

RESEARCH GROUPS IN THE NURSING HISTORY IN BRAZIL

GRUPOS DE PESQUISA DE HISTÓRIA DA ENFERMAGEM NO BRASIL

GRUPOS DE INVESTIGACIÓN DE HISTORIA DE LA ENFERMERÍA EN BRASIL

Gabriella Picoli dos Santos Faustino¹

Rosane Barreto Cardoso²

Camila Pureza Guimarães da Silva³

Patrícia dos Santos Augusto⁴

Tânia Cristina Franco Santos⁵

Antonio José de Almeida Filho⁶

How to this article: Faustino GPS, Cardoso RB, Silva CPG, Augusto PS, Santos TCF, Almeida Filho AJ. Research groups in the nursing history in Brazil. Rev baiana enferm. 2024;38:e56917.

Objective: to analyze the profile of Research Groups in Nursing History registered in the Directory of Research Groups in Brazil Lattes. **Method:** this is a descriptive documentary study conducted between November 2022 and January 2023. First, a search was conducted in the Directory of Research Groups in Brazil Lattes. Subsequently, the group leaders' publications about the research were reviewed through their Lattes Curriculum. **Results:** the Southeast and Northeast regions present the highest concentration of Research Groups. There is a predominance of women in group leadership and in the number of publications. **Final considerations:** although it is important to have a significant number of Research Groups in Nursing History, the quality of the knowledge produced and its application in the critical training of nurses and other academic productions are the most relevant factors to ensure the maintenance and strengthening of this research area.

Descriptors: Research Groups. Nursing History. Postgraduate Programs in Health. Research in Nursing. Nursing History.

Objetivo: analisar o perfil dos Grupos de Pesquisa em História da Enfermagem cadastrados no Diretório dos Grupos de Pesquisa no Brasil Lattes. Método: estudo descritivo documental, ocorrido entre novembro de 2022 e janeiro de 2023. Primeiro foi realizada uma busca no Diretório de Grupos de Pesquisa no Brasil Lattes, posteriormente foram levantadas as publicações dos líderes dos grupos de pesquisa, através do Currículo Lattes. Resultados: as regiões sudeste e nordeste apresentam a maior concentração dos Grupos de Pesquisa. Há um predomínio do gênero feminino na liderança dos grupos e no número de publicações. Considerações finais: Embora seja importante que haja um número significativo de Grupos de Pesquisa em História da Enfermagem, a qualidade do conhecimento produzido e sua aplicação na formação crítica do enfermeiro e em outras produções acadêmicas são os fatores mais relevantes para garantir a manutenção e o fortalecimento dessa área de pesquisa.

Corresponding author: Rosane Barreto Cardoso, rosane.bcardoso@gmail.com

¹ Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil. <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9545-2215>.

² Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil. <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8052-8697>.

³ Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil. <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9957-6944>.

⁴ Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil. <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6264-0703>.

⁵ Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil. <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2325-4532>.

⁶ Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil. <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2547-9906>.

Descritores: Grupos de Pesquisa. História da Enfermagem. Programas de Pós-Graduação em Saúde. Pesquisa em Enfermagem. Enfermagem. História.

Objetivo: analizar el perfil de los Grupos de Investigación en Historia de la Enfermería registrados en el Directorio de Grupos de Investigación de Brasil Lattes. Método: estudio documental descriptivo, realizado entre noviembre de 2022 y enero de 2023. Primero, se realizó una búsqueda en el Directorio de Grupos de Investigación de Brasil Lattes, luego se recolectaron las publicaciones de los líderes de los grupos de investigación, a través del Curriculum Lattes. Resultados: las regiones sureste y noreste presentan la mayor concentración de Grupos de Investigación. Hay predominio de mujeres en el liderazgo de grupos y en el número de publicaciones. Consideraciones finales: si bien es importante que exista un número significativo de Grupos de Investigación en Historia de la Enfermería, la calidad del conocimiento producido y su aplicación en la formación crítica del enfermero y en otras producciones académicas son los factores más relevantes para garantizar la mantenimiento y fortalecimiento de esta área de investigación.

Descritores: Grupos de Investigación. Historia de la Enfermería. Programas de Postgrado en Investigación en Enfermería. Enfermería. Historia.

Introduction

Nursing History is a discipline that seeks to rescue, preserve, and disseminate the memory of the profession, contributing to the construction of its identity and social role. It has been a well-established field of knowledge for over three decades and is recognized by its peers and other areas. This status is due to the gradual expansion of Postgraduate Programs (PGP) in nursing, which directly impacts the production of theses and dissertations with a historiographical perspective. Consequently, Research Groups (RGs) related to the Nursing History were created^(1,2).

These RGs related to Nursing History are spaces for interaction, debate, and reflection among researchers, professors, students, and professionals in the field. They aim to understand the past, present, and future of Brazilian nursing. The RGs encourage the formation of new researchers, the publication of articles, books, and theses, scientific events organization, and participation in national and international collaboration networks^(2,3).

In Brazil, research groups are registered and evaluated by the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq), which is the body responsible for promoting research in the country. These groups are formed by researchers working in specific areas of knowledge and are linked to PGP⁽⁴⁾.

In Brazil, the first *Stricto Sensu* PGP in nursing was established in 1972, with the Anna Nery

School of Nursing at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro pioneering the creation of a master's program. This was followed by four more programs in the Southeast region, two in the Northeast region, and one in the South region within the same decade. Since then, there has been significant growth in PGPs across Brazil, although this growth has been unevenly distributed among the regions, with a concentration in the Southeast. By 2010, Brazil had fifty *Stricto Sensu* PGPs in nursing, distributed as follows: 24 in the Southeast, three in the Midwest, nine in the Northeast, ten in the South, and four in the North^(5,6).

A consultation of the Sucupira Platform in January 2023 revealed that after twelve years, in 2022, the configuration is as follows: 79 Postgraduate Programs, with 55 academic and 24 professional programs, totaling 118 courses (92 academic and 26 professional). The courses are distributed across the regions as follows: 48 in the Southeast (40 academic and 8 professional); 30 in the Northeast (23 academic and 7 professional); 26 in the South (18 academic and 8 professional); 10 in the Midwest (9 academic and 1 professional); and 4 in the North (2 academic and 2 professional). It is noteworthy that these Postgraduate Programs include 92 academic master's and doctoral courses and 26 professional master's and doctoral courses.⁽⁷⁾

With the growth of PGPs, there has also been a significant increase in GPs related to Nursing

History, demonstrating the consolidation and recognition of historical nursing studies within the academic community. This increase in GPs has led to a rise in scientific production, covering themes such as professional identity in nursing, the institutionalization of nursing, nursing schools, nursing organizational entities, and more.^(2,3)

Historical studies in nursing are not limited to preserving memory and professional identity but also aim for practical application. This is reflected in the use of historical knowledge in the critical training of nurses and in contributing to the understanding of the historical and social contexts of other academic productions on various themes. This approach is crucial to ensuring that the history of nursing effectively contributes to the profession's evolution.

Given the importance of RGs in the Nursing History for the dissemination of knowledge and professional training, this study aims to analyze the profile of these RGs related to Nursing History registered in the CNPq Directory. Analyzing the profile of these RGs is essential to understand the characteristics, trends, and challenges of this field of knowledge.

Method

This is a descriptive documentary study based on the Directory of Research Groups in Brazil Lattes (<http://lattes.cnpq.br/web/dgp>). Data collection occurred in two stages, conducted between November 2022 and January 2023. In the first stage, a search was carried out in the Directory of Research Groups in Brazil Lattes through a parametrized query. The inclusion criterion was for the research group to be certified in the Directory of Research Groups in Brazil Lattes. Exclusion criteria were groups with certification in progress or not updated. The search strategy

utilized the health sciences descriptor (DeCS) "History of Nursing" with exact search restriction, applying the fields "group name," "research line name," and "research line keyword," resulting in a total of 24 records of research groups. From this search, it was found that 5 of these groups were listed as "certification in progress" or "not updated," and thus were excluded from the final sample.

The second stage involved examining the research group leaders' publications by accessing their Lattes Curriculum, available on the Lattes Platform (<https://lattes.cnpq.br/>). The consultation was individualized by the name of each research group leader.

Data collected in the two stages were organized into spreadsheets using Microsoft Excel® 2021 and later transformed into charts, tables, and graphs using the same software. This allowed for the analysis of the regions of the RGs, the institutions to which they are linked, the year of formation, the gender of the leader and the second leader, the number of publications, the predominant area, partner institutions, and the research lines of the certified groups.

It is noteworthy that, as this is a documentary-based study, submission to the Ethics and Research Committee was waived. However, all ethical and authorship aspects were respected.

Results

The final sample consisted of 19 Nursing History RGs. There is a concentration of Rgs in the Brazilian Southeast region (42.10%/n=8), followed by the Northeast region (26.31%/n=5). The Midwest, South, and North regions have 3 (15.78%), 2 (10.52%), and 1 (5.26%) RGs, respectively. See Figure 1.

Figure 1– Regional distribution of Research Groups in Brazil. Rio de Janeiro, RJ, 2023. (N=19)

Source: The authors.

Regarding the gender distribution of the RGs leaders, there is a clear predominance of the female gender, exceeding 70% compared

to the male gender, and reaching 78.6% when considering the data for the second leader, as shown in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1 – Distribution of Leaders by Gender Rio de Janeiro, RJ, 2023. (N=19)

Gender	n	%
Female	14	73.7
Male	5	26.3
Total	19	100

Source: The authors.

Table 2 – Distribution of Second Leaders by Gender. Rio de Janeiro, RJ, 2023. (N=19)

Gender	n	%
Female	11	78.6
Male	3	21.4
Total	14	100

Source: The authors.

When analyzing the relationship between gender and production, it is observed that female leaders of RGs in the Nursing History have higher productivity (41.72), whereas male leaders have

lower productivity (37.75), which is four articles less (3.97). This difference is considered small given the predominance of female leaders.

Table 4 – Distribution of Gender and Publications by Leader and Second Leader. Rio de Janeiro, RJ, 2023. (N=19) (continued)

Gender	Leader and 2nd Leader		Publications		Average Publications per Researcher	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Female	25	75.8	1043	77.5	41.72	52.5

Table 4 – Distribution of Gender and Publications by Leader and Second Leader. Rio de Janeiro, RJ, 2023. (N=19) (conclusion)

Gender	Leader and 2nd Leader		Publications		Average Publications per Researcher	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Male	8	24.2	302	22.5	37.75	47.5
Total	33	100	1345	100	79.47	100

Source: The authors.

Chart 1 presents the RG profile in the Nursing History, considering the year of establishment, RG title, the institutions to which they are affiliated, and the research lines along with the number of articles published by the leaders.

Chart 1 – Distribution of RGs by Year of Establishment, Affiliated Institutions, Research Lines, and Number of Publications by Leaders. Rio de Janeiro, RJ, 2023 (continued)

Year of Establishment	Research Group	Affiliated Institution	Research Lines	Publications	
				1 st Leader	2 nd Líder
1991	<i>Núcleo de Pesquisa e Estudo sobre Quotidiano e Saúde (NUPEQS)</i>	<i>Pontifícia Universidade Católica de Minas Gerais (PUC – Minas)</i>	1. Education and Society; 2. History and Health; 3. Health and Society.	1	3
1995	<i>Laboratório de Pesquisas em História do Conhecimento em Enfermagem e Saúde (GEHCES)</i>	<i>Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina (UFSC)</i>	1. The History of Nursing in Brazil – A Prospective Study; 2. The History of Nursing Education and Practices in Brazil; 3. The History of Nursing Education and Practices in Brazil; 4. Professional Identity in Health and Nursing; 5. Nursing History in Health; 6. Health Care for Physically Disabled Individuals in Santa Catarina – Reality and Challenge.	91	159
2001	<i>História da Enfermagem nas Instituições Brasileiras dos séculos XX e XXI</i>	<i>Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ)</i>	1. Nursing and the Dictatorial Regimes of the 20th Century; 2. Nursing in Military Institutions of the 20th and 21st Centuries.	58	-

Chart 1 – Distribution of RGs by Year of Establishment, Affiliated Institutions, Research Lines, and Number of Publications by Leaders. Rio de Janeiro, RJ, 2023 (continued)

Year of Establishment	Research Group	Affiliated Institution	Research Lines	Publications	
				1 st Leader	2 nd Líder
2002	<i>Educação, História e Saúde Coletiva</i>	<i>Universidade Estadual do Ceará (UECE)</i>	1. Training, Profession, and Social Practices in Public Health; 2. History, Memory, Training, and Professions in Health; 3. Care Practices and Epidemiological Factors in Health.	96	12
2003	<i>Núcleo de Pesquisa, de Ensino em Formação de Recursos Humanos em Saúde (NEFORHUS)</i>	<i>Universidade Estadual de Maringá (UEM)</i>	1. Education, Work, and Human Resources Training in Health; 2. Management in Health/Nursing; 3. Job Market in Health and Nursing.	20	6
2005	<i>Grupo de Pesquisa em História e Legislação da Saúde e da Enfermagem</i>	<i>Universidade Federal do Amazonas (UFAM)</i>	1. Historical and Social Context of Managerial, Educational, Investigative, and Care Practices in Health and Nursing; 2. Legislation and Professional Practice in Nursing.	40	2
2006	<i>Grupo de Estudo D. Isabel Macintyre</i>	<i>Universidade Federal de Alagoas (UFAL)</i>	1. Nursing and Public Health; 2. History of Brazilian/Alagoan Nursing; 3. Ethics and Professional Organization.	47	65

Chart 1 – Distribution of RGs by Year of Establishment, Affiliated Institutions, Research Lines, and Number of Publications by Leaders. Rio de Janeiro, RJ, 2023 (continued)

Year of Establishment	Research Group	Affiliated Institution	Research Lines	Publications	
				1 st Leader	2 nd Líder
2006	<i>Laboratório de Abordagens Científicas na História da Enfermagem (Lacenf)</i>	<i>Universidade Federal do Estado do rio de Janeiro (UNIRIO)</i>	1. Nursing in the Historical-Cultural Context and Its Repercussions on Health Policies; 2. Fundamental and Historical Foundations of Nursing and Health Care; 3. Ethnic, Racial, and Cultural Diversity in Care; 4. History of Technology and Care Related to Nursing; 5. Cultural Representations of Care in the Historiography of Nursing and Health.	12	6
2006	<i>Laboratório de Estudos em História da Enfermagem (LAESHE)</i>	<i>Universidade de São Paulo (USP)</i>	1. Teaching the Nursing History; 2. Studies on Conduct, Ethics, and Knowledge Production in Health; 3. History of Health Institutions and Nursing Schools; 4. Social Image of Nursing and Marketing; 5. The Development of Nursing in Brazil.	31	102
2007	<i>Grupo de Estudos e Pesquisas em Epistemologia e Fundamentos do Cuidar em Saúde e Enfermagem</i>	<i>Universidade de Pernambuco (UPE)</i>	1. Care Fundamentals in Health and Nursing for Health Promotion; 2. Professional Identity and Nursing History; 3. Policies and Process of Care in Adult, Elderly, and Worker Health; 4. Safety and Health Promotion in Various Forms of Care.	85	28

Chart 1 – Distribution of RGs by Year of Establishment, Affiliated Institutions, Research Lines, and Number of Publications by Leaders. Rio de Janeiro, RJ, 2023 (continued)

Year of Establishment	Research Group	Affiliated Institution	Research Lines	Publications	
				1 st Leader	2 nd Líder
2008	<i>Educação e História em Enfermagem e Saúde</i>	<i>Universidade Federal do Piauí (UFPI)</i>	1. The Care Process in Health and Nursing; 2. Socio-Educational Policies and Practices in Nursing	32	91
2008	<i>A trajetória do cuidado de enfermagem em espaços especializados</i>	<i>Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ)</i>	1. The Historical Trajectory of Nursing Care in Specialized Settings	59	-
2012	<i>Grupo de Estudos Integrado</i>	<i>Universidade de Brasília (UnB)</i>	1. Brazilian Nursing: Origins, Professional Formation, and Work Process; 2. Adult Health.	61	24
2015	<i>Grupo de Pesquisa em História da Enfermagem e Saúde (GPHEnFS)</i>	<i>Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso (UFMT)</i>	1. History of Public Policies, Institutions, and Professional Health Practices; 2. Professional Identity, Social Movements, Vulnerable Groups, Human Rights, Knowledge Production, and Training in Health; 3. Mental health.	7	-
2015	<i>Arte, ciência e cuidado em saúde</i>	<i>Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo (UFES)</i>	1. History of Nursing and Public Health in Espírito Santo; 2. Images of Life: Art – Health – History; 3. Life in Harmony: Music and Music Therapy in Health Care.	8	-

Chart 1 – Distribution of RGs by Year of Establishment, Affiliated Institutions, Research Lines, and Number of Publications by Leaders. Rio de Janeiro, RJ, 2023 (conclusion)

Year of Establishment	Research Group	Affiliated Institution	Research Lines	Publications	
				1 st Leader	2 nd Líder
2016	<i>Laboratório de História do Cuidado e Imagem em Enfermagem (LACUIDEN/independente)</i>	<i>Universidade Estácio de Sá (UNESA)</i>	1. Administration and Management in Health and Nursing; 2. Nursing History; 3. Care History; 4. Care Images; 5. Relationships and Communication in Nursing; 6. Child and Adolescent Health.	13	-
2017	<i>Laboratório de Estudos e Pesquisas em História da Enfermagem (LEPHEnf)</i>	<i>Universidade de Brasília (UnB)</i>	1. History of Health Institutions and Nursing Schools; 2. The Development of Nursing in Brazil.	70	27
2019	<i>Núcleo de estudos e pesquisas: história e memória da enfermagem e da saúde no centro-oeste mineiro</i>	<i>Universidade Federal de São João Del-Rei (UFSJ)</i>	1. Nursing History in the Central-Western Region of Minas Gerais; 2. Health History in the Central-Western Region of Minas Gerais; 3. Youth Health.	20	4
2021	<i>Laboratório de estudos e pesquisas em Gestão, Avaliação, História em Enfermagem (GAHE)</i>	<i>Universidade Estadual de Feira de Santana (UEFS)</i>	1. Brazilian Nursing History and Its Relationship with Everyday Nursing; 2. Management and Evaluation in Nursing and Health Services; 3. Professional Identity of the Nurse/Nursing and Its Work Process.	47	18

Source: The authors.

It is noteworthy that, out of the 19 research groups, 14 (73.68%) have both a leader and a second leader, while 5 (26.32%) have only a leader. Publications were considered when published in partnership between the leaders of each research group and independently. All articles and journals were included in the analysis; it was not possible at this time to determine the *Qualis*

of the journals, as they have been updated since the establishment of the research groups up to the date of data collection. It is evident that RGs with both a leader and a second leader have a higher number of publications, as productivity is measured with data from two researchers and often includes collaborative work.

Discussion

The Directory of Research Groups in Brazil Lattes is a database that gathers information on active research groups in Brazil. Created in 1992 by CNPq, its purpose is to provide visibility and transparency to national scientific production. The Directory allows users to search for groups by area of knowledge, institution, region, state, and municipality. It is updated by the group leaders, who are responsible for the accuracy and quality of the information provided⁽⁴⁾. In this directory, 19 research groups in the Nursing History were mapped, which conduct studies on the trajectory, identity, and memory of the profession.

A study⁽³⁾ conducted on the CNPq Directory between August 2008 and August 2010 to investigate the scientific production of RGs in the Nursing History identified 34 RGs. However, it does not specify exclusion criteria for the selection and analysis of these groups. When compared to the 410 groups in the nursing field registered with CNPq, it can be concluded that the data obtained up to 2010 represented 8.29% of the total. However, considering that the field is expanding, a large number of groups does not guarantee the consolidation of research or its quality. The production of RGs in the Nursing History, in terms of projects and publications, could determine their maintenance and strengthening.

The results of this research indicate a growth in the number of RGs in the 2000s. A consultation conducted on the CNPq website revealed that, between 1993 and 2016, the number of RGs increased from 4 to 38,000, the number of participating institutions rose from 99 to 531, and the number of researchers grew from 21 to 199,000, with 130,000 holding doctoral degrees. These data partly reflect a real expansion of the research system^(8,9).

When considering only the RGs registered on the CNPq portal, certified by the educational and research institutions to which they are linked, and updated in the directory, the first research group with studies in the field of the Nursing History was created in 1991 and was called the Center for Research and Studies on Everyday

Health (NUPEQS) at the Pontificia Universidade Católica de Minas Gerais.

A study⁽²⁾ published in 2013 reports that the first research group with historical studies in the field of nursing was created in 1988 and was called the Research Group on Health Policies and Practices (Grupps) at the *Universidade Federal do Ceará* (UFC).

The system PGPs in Brazil was established in the 1970s and was driven by two main incentives: one from the education sector, originating from the University Reform of 1968 and its developments, and the other from the science and technology sector, particularly from the Ministry of Planning and its development agencies, the CNPq and the *Financiadora de Estudos e Projetos* (Finep). The University Reform established that the admission and promotion of professors in universities should be based on their qualifications and scientific production. Additionally, universities were required to progressively increase the number of faculty members hired on a full-time basis^(8,10).

In the science and technology sector, the impetus for creating PGPs came from the need to train professionals capable of working on research and development projects funded by CNPq and Finep. These agencies also began to provide scholarships for students to fully dedicate themselves to studies and research in their postgraduate programs. Thus, the combination of these two incentives led to the creation of a system of postgraduate courses in Brazil that was consolidated over the following decades, becoming an important tool for the development of science and technology in the country⁽⁸⁻¹⁰⁾.

Researchers in Brazil organize their academic production into scientific and technological RGs, associated with universities and other higher education institutions, scientific research institutions, and technological institutes. RGs are composed of members with different levels of involvement, including: researchers (permanent members involved in research activities), students (at the secondary, undergraduate, and postgraduate levels, both *lato sensu* and *stricto sensu*), and technical support staff⁽¹¹⁾.

The CNPq defines research groups as a set of individuals who are hierarchically organized with one or two leaders, who research common topics and share equipment and facilities to some extent⁽⁴⁾. It is important to note that while the increase in the number of RGs and researchers is a positive indicator of the development of research in Brazil, it is not sufficient to assess the quality of the research being produced in the country. Other factors must be considered, such as investments in research, available infrastructure, scientific production, and the impact of research on society. Therefore, it is essential to invest in public policies that encourage the formation of high-quality Research Groups, with adequate resources and a supportive environment for the development of innovative research.

RGs are crucial for the production and dissemination of scientific and technological knowledge in Brazil. Within these groups, researchers dedicate themselves to investigating relevant issues in their fields, seeking to advance knowledge and contribute to the development of the country^(12,13).

Students also play an important role in RGs, as they have the opportunity to participate in research projects and develop the skills and competencies necessary for their academic and professional training^(12,13). The technical support staff, in turn, perform support activities for research, such as maintaining equipment and managing data and information. Each group leader is responsible for defining the participation of each member, taking into account criteria such as the individual's level of qualification, interest, and availability to contribute to the group's activities. The CNPq⁽⁴⁾ does not interfere in this definition, being responsible only for recognizing and fostering the creation and maintenance of RGs.

The 19 RGs identified and selected in this study reveal a predominance of female leaders and second leaders, with a concentration in the Brazilian Southeast and Northeast regions, where the largest number of *Stricto Sensu* PGP in Nursing are located. The results of this study also show a lower number of RGs in Nursing

History compared to the total number of RGs in nursing available in the CNPq Research Groups Directory.

This data is concerning and requires investment from researchers involved in nursing and health history research. Strategies are needed to encourage the participation of undergraduate students in RGs in order to promote the academic and professional training of students⁽¹²⁾. Studies in the Nursing History can contribute to the historical understanding of phenomena involving health and society^(14,15). Additionally, the presence of foreign researchers can enrich the research environment and contribute to the exchange of knowledge and experiences between different cultures and perspectives, broadening the horizon of interests and opportunities for research development from a historical perspective. Interinstitutional partnerships are also important for promoting collaboration between different institutions and researchers, increasing the diversity of perspectives and available resources, and strengthening scientific production in the History of Nursing^(15,16). Therefore, it is crucial for research groups in Nursing to continue seeking ways to encourage the involvement of undergraduate students and international researchers, expand technological resources, and foster interinstitutional partnerships. These efforts will advance scientific progress and enhance the quality of health care provided to the population.

The data from this research identified several themes that account for the majority of the RGs production. These themes include: Professional identity of nursing, Institutionalization of nursing, Nursing schools, Organizational entities of nursing, Nursing specialties. These themes are largely related to contemporary nursing practices or their implications, which may serve as a motivating factor for investment by the members of the research groups.

Regarding the GPs leaders and second leaders' publications, obtained through consultations with *Curriculum Lattes*, considering a follow-up of their productions such as scientific articles, books, and book chapters, it was found that

25 (75.8%) are women with 1,043 (77.5%) bibliographic productions, and 8 (24.2%) are men with 302 (22.5%) productions. However, when analyzing the average productions of these leaders and second leaders, it was observed that although the number of leaders and second leaders of the analyzed GPs is predominantly female, this analysis did not reflect an equally significant average of bibliographic production. The higher productivity among female leaders aligns with the feminization rate of the profession and researchers in the field of Nursing History. The average number of publications for female researchers was 41.72 (52.5%), while for male researchers it was 37.75 (47.5%), resulting in a difference of only 3.97 more publications for female researchers compared to male researchers, which represents a 5% percentage difference.

A study⁽⁸⁾ that analyzes the scientific productions of Brazilian researchers found that, in absolute numbers, there is a prevalence of bibliographic productions over technical productions and a strong contrast between the social sciences, letters, and arts on one hand, and other areas regarding the number of publications in international journals. This is more due to the fields characteristics rather than an indicator of quality. Social sciences, humanities, letters, and arts tend to have fewer publications in international journals compared to other fields. This is partly due to the fact that much of this research is conducted in the local language and published in regional or national journals. However, this does not mean that the quality of this research is inferior to that published in international journals⁽¹⁷⁾.

The research quality cannot be measured solely by the number of publications in international journals. It is necessary to consider other factors, such as the originality of the research, the methodology used, and the contribution to advancing knowledge in the field, among others. Moreover, each field has its own characteristics and publication norms, which can influence the frequency and type of publications produced.

An important aspect that hinders the development of research with the potential to

shape public policy and enhance social well-being relates to governments that adopt a hostile stance towards the scientific community. Science is crucial for advancing knowledge and informing evidence-based decision-making. The censorship of studies that conflict with government policies can undermine researchers' ability to communicate their findings. It is crucial that governments respect the independence of the scientific community and support research that can help guide public policies. Academic freedom is essential for scientific progress and the preservation of social well-being. Policies that aim to limit or censor research can impair society's ability to address its challenges.^(18,19)

The RGs in Nursing reflect their structural and political advancements in generating science, technology, and innovation in the field. However, there is still a need to encourage the participation of undergraduate students and foreign researchers, as well as to expand technological resources and interinstitutional partnerships.⁽¹¹⁾

Research groups in Nursing have played a fundamental role in generating scientific knowledge in the field and contributing to the structural and political advancement of nursing as a profession. Historical research approaches significantly contribute to this understanding during the training of nursing undergraduates and professionals.

Final Considerations

It is essential that RGs related to the Nursing History focus on high-quality projects and publications to strengthen and consolidate this field of knowledge. Furthermore, it is necessary that the knowledge produced is utilized by the academic community and in the professional training process of nursing, to expand studies in this area and promote its development.

It is noteworthy that the observed differences in productivity by gender are consistent with the predominance of women in both the research field and the nursing profession.

It is important to emphasize that the quality of the knowledge produced, along with its

application in the critical training of nurses and in understanding the historical and social contexts of various academic topics, are key factors determining the relevance of historical studies in nursing. This implies leveraging historical findings to influence policies, teaching practices, and health care, thereby strengthening the field of Nursing History and ensuring its continued impact on professional training and practice.

Therefore, while a significant number of Research Groups in the Nursing History is important, the quality of the knowledge produced and its application are the most critical factors for ensuring the maintenance and strengthening of this research area. Production in this field is concentrated in the Southeast and Northeast regions of the country and is predominantly led by female researchers, reflecting the broader profile in Brazilian nursing.

Collaborations:

1 – conception and planning of the project: Gabriella Picoli dos Santos Faustino e Antonio José de Almeida Filho;

2 – analysis and interpretation of data: Gabriella Picoli dos Santos Faustino e Antonio José de Almeida Filho;

3 – writing and/or critical review: Gabriella Picoli dos Santos Faustino, Rosane Barreto Cardoso, Camila Pureza Guimarães da Silva, Patrícia dos Santos Augusto, Tânia Cristina Franco Santos e Antonio José de Almeida Filho;

4 – approval of the final version: Gabriella Picoli dos Santos Faustino, Rosane Barreto Cardoso, Camila Pureza Guimarães da Silva, Patrícia dos Santos Augusto, Tânia Cristina Franco Santos e Antonio José de Almeida Filho.

Conflicts of interests

There is no conflict of interest

References

1. Carlos DJD, Bellaguarda MLR, Padilha MI. The document as a primary source in nursing and health studies: a reflection. *Esc Anna Nery*. 2022;26:e20210312. DOI: 10.1590/2177-9465-EAN-2021-0312
2. Padilha MI, Coelho FA, Alves MIC, Vieira VM, Venier ZG, Sell C. Tendências recentes da produção em história da enfermagem no Brasil. *História, Ciências, Saúde - Manguinhos* [Internet]. 2013[cited 2023 Jun 10];20(2):695-707. Available from: <https://www.redalyc.org/articulo.oa?id=386138075019>
3. Padilha MI, Borenstein MS, Carvalho MAL, Ferreira AC. Grupos de pesquisa em história da enfermagem: a realidade brasileira. *Rev esc enferm USP*. 2012;46(1):192-9. DOI: 10.1590/S0080-62342012000100026
4. Brasil. National Council for Scientific and Technological Development. CNPq - Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico [Internet]. Brasília (DF): CNPq [cited 2023 Jul 10]. Available from: <https://www.gov.br/mcti/pt-br/composicao/rede-mcti/conselho-nacional-de-desenvolvimento-cientifico-e-tecnologico>
5. Carregal FAS, Santos BM, Souza HP, Santos FBO, Peres MAA, Padilha MICS. Historicity of nursing graduate studies in Brazil: an analysis of the Sociology of the Professions. *Rev Bras Enferm*. 2021;74(6):e20190827. <https://doi.org/10.1590/0034-7167-2019-0827>
6. Parada CMGL, Nichiata LI, Kantorski LP. A enfermagem no contexto da pós-graduação brasileira. *J. nurs. health*. 2019;9(2):e199211. DOI: 10.15210/jonah.v9i2.16756
7. Brasil. *Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior* (CAPES). Relatório de avaliação 2017-2020 - Quadrienal 2021 [Internet]. Brasília (DF): CAPES [cited 2023 Jul 10]. Available from: https://www.gov.br/capes/pt-br/centrais-de-conteudo/documentos/avaliacao/19122022_RelatriodaAvaliaodareaenfermagemfinal.pdf
8. Schwartzman S. Pesquisa e Pós-Graduação no Brasil: duas faces da mesma moeda?. *Estud av* [Internet]. 2022[Jan];36(104):227-54. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1590/s0103-4014.2022.36104.011>
9. Guimarães EAA, Laerte Gontijo T, Barroso Rodrigues S. A pós-graduação stricto sensu em enfermagem e a formação de pesquisadores. *R. Enferm. Cent. O. Min*. 2019;9:eEditorial. DOI: 10.19175/recom.v9i0.3602.
10. Braggio AK. A gênese da reforma universitária brasileira. *Rev Bras Hist Educ*. 2019;19:e073.Doi: 10.4025/rbhe.v19.2019.e073

11. Erdmann AL, Peiter CC, Lanzoni GMM. Grupos de pesquisa em enfermagem no Brasil: comparação dos perfis de 2006 e 2016. *Rev Gaúcha Enferm.* 2017;38(2):e69051. DOI: 10.1590/1983-1447.2017.02.69051
12. Azevedo IC, Silva RCL, Carvalho DPSRP, Cruz GKP, Lima JVH, Ferreira Júnior MA. Importância do grupo de pesquisa na formação do estudante de enfermagem. *Rev Enferm UFSM.* 2018 ;8(2):390-8. DOI: 10.5902/ 2179769226003
13. Araújo HMA, Araújo MAC. Contribuições do grupo de pesquisa na formação acadêmica de enfermagem. *Revista Remecs [Internet].* 2021;112. [cited 2023 Jul 10]. Available from: <https://revistaremeccs.com.br/index.php/remecs/article/view/764>
14. Moraes A, Guariente MHDM, Garanhani ML, Carvalho BG. The nurse training in research in the undergraduate education: teaching perceptions. *Rev Bras Enferm.* 2018;71(Suppl 4):1556-63. DOI:10.1590/0034-7167-2017-0511
15. Taffner VBM, Pimentel RRS, Valóta IAC, Ribeiro AAA, Silva LH, Piber RS, et al. Theses and dissertations about the history of nursing. *J Nurs UFPE on line.* 2019;13:e242905 DOI: 10.5205/1981-8963.2019.242905
16. Jesus LA, Sant'Anna MV, Silva GTR, Porto FR. Ensino da história da enfermagem. *Rev enferm UERJ, Rio de Janeiro,* 2022; 30:e69280. DOI: 10.12957/reuerj.2022.69280
17. Luchesi LB Falchi AL, Porto F, Padilha MI, Lima CCCA, Lana FCF. Biblioteca Virtual em História da Enfermagem: histórico e orientações aos pesquisadores. *Temperamentvm.* 2022; 18: e14057. DOI:10.58807/tmptvm20225133.
18. McManus C, Baeta NAA. Production profiles in Brazilian Science, with special attention to social sciences and humanities. *Scientometrics.* 2021; 126: 2413–2435. DOI: 10.1007/s11192-020-03452-2
19. Barata RCB. Avaliação da produção acadêmica. *Avaliação (Campinas).* 2022;27(3):429–45. DOI: 10.1590/S1414-40772022000300003

Received: October 1st, 2023

Accepted: July 25, 2024

Published: September 18, 2024



The *Revista Baiana de Enfermagem* use the Creative Commons license – Attribution -NonComercial 4.0 International.

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>

This article is an Open Access distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons (CC BY-NC). This license lets others remix, adapt and create upon your work to non-commercial use, and although new works must give its due credit and can not be for comercial purposes, the users do not have to license such derivative works under the same terms