Reviewer’s report

Title: A systematic review protocol for crime trends facilitated by synthetic biology.

Version: 0 Date: 12 Aug 2019

Reviewer: Smriti Nepal

Reviewer's report:

The authors have presented a well-structured plan for a systematic review, it appears that a lot of thought has gone into planning the study. I have some comments which I hope will be useful feedback.

1. Line 36: "Despite there have been thought of"- please check the grammar.

2. Lines 52-56: Please consider re-structuring this sentence.

3. Line 71: "...anticipated to increase.."- Please check the grammar.

4. Lines 91-93: Please re-structure this sentence.

5. Line 94: Please state what the "other" implications are and who are the "relevant stakeholders".

6. Lines 105-106: Please re-structure this sentence.

7. Line 107: I am not familiar with Eppi Center Reviewer software, what purpose will it serve in this systematic review?

8. The exclusion criteria is scattered and is really hard to follow. I would suggest that the authors present this information in a synthesized manner.

9. What time period is the search being limited to?

10. Table 1: The "Inclusion" column has a lot of unnecessary text, please limit the information only to what is directly relevant to PICO. For example, under "Outcome", there is no need to state what the aim is. I also noticed that "Outcome" section is hard to follow and does not seem to correspond to the information under "Eligibility Criteria".
11. You have provided the "Search String" but not the keywords, please spell out the keywords to be for searching.

12. Quality Assessment: Please state what tools you will use to assess the quality of studies included.

13. Lines 200-202: This should go under "Data Collection and Analysis".

14. Line 216: Please describe what "speculative, experimental or currently occurring" mean and how will you make this assessment.

15. Whether you are including qualitative or quantitative study should be part of "Eligibility Criteria". Furthermore, the data you will extracted from each should be described under data collection section, not under "Data Synthesis".

16. Please ensure that your spellings for words such as "biotechnology", "synthetic biology" are consistent throughout the manuscript.

**Level of interest**

Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English**

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published
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