

Introduction

Adequate care was first highlighted as an underlying **determinant of child growth, development**, and survival in the 1990 UNICEF conceptual framework for malnutrition. Care refers to behaviors that affect child nutrition, health, and development. Resources for Care include tangible and intangible resources that caregivers need to practice nurturing care. In 1999, Engle, Menon, and Haddad published the seminal article “Care and Nutrition: Concepts and Measurement” adding Resources for Care as another determinant to the UNICEF framework. In the 25 years since the concept of Resources for Care has been widely recognized and used; however, a systematic investigation of its application and impact was needed.

Methods

We searched four databases to screen for studies that examined the role of caregiver resources in child nutrition and feeding to identify how this framework has influenced scholarship in the past 25 years. We constructed a definition of “Resources for Care-Focused” to select studies with a stated objective to examine the role of resources for care in nutrition, development, or health outcomes. We further identified the geographic region and focal outcome for studies and characterized the modifications or proposed revisions to the 1999 framework.

Aims

We conducted a systematic citation analysis and scoping review of the 1999 Engle et al. “Resources for Care” article to understand how the concept of resources for care has been studied, applied, and operationalized in nutrition research and programs.

Findings

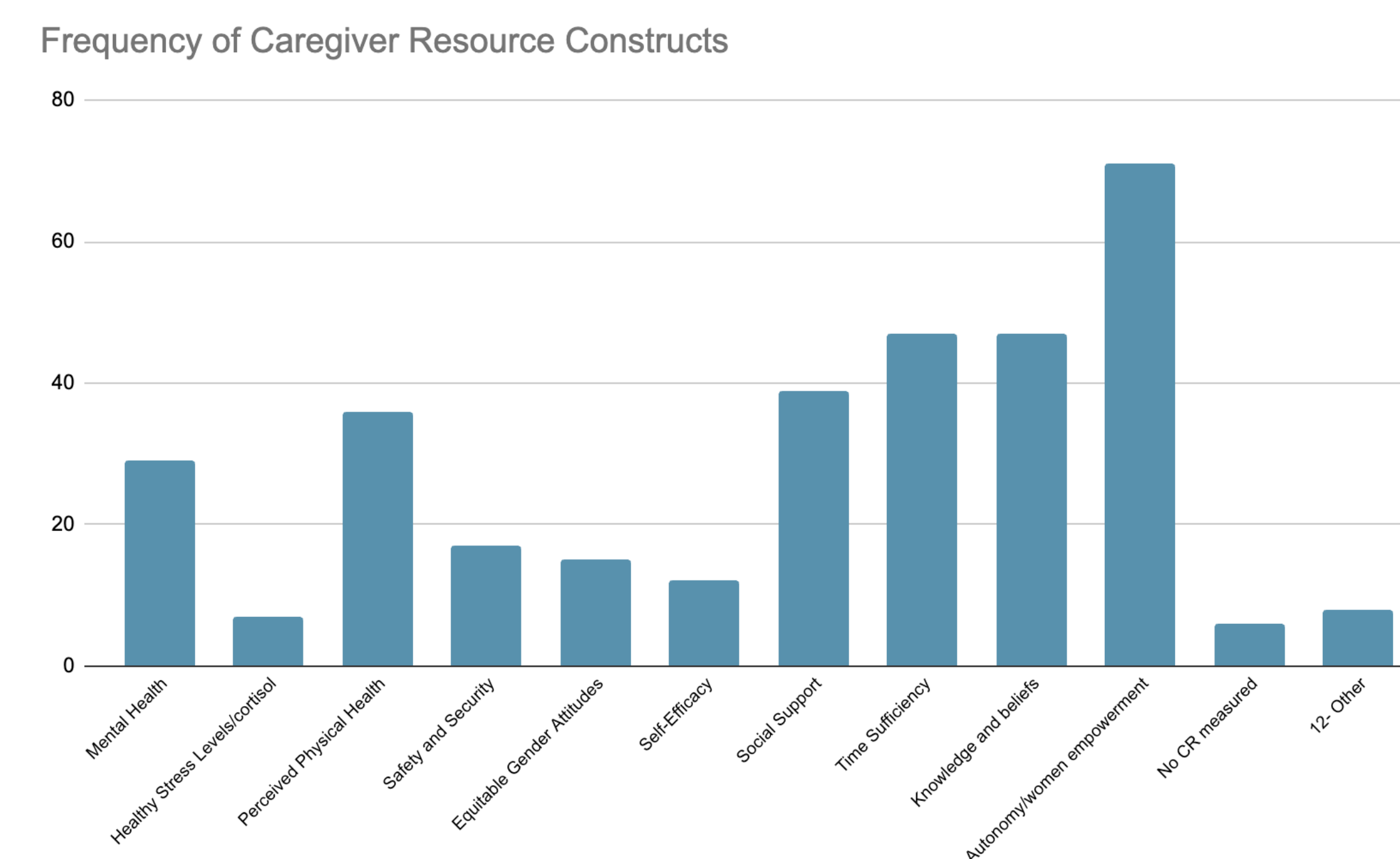


Figure 1. Frequency of each caregiver resource construct among caregiver resource focused sources. 59% of CR focused sources included two or more measured CRs. CR 10, autonomy/women empowerment/decision making, had the highest frequency.

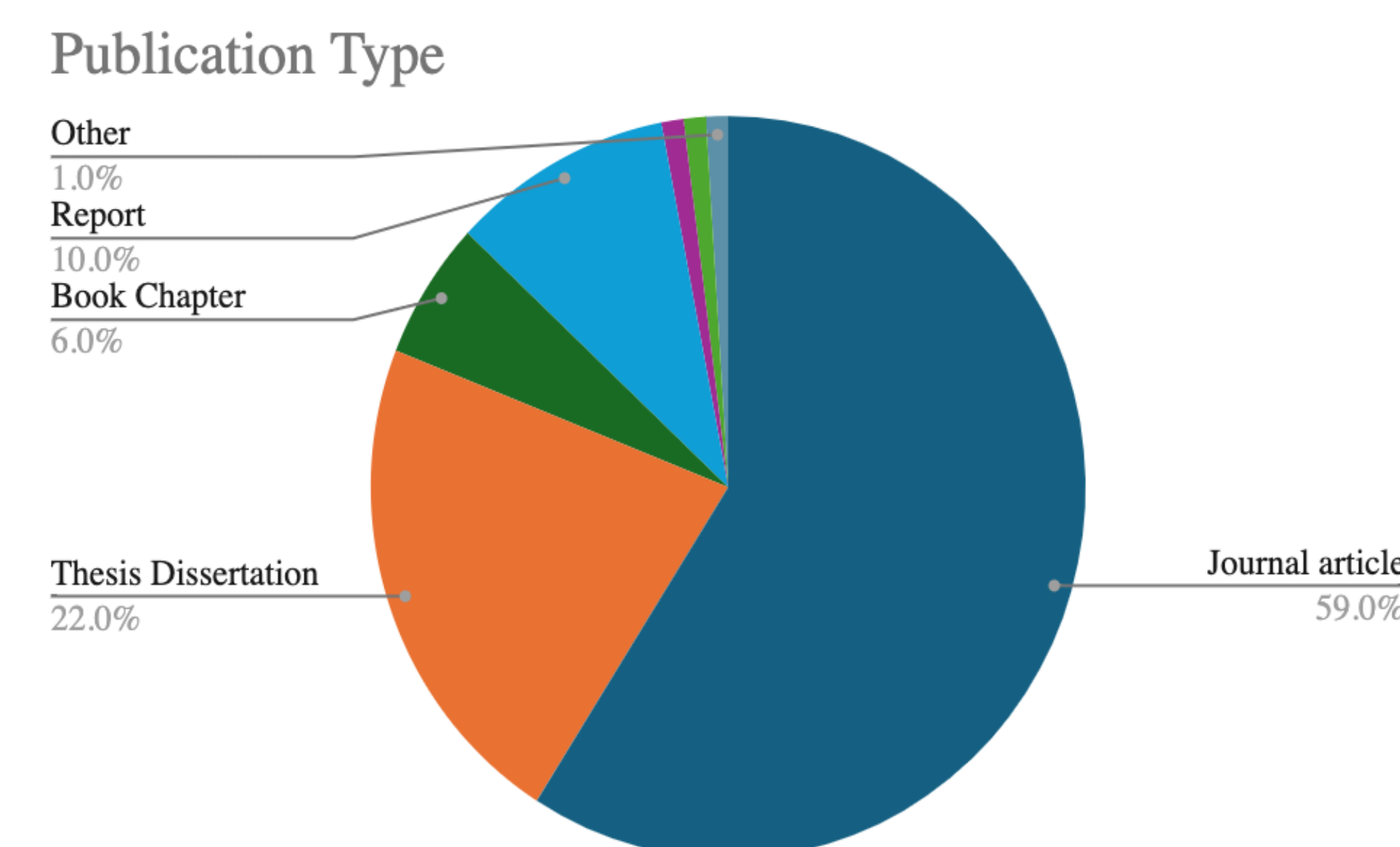


Figure 2. Frequency of each category of publication type.

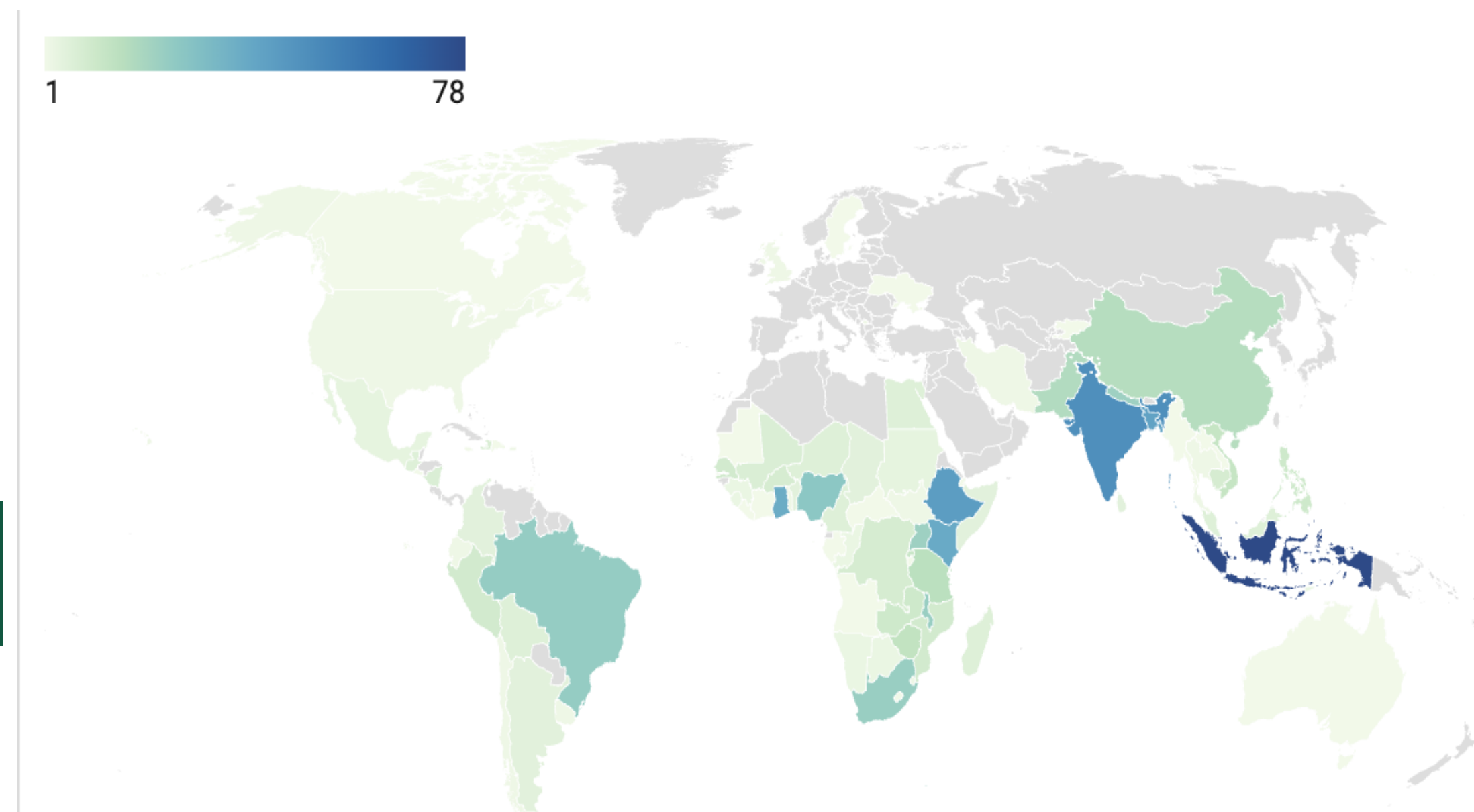


Figure 3. Choropleth map indicating the frequency each country was included in a study

Findings | Recommendations

We identified 696 publications that cited Engle et al. A total of 264 met the criteria for Resources for Care Focused with recent examples of its application, followed by a facilitated discussion to consider future research, potential evidence-based updates, and program and policy applications.

Ninety-five (35.9%) of the included studies were conducted in sub-Saharan Africa, 56 (21.2%) in South Asia, 43 (16.3%) were conducted in East Asia and the Pacific, and 27 were conducted in Latin America/the Caribbean. Forty-three (16.3%) studies were conducted in multiple regions and/or globally. Thirty-three (12.5%) studies included the Engle et al. figure. Thirty-three (12.5%) manuscripts were reports of interventions. The most common nutrition focus of these studies was on growth and nutritional status (stunting, wasting, BMI, underweight, overweight), followed by breastfeeding, and complementary feeding.

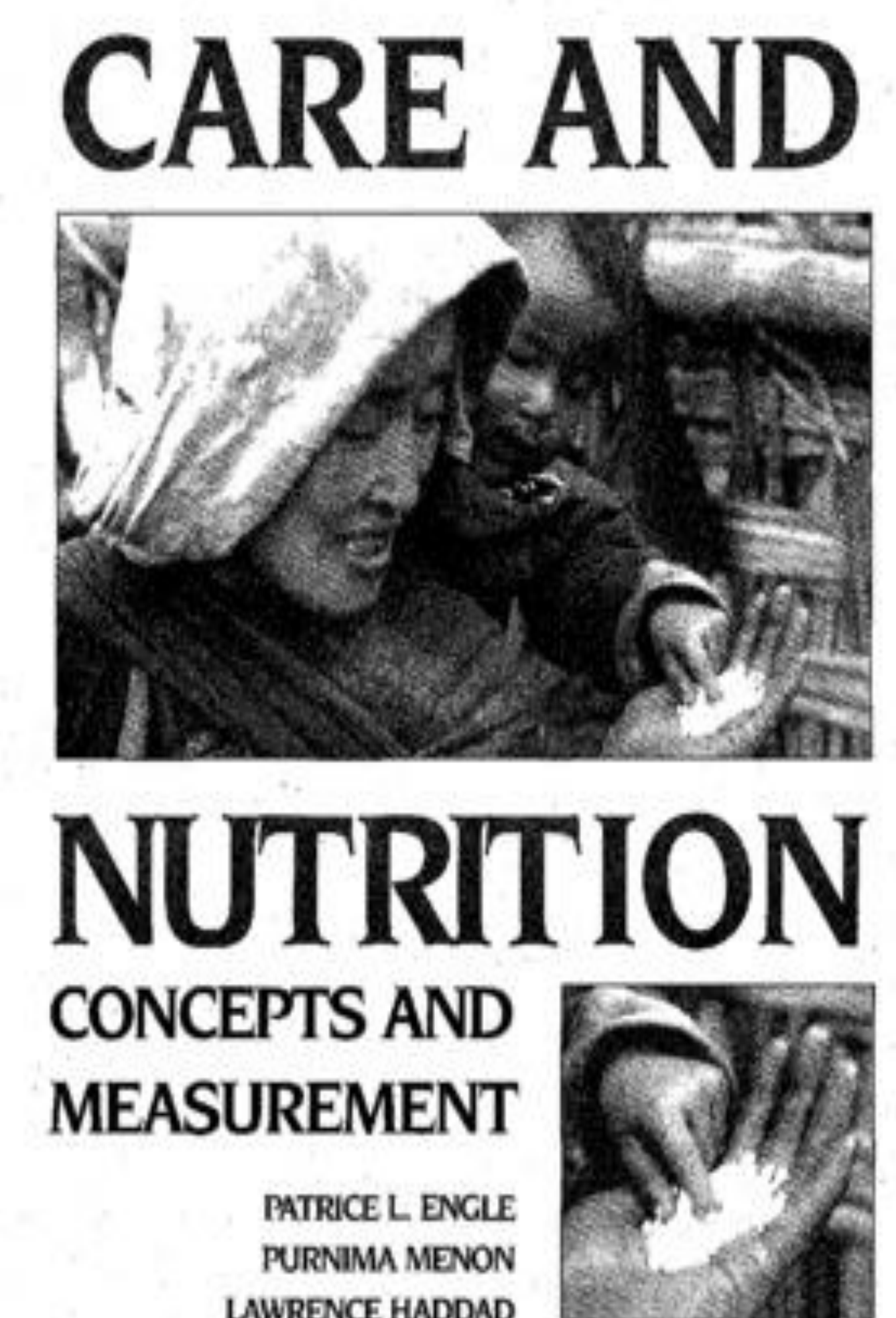
Key recommendations related to caregiver resources included increasing **male partner engagement**, **reducing violence against women**, improving **standardization and measurement of caregiver resource** constructs for comparison across contexts, and **sharing learning about strategies** for improving child nutrition outcomes through targeting or strengthening resources for care.

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Conclusion

The Resources for Care framework has played a major role in shaping the nutrition and care literature for the past 25 years, with global impact and application. While many studies have been guided by this influential framework, limited research has recommended improvements or advancements to this influential framework.



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