

Structural Interventions to Reduce Harms & Promote the Capabilities of Girls Experiencing Multiple Complexities

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Study Purpose

- Improve understanding of the intersecting factors that result in real life disadvantages for marginalized girls that may lead to critical injuries* and premature death.
- Identify structural interventions that have been shown to have a positive impact in reducing critical injuries for this group of girls, and promote their health and well-being to help them reach their potential.

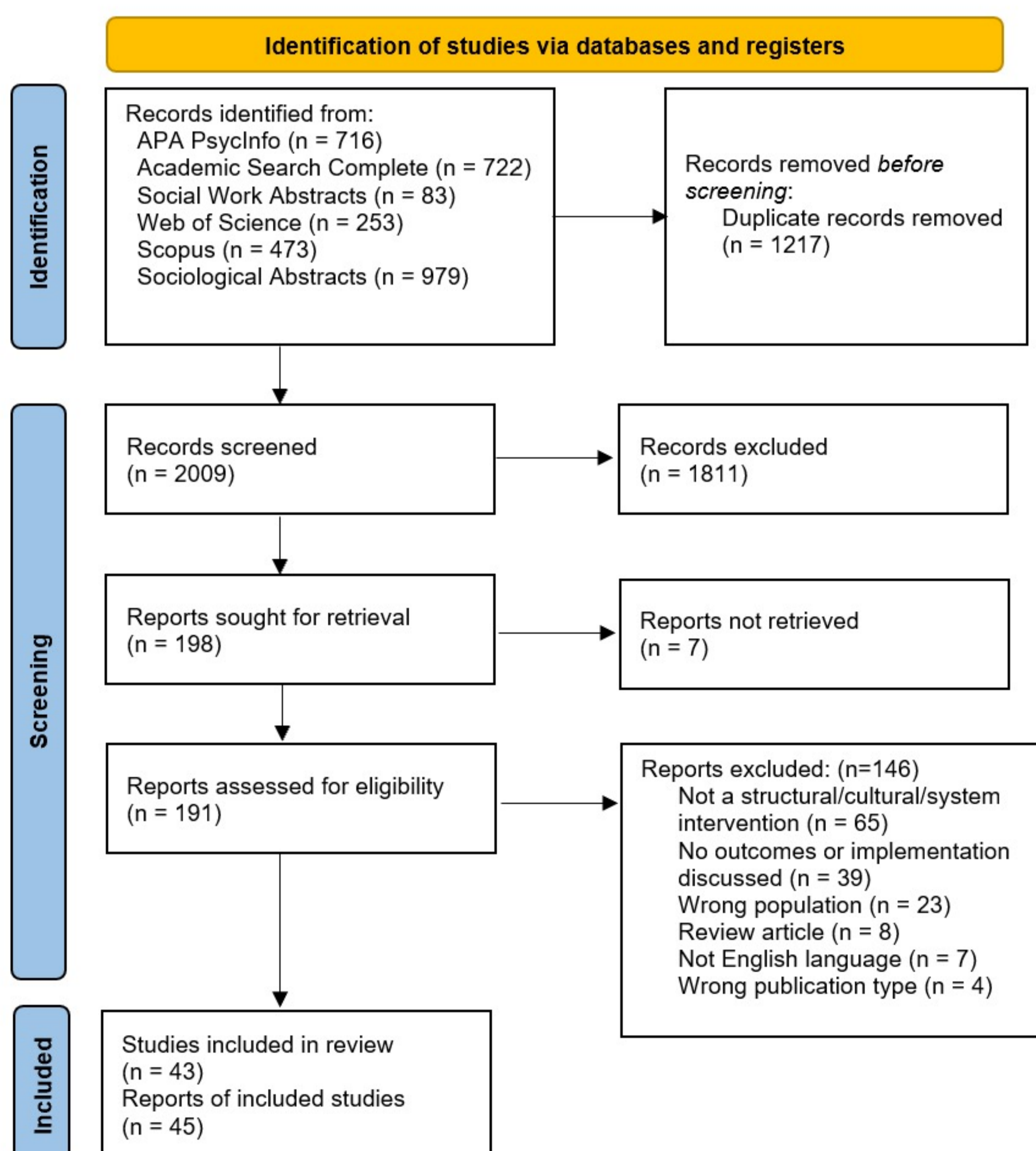
*Critical injuries is a term used by the BC Representative for Children and Youth to refer to emotional harm, physical harm, physical assault, sexualized violence, substance use related harm, and suicidality

Conceptual Framework

- **Intersectionality¹**: An individual's experiences are produced by multiple social positions (e.g., age, race, gender, class) and cannot be understood by examining these social factors separately.
- **Breath of Life Theory² (BoL)**: The experiences of past, present, and future generations influences the experiences of children and youth today.
- **Capabilities Perspective³**: Suggests focusing our efforts on fostering people's competencies, that is, what they are truly able to do and to be.

Methodology

- Formal knowledge synthesis using the **scoping review** method⁴

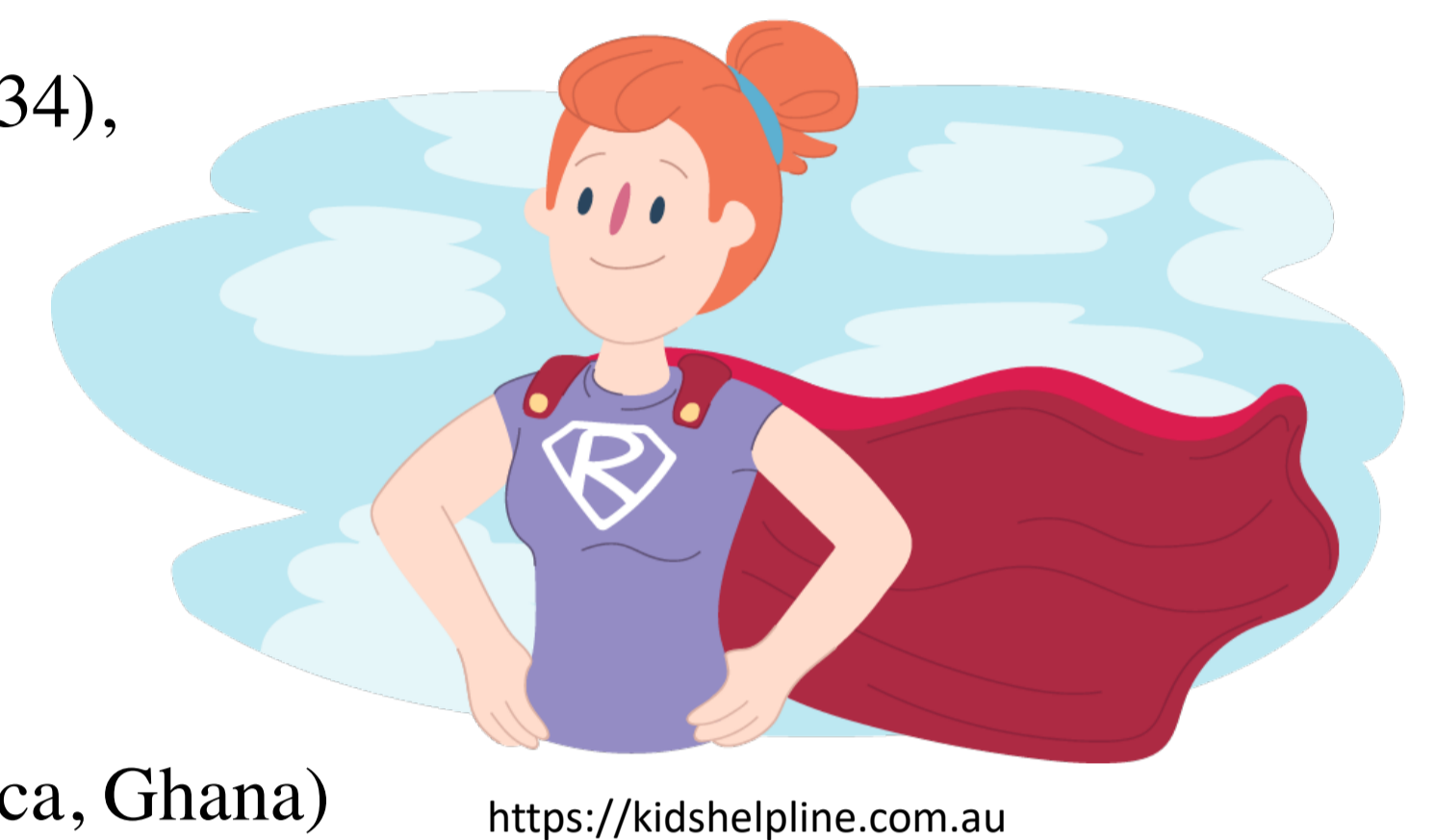


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Findings

- **Key Finding:** Early interventions, especially for disadvantaged mothers from low socioeconomic and racialized backgrounds that support their parenting capabilities and empower them through equalizing material supports (e.g., housing, food, clothing, etc.) have positive outcomes for children's development and holistic health across the life course.
- **Intervention locations:** USA (n=34), Canada (n=2), Australia (n=1), Italy (n=1), Norway (n=1), Portugal (n=1), Scotland (n=1), Wales (n=1), and Sub-Saharan Africa (n=1; Rwanda, South Africa, Ghana)



Structural Interventions

- **Family-level (n=20):** (i) deliver community services to address the conditions which may create parental/household challenges (e.g., employment, housing, etc.), (ii) help parents develop capabilities to support their children's wellness and development (e.g., substance use management, kinship care support, etc.).
- **Child-level (n=13):** (i) parental coaching and home-visitation to prevent maltreatment, (ii) access to early childhood development programs to protect against future behavioral challenges/complexities, (iii) improving access to specialized services for children with disabilities, and (iv) improved child enrollment in medical insurance programs.
- **Youth-level (n=7):** (i) increase access to emergency shelters, (ii) improve services/service cohesion for youth and their families including mental health, education, and life skills support.
- **Community-level (n=3):** Focused on skill building for service providers: (i) tool and/or protocol development to better assess and develop client service plans, and (ii) harmonizing service delivery.

Gaps in knowledge

- Interventions focused on youth and emerging adulthood
- Specific references to inequities of being born female
- Structural interventions focused on girls and young women

Recommendations

- Intersectional approaches are needed to harmonize system delivery
- Evaluations need strength-based metrics to measure the protective outcomes of structural interventions in the lives of girls
- Participatory studies with stakeholders are needed to design and implement effective interventions

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