

Introduction:

- COPD is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality internationally.
- The number of people with COPD (pwCOPD) around the world is growing, causing an increase in the socioeconomic burden of the disease.
- Stigmatisation negatively impacts healthcare utilisation and quality of life for pwCOPD.
- Although COPD-associated stigma has been explored in several small-scale studies, evidence on its causes and implications has not yet been synthesised.

Aim and Objectives

Aim:

- To conduct a qualitative meta-synthesis investigating the phenomenon of stigma in COPD.

Objectives:

1. To explore the causes of stigma in COPD.
2. To describe the impact stigma has on the lives of pwCOPD.

Methods:

Methodology:

- Qualitative meta-synthesis

Search strategy:

- Comprehensive search of CINAHL, MEDLINE, EMBASE and PubMed.
- Keywords:
 - COPD or Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or Chronic obstructive lung disease
 - Stigma*
 - Qualitative research or Qualitative stud* or Subjective or Perception

Inclusion and exclusion criteria:

Include:

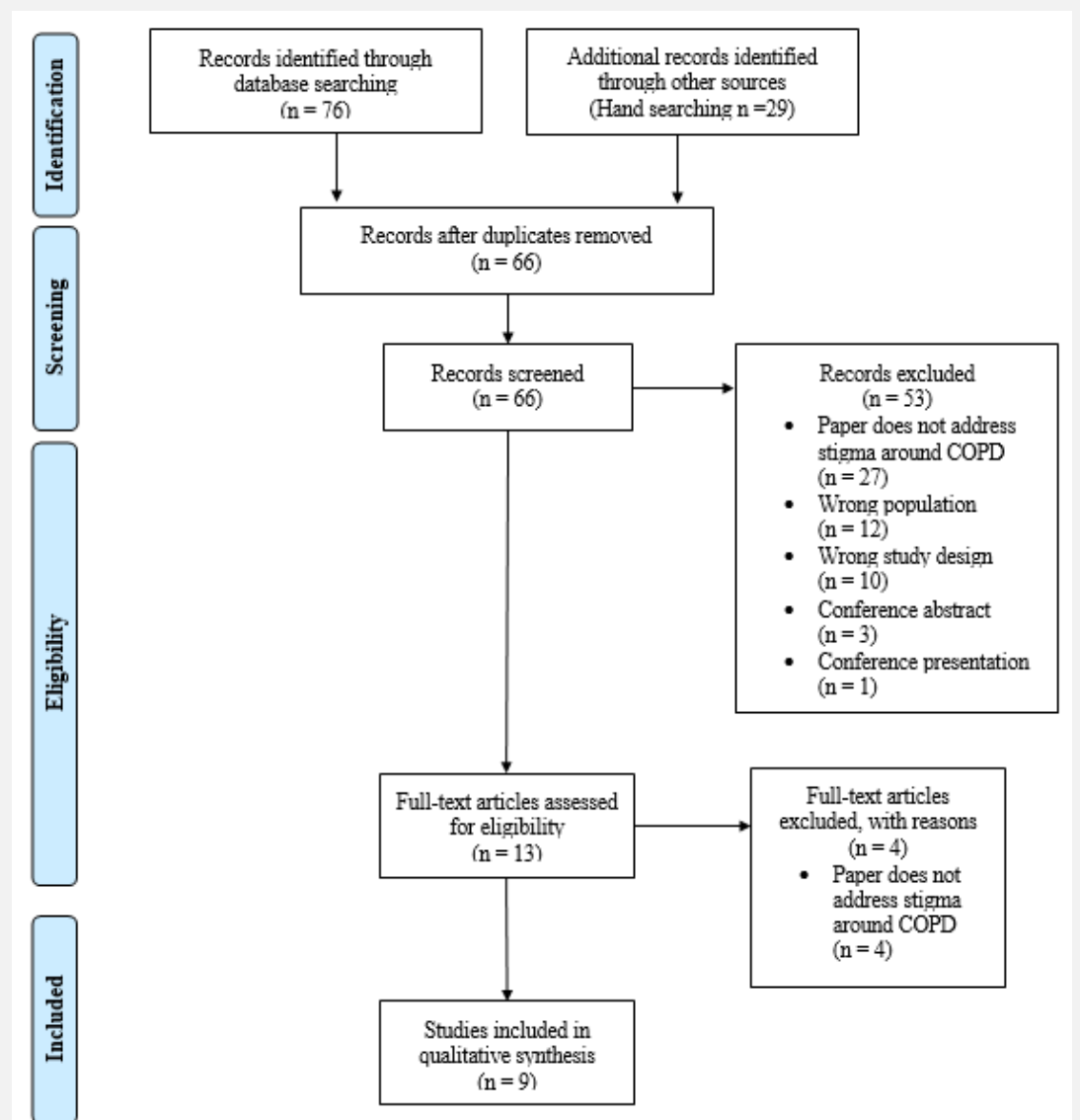
- Primary qualitative research
- Mixed-methods research if qualitative data can be extracted separately
- Studies addressing causes of stigma in COPD
- Studies addressing impact of stigma on the lives of those with COPD

Exclude:

- Studies not published in English
- Primary quantitative research
- Systematic reviews
- Meta-analyses
- Conference abstracts
- Presentations

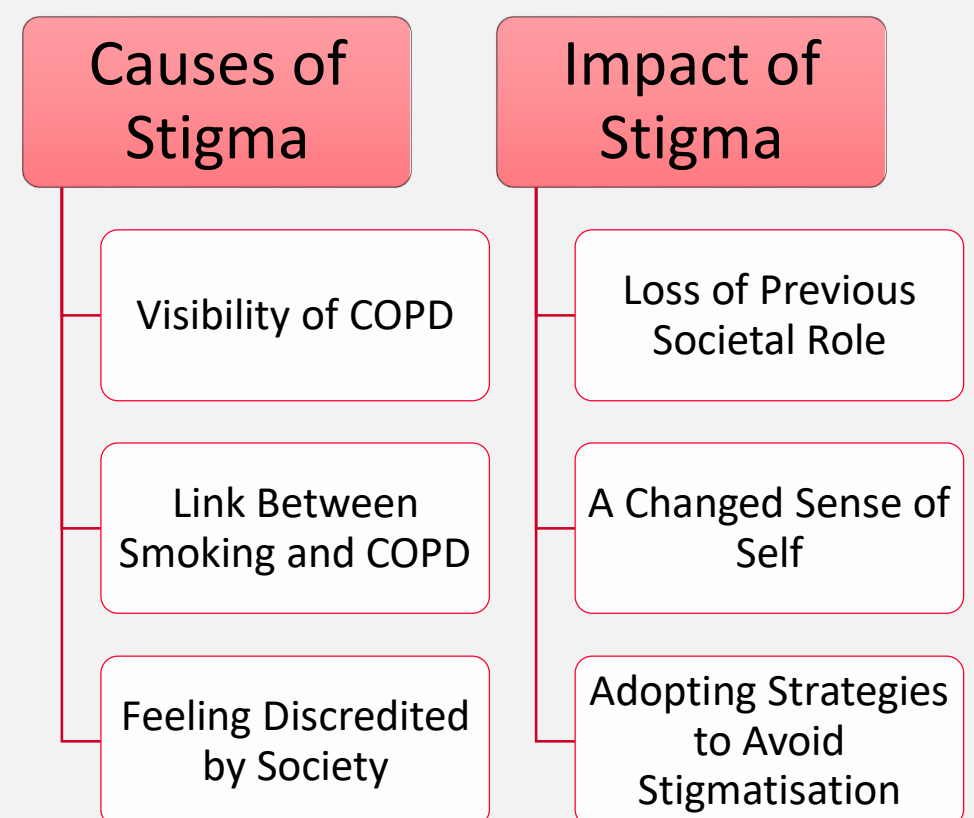
Results:

- Nine high-quality studies were included.



Themes Established:

- Three key themes were identified as causes of COPD-related stigma and an additional three themes described the impact of COPD-related stigma on pwCOPD.



Conclusion: Stigmatisation of COPD stems from society's negative perceptions of the disease and people with the disease and has several adverse psychosocial and lifestyle implications for pwCOPD.