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Barriers and Facilitators to Contraceptive Access and Use Among Women Who Use Opioids: A Scoping Review

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Background: The use of opioids among reproductive age women within the US has dramatically increased in recent years. These women have low rates of contraceptive use and high rates of unintended pregnancy. We sought to explore specific barriers and facilitators to accessing contraception by completing a scoping review of the available literature on this topic.

Methods: We are currently in the process of completing a scoping review of this literature using the Arskey and O'Malley framework and Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) Manual of Evidence Synthesis as guidelines. We began by completing a title and abstract screening using Medline, Embase, CINAHL, Cochrane Library, Academic Search Ultimate, PsychINFO, Scopus, Sociological Abstracts, Web of Science Core Collection, Google, and websites of key government agencies as databases for our articles. At least 2 reviewers read through the abstract to determine whether each article was worth investigating further in the full text review. We began with 4608 abstracts screened, and only 45 were brought forward to the full text review. We are currently in the full text review stage in which we determine whether each article will be brought forward to the data extraction stage. These studies will be analyzed for their specific barriers and facilitators and their data will be presented in tabular, graphic, and narrative form.

Results/Conclusion: There are numerous research articles detailing specific barriers and facilitators to contraception use among opioid-using women. There has been little research conducted to compile and analyze this data, which could be extremely useful for healthcare providers and public health officials in tailoring care to this patient population. Our project must still undergo the data extraction and analysis steps before we are able to publish our findings, but we have already found several key factors playing a role in this problem. Working towards identifying the reasons this population is and isn't able to receive adequate care will help to begin making an impact on this situation.