

Systematic review of the prevalence and risk of domestic violence victimization among women with mental disorders

Institute of
Psychiatry

at The Maudsley

KING'S
College
LONDON

University of London

Sian Oram PhD¹, Kylee Trevillion BSc¹, Gene Feder MD²,

Louise M Howard PhD MRCPsych¹

Section for Women's Mental Health, Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London, UK.

²School of Social and Community Medicine, University of Bristol, UK.



Introduction

Domestic violence victimization is highly prevalent among women with mental disorders. The extent to which women with mental disorders are at increased risk of domestic violence victimization is unclear.

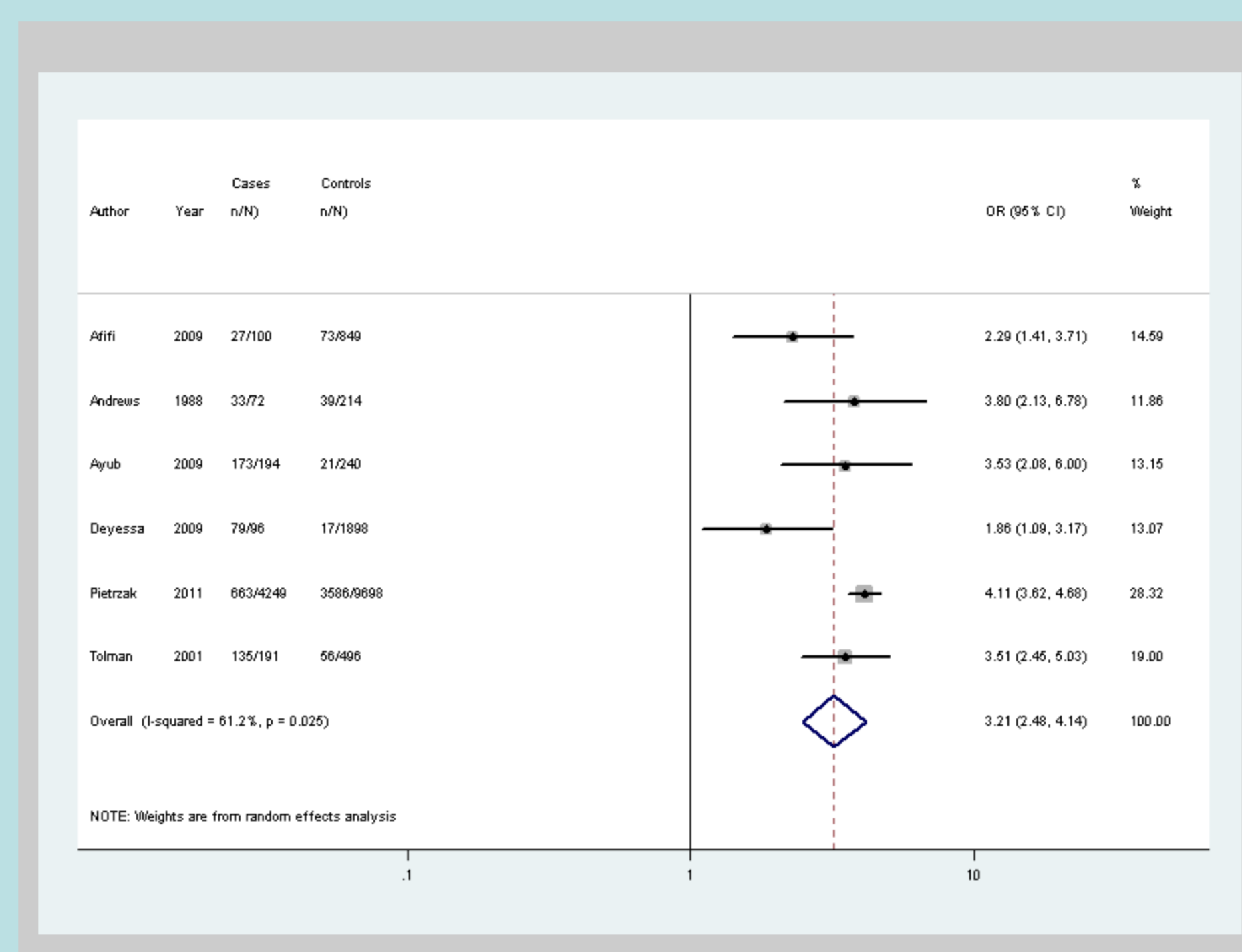
Objectives

- Establish the prevalence of domestic violence victimization in women with specific mental disorders;
- Establish the risk of domestic violence victimization in women with specific mental disorders compared with controls.

Method

- Search of 18 electronic databases, plus hand searching, citation tracking, expert recommendations, and update of a previous review of criminal victimisation in psychiatric populations.
- Studies were eligible for inclusion if they: (a) included men or women who were 16 years or older and were either mental health service users or had a diagnosed mental disorder; (b) measured the prevalence and/or risk of domestic violence victimisation.
- Two reviewers independently extracted data and appraised study quality.

Pooled risk of lifetime partner violence among women with depressive disorder



Results

40 studies were included. Data are presented only from studies which scored >50% during quality appraisal on question relating to selection bias.

Depressive disorders

• Median prevalence of lifetime partner violence: 58.3% (IQR: 31.7%-79.4%, range: 15.6%-89.2%)

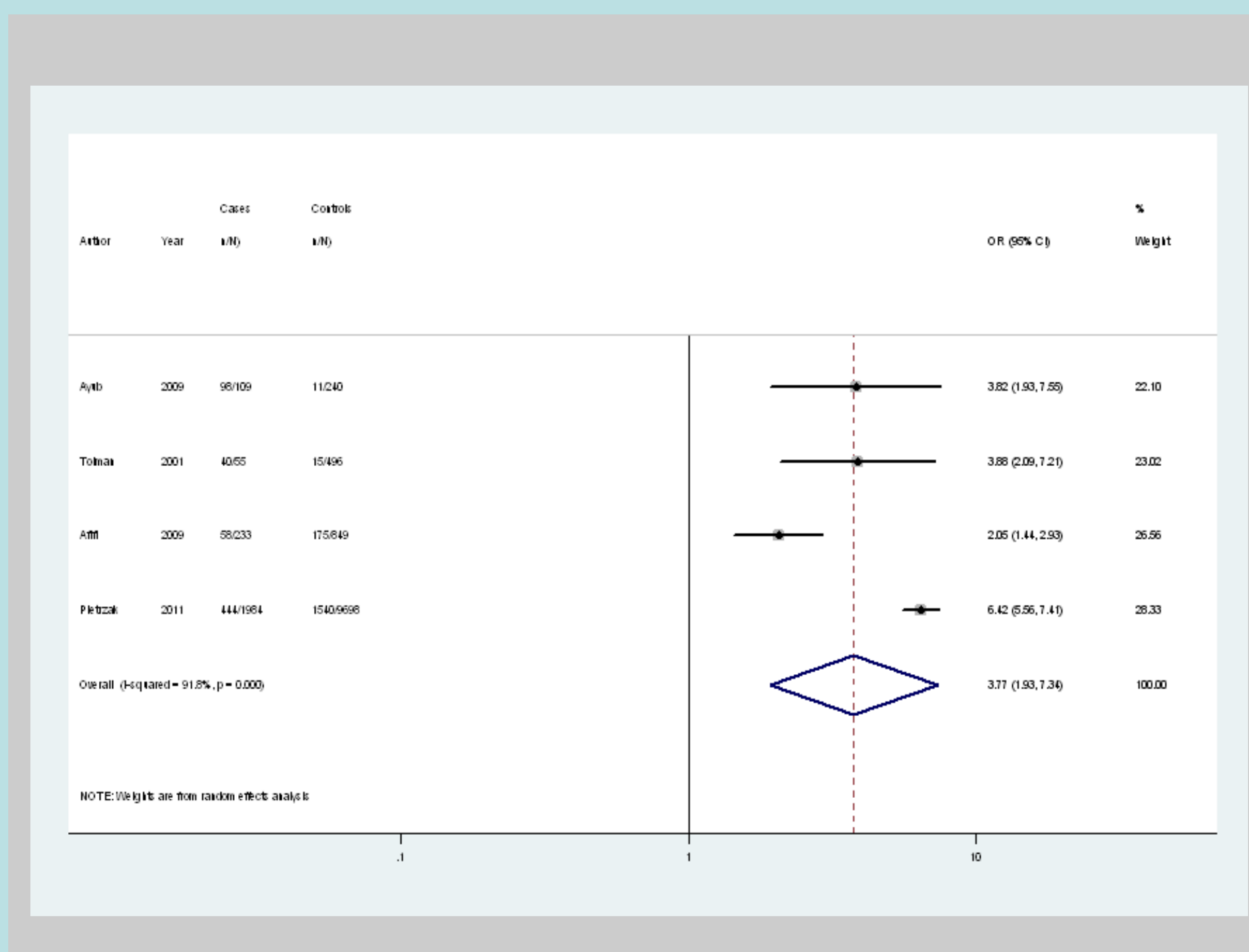
Anxiety disorders

• Median prevalence of lifetime partner violence: 48.8% (IQR: 24.3%-77.0%, range: 22.4%-89.9%)

PTSD

• Median prevalence of lifetime partner violence: 61% (IQR: 41.1%-80.1%, range: 29.4%-89.5%)

Pooled risk of lifetime partner violence among women with anxiety disorder



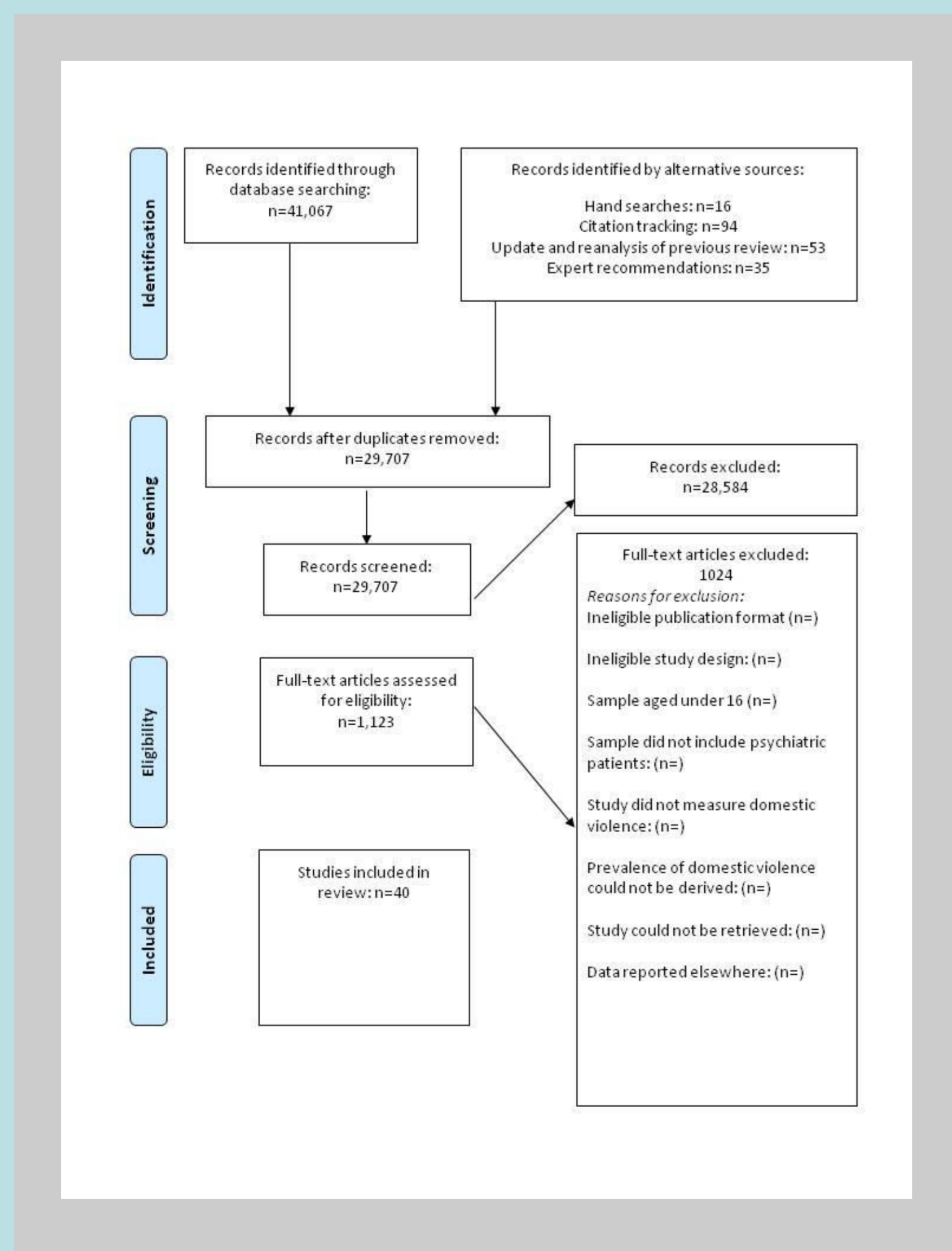
Schizophrenia and non-affective psychosis

• Prevalence of past year physical partner violence: 43.8% (7/16)
• Risk of past year physical partner violence: OR 3.25 (95% CI 0.97-10.3)

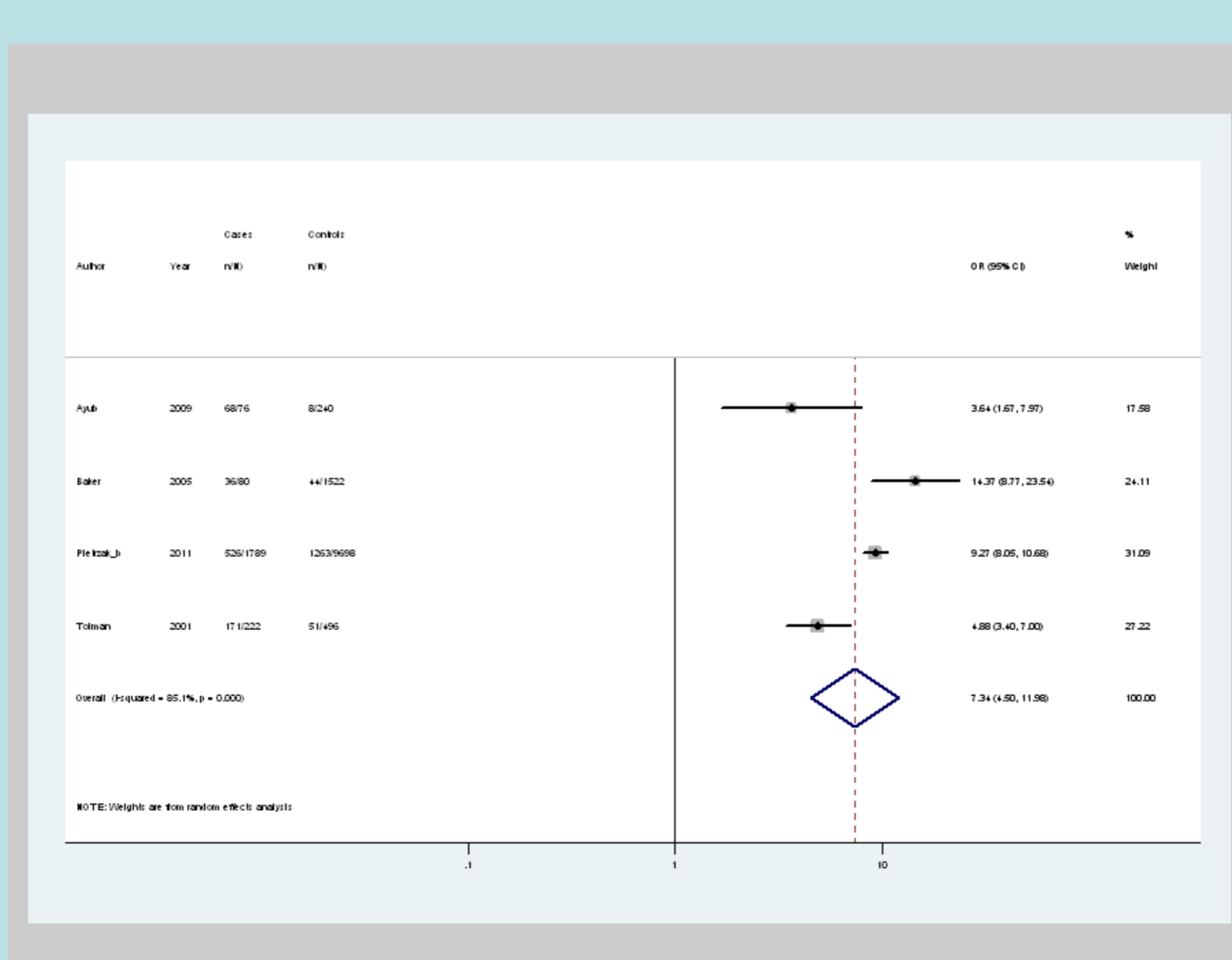
Bipolar affective disorder

• Prevalence of lifetime physical partner violence: 26.7% (418/1,565)
• Risk of lifetime physical partner violence: OR 8.1 (95% CI 7.0-9.5)

Study selection flowchart



Pooled risk of lifetime partner violence among women with PTSD



Conclusions

Women with mental illness are at increased risk of domestic violence. Current or past history of domestic violence needs to be identified in these populations and preventative programmes and clinical interventions should be developed to address its consequences.

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For further information

Please contact sian.oram@kcl.ac.uk