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Title:

Word Count:

**Note: Word Limit for CJPH Text (does not include Abstract, Tables, Figures, References): 2500 words**

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The answers you provide to the following questions concerning the manuscript will help the Scientific Editor determine whether the article is acceptable for publication in the *Canadian Journal of Public Health*. After reading the manuscript, please answer the questions by circling your response. If you respond “No”, “Uncertain” or “Improvement required”, a detailed explanation should be provided to assist the Scientific Editor and the authors of the paper.

### Abstract

1. Is the research question properly stated?  
 Yes       Improvement required       No
2. Are the study design and methods used clearly outlined?  
 Yes       Improvement required       No
3. Are the major results clearly outlined?  
 Yes       Improvement required       No
4. Are the main conclusions and recommendations clearly outlined?  
 Yes       Improvement required       No

### Introduction

5. Are the background and context presented?  
 Yes       Improvement required       No
6. Is the research question clearly defined?  
 Yes       Improvement required       No
7. Is the stated research question **relevant**?  
 Yes       Uncertain       No
8. Are the populations of the studies clearly identified?  
 Yes       Improvement required       No
9. Are the interventions of the studies clearly defined?  
 Yes       Improvement required       No
10. Are the outcomes of the studies clearly described?  
 Yes       Improvement required       No

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**Methods**

11. Are the search strategies used to identify relevant articles described?  
 Yes       Improvement required       No
12. Are the databases searched presented?  
 Yes       Improvement required       No
13. Are key words listed?  
 Yes       Improvement required       No
14. Are methods to identify other sources of studies described? (e.g. dissertation theses, unpublished studies)  
 Yes       Improvement required       No
15. Is the method described to synthesize the data from included studies appropriate?  
 Yes       Improvement required       No
16. Are the methods for including or excluding articles in the analysis described explicitly?  
 Yes       Improvement required       No

**Synthesis**

17. Are the results of the search described? (number of studies identified, number included, main reasons for exclusion)  
 Yes       Improvement required       No
18. Is the information from the included studies integrated systematically?  
 Yes       Improvement required       No
19. Is the validity of the included studies assessed according to critical appraisal principles?  
 Yes       Improvement required       No
20. Are variations in the findings explained?  
 Yes       Improvement required       No

**Discussion**

21. Is a summary of the key findings of the systematic review presented?  
 Yes       Improvement required       No
22. Are variations between studies discussed?  
 Yes       Improvement required       No
23. Are the effects of the variations on the final results discussed?  
 Yes       Improvement required       No

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24. Are the implications of unpublished, unretrieved literature noted?  
 Yes       Improvement required       No
25. Are the findings compared with other systematic reviews (if there are any)?  
 Yes       Improvement required       No
26. Are limitations presented?  
 Yes       Improvement required       No
27. Are future directions for research indicated?  
 Yes       Improvement required       No

### Conclusion

28. Is the conclusion supported by evidence in the article?  
 Yes       Improvement required       No

### References

29. Are the references appropriate?  
 Yes       Improvement required       No

### General Considerations

30. Is the article well presented (including the style of writing)?  
 Yes       Improvement required       No
31. Should the article be published in the *Canadian Journal of Public Health*?  
 Yes       After minor revision       After major revision       No

On a separate page, please provide your detailed comments on the above answers or on other aspects of the article which, in your opinion, will assist both the Scientific Editor and the authors of the paper.

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