

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CENSUS

2023



World
Physiotherapy



SOUTH AMERICA



73%

of AMC respondents in the South America region have **increased their membership** during the last year

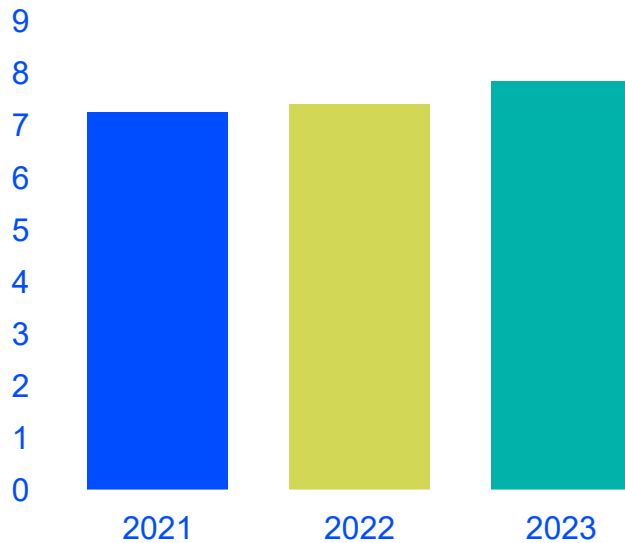


3%

of **physiotherapists** in the South America region are **members** of their member organisation



PHYSIOTHERAPISTS PER 10,000 POPULATION IN THE REGION



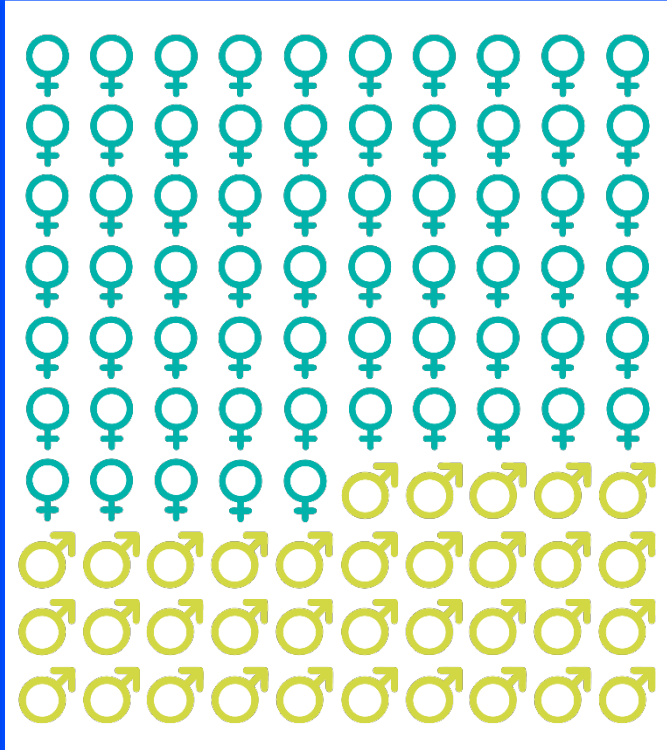
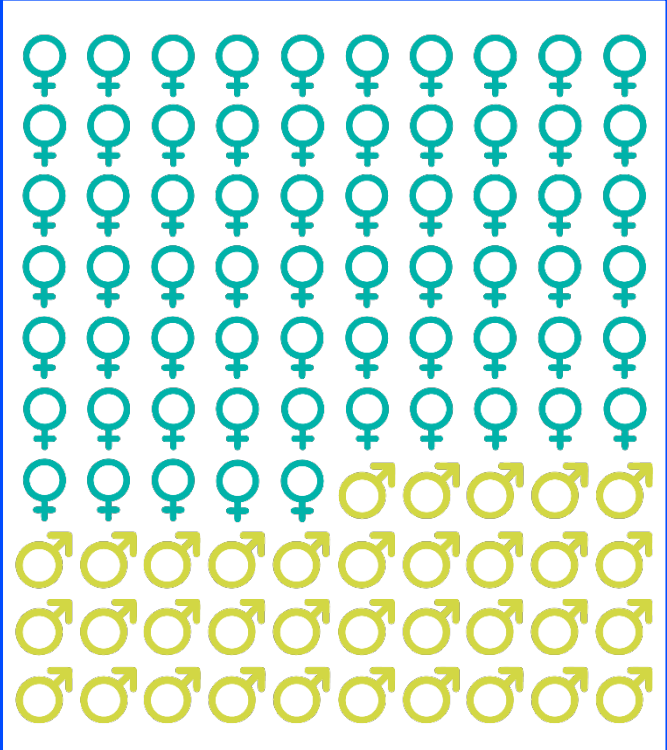
7.87

is the average number of **practising physiotherapists** per 10,000 population in the **South America region** in 2023



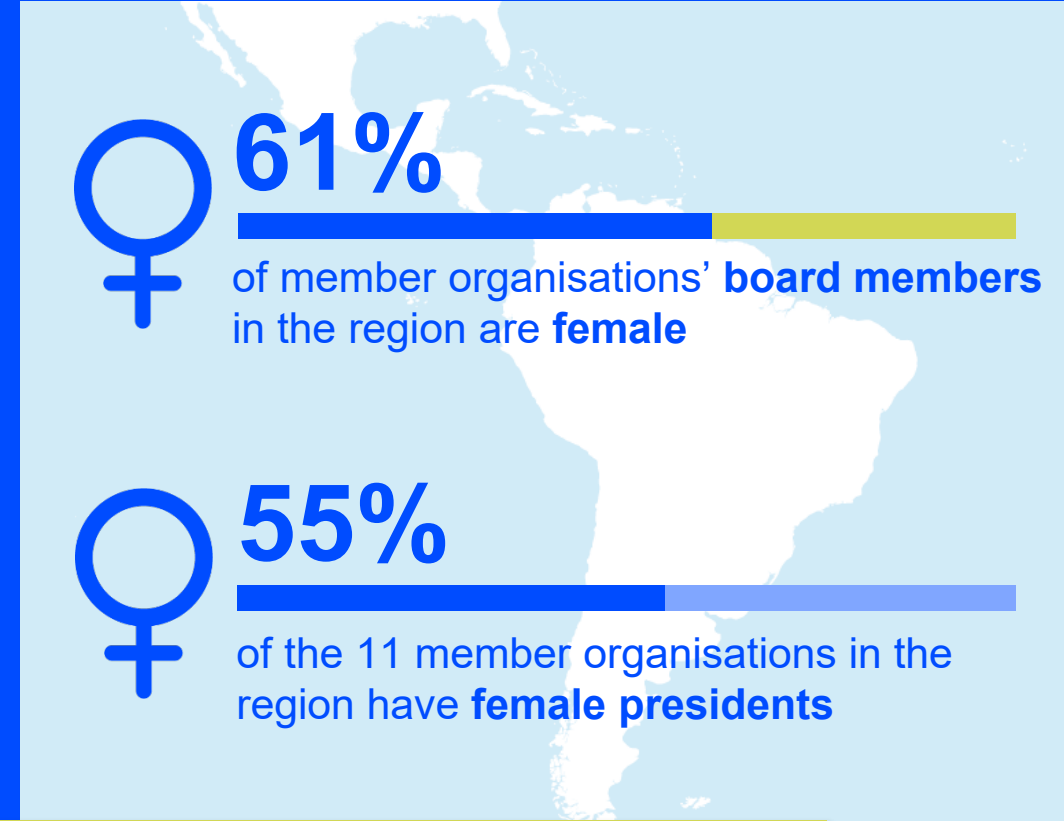
SOUTH AMERICA | GENDER AND LEADERSHIP

BOARD MEMBERS



65%
of individual members in member organisations in the South America region are female

65%
of the physiotherapy workforce in the South America region is female

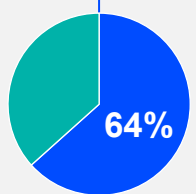


Of the 11 member organisations in the region, 27% reported a similar percentage of female board members to the percentage of female physiotherapists in the workforce in their country/territory

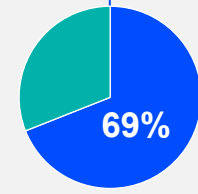


SOUTH AMERICA | PERMITTED PRACTICE

Act as first contact/ autonomous practitioners

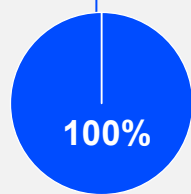


South America

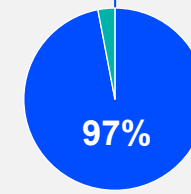


Global

Able to assess patients/clients

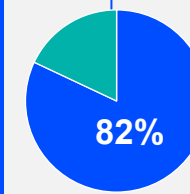


South America



Global

Can make a diagnosis

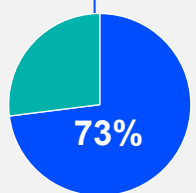


South America

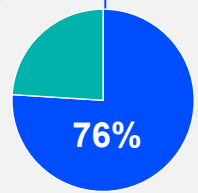


Global

Can refer to other specialists/services

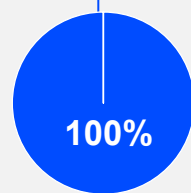


South America

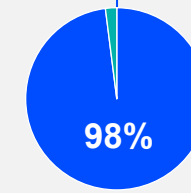


Global

Can offer preventative advice/services

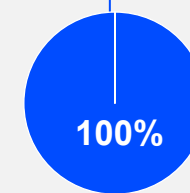
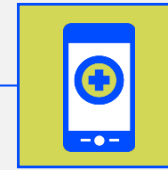


South America



Global

Can provide telehealth services



South America



Global



SOUTH AMERICA | DIRECT ACCESS

COUNTRIES/TERRITORIES WITH DIRECT ACCESS



18%

of countries/territories in the South America region have **full direct access** to physiotherapy services



45%

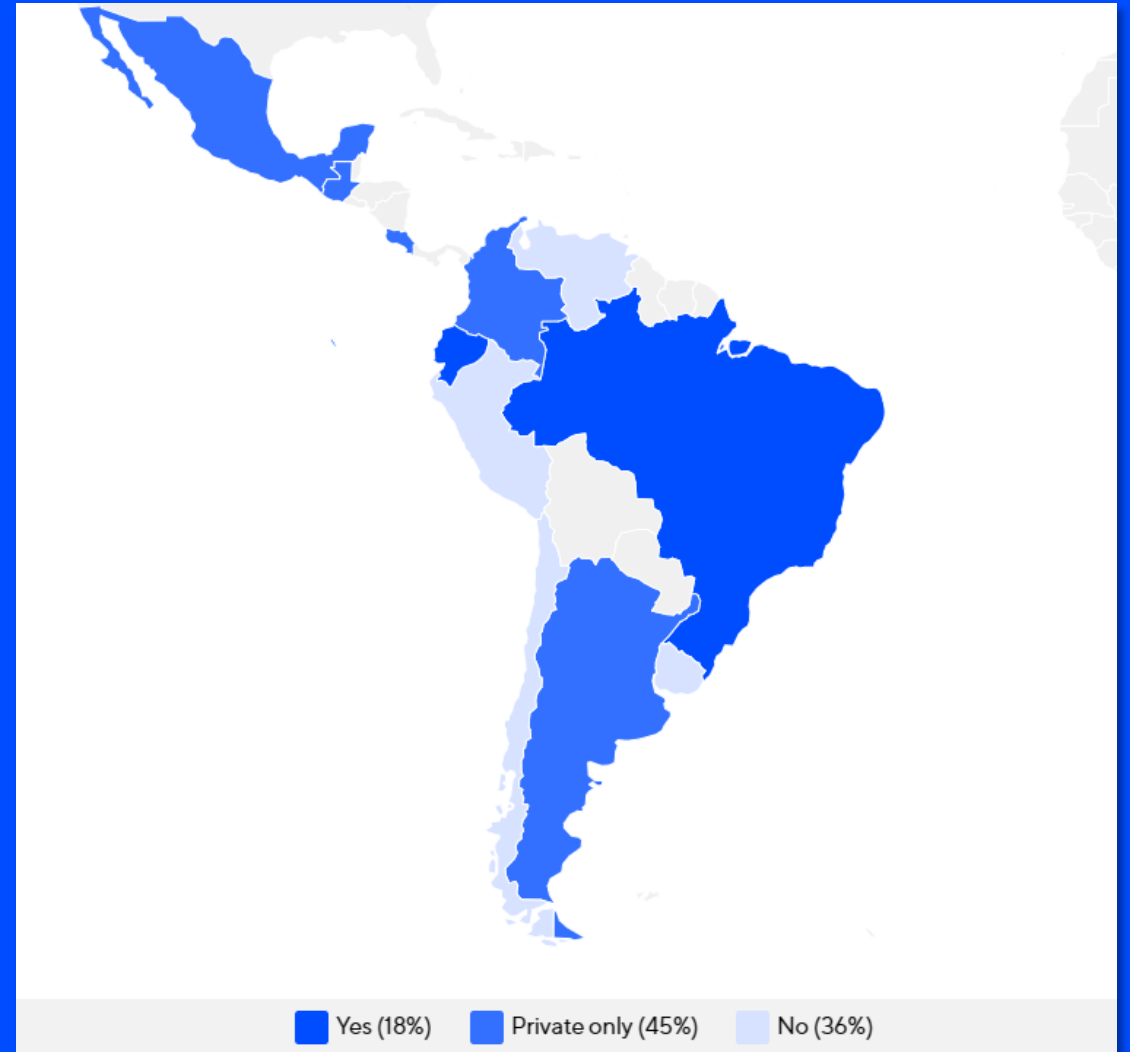
of the AMC respondents in the South America region reported direct access only for **private physiotherapy** services



36%

reported direct access is **not allowed** in the South America region

The most frequently reported **limitation to direct access** was **practice setting** (64%)



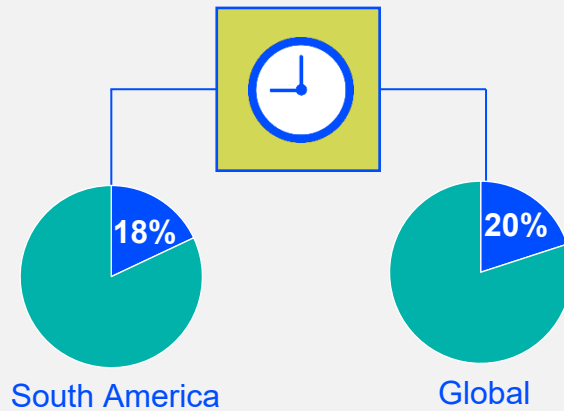


SOUTH AMERICA | HEALTH EMERGENCY STRATEGIES

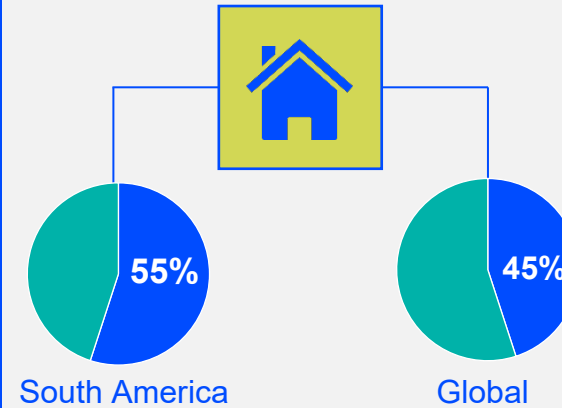
82%

of countries/
territories in the
South America
region said they
had one or more of
these mitigation
strategies to
overcome
physiotherapy
service
disruptions

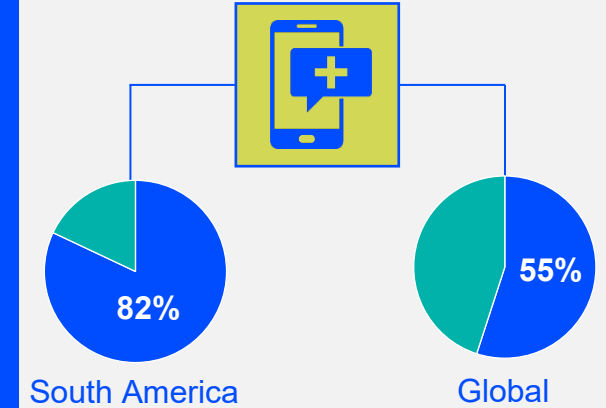
Expansion of hours



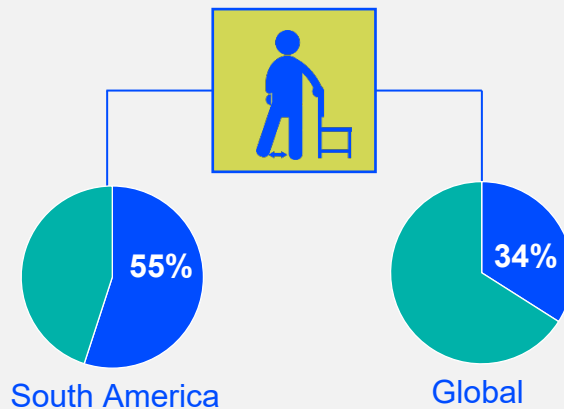
Provision of home-based care



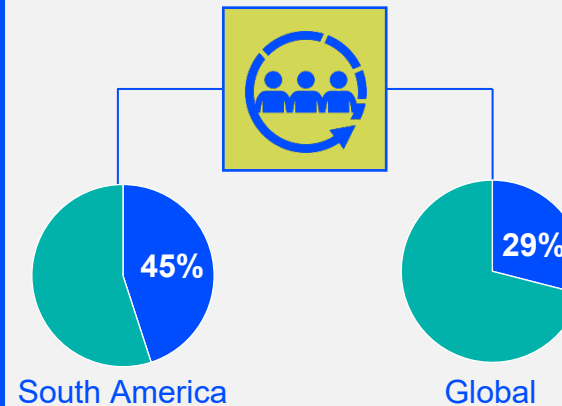
Telerehabilitation services



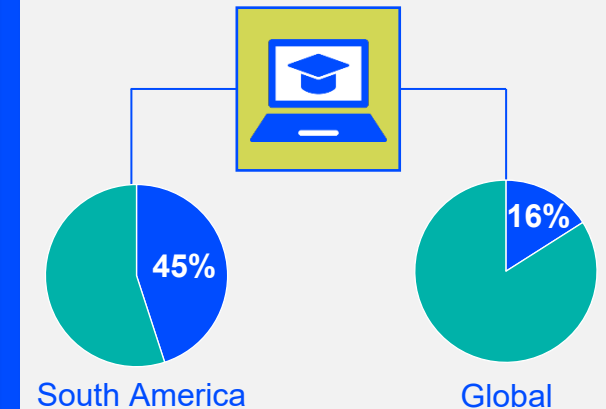
Use of self-care interventions



Redistribution of physiotherapy roles



Rapid training mechanisms and job aids





Instagram



Facebook



Website



WhatsApp



Email newsletter



100%



91%



91%



82%



64%

The top five channels of communication used by AMC member organisations in the South America region to communicate with their members



ARGENTINA – ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN

As a result of advocacy by the **Argentine Kinesiology Association (AKA)**, physiotherapists in Argentina will be recognised as specialists by the ministry of health in four different areas: cardiorespiratory, intensive care, neurology, paediatrics and neonatology. This was passed by the Argentine government in December 2023.

As part of its advocacy campaign, AKA coordinated a commission to determine which physiotherapy specialties existed in Argentina. AKA then worked with representatives of universities, internship programmes, scientific societies, and AKA specialty groups to identify physiotherapy specialties in Argentina.

AKA presented the findings to representatives of the ministry of health and secured agreement about the criteria for certification and recertification.

Recertification will take place every five years, ensuring continuous professional development for physiotherapists in Argentina and providing the health authorities with an updated national database of physiotherapy specialists in the event of a health emergency.





South America region

Argentina

Brazil

Chile

Colombia

Costa Rica

Ecuador

Guatemala

Mexico

Peru

Uruguay

Venezuela

100%

of member organisations
(all 11) in the region
submitted data for the
annual membership
census in 2023.

DISCLAIMER

- The data in this report is based on responses to the annual membership census (AMC) sent to World Physiotherapy's member organisations.
- The AMC was sent to 127 member organisations, of which 119 responded, representing a 93.7% response rate. This is consistent with previous years' response rates and demonstrates strong engagement between World Physiotherapy and its member organisations. The census date was 30 June 2023.
- Some data in this report has been collated from other sources available to World Physiotherapy.
- If you have any questions or concerns, or want to make changes to the data for your country/territory, please contact membershipcensus@world.physio.