

Conceptualization of Intervention in Pediatrics Systematic Review

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Introduction

Navigating when to intervene against parents' wishes is a difficult task in pediatrics. Different frameworks have been proposed, but disagreements remain. One problem debated about in pediatric intervention principles often refer to different kinds of interventions (e.g. calling Child Protective Services, consulting the Ethics Committee). This project reports results of a critical scoping review of recent bioethics literature about the concept of pediatric intervention principles.

Aims and Objectives

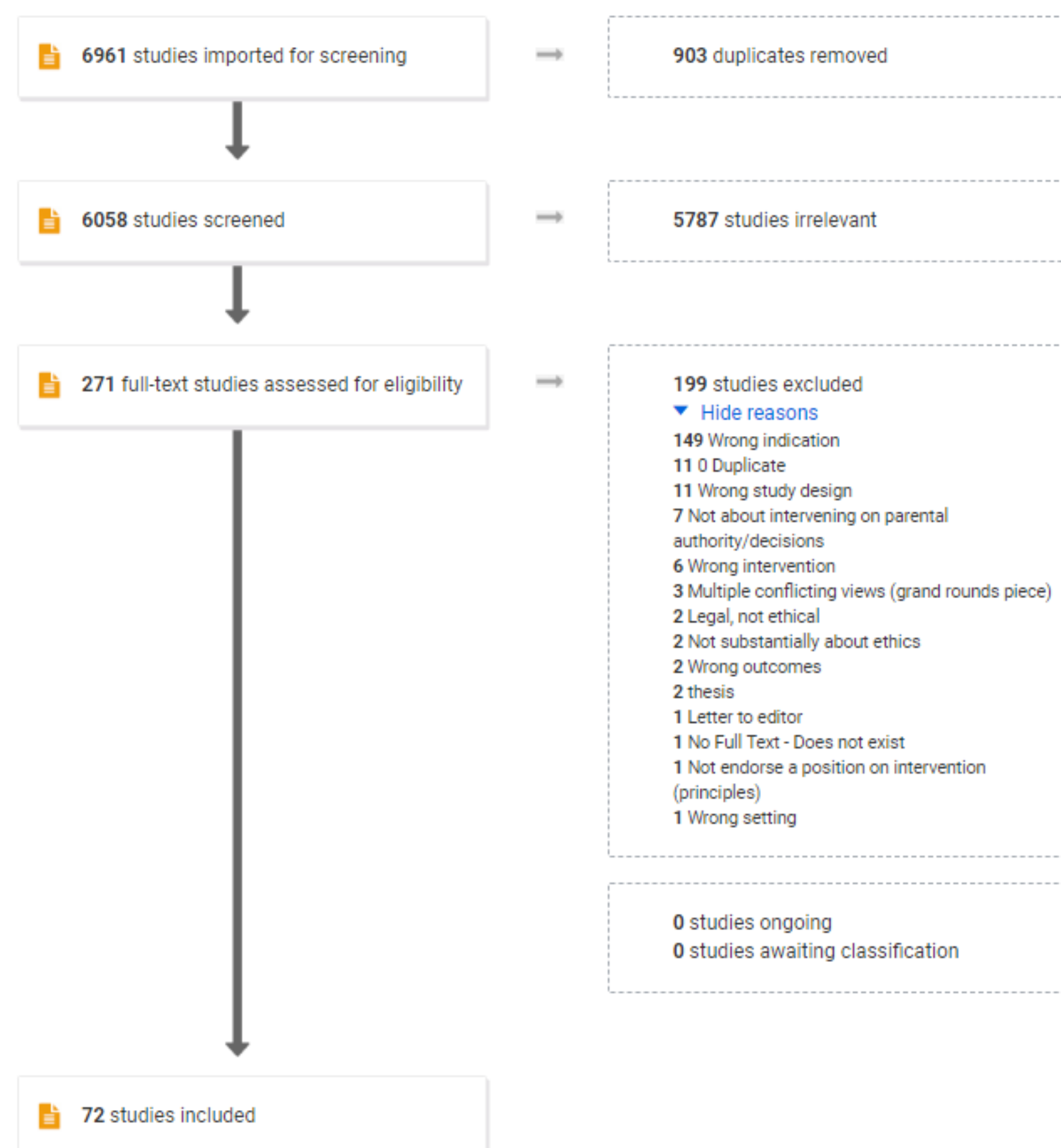
Specific aim 1: Identify styles of intervention in the pediatric clinical setting.

Specific aim 2: Identify how these interventions are grouped among authors.

Specific aim 3: Identify the intervention types most used by clinicians when intervening in the pediatric clinical setting.

Methods

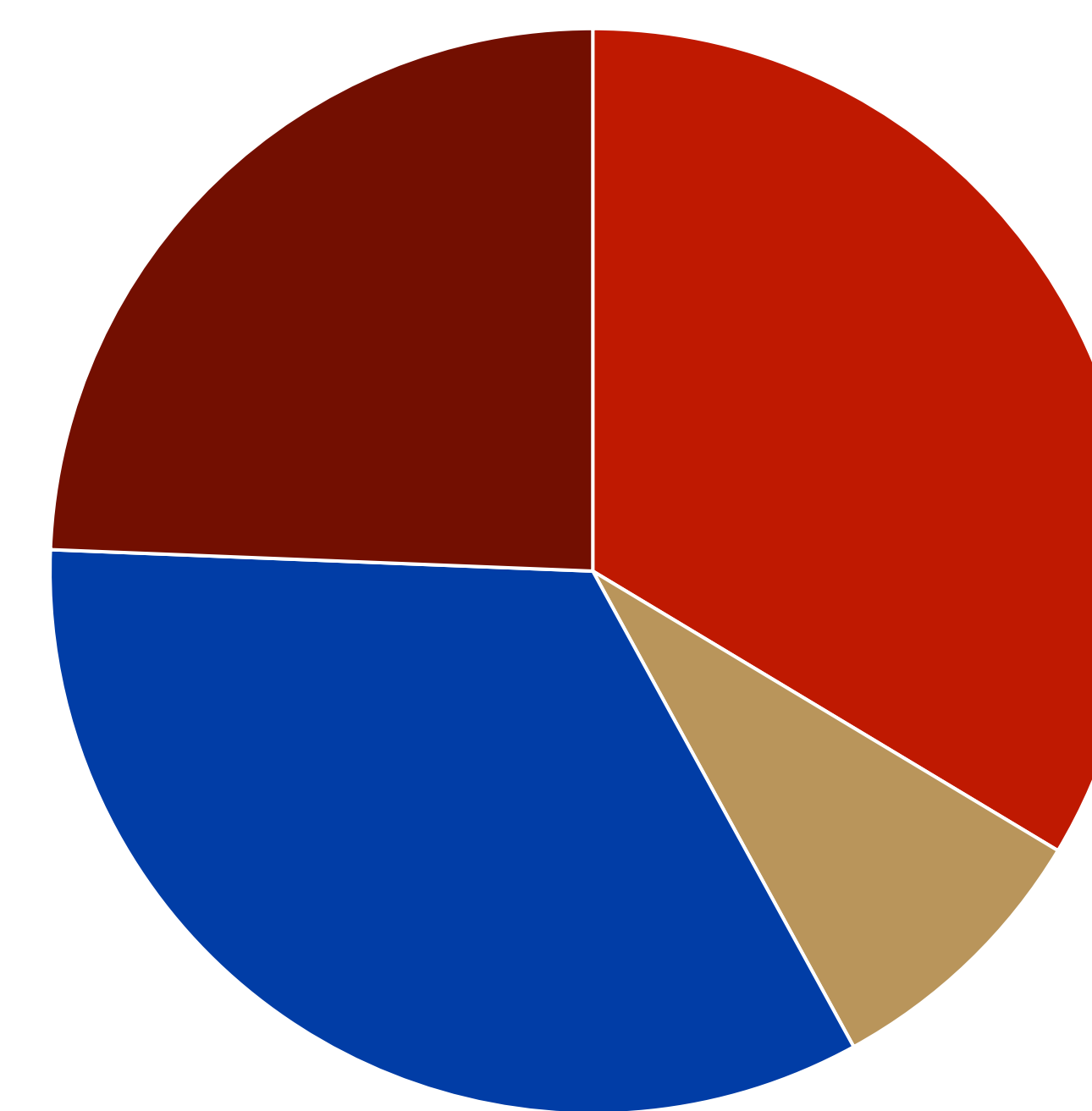
A search strategy was conducted on 11 databases to capture publications that were about (1) pediatrics, (2) intervention, (3) clinical contexts, and (4) ethics. The 6,961 studies were imported to Covidence, duplicates removed, and titles & abstracts screened based on inclusion criteria. After screening full texts, 72 studies were reviewed for content that included 6 different aspects of pediatric intervention. These were coded and used to form the themes that give the results of this study.



Results

Intervention styles described are the 'state', Child Protective Services, courts, internal hospital mechanisms, noncoercive measures, Ethics Committee, and manipulation/nudges. These were grouped into government interventions and non-government interventions. For these categories, 58/72 identified at least one government intervention, 16/72 identified at least one non-governmental intervention, 58/72 identified at least one of both kinds of intervention, while 42/72 identified only a form of government intervention. All study authors who identified non-governmental intervention forms also identified government intervention forms. None of the study authors who did not identify any government interventions identified any non-government interventions.

Intervention Style Breakdown Mentioned Among Authors



- At least one government intervention
- At least one non-government intervention
- One of both types of intervention
- Only a form of government intervention

Conclusions

Government interventions were more commonly used when intervening in pediatric clinical settings. In contrast, few studies referred to non-governmental interventions even though these are common in clinic and more common than state interventions. Although using coercive state power comes with a higher risk and burden, the intervention may be justified in cases when there are risks of serious harm on child patients.

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