

# Challenges Of Nursing Care In Times Of Pandemics

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## **Abstract**

A documentary review was carried out on the production and publication of research papers related to the study of the variable Challenges of Nursing Care in times of Pandemic. The purpose of the bibliometric analysis proposed in this document is to know the main characteristics of the volume of publications registered in Scopus database during the period 2020-2021 in Latin American countries, achieving the identification of 200 publications. The information provided by this platform was organized by means of tables and figures, categorizing the information by Year of Publication, Country of Origin, Area of Knowledge and Type of Publication. Once these characteristics were described, the position of different authors regarding the proposed topic was referenced by means of a qualitative analysis. Among the main findings of this research, it is found that Brazil, with 150 publications, is the Latin American country with the highest production. The Area of Knowledge that made the greatest contribution to the construction of bibliographic material referring to the study of Challenges of Nursing Care in times of Pandemic was nursing with 112 published documents, and the Type of Publication that was most used during the period indicated above was the Journal Article, which represents 85% of the total scientific production.

**Keywords:** Nursing, Pandemic, COVID 19

## **I. Introduction**

The health emergency declared due to COVID 19 at the beginning has meant a change in the way individuals relate as a society and also in the provision of various services. The health area was one of those that suffered more changes in their procedures and influenced the creation of new medical requirements in times of pandemic. In the nursing area, the pandemic changed the way in which patients were cared for, this being the essence of the profession. In nursing there are several challenges both ethical and sanitary measures for the correct fulfillment of their work. Bellver Capella (2020) identifies ethical problems that may arise in nursing, which are: the conflict between patient care and the nurse's self-care, the conflict in the distribution of scarce

resources among patients and the duty of self-care. These ethical problems arise because the nurse is the person who has the most contact with the patient, and therefore becomes a fundamental part of his or her care, but this in turn in times of pandemic puts the nurse's health at risk when the necessary measures cannot be taken to avoid contagion. The challenges in sanitary measures become much more evident in Latin America as it is a vulnerable population, so that sometimes and in specific regions there are not the necessary equipment to ensure compliance with biosecurity measures necessary to provide an optimal health service without affecting the health of the nursing group.

Nursing has had a very important role in the prevention and treatment of COVID 19 since

it has greater contact in the provision of health services, so Contreras and Sierra (2020) highlight the need for Nursing to adapt to the human response, to promote the art of care, seeking a means to bring treatment closer and transcend it in the encounter of filial love. This is due to the fact that in cases of severity, the only human contacts the patient will have will be with his nurse, so that in times of pandemic the need for interpersonal practices increases.

Another challenge that nurses have faced is the rejection in some cases in social places as health professionals since the beginning of the pandemic, since there is fear of a possible contagion, so it is also a challenge to raise social awareness of the role of nurses in the treatment of COVID 19. Therefore, it is important to know in terms of bibliographic resources, the current state of research on the Challenges of Nursing Care in times of Pandemic in Latin America, so it is proposed a bibliometric analysis of the scientific production registered in Scopus database during the period 2020-2021 to answer the question: How has been the production and publication of research papers related to the study of the variable Challenges of Nursing

Care in times of Pandemic in Latin America during the period 2020-2021?

## 2. General Objective

To analyze from a bibliometric and bibliographic perspective, the production of high impact research papers on the variable Challenges of Nursing Care in times of Pandemic in Latin America during the period 2020-2021.

## 3. Methodology

Quantitative analysis of the information provided by Scopus is performed under a bibliometric approach on the scientific production regarding the Challenges of Nursing Care in times of Pandemic. Likewise, it is analyzed from a qualitative perspective, examples of some research works published in the area of study mentioned above, from a bibliographic approach to describe the position of different authors on the proposed topic.

The search is performed through the tool provided by Scopus and the parameters referenced in Table 1 are established.

### 3.1 Methodological design

	PHASE	DESCRIPTION	CLASSIFICATION
PHASE 1	DATA COLLECTION	Data was collected using the Scopus web page search tool, through which a total of 200 publications were identified.	Published papers whose study variables are related to Challenges of Nursing Care in times of Pandemic Research papers published during the period 2020-2021. Limited to Latin American countries. Without distinction of area of knowledge. Without distinction of type of publication.
PHASE 2	CONSTRUCTION OF ANALYSIS MATERIAL	The information identified in the previous phase is	Word Co-occurrence. Year of publication

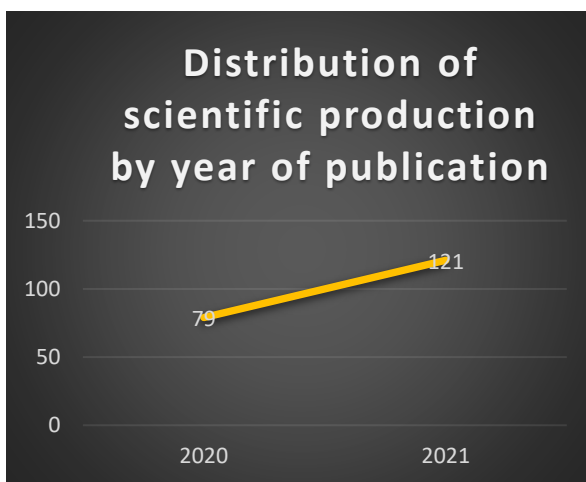


**Source:** Own elaboration (2021); based on data provided by Scopus.

The most used keywords in the research related to the variables under study are human and COVID 19 which is the framework in which research is developed about nursing care in times of pandemic which is the essence of this profession. Pandemic, public health and patient care are other keywords used in this research, these refer to the modification in the care of health care jobs due to the crisis thanks to COVID 19 taking different measures to provide health services in the most biosecure way possible for the preservation of public health, so that nursing care becomes important both for the prevention and treatment of COVID 19 and for diseases not associated with this. Keywords such as primary health care, nursing role, and adaptation are found to relate to the measures adopted for the provision of essential and emergency services during the pandemic in the early 2020s by nurses in order to provide optimal services to the community.

#### 4.2 Distribution of scientific production by year of publication.

Figure 2 shows how the scientific production is distributed according to the year of publication, taking into account that the period from 2015 to 2020 is taken.



**Figure 2.** Distribution of scientific production by year of publication.

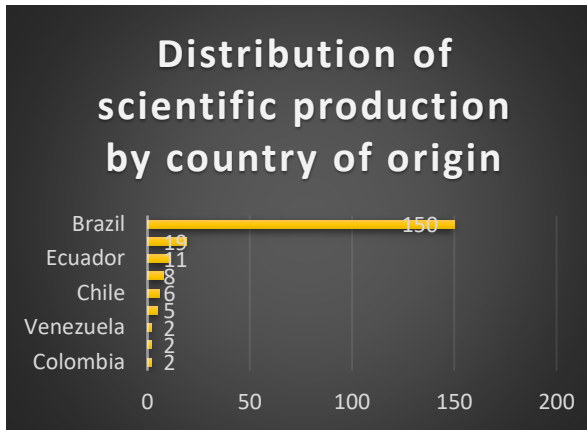
**Source:** Own elaboration (2021); based on data provided by Scopus.

The year 2021 is the period of time with the highest number of publications with a total of 121 documents among which is "Supervised curricular nursing internship in the Covid-19 pandemic: experience in the Brasil Conta Comigo program" (Souza, et al., 2021). the main objective of this study is to report on the supervised curricular nursing internship in the "O Brasil Conta Comigo" program carried out in the Covid-19 pandemic. This program helped in strengthening the active role in the teaching-learning process and teaching-service approach, with the student as the connection point, which resulted in the implementation of actions to combat the pandemic, so it was concluded with the contributions of assistance and management in the actions to combat the new coronavirus in the field of primary care for nursing students.

2020 registers 79 documents published in Scopus related to the Challenges of Nursing Care in times of Pandemic, among which is the one entitled "Nursing before covid-19, a key point for the prevention, control and mitigation of the pandemic" (Cadena-Estrada, et al., 2020). This research aims to describe the nursing experience before COVID-19 as a key point for the prevention, control and mitigation of the pandemic where the measures adopted by health agencies are studied and the challenges faced by nurses are determined, thus helping to find new ways to assist in the mitigation of COVID 19 cases Based on the recommendations issued by the Ministry of Health, clinical evidence and resources available in health institutions.

#### 4.3 Distribution of scientific production by country of origin.

Figure 3 shows the distribution of scientific production according to the nationality of the authors.



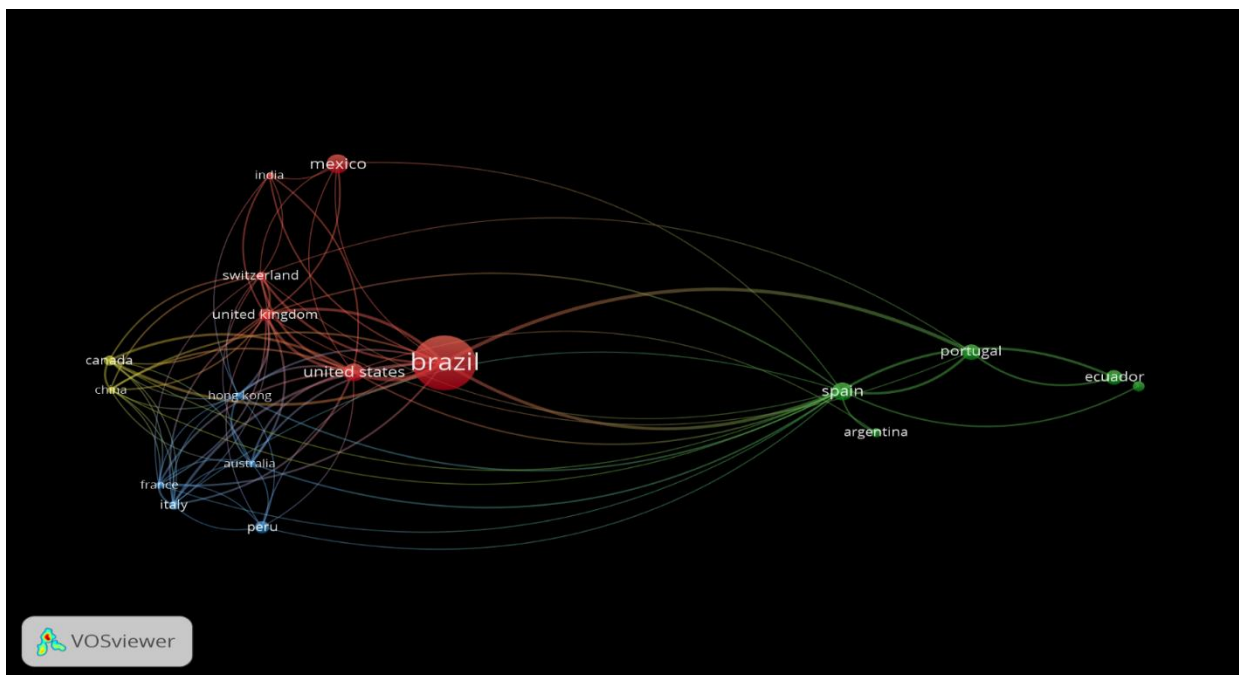
**Figure 3.** Distribution of scientific production by country of origin.

**Source:** Own elaboration (2021); based on data provided by Scopus.

Brazil is the Latin American country with the greatest contribution in research related to the variables under study having a total of 150 publications registered within which is "A picture is worth a thousand words: a photovoice study that explores the experiences of health professionals during the pandemic of COVID-19" (Badanta, Acevedo-Aguilera,

Lucchetti, & de Diego-Cordero, 2021). This study seeks to understand the experiences and perspectives of health professionals working on the front line in the COVID-19 pandemic through a qualitative descriptive study using Photovoice to 20 health professionals, where we found (1) Personal attitudes of health professionals; (2) Community support; and (3) Management of institutional resources. Concluding that there is a strong sense of community responsibility on the part of health professionals.

At this point it is worth noting that the production of scientific publications, when classified by country of origin, presents a special characteristic and that is the collaboration between authors with different affiliations to both public and private institutions, and these institutions can be from the same country or from different nationalities, so that the production of an article co-authored by different authors from different countries of origin allows each of the countries to add up as a unit in the overall publications. This is best explained in Figure 4, which shows the flow of collaborative work from different countries.



#### Figure 4. Co-citations between countries.

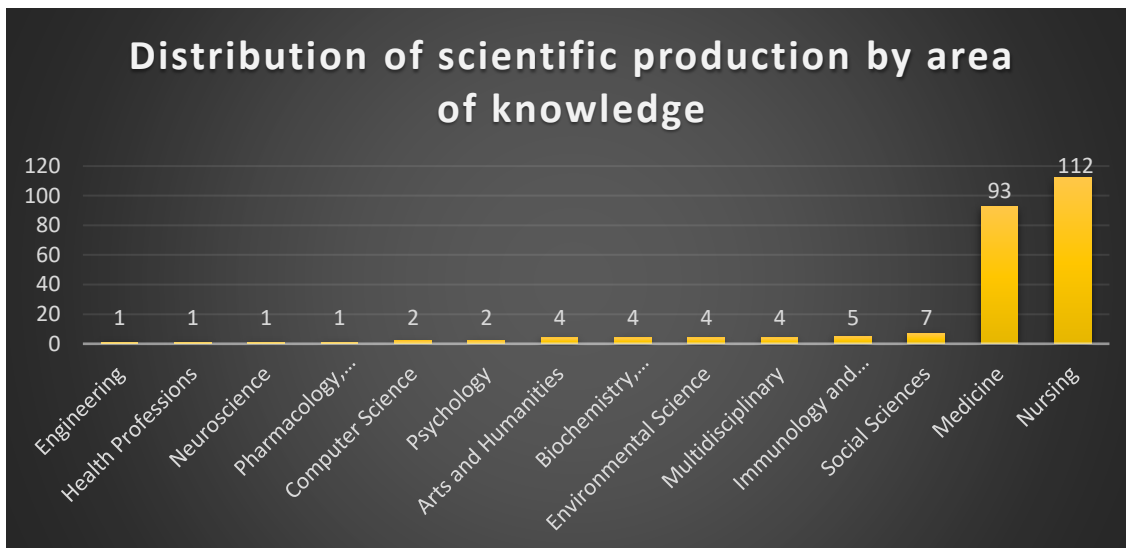
**Source:** Own elaboration (2021); based on data provided by Scopus.

As mentioned above, Brazil is the country with the greatest contribution to research on the Challenges of Nursing Care in times of Pandemic, presenting documents in collaboration with authors affiliated with organizations that do not belong to Latin American countries such as Spain, the United States, Italy and Portugal, demonstrating the importance of this topic and offering a more complete vision of the current state of this research. In second place is Mexico, which also has collaboration with authors affiliated to organizations from Switzerland, United Kingdom, Canada and China mainly. Within these documents is the article entitled "Home art therapy techniques as nursing care for older

adults in contingency by covid-19" (Albañil-Delgado, Aguilar, & Guerrero-Castañeda, 2020). This study presents home art therapy techniques as nursing care for older adults in contingency by COVID-19 as an alternative to help improve the mental health of older adults in their homes, as well as to promote cognitive stimulation, mobility and expression of emotions and avoid their exposure to risks as these activities are done from home, therefore, their benefits involve physical, social, emotional and spiritual well-being.

#### 4.4 Distribution of scientific production by area of knowledge

Figure 5 shows how the production of scientific publications is distributed according to the area of knowledge through which the different research methodologies are executed.



**Figure 5.** Distribution of scientific production by area of knowledge.

**Source:** Own elaboration (2021); based on data provided by Scopus.

Nursing is the area of knowledge that presents the greatest contribution in research related to the Challenges of Nursing Care in times of Pandemic, having a total of 112 documents published in Scopus, among which is "Experiences of nursing performance in the

Stroke Unit during the pandemic by COVID-19" (Romero, 2021). This research evokes the social transformations and the health institutions that have taken place thanks to COVID 19, which requires health personnel to face new challenges so that new strategies for the organization of services and their provision are employed in the care, for which it was concluded that the population of health professionals studied presents an effective adaptive reaction to the threatening situation of the pandemic. They focused on the strict

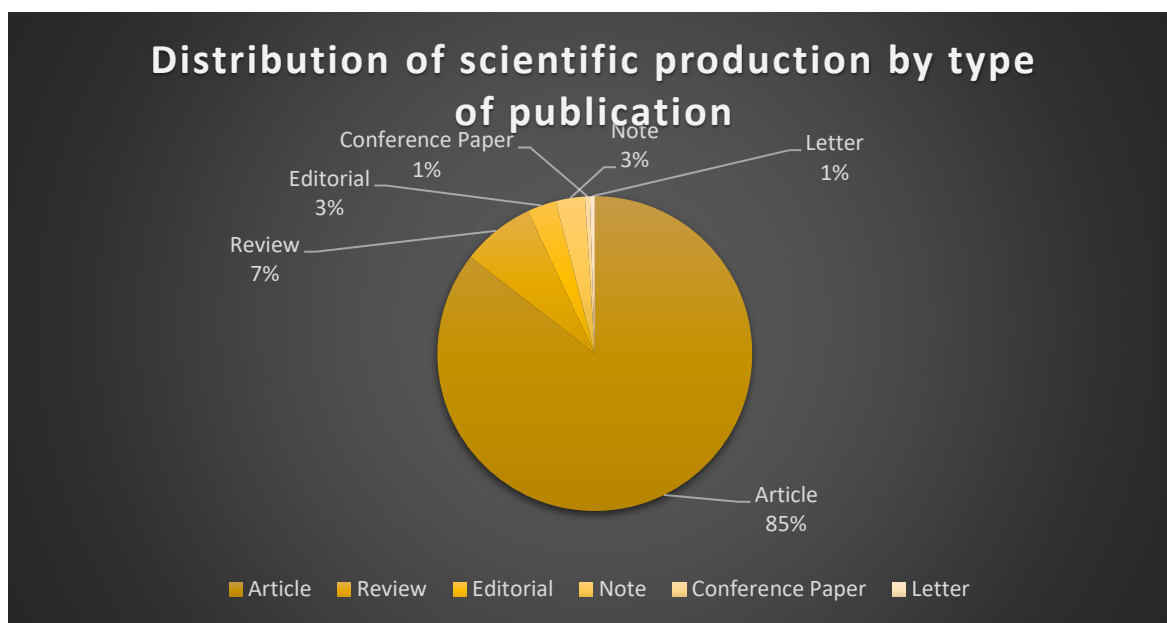
application of the established biosecurity protocol and guaranteed a continuous and quality assistance.

In second place is Medicine with 95 publications registered in Scopus, among which is the article entitled "Evaluation of the nursing process in the care of patients with COVID-19 in referral hospitals", in this study it is determined how the nursing process has developed in the health care of patients with COVID-19 in Brazilian hospitals (Romero, Evaluation of the nursing process in care of patients with COVID-19 in reference hospitals, 2021). This study determines how the nursing process has been developed in the health care of patients with COVID-19 in

hospitals in Brazil, which in times of pandemic is the Latin American country with the highest number of confirmed cases of COVID-19. Through this study, it was concluded that the nursing process in health entities in Brazil is still a fragility of the profession, since its phases are interrelated and successive, and the rupture of this cycle compromises the effectiveness of the care provided.

#### 4.5 Type of publication

Figure 6 shows how the bibliographic production is distributed according to the type of publication chosen by the authors.



**Figure 6.** Type of publication

**Source:** Own elaboration (2021); based on data provided by Scopus.

As shown in Figure 6, within the different types of publications, 85% of the total number of documents identified through Phase 1 of the Methodological Design, correspond to Journal Articles, reviews represent 7% of the registered documents, among which is "Nursing now and the role of nursing in the context of the pandemic and the current work"

(Oliveira, Freitas, Araújo, & Gomes, 2020). This review has as its main objective to review the related literature on the changes that nursing has undergone thanks to COVID 19 through a theoretical reflection based on scientific literature, where the importance of Nursing care for the maintenance of life and the right to health is highlighted, and the Nursing Now Campaign is in line with the call for recognition of nursing professionals who are currently at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19.

In third place are the editorials with 3% of the total number of registered publications, followed by the notes with 3%, among which is "First line nursing care: the COVID-19 pandemic and the Brazilian health system" (Bolina, Bomfim, & Lopes-Júnior, 2020). This study determines the strengths and weaknesses of nursing in the mitigation of COVID-19 cases in Brazil, evidencing that front-line nurses have a fundamental role in the prevention and response to COVID-19, not only by providing direct assistance to patients and communities, but also in the implementation of prevention and health promotion strategies.

## 5. conclusions

Thanks to the bibliometric analysis proposed in this research, it can be determined that Brazil is the Latin American country with the largest number of bibliographic records in the Scopus database during the period between 2020 and 2021 with a total of 150 documents. The scientific production related to the study of the Challenges of Nursing Care in times of Pandemic, has presented an important growth during the period previously indicated, going from 79 publications in 2020 to 121 units in 2021, that is, it was possible to increase the creation of bibliographic records in a period of 5 years, which indicates the importance of determining the challenges that in the framework of the pandemic thanks to COVID 19 are presented in nursing and in the implications in the provision of health service.

Care is the essence of nursing, but thanks to the pandemic this has had certain modifications in its execution by implementing biosecurity measures to maintain the health of both the patient and the professional, so in nursing there are several challenges as these professionals are the ones who maintain greater contact with patients. In the functions that were created in the framework of the pandemic is to prevent, treat and mitigate the cases of COVID 19, but in the context where this study is developed, Latin America, most health institutions do not have the necessary resources for the treatment of all patients and in the most vulnerable regions do

not have the necessary uniforms for all health professionals. A great ethical challenge in nursing today is the care of patients and the professional's self-care since, although the aim is to comply with the patient's rights, an ethical conflict is generated when the professional's health is at risk and he/she must determine what is more relevant or what measures can be taken to reduce the probability of contagion in the care of patients. Therefore, it is important to know the challenges currently faced by nurses in the treatment of patients with COVID 19 and what solutions are available in order to achieve the objectives of health professionals. That is why the need for studies such as the one presented in the present document is highlighted, which make a tour of those texts that address the aforementioned topic, in order to give the reader a broad view of the current situation of the literature on the Challenges of Nursing Care in times of Pandemic.

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