

**2024**

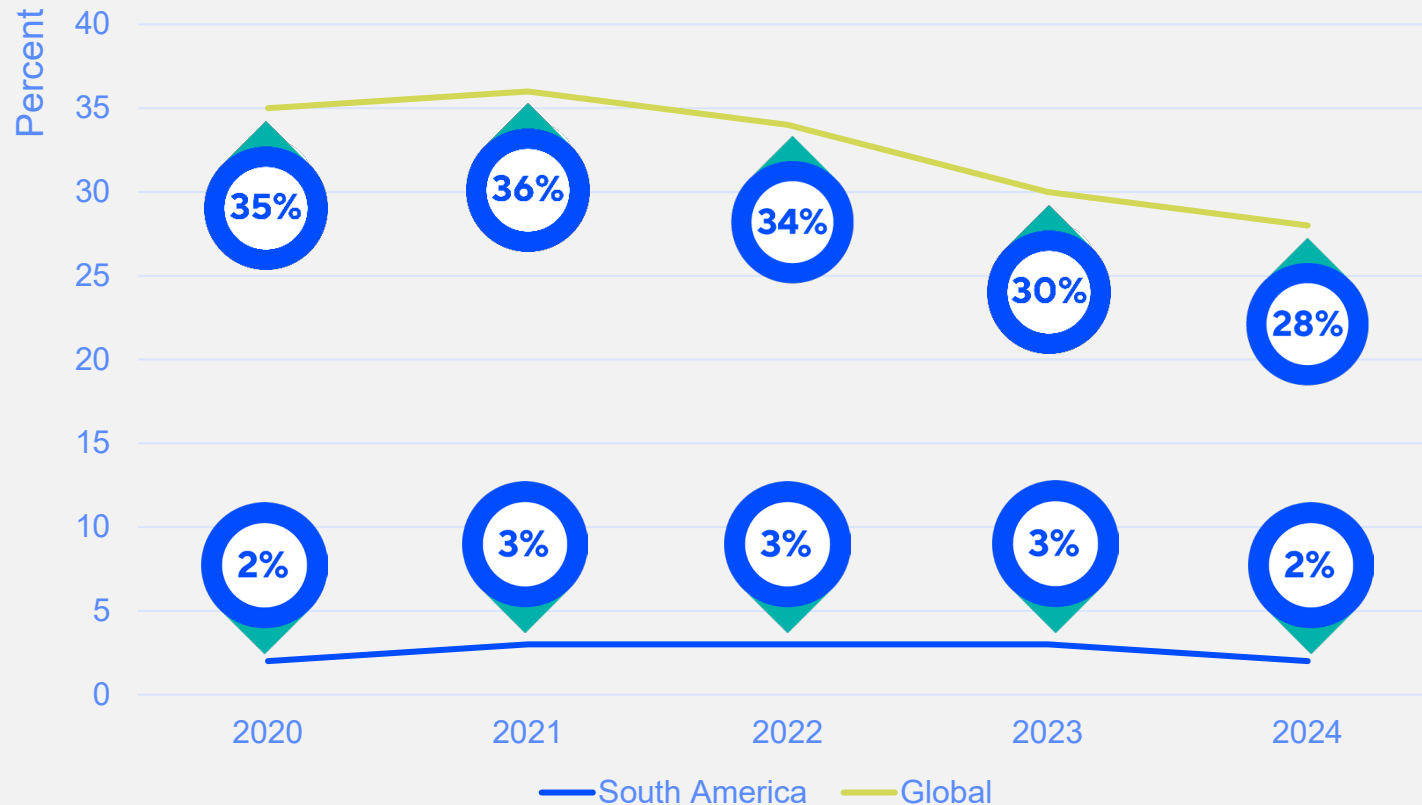


**World  
Physiotherapy**  
South America region

**ANNUAL  
MEMBERSHIP  
CENSUS**

# MEMBERSHIP AND PHYSIOTHERAPY WORKFORCE IN SOUTH AMERICA

Percentage of physiotherapists who are members of a World Physiotherapy member organisation in the South America region compared with total physiotherapy workforce



Since 2020, the percentage of **physiotherapists** who are **members** of a World Physiotherapy member organisation in the **South America region** compared with the total workforce did **not decrease**

# MEMBERSHIP AND PHYSIOTHERAPY WORKFORCE IN SOUTH AMERICA



**58%**



of AMC respondents in the South America region **increased** their **membership** in 2024

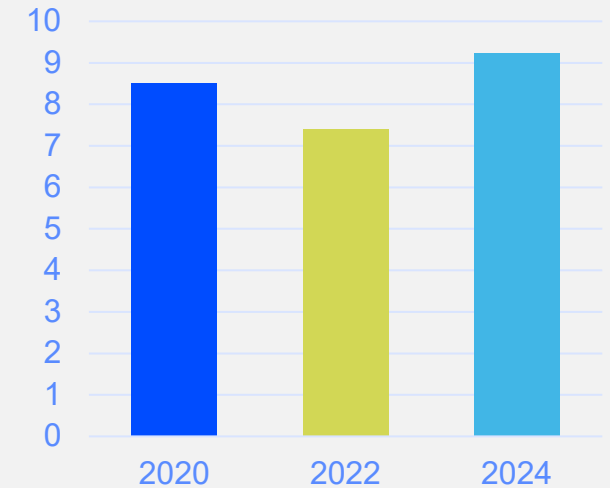


**2%**



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

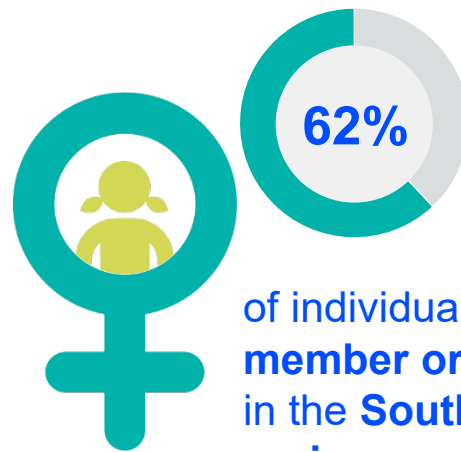
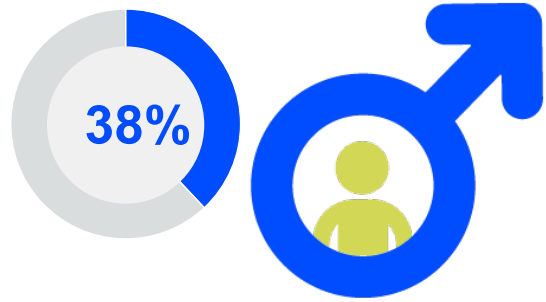
## PHYSIOTHERAPISTS PER 10,000 POPULATION IN THE REGION



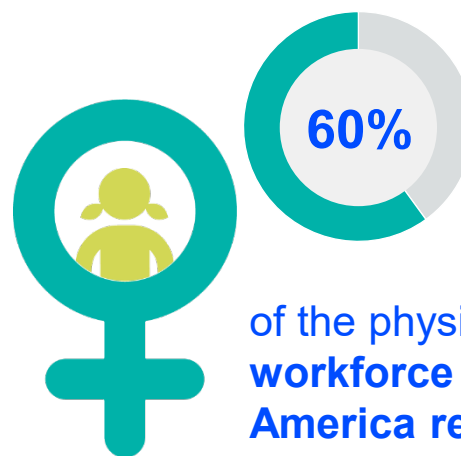
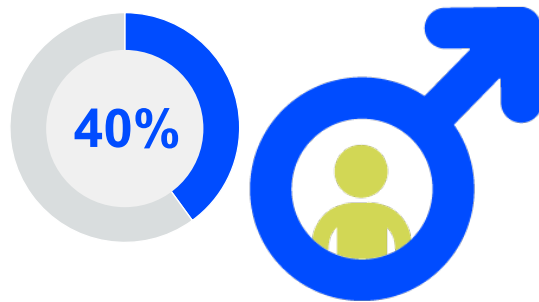
**9.23**

is the average number of **practising physiotherapists** per 10,000 population in the **South America** region in 2024.

# GENDER AND LEADERSHIP IN SOUTH AMERICA



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



of the **physiotherapy workforce** in the **South America region** is **female**

## BOARD MEMBERS



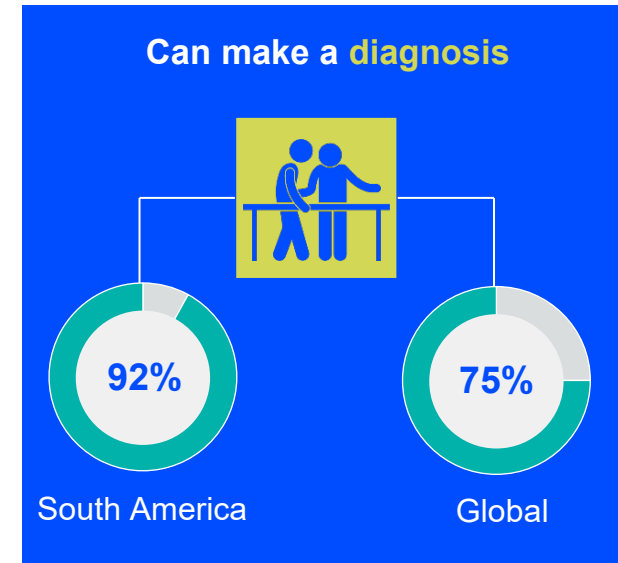
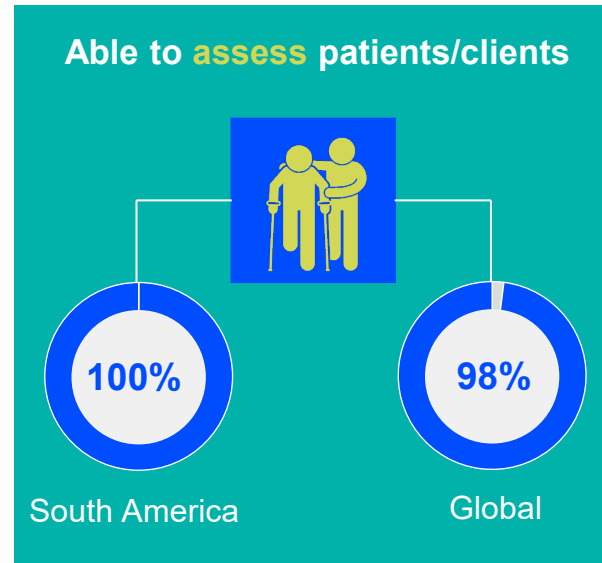
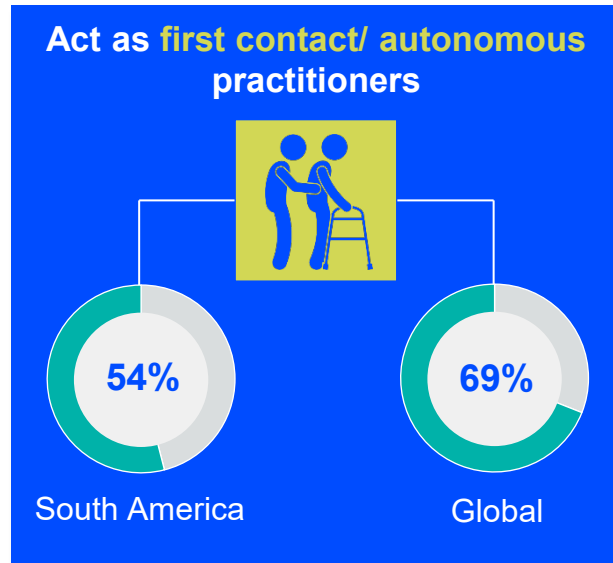
**64%** of member organisations' **board members** in the region are **female**



**67%** of the 12 member organisations in the region have **female presidents**

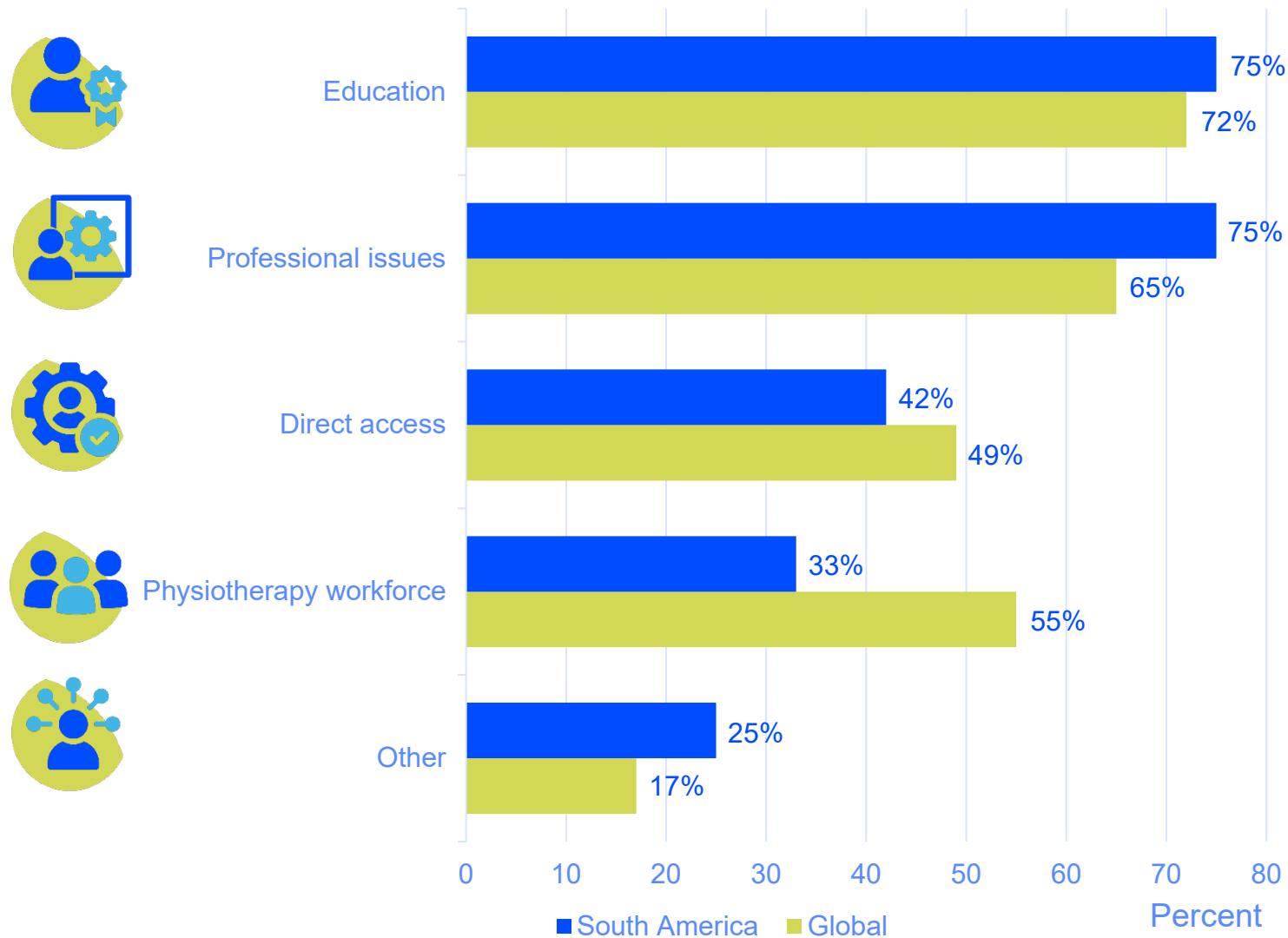
Of the member organisations in the region, **50% reported a similar percentage of female board members** to the percentage of female physiotherapists in the workforce in their country/territory

# PERMITTED PRACTICE IN SOUTH AMERICA



# ADVOCACY PRIORITIES IN SOUTH AMERICA

Advocacy priorities\* for the South America region compared with global priorities



75%

of member organisations in the South America region stated that **education and professional issues** were **advocacy priorities** in 2024



\* Member organisations were able to select more than one advocacy priority

# ENTRY LEVEL EDUCATION PROGRAMMES IN SOUTH AMERICA

14.19

is the **average** number of entry level education programmes per 5 million population in the **South America region** in 2024

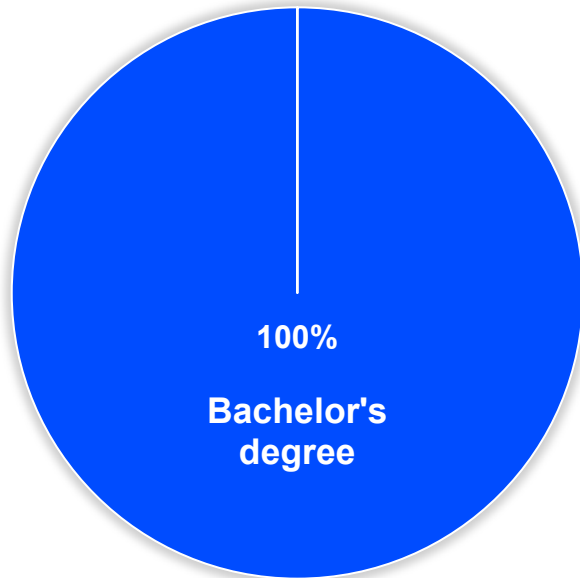


## NUMBER OF ENTRY LEVEL EDUCATION PROGRAMMES PER 5,000,000 POPULATION

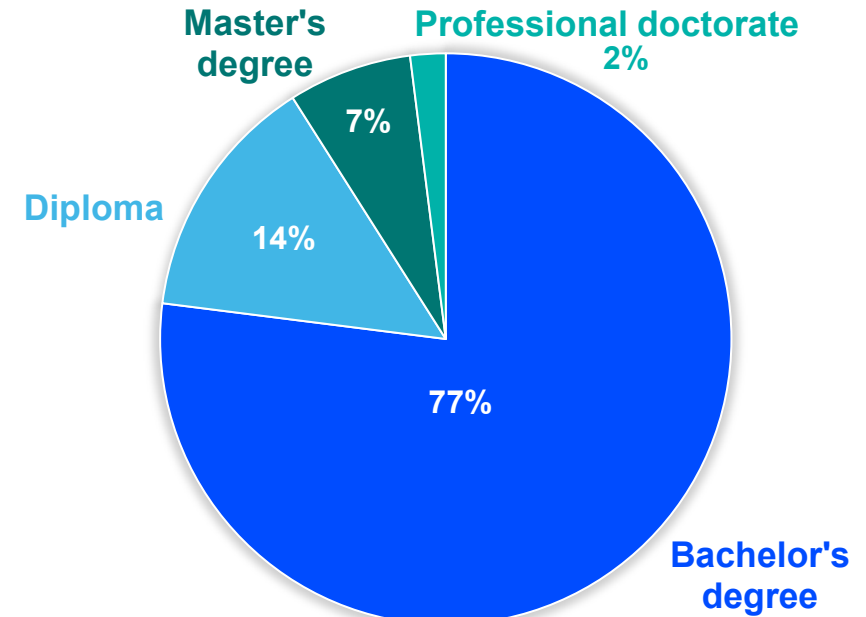


# MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED TO PRACTICE IN SOUTH AMERICA

## MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED TO PRACTICE IN SOUTH AMERICA



## MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED TO PRACTICE GLOBALLY



### Bachelor's degree

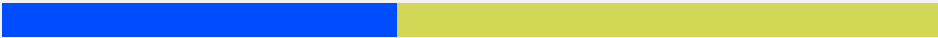
is the minimum qualification required to practice in countries/territories in the South America region



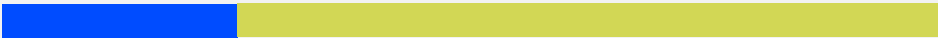
## MOST FREQUENTLY REPORTED LIMITATIONS TO DIRECT ACCESS IN SOUTH AMERICA



**42%** Setting (eg outpatient, private practice, school setting, prevention and wellness, etc)



**25%** Population/health condition (eg musculoskeletal, non-complex, etc)



**8%** Time (eg medical referral required if treatment is needed beyond 30 or 60 days)



**25%** Training (eg certification, academic training, or CPD to demonstrate skill necessary to treat patients without referral from a medical doctor)



**33%** Payment (eg certain payers will not pay for services delivered via direct access)



**25%** Other



## DIRECT ACCESS IN SOUTH AMERICA



# CASE STUDY COLOMBIA: INVOLVEMENT WITH SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

In September 2024 the Asociación Colombiana de Fisioterapia (ASCOFI)/Colombian Association of Physiotherapy reached a milestone: hosting the congress of the International Organisation of Physiotherapy in Mental Health (IOPTMH), a World Physiotherapy specialty group.

The ASCOFI mental health physiotherapy group was established in March 2017 and accepted as a member of the IOPTMH in April 2018. Since then, the group has promoted and supported a range of activities around physiotherapy in mental health at a national, regional, and global level. This resulted in Colombia being nominated as the location for the 10th IOPTMH conference in 2024. This was the first time in 20 years the IOPTMH conference took place outside Europe.

An evaluation survey was completed by 75% of IOPTMH conference delegates, who gave an overall high satisfaction evaluation, 8.7 out of 10.

In addition, networking activities and communication channels have been developed to continue education activities on physiotherapy and mental health and advance research and postgraduate education projects.



# ENGAGEMENT IN SOUTH AMERICA

## South America region respondents

Argentina

Brazil

Chile

Colombia

Costa Rica

Dominican Republic

Ecuador

Guatemala

Mexico

Peru

Uruguay

Venezuela

# 100%

of member organisations (all 12) in the South America region submitted data for the annual membership census in 2024

## 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 125 member organisations, of which 120 responded, representing a 96% 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 2024.
- 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](mailto:membershipcensus@world.physio).