

Evidence and Gap Maps

Key terms and definitions

Core client outcomes	The Department of Communities and Justice has developed a set of core client outcomes and indicators. These help us to measure how well we are improving the lives of the people who receive our services.
Evidence and Gap Map (EGM)	An evidence and gap map is a systematic, visual presentation of all available evidence for a specific sector or subsector (e.g. children living in out-of-home-care, homelessness, housing).
Intervention	An intervention is the implementation of an activity or a program of activities that seeks to improve client outcomes.
Outcome domains	Categories that facilitate the organisation of similar outcomes into common subject matter groupings. The NSW Human Services Outcomes Framework specifies 7 outcome domains: social and community, empowerment, safety, home, education and skills, economic, health.
Primary studies	Primary studies is a term used to describe different types of study design including randomised controlled trials (RCTs) and quasi-experimental designs. These study designs are primary research as they produce new evidence as opposed to secondary research which provides a summary or analysis of existing research and evidence.
Quasi-experimental designs	Quasi-experimental designs involve allocating participants into two or more groups. These groups receive different interventions, and the outcomes of the groups are compared before and after the intervention. Quasi-experimental trials are similar to randomised controlled trials, but without the random assignment to a treatment or control group.
Randomised controlled trials (RCTs)	Randomised controlled trials (RCTs) involve randomly allocating participants into two or more groups. These groups receive different interventions, and the outcomes of the groups are compared before and after the intervention.
Systematic reviews	Systematic reviews are a way of capturing and consolidating evidence for a particular subject. They differ from other literature reviews, because the authors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clearly outline their research question • state what kind of studies will be included • describe the literature search process in detail.

Produced by

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