

An Examination of Treating Substance Use in Mothers with Young Children: A Scoping Review of the Literature

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Background

- There is a narrowing in the gender gap between substance use disorder (SUD) in males and in females (McHugh, et al., 2014; Niccols et al., 2012; Greenfield et al., 2010).
- Majority of females in treatment for a SUD have children (Moreland & McRae-Clark, 2018; Urbanoski et al., 2018; Forray, 2016; Niccols et al., 2012; Milligan et al., 2010).
- The negative effects of SUD extend beyond the mother and have significant implications for the child (Forray, 2016).
- Traditionally, SUD treatment programs have been male-dominated (Greenfield et al., 2010).
- Integrative treatment programs have shown favorable outcomes; defined by emphasizing the mother-child relationship and responding to multiple conditions, including a collaboration of services, and incorporating trauma-informed therapy components (Kelly & Daley, 2013; Urbanoski et al., 2018; Andrews et al., 2018; Milligan et al., 2010; Moreland & McRae-Clark, 2018).
- **Objective:** Review the current state of maternal substance use programs through a scoping review.

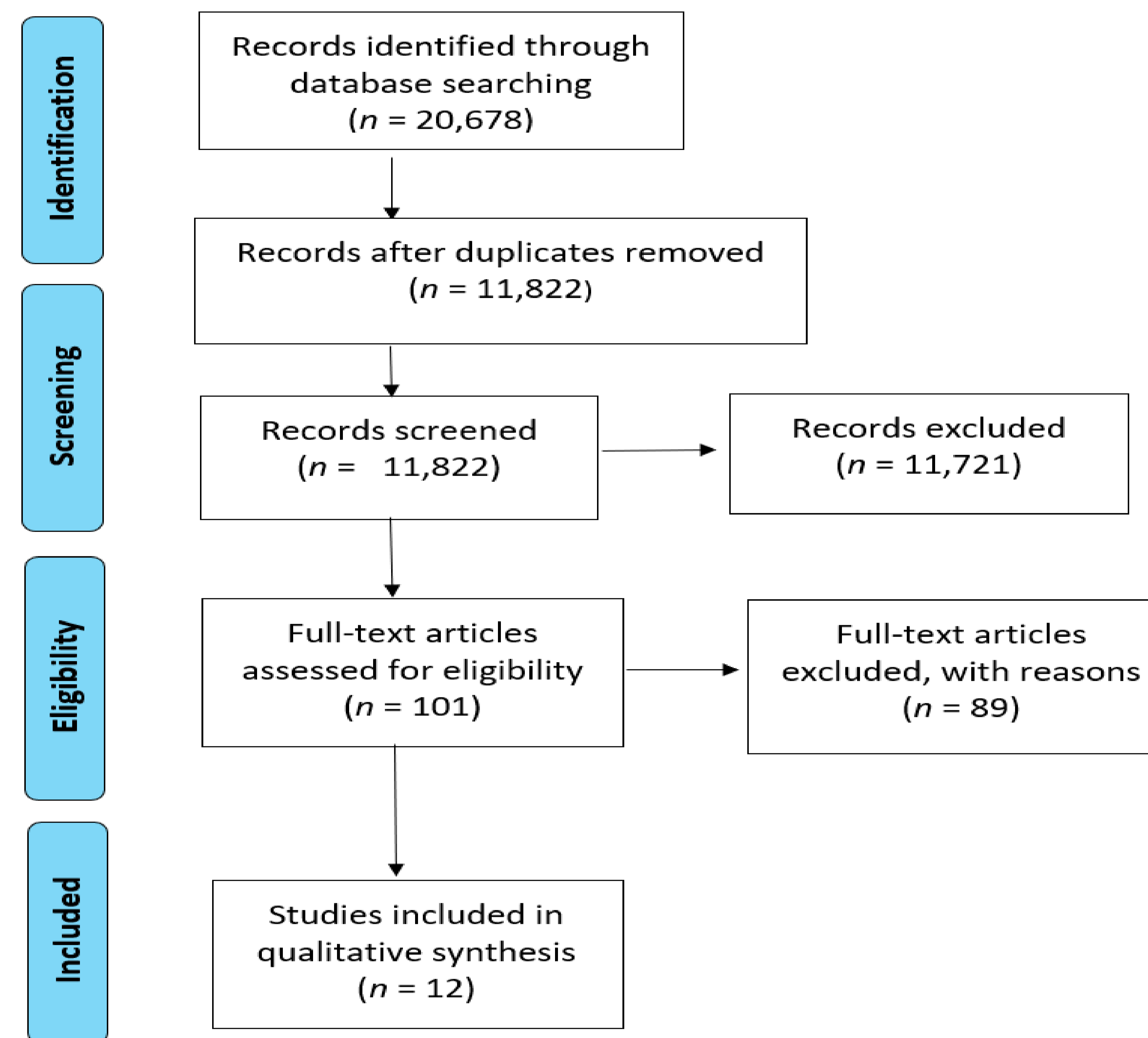


Figure 1. PRISMA Flow Chart of Study Inclusion Process (Moher et al., 2009)

Discussion

- Results highlight the lack of integrative treatment programs for mother with SUD.
- Further, there is a lack of maternal-SUD specific treatments.
- Instead, SUD outcomes are being tacked onto existing programs such as parenting programs.
- Given the potential benefits, future research should focus on implementing integrative treatment programs that are designed to better meet the specific needs of mothers and their children.

Methods

- **Inclusion Criteria:**
 - (a) Original peer-reviewed research,
 - (b) years of inclusion (2000-Present),
 - (c) measure of substance use post-treatment or measure of child mental health,
 - (d) at least one post-treatment measure,
 - (e) a control group, &
 - (f) child between the ages of 0-5.
- **Databases Searched:** Medline, PsycINFO, PubMed, and PsycARTICLES
- **Process:**
 - All articles were screened by two independent researchers.
 - Disagreements were discussed with group members until consensus was met.
 - In the event of missing data, relating to inclusion, corresponding authors were contacted.

Key Findings

- Outpatient Treatments: $n = 12$
- Home Visiting: $n = 5$
- Programs delivered by:
 - Paraprofessionals: $n = 6$
 - Masters: $n = 4$
 - Doctors: $n = 4$
- SUD Targeted Treatment Programs: $n = 2$
- Integrative SUD Treatment Program: $n = 1$
- Other:
 - Individual Parenting Programs: $n = 5$
 - Infant/Child Development: $n = 2$

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