

Introduction

Research Idea:

In healthcare, appearance plays a significant role in a patient's first impression of a healthcare worker's competence, compassion, performance, and quality of care. Given that nurses are an essential part of the patient care team, it is imperative for nurses and other healthcare providers to recognize the use of personal expressions such as tattoos while still being able to achieve therapeutic relationships with clients.

The purpose of this review is to determine what is known from the existing literature about the effect of patient perception among nursing staff who have tattoos or body art today.

Research Question

What is known from the existing literature about the perceptions of clients about healthcare professionals who have visible body art?

Methods

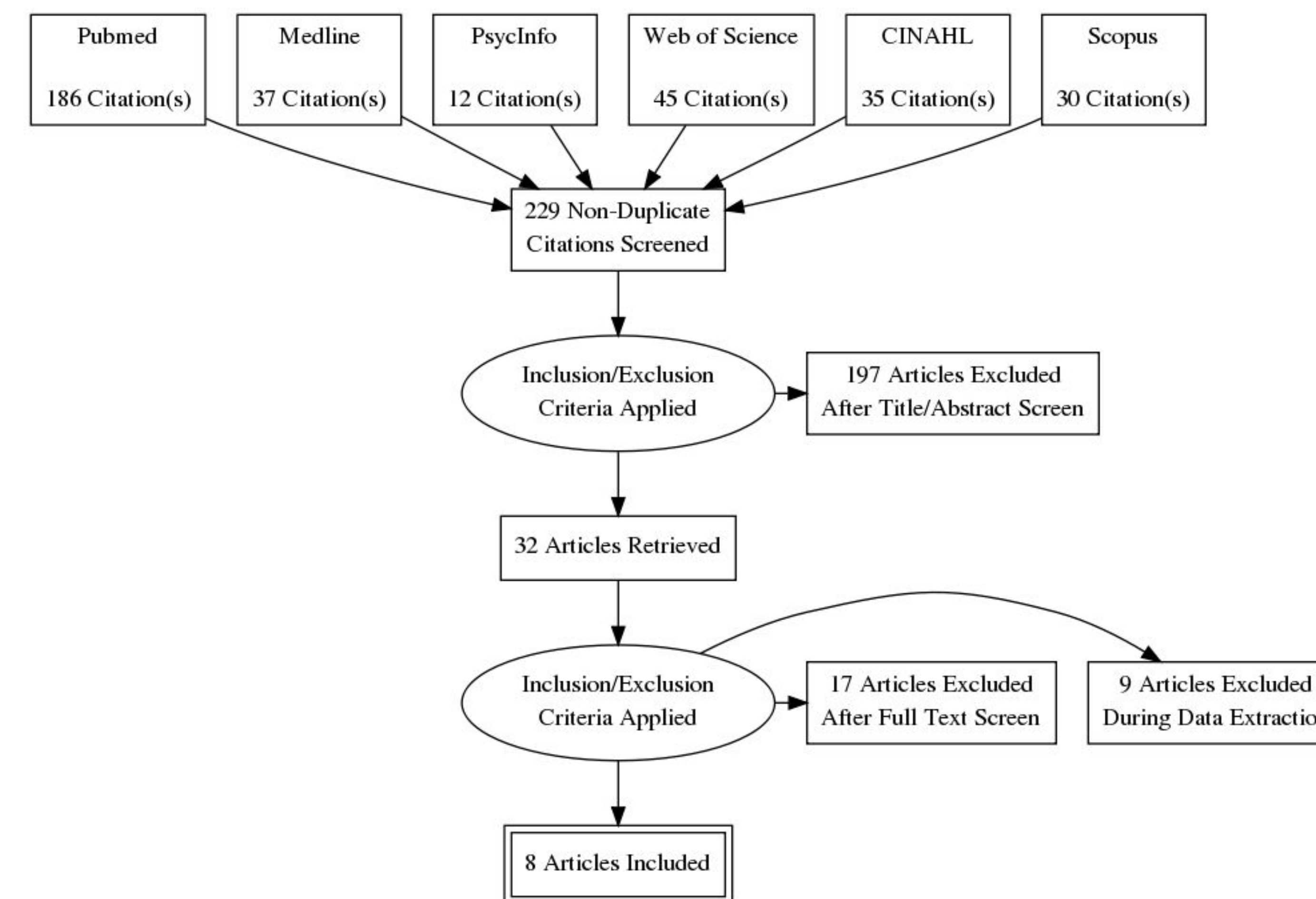
1. Identify research question
2. Identify relevant studies

Keywords

Sample search strategy (Pubmed):

- ((("body art" or tattoo or piercing or "body piercing") AND ("healthcare professional*" or nurs* or "care provider*")) AND (understanding or perception or views))
3. Study selection: Of 435 studies, 8 met inclusion criteria
 4. Charting the data: author and publication year, location, data collection period, goal & focus, methodology, source of data/population, perceptions about body art, impacts on care, and recommendations.
 5. Collating, summarizing, and reporting the results: next step in this project.

Methods



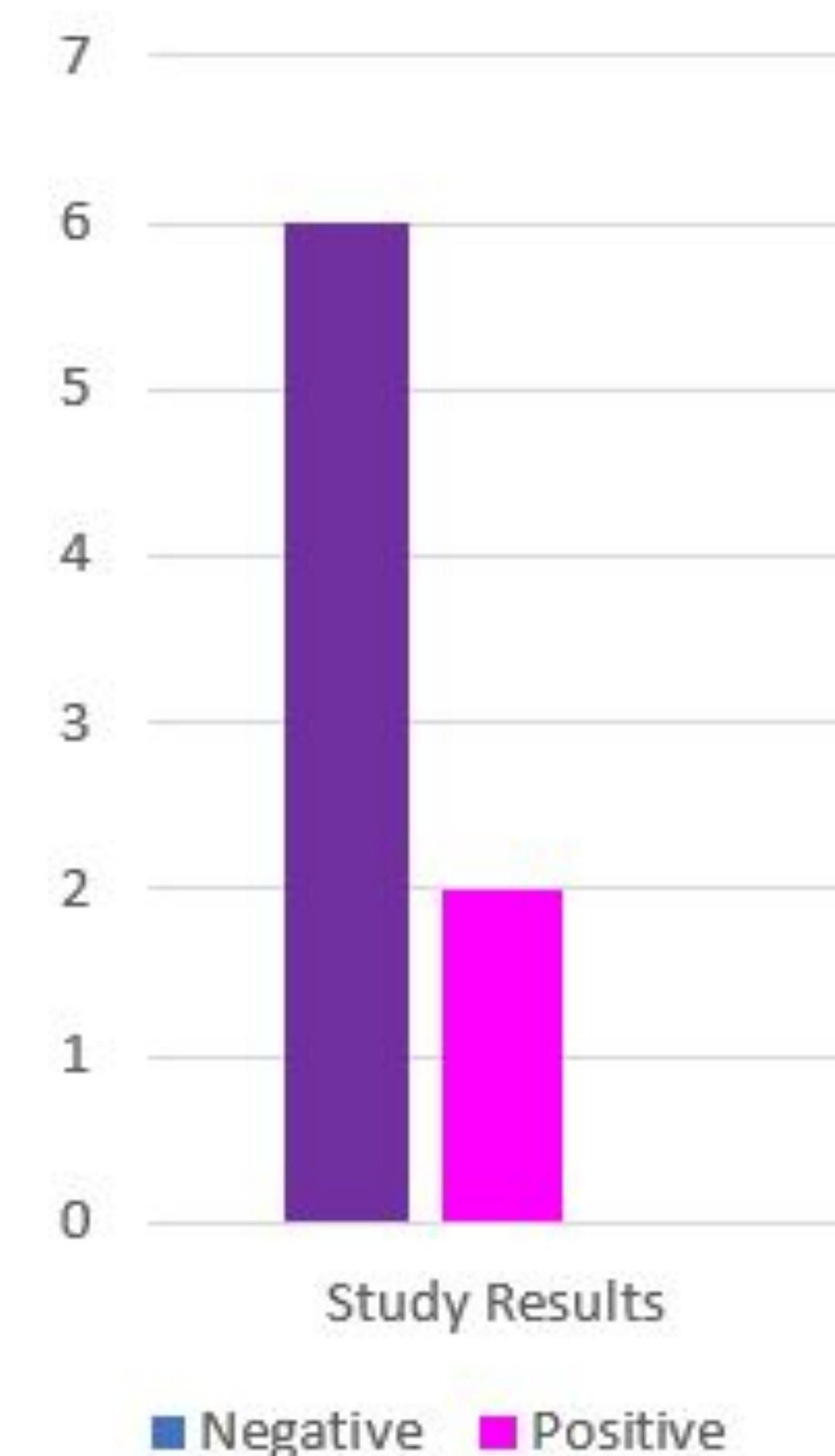
Results

Main results

- Varying geography and methodology present with different results.
- Out of the eight studies included in this review, six have findings that body art is negatively associated with patient care, and two find there is no impact.
- Results from this review indicate that body art and piercing placement and design may have an impact on patient perceptions as well.
- Females with visible body art and piercings tend to be viewed more negatively than their male counterparts.
- This is across various domains in healthcare including nurses, physicians, students and radiographers.

Results Chart:

From eight studies reviewed, six indicate body art is associated negatively, two indicate body art is associated positively.



Conclusions

Discussion

- Further studies should be conducted in different geographical areas to determine patient perceptions of providers with body art and piercings.
- Studies have tended to show that there is also a difference between male and female providers, with females with body art being seen as less professional than their male counterparts, which could also be explored.
- People of different cultures may also perceive body art differently which should also be taken into consideration.
- More studies should be done with different placements and designs of body art and piercings in the healthcare field.

References

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