

# Cancer nursing research in Africa: Scoping the landscape

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# Introduction

- Little is known about cancer nursing on the continent; we know it is in its infant stages with limited opportunities for specialist education and training.
- It also seems as if dedicated nurse scientists in the field of cancer nursing hardly exist.
- This situation restricts the development of context specific approaches to cancer prevention and care, programs to improve the outcomes of people living with and dying from cancer and their families as well as Africa specific evidence to underpin cancer nursing practice.



# Purpose of the study

The purpose of our study was to perform a scoping review of existing literature on studies conducted in Africa by nurses/midwives affiliated to an African institution from 2006 to 2015 to identify and describe the work completed, identify gaps and define priorities for research.

Scoping our scholarly efforts would give us some indication of our work, might prevent us from over exhausting topics and prevent us from not focusing on patients and their families and care givers.

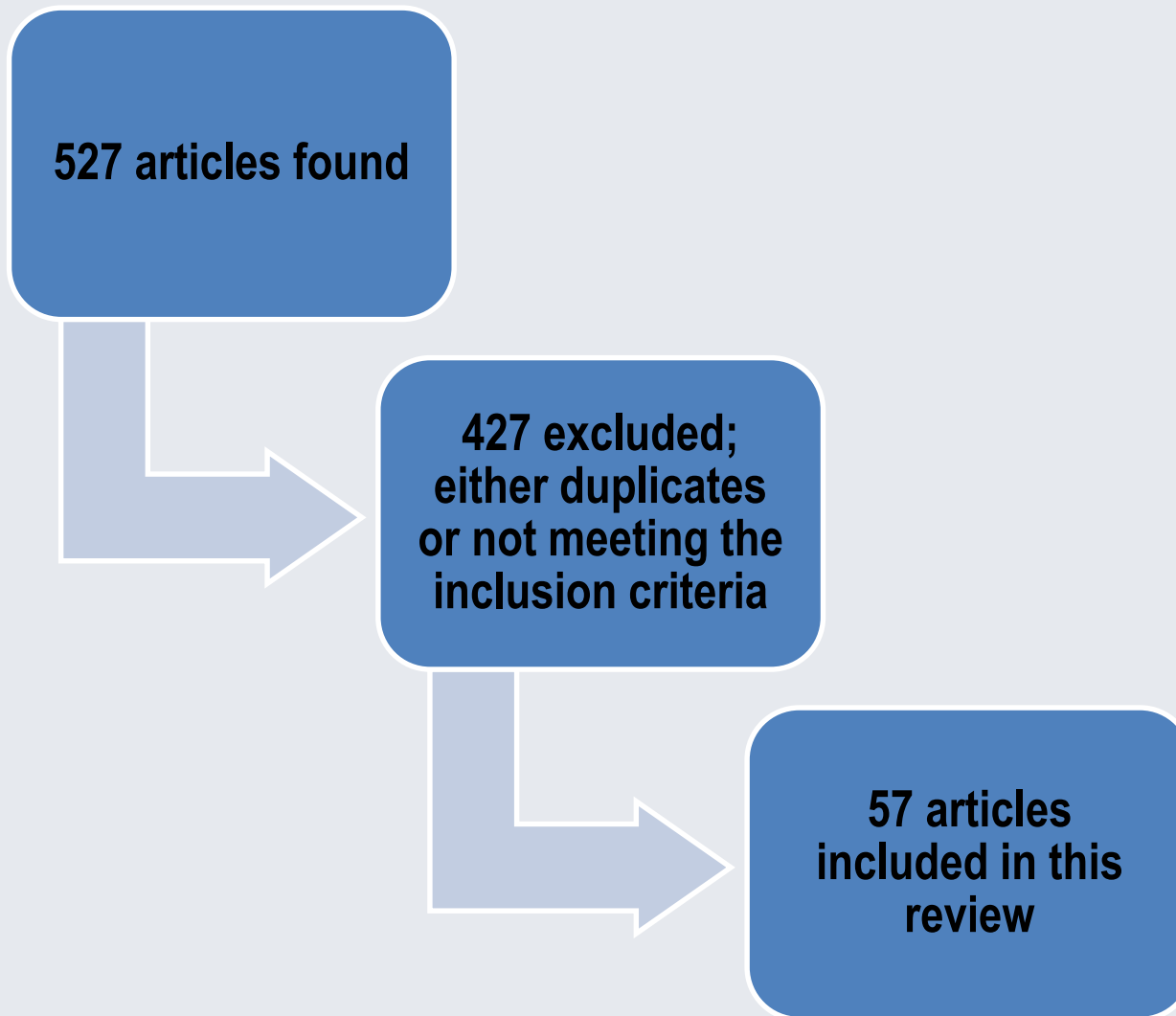


# Design and methods

- Design: Scoping review
- Terms: *Africa + cancer nursing* and *Africa + oncology nursing*
- Data bases: PubMed, CINAHL, Web of Science, Scopus and SA e-publications
- Period: 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2015
- Inclusion criteria: Conducted in an African country with a nurse/midwife affiliated to an African institution as one of the authors; written in English; peer reviewed; have an abstract with a full text available
- Data capturing: Data extraction sheet was developed to record the data



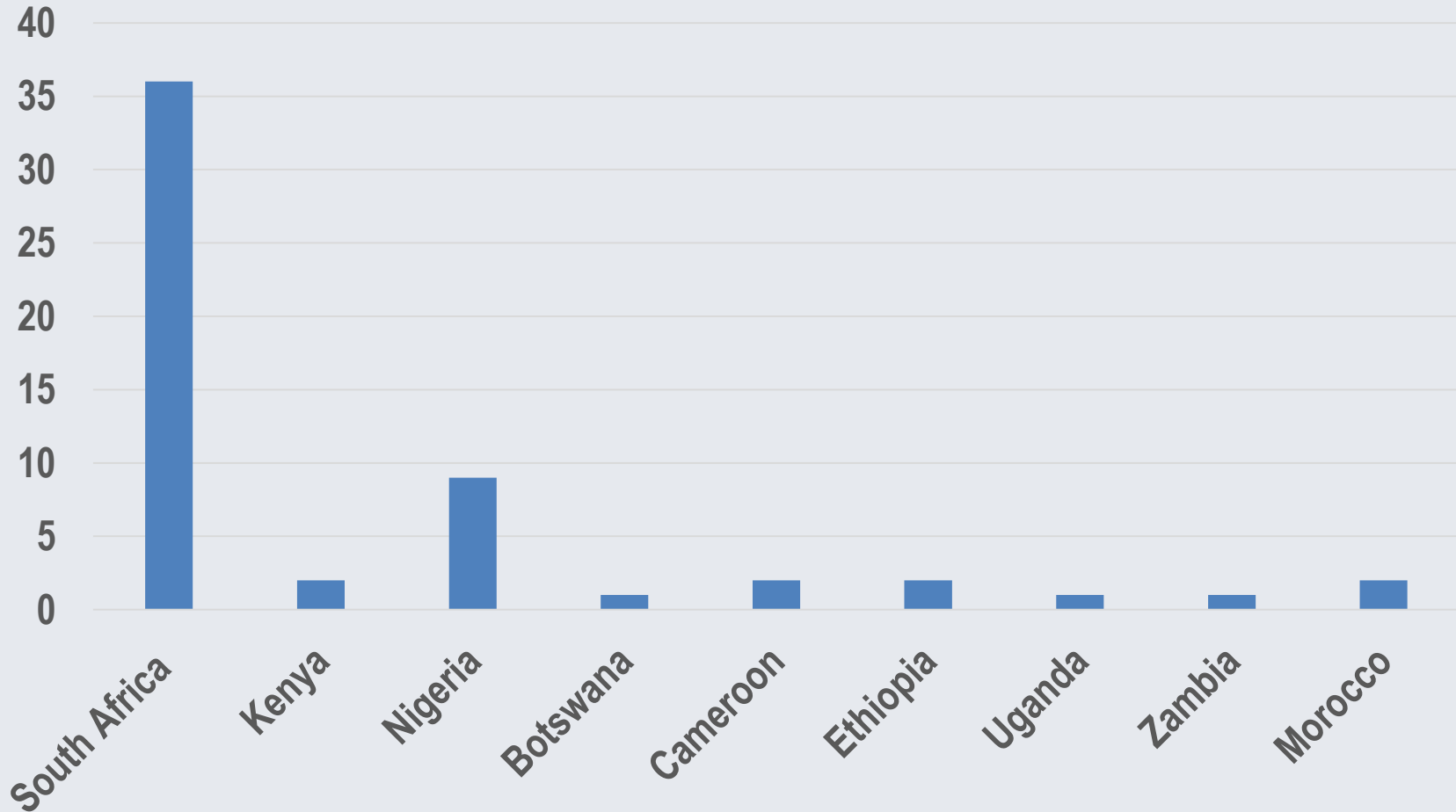
# Results



# Number of papers published per year (n=57)



# Number of papers published by country (n=57)



# The papers (n=57)

53%

- Was published in international journals

17.5%

- Had a single author

84

- Nurses/midwives authored/co-authored the work

2

- Authors contributed to more than 2 papers

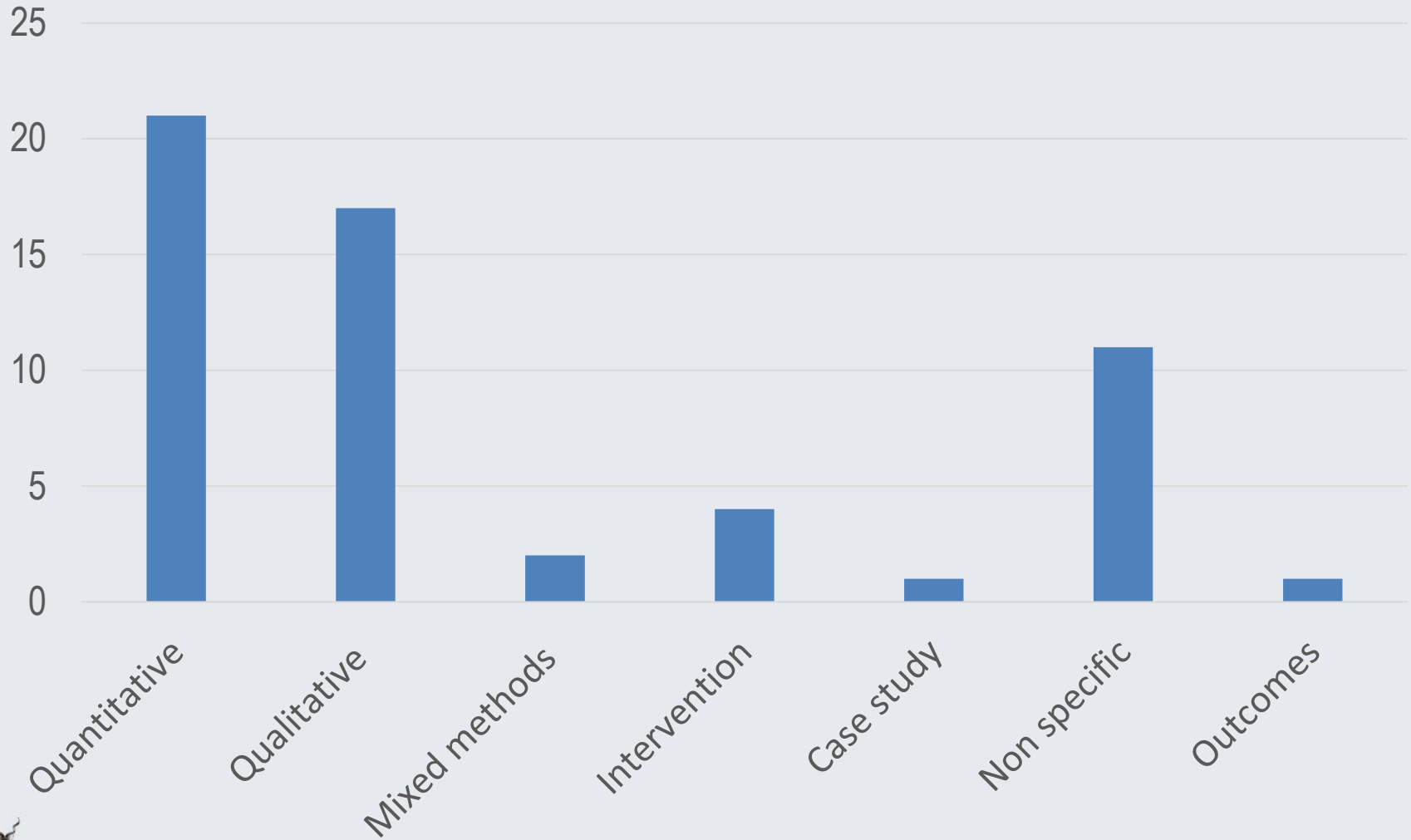




# Cancers and themes (n=57)

Cancers	n	%
Cervical	33	57.9
Breast	10	17.5
Cervical and breast	2	3.5
Childhood	2	3.5
Oral	1	1.8
Prostate	1	1.8
Themes		
Primary and secondary prevention	33	57.9
Cancer care	9	15.8
Experiences of people living with cancer	8	14.0
Nurses and nursing practice	6	10.5
Access to cancer care	1	1.8

# Study designs (n=57)



# Conclusion

Our 10 year review resulted in 57 articles which seems a small number if Africa's 54 countries are taken into consideration.

However, the number of studies compare favorable to the 73 found in a review on clinical nursing and midwifery research in African countries conducted over a 10 year period.

It was positive to find most of the work was published in international journals.

Of concern is the large percentage of authors involved in only one study supporting evidence that Africa lacks dedicated cancer nurse scientists and that Africa's nurses contribute poorly to global scientific publications.



The cancers investigated do not match the cancer disease profile of Africa.

Studies focusing on symptom management and the family and care giver of the patient also lack.

The fields knowledge, attitudes and practices are over exhausted and we need to move forward and prioritize developing and testing innovative ways to prevent and detect cancer early.

It was positive to find some work focused on nursing practice which would enable us to start developing evidence for Africa specific cancer nursing practice.



# Thank you!

