

## PREDICTORS OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE UTILISATION AMONG THE ELDERLY IN AFRICA: A SYSTEMATIC PROTOCOL

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**Background:** Mental health disorder is a great public health concern worldwide as it contributes to the burden of disease and disability worldwide. The descriptive epidemiology report (the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) reports an increase in the adult population and a burden of mental health conditions among the elderly; this population is more prone to developing mental health conditions due to the complex psychological environment, their low immune systems, and the challenges brought about by their complex psychological environment as they handle the stress and how individuals would relate to them daily. **Objectives:** This protocol aims to identify and synthesize the predictors of mental health service utilisation among the elderly in Africa, as their mental health is considered essential for a good quality of life.

**Methods and analysis:** A systematic search will be conducted using MEDLINE (via Ovid), Scopus, and Embase. English language studies will be included if they evaluate the predictors of mental health service use by the elderly from January 1, 1960, to December 31, 2023. Two reviewers will independently perform all screening stages, data extraction, and synthesis to provide a narrative synthesis. The strength of the evidence will be assessed using the Grading of Recommendation, Assessment, Development, and Evaluation approach. (PRISMA-P) guidelines will be used for data synthesis.

**Results** - The primary outcome of this review is to identify the predictors of mental health services use among older people in Africa.

**Conclusion:** The findings will provide evidence-based recommendations to support sustainable engagement and resource sharing on best practices for mental health care service usage by the older African community. We intend to present our findings at national and international scientific meetings, conferences, and/or seminars and submit the results for publication in international peer-reviewed journals related to mental health services usage.

**Keywords:** Mental health, Health services usage, Elderly, Africa; Systematic reviews

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