

Scoping Reviews in Research

DEFINITION AND PURPOSE:

- **Scoping Reviews** are a type of research synthesis that aims to map the literature on a given topic, identifying key concepts, theories, evidence sources, and gaps in research.

KEY CHARACTERISTICS:

- **Broad Scope:** Unlike systematic reviews, scoping reviews have a broader scope to explore literature expansively.
- **Inclusivity:** They include a variety of study designs and methodological approaches.
- **Preliminary Assessment:** Often conducted before full systematic reviews to assess the size and scope of the literature.



METHODOLOGICAL STEPS:

- **Identifying the Research Question:** Clearly define the scope and main objectives.
- **Identifying Relevant Studies:** Systematic search across multiple databases and sources.
- **Study Selection:** Using inclusion and exclusion criteria to select relevant studies.
- **Charting the Data:** Extracting and charting key information from each study.
- **Collating, Summarizing, and Reporting Results:** Synthesizing the findings to provide an overview of the field.

FRAMEWORKS AND GUIDELINES:

- **PRISMA-ScR:** A checklist that guides the reporting of scoping reviews.
- **JBI Methodology:** Offers a structured approach for conducting scoping reviews.



APPLICATIONS IN RESEARCH:

- **Identifying Knowledge Gaps:** Helps researchers pinpoint areas lacking sufficient evidence.
- **Guiding Future Research:** Informs subsequent, more focused systematic reviews or primary studies.
- **Informing Policy and Practice:** Provides a broad overview of evidence to support decision-making.

CONSIDERATIONS:

- **Quality Assessment:** Unlike systematic reviews, scoping reviews do not typically assess the quality of evidence.
- **Expertise Required:** Requires a team with expertise in literature research and synthesis

RECENT ADVANCES:

- **Methodological Development:** Ongoing work to refine methods and improve rigor.
- **Increased Recognition:** Growing acceptance as a valuable tool in evidence-based practice and policy.