Records identified through database searching (n = 8,411)

Additional records identified through other sources (n = 0)

Records after duplicates removed (n = 4,203)

Records excluded (n = 75 duplicates identified)

Records screened (n = 4,128)

Records excluded (n = 3,952 irrelevant)

Full-text articles assessed for eligibility (n = 176)

Full-text articles excluded (n = 132, with reasons):
- (n = 50) No control for socioeconomic factors in addition to biological risk factors
- (n = 18) No control for SES in a study of ethnic groups and biological risk factors
- (n = 15) No control for SES in addition to ethnic groups
- (n = 16) No control for socioeconomic confounders
- (n = 4) Wrong patient population
- (n = 5) Wrong time period
- (n = 2) No quantitative data
- (n = 3) Wrong language
- (n = 5) Duplicate
- (n = 2) Studies on both seasonal and pandemic influenza that do not separate between non-pandemic and pandemic years
- (n = 1) Reason not given
- (n = 6) Wrong intervention
- (n = 3) Wrong outcomes
- (n = 2) Wrong study design

Studies included in qualitative synthesis (n = 44)

Studies included in quantitative synthesis (meta-analysis) (n = 35)


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