

DHS Science and Technology Directorate Systematic Reviews of Terrorism Prevention Research

Neither international borders nor a single ideology constrains or limits threats posed by terrorism, domestic radicalization, or returning foreign fighters. Accordingly, many countries have invested in research within their local contexts to build the global body of evidence in terrorism prevention. However, this research is often inaccessible to intended end users, many of whom cannot effectively retrieve the research or analyze it for operational needs.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T), in coordination with the Five Country Research and Development (5RD) Terrorism Prevention Network, identified a need to conduct systematic reviews of prior research and evaluations. These systematic reviews will help build a global evidence-base for terrorism prevention policy, strategy, and activity by identifying programs and practices that:

- Are most effective and in which contexts;
- Should be redesigned or reconsidered; and
- Need empirical testing.

Systematic reviews will also assist DHS, S&T, and international partners in identifying areas where sufficient amounts of quality scientific evidence, a lack of evidence, or a wide range of studies of varying quality exist.

Methodology

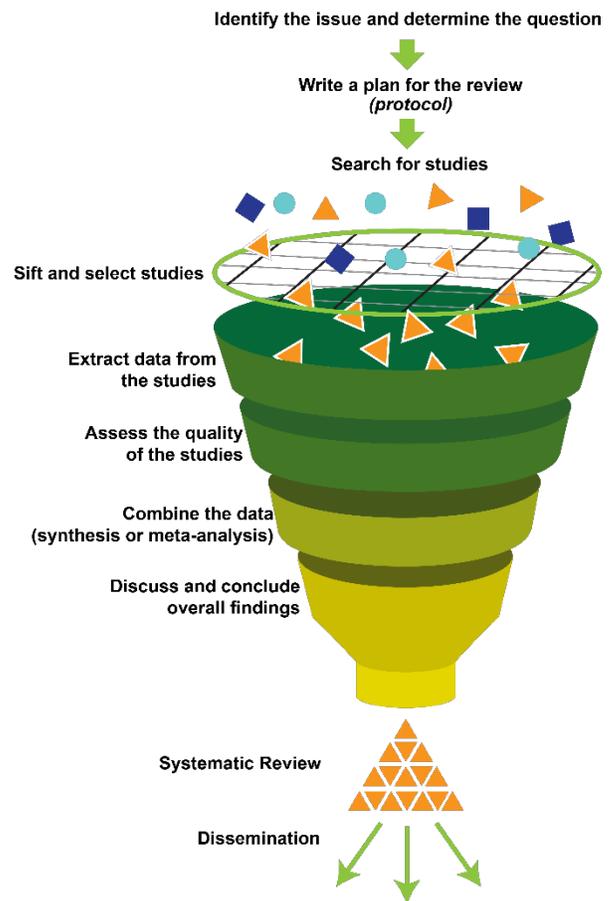
Systematic review methods are designed to synthesize the best available empirical evidence on a topic to arrive at defensible conclusions and generalizations. Systematic review methods are transparent and replicable, so readers can fully evaluate the basis for conclusions.

Each systematic review includes:

- Explicit inclusion and exclusion criteria for studies;
- Explicit, comprehensive search strategy designed to identify both published and unpublished studies;
- Systematic extraction of information from the studies, and an assessment of the validity of findings; and
- Meta-analysis of results across studies, if feasible.

Intended Project Outcomes

The project's purpose is to help policymakers and practitioners in the field of terrorism and security and criminal justice account for the least biased and most scientifically rigorous evidence in their decision-making. The project will produce four rigorous reviews of evidence on terrorism and radicalization prevention interventions per year. The reviews will be easily accessible to decision makers, as well as researchers and concerned citizens.



Milestones

- Project kickoff.....Sept. 13, 2018
- Advisory group and steering committee identification Oct. 13, 2018
- Topic selection and research protocol.....Dec. 13, 2018

Performers and Partners

- *The Campbell Crime and Justice Coordinating Group*
The Campbell Crime and Justice Coordinating Group is an international network of researchers that prepares, updates, and disseminates systematic reviews of high-quality research on effective methods to reduce crime and delinquency, enhance prevention and security, and improve the quality of justice.
- *U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice*
- *Contributing International Partners include:*
 - **Australia** Defense Science and Technology
 - Public Safety **Canada**
 - **Swedish** Civil Contingencies Agency
 - **United Kingdom** Home Office



Homeland Security

Science and Technology

To learn more about the Countering Violent Extremism and Preventing Terrorism portfolio, email STCVETeam@hq.dhs.gov.