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On-campus and off-campus student housing cooperation: a systematic review protocol

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ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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Review Stage at time of this submission - Completed but not published.

Conflicts of interest - None declared.

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Amendments - This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 02 April 2024 and was last updated on 02 April 2024.

INTRODUCTION

Review question / Objective Focusing on on- and off-campus student housing, this systematic review aims (1) to systematically examine the current landscape of on-campus and off-campus housing for students and critically analyze the results of this research, and (2) to develop student-driven recommendations for future research and practices, further supporting student housing services at universities. Through a comprehensive synthesis of existing literature, this systematic review will provide detailed descriptions of the multifaceted dimensions of student housing and uncover valuable insights guiding policy decisions, institutional strategies, and future research directions.

Rationale Student housing is an essential aspect of a student's academic journey. Housing types

and living environments significantly influence students' well-being and academic performance. The landscape of student housing has undergone significant changes in recent years, due to factors such as COVID-19, urban housing crises, increased university enrolments, student diversity, and students' changing needs. The new and changing circumstances of student housing emphasize the need for adaptable and resilient housing solutions. To inform future research and practices, a systematic review of the existing literature is necessary to examine and understand the current and changing landscape of both on-campus and off-campus student housing.

Condition being studied N/A. This systematic review is based on social sciences rather than health care. Thus, this review will not focus on health conditions or diseases.

METHODS

Search strategy The Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) approach are used to guide this systematic review. This review focuses on both on-campus and off-campus housing for students. Three databases, Web of Science, Scopus, and Embase, have been chosen to identify literature related to this focus. Based on the research objectives and questions, three groups of keywords have been created: university-related, housing-related, and student-related.

(1) University-related: campus OR university* OR college*

(2) Housing-related: resident* OR housing OR dorm* OR living

(3) Student-related: student* OR roommate

The operator “OR” for within-group keywords and the operator “AND” between each group have been used to search for all related literature. Three filters have been used to narrow the search: (1) publication years ranging from 2001 to 2022, (2) written English, and (3) document types (only articles, proceedings papers, book chapters, and editorial materials are included).

Participant or population N/A. The systematic review focuses on on- and off-campus housing for postsecondary students.

Intervention N/A.

Comparator N/A.

Study designs to be included A variety of study designs will be included, including qualitative research, quantitative research, and mixed-methods research.

Eligibility criteria The inclusion criteria are: (1) literature related to student housing (e.g., challenges, quality, links to academic performance); (2) literature that examined the association between housing type and health (e.g., physical or mental/emotional health); and (3) literature that discussed the cooperation between on-/off-campus environments (e.g., student housing outsourcing, studentification, supports). The exclusion criteria are: (1) full literature that could not be located (e.g., DOI not provided, cost attached to article, or there was a broken link); (2) research that used college resident students solely as a participant pool (for ease of access), but the research was not related to housing; (3) dorm design studies (e.g., architecture, ventilation, sustainability); (4) conference papers; and (5) literature that was not related to campus housing

(e.g., ADHD medication, handwashing, racial segregation, general college population research on topics like drinking, mental health, safer-sex, influenza).

Information sources Three databases have been selected: Web of Science, Scopus, and Embase. Peer-reviewed journal articles, proceedings papers, book chapters, and editorial materials are included.

Main outcome(s) The systematic review uses thematic analysis to analyze the included articles. Four themes have emerged from the qualitative analysis: (1) housing challenges for post-secondary students; (2) pros and cons of on-campus and off-campus housing; (3) physical and mental health of students living in on-campus and off-campus housing; and (4) lack of on-campus and off-campus housing cooperation. The four themes illustrate the challenges with student housing, including difficulties experienced by students from vulnerable groups, disadvantages of on- and off-campus housing, and inadequate on- and off-campus housing cooperation.

Data management Articles from the initial search were uploaded to COVIDENCE for (1) title and abstract screening, (2) full text screening, and (3) extraction. Two researchers independently screened titles and abstracts and then reviewed the full-text of each publication. The two researchers deeply examined each publication using inclusion and exclusion criteria, and disagreements were resolved through a full-team discussion.

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis This systematic review is based on social sciences instead of health care interventions. Multiple strategies have been used to minimize the risk of bias. First, the inclusion and exclusion criteria were cautiously generated through team discussions, and the inclusion and exclusion criteria enabled the research team to include related articles and exclude irrelevant articles. Second, the screening process contained two steps: title and abstract screening and full-text screening. Two researchers screened the articles through the two steps independently, and conflicts were resolved by a team discussion. This process could minimize the bias regarding included articles. Third, this review used thematic analysis to analyze the included articles, and two researchers independently coded the articles. After the initial coding was completed, the research team discussed the codes together to finalize the key thematic categories for the articles.

Strategy of data synthesis This systematic review uses a qualitative approach, namely thematic analysis, for data analysis and data synthesis. Thematic analysis is a helpful way to identify the major themes of the current research landscape that examines student on-campus and off-campus housing. Two researchers were responsible for reviewing the publications and developing related themes, and they independently coded the articles using an inductive approach. After the initial coding was completed, the research team discussed the codes together to finalize the key thematic categories for the articles. Four themes have been developed from this process, including (1) housing challenges for post-secondary students; (2) pros and cons of on-campus and off-campus housing; (3) physical and mental health of students living in on-campus and off-campus housing; and (4) lack of on-campus and off-campus housing cooperation.

Subgroup analysis N/A.

Sensitivity analysis N/A. This systematic review is social science-based, and the aims are (1) to systematically examine the current landscape of on-campus and off-campus housing for students and critically analyze the results of this research, and (2) to develop student-driven recommendations for future research and practices.

Language restriction English.

Country(ies) involved Canada.

Keywords student housing; COVID-19; housing crisis; systematic review.

Dissemination plans The systematic review will be published as a peer-reviewed journal article.

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