



Major trends in mental health in the field of psychology: a mixed review in Scopus

Principales tendencias sobre salud mental en el campo de la Psicología: una revisión mixta en Scopus

- ¹ AG Editor, Uruguay
- ² Hospital Asociación Española de Socorros Mutuos, Uruguay

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Autor de correspondencia: Javier González Argote

Abstract

A mixed literature review of the main trends in mental health in the field of Psychology in the Scopus database during the period 2019-2024 is presented. The methodology combined a bibliometric analysis, focusing on indicators such as total publications, citation distribution, main areas of interdisciplinary relationship, keywords and co-authorship among countries, with a qualitative analysis based on hermeneutics. The results highlight the significant growth in scientific production on mental health, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the importance of interdisciplinary integration of Psychology, Medicine and Social Sciences. In addition, the study of anxiety disorders, depression, the impact of confinement and digital interventions in mental health were identified as priority lines of research. The findings underlined the need to explore the social and biological determinants of mental health in the new normal. It was concluded that it is particularly relevant to incorporate these trends in medical education and health policy formulation in Latin America.

Keywords: mental health, psychology, bibliometric analysis, medical education, telepsychology.

Resumen

Se presenta una revisión mixta de la literatura sobre las principales tendencias en salud mental en el campo de la Psicología en la base de datos Scopus durante el periodo 2019-2024. La metodología combinó un análisis bibliométrico, centrado en indicadores como el total de publicaciones, la distribución de citaciones, las principales áreas de relación interdisciplinaria, las palabras clave y la co-autoría entre países, con un análisis cualitativo basado en la hermenéutica. Los resultados destacan el crecimiento significativo en la producción científica sobre salud mental, el impacto de la pandemia de COVID-19, así como la importancia de la integración interdisciplinaria entre Psicología, Medicina y las Ciencias Sociales. Además, se identificaron como líneas de investigación prioritarias el estudio de los trastornos de ansiedad, la depresión, el impacto del confinamiento y las intervenciones digitales en salud mental. Los hallazgos subrayaron la necesidad de explorar los determinantes sociales y biológicos de la salud mental en la nueva normalidad. Se concluyó que es particularmente relevante incorporar estas tendencias en la educación médica y en la formulación de políticas de salud en América Latina.

Palabras clave: salud mental, Psicología, análisis bibliométrico, educación médica, Telepsicología.



³ Centro de Investigación en Educación, Naturaleza, Cultura e Innovación para la Amazonia, Colombia

INTRODUCTION

Mental health has become increasingly important in popular culture and professional practices in recent decades, not only in the clinical medical sector, but also in multiple spheres of society (Foulkes & Andrews, 2023). For this reason, it has become a central component of people's well-being and daily lives (Pérez Valdivia et al., 2024; Posada López et al., 2024). From the perspective of the psychological sciences, the study of mental health encompasses a wide range of disorders, psychosocial factors and diagnostic and intervention strategies that directly influence the quality of life of individuals, but also of large population groups (Ogolodom et al., 2024; Richter & Dixon, 2023; Uhlhaas et al., 2023).

Likewise, other disciplines and fields of knowledge have been incorporated which, from their respective positions and foundations, have begun to work towards contributing to a better quality of life and psychological well-being (Pérez Valdivia et al., 2024). This interest has accelerated in recent years, largely due to the increasing rates of mental disorders such as depression and anxiety, which affect millions of people in all age ranges around the world (Akintunde et al., 2021; Jauch et al., 2023; Montes & Peñaranda, 2024).

In this context, scientific research has played a crucial role in identifying the determinants, mechanisms and treatments of these disorders. In addition, the range of studies, as mentioned above, has encompassed areas such as organizational management, health promotion in educational institutions, community projects and other institutional forms that traditionally could be left out of health systems, despite their relevance and determination in human health (Aviles-Peralta, 2024; Kozelka et al., 2023; Mogrovejo Andrade, 2022; Montano et al., 2023).

Based on observational data and an exploratory search, it was found that in the last five years the scientific production related to mental health has experienced significant growth. According to the literature, this increase has been driven, in addition to the aforementioned factors on the prevalence of mental illness, by the expansion of interdisciplinary research, the introduction of new technologies to the health sector and to

mental health specifically, as well as the growing awareness of the value of access to and analysis of mental health data in the sustainable social development.

Another important factor in the rise of the field was the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic, as a global phenomenon, generated a substantial increase in mental health research. Among the most sensitive topics identified were the psychological impacts of confinement, loss of economic stability, and digital mental health interventions, which has transformed the way health professionals approach these problems (Asencios-Trujillo et al., 2024; Cao et al., 2020; Chen et al., 2020). However, the learnings and experiences gained from coping and resilience deployed in this period also constitute an important research course in the current landscape of mental health studies.

In this context of transformation, the review of scientific literature is an essential support to identify the main trends and emerging research areas. In this sense, bibliometric analyses make it possible to trace the evolution of academic production, while qualitative approaches offer a deeper understanding of the conceptual and methodological developments guiding the field, hence the authors opted for a mixed approach. The integration of both methodologies facilitated a panoramic view of the most relevant research and made it possible to identify gaps in the literature and opportunities for future research.

Therefore, the objective was to explore the main trends in mental health within the field of psychology through a mixed review of the literature in the Scopus database. Additionally, it was sought to provide a comprehensive overview that summarizes the predominant lines of research and offers specialists and decision-makers new perspectives to address emerging challenges in mental health.

This academic and investigative intention is inserted in a global context in which mental disorders represent a significant burden both for individuals and for health systems, which is why it seeks to establish solid bases for the development of public policies and the improvement of clinical interventions. This orientation towards future research in mental health was built especially based on the contributions to the field made by psychology. Finally, it was considered as a further

purpose to offer a transversal discussion leading to a contextualized assessment of the results for the improvement of the practice and teaching of medicine in Latin America. its sequential and integrative rationale, favored overcoming the specific limitations of both types of design.

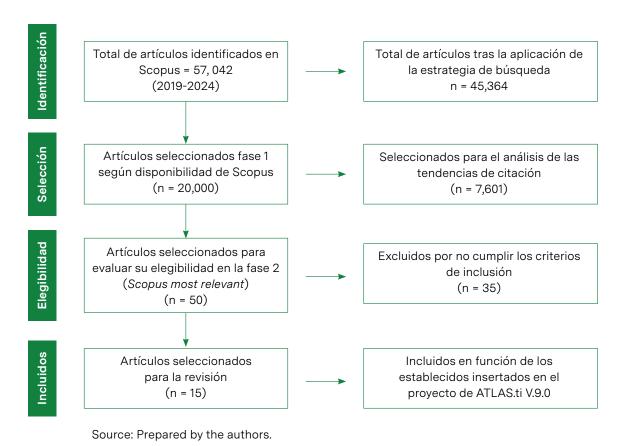
METHOD

Research design

The study, as was noted, was developed using a mixed approach that combined bibliometric analysis and qualitative literature review. The research was developed with an approach similar to that proposed by Sánchez-Castillo et al. (2024) and Sánchez-Castillo et al. (2024), insofar as this literature review proposal, due to

The Scopus database was selected as the main source, since it provides a large volume of rigorous scientific literature (Ledesma & Malave González, 2022). The literature review focused on the years 2019 to 2024, using the keyword "mental health", where the initial results yielded a total of 57,042 documents. Subsequently, the search was limited to the discipline Psychology, a procedure that yielded 45,364 documents, which were subjected to detailed analysis based on the specificities offered by the database. Finally, a hermeneutic review of the literature was carried out, with emphasis on the most relevant articles and a wide dispersion sampling strategy (n= 15) (Figure 1).

Figure 1
Workflow of the search.



This methodological approach offered a robust combination of quantitative and qualitative analyses, while providing a solid basis for the study and discussion of trends in mental health according to Psychology. In addition, implications

of these findings were drawn and analyzed for Medicine, as a practice and field, but also from the challenges of incorporating them into medical education.

Bibliometric analysis

In the first phase, a comprehensive bibliometric analysis was carried out that included various indicators (Table 1). This bibliometric approach was designed to offer a broad look at the structure of scientific production and its relevance, the

main areas and territories in the study of mental health, as well as the main lines of research. The search strategy was represented in the following formula: TITLE-ABS-KEY (mental AND health) AND PUBYEAR > 2018 AND PUBYEAR < 2025 AND (LIMIT-TO (SUBJAREA, "PSYC")) AND (LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE, "ar")).

Table 1Design of the bibliometric analysis.

Analysis indicator	Methodological description
Total number of publications	It permitted to observe the recent evolution of the field in terms of production.
Distribution of citations.	It offered data to achieve a better understanding of the impact and value of the scientific production of psychology on mental health.
Main areas of interdisciplinary relationship.	The main areas, fields and relationships among disciplines were identified.
Co-authorship among countries.	It allowed for a clearer vision of the leading territories in the study of mental health.
Main lines of research identified	Determination of the main lines studied and to be studied within the field.
Co-occurrence of keywords.	Complementary analysis to achieve a better understanding of the categories, problems and lines of research.

Source: Prepared by the authors.

For each of these indicators, specialized bibliometric analysis tools (Scopus, Lens and VOSviewer) were used. These analytical resources made it possible to identify patterns and trends in scientific production, as well as collaborative networks and emerging topics within the field of psychology in relation to mental health. The citation analysis focused on identifying the most influential articles and the analysis of co-occurrence of keywords allowed mapping the most relevant topics and categories at the present time (Raudales-Garcia et al., 2024).

Hermeneutical review

In the second phase, a qualitative analysis based on hermeneutics was carried out, taking into consideration the contributions of previous proposals with the same intentionality (González-Argote et al., 2024; McCaffrey et

al., 2022; Mullard et al., 2023; Prentice et al., 2022). This approach allowed for an in-depth and contextual interpretation of the selected literature, facilitated the avoidance of repetition of topics and contributed to the formation of a unique representation of the main trends.

With respect to the sample, the most relevant articles were selected for their citation impact based on a broad dispersion strategy, which provided a solid basis for the hermeneutic interpretation (Table 2). This process of hermeneutic analysis not only avoided the aforementioned repetition of topics, also allowed for a richer and more nuanced understanding of the literature hased successive approximations, comparison, triangulation and longitudinal discussion by the authors of the findings.

Table 2Criteria for sample selection

Criteria for inclusion/exclusion

Sampling strategy for wide dispersion

Scientific articles resulting from the strategy of phase 1, with emphasis on the study of mental health and that offer an integral vision of processes, categories, as well as the problems in the field of study.

Analysis of the topics and objects of study for the elimination of documents that address the same phenomenon, population group, pathology or interventional process.

Source: Prepared by the authors.

In order to achieve a comprehensive synthesis of the documents collected, different perspectives and approaches were considered. This mixed and critical approach enriched the study and facilitated the identification of new areas of exploration. The review was conducted according to the stages of the hermeneutic circle (Figure 2).

Figure 2
Representation of the hermeneutic circle.

Círculo hermenéutico

Se realizó una interpretación profunda y contextual de la literatura seleccionada, evitando la repetición de tópicos para generar comprensión más rica y matizada de la literatura.

4. Síntesis crítica Se realizó una síntesis crítica de los hallazgos que permitió construir una visión comprensiva de las principales tendencias en la salud mental dentro del campo de la Psicología, con especial atención a los desafíos emergentes y las posibles líneas de investigación futura. 1. Comprensión inicial Lectura preliminar de los textos seleccionados con el objetivo de obtener una visión general del contenido y las temáticas abordadas. Se prestó especial atención a los conceptos clave y a la relación entre los diferentes estudios.

3. Integración de datos

Integración de los diferentes textos para establecer un diálogo entre los hallazgos. Se identificaron contradicciones, convergencias y vacíos en la literatura.

Source: Prepared by the authors.

2. Interpretación contextual

Segunda lectura para el análisis del contexto histórico y disciplinar. Identificar los significados más profundos de los textos e interpretar tendencias numéricas.

RESULTS

The first indicator analyzed was the total number of publications, which showed that during the period under study, the volume of publications on mental health in the field of psychology grew considerably and steadily, with a difference of 4,099 articles between 2019 and the identified peak of 9,136 (2023) (Figure 3). This sustained increase in the production of articles was interpreted as a growing interest in this topic at the global level, without ignoring that this increase is influenced by external phenomena such as the pressure to publish and the impact of COVID-19 on the dynamics of scientific publication.

Figure 3
Scientific production during the period.

TOTAL DE ARTÍCULOS



Similarly, the distribution of citations showed a strong field with increasing impact (Figure 4). However, the analysis identified that the distribution of citations showed a concentration in a reduced set of highly influential articles. Of the total of 45,364 published articles, the 7,601 most

relevant articles received the highest number of

citations, representing 16.8%. This phenomenon can be explained by Lotka's law, which states that, in terms of scientific production, impact and visibility, a relatively small number of authors or articles tend to receive the most attention (Sánchez-Castillo *et al.*, 2024).

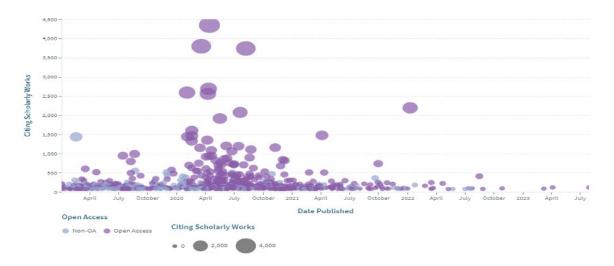
Figure 4
Citations received



Another important trend detected was that studies related to the pandemic and digital interventions in mental health commonly received the highest number of citations compared to other studies in the field, but focused on specific phenomena. Within this trend, papers addressing the psychological impact of confinement and mental disorders in age groups prone to vulnerability stood out.

Both lines stood out for their academic relevance at the stage and accumulated a high number of references. For example, an analysis performed using the tools offered by Lens showed that, among the ten most cited articles, 9 corresponded to research specifically related to COVID-19 (Figure 5). These publications focused on the lines of study and collaboration (Holmes et al., 2020; Rajkumar, 2020), the psychosocial impact (Cao et al., 2020; Xiong et al., 2020), the importance of considering mental health (Chen et al., 2020; Pierce et al., 2020; Xiang et al., 2020), as well as the main pathologies and associated consequences (Huang & Zhao, 2020; Rogers et al., 2020; Taquet et al., 2021).

Figura 5
Most cited articles.



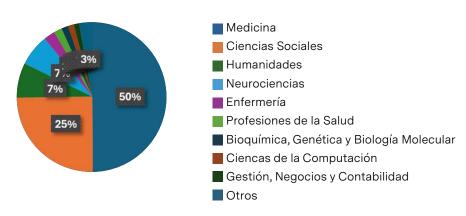
Source: Lens.org from the search strategy.

A study published in The Lancet about the global burden of disease was the only one not directly devoted to the study of the effects of the pandemic ("Global, Regional, and National Burden of 12 Mental Disorders in 204 Countries and Territories, 1990-2019", 2022). These results show the importance of bibliometric and scientometric approaches in the field of mental health, as well as the need to update studies as post-covid normality is constructed and new phenomena are explored.

Regarding the main areas of disciplinary relationship, it was found that Psychology established multi- and interdisciplinary collaborations with other fields such as Medicine,

Social Sciences, Humanities, Neurosciences and Health professions (Figures 6 and 7). Bibliometric studies revealed greater collaboration between Psychology and these disciplines, especially in research about biological factors of mental disorders and the effects of social determinants on psychological health, although methodological and diagnostic approaches also stood out (Akintunde et al., 2021; Berta et al., 2022; Jauch et al., 2023). According to analogous studies, the convergence between these areas promoted more comprehensive and complex approaches to the study of mental health (Hernández-Torrano et al., 2020; Muchemwa et al., 2024; Rossa-Roccor et al., 2020).

Figure 6
Main fields of collaboration according to Scopus.



Total de artículos publicados en el área

Figura 7
Principales campos y temas de estudio según Lens.



Source: Lens.org from the search strategy.

As for the territories with the greatest production and influence in co-authorship among countries, ten nations stood out with more than 1000 published articles, led by the United States, the United Kingdom and China (Figure 8). On the other hand, a notable increase in international collaborations was observed, especially among researchers from the United States (Total link

strenght=3, 695), the United Kingdom (Total link strenght= 2, 787), Canada (Total link strenght= 1,482), Australia (Total link strenght= 1,418), Germany (Total link strenght= 1,257) and China (Total link strenght= 1,082), who occupied the central positions in the cluster map, demonstrating the impact of their academic production on this topic (Figure 9).

Figure 8
Most outstanding countries.

Número de artículos publicados

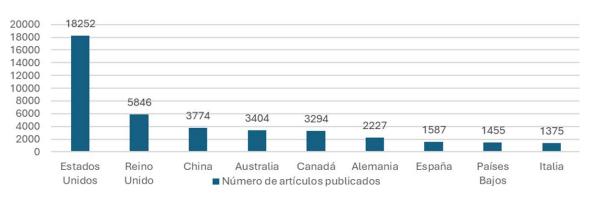
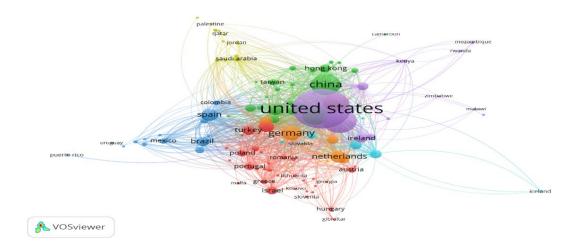


Figure 9
Co-authorship networks among countries.



Source: Prepared by the authors.

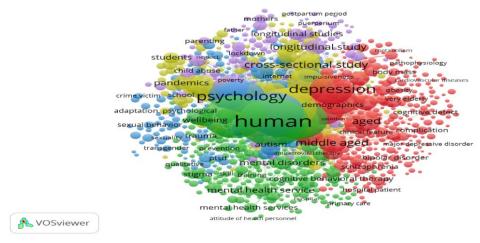
These international collaborations are crucial for strengthening the quality and impact of publications, and can therefore provide an important guide for Latin American authors and institutions. In this regard, among the most prominent countries in the region were Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Peru and Ecuador, although Cuba and Puerto Rico also appeared through their collaborations with Spain and the United States, respectively.

The last bibliometric indicator, main lines of research, was addressed by integrating the results of the previous indicators and analyzing the co-occurrence of keywords in the VOSviewer software. First, all the keywords were analyzed, which is an essential procedure, as it provides

a broader image of the field and the main accumulated research interests.

Out of a total of 40,572, 5,578 met the criterion of a minimum of 5 co-occurrences, after which the 1000 with the highest linkage strength were selected. As a result, five well-defined clusters were observed, where terms such as human beings, mental health, anxiety and depression, mental disorders, mental health services, psychological well-being and quality of life stood out (Figure 10). Among the methodologies, there was a well-structured trend towards experimental designs, longitudinal studies and coaching/training processes. Another important trend was the separation of age groups, where interest was identified in children and adolescents, young and middle adults, as well as population aging processes.

Figure 10 Co-occurrence of all the keywords.



In this same unit of analysis, the density map showed other important interests, especially clustered around health issues, counseling processes, coping, stigma and primary health care (Figure 11).

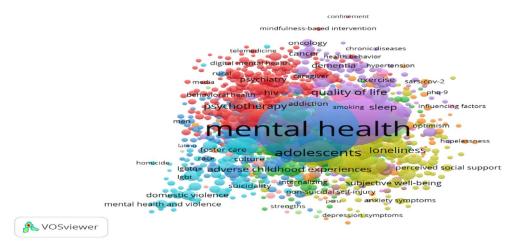
Figure 11
Co-occurrence of all the keywords according to the density map.



Source: Prepared by the authors.

Following this review, we proceeded to examine the way in which the authors represented the structure of the field through the keywords. In contrast to what was shown by the map of all the keywords, in this one a lesser definition was observed in the clusters, as well as a better specific orientation towards mental health issues (Figure 12). Another relevant difference was that, unlike the previous unit, mental health did occupy the center of the most important cluster with a Total link strenght of 11.688.

Figure 12
Co-occurrence of all the keywords according to the authors.



The analysis of co-occurrence patterns reflected contemporary concerns in the field of mental health, especially in relation to the challenges posed by the pandemic. In this sense, similar studies have placed particular emphasis on technological integration in education, medical education, and mental health, which also casts certainty on how urgent it is to have an integrated vision from undergraduate to the professional practices of specialists (Águila Ramírez, 2024; Eslava Zapata et al., 2024). However, this line was not particularly visible in the maps studied.

Following the synthesis of the data, the main lines of research included studies on the impact of confinement and public policies on mental health, longitudinal psychological interventions, stigma associated with mental disorders, and well-being in vulnerable populations, with a particularly visible emergence on aging. Research on the mental health of health care workers and emerging means of delivering psychological care were also highlighted. These lines reflected the current priorities of the field, with a strong focus on adapting psychological care to new social and technological realities.

Qualitative trend analysis

The qualitative analysis yielded five main themes in the study of mental health from the lens of the psychological sciences. The first trend observed was the increased concern for mental health in young populations, particularly in adolescents. According to the texts analyzed and the consultation conducted in the mainstream literature, this line has been driven by the increasing prevalence of anxiety disorders and depression among young people.

In analyzing the main stressors identified as causal factors, the experts noted that these symptomatologies are increasingly frequent and are exacerbated by emerging variables: the use of social networks (Bozzola et al., 2022; Girela-Serrano et al., 2024; Valladolid Benavides et al., 2023), the effects of climate change and environmental awareness (Cianconi et al., 2020; Lawrance et al., 2022), as well as the already mentioned in the analysis of the previous phase, COVID-19 pandemic (Kauhanen et al., 2023; Restrepo et al., 2023).

The most recent studies highlight the importance of designing early diagnosis and intervention processes. Similarly, they point out that the promotion of emotional wellbeing in educational environments constitutes a protective factor in the present, but also with a view to the future. Consequently, this topic was marked by the issues, problems and processes associated with the mental health of the new generations and the need to achieve comprehensive frameworks that adapt not only to the new generational characteristics, but also to the increasingly dynamic conditioning of the information age.

One element that was common throughout the study was the overall impact of the pandemic. This second theme, despite the wide dispersion sampling strategy implemented, was determined by the volume of studies examining the impact of COVID on mental health. Among the lines reviewed, the codes allowed grouping fragments of data related to the long-term psychological repercussions of confinement, the loss of loved ones, economic uncertainty, and the system of worldview transformations that this event generated.

Another reason why it was decided to keep this topic was because of the lines of research identified with respect to the care of health professionals. Through codes and categories marked by the processes of resilience, coping and the prevalence of various symptomatologies, the literature sought to understand the experiences of professionals and how to accompany them through environments and programs that promote positive mental health in the midst of the complex circumstances in the different phases of the pandemic and its aftermath.

Finally, this topic closed with the tendency to analyze mental health in vulnerable populations. Although it was noted that this definition may be too broad and not very operational, it also highlighted the need to create more robust psychosocial support mechanisms, especially with a focus on attention to age groups and population sectors.

The third theme was composed of codes and categories related to technological integration and digital transformation in the psychological sciences. In the sources analyzed and, in the literature, a significant increase in interest in the so-called Telepsychology was observed, mainly through the use of mobile applications and digital platforms for health promotion and mental health intervention (Auza-Santiváñez et al., 2024).

In this topic, the explorations of the effectiveness of virtual therapies, the analysis of technological barriers, as well as the ethical and moral dilemmas involved in their implementation were highlighted. In general, the results of the studies and the literature indicate that Telepsychology allows improved access to mental health services, both in clinical contexts and for the promotion of wellbeing in organizational and everyday life contexts (Machuca-Contreras et al., 2024; Rodríguez Torres et al., 2024). Specifically, McCord et al. (2020) defend the idea that Telepsychology cannot be reduced to interventional or purely psychotherapeutic aspects, while establishing three major dimensions and highlighting the modes of implementation, scenarios and contributions.

Although challenges persist in terms of regulation, equity and evidence-based practices, this topic allowed establishing a certain consensus on the usefulness, but, above all, on the promise of this subfield in terms of increasing virtuality. In this regard, the use of the metaverse or augmented reality for educational purposes has shown a positive impact on people's psychological wellbeing (Gonzales Tito et al., 2023; Rifaldo Sebo et al., 2023). These results and the initiatives developed from Psychology, Psychiatry, and Medicine have yielded some optimism regarding its future (Bakır et al., 2023; Díaz-Chieng et al., 2022; Holt, 2023; Usmani et al., 2022). On the other hand, Psychology and Psychiatry professionals also expressed doubts about their competential development and the demands it exerts for adequate practice (Lin et al., 2021), which highlights the position of McCord et al. (2020), where training is essential.

The fourth theme was related to the mention of the stigma associated with mental disorders. Although this is a consolidated line of research throughout the tradition of psychological sciences, it was noted that it remains recurrent and relevant in the literature. In particular, there was interest in the relationship between stigma and mental health in regions and sectors with less access to specialized services (Javed et al., 2021), stigma promoted by health professionals (Toconas, 2023; Jauch et al., 2023), as well as in professions or roles that, due to their characteristics, tend to be potentially psychopathogenic (Brower, 2021; Martínez-Martínez et al., 2022; Sargenton-Savon et al., 2023; Veloz Montano, 2023).

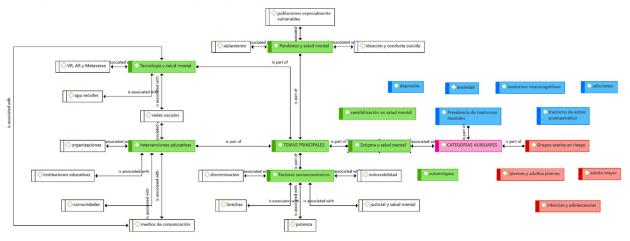
The mentions of this important relationship were marked by the requirements for the design and evaluation of educational programs and public campaigns that seek to raise awareness of the presence and impact of stigmas on vulnerable populations, as well as on people with mental disorders and their support networks. This topic particularly pointed out the challenges that, although often made invisible under the arguments of progress and rights, are posed by the multiple stigmas present in global society, making it imperative to strengthen awareness of the importance of mental health.

In this regard, it is critical to note that these strategies have been shown to be particularly effective when based on the inclusion of testimonials and the demystification of disorders (Thornicroft et al., 2022). Among the populations noted were people living with HIV-AIDS (Barrera León et al., 2024); people with autism spectrum disorders (Cruz Puerto & Sandín Vázquez, 2024; Dubreucq et al., 2020; Kitchin & Karlin, 2022); schizophrenia patients (Valery & Prouteau, 2020); people suffering from addictions (Rundle et al., 2021; Volkow et al., 2021); health and care professionals (Asencios-Trujillo et al., 2023); as well as those who have been victims of traumatic events (Delker et al., 2020; Nugent et al., 2021).

Finally, theme five agglomerated the results on the importance of social and economic determinants in psychological well-being. The texts analyzed, either directly or indirectly, highlighted factors such as poverty, inequality, unemployment and discrimination. In this regard, these factors disproportionately affect certain populations, which has led to a greater integration of multidisciplinary approaches in the study of mental health.

Therefore, it could be observed that, within the more general lines synthesized in the previous themes, this trend suggests a growing understanding that mental health is intrinsically linked to living conditions and social justice (Handrup et al., 2024; Johnstone, 2021). Finally, the main themes, the emerging categories and their relationships, were represented in a conditional matrix (Figure 13).

Figure 13
Conditioned matrix of themes, categories and codes.



Source: Prepared by the authors.

DISCUSSION

La revisión de las tendencias integradas en torno a la salud mental reveló hallazgos significativos que tienen profundas implicaciones para la Medicina, especialmente en el contexto latinoamericano. Uno de los aspectos más destacables de estos resultados es el crecimiento sostenido de las publicaciones y la concentración de citaciones en áreas críticas como los efectos psicológicos de la pandemia y el uso de tecnologías digitales en la atención mental. Aunque la pandemia ha sido superada, las enseñanzas han sido múltiples y en la actualidad todavía proliferan múltiples estudios dedicados a extraer datos sobre las mismas. Con vistas a preparar a los futuros profesionales de la salud y a mejorar las prácticas en la nueva normalidad, este fenómeno pone en evidencia la necesidad de que los programas de educación médica actualicen sus currículos para incorporar estos avances.

La integración interdisciplinaria sugirió que el estudio de la salud mental ha evolucionado hacia enfoques más holísticos (Araneo et al., 2023). Desde el punto de vista histórico, este desarrollo abre múltiples avenidas de investigación en comparación con los enfoques más intradisciplinares del pasado. Por ello, los futuros profesionales de la salud en Latinoamérica deben recibir una formación integral que contemple no solo el tratamiento de los trastornos mentales desde una perspectiva clínica, sino que también les permita abordar los factores biopsicosociales

que inciden en el bienestar psicológico (Lepez & Simeoni, 2023; Ramírez, 2023).

Esta visión crecientemente transdisciplinaria podría fortalecer los sistemas de salud mental, siendo esta una demanda robustamente documentada en la región, donde las barreras de acceso, la calidad de la atención especializada y los estigmas continúan siendo grandes desafíos. Además, aporta una importante avenida para la investigación y la sensibilización sobre el autocuidado, el autoestigma, así como los riesgos y factores biopsicosociales que condicionan el proceso salud enfermedad de los profesionales de la salud (Arellano et al., 2023; Morales Iturio et al., 2024; Paglioni Salama & De Oliveira, 2024).

Aunque analizado con mayor énfasis en la primera fase, la creciente co-autoría internacional y el uso de la Telepsicología son dos áreas de particular relevancia para el contexto latinoamericano. Esto se debe a que las colaboraciones globales podrían impulsar innovaciones en la atención mental, de ahí que se sugiere a las instituciones médicas en la región fomentar alianzas internacionales para la investigación y la práctica clínica, con énfasis en la introducción y sistematización de las nuevas prácticas, en aras de evitar iatrogenias y herramientas improvisadas.

En esta misma línea, el auge de la Telepsicología destacó la urgencia de preparar a los médicos para entornos cada vez más digitales y potencialmente virtuales, en los que las herramientas tecnológicas jugarán un papel clave en la atención a pacientes. En Latinoamérica, si se tiene en cuenta el limitado acceso a servicios

de salud mental, la telemedicina puede ofrecer una solución eficaz y accesible, lo cual hace imperativo que los programas de educación médica incluyan formación en estas áreas (Chavez-Cano, 2023). Empero, esto también supone señalar las brechas digitales, educativas e infraestructurales que limitan la efectividad de estos recursos.

Incorporar estos conocimientos en los planes educativos médicos permitirá que los estudiantes conozcan las tendencias más recientes en salud mental, así como facilitará que los programas identifiquen las necesidades educativas que estos precisan para afrontar los desafíos reales que afectan a la población. En un contexto latinoamericano donde las desigualdades sociales tienen un impacto directo en la salud mental, de ahí que sea fundamental que los futuros médicos desarrollen competencias en la identificación y el manejo de estos factores, valoren las dinámicas epidemiológicas recientes y sean conscientes del impacto de fenómenos como el estigma y el autoestigma.

Precisamente, las líneas de investigación emergentes centradas en el estigma y las intervenciones poblaciones vulnerables, en necesidad de resaltaron la una mayor sensibilización en los currículos médicos v la transversalización de la deontología, tanto en la práctica como en la configuración de la identidad profesional. Por tanto, los programas educativos deben incluir estos enfoques abocados a la integración de la comprensión cultural y social al conocimiento biomédico.

CONCLUSIONS

The study identified the main current trends in the study of mental health from the perspective of the psychological sciences and is expected to provide a much-needed overview of the most influential areas of research and emerging challenges. First, it was concluded that the volume of publications has grown significantly in the last five years, and while this increase was largely driven by the COVID-19 pandemic and its psychological effects, this trend highlighted the urgency of developing and adapting mental health interventions to new socio-technological realities.

Likewise, the study pointed out that it is crucial to generate educational, diagnostic and interventional proposals of an interdisciplinary nature, since the integration of multidisciplinary approaches was fundamental in the production of knowledge in mental health, but a greater theoretical-methodological integration is still needed. This cooperation among disciplines should be encouraged in future research, from training programs in health and through public policies, being this type of approaches crucial when dealing with the complexity inherent to mental health.

Regarding the use of digital technologies in psychological care, it was concluded that they have shown a positive impact by facilitating access to mental health services, providing highly personalized services according to time and individual needs, as well as a reduced presence of traditional stigmas. However, it is necessary to conclude that the studies point to the persistence of important challenges that lead to question the long-term effectiveness, so it is recommended to address these processes in future projects, mainly under the lens of the development of adequate and comprehensive regulatory frameworks.

Finally, the identification of the main keywords and most cited lines of research highlighted the current focus on anxiety, depression, psychological well-being, and the impact of social isolation in special circumstances. This finding underscored the need for further research on vulnerable populations and the need to design interventions that address both the social and biological determinants of mental health.

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