

Background

- Vaping among youth is a public health issue in the United States, with high nicotine levels contributing to dependence and potential future tobacco use.^{1,2}
- African American youth who historically reported lower cigarette smoking rates are increasingly affected by targeted marketing.³
- Understanding the risk and protective factors among African American youth is key to informing the development of culturally tailored interventions and evidence-based policies.⁴
- Few studies focus on the risk and protective factors of tobacco use, including vaping, among African American youth.

Purpose

- This scoping review synthesizes evidence on the risk and protective factors influencing tobacco use among African American youth in the United States.

Methods

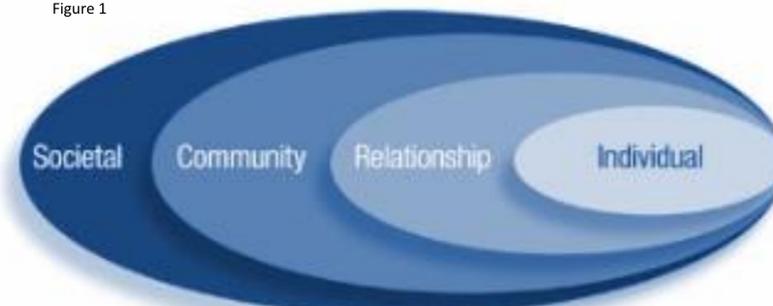
- This review followed the PRISMA-ScR guidelines, with a registered protocol. Database searches conducted in June and December 2024.
- Comprehensive searches across six databases including PsycINFO, Academic Search Complete, Medline, CINAHL, and Scopus.
- 2,794 articles were screened by two reviewers: full text articles retrieved and screened by reviewers based on the set inclusion and exclusion criteria.
- Screening for eligibility followed a systematic process using Rayyan, a tool for systematic reviews.
- Thirteen studies met the final inclusion criteria.
- Findings were organized based on the Socio Ecological Model which includes the Individual, Relationship, Community and Societal levels (Figure 1).

Results

Level	Risk Factors	Protective Factors
Individual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being Male • Older adolescent • Lesbian & black intersectionality • Nicotine addiction • Curiosity • Sensory appeal • Susceptibility • Lower grades • Low harm perception • Belief in smoking as stress relief • Current marijuana, polytobacco use • Cigar use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Younger adolescent • Higher grades • Perception of harm • Exposure to health information
Relationship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living with a tobacco user • Peer and family use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High parental monitoring • Parent communicating rules and expectations • Family stability
Community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Racial teasing • Easy access to tobacco products • Exposure to secondhand smoke and living in multiunit housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited access to tobacco products • Community support messages
Societal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High exposure to e-cig marketing • Discrimination and stress • Limited access to cessation programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exposure to awareness of tobacco marketing tactics • High social media recall of anti vaping campaigns • Culturally relevant prevention messages

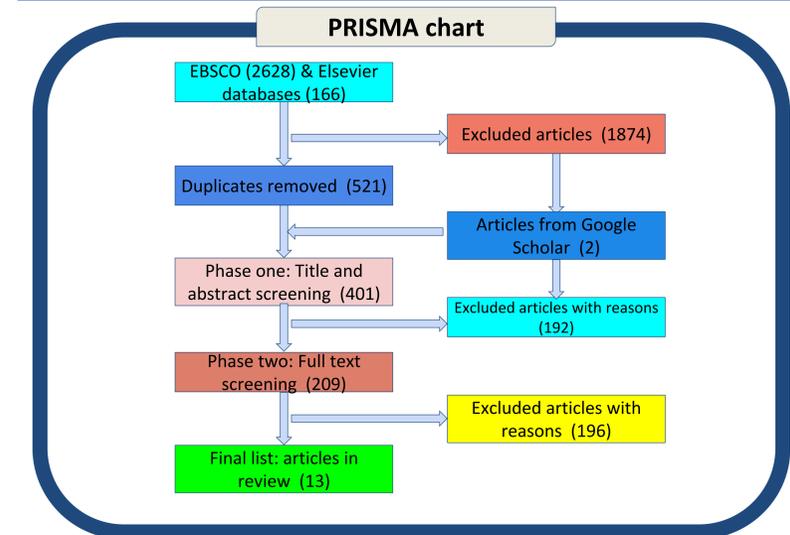
Figure 1

References



Results

- 13 articles were included in the final review.
 - 7 studies reported risk and protective factors.
 - 2 studies reported protective factors only.
 - 4 studies reported risk factors only.



Discussion

- Risk factors of tobacco use among African American youth is influenced by multiple factors, including nicotine addiction, low harm perception, and exposure to tobacco marketing.
- Protective factors, such as high parental monitoring and exposure to health harm information, play a crucial role in reducing tobacco use among African American youth.
- Future prevention programs must be culturally relevant and address systemic influences.
- There is a need for more qualitative research to understand the lived experiences of African American youth regarding e-cigarette and tobacco use. Future studies should focus on conducting in-depth interviews and focus groups to explore the social and cultural contexts of vaping behaviors and tobacco use.
- Future studies should also examine longitudinal trends in risk and protective factors to identify changes over time and assess the effectiveness of existing policies and interventions.