**Identification of studies via databases**

Records removed *before screening*:

Duplicate records removed (n = 850)

Records identified from\*:

Databases in total (n = 10,212)

Google Scholar (n= 8,420)

PubMed (n=58)

ResearchGate (n=1487)

Scopus (n=247)

**Identification**

Records excluded\*\*

(n = 8,538)

Records screened

(n = 9,362)

Reports not retrieved

(n = 4)

Reports sought for retrieval

(n = 824)

**Screening**

Reports/records further excluded:

Poor research methodology (n =44 )

Fell outside 10 years ago criteria (n = 210 )

Not peer reviewed (n=5)

Not focused on heavy metal contamination in fish, fruits and vegetables (n =240)

Books and reviews (n=8)

Articles not domiciled in southwest Nigeria (n=313)

Reports assessed for eligibility

(n =820)

Studies included in review

(n = 64)

**Included**

**Figure 1:** **PRISMA screening flowchart for the study**