A GLOBAL ISSUE

The threat posed by terrorism, domestic radicalization, and returning foreign fighters is neither constrained by international borders nor limited to a single ideology. As a result, many partner countries have invested in terrorism prevention research, though the benefits of this work are often inaccessible to the intended end-users who may not be capable of effectively retrieving or analyzing the existing research for operational needs.

Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate (DHS S&T), in coordination with the Five Country Research and Development Terrorism Prevention Network, identified a need to conduct systematic reviews of prior research and evaluation. This will build a global evidence-base for terrorism prevention policy, strategy, and activity. The results will identify programs and practices that are most effective (and in which contexts), may need to be redesigned or reconsidered, or may need empirical testing.

Systematic reviews will also help DHS and our international partners identify areas in which there are sufficient amounts of quality scientific evidence, a lack of evidence, or a wide range of studies of varying quality.

METHODOLOGY FOR SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS

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 that readers can fully evaluate the basis for conclusions.

Each systemic review includes:

- explicit inclusion and exclusion criteria for studies,
- an explicit, comprehensive search strategy designed to identify both published and unpublished studies,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.

THE CAMPBELL COLLABORATION

The Campbell Collaboration is an independent, non-profit organization that helps policy makers, practitioners, research consumers, and decision-makers make well-informed decisions about the effects of social interventions. The Campbell Crime and Justice Coordinating Group (CJCG) 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 justice.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

The purpose of this project is to help policymakers and practitioners in the fields of terrorism, security, and criminal justice consider the least biased and most scientifically rigorous evidence. 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 other researchers and concerned citizens.

PERFORMERS AND PARTNERS

- The Campbell Crime and Justice Coordinating Group
- US Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice
- Australia Defense Science & Technology
- Public Safety Canada
- Sweden Civil Contingencies Agency
- United Kingdom Home Office