



Bronson School of Nursing

Prevalence of Sexual Harassment in Nursing Students

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Background

- Sexual Harassment is defined as “any unwelcomed sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or other physical and expressive behaviors of a sexual nature (El-Ganzory et al., 2014).”
- Sexual harassment is prevalent in the nursing community, however, few studies have focused on nursing students.
- Reports of harassment, sexual and other forms, are on the rise for nursing students.
- Negative interactions, including sexual harassment, can have an impact on the students’ perception of their experience in school.
- It is unknown how many programs, if any, educate their students on sexual harassment and the steps to take to protect themselves.

Purpose

The purpose of this study was to :

- Discover the occurrence of sexual harassment amongst nursing students in clinical and academic settings
- Determine programs or resources available to students to combat sexual harassment
- Describe the effectiveness of these programs

Methods

- Design:** Systematic Literature Review
- Setting and Sample:**
 - 5 data bases
 - 535 Non-Duplicate Articles
- Search Terms Used*:**
 - Sexual harassment in nurs*
 - Patient initiated sexual harassment
 - Sexual harassment healthcare workers
 - Sexual harassment healthcare environment

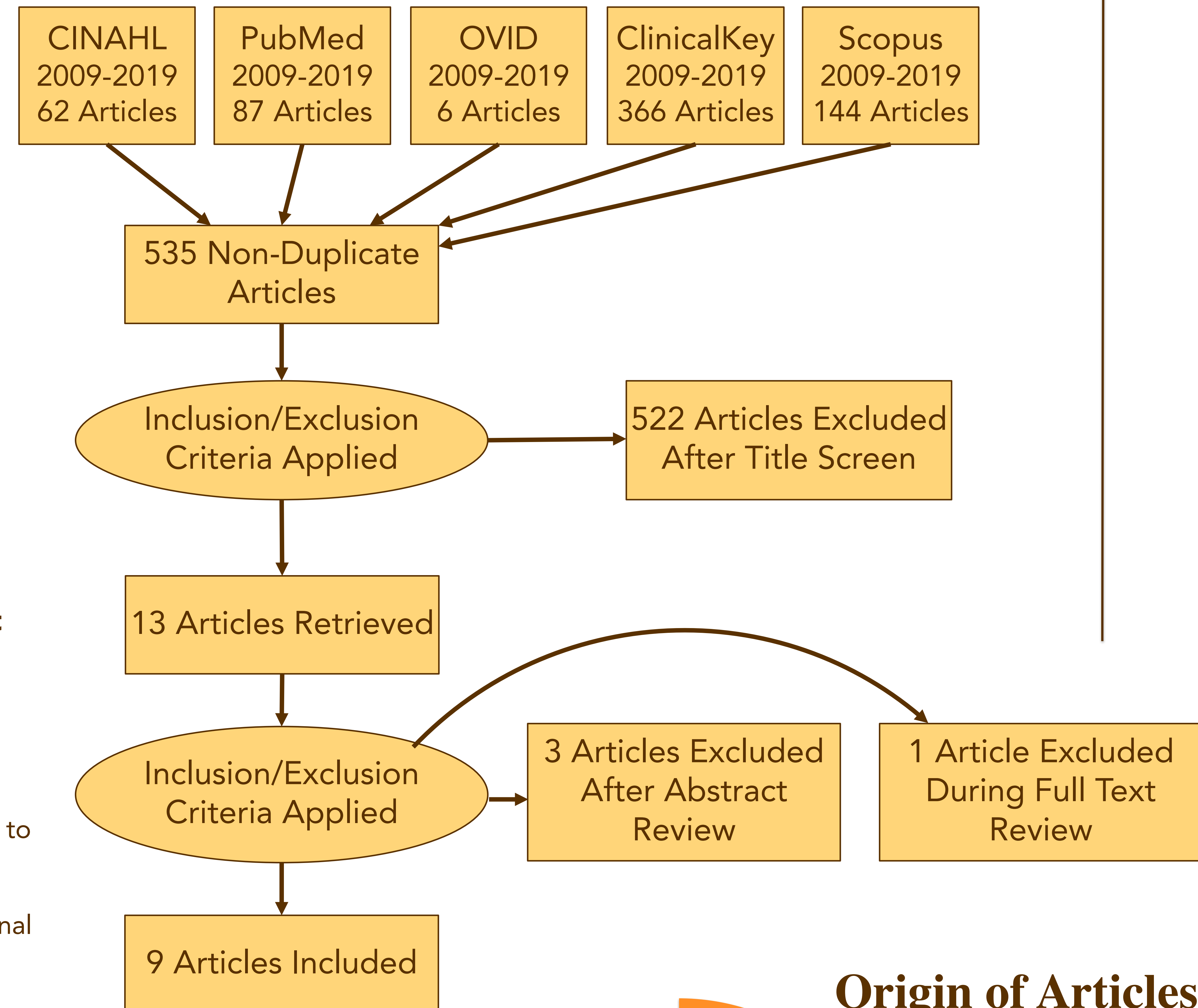
*Terms used to cover a variety areas of healthcare

Limitations

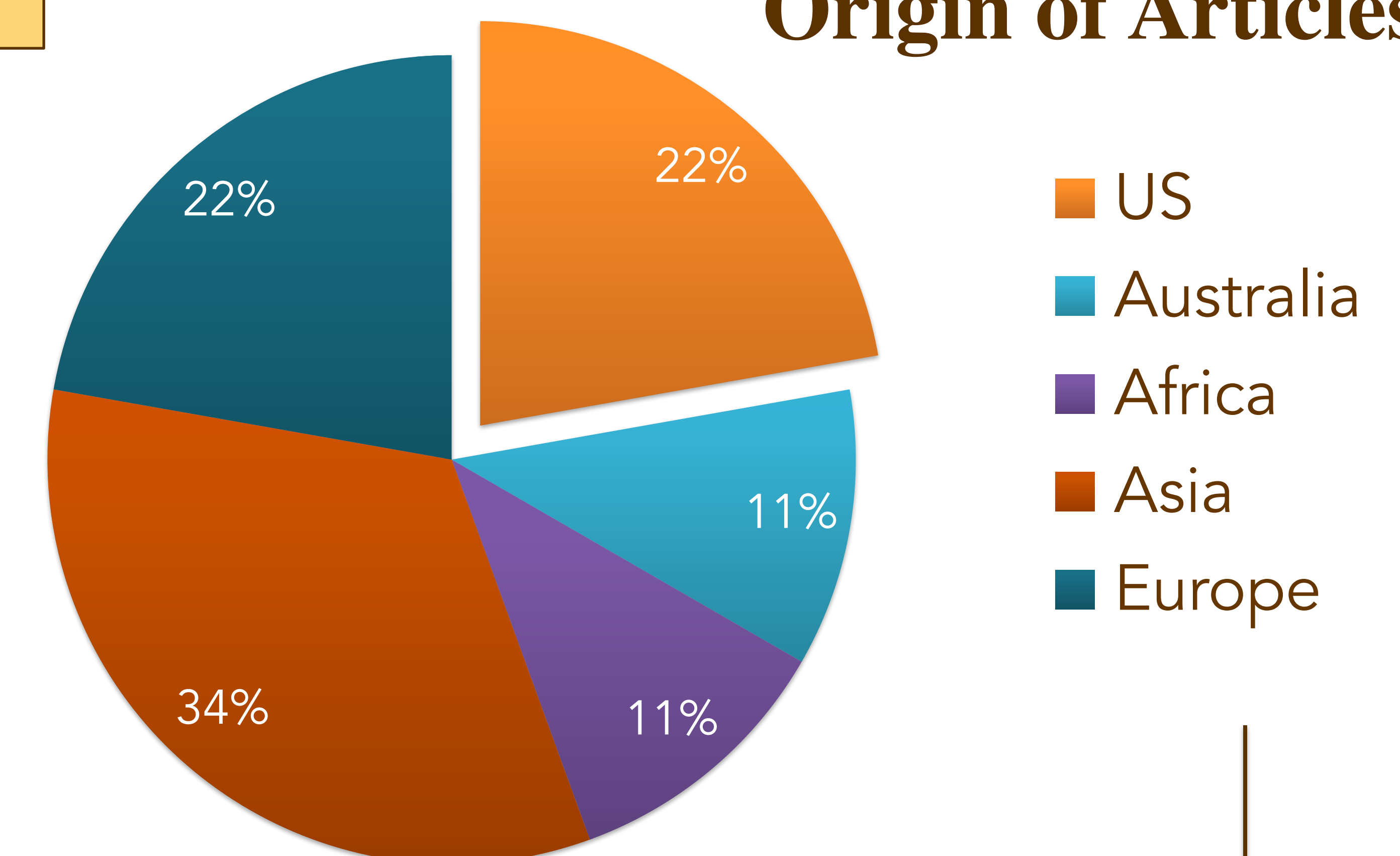
- Multiple sources included other types of harassment (i.e. verbal, physical).
- Some databases required different formatting, affecting the number of results produced.
- There is no standardization when investigating sexual harassment.
 - Many surveys do not ask about perpetrators.
- No universal definition of sexual harassment.
- Some studies provide participants examples and definitions to reduce variability with questions, while others do not.
- Lack of standardization has impacted researchers ability to perform quantitative analysis.

Results

- Sample sizes (n=9) ranged from 28 to 934
- 7 articles were surveys
- Interventions included an educational guide booklet and reader’s theater script.
 - Post-test for the script revealed 93% of students would be able to recognize disruptive behavior.
- Sexual Harassment occurrence ranged from 4.2% to 71.7%.
- 3 articles focused on sexual harassment, others investigated various types of harassment and abuse.
- One study showed while 17.9% of their students reported being sexually harassed, 52% reported experiencing at least 1 item on a list of sexual harassment examples.
 - 6.6% did not know if their situation was considered sexual harassment



Origin of Articles



Conclusions

- Nursing students suffer a variety of harassment other than sexual harassment, however, there are not enough studies within this review to truly determine the prevalence of sexual harassment.
 - While there were 9 articles procured from the review, no country had more than 2 articles.
- Students feel unsure of their ability to identify and report sexual harassment.
- Preliminary studies that use educational interventions have shown increased positive outcomes for nursing students.
- By increasing the awareness and education surrounding sexual harassment, students may feel more prepared for these situations in the workplace.