

# A Scoping Review of Mutual-Aid Groups for Substance Use in Asia

Wan Jie Tan<sup>1</sup>; Briony Larance<sup>1</sup>; Emma E. Walter<sup>2</sup>; Chloe Haynes<sup>1</sup>, Peter J. Kelly<sup>1</sup>

Email: [wjt639@uowmail.edu.au](mailto:wjt639@uowmail.edu.au)



WESTERN SYDNEY  
UNIVERSITY



1. University of Wollongong, School of Psychology, Wollongong, New South Wales 2500, Australia
2. Western Sydney University, School of Psychology, Penrith, New South Wales 2751, Australia



Scan the QR code to download the **poster** and **full paper** (when published)

## Background and rationale

- The mutual-aid approach was originally developed and implemented in Western contexts.
- Lack of systematic exploration in East, South, and Southeast Asia.
- Cultural traditions and social practices can influence behavior, in turn influencing treatment response, engagement, and retention.



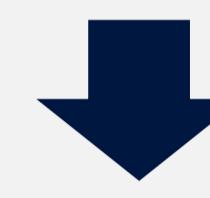
## Research aims

1. Describe empirical studies in current literature.
2. Explore how groups were culturally tailored.
3. Identify key findings captured in these populations.



## Methodology

- Search strategy: Conducted in Cinahl, EMBASE, MEDLINE, PsycINFO, PubMed, Scopus, and Web of Science until 9 November 2021.
- Key terms: 1) East, South, and Southeast Asia, 2) Substance use, and 3) Mutual-aid groups for people who use substances.
- Inclusion criteria: Original studies of any study design published in peer-reviewed journals. No language-, gender-, or age-based limits.



## Screening and data extraction

- Process followed the Joanna Briggs Institute methodology and the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses extension for scoping review (<https://osf.io/jrzg5>).
- Screened independently by two reviewers (WJT and CH) on Covidence.
- A data extraction tool was developed using Excel spreadsheet.

## Key findings

- A total of 2,719 articles were screened, 103 full-texts were assessed with 45 included in the review.

### Description of included studies

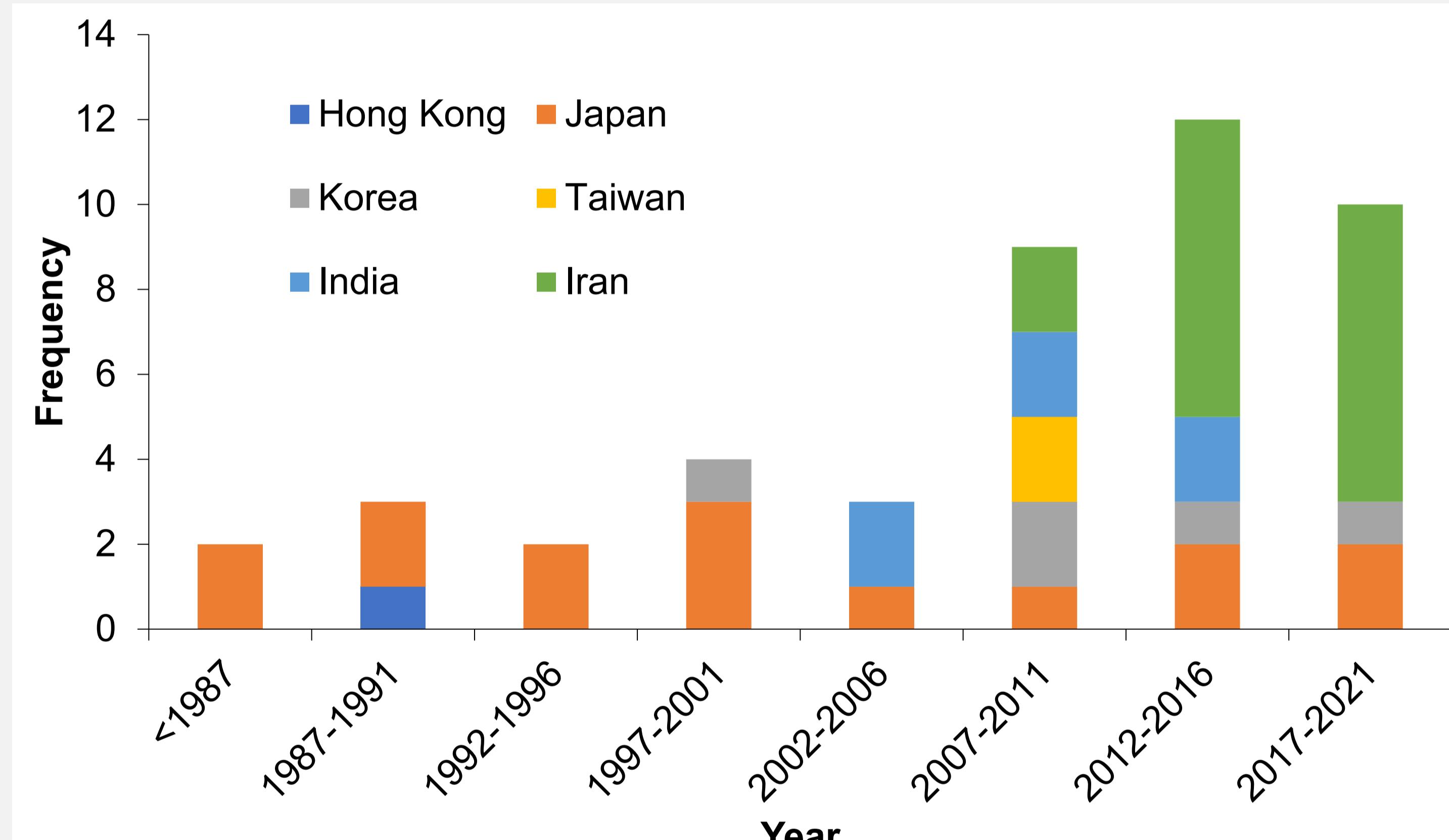


Figure 1. Number of publications in five-year blocks by country/region.

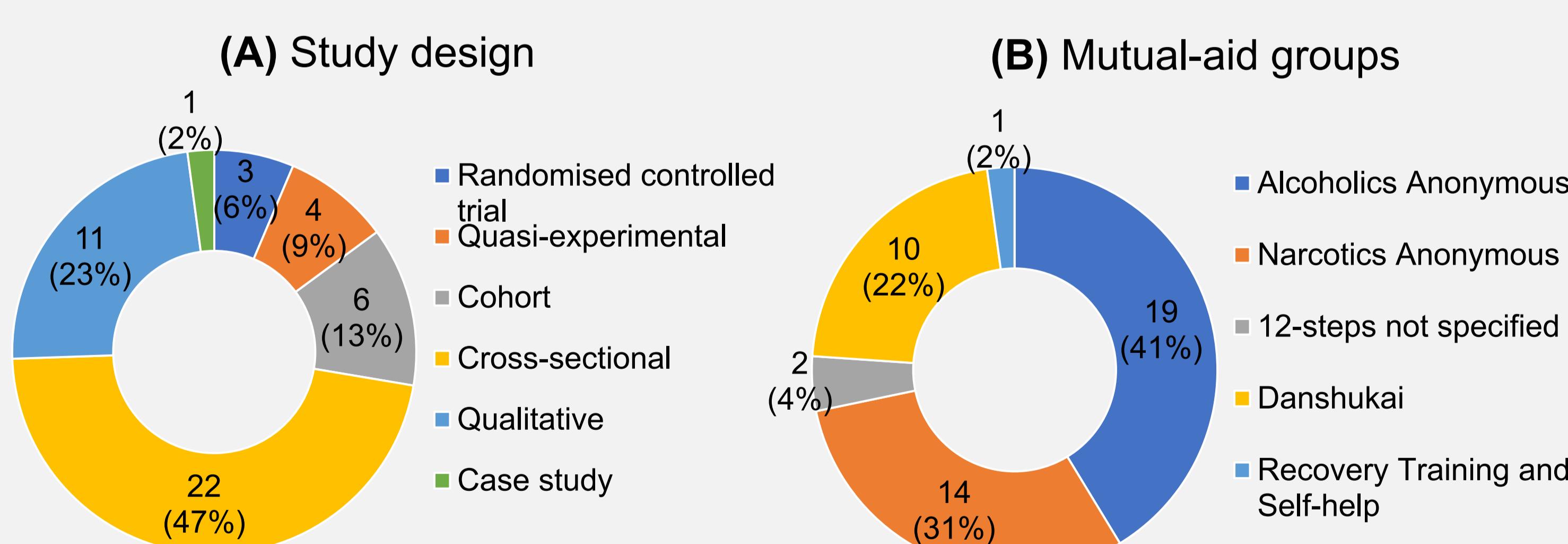


Figure 2. Distribution of reviewed studies.



## Conclusions

- Adaptations often target surface-level structures (observable social and behavioral characteristics of the target population).
- Delineation of the adaptation process is needed.
- The varying extent of adaptation speaks to the inherently contextual nature and complexity of cultural tailoring.

## Acknowledgements

To Rachel Lawson (Librarian for Science, Medicine and Health, University of Wollongong) for her assistance in developing the search strategy.

Key references:

1. Jongen, C. S., McCalman, J., & Bainbridge, R. G. (2017). The implementation and evaluation of health promotion services and programs to improve cultural competency: A systematic scoping review. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 5, Article 24. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2017.00024>
2. Peters, M. D. J., Godfrey, C., McInerney, P., Munn, Z., Tricco, A. C., & Khalil, H. (2020). Chapter 11: Scoping Reviews (2020 version). In E. Aromataris & Z. Munn (Eds.), *JBI Manual for Evidence Synthesis*. JBI. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.46658/JBIMES-20-12>
3. Resnicow, K., Soler, R., Braithwaite, R. L., Ahiwuai, J. S., & Butler, J. (2000). Cultural sensitivity in substance use prevention. *Journal of Community Psychology*, 28(3), 271-290. [https://doi.org/10.1002/\(SICI\)1520-6629\(200005\)28:3<271::AID-JCOP4>3.0.CO;2](https://doi.org/10.1002/(SICI)1520-6629(200005)28:3<271::AID-JCOP4>3.0.CO;2)
4. Tricco, A. C., Lillie, E., Zarin, W., O'Brien, K. K., Colquhoun, H., Levac, D., Moher, D., Peters, M. D. J., Horsley, T., Weeks, L., Hempel, S., Akl, E. A., Chang, C., McGowan, J., Stewart, L., Hartling, L., Aldcroft, A., Wilson, M. G., Garrity, C., ... Straus, S. E. (2018). PRISMA extension for scoping reviews (PRISMA-ScR): Checklist and explanation. *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 169(7), 467-473. <https://doi.org/10.7326/M18-0850>