

Indigenous Knowledges in Brain and Mental Health: A Scoping Review

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OBJECTIVE

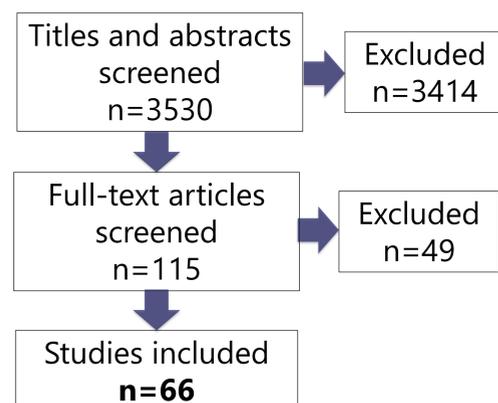
To explore Indigenous peoples' perspectives about the brain and mental health as discussed in the academic literature.

BACKGROUND

- Indigenous peoples' pursuit of brain health has been challenged by the violation of their human rights.
- Neuroscientists and neuroethicists have called for globally relevant, collaborative approaches to attend to this ongoing concern.^{1,2}

METHODS

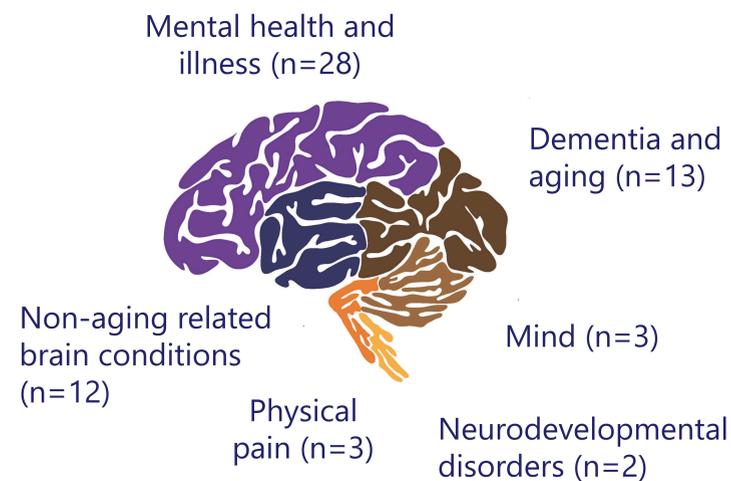
- Adapted the Joanna Briggs Institute scoping review methodology.³
- Searched CINAHL Complete, MEDLINE, the Native Health Database, and Informit Indigenous Collections.
- Applied search terms pertaining to the brain, mind, and Indigenous peoples.
- Extracted year of publication, methods, Indigenous communities, and corresponding author affiliations.
- Conducted content analysis of ethics themes and main foci.⁴



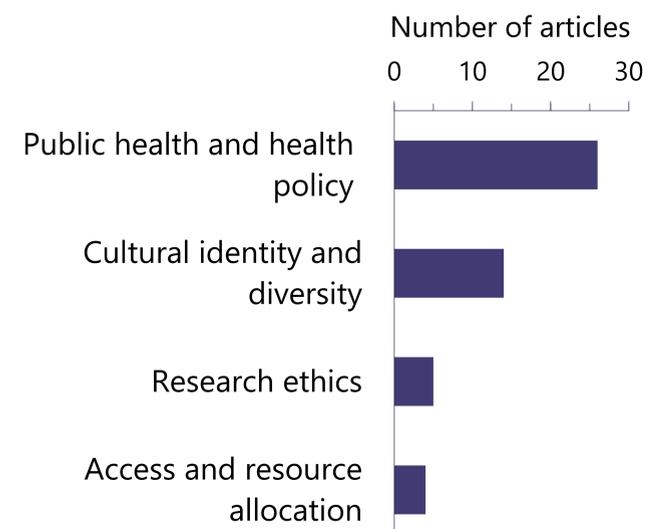
RESULTS

"[...] elders found the usual research format of consent forms, confidentiality, and data collection highly amusing, and as one said, he 'would never participate in such nonsense.' Nevertheless, they humored me by signing consent for participation in an ethics committee-approved interview study."⁵

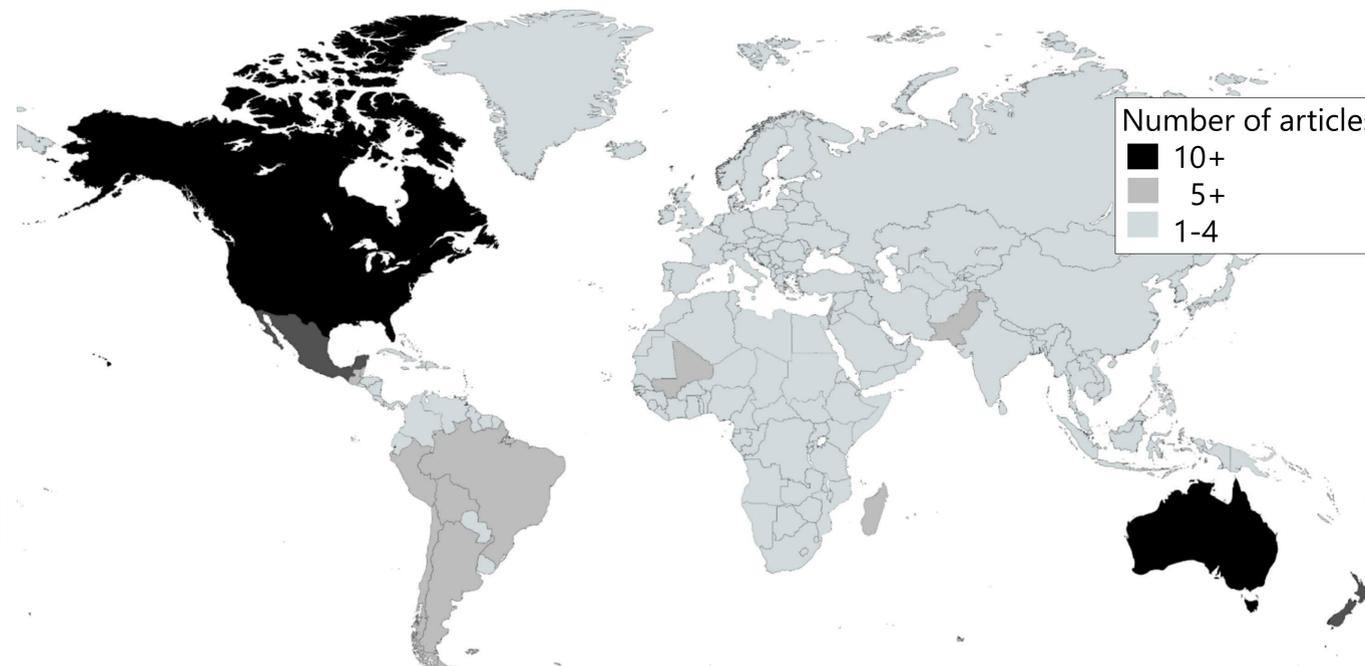
Main foci of the literature



Major ethics themes



Countries of Indigenous communities identified in the literature



Features of the literature

- 46 research articles and 20 commentaries and reviews.
- 80% of articles published after the year 2000.
- 60 Indigenous communities across 21 countries and 5 continents.
- Studies predominantly involve focus groups or interviews.
- Two thirds of corresponding authors affiliated with institutions in the USA, Canada, Australia or New Zealand.

KEY FINDINGS

- Mental health and illness, and dementia and aging, are the main foci in the literature.
- Most ethics discussion centres around public health and diversity.
- There is limited representation of corresponding authors in the global south.
- The literature supports a way forward for neuroscience research with Indigenous populations that is collaborative, ethics-centered, holistic, and culturally aware.

"[...] the larger project to recover (historically subjugated) Indigenous knowledges will not succeed in influencing scholars and professionals in psychology absent processes of robust community engagement."⁶

REFERENCES

- [1] Vogt N. *Nat Methods*. 2020; [2] Buchman DZ & Wadhawan S. *AJOB Neurosci*. 2019; [3] Peters M et al., *JBI Evid Synth*. 2020; [4] Hsieh H-F & Shannon SE, *Qual Health Res*. 2005; [5] Henderson JN & Traphagan JW. *Dis Assoc Disord*. 2005; [6] Gone JP. *Am J Community Psychol*. 2019.

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