

Objectives

The National Operational Plan (NOP) of vaccination is responsible for the national immunization policy and for reduce morbidity and mortality from vaccine-preventable diseases, strengthening of integrated health surveillance actions for promotion, protection and prevention in health of the Brazilian population. The Ministry of Health (MoH) started the national vaccination program against COVID-19 in January 2021 in Brazil. This work evaluated the regulatory journey related to the NOP of vaccination against COVID-19, classifying it based on the eight priorities of the World Health Organization (WHO) to understand the priorities by quarter.

Methods

This documental investigation used a bibliographic review of the regulatory publications on policies and political facts related to the NOP of vaccination against COVID-19¹. Each normative act was ranked based on the WHO priorities listed below²: Pillar 1: Country-level coordination, planning, and monitoring; Pillar 2: Risk communication and community engagement; Pillar 3: Surveillance, rapid response teams, and case investigation; Pillar 4: Points of entry; Pillar 5: National laboratories; Pillar 6: Infection prevention and control; Pillar 7: Case management; Pillar 8: Operational support and logistics; Pillar 9: Maintenance of essential health systems and services.

Results

105 normative acts were published in 2021, 51.5% in the first quarter, 31.4% in the second, and 17.2% in the last.

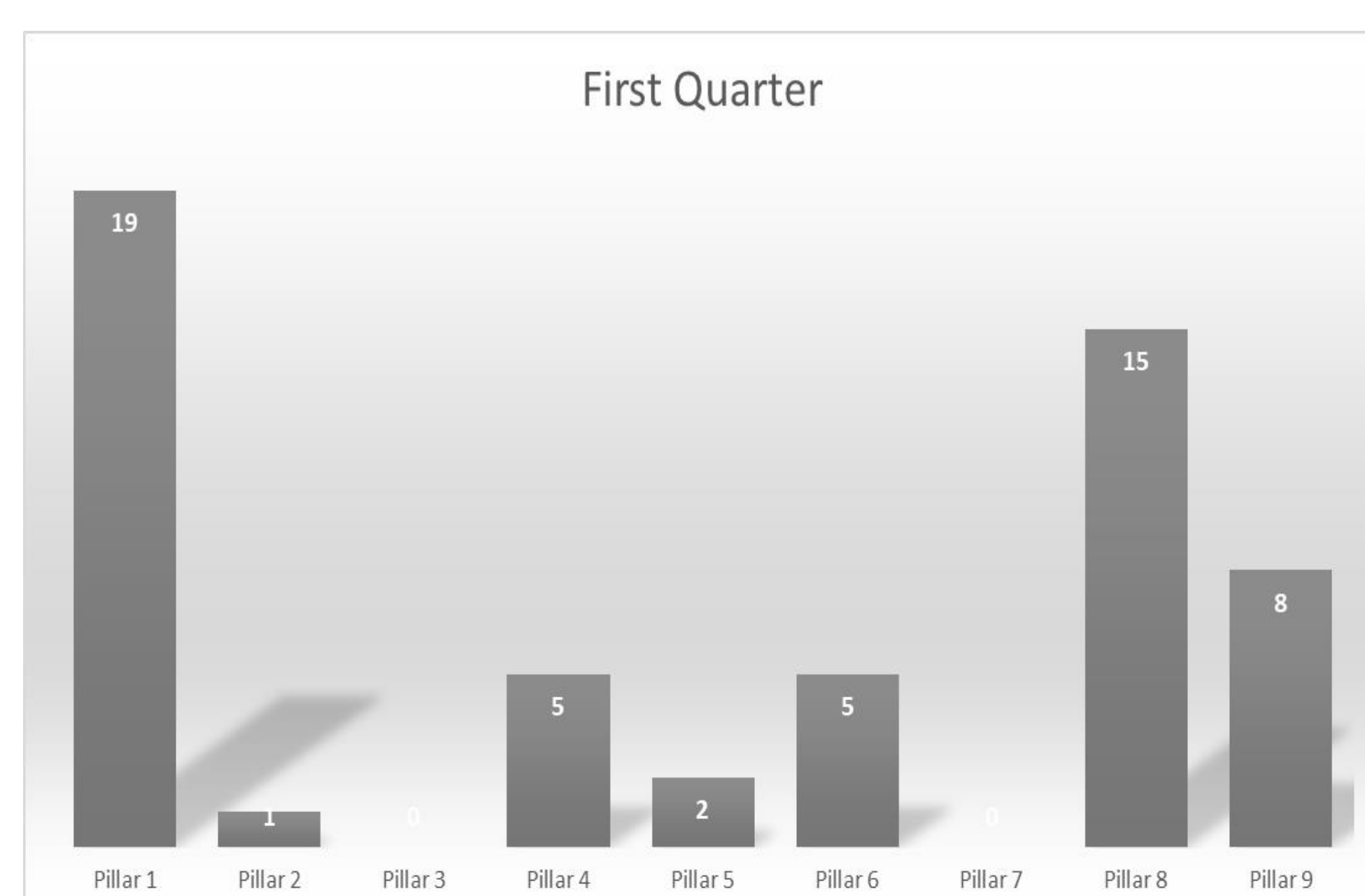


Figure 1: Normative acts - First Quarter

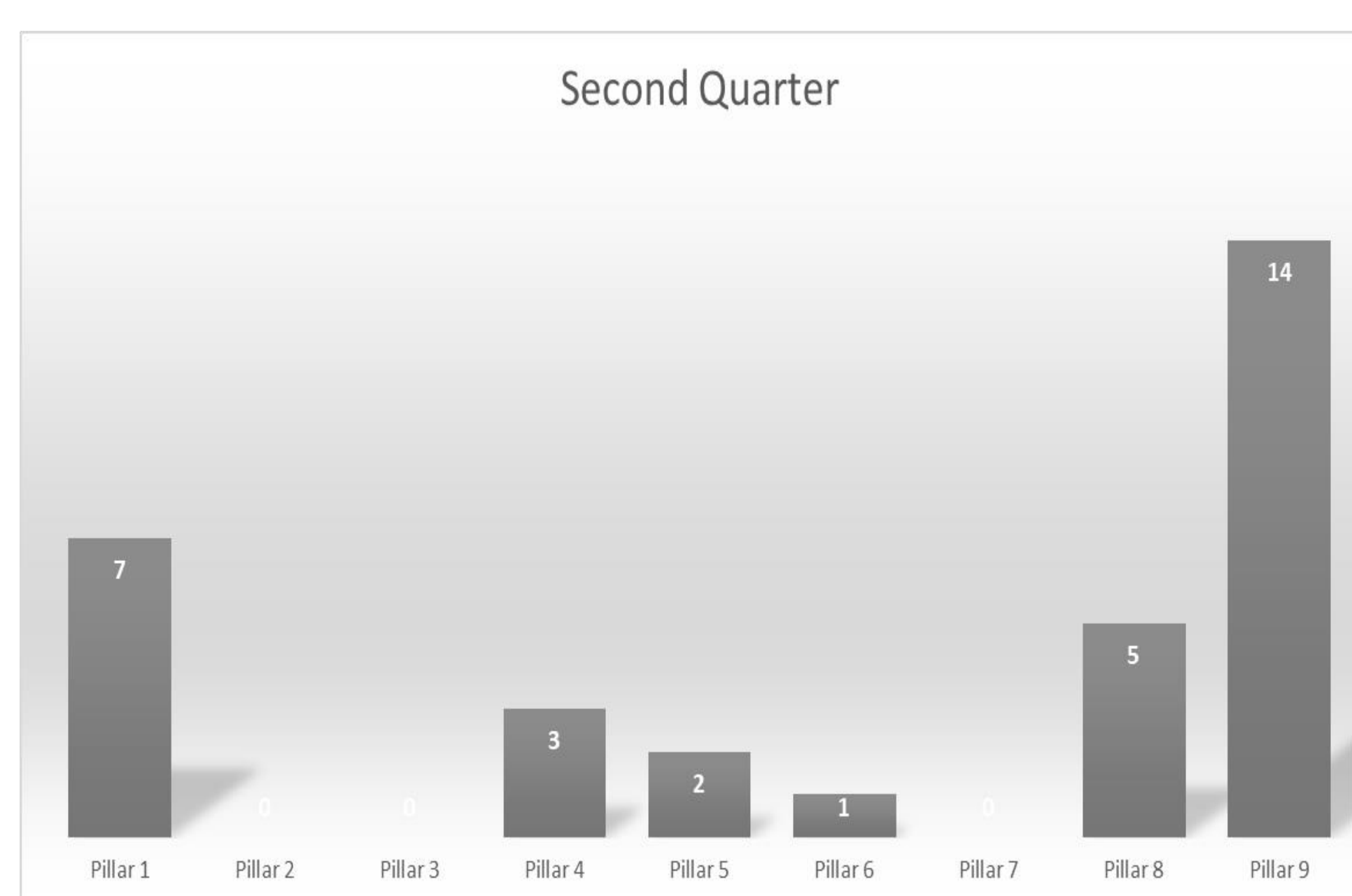


Figure 2: Normative acts - Second Quarter

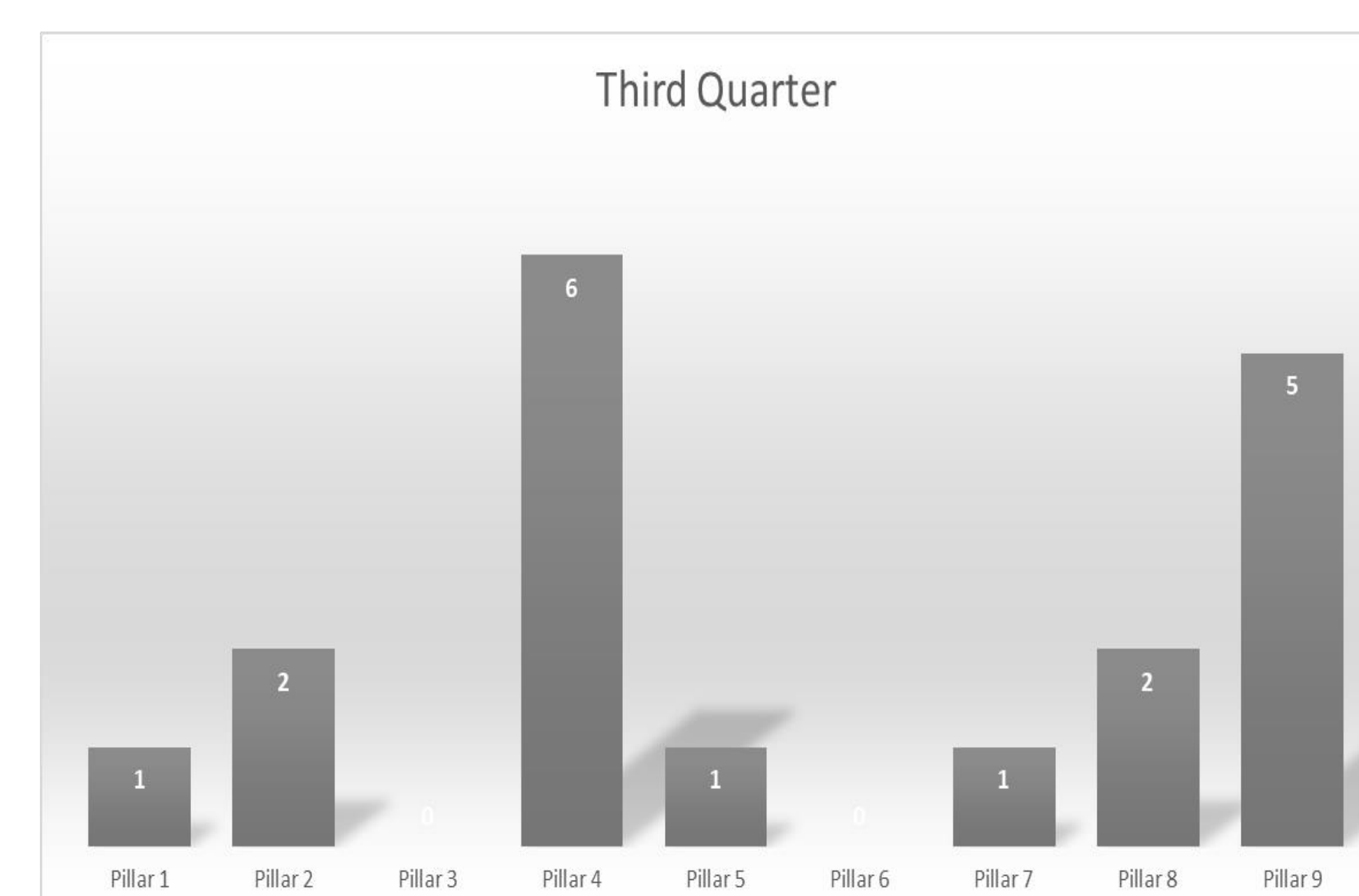


Figure 3: Normative acts - Third Quarter

In the first quarter, 19 normative acts were classified in Pillar 1 of the WHO, of which 57.9% were related to the provisioning of the financial resource. The first quarter also showed 15 normative acts classified in Pillar 8, demonstrating the concern related to the distribution of the vaccine in a country with continental dimensions. After the start of the vaccination program and with greater MoH performance in the second quarter, 42.4% of normative acts were based on Pillar 9. Finally, in the last quarter, 44.4% of normative acts were classified in Pillar 4, reflecting the country's concern with unvaccinated and/or infected people with the new variants of the virus.

Conclusions

The assessment of normative acts related to COVID-19 in 2021 demonstrates how Brazilian authorities conducted public health policies to face the pandemic as vaccination progressed for different groups in the country. The regulatory journey shows the alignment of public policies in Brazil with the pillars of the WHO and the challenges faced by the country with the rapid spread of the pandemic.

References

1. Legislação Covid-19. Presidência da República. Available at: http://www.planalto.gov.br/CCIVIL_03/Portaria/quadro_portaria.htm.
2. Covid-19 strategic preparedness and response plan: operational planning guidelines to support country preparedness and response. World Health Organization 2020. Available at: <https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/covid-19-sprp-unct-guidelines.PDF>.