

**Lim H, Jung E, Jodoin K, Du X, Airton L, Lee E-Y. A scoping review of intersectionality in physical activity. SSM-Population Health. Under review.**

## **Abstract**

### **Context**

One's social position is an important determinant of physical activity (PA) participation. The objectives of this systematic scoping review were 1) to summarize findings of articles examining PA participation with the operationalization of intersectionality and 2) identify scope and gaps pertaining to the operationalization of intersectionality theory in PA research.

### **Evidence acquisition**

A search was conducted in September 2019 in seven electronic databases (e.g., SPORTDiscus, Global Health, Web of Science). Articles were included if they explicitly mention intersectionality, published English, and address the research question. Screening, extraction, descriptive, and content analyses, and narrative synthesis were conducted between September, 2019–May, 2020.

### **Evidence synthesis**

Of 16,564 articles, 45 articles were included in this review. The majority of included articles used qualitative methods (n=41), with two quantitative and two mixed-methods articles. The most frequently observed intersectional social position was sex/gender + race/ethnicity (n=11), followed by sex/gender + race/ethnicity + sexuality (n=6) and sex/gender + race/ethnicity + religion (n=6). Most qualitative studies (n=38) explicitly claimed the operationalization of intersectionality as a key theoretical framework, and over half of these studies (n=23) used intra-categorical intersectionality. Two quantitative studies utilized inter-categorical intersectionality while explicitly operationalizing intersectionality and using different statistical approaches including additive, multiplicative, and/or stratified statistical models.

### **Conclusions**

Though evidence is largely homogenous in terms of intersectional variables included, the available research suggests that intersectionality theory is a useful framework in investigating disparities that exist in PA participation. Recommendations to better identify intersectional determinants of PA are made for future research.