

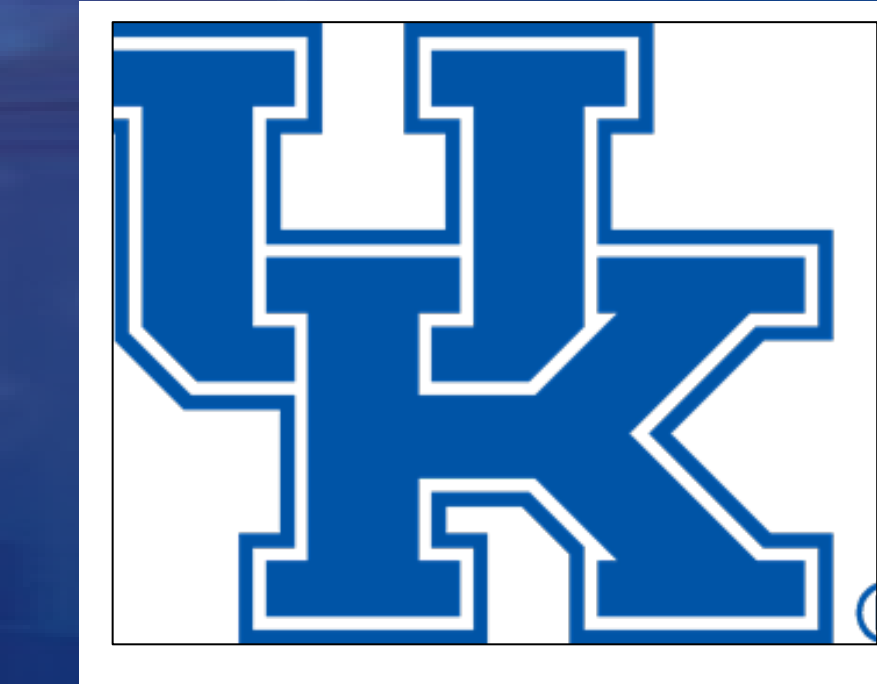
A Scoping Review: Forced/Coerced Sterilization as a Socio-Cultural Risk Factor for Sexually Transmitted HIV for Older Black Women

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BACKGROUND

Understanding socio-cultural factors that influence older (age 50 and up) Black women's risk for sexually transmitted HIV has often been absent from policies and programs. Older Black American women face a disproportionate risk of sexually transmitted HIV acquisition and higher mortality and morbidity rates than other racial and ethnic groups (Sangaramoorthy, Jamison, & Dyer, 2019). The socio-cultural effects of sterilization patterns should be considered when assessing and creating sexual health interventions for older Black women because it can be deemed as a risk factor that is unique to older women.

Research Question:

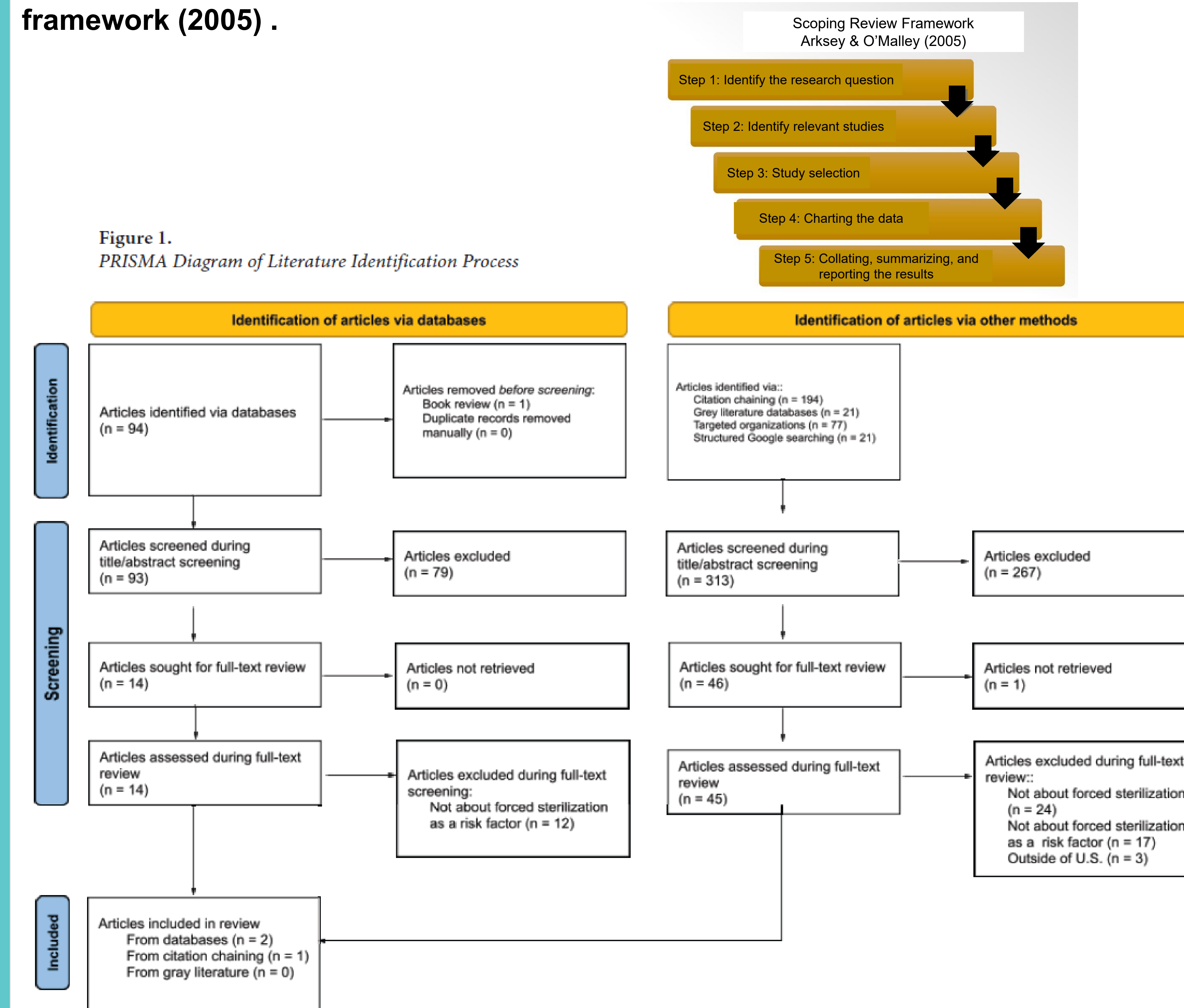
What does academic literature reveal about forced/coerced sterilization as a risk factor for older Black women who are disproportionately affected by sexually transmitted HIV?

Hypothesis:

Reproductive health history is an extra individual-level factor that is associated with HIV vulnerabilities and places older Black women at increased risk for HIV transmission and acquisition.

METHODS

This study is a scoping review that follows the Arksey and O'Malley scoping review framework (2005).



The authors identified academic and gray literature published between 2000 and 2023.

- Of the 407 sources identified and screened, **three articles** met the criteria for inclusion.
- One study focused on birth control conspiracy beliefs, another focused on racial differences in Norplant use, and the third focused on the intergenerational transmission of mistrust of medical care that influences HIV prevention among Black Americans.

Discussion

Table 1. Characteristics of the Articles Meeting Inclusion Criteria

Year	Authors	Title	Study Design	Participants	No. of participants	Contribution
2013	Gaston & Alleyne-Green	The impact of African Americans' beliefs about HIV medical care on treatment adherence: A systematic review and recommendations for interventions	Systematic review	n/a	n/a	Provided history on forced sterilizations, social location, intersection analyses.
2005	Austin	Women's STD prevention and detection practices: The specificity of social location	Secondary data analyses	10,482	n=2,446 were AA, 23.3%	Intersectional analysis; challenges normative views hurt efforts to improve women's sexual health
2005	Thorburn-Bird & Bogart	Conspiracy beliefs about HIV/AIDS and birth control among African Americans: implications for the prevention of HIV, other STIs, and unintended pregnancy	Concept paper	n/a	n/a	Provided history on conspiracy beliefs about HIV/AIDS and birth control

The findings reveal little about sterilization as a risk factor for older Black women's HIV susceptibility. Further investigation is warranted because the link has not been made despite the history of reproductive injustices that affected this group.

Strengths: A rigorous research methodology was used to find all relevant publications which fit the selection criteria. Incorporating the use of gray literature proved insightful during stage 2.

Limitations: The review included all types of articles and did not assess the generalizability of the findings or quality of studies.



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A full list of references is available upon request.