

Appendix S1: PubMed Full Search Strategy

Date	26.08.2023
Search Strategy	((("postnatal care"[MeSH Terms] OR ("postnatal"[All Fields] AND "care"[All Fields] AND "experiences"[All Fields]) OR "postnatal care experiences"[All Fields]) AND ("postpartum women"[Subheading] OR ("postpartum"[All Fields] AND "women"[All Fields] AND ("africa south of the sahara"[MeSH Terms] OR ("africa"[All Fields] AND "south"[All Fields] AND "sahara"[All Fields]) OR "africa south of the sahara"[All Fields] OR ("sub"[All Fields] AND "saharan"[All Fields] AND "africa"[All Fields]) OR "Saharan africa"[All Fields]) AND "nigeria"[All Fields] OR "uganda"[All Fields] OR "south africa"[All Fields] OR "cameroon"[All Fields] OR "ghana"[All Fields] OR "sudan"[All Fields] OR "mozambique"[All Fields] OR "senegal"[All Fields] OR "kenya"[All Fields] OR "malawi"[All Fields] OR "tanzania"[All Fields] OR "zimbabwe"[All Fields] OR "zambia"[All Fields] OR "togo"[All Fields] OR "burundi"[All Fields] OR "mauritius"[All Fields] OR "angola"[All Fields] OR "mali"[All Fields] OR "ethiopia"[All Fields] OR "rwanda"[All Fields] OR "sierra leone"[All Fields] OR "liberia"[All Fields] OR "chad"[All Fields] OR "niger"[All Fields] OR "namibia"[All Fields] OR "cote d'ivoire"[All Fields] OR "south sudan"[All Fields] OR "botswana"[All Fields] OR "democratic republic of congo"[All Fields] OR "somalia"[All Fields] OR "benin"[All Fields] OR "burkina faso"[All Fields] OR "zambia"[All Fields] OR "equatorial guinea"[All Fields] OR "gabon"[All Fields] OR "guinea"[All Fields] OR "guinea-bissau"[All Fields] OR "lesotho"[All Fields] OR "eswatini"[All Fields] OR "the gambia"[All Fields] OR "eritrea"[All Fields] OR "madagascar"[All Fields] OR "mauritania"[All Fields] OR "seychelles"[All Fields] OR "central african republic"[All Fields] AND ("2013/01/01"[PubDate] : "2023/08/26"[PubDate]))
Number retrieved	45

Appendix S2: Minimum criteria for quality assessment (adapted from Thomas *et al.* 2003)

<i>Quality Criteria</i>		<i>Comments (if useful)</i>
<i>Quality of study reporting</i>	A - Aims and objectives clearly reported	Y = Clear statement of aim is provided
	B - Adequately described the context of the research	Y = Adequate background to the study provided
	C - Adequately described the sample & sampling methods	Y = At a minimum the report must include demographics on numbers of postpartum women, and age of participants (either range or mean). P = Some, but not all of the above N = No information other than numbers taking part Sampling methods Y = Broadly described but explicitly stated (e.g., purposive, convenience, snowball, etc). P = Some detail, but description of specific broad approach not provided N = No information at all provided as to sampling approach
	D - Adequately described the data collection methods	Y = explicitly described
	E - Adequately described the data analysis methods	Y = explicitly described
<i>There was good or some attempt to establish the</i>	F - Reliability of the data collection tools	Qualitative study: Y for use of interview guide and what informed this.
	G - Validity of the data collection tools	As above
	H - Reliability of the data analysis	Refers to analysis of qualitative data only. Y = A valid (e.g., thematic analysis, etc.,) approach described P = Some details and appears like a valid approach but not explicit N = Appears formal/structured but explicit details not provided
	I - Validity of the data analysis	As above

<i>Quality of the methods</i>	J - Used the appropriate data collection methods to allow for expression of views	Y = For qualitative study (unless questions are very structured might be P or N)
	K - Used the appropriate methods for ensuring the analysis was grounded in the views	Linked to H and I above – if valid and reliable data analysis this will be Y
	L - Actively involved the participants in the design and conduct of the study	Y = Clear statement of PPI involvement from the outset (informing design/protocol development, etc.)

*Y: Yes, N: No, P: Partially