

A Scoping Review of Factors Contributing to the Development of Behaviours That Challenge and Approaches to Preventing and Managing Crisis Situations in Children and Young Adults with Disabilities

Dr. Carmel Doyle, M. Cleary, J. Eustace Cook, Prof. F. Sheerin, Dr. S. Fleming, Dr. M. McMahon, K. Moore - Trinity College, IRELAND

Background and Aim of Review

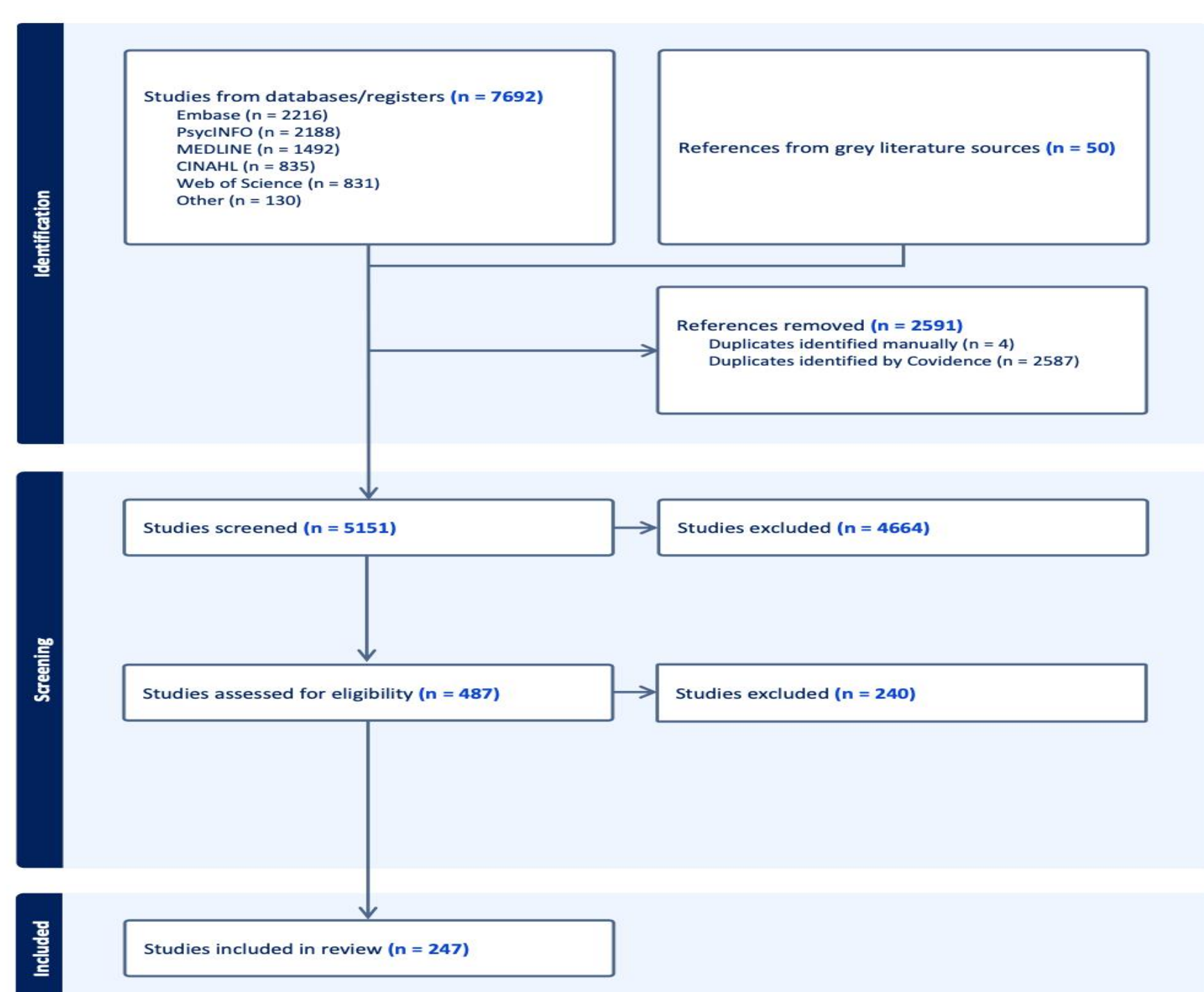
While behaviours may be a challenge to services, educators, families or carers, it may serve a purpose for children and young adults (CYA). This scoping review explores the factors that may lead to development of behaviours that challenge and prevention and management of crisis situation among CYA with disability.

Design - Guided by the PRISMA Extension for Scoping Review checklist (Tricco et al. 2018) and Arksey and O'Malley's (2005) scoping review method.

Identification of studies - Peer review searches within online databases: EMBASE (Elsevier), CINAHL (EBSCO), MEDLINE (EBSCO), PsycInfo (EBSCO) and Web of Science (Clarivate) were conducted for publications between 2014 and 2024.

Search terms - A search that identified index terms, relevant synonyms and additional keywords using key terms and descriptors was undertaken. Included terms were 'autistic' OR 'intellectual disability' AND 'situational/personal crisis' AND 'child/young adult' AND 'challenging behaviour'.

PRISMA Flow Diagram



Data extraction and analysis - Key findings of all the relevant articles, reviews and grey literature was extracted and pooled into Microsoft Office Excel. A thorough synthesis of findings was developed using sub-headings. From this information, a set of themes was generated that represents the findings.

Conclusion

This scoping review shows **the importance of understanding the impact of behaviours that challenge** on CYA with disability. It also **demonstrates the gap in evidence about how crises occur and how crisis intervention impacts family functioning and the resilience of the family.**

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Findings

Theme 1: Factors that may Lead to the Development of Behaviours that Challenge in CYA with Disabilities

Theme 2: Behaviours that Challenge – Factors that may Lead to Crisis

Theme 3: Existing supports to Prevent and Manage Behaviours that Challenge

Theme 4: Preventing and Managing Behaviours that Challenge and Preventing Family Breakdown and Other Crisis Situations

Theme 1: Common Factors that may lead to development of behaviours that challenge	Number of papers
Parenting behaviour and stress	25
Mental health issues (e.g. anxiety, depression)	16
Poor sleep/insomnia/tiredness	15
Social attention/poor social skills	13
Poor feeding/dietary habits	9
Transitions (any)	9
Sensory processing difficulties/ overload	9
Feeling unwell	8
Communication difficulties	8
Environmental factors	8
Emotion regulation (ER)	6
Escape – seeking to avoid	6
Age	5
Genetics	4
Diagnosis of ASD	4
Learned behaviour	2
Altered neuronal activity	1
Gender	1
Low electrodermal activity	1

Theme 2: Factors that may lead to Crisis

Family functioning and stress
Suicidal ideation
Presentation to hospital
Accessing supports
Mental health crisis

Theme 3:
Existing supports to Prevent and Manage Behaviours that Challenge

Non-pharmacological interventions totalled 98.

Pharmacological interventions totalled 21.

Theme 4: Crisis prevention

Coping mechanisms
Appropriate assessment
Supports
New Models of Care

