

Self-Report Measures of Engagement for Children and Youth: An Integrative Review

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Background

Engagement is affective, cognitive, and behavioural investment and involvement in therapy (King et al., 2014). It contributes to:

- Effective treatment delivery and outcomes (McKay & Bannon, 2004)
- Treatment adherence and goal achievement (Sung et al., 2001)
- Family-centered care (King et al., 2020)

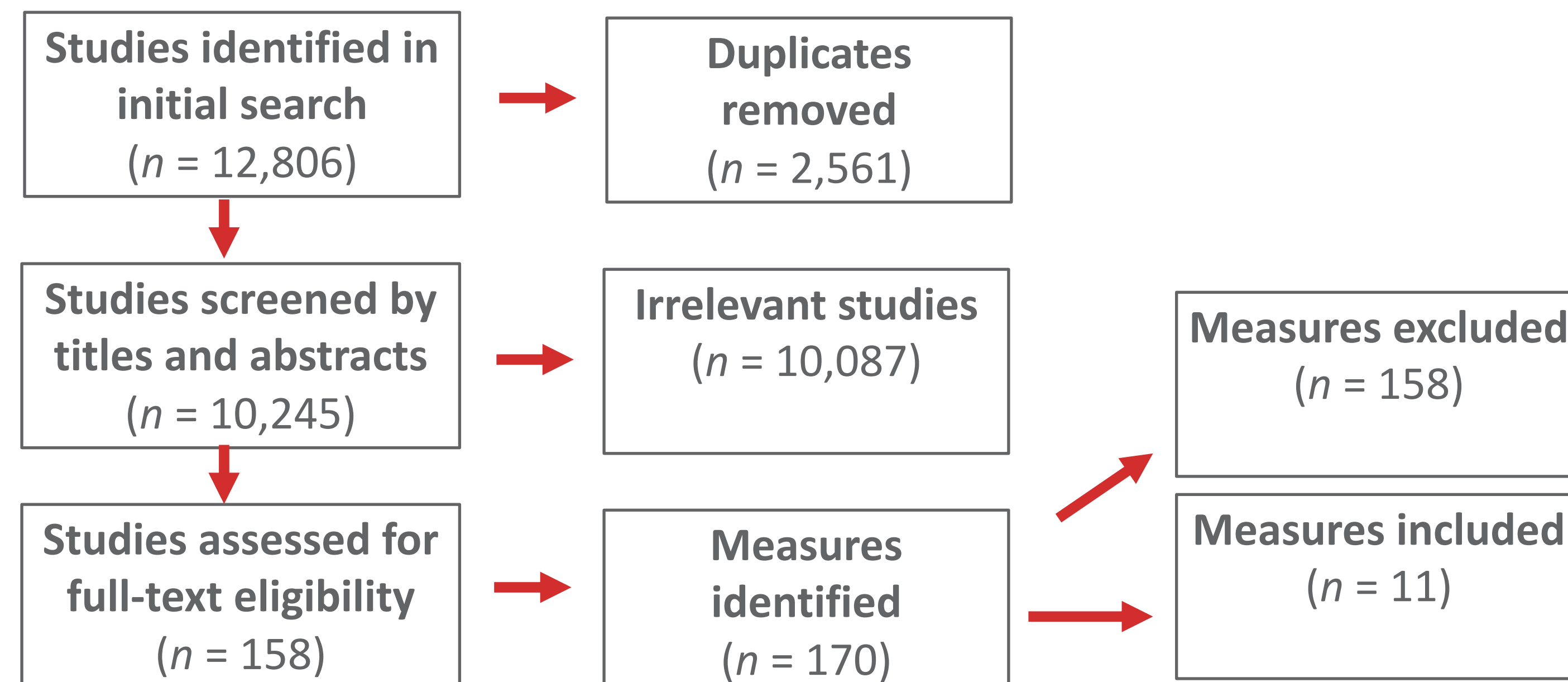
The **P**ediatric **R**ehabilitation **I**ntervention **M**easure of **E**ngagement (**PRIME**) team is creating measures of engagement for use in rehabilitation contexts.

Goals of integrative literature review:

1. Identify published child/youth (8-18 years) self-report measures
2. Assess their clinical utility, including useability and feasibility (Law, 2004)
3. Provide recommendations to develop a child engagement measure

Literature search

- **Databases:** PsycINFO, CINAHL, Embase, Scopus, Web of Science
- **Keywords:** 'child/youth engagement' or 'participation' & 'self-report measure'
- **Excluded:** if for infants or adults, not self-report, not available in English, did not use a Likert-type scale, only used binary responses (e.g. yes or no), and/or focused on substance use or sexual behaviour



Self-report measures for children and youth should not only be psychometrically sound...

they must also be **user-friendly, developmentally appropriate, and feasible to complete!**



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Clinometric properties and design features

- 'Excellent' instruction quality for 8 of 11 measures
- Majority could be completed in **10 minutes or less**
- Rating scales most often had 4, 5, or 6 options, and were usually fully labelled
- Measures for younger children used images, colours, or other graphics alongside text labels
- **Simple vocabulary** and instructions
- Reliability and variability of measures were more variable

Recommendations and next steps

To enhance clarity and usability, the PRIME child and youth measure should employ **design features** like:

- Fully-labelled response scale that also includes images, colours, or other graphics
- Bipolar scale with a single anchor statement
- Simplified vocabulary, syntax, response option labels, and instructions

Tool to be **user-tested** and pilot-tested with youth

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