

# Global Trends in Scar Prevalence: A Comprehensive Analysis of Regional, Gender, and Age-Related Differences (Results of the ALL project)



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## RATIONAL

As a component of the "ALL project", our team opted to examine the prevalence of face and body scars within various regional demographics, with a specific emphasis on Europe.

## OBJECTIVES

Our goal was to pinpoint overarching patterns in scarring prevalence, as well as disparities related to gender and age, and the distribution of scars across the body.

## METHODOLOGY

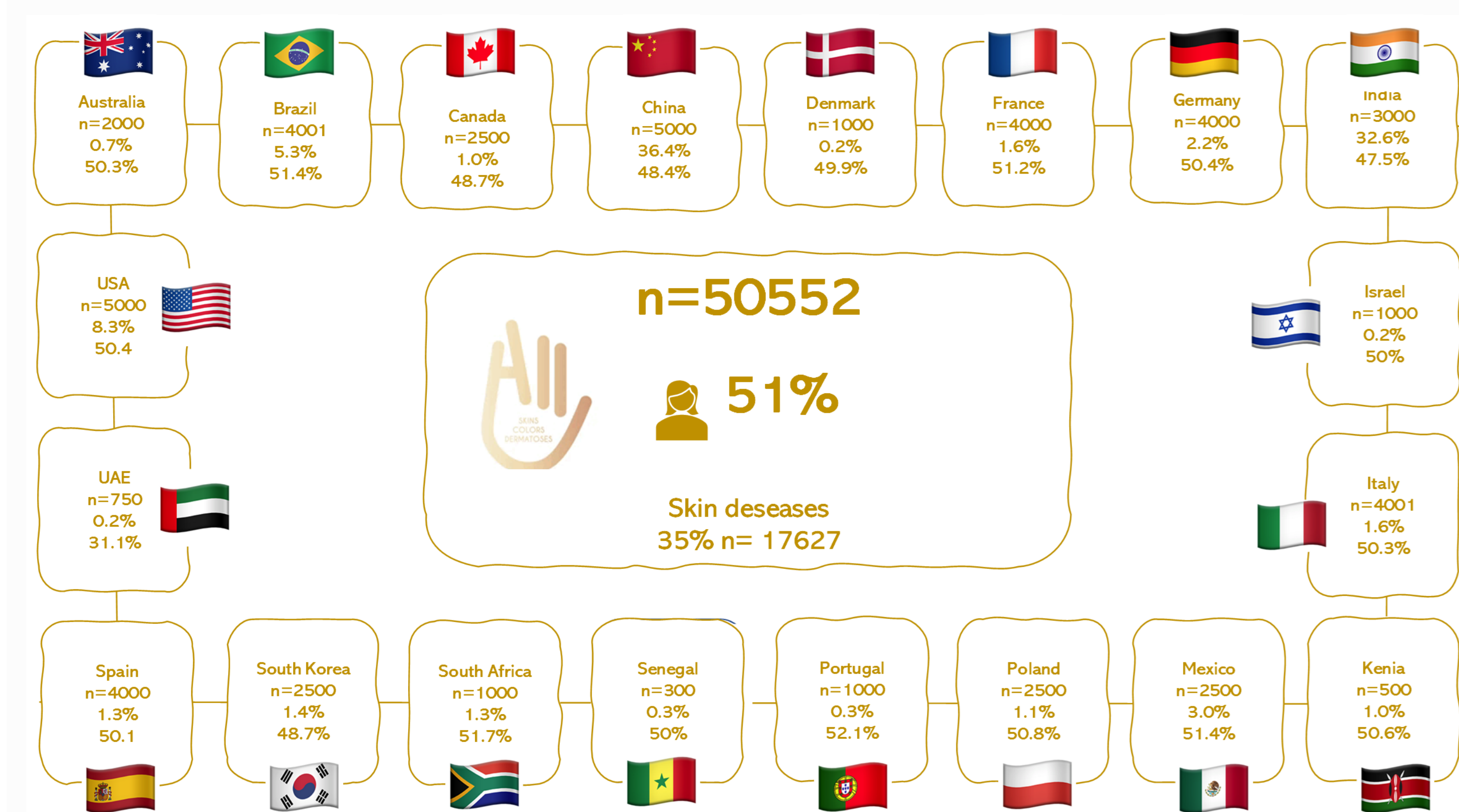
The ALL PROJECT is a large-scale study of individuals representative of the adult population in 20 countries on five continents :

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.

Individuals reporting one or more scars were identified.

The results were compared using Chi-square 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

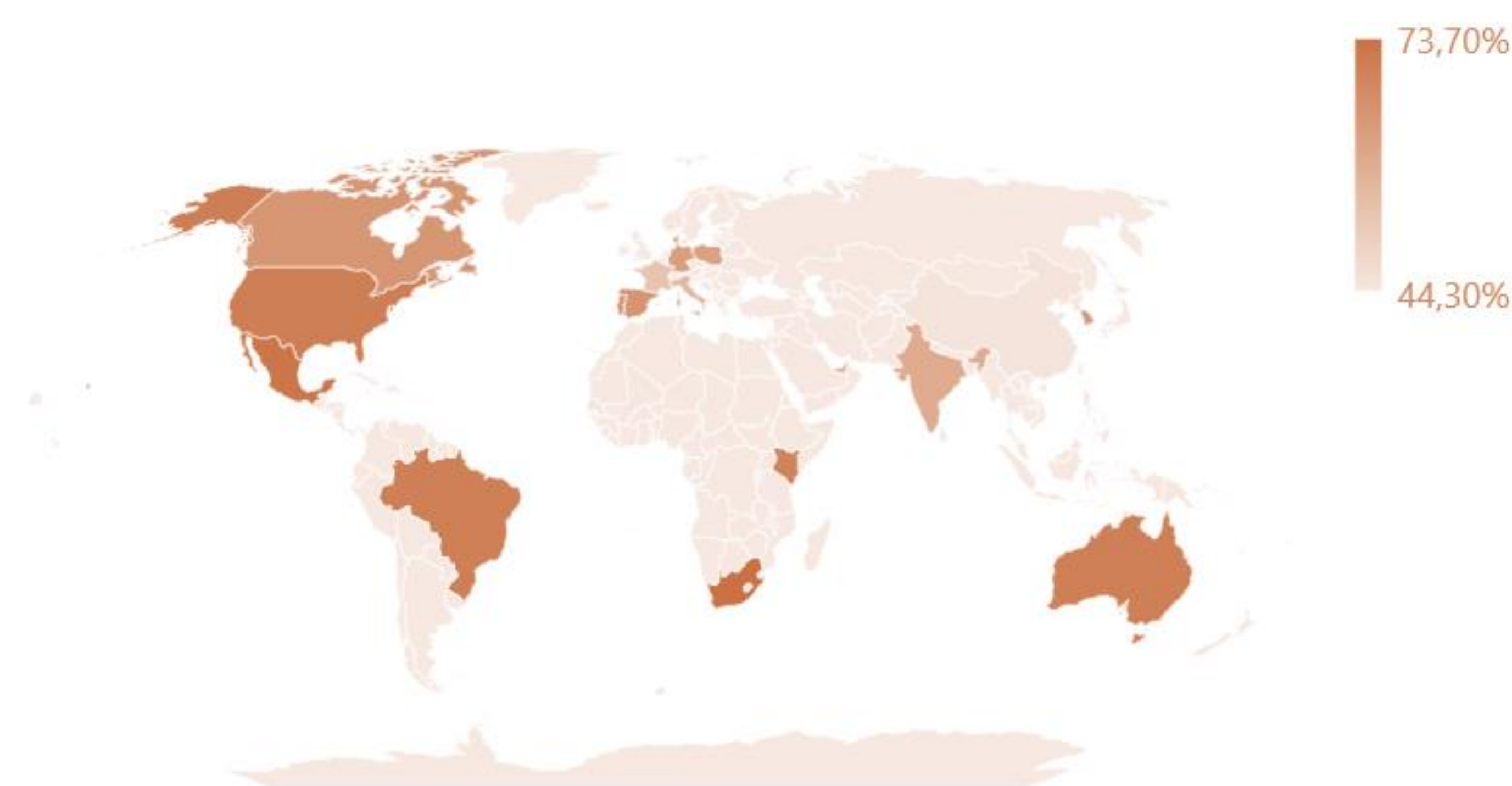
The overall prevalence of scarring is 62.1%, with marked regional differences. In Europe, the prevalence of scarring is 60.3%, slightly lower than the global average. When differentiating between the sexes in Europe, 62.8% (n=6 514) of women versus 57,6%% (n=5838) of men reported having one or more scars (p<0.001).

No statistically significant difference was observed between age groups (p>0.05), suggesting an even distribution of scars across age groups. One in four respondents [24.8%, n=12214] reported one or more facial scars [Europe 23.7%, North America: 21.4% (<0.0001) Asia 18.4% (<0.0001)].

Of these, corrective make-up is used by 31.1% of Europeans, which is not significantly different from North America (31.2%), but significantly different from Asia, where more than half of respondents reported using corrective make-up (60.7%) p<0.0001.

In terms of location, it is important to note that the location of scars in the genital area, which is rarely studied, is by no means negligible:

5.8% (n=1463) in men, 14.3% (n=3598) in women (p<0.0001). In women, there was a significant difference between European (14.9%) and North American (19.3%) women and between European and Asian women (8.8%). Among men, there was also a significant difference between European men (6.2%) and North American men (7.1%) and between European and Asian men (4.7%).



|               | Facial scars |       | Use of corrective make-up |       |
|---------------|--------------|-------|---------------------------|-------|
|               | N with scars | %     | N with scars              | %     |
| Africa        | 436          | 35,8% | 188                       | 43,1% |
| Asia          | 1935         | 34,4% | 1174                      | 60,7% |
| Australia     | 590          | 41,9% | 166                       | 28,1% |
| Europe        | 4858         | 39,3% | 1513                      | 31,1% |
| Latin America | 1808         | 39,0% | 965                       | 53,4% |
| Middle East   | 377          | 37,0% | 169                       | 44,8% |
| North America | 2210         | 43,0% | 689                       | 31,2% |

|               | N with scars | %     | N with scars | %     | N with scars | %     |
|---------------|--------------|-------|--------------|-------|--------------|-------|
| Africa        | 1743         | 69,6% | 1587         | 64,2% | 1812         | 71,8% |
| Asia          | 1792         | 17,1% | 2265         | 53,5% | 1599         | 53,3% |
| Australia     | 1639         | 25,2% | 2084         | 70,0% | 914          | 73,4% |
| Europe        | 4838         | 23,6% | 4438         | 61,1% | 3076         | 60,0% |
| Latin America | 573          | 28,7% | 556          | 68,0% | 279          | 74,8% |
| Middle East   | 343          | 19,1% | 639          | 68,9% | 236          | 61,6% |
| North America | 277          | 15,8% | 509          | 58,6% | 233          | 63,1% |

| Location             | N     | %      |
|----------------------|-------|--------|
| Face                 | 12214 | 38,90% |
| Hands                | 7472  | 23,80% |
| Upper limbs          | 9433  | 30,00% |
| Lower limbs          | 19606 | 62,40% |
| Intimate areas Men   | 1463  | 9,60%  |
| Intimate areas Women | 3598  | 22,30% |
| Men's body           | 7348  | 48,20% |
| Body Women           | 8197  | 50,70% |

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## DISCUSSION

This research underscores the significance of scars across diverse populations and underscores distinctions among genders and cultures.

The widespread occurrence of facial and genital scars prompts inquiries into their psychosocial implications and the necessity for tailored care methods.

Variances in corrective makeup usage between Asia and Europe reveal cultural disparities in scar perception and management.

These results advocate for heightened awareness and individualized care strategies that acknowledge the varied experiences of individuals with scars.