

Leonardo Ferreira Fontenelle  
<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4064-433X>  
Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo

AUTHORSHIP CONCENTRATION IN HEALTH SCIENCES JOURNALS  
FROM LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN  
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## Abstract

**Objective:** To describe authorship concentration indexes (proportion of articles by the most prolific author [PPMP]; Gini coefficient) among health sciences journals indexed in LILACS, and to compare them to what a previous study found in MEDLINE.

**Method:** Bibliographic data were obtained from LILACS for systematically indexed journals with at least 50 signed articles (that is, with at least one individual author) from 2015 to 2019. Authors were identified by their name or, when possible, ORCID id. The PPMP was the number articles by the journal's most prolific author, divided by the number of signed articles. The Gini coefficient counted more than once articles with multiple authors author. For comparison purposes, MEDLINE data were reweighted to have the same distribution of journal size (number of signed articles) as LILACS journals.

**Results:** The study included 591 journals, with a median size of 163 signed articles. The median PPMP was 4.5% (95<sup>th</sup> percentile 12.9%), and the median Gini coefficient was 0.146 (95<sup>th</sup> percentile 0.307). The PPMP increased with journal size, while the Gini coefficient decreased. MEDLINE journals had lower PPMP and higher Gini coefficients, but this difference disappeared after the data were reweighted.

**Conclusions:** LILACS inclusion criteria are effectively countering any pro-endogeneity effect ownership by universities might have on regional journals. Journal evaluation should mind journal size when examining authorship concentration indexes. Formal derivation of their relationship with journal size would allow more precise interpretation of such indexes.

**Keywords:** Periodicals as Topic, Bibliometrics, Authorship, Universities, Latin America, Caribbean Region, Developing Countries, LILACS

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