

<b>Chapter title</b>	CHAPTER 3 – SURVEY AND DEPICTION OF THE EVIDENCE-BASED PUBLIC POLICY MOVEMENT IN BRAZIL
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<b>DOI</b>	<a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.38116/978-65-5635-070-7/chapter3">http://dx.doi.org/10.38116/978-65-5635-070-7/chapter3</a>

<b>Book title</b>	PUBLIC POLICY AND USE OF EVIDENCE IN BRAZIL: CONCEPTS, METHODS, CONTEXTS AND PRACTICES
<b>Editors</b>	Natália Massaco Koga Pedro Lucas de Moura Palotti Janine Mello Maurício Mota Saboya Pinheiro
<b>Volume</b>	-
<b>Series</b>	-
<b>City</b>	Brasilia
<b>Publisher</b>	Institute for Applied Economic Research (Ipea)
<b>Year</b>	2024
<b>Edition</b>	-
<b>ISBN</b>	978-65-5635-070-7
<b>DOI</b>	<a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.38116/978-65-5635-070-7">http://dx.doi.org/10.38116/978-65-5635-070-7</a>

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## SURVEY AND DEPICTION OF THE EVIDENCE-BASED PUBLIC POLICY MOVEMENT IN BRAZIL<sup>1</sup>

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### 1 INTRODUCTION

As the covid-19 pandemic spread around the world, the performance of denialist governments in fighting the novel coronavirus proved to be increasingly deficient. In this context, in which it was expected that the evidence-based solutions recommended by the scientific community would become virtually consensual, it seems that the world has not seen a complete overturn of denialist postures, based on diverse beliefs and the political pledge for an increasing polarization. The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), in turn, warned us about the perverse effects of the so-called *infodemic*, that is, “an overabundance of information – some accurate and some not – that makes it hard for people to find trustworthy sources and reliable guidance when they need it” (Opas, 2020, p. 2). Also, according to Opas (2020, p. 2):

Infodemic refers to a large increase in the volume of information associated with a specific topic whose growth can occur exponentially in a short period of time due to a specific incident, such as the current pandemic. In this situation, misinformation and rumors appear on the scene, along with manipulation of information with doubtful intent. In the information age, this phenomenon is amplified through social networks, spreading farther and faster like a virus.

But this excess is not only problematic due to rumors and fake news, since in its first months alone, more specifically until mid-June 2020, “covid-19 gave rise to more than 23,000 scientific articles, and urgency brings problems: traditional journals shorten publication deadlines and texts not reviewed by other scientists monopolize digital repositories” (Santos, 2020).

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However, if some distrust toward experts and their expertise persists, the numerous difficulties faced by science to guide decision-making processes in the public sector and to inform the production of public policies have been acknowledged for decades. Back in the late 1950s, for example, sociologist Robert Merton asserted that “the honeymoon of intellectuals and policymakers is often nasty, brutish and short” (Merton, 1957, p. 222<sup>4</sup> apud Monaghan, 2011, p. 38). The issue concerning the difficulties of ensuring that the assessment of public policies is effectively used to improve government action or in the feedback of the so-called *public policy cycle* has also been discussed and problematized for decades (Faria, 2005).

Nevertheless, since the mid-1990s, for several reasons, particularly in the Anglo-Saxon world, the demand for the adoption of evidence-based public policies (EBPPs) has intensified, a demand that has spread globally since then (Faria, 2022). According to Parkhurst (2017, p. 4), “such calls for policies to be evidence-based have proliferated so widely in the past few decades as to become a movement unto itself”.

The so-called EBPPs are a type of policy “based on research that applies rigorous and systematic procedures for data collection and is committed to transforming these data into formal knowledge that is actually useful in decision-making”<sup>5</sup> (Bracho, 2010, p. 307). It is important to note that, acknowledging the countless difficulties of various natures for this goal to be achieved, some more realistic authors prefer to use the term *evidence-informed public policy*.

In Brazil, the so-called evidence-based public policy movement (EBPPM) is still quite incipient (Sandim and Machado, 2020). This chapter aims to present a survey and a depiction of the EBPPM in the country. Its purpose is to trace the movement’s penetration both in the Brazilian public administration, at the three levels of government (federal, state and municipal), in knowledge-producing institutions, especially universities, and in civil society and market organizations. This is a comprehensive, but certainly not an exhaustive survey.

The chapter is divided into introduction; brief methodology and research limitations; theses and dissertations (T&Ds), which lists, classifies, and analyzes the completed research developed within graduate programs in the country, provided by the Catalogue of Theses and Dissertations (CTD) of the Coordination for the Improvement of Higher-Education Personnel (Capes); scientific papers, which lists, classifies and analyzes the works published in Brazil until the beginning of 2021; institutions, events and promotions related to the subject of EBPPs in Brazil,

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4. Merton, R. K. *Social theory and social structure*. Glencoe, United States: Free Press, 1957.

5. As per the original: “*basada en investigación, que aplica procedimientos rigurosos y sistemáticos para la recolección de datos y se preocupa por la transformación de éstos en conocimiento formal de carácter utilizable para la toma de decisiones*”.

in the public and private spheres; and final considerations, which synthesize the findings and present an overview of EBPPMs in the country.

Before starting, however, we must make an important remark, which is that the different methods employed in the survey inevitably produced some distortions, which will be discussed briefly in the second section, throughout the text, and in more detail at the end of the chapter (appendix D). Perhaps the main one is the lack of sensitivity of these methods to important and sometimes traditional forms of knowledge production and interaction between public sector decision-makers and experts. These forms, which are also capable of informing the production of public policies, are under the responsibility of different governmental and non-governmental actors, such as policy assessment, technical advice, and the production of data and statistics. This is because, to a large extent, the methods we employed favored actors and instances that are recognized and publicized as producers or consumers of evidence for public policies. This discrepancy reflects the fact that the emergence of the EBPP movement, which occurred internationally in the 1990s, neither inaugurates nor exhausts the much older and more comprehensive concern of public policies not operating solely on ideology, tradition, or the example of others.

## 2 BRIEF METHODOLOGY AND RESEARCH LIMITATIONS

The surveys of T&Ds, scientific papers, institutions, events, and promotions presented in this chapter were conducted in March 2021. Several specific search engines were used, as well as the broader Google and Google Scholar search. The problems and limitations of the methods employed are discussed in more detail in appendix D. We also performed a content analysis of the data found, the results of which are presented, in a summarized way, in specific tables.

A survey was carried out using the Capes' CTD search engine within its specificities to produce the T&Ds section. This is a database launched in 2002, which indexes the material produced by Coleta Capes since 1987, with a direct search on the Sucupira Platform as of 2014.

For the survey of scientific papers, we used the search engine and algorithms of the database of Brazilian productions of the Scientific Electronic Library Online (SciELO), launched in 1997 and which aggregates journals from the most diverse areas of knowledge. We also did specific searches in Google Scholar, in search of non-indexed journals, in addition to tracking other works in the bibliographies of the previously found papers. Finally, for the search of institutions, events and promotions, Google was used within its most diverse range of possibilities of combining search terms and strategies, as well as the direct search in the main sites of the public administration of the 26 Brazilian states and the Federal District.

Despite the scope of the search, it is essential to explain some of the reasons for the use of the databases and search engines chosen by us, to the detriment of others. Regarding the T&Ds, it is important to stress that the base is fed by data generated by Coleta Capes, which, in turn, is under the responsibility of each graduate program (PPG), which can generate gaps, delays and periodic revisions of the data disclosed there, altering the search results as these revisions occur. Its alternative, the Brazilian Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (BDBTD), of the Brazilian Institute of Information in Science and Technology (Ibict), does not yet include all research institutions, since participation in it is voluntary.

In the case of the scientific papers, the choice of the SciELO database of national production is justified by its relevance, impact, and coverage, even though the database does not include other important indexes that are quite specific regarding their areas of knowledge, such as the Virtual Health Library (VHL) and its aggregated databases. Most likely, this option resulted in the underappreciation, in this chapter, of the specific production in the health field.

Finally, in the search for institutions, events, and promotions, it is crucial to make it clear that the way Google and other less popular search engines index public pages to return their searches interferes directly with the amount, comprehensiveness, and accuracy of the results, which are conditioned by previous searches and even by the browsing history of those who perform the search. Even if strategies are adopted to minimize these externalities, the very performance of a search for certain terms impacts the next search to be made, by other individuals, for the same terms. Thus, information on more internal pages or subpages of a given website tends to return in smaller numbers than on the main pages or is often obscured by many layers of navigation. In addition, web pages, especially those of municipalities and other institutions, are updated, deactivated, or re-used frequently, so that a search on a particular date represents a snapshot of the data at that moment in time, but without complete information about the history of creation, modification, and deletion up to that point.

### 3 EBPP-THEMED THESES AND DISSERTATIONS

The number of EBPP-themed of T&Ds presented in Brazil is still very low, and their production is quite recent, as we will see in this section. A survey conducted in the Capes CTD in March 2021, using the methodology described in appendix D, indicated the existence of only 23 papers (appendix A). It should be noted, however, that the catalogue, which is an important source of research, does not reflect the entire universe of production of the PPGs in the country, even if it is its main reference.<sup>6</sup> The vast majority of these 23 catalogued T&Ds were presented in the second half of the 2010s, as shown in table 1.

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6. Another important source, not used in this research, is the BDBTD of IBICT, linked to the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovations.

**TABLE 1**  
**Presentation year of EBPP-themed T&Ds (2010-2019)**

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
1	0	2	0	1	3	3	4	2	7	23

Source: Capes' CTD. Available at: <https://catalogodeteses.capes.gov.br/catalogo-teses/#/>. Accessed on: Mar. 15, 2021. Authors' elaboration.

Of these 23 final papers, eight are dissertations presented in professional master's programs, ten in research master's programs, and five are doctoral theses. These data suggest that, among researchers in training in Brazil, it is the younger ones who seem to be more concerned with the issue of EBPPs. One should also note the importance of professional master's programs in the country, which, as it is known, are much smaller in number than the research ones.

Concerning the geographical distribution of these 23 T&Ds presented, the prevalence of the Southeast region is not surprising, given the large concentration of the country's graduate programs in this region. Table 2 presents this distribution in more detail.

Of these 23 T&Ds, thirteen were presented in federal institutions, six in state institutions, and four in community or private institutions.

It is also hardly surprising that the great majority of the research that gave rise to the T&Ds we are analyzing here was developed in the large area of health sciences. This is hardly surprising because it is well known that the very EBPP movement had as one of its main sources the so-called evidence-based medicine (EBM), which worldwide continues to have great capillarity in the health field (Baron, 2018). Table 3 presents the distribution of these 23 final papers according to the areas and subareas of knowledge to which the graduate programs in which they were presented belong.

**TABLE 2**  
**EBPPM-themed T&Ds in Brazil: geographical distribution**

North	2	Pará = 1 Tocantins = 1
Northeast	0	-
Midwest	1	Federal District = 1
Southeast	16	São Paulo = 10 Rio de Janeiro = 5 Minas Gerais = 1
South	4	Rio Grande do Sul = 3 Paraná = 1
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	-

Source: Capes' CTD. Available at: <https://catalogodeteses.capes.gov.br/catalogo-teses/#/>. Accessed on: Mar. 15, 2021. Authors' elaboration.

**TABLE 3**  
**Areas of knowledge in which the EBPPM-themed T&Ds were presented**

Area of knowledge	Number of T&Ds	Subarea of knowledge
Health sciences	14	Collective health = 4 10 other subareas, 1 paper each
Applied social sciences	5	Economics = 2 Management = 2 Law = 1
Human sciences	2	Social sciences = 2
Interdisciplinary	2	Scientific and technologic policy = 1 Science, technology and society = 1
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	-

Source: Capes' CTD. Available at: <https://catalogodeteses.capes.gov.br/catalogo-teses/#/>. Accessed on: Mar. 15, 2021. Authors' elaboration.

Even though the subjects, inquiries, approaches, concerns, and methodologies of this body of work on EBPPs are very diverse, it is worth trying to analyze their content, even if this great variety forces us to take a more panoramic look. Table 4 summarizes some important issues, which are discussed below (a more detailed version of this table is presented in appendix E).

**TABLE 4**  
**Analysis of the content of the EBPP-themed T&Ds within the Capes catalogue**

Analytic categories	Number of yes	Frequency (%)
1 Does it advocate that public policies should be informed by evidence? (Yes or not very clear)	21 out of 23	91
2 Does it promote direct dialogue with the EBPP movement? (Yes or no)	10 out of 23	43
3 Health papers that dialogue only with EBM	7 out of 18	39
4 Does it theorize about evidence management or EBPP production? (Yes or no)	8 out of 23	35
5 Does it emphasize evidence production? (Yes or no)	19 out of 23	83
6 Does it emphasize the use of evidence or the interaction between public managers and knowledge producers? (Yes or no)	10 out of 23	43
7 Does it explore or develop instruments for the production of EBPP? (Yes or no)	15 out of 23	65

Authors' elaboration.

Let us take a further look at the analytical categories presented in table 4. The first question aimed to gauge the normative bias of these T&Ds. The reader should not have been surprised by the finding that the vast majority of papers (91%) advocate that public policy be informed by evidence. The only two exceptions are dissertations presented in a graduate program in the social sciences, which adopt a more neutral or balanced position, centrally embracing some skepticism about the rationalizing expectations of the EBPP movement. This is not to say, of course, that the other papers are uncritical or merely laudatory defenses of EBPPs.

In any case, it is clear that a defense of the principles, goals, and methods of the EBPPM is largely prevalent in these papers, even if this defense is usually tempered by more topical criticism.

The values in the second row of table 4, in their turn, may be seen as unexpected. Our content analysis, also based on the bibliography of these T&Ds, found that only 43% of them are in direct dialogue with the EBPP movement, that is, they address problems, raise questions and/or make references to works and traditions beyond the more specific focus of the thesis itself. It seems possible to understand this data in the following way: if the EBPP movement has gained great capillarity in several countries, its appropriation in the academic universe, at least in Brazil, has often been partial and fragmented (we could also suggest that, perhaps, these works are somehow trapped by their own pragmatism).

As previously mentioned, EBM should be understood as one of the first and most important drivers of the EBPP movement. Worldwide, EBM continues to have a high status and to expand its penetration among health professionals, institutions, and policies, since health is a field of knowledge that, while fostering multidisciplinary approaches, also produces a strong gravitational effect. Thus, our finding that 39% of the T&Ds on health EBPPs are in dialogue *only* with EBM, and not with the broader EBPP movement should not come as a surprise (third row of table 4).

Surprisingly for us, the fourth row of table 4 reveals that only 35% of the T&Ds we analyzed theorize about evidence management or the production of EBPPs. Since these are graduate-level final papers, perhaps our expectation is that they are almost required to mobilize the available theoretical frameworks. However, the vast majority of the papers in our sample seem to have more pragmatic concerns, having refrained from further theorizing about the EBPP movement, which reflects the so-called *utilitarian turn* in science and knowledge production (Solesbury, 2001). This perspective seems to find support in the data of the seventh row of table 4, which show us that 65% of these T&Ds explore or develop specific tools to produce EBPPs. These instruments will be presented below. Before, however, we should explore more carefully the data presented in the fifth and sixth rows.

In general, the EBPP movement acknowledges that the search for improving the quality of government action involves both the need to make the process of policy production more permeable to scientific evidence and, likewise, the acknowledgement of the importance of making the knowledge producers understand the needs and specificities of decision-makers and their context. Therefore, the fifth and sixth questions seek to gauge whether the T&Ds in the sample emphasize the *production* of evidence (83% of them do) and/or emphasize the *use* of evidence or the interaction between public managers and knowledge producers (only 43%



of them do). It is clear, therefore, that most T&Ds focus on the issue of evidence production, neglecting, to a greater or lesser extent, the factors that hinder its effective use in the process of producing public policies. It is worth noting, however, a fact that is not included in table 4: of these 23 T&Ds, six emphasize both the production and the use of evidence, thus covering a much wider range of issues and problems specific to the field.

Finally, a few quick comments are in order about the 65% of T&Ds that explore or develop tools to produce EBPPs (seventh question). More specifically, the fifteen T&Ds that had a major concern on the subject have explored eight types of tools, namely: systematic reviews; randomized controlled experiments; scope reviews; technician training and change in organizational culture; cost analysis; impact evaluation; municipal public policy score; and knowledge translation. It is also worth noting that systematic reviews were the only instrument explored by more than a single thesis or dissertation, having been favored by nine of these fifteen pieces (60%).<sup>7</sup>

#### 4 EBPP-THEMED SCIENTIFIC PAPERS

Given our goal of conducting as exhaustive a survey as possible, the survey of the EBPP-themed papers that we present in this section was done by searching SciELO Brazil, Google Scholar, and the bibliographies of the papers found. In appendix D, the methodology used is presented in all its details. These searches resulted in a list of 41 papers that we consider to be part of the “Brazilian branch” of the EBPP movement (appendix B). Please note, however, that, as in the case of the T&Ds, these 41 papers are linked in different ways to what, in this chapter, we call the EBPP movement in Brazil. If these distinct forms of linkage to the EBPPM are often evident just by reading their titles, this diversity will become more precise when we present a content analysis of these papers, along the lines of the analysis of the T&Ds. Before that, however, we must analyze their dates of publication and the journals in which they were published.

Table 5 shows the year of publication of the 41 papers we found. Although their spread in time is greater than that of the T&Ds, it is clear that, as we saw in the case of T&Ds, most of these papers were published very recently, i.e., in the second half of the 2010s. Thus, the data presented in tables 1 and 5 allow us to state that, from the analytical or academic point of view, the rooting of the EBPP movement in Brazil is recent, fragile and late. Recent, because most of the T&Ds and papers came to light in the second half of the last decade. Fragile, because their number can be considered quite small (additional data, which will be presented and discussed later, seem to corroborate this fragility).

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7. For an overview, although not exhaustive, of the EBPPM tools or its methods and techniques, see Faria (2022).

And late, because the movement has been gaining momentum since the 1990s (Faria, 2022).

Following the example of what we found in our depiction of the Brazilian T&Ds that can be thought of as somehow linked to the EBPPM, in the case of papers, most of them were published in journals of the broad field of health sciences. However, differently from what was exposed in table 3, the papers of the “Brazilian branch” of EBPPM are distributed a bit more evenly among the areas of knowledge as table 6 points out.

Please note that, in the case of the papers, the applied social sciences were almost as important as the health sciences.

**TABLE 5**  
Year of publication of the EBPP-themed papers (2001-2021)

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
0	0	0	4	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	<b>Total</b>
2	1	0	5	3	3	4	7	7	1	<b>41</b>

Authors' elaboration.

**TABLE 6**  
Area of knowledge of Brazilian journals in which EBPP-themed papers were published

Area of knowledge	Number of papers	Subareas
Biological sciences	2	Biodiversity, genetics
Health sciences	17	Public health, collective health, genetics, nursing
Applied social sciences	16	Public management, business management, agriculture and society, economics, tourism, education, information science
Human sciences	5	Sociology, philosophy, public policy
Interdisciplinary	1	Communications, health, education
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	-

Authors' elaboration.

These 41 papers were written by 108 authors and published in 25 different journals, from the five areas of knowledge presented in table 6. These data show that, also in Brazil, the EBPPM is becoming an increasingly multidisciplinary movement.

It is worth noting that almost 15% of the authors of the papers under analysis here, or sixteen of them, are foreigners. In most cases, the publications of these foreign authors were made in partnership with Brazilians, a fact that reveals some of the ways in which the EBPPM, strongly trans-nationalized (Faria, 2022), is gaining capillarity in the country (only three of the papers are authored exclusively by foreigners).

Observing the frequency with which certain journals and authors appeared in our survey allows us to advance a little further in our characterization of the EBPPM in Brazil. If the data that we present below do not reveal any concentration that seems abnormal or capable of suggesting that, in the country, the EBPPM is concentrated in a few journals or authors, these data certainly show us that some of them have greater centrality.

Regarding the journals, seventeen out of the 25 that published papers on EBPPs did so only once. Of the others, five published two papers each; one published three (*Revista de Administração Pública*); another published four (*Boletim de Análise Político-Institucional*, three of them in a special issue, whose other papers were not detected by our methodology); and the last one, which published no less than seven papers, spread over six different issues (*Ciência e Saúde Coletiva*).

As far as the authors are concerned, the concentration is lower, but we believe it to be no less important. This is because, of the 108 authors, only five have published more than one article. If three of them are partners in two papers and another wrote two papers alone, another author, Maria José Carneiro, from the Federal Rural University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRRJ), signs alone or in a partnership no less than four of the papers here under evaluation. It is also worth mentioning that this researcher was the supervisor of two of the master's dissertations analyzed in the previous section. It is clear, then, that when the universe of analysis is as restricted as ours, a single researcher can make a significant difference.

However, our analysis of the Brazilian papers linked to the EBPPM would not be complete without an appreciation, albeit generic, of their content. To this end, we employ the same analytical categories that we used in our discussion of T&Ds. Table 7 presents a summary of our content analysis of the 41 papers (in appendix E, these data are presented in a disaggregated manner).

**TABLE 7**  
**Synthesis of the content analysis of the EBPP-themed papers published in Brazil**

Analytical categories	Number of yes	Frequency (%)
1 Does it advocate that public policies should be informed by evidence? (Yes or not very clear)	26 out of 41	63
2 Does it promote direct dialogue with the EBPP movement? (Yes or no)	23 out of 41	56
3 Health papers that dialogue only with EBM	7 out of 21	33
4 Does it theorize about evidence management or EBPP production? (Yes or no)	33 out of 41	80
5 Does it emphasize evidence production? (Yes or no)	27 out of 41	66
6 Does it emphasize the use of evidence or the interaction between public managers and knowledge producers? (Yes or no)	28 out of 41	68
7 Does it explore or develop tools for the production of EBPP? (Yes or no)	21 out of 41	51

Authors' elaboration.

Table 7 shows us, in its first row, that, as we have seen in T&Ds, most papers (63%) clearly advocate that public policy be informed by evidence. This finding reveals that, on its academic side, the EBPPM's "Brazilian branch" has a strong normative bias, which is more accentuated in the case of T&Ds (91%, according to table 4). Since the movement is assumed to be propositional, such a finding should not be surprising.

The second row of table 7 shows us that, contrary to what we saw in the case of T&Ds, a small majority (56%) of papers are in direct dialogue with EBPPM (43% of T&Ds do so). Concerning health papers that dialogue only with EBM (third line), only 33% of them do so. Thus, most of the health papers dialogue more broadly with EBPPM.

In the previous section, we saw that only 35% of the T&Ds theorize about evidence management or the production of EBPPs. This figure rises sharply in the case of papers, reaching 80% (fourth row). This difference may be explained by the fact that, usually, authors of published papers are more mature and experienced than graduate students.

The fifth and sixth rows, on their turn, show us that a higher percentage of papers emphasize the production of evidence (66%) and the use of evidence or the interaction between public managers and knowledge producers (68%). Thus, if most T&Ds, as we have seen, focus on the issue of the production of evidence, neglecting, to a greater or lesser extent, the factors that hinder its effective use in the process of public policy production, the same does not seem to happen with the papers.

Finally, it should be noted that, as we had seen, but with greater intensity in the case of T&Ds (65%), most papers (51%) explore or develop tools to produce EBPPs. If, as we saw, the T&Ds emphasized eight different types of tools, the papers, which represent a much larger amount, emphasize eleven types of tools, namely: evaluation of public policies; systematic review; technological horizon monitoring; machine learning; knowledge translation; deliberative dialogues; drafting of strategic products lists; behavioral evidence; on-line decentralization project; cause and effect map; and health impact assessment. It is also worth noting that, as we have found in the case of the T&Ds, systematic reviews were widely privileged in the papers, since, out of the 21 that more carefully explored tools to produce EBPPs, almost half of them (ten) emphasized systematic reviews.

Having discussed so far two of the academic strands of EBPPM in Brazil, the chapter will now deal with the institutionalization of the movement in the country and what has been done in other spheres to promote it in these latitudes. Before doing so, however, we must point out an important gap in our survey: given the inexistence (or our lack of knowledge) of a search engine capable of making the finding and

recording work more possible, nothing will be said here about the ways in which the movement has been disseminated in the country through the availability of specific courses in Brazilian universities.

### 5 INSTITUTIONS, EVENTS AND PROMOTION OF THE EBPPM'S "BRAZILIAN BRANCH"

At the international level, the EBPP movement has mobilized multiple actors, individual and institutional, governmental and non-governmental, from the academia and the private sector, local, national and international (Faria, 2022). In this section, we will deal exclusively with the institutional actors that have acted to promote the movement in Brazil, but one should also remember the central role certain individuals, usually referred to as *public policy entrepreneurs*, play in the innovation, negotiation, and more general process of producing public policies and also, for sure, in EBPPM (Cairney, 2018).

We understand that any survey of the EBPP movement, even in a single country, as the one intended here, will hardly be exhaustive, due to the great capillarity of its processes and the multiplicity of its actors and agents. What is intended here, then, is simply to present a sample of the complex institutional mosaic that supports and promotes the EBPPM in Brazil, a sample that is affected by the limitations inherent to any internet search. The methodology used in this survey is also presented below (appendix D), where we also discuss, in more detail, its inevitable limitations.

In our research, we detected 32 institutions, events, or promotions that we associate with the "Brazilian branch" of EBPPM, which are also listed below (appendix C). Again, it is clear that these initiatives are quite recent, as shown in table 8.

TABLE 8

Year of the foundation of institutions or happening of events and promotions related to EBPP in Brazil

2007	2008	-	2013	2016	-	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total
1	1	-	1	2	-	6	7	13	1	32

Authors' elaboration.

We found the number to be 32 surprising since we expected to find a much more flourishing universe, even considering the search method's limitations. Nevertheless, these 32 institutions, events and promotions found, if fewer in number than expected, reveal, nonetheless, that also in Brazil the movement is gaining capillarity from the work, often articulated, of a remarkable diversity of actors. Of these 32, half (sixteen) are institutions, and the other half are events or promotions. Of the 32, twelve are governmental; eleven are non-governmental; and nine are institutions, events, or promotions of universities in the country. Although our

decision to consider universities as a separate category may be controversial, we believe that this distinction is important for a variety of reasons, such as the very nature of the movement and the need to assess, also by this means, the penetration of the EBPPM in Brazilian universities.

When we consider how the EBPPM institutions, events and promotions are distributed among the different sectors in the country, which is also presented in detail in the list in appendix C, we come up with the following result: five institutions and seven events and promotions were found in the governmental sphere; eight institutions and three events and promotions were found in the non-governmental sphere; and three institutions and six events and promotions were found in the universities.

Let us take a closer look at the governmental actions we associate with the development of the EBPPM in Brazil. Before doing so, however, we must reiterate that much of what the State does that could be linked to the movement or the promotion of its cause, such as all the activity of public policy assessment and its institutionalization in governments, ended up not being detected, since the collection method we used favors initiatives that, to some extent, are understood and disseminated as evidence production or consumption. In other words, the methodology employed restricts, in proportions that we are unable to measure, the survey herein presented and discussed.

This caveat aside, we believe that the findings are important nonetheless. First, we should note that out of the twelve governmental initiatives found, ten refer to the federal government (only two events from subnational governments were found: one course offered by the School of Government of the Federal District and another by the School of Government of the Public Prosecutor's Office of Rio de Janeiro). Please note that our search on the official websites of all 26 Brazilian states and the Federal District did not find any initiatives. This is not to say, of course, that there are no other initiatives by Brazilian subnational governments to promote EBPPs. The Secretariat of Education of the State of São Paulo, for example, created the Office of Evidence in 2020. Still, it seems clear that the EBPPM has not yet gained greater capillarity or visibility in Brazilian subnational governments, which can perhaps be thought of as a result of both the smaller capacities of subnational governments, as well as the flagrant incipency of the movement in the country. As already mentioned, of the twelve governmental initiatives, five are institutions linked to the federal government (a council, an advisory body, two electronic platforms and a professional master's graduate program created by the National School of Public Administration – Enap) and seven are events or promotions (courses, seminars, workshops and a call for tenders to contract research, the latter also from Enap). Finally, it is worth noting that of these twelve government initiatives, four

are linked to Enap, which makes it the main promoter of the EBPPM in Brazil, at least according to our methodology. Enap is also a partner of the Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV) and the Mobility and Social Development Institute (IMDS) in the creation of the Evidência Award.

As far as non-governmental initiatives are concerned, there is an interesting inversion in the frequencies identified, since the number of institutions found was much higher than the number of events and promotions (8 x 3). If the greater pliability and autonomy of the non-governmental sector perhaps explains the greater number of institutions, the small number of events and promotions found (three) seems to us much harder to explain. We found a great diversity of non-governmental institutions in our research, including three think tanks, a non-governmental organization (NGO), a non-partisan association, a platform, a startup, and a network, the latter linked to an international organization, the WHO. It is worth pointing out, exemplifying once again the limitations of the methodology employed, that any quick search on YouTube will also show that several other Brazilian non-governmental institutions are involved with EBPPM, perhaps the best known of them being Instituto Unibanco and Instituto Ayrton Senna. This research will also show, to a lesser extent, the involvement of other governmental institutions and universities.

Finally, as far as universities are concerned, if the six events and promotions detected are of the expected kind (seminars and debates, a course, and an extension project), the three institutions are the following: the Evidência Award, established by FGV and IMDS; the Social Intelligence Center, created by PUC-Minas in partnership with ChildFund Brasil; and the Covid-19 BR Observatory, which advertises itself as an “independent initiative of 85 researchers associated with 28 institutions”,<sup>8</sup> most of them universities. It is also worth noting that in this third category, the university arena, FGV stood out, responsible for one-third of the items in the category (three out of nine).

Having thus completed our journey, we will summarize our findings and present below a general panorama of the EBPPM in Brazil.

## 6 FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

The most general conclusion of our survey is that the rooting of the EBPP movement in Brazil is recent, fragile and late. It is recent because most of the T&Ds, papers, institutions, and associated events and promotions date from the second half of the 2010s and the year 2020. Fragile, because its number is limited, even though, also in the country, the EBPPM mobilizes actors and institutions of

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8. Available at: <https://covid19br.github.io/>. Accessed on: March 10, 2021.

great prestige. It can be considered late when we remember that the movement was launched in the 1990s. The data we have presented and discussed allow us to state that, also in Brazil, the EBPPM is notably multidisciplinary, even if the contributions of the health sciences and applied social sciences prevail, as seems natural to us. Nevertheless, our questioning about the connections established in the T&Ds and papers showed that, if the EBPPM has gained capillarity in the Brazilian academic universe, it usually dialogues in a restricted manner with the entire analytical and propositional wealth of the movement.

It is certainly not surprising to find that a significant part of the academic studies that we understand as composing the “Brazilian branch” of the EBPPM has more pragmatic concerns, having dispensed with further theorizing on the production of EBPPs (65% of T&Ds and 20% of the papers). In our view, if the bias was expected, it also reflects a more general phenomenon: the so-called *utilitarian turn* in science and knowledge production. Concerning the most frequently explored tools for the promotion of EBPPs, systematic reviews gained prominence at the academic level, as we have seen. We also observed that, if most of the T&Ds favor the *production* of evidence, neglecting to some extent the factors that hinder its effective *use* in the process of producing public policies, this does not seem to happen with the papers.

Our analysis of the institutions, events, and promotions associated with the EBPPM in the country, albeit restricted to a universe that we consider modest, revealed that the movement has also gained some capillarity in this area, although only in recent years. We also saw that, in its governmental aspect, the initiatives, of various kinds, are concentrated at the federal level, with few initiatives from subnational governments. At the federal level, the work done by Enap, which we can perhaps consider the main promoter of the EBPPM in the country, at least at the governmental level, has gained prominence. Our survey also showed a great diversity of non-governmental institutions working in this field, often in an articulated manner. In the university arena, FGV seems to stand out, a finding that is not surprising when we take into account all the efforts made by the institution to act and be recognized as a think tank.

Whether the EBPPM movement is considered an important addition to the welcome efforts for the modernization of the Brazilian State, whether it is understood as an indispensable tool for maximizing the effectiveness and efficiency of Brazilian public policies, whether it is interpreted as an expression of the search for depoliticizing government action, as an instrument for promoting neoliberalism or as just another brand name, the fact is that the survey undertaken here seems to indicate that the EBPPM has been rapidly implanting itself in the country.



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## APPENDIX A

## LIST OF THE BRAZILIAN EVIDENCE-BASED PUBLIC POLICY-THEMED THESES AND DISSERTATIONS

AGLIO, F. J. de C. **Ciência ou senso comum?** O uso do conhecimento científico no discurso político da revisão do Código Florestal Brasileiro. 2012. Thesis (Master's Degree) – Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, 2012.

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CAYETANO, M. H. **Panorama do recrutamento, contratação e remuneração dos recursos humanos em odontologia no serviço público.** 2019. Dissertation (Doctoral Degree) – Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo, 2019.

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MOREIRA, L. G. **Da política sobre drogas até a gestão pública baseada em evidências: uma análise qualitativa na capital do Brasil.** 2015. Thesis (Master's Degree) – Hospital de Clínicas de Porto Alegre, Porto Alegre, 2015.

ONOUÉ, E. Y. **Determinantes econômicos e sociodemográficos da demanda por importações de produtos farmacêuticos: análise para países em desenvolvimento.** 2019. Thesis (Master's Degree) – Universidade Estadual de Maringá, Maringá, 2019.

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## APPENDIX B

## LIST OF THE EVIDENCE-BASED PUBLIC POLICY-THEMED PAPERS PUBLISHED IN BRAZIL

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## APPENDIX C

### LIST OF INSTITUTIONS, EVENTS AND PROMOTIONS RELATED TO THE BRAZILIAN EVIDENCE-BASED PUBLIC POLICY MOVEMENT (EBPP)

#### C.1 TWELVE GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

##### C.1.1 Government institutions

- 1) Council for Monitoring and Assessment of Public Policies (CMAP), established in December 2016 with the purpose of, alongside the Office of the Comptroller General (CGU), the Office of the Chief of Staff and ministries, assessing public policies implemented in Brazil. Available at: <https://bit.ly/3o2qdAD>. Accessed on: Sept. 21, 2021.
- 2) +Brasil platform, launched by the federal government in 2019 and managed by the Federal Data Processing Service (Serpro) under the scope of enabling public policies based on technological evidence. Available at: <https://www.serpro.gov.br/menu/noticias/noticias-2019/plataforma-brasil-viabiliza-politicas-publicas-baseadas-em-evidencias-tecnologicas> and <https://bit.ly/2W1ekiK>. Accessed on: Sept. 21, 2021.
- 3) Strategic Advisory Board for Evidence of the Ministry of Education (MEC), created in July 2018 with the mission of promoting the appropriate use of evidence and fostering innovation culture to improve the quality of Brazilian educational policies. Available at: <http://portal.mec.gov.br/publicacoes-para-professores/30000-uncategorised/70101-assessoria-estrategica-de-evidencias>. Accessed on: Sept. 21, 2021.
- 4) National School of Public Administration (Enap) Professional Master's Program in Public Policy Assessment and Monitoring. Available at: <https://www.enap.gov.br/pt/cursos/pos-graduacao/mestrado/mestrado-profissional-em-avaliacao-e-monitoramento-de-politicas-publicas>. Accessed on: Sept. 21, 2021.
- 5) GovData platform: intelligence platform for evidence-based public policy enforcement. Available at: <https://loja.serpro.gov.br/jaclientegovdata>. Accessed on: Sept. 21, 2021.

### C.1.2 Government events and promotions

- 1) Webinar held by the Office of the Chief of Staff of the federal government on December 4, 2020, as part of the Cycle of Webinars on the Center for Government and Peer Review of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which discussed the importance of evidence-based public policy. Available at: <https://www.gov.br/casacivil/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020/dezembro/casa-civil-discute-em-webinario-a-importancia-de-politicas-publicas-baseadas-em-evidencias>. Accessed on: Sept. 21, 2021.
- 2) Short course promoted by Enap on the subject, which took place in March 2019. Available at: <https://suap.enap.gov.br/vitrine/curso/189/>. Accessed on: Sept. 21, 2021.
- 3) The School of Government of the Federal District has in its program for the triennium 2020-2022 an evidence-based social policies-themed course. Available at: <https://bit.ly/3kxEAeg>. Accessed on: Sept. 21, 2021.
- 4) Evidence-based public policy workshop promoted by the Chamber of Social Rights and General Administrative Act Enforcement of the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office, addressing the subject *Logic model for public policies: an instrument for evidence-based public policy assessment*, held on November 18, 2019. Available at: <https://www.mpf.mp.br/pgr/noticias-pgr/pgr-participa-de-abertura-da-oficina-de-politicas-baseadas-em-evidencias>. Accessed on: Sept. 21, 2021.
- 5) Training Course at the Roberto Bernardes Barroso Institute of Education (IERRB) – School of Government of the Prosecution Office of Rio de Janeiro on evidence-based public policies, held on August 26 and 28 and September 2 and 4, 2020. Available at: <https://bit.ly/3u4GBll>. Accessed on: Sept. 21, 2021.
- 6) Enap public notice to award research grants under the Brazil Chairs Program contemplating, among the subjects, the communication of evidence in public policies, published in the Official Gazette of the Union (DOU) on June 11, 2019. Available at: <https://www.enap.gov.br/pt/acontece/noticias/processo-seletivo-programa-catedras-brasil>. Accessed on: Sept. 21, 2021.
- 7) Public governance and evidence-based policies course, promoted by Enap on October 19, 2018, with the participation of authorities associated with the federal government. Available at: <https://bit.ly/3ELmJZ4>. Accessed on: Sept. 21, 2021.

## C.2 ELEVEN NON-GOVERNMENTAL INITIATIVES

### C.2.1 Non-governmental institutions

- 1) Impulso Gov – a think tank created in 2019 with the intention of, based on open data on public health in Brazil, supporting the development of solutions and decision-making of state and municipal governments regarding the management of the Unified Health System (SUS). Available at: <https://www.impulsogov.org/>. Accessed on: Sept. 21, 2021.
- 2) Questão de Ciência Institute – a think tank created in 2018 to promote EBPPs through scientific research, science journalism, and advocacy for the use of scientific data. On its website, there are opinion papers and a scientific journal. Available at: <https://iqc.org.br/>. Accessed on: Sept. 21, 2021.
- 3) Open Knowledge Brasil – a civil society organization, the Brazilian chapter of Open Knowledge International. Established in Brazil in 2013, it develops civic tools, projects, analyses of public policies, and data journalism with the purpose of fostering transparency between government and society. Available at: <https://ok.org.br/>. Accessed on: Sept. 21, 2021.
- 4) RIO+ Initiative – a non-partisan association that aims to contribute to the socio-economic recovery of Rio de Janeiro by analyzing data, encouraging local research, fostering the emergence of talent, and bringing evidence to the political environment. It organized, in June 2020, the 1st SeminárioRIO – Evidence-Based Public Policy. Available at: <https://riomais.org/>. Accessed on: Sept. 21, 2021.
- 5) Center for Public Leadership (CLP) – a think tank and course promoter in the area of public policy and management with courses on the subject of EBPPs. Available at: <https://www.clp.org.br/quem-somos/>; <https://www.clp.org.br/curso/mlg/>; and <https://conteudo.clp.org.br/guia-100-dias-de-governo>. Accessed on: Sept. 21, 2021.
- 6) Nexo Políticas Públicas – a scientific-journalistic platform linked to the media outlet Nexo Jornal to dialogue with various audiences, from the academic to the political, and the population in general, since evidence plays a key role in the development, implementation and assessment of public policies and is a direct result of academic research. Available at: <https://pp.nexojornal.com.br/>. Accessed on: Sept. 21, 2021.
- 7) Gove Digital – a startup, self-described as a govtech, that works to transform the way city managers make their daily decisions and also to increase the efficiency of public finance. Available at: <https://www.gove.digital/>. Accessed on: Sept. 21, 2021.

- 8) Evidence Informed Policy Network Brasil (EVIPNet Brasil) is the Brazilian branch of a network promoted by the World Health Organization (WHO) to promote the systematic use of scientific research evidence in the development of public health policies. Available at: <https://www.sbmfc.org.br/noticias/conheca-o-evipnet-brasil/>. Accessed on: Sept. 21, 2021.

### **C.2.2 Non-governmental events and promotions**

- 1) Transparency covid-19 – an Open Knowledge Brasil initiative that aims at assessing the quality of the data and information related to the novel coronavirus pandemic published by the federal government and the Brazilian states on their official websites. Available at: <https://transparenciacovid19.ok.org.br/>. Accessed on: Sept. 21, 2021.
- 2) Third International Congress on Control and Public Policy, hosted by the Rui Barbosa Institute, was held in Belo Horizonte in 2018, covering the topic of EBPPs. Available at: <https://bit.ly/39xbqWk>. Accessed on: Sept. 21, 2021.
- 3) Evidence-based public policy course, organized by A Ponte, a network of women with academic and practical expertise in government that seeks to provide information to improve the design of public policies in Brazil. Available at: <https://bit.ly/3hY6ezc>. Accessed on: Sept. 21, 2021.

## **C.3 NINE INITIATIVES FROM UNIVERSITIES**

### **C.3.1 Institutions created by universities**

- 1) Covid-19 BR Observatory – an independent initiative of 85 researchers associated with 28 institutions with the goal of tabulating and disseminating information on covid-19 based on scientific methodology to inform the authorities responsible for public policies and the population in general. Available at: <https://covid19br.github.io/>. Accessed on: Sept. 21, 2021.
- 2) Evidência Award – created in 2020 by Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV), Enap and Instituto Mobilidade e Desenvolvimento Social (IMDS) to acknowledge and promote the interaction between science and public policy. Available at: <https://eventos.fgv.br/premioevidencia>. Accessed on: Sept. 21, 2021.
- 3) Center for Social Intelligence (NIS) – an initiative of the Pontifical Catholic University of Minas Gerais (PUC-Minas) and ChildFund Brasil to create a research center to produce scientific indicators for decision-making by public managers. Available at: <http://nis.org.br/>. Accessed on: Sept. 21, 2021.

### C.3.2 Events and promotions by universities

- 1) Graduate program seminar at the Federal University of Espírito Santo (Ufes) on EBPPs held online in June 2020. Available at: <https://prppg.ufes.br/conteudo/evento-online-politicas-publicas-baseadas-em-evidencias-relevancia-da-integracao> and [https://prppg.ufes.br/sites/prppg.ufes.br/files/field/anexo/seminario\\_-\\_programacao\\_completa.pdf#overlay-context=user](https://prppg.ufes.br/sites/prppg.ufes.br/files/field/anexo/seminario_-_programacao_completa.pdf#overlay-context=user). Accessed on: Sept. 21, 2021.
- 2) Extension project, with the selection of fellows, implemented by the School of Law and State Sciences at the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG), called Evidence-Based Public Policy, held in May 2018. Available at: <https://bit.ly/3zzWIbu>. Accessed on: Sept. 21, 2021.
- 3) Center for Public Sector Policy and Economics (CE-PESP/FGV) online event on public policies to fight covid-19, held on June 4, 2020. Available at: <https://www.cepesp.io/pesquisadores-discutem-como-transformar-combate-ao-covid-em-legado-para-as-politicas-publicas/>. Accessed on: Sept. 21, 2021.
- 4) Public policy courses: Assessment and Evidence I and II, offered on July 15, 2020, at the graduate program in economics of the School of Economics, Business and Accounting of the University of São Paulo (FEA/USP), on a remote basis, for the external audience to attend in the condition of special students. Available at: <http://fea.usp.br/oferta-de-cursos-online-da-pos-graduacao-em-economia-fea-usp-para-publico-externo>. Accessed on: Sept. 21, 2021.
- 5) First seminar on evidence-based public policies in the Brazilian Criminal Justice System, held in November 2020 by the Federal University of Ceará (UFC) and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. Available at: <https://bit.ly/3kzHBul>. Accessed on: Sept. 21, 2021.
- 6) FGV Webinar – experiences and challenges in the use of evidence in public policies, on April 22, 2021. Available at: [https://evento.fgv.br/evidencias\\_politicaspublicas/](https://evento.fgv.br/evidencias_politicaspublicas/). Accessed on: Sept. 21, 2021.

## APPENDIX D

## METHODOLOGY FOR THE PRODUCTION OF THE SURVEY

## D.1 METHODOLOGY FOR THE REVIEW OF EBPP-THEMED BRAZILIAN THESES AND DISSERTATIONS

The search engine of the Catalogue of Theses and Dissertations (CTD) of the Coordination for the Improvement of Higher-Education Personnel (Capes)<sup>1</sup> presents a simple search field to be filled with the desired words, which can, if necessary, be concatenated to longer expressions. To do so, the use of double quotation marks is required. At this first moment, it is not possible to guide the search by specific fields, such as title, author, or keyword, and afterwards, it is possible to refine the search, which can then be performed by the following criteria: type, year, author, advisor, committee, major knowledge area, knowledge area, evaluation area, concentration area, program name, institution, and library.

Searching for many words without proper delimitation by quotation marks usually produces exorbitant results. For example, a search for *políticas públicas baseadas em evidências* (evidence-based public policy) – without quotation marks – yielded 1,137,292 theses or dissertations out of a total of 1,213,947 papers in the Capes database (the searches in the Capes catalogue for this chapter were conducted between March 5 and March 15, 2021).

On the other hand, by delimiting with quotation marks the various sets of words for the search and listing the various ways in which the searched theme may appear in the manuscripts, such as “evidence-based public policies” or “evidence-based policy” and its other variations, the system begins to return a more feasible number for refinement and analysis.

That is why we decided to search for the complete terms in the base by enclosing them in quotation marks so that they could be searched in the content available to be searched. In an attempt to get as many results as possible, we searched for the twenty terms listed below.

- 1) “*Políticas públicas baseadas em evidências*”.
- 2) “*Políticas públicas baseadas em evidência*”.
- 3) “*Política pública baseada em evidências*”.
- 4) “*Política pública baseada em evidência*”.

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1. Available at: <https://catalogodeteses.capes.gov.br/catalogo-teses/#/>.

- 5) “*Políticas públicas informadas por evidências*”.
- 6) “*Políticas públicas informadas por evidência*”.
- 7) “*Política pública informada por evidências*”.
- 8) “*Política pública informada por evidência*”.
- 9) “*Gestão pública baseada em evidências*”.
- 10) “Evidence based policy”.
- 11) “*Políticas baseadas em evidências*”.
- 12) “*Políticas baseadas em evidência*”.
- 13) “*Política baseada em evidências*”.
- 14) “*Política baseada em evidência*”.
- 15) “*Políticas informadas por evidências*”.
- 16) “*Política informada por evidências*”.
- 17) “*Políticas informadas por evidência*”.
- 18) “*Política informada por evidência*”.
- 19) “*Gestão pública baseada em evidência*”.
- 20) “Evidence based policies”.
- 21) With our apologies for stating the obvious, it is worth noting that the Capes CTD accounts for the papers available, and not necessarily all those presented in graduate programs (PPGs) in the country. The CTD encompasses the 1987-2019 period, covering all areas of knowledge. The theses and dissertations presented in 2020 and 2021 were not yet registered at the time of our survey, in March 2021. In addition, it is worth adding that there is only expanded information for works presented and cataloged from 2013, which coincides with the year of the first insertion of complete data in the Sucupira Platform, launched in March 2014.

The review thus carried out was able to detect 23 theses and dissertations (appendix A).

## **D.2 METHODOLOGY FOR THE REVIEW OF EBPP-THEMED PAPERS PUBLISHED IN BRAZIL**

To search for papers that address the subject of evidence-based public policies (EB-PPs), we chose to search both the database of an indexer of scientific publications of recognized impact, the Scientific Electronic Library Online (SciELO) Brazil,



as well as Google Scholar, in order to obtain results from different sources. The search was also carried out in the bibliographies of the papers found.

It is important to stress that, even though the SciELO Brazil catalogue of papers is quite extensive and Google Scholar indexes all the material publicly available on the internet, a search in their databases will not yield the answer to all the material produced on the theme, but all the material indexed by their respective search engines.

As far as the search itself is concerned, the SciELO Brazil database<sup>2</sup> allows the search for both single papers and complete journals catalogued in its databases. In the case of papers, there are three ways of searching: by author, by subject, and by words contained in the various indexed fields of such papers.

In the case of the last two categories, the search by subject is somewhat more restricted than the search by words, since there is a finite limit of subjects already catalogued in the database. A brief search for these subjects reveals that there are several ways in which the topic of EBPPs is already inserted, even indicating a set of words that can also be used in the broader search available in the environment.

Thus, the subjects already indexed in the base are the following:

- *política basada en la evidencia;*
- *política baseada em evidências;*
- *política baseada na ciência;*
- *política informada por evidências;*
- *política informada por la evidencia;*
- *política pública baseada em evidência;*
- *políticas baseadas em evidências;*
- *políticas informadas por evidências;*
- *interface ciência/políticas públicas;*
- evidence-based policies;
- evidence-based policy;
- evidence-based public policy;
- evidence-informed policy;
- evidence-informed policy making; and
- science-based policy.

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2. Available at: <https://www.scielo.br/>.

A closer look at these already catalogued topics shows that several papers are indexed in more than one category, since the subject field is composed of the keywords defined in the papers, and these are often present in several languages, highlighting the reason for the existence of similar terms in different languages, such as *politica basada en la evidencia* and *evidence-based policy*, whose search leads to the same papers.

In addition to the topics already indexed, some papers address the subject, but are registered under other topics. To find them, we used the broader search tool, which searches for specific words or sets of words in the following relevant fields: title, author, subject and abstract. With a broader return of results, we filtered them according to the information found in the abstract.

For this search, the following sets of words were selected: i) *politica(s) pública(s) + evidencia(s)*; ii) policymaking + evidence(s); and iii) public policy (ies) + evidence(s).

As for Google Scholar, its search engine works in a similar way to the Google search engine, working diffusely to find in all the indexed material all the words typed, giving more relevance to those that contain all the words, especially in the chosen order, and allowing for forcing specific associations of words with the use of double quotes and search operators, such as + and –, to indicate the compulsory presence or absence of certain words.

In this case, as the scope of the indexed material is global and it is impossible to specify that only results from a particular country are desired, being able to choose whether we want pages in any language or only in a specific language, we chose to select productions only in Portuguese and containing the words *politics*, *public* and *evidence*, both in the singular and plural, and specifying that the important sets are “public policy” + “evidence”, ordered by relevance.

Such an arrangement was defined as the set “evidence-based public policies”, being quite restrictive, tends to result in a very small number of results, while the defined set returns thousands of them, and the ordering by relevance helps to filter, in the initial pages of the search, eventual false positives, such as slide shows and text files with no defined origin, which also end up being indexed by the base.

It is important to point out that, as with any Google search, the results tend to vary over time and according to the number of accesses to certain pages to the detriment of others, thus changing the order in which the papers appear in the searches since the search itself and access to the selected papers already changes the degree of relevance they have for subsequent searches. The survey thus carried out was able to detect 41 papers (appendix B).

### D.3 METHODOLOGY FOR RESEARCHING EBPP-RELATED INSTITUTIONS, EVENTS AND PROMOTIONS IN BRAZIL

To search for events (courses, seminars, congresses, colloquia etc.) and institutions, governmental or not, both Google, with its diffuse search process, and the main sites of the public administration of all 26 states of the federation and the Federal District were used.

In the first case, the search consisted of the set of words “evidence-based public policies” delimited by quotation marks, followed by other terms, namely: *organization*, *congress*, *seminar*, *colloquium*, *lecture* and *event*, in such a way that the search engine would give relevance to all the words searched, with greater emphasis on those that are exactly the way and in the order they were written, and then bringing approximations that are considered relevant by the algorithms.

In the second case, the search engines of the sites of the 26 states and the Federal District were consulted for the words *assessment* and *evidence*, together or separately, in the expectation that relevant results would be gathered about that state, its organizational chart, programs etc.

It should be noted that Google always shows approximate results and, many times, already conditioned to the searcher, with its algorithms using information such as previous searches, other sites accessed, and geographic location, among others, to determine which results may be more or less relevant to those performing the search. Even when you open a private or incognito browser window and perform this search there, in an attempt to minimize or limit the effects of previous searches and accesses, these effects continue to be noticed.

Furthermore, it is also necessary to understand that the search engine indexing process does not, at first, distinguish between a news item on an online portal, a call for papers in an academic journal, or even information contained in slide or text files uploaded to cloud services and shared publicly on the web, identifying them all as possible results of the search performed. It is also transparent to the searcher whether these results are still available or have already been discontinued from their original locations, thereby generating phantom links to websites that were once online but no longer exist.

Finally, it is also important to understand that search engine result prioritization processes give greater relevance to material published or modified closer to the date of the search, going backwards in time as more results are requested until they lose relevance or return more broken links than positive results.

Conversely, the search engines of the various sites of the states have a finite and comparatively smaller set of results to return but face a lack of standardization among the units, as well as a lack of indication of which types of information are

catalogued for searching, such as laws, events, organizational charts, news etc. Thus, they may bring inconsistent or different results among the various entities of the federation.

Therefore, after the search conducted between March 15 and March 20, 2021, and the due filtering of the results to highlight those about which it was possible to obtain more details, we reached a total of 32 items (appendix C).

## APPENDIX E

## THESES, DISSERTATIONS AND PAPERS' CONTENT ANALYSIS DETAILING

**TABLE E.1**  
**Detailed content analysis of the evidence-based public policies (EBPP)-themed theses and dissertations at the Coordination for the Improvement of Higher-Education Personnel (Capes) catalogue**

Analytical categories	Thesis or dissertation No.																		Total					
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		19	20	21	22	23
1 Does it advocate that public policies should be informed by evidence? (Yes or not clear)	NC	NC	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	21 Yes
2 Does it dialogue directly with the EBPPM? (Yes or no)	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	10 Yes
3 Does it dialogue only with evidence-based medicine? (Does not apply, yes or no)	NA	NA	NA	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	NA	Yes	Yes	NA	No	No	No	7 out of 18
4 Does it theorize about evidence management or EBPP production? (Yes or no)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	8 Yes
5 Does it emphasize the production of evidence? (Yes or no)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	19 Yes
6 Does it emphasize the use of evidence or the interaction between public managers and knowledge producers? (Yes or no)	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	10 Yes
7 Does it explore or develops tools for the production of EBPPs? (Yes or no)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	15 Yes
8 Type of tool emphasized or defended	NA	a	b	c	d	a	a	e	f	NA	a	NA	NA	g	NA	a	a	NA	a	a	a	h	NA	-

Authors' elaboration.

Obs.: 1. NC = not clear; NA = does not apply.

2. Row 1 index: 8; a = systematic review; b = controlled random experiment; c = scope review; d = technician training and change in the organizational culture; e = cost analysis; f = impact assessment; g = municipal public policy score; and h = knowledge translation.

Note: <sup>1</sup> Evidence-based public policy movement.

TABLE E.2  
Enlarged content analysis of EBPP-themed papers published in Brazil

Analytical categories	Paper No.																							Subtotal
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
1 Does it advocate that public policies should be informed by evidence? (Yes or not clear)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NC	Yes	Yes	NC	Yes	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	Yes	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	-
2 Does it dialogue directly with the EBPPM? (Yes or no)	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	-
3 Does it dialogue only with evidence-based medicine? (Does not apply, yes or no)	Yes	No	Yes	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	NA	Yes	NA	No	No	NA	NA	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	NA	NA	NA	-
4 Does it theorize about evidence management or EBPP production? (Yes or no)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	-
5 Does it emphasize the production of evidence? (Yes or no)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	-
6 Does it emphasize the use of evidence or the interaction between public managers and knowledge producers? (Yes or no)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	-
7 Does it explore or develops tools for the production of EBPPs? (Yes or no)	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	-
8 Type of tool emphasized or defended	a	NA	NA	b	b	NA	NA	b	NA	b	b	b	b	b	NA	NA	NA	c	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	-

(Continues)

(Continued)

Analytical categories	Paper No.																			Total
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41		
1 Does it advocate that public policies should be informed by evidence? (Yes or not clear)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NC	NC	Yes	NC	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	26
2 Does it dialogue directly with the EBPPM? (Yes or no)	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	23
3 Does it dialogue only with evidence-based medicine? (Does not apply, yes or no)	NA	No	Yes	No	NA	NA	No	NA	NA	Yes	NA	No	NA	NA	No	No	NA	NA	No	7 Yes; 14 No
4 Does it theorize about evidence management or EBPP production? (Yes or no)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	33
5 Does it emphasize the production of evidence? (Yes or no)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	27
6 Does it emphasize the use of evidence or the interaction between public managers and knowledge producers? (Yes or no)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	28
7 Does it explore or develops tools for the production of EBPPs? (Yes or no)	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	21
8 Type of tool emphasized or defended	d	e	NA	NA	NA	NA	b+f	a	a	g	h	i	NA	a+j	NA	k	b	b	b	-

Authors' elaboration.

Obs.: 1. NC = not clear; NA = does not apply.

2. Row 1 index: a = systematic review; b = controlled random experiment; c = scope review; d = technician training and change in the organizational culture; e = cost analysis; f = impact assessment; g = municipal public policy score; and h = knowledge translation.