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Historical trajectory of the Distrito Federal section of the Associação Brasileira de Enfermagem in Brasília

Trajatória histórica da Associação Brasileira de Enfermagem, seção Distrito Federal em Brasília

Trayectoria histórica de la sección del Distrito Federal de la Asociación Brasileña de Enfermería en Brasília

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ABSTRACT

Objective: To recover the history of the Brazilian Nursing Association, Federal District section, located in the city of Brasília, capital of Brazil, from its creation in 1960 to 2010. **Methods:** This is a historical documentary study. The documents analyzed came from secondary data, from the collection of the Brazilian Nursing Association of the Federal District and from documents available in collections of Digital Nursing Libraries. **Results:** Twenty-seven documents were analyzed, including articles, websites, and photos. Through documentary research and analysis of historical records, moments related to the founding of the association, the acquisition of the headquarters, the holding of events, and the influence on academic and professional training, in addition to the composition of the management of the Federal District section over the years, were identified. **Final Considerations:** The trajectory of the Brazilian Nursing Association, Federal District section, accompanied and influenced the evolution of nursing both locally and nationally, contributing to the construction of the profession's identity as a representative of utmost importance in the valorization of nursing professionals.

Descriptors: History of Nursing; Societies, Nursing; Nursing; Nurse's Role; Professional Corporations

RESUMO

Objetivo: Resgatar a história da Associação Brasileira de Enfermagem, seção Distrito Federal, localizada na cidade de Brasília, capital do Brasil, desde a sua criação em 1960 até o ano de 2010. **Métodos:** Trata-se de pesquisa documental histórica. Os documentos analisados foram provenientes de dados secundários, sendo do acervo da Associação Brasileira de Enfermagem do Distrito Federal e de documentos disponíveis em acervos de Bibliotecas Digitais de Enfermagem. **Resultados:** Foram analisados 27 documentos do tipo artigos, sites e fotos. Por meio de pesquisa documental e análise de registros históricos, identificaram-se momentos relacionados à fundação da associação, conquista da sede, realização de eventos e influência na formação acadêmica e profissional, além da composição das gestões da seção Distrito Federal ao longo dos anos. **Considerações Finais:** Conclui-se que a trajetória da Associação Brasileira de Enfermagem, seção Distrito Federal, acompanhou e influenciou a evolução da enfermagem tanto em nível local quanto nacional, contribuindo para a construção da identidade da profissão na condição de uma representante de suma importância na valorização dos profissionais de enfermagem.

Descritores: História da Enfermagem; Sociedades de Enfermagem; Enfermagem; Papel do Profissional de Enfermagem; Corporações Profissionais.

RESUMEN

Objetivo: Recuperar la historia de la Asociación Brasileña de Enfermería, sección del Distrito Federal, ubicada en la ciudad de Brasília, capital de Brasil, desde su creación en 1960 hasta 2010. **Métodos:** Se trata de una investigación documental histórica. Los documentos analizados provienen de datos secundarios, de la colección de la Asociación Brasileña de Enfermería del Distrito Federal y de documentos disponibles en las colecciones de las Bibliotecas Digitales de Enfermería. **Resultados:** Se analizaron 27 documentos, entre artículos, sitios web y fotografías. A través de la investigación documental y el análisis de registros históricos se identificaron momentos relacionados con la fundación de la asociación, la conquista de la sede, la realización de eventos y la influencia en la formación académica y profesional, además de la composición de la gestión de la sección del Distrito Federal a lo largo de los años. **Consideraciones finales:** Se concluye que la trayectoria de la Asociación Brasileña de Enfermería, sección Distrito Federal, acompañó e influyó en la evolución de la enfermería tanto a nivel local como nacional, contribuyendo para la construcción de la identidad de la profesión como representante de suma importancia en la valoración de los profesionales de enfermería. **Descriptores:** Historia de la Enfermería; Sociedades de Enfermería; Enfermería; Rol de la Enfermera; Corporaciones Profesionales

INTRODUCTION

The *Associação Brasileira de Enfermagem* (ABEn, Brazilian nursing association), initially called the *Associação Nacional de Enfermeiras Diplomadas* (ANED, national association of graduate nurses), was established in Brazil on August 12, 1926, in the city of Rio de Janeiro, the Distrito Federal at the time. It was founded as a non-profit organization with political, socio-cultural, and scientific aspects that initially included graduate nurses and later included nursing technicians and students⁽¹⁾.

The existing ABEn section in the former Distrito Federal, created after the São Paulo section (ABEn/SP), was renamed the Rio de Janeiro Section (ABEn/RJ), due to the inauguration of the city of Brasília on April 21, 1960, defined as the new federal capital. Thus, on May 18, 1960, the *Associação Brasileira de Enfermagem - Distrito Federal* Section (ABEn/DF) was founded in Brasília, on the initiative of nurses Haydée Guanais Dourado and Maria José de Abreu, marking a milestone in the history of nursing in the current Distrito Federal⁽²⁾.

ABEn/DF was initially created to provide technical-scientific integration and the development of actions aimed at the academic environment. However, as the organization expanded and acted autonomously and

democratically, it began to encompass other aspects, such as providing support and political support for the nursing work process⁽³⁾.

Through coordination with other organizations, ABEn/DF played a leading role in the creation of the *Conselho Regional de Enfermagem* of the *Distrito Federal* (COREN/DF, regional nursing council), the *Sindicato dos Enfermeiros do Distrito Federal* (SindEnfermeiro-DF, federal district nurses' union), and hosting *Congressos Brasileiros de Enfermagem* (CBEn, Brazilian nursing congresses), *Seminários Nacionais de Diretrizes para a Educação em Enfermagem* (SENADEn, national seminars on guidelines for nursing education) and enabling the implementation of the *Semana Brasileira de Enfermagem* (brazilian nursing week) and residency courses for nurses in the Distrito Federal⁽³⁾.

In addition to these events, the organization has promoted courses and lectures to encourage professional development and the production of scientific knowledge, with incentives for publication. It is also worth highlighting the organization's active participation in social movements at various historical moments, politically linked to democracy and the advancement of the profession⁽⁴⁾.

The aforementioned highlights the importance of ABEn/DF in the history of nursing, at the forefront of important achievements that contributed to the construction of the profession's identity and a representation of paramount importance in the valorization of professionals.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of this study was to recover the history of ABEn/DF, located in the city of Brasília, in the Distrito Federal, from its creation in 1960 until 2010 through documentary analysis, in addition to exploring the creation, implementation, historical milestones, and development of ABEn/DF, identifying leading members involved in this process.

METHODS

Study type

This is a historical documentary study, which makes it possible to understand the research subject, as well as to reconstruct the historical and sociocultural contextualization of a given fact or moment in time. Documents are extremely important sources for research, especially materials that have never been submitted to analytical-scientific analysis⁽⁵⁾.

In addition, historical documentary research is a study method that focuses on the analysis of documents, which are not limited to written materials, but include any source that has not been analyzed. The main function of documents is to present facts that have occurred, which can serve as evidence. When choosing a document, the researcher must consider not only the content, but also the context, use, and function of these documents. This is fundamental to properly understand and interpret a specific case, whether it is someone's life story or a process. The aim is to construct a narrative or a deeper understanding of a particular historical period or theme, using documentary evidence to support the conclusions^(5,6).

Methodological procedures

The research stages that were followed are described through a survey and systematization of historical documents from ABEn/DF, as well as digital nursing library collections, such as the *Biblioteca Virtual em Saúde* (BVS, virtual health library), *Bases de Dados de Enfermagem* (BDENF, nursing databases) and official ABEn websites, and their sections, and the documents are then characterized as secondary research sources.

The following research stages were carried out: (1) gathering of data from available documentary sources; (2) critical evaluation of the data and sources; and (3) presentation of facts, interpretation, description of stories, and development of research conclusions, according to stages already established in other studies⁽⁶⁾.

The study covered the period from 1960 to 2010, corresponding respectively to the year in which the ABEN/DF headquarters were founded in the city of Brasília, the year in which the largest number of members was achieved and the 10th *Simpósio Nacional de Diagnóstico de Enfermagem* (SINADEn, national symposium on nursing diagnosis) was held.

Data collection and organization

The period of data collection from these sources took place between August and December 2024.

The documents analyzed were derived from institutional sources and were separated in a physical section of the ABEn/DF headquarters to proceed with the analysis of these secondary sources.

A virtual storage drive was also created with documents already digitized by the organization, which was made available for research. Therefore, the researchers were able to access the content and extract the information needed to prepare the results. It should be noted that the documents found were separated by category of analysis⁽⁷⁾.

In a historical documentary study, the categories of analysis generally include historical context, authorship, content, form, reception, and intertextuality. These categories help to build a deeper and more critical understanding of historical documents, allowing for a richer and more contextualized analysis⁽⁸⁾.

Ethical aspects

This study used publicly accessible documentary sources and, although it complied with the resolutions on ethics in scientific research, it was not necessary to submit the project to a research ethics committee for approval.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In terms of the number of documents included in the study's documentary corpus, a total of 27 documents were analyzed, including articles, websites, and photos.

By analyzing the documents available in the ABEn/DF collection and on the internet, it was possible to find information related to seven themes, namely: (1) The conquest of the headquarters for ABEn Nacional: a place to call "ours"; (2) The acquisition of ABEn/DF's physical space; (3) Events hosted and organized by the Distrito Federal Section; (4) Participation in the creation of the *Sindicato dos Enfermeiros do DF* (federal district nurses' union); (5) The "Participation Movement" and ABEn/DF's leading role; (6) ABEn/DF's Management Boards, and the changes throughout its history and, finally, (7) ABEn/DF's members and the variations in numbers.

The conquest of the headquarters for ABEn Nacional: a place to call "ours"

With the advent of the new federal capital, the city of Brasília, in June 1957, a set of rules was established to regulate the granting of plots and land in the Distrito Federal to ensure the installation of essential activities in the future capital, as well as to regulate the occupation of this territory⁽⁹⁾.

Plot concessions included sale, lease, or donation, the latter to institutions and/or services of public utility that claimed such a modality, such as associations, embassies, and temples⁽⁹⁾.

As a result, in 1957, Haydée Guanais Dourado, a member of ABEn Nacional's fiscal council, and later, in 1958, Cacilda Rosa Bertoni, from the Goiás section, mobilized ABEn Nacional's board of directors to ask the Companhia Urbanizadora da Nova Capital do Brasil (Novacap) to donate land for the construction of ABEn's headquarters in Brasília, which took place years later, on November 30, 1962^(3,10).

At the time, the 5,000 m² area donated was part of the Bananal farm and the urban plan for the Federal Capital, in the urban area of the Large Areas sector, super quadra 603, Avenida L2 Norte, in central Brasília⁽¹⁰⁾.

The definitive possession of the land, however, only occurred on March 3, 1967, after the signing of the deed of possession of the land drawn up at the 1st Notary's Office, under No. 7,949, since in the face of the military coup of 1964, the process was procrastinated and, at various times, ABEn Nacional was on the verge of losing the land⁽¹⁰⁾.

The foundation stone for the headquarters was laid in July 1967, at the XIX *Congresso Brasileiro de Enfermagem* (Brazilian nursing congress) in Brasília, and the ABEn headquarters was inaugurated in May 1971, during the celebrations of the 32nd *Semana Brasileira de Enfermagem* (Brazilian nursing week)⁽¹⁰⁾.

It took years of struggle, hard work, and donations from nurses from all over Brazil to win a space for ABEn Nacional, the first association to obtain a plot of land and build its headquarters in Brasília, but in particular

the small group of members of the DF Section who worked tirelessly to gather the initial documentation, to process the land, to raise funds to subsidize the construction, and to make political connections with the capital's authorities stand out^(3,10).

This fact generated a Diploma of Honor for their contributions to the construction and establishment of the physical headquarters of the ABEn Nacional in the city of Brasília. This honor was awarded to ABEn/DF in 1971 (Figure 1)⁽¹¹⁾.

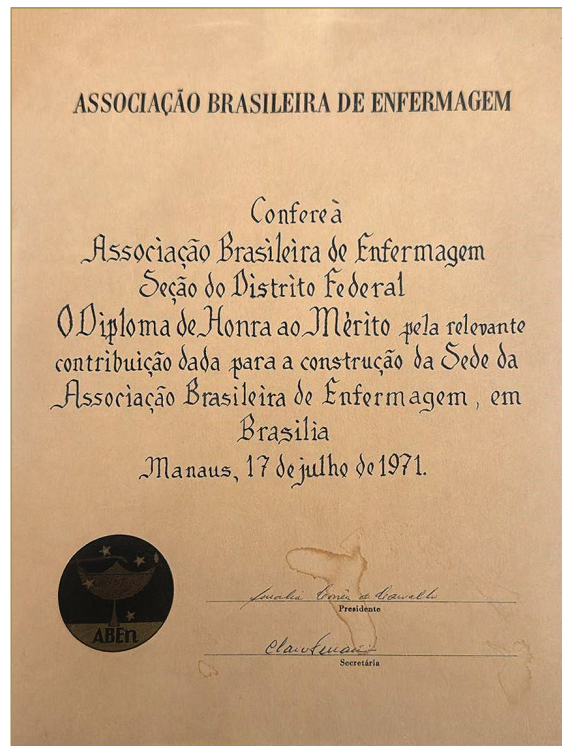


Figure 1. Diploma of Honor for the relevant contribution of the *Distrito Federal* Section to the construction of the ABEn Nacional Headquarters, 1971

Source: ABEn/DF, own collection, 2024⁽¹¹⁾.

Acquisition of ABEN/DF's physical space

From 1965 to 1968, ABEn/DF held its meetings at the *Centro de Saúde da W3 Sul* (W3 Sul Health Center) and then, from 1968 to 1971, at the *Edifício das Pioneiras Sociais* (social pioneers building), which housed the *Fundação das Pioneiras Sociais* (social pioneers foundation), now the *Rede Sarah de Hospitais de Reabilitação* (sarah network of rehabilitation hospitals), organized and conceived by former first lady Sarah Kubitschek and aimed at assisting the poor population in the social, health, and education spheres^(3,12).

After the inauguration of the ABEn Nacional headquarters, the Section/DF, which had fought hard for this achievement, shared space with the National Section until 2003, when it moved permanently to its own headquarters: currently three offices located in the América Office Tower building, in Brasília⁽²⁾.

The offices were acquired with their own funds over the course of five administrations: President Maria das Dores Cunha (1898-1992), President Maria Gorete de Lima (1992-1995), President Adriano Limirio da Silva (1995-1998), President Wanderley Sant'anna (1998-2001) and President Célia Aparecida Becker Bauer (2001-2004)^(3,13).

Below is an image of the cover of the deed of sale for ABEN/DF's new headquarters, an achievement for members at the time that brought a lot of enthusiasm (Figure 2).

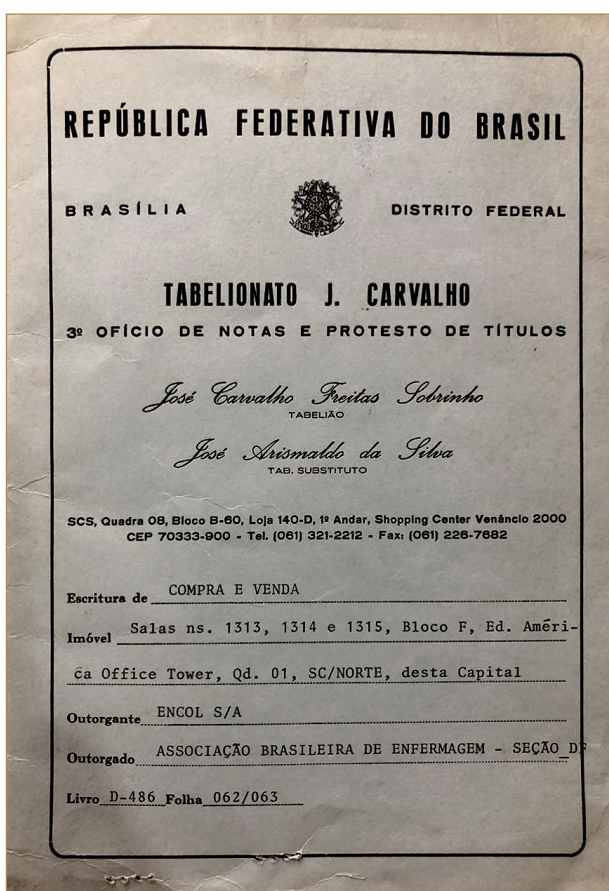


Figure 2. Cover of the ABEN/DF headquarters sale and purchase process

Source: ABEn/DF, own collection, 2024⁽¹⁴⁾.

Events hosted and organized by the Distrito Federal Section

As a body that fosters nursing knowledge, the Brazilian Congresses promoted by ABEn reflect the historical construction of the profession, propose critical reflection on the main problems faced, and boost the production of knowledge in order to enhance the development of nursing as a science^(15,16).

The *Congressos Brasileiros de Enfermagem* (CBEn, Brazilian Nursing Congresses) are held annually and their organization is delegated to the section that will host them. As for these events, the DF section, Brasília, was proud to host them in 1967, 1980, 1992, 2007, and 2016⁽¹⁶⁾.

It should be noted that in 1967, Brazil was under the authoritarian regime of the Military Dictatorship, which had profound consequences for Brazilian society by deepening crises and social inequalities, instituting censorship as a way of silencing opponents and violating human rights. Popular dissatisfaction with the current autocratic public system was growing⁽¹⁷⁾.

In this context, the 19th CBEn took place between July 17 and 22. Its central themes were "*Tendências na formação da Enfermeira, Enfermagem na evolução hospitalar, Pesquisa e Enfermagem, e Enfermagem no processo de desenvolvimento socioeconômico*" (Trends in nursing education, nursing in hospital evolution, research and nursing, and nursing in the socioeconomic development process). The main development of the event was the pre-congress refresher courses proposed by Clarice Ferrari⁽¹⁸⁾.

The theme proposed by the congress clearly reflected the social and economic transformations and especially the health policy instituted during this period, which prioritized social security medicine, centered on hospital care, with a welfare and curative nature⁽¹⁹⁾.

The 32nd CBEEn took place in 1980, from June 1 to 7, and was attended by 2,167 participants. The central themes of the congress were “*A Previdência Social. A competência continuada e assistência de enfermagem, Relação de ajuda, Temas livres*” (Social Welfare. Continuing competency and nursing care, Helping relationship, Free themes)⁽¹⁶⁾. The dialogue on Social Security arose in a context in which the Brazilian government proposed the implementation of the *Programa Nacional de Serviços Básicos de Saúde* (PREV-SAÚDE, national program for basic health services). The idea was to integrate the Ministries of Health and Welfare and Social Assistance and return to actions aimed at basic health care, as a response to the process of political transition and the social crisis in line with the assumptions defended at the Alma-Ata Conference held in 1978⁽²⁰⁾.

It is important to note that, at that time, nursing was going through a period of crisis related to the reform of the health system, which involved the diminished participation of nurses in the construction of health policies, the lack of definition of their professional identity, with questioning of their own training bases focused on technical actions and the search for autonomy⁽²¹⁾.

With approximately 1,558 participants, the 44th CBEEn took place from October 4 to 9, 1992, and its central theme was “*Enfermagem: luta pela vida*” (Nursing: fighting for life)”, which showed that health and citizenship are inseparable concepts, given that a country’s health situation is an important indicator capable of predicting a population’s living conditions⁽¹⁶⁾.

It is worth noting that the congress took place in the same year as important events such as the IX National Health Conference with the theme “Municipalization is the way” and the delivery of the document “Building the SUS: A Proposal from Brazilian Nursing”, as well as the impeachment of then president Fernando Collor de Mello.

At that time, the health situation in Brazil was marked by an intense regression with an increase in the population living in precarious conditions of survival, difficulties in accessing health services for the majority of the population, lack of participation, and social control⁽¹⁷⁾.

Given this scenario, it is imperative to highlight the DF Section’s stance in organizing this congress, which demonstrates a full commitment to the main social and political transformations affecting the health of the Brazilian population. The participation of the community was another important contribution of the Congress, and the funds raised from the event subsidized the purchase of the long-dreamed-of headquarters of the ABEn Distrito Federal Section⁽³⁾.

In 2007, the DF section hosted another CBEEn, this time the 59th Congress, which took place between December 3 and 7 and had 1,429 participants. The central theme was “Comprehensiveness and Nursing in the Collective Competency of Care in Health”⁽¹⁶⁾.

The 68th CBEEn, the last organized by the DF section, took place from October 27 to 30, 2016, with approximately 4,000 participants. The central theme of the event was “The historical construction of nursing in health care: knowledge and practices in defense of the Unified Health System”. The event celebrated the 90th anniversary of the Associação Brasileira de Enfermagem and sought to review its history, proposing reflections and strengthening nursing’s technical, political, and social projects⁽¹⁸⁾.

The DF Section also hosted the 7th and 10th *Seminário Nacional de Diretrizes para Educação em Enfermagem* (SENADEn, national seminar on nursing education guidelines), considered a space for debate on nursing education and the construction of public policies, orchestrated by the ABEn entity with the participation of nursing schools⁽¹⁹⁾.

Since 1994, when the first edition of SENADEn was held, nurses from all over the country have met every two years with the commitment to reflect, discuss, and propose improvements to professional training and qualification in nursing⁽²²⁾. Since 1994, when the first edition of SENADEn was held, nurses from all over the country have met every two years with the commitment to reflect, discuss, and propose improvements to professional training and qualification in nursing⁽²²⁾. Held in 2003, the 7th SENADEn, with the theme “*Educação em Enfermagem: buscando coerência entre intenções e gestos*” (Nursing education: seeking coherence between intentions and gestures), aimed to investigate in depth the intentions and gestures that characterize the various experiences of professional nursing education, in the light of social aspects, public policies, and the regulation of practices, in order to subsidize the health-promoting changes desired for the population^(22,23).

The drafting of the “*Carta de Brasília*” (Letter from Brasília) was the main product of this event and, without a doubt, a response to the transformations, at the time, in the sphere of higher nursing education, derived from the repercussions of the *Lei de Diretrizes e Bases da Educação Nacional de 1996* (1996 Brazilian national education guideline and framework law)⁽²⁴⁾.

In view of the development of the “*Diretrizes Curriculares Nacionais dos Cursos de Educação Profissional em Enfermagem*” (national curriculum guidelines for professional nursing education courses), the urgent need for professionals to get involved with their organizations in order to agree on a single proposal was highlighted, especially the review of the competencies sought in the education of future nursing professionals⁽²⁴⁾. The importance of considering the epistemological, didactic, and practical axes in the construction of the Political Pedagogical Project, and greater dialogue between the ABEn and the Ministries of Health and Education were some of the proposals that came out of this event⁽¹⁸⁾.

The central theme of the 10th SENADEn, held in 2006, was “*ABEn 80 anos: Conquistas, avanços, desafios e perspectivas na educação em enfermagem*” (ABEn 80 years: Achievements, advances, challenges, and perspectives in nursing education). The event included reflections on the organization of the work process based on continuing education as an instrument for fostering teamwork and comprehensive health care, highlighting ABEn’s challenging 80-year trajectory in contributing to quality education for nursing professionals⁽¹⁸⁾.

The main objective of the seminar was to encourage the construction of a proactive agenda with integrated actions involving the ABEn, educational, scientific and research institutions, and civil society. Various proposals were put forward, including the expansion of distance education, ensuring pedagogical quality with precise indicators; monitoring and evaluation of teacher training and qualification; changes in educational praxis with active methodologies and integration between health and teaching institutions; among other proposals⁽¹⁸⁾.

In 2010, ABEn/DF hosted the 10th *Simpósio Nacional de Diagnóstico de Enfermagem* (SINADEn, national symposium on nursing diagnosis) with the central theme “*Sistematização da Assistência de Enfermagem no Brasil: 30 anos na construção da qualidade no cuidar*” (Systematization of Nursing Care in Brazil: 30 years in the construction of quality care). The event aimed to debate and reflect on aspects of professional practice such as nursing diagnoses, results, and interventions. The event was part of the celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the creation of ABEn/DF and the 30th anniversary of the Systematization of Nursing Care in Brazil⁽²⁵⁾.

The event was structured around four sub-themes, namely: (1) Systematization of nursing care in health care throughout the various stages of life; (2) Implementation of the systematization of nursing care in undergraduate and graduate teaching environments; (3) Management and recording of nursing care; (4) Information and communication systems for nursing practice, the symposium presented a varied program over three and a half days, including mini-courses, conferences, round tables, coordinated tables, poster sessions, and the presence of national and international speakers, in particular guests Amy Coenen, Director of the CIPE® Program, and Claudia Bartz, Coordinator of the e-Health Program and Manager of the CIPE® Centers accredited by the *Conselho Internacional de Enfermeiros* (International Council of Nurses)^(25,26).

Participation in the creation of the Nurses’ Union of the Distrito Federal

The professionalization of Brazilian nursing and, later, the enactment of labor laws, were essential factors for the category’s union movement. In this sense, in 1979, the *Associação Profissional dos Enfermeiros do Distrito Federal* (Professional Association of Nurses of the Federal District) was created, characterizing the beginning of the nursing syndicalization process in the *Distrito Federal*⁽²⁷⁾.

Professor Antonia Xavier, from the University of Brasília and also a member of the DF Section, highlights in her speech, in the video commemorating the 46th anniversary of ABEn/DF, the movement to obtain the union charter in order to establish the DF Nurses’ Union. This movement took place during the 32nd *Congresso Brasileiro de Enfermagem* (CBEn, Brazilian nursing congress) in Brasília, where she spoke with the Minister of Labor at the time, Mr. Murilo Macedo. Murilo Macedo requested a union charter as a “birthday gift” for her, and he then made himself available to provide the document, after a solemn session during the Congress⁽³⁾.

On February 19, 1981, the nurses of the *Distrito Federal* received their union charter and, with the active participation of ABEn/DF, the creation of the *Sindicato dos Enfermeiros do Distrito Federal* (SINDENF, Federal District’s Nurses’ Union) became real and viable. SINDENF’s first management team had the following positions: President - Ivalney Alves Figueira; Secretary Director - Ageu Medeiros; Treasurer Director - Maria do Rosário de Alencar Figueira and her alternates - Antonia Maria Ferreira Reis, Raimunda Nunes de Senna and Zilda Leite

Ferreira; Supervisory Board - Antonia Mota e Silva, Lucia Margarida Melo de Moura and Maria Nereide Carvalho de Melo with their alternates - Meire Lucia Milhomem Silva, Helena Natividade da Silva, and Edméia Pinto⁽²⁷⁾.

With the mission of representing and defending nurses in the *Distrito Federal*, the main discussions were initially related to salary and the exhausting workload. Thus, SINDENF's first achievement after its foundation consisted of political lobbying for the creation of a nursing career in the *Secretaria de Saúde do Distrito Federal* (SES-DF, Federal District's Health Department), with a reduction in working hours⁽²⁸⁾.

The "Participation Movement" and the role of ABEn-DF

The Participation Movement, initially called "Participation", began with the organization of a group of nursing professionals and students in the mid-1980s. During this period, the ABEn Nacional was seen as an authoritarian entity, which was only concerned with the scientific and cultural issues of its members, directly linked to sectors of the hospital medical industry, and did not act or concern itself with the issues of current public health policies, nor with the reflective political and professional issues that involved nursing at that historical moment in Brazil⁽²⁹⁾.

In addition to this situation, there was dissatisfaction on the part of many members with the way in which the leadership of the organization was rotated, which was only between nurses from the states of Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, as they understood that because they had the majority of members, these territories were privileged in decisions at the national level. At that time, ABEn was a closed association, with no willingness to democratize its members' participation, discussions, or interests^(29,30).

This movement was first organized in some Brazilian states, such as Bahia, Ceará, the *Distrito Federal*, Goiás, Minas Gerais, Paraná, Rio Grande do Norte, Rio Grande do Sul, and Santa Catarina, and later took on national proportions. The milestone for this movement was during the XXXI *Congresso Brasileiro de Enfermagem* (Brazilian nursing congress) in 1979, which took place in Ceará. However, it was not until five years later, during the XXV *Congresso Brasileiro de Enfermagem* (Brazilian nursing congress) in 1983, in the city of São Paulo, that the group called the "Participation Movement" committed itself to being a **more active body, in tune with its times**. Over the years, many obstacles and situations, including the need to involve the police and the *Ordem dos Advogados do Brasil* (OAB, Brazilian Bar Association), permeated the struggle for change and the way ABEn/Nacional worked^(29,30).

One of the central figures in this movement was the role played by many nurses from all over Brazil, especially Prof. Maria José Rossi, who at the time was returning to Brazil after a period in Belgium, where she had to stay with her husband and daughters due to political issues surrounding the country's military government⁽³⁰⁾.

When she returned to Brazil, she soon became a lecturer in the nursing course at the University of Brasília (UnB) and joined a number of working committees at the ABEn DF Section. For ABEn Nacional, during the "Participation Movement", which demanded changes in the new direction of the organization's activities, Professor Maria José Rossi was a member of the "Participation" slate as President. After years of struggles and actions that required dedication and discussion from many nurses, in 1986, during the XXXVIII *Congresso Brasileiro de Enfermagem* (Brazilian nursing congress), which took place in the city of Rio de Janeiro, the elected slate from the "Participation Movement" was able to take office and thus begin a new phase for ABEn throughout Brazil⁽³⁰⁾.

The management of ABEn/DF, and the changes throughout its history

In general, the organization's board was organized and made up of the positions of president, vice-president, secretary-general, financial director, director of nursing education, director of nursing studies and research, director of professional practice and work development, director of social communication and publications, and supervisory board. The first administration took place on a provisional basis for four months and was succeeded by another 21 administrations, alternating every three or four years⁽¹¹⁾.

Chart 1 describes the composition of the boards over the years, from 1960 to 2010. It highlights the variations in the number of people involved in the administrations, as well as the positions defined in each one, probably due to changes in the country's historical and political context at the time^(11,13).

Chart 1. Board of directors of ABEn/DF between 1960 and 2010

Photo of the President / Vice-President	Management team	Period of activity
 Cacilda Rosa Bertoni 1960-1964	President: Alice Andrade Maciel Vice-President: Cacilda Rosa Bertoni 1st Secretary: Maria Cavalcante Ramos Porto Legislation Committee: Haydée Guanaís Dourado Education Committee: Lydia das Dores Matta Cultural Exchange: Maria Francisca Rangel de Jesus Barros Public Health: Zenaide de Oliveira Dantas Hospital Health: Adelaide Alvarenga Parahospital: Clarice Ribeiro Cazzola Finances: Diva Câmara Public Relations and Recruitment: Maria de Lourdes Lopes Cunha	1960-1964
 NORA ALDA GOMES 1964-1968	President: Nora Alda Gomes 1st Secretary: Lourdes de Oliveira e Silva 2nd Secretary: Marinalva R. Aguiar Culture and Education and Supervisory Board: Myriam Graça Generosa Pereira CICAMS: Maria das Graças de Albuquerque Negromonte ICN: Luiza Gomes Aragão Publication: Antonia Xavier Silva	1964-1968
 Margarida Maria Fernandes Pequeno 1968-1972	President: Margarida Maria Fernandes Pequeno President: Ezeilde Menezes de Andrade Vice-President: Therezinha Q. P. do Vale 1st Secretary: Antonia Xavier Silva 1st Secretary: Maria Alves Amorim 2nd Secretary: Marizete Mendes Marques 1st Treasurer: Dona Maria Gilca Gonçalves Oliveira 2nd Treasurer: Benedita Ferreira Dourado Supervisory Board: Clarice Ribeiro Cazzola	1968-1972
 Maria Francisca Rangel de Jesus Barros 1972-1976	President: Maria Francisca Rangel de Jesus Barros Vice-President: Neusa Carneiro 2nd Vice-President: Ezeilde Menezes de Andrade 1st Secretary: Maria Zilma de Alencar Chaves 2nd Secretary: Maria Lúcia Martins Pinho 1st Treasurer: Ermeline Boeing de Lima 2nd Treasurer: Euzébia Noleto do Carmo Supervisory Board: Marta Margareth Karin Engel de Souza, Iwalda Ferreira, and Antonia Xavier Silva	1972-1976
 Antonia Xavier da Silva 1976-1980	President: Antonia Xavier da Silva 1st Vice-President: Maria Gouveia Ferraz General Secretary: Terezinha Brun Assistant Secretary: Herondina Correia Rodrigues General Treasurer: Rosa Irene Carvalho Rodrigues Assistant Treasurer: Maria Irene Magalhães Publications and Dissemination: Marinete Mendes Marques Education: Maria Tereza Coelho Nursing Service: Clarice Judith Ribeiro Cazzola Legislation: Maria do Socorro Freitas Nascimento Supervisory Board: Maria da Penha Sales Falcão, Maria Edna Frias Xavier, and Daniela Richter Teixeira	1976-1980

To be continued

Chart 1

Photo of the President / Vice-President	Management team	Period of activity
 <p>Clarice Judith Ribeiro Cazzola 1980-1984</p>	<p>President: Clarice Judith Ribeiro Cazzola 1st Vice-President: Erlita Rodrigues dos Santos 2nd Vice-President: Antonia Xavier da Silva 1st Secretary: Maria Aparecida dos Santos 2nd Secretary: Maria Betânia Carvalho Pimentel 1st Treasurer: Vitalina Nascimento Machado Newton 2nd Treasurer: Maria Aglaice Bandeira da Costa Scientific Activities and Documentation: Janeide Jardim S. Cruz Oliveira Education: Maria Aurineide da Silva Nogueira Legislation: Maria Alvez Amorim Publications and Dissemination: Maria Gouveia Ferraz Nursing Service: Braulia Mattos de Mello Supervisory Board: Ivalney Alvez Figueira, Lúdia de Oliveira Santos, and Maria da Conceição Lemos</p>	1980-1984
 <p>Braulia de Vasconcelos Mattos 1984-1986</p>	<p>President: Braulia Mattos de Mello 1st Vice-President: Therezinha Albertina Lyrio do Patrocínio 1st Secretary: Ester Giraldi Dias 2nd Secretary: Terezinha Ângela Ferraz Carneiro 1st Treasurer: Eunice Orlando de Souza 2nd Treasurer: Ademilde Iara Caldas Batista Scientific Activities and Documentation: Judith Feitoza de Carvalho Education: Izabel Cristina de Souza Cardoso Legislation: Armenatos Sofia Gabriel da Silva Publications and Dissemination: Juçara Costa Braga Nursing Service: Elizabeth Teixeira Supervisory Board: Maria Edna Frias Xavier, and Georgina Malaquias Massada Shimabukiro de Bonha</p>	1984-1986
 <p>Erlita Rodrigues dos Santos 1986-1989</p>	<p>President: Erlita Rodrigues dos Santos 1st Vice-President: Aurimar Antonio Hemenerk 1st Secretary: Maria de Geóva Lima 2nd Secretary: Maria do Socorro Souza Canto 1st Treasurer: Magaly Vicentina Demeroch 2nd Treasurer: José da Silveira Legislation: Halila Ramos Costa Education: Maria do Patrocínio Correia Nursing Service: Vanda Maria Barros Mendos Dissemination: Clívia Sergio de Aquino Research: Maria Bernadete Cordeiro de Paschoal Cartilha Supervisory Board: Benedito Ramon Machado, Maria das Graças dos Reis, and Everaldo José da Silva</p>	1986-1989
 <p>Maria das Dores Cunha 1989-1992</p>	<p>President: Maria das Dores Cunha Vice-President: Roberto Echer 1st Secretary: Ignacia Olindina de Oliveira 2nd Secretary: Maria Gorete de Lima 1st Treasurer: Maria Mazzareto Dias Ferreira da Costa 2nd Treasurer: Tereza Garcia Braga Legislation: Dirlene Souza Coelho Publications and Dissemination: Maria dos Santos Ferreira Nursing Service: Sérgio de Paula Brito Education: Maria de Fátima Rabelo Costa Center for Nursing Study and Research: Maria Cecília Soares Ferreira Supervisory Board: Daci Machado Braga, Marília Valeria Afonso Tavares, and Claudia Dutra Andrino</p>	1989-1992

To be continued

Chart 1

Photo of the President / Vice-President	Management team	Period of activity
 <p>Maria Gorete de Lima 1992-1995</p>	<p>President: Maria Gorete de Lima Vice-President: Maria de Fátima Rabelo 1st Secretary: Dirlene Souza Coelho 2nd Secretary: Ana Celeste Borges Serique 1st Treasurer: Silvana Alvez Santana 2nd Treasurer: Nazaré de Souza Santos Coordinator of the Education Committee: Adriano Limirio da Silva Coordinator of the Services Committee: Tereza Garcia Braga Coordinator of the Legislation Committee: Izabel dos Reis Silva Oliveira Coordinator of the Study and Research Commission: Monica Beatriz O. Libardi Coordinator of the Publication and Dissemination Committee: Kedma Rego Oliveira Supervisory Board: Ana Lucia da Silva, Maria dos Santos Ferreira, and Maria Maz-zarelo S. da Costa</p>	1992-1995
 <p>Adriano Limirio da Silva 1995-1998</p>	<p>President: Adriano Limirio da Silva Vice-President: Vera Terezinha Silveira da Silva General Secretary: Ana Beatriz Duarte Vieira 1st Secretary: Maria Auxiliadora Nantria Evangelista 1st Treasurer: Kedma Rego Oliveira 2nd Treasurer: Lecio Braz de Faria Director of Professional Affairs: Denise Maria Moraes Director of Publications and Social Communication: Heloisa Ribeiro da Silva Scientific and Cultural Director: Claudia Cristina Ramos da Silva Alvez Director of Education: Maria Gomes de Araujo Swartz Director of the Center for Nursing Studies and Research: Ana Joaquim da Silva Supervisory Board: Ana Lucia da Silva, Roberto Echer, and Walderley Sant'anna</p>	1995-1998
 <p>Walderley Sant'anna 1998-2001</p>	<p>President: Walderley Sant'anna Vice-President: Eulina Maria do Nascimento Menezes General Secretary: Ana Beatriz Duarte Vieira 1st Secretary: Emilia Maria Lopez da Silva 1st Treasurer: Liraneide Prabo de Oliveira 2nd Treasurer: Kátia Milca Valério Borges Director of the Center for Nursing Studies and Research: Célia Aparecida Becker Bauer Director of Education: Idenise Vieira Cavalcante Carvalho Scientific and Cultural Director: Maria de Lurdes Cunha Pereira Director of Professional Affairs: Lilian Elizabeth Soarez Souza Director of Publications and Social Communication: Eliana Maria Lisboa de Araújo Supervisory Board: Maria Liz Cunha de Oliveira, Sandro Rogério Gabriel dos Santos, and Lecio Braz de Faria</p>	1998-2001
 <p>CÉLIA APARECIDA BECKER BAUER 2001-2004</p>	<p>President: Célia Aparecida Becker Bauer Vice-President: Walderley Sant'anna General Secretary: Daniela Martins Machado 1st Secretary: Odete Ferreira de Amorim 1st Treasurer: Cristiane Braga Martins 2nd Treasurer: Maria do Socorro F. Tabosa Mota Director of the Center for Nursing Studies and Research: Helena Eri Shimizu Director of Education: Maria do Carmo Gomes Kell Scientific and Cultural Director: Roberto Echer Director of Professional Affairs: Maria Amélia Ferreira Director of Publications and Social Communication: Sandro Rogério G. dos Santos Supervisory Board: Adriano Limirio da Silva, Maria Soneide Nunes de Oliveira, and Rita de Cassia Minetto</p>	2001-2004

To be continued

Chart 1 (concluded)

Photo of the President / Vice-President	Management team	Period of activity
 Solange da Silva 2004-2007 / 2007-2010	President: Solange da Silva Vice-President: Maria do Carmo Gomes Kell General Secretary: Zulmira Maria Barroso da Costa 1st Secretary: Izabel dos Reis Silva Oliveira 1st Treasurer: Maria de Lourdes Serra Director of Education: Geruza Amaral de Medeiros Scientific and Cultural Director: Cassandra Leon Director of Professional Affairs: Nilza da Costa Tavares Director of Publications and Social Communication: Maria de Fátima Rabelo Costa Director of the Center for Nursing Studies and Research: Rinaldo de Souza Neves Supervisory Board: Creto Valdivino Silva, Kedma Rego Oliveira, and Dirlene Souza Coelho	2004-2007
 Solange da Silva 2004-2007 / 2007-2010	President: Solange da Silva Vice-President: Zulmira Maria Barroso da Costa General Secretary: Ana Beatriz Duarte Vieira 1st Secretary: Ana Lúcia da Silva 1st Treasurer: Kedma Rego Oliveira 2nd Treasurer: Isabel dos Reis Silva Oliveira Director of Education: Erlita Rodrigues dos Santos Scientific and Cultural Director: Maria Bonifácio da Silva Director of Professional Affairs: Rinaldo de Souza Neves Director of Publications and Social Communication: Maria de Lourdes Carneiro Serra CEPEn Director: Ivone Kamada Supervisory Board: Vilma Lobo de Oliveira, Jair Gomes de Paiva Junior, and Cristiane Sole Ferreira Magalhães	2007-2010

Source: Website of ABEn/DF, 2024⁽¹³⁾.

ABEn/DF members and variations in numbers

The number of members has varied greatly over time, but there is not enough data for all the years included in the period of this study (1960-2010) for a more precise analysis of this variation. Despite this, it is clear that this variation is related to events or major mobilizations carried out by the administrations that have passed through the organization.

The available information obtained from ABEn/DF, which included data only from 2008 onwards, is shown in Charts 1 and 2 with data on the total number of members by professional category and also the overall total by year⁽³¹⁾.

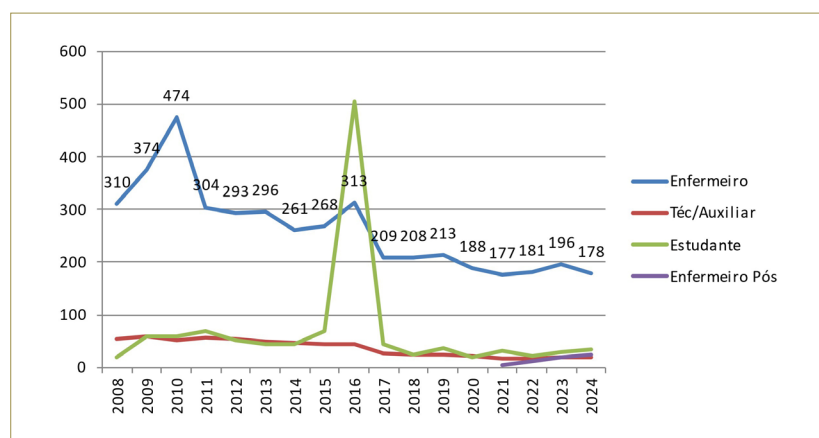


Chart 1. Total number of members by category at ABEn/DF (2008-2024), Brasília, 2024

Source: ABEn/DF, own collection, 2024.⁽³¹⁾

The evolution of the charts shows a growing number of members between 2015 and 2016, especially in 2016, when the 68th CBEn was held in the city of Brasília, where there were 815 members of ABEn/DF, the highest number in this historical series between 2008 and 2024 (Charts 1 and 2). In addition, the second highest peak in the number of members occurred in 2010, with 586 affiliated professionals, the year in which the 10th SINADEn was held and hosted by the DF section.

Study limitations

This study has some limitations that should be considered. Although the research explored digital collections, the predominance of written sources may have restricted the analysis, since photographic records and oral reports could offer complementary perspectives on the work of ABEn/DF. In addition, the time span of the study presents challenges in interpreting the changes over the decades. Future research could deepen this discussion by incorporating an even greater diversity of sources and exploring the association's impact on its different fronts in more detail.

Contributions to the history of nursing, health, and education

The contributions of this study to the history of nursing are many, among them, the historical record, as it brought the documentation and trajectory of ABEn/DF, including its foundation, main milestones, and evolution over the years, preserving the memory of nursing in the region; in addition to valuing the profession, as it highlighted the importance of nursing and the role of the association in valuing professionals, contributing to the recognition of the profession in society and in the construction of health policies.

In addition, it strengthens the professional identity of nursing in the *Distrito Federal* by highlighting part of the historical construction carried out by a body of nursing professionals who are mobilized and committed to ensuring universal, comprehensive and free public health care, training, and nursing care with technical and scientific quality in the *Distrito Federal*, as well as struggles for labor rights that reinforce cohesion among professionals in the field. These contributions enrich both the field of nursing and our understanding of the importance of professional associations in promoting the health and well-being of the population.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

The creation of the *Associação Brasileira de Enfermagem* (Brazilian Nursing Association) of the *Distrito Federal* (ABEn/DF) is a milestone in the history of nursing in the *Distrito Federal*, which has been working directly to provide benefits and recognition for nursing professionals since its foundation in 1960.

Among the main achievements of ABEn/DF, the editions of the *Congressos Brasileiros de Enfermagem* (CBEn, Brazilian nursing congresses) and the *Seminários Nacionais de Diretrizes para Educação em Enfermagem* (SENADEn, national seminars on nursing education guidelines) hosted by the entity stand out, spaces that promote critical thinking for the advancement of the profession, in addition to encouraging the organization of the nationally recognized *Semana Brasileira de Enfermagem* (Brazilian Nursing Week).

It can be seen that the active members of ABEn-DF's management have faced various challenges to its effective implementation and have adapted according to historical, political, and cultural needs, such as the Participation Movement, motivated by the dissatisfaction of associated professionals, which had a major impact on the association's profile.

Furthermore, it is clear that ABEn-DF has played a leading role in the fight for the valorization of nursing since its creation, in order to develop the profession's identity and provide subsidies to improve social, academic, and working conditions for nursing in the Distrito Federal.

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ARF, CPSC, MAHF, NSS, AMF - Data analysis

ARF, CPSC, MAHF, NSS, AMF - Manuscript writing

ARF, CPSC, MAHF, NSS, AMF - Critical review for important intellectual content

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