



EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS I R E L A N D

Evidence and Gap Maps (Online – 2 x ½ days)

Evidence and gap maps (EGMs) are an innovative way to visualise the evidence and gaps in the evidence base relating to a defined topic area or broad question. They are powerful tools to support decision making in research and commissioning. In this workshop you will be guided by experts to learn about EGMs; what they are and are not, where to find them, how to use them and how to build your own. This workshop is suitable for a range of evidence users and no prior knowledge is required. It is also not limited to a specific topic so we encourage participants to join us from any discipline or background.

Background

Evidence and gap maps are a type of evidence synthesis which rely upon systematic and scoping review methods. The search strategy is typically designed to be comprehensive, but not necessarily exhaustive. Evidence and gap maps provide an overview of the research that exists, and importantly, where the gaps are on a specific topic. Through mapping and visual presentation of all existing and emerging evidence on relevant outcomes, it is possible to see the volume of evidence, the areas in which there is sufficient research for evidence synthesis and the gaps in the evidence base. The benefits of this cannot be understated: 1) funders can quickly assess the areas where there is already a saturation of evidence, see where there are gaps in knowledge, and direct much-needed resources towards those areas; 2) Policy makers can access the map to see where evidence exists to inform policy and practice; 3) Members of the public, including patients, parents, carers, can quickly access information which is of relevance to them; 4) Researchers can minimise research waste which occurs due to duplication of effort.

Date:

4th & 5th May, 2021

Time:

10am – 12:30pm

Facilitators:

Dr Jennifer Hanratty

Editor for the Education
Coordinating Group

Dr Ciara Keenan

Research Fellow at
Queen's University Belfast

Dr Melissa Bond

EPPI-Reviewer Support Officer
University College London

Skill level:

Introductory

Places:

**30 places available for
individuals who are
resident on the island of
Ireland**

Fee:

€80 (General)

€40 (Student)

Prerequisites:

None

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Aim

To introduce EGMs and explore where to find them, how to use them and how to build your own.

Learning outcomes

In this course, participants will be enabled to:

- Understand what EGMs are, and are not, and why they are useful
- Find and explore existing EGMs
- Develop an outline for a new map (either your own or working with others at the workshop)
- Practical experience of defining the scope of a map, designing a framework and planning the search
- Expert tips and advice on tools for managing an EGM project
- Practical demonstration of software to build maps

Teaching strategies

The workshop will consist of a mixture of short presentations, individual and group exercises, discussions and demonstrations. The expert facilitators will encourage questions and interaction throughout to get the most out of live participation. We understand that working from home with a busy household is challenging and we are more than happy to be flexible in our delivery to accommodate participant's needs.

Target Audience

Health and social care professionals, academics, researchers, PhD students, policy makers, decision makers, Campbell or Cochrane review authors and Evidence Synthesis Ireland fellows.

We understand that engaging in live workshops can be challenging for those working from home in a busy household. We are very happy to accommodate interruptions from kids or pets as needed and, while we encourage participation with webcams on, it will not be required.

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Course content/timetable

DAY 1	
10.00 - 10.15	Welcome and introductions
10.15 - 11.00	What are maps and their role?
11.00 - 11.15	Comfort break
11.15 - 11.30	Some examples of maps
11.30 - 11.45	Formulating the scope of an EGM
11.45 - 12.30	Searching
12.30	Close
DAY 2	
10.00 - 10.30	Involving stakeholders
10.30 - 11.00	Creating the framework
11.00 - 11.15	Comfort break
11.15 - 11.45	Review management & data extraction software
11.45 - 12.15	Creating the map (Eppi-mapper)
12.15 - 12.30	Q&A
12.30	Close

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Dr Jennifer Hanratty

Dr Jennifer Hanratty is a research professional with ten years' experience in evaluation and evidence synthesis with published systematic reviews and evidence and gap maps for WHO, Campbell, Cochrane and NIHR Health Technology Assessment amongst others. Jennifer has a PhD in psychology and an enduring interest in children's emotional health and wellbeing and the impact of childhood maltreatment and trauma. Jennifer is Editor for the Education Coordinating Group and recently joined the Centre for Effective Services, an all-Ireland organisation working to support the use of evidence to improve services.

Dr Ciara Keenan

Dr Ciara Keenan is a Research Fellow at Queen's University Belfast with an established international reputation in evidence synthesis methodology. Systematic review projects have demonstrated her expertise in the intersections of health, social welfare, disability, and education. Ciara is most committed to capacity building in evidence synthesis which has led to her work as Founder and Editor of the meta-evidence blog and twitter's @evidenceroobot and @COVID_Evidence. Ciara is currently Co-Convenor of the Campbell Collaboration's Information Scientist Network, a Methods Editor and Information Retrieval specialist for Campbell's Education Coordinating Group (ECG).

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