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| **Criteria used to assess the quality of qualitative studies** | **Studies a** |
| **1** | **6** | **10** | **12** | **14** | **15** | **20** | **23** |
| **Quality of reporting** |
| Were the aims and objectives clearly reported? | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Was there an adequate description of the context in which the research was carried out? | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Was there an adequate description of the sample and the methods by which the sample was identified and recruited? | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Was there an adequate description of the methods used to collect data? | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Was there an adequate description of the methods used to analyze data? | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| **Use of strategies to increase reliability and validity** |
| Were there attempts to establish the reliability of the data collection tools (for example, by use of interview topic guides)? | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Were there attempts to establish the validity of the data collection tools (for example, with pilot interviews)? | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Were there attempts to establish the reliability of the data analysis methods (for example, by use of independent coders)? | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Were there attempts to establish the validity of data analysis methods (for example, by searching for negative cases)? | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| **Extent to which study findings reflected young people perspectives and experiences** |
| Did the study use appropriate data collection methods for helping participants to express their views? | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Did the study use appropriate methods for ensuring the data analysis was grounded in the views of participants? | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Did the study actively involve proper participants in its design and conduct? | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
|  | 6 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 5 | 11 |

a The number of studies is according to the number of studies in table 1 (characteristics of the studies)

1: to have the criteria 0: not to have the criteria