

Evidence briefings from systematic reviews

A summary of

Chambers, D. & Wilson, P. (2012) A framework for production of systematic review based briefings to support evidence-informed decision-making. *Systematic Reviews*, 1 (32). doi: 10.1186/2046-4053-1-32



National Collaborating Centre
for Methods and Tools
Centre de collaboration nationale
des méthodes et outils

How to cite this NCCMT summary:

National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools (2013). *Evidence briefings from systematic reviews*. Hamilton, ON: McMaster University. (Updated 05 September, 2017) Retrieved from <http://www.nccmt.ca/resources/search/168>.

Categories:

Tool, Synthesize, Adapt, Implement, Evaluate, Economic evaluation, Organizational change

Date posted:

March 15, 2013

Date updated:

September 5, 2017

Tool

Relevance For Public Health

This framework and checklist can be used by anyone in public health who is developing evidence briefings on issues to inform decision-makers in a timely fashion.

Description

[Evidence briefings](#) use a short, accessible format that highlights key findings and implications to inform decision-makers and policy-makers on a topic of interest. This resource provides a framework and checklist to develop evidence briefings from systematic reviews. Developed by the [Centre for Reviews and Dissemination](#), this process has been used to develop evidence briefings for National Health Service (NHS) decision-makers.

Evidence briefings provide more than a traditional summary of available evidence on intervention effectiveness. They also include considerations of cost effectiveness, local adaptability and implications relating to service delivery, budgets, implementation and equity. In this way, evidence briefings require individuals to synthesize the evidence and adapt the summarized evidence to the local setting (learn more about the [Synthesize](#) and [Adapt](#) steps of Evidence-Informed Public Health (EIPH)). This framework and checklist can be used with a [briefing note template](#) developed by Health Evidence™ to create evidence briefings.

Evidence briefings represent one approach to conducting rapid reviews to summarize research evidence in a timely manner to inform decision-making ([Ganann, Ciliska & Thomas, 2010](#)). The Ottawa Hospital Research Institute ([Khangura et al., 2012](#)) uses a similar approach to creating evidence summaries in collaboration with decision-makers. The approach used by Chambers and Wilson (2012) includes summarizing economic evaluations for considering cost-effectiveness evidence.

This resource includes:

- A framework outlining an approach to developing evidence briefings from systematic review evidence
- An Evidence Briefing Checklist to clarify the research question
- An Evidence Briefing Evaluation Questionnaire to assess the effectiveness of the briefing note

The evidence briefing format includes:

- Front page with summary of main messages
- Background section
- Methods section
- Evidence base for effectiveness
- Evidence base for cost-effectiveness
- Potential implications
- References

Implementing the Tool

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.

Who is Involved?

Individuals or groups responsible for developing briefing notes on public health issues could use this tool. This may include, but is not limited to, public health staff, policy-makers, program managers and government/non-profit employees.

Steps for Using Tool

The process for developing evidence briefings from systematic reviews includes three phases.

Phase One: Development

The process of developing the evidence briefing can be broken down into the following seven steps:

- 1) Generate topics
- 2) Clarify the research question
 - Use the PICO search question format (see [tool from Health Evidence™](#))
 - Evidence Briefing Checklist
- 3) Search for systematic reviews
- 4) Search for economic evidence (economic evaluations)
- 5) Assess quality of systematic reviews and economic evaluations
- 6) Relate evidence to the local context
 - Items 7-10 of the Evidence Briefing Checklist
 - Use approach of [SUPPORT tool for finding and using evidence about local conditions](#)
- 7) Assess evidence with respect to implications for health equity
 - Use questions from the [SUPPORT tool for considering equity](#)
- 8) Assess implementation issues of any changes to practice
 - Use [SUPPORT tool for using research evidence to address how an option will be implemented](#)

Phase Two: Peer Review/Quality Control

Briefings should be reviewed and edited by a second researcher and representative(s) of the decision-making organization at a minimum.

Phase Three: Evaluation

Evaluation of use, usefulness and impact should be conducted. The authors include an Evaluation Briefing Questionnaire that can be used for this phase.

Evaluation and Measurement Characteristics

Evaluation



Has been evaluated.

[Chambers et al. \(2011\)](#) conducted a scoping review to identify and describe knowledge translation resources, including evidence summaries and policy briefs, used to synthesize research evidence into useful formats to support decision-makers. They found a broad range of knowledge translation resources available. However, few published evaluations assessed the effectiveness of evidence summaries. Available evaluation studies documented the challenges in summarizing evidence into actionable messages that are helpful to decision-makers, and the challenges in engaging with decision-makers and policy-makers in the process of producing evidence summaries.

Validity

Not applicable

Reliability

Not applicable

Methodological Rating

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.



Not applicable

Tool Development

Developers

Duncan Chambers
Paul Wilson
University of York
Website: <http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/>
TRiP-LaB project
Website: http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/projects/trip_lab.htm

Method of Development

This framework and checklist were developed by the authors based on a scoping review ([Chambers et al. 2011](#)). They also considered their experiences in creating evidence summaries in consultation with decision-makers, and in using SUPPORT tools for evidence-informed policy-making. This resource was developed from a collaborative research project, the [TRiP-LaB Programme](#) (Translating Research into Practice in Leeds and Bradford), involving researchers from the [Centre for Reviews and Dissemination \(CRD\)](#) at the University of York and health professionals at the National Health Service (NHS).

Release Date

2012

Contact Person

Duncan Chambers
Centre for Reviews and Dissemination
University of York
Heslington, UK YO10 5DD
Email: duncan.chambers@york.ac.uk

Resources

Title of Primary Resource	A framework for production of systematic review based briefings to support evidence-informed decision-making
File Attachment	None
Web-link	http://www.systematicreviewsjournal.com/content/1/1/32
Reference	Chambers, D. & Wilson, P. (2012) A framework for production of systematic review based briefings to support evidence-informed decision-making. <i>Systematic Reviews</i> , 1 (32). doi: 10.1186/2046-4053-1-32
Type of Material	Journal article
Format	Periodical
Cost to Access	None.
Language	English
Conditions for Use	Copyright © 2012 Chambers and Wilson; licensee BioMed Central Ltd.

Title of Supplementary Resource	Maximizing the impact of systematic reviews in health care decision making: a systematic scoping review of knowledge-translation resources
File Attachment	None
Web-link	http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3160597/
Reference	Chambers, D., Wilson, P.M., Thompson, C.A., Hanbury, A., Farley, K. & Light, K. (2011). Maximizing the impact of systematic reviews in health care decision making: a systematic scoping review of knowledge-translation resources. <i>The Milbank Quarterly</i> , 89(1), 131-156. doi: 10.1111/j.1468-0009.2011.00622.x
Type of Material	Journal article
Format	Periodical
Cost to Access	None.
Language	English
Conditions for Use	Copyright © 2011 Milbank Memorial Fund