

Plain Language Summaries: Journal Intent Is Just the First Step...

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Conclusions

While PLS are now widely welcomed by journals, this has yet to translate into widespread inclusion in the scientific literature

Opportunities to publish PLS and increase accessibility are being missed

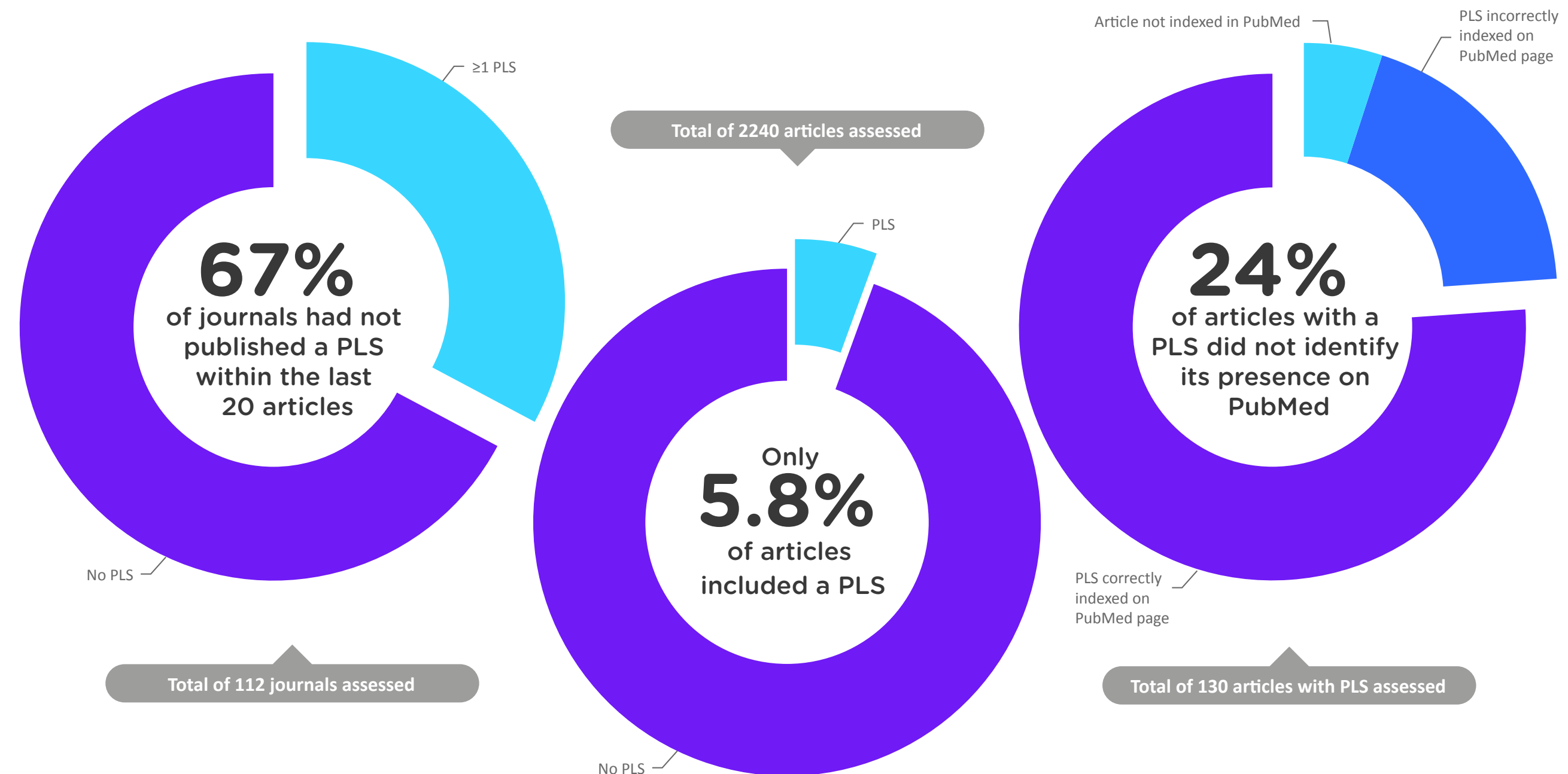
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Background and Objectives

- Plain language summaries (PLS) of scientific articles can provide important access to research findings in a way that is understandable to patients and other non-specialist readers
- The value of PLS is now widely recognised and the number of journals that accept them is increasing^{1,2}
- Journals accepting PLS is only the first step to making important research findings accessible to their intended audience
- We assessed the extent to which peer-reviewed publications are supported by PLS and how accessible the PLS are

Results

- PLS were rarely visible from the article index page, though the vast majority were visible on the abstract page for the associated article



Limitations: This analysis only included journals listed in the Enhanced Publication Options Navigator,³ and may not be representative of all journals that accept PLS

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References

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