



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 clarifies concepts and identifies 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

- Mak, S., & Thomas, A. (2022). Steps for Conducting a Scoping Review. *Journal of graduate medical education*, 14(5), 565–567. <https://doi.org/10.4300/JGME-D-22-00621.1>
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