

Bibliometric analysis of publications in *Archivos Argentinos de Pediatría* (2021-2025)

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ABSTRACT

A bibliometric study was conducted on the publications of *Archivos Argentinos de Pediatría* between 2021 and 2025 to describe its editorial output, the types of articles, the institutional composition of authorship and collaboration, the thematic distribution, and the impact of the publications as measured by citations. A total of 717 articles were included. Clinical case reports predominated, followed by original articles, which accounted for 25% of the publications. The original studies were primarily descriptive observational studies, with a low proportion of international funding and collaboration. The research output was concentrated mainly in the fields of infectious diseases, general pediatrics, and medical education. Citation analysis revealed generally modest levels. These results help characterize the journal's recent profile.

Keywords: *pediatrics; publications; biomedical research; Argentina.*

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INTRODUCTION

Pediatric research is essential for improving the quality of care and for generating evidence tailored to local contexts.¹ Specialized scientific journals serve as a key platform for disseminating knowledge and strengthening national academic communities.²

Archivos Argentinos de Pediatría, the official journal of the Sociedad Argentina de Pediatría and indexed in international bibliographic databases, is one of the country's leading pediatric publications.³ An analysis of its scientific output allows for the identification of editorial, thematic, and impact trends in the context of national pediatric research.

The objective of this study was to describe the bibliometric characteristics of the publications in *Archivos Argentinos de Pediatría* during the 2021-2025 period, including editorial output, article types, the institutional composition of authorship and collaboration, subject distribution, and the impact of the publications as measured by citations.

METHODS

A descriptive bibliometric study was conducted. All unpublished articles published in *Archivos Argentinos de Pediatría* between January 2021 and December 2025 were included.

The initial identification of the articles was based on an institutional registry provided by the journal's staff, which was verified by reviewing the corresponding electronic index.

The predefined variables were manually extracted from the full text of each article and entered into a standardized database. The data extraction was performed by three researchers using agreed-upon criteria previously. Discrepancies in topic or study design classification were resolved by consensus.

Variables related to publication output (year of publication and article type), authorship characteristics (affiliation, country, inter-institutional and international collaboration), methodological aspects (design of original articles), funding, subject matter (main field), and impact (total number and annual average of citations) were recorded.

Research study designs were grouped into broad categories based on intervention, timing, and methodological objective, with distinctions made within the quantitative approach including observational, experimental, quasi-experimental, tool evaluation, and secondary data analysis

studies. Studies with a qualitative approach were also included.⁴

Thematic classification was performed using predefined areas that included clinical and cross-cutting fields of pediatrics. The thematic categories and their operational definitions are detailed in the *Supplementary material*. Each article was assigned to a single main theme based on its central objective; in ambiguous cases, the title and objective of the study were considered. The classification was performed independently by the three researchers, and discrepancies were resolved by consensus. Citations were obtained through a manual search on Google Scholar, using the article title (in Spanish and English) and the journal name. The total number of citations as of the date of the search (March 2026) was recorded, and the annual average number of citations since publication was calculated. Google Scholar was selected for its extensive coverage of biomedical publications, including regional and Spanish-language ones.

Articles published after February 2025 were included in the general descriptive analyses but excluded from the citation analysis.

Statistical analysis

A descriptive analysis was conducted. Categorical variables were expressed as frequencies and percentages, and continuous variables as the median and interquartile range (IQR), depending on their distribution. Data processing and analysis were performed using Microsoft Excel and Jamovi.

Ethical considerations

Since this is a bibliometric study based on a publicly available secondary source and does not involve the use of personal data, review by an ethics committee was not required.

RESULTS

We analyzed the articles published in *Archivos Argentinos de Pediatría* from 2021 to 2025.

Publications

During the study period, 734 articles were identified in the journal's indexes. They included 717 articles for analysis, after excluding 17 historical reposts ("*Archivos* 75 years ago").

The annual distribution of publications is shown in *Table 1*. Clinical case reports were the most common type of publication ($n = 206$), followed by original articles ($n = 183$).

Most of the first authors (589 out of 717, 82%) are affiliated with Argentine institutions.

Characteristics of original articles and brief reports

A total of 183 original articles and 33 brief reports (n = 216) were identified, accounting for 30% of the publications.

The most common methodological designs were cross-sectional observational studies. The characteristics of these studies are presented in *Table 2*.

External funding was reported in 24.5% (53/216) of these articles (*Supplementary Material*).

Thematic distribution

The subject distribution of the publications is presented in *Table 3*. The most common areas were infectious diseases (11.4%), general pediatrics (7.7%), and medical education, professional practice and ethical issues (7.7%), which together accounted for 26.8% of the articles.

The thematic distribution of original articles and brief reports is detailed in the *Supplementary material*.

Citation

Citations for 611 articles were analyzed. The median number of citations per article was 2 (IQR 0-6). The median number of citations per year was 1 (IQR 0-2.37). *Table 4* shows the citations by article type.

The topics with the greatest impact in terms of citations were pediatric critical care (median 8; IQR 2.75-14.2), followed by nutrition (median 4; IQR 0-13), and, at an intermediate level, neonatology (median 3; IQR 1.25-10.75), infectious diseases (median 3; IQR 1-6), and neurology and neurodevelopment (median 3; IQR 0-4.75).

DISCUSSION

Publications in *Archivos Argentinos de Pediatría* during the 2021–2025 period were predominantly descriptive observational studies, with little variation in the distribution of article types, a low frequency of external funding and international collaboration, and modest citation rates.

The high proportion of case reports suggests an editorial focus on disseminating practical

TABLE 1. Distribution of published articles by type of study and by year

Type of article	2021 n (%)	2022 n (%)	2023 n (%)	2024 n (%)	2025 n (%)	Total n (%)
Clinical case report	67 (33.8)	37 (28.2)	37 (28.6)	34 (25.1)	31 (25)	206 (28.7)
Original article	41 (20.7)	34 (25.9)	39 (30.2)	36 (26.6)	33 (26.6)	183 (25.5)
Commentary	10 (5)	10 (7.6)	11 (8.5)	12 (8.8)	8 (6.4)	51 (7.1)
Letter to the editor	17 (8.5)	7 (5.3)	2 (1.5)	8 (5.9)	6 (4.8)	40 (5.5)
Subcommittees, committees and working groups	15 (7.5)	4 (3)	5 (3.8)	3 (2.2)	11 (8.8)	38 (5.2)
Special article	15 (7.5)	6 (4.5)	5 (3.8)	6 (4.4)	6 (4.8)	38 (5.2)
Update	12 (6)	7 (5.3)	6 (4.6)	6 (4.4)	5 (4)	36 (5)
Selected article	0	4 (3)	10 (7.7)	12 (8.8)	8 (6.4)	34 (4.7)
Brief report	9 (4.5)	7 (5.3)	5 (3.8)	8 (5.9)	4 (3.2)	33 (4.6)
Editorial	6 (3)	6 (4.5)	6 (4.6)	5 (3.7)	5 (4)	28 (3.9)
What is your diagnosis?	2 (1)	3 (2.2)	0	1 (0.7)	2 (1.6)	8 (1.1)
Medical education	0	2 (1.5)	0	2 (1.4)	3 (2.4)	7 (0.9)
Practical pediatrics	3 (1.5)	1 (0.7)	0	1 (0.7)	1 (0.8)	6 (0.8)
Book review	1 (0.5)	2 (1.5)	1 (0.7)	0	1 (0.8)	5 (0.6)
Case report	0	0	2 (1.5)	1 (0.7)	0	3 (0.4)
Social pediatrics	0	1 (0.7)	0	0	0	1 (0.1)
Total per year	198 (100)	131 (100)	129 (100)	135 (100)	124 (100)	717 (100)

TABLE 2. Characteristics of original articles and brief reports

Type of manuscript	Original article n (%)	Brief report n (%)	Total n (%)
Total	183 (100)	33 (100)	216 (100)
Design			
Descriptive observational studies			
Cross-sectional	103 (56.3)	21 (63.6)	124 (57.4)
Case series*	1 (0.5)	1 (3.0)	2 (0.9)
Time series	4 (2.2)	0 (0.0)	4 (1.9)
Analytical observational studies			
Retrospective cohort	27 (14.8)	5 (15.2)	32 (14.8)
Prospective cohort	6 (3.3)	3 (9.1)	9 (4.2)
Ecological	3 (1.6)	0 (0.0)	3 (1.4)
Experimental studies			
Randomized clinical trial	2 (1.1)	0 (0.0)	2 (0.9)
Experimental before-and-after	5 (2.7)	0 (0.0)	5 (2.3)
Quasi-experimental studies			
Observational before-and-after	3 (1.6)	2 (6.1)	5 (2.3)
Methodology/Diagnostic studies			
Diagnostic performance	4 (2.2)	0 (0.0)	4 (1.9)
Validation of tools	4 (2.2)	0 (0.0)	4 (1.9)
Other methodological approaches or designs			
Secondary analysis	8 (4.4)	0 (0.0)	8 (3.7)
Implementation	0 (0.0)	1 (3.0)	1 (0.5)
Qualitative approach	7 (3.8)	0 (0.0)	7 (3.2)
First author's country			
Argentina	149 (81.4)	28 (84.8)	177 (81.9)
Chile	12 (6.6)	0 (0.0)	12 (5.6)
Spain	8 (4.4)	0 (0.0)	8 (3.7)
Turkey	6 (3.3)	0 (0.0)	6 (2.8)
Mexico	2 (1.1)	3 (9.1)	5 (2.3)
United States	0 (0.0)	2 (6.1)	2 (0.9)
China	3 (1.6)	0 (0.0)	3 (1.4)
Bolivia	1 (0.5)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.5)
Brazil	1 (0.5)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.5)
Peru	1 (0.5)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.5)
Type of institution			
Argentine public hospital	85 (46.4)	20 (60)	105 (48.6)
Argentine private hospital	32 (17.4)	4 (12.1)	36 (16.7)
Argentine public outpatient center	3 (1.6)	0 (0.0)	3 (1.4)
Argentine private outpatient center	1 (0.5)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.5)
Foreign hospital	21 (11.4)	3 (9.1)	24 (11.1)
Argentine university	11 (6)	1 (3)	12 (5.6)
Foreign university	15 (8.1)	2 (6)	17 (7.9)
Government agency	9 (4.9)	1 (3)	10 (4.6)
NGO	5 (2.7)	2 (6)	7 (3.2)
SAP	1 (0.5)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.5)
Other/unspecified	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	-
Authorship from more than one country	24 (13.1)	3 (9.1)	27 (12.5)
Authorship from more than one institution	88 (48.1)	10 (30.3)	98 (45.4)
With external funding	49 (26.9)	4 (12.9)	53 (24.5)

NGO: nongovernmental organization; SAP: Sociedad Argentina de Pediatría (by its Spanish acronym).

*Although articles classified in the journal as "Case series" are not included in this table, we have identified here that those published under the heading "Brief report" were considered in this analysis to correspond to the case series design.

TABLE 3. Topics of published articles

Topic	n (%)
GENERAL PEDIATRICS	
General pediatrics	55 (7.7)
CLINICAL SPECIALITIES	
Infectious diseases	82 (11.4)
Growth, development, and adolescence	51 (7.1)
Gastroenterology, hepatology	46 (6.4)
Nutrition	40 (5.6)
Pediatric oncology and hematology	40 (5.6)
Neonatology	39 (5.4)
Genetics, inborn errors of metabolism, and congenital malformations	36 (5.0)
Endocrinology	28 (3.9)
Neurology and neurodevelopment	23 (3.2)
Pulmonology	22 (3.1)
Dermatology	19 (2.6)
Otolaryngology	18 (2.5)
Allergy and immunology	17 (2.4)
Pediatric critical care	17 (2.4)
Nephrology	16 (2.2)
Cardiology	8 (1.1)
Mental health	5 (0.7)
Other clinical specialties	22 (3.1)
SURGICAL SPECIALTIES	
General surgery, orthopedics, and other surgical specialties	18 (2.5)
CROSS-CUTTING/NON-CLINICAL AREAS	
Medical education, professional practice, and ethics	55 (7.7)
Public health, epidemiology, and health policy	50 (7.0)
Research	10 (1.4)
Total	717 (100)

TABLE 4. Total citations and citations per year by article type (n = 611*)

Article type (n)	Total citations, median (IQR)	Citations/year, median (IQR)
Clinical case report (181)	1 (0-3)	0.50 (0-1)
Original article (155)	6 (2-11.5)	2.25 (1-4)
Commentary (45)	0 (0-2)	0 (0-1)
Letter to the editor (34)	0 (0-0)	0 (0-0)
Subcommittees, committees, and working groups (28)	2.5 (0-5.5)	1 (0-2.25)
Special articles (32)	10.5 (4.25-14)	3.12 (2.3-5.62)
Update (31)	14 (3-23)	3.2 (2.29-7.25)
Commentary on selected article (28)	0 (0-0)	0 (0-0)
Brief report (29)	4 (0-7)	1 (0-2.66)
Editorial (23)	1 (0-3)	0.50 (0-0.87)
What is the diagnosis? (6)	0 (0-0)	0 (0-0)
Medical education (4)	1.5 (0.75-2.25)	1 (0.75-1.25)
Book review (5)	3.5 (0.75-4)	1 (0.25-1.56)
Practical pediatrics (6)	0 (0-0)	0 (0-0)
Case report (3)	0 (0-0.5)	0 (0-0.25)
Social pediatrics (1)	1 (1-1)	0.33 (0.33-0.33)

*Articles published through February 2025 were included. One editorial and one special article published by various journals were excluded from the analysis.

knowledge, serving an educational role for practicing pediatricians. The proportion of original articles is consistent with a previous bibliometric analysis of *Andes Pediátrica*, showing a predominance of observational designs, in line with what has also been described in other contexts outside Latin America.^{5,6} The observed proportion of observational studies differs from some current trends in pediatric research, which include the strengthening of multicenter networks, collaborative trials, and the implementation of innovative methodological designs.⁷

While this may reflect editorial decisions, it may also be linked to structural constraints on research in the region, as it has been reported that low- and middle-income countries account for less than a quarter of original output in high-impact journals.⁸ These challenges include a lack of dedicated time and funding for research, as well as a shortage of mentors.^{1,9,10}

A small proportion of the studies received external funding, mostly in the form of individual partial grants. The choice of methodologically simple designs may, in this context, reflect an adaptation to environmental constraints rather than strictly scientific decisions. This underscores the need to strengthen funding, but also, more broadly, local research capacity, given that research development is associated not only with increased scientific output and the generation of information of local interest, but also with improvements in the quality of health care.¹¹

Most of the studies come from Argentine public hospitals, with a low percentage of international collaboration. This lack of international collaboration could be a factor affecting their visibility, which results in a modest number of citations.¹² On the other hand, the higher citation frequency of review articles (special articles and updates) is consistent with previous descriptions of other pediatric publications and can be explained by their usefulness for clinical decision-making.¹³

The concentration of articles on topics such as infectious diseases may reflect the burden of infectious diseases in middle-income countries and the need to generate and disseminate applicable local evidence.^{1,14}

Among its strengths are the systematic manual extraction of data and the analysis of multiple editorial dimensions. Among the limitations, the use of Google Scholar could overestimate citations,¹⁵ the thematic classification is partially subjective, with no measure of inter-rater

agreement, and assigning a single category per article may oversimplify multidisciplinary works; the methodological quality of the studies was not assessed; and the period analyzed may not reflect long-term publishing trends.

In conclusion, the bibliometric analysis of *Archivos Argentinos de Pediatría* (2021-2025) revealed a predominance of clinical case reports and a limited proportion of research articles, which were mostly observational and had low funding disclosure. The output focused on specific topics and showed a modest citation impact. ■

The supplementary material provided with this article is presented as submitted by the authors. It is available at: https://www.sap.org.ar/docs/publicaciones/archivosarg/2026/11149_CB_Goya_Anexo.pdf

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