

Jurisdictional scans in policy making: A critical interpretive synthesis

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Background



What are jurisdictional scans?

- Decision-making tools used by governments and organizations to:
 - Consider how problems have been **framed** in other jurisdictions
 - Compare and **evaluate options** based on action taken in other jurisdictions in response to similar problems
 - Identify and anticipate **implementation considerations** associated with options

Background



Gaps in the literature

- Jurisdictional scans have not been systematically reviewed
- Limited research exists to guide conduction and interpretation of jurisdictional scans

Purpose

- Conduct a **critical interpretative synthesis** of jurisdictional scans to:
 - Understand benefits, limitations, methodologies
 - Guide their use in a policy making setting

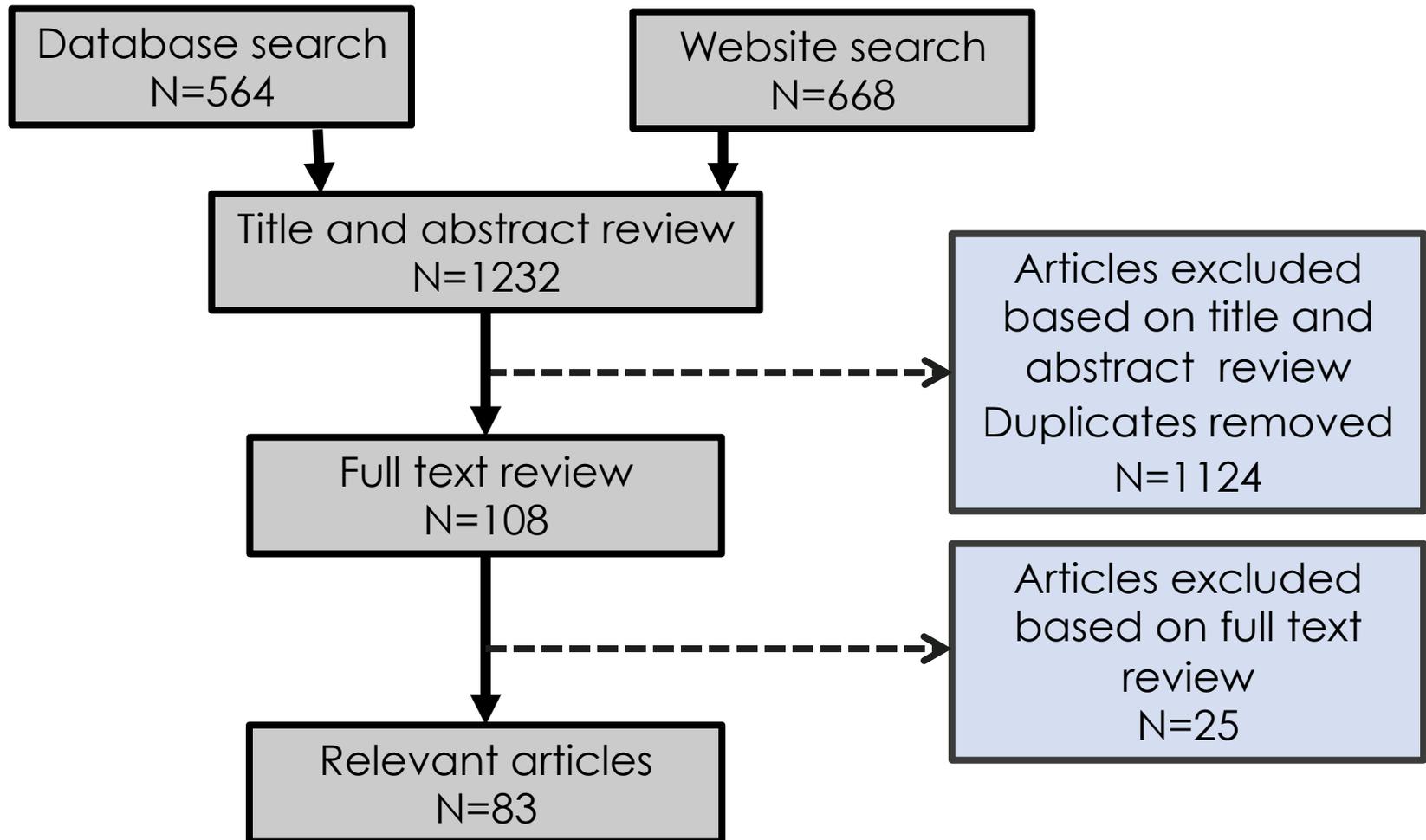
Methodology



Critical interpretative synthesis

- Systematic search of grey and published literature → purposive sample
 - Jurisdictional scans
 - Publications about jurisdictional scans
- Data extraction
- Conceptual mapping of:
 - Benefits
 - Limitations
 - Roles
 - Methodologies

Methodology



Results

Sample characteristics

Characteristic	# of jurisdictional scans
Country of origin	
Canada	75
Australia	2
Europe	2
United Kingdom	2
United States	1
World Health Organization	1
Social sector	
Health	31
Energy/Environment	19
Social	11
Infrastructure	7
Law	7
Finance/Economics	5
Education	2
Labour	2

Results

Sample characteristics

Methodology	# of jurisdictional scans
Contact with stakeholders only	
Telephone	4
Email	1
Both	4
Literature review only	
Unpublished (grey) literature	3
Published literature	1
Both	15
Literature review and contact with stakeholders	33
Presentations from members from various jurisdictions	1
Unclear	21

Results



Characteristics of jurisdictional scans based on a purposive sample

■ Purpose of jurisdictional scans

- Primary purpose: Identification of best practices (N=58, 70%)
 - No evaluation of policies
- Not explicitly used to consider how problems are framed in other jurisdictions

■ Methodology of jurisdictional scans

- Data collection methods were varied, inconsistent between and within jurisdictional scans
- Criteria guiding the selection of jurisdictions for inclusion not presented (N=32, 39%)
 - Jurisdictions selected based on availability of information (N=11, 14%)

Results



Benefits

- Information on
 - Options
 - Implementation strategies/considerations
 - Framing (inferred)
- Comparisons between jurisdiction
 - Common themes across jurisdictions
 - Identification of most like comparators

Limitations

- Process: non-systematic
- Lack of evaluation of policies considered
- Jurisdictional scans often examine policies without considering health systems/political system

Elements that strengthen a jurisdictional scan



- The inclusion of a **literature review**
 - Facilitates framing of the the problem
 - Allows comparison of evidence to practice
- **Evaluation of policy options** in order to inform the determination of best practices
- **Standardized data collection** across all jurisdictions scanned
- **Contact** with relevant stakeholders

Contexts in which benefits outweigh limitations



- When the problem being addressed is a **wide spread issue** that affects multiple jurisdictions
- When **contact** can be made with stakeholders from jurisdictions being examined
- When policy alternatives to address a “problem” have **not been systematically reviewed** or the systematic review is outdated

Strengths and Limitations



Strengths:

- Systematic CIS methodology
 - Integration of evidence from a wide range of sources

Limitations:

- Searches not mapped to subject heading
- The country of origin for the majority of included studies was Canada
 - Conclusions made may not be as applicable outside of the Canadian policy-making setting
- Analysis did not consider the policy making process as a whole

Policy Implications



These results have the potential to:

- **Inform the conduction and use** of jurisdictional scans by outlining appropriate contexts
- Promote **standardization of methodology** across documents and jurisdictions
 - Improve use of evidence presented in jurisdictional scans by other jurisdictions
- Promote **policy evaluation** in order to determine best practices