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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

BIBLIOMETRIC STUDY OF NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS ABOUT ABORTION

ESTUDO BIBLIOMÉTRICO DE PUBLICAÇÕES NACIONAIS SOBRE ABORTO

ESTUDIO BIBLIOMÉTRICO DE LAS PUBLICACIONES NACIONALES ACERCA DEL ABORTO

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ABSTRACT

Objective: analyzing the characteristics of national publications about abortion. ***Method***: a bibliometric study whose inclusion criteria were: indexing in LILACS database, produced in Brazil between 2009 and 2013. There were totaled 93 publications with an instrument of data collection. In the analysis, it was used descriptive statistics. Results: there were found articles (97.8%), medical (37%), usually subsidized by federal university located in the state of São Paulo. Predominantly, there were published by the journal Science and Public Health (24.8%); in 2012, sought to identify conditions that influenced the occurrence of induced abortion (38.4%) conducting interviews with women in the hospital environment. ***Conclusion***: the published articles contribute and build knowledge about a stigmatized and broad condition, such as abortion, but it is still incipient studies with men and in primary care. ***Descriptors***: Abortion; Bibliometrics; Search.

RESUMO

Objetivo: analisar as características de publicações nacionais sobre aborto. ***Método***: estudo bibliométrico, cujos critérios de inclusão foram: indexação na base de dados LILACS, produzido no Brasil, entre 2009 e 2013. Foram totalizadas 93 publicações com um instrumento de coleta de dados. Na análise, foi empregada a estatística descritiva. ***Resultados***: foram encontrados artigos (97,8%) de médicos (37%), habitualmente subsidiados em universidade federal localizada no estado de São Paulo. Predominantemente, foram publicados pelo periódico Ciência e Saúde Coletiva (24,8%); em 2012, procuravam identificar condições que influenciavam na ocorrência do abortamento induzido (38,4%) realizando entrevista com mulheres no ambiente hospitalar. ***Conclusão***: os artigos publicados contribuem e edificam o conhecimento sobre uma condição estigmatizada e abrangente, como o aborto, mas ainda é insipiente estudos com homens e na atenção básica. ***Descritores***: Aborto; Bibliometria; Pesquisa.

RESUMEN

Objetivo: analizar las características de las publicaciones nacionales acerca del aborto. ***Método***: un estudio bibliométrico cuyos criterios de inclusión fueron: indexación en la base de datos LILACS, ser producido en Brasil, entre 2009 y 2013. Se totalizaron 93 publicaciones con un instrumento de recogida de datos. En el análisis se utilizó la estadística descriptiva. ***Resultados***: se encontraron artículos (97,8%) de los médicos (37%), generalmente subsidiados en una universidad federal ubicada en el estado de São Paulo en Brasil. Predominantemente, fueron publicados por el magazin Ciencia y Salud Pública (24,8%); en 2012, tratóse de identificar las condiciones que influyeron en la ocurrencia de realizar abortos inducidos (38,4%) con las mujeres, entrevista en el ámbito hospitalario. ***Conclusión***: los artículos contribuyan y construyen el conocimiento acerca de una condición estigmatizante y comprensiva como el aborto, es todavía incipientes estudios con los hombres y en la atención básica. ***Descriptores***: Aborto; Bibliometría; Investigación.

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INTRODUCTION

Sex allows access to the life of the body and life of the species, and it has been in the array of disciplines and regulations principle; above all, sex became subject of ideological campaigns of ethical standards and accountability.[1] In this sense, the new positioning of sex says that with the global configuration of neo-liberalism, new forms of social control that fall directly on the body of the individual emerged - biopower.[2] The sex is replaced connotation of social control, moral and political within community.

Concomitantly, abortion is a situation permeated by stigmas, which involves both the woman, as the professional and those who support their achievement.[3] Example, one can cite the case of doctors who performed and the mother who supported the implementation of abortion of a 9-year-old raped by her stepfather and pregnant with twins, being excommunicated by the Archbishop of Olinda and Recife/PE.[4]

Abortion is the termination of the previous 22 weeks of gestational age pregnant with the embryo /fetus having weight less than 500 grams.[5] In the current Brazilian legislation since 1940, provides for the punishment not the abortion procedure when holding is justified by endanger the mother's life or when pregnancy is the result of rape.[6] In 2012, cases of anencephaly to the list of reasons that do not suffer punishments were added if the abortion is performed.[7]

In 2003, it was estimated to conduct 19,7 million of unsecured 42 million abortions performed abortions. In 2008, it is believed that the number of unsafe abortions has reached 21,6 million, where 21,2 million occurred in developing countries, noting the inequality in the possibility of obtaining a safe abortion.[8]

The illegality, besides not curb the abortion, contributes to negative consequences for women's health - due to punitive action,[9] to no possibility of health professionals assist in achieving abortion[10]- and promotes continuity of social inequality - one since unsafe abortion for poor women without the possibility of paying for the safe procedure.[11]

Not least, abortion is an issue that raises convictions, diverse opinions and practices, especially when it articulates the religion and education factors. For example, it was found among employees and medical students of a university, that greater adherence to a religion is shown as the most important factor for a more restricted view on abortion, while education in higher education favored a more liberal view on the law of abortion.[12] For this diversity, it is believed that abortion is only researching that one has the feasibility of changes in services to women experiencing an abortion, the discovery of factors associated with this condition, its consequences, most methods efficient than curettage, among several respects. That is why you wonder what was researched in recent years about abortion? How was researched? Who researched? Dai proved necessary to perform this study.

OBJECTIVE

- Analyzing the characteristics of national publications about abortion.

METHOD

A bibliometric study, which is defined by "trying to quantify, describing and predicting the process of written communication".[13-4] For that, it reported to the Latin American and Caribbean Literature on Health Sciences (LILACS) as a source of data there were used in the study. For definition of descriptors to be used, the site was consulted Descriptors in Health Sciences. Was decided to carry out the search data using a combination of subject descriptors "abortion or miscarriage or abortion or legally induced abortion or miscarriage or aspiring miscarriage or abortion or criminal or eugenic abortion habitual abortion or incomplete abortion or missed abortion or septic abortion or therapeutic abortion or miscarriage or abortion rate "associated with the Brazil country and year of publication" in 2009 or 2010 or 2011 or 2012 or 2013".

The determination to link publications to Brazil assumes that abortion besides being a public health problem,[11] is a matter strictly related to the culture and mentality of a nation, which in turn linked with this court situations and health specifically found in this country; have the option of linking publications of the last five years of a consensus that this is the most requested limit to define whether or not a study is recent, and has been published by the Ministry of Health, in 2009, a survey entitled "Abortion and public health in Brazil: 20 years ",[15] which analyzed 398 different sources on abortion in the last 20 years.

Finalized the process of search, 145 publications were available. Studies where the word abortion was not present in the object of study or who did not have the word

abortion as a subject descriptor according to its authors (33), as well as those that do not portray the reality in Brazil (3) were discarded, which were related to abortion animal (4), which were repeated (4) and which do not have access (8). To access the studies we used to link the journal referenced by Rev itself, as well as the portal of CAPES journals and the Google site itself. Publications that were not possible to be accessed in their entirety after such resources were excluded from this study.

For analysis 93 publications were considered. Were characterized in the same way the study title, authors, writers training, linked university, location of authors, journal published, descriptors, year, state where the study subject of the study, study setting, purpose, type was performed study, data collection and data analysis, such information was recorded on a data collection instrument formulated by the authors of the current study. For data analysis it was performed descriptive statistics,[16] which allowed us to verifying the distribution of the characteristics of publications.

RESULTS

Classifying the studies according to the form which is submitted, 91 were articles (97,8%) - editorial, letter to the reader, panelists were included in this category. There was also a thesis (1,1%) and a dissertation (1,1%).

With regard to the occupation of the authors (Table 1), has a variety of courses, however, occurs predominantly medical grade (37%) on the other. Have greater evidence formations in healthcare (78,9%).

Table 1. Absolute and relative frequency in the formation of the authors.

Profession	N (%)
Physician	49 (37%)
Nurse	20 (15%)
Psychologist	18 (14%)
Sociologist	15 (11%)
Statistician	7 (5%)
Lawyer	5 (4%)
Nutritionist	2 (1,4%)
Biomedical	2 (1,4%)
Audiologist	2 (1,4%)
Biologist	2 (1,4%)
Dentist	2 (1,4%)
Biostatistician	2 (1,4%)
Social assistant	2 (1,4%)
Journalist	1 (0,7%)
Pedagogue	1 (0,7%)
Pharmacist	1 (0,7%)
Anthropologist	1 (0,7%)
Historian	1 (0,7%)

It sought to find out which universities were involved in the publications found (Table 2), these were 21 federal universities, 13 state, nine international and five private. It is noteworthy that 27 institutions (57,4%) are located in the state of São Paulo. It is also worth noting that a study could be related to more than one institution. Another interesting finding was the discrepancy between the distribution institutions, while the University of São Paulo (USP) is linked to 12,5% of the publications, thirty universities have only 0,8%/each, ie, only one publication.

Table 2. The universities involved in the publications.

Institution	N
USP	16 (12,5%)
UNIFESP	11 (8,5%)
UFRN	9 (7,0%)
UNICAMP	8 (6,2%)
UNB	8 (6,2%)
UFBA	7 (5,4%)
UFAL	5 (3,9%)
UFRJ	5 (3,9%)
FIOCRUZ	4 (3,1%)
UERJ	4 (3,1%)
UFPE	2 (1,5%)
UFRS	2 (1,5%)
U. do Porto	2 (1,5%)
São Camilo	2 (1,5%)
UFC	2 (1,5%)
UNESP	2 (1,5%)
UFF	2 (1,5%)
Absent	7 (5,4%)

The distribution of the location where the studies have been developed discrepancy, especially when confronted the north and center-west of the country to the southeast region, specifically because of the state of São Paulo (Figure 1). You can view the state of São Paulo had 21 publications (19,6%) on their land, followed by the states of Rio de Janeiro with 8 (7,5%) and Bahia, with 7 (6,5%). It is not attributable or not been told where 32 studies were conducted. You cannot assign local studies to those items of reflection/revision or that express comments/opinions of authors, because it only has the location of the authors themselves. The study in fact is not restricted to a particular territory.

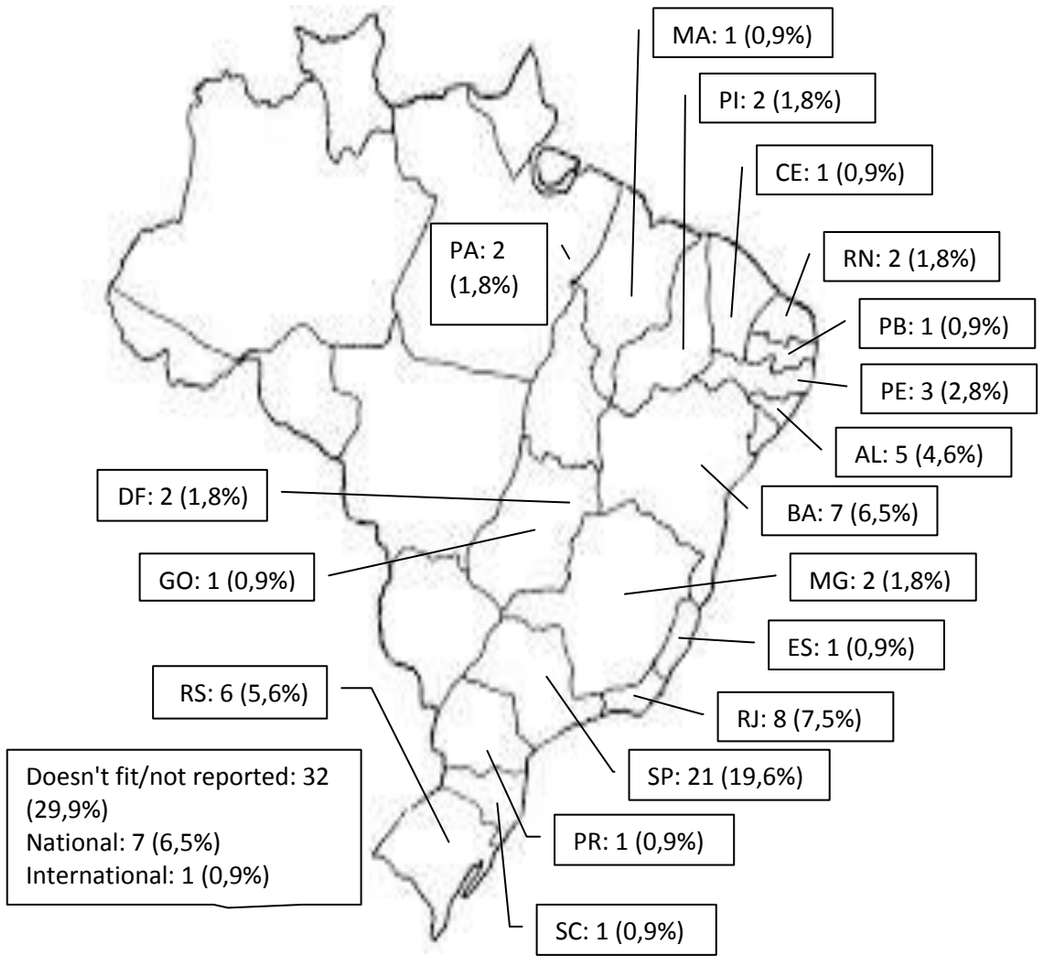

Figure 1. The distribution of the studies by Brazilian States.

The studies were published in 33 different journals (Table 3), with the exception of the thesis and the dissertation which are not tied to any of these. The journal with the highest number of publications included in this study was Public Health and Science with 23 publications (25,2%), on the other hand, had a periodic publication eighteen (1,1%).

Table 3. Periodic relationship where the studies were published.

Periodical	n (%)
Science and public health	23 (25,2%)
Brazilian Journal of Gynecology and obstetrics	10 (10,9%)
Journal of the Brazilian Medical Association	6 (6,6%)
Female	5 (5,5%)
Public health notebook	5 (5,5%)
Health and society	3 (3,3%)
RENE	3 (3,3%)
Gaucho nursing magazine	3 (3,3%)
Bioethics Journal	3 (3,3%)
Journal Maternal And Child Health	2 (2,2%)
Journal of school of nursing of the University of São Paulo	2 (2,2%)
Journal of growth and Human Development	2 (2,2%)
Public Health magazine	2 (2,2%)
Journal study of Population	2 (2,2%)
Brazilian Journal of Nursing	2 (2,2%)

When published, there are assigned to studies descriptors that summarize what is discussed in it. It was observed that 182 different descriptors, among these 136 terms were used only once were used. The words/expressions used were more "abortion" (31), "induced abortion" (26), "women's health" (12), "misoprostrol" (9) and "habitual abortion" (8).

For the year in which the studies were published, one was published in 2013, 35 in 2012, 19 in 2011, 21 in 2010 and 17 in 2009.

This study publications that are not the result of field research were included, as is the case of articles of reflection or literature review, therefore, 32 publications were not included in the item setting by characterizing research. One (1) publication was not accounted for by not making explicit the place of study. So remaining 60 publications. The hottest setting for such studies were hospitals (22), subsequently the community itself (19), maternity (9), colleges (3) universities (3), primary care units (2), laboratory (1) and reference center on women's health (1).

About the participation of individuals in the research, eight different profiles of subjects was identified. Studies sought to find their answers interviewing women (33), health professionals (7), adolescents (5), students (4), young (3), Couples (2) men (2), prosecutors and judges (1) prostitutes (1), and men and women (1). In 33 studies it is not for the presence of subjects, due to the inclusion of publications such as literature reviews, reflective articles and documentary analysis article. And yet, one of the studies did not report clearly who the subject.

When classifying publications by type of abortion study we chose three options: abortion, miscarriage and two abortions. It was possible to see that 62 (67,3%) studies decided to be about abortion, 13 (14,1%) on the spontaneous, 17 (18,4%) of both and in one study did not fit this classification.

Seeking to provide a better understanding of the publications, categorizing research goals presented, allowing a more uniform cluster, although a publication could have more than one goal was accomplished. Were grouped into 8 cores to synthesize them (Table 3), the highest volume of publications was the core factors that interfere with abortion / population profile (38).

Table 4. Distribution of the objectives of the studies.

Nucleus of sense	n (%)
Factors that interfere with the abortion/profile of the population Is equivalent to biological, economic, social conditions/population characteristics linked to abortion	38 (38,4%)
Practice and Professional representation Action and perception of professional facing abortion	16 (16,1%)
Complications and post-abortion feelings Biological and mental complications after completion of abortion	13 (13,1%)
Reflection about special conditions on abortion Specific conditions for completion of abortion; has since cases of anencephaly discussion of when it is the beginning of human life	10 (10,1%)
Means for realization of abortion Characterizes the way how abortion happens	8 (8,0%)
Quantitative about abortion Seeks to quantify the reality of abortion in certain location with temporal	6 (6,0%)
Tips and research analysis Analysis of published research or offers tips for further research	4 (4,0%)
Perception of population The perception of different types of population about abortion.	4 (4,0%)

About the methodology used in publications, we chose to classify according to what was reported by the authors. The most frequently mentioned characteristics were cross studies (20), descriptive (20) and qualitative (17). But it is still possible identifying types: reflective/opinion (11), literature (11), quantitative (9), exploratory (4), empirical (3) case study (3), the triangulation method (1), hermeneutics (1), phenomenology (1) documentary (1), ethnographic (1) and case-control (1).

For data collection, interviews (43), forms (9), database (8), clinical trial (8), documents (6) focus group (1) newspapers (1), ethnographic diary (we used 1) and participant observation (1). This classification does not fit the 14 studies, due to the fact that they are publications of reflection, opinion or comments of authors. 6 other publications did not report how the data collection was performed.

DISCUSSION

Lilacs is a reference source when it chooses to undertaking studies about health; however, it is observed that almost were used in this study only bibliometric articles. This finding may be related to the possibility of low dissemination of theses and dissertations in electronic form linked to one consolidated database, with a possible preference of authors turn their theses and dissertations into articles by the possibility of a production to be more in the curriculum or yet, though less likely, that in fact occurred low productivity over the last five years of theses and dissertations about abortion.

Regarding the training of the authors there is a predominance of studies by the medical profession, followed by nursing and psychology. The three classes together equals 66% of the production of studies, however this is not equivalent to say that the formations are more interested about the subject, since the demand for publications occurred in a specific data source for health, so would be rash to assert that other academic areas do not argue about the abortion issue. However this result is consistent with the Ministry of Health, which in comprehensive desk research, claimed that training in general, the authors of articles on abortion were in health sciences.[15]

You'd think that where there institutions that invest in the production of a particular topic tend to have larger amount of publications about this, and it is precisely what is viewed in this study. The State of São Paulo has the largest concentration of university centers engaged in conducting studies on abortion and focuses on the state ten times the amount of studies that have been produced throughout the northern region of the country, as well as seven times more than is produced in the central region -west. Was also a similar result to what was found by the Health Ministry, which says that researchers on abortion were "based on public universities and non-governmental organizations in the Southeast Region (...)".[15:45]

Still, the most developed region of the country, presents the journal that published more about abortion in the last five years, the journal Science and Public Health, located in Rio de Janeiro. Bradford's Law relates that when articles are accepted by particular journal, this, in turn, starts to attract more authors interested in publishing their studies on a particular subject.[13-4] Concomitantly, other journals are also publishing articles if the subject continues to evolve, they begin to be a more productive core journals in relation to a subject.[13-4]

Nevertheless, it is possible to notice that the 33 journals that published an article on human abortion, 19 of these (57,6%) published only one article on the topic, while 52,7% of the articles were published in only 5 journals.

Another concentration that occurs in abortion studies is to use the descriptors of terms used 182, 136 (74,7%) as a descriptor words are used for only one study. This may be related to the absence of consultation with the Health Sciences Descriptors (DESC), whose purpose is to unify the language in indexing articles in scientific journals, books, conference proceedings, technical reports, as well as having usefulness in research and to recover matters of scientific literature on sources of information.[17] An example that further intensifies this hypothesis is the fact that the term Misoprostrol being used as a descriptor in 9 different studies, though not listed as a descriptor. Misoprostrol would be included in the term "abortifacient"; only the latter is included as a descriptor.

A number of studies published in the years 2009, 2010 and 2011 remained an average of 19 studies /year; however, for 2012 the amount reached almost double this average. It was precisely in May 2012 which was approved by the Federal Council of Medicine, performing legal abortions in cases of anencephalic fetuses.[7]

The characteristics of the studies help to establish a certain predominant profile, most studies focuses on researching/discussing the process of abortion with women who need hospital care, preferably due to having induced an abortion and seek to understand what factors influence the decision/occurrence of abortion.

It is interesting to note as yet has strongly defined gender within research on abortion, the studies that had subjects, 55,9% used only the woman to get answers to their questions. The two studies included subjects as the couple sought biological evidence that the accused recurrent miscarriages. Only two studies have sought to question men about the subject and another chose to interview men and women. This feature of the studies is to understand how it is still latent social control that exists over the female, which is through your body, sexuality and reproduction.[2]

Most studies, which fit the classification according to the scenario where it was developed, chose to develop research in hospitals, there was also development in the community, including fits here highlighted the diversity of these communities, it was possible to view studies within communities the periphery, in the legal community and religious community. In the Unified Health System (SUS) there are different levels of complexity in service, and are expected, rightly, that primary care is the first contact with the user SUS.[18] Were only two studies in basic health unit. It is believed that the tertiary unit has more proximity to post-abortion care; while the basic unit's proximity is with pre-abortion care, even though the reverse may happen. Thus, by focusing on studies that take place in hospitals, ultimately minimizing the possibilities of studying the service before the occurrence of abortion, both at the time when this occurs, professional conduct, the feelings of women facing an unwanted pregnancy the direct influence of social conditions, among various other items.

When reflecting on the availability of health professionals being unaware of the law on abortion in a hospital setting,[19] if this reality is also present at a primary health care, this may not mean the routing of a woman who gets to drive , for example. Whereas the FHS has expanded in Brazil and is preferred gateway to the NHS, it is essential that more studies seek to understand the dynamics that occurs there in front of the abortion or his eminence.

As for goals, the authors show more concern to understand what condition is crucial for the occurrence of an abortion. Not minimizing the importance of this aspect, but it is important to pay attention to the fact of low production on the practices and representations of professionals who work directly with women who have experienced abortion, since a woman's life subordinated to professional action, besides being interesting that the authors are, for the most part, health professionals and do not show significant productivity on practices that may be inherent in their daily lives.

Regarding the methodology used in the studies, one realizes that there is a diversity of possibilities, but no preference for qualitative approach in the quantitative, which can be attributed to this finding, the subjectivity of the subject and unmeasured aspects such as feelings, desires and perspectives of women and men in the exercise of the right of reproduction. An interesting factor is that studies are designated as cross, there were no reports of distant studies. It would be interesting to note the feelings and perspectives of a subject at different stages of life after experiencing an abortion.

CONCLUSION

In summary, most studies were articles (97,8%), medical publications (37%), subsidized federal university, located in São Paulo, the state in which the highest concentration of development studies (19 occurred, 6%). The articles, most were published by the journal Science and Public Health (24,8%), predominantly in 2012, which sought to identify conditions that influenced the occurrence of induced abortion (67,3%) doing an interview with women, environment hospital.

Abortion is one that is fixed to the center of discussions where some argue the life of the fetus or the life/choice of the woman who aborts, besides being bound to a law that restricts their implementation.[6] For Health Professionals complex issue exists yet the conflict between their professional training - where prizes in saving lives, 20 and this may be one reason there have been more studies in these five years on abortion than miscarriage.

Portraying the dualities about the issue "abortion", it was found in a population, including nurses, medical and social workers that participants had against abortion opinion, considering it as a crime; however, they were not against the person who practiced abortion.[21] Another interesting finding is that higher productivity view of articles by the medical profession because there study indicating that the stigmatization of abortion has been initiated due to the desire to monopolize the abortion practice by class.[22]

It latent need for the explicit occurrence of studies investigating the north and center-west regions of the country, and even with the existence of a possible change of mentality that has taken place in the country - mailing campaign about abortion (2010), approval of abortion in anencephalic fetuses (2012), legalization of abortion neighboring Uruguay (2012).

Also it is necessary to conduct studies on abortion that have men as subjects, they could investigate the perspectives, feelings, perceptions of men facing a situation of abortion, and why not also seek to understand the profile and the type relationship - not necessarily just single/ married, understand the type of bond would be interesting - this man with the woman who aborts.

It is noteworthy that the data discussed are based on a source of reference data for health care in Brazil, and this is not equivalent to say that the possibilities for further studies were exhausted within the profile included in this article, have been indexed in other databases data, but it certainly is a start to understanding the productions on abortion in Brazil.

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