

Do Cochrane Reviews evaluate healthcare interventions for immigrants and refugees?

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The Problem

Discussions around issues related to **immigrants and refugees** are emerging more frequently, mainly because of the **migratory movements** in recent years and their social and cultural repercussions. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the number of moving people increased from around 40 million to **68.5 million in 10 years** [1]. This scenario exposes the **vulnerability** of this population and the health particularities associated with people in movement.

Objectives

To investigate and characterize Cochrane Reviews (CRs) and Protocols that **considered or planned to include immigrants and/or refugees** as the main population or subgroup of interest.

Key Results

From 98 records we included only **seven CRs** (0.0879% of all CRs). 20 immigrant- and/or refugee-related RCTs (**4441 participants**, Table 1), plus one protocol. Countries from **all continents** were represented within the author team from included CRs and protocols. None of the CRs had been updated in the two previous years. We found few Cochrane Reviews and Protocols that considered immigrants and refugees as the main population of interest, despite the increasing number of this population. The health vulnerability of immigrants and refugees increases the **need for RCTs** that address the particularities of these populations.

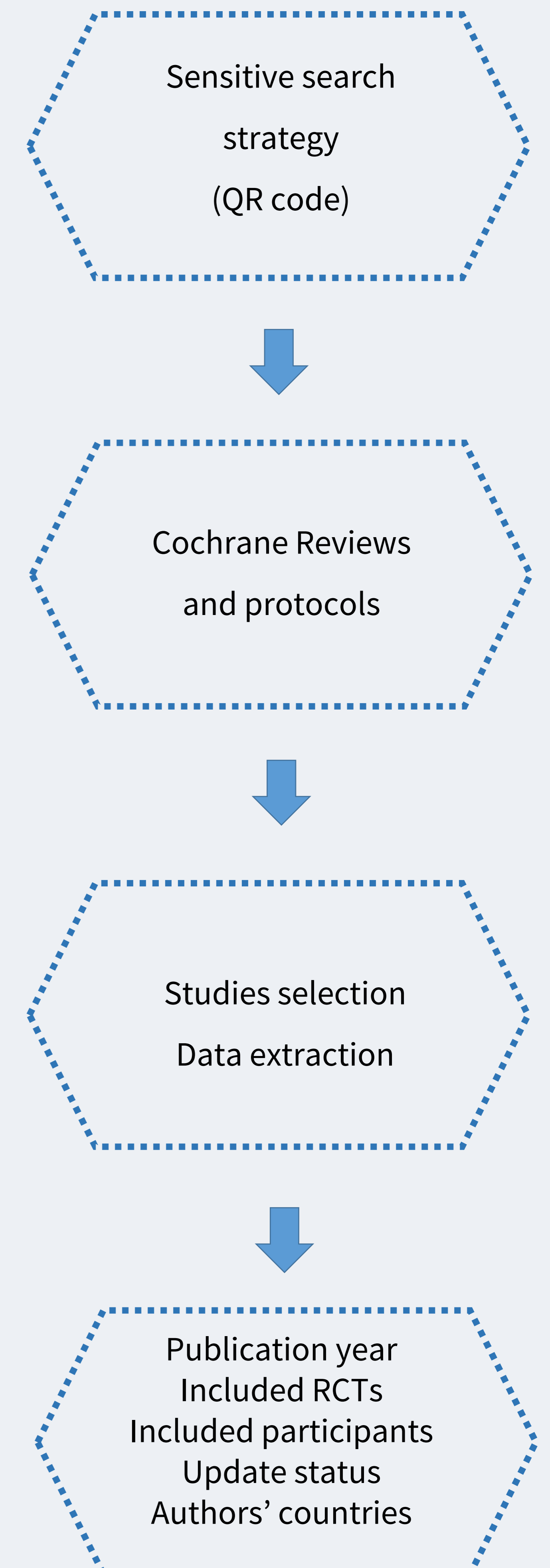


Table 1. Characteristics of included SRs

SR title	Date of publication (Protocol/Review/Update)	N. RCTs included (with immigrants)	N. immigrants' participants	Countries of participants origin	Countries of SR authors
Psychological therapies for the treatment of mental disorders in low- and middle-income countries affected by humanitarian crises ²	2015 / 2018	6 RCTs with refugees	714	Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, and Asia	Italy, Switzerland and USA
Interventions for treating persistent pain in survivors of torture ³	2016 / 2017	2 RCTs with refugees	70	Germany, Switzerland and Kosovo	UK and Denmark
Targeted mass media interventions promoting healthy behaviours to reduce risk of non-communicable diseases in adult, ethnic minorities ⁴	2015 / 2017	2 RCTs with immigrants	1082	USA, China and Mexico	Norway
Community coalition-driven interventions to reduce health disparities among racial and ethnic minority populations ⁵	2012 / 2015	2 CBAs with immigrants 0 RCTs with immigrants or refugees	2086	Korea, Asia, North Africa and Middle East	USA
Strategies for expanding health insurance coverage in vulnerable populations ⁶	2010 / 2010/2014	0 RCTs with immigrants or refugees	0	-	China and UK
Psychological, social and welfare interventions for psychological health and well-being of torture survivors ⁷	2011 / 2014	8 RCTs with refugees	489	Turkey, Balkans, Africa, Kenya, Kurdish, Europe, Middle East	UK
Growth monitoring in children ⁸	1998 / 1999/2008	0 RCTs with immigrants or refugees	0	-	Thailand and UK
Psychological and social interventions for the prevention of mental disorders in people living in low- and middle-income countries affected by humanitarian crises ⁹	2016 / -	-	-	-	USA, Italy, Switzerland



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