. 2022. 65f. Dissertation (Master's in Nursing) – Center of Health Sciences, Federal University of Paraíba, 2022.

Method

This is a bibliometric study, method that aims to evaluate the academic productivity of authors from different areas of knowledge, from sources that convey scientific works, from sources conveying scientific works, in order to identify relevant and current issues and their impact on the national and international scenario^(11,12)

The survey of scientific production, from 2001 to 2020, on palliative care and mourning was carried out in the Bank of Theses and Dissertations of the Coordination of Improvement of Higher Education Personnel (CAPES) and in the Brazilian Digital Library of Dissertations and Theses (BDTD). The choice of this period (20 years) had the scope to include, about this

theme, the largest number of studies produced in *stricto sensu* Postgraduate Programs of Brazilian Higher Education Institutions. Data collection took place in August 2021.

In the search strategy, the descriptors “palliative care” and “mourning” were used, which are included in the Health Sciences Descriptors (DECS). The Boolean operator AND was used to combine the terms. To select the sample, the following inclusion criteria were adopted: be a dissertation or thesis work, be fully available, have a main theme related to palliative care and mourning and have been defended in the Brazilian *stricto sensu* Postgraduate Program, from 2001. The exclusion criterion included dissertations and theses that addressed only one of the terms of the proposed theme, that is, palliative care or mourning.

The search occurred directly in the Catalog of Dissertations and Theses of CAPES and in the Virtual Library of Dissertations and Theses (BDTD). The inclusion process of the studies was guided by a flowchart⁽¹³⁾, with the objective of electing publications from dissertations and theses that could constitute the sample. The selected studies were read in full, in order to exclude those that did not meet the criteria chosen in the study and the guiding question. It is emphasized that both stages were performed by two reviewers independently and, in case of divergent decisions, were resolved by a third reviewer.

Initially, 377 studies were identified. Of these, 112 were excluded by duplications, remaining 265. Then, after the detailed reading of the titles and abstracts, 240 studies were excluded because they did not contemplate the chosen theme, that is, palliative care and mourning. Therefore, from the full reading of the publications, a sample of 25 papers was obtained, as shown in Figure 1, as follows:

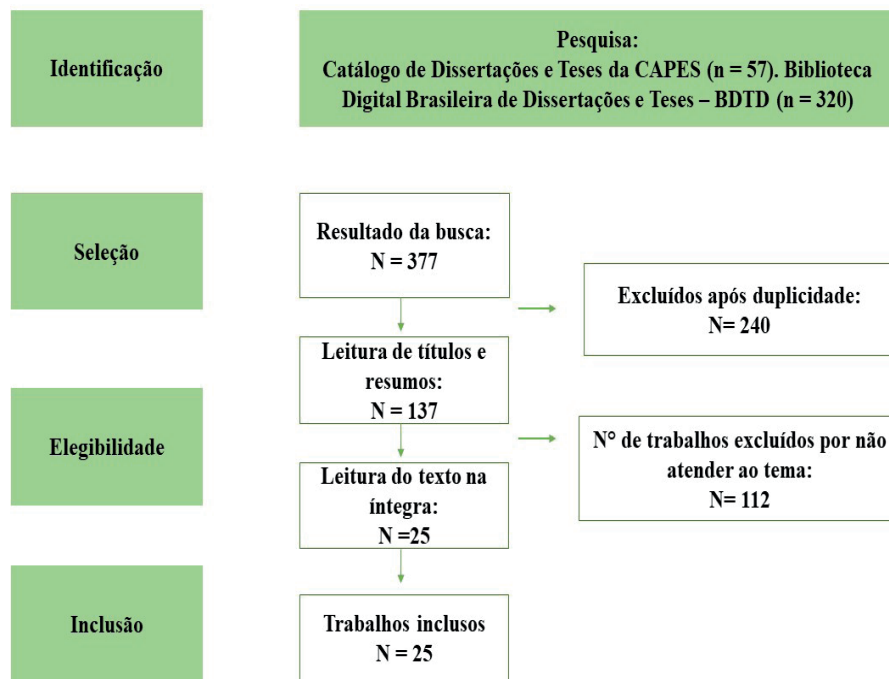
Figure 1 – Study identification and inclusion process — (PRISMA), João Pessoa, Paraíba, Brazil, 2021.

Figure translation: Identification. Search: Catalog of Dissertations and Theses of CAPES (n = 57). Digital Brazilian Library of Dissertations and Theses – BDTD (n = 320). Selection. Search result: N = 377. Excluded after duplicity: N = 240. Eligibility. Reading of the titles and abstracts: N = 137. N. of works excluded for not meeting the theme: N = 112. Full reading of the text: N = 25. Inclusion. Papers included: N = 25.

Source: research data, 2021.

To enable the collection and analysis of data, from the 25 works of the sample, a table was prepared, using the Excel software, considering the following bibliometric indicators: publication modality (dissertation or thesis); Higher Education institutions, Postgraduate Program, geographic region, year of defense, authorship/training, area of knowledge, target population, type of methodological approach, keywords, scientific production from dissertations and theses: name of the journal and the Journal Qualis.

The data obtained were presented through graphical representations and analyzed quantitatively, using descriptive statistics (frequency and percentage), in the light of the literature relevant to the theme under study. Regarding the keywords, referenced in the dissertations and theses inserted in the study, the concept map was used.

The concept map is represented schematically through a set of ideas and concepts, organized from the widest to the least representative. In this way, it provides the exposure of knowledge, in a clear and objective way, of the contents that will be addressed. For the construction of this map, the Cmap Tools® software was used⁽¹⁴⁾.

It is worth mentioning that the study was not submitted to consideration by the Human Research Ethics Committee, since the research used secondary and public domain data. However, it followed the ethical observances about the preservation of copyright of the studies referenced in the construction of this work.

Results

The sample consisted of 25 papers, being 21 publications dissertations and four theses,

whose defenses occurred in 14 *stricto sensu* Postgraduate Programs of Higher Education Institutions, located in four regions of the country. The Northeast region had a number

of six Postgraduate Programs; followed by the Southeast region, with five; the South region, with three and the North region, with one, according to Chart 1, as follows:

Chart 1 – Distribution of scientific production by region, institution and type of publication, João Pessoa, Paraíba, Brazil, 2021.

REGIONS	Northeast	Institution	Dissertation	Theses	Total	%
		Universidade Federal da Bahia	1	1	2	8
		Universidade Regional do Cariri	2	0	2	8
		Universidade Federal da Paraíba	1	0	1	4
		Universidade de Fortaleza	1	0	1	4
		Escola Baiana de Medicina e Saúde Pública	0	1	1	4
		Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte	1	0	1	4
	Southeast	Universidade de São Paulo	4	1	5	20
	Pontifícia Universidade Católica de São Paulo (PUC/SP)	4	0	4	16	
Universidade Federal de São Paulo	0	1	1	4		
Universidade Federal de Uberlândia	1	0	1	4		
Instituto Superior de Ciências da Saúde	1	0	1	4		
South	Universidade Federal do Paraná	2	0	2	8	
Universidade Estadual de Maringá	1	0	1	4		
Escola Superior de Teologia	1	0	1	4		
North	Universidade Federal do Pará	1	0	1	4	

Source: research data, 2021.

Concerning the geographical region of the institutions to which the researchers were linked, Chart 1 showed the predominance of the Southeast region, with 12 studies (10 dissertations and two theses (48%); followed by the Northeast, with eight papers, six dissertations

and two theses (32%); from the South region, with four dissertations (16%); and from the North region, with a dissertation (4%). There is a lack of studies on the subject in the Midwest region.

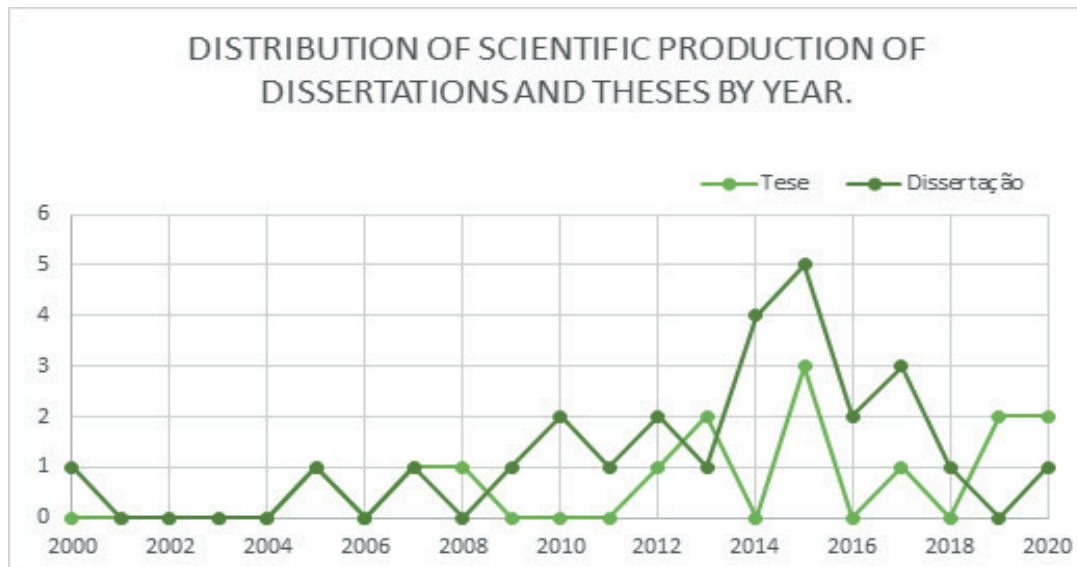
The *Universidade de São Paulo* (USP) and the *Pontifícia Universidade Católica de São*

Paulo (PUC/SP) stood out in relation to the Higher Education Institutions that obtained the highest number of works with four studies, both located in the Southeast region; followed by the *Universidade Federal da Bahia*, with three papers; the *Universidade Regional do Cariri* and the *Universidade Federal do Paraná*, with

two studies each and the other institutions that presented only one paper, as shown in Chart 1.

Figure 2, then, highlights the distribution of scientific production of dissertations and theses, developed in *stricto sensu* Postgraduate Programs of Higher Education Institutions of the country, defended in the period from 2001 to 2020.

Figure 2: Annual distribution of scientific production of dissertations and theses on palliative care and mourning. João Pessoa, Paraíba, Brazil 2021



Source: research data, 2021.

Figure translation: caption - Thesis. Dissertation.

Figure 2 shows, from 2006 onwards, a growth of research on palliative care and mourning, with years 2013 and 2018 as the ones that presented the largest number of works in the dissertation modality and the year 2019, which highlighted the largest number of theses defended. On the other hand, in the years 2002 to 2005, 2007 and 2008, there were no dissertations and theses on this subject.

Regarding the areas of knowledge of the 25 works of the sample, there was a greater predominance of the areas of Psychology, with 12 dissertations and 03 theses (60%) and Nursing, with 07 dissertations (28%). With a lower percentage, the area of Medicine, with 01 thesis (4%), Nutrition (4%) and Theology (4%), with one dissertation, each. As for authorship and professional training of the researchers, of the 25 authors, 15 are psychologists (60%), seven

are nurses (28%), two are doctors (8%); one is nutritionist (4%) and one, theologian (4%).

In relation to the methodological approach of the dissertations and theses selected for the proposed research, most of the studies were qualitative, 23 (92%); and 2 (8%) were quantitative studies.

As for the target population that participated in the studies from the dissertations and theses chosen for the research, most of the studies had as participants the relatives of patients, being 9 studies of terminal patients and 6 of oncological patients, totaling 60% of the sample. In addition, 3 (12%) studies were with bereaved parents; 3 (12%), with patients with chronic diseases (cancer, HIV and Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis); 3 (12%), with health professionals, and 1 (4%) with children and adolescents.

With regard to the keywords extracted from the dissertations and theses that composed the study sample, it was possible to expose, in a schematic way, the approaches addressed in

the study from the chain between the terms, presented through a concept map, as shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3 - Distribution of the most cited keywords in scientific works



Figure 03: Distribution of the most cited keywords in scientific works. João Pessoa, Paraíba, Brazil, 2021.

Figure translation: PALLIATIVE CARE AND MOURNING. Highlighted by - Nursing; Psychology; Medicine; Nutrition; Theology. Focused on - Bereaved parents; Patients with chronic diseases; Patients in terminal stage; Relatives of patients in palliative care. Promoted by - Palliative Team; Multiprofessional Team; Health Professional; Family Caregiver. Related to - Palliative assistance; Humanization; Finitude; Spirituality; Complicated Mourning; Death.

Chart 2 highlights the production of scientific articles from dissertations and theses, disseminated in online journals, from 2001 to 2020. For this purpose, a survey was initially carried out in

the Lattes curriculum of the authors, in order to identify the publications resulting from dissertations and theses and the respective journals.

Chart 2 — Distribution of scientific production arising from dissertations and theses. João Pessoa, Paraíba, Brazil, 2021. (continued)

TITLE	JOURNAL	QUALIS	YEAR
The experience of infectologists faced with death and dying among their patients over the course of the AIDS epidemic in the city of São Paulo: qualitative study	São Paulo Med. J.	B1	2010

Chart 2 — Distribution of scientific production arising from dissertations and theses. João Pessoa, Paraíba, Brazil, 2021. (conclusion)

TITLE	JOURNAL	QUALIS	YEAR
From the imaginary to reality: the experience of bereaved parents	Revista da Rede de Enfermagem do Nordeste/ Rene	B2	2012
Family members and professionals' experience with patients in palliative care	Arquivos Brasileiros de Psicologia	A2	2012
Between the concrete rupture and the symbolic maintenance of bonding: particularities of grief for family caregivers of patients with chronic-degenerative diseases	Periódicos Eletrônicos em Psicologia	B2	2013
Palliative care and grief: a bibliometric study	Escola Anna Nery	B1	2016
Death Education Group: a Strategy to Complement Undergraduate Education of Health Professionals	Psicologia Ciência e Profissão	A2	2017
Alzheimer's disease: the unique experience of family caregivers	Psicol. USP	B1	2020

Source: research data, 2021.

According to Chart 2, of the 25 studies in the study sample, 7 were disseminated as scientific articles in online journals, from 2010 to 2020. The year 2012 stood out with two publications. Most articles were published in journals in the area of Psychology, totaling more than 50% compared to the others. Two papers were published in Nursing journals and one in Medical journals.

Concerning the Qualis of the journals, 2 articles were published in journals with Qualis A2; 3 papers in journal Qualis B1 and 2 studies in journal B2, as shown in Chart 2.

Discussion

The bibliometric indicators investigated about the scientific production on palliative care and mourning were derived from dissertations and theses available in the Virtual Library of Dissertations and Theses and Catalog of Dissertations and Theses of CAPES, defended in

the period from 2001 to 2020, in *stricto sensu* Postgraduate Programs of 14 Higher Education Institutions, located in the North, Northeast, Southwest and South regions of Brazil.

It is worth mentioning that the Brazilian *stricto sensu* Postgraduate Programs contribute exponentially to the advancement of science in the various areas of knowledge. According to data from the Ministry of Education, the country has grown considerably in number of programs in the last decade, from 3,128 programs in 2011 to 4,650 in 2020⁽¹⁵⁾.

As for the 20-year period chosen for the study, a sample of 25 papers was obtained, being 21 dissertations (84%) and 4 theses (16%), which shows a reduced scientific production on palliative care and mourning, in relation to the period investigated. However, the identification of gaps is one of the objectives of literature review research, since it will contribute to subsidize new

investigations for the advancement of knowledge on the subject⁽¹⁶⁾.

According to Figure 2, in the years 2002 to 2005, 2007 and 2008, no work of dissertations and theses on this theme was identified. On the other hand, it was observed that the years 2013 and 2018 showed a greater number of dissertations defended, and that the year 2019 presented the largest number of theses. These data show a greater interest of researchers in conducting studies on the subject investigated in recent years.

It was observed that the expressive increase of dissertations and the reduced number of theses on this subject reflect the growing scientific production of the dissertation modality in the Brazilian *stricto sensu* Postgraduate Programs. This difference may be justified due to the previous implementation of the master's courses, in relation to the doctoral courses, in addition to the existence of a larger number of master's courses, in relation to the doctoral courses⁽¹⁷⁾.

In this sense, the findings of the proposed study corroborate the research carried out, from dissertations and theses made available in the CAPES bank, produced by nurses researchers on palliative care, in which the results showed that 82% of the investigated sample was represented by dissertations⁽¹⁸⁾.

Another study conducted with the scope of verifying bibliometric indicators of dissertations and theses published in Brazil, on the topic of palliative care and chronic diseases, reinforces the research data, since of the 36 studies of the sample, 28 works were in the form of dissertations and eight in the form of theses⁽¹⁹⁾.

The largest number of works on palliative care and mourning was developed by researchers linked to Higher Education Institutions in the Southeast region, especially the *Universidade de São Paulo* (USP), with four dissertations and a thesis. The analysis of another review study, developed from dissertations and theses, highlights that most of the *stricto sensu* Postgraduate Programs are located in the Southeast region and that USP was the University with the highest number of publications on the investigated theme⁽²⁰⁾.

It is worth mentioning that the *Universidade de São Paulo* is considered a Higher Education

Institution of high standard, in the Brazilian academic scope, with Postgraduate Programs with concepts five and six of CAPES, which justifies the large number of studies identified from it, especially on palliative care and mourning⁽²⁰⁾.

The bibliometric indicator, related to the areas of knowledge, highlighted Psychology with a predominance of research carried out on the investigated theme, totaling 15 publications, 12 dissertations and 3 theses. This finding may be related to the relevant professional performance of the psychologist, in the context of palliative care, with emphasis on mourning.

Another area that presented a considerable number of works was Nursing, with 7 dissertations. The theme of death and the process of dying is mentioned in other works composed by nurses, which evidenced that caring, in a context of proximity to death, can generate reflection on the part of professionals, but also fear and anguish⁽²¹⁾.

Other studies indicate significant data regarding the Brazilian scientific contribution to palliative care nursing practice in the mourning process⁽²²⁾, with the country having the highest number of publications⁽²³⁾.

It is important to note that the areas of Medicine, Nutrition and Theology had one publication on the subject. Therefore, it is evident the interest of psychologists, nurses, doctors, nutritionist and theologian researchers, linked to Postgraduate Programs of the country, in contributing with their studies to the advancement of knowledge in the field of palliative care and mourning.

Regarding the methodological approach of the dissertations and theses chosen for the study, almost all the works were qualitative, which represents 92% of the sample investigated, and 8% were quantitative studies. The research with a qualitative approach aims to study issues of subjective nature that seek to understand lived experiences of people, through a closer approach to the phenomenon investigated^(24,25,26).

Based on this understanding, this research addresses a theme that involves subjective issues in the field of palliative care and mourning and, therefore, the qualitative approach is quite suitable for a better understanding of the theme under analysis^(27,28). The predominance of qualitative studies was also identified from

a bibliometric research on scientific production, published in online journals, on palliative care and mourning, since most of the studies in the sample were qualitative⁽²⁶⁾.

In relation to the target population included in the research from the dissertations and theses of the proposed research, 15 studies were conducted with relatives of terminal and oncological patients, which demonstrates a significant amount of work directed to family members, as well as valuing this group in caring for their loved ones with cancer and in the final stage of life. In this context, a research highlights that it is of fundamental importance to strengthen the bond between professionals and families in the practice of palliative care^(30,31).

Studies with bereaved parents, patients with chronic diseases (cancer, HIV and Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis), health professionals, and children and adolescents were also part of the sample investigated. This datum, even though it was little expressive in relation to the quantity of works, is quite significant, since it represents the diversity of participants who are inserted in the context of palliative care.

The keywords mentioned in the study works are covered in a schematic way, through the concept map, shown in Figure 3. This map shows the various approaches with range of expressions, which form four axes integrated with each other, from the main theme, that is, palliative care and mourning. This demonstrates the diversity of keywords used by the authors of the works, mentioned in the abstracts of the dissertations and theses of the investigated sample.

The first axis includes the areas of study of the sample (Nursing, Psychology, Medicine, Nutrition and Theology), that is, the areas of knowledge relevant to the formation of the authors. The second axis highlights for whom the care is intended (Patients with chronic diseases, patients in terminal stage, bereaved parents and relatives of patients in palliative care). The other axes show who promotes it (palliative team, multidisciplinary team, health professional), and how the theme of palliative care and mourning is related to other terms (palliative care, humanization,

spirituality, finitude, anticipatory mourning, complicated mourning and death).

Therefore, the concept map clearly expresses the main contents addressed by the authors of the investigated studies, based on the keywords cited in the abstracts⁽³²⁾. According to the Brazilian Association of Technical Standards (ABNT), on abstract presentation (NBR 6028/2003), the keyword represents document content and should preferably be chosen from controlled vocabulary⁽³³⁾.

Keywords are used in various types of academic works and are fundamental for the dissemination of academic production at the regional, national and international levels⁽³⁴⁾. Therefore, it is necessary to carefully choose the keywords to portray the content of an academic work, through a controlled vocabulary, as recommended by ABNT, since these terms facilitate the search of the literature of publications related to a specific content^(28,29).

Another bibliometric indicator, included in the research, concerns the dissemination of the knowledge produced, from the dissertations and theses selected for the study, as a scientific article, published in online journals.

According to the data presented in Chart 2, there is a reduced number of scientific articles published by the authors of the study, since, of the 25 works, only 7 were disseminated through online journals. Of these, most were authored by psychologists and published in four journals in the area of Psychology, two of which were classified by the Coordination of Improvement of Higher Education Personnel (CAPES)⁽³⁵⁾ as Qualis A2: *Arquivos Brasileiros de Psicologia* and *Psicologia Ciência e Profissão*. It is worth mentioning that the two papers published in these journals came from theses.

Qualis is a system of analysis carried out by CAPES for the classification of scientific production of *stricto sensu* Postgraduate Programs of Brazilian Higher Education Institutions, using, in general, bibliometric indicators^(36,37,38), such as the Impact Factor. The journal classified "A" is considered of great importance in academia, for its quality and recognition by researchers at the national and international levels.

The Impact Factor is a tool used to evaluate scientific journals and intellectual productivity, through the average equation of citations of scientific articles published in a given journal that is indexed in a database⁽³⁹⁾.

Conclusion

This study allowed the identification of the bibliometric indicators of works of dissertations and theses on Palliative Care and mourning defended in *stricto sensu* Postgraduate Programs of the country, showing a limited amount, in which the Psychology area was the one that obtained a greater scientific production about the referred theme. It was possible to observe that the publication on the theme is in development with tendency to growth.

This study is expected to contribute to expand the scientific production on palliative care and mourning, as well as subsidize new research on the subject, from other types of work, such as scientific articles and other databases. It highlights the need for new works of dissertations and theses, as well as studies that diversify the target audiences, places of action and health professionals.

The research presents as limitation the use of only two indexing bases of dissertations and theses of Brazil. Additionally, due to the data collection carried out during the pandemic period, there is a possibility that the platforms are outdated, which could affect the scope of the results obtained.

Collaborations:

1 – conception and planning of the project: Brunna Hellen Saraiva Costa;

2 – analysis and interpretation of data: Brunna Hellen Saraiva Costa, Eldia dos Santos Araújo, Maria Andrea Fernandes and Thainá Karoline Costa Dias;

3 – writing and/or critical review: Brunna Hellen Saraiva Costa and Pablo Leonid Carneiro Lucena;

4 – approval of the final version: Patrícia Serpa de Souza Batista

Competing interests

There are no competing interests.

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