

Representation of Older Adults in Nutrition Education and Behavior Published Literature

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INTRODUCTION

In 2019, the Society of Nutrition Education and Behavior recommitted to representing the growing demographic of older adults. One metric to assess this commitment may be an equitable representation of articles published in the Society's journal.

The aim of this retrospective study was to determine the historic representation of the older adult life stage in articles published in the Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior (JNEB).

METHODS

- Research, research briefs, and report articles published in JNEB from 1969 to December 2020 were examined.
- Articles were classified according to the life stage, including older adults (> 65 years), adults, young adults (college-age), and infants, children and adolescents.
- Articles, in which older adults were included as part of a greater population, were also quantified.
- An "other" category included articles that did not target or state a life stage
- These articles were compiled and analyzed in order to determine the populations most representing in the journal.



DATA

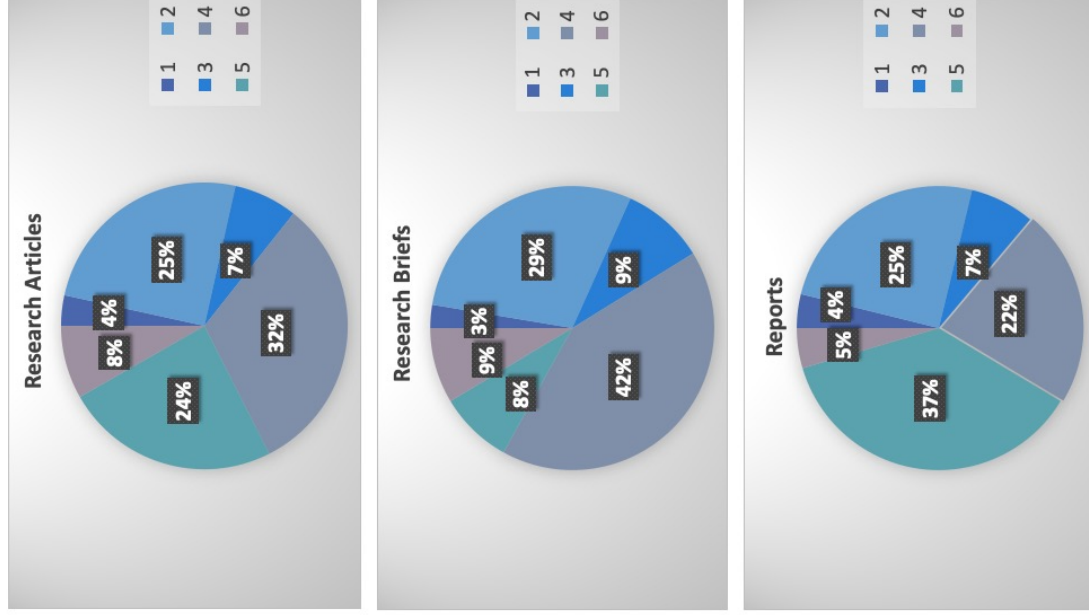


Figure 1. Research articles from JNEB according to life stages. (1): older adults, (2): adults, (3): young adults , (4): adolescents, (5): other or did not specify, (6): older adults as part of a greater population.

RESULTS

- 2,454 articles reviewed
- Articles targeting infants, children, and adolescents
 - 39% of research articles
 - 51% of research briefs
 - 29% of reports
- Articles specifically addressing older adults
 - 4% of research articles
 - 3% of research briefs
 - 4% of reports.
- Articles addressing older adults as part of a greater population
 - 8% of research articles
 - 9% of research briefs
 - 5% of reports
- 37% of reports fell into the "other" category.

DISCUSSION

Historically, the older adult life stage is underrepresented in articles published in JNEB. Given the Society's recent resolution to increase the focus on the educational needs of a growing aging population, an increase in journal publications targeting older adults is warranted, and thus equitably represent all life stages in future issues.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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