

INPLASY PROTOCOL

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Conflicts of interest:
None declared.

Which factors affect response rates in interview-based, cross-sectional studies in central Africa? A systematic review

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Review question / Objective: The objective of this review is to identify the factors affecting response rates among adults in interview-based, cross-sectional studies on health-related issues (including, but not restricted to health conditions and outcomes, and behavioural factors related to health conditions) in central Africa. **Study Designs:** All cross-sectional studies (trials are not included since intervention implies need for retention not just initial response) **Study Settings:** All countries in sub-Saharan Africa (WHO AFRO region) **Participants:** Adult men and women; **Interventions:** Quantitative one-off interviews; **Outcome Measures:** Response rates (proportion of eligible adults approached for interview who agree to be interviewed).

Condition being studied: Response rates in quantitative cross-sectional studies involving face to face interviews. This will be calculated as the number of eligible people approached whom agreed to participate in the study.

INPLASY registration number: This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 08 July 2022 and was last updated on 08 July 2022 (registration number INPLASY202270042).

INTRODUCTION

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restricted to health conditions and outcomes, and behavioural factors related to health conditions) in central Africa. **Study Designs:** All cross-sectional studies (trials are not included since intervention implies need for retention not just initial response) **Study Settings:** All countries in

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METHODS

Search strategy: The following databases will be searched for manuscripts: MEDLINE and Web of Science. The keywords searched can be seen in Table I. The reference lists of all manuscripts identified from the database search will be reviewed for additional citations. Authors Sam and Yeswanth will perform the database search and the hand-searching of the reference lists. Additional support from author Gail and her institution library at BSMS will be given to help obtain full manuscripts of the identified citations. Sam and Yeswanth will screen identified citations independently according to the selection criteria including rapid appraisal of full manuscripts. If no consensus is reached between Sam and Yeswanth, Lawrence and Gem will review. Excluded articles and reasons for exclusion will be documented according to Table II (which will later be developed into a flowchart).

Participant or population: Adult men and women.

Intervention: Inclusion criteria: all cross-sectional studies including quantitative one-off interviews in adult populations published from 2019-2022 in Central African countries (Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of The Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe). Exclusion criteria: studies using respondent-driven or snowball sampling, non-English language articles.

Comparator: N/A.

Study designs to be included: All cross-sectional studies in countries in Central Africa (Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of The Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe).

Eligibility criteria: Already listed above.

Information sources: Medline and Web of Science.

Main outcome(s): Proportion of eligible adults approached for interview in each study whom agreed to be interviewed. This will be a point prevalence measurement at the time of conducting the cross sectional survey interview.

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis: Quality will be assessed using a critical appraisal checklist - JBI critical appraisal tool. The studies will be independently assessed by two authors and any disagreements settled by a third author. Potential publication bias will be assessed and a funnel plot will be made.

Strategy of data synthesis: Studies likely to be low quality according to the checklist used will be excluded, and analysis limited to published data. Proportion of eligible adults approached whom consented to each study will be calculated; a descriptive analysis of these results will be conducted. A forest plot of response rate in each study will be conducted to graphically display results.

Subgroup analysis: Information will be collected regarding: study population (age, sex, occupation, education level, location), sample size, location at which interview occurred. Analysis of subgroup will depend on available data and appropriate statistical tests and subgroup analysis will be decided after data collection.

Sensitivity analysis: Individual forest plots will be made where appropriate to investigate the effect of sample size, mean age, education level of participants and

whether a biological sample was taken on the response rate. A random effects model will be used for sensitivity analysis.

Language: English.

Country(ies) involved: United Kingdom.

Keywords: Systematic review; response rates; cross-sectional study; interviewing.

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