

Impact of Climate Change on Health Workers: A Scoping Review



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Objectives

- Climate change is the most pressing global challenge of the 21st century and has recently been declared as a public health emergency due to its widespread environmental, social, economic and health impacts.
- The aim of this scoping review is to review the evidence on the impact of climate change on health workers and to identify the challenges they face in preparing for and responding to the impacts of climate change.

Methods

Framework & Protocol

- Conducted using JBI Scoping Review Guidelines
- Followed the PRISMA-ScR

Database Search Strategy

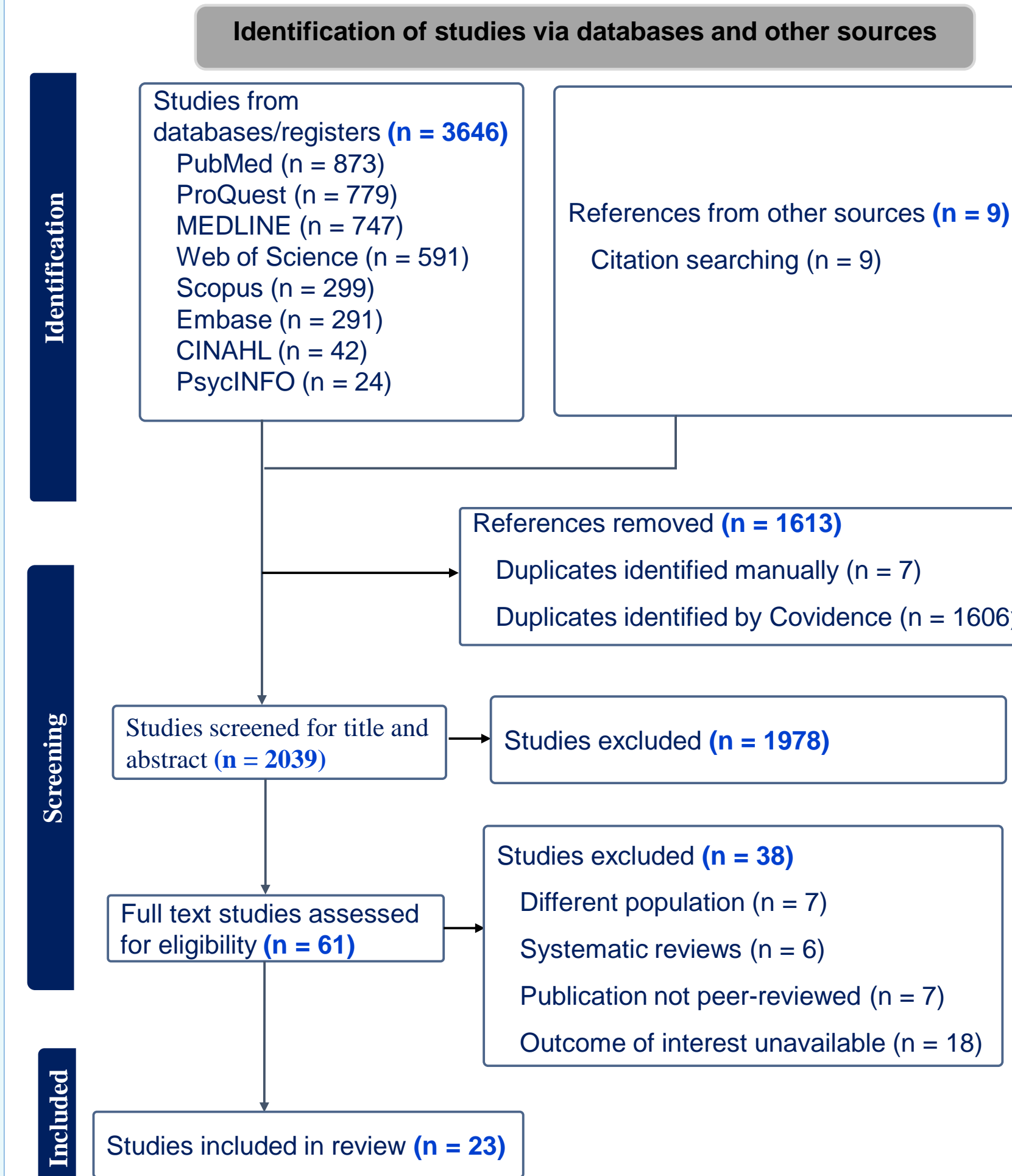
- Comprehensive searches across multiple databases: PubMed, MEDLINE, ProQuest, SCOPUS, Web of Science, EMBASE, CINAHL, PsycINFO
- Inclusion Criteria
 - Peer-reviewed articles
 - Publication date: 01 January 2014 – 03 May 2024

Data Presentation

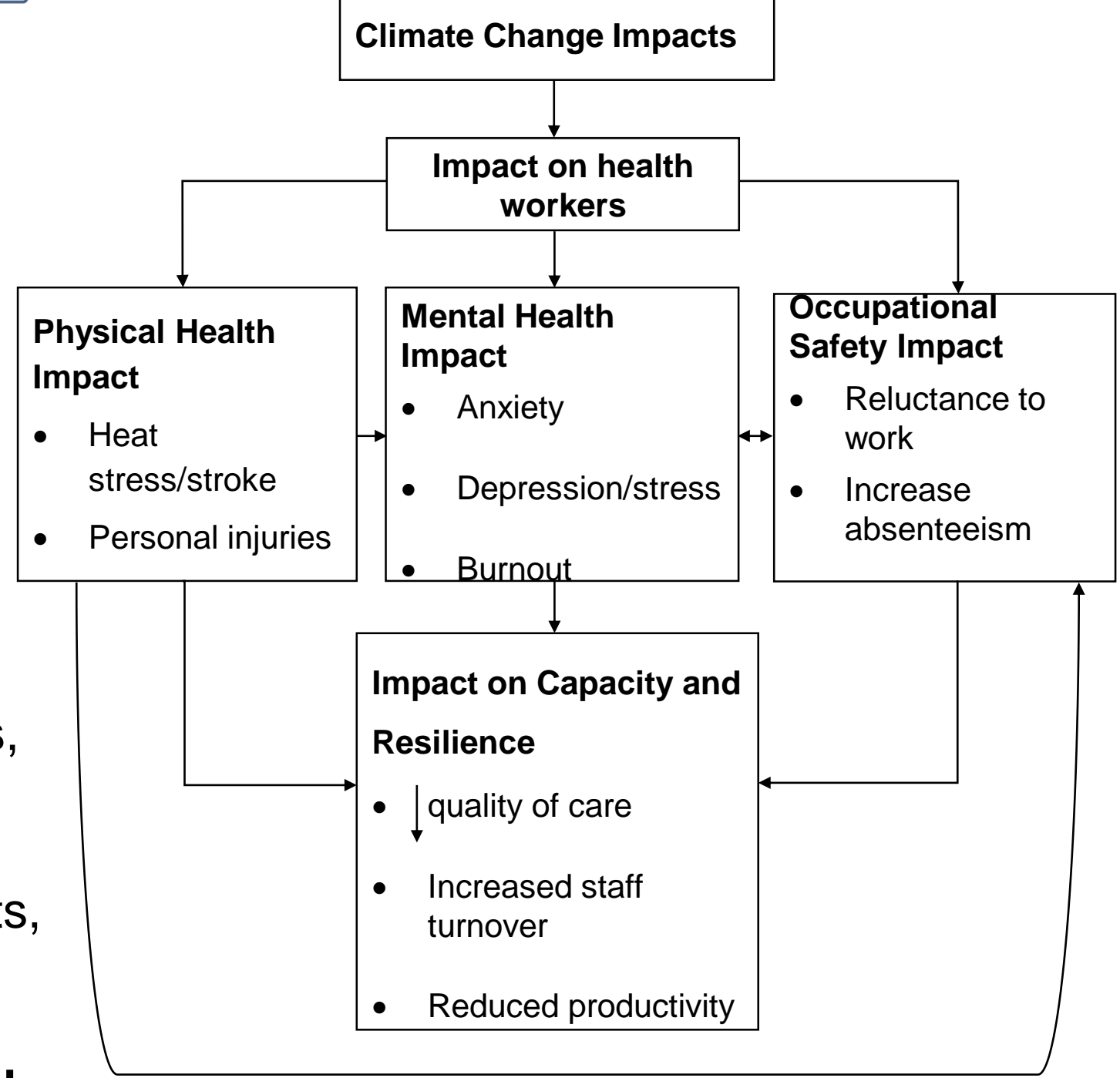
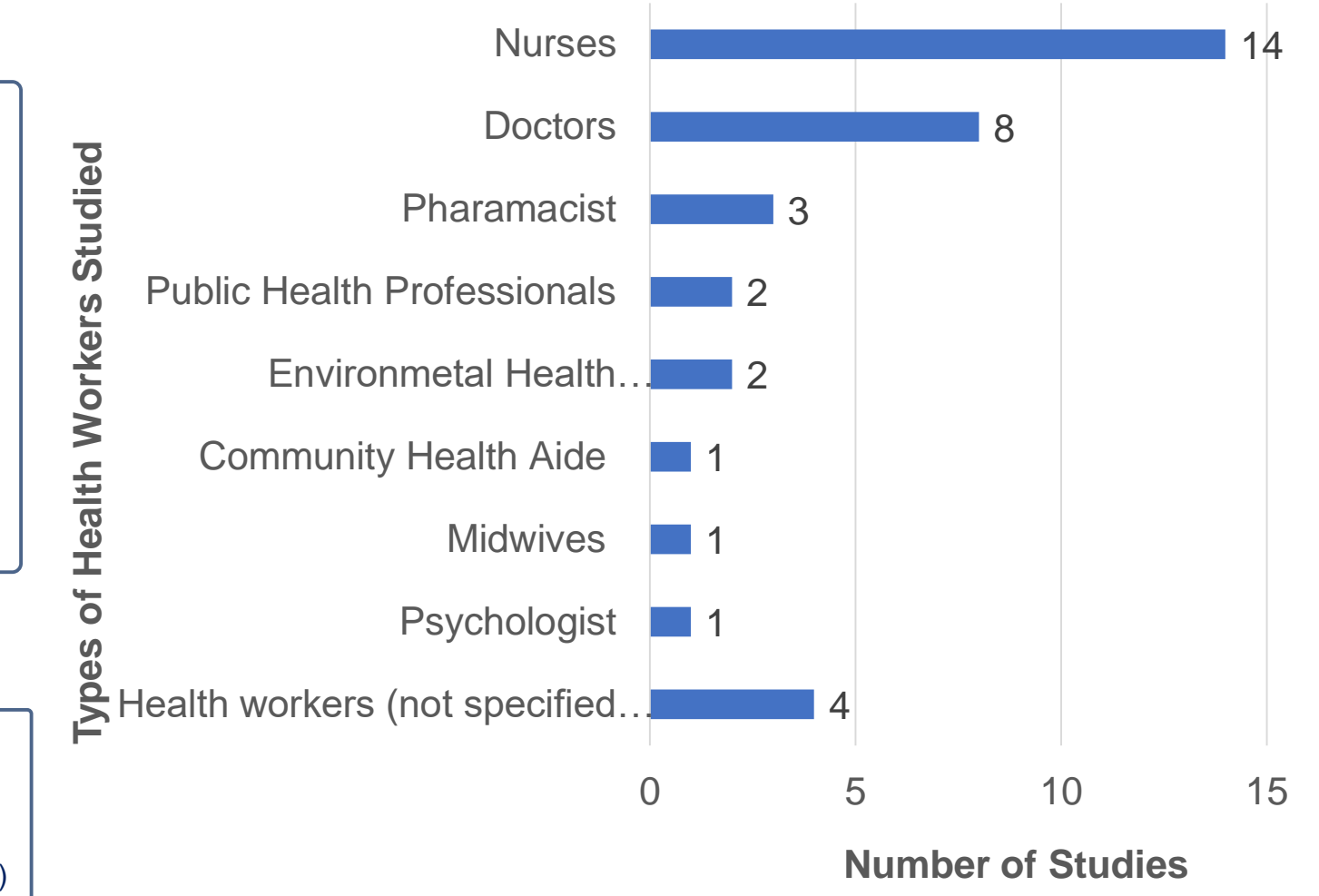
- Findings organised numerically and thematically
- Narrative synthesis

Results

- 23 studies included in this scoping review
- 19 of the included articles examined the various impacts of climate change on health workers.
- 7 of the included articles described challenges that hinder the ability of health workers to prepare for and respond to the impacts of climate change.



- The majority, 14 (60.9%) of studies focused on **nurses**, followed by **doctors**, 8 (34.8%).
- This review identified **four key categories** of these impacts: physical health impacts, mental health impacts, occupational safety impacts, and impacts on health worker capacity and resilience of health workers.
- These health impacts occur **within the workplace and outside the workplace**.



Challenges Faced by Health Workers in Climate Change Response

- Resource limitations:** Heavy workloads and limited funding.
- Knowledge gaps:** Inadequate training in climate response and early warning systems.
- Organisational barriers:** Issues with facility design and coordination.
- Assessment limitations:** Lack of focus on social factors in vulnerability assessments-focus narrowly on biomedical factors.
- Rural & disaster-specific challenges:** Isolation, mental health strain, and coordination gaps.

Conclusion and Call to Action

- Climate change poses significant threats to the health and well-being of health workers globally. This scoping review highlights the physical, mental, and occupational health impacts of climate change on health workers. To build resilience, a multi-faceted approach is needed, including:
 - Targeted training on climate-related health risks and adaptation strategies
 - Infrastructure upgrades to enhance resilience to extreme weather events
 - Mental health support to address climate anxiety and stress
 - Policy modification that priorities climate resilience in the health sector
- By prioritising climate resilience in health policy and fostering collaboration, we can safeguard the health and well-being of health workers and ensure the delivery of essential health services in a changing climate.

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