



What is a Scoping Review?

MHST 632 Health Promotion II

What is a scoping review?

- A scoping review is a systematic method used to map evidence, define key concepts, and identify knowledge gaps.
- This process involves formulating questions, searching databases, and thematic analysis to provide a broad overview, often serving as a precursor to research (Mak & Thomas, 2022).



When to use a scoping review

 Identify the type of available evidence

 Identify knowledge gaps

 Clarify key concepts or definitions in literature

 Examine how research is conducted on a topic

 Identify key characteristics or factors related to a concept

 Precursor to systematic review

The Steps to Conducting a Scoping Review

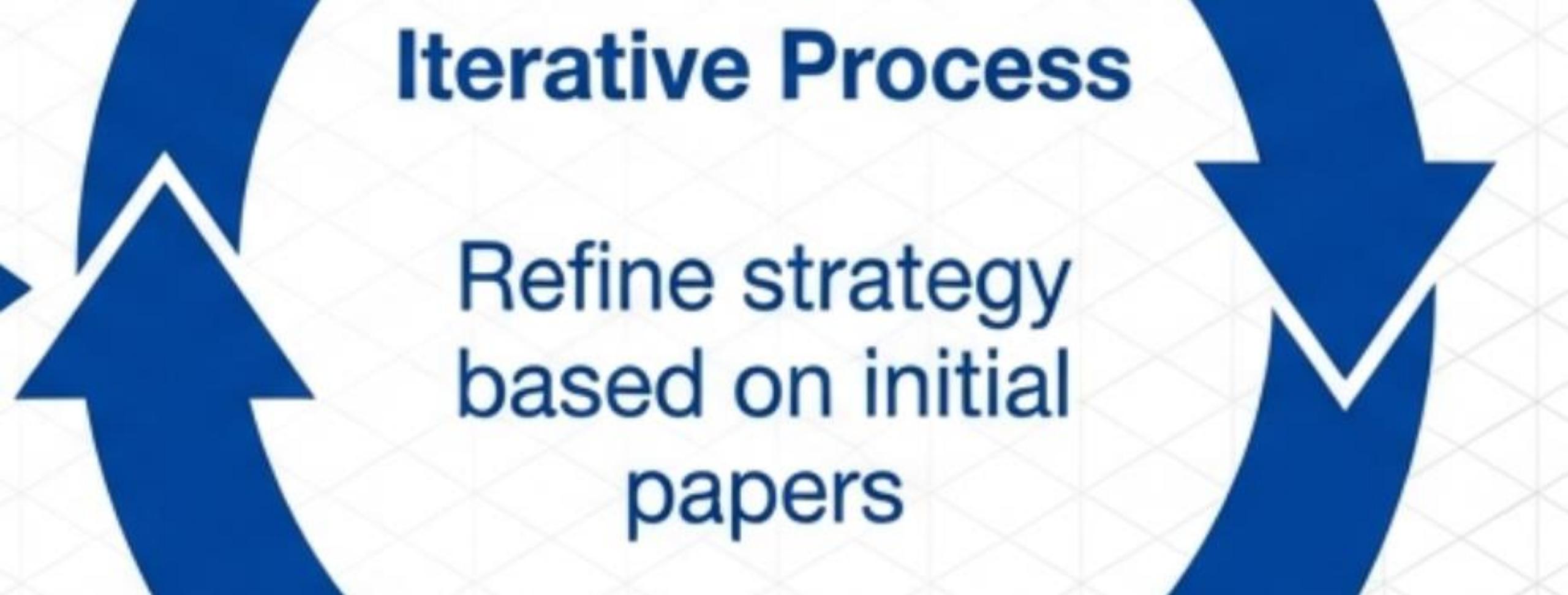
By following the 5-step systematic approach-from defining the question to thematic analysis a scoping review clarifys concepts and identify critical knowledge gaps

Step 1: Identify the Research Question

- There are three sub steps according to Pollock (2023)
 - Define and align objectives and questions
 - Develop and align inclusion criteria
 - Describe planned approach to searching, selection, extraction, analysis and presentation.
- The research question needs to be balanced. If it is too narrow it will limit the search excessively, too broad of a question may compromise the depth of the results.



Iterative Process



Refine strategy
based on initial
papers

Step 2: Identify Relevant Studies

- Define inclusion and exclusion criteria before searching.
- Develop search strategy
 - Keywords
 - Databases



Citations from Search

The Screening Mandate



The Title

AND



The Abstract



Step 3: Selecting Studies

- Collect citations from the search
- The actual screening of papers should consist of reading not only the title of the paper, but the abstract as well



Step 4: Charting the Data

- Data is extracted in a structured framework
- Categories will vary depending on the research question and review purpose, common categories are author, year, geographical location, study population, main results, study limitations, and future directions

Step 5: Collating and Summarizing Results

- Once the data have been extracted from all papers, numerical and thematic analyses are conducted
- Numerical analysis summarizes the characteristics of the evidence (e.g., number of studies, study designs, settings, populations, and geographic distribution)
- Thematic analysis involves coding relevant text and synthesizing codes into categories and themes that represent patterns across the literature.



References

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- Pollock, D., Evans, C., Jia, R. M., Alexander, L., Pieper, D., de Moraes, É. B., Peters, M. D. J., Tricco, A. C., Khalil, H., Godfrey, C. M., Saran, A., Campbell, F., & Munn, Z. (2023). How-to: Scoping review? **Journal of Clinical Epidemiology**, 158, 102–110. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclinepi.2023.05.010>