

# Qualitative Research in Dermatology

Micah Pascual, BS;<sup>1</sup> Megan Morris, PhD;<sup>2</sup> Anna Bruckner, MD;<sup>1,3</sup> Lucinda Kohn, MD, MHS<sup>1,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Colorado, School of Medicine; <sup>2</sup>Department of Internal Medicine, University of Colorado; <sup>3</sup>Department of Dermatology, University of Colorado

## BACKGROUND

- Qualitative research methods are well respected approaches to understand the social contexts underlying health outcomes for various patient populations and conditions.
- Most diseases in the field of dermatology, while not fatal, can greatly affect a patient's quality of life in ways that are often difficult to quantify.
- The extent to which researchers have conducted qualitative studies in dermatology is unknown.
- The purpose of this study is to assess 1) current approaches to qualitative dermatologic research and 2) the publication trends of these studies.

## METHODS

**1 PUBMED AND CINAHL SEARCH**  
-“dermatology AND qualitative”  
-“dermatology” AND 7 qualitative methodology terms

**2 LEVEL I EXCLUSION**  
-Studies published in a language other than English

**3 LEVEL II EXCLUSION**  
-Studies with mixed methods, quantitative methods, systematic review, or meta-analysis

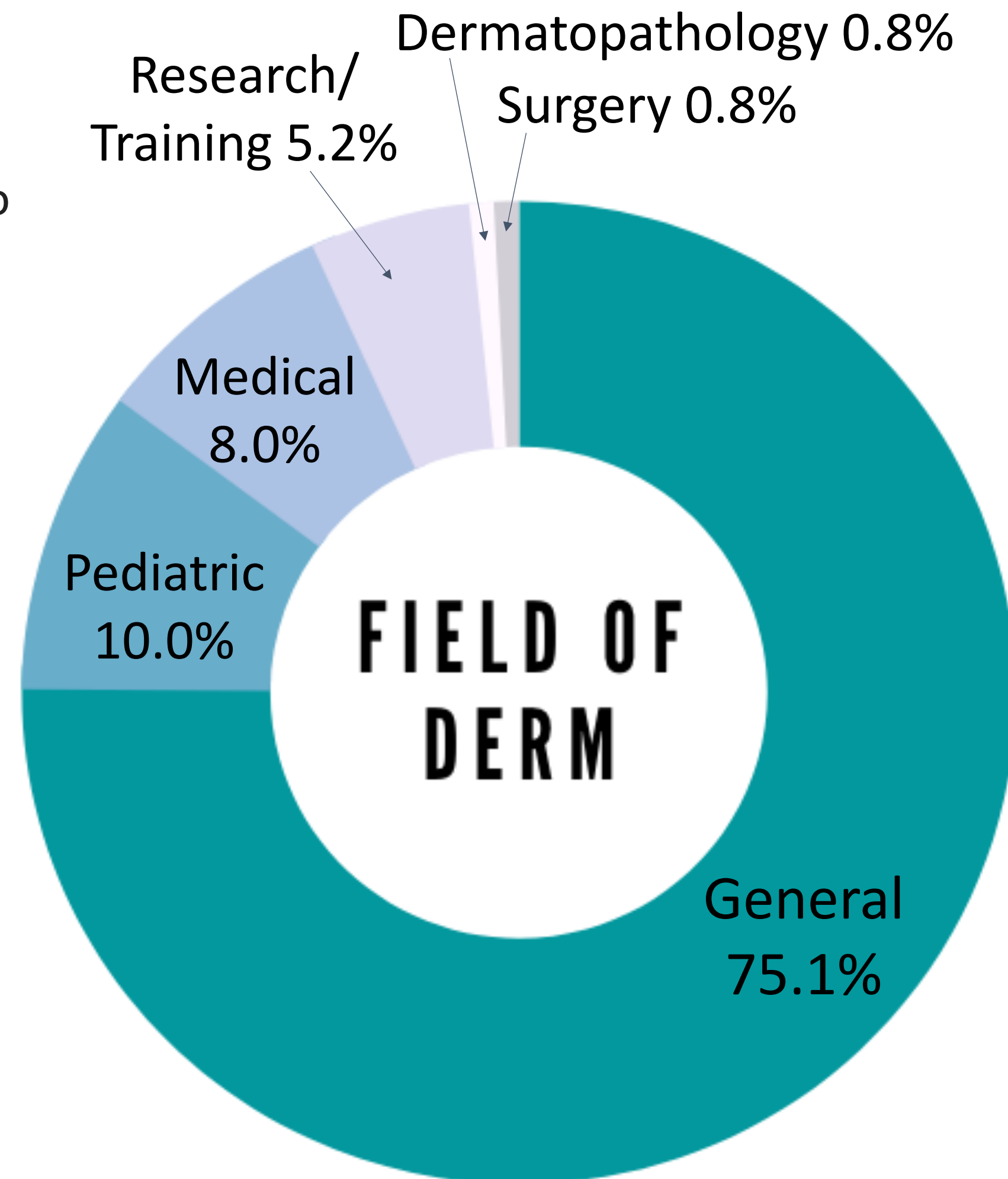
**4 LEVEL III EXCLUSION**  
-Studies unrelated to the field of dermatology

**5 DATA COLLECTION**  
-Journal, publication year, methodology, data collection method, participant type, topic

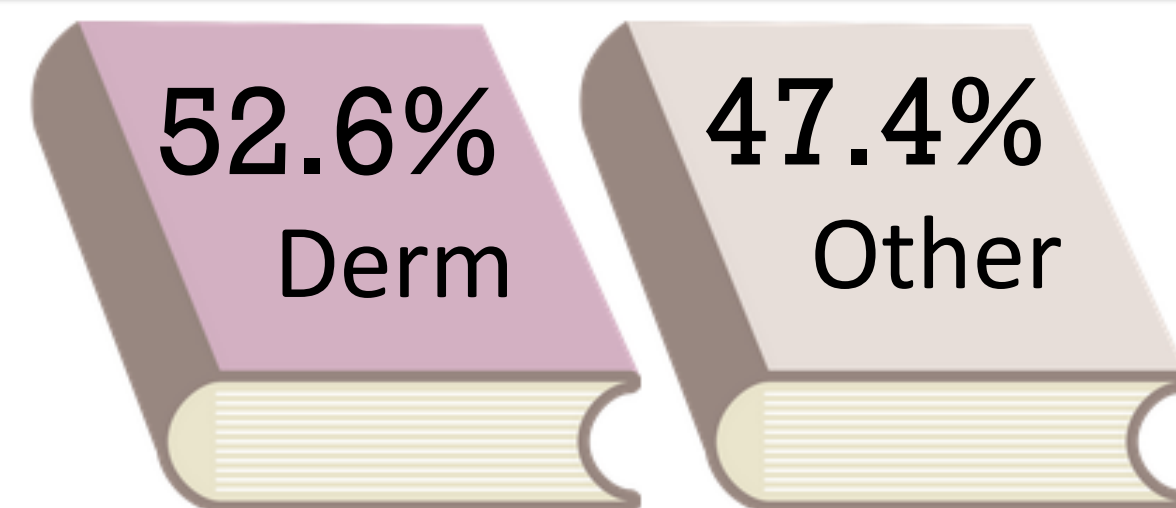
**6 ANALYSIS OF STUDIES**  
-Developed classification system for journal type and study topic

## RESULTS

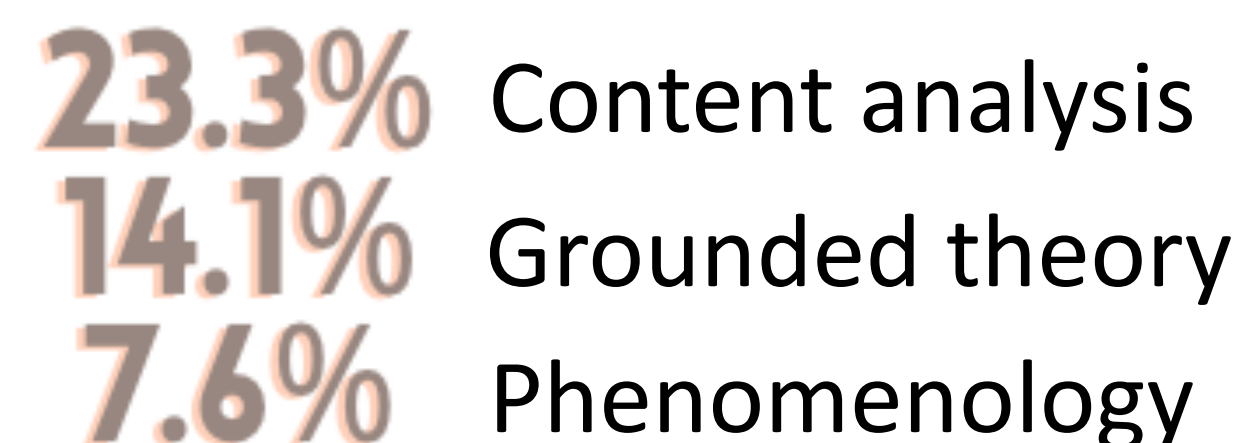
**249** studies included of **1,398** studies identified



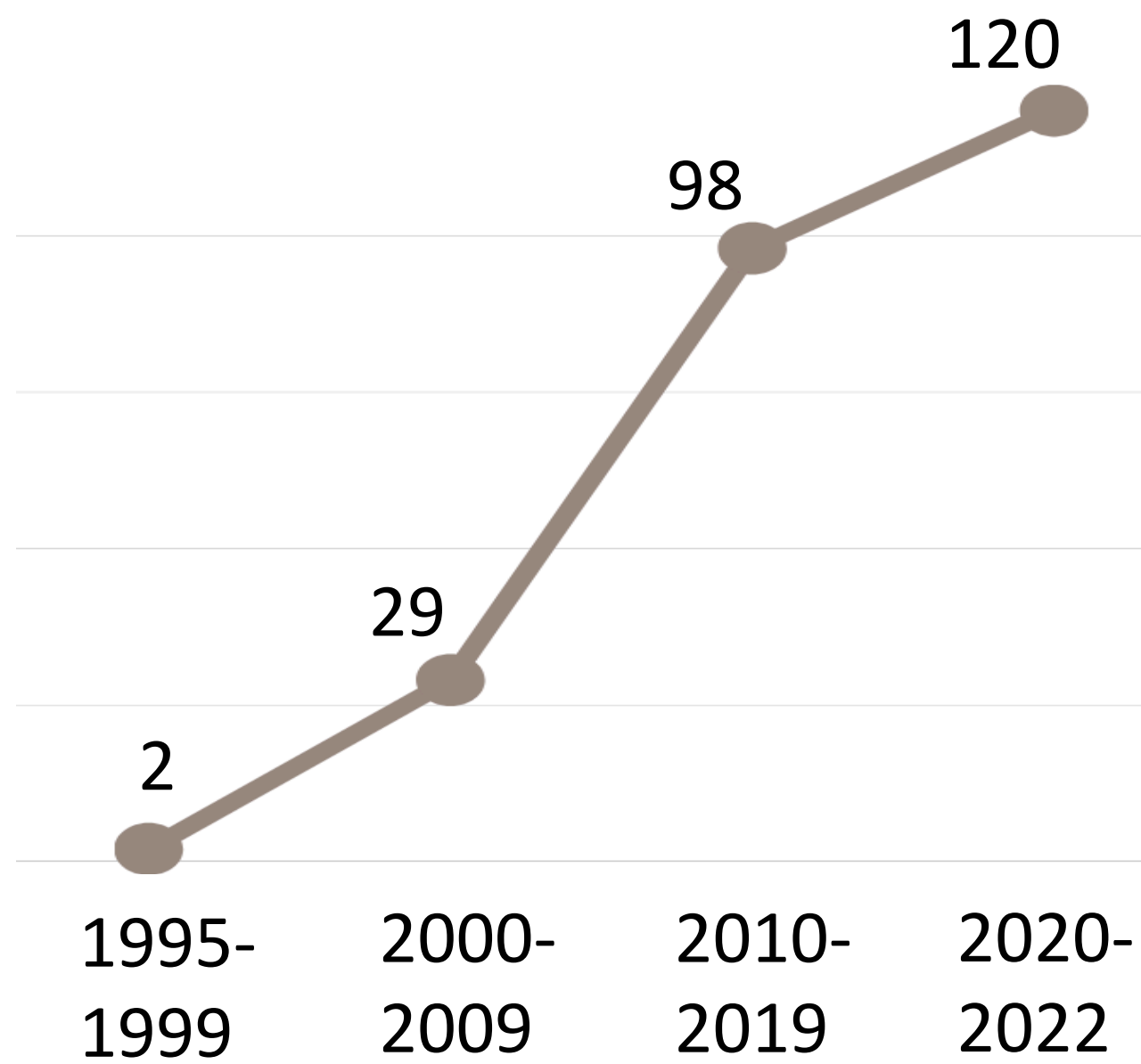
### JOURNAL TYPE



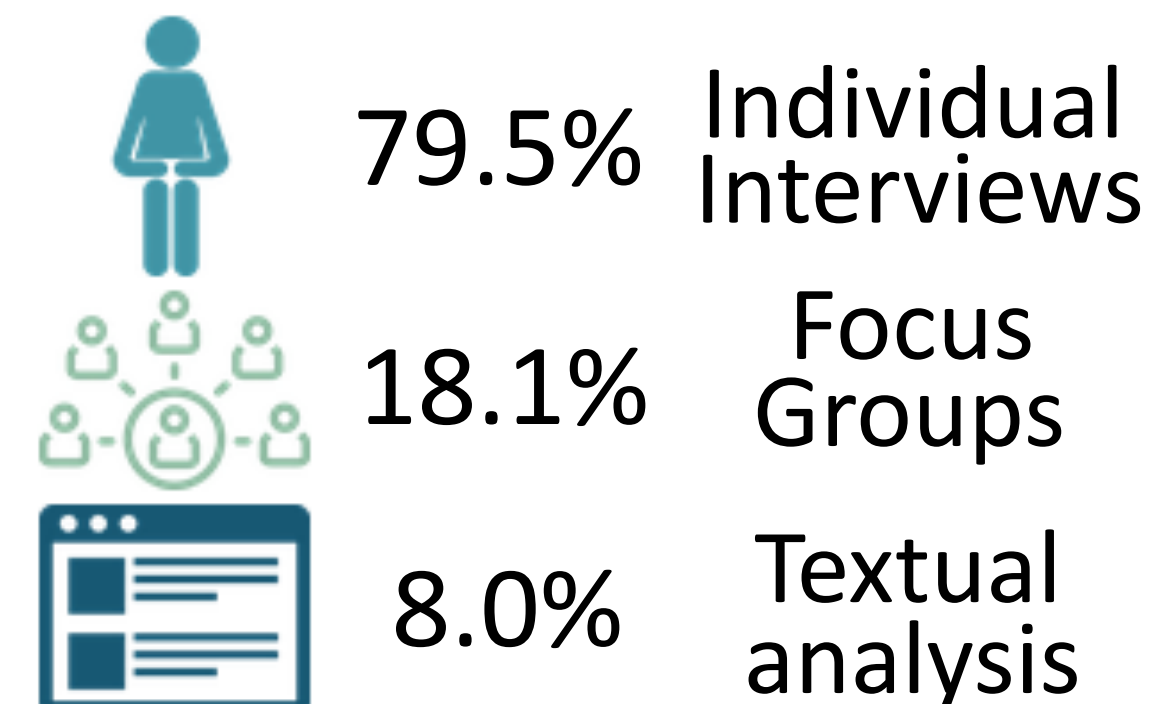
### TOP 3 METHODOLOGIES



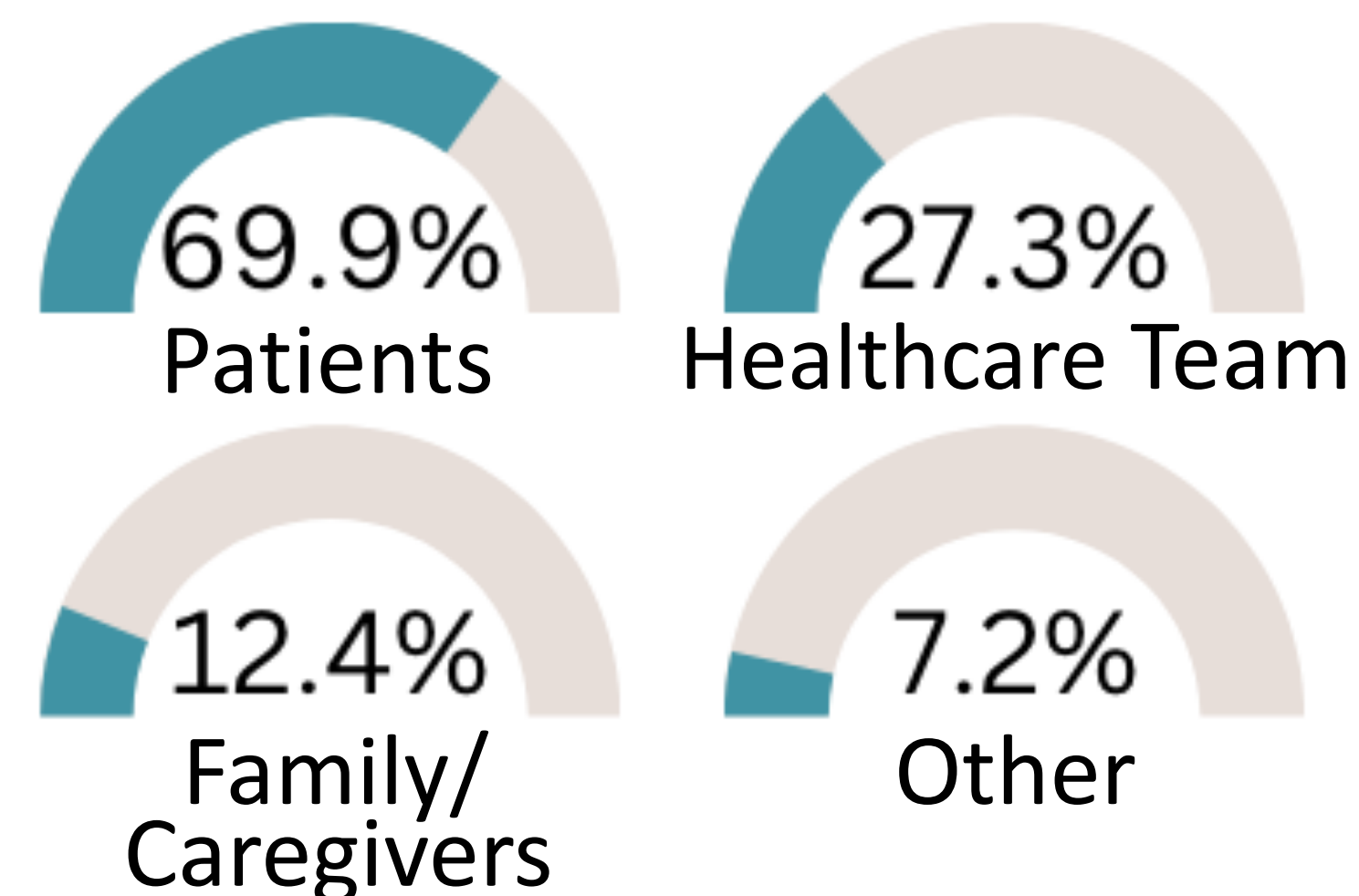
### YEAR OF PUBLICATION



### TOP 3 DATA COLLECTION METHODS



### TYPE OF PARTICIPANT



### STUDY TOPICS



### DEFINITIONS FOR TOP 3 STUDY TOPICS

**Patient experience:** patient's experience with their disease; quality of life related to disease

**Provider experience:** provider's experience with specific skin diseases

**Skincare comprehension:** patient's knowledge of skincare and skincare behaviors

## CONCLUSIONS

- Qualitative research in dermatology is gaining popularity.
- Qualitative studies can help gain a deeper understanding of the unique perceptions and experiences of patients in dermatology.
- We encourage researchers in dermatology to incorporate qualitative methodologies and methods in their studies, especially as an approach to interact with minority populations who are often underrepresented in statistical data and research.