# 11 - CHARACTERISTICS OF SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN INVOLVING VIOLENCE, INJURY AND TRAUMA: A BIBLIOGRAPHIC STUDY

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## INTRODUCTION

The interpretative studies on the subject of violence had emphasis from the 80s. It was in this decade that it has a better interpretation of social relations that deserve to be designated as violence. In contrast, the more visible the phenomenon, the greater the challenges that arose as a way to explain the social theories of violence (MINAYO et al., 1989; DESLANDES, 2000).

In the 90s, with the increment of globalization, society goes through several transformations as the shift of power, production, market and culture, which directly affect the sociability patterns of the population. As a result of these factors, Brazil and most Latin American countries, were marked by poverty and social exclusion and coupled with worsening of neoliberal economic policies, gives conditions for the growth of violence (PINHEIRO, 1997).

And it is this scenario, where the inequality and exclusion are added to injustice and impunity feelings, that violence has become increasingly evident in society (WIEVIORKA, 1997).

In the Americas, every year, are killed more than 300 thousand people by violence, suicide or accidents. Violence is the third leading cause of death in people aged between 15 and 44 years in Latin America (PAHO, 2003). From this perspective, violence, besides configuring itself as a burden factor on health services, has an impact on the productive segment of society, once it produces transient or permanent disability in individuals, and can lead other to death in their productive phase of life (MINAYO, 2005; WAISELFISZ, 2007).

From these evidences, it is stated that violence is a problem that produces threat to life, physical integrity, life quality, and is the precursor of injuries and trauma, constituting a major public health problem, not restricted only in this sector, but the society (DESLANDES, 2000).

In that sense, it is essential to identify a situation in which lay the research on the impact of violence and its consequences affecting victims of external causes (EC's) giving entry to emergency services. It's important to find evidence aimed at improving the quality of care for victims of violence, and facilitate the development of coping strategies for the prevention of these diseases, focused on reducing the incidence of violence, and their consequences.

Aware of the magnitude of detrimental consequences of violence, the next research question is being built: what are the trends of scientific production in Latin America and the Caribbean, involving victims of violence, their injuries and trauma? To answer this question, we had the following objectives:

Examine the scientific production of Latin America and the Caribbean, involving violence, injury and trauma published from 2004 to August 2008, in the databases of Literature Latin American and Caribbean Health Sciences (LILACS), indexed in Virtual Health Library / Regional Library of Medicine (BVS/BIREME).

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

This is a bibliographic research of scientific literature on violence involving injuries and trauma. Ferrari (1982) argues that bibliographic studies show the ideology, the technical, scientific and political directing, and central and underlying concerns about the searched theme.

As technique, the literature research understands the reading, selection, register and filing relevant topics to the search in agenda, in order to know the scientific contributions that were made of some issue (FERRARI, 1982).

To that end, there was performed a bibliographical retrospective of the past 05 years (2004 to August/2008), by means of LILACS database, in the BVS/BIREME, using the descriptors: "violence" and "injuries and trauma" (*violence and wounds and injuries; violencia y heridas y traumatismos*), according to the classification of descriptors in the health sciences.

The criteria for inclusion of articles for this review pointed out studies on the subject under study published in the period 2004 to August 2008, in English, Portuguese and Spanish languages, in the form of full text or abstract. The exclusion criteria focused on the studies that do not respond to questions. The cohort of study period is justified by ensuring the data updating, focusing on trends of the examined investigations.

In this sense, there were a total of 18 articles in LILACS, where all were selected after refinement. It was used for data collection a memorandum containing information about the year that was published the study, the type of methodology used (descriptive, theoretical review, action research, exploratory, experimental, case study and experience report), the method used (quantitative, qualitative, quantitative/qualitative), the form of publication (abstract or full-text), language and main thematic study (strategies for prevention, genocide, violence in traffic, physical attacks by EC's, physical attacks to women, children and elderly). This instrument was submitted to approval of three researcher nurses on the clarity, objectivity and content, being is considered appropriate for the studied object.

The data were analyzed using the descriptive statistics and presented in the tables.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table 01 below shows how characterized are the publications involving violence, injuries and trauma in Latin America and the Caribbean, according to the year of publication, the type of study, the method and form of publication.

**TABLE 01 - Characterization of studies on violenc e, injuries and trauma in Latin America and the Caribbean, published in BVS/BIREME from 2004 to August 2008, according to the year, type of study, method and form of publication. Natal / RN - 2008.**

| VARIABLES | TOTAL | |
|---|---|---|
| | N | % |
| **Year** | | |
| 2006 | 6 | 33,3 |
| 2007 | 5 | 27,8 |
| 2005 | 4 | 22,2 |
| 2004 | 3 | 16,7 |
| 2008 | 0 | 0,0 |
| **Type of study** | | |
| Descriptive | 14 | 77,8 |
| Theoretical Review | 4 | 22,2 |
| **Method** | | |
| Quantitative | 12 | 66,7 |
| Qualitative | 6 | 33,3 |
| Quantitative/qualitative | 0 | 0,0 |
| **Form of publication** | | |
| Full-text | 13 | 72,2 |
| Abstract | 5 | 27,8 |
| **Total** | **18** | **100,0** |

Table 01 shows that most studies (33.3%) were published in 2006, followed by 2007 with 27.8%. In 2008 there has been no publication yet on the subject under investigation.

The year 2005 brought up the publication of the book "The impact of violence on the health of Brazilian" by the Secretariat of Health Surveillance of the Ministry of Health and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), which showed the importance of knowledge continuous production with the purpose of subsidizing the establishment of public policies to violence confrontation. Accordingly, it was to be expected that in the succeeding years since 2005, there was an increase in the scientific literature on violence (BRAZIL, 2005).

Regarding the type of study, the descriptive (77.8%) was the most used, followed the theoretical literature reviews (22.2%). The descriptive are widely used in investigation on violence, once it seeks a description of phenomena in natural settings, looking deeply into practices, attitudes and behaviors of individuals or groups in real life (POLIT; HUNGLER, 1995).

As for the method most used in research, we found the qualitative method with 66.7% of the publications, followed by the qualitative one with 33.3%. This can be explained by the case studies that addressed the injuries and trauma caused by involvement in violent acts that are quantitatively reported both in hospitals and in police.

The more available forms of publication were the full-text (72.2%), followed with 27.8%. This finding was very significant, as provided in full consultation of the selected studies.

In this second time, will be made the presentation of Table 02, with data on the according to the language, thematic and the country where the study was developed.

**TABLE 02 - Characterization of studies on violence, injuries and trauma in Latin America and the Caribbean, published in BVS/BIREME from 2004 to August 2008, about the language, thematic and country of publication. Natal / RN - 2008.**

| VARIABLES | TOTAL | |
|---|---|---|
| | N | % |
| **Language** | | |
| Spanish | 9 | 50,0 |
| Portuguese | 8 | 44,4 |
| English | 1 | 5,6 |
| **Thematic** | | |
| Violence on traffic | 5 | 27,8 |
| Physical aggression by EC's | 4 | 22,2 |
| Physical aggression against women | 4 | 22,2 |
| Preventive strategies | 3 | 16,7 |
| Genocides | 1 | 5,6 |
| Physical aggression against children | 1 | 5,6 |
| **Country** | | |
| Brazil | 9 | 50,0 |
| Colombia | 3 | 16,7 |
| Chile | 2 | 11,1 |
| Argentina | 1 | 5,6 |
| Mexico | 1 | 5,6 |
| Guatemala | 1 | 5,6 |
| Paraguay | 1 | 5,6 |
| **Total** | **18** | **100,0** |

As for language, 50.0% of jobs were available in Spanish, followed by the Portuguese (44.4%) and English (5.6%). The largest amount of studies in the Spanish language is given to the fact of being the predominant language in Latin America and the Caribbean.

On the detected subject, the violence in traffic (27.8%) was highlighted as a cause of a greater number of injuries and trauma found in the studies. In second place were the physical aggression by EC's (22.2%), among which are homicides as the largest precursors of this index and physical aggression against women (22.2%). The most significant third issue were the studies that addressed the creation of strategies for the prevention of violence (16.7%) as a way to prevent the occurrence of injuries.

As the country that more focused studies in this area, there was a highlight for Brazil with 50.0%, followed by Colombia (16.7%) and Chile, with 11.1% of selected publications.

## CONCLUSIONS

The results of this study have enabled us to conclude that: the scientific production of Latin America and the Caribbean, involving violence, injury and trauma published from 2004 to August 2008 in the LILACS database, are characterized by being most published in 2006 (33.3%) with a descriptive study form (77.8%), and quantitative method (66.7%); more available

in the form of full-text (72, 2%), in Spanish language (50.0%); as the injuries and trauma factor stood out the violence that occurred in traffic (27.8%), and Brazil (50.0%) was the country that most published in last 5 years.

The discussion on the impact of such studies requires a rethink about the social commitment of its research and production. This production is historically determined and socially situated to suggest guidelines or solve problems that affect a particular social segment. With these results, it is intended to contribute to the development of coping strategies for the prevention of these diseases, with emphasis on reducing the incidence of violence and its serious consequences.

It follows, therefore, that the priority is to continue to carry out research on those topics and, at the same time, investing in the development of researches directed to the clinical severity of injuries caused by violence, contributing to a better preparation of health professionals who work in the healthcare assistance of these victims.

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**CHARACTERISTICS OF SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN INVOLVING VIOLENCE, INJURY AND TRAUMA: A BIBLIOGRAPHIC STUDY**

**ABSTRACT**

Violence is a problem that produces threat to life, physical integrity, life quality, and is the precursor of several injuries and trauma, constituting a major public health problem, not restricted only in this sector, but the whole society. In this sense, it is essential to look at the trends of scientific literature addressing the impact of violence on the occurrence of injuries and trauma in their victims. This is a literature research, whose purpose is to analyze the scientific production of Latin America and the Caribbean, involving violence, injury and trauma, published in the period from 2004 to August 2008 in the databases of Literature Latin American and Caribbean Health Sciences (LILACS), indexed in the Virtual Health Library / Regional Library of Medicine (BVS/BIREME). It was found 18 works, which, after refinement, were selected. Of this total (18), 06 (33.3%) were published in 2006; 14 (77.8%) used the descriptive study type, 12 (66.7%) of the publications had approached the quantitative method as the best way to notify the injuries and trauma resulting from violence; 13 (72.2%) were more available in full-text form, 9 (50.0%) were available in Spanish language; as a factor causing the injuries and trauma stood out the violence that occurred in traffic (27.8%), and Brazil (50.0%) was the country that most published over the past 5 years. It follows that the priority is to continue to carry out research on those topics and, at the same time, investing in the development of researches directed to the clinical severity of injuries caused by violence, contributing to a better preparation of health professionals who work in the healthcare assistance of these victims.

**Keywords**: Violence; Publications; Wounds and injuries.

**CARACTÉRISATION DE LA PRODUCTION SCIENTIFIQUE EN L'AMÉRIQUE LATINE ET CARAÏBES COMPRENANT VIOLENCE, BLESSURES ET TRAUMATISMES : UNE ÉTUDE BIBLIOGRAPHIQUE.**

**RÉSUMÉ**

La violence est um problème que produit menace à la vie, à l'intégrité physique, à la qualité de vie, et est précurseur de blessures et traumatismes divers, constituant un grave problème de santé publique, ne se restreignant pas seulement a ce secteur, mais à la toute société. Dans ce sense, il est essentiel qu'on analyse les tendences de la production scientifique qu'abordent l'impact de la violence à l'occurrence de blessures et traumatismes en ses victimes. C'est une recherche bibliiographique, dont l'objectif est analyser la production scientifique de l'Amérique Latine et Caraïbes, comprenant la violence, blessures et traumatismes, publiés dans la période de 2004 au mois d'aout de 2008 dans les bases de données de la Litérature Latino-Américaine et des Caraïbes en Sciences de la Santé (LILACS), indexé dans la Bibliothèque Virtuelle en Santé/Bilbiothèque Régional de Medicine (BVS/BIREME). Il y a été trouvé 18 travaux, que, après raffinement, ont été sélectionnés. De ce total (18), 06 (33,3%) ont été publiés en 2006 ; 14 (77,8%) ont utilisé le type d'étude descriptive ; 12 (66,7%) des publications ont eu comme d'abordage la méthode quantitative comme meilleur forme de notifier des blessures et traumatismes résultants de la violence; plus disponibles en forme de text complet 13 (72,2%) ; 9 (50,0%) étaient disponibles en langue espagnole ; comme de facteur à l'origine des blessures et traumatismes il s'est détaché les violences de circulation (27,8%), ayant le Brésil (50,0%) comme le pays qu'a plus publié dans ces derniers 5 ans. On conclut qu'est prioritaire continuer à la réalisation des investigations dans cettes thématiques et, au même temps, investir dans le développement de recherches dirigées aux aspects cliniques de la gravité des lésions provoquées par la violence, contribuant à une meilleure préparation des

professionnels de la santé qui soignent ces victimes.

**Mots-clés**: Violence; Publications; Blessures et Traumatismes.

**CARACTERIZACIÓN DE LA PRODUCCIÓN CIENTÍFICA EN AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE, ENVOLVIENDO VIOLENCIA, HERIDAS Y TRAUMATISMOS: UN ESTUDIO BIBLIOGRÁFICO**

**RESUMEN**

La violencia es un problema que produce amenaza a la vida , a la integridad física, a la calidad de vida y es la causa de heridas y traumatismos diversos, constituyendo un grave problema de salud pública, no restringiéndose apenas a ese sector, mas a toda la sociedad. En este sentido, se vuelve esencial analizar las tendencias de la producción científica que aborden el impacto de la violencia en la ocurrencia de heridas traumatismos en sus victimas. Se trata de una investigación bibliográfica cuyo objetivo es analizar la producción científica de América Latina y Caribe, envolviendo la violencia, heridas y traumatismos, publicados en el período de 2004 a Agosto de 2008, con base de datos de la Literatura Latino-Americana y del Caribe en Ciencias de la Salud (LILACS), anexado en la biblioteca-Virtual en Salud/Biblioteca Regional de Medicina (BVS/BIREME). Fueron encontrados 18 trabajos, que después de ser refinados fueron seleccionados. De ese total (18), 06 (33,3%) fueron publicados en el año de 2006, 14 (77,8%) utilizaron el estudio tipo descriptivo, 12 (66,7%) de las publicaciones tuvieron como abordaje el método cuantitativo como mejor forma de notificar las heridas y traumatismos producidos por la violencia, mas disponibles en forma de texto completo, 13 (72,2%), 9 (50 %) estaban disponibles en lengua española, como factor causador de las heridas y traumatismos. Se destacó las violencias ocurridas en el tránsito (27,6%), teniéndose en el Brasil (50,0%), como el país que más publicó en estos últimos años. Se concluye que es prioritario dar continuidad a la realización de investigaciones en esos temas y al mismo tiempo invertir en el desarrollo de investigaciones dirigidas a los aspectos clínicos de la gravedad de las lesiones provocadas por la violencia, contribuyendo para una mejor preparación de los profesionales de Salud que actúan en la atención de salud a esas víctimas.

**Palabras clave**: Violencia, publicaciones, heridas y traumatismos

**CARACTERIZAÇÃO DA PRODUÇÃO CIENTÍFICA NA AMÉRICA LATINA E CARIBE ENVOLVENDO VIOLÊNCIA, FERIMENTOS E TRAUMATISMOS: UM ESTUDO BIBLIOGRÁFICO**

**RESUMO**

A violência é um problema que produz ameaça à vida, à integridade física, à qualidade de vida, e é precursora de ferimentos e traumatismos diversos, constituindo um grave problema de saúde pública, não se restringindo apenas a esse setor, mas a toda sociedade. Neste sentido, torna-se essencial analisarem-se as tendências da produção científica que abordem o impacto da violência na ocorrência de ferimentos e traumatismos em suas vítimas. Trata-se de uma pesquisa bibliográfica, cujo objetivo é analisar a produção científica da América Latina e Caribe, envolvendo a violência, ferimentos e traumatismos, publicados no período de 2004 a agosto de 2008 nas bases de dados da Literatura Latino-Americana e do Caribe em Ciências da Saúde (LILACS), indexado na Biblioteca Virtual em Saúde/Biblioteca Regional de Medicina (BVS/BIREME). Foram encontrados 18 trabalhos, que, após refinamento, foram selecionados. Desse total (18), 06 (33,3%) foram publicados no ano de 2006; 14 (77,8%) utilizaram o tipo de estudo descritivo; 12 (66,7%) das publicações tiveram como abordagem o método quantitativo como melhor forma de notificar os ferimentos e traumatismos decorrentes da violência; mais disponíveis em forma de texto completo 13 (72,2%); 9 (50,0%) estavam disponíveis na língua espanhola; como fator causador dos ferimentos e traumatismos destacou-se as violências ocorridas no trânsito (27,8%); tendo-se o Brasil (50,0%) como o país que mais publicou nesses últimos 5 anos. Conclui-se que é prioritário dar continuidade à realização de investigações nessas temáticas e, ao mesmo tempo, investir no desenvolvimento de pesquisas direcionadas aos aspectos clínicos da gravidade das lesões provocadas pela violência, contribuindo para um melhor preparo dos profissionais de saúde que atuam no atendimento de saúde a essas vítimas.

**Palavras-chave**: Violência; Publicações; Ferimentos e Traumatismos.