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Figure 1: Flow diagram showing the paper selection process.

PRISMA developed from Liberati, Altman, Tetzleff *et al.* (2009).

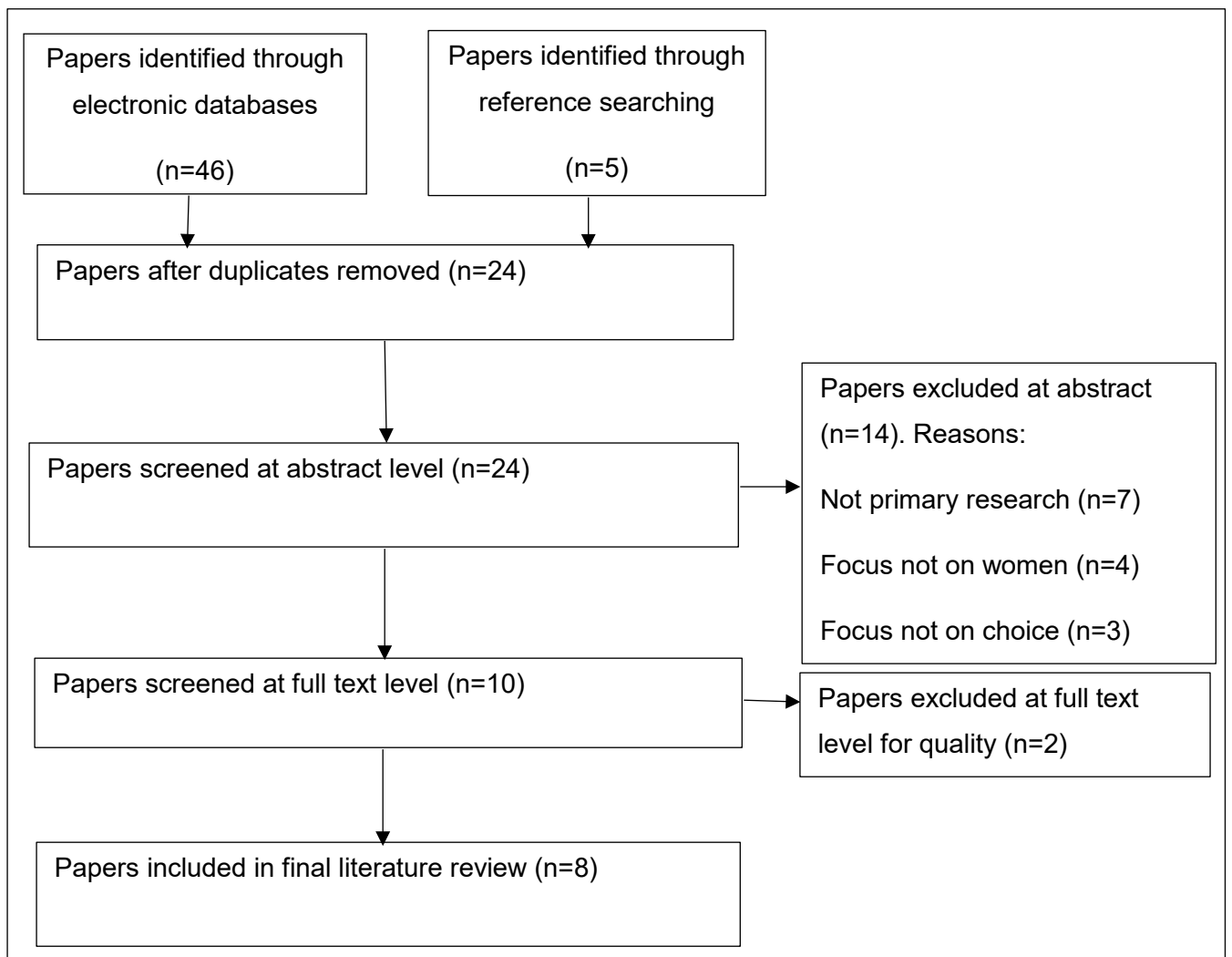


Table 1: Summary of basic characteristics of each paper reviewed.

Author	Theoretical framework	Sample size	Data collection
Brown (2009), United States	Grounded theory	n=9 All freebirth	Interviews
Miller (2009), United States	Grounded theory	n=127+6 All freebirth	127= freebirth narratives from the internet 6= interviews
Lundgren (2010), Sweden	Phenomenological life world approach	n=7 (4=freebirth)	Interviews
Jackson <i>et al.</i> (2012), Australia	Qualitative interpretive study	n=20 (9=freebirth)	Interviews
Feeley and Thomson (2016b), UK	Interpretive phenomenological approach	n=10	Narrative reviews, Interviews
Hollander <i>et al.</i> (2017), Netherlands	Mixed methods	n=28 (7=freebirth)	Interviews
Lindgren <i>et al.</i> (2017), Sweden	Reflective lifeworld	n=8	Interviews

