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COLLEGE OF POPULATION HEALTH

# Prevalence of Pressure Ulcers in Long-term Care Facilities: A Focus on Older Adults

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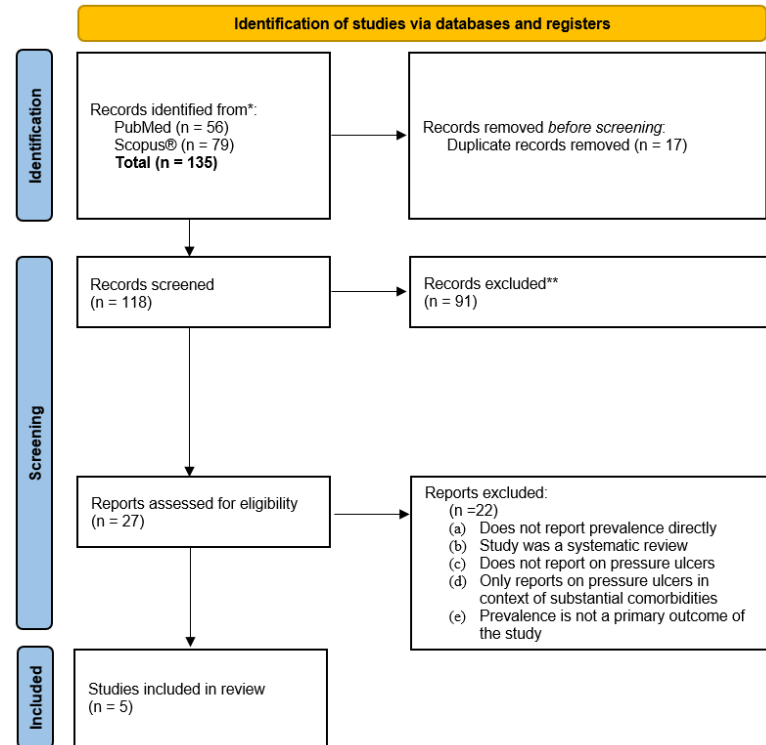
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# Background

- Pressure Ulcers (PUs) severely limit mobility, raise morbidity and mortality, & cost healthcare systems millions of dollars per year<sup>[1]</sup>
- PUs affect quality and patient safety ratings in LTCFs/NHs<sup>[2]</sup>
- Extensive Research & Development, however:
  - Prevalence is still fairly high
  - Incidence increasing<sup>[3]</sup>
  - Still not a focus of public health efforts
- **No systematic reviews<sup>[4]</sup> since 2018 → How this fills the gap**

# Methods

- Rapid Review by one person
- Searched:
  - Databases: Scopus® and PubMed
  - Gray Literature
- Process:
  - Searching via Keywords/Medical subject-headings (MeSH)
  - Limited to title and/or abstract
- Inclusion criteria:
  - PU prevalence described
  - Published in 2018 or later
  - LTCF/Nursing home patients included as a study population
  - Reported prevalence as an outcome
- Overall process: screen by title, then abstracts, then full-text. Choose from full-text articles



# Results

- All studies were cross-sectional
  - Four were retrospective, one was prospective
  - Countries included: France<sup>[5]</sup>, China<sup>[6]</sup>, Portugal<sup>[7],[8]</sup> (2), Japan<sup>[9]</sup>
- Average patient age (2 studies)  $\approx$  79 years old
- Prevalence range: 4.03-14.42%
  - Regional studies (China & Portugal): most prominent location was Sacrococcygeal region, followed by lower leg
- More severe ulcers were found, usually Grades III and IV
- Conflicting results about prevalence by sex, overall
  - Only assessed by two studies<sup>[5],[8]</sup>

# Discussion & Conclusions

- Unable to draw firm conclusions about reasons for prevalence difference, both intra- and inter-country and interregional
- Definitional difference for LTCF vs. NH in Portugal & France
  - Portugal: They are distinct; LTCF patients more dependent<sup>[10]</sup>
  - France: Slightly less distinct; LTCFs part of hospitals, more dependent patients<sup>[11],[12]</sup>
  - **Overall, this suggests sicker/more comorbid patients, which may have affected results**
- Effects of Insurance for Japan
  - Japan: Patients in facilities covered by LTC insurance had lower prevalence
    - This study was in a city, **needs further investigation**
- Increased country representation in the PU literature<sup>[4]</sup>

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