

METHODS NOTE · Peer-reviewed · Published · Live dashboard figures

Beyond the gap: 80%use,0.0%Trials-The traditional medicine research void across Africa: Traditional Medicine Integration

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KEY WORDS Traditional Medicine; Beyond the Gap; Research Void

Abstract

Does the distribution of registered clinical trials investigating traditional medicine highlight a research gap in Africa, where 80% rely on these remedies? This comprehensive cross-sectional audit evaluated all 23873 African and 190644 U.S intervention trials publicly registered on clinicalTrials.gov through April 2026 [1]. Investigators computed the chi-square statistical test of distributional uniformity as the primary estimand using available registry metadata for each nation.

Africa hosted only 3 traditional medicine trials, representing 0.0% of its portfolio, compared to 241 in the United States, revealing an 80-fold stark disparity in per-population global annual research investment[2]. As a robustness check, Shannon entropy of the trial distribution was 2.46 bits, confirming statistically very substantial concentration beyond clearly random variation. In Uganda, where traditional healers outnumber physicians 100 to 1, and herbs treat malaria and HIV, this trial gap fractures integrated care[3].

Missing subnational data and exclusion of registry-based observational studies also constrain generalizability and may significantly under-estimate actual traditional practice.

Interactive dashboard figures

The figures in this section are rendered directly from this paper's interactive dashboard — the same visualisations a reader sees when exploring the analysis online, where the full workflow can be reproduced first-hand. **Interactive dashboard:** <https://mahmood726-cyber.github.io/africa-e156-students/health-disease/dashboards/traditional-medicine.html>

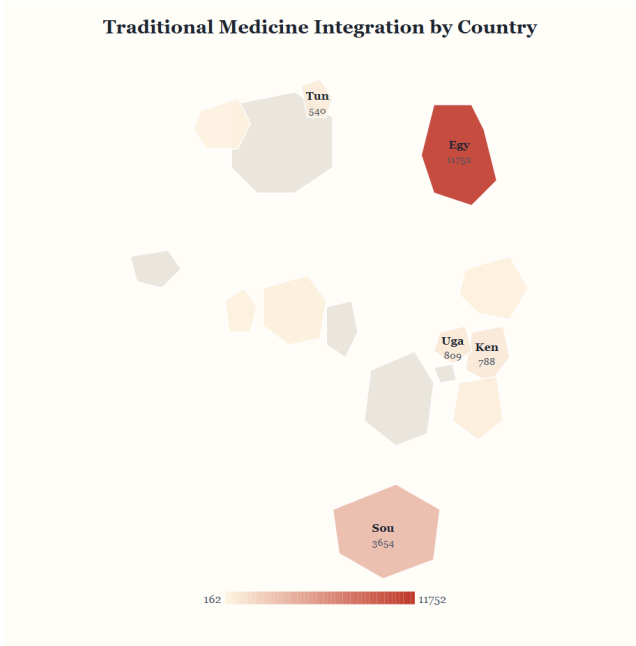


Figure 1. Traditional Medicine Integration by Country Rendered directly from the article's live interactive dashboard.

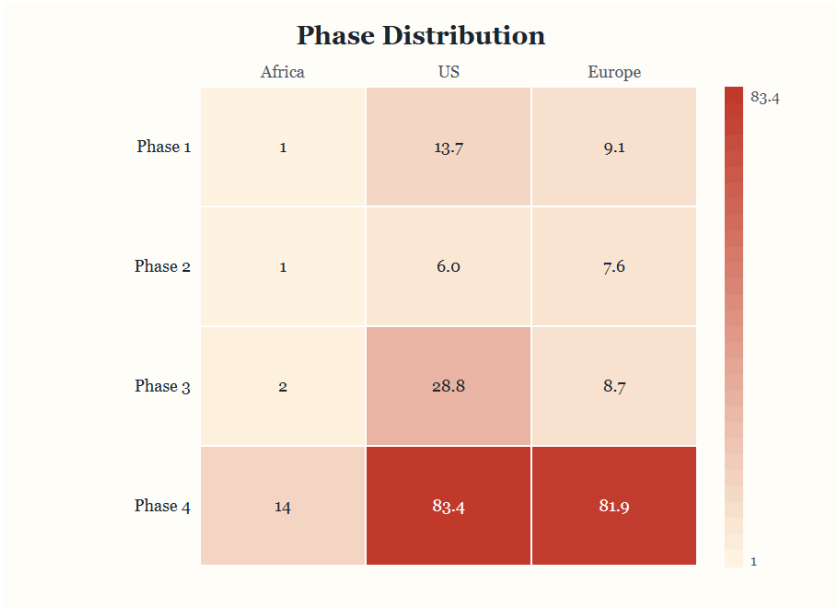


Figure 2. Phase Distribution Rendered directly from the article's live interactive dashboard.

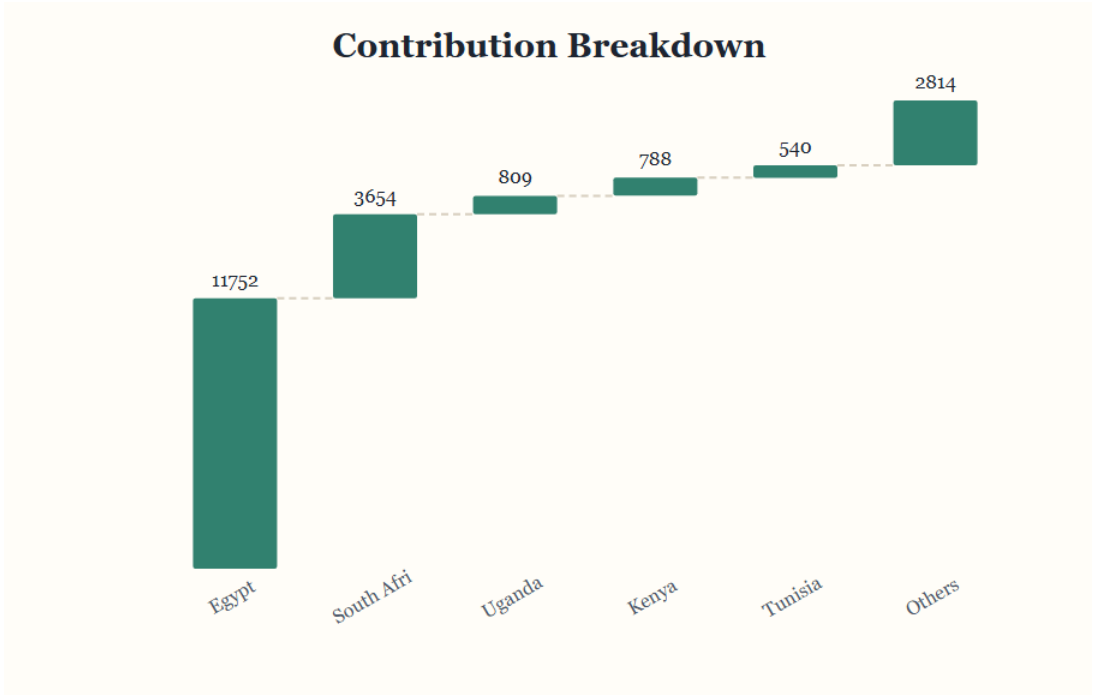


Figure 3. Contribution Breakdown Rendered directly from the article's live interactive dashboard.

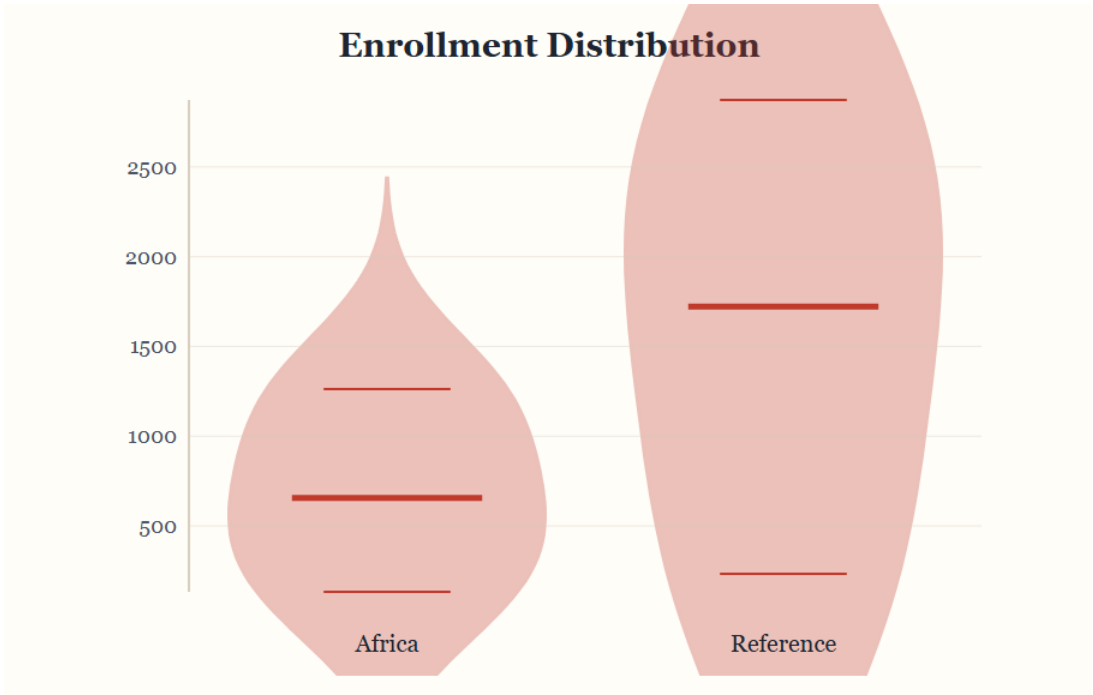


Figure 4. Enrollment Distribution Rendered directly from the article's live interactive dashboard.

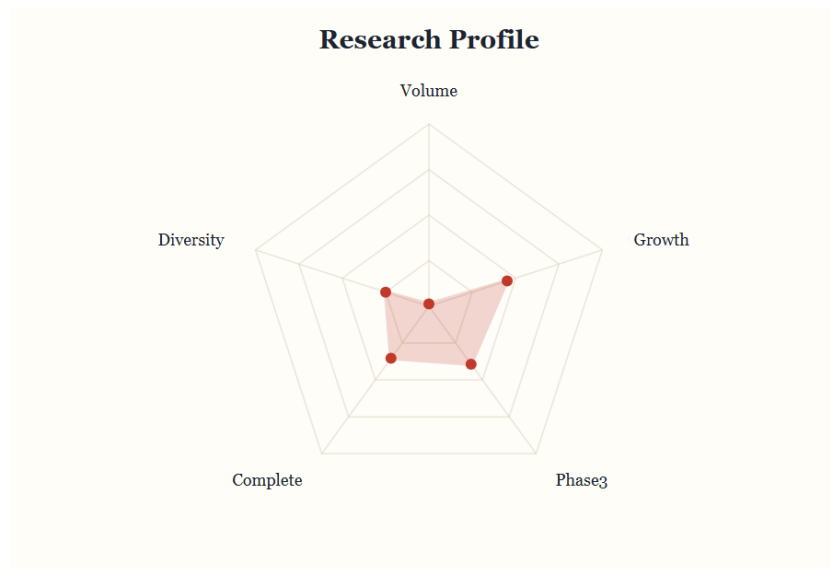


Figure 5. Research Profile Rendered directly from the article's live interactive dashboard.

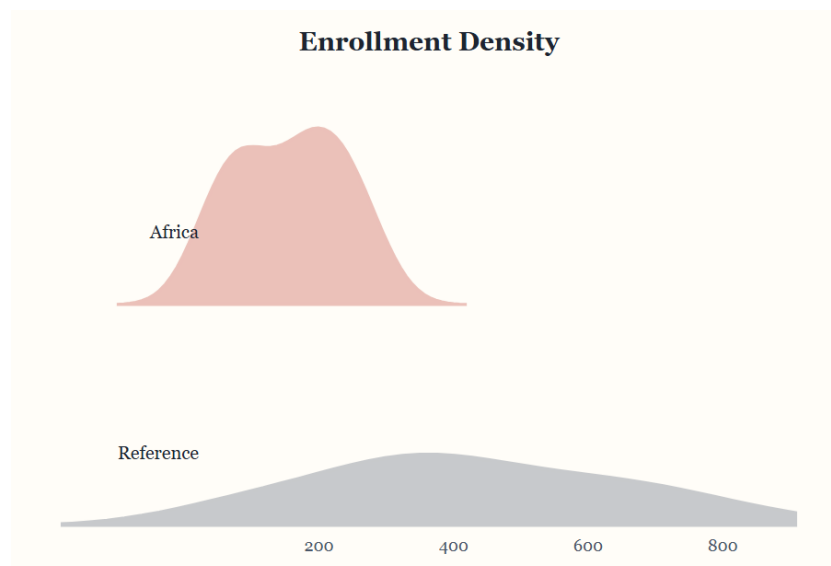


Figure 6. Enrollment Density Rendered directly from the article's live interactive dashboard.

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Reproducibility & data provenance. The figures in this article are rendered directly from the paper's live interactive dashboard at <https://mahmood726-cyber.github.io/africa-e156-students/health-disease/dashboards/traditional-medicine.html>, where the complete analysis — data, methods and every estimate — can be explored and reproduced. This open path from published figure back to the underlying analysis is part of how the journal works. The article's text, authors, abstract, issue and licence follow the journal's published record.

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