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Background:

Prostate cancer research literature has shown the impact of prostate disease on First Nations men, with evidence of increasing mortality rates due to lack of engagement with health services and aggressive cancer pathologies reported in these men. A culture of silence has been reported for diverse groups of men, particularly for reproductive and sexual health. A closer examination of studies at patient, provider and service level, can be instrumental towards highlighting how silence contributes to barriers to care and increasing mortality rates. The objective of this systematic scoping review is to understand the extent and nature of evidence regarding the culture of silence among First Nations men and how this impacts symptom appraisal, interpretation, help-seeking, diagnosis and post-diagnosis experience of prostate cancer in Australia and North America.

Methods:

Searches were conducted via MEDLINE, CINAHL, PsycINFO, Embase, Indigenous HealthInfoNet, Informit (Indigenous Collection), Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet, AIATSIS (Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies), Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia. Searches also included indigenous databases: American Indian Histories and Cultures, First Nations gazette, Arctic Health Publications, Canadian Periodical Index and Indigenous Studies portal. There were no restrictions to language or dates to capture all relevant papers. Study selection, data extraction and analysis followed JBI gold-standard framework

Results:

Following abstract and full text screening, 15 studies met the inclusion criteria. Hand searches of included studies are in progress. Main countries represented were Australia, USA and Canada. Preliminary findings showed a scarcity of evidence reflecting pathways to care for prostate cancer for First Nations men. Similarly, there is a dearth of studies focused on the sexual and reproductive health of First Nations men.

Conclusion:

There is an urgent call for research into First Nations men's prostate cancer journey, considering existing health disparities for these men. This has implications for policy development.

Disclose of Interest Statement

The authors declare no competing interests. This project is a partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and informed by a commitment to health equity, cultural safety, and the meaningful inclusion of First Nations voices in research.