

What evidence is required on VAW for pandemic preparedness?

A scoping review of research conducted on violence against women during COVID-19



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World Health Organization



QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

Aim and Objective

Aim: Inform future pandemic preparedness drawing on lessons learned from research conducted on VAW during COVID-19

Objective: Provide an overview of the available published evidence on all forms of VAW during the COVID-19 pandemic, & to identify gaps in this evidence

Key Questions Addressed



What are the themes addressed in the literature on VAW during COVID-19?

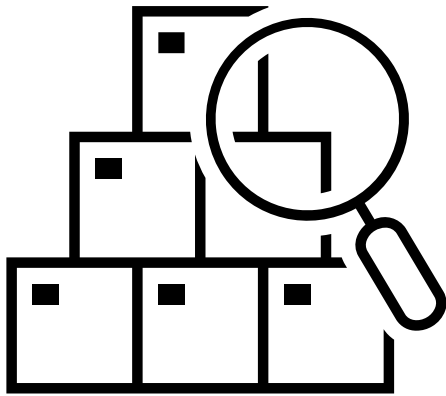


What are the types of research designs used?

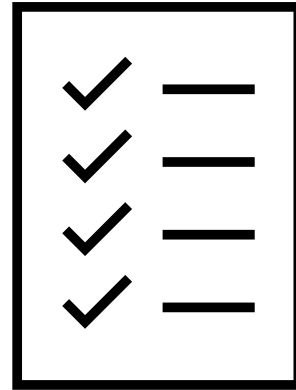


What are the main gaps in research on VAW during COVID-19?

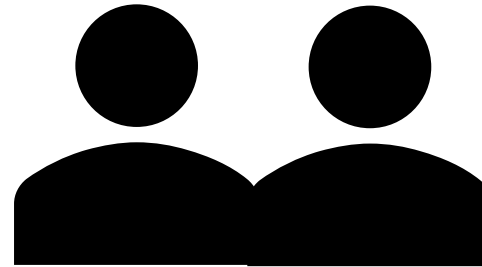
Methods



**Search
Strategy**



**Inclusion
criteria**



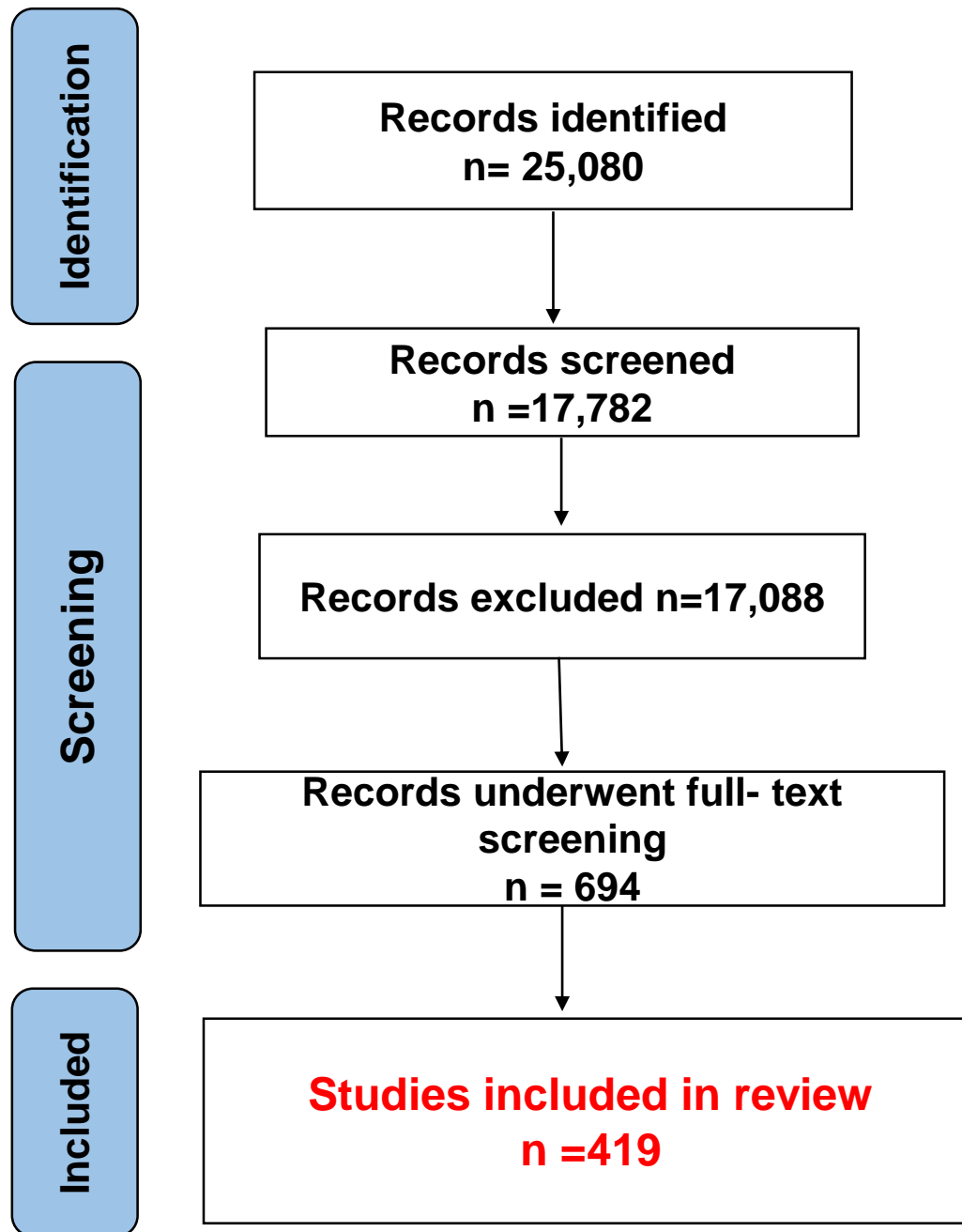
**Data
Extraction**



**Data
Analysis**

Pre-Published Protocol: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2666374023000420>

Results



Finding 1: Nature of research?

The majority (>95%) of the published studies focused on measuring & documenting the burden of VAW.

- Only 6.5% of published research studied solutions (i.e. interventions).
- Even less emphasis on identifying how to prevent VAW in a pandemic context (1% of studies).

Finding 2. Types of research designs?

Most research used quantitative designs (76% n= 203 studies), collected primary data (75%), used virtual methods (78%).

Only 12.5% (n=17) of studies used the WHO multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence survey methods.

Of the 17 studies, only 12 reported using the WHO ethical and safety standards for researching VAW

- & **Only 4** studies involved a representative sample

Finding 3. Gaps in research: Few studies on

femicide, forced marriage and acid attacks (<7% of studies)

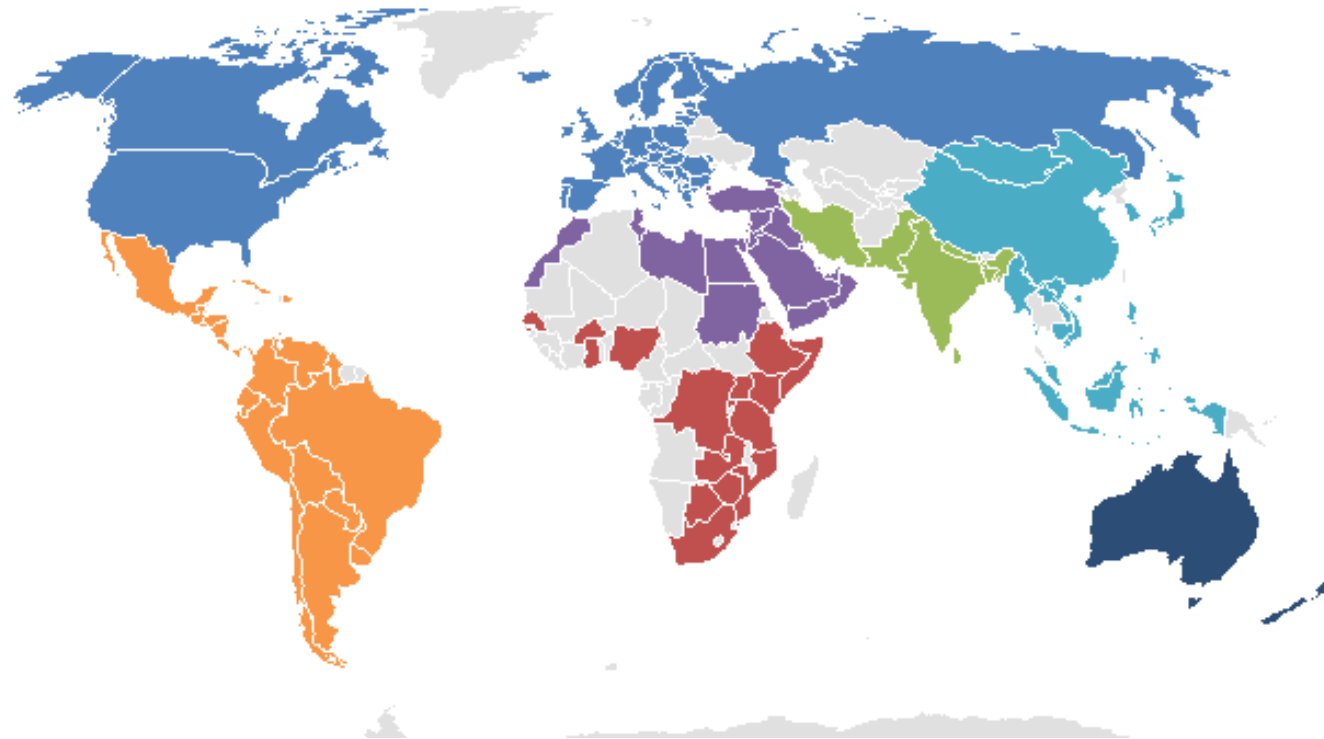
interventions and especially prevention research

mixed-methods and qualitative study designs

online violence even as use dramatically increased

marginalised populations

Finding 3. Geographic gaps? Evidence from LMICs!



- Europe & Northern America n=177
- Sub-Saharan Africa n=62
- Central & Southern Asia n=57
- Northern Africa & Western Asia n=49
- Eastern & South-eastern Asia n=36
- Latin America & the Caribbean n=34
- Oceania n=20

Conclusions

- Prioritise research on interventions: innovations in services and prevention
 - services, prevention interventions, and policy responses during covid-19 need more in-depth retrospective analysis to examine what worked well.
- Solutions to preventing VAW need deeper understanding of
 - Less researched types of violence (femicide, forced marriage & acid attacks)
 - Women facing multiple/intersecting discrimination.
 - Online/technology-mediated violence

Study Team

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References

BMJ Global Health Paper

Brennan-Wilson, A., et al. (2024). What research evidence is required on violence against women to inform future pandemic preparedness? A scoping review of the research evidence and gaps. *BMJ Global Health, Forthcoming*

Study Protocol

Ain, Q. U., et al. (2023). Violence against women during the Covid-19 pandemic: scoping review of the literature in collaboration with the World Health Organization protocol. *International Journal of Educational Research Open, 5*, Article 100267