Meta-Ethnography of Qualitative Research on the experiences of LGBT student-athletes in Intercollegiate Sports

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Review question / Objective: What are the experiences of LGBT student-athletes in intercollegiate sports?

Condition being studied: Inequity, mental health, well-being, gender and sexual issue.

Eligibility criteria: For a study to be eligible, each of the following seven inclusion criteria was met:(1) Published in a peer-reviewed academic journal. (2) Written in English. (3) Reported primary data. (4) Use of a qualitative methodology to the analysis of data. (5) Published from 1901 onwards. (6) Participants Participate in intercollegiate sports. (7) Focusing on the sports experience of LGBT student-athletes.

INPLASY registration number: This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 07 April 2022 and was last updated on 07 April 2022 (registration number INPLASY202240041).

INTRODUCTION

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METHODS

Search strategy: We will search the following electronic bibliographic databases: Ebscohost, Scopus, PubMed, DOAJ, Google Scholar, and CNKI.
**Participant or population:** Collegiate student-athlete who self identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender.

**Intervention:** No intervention.

**Comparator:** No comparator.

**Study designs to be included:** Qualitative research with LGBT student-athletes involved.

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**Information sources:** Electronic databases.

**Main outcome(s):** This article synthesizes findings from qualitative studies which have explored the sports experiences of LGBT collegiate student-athletes.

**Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis:** Quality assessment of the retrieved journal articles will performed using the Kmet guidelines quality appraisal checklist for qualitative studies (Kmet et al. 2004). Following these guidelines, assessment identified the research question and the robustness of the methodology in relation to key findings and a valid conclusion. Ten main domains are assessed: Question / objective, study design, context, theoretical framework, sampling strategy, data collection, data analysis, verification procedure, Conclusions and results, reflexivity. A ten overall assessment looks at the relevance of the study and grants an overall rating.

**Strategy of data synthesis:** A meta-ethnographic approach was adopted to review and synthesize eligible studies. The findings from each included study were translated into one another using Noblit and Hares' seven-stage process.

**Subgroup analysis:** This is a qualitative synthesis and while subgroup analyses may be undertaken it is not possible to specify the groups in advance.

**Sensitivity analysis:** This is a qualitative synthesis and while Sensitivity analysis may be undertaken.

**Language:** English.

**Country(ies) involved:** China and Malaysia.

**Keywords:** LGBT, Gender and Sexual minority, intercollegiate sports, Experiences, meta-ethnography.

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