

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.

Suggested Title: Protocol for a Study on Mental Health Challenges in Children and Adolescents Living with HIV

From the start, it should clearly indicate that it is a protocol.

Abstract:

Background: This section effectively outlines the context. It would be beneficial to briefly mention specific mental health challenges such as stigma, depression, anxiety, and suicidality.

Methods: The methods are clearly described. It would be helpful to detail the inclusion criteria for the studies, such as types of study designs and language restrictions.

Conclusion: This section is succinct and to the point. Mentioning the potential implications for clinical practice and policy could add value.

Background:

The background provides a clear and concise overview of the issue being discussed. It would be enriching to add a sentence or two about the impact of mental health challenges on the overall well-being and treatment outcomes of children and adolescents living with HIV.

Questions:

The research questions are clear.

Methods:

Study Selection:

The inclusion and exclusion criteria are well-defined. However, specifying the types of study designs (e.g., cross-sectional, cohort, randomized controlled trials) that will be included could be beneficial.

Exposure and Outcome:

These sections are clear. Explaining what constitutes "partial disclosure" would enhance clarity.

Search Strategy:

The search strategy is detailed.

Specify the timeframe for the literature search.

Risk of Bias and Quality Assessment:

This section is well-written. Briefly describing the criteria that will be used for assessing the risk of bias in the studies would beef up the protocol.

Data Extraction:

The data extraction process is well-described. Mentioning whether a pilot test of the data extraction form will be conducted to ensure its reliability could be beneficial.

Data Analysis/Synthesis and Reporting:

The planned analyses are appropriate. Mentioning whether you will assess publication bias only if there are a sufficient number of studies would be helpful.

Ethical Considerations:

This section is important and well-included.

Dissemination Plan:

The plan for disseminating the findings is well-thought-out. Mentioning any plans for engaging with stakeholders (e.g., healthcare providers, policymakers) to ensure that the findings are translated into practice could be beneficial.

