**Methods**

***Selection Criteria***

We included any type of paper that described CHWs. This included primary research, commentaries, editorials, and review papers. We also included grey literature – those publications not indexed in traditional bibliographic databases – if CHWs were the primary focus. We excluded books, conference proceedings, items that were not English language, items not published within the last 11 years, and those not concerning CHWs in the United States.

***Search Strategy***

The authors consulted several reviews to initially guide the development of the search strategy. Upon finding rare consistency between the terms used by previous studies, a more systematic way to determine potential search strategy terms was developed. First, a search was run for (“Community Health Workers”[MAJR] AND Review[PTYP]) in PubMed in August 2017. The 115 results were exported to EndNote and, in turn, exported to an Excel spreadsheet for data entry. Full text was located for all but seven of the articles. Each article was then reviewed to determine the search terms used to describe the community health worker aspect of the search strategy. Six studies reported search strategies that used proximity operators, which made the identification of a specific term up for interpretation. As such, those studies were excluded. And yet, despite excluding over 50 studies (for reasons such as those reported above, or an article not reporting a search strategy, or not being relevant), over 270 unique terms were identified. Next, a total frequency was calculated for each search term. Terms were then collapsed where appropriate. For instance, the terms “community health aide,” “community health aides,” and “community health aide\*” were collapsed to “community health aide\*” and sums were then determined for the new collapsed term. The following terms appeared in previous studies five or more times:

* Agente\* AND (Communitario\* OR Saude)
* Barefoot doctor\*
* Community health advocate\*
* Community health aide\*
* Community health representative\*
* Community health worker\*
* Community worker\*
* Health educat\*
* Health promoter\*
* Lay health advisor\*
* Lay health worker\*
* Peer educat\*
* Promotor\*
* Village health worker\*

The current study’s intention was to conduct a bibliometric analysis on community health worker literature in the United States. As such, two criteria were used to exclude terms even with their high (five or more instances) frequency: 1) if the term described a role likely specific to a geographic region outside the United States (e.g. agente communitario de saude, barefoot doctor, or village health worker); and 2) if the term described a role distinct from community health workers (e.g. “health educat\*”, “health promoter\*”, or “peer educat\*”). Thus, the following terms formed the basis for our search strategy:

* Community health advocate\*
* Community health aide\*
* Community health representative\*
* Community health worker\*
* Community worker\*
* Lay health advisor\*
* Lay health worker\*
* Promotor\*

Search terms were then added to reflect controlled vocabulary (e.g. “Community Health Workers”[MeSH]) and abbreviations (e.g. “CHW”). In an effort to capture literature from a diverse set of disciplines, we searched eight traditional databases (PubMed, CINAHL, Communication and Mass Media Complete, ERIC, PsycINFO, Social Work Abstracts, Sociological Abstracts, and Web of Science Core Collection. CHW Central was searched for relevant grey literature. Search strategies for each database are included in Appendix A. Searches were run on \_\_\_\_ (date).

***Study Selection***

~~Titles and abstracts (or executive summaries) of \_\_\_\_\_ sources were reviewed independently by two of the authors to identify relevant papers. When there was no consensus for inclusion or exclusion (n= \_\_\_\_\_ ), a third reviewer was used to break the tie.~~

***Data Synthesis***

***Appendix A: Search Strategies***

**PubMed**

(Community health advocate\* OR Community health aide\* OR Community health representative\* OR Community health worker\* OR "Community Health Workers"[MeSH] OR "CHW" OR Community worker\* OR Lay health advisor\* OR Lay health worker\* OR Promotor\*) AND ( ( "2006/01/01"[PDat] : "3000/12/31"[PDat] ) AND English[lang])

Results: 6168