

Health Evidence™ Quality Assessment Tool

A summary of



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National Collaborating Centre
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Categories:
Tool, Appraise

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Tool

Relevance For Public Health

The quality appraisal tool can be used to appraise systematic reviews of public health interventions. Specifically, the tool would be useful for program managers who use research evidence to make decisions about program development or program de-implementation. The tool can also be used as a teaching tool for critical appraisal.

Description

[Health Evidence™](#) is a free online registry of systematic review-level evidence evaluating the effectiveness of public health and health promotion interventions. This website is one component of a larger knowledge translation resource.

The goal is to support public health decision makers working in program planning and policy to engage in evidence-informed decision making. Monthly searches of the published literature are done to identify public health-relevant systematic reviews. Two independent raters critically appraise all reviews that meet relevance criteria (review article; relevant to public health practice; focuses on effectiveness of an intervention; reports evidence on health outcomes; describes search strategy), and create a summary statement for selected high-quality reviews.

The “Health Evidence™ Quality Assessment Tool – Review Articles” is a tool developed by Health Evidence™ and is used for appraising systematic reviews on the effectiveness of public health interventions. All included systematic reviews then become part of the Health Evidence™ repository.

Implementing the Tool

Who is Involved?

Any systematic reviewers may be interested to use this tool, as well as managers and other staff interested in health-based decision making using evidence.

Steps for Using Tool

The tool is made of 10 questions, each dealing with a different part of critical appraisal. In brief, the 10 questions address the following critical appraisal key elements;

Q1: Research question

Q2: Inclusion/exclusion criteria

Q3: Search strategy

Q4: Search dates

Q5: Level of evidence

Q6: Methodological quality

Q7: Results

Q8: Analysis

These summaries are written by the NCCMT to condense and to provide an overview of the resources listed in the [Registry of Methods and Tools](#) and to give suggestions for their use in a public health context. For more information on individual methods and tools included in the review, please consult the authors/developers of the original resources.

Q9: Appropriateness of analysis methods

Q10: Interpretation

Each question requires a final answer of YES or NO, where a yes answer is assigned one point and a no answer, zero points. After all 10 questions are answered by the reviewer, a final score is calculated. Based on the final score, the following qualifiers are used to provide an overall rating of the systematic review.

Quality assessment rating:

Strong: total score of 8 to 10

Moderate: total score of 5 to 7

Weak: total score of 4 or less

Each of the 10 questions listed above are further described in the tool in terms of the study design issues and rating decision making. The tool also describes any caveats (e.g., qualitative reviews, reviews of reviews).

Evaluation and Measurement Characteristics

Evaluation



Has been evaluated.

Shown to have acceptable reliability (see Supplemental Resources)

Validity

Not applicable

Reliability

Not applicable

Methodological Rating



Not applicable

Tool Development

Developers

Maureen Dobbins

Method of Development

Release Date

2000

Contact Person

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Resources

Title of Primary Resource	Health Evidence™ Quality Assessment Tool – Review Articles
File Attachment	None
Web-link	http://www.healthevidence.org/documents/our-appraisal-tools/QA_Tool&Dictionary_10Nov16.pdf
Reference	
Type of Material	Online tool
Format	On-line Access
Cost to Access	None.
Language	English, French
Conditions for Use	Not specified

Title of Supplementary Resource	A knowledge management tool for public health: Health-evidence.ca
File Attachment	None
Web-link	https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2936422/pdf/1471-2458-10-496.pdf
Reference	Dobbins, M., DeCorby, K., Robeson, P., Husson, H., Tirilis, D., & Greco, L. (2010). A knowledge management tool for public health: Health-evidence.ca. <i>BMC Public Health</i> , 10, 496.
Type of Material	Journal
Format	Periodical
Cost to Access	None.
Language	English
Conditions for Use	Not specified

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