

Expanding Health Disparities Research: The Need To Include Middle Eastern And North African Populations

Introduction

- Scoping literature review carried out as a collaboration between HSR Lab and Oakland University.
- The goal is to identify trends in health research pertaining to MENA populations in the United States.
- In January 2023, the United States Office of Management and Budget submitted an initial proposal to update race and ethnicity statistical standards.
- In-depth review of existing research relating to MENA populations could potentially guide initiatives made possible by updating national surveys to include this demographic.

Research Questions

- What were the years with the highest number of articles published?
- What were the states with the highest concentration of research studies conducted?
- Which MENA ethnicities/countries of origin were the most represented among the studies?
- Which were the most studied health topics?

Methods

- Literature search included peer-reviewed primary research articles across CINHAL, EMBASE, and PubMed
- Articles selected based on inclusion of populations of MENA origins
- Initial search yielded 1,743 articles, ranging from 1974-2022.
- Excluding duplicates and systematic reviews, the final number of articles eligible for this study were 679 articles.

Results

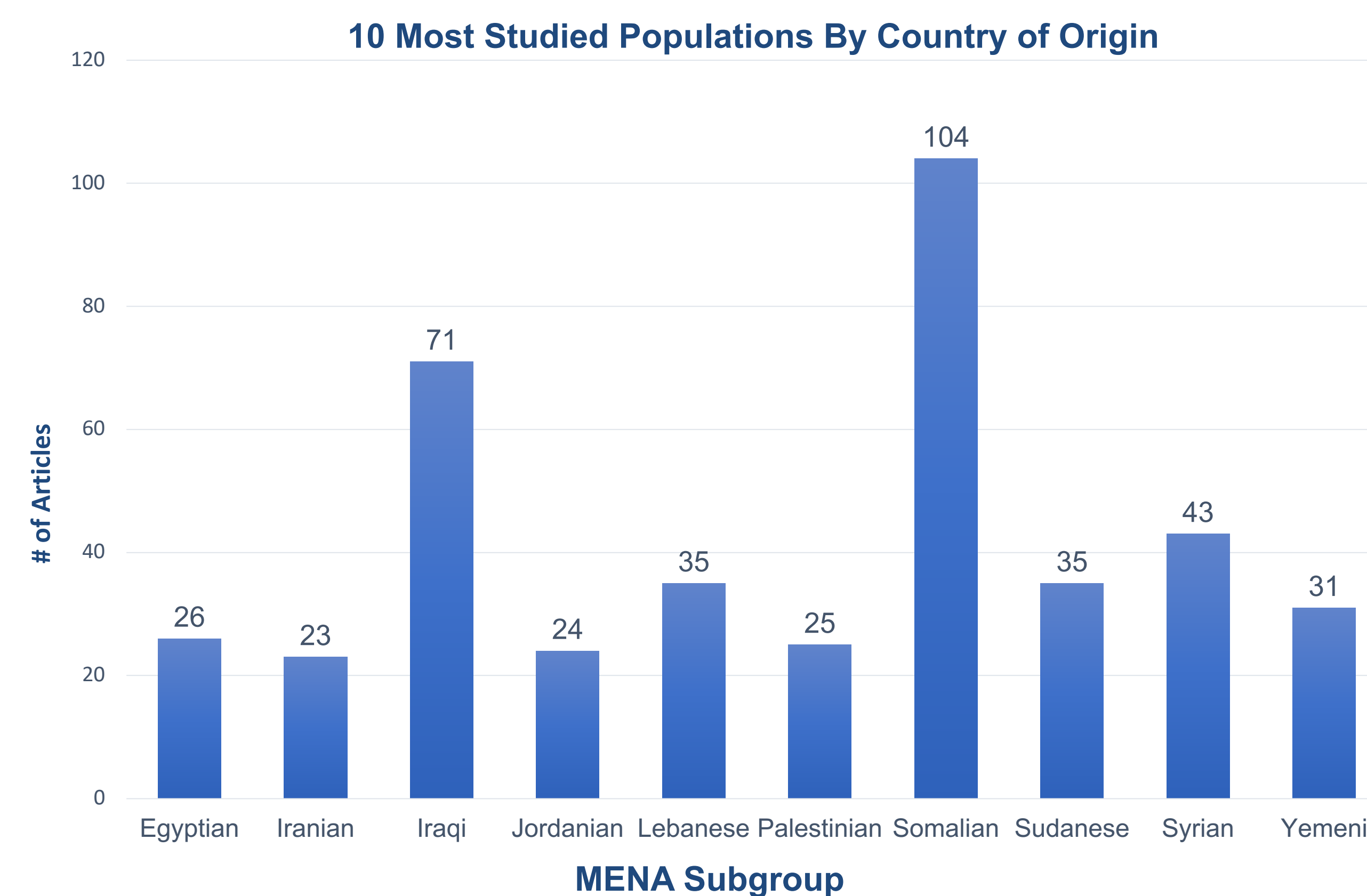


Figure 1: Most studied populations by MENA country of origin

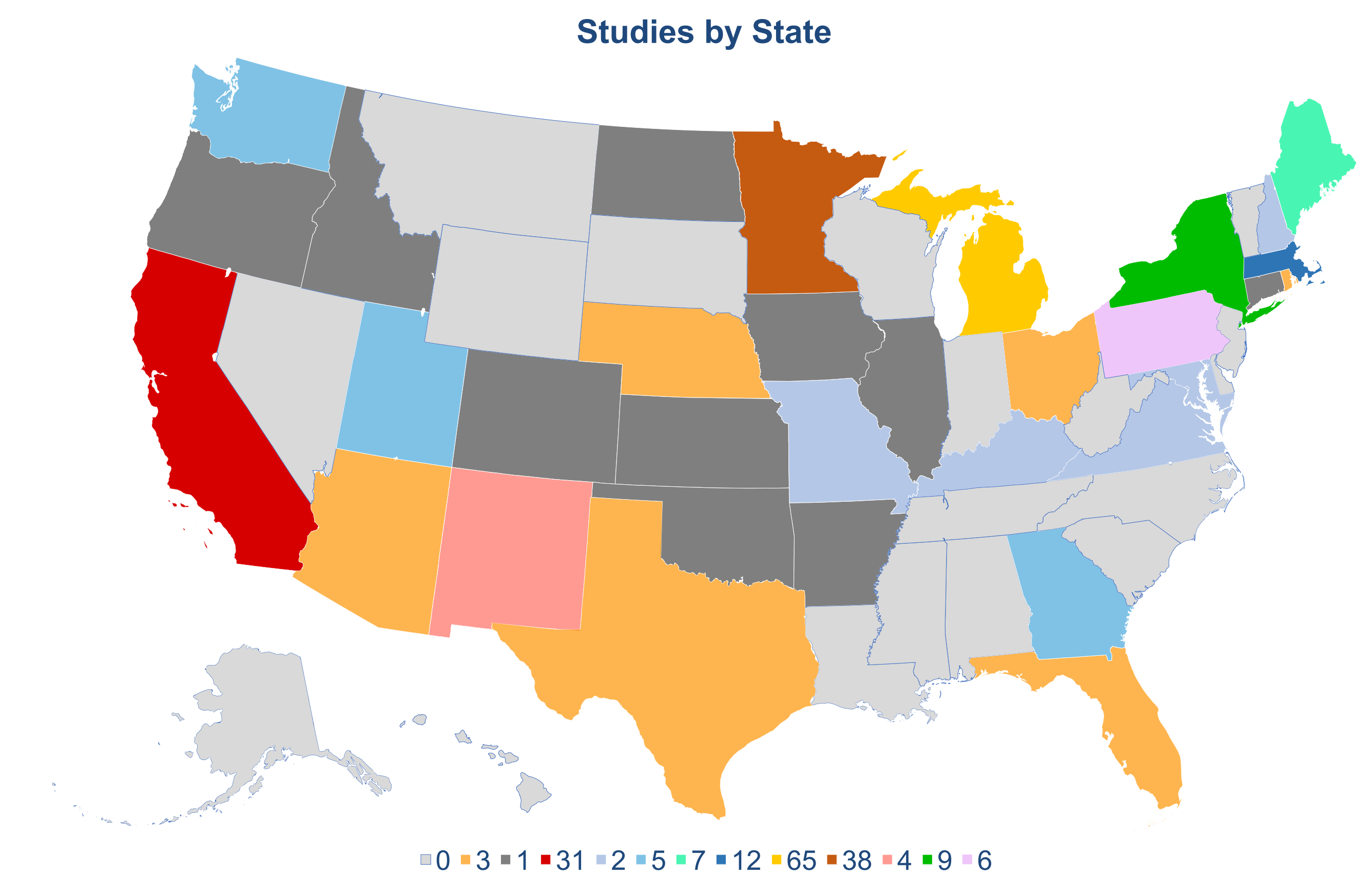


Figure 2: Concentration of studies conducted by state



Figure 3: Most commonly studied health topics

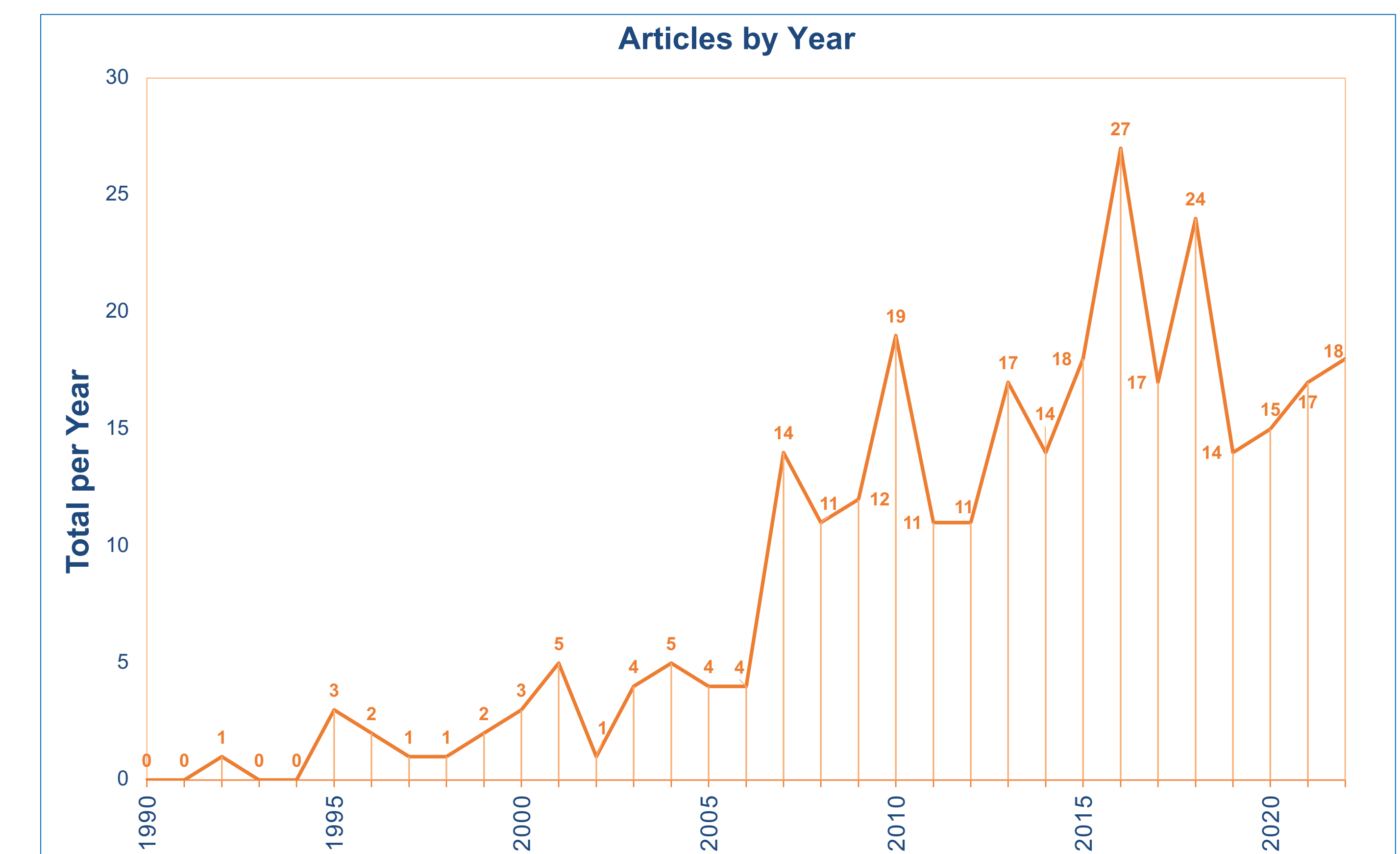


Figure 4: Number of articles published by year starting in 1990

Discussion

- Outcomes demonstrate an upward trend since 2007 on # of studies focusing on MENA populations.
- Next steps are to complete article abstraction and deliver a descriptive summary of the results.

Acknowledgements

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