

Abstract

A tale of two epidemics: A scoping review of the interrelationships between tobacco and violence

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APHA's 2020 VIRTUAL Annual Meeting and Expo (Oct. 24 - 28)

background

Tobacco use and violence, two preventable, leading causes of death, must be addressed in order to eliminate health disparities in the US. Recent literature has drawn comparisons between tobacco and violence prevention approaches, given the impact and duration of the epidemics across history. However, a paucity of studies have attempted to explicate interrelationships between tobacco and violence. This scoping review explored how relationships between tobacco and violence have been conceptualized in the extant literature, using an ecological framework.

methods

Following PRISMA-ScR, we conducted literature searches in PubMed, SCOPUS, CINAHL, and Google Scholar to identify relevant articles published in the US from 2000-2020. Tobacco (e.g., use, industry/retailer, policy) and violence (e.g., self-directed, interpersonal, collective) were broadly defined. Two reviewers screened titles and abstracts of articles, followed by full-text reviews. Data from our final sample of 140 studies were grouped according to typology of violence.

results

Articles spanned all levels of the ecological framework; however, few studies explicitly highlighted community or policy-level actions (e.g. sale, advertising, manufacturing, and/or trafficking of tobacco or firearms), or conceptualized these as violence perpetration. Most studies detailed relationships between interpersonal violence and tobacco use, with experiencing direct violence as a risk for use. Articles depicting collective or structural violence used the term violence infrequently.

conclusions

Narrowly defined, direct conceptualizations of tobacco and violence persist in the literature. Research on interrelationships between tobacco and violence, extending beyond individual behavior, could bridge identified gaps and frame questions important for health equity.

Advocacy for health and health education Public health or related laws, regulations, standards, or guidelines
Public health or related public policy Public health or related research

