

## Background

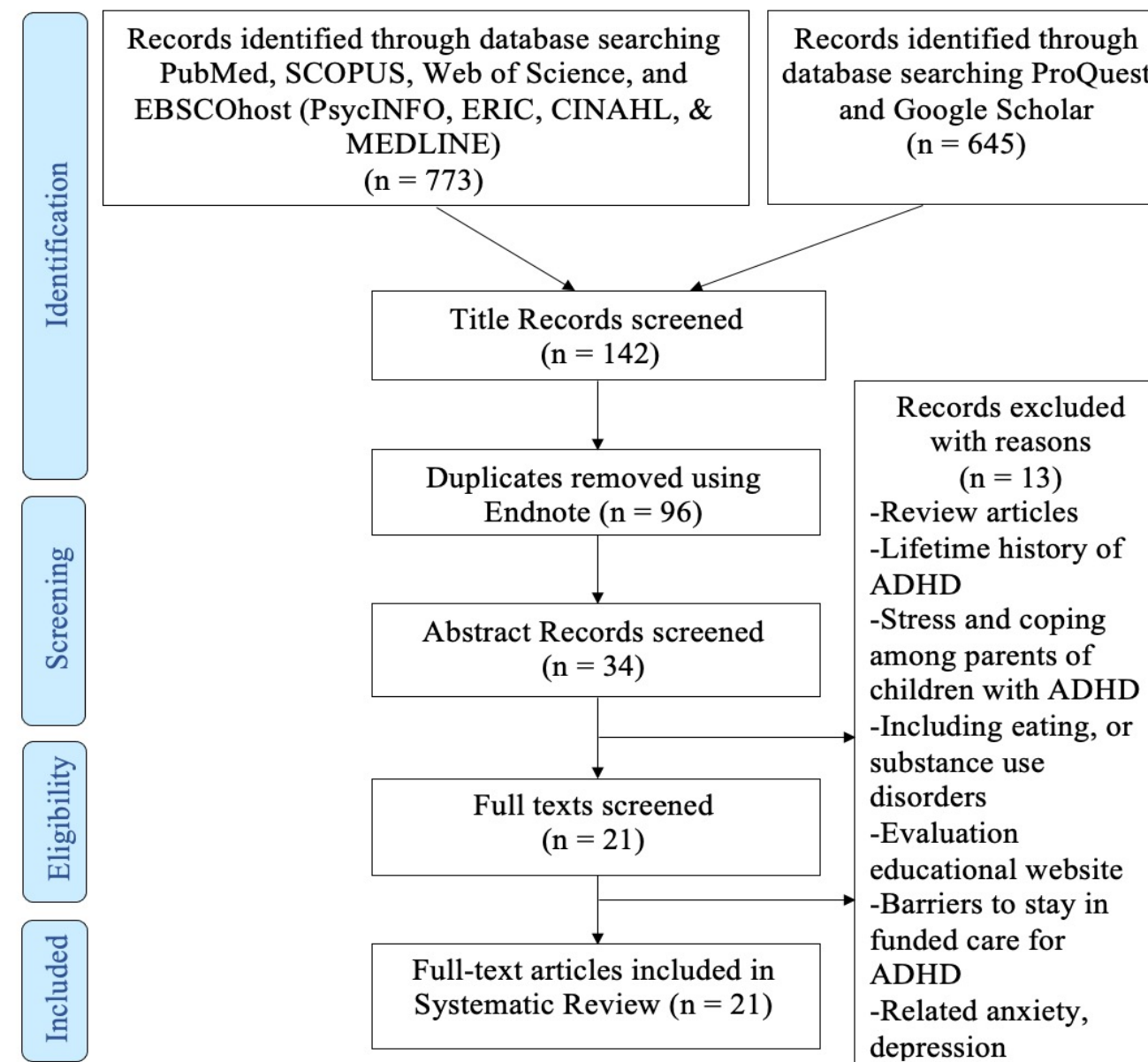
- Many children at risk for negative outcomes related to untreated attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) do not receive necessary mental healthcare.
- Parents' have important role in seeking mental healthcare for their children and it is important in the early identification of ADHD and preventing comorbidities with ADHD.
- Parents may experience some barriers that may delay parents from seeking mental healthcare for their children.

## Purpose

- To summarize existing evidence of parents' barriers to seeking mental healthcare for children at risk of ADHD.
- **Hypothesis:** Parental barriers would be identified from different levels of socio-ecological model.

## Methods

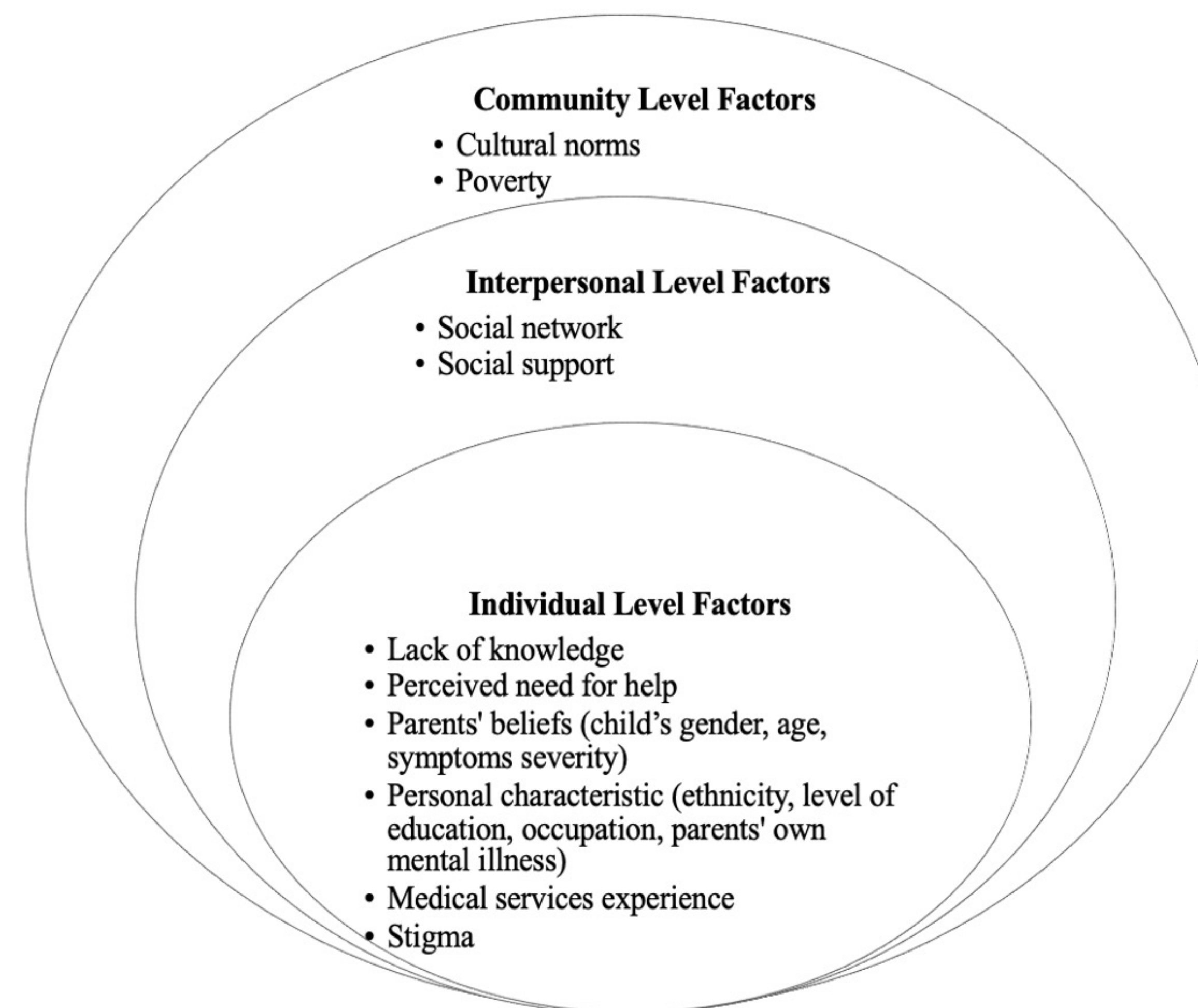
Figure 1. PRISMA Flow Chart Illustrates the Selection of Articles for the Systematic Review



## Results

- 21 studies were included.
- The included studies were conducted in seven different countries (United Kingdom, Australia, Taiwan, India, Greece, Iran, and the United States).
- The included studies addressed different parental barriers under the three levels of the social-ecological model, including individual, interpersonal, and community levels.
- Some of the parental barriers were interrelated and could naturally be located under any of the three levels.

Figure 2. Parental Barriers to Seek Mental Healthcare for Children at Risk of ADHD based on the Social-Ecological Model



## Conclusions

- Increasing parents' awareness of the process of seeking mental healthcare has the potential to help identify children at risk for ADHD earlier.
- Parents from different cultures have different thresholds for distinguishing between normal and abnormal child behavior.
- Parents are likely to seek help only after perceiving the behavior as abnormal.



## Recommendations

### Practice

Healthcare providers should:

- Provide psychoeducational intervention that aim to reduce parents' barriers at different levels of the social-ecological model
- Routinely educate parents about the symptoms of ADHD considering that parents have different personal characteristics, background knowledge, and social network supports.

### Research

More studies are warranted to:

- Address parental barriers at the organizational/health system level.
- Identify the facilitators to mental health.