

What Are Systematic Reviews?

Systematic Review

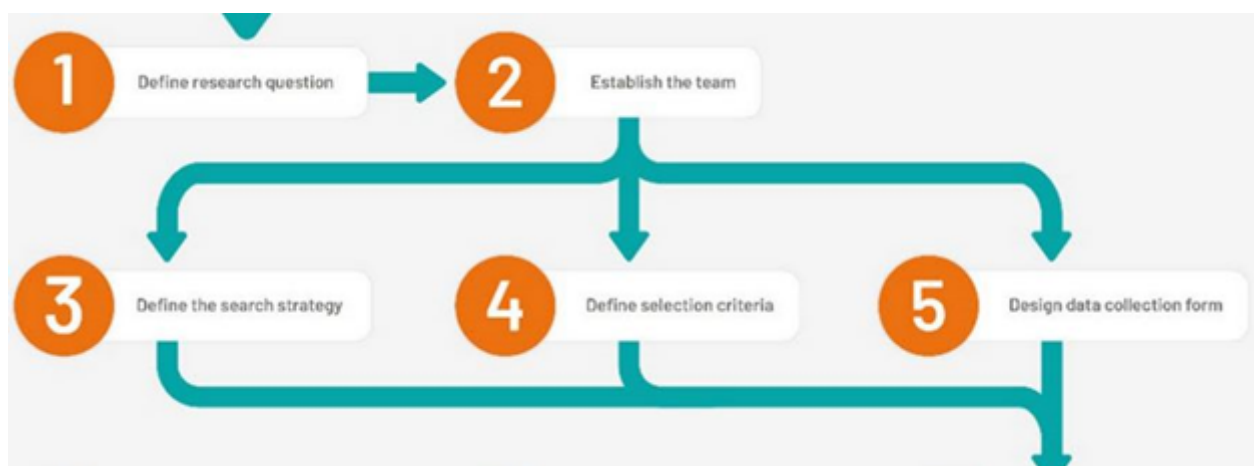
A systematic review answers a defined research question by collecting and summarizing all empirical evidence that fits pre-specified eligibility criteria.

- Systematic review = study of studies
- Systematic reviews collect and summarize the literature surrounding a topic
- Systematic reviews evaluate individual studies and analyze the findings
- Systematic reviews are useful for learning about general topics and relevant research

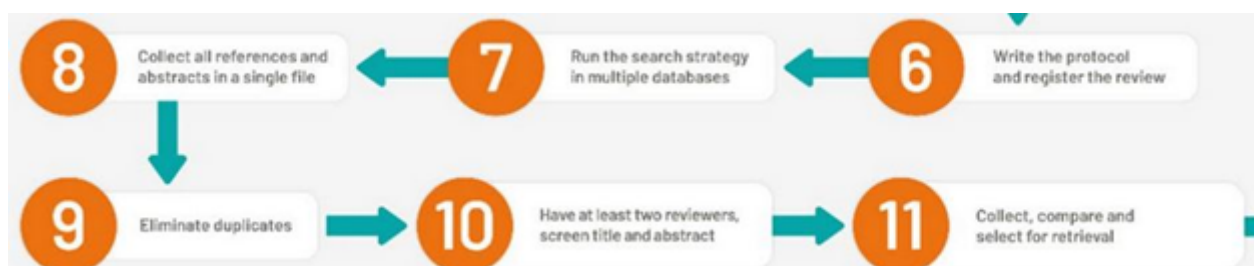
How Are Systematic Reviews Conducted?

A great way to approach the development of systematic reviews (and meta-analyses) is to break them down into smaller and more simple executable tasks. "[A 24-Step Guide on How to Design, Conduct, and Successfully Publish a Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis in Medical Research](#)" is a helpful paper that provides authors with concrete steps to follow when starting the systematic review and/or meta-analysis process. These steps can be placed into the following general categories:

Define and design



Search and collect



Extract, evaluate, and consult “experts in the field” of interest



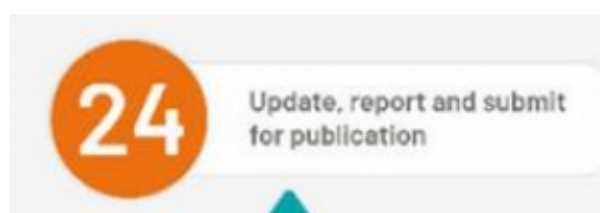
“Summarize and explain findings”

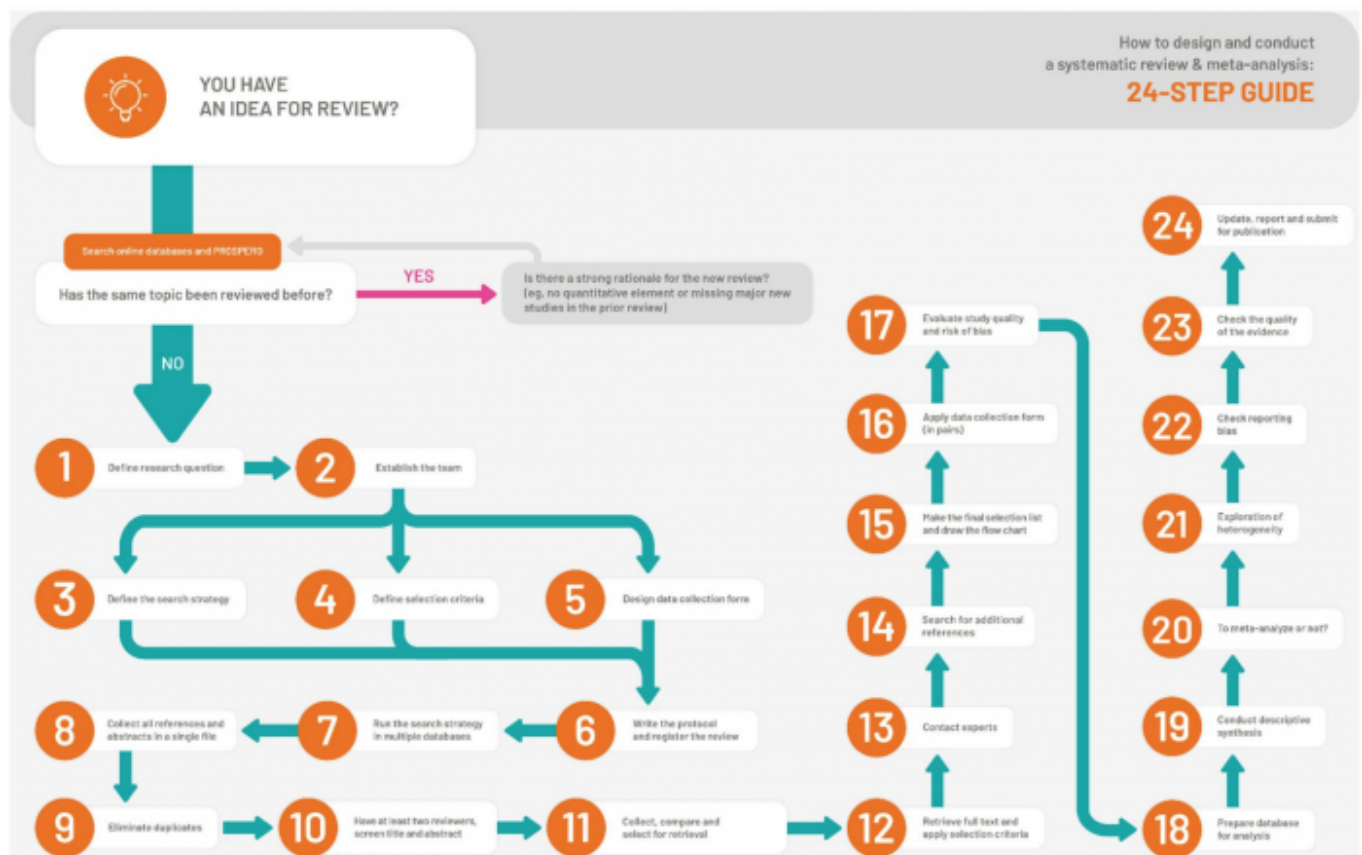


Check publication bias and evidence quality



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References

Muka, T., Glisic, M., Milic, J. *et al.* A 24-step guide on how to design, conduct, and successfully publish a systematic review and meta-analysis in medical research. *Eur J Epidemiol***35**, 49-60 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10654-019-00576-5>

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