

INPLASY202370114

doi: 10.37766/inplasy2023.7.0114

Received: 29 July 2023

Published: 29 July 2023

Corresponding author:

Salima Meherali

meherali@ualberta.ca

Author Affiliation:

University of Alberta.

Meherali, S¹; Lassi, Z²; Ishola, A³; Kennedy, M⁴; Aynalem, Y⁵; Nisa, S⁶.**ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION****Support** - No any financial support.**Review Stage at time of this submission** - Formal screening of search results against eligibility criteria.**Conflicts of interest** - None declared.**INPLASY registration number:** INPLASY202370114**Amendments** - This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 29 July 2023 and was last updated on 29 July 2023.**INTRODUCTION**

Review question / Objective This scoping review aims to map the existing literature on using safe youth spaces to promote ASRH and examine the safety and well-being outcomes associated with these spaces for youth aged 15 to <25. The review aims to address the following research questions: What types of safe youth spaces exist for promoting ASRH? What are the safety and well-being outcomes of using safe youth spaces for ASRH? What are the facilitators and barriers to implementing safe youth spaces for ASRH? Are there specific populations or contexts that have been overlooked in literature?

Background Adolescents' overall wellness depends on their sexual and reproductive health (ASRH). It covers a young person's emotional, psychological, and social welfare and sexual and reproductive health. However, when trying to get the proper ASRH services and information, young people frequently need help with several difficulties and obstructions. In recent years, safe youth

spaces have developed as a promising solution to these issues. A safe youth space refers to a physical or virtual environment where young people feel physically, emotionally, and psychologically secure, and are protected from any form of harm or abuse. These spaces are designed to provide young people with a sense of belonging, where they can engage in activities, socialize, learn and express themselves freely without fear of judgment, discrimination, or violence. Safe youth spaces take many forms, including youth clubs, community centers, schools, online platforms, and other youth-led initiatives that prioritize the wellbeing and safety of young people. These spaces are critical in promoting positive youth development, empowering young people to participate in activity in their communities and become agents of change.

Community centres, clubs, internet resources, school-based initiatives, leisure centres, and shelter programmes are examples of safe youth settings. Community centres are locations inside communities that provide young people with various facilities and services, including

educational and recreational opportunities, mentoring, and counselling. Youth clubs and organizations offer structured settings for young people to participate in activities, form relationships with others, and learn new skills. Youth can congregate, mingle, access resources, and get support services in a welcome and safe setting at drop-in centres, generally open at set hours. Online platforms, websites, or social media channels created especially for young people can also be safe youth spaces in the digital age, offering chances for interaction, expression, education, and community development in a virtual setting.

Schools can designate specific locations or activities that act as safe spaces for children, offering counselling services, peer support, anti-bullying programmes, or other initiatives. For example, sports centres, swimming pools, parks, and skate parks are recreation and sports facilities that provide possibilities for physical activity, skill development, and social contact, establishing a sense of safety and support for young people. In addition, safe places can include emergency shelters, transitional housing programmes, or supported accommodations that offer a secure setting as well as essential services and assistance for homeless young people or living in unsafe settings.

Rationale Given the growing recognition of the importance of safe youth spaces for promoting positive youth development and ASRH, it is essential to conduct a comprehensive scoping review to explore the existing literature on this topic. The Arksey and O'Malley framework will guide this scoping review, which provides a systematic approach to mapping the available evidence. By identifying key themes, research gaps, and implications for future research and practice, this review will better understand the role of safe youth spaces in promoting ASRH and enhancing the safety and well-being of adolescents aged 15 to <25 years.

METHODS

Strategy of data synthesis A systematic search strategy will be developed with a research librarian. The search will be conducted in electronic databases, including PubMed, Scopus, PsycINFO, and CINAHL. The search terms will include a combination of keywords and Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) terms related to safe youth spaces, ASRH, and youth-friendly services. The search strategy will be refined and modified based on the specific requirements of each database. In addition to peer-reviewed articles, reports, and

grey literature published in English between 2000 and the present, relevant sources such as corporate websites and reports will be searched.

Eligibility criteria The inclusion criteria will be as follows: (a) studies examining the use of safe youth spaces for ASRH among youth aged 15 to <25 years, (b) studies reporting safety and well-being outcomes within safe youth spaces, and (c) studies published in English. Exclusion criteria will include studies not directly addressing safe youth spaces or ASRH and studies published in non-English languages.

Source of evidence screening and selection The study will primarily rely on peer-reviewed journals as the primary source of information. Peer-reviewed journals provide a rigorous evaluation process and ensure the quality and reliability of the research findings. These journals will be the foundation for gathering relevant and up-to-date scientific literature.

However, the research will also consider other sources of information beyond peer-reviewed journals. Grey literature, including reports and policy documents, will be deemed to capture additional valuable insights and data. Grey literature often contains useful information that may not be available in peer-reviewed journals, such as government reports, white papers, and technical reports. These sources can provide valuable context and perspectives on climate change and its impact on maternal health.

In addition to electronic databases such as PubMed, Scopus, and Web of Science, other potential sources of information will be explored. Corporate websites of relevant organizations and institutions may provide valuable reports, studies, and publications that contribute to understanding the topic. Conference proceedings and abstracts will also be examined to identify emerging research and recent findings.

Expert contacts will be another potential source of information. Engaging with experts in the field, including researchers, practitioners, and policymakers, can provide valuable insights, unpublished data, and access to relevant studies or reports that may not be readily available in the published literature.

By considering a variety of information sources, including peer-reviewed journals, grey literature, reports, policy documents, corporate websites, conference proceedings, and expert contacts, the study aims to gather a comprehensive and diverse range of information to address the research objectives effectively. This multi-faceted approach ensures that a wide range of perspectives and sources are considered, contributing to a

comprehensive understanding of the impact of climate change on maternal health.

Data management Effective data management ensures that the research team organizes, maintains, and secures the collected information throughout the research process. The team will structure and standardize data collection to ensure consistency and accuracy. They will organize the data using databases or spreadsheets and categorize it based on predefined criteria and themes. The team will implement rigorous quality control measures during data entry to ensure accuracy and completeness. They will then analyze the data using appropriate techniques to address the research questions. Data will be securely stored and backed up, following established protocols to protect against loss or unauthorized access. The team will report the findings clearly and concisely through scientific publications or presentations. By employing robust data management practices, the research team ensures that the collected data is reliable and accessible and contributes to valid and impactful research outcomes.

Language restriction Languages other than English will be limited.

Country(ies) involved Canada (University of Alberta, Faculty of Nursing).

Keywords Safe spaces, Adolescents, Sexual and Reproductive Health.

Dissemination plans Findings of this review will be disseminated to key stakeholders, including researchers, policymakers, healthcare providers, and community organizations. Dissemination activities may include workshops, webinars, conferences, reports, and peer-reviewed publications. The findings will be presented in a clear and accessible format to maximize their impact and reach a broader audience.

Contributions of each author

Author 1 - Salima Meherali - Formulating the research idea and defining the scope of the study. Conducted an extensive literature review to identify existing research and gaps in the field of safe youth spaces. Interpretation and discussion of the study's findings. Analyzing findings and presenting results.

Email: meherali@ualberta.ca

Author 2 - Zohra Lassi - Involved in formulating the research idea and defining the scope of the study. Will be involved in data extraction and synthesis of

results. Will be involved in reviewing the draft manuscript.

Email: zohra.lassi@adelaide.edu.au

Author 3 - Adeyinka Ishola - Will be involved in data extraction and synthesis of results. Will be involved in reviewing the draft manuscript.

Email: adeyinkaayaishola@gmail.com

Author 4 - Megan Kennedy - Developing Search Strategies. Managing Database Search. Conducting Literature Search.

Email: mrkenned@ualberta.ca

Author 5 - Yared Aynalem - Screening and selection of studies. Will be involved in Peer Review and Publication. Will be involved in data Synthesis and data extraction. Will be involved in Manuscript preparation.

Email: aynalem@ualberta.ca

Author 6 - Saba Nisa - Preparation of the scoping review's research protocol. Screening and selection of studies. Will be involved in data Synthesis and data extraction. Will be involved in Manuscript preparation.

Email: snisa@ualberta.ca