

Box 1: Steps of developing evidence maps.

Steps	Description
1. Stakeholder engagement to determine the question at hand	Asking specific and clear research question that caters to the needs of the stakeholder, preferably following an analytic framework that provides a visual map outlining specific linkages among the populations of interest, exposures, effect modifiers, biological factors and outcomes of interest.(28)
2. Plan the development of an evidence map a priori	Knowing the data sources and components required to develop the map should be based on the intended purpose by stakeholders.
3. Conduct a comprehensive literature search using the research question	Features of good literature search include using multiple keywords and synonyms, not restricting to language, and querying multiple biomedical databases (e.g., PubMed, Medline, Scopus, Cochrane library of systematic reviews, Cochrane registry of clinical trials, and Embase).
4. Conducting a brief systematic review	Screening the literature can be shortened by identifying recent existing systematic reviews (with/without meta-analyses).
5. Grading certainty in the evidence	Applying the GRADE framework to the identified components of the body of evidence, if not already available from the literature by a recent systematic review.
6. Creating the evidence map	This includes visual depiction of data element most relevant to the stakeholder, for example, focusing on which comparisons are made and which are avoided, populations studied or avoided, size of the body of evidence, risk of bias, certainty, or other factors.