

Introduction

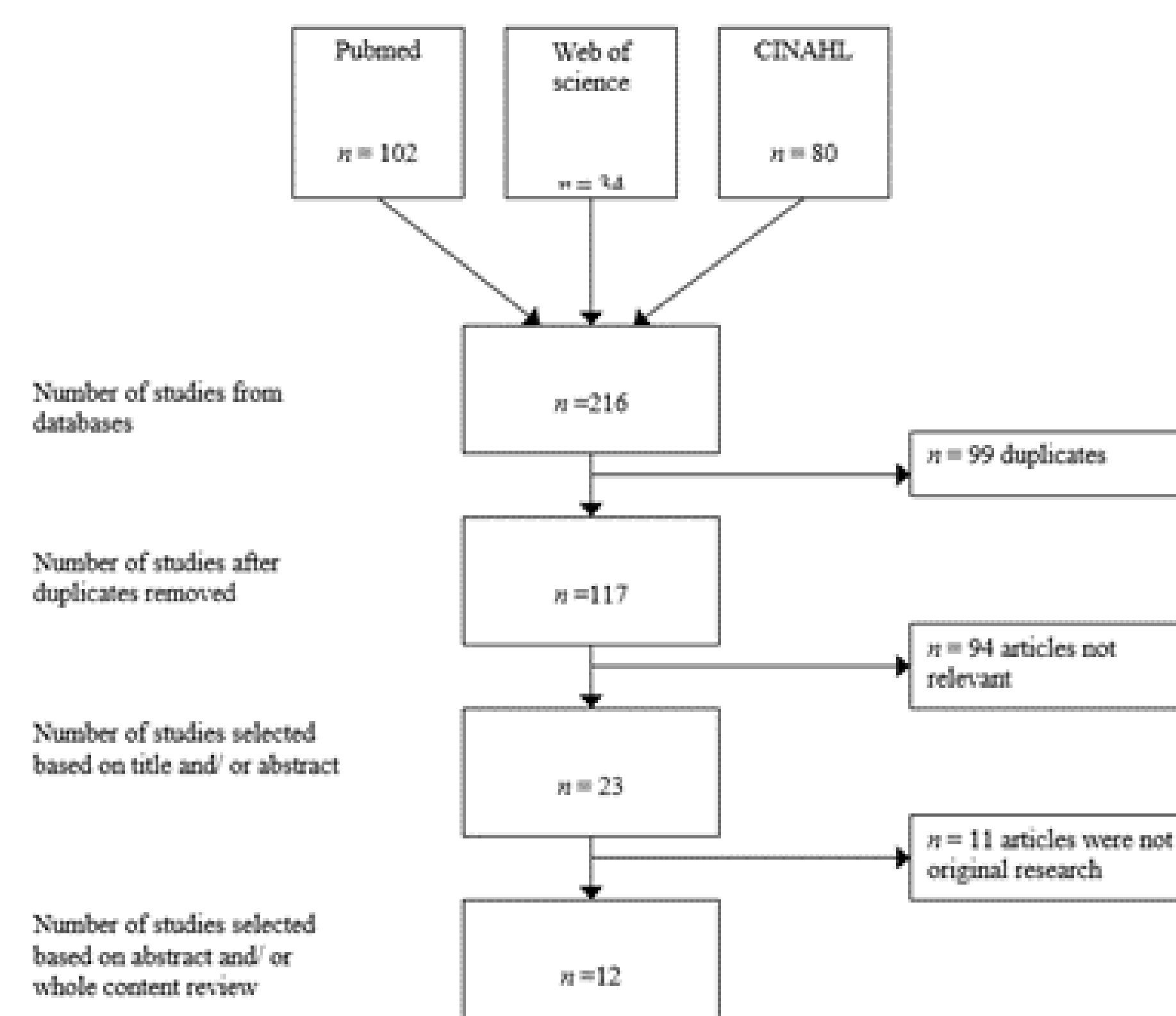
- This is an integrative review of the literature of trauma symptoms in children based on the diagnostic criteria for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), complex traumatic stress disorder (cPTSD), and developmental trauma disorder (DTD).
- Nearly 50% of children in the United States will experience a traumatic event in early childhood, causing adversity early in life (Copeland, et. al., 2007).
- The impact of the trauma exposure can be extensive (Ford et al., 2018).
- There are wide ranging effects on a child's neurodevelopment and psychosocial functioning.
- Early identification and treatment related to childhood traumatic symptoms leads to improve developmental, emotional, and health outcomes in childhood and adulthood.
- Stress and untreated mental health symptoms can have negative impacts on one's physical health across the lifespan as was established in The Adverse Childhood Experiences Study.



Method: Literature search

- Search terms included: "post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)," "developmental trauma disorder (DTD)," "complex traumatic stress," "developmental trauma," "pediatrics," "child/children", and "symptoms."
- Keyword terms were entered into PubMed, CINAHL, and Web of Science for years 1999 to 2021, yielding 216 results.

Figure 1. Summary of search outcome and study selection for integrative review.



Conclusions

- Symptoms and correlated psychiatric diagnoses were explored within this review including 1) externalizing behaviors, 2) anxiety, 3) depression, 4) mood disorder, and 5) fear. These are co-occurring and inter-related.
- The presence of symptom clusters for trauma based diagnoses in children require further study to delineate symptomatology and to determine the bio-behavioral pathways to those symptoms.
- A more consistent use of several screening tools within this population is should be explored to standardize results for pediatric trauma symptoms.
- Consideration of age and developmental stage of the child at the time of both the traumatic experience(s) and trauma assessment is key to appropriately interpreting the results



Objectives

- Define PTSD, cPTSD, and DTD in the pediatric population.
- To date, no integrative review has been conducted on the existing literature to disentangle symptomatology and related psychiatric diagnoses of trauma in children for PTSD, cPTSD, and DTD.



Results

- A total of 12 articles met full study eligibility criteria.
- None of the articles assessed for presence of pediatric trauma related symptom clusters.
- Symptomatology/Psychiatric Diagnosis Identified :
 - 1) externalizing behaviors, 2) anxiety, 3) depression, 4) mood disorder, and 5) fear.
- Most articles focused on ages 3 years-21 years.
- 17 different trauma assessment tools used to assess. All tools are validated for use in children.

References

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