

Canadian Doctoral Nursing Network Conference Abstract - 2021

Title: A Systematic Investigation of Public Health Interventions Aimed at Preventing the Initiation of Youth Vaping

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Stage in doctoral program: Proposal development

Background: Rising vaping behaviours among youth are a troubling public health concern because of harmful health effects. Public health interventions targeting the prevention of vaping are needed to protect the health of our next generation, and further investigation into their efficacy is required. Furthermore, a contemporary description of primary vaping prevention interventions being implemented across Ontario is needed.

Objectives: The objectives of this three-phase study are to: 1) conduct a thorough investigation of existing public health interventions aimed at preventing youth vaping initiation; 2) investigate regional vaping prevalence and associated demographic and behavioural characteristics among youth and adolescents across the province of Ontario; and 3) seek additional context for differences across Ontario through input from public health key informants.

Methods: First, a scoping review will be conducted using the Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) scoping review methodology to identify public health interventions preventing the initiation of youth vaping. The focus will be on compiling programs, synthesizing common components and aggregating evidence of efficacy. Second, a descriptive population-level analysis of Ontario school-based survey data will be conducted to examine the prevalence of vaping across various demographic and behaviour characteristics. Last, using a qualitative descriptive design, semi-structured interviews and document analysis will be conducted to investigate the range of prevention interventions implemented across Ontario to enhance our understanding of regional variations.

Implications: Enhancing our knowledge of effective public health interventions targeting youth vaping is imperative. The results from this study are anticipated to generate high impact insights into this emerging field to inform ongoing and future development of public health policies, practices and programs related to vaping and form a platform for further inquiry and collaboration.