

An Integrative Review of Civil Liberty-Based Rationales for Vaccine Hesitancy

Mikayla Cann, BSN student
Mentor: Wendy Bauer, PhD, RN

Background

- Vaccination hesitancy has caused an international resurgence of vaccine preventable diseases.
- Individuals have increasingly used civil liberty-based rationales emphasizing individual freedom-of-choice and opposition to government mandates when refusing vaccinations.
- As vaccine hesitancy increases there is a need to improve understanding of such rationales.
- The likelihood of nurses encountering vaccine hesitancy and their involvement in conversations about vaccinations will likely increase with the COVID-19 pandemic and related vaccinations.

Purpose

To describe the current evidence related to civil liberty-based rationales for vaccine hesitancy and denial among individuals engaged in immunization decision-making.

Methods

- An integrative literature review using methodology as described by Whittemore & Knafl was conducted.
- The PRISMA checklist was used to increase process transparency and support a comprehensive search.
- Braun & Clarke's thematic approach was used for analysis.

Search strategy:

- Databases:** Academic Search Complete, Alt HealthWatch, Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL), Health Source, MEDLINE, PsycARTICLES, PsycINFO, and PubMed
- Search terms:** Vaccine hesitancy, vaccine refusal, vaccine acceptance, civil liberty, nursing
- Reference lists of included studies and the grey literature were hand-searched.
- Inclusion criteria:** English language, full-text, published 2013-2021 in a peer-reviewed journal, data-based investigations of individual and/or parent vaccination decision-making
- Exclusion criteria:** Dissertations, theses, opinions, commentaries, conference proceedings, published abstracts

Results

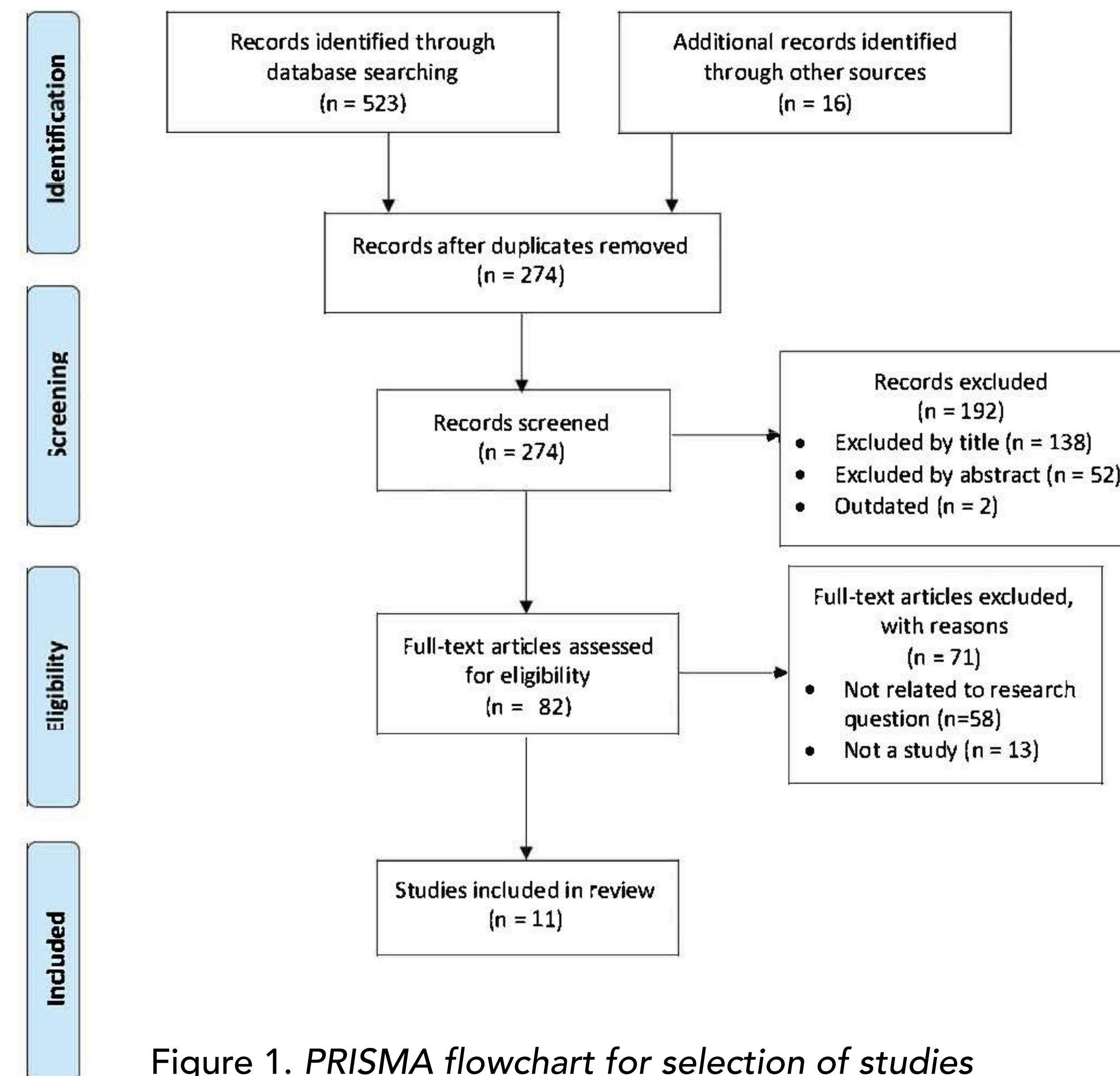


Figure 1. PRISMA flowchart for selection of studies

Themes	Definition
Freedom from oppression	Threats to self-determination influence decision-making
Perceived autonomy	Perceived behavioral control and personal attitudes influence decision-making
Resisting interference	Threats to morality influence decision-making

Table 1. Summary of themes from literature review

- Based on analysis of the findings of the studies included in this review, perceived behavioral control and attitudes are key factors influencing civil liberty-based rationales for vaccine hesitancy.
- Perceived threats to autonomy within a civil-liberties frame influence vaccine decision-making across the continuum with threats to morality and self-determination key to outright refusal.

Author(s) Year/Country	Focus	Methods	Sample	Theme
Amin et al. (2017) United States	Relationships between moral foundations, attitudes, and beliefs towards vaccines	Quantitative survey	n=1,007; n=464 adult parents with children < 13 years of age	Resisting interference
Atwell et al. (2017) Australia	Trust and distrust of parents' perceptions of expert systems central to vaccination policy and practice	Qualitative semi-structured interviews	n = 27 adult parents who declined vaccination for their children	Freedom from oppression
Broniatowski et al. (2020) United States	How Facebook pages frame vaccine opposition	Mixed methods content analysis	n = 204 Facebook pages expressing vaccine opposition	Freedom from oppression
Dubé et al. (2018) Canada	Vaccine hesitancy and factors associated with intention to vaccinate	Quantitative survey	n = 2,013 adult parents with children aged 24-59 months	Perceived autonomy
Finkelstein et al. (2020) United States	How psychological reactance impacts perceptions of physician communication about vaccination	Quantitative survey	n = 300 adult parents of children currently under the care of a pediatrician	Perceived autonomy
Massot et al. (2018) France	Perceptions of and attitudes toward vaccination	Quantitative online questionnaire	n = 917 midwives currently working or in training	Perceived autonomy
McDonald et al. (2019) United States	Effect of SB-277 on vaccine decision-making among California home schoolers	Qualitative interviews	n = 24 adult mothers with a child enrolled in kindergarten - 12 th grade legalized home-based education	Perceived autonomy
Mohanty et al. (2020) United States	Parental decision to homeschool to avoid vaccination requirements of California SB277	Quantitative survey	n = 140 adult homeschooling parents in California who use legal option for homeschooling	Perceived autonomy
Moretti et al. (2020) Italy	Adherence and attitudes of nursing home staff towards flu vaccination and explore staff hesitancy	Quantitative questionnaire	n = 166 adult vaccine hesitant nursing home staff	Perceived autonomy
Rossen et al. (2019) Australia	Moral roots of anti-vaccination attitudes amongst Australian parents active on social media parenting sites	Quantitative questionnaire	n = 296 parents or guardians active on social media parenting sites	Resisting interference
Thomas et al. (2019) United States	Parental knowledge and hesitancy of HPV vaccination	Quantitative survey	n = 123 adult parents with children ages 9-13	Perceived autonomy

Table 2. Summary of articles included in literature review

Conclusion

- These findings support the existing literature identifying that civil liberty-based rationales to refuse vaccination are centered on individual autonomy and control of health decisions.
- This review supports the need to equip healthcare providers with effective interventions to counteract civil-liberty based rationales.
- Insights gained from this review can inform the development of evidence-based interventions for responding to civil liberty-based refusals.
- Evidence from this review can support continued research aimed at the development of standardized screening measures that address civil-liberty based rationales for vaccine hesitancy.

Acknowledgments

The original study associated with this Honors Thesis project was supported with a faculty research stipend through the Menard Center for the Study of Institutions and Innovation (MCSII). We are thankful for Brandon Bauer, associate professor of art at St. Norbert College, for intercoder analytic support.