

Shifting the care paradigm for individuals with skin of color (SOC) in the United States (US): A comprehensive review of care gaps and emerging initiatives in dermatology

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BACKGROUND¹

Historically, dermatology research and clinical practices have overlooked important considerations in the care of individuals with skin of color (SOC).^{2,3} Ongoing disparities in dermatological care, along with the rising prevalence of cutaneous conditions, calls for efforts to understand and address existing care gaps through targeted initiatives.^{4,5} With continuous efforts, the dermatological medical community seeks to shift towards a more equitable, patient-centered model of care that considers the distinct needs of racial and ethnic groups across the United States (US).^{6,7}

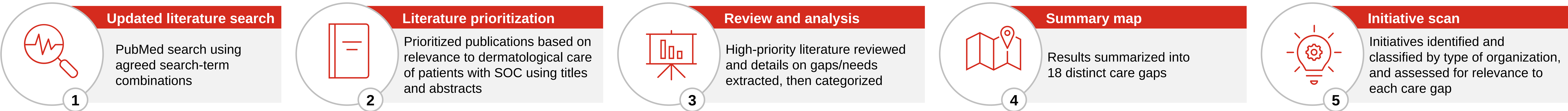
OBJECTIVE

To provide an updated literature search with publications from April 2022 to October 2023, that offers insights into new versus persisting care gaps in dermatology for individuals with SOC and detects if any gaps have closed since our previous search. We also reviewed past and present initiatives in the dermatological care of patients with SOC to identify where current efforts are focused and if there are opportunities for improvement.

CONCLUSIONS

We found that previously identified care gaps remain as persistent issues in the dermatological care of patients with SOC, but a new care gap has since emerged due to developments in artificial intelligence (AI)-based diagnostic tools in the field of dermatology. There was a significant rise in SOC-related dermatological initiatives, with the largest increases in healthcare professional (HCP) medical education (MedEd) curricula and SOC research. However, opportunities still exist in HCP communication and access to treatment, where there continues to be limited activity. The present study provides a crucial overview of both progress and shortcomings in the SOC-related dermatological landscape and highlights that a coordinated approach may be needed to create impactful change and truly address the dermatological care gaps of patients with SOC.

METHODOLOGY¹



RESULTS – DEGREE OF SOC-RELATED DERMATOLOGY INITIATIVES IN PLACE TO ADDRESS THE 18 LITERATURE-IDENTIFIED CARE GAPS¹⁻⁶⁵



Care Gap Type

New care gap

Persistent care gap from 2022 scan

Targeted stakeholders

D Dermatologists

R Researchers

P Patients

CG Caregivers

R Residents

Heatmap Legend

Many initiatives (12+)

Several initiatives (6-11)

Few initiatives (2-5)

Very few initiatives (0-1)

N/A

Change in color since 2022 scan

Lilly supported (per desk research & Lilly SMEs interviews)

*Includes non-profit organizations.

†Includes all relevant initiatives analyzed including societies, patient organizations, academia, government bodies, etc.

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