

Review Protocol

Project Information

Review Title	Perceived status threat and the health of white Americans: A scoping review
Project Lead	Caroline R. Efird, MPH ^{1,2}
Team Members	Arjumand Siddiqi, ScD, MPH ³ Falan Bennett, MPH (degree completed and awaiting graduation) ³ Jonathan M. Metzl, MD, PhD, MA ^{4,5}
Date	August 11, 2021
Institution(s)	1. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Gillings School of Global Public Health 2. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research 3. University of Toronto, Dalla Lana School of Public Health 4. Vanderbilt University, College of Arts and Sciences 5. Vanderbilt University, School of Medicine

Background

Pre-pandemic rising white mortality in the United States is not explained by traditional social and economic population health indicators, suggesting that white Americans' *perceived* decline in relative status is a determinant of increases in white mortality.¹ Not only does the mechanism of status threat explain white Americans' widespread support for many of the racist views and policies propagated by the Trump Administration,²⁻³ social scientists have found that status threat is also related to declines in whites' health at the population level.¹ Understanding how status threat affects the health outcomes of whites and the mechanisms, such as health behaviors, that lead to these outcomes is a necessary component of addressing population level health inequities. For example, pandemic denial, mask hesitancy, and COVID-19 vaccination hesitancy have been pervasive among whites who politically align with Trumpian ideology,⁴⁻⁷ which has health-harmful implications for both white Americans and racially marginalized populations who are put at-risk by unvaccinated whites' mask avoidance. Because white Americans' social and political beliefs can affect health at the population level, it is critically important to capture emerging literature concerning whites' perceived status threat.



Objective

This scoping review seeks to document what is currently known about status threat in the social and medical sciences, and to synthesize how status threat influences white Americans' health and health behaviors. Primarily, we will explore how status threat has been measured across disciplines. Additionally, we will determine which health outcomes, and potentially health behaviors, are known to be related to status threat. We will summarize current literature, identify gaps in the existing knowledge base, and inform directions for future research on the topic.

Search Strategy

Databases

List the bibliographic databases to be searched.

Below is a list of multi-disciplinary academic databases that our research team will search:

- EBSCO-PsycInfo
- ProQuest Political Science Database
- ProQuest-Sociological Abstracts
- PubMed
- Scopus
- Social Science Research Network

Hand Searching

Google Scholar

Experts or Stakeholders

N/A

Reference Searches

If we are not limited by time constraints, we will review citations from the final list of selected articles to determine if any of the references from those studies meet our inclusion criteria.

Eligibility Criteria

Inclusion Criteria	Exclusion Criteria
Peer-reviewed research article	Not a peer-reviewed research article (e.g. editorials, commentaries, book chapters, etc.)
White Americans are the key study population or comparison group	White Americans are not identified as the key study population or comparison group



Related to a health outcome, health belief, or health behavior	Does not address a health outcome, health belief, or health behavior
Examines the health effects of status threat and/or describes the effects of study participants' perceptions of their social position as compared to others	Does not analyze or describe constructs related to status threat or perceived status
Full-text available	Full-text of article not available

Data Extraction

Caroline Efird (CE) will conduct initial database search and duplication processes. Next, CE and Falan Bennett (FB) will conduct independent review and selection. All authors will examine/approve the final list of articles before CE and FB begin the extraction process.

We will collect the following information from the final list:

- Author(s)
- Year of publication
- Aims/purpose
- Study population and sample size (if applicable)
- Methodology/methods
- Health-related construct that was studied (if applicable)
- Intervention type/duration, outcome measures (if applicable)
- Outcomes and details of these (e.g. how measured) (if applicable)
- Key findings that relate to status threat

Study Quality Assessment

N/A

Data Synthesis

For each included article we will extract information pertaining to the data collection categories listed above. We will then summarize existing literature surrounding status threat and its potential health implications. To identify areas of future research and gaps in current literature, we are also interested in documenting specific health outcomes and health behaviors that are related to perceived status threat.

Project Tools

Software programs used for this project will include: SciWheel, Covidence, and potentially Atlas.ti



Project Timetable

	July 2021	Aug 2021	Sept 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	Dec 2021	Jan 2022
Preparation							
Conduct searches							
Ti/Ab + Full Text Selection							
Data collection							
Conduct synthesis & interpret results							
Write manuscript							

Research Team Member Roles

Describe the different tasks on the review and who will be responsible for what.

Task	Description	Team Member Responsible
Preparation	Preparation includes the development of project protocol and preliminary organization for conducting the scoping review	CE, AS
Conduct Searches	<p>Searches will be conducted using the aforementioned databases and websites</p> <p>The following search terms will be used:</p> <p>("European continental ancestry group"[Mesh] OR "caucasian*" [tiab] OR "white people" [tiab] OR "white American*" [tiab] OR "whites" [tiab] OR "white" [ti])</p> <p>AND</p> <p>("social status" [tiab] OR "social position" [tiab] OR "socioeconomic position" [tiab] OR "socioeconomic status" [tiab] OR "social class" [tiab] OR "class status" [tiab] OR privilege* [tiab] OR "perceived status" [tiab] OR "subjective social status" [tiab] OR "subjective status" [tiab] OR "supremacy" [tiab] OR</p>	CE



	<p>"advantage*" [tiab] OR "psychological distance" [Mesh])</p> <p>AND</p> <p>("social status threat*" [tiab] OR "status threat*" [tiab] OR "social threat*" [tiab] OR "perceived threat*" [tiab] OR "threat theory" [tiab] OR "threat" [tiab] OR "perceived racial discrimination" [tiab] OR "perceived discrimination" [tiab] OR "loss" [tiab] OR "social cognition" [tiab] OR "victimhood" [tiab])</p> <p>AND</p> <p>("health" [tiab] OR "healthcare" [tiab] OR "death* of despair" [tiab] OR "mortality rate*" [tiab] OR "mortality" [Mesh] OR "suicide" [Mesh] OR "opioid" [tiab] OR "drug overdose" [Mesh] OR "substance-related disorders" [Mesh] OR "substance abuse" [tiab] OR "substance misuse" [tiab] OR "mental health" [tiab] OR "mental illness" [tiab] OR "depression" [Mesh] OR "anxiety" [Mesh] OR "distress" [tiab] OR "stress" [tiab] OR "stressor*" [tiab])</p> <p><i>Note: MeSH terms are specific to PubMed</i></p>	
Ti/abstract+full text selection	Review of all included articles using Covidence software: CE & FB will independently conduct initial title reviews, all authors will participate in the approval of selected articles	CE, FB, AS, JM
Data collection	Data will be extracted from the final list of selected titles	CE, FB
Data synthesis and interpretation of results	Synthesis and results interpretation will consist of an analysis of the extracted data	CE, FB, AS, JM
Write manuscript	Manuscript preparation will be led by CE & AS and all authors will contribute to the development of manuscript	CE, FB, AS, JM

References

Articles cited in this Review Protocol:

1. Siddiqi, A., Sod-Erdene, O., Hamilton, D., Cottom, T. M., & Darity, W. (2019). Growing sense of social status threat and concomitant deaths of despair among whites. *SSM -*



Population Health, 9, 100449.

2. Bobo, L. D. (2017). Racism in Trump's America: reflections on culture, sociology, and the 2016 US presidential election. *The British Journal of Sociology*, 68(S1), S85–S104.
3. Mutz, D. C. (2018). Status threat, not economic hardship, explains the 2016 presidential vote. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 115(19), E4330–E4339.
4. DeMora, S. L., Merolla, J. L., Newman, B., & Zechmeister, E. J. (2021). Reducing mask resistance among white evangelical Christians with value-consistent messages. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 118(21).
5. Matta, M., Stecula, D., Farhart, C. (2020). How right-leaning media coverage of COVID-19 facilitated the spread of misinformation in the early stages of the pandemic in the U.S. *Canadian Journal of Political Science*. 53, 335–342.
6. Russonello G. (2020). Afraid of coronavirus? That might say something about your politics. *NY Times*, 13 March 2020.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/13/us/politics/coronavirus-trump-polling.html>. Accessed 15 July 2021.
7. Hornsey, M. J., Finlayson, M., Chatwood, G., & Begeny, C. T. (2020). Donald Trump and vaccination: the effect of political identity, conspiracist ideation and presidential tweets on vaccine hesitancy. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 88, 103947.

This Review Protocol was originally created by Sarah Visintini, Maritime SPOR SUPPORT Unit and adapted from the following resources:

Cochrane Public Health Group. (2011) Guide for developing a Cochrane protocol. Retrieved from:

http://ph.cochrane.org/sites/ph.cochrane.org/files/uploads/Guide%20for%20PH%20protocol%20Nov%202011_final%20for%20website.pdf.

Dartmouth Biomedical Libraries. (2012). Systematic Review Steps. Retrieved from

<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~library/biomed/services/lgr/docs/SR-Steps-Roles-revised.docx>

Durham University Community. (2009). Template for a Systematic Literature Review Protocol.

Retrieved from <https://community.dur.ac.uk/ebse/resources/templates/SLRTemplate.pdf>.

Warwick Medical School. (n.d.) Protocol Template: Systematic Review. Retrieved from

http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/med/staff/bridle/sr/protocol_template.doc.

World Health Organization. (2011). Review Protocol Template. Retrieved from

http://www.who.int/hrh/education/Rec1_CPDforfacultyteachingstaff.pdf.

Additionally, this Systematic Review Protocol Template was adapted by Caroline Efird to suit the specific needs of our Scoping Review.



Review Protocol Template by Sarah Visintini is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/).