



Analysis Of Sustainable Consumption Literature Through A Healthcare and Public Health Lens

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Introduction

- Consumption is seen by many as an essential ability. Sustainable consumption has received recent attention in light of the recent publication of the United Nations' framework for the post 2015 development goals ¹
- Era of "patient driven healthcare" and the healthcare consumer is rapidly emerging ²

Objectives

- Determine the visibility of healthcare, public health and the sustainable consumption of healthcare in contemporary sustainable consumption scholarly literature
- Ascertain the impact the current presence of healthcare in sustainable consumption literature has on public health, specifically in regards to equity

Methods

- Abstracts containing the phrase "sustainable consumption" were downloaded from JSTOR, Web of Science/Web of Knowledge, Scopus and EBSCO0All. A total of 1,785 abstracts were collected
- Full articles were then downloaded from Google Scholar from abstracts containing the term "health." A total of 37 articles were downloaded
- Atlas.ti data analysis software was used to deductively, inductively and iteratively code for themes in the literature
- Searches on Google Scholar and Google were also conducted using the phrases "sustainable consumption of" and various arrangements of "sustainable healthcare", "healthcare consumption" and "sustainable consumption of healthcare"

Results

Healthcare was only mentioned twice in the abstracts Public health was only mentioned 12 times

References

1. The United Nations. A New Global Partnership: Eradicate poverty and transform economies through sustainable development: *The United Nations* [Online], 2013, p.1-84
2. Wolbring, G., V. Leopatra, and S. Yumakulov, *Information Flow and Health Policy Literacy: The Role of the Media*. Information, 2012. 3(4): p. 391-402.

Table 1: Google and Google Scholar Search of terms linked to sustainability, consumption and healthcare

Searched Phrases	Frequency of Results in Google Scholar	Frequency of Results in Google
Sustainable healthcare	1	178,000
Sustainable health care	2,600	2,360,000
Sustainability of healthcare	302	123,000
Sustainability of health care	754	453,000
Healthcare sustainability	147	16,200
Health care sustainability	172	156,000
Consumption of healthcare	840	265,000
Consumption of health care	3,060	375,000
Healthcare consumption	1,280	14,700
Health care consumption	4,740	366,000
Sustainable consumption of healthcare	0	0
Sustainable consumption of health care	0	0

- When healthcare was mentioned in the 37 articles it was not in regards to sustainable consumption but was acknowledging its underrepresentation in the literature
- When public health was mentioned in the 37 articles it was in regards to the environmental impacts of production and how this affects human health
- The separate streams of sustainable healthcare and healthcare consumption were not evident in the 37 article
- If Google Scholar and Google were searched (Table 1) it was found that ample literature exist covering sustainability of /sustainable healthcare and sustainable consumption but 0 hits were obtained for "sustainable consumption of healthcare."

Conclusion

There needs to be a fusion between the streams of sustainable consumption and sustainable healthcare in order to avoid unsustainable consumption of healthcare, which can lead to public health issues. We furthermore believe that the discourse has to involve the ability disadvantaged in order to prevent a worsening of access to healthcare already evident for socially/ability disadvantaged people.