An introduction to evidence maps as a tool to support systematic reviews and policy-making

Facilitator

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Objectives

To introduce the research methodology of evidence mapping as well as its potential application to support systematic reviews and policy-making.

Learning objectives:

1. Understand the key steps involved in evidence mapping
2. Outline differences and synergies between evidence maps and systematic reviews
3. Describe how evidence maps can be used to support systematic reviews and other types of evidence synthesis
4. Describe how evidence maps can be used to inform policy-making

Brief description of content

This workshop will provide an introduction to the production and use of evidence maps. Evidence maps apply systematic review methods to access, categorise, and organise a body knowledge. They further visualise this body of knowledge using interactive online platforms to support engagement with the mapped evidence-base. Evidence maps thereby can both support the production of systematic reviews, e.g. by refining the scope of reviews, as much as support the translation of evidence in a policy context, e.g. by indicating evidence gaps and clusters of evidence against policy questions. This workshop will introduce the key research steps in evidence mapping and discuss differences and overlaps with other types of evidence synthesis and the implications of these for the use of evidence maps to support systematic reviews and policy-making.