

INPLASY

Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare Needs of Refugee Women Exposed to Gender-Based Violence: The Case for Trauma-informed Care in Resettlement Contexts

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ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Support - None.

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 01 July 2024 and was last updated on 01 July 2024.

INTRODUCTION

Review question / Objective The aims of this scoping review are twofold. The first aim is to examine contextual factors that shape SRH needs and access to SRH care among refugee women in re-settlement who have experienced IPV and/or sexual violence. The second aim is to identify the ways in which trauma-informed care (TIC) principles have informed SRH care for resettled refugee women who have experienced sexual violence and IPV.

Condition being studied This scoping review assesses literature regarding sexual and reproductive health service provision to resettled refugee women who have survived intimate partner and gendered violence. It includes literature on trauma-informed principles in sexual and reproductive health service provision.

METHODS

Participant or population Service providers of sexual and reproductive health care.

Intervention Sexual and reproductive health care services.

Comparator No comparator.

Study designs to be included Scoping review of eligible articles on service provision.

Eligibility criteria Studies published between 2000 and 2021; no found articles reflected both SRH and TIC principles among refugee women.

Information sources Academic Search Premier, CINAHL, Medline, PsychInfo, PubMed, and Web of Science.

Main outcome(s) The search yielded a total of 1509 potentially relevant articles. Of those articles, 739 duplicates were omitted. Another 556 were omitted by five of the study co-authors who screened titles and abstracts, with each title and abstract being screened by at least two team members. Five co-authors conducted a full-text review of the remaining 214 records (Aim 1, k=123; Aim 2, k=91), with two co-authors making decisions on each article. Articles with split decisions were resolved by a sixth team member or by group discussion. The final set of articles included k=8 articles on SRH care needs for refugee women and k=15 articles on trauma-informed SRH care for survivors of sexual violence and IPV (see Figure 1). We charted data from the 23 articles included in the final analysis to identify key themes from the findings of the articles. Related to our first study aim, we identified key themes in the articles on SRH needs for refugee women in resettlement contexts related to IPV or sexual violence. Repeated readings of the articles by two team members using a thematic analysis approach generated codes, which were refined and resolved into themes. For our second aim, we identified key themes of trauma-informed care from the TIC framework, as well as barriers and facilitators to implementing trauma-informed care, in sexual and reproductive health services.

Data management Data was managed with COVIDENCE software.

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis Two co-authors screened titles and abstracts of each article, with each title and abstract being screened by at least two team members. Five co-authors conducted a full-text review of the remaining 214 records (Aim 1, k=123; Aim 2, k=91), with two co-authors making decisions on each article. Articles with split decisions were resolved by a sixth team member or by group discussion.

Strategy of data synthesis Thematic analysis.

Subgroup analysis Qualitatively analyzed in two aims: refugee women's sexual and reproductive care, and trauma informed principles for sexual and reproductive health.

Sensitivity analysis Not used.

Language restriction English-language research.

Country(ies) involved United States.

Keywords refugee, women, reproductive health, sexual violence, trauma-informed care.

Dissemination plans Publication in a peer reviewed journal.

Contributions of each author

Author 1 - Cherra Mathis - Helped develop research plan, collected and reviewed data, analyzed data, co-wrote manuscript, reviewed and revised multiple times, incorporated feedback and revisions.

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