Mapping eczema: Global prevalence in a worldwide study: Results of the ALL Project.



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RATIONAL & OBJECTIVES

Atopic dermatitis, often referred to as eczema, is a prevalent, persistent skin condition distinguished by intense itching and recurring outbreaks. While the disorder is widespread worldwide, the epidemiological factors and triggers can differ among various regions and cultural contexts.

METHODOLOGY

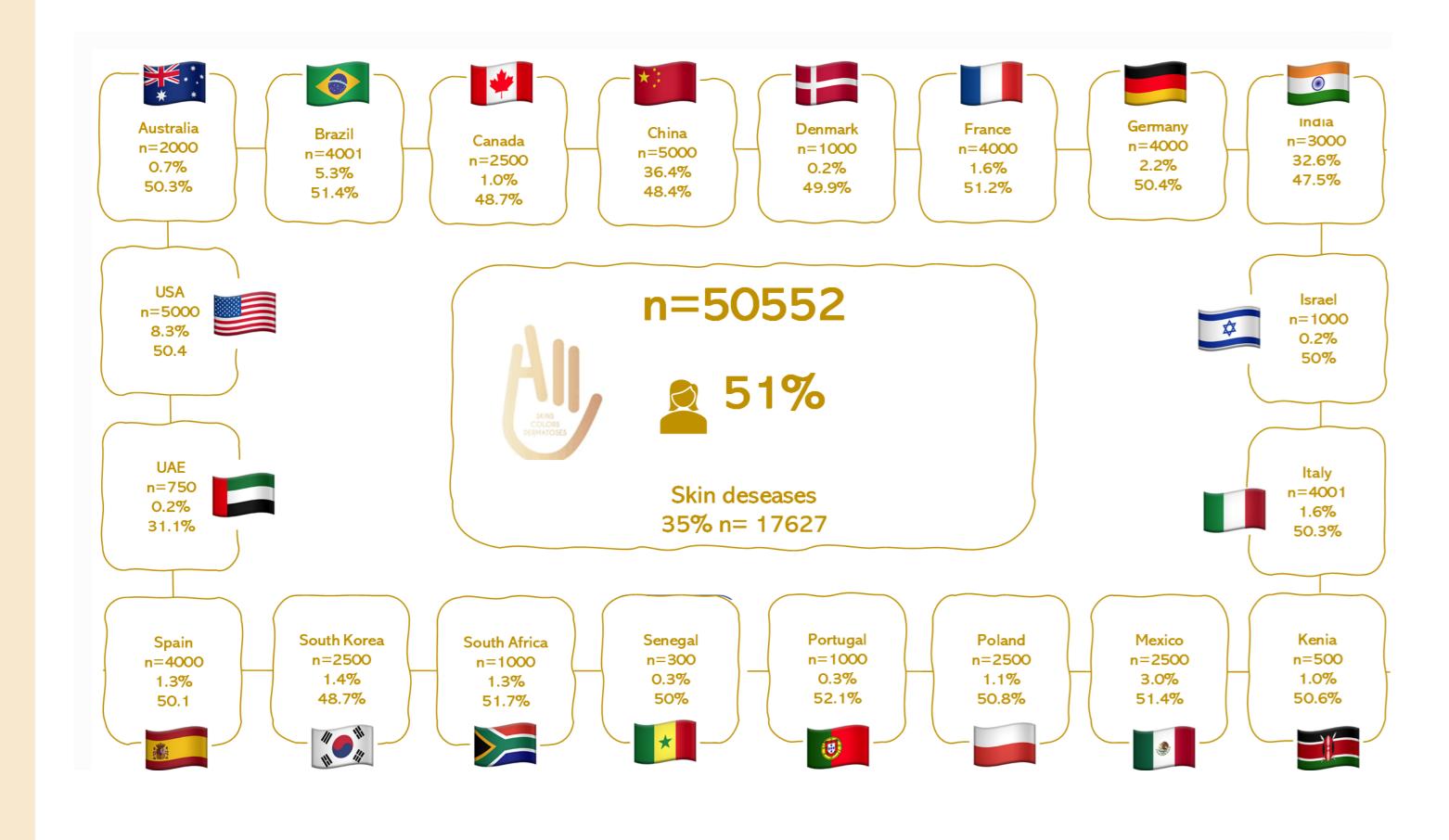
The ALL PROJECT is a large-scale study of individuals representative of the adult population in 20 countries on five continents: Europe [France, Italy, Germany, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Denmark; n=17500], Latin America[LA] [Brazil, Mexico; n=6501], Asia [China, India, South Korea; n=10500], North America [NA] [Canada, USA; n= 7500); Middle East [ME] [Israel, United Arab Emirates; n=2750], Australia [Australia; n=2000] and Africa [Kenya, South Africa, Senegal; n=1800].

In each of the 20 countries surveyed, representative and extrapolable samples of the general population aged 16 and over were interviewed.

This methodology ensures that the results of the study can be generalized to the entire population of each country included in the project, thus providing a global and diversified perspective of the subjects studied.

Patients reporting only atopic dermatitis as confirmed by a healthcare professional, were identified to avoid attributing effects to another skin condition.

The results were compared using chi-squared or Fisher's exact test. The alpha risk was set at 5% and two tailed tests were used. Statistical analysis was performed using EasyMedStat (version 3.34; www.easymedstat.com).



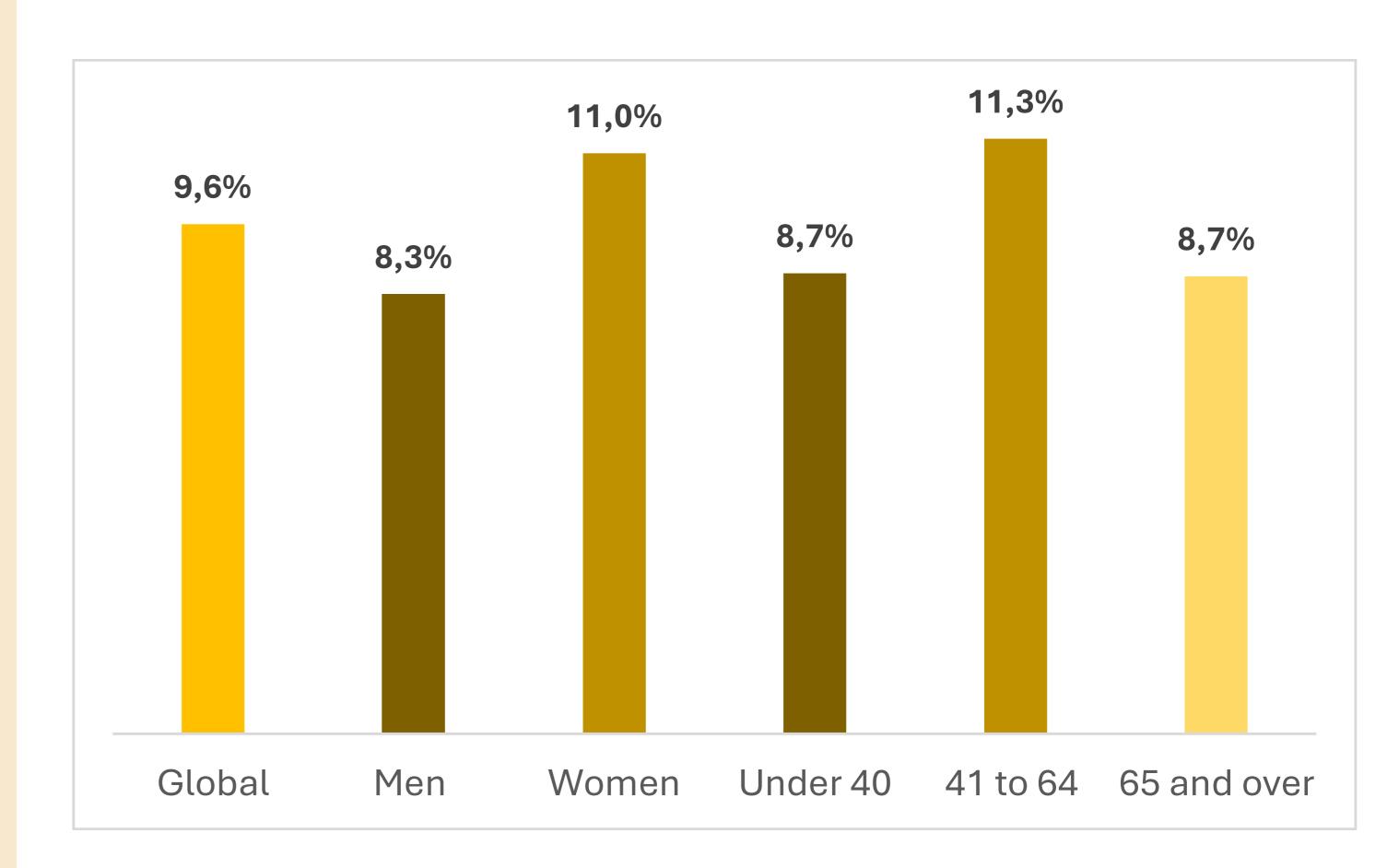
RESULTS

The prevalence of atopic dermatitis/eczema in Europe is $8.9\% \pm 0.4\%$. In Asia and Latin America, the prevalence of atopic dermatitis is $13.2\% \pm 0.6\%$ and $10.2\% \pm 0.8\%$, respectively.

These two regions stand out statistically with significantly higher prevalences than in Europe (χ^2 < 0.001). In Africa, North America and Australia, the prevalences are significantly lower, with respective values of 6.1% \pm 1.1% for the first, 7.5% \pm 0.6% for the second and 8.

The prevalence in the Middle East is comparable to that observed in Europe, with a prevalence of $8.9\% \pm 1.334\%$. There is no significant difference between the prevalence rates of males and females. The prevalence rates for women are higher than those for men in Europe (10.4% vs 7.3%), Latin America (12.7% vs 7.7%), and Australia (10.5% vs 6.6%). In Asia, the gender difference is more balanced, with a prevalence rate of 13.4% for women compared to 13% for men (P-value 0.58).

A significant difference was observed globally, with a prevalence of 10.7% in urban areas, 7.5% in rural areas, and 8.6% in semi-urban areas. Additionally, there was no significant difference between fair skin (9.6%) and dark skin (9.9%) at the global level.



	Global Population		Men		Women	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
GLOBAL POPULATION	4874	9,6%	2111	8,3%	2763	11,0%
North America	566	7,5%	237	6,3%	329	8,8%
Asia	1 384	13,2%	706	13,0%	678	13,4%
Latin America	666	10,2%	245	7,7%	421	12,7%
Europe	1821	8,9%	738	7,3%	1083	10,4%
Australia	172	8,6%	66	6,6%	106	10,5%
Africa	110	6,1%	43	4,9%	67	7,3%
Middle East	155	8,9%	76	7,5%	79	10,7%

	Under 40		41 to 64		65 and over	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
GLOBAL POPULATION	1565	8,7%	1708	11,3%	1601	9,2%
North America	202	8,0%	144	7,5%	220	7,2%
Asia	455	10,9%	546	15,2%	383	14,1%
Latin America	250	8,9%	260	12,4%	156	9,8%
Europe	477	8,0%	612	10,5%	732	8,4%
Australia	57	8,1%	48	8,8%	67	8,9%
Africa	46	4,6%	41	7,9%	23	8,0%
Middle East	78	10,2%	57	8,6%	20	6,2%

	Global Population		Fair Skin		Dark skin	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
GLOBAL POPULATION	4874	9,6%	3845	9,6%	1029	9,9%
North America	566	7,5%	455	7,4%	111	8,3%
Asia	1 384	13,2%	959	12,3%	425	15,6%
Latin America	666	10,2%	485	10,5%	181	9,6%
Europe	1821	8,9%	1625	9,1%	196	7,7%
Australia	172	8,6%	154	9,1%	18	6,0%
Africa	110	6,1%	47	7,7%	63	5,3%
Middle East	155	8,9%	120	8,8%	35	9,0%

	Urban areas		Semi-Urban areas		Rural areas	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
GLOBAL POPULATION	3095	10,7%	1170	8,6%	608	7,4%
North America	185	7,8%	275	7,9%	106	6,5%
Asia	1192	13,8%	138	10,7%	54	8,9%
Latin America	542	10,8%	109	9,1%	15	5,8%
Europe	953	9,5%	483	8,8%	385	7,7%
Australia	53	8,0%	98	9,4%	21	7,1%
Africa	44	6,2%	54	6,5%	11	4,2%
Middle East	126	9,2%	13	5,8%	16	10,5%

DISCUSSION

The ALL-PROJECT study underscores variances in atopic dermatitis prevalence, noting elevated rates in Asia and Latin America compared to Europe, and lower rates in Africa and North America. These regional distinctions hint at potential impacts from environmental or genetic factors.