

## 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:**

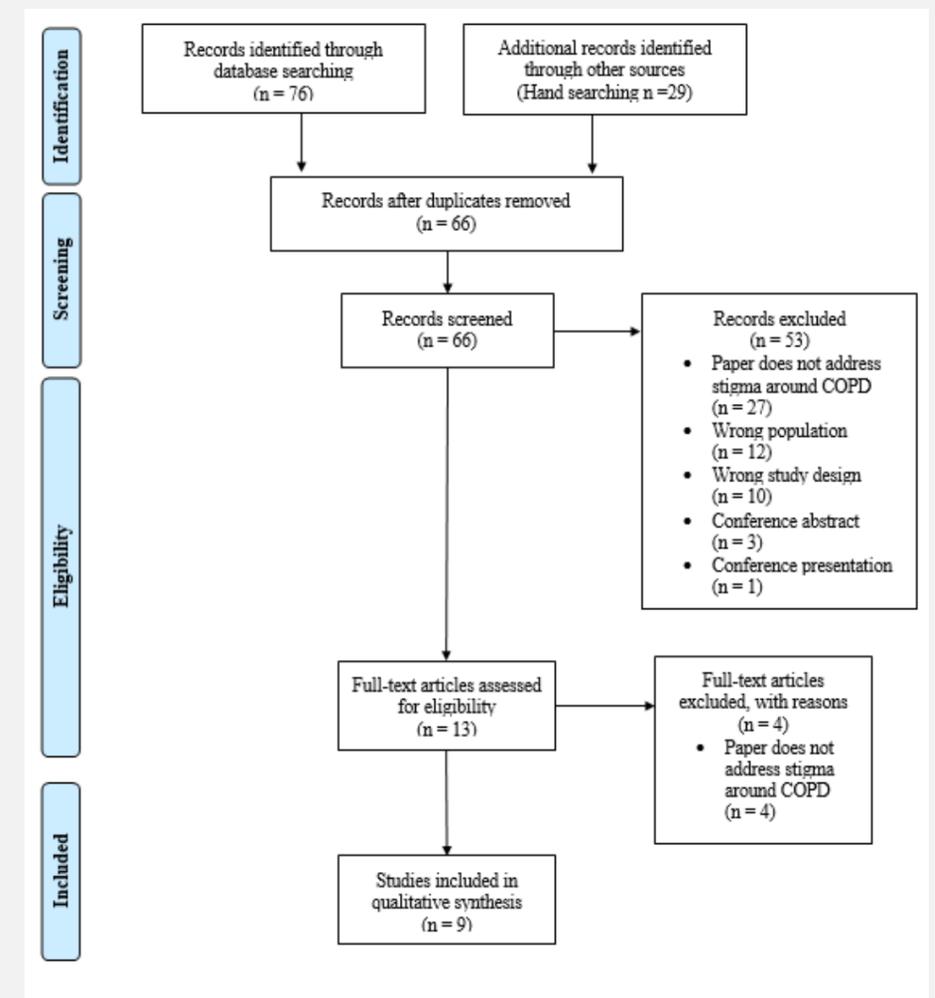
- Primary qualitative research
- Mixed-methods research if qualitative data can be extracted separately
- Studies addressing causes of stigma in COPD
- Studies addressing impact of stigma on the lives of those with COPD

#### **Exclude:**

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

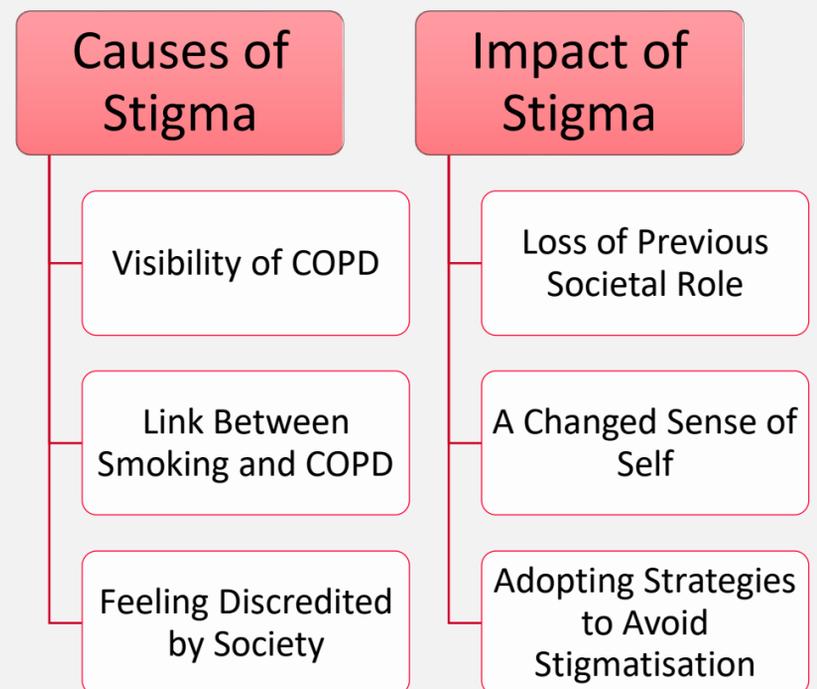
## Results:

- 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.