

Gender and health in Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel 2002-2023: A systematic review and synthesis

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ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**Support** - Department of Defence.**Review Stage at time of this submission** - Risk of bias assessment.**Conflicts of interest** - None declared.**INPLASY registration number:** INPLASY202420077**Amendments** - This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 19 February 2024 and was last updated on 19 February 2024.**INTRODUCTION**

Review question / Objective The aim of the study is to determine the extent of previous health research which has been undertaken in relation to gender and health amongst Australian Defence Force personnel.

Condition being studied ADF personnel may encounter a range of exposures during their military service, including medical, chemical, environmental and physical exposures, and stressful military services experiences that may affect their health. The proportion of women in the ADF has increased over the past decade and the restriction on women in combat roles was removed in 2011. This study will include any health outcome that is discussed in relation to a specific gender.

METHODS

Participant or population Serving or transitioning members of the Australian Defence Force. (ADF).

Intervention This study was not limited to any particular intervention.

Comparator There were no restrictions on comparators - these could be within the Australian Defence Force, or the general population.

Study designs to be included All study designs were included.

Eligibility criteria Papers needed to include the following: serving or transitioning ADF personnel, mention any health outcome in relation to gender.

Information sources The following electronic databases were searched, along with bibliographies of included articles: MEDLINE, Embase, PsycInfo, Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials, and Web of Science.

Main outcome(s) The main outcome was to determine the degree of previous research into the

incidence, prevalence, risk factors and treatment of any health outcomes, in the context of a specific gender, within the ADF.

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis The Johanna Briggs Institute risk of bias tools, specific to each study design, were used to assess the risk of bias.

Strategy of data synthesis Given the heterogenous nature of the retrieved articles, a descriptive analysis will be provided for the data.

Subgroup analysis There will be no subgroup analysis.

Sensitivity analysis There will be no sensitivity analysis.

Language restriction English.

Country(ies) involved Australia.

Keywords Australian Defence Force, military, gender, health.

Contributions of each author

Author 1 - Helen Kelsall - Author 1 was involved in the search strategy and screening of articles, the data extraction, the data analysis, and the risk of bias assessment. They also drafted the manuscript.

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