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Is There More Research on Plant-Based Foods in Some Countries Than in Others?

Xiaomei Gu  
*University of Iowa*

Eric Rumsey  
*University of Iowa*

Janna Lawrence  
*University of Iowa*

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Is There More Research on Plant-Based Foods in Some Countries Than in Others?

Xiaomei Gu, MSLS, Eric Rumsey, MLS, Janna C. Lawrence, MLIS

With increased interest in the importance of diet in preventing and treating chronic diseases, plant-based foods (PBF) have gotten much attention in recent years. In this poster, we compared several countries in terms of the percentage of articles from each country on PBF in general and on specific PBF (e.g. cabbage, nuts, etc.). We used a previously-described PBF hedge* to search PubMed.

In the past, NLM edited the Author Affiliation field (AD) to add "USA." This practice ceased on Oct 1, 2013.** This lack of quality control by NLM over the author field makes it difficult to conduct a comprehensive search for articles published by authors in the US because it is common for US authors to omit the country name from their addresses. We therefore decided to limit our searches to 1995-2013.

18 countries were included in this study. Each of these countries has over 100,000 articles on all subjects from 1995-2013.

Search Strategy

All Articles for USA: #1 AND #2

PBF Articles for USA: #1 AND #2 AND #3

#1 USA[AD]

#2 "[1995/01/01][PDAT] : [2013/12/31][PDAT]"


Comparison of Country Rankings by Articles on PBF and on All Subjects

PBFs

1. Spain
2. India
3. Brazil
4. China
5. South Korea
6. Italy
7. Taiwan
8. Australia
9. Canada
10. Japan
11. France
12. Netherlands
13. Turkey
14. Switzerland
15. UK
16. Israel
17. USA
18. Germany

All Subjects

1. USA
2. Japan
3. UK
4. China
5. Germany
6. France
7. Italy
8. Canada
9. Australia
10. Spain
11. Netherlands
12. India
13. South Korea
14. Brazil
15. Turkey
16. Switzerland
17. Taiwan
18. Israel

Countries in blue such as Spain ranked lower by the percentage of all articles but higher by the percentage of PBF articles, while countries in orange such as the US ranked higher by the percentage of all articles but lower by the percentage of PBF articles.
