



Equity and Diversity in the Revista Brasileira de Atividade Física & Saúde: A Scoping Review

Equidade e diversidade na Revista Brasileira de Atividade Física & Saúde: revisão de escopo

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ABSTRACT

Objective: To describe the scientific knowledge produced in the Brazilian Journal of Physical Activity & Health (*Revista Brasileira de Atividade Física & Saúde* – RBAFS) from 1995 to 2024 on equity and diversity. **Methods:** A scoping review was conducted in three stages (identification, screening, and eligibility) to analyze all articles published in RBAFS that explicitly addressed equity and diversity. Identification was guided by the following thematic categories: gender, race/ ethnicity, LGBTQIAPN+ community, inclusion, older adults, and social justice. **Results:** A total of 1,323 publications were identified in RBAFS, of which 1,313 were excluded (91 at pre-screening, 958 during screening, and 264 during eligibility assessment), leaving 10 studies that addressed equity and diversity. Most studies published in the last five years addressed social justice either exclusively (30%) or in combination with gender (20%), race/ ethnicity (20%), older adults (20%), and inclusion (10%). One study focused exclusively on gender (10%). Cross-sectional original studies predominated, mostly conducted and authored by researchers from the Southeast and South regions of Brazil. Gender distribution among research teams was balanced; however, in more recent studies, a male predominance was observed. Women were first authors in most studies, whereas men more frequently occupied senior authorship positions. **Conclusion:** The findings highlight the low representation of studies directly addressing equity and diversity in RBAFS, as well as regional and gender disparities in authorship order. Future studies should address different populations with an intersectional perspective and promote broader regional and gender diversity in authorship teams.

Keywords: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion; Motor activity; Scientific publication indicators; Intersectional framework; Social inclusion.

RESUMO

Objetivo: Descrever o conhecimento científico produzido na *Revista Brasileira de Atividade Física & Saúde* (RBAFS), entre 1995 e 2024, com foco em equidade e diversidade. **Métodos:** Foi realizada uma revisão de escopo, em três etapas (identificação, triagem e elegibilidade), de todos os artigos publicados na RBAFS que abordavam explicitamente equidade e diversidade. A identificação foi guiada com base nas categorias temáticas: estudos de gênero, étnico-raciais, LGBTQIAPN+, inclusão, pessoas idosas e justiça social. **Resultados:** Foram identificadas 1.323 publicações na RBAFS, das quais foram excluídas 1.313 (91 antes da triagem; 958 na triagem; e 264 na avaliação de elegibilidade), restando 10 estudos que abordaram equidade e diversidade. A maioria dos estudos problematizou justiça social de forma exclusiva (30%) ou combinada com gênero (20%), raça/etnia (20%), pessoas idosas (20%) e inclusão (10%), e um estudo abordou exclusivamente gênero (10%). Predominaram estudos originais transversais, conduzidos e assinados por autorias do Sudeste e Sul. Observou-se uma distribuição equitativa de gênero nas equipes; entretanto, nos estudos mais recentes, houve predominância do gênero masculino. As mulheres foram as primeiras autoras na maioria dos estudos, enquanto que na posição de senioridade os homens ocuparam a posição. **Conclusão:** Os resultados evidenciam uma baixa representatividade de estudos que abordam diretamente a temática de equidade e diversidade na RBAFS, bem como disparidades regionais e de gênero quanto à ordem de autoria dos estudos. São necessários estudos futuros com diferentes populações e um olhar interseccional, além de representações diversas regionais e de gênero da equipe autoral.

Palavras-chave: Diversidade, equidade, inclusão; Atividade motora; Indicadores de produção científica; Enquadramento interseccional; Inclusão social.

Introduction

Physical activity is a complex and multifactorial behavior that offers many health benefits¹. Although it is recognized as a social right, it has often been seen as a privilege reserved for a few². Historically marginalized groups, such as people with disabilities, Black individuals, those with low socioeconomic status, older adults, LGBTQIAPN+ populations, and Quilombola communities, for example, report the lowest levels of leisure-time physical activity³⁻⁷. When considering the intersectionality of gender, race, age, disability, socioeconomic status, and sexual orientation, barriers to accessing this social right become even more noticeable⁸.

Despite various studies aiming to understand the factors influencing participation in physical activity across different domains⁹⁻¹¹, knowledge in the field often remains reductionist, simplistic, or limited, neglecting the social, cultural, economic, and identity-based complexities that shape access to and participation of different social groups in physical activity. In this regard, considering diversity (cultural, social, economic, gender, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, disability, etc.) and equity (reducing differences considered unfair, unnecessary, and avoidable), and expanding through the lens of intersectionality, becomes essential for a more inclusive, plural, and critical approach to physical activity and health.

The Brazilian Journal of Physical Activity & Health (*Revista Brasileira de Atividade Física & Saúde* - RBAFS), as the official journal of the Brazilian Society of Physical Activity and Health (*Sociedade Brasileira de Atividade Física e Saúde* - SBAFS), predates the society itself and plays a central role in disseminating scientific knowledge in the field of physical activity and health in Brazil. Over its 30 years, the journal has solidified its position by increasing the number of publications, expanding its editorial and review boards, achieving indexing in multiple databases, and becoming widely recognized¹². Among reflections on its three decades of history, the journal recognizes the importance of promoting physical activity not only for privileged populations but also the need to align knowledge production with real-world contexts and intervention practices¹². SBAFS working groups have contributed by sharing reflections and taking actions on various themes, resulting in thematic issues in the journal. In 2025, to promote a more equitable perspective on science, RBAFS, together with the SBAFS Equity and Diversity Working Group, proposed a Special Issue on

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion¹³.

In this context, considering the journal's extensive history, it is important to map the scientific articles published in RBAFS from the perspective of equity and diversity within a field characterized by social challenges and inequalities, seeking to reveal how this topic has been approached and problematized. In addition to critically examining RBAFS's history, the findings can contribute to the broader discussion on topics and groups that have been historically silenced in scientific publications within Physical Education and in Brazilian science, offering support for critical evaluations of editorial processes. Therefore, this research aims to describe the scientific knowledge produced in RBAFS between 1995 and 2024 that focuses on equity and diversity.

Methods

This is a scoping review conducted in accordance with the PRISMA-ScR (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses extension for Scoping Reviews) guidelines, which recommend broad exploratory reviews, particularly when the objective is to map key concepts, identify gaps, and synthesize evidence comprehensively^{14,15}. This review was guided by the following research question: *How has the theme of equity and diversity been addressed in RBAFS over the years?* The studies were analyzed according to year of publication, region, scope, type of publication, study design, and gender distribution within the authorship teams.

The study design, which defined the research question and data collection strategy, followed the Population, Concept, and Context framework, recommended for scoping reviews^{16,17}. The population considered was the set of articles published in RBAFS; the concept was the approach to equity and diversity in the published studies; and the context was the characteristics of scientific production over the years since the journal's inception.

Scoping review stages

The review comprised the stages of identification, screening, and eligibility, following a flow diagram adapted from PRISMA-ScR¹⁴. In the identification stage, all articles published in RBAFS between 1995 and 2024 were retrieved from the journal's official digital repository. In the initial screening, titles, abstracts, and keywords of each publication were reviewed to identify terms and topics related to equity and diversity.

This identification was guided by six thematic categories, developed by the research team and adapted from a previous review¹⁸: i) gender studies, involving research on women, gender roles or norms, feminism, or related topics; ii) ethnic-racial studies, involving research on Black individuals, Quilombola communities, Indigenous, riverine, or other traditional communities, or addressing aspects of ethnicity, race, or skin color; iii) LGBTQIAPN+ studies, exploring sexual orientation, gender identity, and related dimensions of LGBTQIAPN+ populations; iv) inclusion studies, involving people with disabilities, autism spectrum disorder, syndromes, accessibility, adapted sports, or special education, among others; v) studies on older adults, addressing aging, ageism, or the elderly population; and vi) social justice studies, exploring equity, inequality, democratization, socioeconomic variables, or intentionality in research.

For eligibility, all articles identified as potentially relevant were read in full by two independent reviewers. Articles were deemed eligible if they explicitly addressed issues of equity and diversity in at least one substantive section of the text: introduction, methods, results, and/or discussion, including discussions of inequalities, social justice, social markers of difference (race, gender, sexuality, disability, age), intersectionality, or affirmative actions.

Articles were excluded if they only used race/skin color, sex/gender, age, or similar variables for sample description or statistical adjustments (exclusion reason 1); if they applied sample selection without conceptual justification related to equity and diversity (exclusion reason 2); or if they mentioned the theme superficially, for example, only in the conclusion, without discussion in other sections (exclusion reason 3). Publications that were not original scientific articles, such as conference proceedings, abstracts, books, book chapters, and translations, were removed before the screening stage.

Studies that fully met the inclusion criteria were retained for the data extraction and analysis stage. Reasons for exclusion and the number of excluded publications were documented in the study selection flowchart.

Study selection process

Selection was carried out by pairs of independent reviewers following standardized procedures for study evaluation and data extraction. Initially, titles, abstracts, and keywords of all articles were read to identify the presence of topics related to equity and diversity. This

step involved binary categorization ("yes" or "no"), indicating whether the content contained relevant terms or topics. Importantly, all publications in the journal were recorded, regardless of classification.

Subsequently, articles classified as potentially relevant were read in full to verify whether they met the established eligibility criteria. When an article did not meet the requirements, the exclusion reason was documented according to the coding defined in the research protocol. Eligible articles then proceeded to data extraction, according to the operational variables described in Supplementary Table 1.

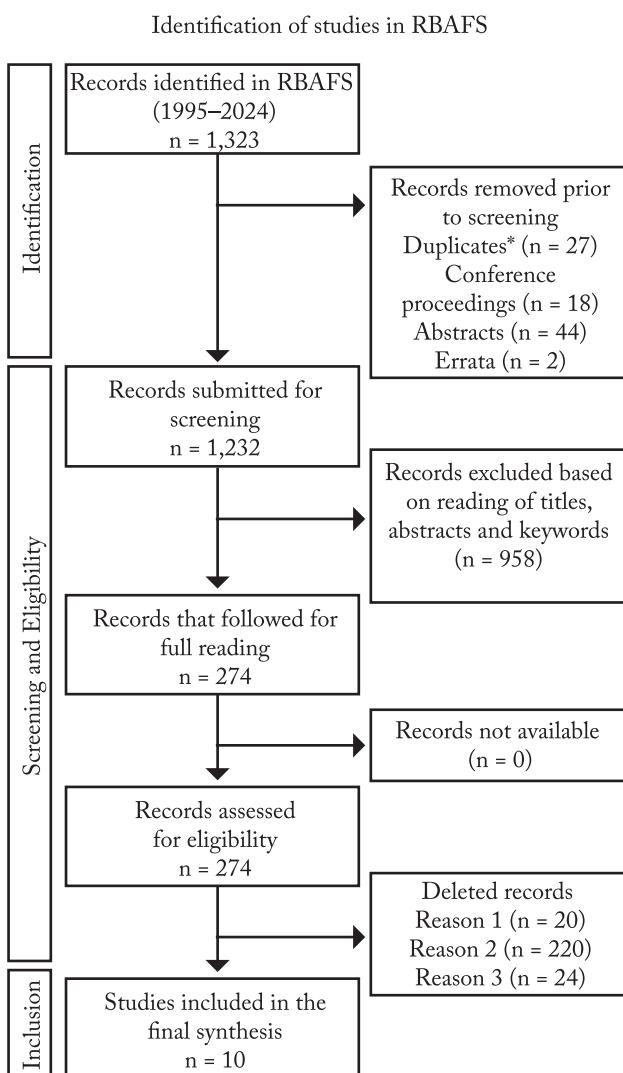
Finally, inconsistencies in reviewers' assessments were verified. In cases of disagreement, the pair with the higher level of agreement re-evaluated the article, and, if inconsistencies persisted, a third reviewer was consulted to conduct a new reading and help reach a consensus. This procedure ensured the reliability and validity of the study selection and analysis process.

Data extraction and organization

Data were extracted using a structured spreadsheet in Google Sheets®, previously tested with 10 articles to standardize the process. The database included the following variables: i) year of publication; ii) presence of a focus on equity and diversity; iii) thematic category; iv) title; v) approach to equity and diversity; vi) reason for exclusion; vii) study region; viii) region of first author; ix) territorial scope of the research; x) type of publication; xi) study design; xii) research domains; xiii) gender predominance among authors; xiv) gender of first author; xv) gender of last author; and xvi) number of authors. Gender assessment of the authors was conducted based on names. In cases of uncertainty, ambiguity, or for international names, public sources such as academic platforms, institutional websites, curricula, or social media were consulted to identify pronouns or photographs when possible. Results were summarized descriptively, with data presented in graphs and expressed as absolute and relative frequencies.

Results

The process of identifying, screening, and including studies is described in Figure 1. A total of 1,323 records were identified in RBAFS between 1995 and 2024 through a systematic search. After removing 91 records (duplicate publications in different languages, conference proceedings, study abstracts, or errata), 1,232 publications proceeded to screening. Of these, 958 were ex-



* Publications duplicated in another language

Figure 1 – Flowchart of identification, screening, and inclusion of the studies included in the review

Table 1 – Identification of the studies included in the review

Reference	Title	Objective	Location
Gomes et al. ¹⁹	Physical activity in low-income women in primary care	To identify the prevalence of behavior, change stages to physical activity, and the association of inactive and irregularly active behavior with health and sociodemographic variables in low-income women who attended the primary care services.	Guanambi, Bahia, Brazil
Lopes; Araújo ²⁰	The wheelchair dancer within the context of spectacles	To reflect on the participation and social inclusion of wheelchair dancers in the context of public performances and shows.	Different regions, Brazil
Santana et al. ²¹	Socioeconomic inequalities in perception of active mobility environment	To describe perceptions of the environment related to active mobility among the population of Santos (São Paulo, Brazil), comparing different municipal regions characterized by distinct socioeconomic levels.	Santos, São Paulo, Brazil
Sá; Garcia; Andrade ²²	Reflections about the benefits of integrating the Ruas de Lazer and Ciclofaixas de Lazer programs in São Paulo	To discuss potential synergistic gains from bringing together two street-closure programs to expand access and democratize public space as a strategy to improve quality of life in São Paulo.	São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil

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cluded based on titles, abstracts, and keywords. Among 274 publications that presented some topic related to equity and diversity, according to the thematic categories, 20 studies were excluded for using such topics only for sample description or statistical adjustments, 220 for applying sample selection without justification related to equity and diversity, and 24 for mentioning the theme without sufficient conceptual depth. In the end, 10 studies that explicitly addressed equity and diversity were included in the review¹⁹⁻²⁸. Table 1 presents identifying information for the included articles.

Figure 2 shows the temporal evolution of publications in RBAFS and the studies that directly address equity and diversity. A progressive increase in the total number of publications over time is evident, particularly from the 2010s onward. However, studies specifically addressing equity and diversity remained scarce, accounting for only 0.8% of the total. The pioneering study was published in 2010, but only in the last five years did the number increase, with half of the included studies published during this period.

Regarding the thematic focus, most studies addressed issues within the scope of social justice, with three studies exclusively on this topic and four others categorized in more than one theme (Figure 3). Social justice, combined with other social markers, also explored discussions of gender, inclusion, race/ethnicity, and older adults.

The characterization of publications by study region, scope, type of publication, methodological design, and research domains is shown in Figure 4. There was limited representation of Brazilian regions, with a concentration of studies in the Southeast and South, fol-

Continue of **Table 1** – Identification of the studies included in the review

Reference	Title	Objective	Location
Botelho et al. ²³	Inequalities in sports and physical activity in the Brazilian macro-regions: PNAD, 2015	To examine inequalities by gender, skin color, area of residence, and schooling in sports or physical activity participation across Brazil's macro-regions.	Representative sample, Brazil
Martins; Vasquez; Mion ²⁴	Associations of gender, class, and race and participation in physical education classes	To describe and analyze associations between gender, class, and race relations and participation in Physical Education classes in Brazil.	Representative sample, Brazil
Corrêa et al. ²⁵	Physical activity and inequalities in older adults before and after COVID-19	To examine changes in the prevalence of physical activity and inequalities among older adults assessed before and after the period of social distancing caused by COVID-19.	Pelotas, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil
Oliveira; Evedove; Loch ²⁶	Access to body practices/physical activity during the life cycle: report of retired elderly women	To assess access to body practices/physical activity (BP/PA) across the life course among retired older women participating in a BP/PA group.	Londrina, Paraná, Brazil
Araujo et al. ²⁸	Inequalities related to participation in Physical Education classes among South American adolescents: a pooled analysis with 173,288 participants	To describe the prevalence of participation in Physical Education classes among South American adolescents according to sociodemographic correlates.	Representative samples, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, and Uruguay
Bernardo et al. ²⁷	Public policies on physical activity in Brazil, what paths have we already taken?	To discuss public policies on physical activity in Brazil.	Public Policies and Physical Activity Working Group of the Brazilian Society of Physical Activity and Health

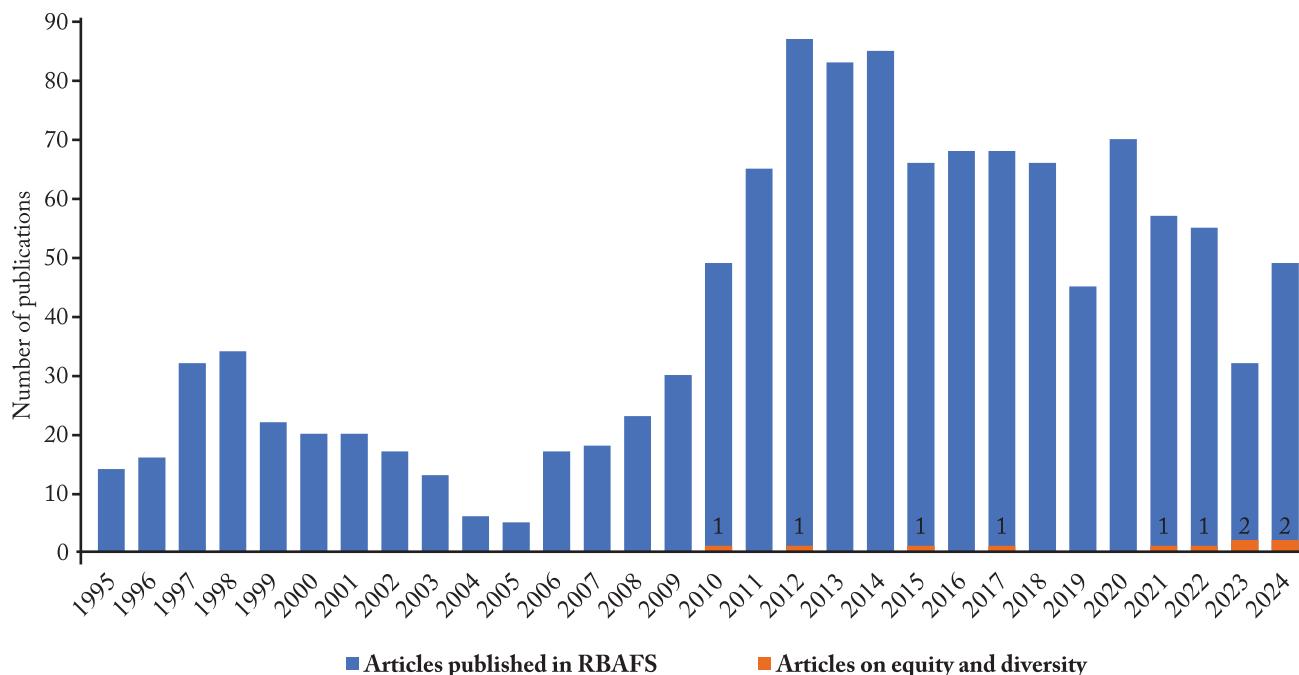


Figure 2 – Evolution of total publications and those addressing equity and diversity in the Revista Brasileira de Atividade Física & Saúde (1995–2024)

lowed by three studies with national scope and one pioneering study from the Northeast (Figure 4A). Most studies had local sampling coverage, one was regional, two used national data, and one foreign study, the latter using representative samples from South American countries (Figure 4B). In terms of publication type, the set comprised original articles, one theoretical essay, and one letter to the editor (Figure 4C). Most studies had a cross-sectional design (Figure 4D) and were

classified within the research domains of levels, determinants, or combining both domains (Figure 4E).

Figure 5 presents the characterization of the authorship teams. Most publications were authored by researchers affiliated exclusively with institutions in the Southeast and South regions, with the Southeast standing out from the earliest studies (Figure 5A). Regarding the gender distribution of the research teams, an equitable distribution was observed; however, in more recent

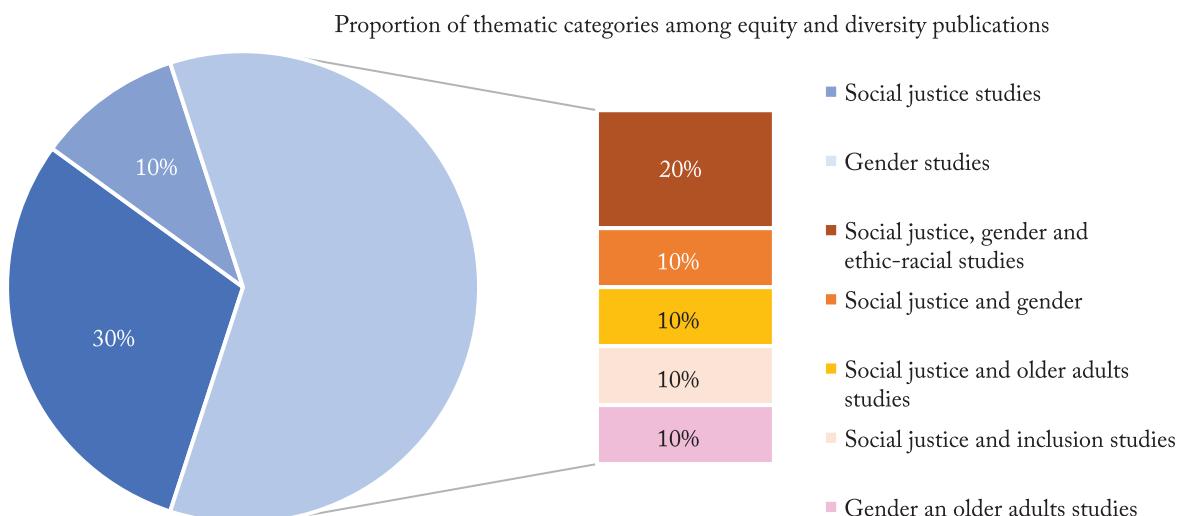


Figure 3 – Proportion of themes addressed in publications on equity and diversity in the Revista Brasileira de Atividade Física & Saúde (1995–2024)

studies, published between 2020 and 2024, there was a predominance of male authors (Figure 5B). Women occupied first authorship in most studies, especially in the last five years, whereas men more frequently held senior authorship positions, also in recent years (Figures 5C and 5D). Finally, the size of research teams was mostly three to four authors, with only one study having two authors and another with 13 authors (Figure 5E).

Discussion

The findings demonstrate the low representation of studies directly addressing equity and diversity issues in the scientific production of RBAFS between 1995 and 2024. Among the 1,232 publications screened, fewer than 1% met the inclusion criteria for this review, revealing a significant gap in how these topics have been addressed in the journal. Despite the growth in the number of publications over the years, the critical incorporation of social markers of difference remains scarce and delayed.

Regarding the thematic categories analyzed, most studies concentrated on inequalities related to social justice, with fewer studies focusing specifically on markers such as race/skin color, gender, or sexual orientation. This predominance of broad, non-intersectional approaches has also been identified in previous reviews of the field^{4,8}, highlighting the need for deeper theoretical and methodological approaches to engagement with equity-related studies.

The concept of intersectionality, coined by Crenshaw²⁹, is essential for understanding how different so-

cial markers, such as race, gender, class, territory, sexual orientation, nationality, ability, ethnicity, and age, interrelate to produce specific inequalities^{30–32}. However, the near absence of this framework in the analyzed articles was evident. Without this perspective, scientific production lacks the analytical complexity necessary to understand the barriers to accessing physical activity faced by vulnerable populations^{33,34}.

Brazilian science still resists adopting decolonial and intersectional paradigms that question power structures and privilege in knowledge production. Studies such as that by Silva and Menezes³⁵ argue that Black, Indigenous, and feminist epistemologies have been systematically marginalized, limiting the epistemic plurality required to promote health equity, within a historical process in which the power of language has been restricted to dominant groups.

The low frequency of studies on diversity and equity can also be understood from a critical lens on who has access to opportunities for scientific production. Ferreira et al³⁶ highlight meritocracy as a mechanism that reinforces exclusionary approaches, disregarding social inequalities in access to education and knowledge production, thus restricting access to academic opportunities. It is possible that individuals socially engaged with these themes, precisely because they experience structural oppression, are also those who face the greater difficulties remaining in research, producing and publishing articles^{37,38}. In this sense, the groups best positioned to contribute critical and innovative perspectives on diversity and inclusion are often the very

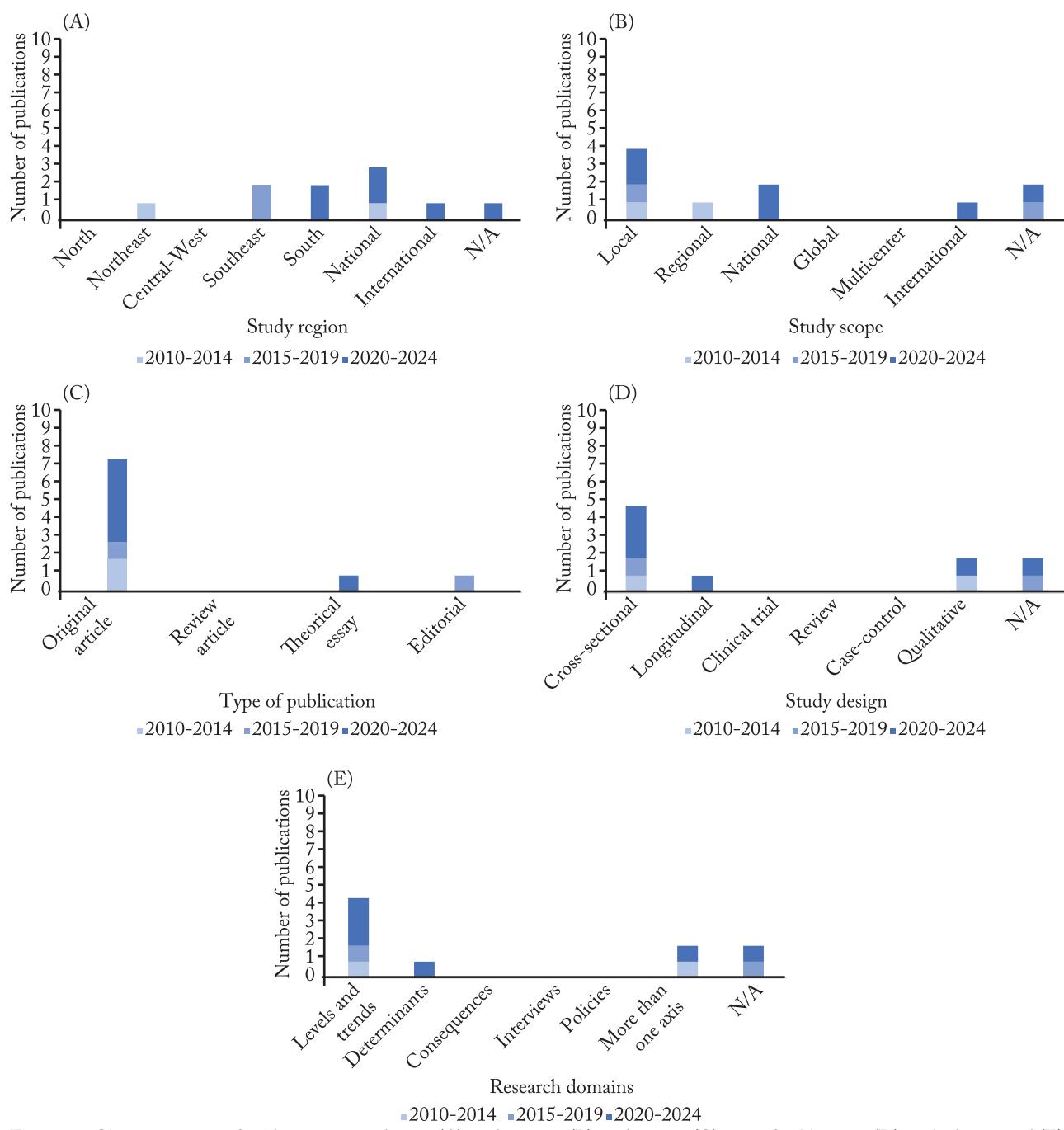


Figure 4 – Characterization of publications according to (A) study region, (B) study scope, (C) type of publication, (D) study design, and (E) research domains
N/A = Not applicable

ones excluded from conventional academic structures.

The field of physical activity itself has historically operated within a logic that universalizes the experience of privileged bodies (white, male, cisgender, heterosexual, and non-disabled), rendering other identities invisible. For example, until 2024, RBAFS had published only one study focusing on the LGBTQIAP+ population³⁹ – this study was not included in the pres-

ent review for not meet the inclusion criteria (exclusion reason 3). This criticism has been previously raised by authors such as Kilomba⁴⁰, who highlights epistemic racism as a structuring element of science, and Santos and Menezes⁴¹, who argue that epistemologies from the Global South are systematically silenced in academia.

The analysis of included studies revealed important methodological gaps: most were cross-sectional, with lo-

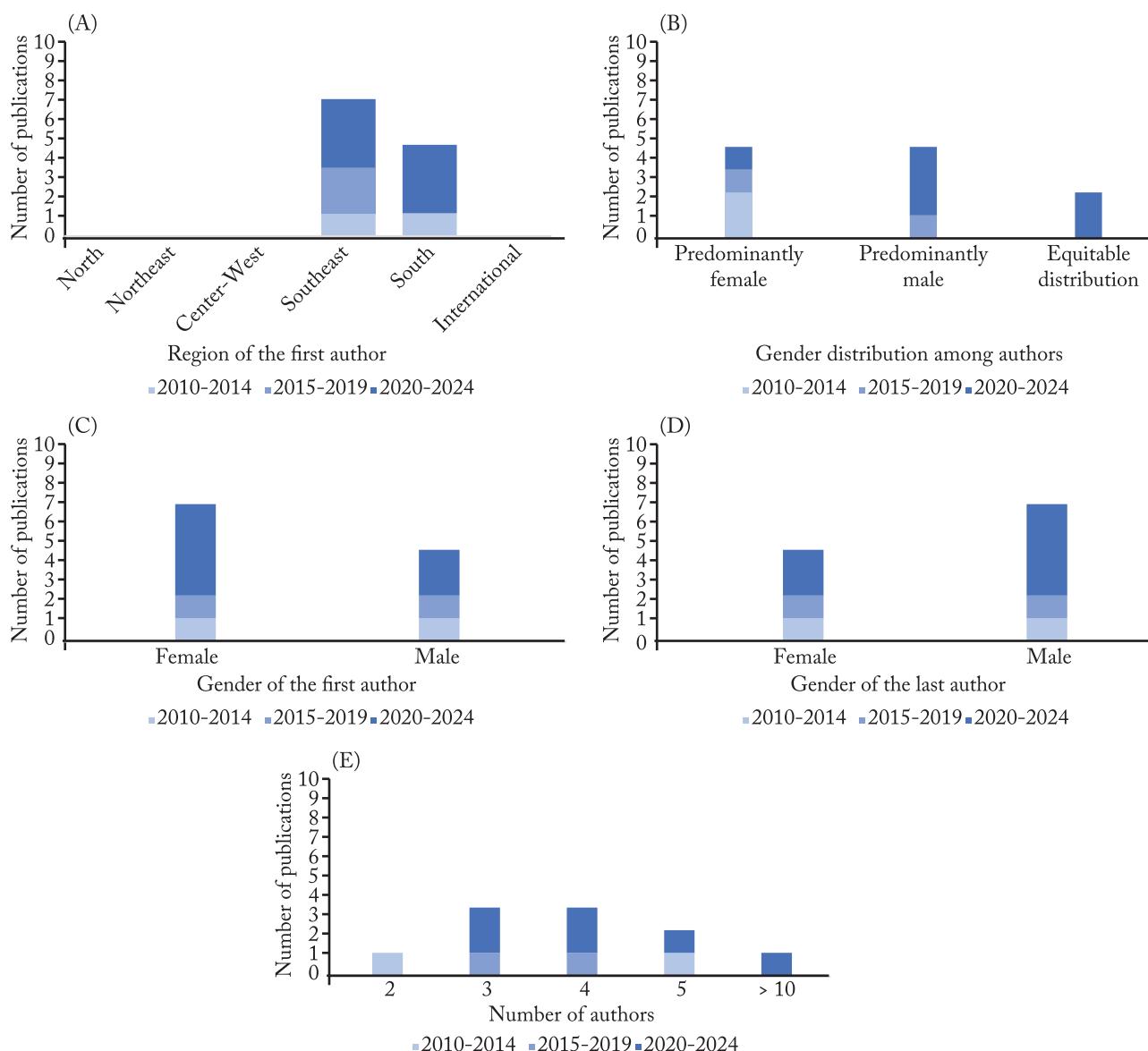


Figure 5 – Characterization of authorship teams according to (A) region of the first author, (B) gender distribution among authors, (C) gender of the first author, (D) gender of the last author, and (E) number of authors

N/A = Not applicable

cal or regional scope, and few provided consistent critical discussion on social markers using diverse research methods. The concentration of studies in the Southeast and South regions of Brazil also undermines the representativeness of national scientific production, leaving out the socioeconomic contexts and realities of the North, Northeast, and Central-West regions, areas where social vulnerability and diversity are most concentrated.

The geographic centralization of Brazilian science prevents regional specificities from being considered in knowledge production, contributing to the erasure of plural experiences and perspectives on physical activity that could emerge from research conducted in diverse re-

gional contexts. This geographic distribution has already been described in previous analyses of RBAFS publications over time^{42,43}. Espírito-Santo et al.⁴⁴, for example, showed that 63% of graduate programs in Physical Education in Brazil are concentrated in the Southeast and South, which consequently results in greater scientific production in these regions, further accentuating inequalities in academic production across the country.

Additionally, while women occupied most of the first authorships in the last five years, men continued to dominate senior authorship and/or leadership positions in research teams. This pattern reaffirms structural gender inequalities that persist in academia^{38,45}.

It is worth noting that the presence of women as first authors was more common in studies addressing equity and diversity, and does not reflect widespread progress in other areas of scientific production.

Even with the increasing presence of women in graduate programs and in Brazilian scientific production, studies show that women face greater obstacles in reconciling academic work with caregiving responsibilities, as well as limited access to collaboration networks and funding^{38,46}. Consequently, women produce proportionally fewer articles than men in Physical Education⁴⁷, particularly in contexts with rigid divisions of labor and in the absence of institutional policies that address gender, class, and racial intersections. The double burden of domestic and professional work, combined with a lack of institutional incentives in gender equity, compromises women's scientific productivity⁴⁸. This problem has already been discussed by Espírito-Santo et al.⁴⁴ considering that access to the highest levels of academic prestige remains largely restricted to men, predominantly white or Asian.

It is also important to highlight that, despite the recent creation of the SBAFS Equity and Diversity Working Group and the adoption of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility principles by RBAFS⁴⁹, the data from this review indicate that these initiatives have not yet resulted in significant changes in the journal's published output. This underscores the urgency of affirmative institutional actions that encourage submission and publication of studies on equity and diversity, diverse editorial boards, and the strengthening of policies that promote the scientific production of historically marginalized groups. Valuing decolonial knowledge from Latin America and Africa is not merely a matter of representation, but a necessary paradigm shift to democratize knowledge⁵⁰. Promoting a science committed to equity also means confronting the very structure of the scientific system, historically shaped to maintain class, race, and gender privileges. Questioning "who produces," "about whom," and "from what place" is fundamental to rethinking science as a tool for social transformation.

A potential limitation of this review is the possible under-identification of articles addressing broader perspectives on diversity, due to the requirement that studies substantially address equity to meet the inclusion criteria. Diversity in academic production in Physical Education has been investigated across various dimensions^{51,52}. In addition, the review protocol was not pre-

viously registered on specific platforms, which could have enhanced the transparency and public accessibility of the study. This operational limitation occurred during the study design phase, considering that the review focused on a single journal. Nevertheless, a major strength of this work lies in the robust methodological rigor adopted, guided by PRISMA-ScR¹⁶ for systematic searching. Even though the search was limited to one journal, the dual independent review ensured a solid and reliable database for reflecting on RBAFS's trajectory throughout its history.

The results of this scoping review highlight the low representation of studies directly addressing equity and diversity in RBAFS since its inception through 2024. Among the included studies, most focused exclusively on social justice or combined it with discussions of gender, race/ethnicity, inclusion, and older adults. Methodological gaps and the concentration of studies in the Southeast and South regions were observed. Although an equitable distribution of gender was noted overall, recent years showed an increase in women occupying first authorship positions and men in senior authorship roles. Future studies should address equity and diversity across different populations, adopt an intersectional perspective, and promote broader regional and gender representation in authorship teams.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Author contributions

Müller WA: Conceptualization; Methodology; Validation of data and experiments; Data analysis; Research; Data curation; Project administration; Data presentation design; Original draft preparation; Writing – review and editing; Approval of the final version of the manuscript.. Borges LJ: Conceptualization; Methodology; Validation of data and experiments; Research; Supervision; Project administration; Original draft preparation; Writing – review and editing; Approval of the final version of the manuscript. Souza FJR: Conceptualization; Methodology; Validation of data and experiments; Research; Project administration; Original draft preparation; Writing – review and editing; Approval of the final version of the manuscript. Cruz MS: Conceptualization; Validation of data and experiments; Research; Project administration; Original draft preparation; Writing – review and editing; Approval of the final version of the manuscript. Oliveira Junior JB: Conceptualization; Validation of data and experiments; Data analysis; Research; Project administration; Data presentation design; Original draft preparation; Writing – review and edit-

ing; Approval of the final version of the manuscript. Santos SFS: Conceptualization; Methodology; Validation of data and experiments; Research; Data curation; Supervision; Project administration; Original draft preparation; Writing – review and editing; Approval of the final version of the manuscript.

Declaration on the use of artificial intelligence tools in the writing process

The authors declare that artificial intelligence tools were used exclusively for language revision. Specifically, ChatGPT (GPT-5, OpenAI) was used to refine the English version of the manuscript. The scientific content, methodology, analysis, and conclusions are the sole responsibility of the authors.

Data and Materials Availability

Data are available from the authors upon request.

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Supplementary Table

Supplementary Table 1 – Operational variables used for data extraction

Variable	Description
Year	Year of publication in the journal
Presence of focus on equity and diversity	No / Yes
Article title	Full title of the published study
Article link	Access link to the published study
Approach to equity and diversity in the main sections of the study	No / Yes
Reason for exclusion	Reason 1: use of the term only for sample description or statistical adjustments; Reason 2: sample selection without justification based on equity and diversity; Reason 3: insufficient mention of the theme (in only one section of the article, for example).
Thematic category	Gender studies / Ethnic-racial studies / LGBTQIAPN+ studies / Inclusion studies / Studies on older adults / Social justice studies / More than one theme (specify)
Study region	North / Northeast / Central-West / Southeast / South / National / International / N/A (Not applicable)
Region of the first author	North / Northeast / Central-West / Southeast / South / International
Study scope	Local (local studies) / Regional (regional studies without national coverage) / National (nationwide coverage) / Global (data with worldwide coverage or multiple countries) / Multicenter – national / Multicenter – international / N/A (reviews, theoretical essays, etc.)
Type of publication	Original article / Review article / Theoretical essay / Editorial, commentary, letter, or viewpoint
Study design	Cross-sectional / Longitudinal / Clinical trial / Review (any type) / Case-control / Qualitative study / N/A (Not applicable)
Research domains	Levels, trends, and measurement / Determinants / Consequences / Interventions / Policies / More than one domain / N/A (Not applicable)
Gender distribution among authors	Predominantly male / Predominantly female / Equitable distribution
Gender of the first author	Male / Female
Gender of the last author	Male / Female
Number of authors	Total number of authors in the article

Reviewers' assessment

The reviews of this article were originally conducted in Portuguese. This version has been translated using ChatGPT and subsequently reviewed by the Chief Editors.

Reviewer A

Anonymous

Comments to the author:

This is a groundbreaking and essential work. The results presented should provoke reflection and a certain degree of discomfort throughout the community that publishes in (Revista Brasileira de Atividade Física & Saúde (RBAFS), as the themes of equity, diversity, and inclusion have simply been neglected during the journal's existence.

May this work inspire new directions, new research ideas, and a turning point in this narrative. May the field of physical activity and health become pluralistic, critical, sensitive, and outraged at social injustices, prejudices, and oppression. These issues impact life, particularly the lives of certain social groups, and therefore centrally affect physical activity, leisure, dignity, and human rights. Congratulations on this valuable contribution!

Final review (decision)

- Accept

Reviewer B

Anonymous

- Was any indication of plagiarism observed in the manuscript?

No

- Did the authors provide clarifications regarding the ethical procedures adopted in the research?

Not applicable

Comments to the author:

- This is a study on a relevant topic that addresses the need for a critical perspective on scientific production, aiming to characterize the presence of equity and diversity in works published in RBAFS. The study presents interesting information that could guide potential policies for RBAFS itself, as well as other journals in the field. On the other hand, since the review was conducted specifically on works published only in RBAFS, this represents the main concern, as it increases self-citation of RBAFS ar-

ticles (which may complicate indexing in other databases) and provides a perspective limited to the journal itself, essentially a self-evaluation. The abstract is well-structured; just check the correct use of punctuation in numbers in the thousands and, if possible, include more information on values in the results section.

- In the introduction, the direction is interesting; however: a) provide a clear definition of diversity and equity to guide readers; b) how could the authors characterize contributions beyond RBAFS, and what could these findings contribute? c) The authors mention that the journal has consolidated over 30 years, but what data support this statement (bringing publication numbers, citations, and Google Scholar H-index could strengthen this point)?
- Adjust the objective, which could be better described as: the objective of the present study was to describe the scientific knowledge produced in RBAFS between 1995 and 2024 that focused on equity and diversity.
- The methods are well-structured, presenting the guiding question and adjacent elements for potential replication. The review study does not require ethics committee approval; however, there is a need to register the protocol in specific platforms for review-type research, such as scoping reviews on the Open Science Framework (OSF). Was this considered?
- Regarding the items extracted from the publications, how did the authors determine the authors' genders? Could the name alone differentiate, for example, if the author's name was Taylor, which gender would be classified?
- Regarding the methods section: eligible studies were those explicitly addressing equity and diversity in at least one substantial section of the text—introduction, methods, results, and/or discussion—including discussions on inequalities, social justice, social markers of difference (race, gender, sexuality, disability, age), intersectionality, or affirmative actions. Therefore, if an article discussed equity and diversity in the discussion but not in the results, would it still be considered relevant? It seems that studies should have diversity and equity as a focus,

which should appear in various sections (research problem and measurement variables), but especially in the results, accompanied by the discussion.

- Clarify what “other documents” excluded refers to.
- The results are adequate.
- The discussion addresses the results presented and discusses the main findings. Check the citation of the author Silvia on page 11, line 1, as the year appears (2023).
- The conclusion appropriately closes the study, addressing the research problem.

Final considerations

- If possible, adjust the figure to better present the information. Additionally, to avoid excessive RBAFS article citations—which may affect indexing in databases—it is recommended to replace all other RBAFS articles not selected in the review. This could reduce the level of self-citation.

Final review (decision)

- Minor revisions required