

INPLASY PROTOCOL

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None declared.

The biopsychosocial-ecological approach of non-suicidal self-injury (NSSI) behavior in China: A scoping review protocol

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Duan, XE⁷; Chen, DY⁸; Liu, DY⁹; Chen, RS¹⁰.

Review question / Objective: What are the frequency and methods of non-suicidal self-injury behaviors in China? What are the risk factors of non-suicidal self-injury behaviors in China from a biopsychosocial-ecological approach? What are the prevention and intervention programs that target non-suicidal self-injury in China?

Background: Non-suicidal-self-injury (NSSI) behavior is the deliberate, self-inflicted destruction of body tissues without any suicidal intent and for purposes. Common examples include cutting, burning, scratching, and hitting. NSSI has become a severe public health problem nowadays, causing significant burdens for mental health and potentially leading to subsequent suicidality.

INPLASY registration number: This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 24 December 2022 and was last updated on 24 December 2022 (registration number INPLASY2022120099).

INTRODUCTION

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Rationale: While the features, risk factors and intervention programs have been widely explored for NSSI, it has been shown that NSSI has culturally specific features. In China, different NSSI methods and risk factors have been identified that potentially lead to significant improvement in cultural-specific intervention and prevention programs, but these factors have not received enough attention. A range of review studies regarding NSSI behavior has been conducted with a primary focus on NSSI in western cultures. However, to date, no review concentrates on the complete picture of NSSI in China from its prevalence, methods, risk factors and intervention or prevention programs. Therefore, we aim to provide a complete picture regarding studies of NSSI in China, including the prevalence, methods, risk factors and pre-existing intervention and prevention programs. With such efforts, we aim to raise attention to culturally specific features of NSSI in China, which could potentially result in more effective NSSI intervention and prevention programs for therapists and policymakers. Moreover, we would like to draw attention from researchers to conduct more future investigations into the culturally specific features of NSSI in China that have not been thoroughly explored.

METHODS

Strategy of data synthesis: The proposed review will follow the five-stage framework (Arksey & O'Malley, 2005). The search will be conducted in three English-language-based databases including PubMed, PsycINFO and Web of Science, as well as three Chinese-language-based databases including Wanfang, Weipu and CNKI. The keywords and MeSH terms of NSSI will include: self-injur*, self-harm, self-mutilat*, self-neglect, self-cut*, parasuicid*, self-destruct*, self-wound*, self-inflicted injury, self-poisoning, skin-cutting, DSH*, NSSI,

auto-mutilat*, auto-destruct*, self burn*, self-abus*. For the first section regarding NSSI prevalence and methods, the keywords and MeSH terms will also include: frequency, prevalence, incidence, occurrence, persistence, trend, experience, number, count, population at risk, time, rate, percentage; and form, method, way, act, strategies. For the second section regarding risk factors of NSSI, the keywords and MeSH terms will also include: predict*, prospective, future, later, risk, relative, associat*, attribut*, precurs*, correlate, determinant protect, factor, variable, casual, mediat*, moderat*. For the third section regarding current intervention and prevention programs of NSSI, the keywords and MeSH terms will also include: Intervention, prevention, project, program, therapy, solution, service, treatment, training.

Eligibility criteria: All studies meeting the following criteria will be included in the proposed review. Studies conducted on Chinese participants. Studies focusing on the prevalence, methods, risk factors and intervention and prevention programs for NSSI behaviors in China. Empirical studies published in peer-reviewed journals. Studies published between 1st, Jan 2000 – 25th, Dec 2022. Studies in English or Chinese. For studies in Chinese, only studies that were published in journals listed as Chinese Core Journals will be included.

Source of evidence screening and selection: Data screening and selection will separately be conducted for each section. Different reviewers will perform the database search for each section, including NSSI frequency and methods, the NSSI risk factors from the biopsychosocial-ecological approach, and the prevention and intervention program targeting NSSI in China. The reviewers will examine the titles and abstract against the eligibility criteria. All disagreements between the reviewers will be solved first by evaluating the details of the whole manuscript, and then will be resolved with an additional reviewer.

Data management: Data management will be conducted for each section including frequency and methods, risk factors, and interventions. Data will be reported through tables and charts for each section. The descriptive information to be extracted from each study will involve author names, publication years, and study design. For each section, specific variables of interest will also be extracted including the frequency, methods, risk factors, and intervention and prevention programs for NSSI in China.

Language restriction: Studies in English and Chinese will be included in the review.

Country(ies) involved: China.

Keywords: Non-suicidal self-injury, China, Biopsychosocial-ecological framework, Intervention, Prevention.

Contributions of each author:

Author 1 - Diyang Qu - Conceptualisation; Drafting Original Manuscript; Data Collection; Editing Manuscript.

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Author 4 - Xuan Zhang - Conceptualisation; Drafting Original Manuscript; Data Collection.

Author 5 - Yuhao He - Drafting Original Manuscript; Data Collection.

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