



# BMJ Open Assessing research methodologies used to evaluate inequalities in end-of-life cancer care research: a scoping review protocol

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**To cite:** Davis LE, Webber C, Datta GD, *et al.* Assessing research methodologies used to evaluate inequalities in end-of-life cancer care research: a scoping review protocol. *BMJ Open* 2022;**12**:e064743. doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2022-064743

► Prepublication history and additional supplemental material for this paper are available online. To view these files, please visit the journal online (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2022-064743>).

LED and CW are joint first authors.

Received 13 May 2022

Accepted 23 June 2022



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## ABSTRACT

**Introduction** To provide equitable cancer care at the end of life, it is essential to first understand the evidence underpinning the existence of unequal cancer outcomes. Study design, measurement and analytical decisions made by researchers are a function of their social systems, academic training, values and biases, which influence both the findings and interpretation of whether inequalities or inequities exist. Methodological choices can lead to results with different implications for research and policy priorities, including where supplementary programmes and services are offered and for whom. The objective of this scoping review is to provide an overview of the methods, including study design, measures and statistical approaches, used in quantitative and qualitative observational studies of health equity in end-of-life cancer care, and to consider how these methods align with recommended approaches for studying health equity questions.

**Methods and analysis** This scoping review follows Arksey and O'Malley's expanded framework for scoping reviews. We will systematically search Medline, Embase, CINAHL and PsycINFO electronic databases for quantitative and qualitative studies that examined equity stratifiers in relation to end-of-life cancer care and/or outcomes published in English or French between 2010 and 2021. Two authors will independently review all titles, abstracts and full texts to determine which studies meet the inclusion criteria. Data from included full-text articles will be extracted into a data form that will be developed and piloted by the research team. Extracted information will be summarised quantitatively and qualitatively.

**Ethics and dissemination** No ethics approval is required for this scoping review. Results will be disseminated to researchers examining questions of health equity in cancer care through scientific publication and presentation at relevant conferences.

## INTRODUCTION

End-of-life cancer care aims to prevent and alleviate suffering, enhance quality of life and support patients' care preferences. However, a growing body of literature indicates that there are substantial variations in end-of-life

## STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS OF THIS STUDY

- ⇒ This scoping review will follow the expanded framework for scoping reviews developed by Arksey and O'Malley and refined by Levac *et al.*
- ⇒ Relevant studies will be identified through a rigorous search strategy, developed in conjunction with a health sciences librarian, applied to four electronic databases to capture studies published over a 12-year period.
- ⇒ While our search strategy includes an extensive list of equity stratifiers as search terms, we may not capture studies that examine equity stratifiers but do not use these terms in ways that would be captured by the search.
- ⇒ This review will not include a search of the grey literature as the intention is to provide a synthesis of methods applied in peer-reviewed scientific literature.
- ⇒ The focus of this review is on healthcare inequalities in end-of-life cancer care; as such, we will not be able to draw conclusions about how equity research is conducted in cancer care more generally.

cancer care across social, demographic and economic characteristics, such as income, education, sex and ethnicity and race.<sup>12</sup> These variations in care represent health inequalities, defined as measured differences in the health or healthcare of individuals or groups.<sup>3–5</sup> These variations in care may also represent health inequities, defined as differences that are deemed to be unfair, unacceptable and avoidable, and which result from the unequal distribution of power, prestige and resources across groups.<sup>3–5</sup> Stigma, bias and structural racism can all contribute to health inequities. Importantly, while health inequalities can result in health inequities, not all inequalities are inequitable.

Research plays an important role in understanding and addressing end-of-life cancer

care inequalities.<sup>6 7</sup> High-quality health equity research requires the use of appropriate methods for investigating equity stratifiers, defined as characteristics that identify population subgroups who may experience differences in health and healthcare that may be considered unfair or unjust. Examples include race, ethnicity, gender, sex, religion and socioeconomic status. Decisions made through the research process regarding the measurement and analysis of equity stratifiers, and the context in which decisions are made (eg, social systems, histories, values and biases) are particularly important. Different measurement choices and methodological decisions can result in different findings, affecting conclusions as to whether inequalities are present, and in turn, leading to different priorities for health research and policy.<sup>6 8 9</sup> Appropriate methods include the use of causal frameworks to inform the research question, theory-driven selection and measurement of equity stratifiers and covariates, and consideration of intersectionality among equity stratifiers. Further, appropriate analytical approaches should be applied, including principled approaches to covariate adjustment, considering appropriate reference groups and reporting both additive and relative effects.<sup>6 8 10</sup> Further, research findings should be interpreted in the context of broader system influences and intersectionality.<sup>1 6 8 11</sup> Applying rigorous methods to questions of end-of-life cancer care inequalities can improve the identification of subgroups of the population who are at risk of inequitable end-of-life care, a necessary first step in the process of addressing and eliminating health inequality and inequity. By making reasoned methodological decisions a priori, providing rationale for these decisions and explaining them clearly we can foster a greater understanding of research results for health policy-makers who can act on those findings.<sup>11</sup>

While many national and international organisations and guidelines are currently calling for the reduction of inequalities in end-of-life cancer care, a detailed and thorough literature review is needed to understand the current state of methods used in observational studies aimed at addressing these inequalities.<sup>12–14</sup> The aim of this scoping review is to provide a synthesis of the methods used in the scientific literature to evaluate inequalities in end-of-life cancer care, with the goal of identifying gaps in methodological approaches and areas for improvement in future research. We will survey the literature examining inequity and inequality in end-of-life cancer care published across a 12-year period (2010–2021). By providing a broad overview of the methods in end-of-life cancer equity literature, we hope future research will be of higher quality and provide more actionable information for policy makers and healthcare practitioners to reduce inequalities in end-of-life cancer care.

## METHODS AND ANALYSIS

This scoping review protocol is reported in accordance with reporting recommendations from the Johanna

Briggs Institute.<sup>15</sup> This scoping review will follow the framework for scoping reviews originally developed by Arksey and O'Malley<sup>16</sup> and later expanded by Levac *et al.*<sup>17</sup> Reporting will follow the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses extension (PRISMA) or Scoping Reviews.<sup>18</sup> To ensure an equity lens is taken throughout the review, we will also follow the relevant methodology from the PRISMA reporting guidelines for equity focused systematic reviews.<sup>19</sup> Amendments to this protocol will be documented and published with the results of the scoping review.

### Step 1: identifying the research question

This scoping review aims to answer the questions: What measures and statistical methods have been used in the contemporary scientific literature to evaluate end-of-life cancer care inequalities? Our goal is to describe the study design, measures, and statistical and analytical methods used in quantitative and qualitative primary research studies of end-of-life cancer care inequalities and to consider how these methods align with recommended approaches for studying health inequalities, such as the use of a conceptual framework, consideration of intersectionality and appropriate analytical techniques. Through our review and synthesis of the literature, we will identify gaps in methodology and areas for improvement in future studies that can help advance our understanding of cancer care inequalities. As noted above, the terms inequity and inequality have different meanings, with inequality related to measured differences while inequity related to differences interpreted relative to social structure, power, patient preferences and injustice. For this scoping review, we are focusing on research studying end-of-life cancer care inequalities, regardless of whether they are interpreted as inequities or not.

### Step 2: identifying relevant studies

We will identify relevant research studies by searching electronic databases of published literature including MEDLINE, EMBASE, Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL) and PsycINFO. The search will be limited to studies published between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2021. The search strategy, which was developed in consultation with a health sciences librarian at McGill University, is provided in online supplemental appendix.

To identify end-of-life cancer care and outcomes, three broad categories of search terms will be used. These will include terms related to cancer, terms related to end-of-life care and terms related to health inequalities. These three categories of search terms will be combined with the AND Boolean operator to identify studies that included terms from all three categories. To capture studies examining health inequalities, we will use the subject filter for health disparities and minority health developed by the National Library of Medicine (NLM) ('healthdisparities' (Filter)).<sup>20 21</sup> Subject filters are specialised search strategies that are developed in consultation with librarians and

subject specialists at the NLM.<sup>22 23</sup> The subject filter for health disparities captures key terms related to inequality, disparity and inequity in combination with specific equity stratifiers, such as race, sexual orientation, geography etc, in order to capture a broad range of literature. The filter will be combined with the Medical Subject Heading (MeSH) terms for 'human rights' and 'health equity' using 'OR' to capture concepts of equity not already covered under the subject filter. The search strategy was developed in MEDLINE and translated to the other databases with the help of a health sciences librarian using established criteria.<sup>24</sup> A preliminary search identified 999 potential citations in Medline, 3844 in Embase, 156 in PsycINFO and 533 in CINAHL (without removing duplicates).

### Step 3: study selection

Following the search, all citations will be uploaded to Covidence<sup>25</sup> and duplicates removed. The study selection process will include two screening steps: a title and abstract screening, followed by a full-text screening. For each screening step, two reviewers will independently screen the studies against a set of inclusion criteria, described below. These criteria will be tested on a sample of 5% of the title and abstracts prior to beginning the study selection process and revised as deemed appropriate by the study team. For each screening step, both reviewers must independently identify that a study has met the inclusion criteria for it to move forward to the next screening step and/or data extraction. Any disagreements will be noted and resolved by consensus between the two reviewers, with a third author consulted to make a final decision if consensus cannot be achieved.

Studies will be included if they meet the following inclusion criteria:

### Study outcome

Studies examining end-of-life care and outcomes for patients with cancer will be included. For instance, studies examining the receipt of palliative care, symptom burden prior to death or place of death.

### Exposure

Studies examining any health equity stratifier will be included. Equity stratifiers may be studied as the main exposure or included as risk factors for the outcome. Studies will be included that measure equity stratifiers at the area or individual level. Our identification of equity stratifiers will be informed by the PROGRESS-Plus framework, which defines the following characteristics as equity stratifiers: place of residence, race or ethnicity, language, occupation, gender or sex, religion, education, socioeconomic status, social capital, as well as other personal characteristics associated with discrimination, such as age or disability.<sup>26</sup> This framework is used by the Cochrane and Campbell Collaborations to inform equity-focused research, and it has been incorporated into PRISMA reporting guidelines for equity-focused reviews.<sup>19</sup>

### Study population

Studies focusing on adult populations (age 18+) will be included. All types of cancers will be included. No limits will be placed on the geographic region of the study population.

### Study design

Included studies will be limited to primary research studies using the following designs: quantitative observational studies, including cohort, cross-sectional or case-control studies, randomised controlled trials, quasi-experimental designs, other non-randomised trials and qualitative studies. Opinion papers, conference abstracts, case reports, systematic reviews, meta-analysis, narrative reviews and theses or dissertations will also be excluded as they do not represent peer-reviewed original research studies.

### Study details

Studies published in English or French between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2021 will be included. We selected 1 January 2010 as the earliest publication date to focus this scoping review on contemporaneous health equity research. This field of study and has evolved over time, and much of the guidance on appropriate methodological approaches was published in the last 10–15 years. We think it is reasonable to evaluate the methodological quality of research published in 2010 onwards against these recommendations.

### Step 4: data extraction

A detailed data charting table will be developed to obtain information from each full text article. We will follow established frameworks on methodology in health equity research to inform our data abstraction and interpretation.<sup>9 12 27 28</sup> The data chart will be developed by the research team and piloted prior to data extraction on 2–3 studies to ensure that it is capturing all relevant information. Key areas abstracted in the chart will include the healthcare system and region where the study was conducted, study design, description of data sources, study timeframe, sample size, inclusion and exclusion criteria, cancer site, use of a conceptual framework, description of the equity stratifier and how it was measured (individual or neighbourhood level, reference group, continuous or categorical, summary measures), and a description of the study outcome and how it was measured. For quantitative studies, we will extract information on the statistical methods used to identify the relationship between the equity stratifier and outcome, effect measures used (relative or absolute), confounders controlled for and results describing relationships between equity stratifiers and end-of-life outcomes. For qualitative studies, we will document themes related to relationships between equity stratifiers and end-of-life outcomes. We will also examine if studies included a discussion of system-related factors, contextualisation of results for stakeholders, implicit



bias and intersectionality as impacting the magnitude of inequality along the cancer care continuum.

Two authors will independently review 10% of the full-text articles in duplicate and their data compared with assess agreement. Any disagreements will be resolved by consensus between the two authors, with a third author consulted to make a final decision if consensus cannot be achieved. If there are disagreements, both authors will independently extract data from the next 10% of full-text articles and compare for agreement. This process will continue until no disagreements are noted, at which time one author will extract data from the remaining full text articles.

### Step 5: collating, summarising and reporting results

Results will be synthesised quantitatively and qualitatively to describe the data. Frequencies and central measures of tendency will be used to report the number of studies examining different equity stratifiers, study outcomes and measurement approaches. Descriptive statistics will be presented in tables and a narrative synthesis of the findings will be reported.

### Patient and public involvement

The public and patients were not involved in the development of this scoping review protocol. We will engage with cancer patients and family caregivers to inform evidence synthesis and interpretation of the findings of this scoping review.

### ETHICS AND DISSEMINATION

Ethics approval is not required for this scoping review. Results will be disseminated to researchers who are studying health equity in cancer care through scientific publication and presentation at relevant conferences.

### DISCUSSION

This scoping review will provide an overview of study design, measurement and methods used in current quantitative and qualitative studies examining health inequalities in end-of-life cancer care and outcomes. We will conduct a rigorous search across multiple databases and years to ensure we capture relevant studies. A major strength of this scoping review is the robust research team with expertise in epidemiology, sociology, oncology and palliative care. Collectively, we have a strong understanding of quantitative and qualitative research methodology and of measurement and methodologies appropriate to studies of healthcare inequalities. We have also involved a health sciences librarian to consult on the search strategy and ensure the breadth of the search terms and translation across search databases are appropriate. Finally, the broad approach using a scoping review design is appropriate for an exploratory study to understand the current landscape of methodology in the end-of-life cancer inequality literature. This study is a starting

point for future studies to further summarise and understand how to improve methods in equity research and thus better inform health policy.

There are several limitations to this scoping review. First, we are focusing the search only on studies identified as examining health inequities, inequalities or disparities in cancer end-of-life and palliative care. It is possible that we will not capture studies that examine equity stratifiers but do not use these terms in ways that would be captured by the search. For example, studies examining general differences in end-of-life care or outcomes, including considerations of differences according to equity stratifiers, may not be captured by the health disparities filter. This might result in a pool of studies that are more explicitly equity focused. Second, by focusing solely on end-of-life care, we will not be able to draw conclusions about how equity research is conducted in cancer care more generally. Third, this scoping review will not include a grey literature search, as our focus is on the quality of methodology of peer-reviewed scientific research. While some grey literature may report research findings, we expect that such literature would also be reported in scientific articles indexed in one of the included databases for search in this review. Finally, the scoping review research question is broad, and it may not be feasible to combine results across equity stratifiers or study outcomes if the methodologies are too heterogeneous. In that case, we will report the findings separately for each equity stratifier and/or study outcome.

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**Contributors** ALM, LED, CW and LK conceived of and developed the protocol and the search strategy. LED, CW, GDD, AW, SH, JH, NGC, LK, PT and ALM provided feedback to inform the protocol's theoretical foundation, contributed to the inclusion/exclusion criteria and reviewed and edited the final manuscript.

**Funding** This research is funded in part by a Canadian Cancer Society Emerging Scholar Award (Manitoba) (grant #707149), and an unrestricted Research Start-Up Funds grant from the Office of the Vice President (Research & International) at the University of Manitoba (Mahar, Award Number N/A).

**Competing interests** None declared.

**Patient and public involvement** Patients and/or the public were involved in the design, or conduct, or reporting, or dissemination plans of this research. Refer to the Methods section for further details.

**Patient consent for publication** Not applicable.

**Provenance and peer review** Not commissioned; externally peer reviewed.

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## Appendix 1: Search Strategy

## Medline

1.	exp Neoplasms/
2.	Palliative Care/
3.	(End* adj3 life).tw.
4.	(last year of life or LYOL).tw.
5.	Palliat*.tw.
6.	Terminally ill/
7.	Hospice*.tw.
8.	(terminal* adj3 (car* or ill* or diseas*)).tw.
9.	(terminal-stage* or terminal stage* or dying or (close adj4 death)).tw.
10.	exp Terminal Care/
11.	Hospice Care/
12.	(dying adj3 care).tw.
13.	((end-stage* or end stage* or incurable or advanced) adj5 (disease* or ill* or care or cancer* or malignan*)).tw.
14.	or/2-13
15.	ethnic disparit*.tw.
16.	health disparit*.tw.
17.	Healthcare Disparities/
18.	health care disparit*.tw.
19.	healthcare disparit*.tw.
20.	Health Status Disparities/
21.	"disparities in health".tw.
22.	J Health Care Poor Underserved.ja.
23.	J Health Dispar Res Pract.ja.
24.	J Racial Ethn Health Disparities.ja.
25.	Culturally Competent Care/
26.	culturally competent care.tw.
27.	"Delivery of Health Care"/
28.	disparities.tw.
29.	exp Health Behavior/
30.	health behavior*.tw.
31.	health inequalit*.tw.
32.	health inequit*.tw.
33.	Health Knowledge, Attitudes, Practice/
34.	"health related quality of life".tw.
35.	exp Health Services Accessibility/
36.	Health Services, Indigenous/
37.	"Health Services Needs and Demand"/
38.	exp Mass Screening/
39.	mass screening*.tw.
40.	exp "Patient Acceptance of Health Care"/
41.	Patient Selection/
42.	"Quality of Health Care"/
43.	Health Equity/
44.	exp Social Class/
45.	social class.tw.
46.	"Social Determinants of Health"/
47.	"social determinants of health".tw.
48.	social disparit*.tw.
49.	social factors.tw.

50.	social inequit*.tw.
51.	exp Socioeconomic Factors/
52.	socioeconomic factor*.tw.
53.	exp Human Rights/
54.	socioeconomically disadvantaged.tw.
55.	or/15-54
56.	African American*.tw.
57.	African ancestry.tw.
58.	exp African Continental Ancestry Group/
59.	Ageism/
60.	AIAN.tw.
61.	Alaska Native*.tw.
62.	exp American Native Continental Ancestry Group/
63.	apartheid/
64.	Asian*.tw.
65.	exp Asian Continental Ancestry Group/
66.	Black American*.tw.
67.	Caucasian*.tw.
68.	disabled.tw.
69.	exp disabled persons/
70.	disabled person*.tw.
71.	diverse population*.tw.
72.	exp "Emigrants and Immigrants"/
73.	ethnic group*.tw.
74.	exp Ethnic Groups/
75.	ethnic inequalit*.tw.
76.	ethnic population*.tw.
77.	ghetto*.tw.
78.	Health Services for Persons with Disabilities/
79.	hispanic*.tw.
80.	homeless.tw.
81.	exp Homeless Persons/
82.	immigrant*.tw.
83.	indian*.tw.
84.	inmate*.tw.
85.	jail.tw.
86.	jail population*.tw.
87.	Latina*.tw.
88.	Latinx.tw.
89.	latino*.tw.
90.	medically underserved area/
91.	Medically Uninsured/
92.	minorities' health.tw.
93.	minority group*.tw.
94.	minority groups/
95.	Minority Health/
96.	minority health.tw.
97.	minority population*.tw.
98.	migrant worker*.tw.
99.	Native american*.tw.
100.	Native Hawaiian*.tw.
101.	Oceanic Ancestry Group/
102.	Pacific Islander*.tw.

103.	"people of color".tw.
104.	poverty/
105.	poverty.tw.
106.	poverty areas/
107.	poverty area*.tw.
108.	prisoner*.tw.
109.	exp prisoners/
110.	race factors/
111.	race factors.tw.
112.	"race and ethnicity".tw.
113.	"racial and ethnic minorities".tw.
114.	racial discrimination.tw.
115.	racial disparit*.tw.
116.	racial equality.tw.
117.	racial equity.tw.
118.	racial inequit*.tw.
119.	racial prejudice.tw.
120.	racial segregation.tw.
121.	racism/
122.	refugees/
123.	refugee*.tw.
124.	rural health/
125.	rural health.tw.
126.	exp rural health services/
127.	rural population/
128.	rural population*.tw.
129.	sexism/
130.	slum*.tw.
131.	exp social discrimination/
132.	social marginalization/
133.	exp social segregation/
134.	"Transients and Migrants"/
135.	underserved.tw.
136.	uninsured.tw.
137.	urban health/
138.	urban health services/
139.	urban population/
140.	urban population*.tw.
141.	vulnerable population*.tw.
142.	vulnerable populations/
143.	working poor/
144.	working poor.tw.
145.	bisexual*.tw.
146.	bigender.tw.
147.	exp "disorders of sex development"/
148.	"disorders of sex development".tw.
149.	female homosexuality.tw.
150.	gay.tw.
151.	gays.tw.
152.	gender chang*.tw.
153.	gender confirmation.tw.
154.	gender disorder*.tw.
155.	gender dysphoria.tw.



156.	gender divers*.tw.
157.	exp gender identity/
158.	gender identity.tw.
159.	gender minorit*.tw.
160.	gender non conforming.tw.
161.	gender nonconforming.tw.
162.	gender orientation.tw.
163.	genderqueer.tw.
164.	gender reassignment.tw.
165.	gender surgery.tw.
166.	GLBT*.tw.
167.	"health services for transgender persons"/
168.	homophile.tw.
169.	homophilia.tw.
170.	homosexual*.tw.
171.	exp homosexuality/
172.	intersex.tw.
173.	lesbian*.tw.
174.	LGBBTQ*.tw.
175.	LGBT*.tw.
176.	"men having sex with men".tw.
177.	"men who have sex with men".tw.
178.	"men who have sex with other men".tw.
179.	nonheterosexual*.tw.
180.	non heterosexual*.tw.
181.	pansexual.tw.
182.	polysexual.tw.
183.	queer.af.
184.	same sex.tw.
185.	"sexual and gender disorders"/
186.	exp "sexual and gender minorities"/
187.	sex change.tw.
188.	sex reassignment.tw.
189.	exp sex reassignment procedures/
190.	sexual diversity.tw.
191.	sexual minorit*.tw.
192.	sexual orientation.tw.
193.	transgender*.tw.
194.	transsexual*.tw.
195.	transman.tw.
196.	trans man.tw.
197.	trans men.tw.
198.	transmen.tw.
199.	bisexuality/
200.	bisexual*.tw.
201.	transsexualism/
202.	transsexualism.tw.
203.	transwoman.tw.
204.	trans women.tw.
205.	transwomen.tw.
206.	two spirit.tw.
207.	two-spirit.tw.
208.	"women who have sex with women".tw.

209.	gender equity/
210.	or/56-209
211.	55 and 210
212.	1 and 14 and 211
213.	limit 212 to yr="2010-current"

## EMBASE

1.	exp neoplasm/
2.	exp palliative therapy/
3.	(end* adj3 life).tw.
4.	(last year of life or LYOL).tw.
5.	palliat*.tw.
6.	exp terminally ill patient/
7.	hospice*.tw.
8.	(terminal* adj3 (car* or ill* or diseas*)).tw.
9.	(terminal-stage* or terminal stage* or dying or (close adj4 death)).tw.
10.	terminal care/
11.	hospice care/
12.	(dying adj3 care).tw.
13.	((end-stage* or end stage* or incurable or advanced) adj5 (disease* or ill* or care or cancer* or malignan*)).tw.
14.	or/2-13
15.	ethnic disparit*.tw.
16.	health disparit*.tw.
17.	health care disparity/
18.	health care disparit*.tw.
19.	healthcare disparit*.tw.
20.	health disparity/
21.	"disparities in health".tw.
22.	J Health Care Poor Underserved.ja.
23.	J Health Dispar Res Pract.ja.
24.	J Racial Ethn Health Disparities.ja.
25.	exp transcultural care/
26.	culturally competent care.tw.
27.	health care delivery/
28.	disparities.tw.
29.	exp health behavior/
30.	health behavior*.tw.
31.	health inequalit*.tw.
32.	health inequit*.tw.
33.	attitude to health/
34.	"health related quality of life".tw.
35.	"health-related quality of life".tw.
36.	exp health care access/
37.	indigenous health care/
38.	exp health care need/
39.	exp mass screening/
40.	mass screening*.tw.
41.	exp patient attitude/
42.	exp patient selection/
43.	health care quality/
44.	health equity/
45.	social class/

46.	social class.tw.
47.	"social determinants of health"/
48.	"social determinants of health".tw.
49.	social disparit*.tw.
50.	social factors.tw.
51.	social inequit*.tw.
52.	socioeconomic factor*.tw.
53.	exp socioeconomics/
54.	exp human rights/
55.	exp social discrimination/
56.	socioeconomically disadvantaged.tw.
57.	or/15-56
58.	African American*.tw.
59.	African ancestry.tw.
60.	ageism/
61.	AIAN.tw.
62.	Alaska Native*.tw.
63.	exp indigenous people/
64.	exp race relation/
65.	Asian*.tw.
66.	exp ancestry group/
67.	Black American*.tw.
68.	Caucasian*.tw.
69.	disabled.tw.
70.	exp disabled person/
71.	disabled person*.tw.
72.	diverse population*.tw.
73.	exp migrant/
74.	ethnic group*.tw.
75.	exp ethnic group/
76.	ethnic inequalit*.tw.
77.	ethnic population*.tw.
78.	ghetto*.tw.
79.	"health services for persons with disabilities".tw.
80.	"health services for people with disabilities".tw.
81.	"health services for disabled persons".tw.
82.	Hispanic*.tw.
83.	homeless.tw.
84.	exp homeless person/
85.	immigrant*.tw.
86.	Indian*.tw.
87.	Inmate*.tw.
88.	jail.tw.
89.	jail population*.tw.
90.	Latina*.tw.
91.	Latino*.tw.
92.	Latinx.tw.
93.	medically uninsured/
94.	medically underserved area.tw.
95.	minorities' health.tw.
96.	minority group*.tw.
97.	minority group/
98.	minority health/

99.	minority health.tw.
100.	minority population*.tw.
101.	migrant worker*.tw.
102.	Native American*.tw.
103.	Native Hawaiian*.tw.
104.	Pacific Islander*.tw.
105.	"people of color".tw.
106.	exp poverty/
107.	poverty.tw.
108.	exp social status/
109.	poverty area*.tw.
110.	prisoner*.tw.
111.	exp prisoner/
112.	exp "ethnic or racial aspects"/
113.	race factors.tw.
114.	"race and ethnicity".tw.
115.	"racial and ethnic minorities".tw.
116.	racial discrimination.tw.
117.	racial disparit*.tw.
118.	racial equality.tw.
119.	racial equity.tw.
120.	racial inequit*.tw.
121.	racial prejudice.tw.
122.	racial segregation.tw.
123.	racism/
124.	refugee*.tw.
125.	rural health/
126.	rural health.tw.
127.	exp rural health care/
128.	rural population/
129.	rural population*.tw.
130.	sexism/
131.	slum*.tw.
132.	exp social exclusion/
133.	exp social segregation/
134.	social marginalization.tw.
135.	underserved.tw.
136.	undocumented immigrant/
137.	uninsured.tw.
138.	urban health/
139.	urban population/
140.	urban population*.tw.
141.	vulnerable population*.tw.
142.	vulnerable population/
143.	working poor/
144.	working poor.tw.
145.	bisexual*.tw.
146.	bigender.tw.
147.	exp "disorder of sex development"/
148.	"disorders of sex development".tw.
149.	female homosexuality.tw.
150.	gay.tw.
151.	gays.tw.

152.	gender chang*.tw.
153.	gender confirmation.tw.
154.	gender disorder*.tw.
155.	gender dysphoria.tw.
156.	gender divers*.tw.
157.	exp gender identity/
158.	gender identity*.tw.
159.	gender minorit*.tw.
160.	gender non conforming.tw.
161.	gender nonconforming.tw.
162.	gender orientation.tw.
163.	genderqueer.tw.
164.	gender reassignment.tw.
165.	gender surgery.tw.
166.	GLBT*.tw.
167.	homophile.tw.
168.	homophilia.tw.
169.	exp homosexuality/
170.	homosexual*.tw.
171.	intersex.tw.
172.	lesbian*.tw.
173.	LGBT*.tw.
174.	LGBBTQ*.tw.
175.	"men having sex with men".tw.
176.	"men who have sex with men".tw.
177.	"men who have sex with other men".tw.
178.	nonheterosexual*.tw.
179.	non heterosexual*.tw.
180.	pansexual.tw.
181.	polysexual.tw.
182.	queer.af.
183.	same sex.tw.
184.	exp sexual dysfunction/
185.	exp gender identity/
186.	exp "sexual and gender minority"/
187.	sex change.tw.
188.	sex reassignment.tw.
189.	sex reassignment/
190.	sexual diversity.tw.
191.	sexual minorit*.tw.
192.	sexual orientation.tw.
193.	transgender*.tw.
194.	exp named groups by sexuality/
195.	bisexual*.tw.
196.	transsexual*.tw.
197.	transman.tw.
198.	trans man.tw.
199.	trans men.tw.
200.	transmen.tw.
201.	transwoman.tw.
202.	trans woman.tw.
203.	trans women.tw.
204.	trans women.tw.



205.	two spirit.tw.
206.	"women who have sex with women".tw.
207.	gender equity/
208.	or/58-207
209.	57 and 208
210.	1 and 14 and 209
211.	limit 210 to yr="2010-current"

### PsycINFO

1.	exp neoplasms/
2.	palliative care/
3.	(end* adj3 life).tw.
4.	(last year of life or LYOL).tw.
5.	palliat*.tw.
6.	terminally ill patients/
7.	hospice*.tw.
8.	(terminal* adj3 (car* or ill* or diseas*)).tw.
9.	(terminal-stage* or terminal stage* or dying or (close adj4 death)).tw.
10.	hospice/
11.	(dying adj3 care).tw.
12.	((end-stage* or end stage* or incurable or advanced) adj5 (disease* or ill* or care or cancer* or malignan*)).tw.
13.	or/2-12
14.	ethnic disparit*.tw.
15.	health disparit*.tw.
16.	exp health disparities/
17.	health care disparit*.tw.
18.	healthcare disparit*.tw.
19.	exp health status disparities/
20.	"disparities in health".tw.
21.	"J Health Care Poor Underserved".jn.
22.	"J Health Dispar Res Pract".jn.
23.	"J Racial Ethn Health Disparities".jn.
24.	cultural sensitivity/
25.	culturally competent care.tw.
26.	exp health care delivery/
27.	disparities.tw.
28.	exp health behavior/
29.	health behavior*.tw.
30.	health inequalit*.tw.
31.	health inequit*.tw.
32.	health knowledge/
33.	exp health attitudes/
34.	"health related quality of life".tw.
35.	"health-related quality of life".tw.
36.	exp health care access/
37.	health service needs/
38.	health status disparit*.tw.
39.	mass screening*.tw.
40.	treatment compliance/
41.	client participation/
42.	patient selection/
43.	"quality of care"/

44.	health equit*.tw.
45.	exp social class/
46.	social class.tw.
47.	"social determinants of health".tw.
48.	social disparit*.tw.
49.	social factors.tw.
50.	social inequit*.tw.
51.	socioeconomic factor*.tw.
52.	exp sociocultural factors/
53.	exp socioeconomic factors/
54.	exp human rights/
55.	"socioeconomically disadvantaged".tw.
56.	exp social discrimination/
57.	or/14-56
58.	African American.tw.
59.	African ancestry.tw.
60.	ageism/
61.	AIAN.tw.
62.	Alaska native*.tw.
63.	apartheid.tw.
64.	exp "racial and ethnic relations"/
65.	Asian*.tw.
66.	black american*.tw.
67.	caucasian*.tw.
68.	disabled.tw.
69.	exp disabilities/
70.	disabled person*.tw.
71.	diverse population*.tw.
72.	immigration/
73.	(emigrant* or emigrat*).tw.
74.	exp "racial and ethnic groups"/
75.	ethnic group*.tw.
76.	ethnic inequalit*.tw.
77.	ethnic population*.tw.
78.	ghetto*.tw.
79.	"health services for persons with disabilities".tw.
80.	"health services for people with disabilities".tw.
81.	"health services for disabled persons".tw.
82.	Hispanic*.tw.
83.	homeless.tw.
84.	exp homeless/
85.	immigrant*.tw.
86.	Indian*.tw.
87.	inmate*.tw.
88.	jail.tw.
89.	jail population*.tw.
90.	latina*.tw.
91.	latino*.tw.
92.	latinx.tw.
93.	medically underserved area*.tw.
94.	"uninsured (health insurance)"/
95.	minorities' health.tw.
96.	minority group*.tw.

97.	exp minority groups/
98.	minority health.tw.
99.	minority population*.tw.
100.	exp migrant workers/
101.	migrant worker*.tw.
102.	Native American*.tw.
103.	Native Hawaiian*.tw.
104.	Pacific Islander*.tw.
105.	"people of color".tw.
106.	exp poverty/
107.	poverty.tw.
108.	poverty areas/
109.	poverty area*.tw.
110.	prisoner*.tw.
111.	exp prisoners/
112.	race factors.tw.
113.	"race and ethnicity".tw.
114.	"racial and ethnic minorities".tw.
115.	racial discrimination.tw.
116.	exp "race and ethnic discrimination"/
117.	racial disparit*.tw.
118.	racial equalit*.tw.
119.	racial equit*.tw.
120.	racial inequit*.tw.
121.	racial prejudice.tw.
122.	racial segregation.tw.
123.	racism/
124.	refugees/
125.	refugee*.tw.
126.	rural health/
127.	rural health.tw.
128.	rural population*.tw.
129.	sexism/
130.	slum*.tw.
131.	marginalization/
132.	social integration/
133.	social exclusion.tw.
134.	social segregation.tw.
135.	uninsured.tw.
136.	underserved.tw.
137.	undocumented immigrant*.tw.
138.	urban health/
139.	urban health.tw.
140.	urban population*.tw.
141.	at risk populations/
142.	vulnerable population*.tw.
143.	working poor.tw.
144.	bisexual*.tw.
145.	bigender.tw.
146.	exp intersex conditions/
147.	"disorders of sex development".tw.
148.	female homosexuality.tw.
149.	gay.tw.

150.	gays.tw.
151.	gender chang*.tw.
152.	gender confirmation.tw.
153.	gender disorder*.tw.
154.	gender dysphoria/
155.	gender dysphoria.tw.
156.	gender divers*.tw.
157.	exp gender identity/
158.	gender identity.tw.
159.	gender minorit*.tw.
160.	gender non conforming.tw.
161.	gender nonconforming.tw.
162.	gender orientation.tw.
163.	genderqueer.tw.
164.	gender reassignment/
165.	gender reassignment.tw.
166.	gender surgery.tw.
167.	GLBT*.tw.
168.	homophile.tw.
169.	homophilia.tw.
170.	homosexual*.tw.
171.	exp homosexuality/
172.	intersex.tw.
173.	lesbian*.tw.
174.	LGBBTQ*.tw.
175.	LGBT*.tw.
176.	"men having sex with men".tw.
177.	"men who have sex with men".tw.
178.	"men who have sex with other men".tw.
179.	nonheterosexual*.tw.
180.	non heterosexual*.tw.
181.	pansexual.tw.
182.	polysexual.tw.
183.	queer.af.
184.	same sex.tw.
185.	"sexual and gender disorders".tw.
186.	"sexual and gender minorit*".tw.
187.	sex change.tw.
188.	sex reassignment.tw.
189.	sexual diversity.tw.
190.	sexual minorit*.tw.
191.	sexual orientation.tw.
192.	transgender*.tw.
193.	transsexual*.tw.
194.	transman.tw.
195.	trans man.tw.
196.	transmen.tw.
197.	trans men.tw.
198.	transsexualism.tw.
199.	transwoman.tw.
200.	trans woman.tw.
201.	trans women.tw.
202.	transwomen.tw.

203.	two spirit.tw.
204.	"women who have sex with women".tw.
205.	gender equality/
206.	or/58-205
207.	57 and 206
208.	1 and 13 and 207
209.	limit 208 to yr="2010-current"

## CINAHL

Query	Limiters/Expanders
S195	S194 Published Date: 20100101-Present
S194	S1 AND S12 AND S193
S193	(S192 AND S49)
S192	(S50 OR S51 OR S52 OR S53 OR S54 OR S55 OR S56 OR S57 OR S58 OR S59 OR S60 OR S61 OR S62 OR S63 OR S64 OR S65 OR S66 OR S67 OR S68 OR S69 OR S70 OR S71 OR S72 OR S73 OR S74 OR S75 OR S76 OR S77 OR S78 OR S79 OR S80 OR S81 OR S82 OR S83 OR S84 OR S85 OR S86 OR S87 OR S88 OR S89 OR S90 OR S91 OR S92 OR S93 OR S94 OR S95 OR S96 OR S97 OR S98 OR S99 OR S100 OR S101 OR S102 OR S103 OR S104 OR S105 OR S106 OR S107 OR S108 OR S109 OR S110 OR S111 OR S112 OR S113 OR S114 OR S115 OR S116 OR S117 OR S118 OR S119 OR S120 OR S121 OR S122 OR S123 OR S124 OR S125 OR S126 OR S127 OR S128 OR S129 OR S130 OR S131 OR S132 OR S133 OR S134 OR S135 OR S136 OR S137 OR S138 OR S139 OR S140 OR S141 OR S142 OR S143 OR S144 OR S145 OR S146 OR S147 OR S148 OR S149 OR S150 OR S151 OR S152 OR S153 OR S154 OR S155 OR S156 OR S157 OR S158 OR S159 OR S160 OR S161 OR S162 OR S163 OR S164 OR S165 OR S166 OR S167 OR S168 OR S169 OR S170 OR S171 OR S172 OR S173 OR S174 OR S175 OR S176 OR S177 OR S178 OR S179 OR S180 OR S181 OR S182 OR S183 OR S184 OR S185 OR S186 OR S187 OR S188 OR S189 OR S190 OR S191)
S191	(MH "Gender Equality")
S190	TI "women who have sex with women" OR AB "women who have sex with women"
S189	TI "two spirit" OR AB "two spirit"
S188	TI "trans women" OR AB "trans women"
S187	TI "trans woman" OR AB "trans woman"
S186	TI transwomen OR AB transwomen
S185	TI transwoman OR AB transwoman
S184	TI transsexualism OR AB transsexualism
S183	TI "trans men" OR AB "trans men"
S182	TI transmen OR AB transmen
S181	TI "trans man" OR AB "trans man"
S180	TI transman OR AB transman
S179	TI transsexual* OR AB transsexual*
S178	TI transgender* OR AB transgender*
S177	TI "sexual orientation" OR AB "sexual orientation"
S176	TI "sexual minorit*" OR AB "sexual minorit*"
S175	TI "sexual diversity" OR AB "sexual diversity"
S174	(MH "Gender Affirmation Procedures+")
S173	TI "sex reassignment" OR AB "sex reassignment"
S172	TI "sex change" OR AB "sex change"
S171	(MH "Sexual and Gender Disorders+")
S170	TI "same sex" OR AB "same sex"
S169	TX queer* OR TX queer*
S168	TI polysexual* OR AB polysexual*
S167	TI pansexual* OR AB pansexual*
S166	TI nonheterosexual* OR AB nonheterosexual*



S165	TI "men who have sex with other men" OR AB "men who have sex with other men"
S164	TI "men who have sex with men" OR AB "men who have sex with men"
S163	TI "men having sex with men" OR AB "men having sex with men"
S162	TI LGBT* OR AB LGBT*
S161	TI LGBBTQ* OR AB LGBBTQ*
S160	TI lesbian* OR AB lesbian*
S159	TI intersex OR AB intersex
S158	(MH "Sexual and Gender Minorities+")
S157	(MH "Homosexuality")
S156	TI homosexual* OR AB homosexual*
S155	TI homophilia OR AB homophilia
S154	TI homophile OR AB homophile
S153	TI GLBT* OR AB GLBT*
S152	TI "gender surgery" OR AB "gender surgery"
S151	TI "gender reassignment" OR AB "gender reassignment"
S150	TI "genderqueer" OR AB "genderqueer"
S149	TI "gender orientation" OR AB "gender orientation"
S148	TI "gender nonconforming" OR AB "gender nonconforming"
S147	TI "gender non-conforming" OR AB "gender non-conforming"
S146	TI "gender minorit*" OR AB "gender minorit*"
S145	TI "gender identity" OR AB "gender identity"
S144	(MH "Gender Identity+")
S143	TI "gender divers*" OR AB "gender divers*"
S142	TI "gender dysphoria" OR AB "gender dysphoria"
S141	TI "gender disorder*" OR AB "gender disorder*"
S140	TI "gender confirmation" OR AB "gender confirmation"
S139	TI "gender chang*" OR AB "gender chang*"
S138	TI gays OR AB gays
S137	TI gay OR AB gay
S136	TI "female homosexuality" OR AB "female homosexuality"
S135	TI "disorders of sex development" OR AB "disorders of sex development"
S134	(MH "Disorders of Sex Development+")
S133	TI bigender OR AB bigender
S132	TI bisexual* OR AB bisexual*
S131	TI "working poor" OR AB "working poor"
S130	(MH "Special Populations")
S129	TI "vulnerable population*" OR AB "vulnerable population*"
S128	TI "urban population*" OR AB "urban population*"
S127	(MH "Urban Population")
S126	(MH "Urban Health Services")
S125	(MH "Urban Health")
S124	TI uninsured OR AB uninsured
S123	TI underserved OR AB underserved
S122	(MH "Transients and Migrants")
S121	TI "social segregation" OR AB "social segregation"
S120	TI "social marginalization" OR AB "social marginalization"
S119	(MH "Discrimination+")
S118	TI slum* OR AB slum*
S117	(MH "Sexism")
S116	TI "rural population*" OR AB "rural population*"
S115	(MH "Rural Population")
S114	(MH "Rural Health Services")
S113	TI "rural health" OR AB "rural health"

S112	(MH "Rural Health")
S111	TI refugee* OR AB refugee*
S110	(MH "Refugees+")
S109	(MH "Racism")
S108	TI "racial segregation" OR AB "racial segregation"
S107	TI "racial prejudice" OR AB "racial prejudice"
S106	TI "racial inequit*" OR AB "racial inequit*"
S105	TI "racial equity" OR AB "racial equity"
S104	TI "racial equality" OR AB "racial equality"
S103	TI "racial disparit*" OR AB "racial disparit*"
S102	TI "racial discrimination" OR AB "racial discrimination"
S101	TI ( "racial and ethnic minorities" ) OR AB ( "racial and ethnic minorities" )
S100	TI ( "race and ethnicity" ) OR AB ( "race and ethnicity" )
S99	TI "race factors" OR AB "race factors"
S98	(MH "Race Factors")
S97	(MH "Prisoners")
S96	TI prisoner* OR AB prisoner*
S95	TI poverty OR AB poverty
S94	(MH "Poverty+")
S93	TI "people of color" OR AB "people of color"
S92	TI "Pacific Islander*" OR AB "Pacific Islander*"
S91	TI "Native Hawaiian*" OR AB "Native Hawaiian*"
S90	TI "Native American*" OR AB "Native American*"
S89	TI "migrant worker*" OR AB "migrant worker*"
S88	TI "minority population*" OR AB "minority population*"
S87	TI "minority health" OR AB "minority health"
S86	(MH "Minority Groups")
S85	TI "minority group*" OR AB "minority group*"
S84	TI "minorities' health*" OR AB "minorities' health*"
S83	(MH "Medically Uninsured")
S82	(MH "Medically Underserved Area")
S81	TI latinx* OR AB latinx*
S80	TI latino* OR AB latino*
S79	TI Latina* OR AB Latina*
S78	TI "jail population*" OR AB "jail population*"
S77	TI jail OR AB jail
S76	TI inmate* OR AB inmate*
S75	TI Indian* OR AB Indian*
S74	TI immigrant* OR AB immigrant*
S73	TI homeless OR AB homeless
S72	(MH "Homeless Persons")
S71	TI hispanic* OR AB hispanic*
S70	(MH "Health Services for Persons with Disabilities")
S69	TI ghetto* OR AB ghetto*
S68	TI "ethnic population*" OR AB "ethnic population*"
S67	TI "ethnic inequalit*" OR AB "ethnic inequalit*"
S66	TI "ethnic group*" OR AB "ethnic group*"
S65	(MH "Ethnic Groups+")
S64	(MH "Immigrants+")
S63	TI "diverse population*" OR AB "diverse population*"
S62	TI disabled OR AB disabled
S61	TI "disabled person*" OR AB "disabled person*"
S60	(MH "Disabled+")

S59	TI caucasian OR AB caucasian
S58	TI "Black American*" OR AB "Black American*"
S57	TI Asian* OR AB Asian*
S56	(MH "Race Relations+")
S55	TI apartheid OR AB apartheid
S54	TI "Alaska native*" OR AB "Alaska native*"
S53	TI AIAN OR AB AIAN
S52	(MH "Ageism")
S51	TI "African ancestry" OR AB "African ancestry"
S50	TI "African American*" OR AB "African American*"
S49	S13 OR S14 OR S15 OR S16 OR S17 OR S18 OR S19 OR S20 OR S21 OR S22 OR S23 OR S24 OR S25 OR S26 OR S27 OR S28 OR S29 OR S30 OR S31 OR S32 OR S33 OR S34 OR S35 OR S36 OR S37 OR S38 OR S39 OR S40 OR S41 OR S42 OR S43 OR S44 OR S45 OR S46 OR S47 OR S48
S48	TI "socioeconomically disadvantaged" OR AB "socioeconomically disadvantaged"
S47	(MH "Human Rights+")
S46	TI "socioeconomic factor*" OR AB "socioeconomic factor*"
S45	(MH "Socioeconomic Factors+")
S44	TI "social inequit*" OR AB "social inequit*"
S43	TI "social factors" OR AB "social factors"
S42	TI "social disparit*" OR AB "social disparit*"
S41	TI "social determinants of health" OR AB "social determinants of health"
S40	(MH "Social Determinants of Health")
S39	(MH "Social Class+")
S38	TI "health equity" OR AB "health equity"
S37	(MH "Quality of Health Care")
S36	(MH "Patient Selection")
S35	(MH "Patient Compliance+")
S34	TI "mass screening*" OR AB "mass screening*"
S33	(MH "Health Status Disparities")
S32	(MH "Health Services Needs and Demand+")
S31	(MH "Health Services, Indigenous")
S30	(MH "Health Services Accessibility+")
S29	TI "health related quality of life" OR AB "health related quality of life"
S28	(MH "Health Knowledge")
S27	TI "health inequit*" OR AB "health inequit*"
S26	TI "health inequalit*" OR AB "health inequalit*"
S25	TI "health behavior*" OR AB "health behavior*"
S24	(MH "Health Behavior+")
S23	TI disparit* OR AB disparit*
S22	(MH "Health Care Delivery+")
S21	TI "culturally competent care" OR AB "culturally competent care"
S20	(MH "Cultural Competence")
S19	(JN "Journal of Health Care for the Poor & Underserved")
S18	TI "disparities in health OR AB "disparities in health"
S17	(MH "Health Status Disparities")
S16	TI "healthcare disparit*" OR AB "healthcare disparit*"
S15	(MH "Healthcare Disparities")
S14	TI "health disparit*" OR AB "health disparit*"
S13	TI "ethnic disparit*" OR AB "ethnic disparit*"
S12	S2 or S3 or S4 or S5 or S6 or S7 or S8 or S9 or S10 or S11
S11	((end-stage* or end stage* or incurable or advanced) N5 (disease* or ill* or care or cancer* or malignan*))
S10	(dying N3 care)
S9	(terminal-stage* or terminal stage* or dying or (close N4 death))

S8	(terminal* N3 (car* or ill* or diseas*))
S7	(last year of life or LYOL)
S6	(end* N3 life)
S5	(MH "Terminally Ill Patients+")
S4	(MH "Terminal Care")
S3	(MH "Hospice Care")
S2	(MH "Palliative Care")
S1	(MH "Neoplasms+")