**Experiences of Refugees and Other Migrants who are Homeless or Vulnerably Housed: A Systematic Qualitative Review**

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**Citation**

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**Review Question(s)**

What are the enablers and barriers to refugees finding adequate housing?

How do refugees conceptualize ‘homes’?

**Searches**

Each database will be searched using keywords and modified in line with each database and provider’s indexing system.

Reference lists of all identified articles and reports will be searched for additional studies.

Databases included:

MEDLINE

PsychInfo

CINAHL

SCOPUS

Web of Science

ProQuest Social Sciences

Grey literature included:

UNHCR

No limitations imposed on language and publication year.

**Types of study to be included**

Qualitative research studies will be included in the review. For inclusion, studies must use qualitative analysis methods (such as thematic analysis, grounded theory, phenomenological analysis). Studies that only provide numerical data and statistical analysis will be excluded. Single case studies will be excluded.

Mixed method studies will only be included if qualitative findings can be extracted.

**Condition or domain being studied**

Enablers and barriers to accessing housing services for refugees

**Participants/ population**

Refugees/asylum seekers/irregular (undocumented) migrants/stakeholders who link refugees with services

**Intervention(s), exposure(s)**

Homeless or in shelters

**Comparator(s)/ control**

None specified

**Context**

Most refugees and other migrants have at one point been homeless or vulnerably housed. There is a lack of data and guidelines for refugees who are vulnerably housed and homeless, seeking refuge in shelters across Canada. Social determinants of health such as socioeconomic status, education, and literacy may also contribute to the homelessness. Furthermore, refugees also suffer from specific health concerns such as mental illnesses, addictions, and infectious diseases, which are potentially exacerbated by a lack of community support. To address the health concerns, we need to know more about the experiences of refugees that are homeless or in shelters; for example, what discrimination, financial stresses, addictions and mental illnesses they may face. Finally, we need to better understand how factors such as refugee language skills, values, and preferences inhibit or enable access to existing programs for the homeless.

**Outcome(s)**

**Primary outcomes**

Perceptions about barriers and facilitators that refugees face when accessing housing/shelter

Strategies and enablers to overcome barriers

**Secondary outcomes**

None.

**Data extraction, (selection and coding)**

The titles and abstracts of the citations identified from the searches will be collated, and any duplicates removed. Two researchers (HK and AP) will independently select studies for the review by screening titles and abstracts. All publications possibly relevant will be obtained in full if available, and reviewed for inclusion or exclusion by two independent reviewers.

A data extraction table will be developed, tested on a selection of articles and adjusted if needed. The data extracted and quality assessment will be done by one reviewer and corroborated by a second reviewer. Conflicts will be resolved through discussion.

**Quality assessment**

For studies: We will utilize the Cochrane Handbook Guidance to determine the tool with which to critically appraise the qualitative research.

For synthesized findings: We will formally assess the confidence (relevancy, consistency, coherence, adequacy) of the key findings using GRADE CERQual.

**Strategy for data synthesis**

To analyze and synthesize qualitative data, we will use the thematic framework analysis approach (i.e. using Bierman Model (2012) for a framework for migrant health.)

**Analysis of subgroups or subsets**

None planned.

**Contact details for further information**

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**Anticipated or actual start date**

July 2017

**Anticipated completion date**

September 2017

**Funding sources/sponsors**

Soft Funded Bursary Research, University of Ottawa, Faculty of Medicine Award

**Conflicts of interest**

None known

**Language**

English

**Country**

Canada

**Subject index terms status**

Subject indexing assigned by CRD

**Subject index terms**

Homelessness; Shelters; Humans; Refugees; Social determinants of health

**Stage of review**

Ongoing

**Date of registration in PROSPERO**

July 19 2017

**Date of publication of this revision**

July 19 2017

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| **Stage of review at time of this submission** | **Started** |  | **Completed** |
| Preliminary searches | Yes |  | Yes |
| Piloting of the study selection process | Yes |  | No |
| Formal screening of search results against eligibility criteria | No |  | No |
| Data extraction | No |  | No |
| Risk of bias (quality) assessment | No |  | No |
| Data analysis | No |  | No |