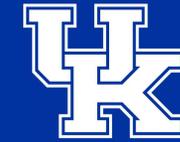


# Exploring Risk and Protective Factors of Tobacco Use Among African American Youth

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## 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.<sup>1,2</sup>
- African American youth who historically reported lower cigarette smoking rates are increasingly affected by targeted marketing.<sup>3</sup>
- Understanding the risk and protective factors among African American youth is key to informing the development of culturally tailored interventions and evidence-based policies.<sup>4</sup>
- 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
<b>Individual</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Being Male</li> <li>Older adolescent</li> <li>Lesbian &amp; black intersectionality</li> <li>Nicotine addiction</li> <li>Curiosity</li> <li>Sensory appeal</li> <li>Susceptibility</li> <li>Lower grades</li> <li>Low harm perception</li> <li>Belief in smoking as stress relief</li> <li>Current marijuana, polytobacco use</li> <li>Cigar use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Younger adolescent</li> <li>Higher grades</li> <li>Perception of harm</li> <li>Exposure to health information</li> </ul>
<b>Relationship</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Living with a tobacco user</li> <li>Peer and family use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High parental monitoring</li> <li>Parent communicating rules and expectations</li> <li>Family stability</li> </ul>
<b>Community</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Racial teasing</li> <li>Easy access to tobacco products</li> <li>Exposure to secondhand smoke and living in multiunit housing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited access to tobacco products</li> <li>Community support messages</li> </ul>
<b>Societal</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High exposure to e-cig marketing</li> <li>Discrimination and stress</li> <li>Limited access to cessation programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exposure to awareness of tobacco marketing tactics</li> <li>High social media recall of anti vaping campaigns</li> <li>Culturally relevant prevention messages</li> </ul>

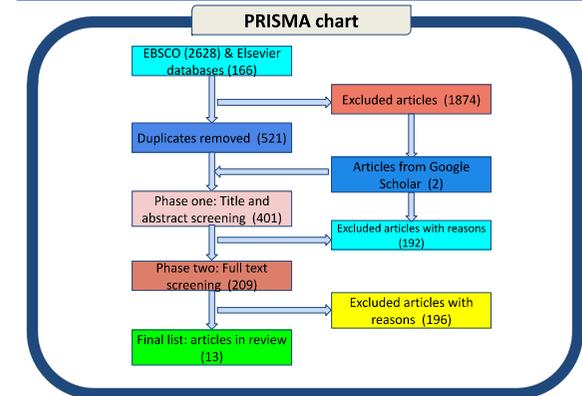
Figure 1

## 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.