



A Scoping Review: Overview of Current Respectful Maternity Care Research by Research Approach and Study Location

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BACKGROUND

- **Disrespectful care during childbirth:**
 - contributes to poor health outcomes
 - perpetuates disparities
 - encourages childbirth outside of healthcare facilities
- The World Health Organization currently emphasizes the importance of Respectful Maternity Care in improving maternal health outcomes and reducing the global maternal mortality rate.^{1,2}
- RMC research is a relatively new field of research that has continued to grow over the past two decades.
 - **Current research lacks organization.** There is no summary of the various research approaches used to measure disrespectful care, or an analysis of whether these approaches identify the same types of mistreatment during childbirth.
 - **Most research has focused on low/low-middle income countries.** There is growing evidence in countries such as the United States that Respectful Maternity Care is a global health concern.

OBJECTIVES

- 1) Summarize current research and research approaches that attempt to measure mistreatment during childbirth in order to analyze whether these approaches identify the same types of mistreatment
- 2) Identify gaps in current research analyzing disrespectful care during childbirth.

METHODS

- Following PRISMA guidelines, this review utilized search terms to filter articles from the Pubmed database.
- Using specific criteria, articles were then excluded by title and abstract, then full article review.
- Included articles were organized by research approach and analyzed for study location and the presence of 9 types of mistreatment.

INCLUDED ARTICLES

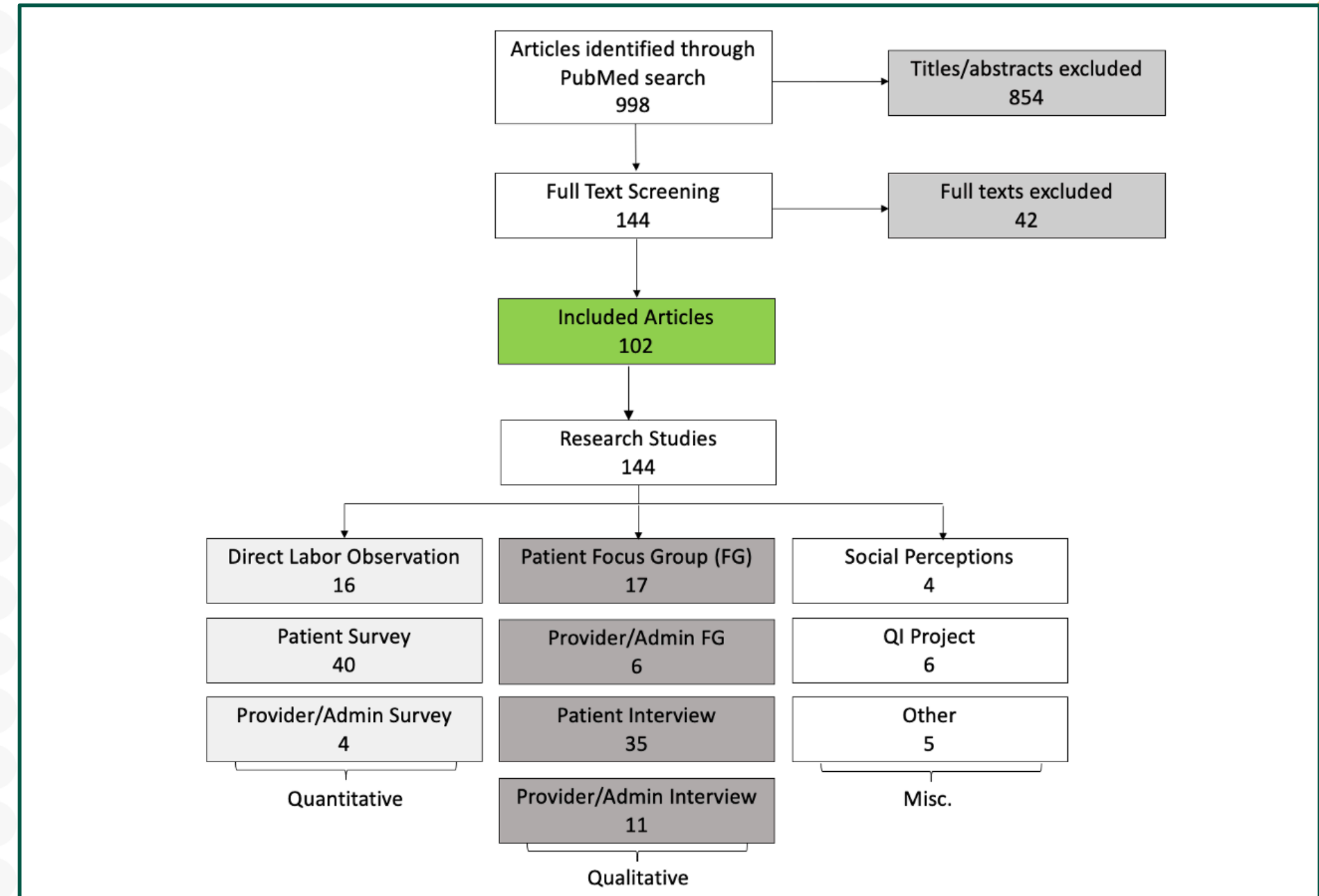


Fig 1. Flow diagram depicting search, article inclusion and exclusion process, and division of included articles in research approach.

RESULTS – APPROACH ANALYSIS

Included articles organized by research approach were analyzed for the presence of 9 types of mistreatment (adapted from Bohren 2015):

- Neglect and Abandonment
- Lack of Privacy/Confidentiality
- Lack of Informed Consent
- Verbal Mistreatment
- Emotional Mistreatment
- Physical Mistreatment
- Health System Constraints
- Stigma and Discrimination

To view the complete analysis of all types of mistreatment, please utilize this QR code

Studies involving direct labor observations, surveys, focus groups, and interviews identified all 9 types of mistreatment.

Type of Disrespectful Care	Research Approach	Contributing Articles	No. studies /total research approach subtype	No. contributing studies from HICs	Total Studies (out of 144)
Neglect/Abandonment Many studies cited mothers being left alone for extended periods of time, before, during, and after delivery. In some studies, mothers were discouraged from having partners or family support in the labor room with them. Many mothers also faced long waiting times, whether in the waiting room itself, or waiting for procedures and labs to be completed.	Direct Labor Observation	(4,15,21,22,25,28,29,30,32,33)	10/16	0	109
	Patient Survey	(13,15,21,28,34,35,37,38,39,40,41,42,43,45,46,47,48,49,50,51,52,53,54,55,56,57,58,59,60,61,64,65,66,67,68)	35/40	2	
	Provider/Admin Survey	(69,70,71)	3/4	0	
	Patient Interview	(11,21,25,28,32,37,52,56,58,66,68,72,73,75,76,77,78,79,80,81,82,83,84,85,86,87,89,90,93)	29/35	2	
	Provider/Admin Interview	(11,32,37,72,80,86,89)	7/11	0	
	Patient Focus Group	(11,54,68,71,81,85,86,89,93,97,98,99,101)	13/17	0	
	Provider/Admin FG	(71,72,93,99,101)	5/6	0	
	Social Perceptions	(103)	1/4	0	
	QI Project	(68,108)	2/6	0	
Other	(112,113,114,115)	4/5	2		

Figure 2. Example of research approach analysis using Neglect/Abandonment

RESULTS – STUDY LOCATION

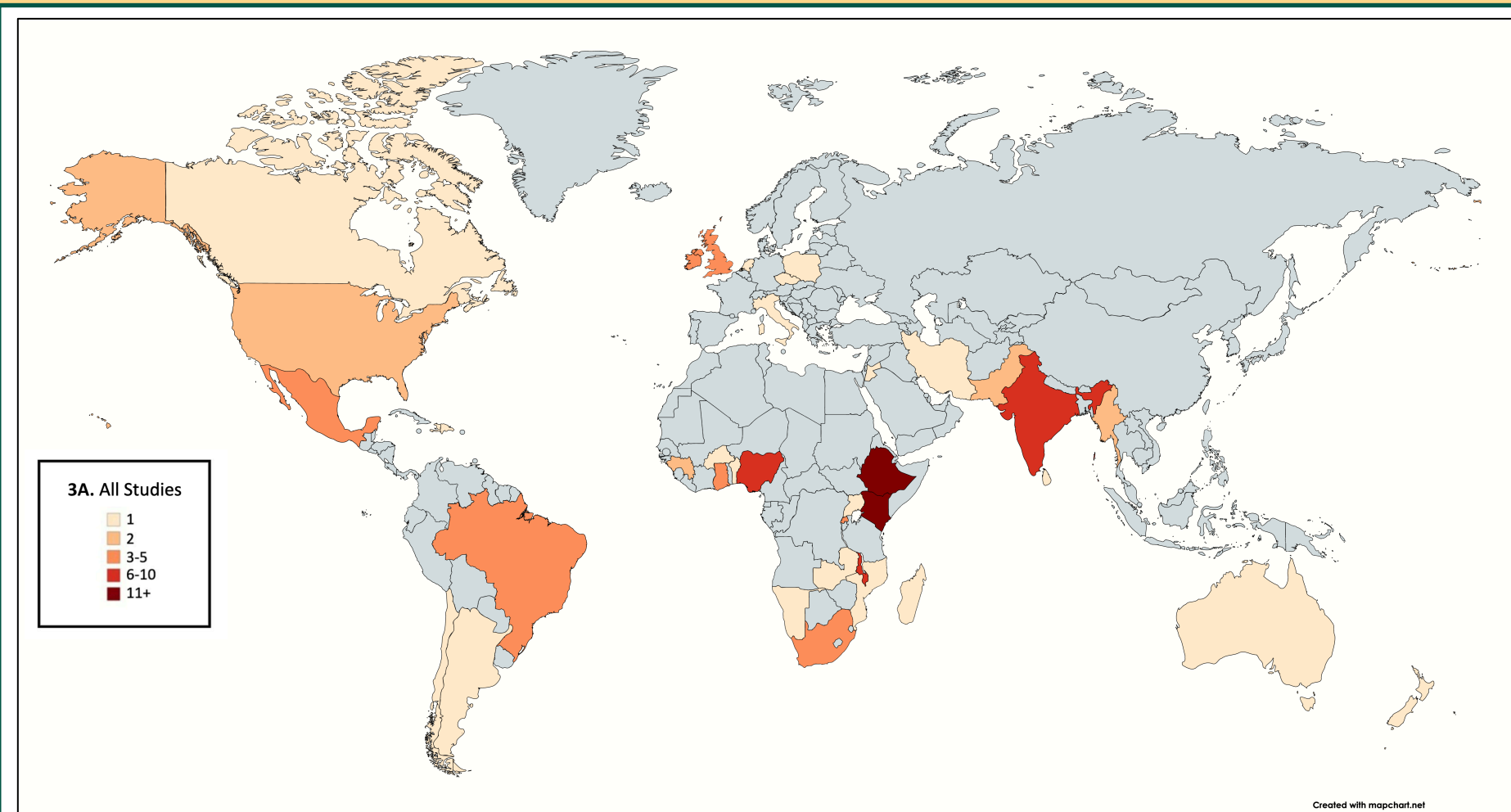


Figure 3. Distribution of studies organized by country.

- Low-income countries represented 134/144 studies, with most research centered in East Africa and India.
- High-income countries represented only 6.25% of research.

CONCLUSION

- This review organizes current Respectful Maternity Care research by research approach and study location.
- Analysis of study location shows gaps in research, particularly among high-income countries.
- Research approaches analyzed identified the same types of mistreatment during childbirth.
- Further research is necessary to better this global health concern.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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REFERENCES

For a complete list of references, please utilize this QR code.

1. Organization WH, Others. Trends in maternal mortality 2000 to 2017: estimates by WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank Group and the United Nations Population Division Geneva Retrieved April. 2019;1: 2020.
2. Organization WH, Others. Strategies towards ending preventable maternal mortality (EPMM). 2015. Available: https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/153544/9789241508483_eng.pdf