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# Development and validation of a search filter to identify equityfocused studies: reducing the number needed to screen

Stephanie L. Prady, Eleonora P. Uphoff, Madeleine Power, Su Golder

## Search strategies and validation set papers

### Final strategies and number of retrieved records

All final strategies were run on 2.2.2018.

MEDLINE	specific terms	
1	Residence Characteristics/	28,899
2	Environment design/	5,307
3	exp Marital status/	35,112
4	neighbo?rhood*.mp.	20,493
5	residential environment*.mp.	485
6	rural*.mp.	128,713
7	inner?city.mp.	49
8	housing instability.mp.	129
9	housing insecurity.mp.	35
10	housing strain.mp.	4
	housing security.mp.	17
12	mortgage problems.mp.	0
13	foreclosure.mp.	129
14	eviction*.mp.	538
15	housing loss.mp.	10
16	home repossession*.mp.	2
17	home ownership.mp.	327
18	(repossess* adj3 hous*).mp.	5
19	(repossess* adj3 propert*).mp.	1
20	mortgage delinquency.mp.	6
21	mortgage arrears.mp.	1
22	mortgage debt*.mp.	3
23	overcrowding.mp.	2,069
24	(living adj1 (outside or inside or near* or adjacent)).mp.	2,546
25	(household adj2 size).mp.	899
26	(marital status or marriage status).mp.	21,064
27	(widow* or cohabit* or divorce* or single parent* or live* alone).mp.	19,588
28	or/1-27	229,913
29	Cultural Deprivation/	1,122
30	Acculturation/	5,764
31	Culture/	30,684
32	Cross-Cultural Comparison/	23,908
33	Cultural Characteristics/	15,147
34	Cultural Diversity/	10,449
35	Language/	35,612
36	"Transients and Migrants"/	9,888
37	exp "Emigrants and Immigrants"/	9,505
	Minority groups/	12,197
39	Minority health/	609

MEDLINE	specific terms	
40	Prejudice/	23,766
41	Racism/	1,336
42	Xenophobia/	20
43	Social Discrimination/	725
44	exp Race Relations/	3,672
45	exp Ethnic Groups/	136,459
46	exp Continental Population Groups/	194,168
47	Refugees/	8,335
48	minorit*.mp.	55,472
49	migration background.mp.	273
50	racial.mp.	29,233
51	racism.mp.	3,105
52	ethnology.mp.	1,701
53	race.mp.	78,915
54	ethnic*.mp.	138,693
55	non?English.mp.	16
56	language other than.mp.	268
57	latino*.mp.	8,646
58	latina*.mp.	3,026
59	hispanic*.mp.	43,522
60	whites.mp.	21,682
61	caucasian*.mp.	47,538
62	non?white.mp.	2,251
63	Torres Strait Islander.mp.	861
64	aboriginal.mp.	6,605
65	native american.mp.	2,868
66	inuit.mp.	1,431
67	eskimo.mp.	655
68	first nation*.mp.	3,225
69	indigenous.mp.	23,452
70	english as a second language.mp.	305
70	foreign language.mp.	635
72	or/29-71	
73		573,055
	Occupations/	21,771
74	Unemployment/ occupations.mp.	6,164
75		39,535
76	unemployment.mp. or/73-76	11,136
77 78	exp Gender Identity/	50,296
78	Women's Health/	17,685 25,304
80	gender differences.mp.	20,416
81	(sex disparit* or sex difference?).mp.	25,907
	gender identity.mp.	
82	, ,	17,497
83	sex role.mp. wom#n* role?.mp.	1,423
84	•	494
85	m#n* role?.mp.	8,188
86	gender* role?.mp.	2,095
87	servicewomen.mp.	68
88	Sex factors/	240,269
89	or/78-88	313,465
90	exp Educational status/	46,834
91	Education/	19,636
92	Schooling.mp.	5,759

MEDLINE	specific terms	
93	educational status.mp.	48,579
94	(education* adj2 level?).mp.	33,184
95	((higher or better or worse or less) adj educated).mp.	4,276
96	((higher or better or worse or less) adj level? of education).mp.	1,495
97	or/90-96	97,846
98	Religion/	13,229
99	religi*.mp.	51,772
100	or/98-99	51,772
101	Social determinants of Health/	1,328
102	Psychosocial Deprivation/	1,920
103	Sociological Factors/	325
104	Working Poor/	10
105	Hierarchy, Social/	2,015
106	disparit*.mp.	57,213
107	inequalit*.mp.	21,501
108	inequit*.mp.	5,889
109	equity.mp.	9,641
110	deprivation.mp.	70,377
111	gini.mp.	742
112	concentration index.mp.	793
113	Socioeconomic Factors/	137,422
114	Social Welfare/	8,806
115	exp Social Class/	37,022
116	exp Poverty/	37,272
117	Income/	25,581
118	Social class*.mp.	41,202
119	social determinants.mp.	4,250
120	social status.mp.	4,516
121	social position.mp.	786
122	social background.mp.	993
123	social circumstance*.mp.	980
124	socio-economic.mp.	22,017
125	socioeconomic.mp.	176,022
126	sociodemographic.mp.	28,750
127	socio-demographic.mp.	15,511
128	SES.mp.	14,857
129	disadvantaged.mp.	9,148
130	impoverished.mp.	2,662
131	poverty.mp.	47,271
132	economic level.mp.	759
133	assets index.mp.	17
134	income*.mp.	95,525
135	or/101-134	467,331
136	Social Stigma/	4,814
137	social capital/	451
138	Social Control, Informal/	3,590
139	exp Social Support/	62,350
140	exp Social Environment/	104,543
141	Trust/	7,820
142	Social conditions/	9,036
143	Social isolation/	12,167
144	Social marginalization/	268
145	Anomie/	428
143	rinormej	728

MEDLINE	specific terms	
146	social participation/	1,516
147	social exclusion.mp.	1,080
148	(social adj (capital or cohes* or organis* or organiz*)).mp.	4,667
149	(community adj3 (cohes* or participa*)).mp.	27,025
150	((neighbourhood or neighborhood) adj cohes*).mp.	88
151	social relationships.mp.	3,676
152	social network*.mp.	11,532
153	collective efficacy.mp.	283
154	civil society.mp.	1,095
155	informal social control.mp.	69
156	neighbo*rhood disorder.mp.	121
157	social disorgani?ation.mp.	147
158	anomie.mp.	510
159	social support.mp.	72,250
160	social participation.mp.	2,846
161	trust.mp.	25,594
162	emotional support.mp.	4,191
163	psychosocial support.mp.	2,279
164	community capital.mp.	4
165	neighbo*rhood cohesion.mp.	85
166	social influence.mp.	1,303
167	(soci*context* or soci*-context*).mp.	7,465
168	or/136-167	212,146
169	Health Status Disparities/	11,609
170	Health Services Accessibility/	63,492
171	Health Equity/	352
172	health*care disparit*.mp.	12,500
173	health care disparit*.mp.	761
174	health status disparit*.mp.	11,683
175	health disparit*.mp.	6,836
176	health inequalit*.mp.	3,488
177	health inequit*.mp.	972
178	medically underserved.mp.	7,030
179	or/169-178	92,642
180	28 or 72 or 77 or 89 or 97 or 100 or 135 or 168 or 179	1,598,431

MEDLINE	non-specific terms	
1	potential determinants.mp.	1,274
2	significant correlates of.mp.	903
3	(independent correlates or independent association*).mp.	7,649
4	variables associated with.mp.	7,968
5	determinants of.mp.	119,923
6	factors associated with.mp.	80,220
7	identif* determinants.mp.	1,431
8	(more likely or less likely or just as likely).mp.	203,709
9	risk factors for.mp.	829,444
10	(significantly related to or significant predictor).mp.	41,608
11	(also adj2 associated with).mp.	45,598
12	(at increased risk or at decreased risk).mp.	26,633
13	association* between.mp.	343,116
14	(positively associated or negatively associated).mp.	39,113
15	differed by.mp.	8,713

MEDLINE	non-specific terms	
16	(were high* amongst or were low* amongst).mp.	776
17	(inverse relationship with or inversely associated with or inversely related to).mp.	31,681
18	reverse association.mp.	135
19	differentially affects.mp.	1,790
20	evidence of a link between.mp.	1,207
21	(significantly adj3 likelihood of).mp.	1,803
22	protective factors for.mp.	7,974
23	(differ* adj2 according to).mp.	19,676
24	(inverse adj2 gradient).mp.	181
25	(positive adj2 gradient).mp.	331
26	(negative adj2 gradient).mp.	252
27	(trends were adj3 across).mp.	833
28	(related to adj3 variable*).mp.	15,782
29	(differences were adj3 explained by).mp.	6,285
30	(significant among or no# significant among).mp.	2,233
31	or/1-30	1,532,739

MEDLINE combined strategy	
[Specific strategy line] 180 OR [non-specific strategy line] 31	2 764,686

Embase s	pecific terms	
1	demography/	181,764
2	environmental planning/	9,448
3	marriage/	50,904
4	divorce/	6,999
5	cohabitation/	574
6	widow/	2,099
7	exp "single (marital status)"/	5,124
8	neighbo?rhood*.mp.	28,378
9	residential environment*.mp.	680
10	rural*.mp.	160,984
11	inner?city.mp.	143
12	housing instability.mp.	210
13	housing insecurity.mp.	56
14	housing strain.mp.	4
15	housing security.mp.	24
16	mortgage problems.mp.	1
17	foreclosure.mp.	190
18	eviction*.mp.	867
19	housing loss.mp.	17
20	home repossession*.mp.	2
21	home ownership.mp.	403
22	(repossess* adj3 hous*).mp.	5
23	(repossess* adj3 propert*).mp.	1
24	mortgage delinquency.mp.	6
25	mortgage arrears.mp.	1
26	mortgage debt*.mp.	5
27	overcrowding.mp.	3,055
28	(living adj1 (outside or inside or near* or adjacent)).mp.	3,514

	pecific terms	
29	(household adj2 size).mp.	1,17
30	(marital status or marriage status).mp.	24,51
31	(widow* or cohabit* or divorce* or single parent* or live* alone).mp.	27,35
32	or/1-31	441,52
33	exp cultural deprivation/	1,07
34	cultural factor/	56,46
35	cultural anthropology/	51,86
36	cultural diversity/	66
37	exp migrant/	28,58
38	minority group/	13,52
39	minority health/	58
40	prejudice/	1,89
41	exp social discrimination/	13,19
42	exp race relation/	4,38
43	exp ethnic group/	118,32
44	exp ancestry group/	244,99
45	exp refugee/	10,30
46	minorit*.mp.	80,90
47	migration background.mp.	47
48	racial.mp.	67,13
49	racism.mp.	5,68
50	ethnology.mp.	72,42
51	race.mp.	166,58
52	ethnic*.mp.	241,36
53	non?English.mp.	241,50
54	language other than.mp.	40
55	latino*.mp.	13,30
56	latina*.mp.	4,2
57	hispanic*.mp.	71,9
58	whites.mp.	29,9
59	caucasian*.mp.	137,63
60	non?white.mp.	2,8
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
61	Torres Strait Islander.mp.	1,39
62	aboriginal.mp.	9,30
63	native american.mp.	4,2
64	inuit.mp.	2,0
65	eskimo.mp.	2,80
66	first nation*.mp.	4,9!
67	indigenous.mp.	33,19
68	english as a second language.mp.	1,08
69	foreign language.mp.	90
70	or/33-69	801,78
71	exp employment status/	26,21
72	job characteristics/	5!
73	occupations.mp.	13,83
74	unemployment.mp.	19,53
75	or/71-74	43,59
76	exp gender identity/	14,69
77	women's health/	23,87
78	sex difference/	347,26
79	(sex disparit* or sex difference?).mp.	356,59
80	gender identity.mp.	15,81
81	sex role.mp.	5,50

83 m 84 g 85 sc 86 o 87 e 88 sc 90 (c 91 (() 92 (() 93 o 94 re 95 re 96 o 97 "s 98 sc 99 w 100 e 101 sc 102 d 103 ir 104 ir	wom#n* role?.mp. n#n* role?.mp. gender* role?.mp. gender* role?.mp. gervicewomen.mp. or/76-85 exp educational status/ chooling.mp. educational status.mp. geducation* adj2 level?).mp. (higher or better or worse or less) adj educated).mp. (higher or better or worse or less) adj level? of education).mp. or/87-92 geligion/ geligi*.mp. or/94-95 social determinants of health"/ ocial aspect/ working poor/ exp social hierarchy/ ocioeconomics/	53 10,50 2,83 407,44 60,69 7,90 61,78 52,23 5,54 2,13 111,77 63,64 79,29 79,29 3,42 712
84 g 85 sc 86 o 87 e 88 sc 89 e 90 (c 91 ((( 92 ((( 93 o 94 rc 95 rc 96 o 97 "s 98 sc 99 w 100 e 101 sc 102 d 103 ir 104 ir	gender* role?.mp. ervicewomen.mp. or/76-85 exp educational status/ chooling.mp. educational status.mp. education* adj2 level?).mp. (higher or better or worse or less) adj educated).mp. (higher or better or worse or less) adj level? of education).mp. or/87-92 eligion/ eligi*.mp. or/94-95 social determinants of health"/ ocial aspect/ vorking poor/ exp social hierarchy/	2,83 407,45 60,65 7,96 61,73 52,23 5,54 2,13 111,73 63,64 79,25 79,25 3,42 712
85 se 86 o 87 e 88 se 90 (e 91 (() 92 (() 93 o 94 re 95 re 96 o 97 "5 98 se 99 w 100 e 101 se 102 d 103 ir 104 ir	ervicewomen.mp.  or/76-85  exp educational status/ chooling.mp. educational status.mp. education* adj2 level?).mp. (higher or better or worse or less) adj educated).mp. (higher or better or worse or less) adj level? of education).mp. or/87-92 eligion/ eligi*.mp. or/94-95 social determinants of health"/ ocial aspect/ vorking poor/ exp social hierarchy/	407,4! 60,6! 7,96 61,78 52,2: 5,54 2,1: 111,77 63,64 79,2! 79,2! 3,42 712
86 0 87 e 88 sc 89 e 90 (6 91 ((6 92 ((6 93 0 94 re 95 re 96 0 97 "s 98 sc 99 w 100 e 101 sc 102 d 103 ir 104 ir	or/76-85 exp educational status/ chooling.mp. educational status.mp. education* adj2 level?).mp. (higher or better or worse or less) adj educated).mp. (higher or better or worse or less) adj level? of education).mp. or/87-92 eligion/ eligi*.mp. or/94-95 social determinants of health"/ ocial aspect/ vorking poor/ exp social hierarchy/	407,4! 60,6! 7,90 61,78 52,2: 5,54 2,1: 111,7: 63,64 79,2! 79,2! 3,4: 712:
87 e 88 si 89 e 90 (e 91 (( 92 (( 93 o 94 re 95 re 96 o 97 "s 98 si 99 w 100 e 101 si 102 d 103 ir 104 ir	exp educational status/ chooling.mp. educational status.mp. education* adj2 level?).mp. (higher or better or worse or less) adj educated).mp. (higher or better or worse or less) adj level? of education).mp. or/87-92 eligion/ eligi*.mp. or/94-95 social determinants of health"/ ocial aspect/ vorking poor/ exp social hierarchy/	60,69 7,90 61,78 52,23 5,54 2,13 111,77 63,64 79,29 79,29 3,42 712
88 sc 89 e 90 (c 91 ((c 93 o 94 re 95 re 96 o 97 "s 98 sc 99 w 100 e 101 sc 102 d 103 ir 104 ir	chooling.mp. educational status.mp. education* adj2 level?).mp. (higher or better or worse or less) adj educated).mp. (higher or better or worse or less) adj level? of education).mp. or/87-92 eligion/ eligi*.mp. or/94-95 social determinants of health"/ ocial aspect/ vorking poor/ exp social hierarchy/	7,96 61,78 52,23 5,54 2,13 111,73 63,64 79,25 79,25 3,42 712
89 e 90 (6 91 (() 92 (() 93 o 94 re 95 re 96 o 97 "5 98 se 99 w 100 e 101 se 102 d 103 ir 104 ir	educational status.mp.  education* adj2 level?).mp. (higher or better or worse or less) adj educated).mp. (higher or better or worse or less) adj level? of education).mp. or/87-92 eligion/ eligi*.mp. or/94-95 social determinants of health"/ ocial aspect/ vorking poor/ exp social hierarchy/	61,78 52,23 5,54 2,13 111,77 63,64 79,29 79,29 3,42 712
90 (6 91 (() 92 (() 93 0 94 re 95 re 96 0 97 "5 98 se 99 w 100 e 101 se 102 d 103 ir 104 ir	education* adj2 level?).mp. (higher or better or worse or less) adj educated).mp. (higher or better or worse or less) adj level? of education).mp. or/87-92 eligion/ eligi*.mp. or/94-95 social determinants of health"/ ocial aspect/ vorking poor/ exp social hierarchy/	52,23 5,5,4 2,13 111,77 63,6,4 79,29 79,29 3,42 712
91 ((( 92 (() 93 o 94 re 95 re 96 o 97 "' 98 se 99 w 100 e 101 se 102 d 103 ir 104 ir	(higher or better or worse or less) adj educated).mp. (higher or better or worse or less) adj level? of education).mp. or/87-92 eligion/ eligi*.mp. or/94-95 social determinants of health"/ ocial aspect/ vorking poor/ exp social hierarchy/	5,54 2,13 111,77 63,64 79,29 79,29 3,44 712
92 ((( 93 o 94 re 95 re 96 o 97 "s 98 so 99 w 100 e 101 so 102 d 103 ir 104 ir	(higher or better or worse or less) adj level? of education).mp. or/87-92 eligion/ eligi*.mp. or/94-95 social determinants of health"/ ocial aspect/ vorking poor/ exp social hierarchy/	2,13 111,77 63,64 79,29 79,29 3,42 712
93 0 94 re 95 re 96 0 97 "s 98 se 99 w 100 e 101 se 102 d 103 ir 104 ir	or/87-92 eligion/ eligi*.mp. or/94-95 social determinants of health"/ ocial aspect/ vorking poor/ exp social hierarchy/	111,7 63,6 79,2 79,2 3,4 712
94 re 95 re 96 0 97 "5 98 se 99 w 100 e 101 se 102 d 103 ir 104 ir	eligion/ eligi*.mp.  pr/94-95 social determinants of health"/ ocial aspect/ vorking poor/ exp social hierarchy/	63,64 79,2! 79,2! 3,4! 712
95 re 96 o 97 "5 98 sc 99 w 100 e 101 sc 102 d 103 ir 104 ir	eligi*.mp. or/94-95 social determinants of health"/ ocial aspect/ vorking poor/ exp social hierarchy/	79,2! 79,2! 3,4: 712
96 0 97 "s 98 so 99 w 100 e 101 so 102 d 103 ir 104 ir	or/94-95 social determinants of health"/ ocial aspect/ vorking poor/ exp social hierarchy/	79,2 3,4 712
97 "9 98 so 99 w 100 e 101 so 102 d 103 ir 104 ir	ocial determinants of health"/ ocial aspect/ vorking poor/ exp social hierarchy/	3,4: 712
98 so 99 w 100 e 101 so 102 d 103 ir 104 ir	ocial aspect/ vorking poor/ exp social hierarchy/	712
99 w 100 e 101 so 102 d 103 ir 104 ir	vorking poor/ exp social hierarchy/	
100 e 101 so 102 d 103 ir 104 ir	exp social hierarchy/	
101 so 102 d 103 ir 104 ir	·	
102 d 103 ir 104 ir	ocioeconomics/	6,1
103 ir 104 ir		130,7
104 ir	lisparit*.mp.	78,8
	nequalit*.mp.	29,1
	nequit*.mp.	8,1
105 e	quity.mp.	13,5
	leprivation.mp.	95,3
	;ini.mp.	1,0
	oncentration index.mp.	1,3
109 so	ocial welfare/	17,1
	ocial class/	30,0
	poverty/	39,5
	ocial status/	73,7
	ocial background/	4.
	ocial class*.mp.	35,0
	ocial determinants.mp.	6,9
	ocial status.mp.	76,9
	ocial position.mp.	1,0
	ocial background.mp.	1,6
	ocial circumstance*.mp.	1,4
	ocio-economic.mp.	34,0
	ocioeconomic.mp.	87,3
	ocioeconomic.mp. ociodemographic.mp.	42,9
	ocio-demographic.mp.	27,1
	ocio-demographic.mp. iES.mp.	
	•	22,3
	lisadvantaged.mp.	12,09
	mpoverished.mp.	3,40
	overty.mp.	48,5
	economic level.mp.	1,1
	ssets index.mp.	140 7
	ncome*.mp.	140,7
	or/97-130	710,1
	exp social isolation/	20,3
133 so	ocial capital/	1,80

Embase s	pecific terms	
135	social support/	76,168
136	social environment/	29,908
137	trust/	13,092
138	exp social exclusion/	1,062
139	anomie/	34
140	social participation/	4,188
141	social exclusion.mp.	2,251
142	(social adj (capital or cohes* or organis* or organiz*)).mp.	6,346
143	(community adj3 (cohes* or participa*)).mp.	17,991
144	((neighbourhood or neighborhood) adj cohes*).mp.	121
145	social relationships.mp.	5,541
146	social network*.mp.	19,683
147	collective efficacy.mp.	351
148	civil society.mp.	1,617
149	informal social control.mp.	96
150	neighbo*rhood disorder.mp.	161
151	social disorgani?ation.mp.	209
152	anomie.mp.	254
153	social support.mp.	85,365
154	social participation.mp.	5,662
155	trust.mp.	45,136
156	emotional support.mp.	6,485
157	psychosocial support.mp.	4,051
158	community capital.mp.	7
159	neighbo*rhood cohesion.mp.	117
160	social influence.mp.	1,803
161	(soci*context* or soci*-context*).mp.	10,198
162	or/132-161	237,221
163	health disparity/	13,846
164	health equity/	1,005
165	health care access/	50,631
166	health*care disparit*.mp.	907
167	health care disparit*.mp.	11,985
168	health status disparit*.mp.	351
169	health disparit*.mp.	20,101
170	health inequalit*.mp.	5,092
171	health inequit*.mp.	1,385
172	medically underserved.mp.	2,093
173	or/163-172	84,892
174	32 or 70 or 75 or 86 or 93 or 96 or 131 or 162 or 173	2,233,531

Embase r	on-specific terms	
1	potential determinants.mp.	1,755
2	significant correlates of.mp.	1,198
3	(independent correlates or independent association*).mp.	12,183
4	variables associated with.mp.	12,953
5	determinants of.mp.	158,678
6	factors associated with.mp.	127,294
7	identif* determinants.mp.	2,089
8	(more likely or less likely or just as likely).mp.	316,656
9	risk factors for.mp.	519,708

10	(significantly related to or significant predictor).mp.	64,010
11	(also adj2 associated with).mp.	72,979
12	(at increased risk or at decreased risk).mp.	43,017
13	association* between.mp.	534,929
14	(positively associated or negatively associated).mp.	58,485
15	differed by.mp.	12,286
16	(were high* amongst or were low* amongst).mp.	1,580
17	(inverse relationship with or inversely associated with or inversely related to).mp.	44,456
18	reverse association.mp.	220
19	differentially affects.mp.	2,357
20	evidence of a link between.mp.	1,688
21	(significantly adj3 likelihood of).mp.	2,807
22	protective factors for.mp.	9,416
23	(differ* adj2 according to).mp.	32,849
24	(inverse adj2 gradient).mp.	236
25	(positive adj2 gradient).mp.	434
26	(negative adj2 gradient).mp.	344
27	(trends were adj3 across).mp.	1,394
28	(related to adj3 variable*).mp.	23,058
29	(differences were adj3 explained by).mp.	8,363
30	(significant among or no# significant among).mp.	3,724
31	or/1-30	1,734,459

Embase combined strategy	
[Specific strategy line] 174 OR [non-specific strategy line] 31	3,515,240

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