

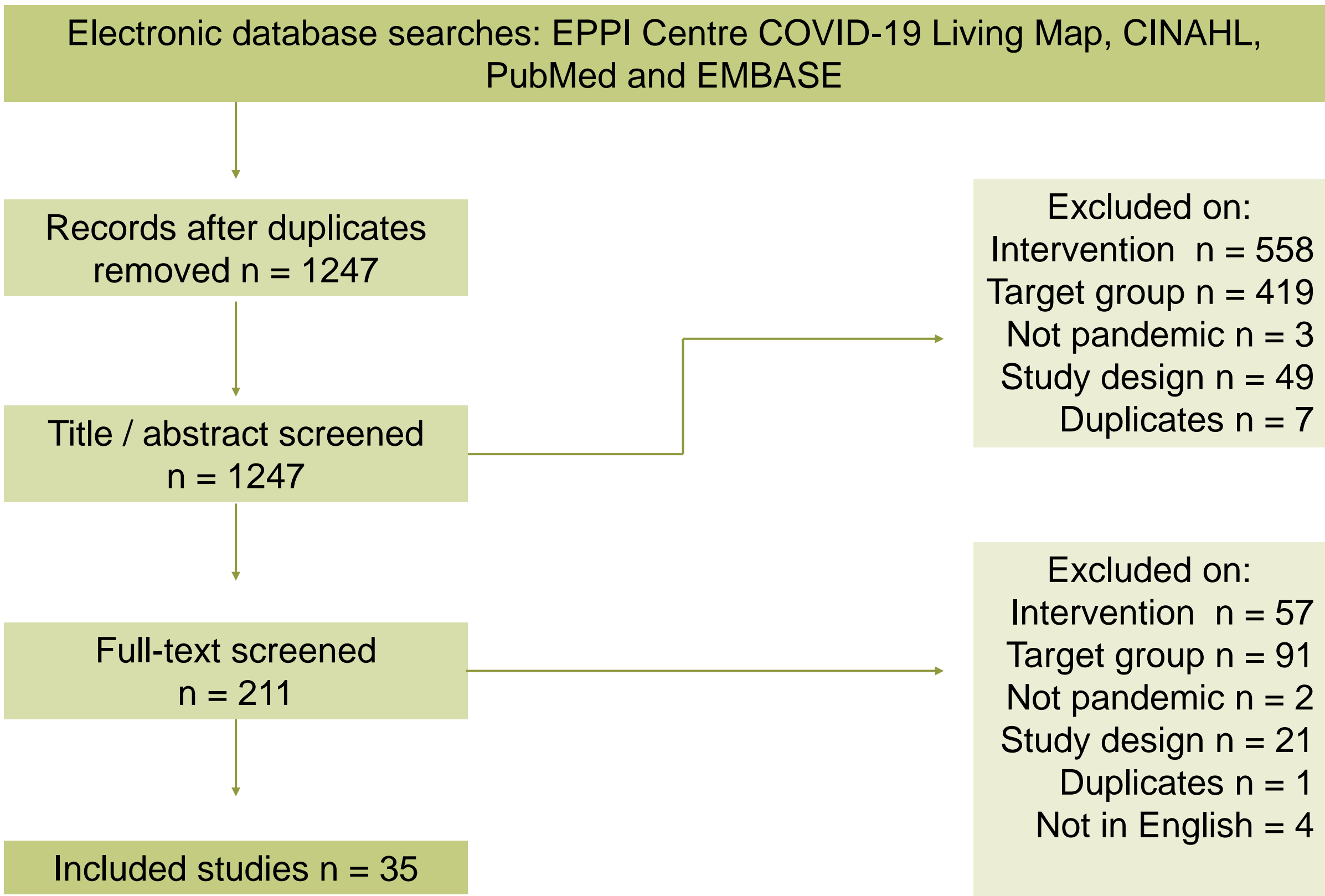
Infant and family centred developmental care in neonatal intensive care units during the COVID-19 pandemic: interactive gap map of global evidence.

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Scope	
Setting / Context	NICU / Global
Language	English
Population	Preterm and/or sick newborns, their parents and hospital staff – doctors, nurses, other healthcare practitioners and administrators.
Intervention	Infant and family centred developmental care (IFCDC) (EFCNI, 2018) and nurturing care (WHO, 2021).
Data	Study characteristics and demographics Levels of support for different components of IFCDC/nurturing care.



Methods

We present an evidence gap map of infant and family centred developmental care (IFCDC) practices during the COVID-19 pandemic in neonatal intensive care units around the world.

How have adaptations to different aspects of IFCDC been reported in the literature?

How was digital support used in IFCDC in NICUs worldwide to improve outcomes and support the parents of sick or preterm infants during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Conclusion

- ✓ Virtual visits were reported in n = 12 papers through parents' own devices or hospital; these included being able to view a livestream of their baby (Shaw et al., 2021), recorded video (Kostenzer et. al, 2021), being involved in medical rounds (Campbell-Yeo, 2022; Desai et al., 2023) and for encouraging lactation (Chheda et al., 2023).
- ✓ In one unit, siblings were also encouraged to participate on virtual visits and online guidance with support from a child life specialist (Desai et al., 2023).
- ✓ Education toolkits for parents were developed, which had a collection of online resources that parents could engage with in their own time (Ansari, 2023).
- ✓ Parents, healthcare staff and experts worked together to co-design a 'virtual care pathway' which included standardised messages on updates on the NICU policies throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and online educational resources accessible at any time with interactive parent training and instructional videos (Campbell-Yeo, 2021).
- ✓ An 'online staff educational booster toolkit' included parent experiences in the NICU; advice on parent interaction; and information on the importance of parental engagement (Ansari et al., 2023).



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Evidence on COVID-adaptive IFCDC practices exists for the Global North, showcasing different levels of support for infants and families and describing how existing digital technology was used to enhance interactions with the baby, to enhance communication between parents and medical professionals and for staff continuing education. Less is known about what IFCDC practices existed, and how these were affected, in the Global South during the COVID-19 pandemic. Existing evidence needs to be assessed and made widely available to support IFCDC practices now and in future crises.

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Scan to see the live evidence gap map and to access the references.