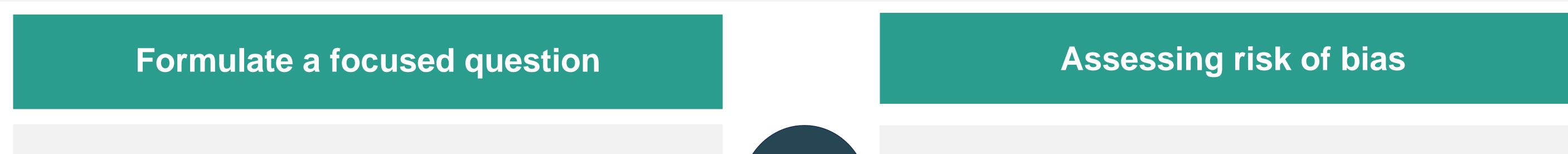
NINE – Tips

A worked example of a prevalence systematic review in mental health

Background: The scarcity of methodological guidance for prevalence systematic reviews (PSR) has led to high variability in conduct and report. A ready-to-use collection of tips would be useful for authors.

The aim is to offer tips from a worked example of PSR on mental health problems in European healthcare workers during COVID-19.





Use the mnemonic of **CoCoPopS**

- **Co:** Condition.
- Co: Context.
- **Pop:** Population.
- **S**: Study.

Define eligibility criteria

- 1. Clear definition of condition.
- 2. Diagnostic criteria.
- 3. Define **subgroups** a priori.
- 4. Define the **designs to include**: Crosssectional studies or baseline data in cohorts.
- 5. Consider the **geographical context** and the **population of interest.**



There is not an **established gold standard**. The selected instrument must consider:

- 1. Sample frame.
- 2. Type of sample.
- 3. Sample size
- 4. Coverage of sample.
- 5. Identification of condition.
- 6. Appropriate statistics.
- 7. Response rate.

Data extraction



- Generate an extraction form.
- Realize a pilot data extraction to **define an uniform criteria**.
- A final duplicate data extraction.

Define searching criteria and limits



- **Prevalence**: There are no validated filters.
 - Use synonyms or close terms.
 - **Discard** the concept of prevalence and combining only population.
- Condition and population
 - Use validate terms and search platforms.
- Test if the strategy identifies known relevant records.

Data synthesis



- Prevalence estimates needs transformation before pooling. Consider to use a random effect model.
- Consider subgroup and sensitivity analysis.
- If a numerical synthesis is not possible, consider to follow SWiM guidelines for narrative synthesis.

Assessing the certainty of evidence

Screening process

Consider the participation of **two independent reviewers** using **multiphase platforms** like Covidence, Rayyan o Distiller.



There is no GRADE system PRS. Consider:
High initial certainty: Properly designed studies and population representativeness.
Low initial certainty: No population representativeness.

Register the protocol



Consider a public repository or to publish the protocol.

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