



Research Article

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## Bibliometric Profile of the Literature on Psychological Wellbeing in Women who Suffer Violence 2010-2024

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### Abstract

*Introduction: Evaluate the scientific production of psychological well-being in violated women: periods 2010-2024. Method: Scoping review in which manuscripts published in journals indexed in the Scopus database between 2010 and 2024 were analyzed. For the search we used descriptors such as psychological well-being, mental health, psychological health, emotional health, violence, women in violence, domestic violence, violence against women, which were combined in the Scopus search engine together with the Boolean operators AND, OR. A narrative synthesis was performed. Results: The research report included 3 098 publications, of which 74.3% were original articles. A constant growth in the number of articles was observed throughout the study period, especially from 2021 onwards, with an increase in 2023 (n=371) compared to 2010 (n=108). The United States was the country with the highest scientific production (29.3%). The journals with the highest number of publications were Journal Of Interpersonal Violence (USA) and the International Journal Of Environmental Research And Public Health (Switzerland). Among the descriptors with the highest impact were anxiety, depression, violence to women and pandemic. Conclusions: The research on psychological well-being in women who have suffered violence has attracted the interest and importance of researchers during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, mostly from institutions in the United States, and finally, there is evidence of a trend in studies related to the implementation of policies and plans for psychological well-being in people who present mental health problems and in the female gender.*

**Keywords:** Psychological well-being, Mental health, Domestic violence, Scientific production indicators, Bibliometric study, Scopus

## 1. Introduction

The psychological well-being of women who have experienced violence is an area of great importance and interest in the field of mental health and gender studies. Violence, such as intimate partner violence and other forms, not only violates human rights, but also affects the mental health and psychological well-being of those who are its victims (E. Espinoza et al., 2023).

Exposure to violence during a man's lifetime can trigger patterns of behavior towards his female partners, negatively impacting their psychological well-being (Bourey et al., 2024). Current studies warn that the prevalence of violence in adult women due to verbal violence, followed by psychological violence, threats and physical violence, impacts mental health, especially psychological well-being (Signorelli et al., 2023). Special attention is paid to the aggravated circumstances at the time of confinement, domestic violence affected the psychological well-being of women and children to a great extent and factors such as household size, presence of young children, perceived stress and previous victimization are key elements in the experience of victimization or perpetration of violence (Fomenko et al., 2022).

Psychological violence in intimate partner relationships negatively impacts women's autonomy, affecting their emotional well-being and life satisfaction (Fernandez et al., 2024); whereas physical/sexual abuse as well as psychological abuse are associated with repeated self-harm, highlighting the importance of considering the experience of domestic violence when assessing and treating people who self-harm (Bandara et al., 2021). A study in Nepal showed that domestic violence before and during pregnancy is associated with increased risks of morbidity and mortality for both, generating low levels of psychological well-being (Chalise et al., 2023). Among common mental disorders, such as depression and anxiety, have a high prevalence during the perinatal period in low-resource settings and are associated with domestic violence, poverty and food insecurity (Abrahams, Schneider, Olckers, et al., 2021).

As examined in scientific studies, in Honduras, women with a history of mental illness or substance use suffer more domestic violence, while those with higher economic income experience less violence, showing the influence of socioeconomic and mental health factors on their well-being (E. Espinoza et al., 2023). In Africa, there was an increase in intimate partner violence, highlighting that psychological/emotional violence was the most common, one of the factors being economic hardship (Ansah et al., 2023). In Israel, an increase in domestic violence is highlighted, associated with worsening household welfare (Shmueli et al., 2023). In contrast, in Saudi Arabia, a significant association was evidenced between different types of abuse and poor health in general, where abused women frequently visited health facilities and showed a high level of psychological stress (Wali et al., 2023).

This issue takes on additional complexity in conflict settings, where the prevalence of gender-based violence is often exacerbated by social, economic, and political destabilization (Morgan et al., 2023). Women who experience violence are more likely to seek health services, even if they do not explicitly disclose violence to a health care provider (Burke et al., 2023). Indeed, abused women tend to have problems with short-term memory, attention, and attentional control, which affects their daily lives, including decision making and concentration (Torres et al., 2022). Also, women in the role of teachers who experienced domestic violence showed a deterioration in their professional and administrative performance (Ayot et al., 2023). In addition, women often express emotional problems through physical symptoms, with risk factors being alcohol use by the partner, marital conflicts, domestic violence, financial problems, unemployment and lack of participation of the partner in household chores (Sathyadas et al., 2023).

Considering the importance of psychological well-being as a mediator in women who have experienced violence, the relevance of providing reliable information to combat the spread of false information and help prevent acts of violence is highlighted (Almeda et al., 2022). However, some studies reported improvements in physical and mental well-being after receiving support, highlighting the importance of specialized support in the recovery and psychological well-being of

victims (Szilassy et al., 2024). It is crucial to recognize that the psychological well-being of battered women is shaped by a variety of contextual factors, such as social support, personal resilience, and access to support services (Kumar & Anupama, 2022).

Clearly, the inherent complexity of the situation described above raises a number of highly pertinent research questions that require thorough analysis: What characteristics define the publications focused on the psychological well-being of women who have experienced violence during the period 2010-2024? What has been the evolutionary trajectory of the scientific literature published on this topic in the specified time frame? Finally, which countries, institutions and scientific journals have contributed most significantly to the expansion of knowledge in this area? In this situation, it is crucial to analyze scientific research using a comprehensive database with quality measures, such as SCOPUS (Livia et al., 2022).

For this reason, performing bibliometric analysis will provide the opportunity to have updated data on the subject. Social stigma, lack of legal and supportive resources, and cultural norms that often perpetuate gender-based violence can create additional barriers to recovery and well-being, underscoring the need for holistic and multidisciplinary approaches to treatment and recovery in cases of battered women, ensuring their psychological well-being. On the other hand, bibliometric analyzes are essential tools to understand the evolution and current state of research on psychological well-being in women who suffer violence, likewise, they will offer a solid basis to guide future research, promote collaborations and improve policies and practices in this important field of study. In this sense, the purpose of the present study is to carry out a review of the scientific production on psychological well-being in battered women in the scientific literature.

## 2. Methods and Materials

### 2.1 Study design

A literature review was carried out under the prism of a Scoping review (Lopez-Cortes et al., 2022), with the purpose of analyzing and discerning publications relevant to the topic of psychological well-being in women victims of violence. This review covered a carefully defined selection of academic papers, circumscribed to those integrated in scientific journals indexed in the Scopus database. The time interval of interest was from January 2010 to March 2024. In terms of the analysis methodology, special attention was paid to the institutional affiliations of the authors, including both university and non-university entities, with the aim of establishing a broad and diversified picture of the contributions to the field of study.

### 2.2 Data collection

During March 2024, a meticulous advanced search was executed, articulated through a robust and efficient strategy designed to manage a large corpus of scientific articles. This strategy involved the implementation of specific filters, using key descriptors, in order to perform an exhaustive and precise search in the titles, abstracts and keywords (abstracts) of the articles. The descriptors selected for this search included critical terms such as "Psychological well-being, Mental health, Psychological health, Emotional health, Violence, Women in violence, Domestic violence, Violence against women". These were entered into the SCOPUS search engine along with Boolean operators (AND, OR) yielding a search equation TITLE-ABS-KEY("Psychological well-being" OR "Mental health" OR "Psychological health" OR "Emotional health" AND violence AND "Women in violence" OR "domestic violence" OR "Violence against women" ).

### 2.3 Data analysis

The initial research yielded a total of 4,525 documents. Subsequently, applying specific delimitation

criteria, such as the period from 2011 to 2022 and the restriction to the thematic areas of Medicine, Psychology, Nursing, and health professionals, as well as the selection of publications in Spanish and English, the dataset was significantly purified. As a result of this rigorous filtering process, a corpus of 3,098 documents were obtained that were considered relevant and selected for detailed analysis, as illustrated in Figure 1.

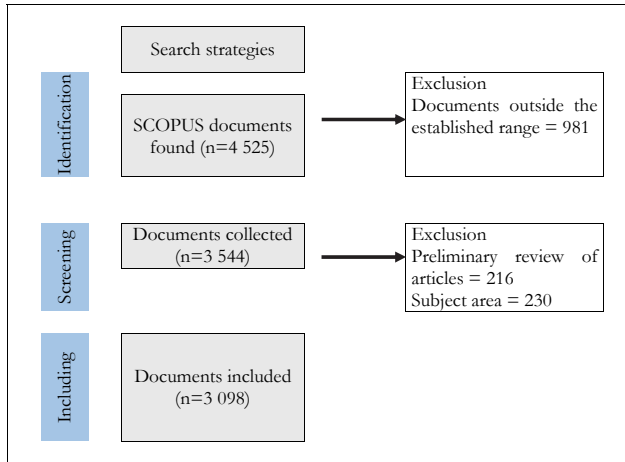


Figure 1. Search matrix of eligible documents

### 3. Results and Discussion

#### 3.1 Results

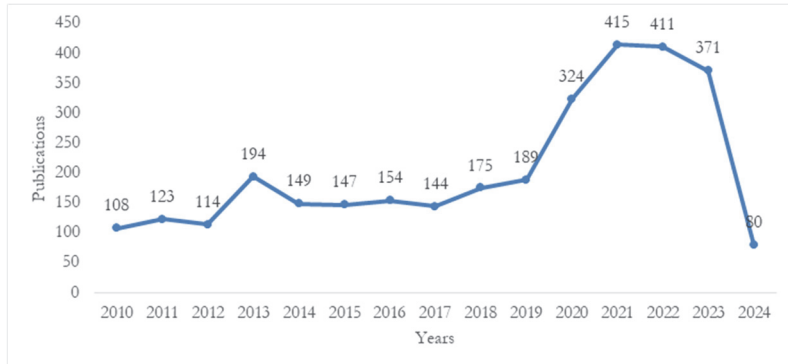
According to the analysis of 3098 scientific publications, all of them included and indexed in the Scopus database, 11 different categories of publishable documents were identified. Of these, 74.3% correspond to "Articles", while "Review" documents represent 12.1%. The remaining categories cover a variety of document types that complement the spectrum of scientific production in the database (Table 1).

Table 1. Scoping review on psychological well-being in women who have been victims of violence: type of documents identified: Scopus, 2010-2024

Type of document	N	%
Article	2303	74.3%
Review	376	12.1%
Note	96	3.1%
Book Chapter	92	3.0%
Editorial	86	2.8%
Letter	62	2.0%
Book	44	1.4%
Short Survey	19	0.6%
Conference Paper	15	0.5%
Erratum	3	0.1%
Retracted	2	0.1%

Source: Prepared by the authors

Within the time parameters, the analysis on study of psychological wellbeing in violated women shows a general increase in the number of publications over the years, starting in 2010 (n= 108), registering a bit of a cut-off in 2019 (n= 189) and reaching a peak in 2021 (n= 415). After 2021, there is a decrease in 2022 (n= 411) and a more significant reduction in 2023 (n= 371). For 2024, the graph shows a marked decrease (n=80), which could indicate partial or incomplete data for that year (Figure 2).



**Figure 2.** Evolution of the number of articles published on psychological well-being in women who have suffered violence. Scopus, 2010-2024

**Source:** Prepared by the authors

During the analysis of psychological wellbeing in women who have been victims of violence, 11 countries have been identified as making a significant contribution to the global scientific literature. Within this group, the United States emerges as the main contributor with 29.3% of the total number of publications, followed by the United Kingdom with 12.1%, and Australia with 7.4%. Notably, within the Latin American context, Brazil stands out as the country with the largest contribution, with 2.7% of the total number of studies. This data reflects not only the relevance assigned to the topic by these nations but may also indicate the level of development and prioritization in the scientific research agenda in relation to the problem of gender violence (Table 2).

**Table 2.** Countries with the highest scientific production on psychological wellbeing in women victims of violence, Scopus, 2010-2024

Country/Territory	N	%
United States	1209	29.3%
United Kingdom	500	12.1%
Australia	304	7.4%
Canada	217	5.3%
India	160	3.9%
Brazil	112	2.7%
South Africa	78	1.9%
Spain	73	1.8%
Italy	68	1.7%
Germany	67	1.6%
Iran	66	1.6%

**Source:** Prepared by the authors

The analysis of the institutional affiliations of the main authors in the scientific literature on

psychological well-being in women affected by violence identifies 105 academic and research entities. Predominant in this area are institutions located in the United States, such as King's College London, the University of Melbourne, the University of Toronto, and the University of Bristol, which stand out for their contribution to the body of research (data not shown).

Corresponding Table 3 of the present analysis details the 10 most preeminent journals in the field of psychological well-being in women affected by violence, categorized by their outstanding contribution to the advancement of specialized knowledge. Among them, the "Journal of Interpersonal Violence" from the United States, and the "International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health" from Switzerland, along with "Child Abuse and Neglect" and "Trauma Violence and Abuse" from the United Kingdom, are distinguished by having published more than 50 articles each. It is noteworthy that 100% of the journals listed are classified within the first quartile (Q1), indicative of a high impact factor and recognition in the international scientific community. The distribution of publications by country of origin of the journals indicates that 50% correspond to journals from the United Kingdom, 30% to Switzerland, and 20% to the United States, reflecting a geographic concentration of scientific production in these nations.

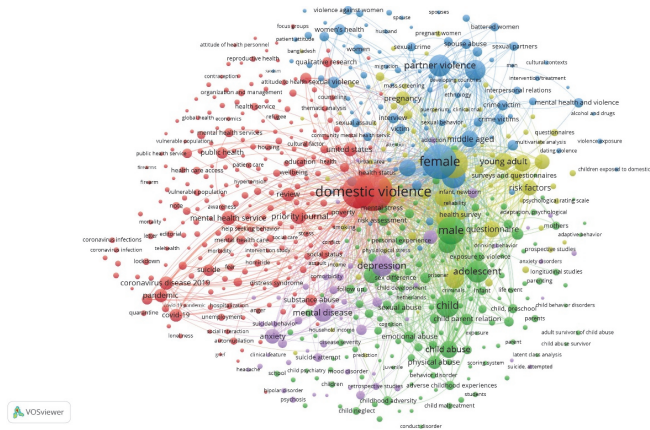
**Table 3.** Journals with the highest production on psychological wellbeing in women victims of violence Scopus, 2010-2024

Source	Country	Quartil	SJR	Category	Documents
Journal Of Interpersonal Violence	Estados Unidos	Q1	1.043	Psychology; Clinical Psychology; Applied Psychology	251
International Journal Of Environmental Research And Public Health	Suiza	Q1	0.828	Medicine; Public Health; Environmental and Occupational Health; Environmental Science: Pollution Environmental; Health; Toxicology and Mutagenesis	108
Child Abuse And Neglect	Reino Unido	Q1	1.721	Medicine; Pediatrics, Perinatology and Child Health; Psychology; Developmental and Educational Psychology; Psychiatry and Mental Health	100
Trauma Violence And Abuse	Reino Unido	Q1	2.422	Social Sciences; Health; Medicine; Public Health, Environmental and Occupational Health; Applied Psychology	55
Journal Of Family Violence,	Estados Unidos	Q1	0.691	Social Sciences; Law; Sociology and Political Science; Psychology; Clinical Psychology	41
Frontiers In Psychiatry	Suiza	Q1	1.222	Medicine; Psychiatry and Mental Health	38
BMC Public Health	Reino Unido	Q1	1.307	Medicine; Public Health, Environmental and Occupational Health	37
BMJ Open	Reino Unido	Q1	1.059	General Medicine	31
Journal Of Child And Adolescent Trauma	Suiza	Q1	0.716	Medicine; Emergency Medicine; Critical Care and Intensive Care Medicine	28
BMC Psychiatry	Reino Unido	Q1	1.291	Medicine; Psychiatry and Mental Health	26

**Source:** Prepared by the authors

With the 664 descriptors or keywords out of the 9990 registered in the 3098 articles retrieved, five grouping clusters were consigned. Cluster 1 (red), which includes terms such as "pandemic", "lockdown", "suicide", and "unemployment", could indicate research addressing the impact of external events such as the COVID-19 pandemic on domestic violence and psychological well-being. The presence of words such as "suicide" and "depression" suggests a focus on the mental health consequences of violence. On the other hand, cluster 2 (green) with terms such as "child abuse", "adolescent", "parenting", and "child neglect" suggests a line of research that focuses on domestic violence in childhood and adolescence, and its long-term effects on psychological well-being. Cluster 3 (blue) with "partner violence", "pregnancy", and "sexual violence", points to study examining intimate partner violence and its relationship with reproductive health and sexual violence. Cluster 4

(yellow) stands out with terms such as "female", "male", "young adult", which implies that there is a distinction in scientific production according to gender and life stage, with a significant focus on young women. Finally, cluster 5 (purple) shows terms such as "depression", "anxiety", "mental illness", which indicates that depression due to violence is a relevant factor in the generation of anxiety and mental illness (Figure 3).



**Figure 3.** Network display of terms and descriptors  
**Source:** Prepared by the authors

### 3.2 Discussion

The analysis of the topic presented in this report reveals the identification of 3,098 publications in the Scopus database, mostly original articles. Overall, the growth in the number of publications has been gradual throughout the period studied, with a significant peak in the year 2021, with a predominance of countries such as the United States, United Kingdom, Australia and three prominent institutions in the United Kingdom, and ten journals that stand out for a greater number of articles published on the topic.

The findings obtained in this study reflect a remarkable correlation with the trends documented in the existing literature on intimate partner violence. A significant corpus of 11 450 original articles, written in English, was identified; whose volume of production has experienced a progressive increase since 2022 (Wu et al., 2020). Similarly, the study called domestic violence has identified 13 130 original articles (Daşlı et al., 2023). This phenomenon can be attributed to the growing international interest in the study of gender-based violence, particularly in the post COVID-19 pandemic context. Such interest is oriented towards a detailed understanding of this issue in order to facilitate the development and implementation of effective strategies in public health systems (Abrahams et al., 2021; Somasundaram et al., 2021; M. Espinoza et al., 2021).

On the other hand, it has been identified that the United States is the most active country in research on psychological well-being in abused women followed by the United Kingdom. In addition, the number of countries that participated in research on violence in women increased every year, except for several fluctuations, indicating that more and more countries have made efforts to study and prevent gender-based violence (Wu et al., 2020). In addition, there were no institutes from Asia and Africa among the top 20 most productive institutions. China and India, as the most populous countries in the world, had very low productivity. As most of the SCOPUS articles are published in English, some non-English speaking researchers may not produce high quality articles due to the language problem to some extent (Fomenko et al., 2022; Pitis et al., 2023).

With respect to the institutions with the highest scientific production on psychological well-being, it is observed that the United Kingdom integrates institutions that have the greatest interest in the subject, among them: King's College London, the University of Melbourne, the University of Toronto and the University of Bristol. There is no presence of Latin American institutions. This result is similar to that reported on the topic of domestic violence, which shows that the United States is represented by more productive institutions that have very high collaboration rates, especially the University of California-San Diego and Harvard University (Wu et al., 2020).

Among the 10 journals with the highest scientific production, all were located in the Q1 quartiles, demonstrating their high visibility and quality. The journal with the highest number of published articles related to wellbeing psychology in women victims of violence *Journal Of Interpersonal Violence* (USA), *International Journal Of Environmental Research And Public Health* (Switzerland). The scientific review conducted consolidates the idea that further work is needed on issues such as violence prevention programming, a critical understanding of gender differences and similarities in violence perpetration that could refine and improve the effectiveness of programming efforts to reduce violence (Martinez-Heredia et al., 2021).

The assessment of the first cluster provides critical insight into the impact of the pandemic on the mental health domain. It is identified that the pandemic context has served as a significant catalyst for intensifying scientific and academic interest in the assessment of psychological well-being. In particular, it is highlighted that a considerable number of women have experienced episodes of violence during the pandemic period (M. Espinoza et al., 2021). This phenomenon, exacerbated by conditions of total confinement, has had alarming correlations with increased rates of suicide and unemployment (Kumar & Anupama, 2022; Shmueli et al., 2023). These factors, in turn, have contributed to an elevated prevalence of depressive disorders.

The analysis of the second cluster has revealed that the promotion of psychological well-being represents a potentially effective strategy in the response to cases of child maltreatment, particularly in female adolescents (Wali et al., 2023). In addition, a significant association with the concept of responsible parenting is observed. Abuse perpetrated by parents has been found to be a relevant risk factor in this context (Chalise et al., 2023; Szilassy et al., 2024). In parallel, it is identified that women who have experienced neglect in childhood constitute a particularly active group in the participation of programs oriented to psychological well-being. This correlation denotes the importance of psychological interventions focused on parenting and abuse prevention as a means of promoting mental health in vulnerable populations.

With regard to the third cluster, it has been observed that the notion of 'woman' is closely linked to the concept of psychological well-being. This is largely because most intervention and prevention programs in this field are designed specifically for the female gender (Guaita-Fernández et al., 2024). In parallel, this cluster also establishes a relationship with the term 'male' or 'young adult', identifying this demographic group, in many cases, as the agent of violence (Morgan et al., 2023).

Analysis of the fourth cluster reveals a marked distinction in scientific production, differentiated according to gender and life stage, particularly in terms of male and young adult (Almeda et al., 2022). This differentiation suggests that there is a significant orientation in scientific research and publications towards specific topics that affect young women.

The detailed analysis of the fifth cluster sheds light on the intricate interconnection between psychological well-being and various psychiatric conditions (Suárez-Soto et al., 2022). This cluster demonstrates a significant correlation between the state of psychological well-being and the prevalence of disorders such as depression and anxiety, as well as other mental illnesses. This finding accentuates the complexity of the interrelationships between these mental states and there is a need for a holistic approach in the study and treatment of psychological and psychiatric disorders.

This research is not without limitations. First, the data collection window is only between 2010 to 2024, so there is a substantial number of documents that were not considered. Also, the database used was Scopus, so it is advisable to use other databases such as WoS, Econlit, among others, to generalize the results found in this research. Likewise, although the use of bibliometric techniques



reduces subjectivity, it is necessary to develop in-depth studies through systematic reviews. Finally, the use of a greater number of keywords associated with psychological well-being in battered women is recommended for future studies.

Despite these limitations, this research is a contribution to the scientific literature on psychological well-being since it allows us to know the current trends on this topic and future lines of research. It is also of importance for organizations since it could affect the productivity of their workers. At the practical level, this study can provide a solid basis for the development of public policies and intervention programs that more effectively address the psychological well-being of women who have suffered violence. By identifying trends and gaps in research, more targeted and specific interventions can be designed, increasing the likelihood of success and efficiency in assisting these women. In addition, the results can inform health professionals and social workers about the most critical areas in need of attention, allowing them to adapt their practices and treatment approaches based on the latest evidence. Likewise, based on the clusters analyzed, it is recommended to investigate the physical violence that is exercised on people suffering from mental illnesses and what programs or strategies have been developed to contribute to their psychological wellbeing.

#### 4. Conclusions

The analysis of 3,098 scientific publications indexed in Scopus provides an overview of the psychological well-being of abused women. The results indicate a predominance of scientific articles (74.3%), with a significant increase in the number of publications over time, peaking in 2021, followed by a slight decline in subsequent years. The United States has the highest contribution rate (29.3%), followed by the United Kingdom and Australia. Brazil stands out as the primary contributor in Latin America. This geographic distribution suggests differences in the prioritization of research on gender-based violence and psychological well-being. The analysis of affiliations reveals a clear predominance of academic and research institutions in the United States and the United Kingdom, while the most influential journals mainly originate from the United Kingdom and Switzerland, reflecting a geographic concentration in high-impact scientific production. Furthermore, the study identified five clusters of keywords, highlighting topics such as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, domestic violence in childhood and adolescence, intimate partner violence, and mental health issues related to gender-based violence. Overall, these results reflect the diversity of approaches in studying the psychological well-being of abused women and suggest the need for ongoing efforts and diverse strategies to address this issue on a global scale.

#### 5. Research Ethics

Ethical approval was not required for human studies because the research analyzed scientific databases.

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