

Review of: "Mental Health Challenges Among Children and Adolescents Associated With HIV Status Disclosure: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocol"

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Mental Health Challenges Among Children and Adolescents Associated with HIV Status Disclosure: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocol

A well-written protocol which I believe will bear good results when this study is conducted.

Various literature maintains that, though most of the meta-analyses employ the I-square (I^2) index to quantify heterogeneity, it is also to show how the effect sizes vary across the studies rather than reporting the mean effect size only. It might be because I-squared does not tell us how much the effect size varies and cannot provide that information except when I^2 is zero. Hence, I would like to suggest you look at predictive interval statistics. The prediction interval will tell how much the effect size varies using the same scale as the effect size itself. Bear in mind that the interval will only be accurate if enough studies are covered.

Check the population age for disclosure to align with World Health Organization guidelines or the policy and guidelines of your setting (provide reference).

For information sharing, read the following articles:

Borenstein M. In a meta-analysis, the I-squared statistic does not tell us how much the effect size varies. *J Clin Epidemiol*. 2022 Dec 1;152:281-4.

Higgins JP, Thomas J, Chandler J, Cumpston M, Li T, Page MJ, et al. *Cochrane handbook for systematic reviews of interventions*. John Wiley & Sons; 2019.

Murad MH, Montori VM, Ioannidis JP, Neumann I, Hatala R, Meade MO, et al. *Understanding and applying the results of a systematic review and meta-analysis. User's guides to the medical literature: a manual for evidence-based clinical practice*. 3rd edn. New York: JAMA/McGraw-Hill Global. 2015.