

Perinatal Outcomes Among Venezuelan Newcomers, Immigrants, and Refugees

In and towards the U.S. since the 2014 Exodus: A Scoping Review

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BACKGROUND

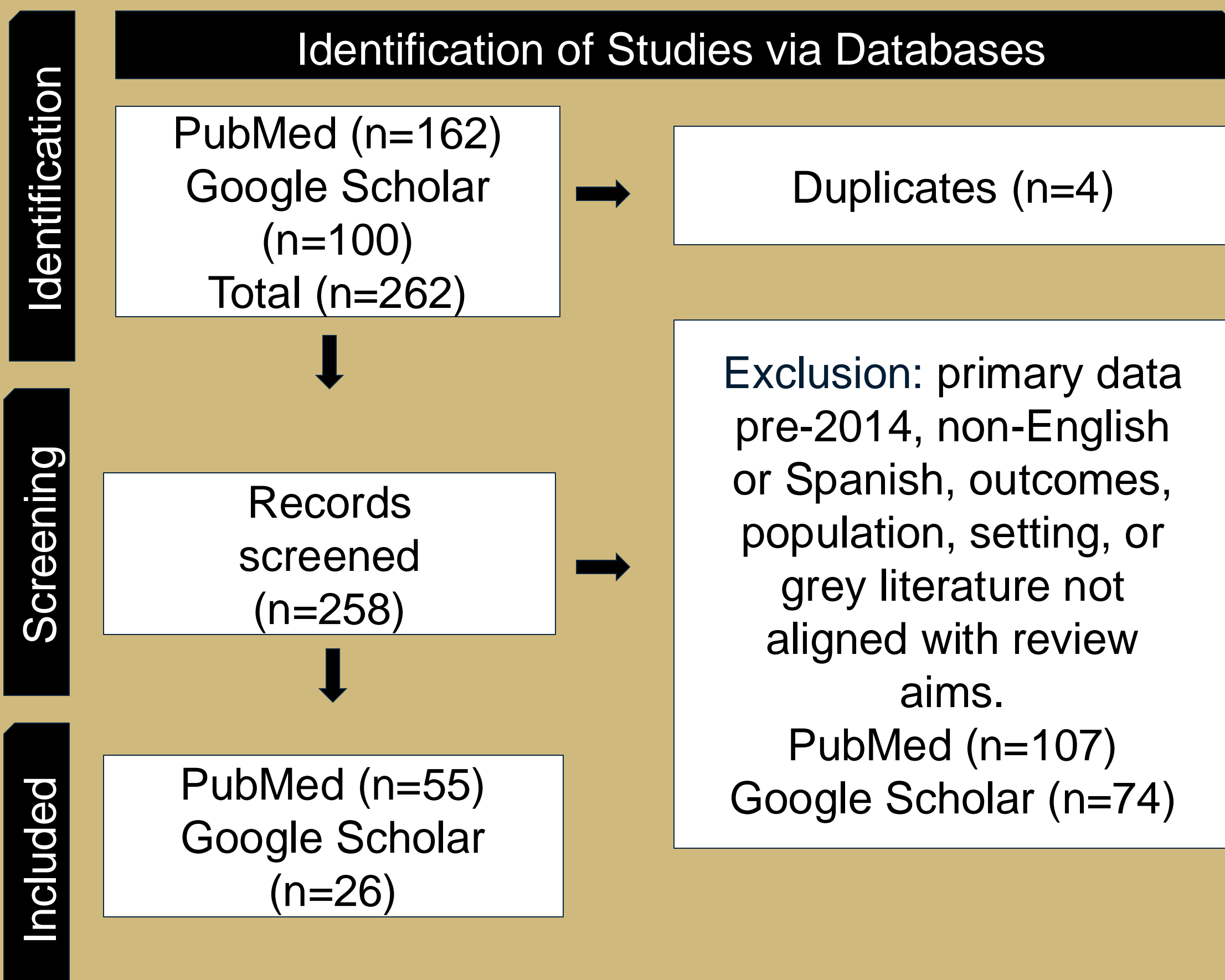
- Since 2014, political, economic, and social turmoil in Venezuela triggered the displacement of over 7.7 million Venezuelans
- Neighboring countries in South America adopted relatively open borders. However, as the influx of migrants increased, these countries began to impose stricter entry requirements, resulting in a drive to countries further up north, including the U.S.
- Venezuelans one of the fastest-growing immigrant groups in the U.S. with a population of 49,000 in 1990 and 660,000 by 2021.
- A large portion of the women fleeing Venezuela are of reproductive age and have unmet reproductive and obstetric needs in their travel and integration in arriving countries.

OBJECTIVE

- Synthesis of the existing literature on perinatal outcomes, barriers to healthcare access, and protective factors among the Venezuelan diaspora outside of Venezuela.

METHODS

- Boolean operators with the Mesh terms: Latinx, Hispanic, immigrant, perinatal outcomes; Google Scholar: "Perinatal Venezuelan immigrant," up to page 10. Publications 2014 and forward.



RESULTS

Primary Outcome Investigated U.S. Publications



Publication Population Specificity Within the U.S. Since 2014

Mexican (n=7)
Hispanic, Latinx, foreign-born, Spanish speaking (n=35)
Continent or Country Detail (n=13)
Venezuelan (n=0)

Publications Focused on Venezuelans

Brazil (n=2) Ecuador (n=2)
Chile (n=2) Peru (n=2)
Colombia (n=13) Multi-site (n=3)

Summary of studies investigating preterm and low birth weight rates in Hispanic/Latinas in the U.S.

Study	Setting	Study time frame	Sample size	Hispanic/Latinx subgroup US-born and outcome	Hispanic/Latinx subgroup foreign-born and outcome	Comparative Statistics vs. non-Hispanic White US-born
(Langer et al., 2024)	U.S.	11/2012 - 11/2018	15,568,710	Hispanic LBW rates Pre-2016 7.3% Post-2016 7.9% Hispanic PTB Pre-2016 10.9% Post-2016 11.9%	Hispanic LBW rates Pre-2016 6.2% Post-2016 6.6% Hispanic PTB Pre-2016 10.7% Post-2016 11.8%	LBW ratesPre-2016 6.6%Post-2016 6.7% PTB ratesPre-2016 9.8%Post-2016 10.1%
(Page et al., 2020)	Texas	09/2017-07/2018	91		Mexican immigrant PTB rate 5.5%	US national average PTB rate 9.9%
(Krieger et al., 2018)	New York City	09/2015-08/2017	230,105	South American PTB Pre-2016 7.2% Post-2016 8.8%	South America PTB rates Pre-2016 7.9% Post-2016 8.0%	PTB rates Pre-2016 5.1% Post-2016 5.0%
(Gemmill et al., 2019)	U.S.	01/2009-10/2016 vs. 11/2016-07/2017	32,860,727	Latina women male infant PTB 11.0% female infant PTB 9.6%		'Other women' male infant PTB 10.2% female infant PTB 9.3%
(Gemmill et al., 2020)	U.S.	01/2009-12/2016	23,055,471	All Latina periviable rates 0.26%-0.38%		non-Latina white 0.18%-0.26%
(Egbe et al., 2021)	Pennsylvania	2011-2014	4,499,259	Hispanic White PTB aRR 1.24 (0.99-1.55)*	Hispanic White PTB aRR 0.77 (0.60-0.98)	Reference

*Not statistically significant

Summary of obstetric complications in Ecuador (Weigel, 2024)

Obstetric complications compared to Ecuadorian Women (reference)	Preeclampsia	Preterm labor	Premature rupture of membranes	Oligohydramnios	Obstructed labor	Perineal lacerations - other obstetric trauma	STIs	Anemia	Ectopic pregnancy
Venezuelan Immigrant adjusted odds	1.62, 95% CI:1.55-1.69	1.20, 95% CI:1.11-1.31	1.72, 95% CI:1.63-1.83	1.24, 95% CI:1.12-1.36	1.39, 95% CI:1.31-1.47	1.76, 95% CI:1.63-1.91	2.59, 95% CI:1.29-2.92	1.33, 95% CI:1.24-1.42	1.16 95% CI:1.04-1.28

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DISCUSSION

- Need for granularity in research on the Latin American population. No U.S. publications on the perinatal outcomes among the Venezuelan diaspora since the 2014 exodus.
- Anti-immigration policies increased pre-term births for all Latinx populations after the 2016 election. This pattern warrants attention due to the current administration's anti-immigrant policies, such as eliminating TPS.
- In South and Central American, consistent barriers to result in minimal, late or no prenatal care, increased C-sections, higher rates of anemia, and lower birth weights.
- Venezuelans don't follow a 'Healthy Immigrant Paradox,' outside the U.S. This epidemiological pattern is inconsistent when various Latinx populations are evaluated separately.
- Cities with a significant proportion of Venezuelan refugees: Miami, Orlando, Houston, New York City, and Chicago – to power future studies to guide policy writers and healthcare providers

LIMITATIONS

- The review only used PubMed and Google Scholar for the publication sources.
- Significant publications within the U.S. are saturated with Mexican-born or Mexican descent participants or don't specify country of birth.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- No conflicts of interest to declare.

REFERENCES

- Key reference: Montoya-Williams, D., Williamson, V. G., Cardel, M., Fuentes-Afflick, E., Maldonado-Molina, M., & Thompson, L. (2021). The Hispanic/Latinx perinatal paradox in the United States: a scoping review and recommendations to guide future research. *Journal of immigrant and minority health*, 23, 1078-1091.

