# Oral Health in the Family Health Strategy: analysis of articles published in the period 2004-2014

Saúde bucal na Estratégia de Saúde da Família: análise dos artigos publicados no período 2004-2014

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> Abstract This study aimed to conduct an integrative review of scientific literature on the topic of Oral Healt\h in the Family Health Strategy in the period 2004-2014. Articles published in national and international journals (n = 141) were consulted and selected from the electronic Library the Scientific Electronic Library Online (SciELO) and from electronic databases PubMed, Lilacs, BBO and Cochrane. The implementation process of oral health teams in the Family Health Strategy was the most frequent thematic variable (18%) of the 15 variables identified. The Northeast was the Brazilian macro-region where the largest number of published articles originated (n = 61). The studies were predominantly quantitative, and the highest number of publications occurred in 2010 (n = 26). We concluded that there is an increasing interest in investigating the context of oral health implementation in the Family Health Strategy, with particular emphasis on theme categories related to the micro-process work and the redefinition of professional identities arising from multidisciplinary work in primary care.

> **Key words** Scientific production, Family Health Strategy, Oral health, Primary Health Care

**Resumo** Este trabalho teve como objetivo realizar uma revisão integrativa da produção científica sobre o tema Saúde Bucal na Estratégia Saúde da Família, no período de 2004-2014. As fontes de consulta e seleção de artigos publicados em periódicos nacionais e internacionais (n = 141) foram a biblioteca eletrônica Scielo e as bases eletrônicas PubMed, Lilacs, BBO e Cochrane. O processo de implantação das equipes de Saúde Bucal na Estratégia de Saúde da Família foi a variável temática mais frequente (18%) entre as 15 identificadas. A macrorregião brasileira onde se originou o maior número de artigos publicados foi a Nordeste (n = 61). Os estudos foram predominantemente quantitativos e o ano com o maior número de publicações foi 2010 (n = 26). Conclui-se que há um crescimento no interesse em se investigar o contexto de implantação da saúde bucal na ESF, com destaque particular para as categorias temáticas relacionadas ao microprocesso de trabalho e à redefinição de identidades profissionais decorrentes do trabalho multiprofissional na atenção primária.

**Palavras-chave** Produção científica, Estratégia Saúde da Família, Saúde bucal, Atenção Primária à Saúde

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### Introduction

In 1994 the Family Health Strategy (FHS) was established as a entry point to care for users into the Unified Health System (SUS) in Brazil. The FHS teamwork in specific geographic areas and is responsible for implementing actions for health promotion, disease prevention, treatment of common health conditions and rehabilitation<sup>1,2</sup>.

The insertion of the Oral Health Team (OHT) into the Family Health Strategy (FHS) starting in 2000 represented the possibility of introducing a change into the current oral health care model of the national Unified Health System (UHS), which emphasizes dental care with a clinical, individual, repairing, and biomedical focus<sup>1</sup>. This transformation would be possible through conceptual redefinition and reorientation of practices aimed at actions based on the principles of integrity, coordination, and continuity of care by the OHT, among other strategic actions<sup>2</sup>.

Researchers have investigated the role of the OHT/FHS, particularly in aspects related to the micro-process work, innovation in care models, and potential epidemiological impact on oral health<sup>3-7</sup>. These studies' findings are important as they can influence future practices and investment in resources and serve as a basis for the development of other studies<sup>3,4</sup>. Thus, this review and comment on the scientific literature concerning the oral health topic in FHS allows more insight into the working process and the results of the recent integration/expansion of OHT in primary care in Brazil<sup>5,6</sup>.

One of the methodological possibilities to accomplish this task is an integrative review. This approach is widely accepted and used in international literature because it allows researchers to summarize information while providing a critical evaluation of the results of multiple primary studies regarding a certain topic8. Given the above, this work aims to conduct an integrative review of the scientific literature on oral health of the FHS during the period 2004-2014.

#### Material and methods

An integrative review study was conducted on published works addressing the issue of oral health in the Family Health Strategy. The search for articles was performed electronically in in the library Scientific Electronic Library Online (Sci-ELO) and in the databases Public Medline (PubMed), Latin American and Caribbean Health Sciences Literature (Lilacs), Brazilian Dental Library (BBO) and Cochrane Library (Cochrane).

In the electronic library SciELO and in the databases Lilacs, BBO the following search terms were used: 'saúde da família and saúde bucal', 'odontologia em saúde pública and saúde da família', and 'odontologia and saúde da família', defined through consultation of Descritores em Ciências da Sáude (DeCS) (comparable to Medical Subject Headings - MeSH). In PubMed and Cochrane databases, the terms 'family health and oral health' and 'primary health care and oral health' were used, defined by the Medical Subject Headings (MeSH).

Only articles published in refereed journals were included in this integrative review, since they were subjected to the scrutiny of the editorial peer review process9.

The terms were searched in article titles, keywords, and abstracts. The inclusion criteria was articles from Brazil in English, Spanish, and Portuguese published in the period between 2004 and 2014. Only articles were selected; theses, dissertations and grey literature were excluded. When it was possible the inclusion criteria were adopt as searching filters for the articles according to the specificity of each database. The articles considered relevant were selected by reading the titles and abstracts. Three independent investigators read the titles and the abstracts and agreed that in case of disagreement over the inclusion or exclusion of any of the articles the divergence would be held to a vote.

To find and exclude duplicate articles, the reference manager EndNote X4 was used. After excluding duplicates, we selected those articles considered relevant to the review topic by reading the full texts. Three independent investigators read the full texts and agreed that in case of disagreement over the inclusion or exclusion of any of the articles, a new closed reading would be held, and the divergence remained would be held to a vote.

The collected information from the selected studies was processed using an instrument consisting of the following organizing elements: author, year of publication, title, journal of publication, location of the study, type of study, theme categories and the aims. The organizing elements were selected to facilitate the evaluation process. After extracting the information from the selected articles, results were analysed and discussed.

## Results

Initially, 6,803 publications were obtained: 5,607 in PubMed, 501 in Lilacs, 198 in BBO, 291 in the Cochrane database, and 206 in SciELO. After applying search filters appropriate in each database for the purpose, 451 studies considered relevant were selected. After reading the titles and abstracts, 271 duplicate articles and 39 theses and

dissertations were excluded, resulting in 141 articles that met all the inclusion criteria. Reading of the articles text in full was done independently by two investigators and the data of the 141 articles was summarized by the integrative review method<sup>10</sup>. Chart 1 provides a list of selected studies. The flow diagram of articles selection is presented in Figure 1.

Chart 1. Author, Publication Year. Article title.

Author, Publication Year. Article title	Author, Publication Year. Article title.
	al., 2011. Accessibility to Oral Health Services
	nary Care: Unveiling the Absenteeism in a
	Health Unit of João Pessoa-PB.
size: from community links to organization of clinical	ricaltii Ollit of Joao i essoa-i B.
care.	
	rd 2013. Responsibilities of Oral Health
	cian in the Family Health Strategy in Minas
Brazil. Gerais,	
	et al., 2011. Dental knowledge among
	uals from a family-health unit in São Carlos,
Goytacazes. Brazil.	
	viz; Pelicioni, 2010. Buccal Health In Family
	Strategy In The City Of São Paulo: The
	's Perceptions.
	a et al., 2010. Occurrence of dental caries and
, ,	ted factors in children from 24 to 60 months
	n areas covered by the Family Health Program,
Salvado	or - BA, 2008.
Pinto et al., 2012. Emergency dental services in a Carnut;	; Figueiredo; Goés, 2011. Characterization of
Health Unit linked to the Family Healthcare Strategy   dental l	health care in primary health through using
of Montes Claros, Minas Gerais.	alth form-D: preliminar results.
Rodrigues et al., 2010. Oral health team practices Nery et	al., 2010. Satisfaction Levels of the Elderly
within the family health strategy and construction in Relat	tion to Family Health Strategy, Through an
(de) construction of integrality in Feira de Santana- Analysi	s of Oral Health Care.
BA.	
Santos et al., 2010. Affectivity as a tool in the adhesion Melo et	al., 2010. Dental Caries in Preschoolers: A
to guidelines on education in oral health in the Family   Study in	n Areas Assisted by the Family Health Strategy
Health Program. of the c	city of Recife, PE, Brazil.
	Sampaio, 2010. Integrating Oral Health Team
	Family Health Strategy: The Professionals'
region of Bahia (Feira de Santana): organization and Percept	
micropolitics.	
	; Cruz, 2012. Challenges for the organization of
_	ealth Care in Bahia, Brazil.
	·
	t al., 2010. The embracement of oral health
	the Family Health Strategy, Fortaleza-CE: an
	nce practice.
	al., 2005. Proposal of a protocol for thediabetic
	dental attendance in basic health attention.
city of Bom Jesus do Norte – ES.	

Chart 1. Author, Publication Year. Article title.

Author, Publication Year. Article title	Author, Publication Year. Article title.
Bulgarelli et al., 2014. Resolubility in oral health for	Silva; Forte, 2009. Access to Dental Treatment,
primary care as an instrument for the evaluation of	Mother's Perception of Oral Health and Intervention
health systems.	Strategies in the City of Mogeiro, PB, Brazil.
Pereira et al., 2012. Impact of the Family Health	Kitamura; Leite, 2009. Correlation between human
Strategy: an analysis in cities in Northeast Brazil with	development Index and dental caries in a sample
more than 100,000 inhabitants.	of cities of minas gerais state: implications for the
	inclusion of oral healthin the family health strategy.
Almeida et al., 2012. Family context and incidence of dental caries in preschool children living in areas covered by the Family Health Strategy in Salvador, Bahia State, Brazil.	Domingues et al., 2008. Oral health and dental care: the social representations of mothers who attend a public health service.
Bulgarelli et al., 2012. Primary healthcare and the	Melo; Rosa, 2009. Level of Knowledge and preventive
construction of meanings of oral health: a social	behavior of surgeon-dentists and users of basic
constructionist interpretation of discourses of the	healthcare program in Aracaju-SE regarding Oral
elderly	Cancer.
Turrioni et al., 2012. Assessment of educational actions on the oral health of adolescents within the Family Health Strategy.	Cruz et al., 2009. Working process in the family health strategy: a perspective from the oral health team.
Baldani; Antunes, 2011. Inequalities in access and	Barbosa et al., 2007. Oral health care in the family
utilization of dental services: a cross-sectional study in	health program, from its implementation to today's
an area covered by the Family Health Strategy.	moment: Perceptions of dentists and assistants in municipality context.
Stocco; Baldani, 2011. The control of babies' dental	Pires et al., 2007. Knowledge of oral health by
visits through the vaccines card: evaluating a pilot	community health agents: a perspective of educational
program developed at the Family Health Strategy at	deficiencies in the family health program.
Ponta Grossa (PR, Brazil).	denote the time in the program.
Ditterich et al., 2009. The work with family carried	Cericato et al., 2010. A inserção do cirurgião-dentista
through for academics of dentistry in the family	no PSF: uma revisão crítica sobre as ações e os
health strategy in Curitiba-PR: an experience practice.	métodos de avaliação das Equipes de Saúde Bucal.
Oliveira et al., 2012. The community health agents and	Medeiros et al., 2007. Dentist expectation about the
oral cancer prevention.	insertion of oral health in the family health program.
Carvalho et al., 2011. Dental pain in the previous 3	Viana et al., 2012. Analysis of access to dental services
months in adolescents and Family Health Strategy:	through the first dental programmatic appointment
the comparison between two areas with different to	indicator in Pernambuco: a comparative study
oralhealth care approaches	between the years 2001 and 2009.
Soares et al., 2013. Inequalities in oral health care use	Nascimento et al., 2013. Oral health in the context of
in the primary care setting and associated factors in	primary care in Brazil.
two Brazilian municipalities.	primary care in Brazii.
Silva et al., 2011. Analysis of the progress of the oral	Padilha et al., 2005. DENTAL Planning in the Family
health teams inserted in the Family Health Strategy	Health Program of the State of Paraíba: A qualitative
in Pernambuco, Northeast Region, Brazil, 2002 until	study
2005.	Study
	Neto et al., 2007. Restaurações diretas na ESF em
Busato et al., 2011. Evaluation of the perception of the oral health teams of the municipal health department	Teresina. Direct restorations in the family health
of Curitiba, Paraná State, regarding atraumatic	program in Teresina (PI).
restorative treatment (ART).	program in recoma (11).
	Moura et al. 2010 Profile and procedures of the
Pimentel et al., 2010. Analysis of oral health attention in the Family Health Strategy of the Sanitary District	Moura et al., 2010. Profile and procedures of the community health agents regarding oral health in the
	countryside of Piauí State, Brazil.
VI, Recife, Pernambuco State.	
	Santos; Assis. 2005. Relation net of buccal health
Lima et al., 2006. Early oral health care: family health team task.	Santos; Assis, 2005. Relation net of buccal health practice's protagonist in the family health program in

Chart 1. Author, Publication Year. Article title.

Chart 1. Author, 1 ublication real. Article true.	
Author, Publication Year. Article title	Author, Publication Year. Article title.
Faccin et al., 2010. Work process in oral health: seeking	Fonseca et al., 2013. The oral health of seniors in
different looks to understand and transform the	Brazil: addressing the consequences of a historic lack
reality.	of public health dentistry in an unequal society.
Moretti et al., 2010. Intersectoriality in health	Silva; Gomes Filho, 2012. Perception of the users
promotion actions carried out by the oral health team	about the incorporation of the oral health team in the
of Curitiba, Paraná State.	Family Health Program.
Martelli et al., 2010. Surgeon dentist's profile inserted	Correia; Silveira, 2011. Perception Regarding the Oral
in the Strategy of Family Health in cities in the state of	Health and Premature Birth among Members of Staff
Pernambuco, Brazil.	of FHS and Pregnant women.
Rodrigues et al., 2010. Health community agent:	Tonello et al., 2007. Assessment of oral health status
subject of the buccal health practice in Alagoinhas,	of pregnant women participating in a family health
Bahia state.	program in the city of Lucas do Rio Verde – MT –
	Brazil
Pereira et al., 2009. Inclusion of oral health teams in	Godoi et al., 2014. An oral health care network
the Family Health Program and its impact on the use	organized by large municipalities in Santa Catarina
of dental services.	State, Brazil.
Frazão; Marques, 2009. Effectiveness of a community	Moura et al., 2013. Oral health in the family health
health worker program on oral health promotion.	strategy in a regional management territory of the
N 1 2222 2 11 12 1 1 2 2	state of Piaui.
Nascimento et al., 2009. Oral health in the family	Palmier et al., 2012. Socioeconomic indicators and
health strategy: a change of practices or semantics	oral health services in an underprivileged area of
diversionism.	Brazil.
Almeida et al., 2009. The dental health of preschool-	Abreu et al., 2013. A survey of the sociodemographic
aged children resident in areas covered by the Family	and educational characteristics of oral health
Health Program, in the city of Salvador, in the State of Bahia, Brazil.	technicians in public primary health care teams in Minas Gerais, Brazil.
Lourenço et al., 2009. The insertion of oral health	Matos; Tomita, 2004. Oral health in the Brazilian
services in the Family Health Program at Minas Gerais	Family Health Program: from the university to
State, Brazil.	training centers.
Holanda et al., 2009. Reflections around the	Colussi; Calvo, 2011. An evaluation model for oral
performance of community health agents in oral	health in primary care.
health strategies.	r , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
Reis et al., 2009. Evaluation of oral health service in	Colussi et al., 2013. The Linear Programming to
Grão Mogol city, state of Minas Gerais, Brazil: "the	evaluate the performance of Oral Health in Primary
users' voice.	Care.
Terreri; Soler, 2008. Comparative study of two	Pucca Junior et al., 2010. Financing national policy
classification criteria used in the Family Health	on oral health in Brazil in the context of the Unified
Program to prioritize treatment of dental caries in	Health System.
5-to-12 year-old children.	
Rocha; Goes, 2008. Comparison of access to Oral	Kusma; Moyses, 2012. Health promotion: perspectives
Health Services between areas covered and not covered	for evaluation of oral health in primary healthcare.
by the Family Health Program in Campina Grande,	
Paraíba State, Brazil.	
Almeida; Ferrreira, 2008. Oral health in the context	Lemos et al., 2010 . The oral health care model in
of the Family Health Program: preventive practices	Middle and Low Xingu: partnerships, processes, and
targeting individual and public health.	perspectives.
Santos et al., 2008.Bond and autonomy of the oral	Martins et al., 2011. How primary health care
health practice in the Family Health Program.	professionals and residents assess issues related to the oral health of older persons?
Koyashiki et al., 2008. The work in oral health of the	Lindoso et al., 2005. Caries active white spots and
Community Health Agent in Family Health Units.	dental biofilms prevalences in children from 0 to 36
	months of age, assisted by Family Health Program in
	Camaragibe - PE, Brazil.

Chart 1. Author, Publication Year. Article title.

Author, Publication Year. Article title	Author, Publication Year. Article title.
Martelli et al., 2008. Analysis of the oral health care	Carnut et al., 2011. Initial validation of the index of
model in cities of the state of Pernambuco.	oral healtcare needs for oral health teams in the family
model in cities of the state of remainbuco.	healthcare strategy.
Emmi; Barroso, 2008. Evaluation of oral health actions	Cunha et al., 2011. Oral Health in Diadema, Brazil:
in the Family Health Program in the Mosqueiro	from schoolchildren dentistry to family health
district, Pará State, Brazil.	strategy
Souza; Roncalli, 2007. Oral health in the Brazilian	Costa et al., 2010. Working Process of Dentist in the
Family Health Program: a health care model	Family Health Strategy of Parnamirim-RN: Facing the
evaluation.	Challenges of a New Care Model
Santos et al., 2007. Conflicting situations in the	Almeida et al., 2010. Preventive action in oral health
reception of oral health teams from the Family Health	development in the Family Health Strategy: how are
Program in Alagoinhas, Bahia, Brazil.	the dentists evaluating the results in its work process?
Chaves; Vieira da Silva, 2007. Oral health care and	Rodrigues et al., 2009. Dental health in feira de
health decentralization in Brazil: two case studies in Bahia State.	santana (BA) family health program: the surgeon dentist profile.
Santos; Assis, 2006. From fragmentation to integrality:	Freire, 2013. The Family Health Strategy workers'
constructing and reconstructing the practice of buccal	perception of the oral health team performance in
health in the Alagoinhas (BA) Family Health Program.	Goiânia-GO, Brazil, 2009: a qualitative study.
Fakhouri, 2004. The real situation of the dentist inside	Soares et al., 2013. Constructing public oral health
the family health program.	policies in Brazil: issues for reflection.
Fischer et al., 2010. Primary dental care indicators:	Rocha; Araujo, 2009. Working conditions of oral
association with socioeconomic status, dental care,	health teams in the Family Health Program: the case
water fluoridation and Family Health Program in Southern Brazil.	of North Health District in Natal, RN, Brazil.
Mello; Moysés, 2010. Best practices in local health	Turrioni et al., 2012. Assessment of educational
systems: focusing on the elderly's oral health.	actions on the oral health of adolescents within the
	Family Health Strategy.
Melo et al., 2012. Oral healh National Policy and	Rodrigues et al., 2011. Oral health in family health
bioethics of protection by the integral care.	strategy in a town of the bahian semiarid.
Ciombra et al., 2012. Relationship between dental	Castim et al., 2014. Analysis of oral health indicators
caries risk and socioeconomic and demographic	of Pernambuco: performance of cities according
variables in users of the Family Health Strategy in the	to size population, population enrolled in the
city of Amparo, SP: a longitudinal study.	Information System for Primary Care and proportion
	in the Family Health Strategy.
Rodrigues; Assis, 2005. Supply and demand in the	Baldani et al., 2005. Inclusion of oral health services
buccal health care: the work process in the family	in the Family Health Program in the State of Paraná,
health care program in Alagoinhas – Bahia.	Brazil.
Almeida et al., 2012. Family context, malocclusion	Padula, 2014. Professional profile of dentists who are
and oral habits in preschool children living in areas	members of the Family Health Strategy city of Marília,
assisted by Family Health Strategy, Salvador, State of	São Paulo: the challenge of interprofessional work.
Bahia, Brazil.	Olimina et al. 2014 The of heavel
Orth et al., 2012. Tuberculosis and the oral health staff	Oliveira et al., 2014. Use of dental services in areas
in the family health program of São Carlos - SP, Brazil	covered by the Family Health Strategy in Olinda, Brazil
Gonçalves et al., 2012. Variables associated to the	Pace et al., 2006. Oral hygiene habits of family enrolled
performance of dental surgeons in the health family strategy	in a Family Health Program in Ribeirão Preto: SP, Brazil.
Garbin et al., 2012. Oral health care parameters:	Silveira et al., 2014. The interaction of several fields of
comparison between two methods of scheduling	knowledge for the articulation of collective oral health
clinical dental care in the public service.	actions: the mapping of a family health team.
Cavalcanti et al., 2012. Use and Access to Oral Health	França et al., 2007. Therapeutic with medicinal plants
Services of SUS - A Comparison between Rural and	in the oral diseases: the perception of the professionals
Urban Populations.	in the program of family health of Recife.

Chart 1. Author, Publication Year. Article title.

Author, Publication Year. Article title	Author, Publication Year. Article title.		
Melo et al., 2012. Level of Information and Preventive	Mattos et al., 2014. The inclusion of the oral health		
Behavior of Patients Attending the Family Health	team in the Brazilian Family Health Strategy: barriers,		
Program of Aracaju-SE Regarding Oral Cancer.	advances and challenges.		
Lopes Júnior et al., 2010. The oral health in the Family	Sanglard-Oliveira et al., 2013. Responsibilities of		
Health Strategy: a methodological interface based on	oral health technician in the family health strategy in		
Delphi technique.	Minas Gerais, Brazil.		
Aragão et al., 2012. Accessibility of Disabled Children	Mialhe et al., 2011. Community health agents and		
and Adolescents to Basic Oral Health Attention at the	their educational practices in oral health: a qualitative/		
Public Health system – A Pilot Study.	quantitative evaluation.		
Da Silva et al., 2010. Prevalence of the periodontal	Anacleto; Cutolo, 2007. Contributions for a discussion		
disease in women and children from the Family	about the odontologycs formation, beginning from		
Health Strategy in Campo Grande city-MS.	the inclusion of the oral health in the Family's Health		
	Strategies: [review].		
Carneiro et al., 2012. Occurrence of Tooth Loss	Agripino et al., 2007. Dentistry and the Family Health		
Among Users of the Family Health Strategy in	Program: new challenges and perspectives.		
Campina Grande - PB.			
Alves et al., 2012. Service-Learning Integration	Oliveira et al., 2009. Oral health in the family health		
Process: Successful Experience in Providing Oral Care	strategy: perceptions of professionals and family		
to the Community	carers.		
Szpilman; Oliveira, 2011. The user's perception on the	Cavalcanti et al., 2012. Evaluation of users of basic		
dentistry health services in health unities in Vila Velha	attention healthcare about the implantation of an		
(ES), Brazil.	integral dental assistance protocol.		
Martello et al., 2012. Dental caries and factors	Macedo et al., 2008. Evaluation of the surgeon-dentists		
associated in children aged three years enrolled	placed in the Family Health Strategy of the cityof		
in Family Health Units in the Municipality of	Recife as for how appropriate is their knowledge		
Rondonopolis, Mato Grosso, Brazil.	concerned the actions in thisstrategy.		
Rodrigues; Bomfim, 2010. Oral health in the family	Silva et al., 2011. Study on oral health of elderly		
health program of a municipality of the semi-arid	patients linked to a Family Health Program, who take		
region of Bahia (Feira de Santana): organization and	antihypertensive medication		
micropolitics.	P. ' C. ' 2011 P. I. Cd. 1 . 1		
Marin; Leite, 2011. Prevalence of dental caries in	Farias; Sampaio, 2011. Role of the dental surgeon in		
5-6-year-old schoolchildren assisted by the family	the family health team.		
health program in a medium-sized city of Minas Gerais – Brazil.			
Anjos et al., 2011. Brazilian oral health crew: advances			
and challenges.			
and chancinges.			

Fifteen thematic categories were identified in the 141 selected articles (Table 1). The most discussed thematic category in the analysed production was the implementation process of oral health teams in the FHS follow by teamwork process. The highest number of publications was found in 2010 with 26 articles focused on the review topic. The distribution of articles according to publication year is presented in Figure 2. The majority of the articles were published in national journals; only five were published in international journals. The journal with the largest number of published articles was 'Ciência e

Saúde Coletiva' (n = 28) in the period between 2004 and 2014. The majority of the articles were published by authors from public universities (n = 114). Only eighteen articles had professionals working in primary care teams participating as authors.

The region in which the largest number of published articles originated was the Northeast (n=61), followed by the Southeast (n=37) and the South (n=22). The regions with the lowest number of publications were the North (n=2) and Mid-west (n=5). Of the 141 articles, three were nationally based studies, and 11 were lit-

erature reviews on the topic, not representing any region. The categorization of the studies by Brazilian states is shown in Figure 3. Two articles presented information regarding only the region where they were conducted, not the state. As for the research method used, 42% were qualitative

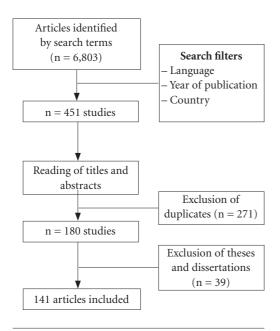


Figure 1. Flow diagram of selection of articles.

(n = 59), 57% quantitative (n = 80), and 1% qualitative and quantitative (n = 2).

There was recently an increasing interest in investigating the context of oral health implementation in the FHS. Thus the years 2010, 2011 and 2012 had the highest number of publications, with the sum of articles published in that period being higher than the sum of publications in other years in the evaluated period and the majority of the authors are affiliated with public universities.

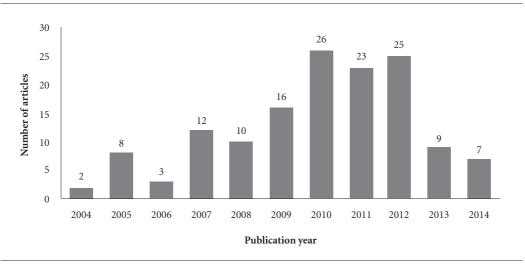
#### Discussion

The first finding is that there was recently an increasing interest in investigating the context of oral health implementation in the FHS. This investigative movement is most likely correlated with the more than a decade already spent in national trials with this type of care. In other words, the increasing national experience on the subject likely led to a deeper scrutiny and appreciation of its capabilities and limitations, justifying the greater frequency of publications in the years 2010, 2011 and 2012.

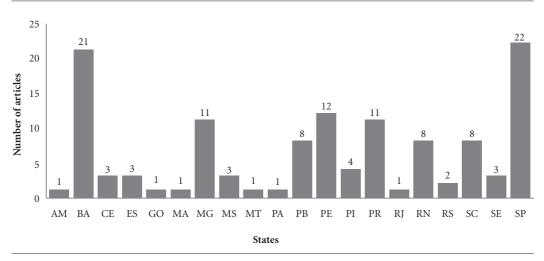
Three Brazilian regions originated the largest number of published articles (Northeast, Southeast and the South) and this distribution of the articles is characterized by geographical inequalities. Perhaps this can be justified by the local experience on the subject and distribution of dentists in Brazil, varies greatly by region<sup>11</sup>.

**Table 1**. Absolute and relative frequency of articles on oral health in the Family Health Strategy (FHS), according to the topic covered, Brazil, 2004–2014.

Thematic Variables	Nº (%) 15 (10.6)	
Oral health status of the assisted population		
Impact of actions on indicators/Analysis of indicators	8 (5.7)	
Performance of the oral health assistant/oral health technician	5 (3.6)	
Team work process	17 (12.0)	
Procedures performed by the team/Actions of oral health education	6 (4.3)	
Full attention to the user/Integrality	2 (1.4)	
Actions and oral health knowledge of the community worker	6 (4.3)	
Surgeon profile - dentist engaged in FHS	12 (8.5)	
Organization/reorganization of public dental services	10 (7.0)	
Implementation process of oral health teams in the FHS	18 (12.8)	
Intersectionality of the actions developed	3 (2.0)	
Access to services/Inequities in access	13 (9.2)	
Perception of the user regarding the service or own health	14 (10.0)	
Perception of the professionals regarding the FHS and its performance	5 (3.6)	
Progress and challenges of oral health teams in the FHS	7 (5)	
	Total = 141	



**Figure 2.** Number of articles on oral health in the Family Health Strategy published in the period between 2004 and 2014.



**Figure 3.** Distribution of the Brazilian states by number of articles on oral health in the Family Health Strategy published in the period between 2004 and 2014.

Analysis of the publications showed that the majority of the authors are affiliated with public universities; fewer professionals working in primary care teams participated as authors. The inclusion of professionals from the OHT/FHS as authors and not only as participants in the research is something to be considered in future studies as it would promote greater knowledge ownership in the scenarios studied, avoiding unilaterality of the knowledge produced<sup>12,13</sup> in addi-

tion to stimulating the integration of education and health services (one of the guidelines for the paradigm shift in terms of professional training in health).

The second most discussed thematic category in the analysed production was the micro-process work of OHT/FHS. Perhaps this can be justified by the difficulties that teams still find in the practices recommended by the National Oral Health Policy in addition to the challenge

of breaking with a working process marked since its formation by a clinical focused fragmentation<sup>13-15</sup>, suggesting the adoption of a model for comprehensive care centred on the families and people's needs1,16,17.

Despite these difficulties, there are initiatives of professional oral health practices based on health education<sup>17,18</sup>and health promotion<sup>19-21</sup>. These produce improvements in health conditions and practices (20-22) as they are effective in reducing the weaknesses of specific groups and health inequity<sup>22</sup>, despite reduced intersectoriality<sup>21-28</sup>.

Another important theme evaluated was the insertion of OHT into the FHS, certainly a contentious process for most professionals as it involves the dynamic of the encounter between two not well resolved dimensions of a dentist's identity: academic training often focused on individual action and work in a multidisciplinary team of which he/she must be a part<sup>14,22,29,30</sup>. Studies show that these professionals are forced to reconstruct their identities, a paradoxical process marked by difficulties in breaking paradigms and incorporation of new practices<sup>31</sup>. In this sense, it is worth remembering that the OHT were inserted late in the FHS when compared to medical professionals and nurses<sup>2,4</sup>.

According to Chaves<sup>32</sup>, many dentists who work with the FHS experience this professional identity crisis determined by the conflicts generated by the need to rebuild their corporate identity and markedly influenced by the dentistry market and the challenging environment of the public space to be built in oral health services in the country. Real work experiences in Brazilian social spaces should be the starting point for the search of theoretical frameworks in academic training; this could be obtained if students were encouraged following graduation to take responsibility and perform caring interventions that overcome the fragmentation of professional acts, providing a critical exercise of the dimensions involved in public health work<sup>33</sup>.

From this perspective, it is noteworthy that dentists represent a contradiction between the initial perspectives related to the profession and the reality of the FHS<sup>34</sup>, which may result from professional training that did not favour the SUS, implying an inadequate profile35-37 and justifying the need for permanent health education (oral) for both dentists30,35-38 and community health agents39,40.

Understanding the complex relationships in health requires the use of qualitative and quantitative methods<sup>41</sup>. In the present study, despite identification of a higher number of quantitative studies, an increased interest and performance of qualitative research was found in addition to an increase in the space for their publication in biomedical journals. Some studies call themselves qualitative-quantitative, while to Turato<sup>42</sup> the epistemological constructions disallow this terminology; in most cases, these studies are quantitative, because the mere inclusion of literal quotations from the participants without use of coherent interpretive epistemology does not automatically legitimize the study as qualitative for the simple methodological allusion.

In this regard, we must stimulate critical reading of the literature, given that some fundamental misconceptions can be committed with the pretext of obtaining a publication, skewing results or making them at least biased<sup>5,7</sup>. As an example, in some studies equity of access to oral health services was evaluated through questionnaires and interviews with users. It is known that, to obtain more accurate information, the design of future studies should allow a direct approach to the access of services, which can be made possible through the inclusion of conceptual distinctions and of validated access/accessibility/utilization indicators. Equity of access to oral health services is not consolidated by the implementation of the OHT/FHS; it requires studies to establish the real expansion of access to/accessibility of services by different groups and the differential use of public resources43.

In any case, the impact of OHT/FHS's expansion in the growth (at least potential) of access to services and the corresponding impact on oral health conditions are important thematic categories, because they refer to the possibility of effective change in reality. However, these categories were addressed by reports of user satisfaction and analysis of clinical indicators (OHT productivity), thus limiting aspects, considering that impact studies would be more effective in assessing the effects of the strategy on the population<sup>44</sup>, which could be obtained based on other study designs and with the use of distinct indicators of epidemiological basis.

Regarding users, the majority seeking oral health services in the FHS is still women whose main motive is pain, a reflection of the high prevalence of dental cavities<sup>45</sup>, and they have reported being satisfied with the performance of the oral health team<sup>36,46</sup>.

Of the selected studies, we found only three of national basis47-49 and two at the macro-regional

level<sup>49,50</sup> showing the need for broad and specific research in this direction, especially when considering the size of Brazil and, therefore, its important contextual differences regarding population needs and the profile of the working process of the OHT/FHS in the various scenarios.

Studies indicate that FHS has positively impacted some health indicators in general terms<sup>43,46,47</sup>. However, the impact of the integration of OHT into the FHS on oral health indicators at the local and national levels is not yet defined. From this perspective, we point out that only one of the selected studies addressed this issue on a national level, in the so-called Family Health Program<sup>29</sup>.

Regarding access to dental care, it is observed that study results conflict, revealing that, while the current model of dental care has improved the access<sup>30,36,51,52</sup>, this is still considered an obstacle to overcome<sup>51,53</sup>. Some weaknesses of the care model were listed such as the limited universal access<sup>50</sup>, integrity of actions<sup>54</sup>, lack of epidemiological basis of the OHT work and of monitoring/actions evaluation<sup>24,55</sup>, and limitations in the reference and counter-reference process<sup>24,36,38,55</sup>.

Such paradoxes and limitations can be explained by the inconclusive nature of the reorganization of oral health care<sup>56,57</sup> and by the places where the studies were conducted (Brazilian states and municipalities), considering the continental dimensions of Brazil, certainly a reflection of what the cultural diversity and social determinants of health produce in the oral health-disease process.

It is possible that the inclusion of only published studies and only electronic search in this review may be a limitation as it could have excluded many studies. Despite of these limitation, with a critical analysis of the publications included in this study, it is shown that there are still thematic categories poorly explored by the published sci-

entific literature, such as aspects related to financing/investment in oral health and its relationship with social inequities or in-depth analysis of the real impact of OHT/FHS actions on oral health indicators. Considering the thematic categories poorly explored, the lack of validated indicators to assess the efficacy of health care practice accurately could be a limitation faced by researcher, as well as the implementation process of public oral health policies in Brazil is not well-established, due to the later incorporation of Oral Health Teams into the Family Health Strategy and the issues of resource allocation, costs, and financing that still need to be overcomed<sup>58</sup>.

Future research should also look more deeply into the issue of the quality of the articles published with the aim of clarifying which research designs can provide the most valid and useful answer to the institutional and evaluative needs of oral health care in FHS.

#### Conclusion

It was concluded that, in the national scientific production, there has been a growing importance of the analysis of OHT performance inserted in the FHS. Future studies should not only include FHS workers in the authorship but also perform more conceptually in-depth approaches and with robust methodologies and analysis (multivariate analysis, multilevel logistic regression, analysis by triangulation of methods, mix methods), appreciating thematic categories such as the impact of OHT inclusion on the expansion/equity of access and use of services as well as the specific indicators of oral health conditions. For this, one must invest in differentiated methodologies that are sensitive to the proposed topic and that bring reliable subsides for planning/re-orientation of the OHT/FHS actions.

#### Collaboration

CE Dalazen was responsible for searching the bases data analysis, data interpretation and interpretation of the manuscript; AD De-Carli and SJ Moyses were responsible for the conception of the research, interpretation data and critical review of the final manuscript.

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