

INPLASY PROTOCOL

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None declared.

Men's knowledge, attitudes and practice in relation to birth spacing in lower- and middle-income countries: a systematic review

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Review question / Objective: Review question: what is men's knowledge, attitudes, and practice in relation to birth spacing in lower- and middle-income countries?

Objectives:

- To explore men's practice on birth spacing.
- To seek better understanding on the knowledge and attitudes of men concerning birth spacing in LMICs.

Condition being studied: In 2019 World Health Organization announced that there are a high number of deaths approximately 300,000 each year, or 808 of deaths are occurring each day between women and girls while giving birth to child, or due to pregnancy complications for example unsafe abortions. 94% of such preventable female deaths occur in lower- and middle-income countries (LMICs). The problem is considered to be especially acute for adolescent girls (World Health Organization, 2019). The study objective is to review evidence on the relationship between different birth spacing intervals and maternal, infant and child health outcomes, providing advice on the recommended interval. There is a need to develop an evidence base for effective interventions, and to put birth spacing recommendations into practice.

INPLASY registration number: This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 18 July 2022 and was last updated on 18 July 2022 (registration number INPLASY202270085).

INTRODUCTION

Review question / Objective: Review question: what is men's knowledge, attitudes, and practice in relation to birth

spacing in lower- and middle-income countries?

Objectives:

- To explore men's practice on birth spacing.

• To seek better understanding on the knowledge and attitudes of men concerning birth spacing in LMICs.

Rationale: To the best of our knowledge, there have been no specific reviews considering men's views on birth spacing in LMICs. While there have been reviews on birth spacing in general (WHO, 2007), this is the first systematic review in the field to focus on understanding men's perspectives and practice of birth spacing in LMICs, and how this might contribute to maternal and child health.

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METHODS

Search strategy: The PICO framework (population, phenomena of interest, context) was used as a search strategy (Joanna Briggs Institute, 2014, p.12) to help structure the review question, reflecting the population (men), phenomena of interest (men's knowledge and attitudes), and context (birth spacing). The search started by using key words and different search terms, such as 'men', 'males', 'boy', 'birth spacing', 'birth control', 'birth interval'. Boolean operators were used to link the sentences and give a wider range of articles.

Participant or population: Men's and boys participant.

Intervention: Not applicable.

Comparator: Not applicable.

Study designs to be included: Quantitative and qualitative observational studies conducted in lower and middle-income countries according to the World Bank classification (World Bank Country and Lending Groups, 2019).

Eligibility criteria: • men, males or boys of all ages. • Quantitative and qualitative observational studies conducted in lower and middle-income countries according to the World Bank classification (World Bank Country and Lending Groups, 2019). • Search methods were restricted to the English language, and publication dates between 2000-2021 in order to find relevant literature (Booth, 2016).

Information sources: A systematic review was taken of published research that had been peer-reviewed in five databases (CINAHL, PubMed, Cochrane Library, Medline, and Web of Science). These databases resources were retrieved throughout Queen's University Belfast online library.

Main outcome(s): To have a deeper understanding of men's perspectives and practice in the area of birth spacing. To provide recommendations for future research, and to suggest how BS and FP practitioners and intervention programmers might make the best use of the evidence provided.

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis: critical appraised skills programme (CASP) tool for qualitative research.

Strategy of data synthesis: A bespoke data extraction form was created for this purpose. Studies were grouped via sub-headings (paper name, authors of study, year of publication, country of study, research funder, research design, data collection tool, number of interviews and

analysis method) , Then Braun and Clark method of thematic data analysis was selected as an initial method of data synthesis. As The thematic framework used in this review enabled familiarizing with the data, then creating initial codes to categorize themes and sub-themes by reviewing the result section of each article. The primary codes changed as the task progressed. After that the emerging codes were reviewed to identify the themes.

Subgroup analysis: Not applicable.

Sensitivity analysis: Not applicable.

Language: • Search methods were restricted to the English language.

Country(ies) involved: authors : Oman, affiliations: UK.

Keywords: ‘men’, ‘males’, ‘birth spacing’, ‘birth control’.

Dissemination plans: plan to publish in a peer reviewed journal.

Contributions of each author:
Author 1 - Basma Al Zadjali.