

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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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Thank you for extending the invitation to review this intriguing proposal. Below, I have provided suggestions for enhancing various sections:

Background:

The authors have provided a commendable overview in the background of the study. However, it would be beneficial to include a clear definition of mental health challenges/problems, such as referencing the work of [Manwell et al. \(2015\)](#), doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2014-007079 ("WHAT IS MENTAL HEALTH? EVIDENCE TOWARDS A NEW DEFINITION..."). Alternatively, a definition from the World Health Organization (WHO) that describes conditions like depression, anxiety, etc., as mental health challenges could be considered.

Study Selection:

Inclusion Criteria: The inclusion criteria are well formulated. However, there appears to be a discrepancy between the mention of grey literature in the search strategy and the focus solely on published studies in the inclusion criteria.

Exclusion Criteria:

Consideration could be given to adding studies conducted in languages other than English and qualitative studies to the list of exclusion criteria.

Search Strategy:

Harmonizing the concepts outlined in the search strategy with the inclusion/exclusion criteria is advisable, particularly regarding the inclusion of both published and unpublished studies.

All other sections of the proposal are excellently articulated, in my opinion. I eagerly anticipate the findings of the study.