

RESUMO - SAÚDE E ESPIRITUALIDADE

TEMPORAL TRENDS OF CATHOLIC-RELATED PUBLICATIONS IN PUBMED: A BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS

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Introduction: Religion is increasingly recognized as a relevant dimension in healthcare, particularly in bioethics, spirituality, and patient-centered care; however, the explicit visibility of specific religious identities in indexed biomedical literature remains poorly characterized. Bibliometric analysis provides a means to assess how such themes are represented over time. Objective: To analyze temporal trends and thematic centrality of publications associated with the term “Catholic” in PubMed. Methods: A descriptive bibliometric study was conducted using PubMed. Searches were performed using the term “Catholic” in all fields and, secondarily, restricted to title/abstract to assess thematic centrality. Publications were analyzed in two periods: 2015–2025 and prior to 2015. Absolute frequencies, annual means, and proportions of centrality were

calculated. Results: A total of 121,861 publications containing the term “Catholic” were identified, with 80,281 published between 2015 and 2025 and 40,638 in earlier years. The mean annual number of publications increased from 189 to 7,298, representing a 3,761% variation. When restricted to title/abstract, 2,110 publications were identified in the recent period, corresponding to 2.6% of the total, indicating low thematic centrality of the term within biomedical literature. Conclusion: Despite its frequent presence in indexed publications, the term “Catholic” rarely appears as a central subject, suggesting that explicitly Catholic perspectives remain marginal in biomedical discourse when assessed through direct textual representation. This pattern points to a paradox between the acknowledged relevance of religious and ethical dimensions in healthcare and their limited explicit expression in scientific literature, raising questions about the visibility, integration, and recognition of Catholic contributions within contemporary biomedical knowledge.

Palavras-chave: catholic; bibliometrics; medical literature.