Oral health surveys of Traditional Peoples and Communities in Brazil: a scoping review protocol

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ABSTRACT

Objective The objective of this review protocol is to map the available evidence regarding all the oral health surveys of Traditional Peoples and Communities (TPCs) in Brazil.

Methods and analysis The review question of the protocol is: ‘What evidence is available on the oral health surveys of Traditional Peoples and Communities in Brazil?’ Observational studies that report oral health surveys of TPC in Brazil will be included. The protocol considered the Problem, Concept and Context strategy to guide data collection, as established by the Joanna Briggs Institute. The search strategy will consider Medical Subject Headings terms, synonyms and relevant free terms about epidemiological surveys in oral health and TPC in Brazil, with no limits to data, language, subject or search type, in the databases Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System Online (MEDLINE/PubMed), Literatura Latino-americana e do Caribe em Ciências da Saúde (LILACS), Scopus, Web of Science and Embase. Bibliographic searches will be updated until June 2023. The selection will be carried out by two independent, blinded reviewers, following the eligibility criteria, based on the title and abstract identified in the initial search. Potentially eligible studies will be fully read to confirm eligibility and collect relevant information. The categorisation of the studies will consider the author and year of publication, the traditional group studied, the study design, geographic location, age group, sample size, data collection method and the main oral health problem evaluated and its outcome. The data obtained and extracted will be presented in table format and text and presented using the visualisation of similarities method.

Ethics and dissemination The present study does not need ethical approval. The protocol title was registered in the Open Science Framework (DOI 10.17605/OSF.IO/BQ5J3). A final article will be prepared presenting the results of the scoping review, and will be submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. The findings of this review will be presented at national conferences and scientific meetings.

STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS OF THIS STUDY

⇒ This scoping review will follow Joanna Briggs Institute guidelines and use the Scoping Review extension for the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses, adopting a robust methodology.
⇒ This scoping review will depend on the information available at the time of the analysis. If accurate, complete or up-to-date information is lacking, the review may be limited in its scope and accuracy.
⇒ When conducting a scoping review focused on a specific population, such as Traditional Peoples and Communities of Brazil, it is important to acknowledge that the findings may not be generalisable to the rest of the world because of different cultural and contextual factors, geographical and environmental variations, socioeconomic factors and heterogeneity in the different populations.

INTRODUCTION

Traditional Peoples and Communities (TPCs) of Brazil are culturally differentiated groups, with their own form of organisation, and particular use of the territory and natural resources for the reproduction of their culture, religion, ancestry and economy. According to the Unified Registration (Cadastro Único), a database used to identify individuals in situations of social vulnerability in Brazil, in 2023 approximately 750,000 families were identified as belonging to Quilombola, Indigenous, Riverside communities and Romani groups, included in the TPCs.

Despite the Brazilian legislation ensure the development of policies for TPCs, assuring their right to the territory and the protection of their culture, Indigenous, Quilombolas, Riverside communities and Romani people are still directly affected by social determinants related to poverty, social exclusion and lack of access to health services. The complexity of the sum of the determinants consequently affects the oral health of the individuals that make up the TPCs, considering that this follows the so-called social gradient, which is the direct relationship...
between the socioeconomic position occupied by the individual and their health condition.5 6

Oral health issues are an important public health problem7 and the use of epidemiological information on the health-disease conditions of the population, obtained through surveys, is recommended by the National Oral Health Policy to plan actions in oral health according to the surveillance model of the Unified Health System (SUS).8 In addition, it is through surveys or epidemiological inquiries that information is collected regarding risk factors, use of services, attitudes and practices related to health, as well as demographic data.9

The three oral health surveys that fully represent the Brazilian population, carried out in 1986, 2003 and 2010, were important to understand the epidemiological profile of the population. Although the surveys considered the ethnic profile and the prevalence of diseases in the black and Indigenous populations, these studies did not produce evidence and representative data for TPCs. Those studies considered the self-reported skin colour, which is not directly linked to TPC concept.10–12

A preliminary search was conducted in PROSPERO, MEDLINE (PubMed), the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews and in the Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) Database of Systematic Reviews and Implementation Reports, and no current or pending systematic or scoping reviews of surveys or epidemiological inquiries on the oral health status of TPCs were identified. Therefore, the present study aimed to describe and summarise the scientific production, through primary studies, about the oral health of TPCs in Brazil.

REVIEW QUESTION
The aim of this review is to map the available evidence on the oral health surveys of TPCs in Brazil, through primary studies, answering the following question: ‘What evidence is available on the oral health surveys of Traditional Peoples and Communities in Brazil?’

INCLUSION CRITERIA
Participants and context
Studies conducted with individuals belonging to the main TPC of Brazil (Indigenous, Quilombolas, Riverside communities, and Romani peoples) will be included, with no age restriction. This scoping review will only consider studies conducted with TPC in Brazil.

Concept
This review will consider observational studies that included epidemiological data of oral health surveys, carried out in Brazilian TPC, taking into account the main problems such as dental caries, periodontal disease and tooth loss. Studies reporting secondary data, non-specific studies and not representative for the TPC will not be included in the review.

Type of studies
This scoping review will consider analytical and descriptive observational studies, including prospective and retrospective cohort studies, case–control studies and cross-sectional studies, which include epidemiological data of oral health surveys carried out in TPC in Brazil.

METHODOLOGY
This scoping review will be conducted applying the Problem, Concept and Context methodology to guide data collection, in accordance with the methodology established by the JBI13 and the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses Extension for Scoping Reviews (PRISMA-ScR) checklist.14 It was preferred to carry out a scoping review to synthesise the evidence in this area of research, as it will incorporate a broader scope and less restrictive inclusion criteria than a systematic review.15 This scoping review study commenced in November 2022 with a planned completion date of September 2023.

Search strategy
The search strategy will consider Medical Subject Headings terms, synonyms and relevant free terms about epidemiological inquiries in oral health and TPCs in Brazil. The search strategy was developed by the research group specifically for the MEDLINE database and will later be adapted to other databases, whose terms will be combined using Boolean Operators (OR, AND) (table 1).

No limits to data, language, subject or search type will be placed in the database. Bibliographic searches will be updated until June 2023.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1</th>
<th>Search strategy that will be applied in the databases</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Search Query</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#1</td>
<td>‘(‘quilombola’(Title/Abstract)OR ‘indigenous’(Title/Abstract)OR ‘gypsy’(Title/Abstract)OR ‘riverside communit’(Title/Abstract)OR ‘quilombola populatio’(Title/Abstract)OR ‘indians’(Title/Abstract)OR ‘romani people’(Title/Abstract)OR ‘sinti’(Title/Abstract)OR ‘calon’(Title/Abstract))’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2</td>
<td>‘(‘oral health survey’(All Fields) OR ‘oral health status’(All Fields) OR ‘dental caries’(All Fields) OR ‘periodontal’(All Fields) OR ‘periodontally’(All Fields) OR ‘periodontically’(All Fields) OR ‘periodontics’(MeSH Terms) OR ‘periodontics’(All Fields) OR ‘periodontic’(All Fields) OR ‘periodontitis’(MeSH Terms) OR ‘periodontitis’(All Fields) OR ‘periodontitis’(All Fields) OR ‘tooth loss’(All Fields) OR ‘missing teeth’(All Fields) OR ‘DMF Index’(All Fields) OR ‘dental health survey’(All Fields))’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#3</td>
<td>‘(‘Brazil’(Title/Abstract)OR ‘Brazilian’(Title/Abstract))’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MeSH, Medical Subject Headings.
Databases: source of information

The databases that will be included in the search are: MEDLINE (PubMed), Literatura Latino-americana e do Caribe em Ciências da Saúde (LILACS), Scopus, Web of Science and Embase.

Study selection

The first step in the study selection process involves conducting searches and all identified citations will be imported into the Rayyan Reference Manager (Qatar Computing Research Institute). Duplicates will be removed and the publications will be assessed based on their title, abstract and keywords. In the second stage, a thorough reading of the selected studies from the first stage will be performed. This process will be conducted by two trained, independent, blinded reviewers, following the eligibility criteria established in the protocol. If there is any disagreement among the reviewers, a third reviewer will be involved.

The exclusion reasons for full-text studies that do not meet the inclusion criteria will be recorded and reported in the scoping review. Search results will be fully reported in the final scope review and presented in a flowchart of the PRISMA-ScR.

Patient and public involvement

This scoping review protocol was written with no patient or public involvement.

Data extraction

All included studies will be categorised considering the author and year of publication of the study, the traditional study setting (Indigenous, Riverside communities, Romani people and Quilombola communities), the type of study (case studies, cohort, case–control and cross-sectional), geographic location (Federative Units), age group, sample number, data collection method (clinical examination, questionnaire application, etc), main oral health problem evaluated and its outcome.

Data presentation

The data obtained and extracted will be presented according to the PRISMA-ScR. A flowchart will be presented, indicating the number of evidence found and identifying the eligibility criteria. For each included source of evidence, relevant data regarding the review’s objective will be provided. Since this is a scoping review, the risk of bias in the included studies will not be assessed. Data will be presented in tables and text. In addition, bibliometric data referring to the included studies in the review will be presented, using the visualisation of similarities method.

ETHICS AND DISSEMINATION

Formal ethical approval is not required, as primary data will not be collected in this study. The final protocol was registered in the Open Science Framework (DOI 10.17605/OSF.IO/BQ53). A final article will be prepared presenting the results of the scoping review, and will be submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. The findings of this review will be presented at national conferences and scientific meetings.

Contributors

MLBR, ECFdA and YWC conceived the idea for the review and drafted the original manuscript. MLBR, ECFdA, RDUS and YWC all contributed to the development of the protocol. YWC, BMS, TV, SAS and EHGdL edited and revisited the manuscript. MLBR and YWC conducted the preliminary search and YWC provided expertise on the final search strategy. All authors edited and approved the final text prior to submission for publication.

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Competing interests

None declared.

Patient and public involvement

Patients and/or the public were not involved in the design, or conduct, or reporting or dissemination plans of this research.

Patient consent for publication

Not applicable.

Provenance and peer review

Not commissioned; externally peer reviewed.

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