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Sexual Health Promotion for Sexual and Gender Minorities in Primary Care: A Scoping Review Protocol

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Complete List of Authors:	<p>Homme, Paige; Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto, MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions; University of Toronto, Temerty Faculty of Medicine</p> <p>Truong, Robinson; Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto, MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions; University of Toronto, Temerty Faculty of Medicine</p> <p>Gong, Jenny; University of Toronto Dalla Lana School of Public Health; University of Oxford Nuffield Department of Population Health</p> <p>Ziegler, Carolyn; Unity Health Toronto, Library Services</p> <p>Freitas, Cassandra; Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto, MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions; University of Toronto Dalla Lana School of Public Health</p> <p>Yeung, Anna; Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto, MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions</p> <p>Tan, Darrell; Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto, MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions; Unity Health Toronto, Division of Infectious Diseases, St. Michael's Hospital</p> <p>Burchell, Ann; Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto, Department of Family and Community Medicine and Centre for Research on Inner City Health; University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine, Department of Family and Community Medicine</p>
Keywords:	SEXUAL MEDICINE, HIV & AIDS < INFECTIOUS DISEASES, PRIMARY CARE

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Manuscripts

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**Sexual Health Promotion for Sexual and Gender Minorities in Primary Care: A Scoping
Review Protocol**

Paige HOMME*^{1,2}, Robinson TRUONG*^{1,2}, Jenny GONG^{1,3,8}, Carolyn ZIEGLER⁷, Cassandra
FREITAS^{1,3}, Anna YEUNG¹, Darrell H.S. TAN^{1,2,4,5} & Ann N. BURCHELL^{1,2,3,6}

*Equal contributing authors

1. MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions, St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto
2. Temerty Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto
3. Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto
4. Division of Infectious Diseases, St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto
5. Department of Medicine, St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto
6. Department of Family and Community Medicine, St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health
Toronto
7. Library Services, Unity Health Toronto
8. Nuffield Department of Population Health, University of Oxford

Corresponding author

Ann N. Burchell

MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions and Department of Family and Community Medicine,
St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto; Temerty Faculty of Medicine and Dalla Lana
School of Public Health, University of Toronto

ann.burchell@unityhealth.to

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Sexual and gender minorities (SGM) face health disparities related to systemic discrimination and barriers to sexual health. Sexual health promotion encompasses strategies that enable individuals, groups, and communities to make informed decisions regarding their sexual well-being. Our objective is to describe the existing sexual health promotion interventions tailored for SGMs within the primary care context.

Methods and analysis: We will conduct a scoping review and search for articles in eleven medical and social science academic databases on interventions that are targeted towards SGM in the primary care context in industrialized countries. We defined sexual health interventions in the inclusion framework as 1) promote positive sexual health, or sex and relationship education; 2) reduce the incidence of STIs; 3) reduce unintended pregnancies; or 4) change prejudice, stigma, and discrimination around sexual health, or increase awareness surrounding positive sex. Two independent reviewers will select articles meeting inclusion criteria and extract data. Participant and study characteristics will be summarized using frequencies and proportions. Our primary analysis will include a descriptive summary of key interventional themes from content and thematic analysis. Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA+) will be used to stratify themes based on gender, race, sexuality, and other identities. The secondary analysis will include the use of the Sexual and Gender Minority Disparities Research Framework to analyze the interventions from a social-ecological perspective.

Ethics and dissemination: No ethical approval is required for a scoping review. The protocol was registered on the Open Science Framework Registries (<https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/X5R47>). The intended audiences are primary care providers, public health, researchers, and community-based organizations. Results will be communicated through peer review publication, conferences, rounds, and other opportunities to reach primary care providers. Community-based engagement will occur through presentations, guest speakers, community forums and research summary handouts.

Strengths and limitations of this study

- The research question was kept broad to capture the diversity of sexual health promotion in primary care.
- Focuses on interventions that can inspire and be utilized by primary care providers for sexual and gender minority patients.
- Includes both peer-reviewed and grey literature, with the intention of keeping the scope broad.
- Narrow definition of sexual health promotion interventions and definition of primary care.
- Focuses on only developed countries according to the United Nations Report 2019, leading to exclusion of studies and may reduce generalizability to other care contexts.

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INTRODUCTION

The term “sexual and gender minorities” encompasses identities such as Two-Spirited, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and asexual (2SLGBTQQIA+) individuals that represent a diverse group of people and communities with intersecting identities such as race, socioeconomic status and others³. These intersecting identities and backgrounds define unique identity locations that influence experiences of stigma and discrimination in the healthcare system¹³. Sexual and gender minority individuals face health disparities¹, including access to health care, discrimination by health providers, postponing or not attempting to seek care, and access to health insurance^{2,3}. Furthermore, minority stress theory suggests that sexual minority individuals face more exposure to social stress related to stigma, prejudice and discrimination and therefore are at greater risk for negative physical and mental health outcomes, compared to their heterosexual counterparts¹⁴.

Sexual health remains a significant public health challenge around the world and continues to impact Western industrialized countries⁴. Approximately one million people around the world acquire a STI every day, and the resulting morbidity and mortality compromises individual quality of life as well as overall sexual and reproductive health^{15,16}. Though many definitions of sexual health have been proposed¹⁷, the most cited and widely accepted is the World Health Organization definition: “a state of physical, emotional, mental, and social well-being in relation to sexuality; it is not merely the absence of disease, dysfunction, or infirmity.”¹⁸ Sexual and gender minorities face varying sexual health issues. For example, sexual minority women are more likely to report sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and unintended pregnancies compared to their heterosexual counterparts¹⁹. Cis- and transgender gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM) are at particularly high risk for acquiring HIV²⁰. Transmasculine individuals have a significantly reduced odds of undergoing cervical cancer screening as compared to cis-women^{21,22}. To reduce the global burden of STIs, WHO’s *Global Health Sector Strategy on Sexually Transmitted Infections* Report points to the need to adopt appropriate interventions aimed to promote sexual health¹⁶.

Sexual health promotion encompasses strategies that enable individuals, groups, and communities to make informed decisions regarding their sexual well-being¹⁸. These strategies often focus on intervening at the individual level, through the provision of educational, peer-based, motivational, or skills-based programs⁵. From social-ecological perspective, sexual health and sexual behaviour change takes place within five nested, interacting environmental levels with the individual at the centre^{24–26}. The individual and the surrounding microsystem represent the most immediate environment and factors that drive health disparities and unmet care needs²⁶. The mesosystem is the relationship between the health provider and patient and the ecosystem encompasses health system policies, decisions made among health providers and insurance²⁶. The macrosystem is the broader cultural environment that influences stigma and discrimination and the chronosystem describes how location in time and place impacts the individual²⁶. It is important to examine sexual health promotion interventions that move beyond the individual level to address multiple domains as they have the potential to further improve sustainable behaviour change and positive sexual health outcomes²⁷.

Primary care is uniquely situated to address many environments to positively influence sexual health of sexual and gender minority individuals; ranging from patient-level interaction,

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community-based interventions to targeted policy changes. Researchers advocate that primary health care environments are important settings for delivering routine sexual health promotion services²⁸. Yet, though sexual health is recognized as an important topic within primary care, it is often overlooked in practice²⁹. Specifically, Khan *et al.* (2008)³⁰ reported that many primary care providers do not discuss sexual health with their patients due to challenges integrating sexual health into their practice, citing heavy workloads, lack of time, and inadequate training as barriers⁹. In the context of sexual and gender minority patients, lack of knowledge and understanding is cited as a barrier to ask about a patient's gender, sexuality and sexual health²⁶.

The objective of this scoping review is to synthesize what evidence currently exists regarding sexual health promotion interventions for sexual and gender minorities in the primary care context, to examine the landscape of the literature and to map out existing and promising areas of priority, improvement, and future research.

METHODS AND ANALYSIS

Our scoping review approach is informed by frameworks proposed by Arksey and O'Malley (2002)⁶, Levac *et al.* (2010)⁷, and the Joanna Briggs Institute⁸. These researchers outlined six stages involved in conducting a rigorous scoping review: 1) identifying the research question; 2) identifying relevant studies; 3) selecting relevant studies; 4) charting data; 5) summarizing and reporting findings and 6) an optional consultation exercise. In addition, we utilize the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analyses extension for Scoping Reviews (PRISMA-ScR) Checklist in developing this protocol as it the most used and widely accepted standard of reporting scoping reviews³¹⁻³³. The scoping review protocol was registered on the Open Science Framework Registries (DOI: 10.17605/OSF.IO/X5R47)

Patient and public involvement

No patients were involved in this scoping review.

Eligibility Criteria

Participants

Our focus will be on studies involving interventions targeted towards youth and adult sexual and gender minorities, including but not limited to those who identify as Two Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, queer, questioning, intersex, and asexual. We will include studies that targeted sexual and gender minorities populations who may also benefit from the intervention. Conversely, we will exclude studies that included sexual and gender minority individuals along with other groups of interest or the general population without clear targeting or intention to focus on sexual and gender minorities. We will exclude interventions targeting children under the age of 12.

Concept

This review will be inclusive of studies that examine a wide range of sexual health promotion interventions based in the primary care contexts. For this review, we will adapt the definition of sexual health promotion employed by Thompson *et al.* (2008)⁹, wherein the term encompasses, but is not limited to, any activity that: 1) promotes positive sexual health, or sex and relationship education; 2) reduces the incidence of STIs (including HIV); 3) reduces unintended pregnancies;

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4) changes prejudice, stigma and discrimination, or increases awareness surrounding positive sex.

Context

Our context is the primary care setting, which includes “first-contact services” such as general practitioners or family medicine clinics, pharmacies, tele-health, outpatient clinics, community or venue-based clinics, sexual health clinics, and other clinical settings that does not consider patients as “inpatients”¹⁰. We will include research based in both “general practice” and “family medicine” since these terms are synonymous with primary care and may be used interchangeably in literature³⁴. We will restrict our focus to studies conducted in “economically developed” nations, as defined by the 2019 United Nations World Economic Situation Prospects report classifications (Appendix 1, Table 1)³⁵.

Types of studies

Studies using any study design will be eligible, including but not limited to systematic reviews, randomized controlled trials, quasi-experimental trials, cohort studies, case control studies, and cross-sectional studies. Mixed methods research and qualitative study designs such as phenomenological and ethnographic studies will also be included. For feasibility reasons, only articles published in English were included. We will restrict the review to articles published between the year 2000 to 2022, to maximize relevance to the current healthcare context. We will include conference articles, editorials and commentaries to better capture the scope of health promoting intervention.

Search strategy and Information Sources

The search strategies will be developed iteratively by the team and carried out by an experienced medical librarian (CZ), utilizing a comprehensive range of medical subject headings and keyword each terms corresponding to our population (sexual and gender minorities), concept (sexual health promotion), and context (primary care in high income countries). The search strategies will be adapted for each database and will be limited English language articles published from 2000 to the present. In total, eleven databases will be searched for this review: Medline (Ovid), Embase (Ovid), PsycINFO (Ovid), CINAHL (EBSCOhost), the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (Ovid), Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (Ovid), Web of Science (Science Citation Index, Social Sciences Citation Index, Conference Proceedings Citation Index Science, Conference Proceedings Citation Index- Social Science & Humanities), Gender Studies Database & LGBTQ+ Source (EBSCOhost). The complete Ovid Medline search strategy is available in Appendix 2. All search strategies, exactly as run, will be made available upon publication of the final review. Additional search strategy that will be employed is cited reference searching of the systematic reviews that meet inclusion criteria.

Study selection

Search results from each database will be compiled in EndNote and duplicates removed, then subsequently imported into the Covidence® software, software where any additional duplicate citations will be removed. Two reviewers will independently review titles and abstracts of each citation against the inclusion criteria. Conflicts will be resolved through discussion until consensus is reached or bringing in a third reviewer if necessary. Articles meeting the inclusion criteria will then move on to full text review by two independent reviewers. We will record

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reasons for excluding articles. Disagreements between the reviewers at the full text review process will be resolved through consensus where possible, or by the decision of a third reviewer if not. Articles that meet inclusion/exclusion criteria upon full text review will be imported into Covidence®. The results of the search and study selection process will be reported using a PRISMA flow diagram.

Data Extraction Process

One reviewer will independently extract data, including article type, description of intervention, themes and subthemes, and participant descriptors, from the final eligible articles. We will pilot a draft extraction table on the first five eligible articles; table modifications will be made iteratively. A second reviewer will validate the accuracy of data extraction from the entire set of articles extracted by the first reviewer. Discrepancies will be discussed between the two reviewers until consensus is reached or by arbitration of a third reviewer, if necessary. Reviewers will attempt to contact study authors by email up to three attempts per article, to request missing or additional information if required.

Data Analysis and Presentation

We will describe key characteristics of the included studies, including participants' gender, sexuality, race/ethnicity, age range, country of study. Results will be summarized as Tables and/or figures in the final scoping review article. After data extraction, we will conduct thematic analysis to identify major content area categories, themes, and subthemes of the interventions. We will use the Sexual and Gender Minority Disparities Research Framework from the NIH¹² to analyze the interventions from a social-ecological perspective in terms of individual, community, and policy, for example. We will apply Gender-based Analysis plus (GBA+)¹¹ to characterize gender, race, and sexuality data presented in the articles. These results will be quantified and presented in graph and tabular formats in the final review. Themes and sub-themes identified will be described in greater detail in narrative summaries.

Ethical Approval

No ethical approval is required since our scoping review methods do not involve animals or human participants.

Discussion

To our knowledge, this will be the first scoping review to describe the landscape of sexual health promotion based in primary care setting tailored to sexual and gender minorities. Primary care represents a key setting of inquiry because it captures many social-ecological levels of influence for positive and sustainable sexual health outcomes, ranging from individual and relational to policy²⁴⁻²⁷. Findings can ground the implementation and scale-up of evidence-based interventions and the development of novel interventions to support and foster positive sexual health in sexual and gender minorities communities.

Our scoping review approach has several strengths. Our comprehensive search strategy includes a wide range of primary research modalities using quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods.

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3 Studies included in secondary research, e.g., systematic reviews, that fit the selection criteria will
4 also be included. Additionally, our search parameters and definitions of primary care and sexual
5 health promotion are broad to better capture the diversity of the literature. Our analysis strategy
6 is similarly comprehensive and multi-faceted with analysis of themes and content, the
7 participants, such as gender, sexuality, and race/ethnicity as well as a socio-ecological levels.
8 This analysis will offer rich insights into the different dimensions of potential research findings
9 of the content, context, and participants.
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12 Nevertheless, there are limitations. Our restriction to studies in economically-developed
13 countries may limit generalizability to low-income settings. Similarly, by restraining the scope to
14 interventions that operate within or in close connection to primary care, we may select for more
15 biomedical interventions such as STI and HIV testing. This may exclude studies that focus on
16 sexuality, relationships, and behaviour-based change when these may operate in settings outside
17 of primary care (e.g., community-based organizations, bath houses, and private counselling).
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21 **Conclusion and Dissemination**

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24 Primary health care environments are well suited for creative and effective strategies for sexual
25 health promotion that are tailored to sexual and gender minorities. The narrative descriptions,
26 results and findings of this scoping review will help to identify areas of priority, improvement,
27 and scale-up. By summarizing outcomes and success of interventions across key content themes
28 results from our scoping review are expected to be of particular interest to primary care providers
29 in high-income country settings. Public health policy experts and practitioners with a public
30 health focus may find the anticipated results relating to the levels of interventions instructive.
31 Community-based organizations that engage in sexual health promotion may benefit from new
32 ideas suggested by the scoping review, or alternatively confirmation that existing strategies are
33 evidence-based. Finally, gaps identified by the scoping review will provide opportunities for
34 further work by researchers in the field, including development and trialing of new interventions
35 within primary care environments for sexual and gender minorities.
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AUTHOR'S CONTRIBUTIONS

PH and RT contributed equally to this paper as co-first authors. All contributing authors have seen and approved the final submitted version of the manuscript. The contribution of work is as follows: ANB, DHST, and JG developed the study question; JG and RT designed the protocol with ANB and DHST; CZ for the data acquisition by creating and implementing the search strategy; PH, RT, JG, DHST and ANB wrote the original draft of the manuscript; all authors provided input and approved the final version of the manuscript.

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COMPETING INTERESTS

PH, RT, JG, CZ, CF, AY, and ANB have no conflicts of interest. D.H.S.T.'s institution has received investigator-initiated research grants from Abbvie, Gilead and Viiv Healthcare. D.H.S.T. is a Site Principal Investigator for clinical trials sponsored by GlaxoSmithKline.

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Appendix 1

Table 1: Developed Countries According to the United Nations 2019 Report

North America	Europe (European Union)	Other Europe	Asia and Pacific
Canada United States	Austria Belgium Denmark Finland France Germany Greece Ireland Italy Luxembourg Netherlands Portugal Spain Sweden United Kingdom Bulgaria Croatia Cyprus Czech Republic Estonia Hungary Latvia Lithuania Malta Poland Romania Slovakia Slovenia	Iceland Norway Switzerland	Australia Japan New Zealand

Appendix 2**Medline search strategy****Ovid MEDLINE: Epub Ahead of Print, In-Process & Other Non-Indexed Citations, Ovid MEDLINE® Daily and Ovid MEDLINE® <1946-Present>**

1 exp "Sexual and Gender Minorities"/ 12718
 2 bisexuality/ or exp homosexuality/ 33767
 3 transsexualism/ 4269
 4 Gender Identity/ 20626

5 Transvestism/ 643
 6 Gender Dysphoria/ 787
 7 (two spirit* or twospirit* or 2spirit* or 2-spirit* or gender non conforming or gender
 8 nonconforming or LGBT* or GLBT* or GSM or MSM or WSW or lesbian* or gay* or
 9 bisexual* or homosexual* or transgender* or transsexual* or trans gender* or trans sexual* or
 10 trans spectrum or transspectrum or queer* or intersex* or asexual* or pansexual* or omnisexual*
 11 or genderqueer or genderfluid or gender fluid or third gender or fourth gender or double sex or
 12 doublesex or twin spirit* or twinspirit* or sexual* minorit* or pangender* or non binary or
 13 nonbinary or bigender* or agender* or trigender* or pan gender* or bi gender* or tri gender* or
 14 mixed gender* or nonheterosexual* or non heterosexual* or gender dysphori* or lesbigay* or
 15 bicurious or cross sex or crossgender or cross gender or gender change or gender identi* or
 16 gender reassign* or gender transition* or gender variant or men who have sex with men or same
 17 gender loving or same sex attracted or same sex couple* or same sex relations or sex change* or
 18 sex reassign* or sex transition* or gender minorit* or sexual identit* or sexual orientation or
 19 trans man or transman or transmen or trans men or trans male* or transmale* or trans female* or
 20 transfemale* or trans woman or transwoman or trans women or transwomen or transpeople or
 21 transperson* or trans people or trans person* or FTM trans* or female to male trans* or MTF
 22 trans* or male to female trans* or F2M or transvestite* or women loving women or women who
 23 have sex with women or females who have sex with females or males who have sex with
 24 males).tw,kf. 79667
 25
 26 8 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 or 7 102717
 27 9 Primary Health Care/ 88098
 28 10 Comprehensive Health Care/ 6753
 29 11 exp General Practice/ 77507
 30 12 Community Health Centers/ 7444
 31 13 Community Health Services/ 32807
 32 14 Child Health Services/ 21242
 33 15 Community Mental Health Services/ 18946
 34 16 exp Maternal Health Services/ 55680
 35 17 exp Community Mental Health Centers/ 3306
 36 18 Maternal-Child Health Centers/ 2335
 37 19 Physicians, Family/ 16968
 38 20 General Practitioners/ 9723
 39 21 Physicians, Primary Care/ 4185
 40 22 Ambulatory Care Facilities/ 21260
 41 23 Outpatient Clinics, Hospital/ 15838
 42 24 Outpatients/ 19655
 43 25 Preventive Medicine/ 12012
 44 26 primary care.tw,kf. 134345
 45 27 primary healthcare.tw,kf. 8273
 46 28 primary health care.tw,kf. 31426
 47 29 Family practice*.tw,kf. 8926
 48 30 family medicine.tw,kf. 12686
 49 31 general practitioner*.tw,kf. 54979
 50 32 family physician*.tw,kf. 15836
 51 33 family doctor*.tw,kf. 5019

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3 34 Community Health Centre*.tw,kf. 1099
4 35 Community Health Center*.tw,kf. 3609
5 36 Community Healthcare.tw,kf. 1145
6 37 Community Health Care.tw,kf. 1320
7 38 Community Health service*.tw,kf. 2040
8 39 ((outpatient* or ambulatory or community) adj4 (clinic or clinics or healthcare or health
9 care or centre* or centers)).tw,kf. 79763
10 40 (Family Health Group* or Family Health Network* or Family Health Organization* or
11 Family Health Team* or integrated delivery network* or Integrated Health Network* or
12 integrated physician network* or Integrated Service Delivery Model* or Physician Integrated
13 Network* or family Health Center* or Family Health Centre* or Family Medicine Unit*).tw,kf.
14 1298
15 41 (medical home or medical homes).tw,kf. 3671
16 42 exp Pharmacists/ 20219
17 43 Pharmacies/ 9149
18 44 (pharmacist* or pharmacy or pharmacies).tw,kf. 80590
19 45 or/9-44614862
20 46 8 and 45 3614
21 47 Sexual Health/2035
22 48 exp Sexual Behavior/ 117936
23 49 exp Sexually Transmitted Diseases/ 367290
24 50 sexual partners/ 19519
25 51 Pregnancy, Unplanned/ 2327
26 52 exp Abortion, Induced/ 41794
27 53 Reproductive Health/ 4569
28 54 exp infertility/ or reproductive tract infections/ or exp sexual dysfunction, physiological/
29 103470
30 55 exp Papillomavirus Vaccines/9492
31 56 sex counseling/ or sex education/ 9962
32 57 Papanicolaou Test/ 7071
33 58 exp Contraception/ 28691
34 59 exp Contraceptive Devices/ 26611
35 60 exp Reproductive Behavior/ 10003
36 61 exp Intimate Partner Violence/ 12071
37 62 exp Sexual Dysfunctions, Psychological/ 29078
38 63 family planning services/ 25924
39 64 exp Fertility/ 44610
40 65 exp climacteric/ or exp reproduction/ 1267049
41 66 Libido/4959
42 67 Reproductive Rights/ 1079
43 68 Rape/ 6707
44 69 Sex Offenses/ 10671
45 70 Sex Workers/ 2770
46 71 exp Sex Reassignment Procedures/ 1216
47 72 Health Services for Transgender Persons/ 187
48 73 exp Hormone Replacement Therapy/ 26077
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74 (sexual* health* or sexuality or sex* education or sex* counsel* or sex* therap* or sexual relations* or sex* partner* or sexual dysfunction* or sexual violence or sexual wellbeing or sexual well being or sexual behavior* or sexual behaviour* or sexual risk* or risk* sex* or sexual satisfaction or sexual pleasure or sexual* assault* or sexual problem* or sex work* or sex* offen* or rape or raped or sex reassign* or sexual communication or reproductive health* or reproductive behavior* or reproductive behaviour* or hormone replacement or hormone therapy or affirmative care or gender affirming care or Intercourse or contraception or contraceptive or condom or condoms or safe* sex* or unsafe sex* or unplanned pregnanc* or unintended pregnanc* or unwanted pregnanc* or abortion* or birth control or fertility or infertil* or family planning or intimate partner violence or menopause or andropause or sexually transmitted infection* or sexually transmitted disease* or STI or STIs or STD or STDs or HIV or AIDS or Human immunodeficiency virus or Acquired immune deficiency syndrome or Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis or Preexposure Prophylaxis Hepatitis A or Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C or chlamydia or Gonorrhoea or gonorrhoea or pelvic inflammatory disease or Trichomoniasis or papillomavirus infection* or papillomavirus vaccin* or HPV vaccin* or syphilis or herpes genitalis or Chancroid or granuloma inguinale or condylomata accuminata or Bacterial Vaginosis or Cervical cancer or cervical neoplasm* or cervical intra-epithelial neoplasia or uterine cervical dysplasia or dyspareunia or erectile dysfunction).tw,kf. 1135473

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77 exp canada/ or exp united states/ or europe/ or austria/ or belgium/ or europe, eastern/ or Bulgaria/ or exp baltic states/ or croatia/ or czech republic/ or hungary/ or poland/ or romania/ or slovakia/ or slovenia/ or exp france/ or exp germany/ or exp united kingdom/ or greece/ or ireland/ or exp italy/ or luxembourg/ or mediterranean region/ or mediterranean islands/ or cyprus/ or malta/ or netherlands/ or portugal/ or exp "scandinavian and nordic countries"/ or spain/ or switzerland/ or exp australia/ or iceland/ or new zealand/ or exp japan/ 3252008

78 (Australia* or Austria* or Belgium or Belgian* or Canada* or Canadian* or Czech* or Denmark or Danish or Estonia* or Finland or Finnish or France or French or German* or Greece or Greek or Hungar* or Iceland* or Italy or Italian* or Japan* or Latvia* or Lithuania* or Luxembourg or Malta or Maltese or Netherlands or Holland or Dutch or New Zealand* or Norway or Norwegian* or Poland or Polish or Portugal or Portuguese or Slovak* or Slovenia* or Spain or Spanish or Sweden or Swedish or Switzerland or Swiss or United Kingdom or UK or England or British or Ireland or Irish or Scotland or Scottish or Wales or Welsh or United States or America* or USA or Bulgaria* or Croatia* or Cyprus or Romania*).tw,kf. 2515782

79 african americans/ or american native continental ancestry group/ or alaska natives/ or indians, north american/ or inuits/ or oceanic ancestry group/ or asian americans/ or exp indigenous peoples/ or exp hispanic americans/ 119364

80 (canad* or "british columbia" or "Colombie britannique" or alberta* or saskatchewan or manitoba* or ontario or quebec or "nouveau brunswick" or "nova scotia" or "nouvelle ecosse" or "prince edward island" or newfoundland or labrador or nunavut or nwt or "northwest territories" or yukon or nunavik or inuvialuit).tw,kf. 189983

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83 exp Africa/ or exp caribbean region/ or exp central america/ or latin america/ or exp south america/ or exp asia, central/ or exp asia, northern/ or exp asia, southeastern/ or exp asia,

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For peer review only

Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analyses extension for Scoping Reviews (PRISMA-ScR) Checklist

SECTION	ITEM	PRISMA-ScR CHECKLIST ITEM	REPORTED ON PAGE #
TITLE			
Title	1	Identify the report as a scoping review.	Click here to enter text.
ABSTRACT			
Structured summary	2	Provide a structured summary that includes (as applicable): background, objectives, eligibility criteria, sources of evidence, charting methods, results, and conclusions that relate to the review questions and objectives.	Click here to enter text.
INTRODUCTION			
Rationale	3	Describe the rationale for the review in the context of what is already known. Explain why the review questions/objectives lend themselves to a scoping review approach.	Click here to enter text.
Objectives	4	Provide an explicit statement of the questions and objectives being addressed with reference to their key elements (e.g., population or participants, concepts, and context) or other relevant key elements used to conceptualize the review questions and/or objectives.	Click here to enter text.
METHODS			
Protocol and registration	5	Indicate whether a review protocol exists; state if and where it can be accessed (e.g., a Web address); and if available, provide registration information, including the registration number.	Click here to enter text.
Eligibility criteria	6	Specify characteristics of the sources of evidence used as eligibility criteria (e.g., years considered, language, and publication status), and provide a rationale.	Click here to enter text.
Information sources*	7	Describe all information sources in the search (e.g., databases with dates of coverage and contact with authors to identify additional sources), as well as the date the most recent search was executed.	Click here to enter text.
Search	8	Present the full electronic search strategy for at least 1 database, including any limits used, such that it could be repeated.	Click here to enter text.
Selection of sources of evidence†	9	State the process for selecting sources of evidence (i.e., screening and eligibility) included in the scoping review.	Click here to enter text.
Data charting process‡	10	Describe the methods of charting data from the included sources of evidence (e.g., calibrated forms or forms that have been tested by the team before their use, and whether data charting was done independently or in duplicate) and any processes for obtaining and confirming data from investigators.	Click here to enter text.
Data items	11	List and define all variables for which data were sought and any assumptions and simplifications made.	Click here to enter text.
Critical appraisal of individual sources of evidence§	12	If done, provide a rationale for conducting a critical appraisal of included sources of evidence; describe the methods used and how this information was used in any data synthesis (if appropriate).	Click here to enter text.



SECTION	ITEM	PRISMA-ScR CHECKLIST ITEM	REPORTED ON PAGE #
Synthesis of results	13	Describe the methods of handling and summarizing the data that were charted.	Click here to enter text.
RESULTS			
Selection of sources of evidence	14	Give numbers of sources of evidence screened, assessed for eligibility, and included in the review, with reasons for exclusions at each stage, ideally using a flow diagram.	Click here to enter text.
Characteristics of sources of evidence	15	For each source of evidence, present characteristics for which data were charted and provide the citations.	Click here to enter text.
Critical appraisal within sources of evidence	16	If done, present data on critical appraisal of included sources of evidence (see item 12).	Click here to enter text.
Results of individual sources of evidence	17	For each included source of evidence, present the relevant data that were charted that relate to the review questions and objectives.	Click here to enter text.
Synthesis of results	18	Summarize and/or present the charting results as they relate to the review questions and objectives.	Click here to enter text.
DISCUSSION			
Summary of evidence	19	Summarize the main results (including an overview of concepts, themes, and types of evidence available), link to the review questions and objectives, and consider the relevance to key groups.	Click here to enter text.
Limitations	20	Discuss the limitations of the scoping review process.	Click here to enter text.
Conclusions	21	Provide a general interpretation of the results with respect to the review questions and objectives, as well as potential implications and/or next steps.	Click here to enter text.
FUNDING			
Funding	22	Describe sources of funding for the included sources of evidence, as well as sources of funding for the scoping review. Describe the role of the funders of the scoping review.	Click here to enter text.

JBI = Joanna Briggs Institute; PRISMA-ScR = Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analyses extension for Scoping Reviews.

* Where *sources of evidence* (see second footnote) are compiled from, such as bibliographic databases, social media platforms, and Web sites.

† A more inclusive/heterogeneous term used to account for the different types of evidence or data sources (e.g., quantitative and/or qualitative research, expert opinion, and policy documents) that may be eligible in a scoping review as opposed to only studies. This is not to be confused with *information sources* (see first footnote).

‡ The frameworks by Arksey and O'Malley (6) and Levac and colleagues (7) and the JBI guidance (4, 5) refer to the process of data extraction in a scoping review as data charting.

§ The process of systematically examining research evidence to assess its validity, results, and relevance before using it to inform a decision. This term is used for items 12 and 19 instead of "risk of bias" (which is more applicable to systematic reviews of interventions) to include and acknowledge the various sources of evidence that may be used in a scoping review (e.g., quantitative and/or qualitative research, expert opinion, and policy document).

From: Tricco AC, Lillie E, Zarin W, O'Brien KK, Colquhoun H, Levac D, et al. PRISMA Extension for Scoping Reviews (PRISMA-ScR): Checklist and Explanation. *Ann Intern Med.* 2018;169:467–473. doi: 10.7326/M18-0850.



BMJ Open

Sexual Health Promotion for Sexual and Gender Minorities in Primary Care: A Scoping Review Protocol

Journal:	<i>BMJ Open</i>
Manuscript ID	bmjopen-2022-066704.R1
Article Type:	Protocol
Date Submitted by the Author:	09-Jan-2023
Complete List of Authors:	<p>Homme, Paige; Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto, MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions; University of Toronto, Temerty Faculty of Medicine</p> <p>Truong, Robinson; Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto, MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions; University of Toronto, Temerty Faculty of Medicine</p> <p>Gong, Jenny; University of Toronto Dalla Lana School of Public Health; University of Oxford Nuffield Department of Population Health</p> <p>Ziegler, Carolyn; Unity Health Toronto, Library Services</p> <p>Freitas, Cassandra; Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto, MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions; University of Toronto Dalla Lana School of Public Health</p> <p>Yeung, Anna; Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto, MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions</p> <p>Tan, Darrell; Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto, MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions; Unity Health Toronto, Division of Infectious Diseases, St. Michael's Hospital</p> <p>Burchell, Ann; Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto, Department of Family and Community Medicine and Centre for Research on Inner City Health; University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine, Department of Family and Community Medicine</p>
Primary Subject Heading:	Sexual health
Secondary Subject Heading:	General practice / Family practice
Keywords:	SEXUAL MEDICINE, HIV & AIDS < INFECTIOUS DISEASES, PRIMARY CARE

SCHOLARONE™
Manuscripts

Running head: Sexual health promotion for SGM in primary care

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3 1 **Sexual Health Promotion for Sexual and Gender Minorities in Primary Care: A Scoping**
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6 **Review Protocol**
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9 3 Paige HOMME*^{1,2}, Robinson TRUONG*^{1,2}, Jenny GONG^{1,3,8}, Carolyn ZIEGLER⁷, Cassandra
10
11 4 FREITAS^{1,3}, Anna YEUNG¹, Darrell H.S. TAN^{1,2,4,5} & Ann N. BURCHELL^{1,2,3,6}
12

13 5 *Equal contributing authors
14
15

- 16 6 1. MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions, St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto
17
18 7 2. Temerty Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto
19
20 8 3. Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto
21
22 9 4. Division of Infectious Diseases, St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto
23
24 10 5. Department of Medicine, St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto
25
26 11 6. Department of Family and Community Medicine, St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health
27
28 Toronto
29
30 12 7. Library Services, Unity Health Toronto
31
32 13 8. Nuffield Department of Population Health, University of Oxford
33
34
35 14
36 15

37
38 16 **Corresponding author**

39 17 Ann N. Burchell
40 18 MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions and Department of Family and Community Medicine,
41 19 St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto; Temerty Faculty of Medicine and Dalla Lana
42 20 School of Public Health, University of Toronto
43 21 ann.burchell@unityhealth.to
44 22

45 23 **SHORT TITLE**

46 24 SGM health promotion in primary care
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51 26 Word Count: 2725/4000
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53 27 **KEYWORDS**

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56 28 Sexual medicine, HIV & AIDS < infectious diseases, primary care
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Running head: Sexual health promotion for SGM in primary care

28 **ABSTRACT**

29 **Introduction:** Sexual and gender minorities (SGM) face health disparities related to systemic
30 discrimination and barriers to sexual health. Sexual health promotion encompasses strategies that
31 enable individuals, groups, and communities to make informed decisions regarding their sexual
32 well-being. Our objective is to describe the existing sexual health promotion interventions
33 tailored for SGMs within the primary care context.

34
35 **Methods and analysis:** We will conduct a scoping review and search for articles in eleven
36 medical and social science academic databases on interventions that are targeted towards SGM
37 in the primary care context in industrialized countries. Searches were conducted on July 7, 2020
38 and May 31, 2022. We defined sexual health interventions in the inclusion framework as 1)
39 promote positive sexual health, or sex and relationship education; 2) reduce the incidence of
40 STIs; 3) reduce unintended pregnancies; or 4) change prejudice, stigma, and discrimination
41 around sexual health, or increase awareness surrounding positive sex. Two independent
42 reviewers will select articles meeting inclusion criteria and extract data. Participant and study
43 characteristics will be summarized using frequencies and proportions. Our primary analysis will
44 include a descriptive summary of key interventional themes from content and thematic analysis.
45 Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA+) will be used to stratify themes based on gender, race,
46 sexuality, and other identities. The secondary analysis will include the use of the Sexual and
47 Gender Minority Disparities Research Framework to analyze the interventions from a social-
48 ecological perspective.

49
50 **Ethics and dissemination:** No ethical approval is required for a scoping review. The protocol
51 was registered on the Open Science Framework Registries
52 (<https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/X5R47>). The intended audiences are primary care providers,
53 public health, researchers, and community-based organizations. Results will be communicated
54 through peer review publication, conferences, rounds, and other opportunities to reach primary
55 care providers. Community-based engagement will occur through presentations, guest speakers,
56 community forums and research summary handouts.

57 **Strengths and limitations of this study**

- 58
59 • The research question was kept broad to capture the diversity of sexual health promotion
60 in primary care.
- 61 • Focuses on interventions that can inspire and be utilized by primary care providers for
62 sexual and gender minority patients.
- 63 • Includes both peer-reviewed and grey literature, with the intention of keeping the scope
64 broad.
- 65 • Narrow definition of sexual health promotion interventions and definition of primary
66 care.
- 67 • Focuses on only developed countries according to the United Nations Report 2019,
68 leading to exclusion of studies and may reduce generalizability to other care contexts.

Running head: Sexual health promotion for SGM in primary care

70 **INTRODUCTION**

71 The term “sexual and gender minorities” encompasses identities such as Two-Spirit, lesbian,
72 gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and asexual (2SLGBTQIA+)
73 individuals that represent a diverse group of people and communities with intersecting identities
74 such as race, socioeconomic status and others¹. These intersecting identities and backgrounds
75 define unique identity locations that influence experiences of stigma and discrimination in the
76 healthcare system². Sexual and gender minority individuals face health disparities³, including
77 access to health care, discrimination by health providers, postponing or not attempting to seek
78 care, and access to health insurance^{1,4}. Furthermore, minority stress theory suggests that sexual
79 minority individuals face more exposure to social stress related to stigma, prejudice and
80 discrimination and therefore are at greater risk for negative physical and mental health outcomes,
81 compared to their heterosexual counterparts⁵.

82
83 Sexual health remains a significant public health challenge around the world and continues to
84 impact Western industrialized countries⁶. Approximately one million people around the world
85 acquire a STI every day, and the resulting morbidity and mortality compromises individual
86 quality of life as well as overall sexual and reproductive health^{7,8}. Though many definitions of
87 sexual health have been proposed⁹, the most cited and widely accepted is the World Health
88 Organization definition: “a state of physical, emotional, mental, and social well-being in relation
89 to sexuality; it is not merely the absence of disease, dysfunction, or infirmity.”¹⁰ Sexual and
90 gender minorities face varying sexual health issues. For example, sexual minority women are
91 more likely to report sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and unintended pregnancies
92 compared to their heterosexual counterparts¹¹. Cis- and transgender gay, bisexual, and other men
93 who have sex with men (GBMSM) are at particularly high risk for acquiring HIV¹².
94 Transmasculine individuals have a significantly reduced odds of undergoing cervical cancer
95 screening as compared to cis-women^{13,14}. To reduce the global burden of STIs, WHO’s *Global*
96 *Health Sector Strategy on Sexually Transmitted Infections* Report points to the need to adopt
97 appropriate interventions aimed to promote sexual health⁸.

98
99 Sexual health promotion encompasses strategies that enable individuals, groups, and
100 communities to make informed decisions regarding their sexual well-being¹⁰. These strategies
101 often focus on intervening at the individual level, through the provision of educational, peer-
102 based, motivational, or skills-based programs¹⁵. From social-ecological perspective, sexual
103 health and sexual behaviour change takes place within five nested, interacting environmental
104 levels with the individual at the centre^{16–18}. The individual and the surrounding microsystem
105 represent the most immediate environment and factors that drive health disparities and unmet
106 care needs¹⁸. The mesosystem is the relationship between the health provider and patient and the
107 ecosystem encompasses health system policies, decisions made among health providers and
108 insurance¹⁸. The macrosystem is the broader cultural environment that influences stigma and
109 discrimination and the chronosystem describes how location in time and place impacts the
110 individual¹⁸. It is important to examine sexual health promotion interventions that move beyond
111 the individual level to address multiple domains as they have the potential to further improve
112 sustainable behaviour change and positive sexual health outcomes¹⁹.

113
114 Primary care is uniquely situated to address many environments to positively influence sexual
115 health of sexual and gender minority individuals; ranging from patient-level interaction,

Running head: Sexual health promotion for SGM in primary care

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3 116 community-based interventions to targeted policy changes. Researchers advocate that primary
4 117 health care environments are important settings for delivering routine sexual health promotion
5 118 services²⁰. Yet, though sexual health is recognized as an important topic within primary care, it
6 119 is often overlooked in practice²¹. Specifically, Khan *et al.* (2008)²² reported that many primary
7 120 care providers do not discuss sexual health with their patients due to challenges integrating
8 121 sexual health into their practice, citing heavy workloads, lack of time, and inadequate training as
9 122 barriers²³. In the context of sexual and gender minority patients, lack of knowledge and
10 123 understanding is cited as a barrier to ask about a patient's gender, sexuality and sexual health¹⁸.

11 124
12 125 The objective of this scoping review is to synthesize what evidence currently exists regarding
13 126 sexual health promotion interventions for sexual and gender minorities in the primary care
14 127 context, to examine the landscape of the literature and to map out existing and promising areas of
15 128 priority, improvement, and future research.
16 129

17 128 18 129 19 130 **METHODS AND ANALYSIS**

20
21 131 Our scoping review approach is informed by frameworks proposed by Arksey and O'Malley
22 132 (2002)²⁴, Levac *et al.* (2010)²⁵, and the Joanna Briggs Institute²⁶. These researchers outlined six
23 133 stages involved in conducting a rigorous scoping review: 1) identifying the research question; 2)
24 134 identifying relevant studies; 3) selecting relevant studies; 4) charting data; 5) summarizing and
25 135 reporting findings and 6) an optional consultation exercise. In addition, we utilize the Preferred
26 136 Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analyses extension for Scoping Reviews
27 137 (PRISMA-ScR) Checklist in developing this protocol as it the most used and widely accepted
28 138 standard of reporting scoping reviews²⁷⁻²⁹. The scoping review protocol was registered on the
29 139 Open Science Framework Registries (DOI: 10.17605/OSF.IO/X5R47)
30 140

31 140 32 141 **Patient and public involvement**

33 141 No patients were involved in this scoping review.
34 142
35 143

36 144 **Eligibility Criteria**

37 145 *Participants*

38 145 Our focus will be on studies involving interventions targeted towards youth and adult sexual and
39 146 gender minorities, including but not limited to those who identify as Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay,
40 147 bisexual, transgender, transsexual, queer, questioning, intersex, and asexual. We will include
41 148 studies that targeted sexual and gender minorities populations who may also benefit from the
42 149 intervention. Conversely, we will exclude studies that included sexual and gender minority
43 150 individuals along with other groups of interest or the general population without clear targeting
44 151 or intention to focus on sexual and gender minorities. We will exclude interventions targeting
45 152 children under the age of 12.
46 153
47 154

48 154 49 155 *Concept*

50 156 This review will be inclusive of studies that examine a wide range of sexual health promotion
51 157 interventions based in the primary care contexts. For this review, we will adapt the definition of
52 158 sexual health promotion employed by Thompson *et al.* (2008)²³, wherein the term encompasses,
53 159 but is not limited to, any activity that: 1) promotes positive sexual health, or sex and relationship
54 160 education; 2) reduces the incidence of STIs (including HIV); 3) reduces unintended pregnancies;
55 161 4) changes prejudice, stigma and discrimination, or
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Running head: Sexual health promotion for SGM in primary care

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3 162 increase positive attitudes surrounding positive sex, often referred to as “sex positivity”, will be
4 163 defined as “an ideology that promotes, with respect to gender and sexuality, being open-minded,
5 164 non-judgmental and respectful of personal sexual autonomy, when there is consent.”³⁰ This may
6 165 be applied to improving wellbeing and relationships to embracing one’s own sexuality.
7 166

167 *Context*

168 Our context is the primary care setting, which includes “first-contact services” such as general
169 practitioners or family medicine clinics, pharmacies, tele-health, outpatient clinics, community or
170 venue-based clinics, sexual health clinics, and other clinical settings that does not consider
171 patients as “inpatients”³¹. We will include research based in both “general practice” and “family
172 medicine” since these terms are synonymous with primary care and may be used interchangeably
173 in literature³². We will restrict our focus to studies conducted in “economically developed”
174 nations, as defined by the 2019 United Nations World Economic Situation Prospects report
175 classifications (Appendix 1, Table 1)³³.
176

177 *Types of studies*

178 Studies using any study design will be eligible, including but not limited to systematic reviews,
179 randomized controlled trials, quasi-experimental trials, cohort studies, case control studies, and
180 cross-sectional studies. Mixed methods research and qualitative study designs such as
181 phenomenological and ethnographic studies will also be included. For feasibility reasons, only
182 articles published in English were included. We will restrict the review to articles published
183 between the year 2000 to 2022, to maximize relevance to the current healthcare context. We will
184 include conference articles, editorials and commentaries to better capture the scope of health
185 promoting intervention.
186

187 **Search strategy and Information Sources**

188 The search strategies will be developed iteratively by the team and carried out by an experienced
189 medical librarian (CZ), utilizing a comprehensive range of medical subject headings and
190 keyword each terms corresponding to our population (sexual and gender minorities), concept
191 (sexual health promotion), and context (primary care in high income countries). The search
192 strategies will be adapted for each database and will be limited English language articles
193 published from 2000 to the present. In total, eleven databases will be searched for this review:
194 Medline (Ovid), Embase (Ovid), PsycINFO (Ovid), CINAHL (EBSCOhost), the Cochrane
195 Database of Systematic Reviews (Ovid), Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (Ovid),
196 Web of Science (Science Citation Index, Social Sciences Citation Index, Conference
197 Proceedings Citation Index Science, Conference Proceedings Citation Index- Social Science &
198 Humanities), Gender Studies Database & LGBTQ+ Source (EBSCOhost). The complete Ovid
199 Medline search strategy is available in Appendix 2. All search strategies, exactly as run, will be
200 made available upon publication of the final review. Additional search strategy that will be
201 employed is cited reference searching of the systematic reviews that meet inclusion criteria.
202

203 **Study selection**

204 Search results from each database will be compiled in EndNote and duplicates removed, then
205 subsequently imported into the Covidence® software where any additional duplicate citations
206 will be removed. Two reviewers will independently review titles and abstracts of each citation
207 against the inclusion criteria. Conflicts will be resolved through discussion until consensus is
208

Running head: Sexual health promotion for SGM in primary care

reached or bringing in a third reviewer if necessary. Articles meeting the inclusion criteria will then move on to full text review by two independent reviewers. We will record reasons for excluding articles. Disagreements between the reviewers at the full text review process will be resolved through consensus where possible, or by the decision of a third reviewer if not. Articles that meet inclusion/exclusion criteria upon full text review will be imported into Covidence®. The results of the search and study selection process will be reported using a PRISMA flow diagram.

Data Extraction Process

One reviewer will independently extract data, including article type, description of intervention, themes and subthemes, and participant descriptors, from the final eligible articles. We will pilot a draft extraction table on the first five eligible articles; table modifications will be made iteratively. A second reviewer will validate the accuracy of data extraction from the entire set of articles extracted by the first reviewer. Discrepancies will be discussed between the two reviewers until consensus is reached or by arbitration of a third reviewer, if necessary. Reviewers will attempt to contact study authors by email up to three attempts per article, to request missing or additional information if required.

Data Analysis and Presentation

We will describe key characteristics of the included studies, including participants' gender, sexuality, race/ethnicity, age range, country of study. Results will be summarized as Tables and/or figures in the final scoping review article. After data extraction, we will conduct thematic analysis to identify major content area categories, themes, and subthemes of the interventions. These results will be quantified and presented in graph and tabular formats in the final review. Themes and sub-themes identified will be described in greater detail in narrative summaries.

We will use the Sexual and Gender Minority Disparities Research Framework from the NIH³⁴ to analyze the interventions from a social-ecological perspective in terms of individual, community, and policy, for example. For our analyses, this framework has been adapted from The National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) framework³⁵ and is intended to be used for primary research and as a tool to analyze existing research³⁶. It has been adapted to analyze different axes of health disparities including mental health³⁶, and vaccine hesitancy³⁷. A recent study by Chuang and colleagues³⁸, used the NIMHD framework to evaluate the literature on disparities in End-of-Life outcomes for Black patients and families. To the best of our knowledge, our scoping review represents its first application of the NIMHD framework for sexual health interventions in primary care among SGM communities.

We will be using the GBA+ framework³⁹ as an intentional approach to investigate differences in primary care according to sex, gender, sexual orientation, race and ethnicity. For articles containing quantitative analyses, we will consider whether analyses were stratified by sex, gender, or sexual orientation and if so, recording the results for each group and whether results differ significantly or not between groups. For studies with a qualitative component, we will consider whether themes emerge separately for each group. For all articles, we will examine whether the discussion section includes implications separately for each group. We will use the GBA+ framework to ensure that we discuss the results and implications of our scoping review

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254 intentionally incorporating the elements of GBA+ principles. The GBA+ framework has been
255 used in previous studies examining Canadian programs and policies. To our knowledge, there is
256 one other scoping review by Eichler *et al.* (2021)⁴⁰ who utilized the GBA+ framework³⁹ to
257 analyze research and government resources about military to civilian transition.

259 **Planned Dates**

260 The initial search was conducted on July 7 2020, and updated on May 31 2022, analysis is
261 ongoing and completion of thematic analysis is anticipated for April 2023.

263 **Ethical Approval**

265 No ethical approval is required since our scoping review methods do not involve animals or
266 human participants.

268 **Discussion**

270 This is a novel review of sexual health promotion interventions for sexual and gender minorities
271 specifically within primary care settings. This review fits into broader work, including scoping
272 reviews around general healthcare for adolescent sexual and gender minority populations in
273 primary care⁴¹, integration of sex and gender considerations in health policy making⁴², care of
274 SGM populations in the Emergency Department⁴³, and how COVID-19 impacted sexual health
275 for marginalized groups, including sexual and gender minorities⁴⁴. Primary care represents a
276 key setting of inquiry because it captures many social-ecological levels of influence for positive
277 and sustainable sexual health outcomes, ranging from individual and relational to policy¹⁶⁻¹⁹.
278 Findings can ground the implementation and scale-up of evidence-based interventions and the
279 development of novel interventions to support and foster positive sexual health in sexual and
280 gender minorities communities.

282 Our scoping review approach has several strengths. Our comprehensive search strategy includes
283 a wide range of primary research modalities using quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods.
284 Studies included in secondary research, e.g., systematic reviews, that fit the selection criteria will
285 also be included. Additionally, our search parameters and definitions of primary care and sexual
286 health promotion are broad to better capture the diversity of the literature. Our analysis strategy
287 is similarly comprehensive and multi-faceted with analysis of themes and content, the
288 participants, such as gender, sexuality, and race/ethnicity as well as a socio-ecological levels.
289 This analysis will offer rich insights into the different dimensions of potential research findings
290 of the content, context, and participants.

292 Nevertheless, there are limitations. Our restriction to studies in economically-developed
293 countries may limit generalizability to low-income settings. Similar efforts should be done for
294 low- and middle-income countries, such as in India where there is significant work being done to
295 improve care for sexual and general minority communities in primary care. In addition, by
296 restraining the scope to interventions that operate within or in close connection to primary care,
297 we may select for more biomedical interventions such as STI and HIV testing. This may exclude
298 studies that focus on sexuality, relationships, and behaviour-based change when these may
299 operate in settings outside of primary care (e.g., community-based organizations, bath houses,

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300 and private counselling). Furthermore, we acknowledge the contributions of medical fields
301 outside of primary care settings that engage in work with SGM communities that are not
302 captured in our review and represent important collective work.

304 **Conclusion and Dissemination**

305 We will publish our results of the review in an open access journal. The results will be presented
306 at family medicine/health policy conferences at the local, national and international level, as well
307 as community organizations and healthcare provider associations including the undergraduate
308 medical level. Primary health care environments are well suited for creative and effective
309 strategies for sexual health promotion that are tailored to sexual and gender minorities. The
310 narrative descriptions, results and findings of this scoping review will help to identify areas of
311 priority, improvement, and scale-up. By summarizing outcomes and success of interventions
312 across key content themes results from our scoping review are expected to be of particular
313 interest to primary care providers in high-income country settings. Public health policy experts
314 and practitioners with a public health focus may find the anticipated results relating to the levels
315 of interventions instructive. Community-based organizations that engage in sexual health
316 promotion may benefit from new ideas suggested by the scoping review, or alternatively
317 confirmation that existing strategies are evidence-based. Finally, gaps identified by the scoping
318 review will provide opportunities for further work by researchers in the field, including
319 development and trialing of new interventions within primary care environments for sexual and
320 gender minorities.

321 **AUTHOR'S CONTRIBUTIONS**

322 PH and RT contributed equally to this paper as co-first authors. All contributing authors have
323 seen and approved the final submitted version of the manuscript. The contribution of work is as
324 follows: ANB, DHST, and JG developed the study question; JG and RT designed the protocol
325 with ANB and DHST; CZ for the data acquisition by creating and implementing the search
326 strategy; CF contributed to the design and drafting of the methods; AY provided substantial input
327 and edits throughout the preparation of the paper; PH, RT, JG, DHST and ANB wrote the
328 original draft of the manuscript; all authors provided input and approved the final version of the
329 manuscript.

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339 **COMPETING INTERESTS**

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For peer review only

Appendix 1

Table 1: Developed Countries According to the United Nations 2019 Report

North America	Europe (European Union)	Other Europe	Asia and Pacific
Canada United States	Austria Belgium Denmark Finland France Germany Greece Ireland Italy Luxembourg Netherlands Portugal Spain Sweden United Kingdom Bulgaria Croatia Cyprus Czech Republic Estonia Hungary Latvia Lithuania Malta Poland Romania Slovakia Slovenia	Iceland Norway Switzerland	Australia Japan New Zealand

Appendix 2**Medline search strategy****Ovid MEDLINE: Epub Ahead of Print, In-Process & Other Non-Indexed Citations, Ovid MEDLINE® Daily and Ovid MEDLINE® <1946-Present>**

1 exp "Sexual and Gender Minorities"/ 12718
 2 bisexuality/ or exp homosexuality/ 33767
 3 transsexualism/ 4269
 4 Gender Identity/ 20626

5 Transvestism/ 643
 6 Gender Dysphoria/ 787
 7 (two spirit* or twospirit* or 2spirit* or 2-spirit* or gender non conforming or gender
 8 nonconforming or LGBT* or GLBT* or GSM or MSM or WSW or lesbian* or gay* or
 9 bisexual* or homosexual* or transgender* or transsexual* or trans gender* or trans sexual* or
 10 trans spectrum or transspectrum or queer* or intersex* or asexual* or pansexual* or omnisexual*
 11 or genderqueer or genderfluid or gender fluid or third gender or fourth gender or double sex or
 12 doublesex or twin spirit* or twinspirit* or sexual* minorit* or pangender* or non binary or
 13 nonbinary or bigender* or agender* or trigender* or pan gender* or bi gender* or tri gender* or
 14 mixed gender* or nonheterosexual* or non heterosexual* or gender dysphori* or lesbigay* or
 15 bicurious or cross sex or crossgender or cross gender or gender change or gender identi* or
 16 gender reassign* or gender transition* or gender variant or men who have sex with men or same
 17 gender loving or same sex attracted or same sex couple* or same sex relations or sex change* or
 18 sex reassign* or sex transition* or gender minorit* or sexual identit* or sexual orientation or
 19 trans man or transman or transmen or trans men or trans male* or transmale* or trans female* or
 20 transfemale* or trans woman or transwoman or trans women or transwomen or transpeople or
 21 transperson* or trans people or trans person* or FTM trans* or female to male trans* or MTF
 22 trans* or male to female trans* or F2M or transvestite* or women loving women or women who
 23 have sex with women or females who have sex with females or males who have sex with
 24 males).tw,kf. 79667
 25
 26 8 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 or 7 102717
 27 9 Primary Health Care/ 88098
 28 10 Comprehensive Health Care/ 6753
 29 11 exp General Practice/ 77507
 30 12 Community Health Centers/ 7444
 31 13 Community Health Services/ 32807
 32 14 Child Health Services/ 21242
 33 15 Community Mental Health Services/ 18946
 34 16 exp Maternal Health Services/ 55680
 35 17 exp Community Mental Health Centers/ 3306
 36 18 Maternal-Child Health Centers/ 2335
 37 19 Physicians, Family/ 16968
 38 20 General Practitioners/ 9723
 39 21 Physicians, Primary Care/ 4185
 40 22 Ambulatory Care Facilities/ 21260
 41 23 Outpatient Clinics, Hospital/ 15838
 42 24 Outpatients/ 19655
 43 25 Preventive Medicine/ 12012
 44 26 primary care.tw,kf. 134345
 45 27 primary healthcare.tw,kf. 8273
 46 28 primary health care.tw,kf. 31426
 47 29 Family practice*.tw,kf. 8926
 48 30 family medicine.tw,kf. 12686
 49 31 general practitioner*.tw,kf. 54979
 50 32 family physician*.tw,kf. 15836
 51 33 family doctor*.tw,kf. 5019

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2
3 34 Community Health Centre*.tw,kf. 1099
4 35 Community Health Center*.tw,kf. 3609
5 36 Community Healthcare.tw,kf. 1145
6 37 Community Health Care.tw,kf. 1320
7 38 Community Health service*.tw,kf. 2040
8 39 ((outpatient* or ambulatory or community) adj4 (clinic or clinics or healthcare or health
9 care or centre* or centers)).tw,kf. 79763
10 40 (Family Health Group* or Family Health Network* or Family Health Organization* or
11 Family Health Team* or integrated delivery network* or Integrated Health Network* or
12 integrated physician network* or Integrated Service Delivery Model* or Physician Integrated
13 Network* or family Health Center* or Family Health Centre* or Family Medicine Unit*).tw,kf.
14 1298
15 41 (medical home or medical homes).tw,kf. 3671
16 42 exp Pharmacists/ 20219
17 43 Pharmacies/ 9149
18 44 (pharmacist* or pharmacy or pharmacies).tw,kf. 80590
19 45 or/9-44614862
20 46 8 and 45 3614
21 47 Sexual Health/2035
22 48 exp Sexual Behavior/ 117936
23 49 exp Sexually Transmitted Diseases/ 367290
24 50 sexual partners/ 19519
25 51 Pregnancy, Unplanned/ 2327
26 52 exp Abortion, Induced/ 41794
27 53 Reproductive Health/ 4569
28 54 exp infertility/ or reproductive tract infections/ or exp sexual dysfunction, physiological/
29 103470
30 55 exp Papillomavirus Vaccines/9492
31 56 sex counseling/ or sex education/ 9962
32 57 Papanicolaou Test/ 7071
33 58 exp Contraception/ 28691
34 59 exp Contraceptive Devices/ 26611
35 60 exp Reproductive Behavior/ 10003
36 61 exp Intimate Partner Violence/ 12071
37 62 exp Sexual Dysfunctions, Psychological/ 29078
38 63 family planning services/ 25924
39 64 exp Fertility/ 44610
40 65 exp climacteric/ or exp reproduction/ 1267049
41 66 Libido/4959
42 67 Reproductive Rights/ 1079
43 68 Rape/ 6707
44 69 Sex Offenses/ 10671
45 70 Sex Workers/ 2770
46 71 exp Sex Reassignment Procedures/ 1216
47 72 Health Services for Transgender Persons/ 187
48 73 exp Hormone Replacement Therapy/ 26077
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74 (sexual* health* or sexuality or sex* education or sex* counsel* or sex* therap* or sexual relations* or sex* partner* or sexual dysfunction* or sexual violence or sexual wellbeing or sexual well being or sexual behavior* or sexual behaviour* or sexual risk* or risk* sex* or sexual satisfaction or sexual pleasure or sexual* assault* or sexual problem* or sex work* or sex* offen* or rape or raped or sex reassign* or sexual communication or reproductive health* or reproductive behavior* or reproductive behaviour* or hormone replacement or hormone therapy or affirmative care or gender affirming care or Intercourse or contraception or contraceptive or condom or condoms or safe* sex* or unsafe sex* or unplanned pregnanc* or unintended pregnanc* or unwanted pregnanc* or abortion* or birth control or fertility or infertil* or family planning or intimate partner violence or menopause or andropause or sexually transmitted infection* or sexually transmitted disease* or STI or STIs or STD or STDs or HIV or AIDS or Human immunodeficiency virus or Acquired immune deficiency syndrome or Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis or Preexposure Prophylaxis Hepatitis A or Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C or chlamydia or Gonorrhoea or gonorrhoea or pelvic inflammatory disease or Trichomoniasis or papillomavirus infection* or papillomavirus vaccin* or HPV vaccin* or syphilis or herpes genitalis or Chancroid or granuloma inguinale or condylomata accuminata or Bacterial Vaginosis or Cervical cancer or cervical neoplasm* or cervical intra-epithelial neoplasia or uterine cervical dysplasia or dyspareunia or erectile dysfunction).tw,kf. 1135473

75 or/47-74 2352976

76 46 and 75 2909

77 exp canada/ or exp united states/ or europe/ or austria/ or belgium/ or europe, eastern/ or Bulgaria/ or exp baltic states/ or croatia/ or czech republic/ or hungary/ or poland/ or romania/ or slovakia/ or slovenia/ or exp france/ or exp germany/ or exp united kingdom/ or greece/ or ireland/ or exp italy/ or luxembourg/ or mediterranean region/ or mediterranean islands/ or cyprus/ or malta/ or netherlands/ or portugal/ or exp "scandinavian and nordic countries"/ or spain/ or switzerland/ or exp australia/ or iceland/ or new zealand/ or exp japan/ 3252008

78 (Australia* or Austria* or Belgium or Belgian* or Canada* or Canadian* or Czech* or Denmark or Danish or Estonia* or Finland or Finnish or France or French or German* or Greece or Greek or Hungar* or Iceland* or Italy or Italian* or Japan* or Latvia* or Lithuania* or Luxembourg or Malta or Maltese or Netherlands or Holland or Dutch or New Zealand* or Norway or Norwegian* or Poland or Polish or Portugal or Portuguese or Slovak* or Slovenia* or Spain or Spanish or Sweden or Swedish or Switzerland or Swiss or United Kingdom or UK or England or British or Ireland or Irish or Scotland or Scottish or Wales or Welsh or United States or America* or USA or Bulgaria* or Croatia* or Cyprus or Romania*).tw,kf. 2515782

79 african americans/ or american native continental ancestry group/ or alaska natives/ or indians, north american/ or inuits/ or oceanic ancestry group/ or asian americans/ or exp indigenous peoples/ or exp hispanic americans/ 119364

80 (canad* or "british columbia" or "Colombie britannique" or alberta* or saskatchewan or manitoba* or ontario or quebec or "nouveau brunswick" or "nova scotia" or "nouvelle ecosse" or "prince edward island" or newfoundland or labrador or nunavut or nwt or "northwest territories" or yukon or nunavik or inuvialuit).tw,kf. 189983

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83 exp Africa/ or exp caribbean region/ or exp central america/ or latin america/ or exp south america/ or exp asia, central/ or exp asia, northern/ or exp asia, southeastern/ or exp asia,

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85 82 or 84 2593
86 limit 85 to (english language and yr="2000 -Current") 1956

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For peer review only

Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analyses extension for Scoping Reviews (PRISMA-ScR) Checklist

SECTION	ITEM	PRISMA-ScR CHECKLIST ITEM	REPORTED ON PAGE #
TITLE			
Title	1	Identify the report as a scoping review.	Click here to enter text.
ABSTRACT			
Structured summary	2	Provide a structured summary that includes (as applicable): background, objectives, eligibility criteria, sources of evidence, charting methods, results, and conclusions that relate to the review questions and objectives.	Click here to enter text.
INTRODUCTION			
Rationale	3	Describe the rationale for the review in the context of what is already known. Explain why the review questions/objectives lend themselves to a scoping review approach.	Click here to enter text.
Objectives	4	Provide an explicit statement of the questions and objectives being addressed with reference to their key elements (e.g., population or participants, concepts, and context) or other relevant key elements used to conceptualize the review questions and/or objectives.	Click here to enter text.
METHODS			
Protocol and registration	5	Indicate whether a review protocol exists; state if and where it can be accessed (e.g., a Web address); and if available, provide registration information, including the registration number.	Click here to enter text.
Eligibility criteria	6	Specify characteristics of the sources of evidence used as eligibility criteria (e.g., years considered, language, and publication status), and provide a rationale.	Click here to enter text.
Information sources*	7	Describe all information sources in the search (e.g., databases with dates of coverage and contact with authors to identify additional sources), as well as the date the most recent search was executed.	Click here to enter text.
Search	8	Present the full electronic search strategy for at least 1 database, including any limits used, such that it could be repeated.	Click here to enter text.
Selection of sources of evidence†	9	State the process for selecting sources of evidence (i.e., screening and eligibility) included in the scoping review.	Click here to enter text.
Data charting process‡	10	Describe the methods of charting data from the included sources of evidence (e.g., calibrated forms or forms that have been tested by the team before their use, and whether data charting was done independently or in duplicate) and any processes for obtaining and confirming data from investigators.	Click here to enter text.
Data items	11	List and define all variables for which data were sought and any assumptions and simplifications made.	Click here to enter text.
Critical appraisal of individual sources of evidence§	12	If done, provide a rationale for conducting a critical appraisal of included sources of evidence; describe the methods used and how this information was used in any data synthesis (if appropriate).	Click here to enter text.



SECTION	ITEM	PRISMA-ScR CHECKLIST ITEM	REPORTED ON PAGE #
Synthesis of results	13	Describe the methods of handling and summarizing the data that were charted.	Click here to enter text.
RESULTS			
Selection of sources of evidence	14	Give numbers of sources of evidence screened, assessed for eligibility, and included in the review, with reasons for exclusions at each stage, ideally using a flow diagram.	Click here to enter text.
Characteristics of sources of evidence	15	For each source of evidence, present characteristics for which data were charted and provide the citations.	Click here to enter text.
Critical appraisal within sources of evidence	16	If done, present data on critical appraisal of included sources of evidence (see item 12).	Click here to enter text.
Results of individual sources of evidence	17	For each included source of evidence, present the relevant data that were charted that relate to the review questions and objectives.	Click here to enter text.
Synthesis of results	18	Summarize and/or present the charting results as they relate to the review questions and objectives.	Click here to enter text.
DISCUSSION			
Summary of evidence	19	Summarize the main results (including an overview of concepts, themes, and types of evidence available), link to the review questions and objectives, and consider the relevance to key groups.	Click here to enter text.
Limitations	20	Discuss the limitations of the scoping review process.	Click here to enter text.
Conclusions	21	Provide a general interpretation of the results with respect to the review questions and objectives, as well as potential implications and/or next steps.	Click here to enter text.
FUNDING			
Funding	22	Describe sources of funding for the included sources of evidence, as well as sources of funding for the scoping review. Describe the role of the funders of the scoping review.	Click here to enter text.

JBI = Joanna Briggs Institute; PRISMA-ScR = Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analyses extension for Scoping Reviews.

* Where *sources of evidence* (see second footnote) are compiled from, such as bibliographic databases, social media platforms, and Web sites.

† A more inclusive/heterogeneous term used to account for the different types of evidence or data sources (e.g., quantitative and/or qualitative research, expert opinion, and policy documents) that may be eligible in a scoping review as opposed to only studies. This is not to be confused with *information sources* (see first footnote).

‡ The frameworks by Arksey and O'Malley (6) and Levac and colleagues (7) and the JBI guidance (4, 5) refer to the process of data extraction in a scoping review as data charting.

§ The process of systematically examining research evidence to assess its validity, results, and relevance before using it to inform a decision. This term is used for items 12 and 19 instead of "risk of bias" (which is more applicable to systematic reviews of interventions) to include and acknowledge the various sources of evidence that may be used in a scoping review (e.g., quantitative and/or qualitative research, expert opinion, and policy document).

From: Tricco AC, Lillie E, Zarin W, O'Brien KK, Colquhoun H, Levac D, et al. PRISMA Extension for Scoping Reviews (PRISMA-ScR): Checklist and Explanation. *Ann Intern Med.* 2018;169:467–473. doi: 10.7326/M18-0850.

