



GROWING A GLOBAL EVIDENCE BASE

Terrorism and violent extremism are persistent global threats to public safety, international stability, and prosperity--threats that are not constrained by any border, nationality, or ideology. This is a challenge area that the international community must confront together. There is a significant need for coordinated, objective, independent research to better understand terrorism and violent extremism, and the efficacy and impact of allied responses, so that we may better inform operational and policy communities responsible for public well-being.

To bridge this gap in research, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T), in coordination with international partners, has set up a project with the Campbell Collaboration Crime and Justice Group that aims to produce high-quality evidence reviews that can help policymakers and practitioners consider the least-biased and most scientifically rigorous evidence in their decision-making. This project will also aim to provide easily accessible reviews to decision-makers, other researchers, and even the general public by publishing all findings on the [Campbell website](#). The goal is to provide up-to-date information to those who need to know public safety and violence prevention strategies.

METHODOLOGY FOR MOVING AHEAD

Systematic reviews have emerged as an important means of synthesizing best available empirical evidence to arrive at defensible conclusions. They are substantial pieces of research requiring the use of reproducible, comprehensive literary searches and formal synthesis methods. They are also transparent and replicable, so that readers can evaluate the basis for conclusions. S&T has identified systematic reviews as the preferred approach to produce rigorous and up-to-date reviews of evidence on terrorism, radicalization, prevention, and intervention while working towards making them easily accessible to a global audience.

Since 2018, S&T and international partners, have funded the development of more than 14 systematic reviews that aim to:

- Synthesize effective interventions to prevent and counter radicalization and violent extremism and their harmful impacts.
- Provide tools and strategies to aid in intervening with individuals radicalizing to violence, or other audiences affected by violent extremism.

- Illustrate approaches to measuring performance and outcomes tailored to Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention (TVTP).
- Determine ways in which TVTP connects with and complements other areas of prevention (e.g., violence, hate).

EVIDENCE GAP MAP

S&T will produce an Evidence Gap Map (EGM) that will provide a comprehensive and systematic display of the existing evidence on the effectiveness of criminal justice interventions in preventing terrorism and radicalization. Key objectives of the EGM are: 1) identify the existing evidence that considers the effectiveness of criminal justice interventions in preventing terrorism and radicalization, and 2) highlight existing gaps in the evidence where new research could be undertaken and where future synthesis could be conducted.

The EGM will help promote the translation of evidence into practice by providing practitioners and policymakers with easy access to high-quality evaluation evidence. Furthermore, it will be used to demonstrate gaps in the evaluation research, allowing key stakeholders to determine future funding priorities for research and development.

IMPACT

These systematic reviews will assist DHS by identifying areas in which there are enough quality scientific evidence, a lack of evidence, or a wide range of studies of varying quality that can help inform TVTP policy and practice. These reviews will allow DHS to arrive at defensible conclusions on effective methods and effects of particular interventions.

MILESTONES AND DELIVERABLES

- **June 2023:** Attended Stockholm Criminology Symposium
- **FY24 Q3:** Publish government messaging campaigns systematic review (SR)
- **FY24 Q4:** Publish three other SR on recidivism, language and use of social media, and human trafficking

ENGAGEMENT PARTNERS

- Campbell Collaboration Crime and Justice Group
- Five Country Research and Development Network, international (Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency)
- Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships

