

Systematic Review of Reproductive Health Services Provision for Nomadic Populations

OBJECTIVE

This systematic review assesses current literature on health service provision for nomadic populations. The review concentrates on issues of reproductive health due to evidence of worse outcomes.

METHODS

STEP 1



Identify Databases:
Social science and health databases were examined. Final databases used were PubMed, JSTOR, Web of Science, Anthropology Plus, and Ethnic NewsWatch.

STEP 2



Identify and Assess Articles:
Each database was searched using the terms: "nomad" or "pastoralist." These results were further narrowed by the terms "health services" or "reproductive health."

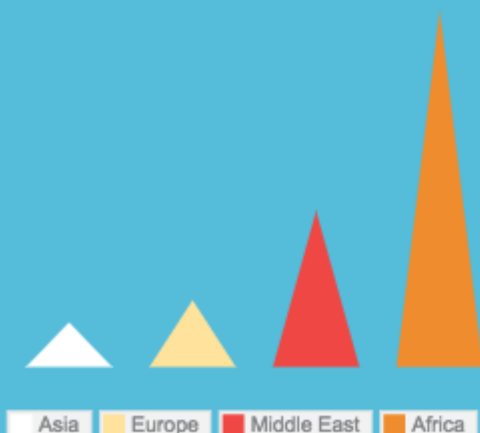
STEP 3



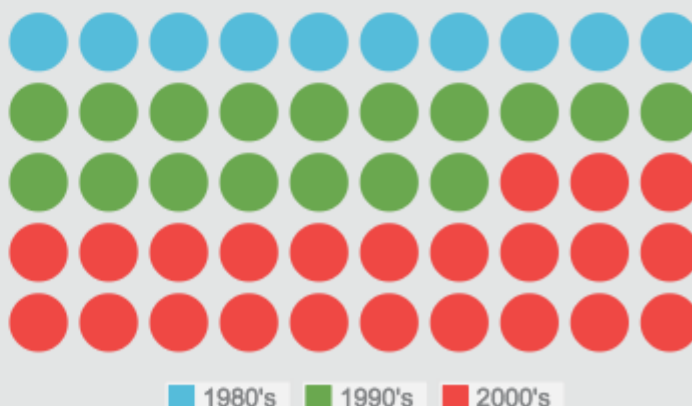
Exclude Articles:
Articles pertaining to refugees, migrants, or asylum seekers were excluded. Next, articles focusing on agricultural practices were removed. Finally, non-English and duplicate articles were removed.

TOTAL ARTICLES REVIEWED: A total of 100** articles were reviewed for content.

ARTICLE CATEGORIZATIONS



Geographic region of nomads was recorded. Nomads of African origin were most discussed.



Reviewed articles were restricted to the years 1980-2015. Most articles were published during the 2000's.

RESULTS

Infectious Disease

55% of articles focused on diseases stemming from extreme poverty and ecological degradation.

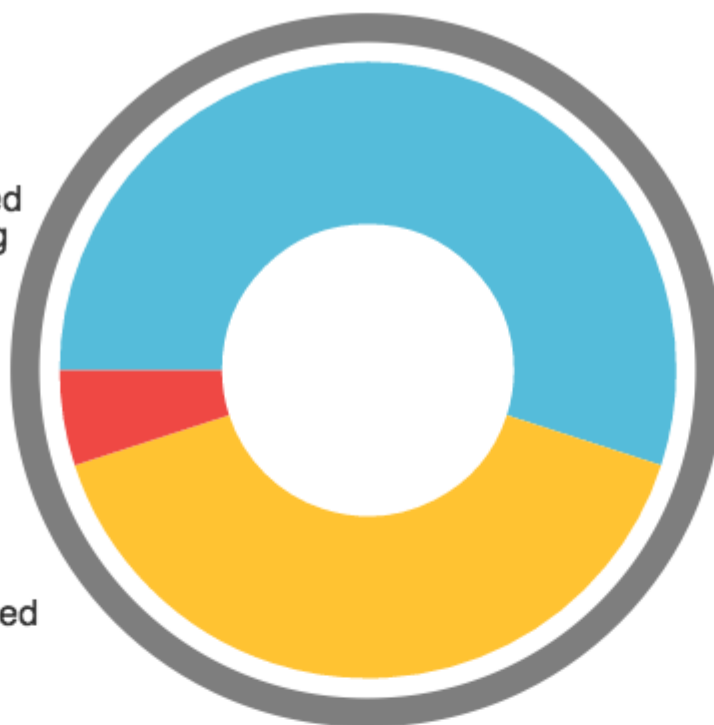
Reproductive Health

5% of articles discussed reproductive health services available to nomads.

Vector-Borne Disease

40% discussed vector-borne illness contracted from contact with livestock.

These articles did not fully elucidate health services offered.



Reproductive Health Articles

Focused primarily on safe motherhood focusing on use of skilled birth attendants during delivery. Several discussed maternal or female nutrition. A few qualitative articles discussed marriage patterns leading to childbearing.

Safe Motherhood (80%) Nutrition (15%) Marriage Patterns (5%)

CONCLUSIONS

A majority of the articles focused on infectious or vector-borne diseases versus reproductive health issues.

90%



10%

TAKE HOME POINTS:

Articles were concentrated primarily in African contexts in the 2000's.

Most articles acknowledged that nomadic socio-economic patterns led to increased infectious and vector-borne diseases.

Very few articles discussed available health services for nomadic populations in detail.



GAPS AND NEXT STEPS

There is a lack of focus on Asian nomads, an extremely vulnerable population.

Beyond safe motherhood, reproductive health is largely absent from articles. There is little discussion of empowerment, autonomy or contraception.

Future research should diversify beyond disease focused topics and acknowledge nomadic use of health services in their particular contexts. More reproductive health data for these populations are needed.

SOURCES:

References available upon request.

**NOTE: Review still in progress

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