



Global overview of suicidal behavior and associated risk factors among people living with human immunodeficiency virus: A scoping review

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INTRODUCTION

Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV) and human immunodeficiency virus (AIDS) is also a common public health issue, and currently there are more than 37.9 million people living with HIV/AIDS around the world. Death by suicide is a major public health problem. People living with human immunodeficiency virus (PLHIV) have higher risk of suicidal behavior than the general population. Prevalence estimates of suicidal ideation, attempts, and plans among people living with HIV/AIDS were more common and serious than those in the general population. Suicide attempt rates among PLHIV with mental disorders and psychiatric treatment have continued to increase from the pre-highly active antiretroviral therapy (Pre-HAART) era (1988–1995) to the HAART era (1996–2008) from 27.8% to 35.1%, respectively.

Suicidal behavior is a complicated process that ranges in degree of severity, from thinking about killing oneself (i.e., suicidal ideation) to doing it (i.e., suicide attempt and death by suicide). However, the relationship between these three-suicide behavior is unclear; this study will be a better feasibility to understanding relationship between these three-suicide behavior and could help prevent suicidal behavior in PLHIV, in whom suicide is a significant public health problem of HIV-infected adults. It is important to categorization of suicidal behaviors among PLHIV due to lack of overview of scope reviewing in this population, even suicide became significant life-threatening event in PLHIV.

Thus, exploring suicidal behavior using a wide range of global research studies is vital for primary healthcare professionals to plan early recognition of this and suicide prevention strategies. The aim of this review is to provide an overview of the rates of suicidal behavior and associated suicide risk factors among PLHIV. Detection of suicidal ideation and suicide attempts is important in planning early suicide prevention and optimizing HIV/AIDS management.

AIM

The aim of this review is to summarize suicidal behavior, associated risk factors, and risk populations among PLHIV.

METHODS

This review has been registered in the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-analysis Protocols (INPLASY, Reg No: INPLASY202170033). Research studies in six databases (Embase, Ovid MEDLINE, CENTRAL, Web of Science, Academic Search Complete, and Psychology & Behavioral Sciences Collection) from January 1, 1988, to July 8, 2021, were searched using keywords that included "HIV," "suicide," "suicidal behavior," and "risk factors." The study design, suicide measurement techniques, risk factors, and study findings were extracted. A total of 193 studies were included. This was done after meeting with a public health librarian (the author CJF) and two members of the research team to clarify goals and further define the selection criteria to develop the literature search strategy.

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KEYWORDS:

suicidal behavior, suicide ideation, suicide attempt, death by suicide, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, human immunodeficiency virus, risk factors.

RESULTS

After quality assessment, 193 articles were included in this scoping review (Fig 1). All included studies were published as a full article in peer-reviewed journal. We found that the Americas, Europe, and Asia have the highest rates of suicidal behavior. Suicide risk factors include demographic factors, mental illness, and physiological, psychological, and social support. Depression is the most common risk factor for PLHIV, with suicidal ideation and attempt risk. Drug overdosage is the main cause of suicide death.

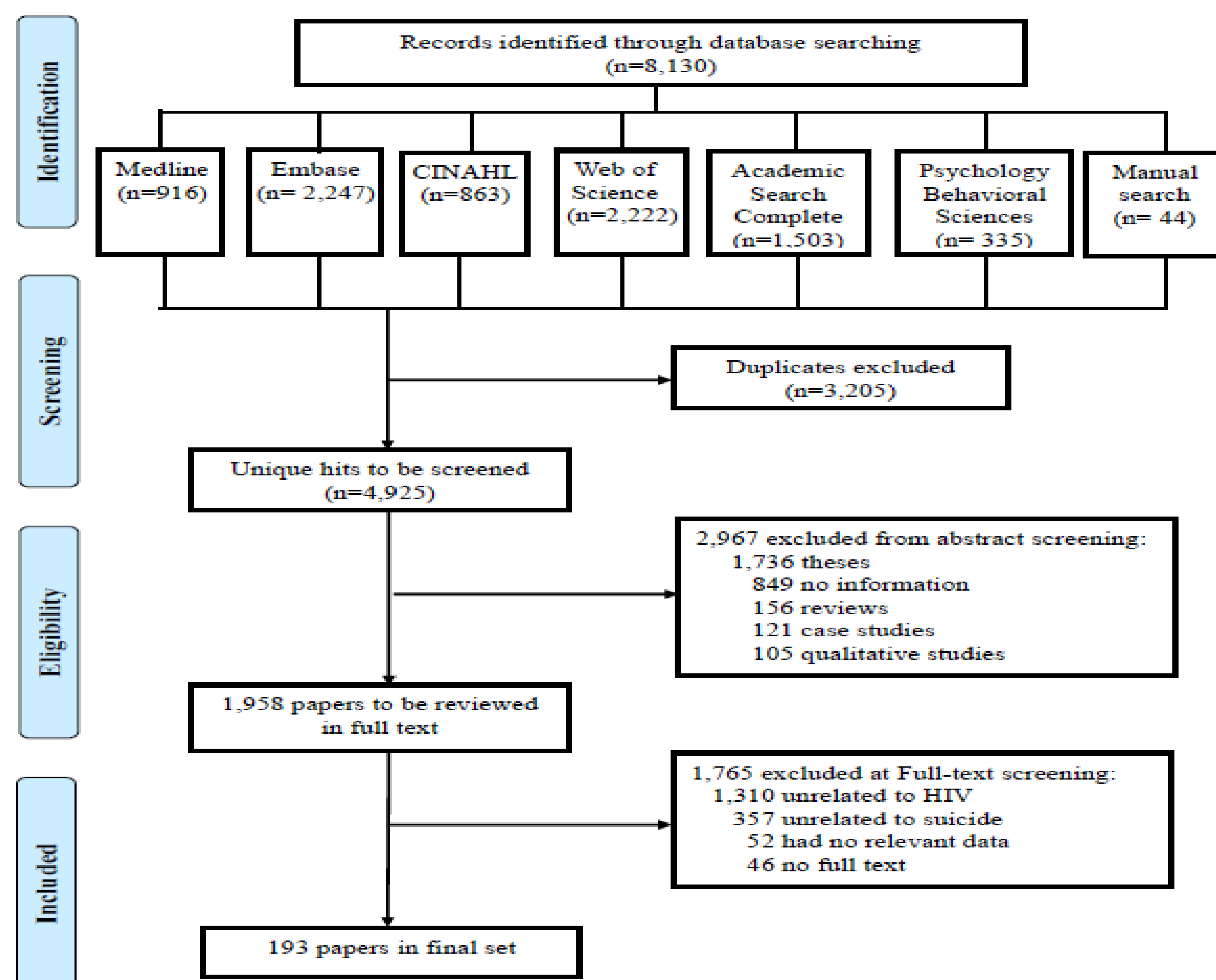


Fig 1. PRISMA Style Flow Diagram of Included Studies

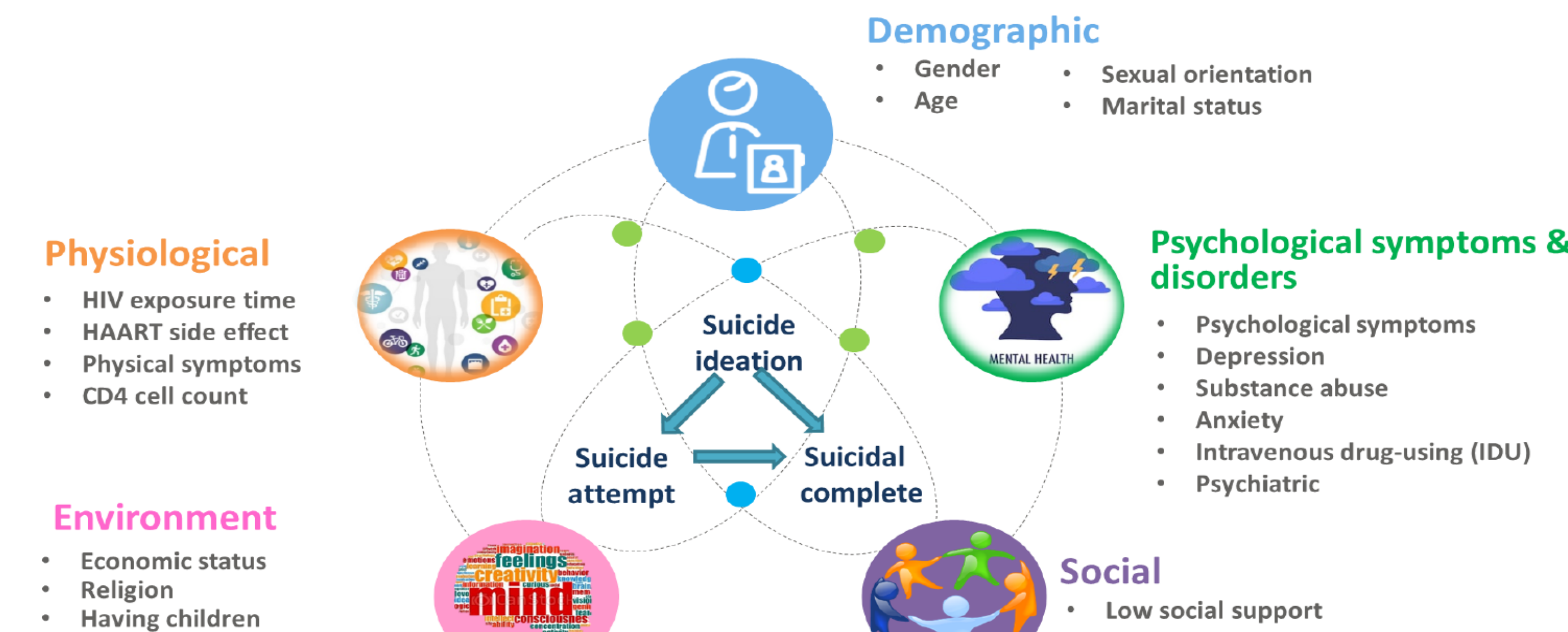
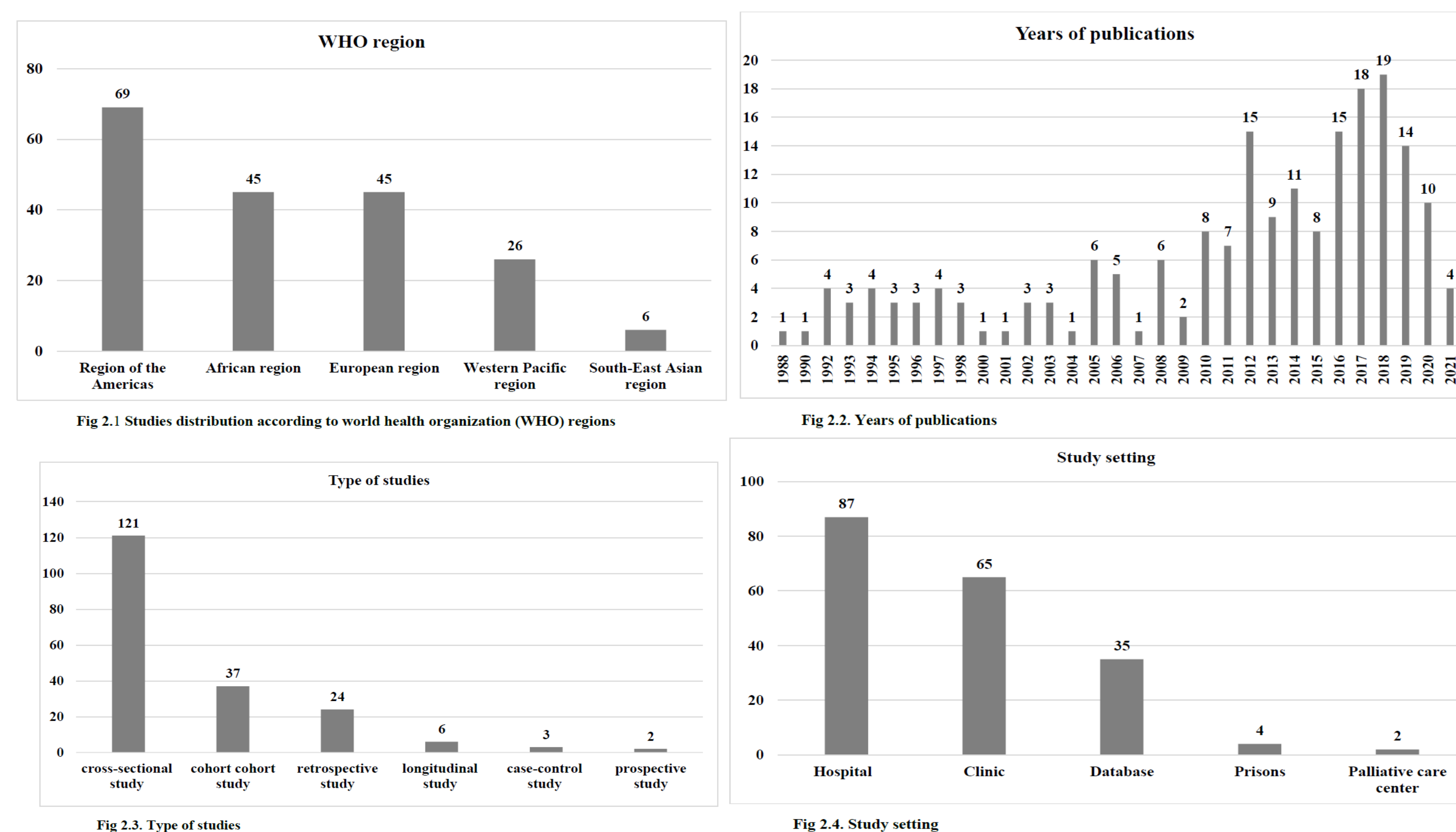


Fig 3. Relationship of suicide type and risk factor among People Living with HIV as a model. There are 5 variations in People Living with HIV Suicide model. The factors are from risk factors in data which study Suicide ideation, Suicide attempt and Completed suicide.

DISCUSSION

The current study found that PLHIV had experienced a high level of suicidal status. This review provides an overview of suicidal behavior and its risk factors in PLHIV with the goal of better managing these factors and thus preventing death due to suicide.