

Meta-analysis and Systematic Review of mental health outcomes and social determinants of health during COVID-19

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BACKGROUND

- While there has been no dearth of research into the physiological and epidemiological aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been no concrete evidence regarding its effect on the nervous system. COVID-19 has had differential impact on different sub-groups of population based on different socio-demographic determinants of health (SDoH).
- The vulnerable population groups such as the Health Care Workers(HCWs) and those working at the frontline were far more exposed to the risk of infection and have had traumatic experiences, therefore showing higher odds of suffering from depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder compared to the general population [3,5,7,8,9].
- Age, gender, socio-economic status, level of education, marital status, work-related stress, shortage of food supplies were found to be significant social determinants of mental health as a result of COVID-19. [1,3,4,5,6,11]
- This meta-analysis and systematic review aims to synthesize the existing literature on mental health outcomes related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including but not limited to anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and substance abuse, and explore how thes.e outcomes have been associated with different social determinants of health in different populations settings.

METHODOLOGY

- This systematic review and meta-analysis was conducted using the preferred reporting items for systematic review and meta-analysis checklist and flowchart (PRISMA 2020) [2]
- Search databases include PUBMED, Web of Science, Science Direct, SCOPUS and Google Scholar. The pre-print versions available in Medrxiv were included.
- Keywords used for the systematic search include (MeSH and other free text word synonyms include: COVID-19, mental health, depression, anxiety, PTSD, social determinants of health, stress, gender, inequalities, discrimination.
- Inclusion criteria: (a) Population(P): assessed population groups of different ages, sectors and regions; (b)Intervention/Exposure (I): Studies which examined the prevalence of mental health outcomes using validated instruments; (c) Comparator/control (C): No comparator or controls were applicable as we screened for epidemiologic studies reporting prevalence;(d) Outcomes(O): Prevalence of depression, anxiety and PTSD and iv) Language was restricted to English only.
- Exclusion criteria: (a) Studies which did not present aggregate prevalence of depression, anxiety and PTSD. (b) Qualitative studies, systematic review, metaanalysis, studies with sample size less than 100.
- The data was analyzed using the R 4.3.0., an open source software.
- The overall prevalence of depression, anxiety and PTSD was calculated using the random-effects model according to the Der Simonian and Laird's approach at 95% confidence interval.
- Chi-square based Cochran's Q statistic and the I-squared (I2) metric were used in to test the heterogeneity of the studies.
- Publication bias among the included studies was addressed by funnel plot and eggers linear regression intercept.

RESULTS

From March 2020 to July 2023, these studies were published with prevalence reports from different countries of the world majorly; China (6), United States (5), Turkey (2) among other countries. Of all the studies, 16 were cross-sectional and 2 were longitudinal in nature. 8 of them were conducted among health-care workers, mostly via online web-based surveys while two studies were conducted across multiple nations. Three mental health outcomes were primarily captured: Depression, Anxiety and PTSD.

Various validated scales with specific cut-off were used in our study such as; Generalised Anxiety Disorder, Zung's Self-Rating Anxiety Scale, COVD-19 Anxiety Scale (CAS), The State-Trait Anxiety Inventory, Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale, Stanford Acute Stress Reaction Questionnaire, Global stress Index (GSI), Self-reported Stressor and Incidence Questionnaire, Perceived Stress Scale, Hamilton Depression Rating Scale, Zung's Self-Rating Depression Scale, Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9), Depression Anxiety Stress Scale (DASS-21).

Below are forest plots showing pooled prevalence of depression, anxiety and PTSD [Fig. 1, Fig,2 and Fig.3]

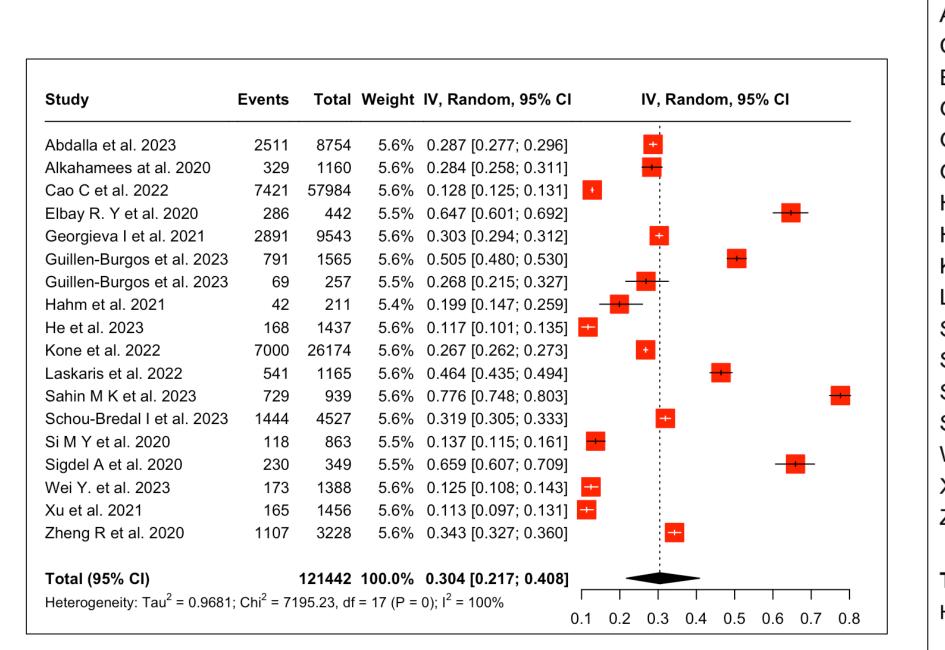


Figure 1: Forest plot showing pooled prevalence of depression (Q=6546.3297 df= 15, p-value < 0.0001)

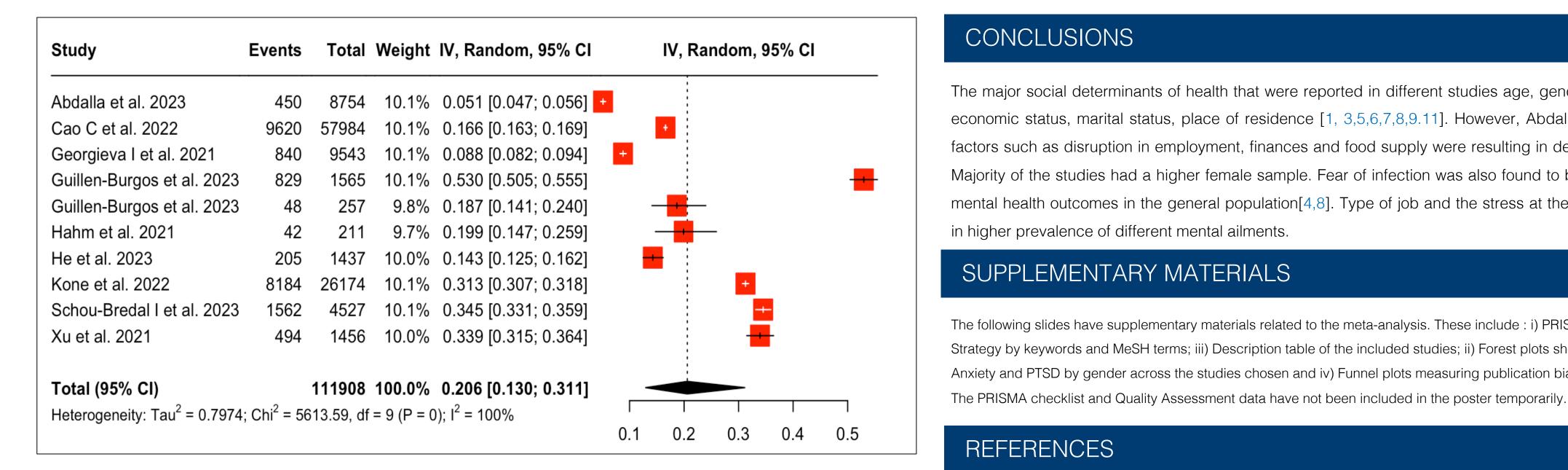


Figure 2: Forest plot showing pooled prevalence of PTSD (Q=5613.589, df= 9, p-value < 0.0001)

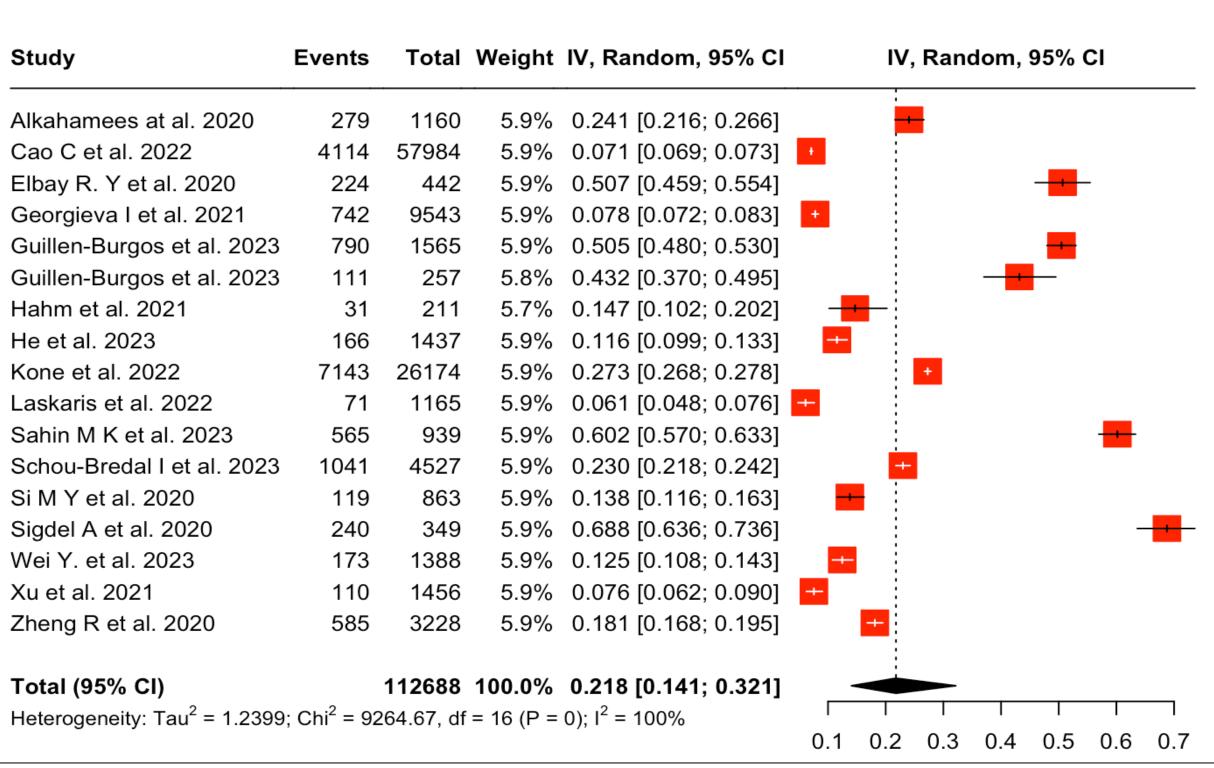


Figure 3: Forest plot showing pooled prevalence of Anxiety (Q=9264.67275, df= 16, p-value < 0.0001)

CONCLUSIONS

The major social determinants of health that were reported in different studies age, gender, educational level, socioeconomic status, marital status, place of residence [1, 3,5,6,7,8,9.11]. However, Abdalla et al. (2023) reported that factors such as disruption in employment, finances and food supply were resulting in depression, anxiety and PTSD. Majority of the studies had a higher female sample. Fear of infection was also found to be resulting in mild to severe mental health outcomes in the general population[4,8]. Type of job and the stress at the place of work have resulted in higher prevalence of different mental ailments.

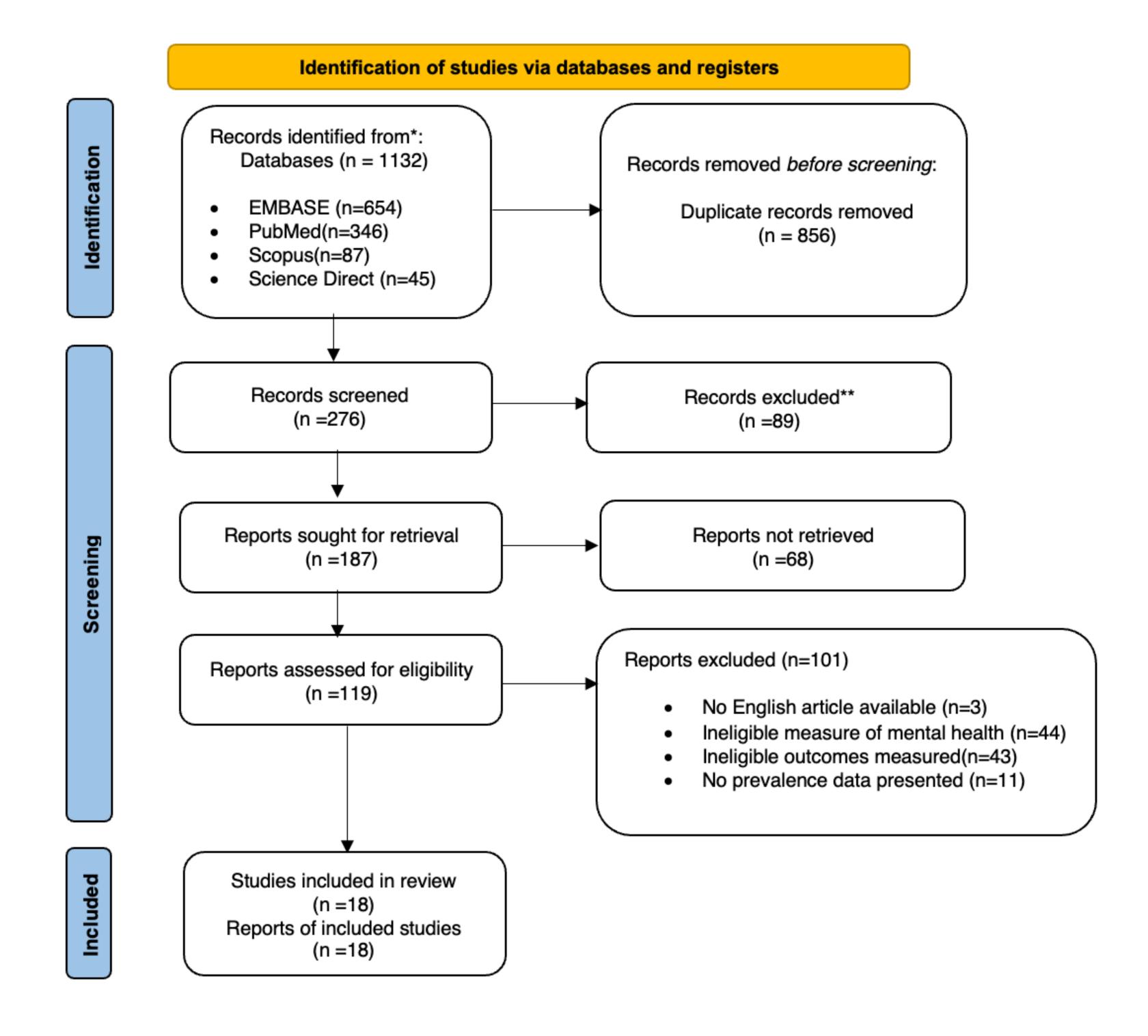
SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

The following slides have supplementary materials related to the meta-analysis. These include: i) PRISMA 2020 Flowchart ii) Search Strategy by keywords and MeSH terms; iii) Description table of the included studies; ii) Forest plots showing prevalence of Depression, Anxiety and PTSD by gender across the studies chosen and iv) Funnel plots measuring publication bias across studies.

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PRISMA 2020 flow diagram for new systematic reviews which included searches of databases and registers only



^{*}Consider, if feasible to do so, reporting the number of records identified from each database or register searched (rather than the total number across all databases/registers).

From: Page MJ, McKenzie JE, Bossuyt PM, Boutron I, Hoffmann TC, Mulrow CD, et al. The PRISMA 2020 statement: an updated guideline for reporting systematic reviews. BMJ 2021;372:n71. doi: 10.1136/bmj.n71

SEARCH STRATEGY

PubMed (Search hits=654)

Search: (Covid-19) AND (mental health OR mental health disorders OR depression OR anxiety OR depressive disorder OR stress, psychological OR stress disorders OR Post-Traumatic)

("health"[All Fields] AND "personnel"[All Fields]) OR "health personnel"[All Fields] OR (" "[MeSH Terms] OR (" "[All Fields] AND " "[All Fields]) OR " "[All Fields])) AND ("severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2"[Supplementary Concept]] OR "severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2"[All Fields] OR "ncov"[All Fields] OR "2019 ncov"[All Fields] OR "covid 19"[All Fields] OR "sars cov 2"[All Fields] OR (("coronavirus"[All Fields] OR "cov"[All Fields]) AND ("mental health"[MeSH Terms] OR ("mental"[All Fields] AND "health"[All Fields] AND "health"[MeSH Terms] OR "disorders"[All Fields] OR "disorders"[All Fields]) OR "disorders"[All Fields] OR "depression"[All Fields] OR "depressions"[All Fields] OR "depressions"[All Fields] OR "depressions"[All Fields] OR "depressions"[All Fields] OR "depressive disorder"[All Fields] OR "depressive"[All Fields] OR "anxiety"[All Fields] OR "sychological"[All Fields] OR "depressive disorder"[All Fields]) OR "depressive disorder"[All Fields]) OR "sychological"[All Fields]) OR "sychological stress"[All Fields] OR "stress"[All Fields] OR "stress"[All

PubMed (Search hits=346)

Scopus (Search hits=87)

TITLE: (Mental health AND Covid 19)

Timespan: All years. Indexes: MEDLÍNE.

(Covid-19 OR severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 OR corona virus OR coronavirus infections) AND (mental health OR mental health disorders OR depression OR anxiety OR depressive disorder OR stress, psychological OR stress disorders, Post-Traumatic OR sleep initiation and maintenance disorders)

(Covid-19 OR severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 OR corona virus OR coronavirus infections) AND (mental health OR mental health disorders OR depression OR anxiety OR depressive disorder OR stress, psychological OR stress disorders, Post-Traumatic OR sleep initiation and maintenance disorders)

Science direct (search hits=45)

(Covid-19 OR severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 OR corona virus OR coronavirus infections) AND (mental health OR mental health disorders OR depression OR anxiety OR depressive disorder OR stress, psychological OR stress disorders, Post-Traumatic OR sleep initiation and maintenance disorders)

^{**}If automation tools were used, indicate how many records were excluded by a human and how many were excluded by automation tools.

STUDY	YEAR	REGION	STUDY DESIGN	POPULATION	AGE (MEAN ± SD OR IN YEARS)	GENDER	SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC	TYPE OF MENTAL HEALTH OUTCOME	PREVALENCE (%)	ASSESSMENT TOOL	TOTAL SAMPLE SIZE
		Brazil, China, Germany, Egypt,						Depression	28.9		
Abdalla et al.	2023	India, Indonesia, Nigeria and		General population	18 to 65 and above	Male Female	Disruptions in employment, finances and food supply	Anxiety	24.05	PHQ-2, PC-PTSD	8754
		United States						PTSD	5.1	, , ,	
A.II	0000				40.05		Age, Sex, Education, Marital status, Employment status, Family monthly income, Self/Family member	Depression	28.4		
Alkahamees at al.	2020	Saudi Arabia	Cross-sectional	General population	40.25 ± 4.8	Male Female	working in medical field	Anxiety	24.1	DASS-21 and IES-R	1160
							Openier Ophrali an Arra of registeres Ophrali'i Devenie and italiana Farrii and italiana	Depression	12.8		
Cao C et al. 2022	2022	China	Cross-sectional	General population	14.8 ± 4.8	Male Female	Gender, School type, Area of residence, Only child, Parent's marital status, Family relationship (Quarrel/Violence/Detachment), Lacking support, COVID related exposure.	Anxiety	7.1	GAD-7, PHQ-9	57984
								PTSD	16.6		
							Age, gender, marital status, specialties, number of children, composition of the household, comorbid medical diseases, history of mental disorders, smoking status, alcohol consumption and time spent	Depression	64.7		
Elbay R. Y et al. 2020	2020	Turkey	Cross-sectional	Healthcare workers (HCWs)	36.05 ± 8.69	Male Female	daily on social media since the outbreak. Ever diagnosed with Covid-19 and Depression Anxiety Stress Scale (DASS) 21.	Anxiety	50.7	DASS-21	442
		United Kingdom, Belgium						Depression	30.3		
		(Flemish region only), the					Gender, age, country, type, lost job compensation, Concerned Family, With Pre-existing Mental	Apvioty	7.8		
Georgieva I et al. 2021	2021	Netherlands, Bulgaria, the	Cross-sectional	General population	47.5	Male Female	Disorder, Stress Outbreak, Fear Infection, Truthful Government, Time News, Average Restrictiveness,	Alixiety	7.0	GAD-2, PHQ-2	9543
		Czech Republic, Finland, India, Latvia, Poland, Romania					and Number Measures	DTOD	0.0		
		and Sweden.	,					PTSD	8.8		
		and oweden.						Depression	50.5		
Guillen-Burgos	2023	Colombia	Longitudinal	Patients (COVID-19	51.47, ± 19.60	Male Female	Age, Gender, Marital status, Education, Occupation, Ethnicity, Socio-economic status, Location of	Anxiety	50.5	GAD-7, PHQ-9, DSM-5, ISI	1565
	_0_0		2011911313111131	survivors)		Trians I simals	hospital stay, Length of hospital stay, Any/physical/mental/mechanical comorbidity, BMI, Severity illness	PTSD	53.0		1000
		Low- and middle-income					Age, gender, marital status, socioeconomic status, education, ethnicity, occupation, job area,	Depression	26.8		
Guillen-Burgos	2023	countries (LMICs)	Cross-sectional	Healthcare workers (HCWs)	32	Male Female	attention of patients with COVID-19, and previous diagnosis of SARS-CoV2/ COVID-19 during the last	3	43.2	PCL-5,GAD-7,PHQ-9	257
		Countiles (Liviles)					12 months	PTSD	18.7		
llobro et el	0001	Linited Ctatas	l an aitudin al	General population(Asians	04 5 (10 0 00 0)	Mala Famala		Depression Anxiety	19.9 14.7		044
Hahm et al.	2021	United States	Longitudinal	and Asian American young adults)	24.5 (18.6–30.6)	Male Female	COVID-19 related racial discrimination	PTSD	19.9	PHQ-8, GAD-7,PLC-C	211
				,				Depression	11.7		
He et al.	2023	United States	Cross-sectional	HCW (White, Asian, Black,	Above 35 years	Female	Racial/Ethnic Differences	Anxiety	11.6		1437
				Latin)	j			PTSD	14.3		
							Feeling of isolation, Ability to take time off, Impact of trauma, Workplace benefits, coping mechanisms,	Depression	26.7		
Kone et al.	2022	United States	Cross-sectional	PHW	18 to 90 years	Male Female	professional and personal life stressors	Anxiety	27.3	PHQ-9, GAD-2, IES-6	26174
							Covert binth agree was a latherinity, and ventions around a vention of COVID 10 infection. Due aviotics	PTSD	31.3		
	0000			General population (auto-	40 55		Sex at birth, age, race/ethnicity, education, employee type, COVID-19 infection, Pre-existing psychological or psychriatic condition, financial/family stressors since the beginning of the pandemic,	Depression	46.4		
Laskaris et al.	2022	United States	Cross-sectional	workers)	18 to 55 and above	Male Female	Fear of SARS-COV-2 Exposure, positive safety climate/culture and Strong clarity of workplace COVID- 19 safety protocols	Anxiety	6.1	GAD-2, PHQ-2	1165
							age, sex, marital status, nature of the place of work, occupation, involvement in the diagnosis,	Depression	77.6	PHQ-9, GAD-7, Insomnia	
Sahin M K et al. 2023	2023	Turkey	Cross-sectional	Healthcare workers (HCWs)	18 to 40 and above	Male Female	treatment, and care of COVID19 patients in the pandemic, time in the profession, presence of chronic disease, history of psychiatric illness, receipt of psychiatric support during the pandemic, being	Anxiety	60.2	Severity Index, and Impact	939
							tested for COVID-19, and receipt of COVID-19 treatment.	AllAlety	00.2	of Event Scale-Revised.	
				Healthcare workers (HCWs)			Ago, gondor, adjugation laval, ampleyment status before and during COVID 10 outbrook, living with	Depression	31.9		
Schou-Bredal I et al. 2023	2023	Norway	Cross-sectional	and Non-HCWs	Less than 30 to above 70	Male Female	Age, gender, education level, employment status before and during COVID-19 outbreak, living with spouse or partner and size of place of residence.	Anxiety	23.0	PCL-5	4527
				S. 1. S. 1 (S. 1 1 1 5 7 7 5				PTSD	34.5		
Si M Y et al. 2020	2020	China	Cross-sectional	General population	Less than 30 to above 50	Male Female	Age, gender, education, marital status and occupation), general health status, variables related to the COVID-19 (e.g. whether ever been quarantined, level of concern to the outbreak), perceived threat of		13.7	DASS-21 and IES-6	863
5-141 - Ct al. 2020	2020	Ormia	Cross Socional	Gorioral population		ivialo i dilialo	COVID-19 (e.g. whether ever been quarantified, level of concern to the outbreak), perceived threat of COVID19, perceived stress, anxiety, depression and PTS	Anxiety	13.8	D/ 100 ZT and ILO-0	000
							Sex of Participants, Age of Participants, Place of current residence, Ethnicity, Educational level,	Depression	65.9		
Sigdel A et al. 2020	2020	Nepal	Cross-sectional	General population	27.8	Male Female	Religion, Marital status, Major Occupations, Household ownership, Currently accompanying status, Health Professional, Most used mass media to get information on COVID 19 and Average hours spent	Anviety	68.8	GAD-7, PHQ-9	349
							on mass media on a day.	AllAlOty	00.0		
Wei Y. et al. 2023	2023	China	Cross-sectional	Healthcare workers (HCWs)	25	Male Female	Age, Gender, BMI, dietary habits, marital status, household income, work and life related factors.	Depression	12.5	GAD-7, PHQ-9, UCLA scale	1388
						3,,,,,,	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	Anxiety	12.5	of lonliness	1000
Xu et al.	2021	China	Cross-sectional	General population	33.8±10.5 years	Male Female	Marital status, education, Place of residence, Medication, Somatic symptoms, Self efficacy, fear or	Depression Anxiety	11.3 7.6	PHQ-2 GAD-2, PTSD Scale	1456
Ad ot al.	<i>L</i> 0 <i>L</i> 1	OTHI IC	C. C	Gorioral population	00.02 10.0 yourd	Maio i ornaio	percieved risk of infection, self rated negative influence due to the pandemic	PTSD	33.9	TING Z GIND Z, I TOD OCAIC	1430
	0000						Gender, age, education level, hospital department, job position, type of hospital, city of residence,	Depression	34.3		
Zheng R et al. 2020	2020	China	Cross-sectional	Healthcare workers (Nurses)	Less than 30 to above 50	Male Female	and exposure level.	Anxiety	18.1	SDS,SAS	3228

Table 1: Table showing characteristics of the included studies

Study	Events	Male Total		emale Total		Odds Ratio MH, Random, 95% CI	Odds Ratio MH, Random, 95% CI
Abdalla et al. 2023	1650	5753	861	3001	6.7%	1.00 [0.91; 1.10]	
Alkahamees at al. 2020	118	418	211	742	6.5%	0.99 [0.76; 1.29]	
Cao C et al. 2022	2677	28089	4716	29895	6.7%	0.56 [0.53; 0.59]	
Elbay R. Y et al. 2020	99	191	187	241	6.1%	0.31 [0.21; 0.47]	
Georgieva I et al. 2021	1146	2730	1745	6813	6.7%	2.10 [1.91; 2.31]	
Guillen-Burgos et al. 2023	168	788	173	777	6.5%	0.95 [0.74; 1.20]	
Guillen-Burgos et al. 2023	20	58	49	199	5.6%	1.61 [0.86; 3.03]	!
Hahm et al. 2021	15	42	27	166	5.2%	2.86 [1.35; 6.08]	
He et al. 2023	74	364	94	1073	6.3%	2.66 [1.91; 3.70]	
Laskaris et al. 2022	255	856	286	309	6.1%	0.03 [0.02; 0.05]	
Sahin M K et al. 2023	264	319	465	620	6.3%	1.60 [1.14; 2.25]	
Schou-Bredal I et al. 2023	77	695	652	3832	6.5%	0.61 [0.47; 0.78]	
Si M Y et al. 2020	39	253	79	610	6.1%	1.22 [0.81; 1.86]	
Sigdel A et al. 2020	190	49	159	70	0.0%		
Wei Y. et al. 2023	53	476	120	912	6.3%	0.83 [0.59; 1.17]	
Xu et al. 2021	63	596	102	860	6.3%	0.88 [0.63; 1.23]	
Zheng R et al. 2020	54	107	1053	3121	6.2%	2.00 [1.36; 2.94]	
Total (95% CI) Heterogeneity: Tau ² = 0.5119	0. Chi ² – (41784			100.0%		
neterogeneity: rau = 0.511	9; Uni = 8	943.4 <i>1</i> , (ui = 15 (P	< 0.01)	, i = 98%		0.1 0.5 1 2 10

Figure 4: Forest plot showing pooled prevalence of depression of 18 studies by gender

Study	Events	Male Total		emale Total		Odds Ratio MH, Random, 95% C	Odds Ratio I MH, Random, 95% CI
Alkahamees at al. 2020	104	418	175	742	6.9%	1.07 [0.81; 1.42]	
Cao C et al. 2022	1443	28089	2654	29895	7.0%	0.56 [0.52; 0.59]	
Elbay R. Y et al. 2020	60	191	164	241	6.7%	0.22 [0.14; 0.32]	
Georgieva I et al. 2021	333	2730	409	6813	7.0%	2.18 [1.87; 2.53]	
Guillen-Burgos et al. 2023	128	788	131	777	6.9%	0.96 [0.73; 1.25]	
Guillen-Burgos et al. 2023		58	85	199	6.3%	1.09 [0.60; 1.96]	
Hahm et al. 2021	7	42	24	166	5.5%	1.18 [0.47; 2.97]	
He et al. 2023	72	364	94	1073	6.8%	2.57 [1.84; 3.59]	
Laskaris et al. 2022	23	856	48	309	6.5%	0.15 [0.09; 0.25]	
Sahin M K et al. 2023	249	319	316	620	6.8%	3.42 [2.51; 4.66]	
Schou-Bredal I et al. 2023	77	695	648	3832	6.9%	0.61 [0.48; 0.79]	
Si M Y et al. 2020	41	253	78	610	6.7%	1.32 [0.88; 1.99]	
Sigdel A et al. 2020	190	32	159	77	0.0%		
Wei Y. et al. 2023	80	476	93	912	6.8%	1.78 [1.29; 2.46]	
Xu et al. 2021	25	596	85	860	6.6%	0.40 [0.25; 0.63]	
Zheng R et al. 2020	70	107	515	3121	6.7%	9.57 [6.36; 14.42]	
Total (95% CI)	•	36014		50247	100.0%	1.07 [0.68; 1.69]	
Heterogeneity: Tau ² = 0.7724	4; Chi ² = 6	686.15, d	df = 14 (P	< 0.01)	$1^2 = 98\%$		
							0.1 0.5 1 2 10

Figure 5: Forest plot showing pooled prevalence of anxiety of 18 studies by gender

Study	Events	Male Total		emale Total		Odds Ratio MH, Random, 95% CI	Odds Ratio MH, Random, 95% CI
Abdalla et al. 2023	272	5753	178	3001	12.0%	0.79 [0.65; 0.96]	
Cao C et al. 2022	6050	28089	3760	29895	12.5%	1.91 [1.83; 1.99]	-
Georgieva I et al. 2021	215	2730	625	6813	12.2%	0.85 [0.72; 0.99]	
Guillen-Burgos et al. 2023	286	788	266	777	12.0%	1.09 [0.89; 1.35]	
Guillen-Burgos et al. 2023	16	58	32	199	8.5%	1.99 [1.00; 3.96]	
Hahm et al. 2021	13	42	29	166	7.8%	2.12 [0.98; 4.56]	
He et al. 2023	71	364	134	1073	11.3%	1.70 [1.24; 2.33]	
Schou-Bredal I et al. 2023	84	695	700	3832	11.8%	0.62 [0.48; 0.78]	
Xu et al. 2021	217	596	277	860	11.9%	1.21 [0.97; 1.50]	
Total (95% CI) 39115 46616 100.0% 1.20 [0.85; 1.71]							
Heterogeneity: Tau ² = 0.2583; Chi ² = 249.46, df = 8 (P < 0.01); I ² = 97%							
			•				0.5 1 2

Figure 6: Forest plot showing pooled prevalence of PTSD of 9 studies by gender

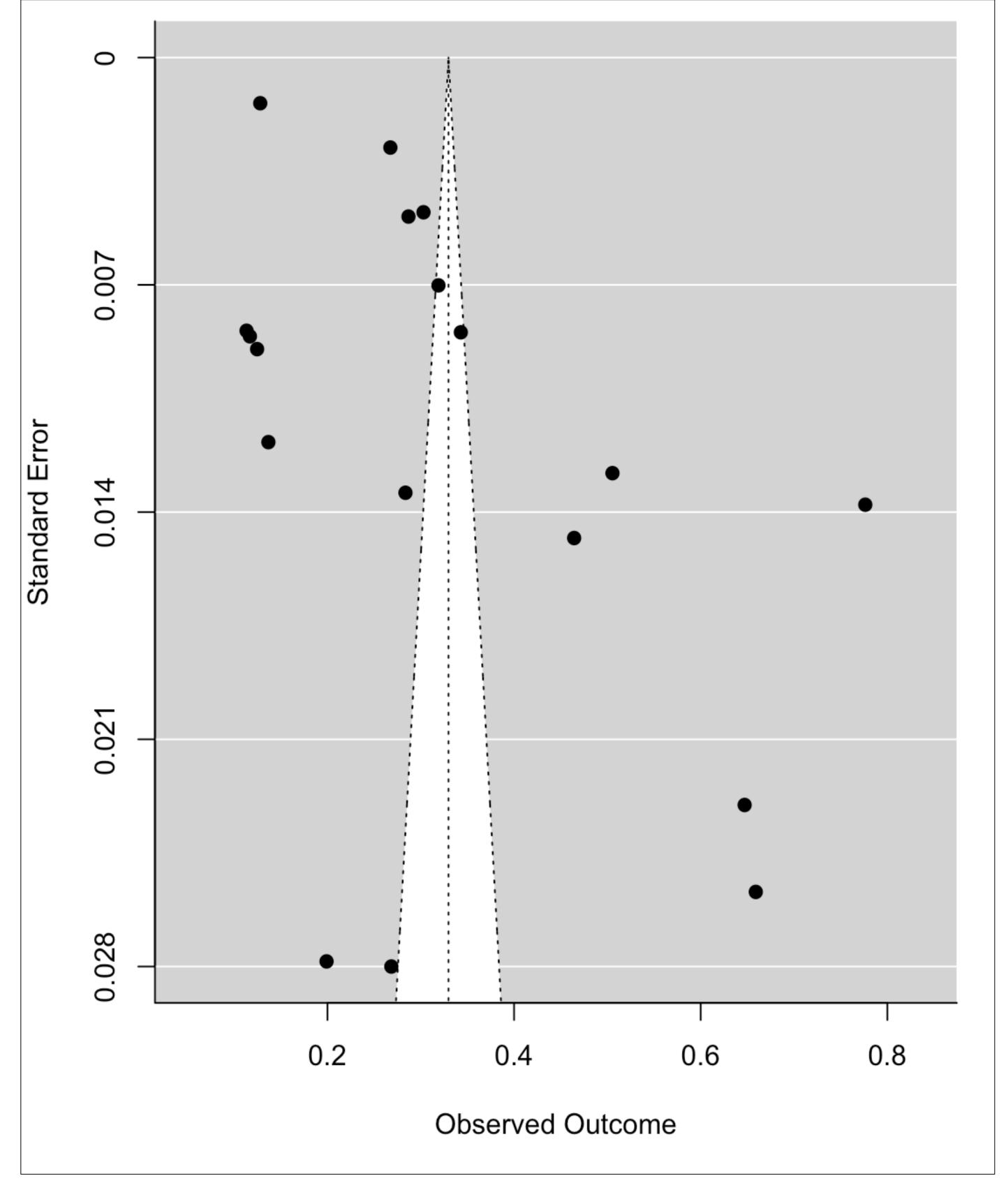


Figure 7: Funnel plot of Standard Error by Measured Outcome measuring 18 studies by depression

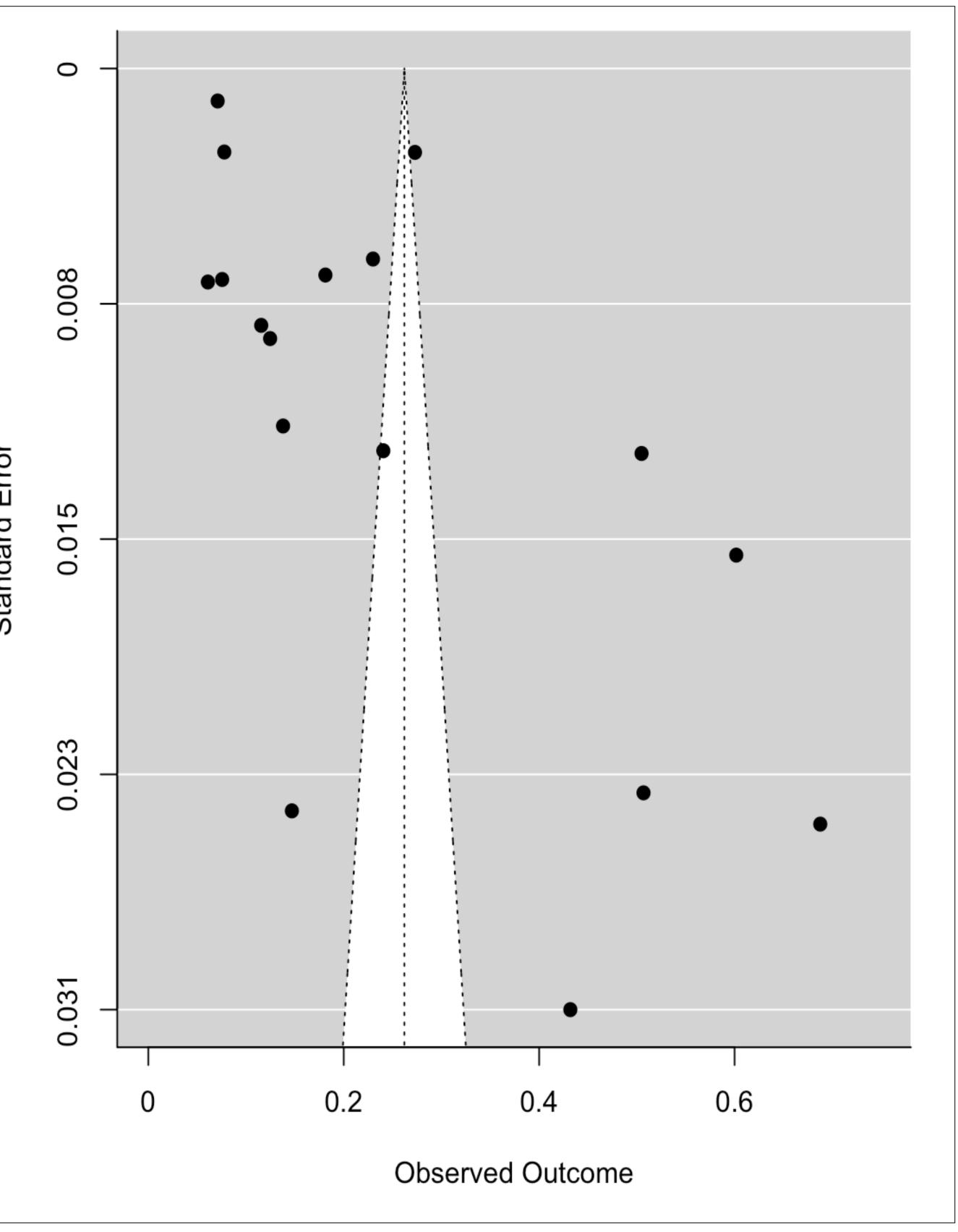


Figure 8: Funnel plot of Standard Error by Measured Outcome measuring 18 studies by anxiety

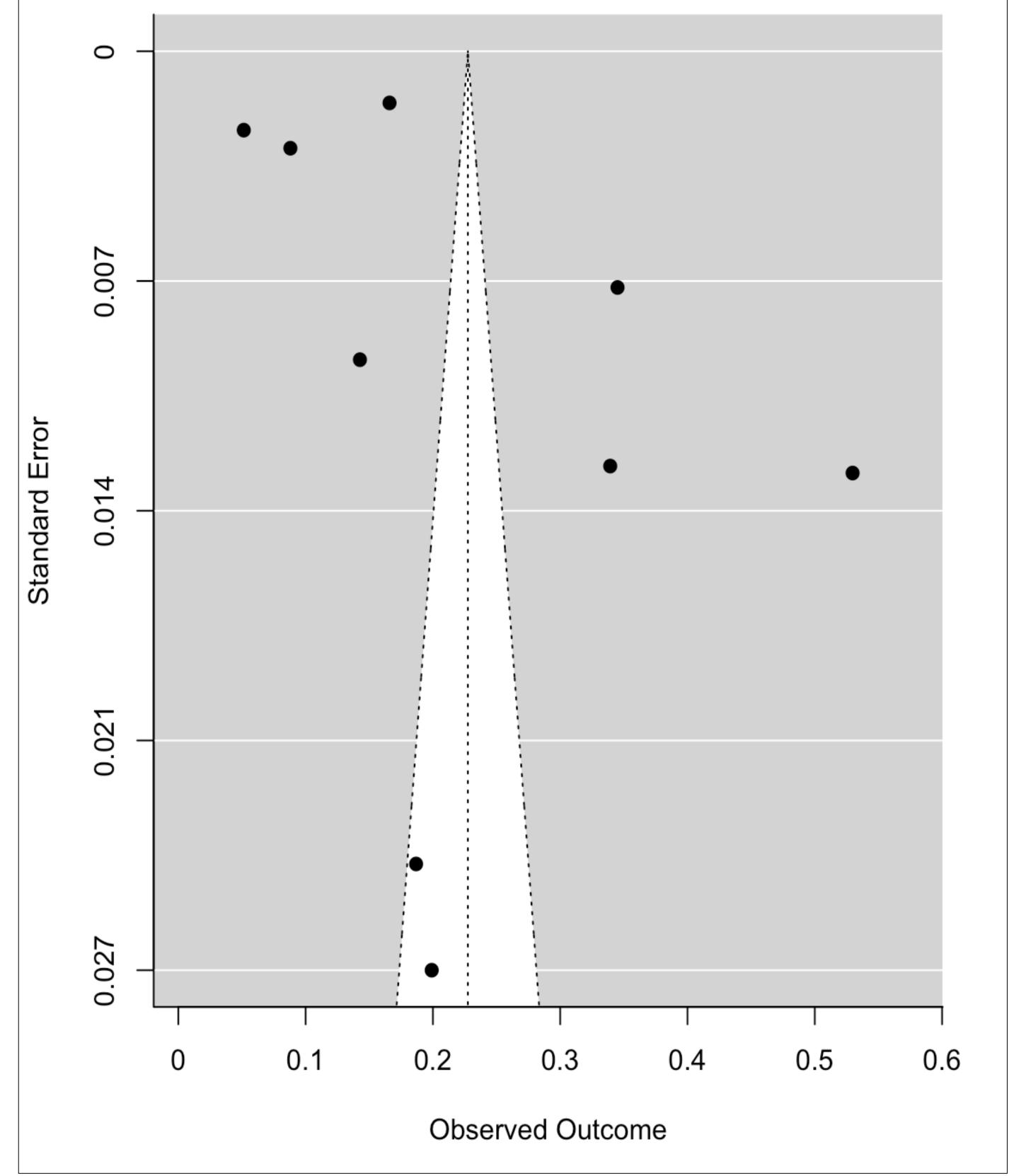


Figure 9: Funnel plot of Standard Error by Measured Outcome measuring 9 studies by PTSD

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE!