

Supplemental Table 1. Summary of intensional definitions

No.	First author or Institution Year	Discipline	Original content [#]
1	Sackett 1996	Health Sciences*	By best available external clinical evidence we mean clinically relevant research , often from the basic sciences of medicine, but especially from patient centred clinical research into the accuracy and precision of diagnostic tests (including the clinical examination), the power of prognostic markers, and the efficacy and safety of therapeutic, rehabilitative, and preventive regimens.[1]
2	Buetow 2000	Health Sciences*	Evidence is defined by its ability to establish or support conclusions.[2]
3	Guyatt 2000	Health Sciences*	Any empirical observation about the apparent relationship between events constitutes potential evidence. Thus, the unsystematic observations of the individual clinician constitute one source of evidence, and physiologic experiments another.[3]
4	Nutley 2000	Public Service	The presumption in this book is that evidence takes the form of ‘ research ’, broadly defined. That is, evidence comprises the results of “systematic investigation towards increasing the sum of knowledge”.[4]
5	Yang 2001	Health Sciences*	Evidence is the best research basis available.[5]
6	Haynes 2002	Health Sciences*	Evidence is narrowly defined as having to do with systematic observations from certain types of research.[6]
7	Zarkovich 2002	Health Sciences*	Evidence is produced by empirical study and adheres strictly to study design. Evidence could therefore be seen to possess two facets: the scientific, factual facet and the more personal, contextual facet.[7]
8	WHO Regional Office For EUROPE 2003	Health Sciences*	Findings from research and other knowledge that may serve as a useful basis for decision-making in public health and health care.[8]
9	Rycroft-Malone 2004	Health Sciences*	Information or facts that are systematically obtained, i.e., obtained in a manner that is replicable, observable, credible, verifiable, or basically supportable”.[9]
10	Rychetnik 2004	Public Health	In the broadest sense, evidence can be defined as “ facts or testimony in support of a conclusion, statement or belief” and “something serving as proof”.[10]

11	Lomas 2005	Health Sciences*	In this case the various tenets from philosophy of science determine what is evidence and can be summarized as knowledge that is: explicit (that is, codified and propositional); systematic (that is, uses transparent and explicit methods for codifying); and replicable (that is, following the same methods with the same samples will lead to the same results).[11]
12	Chen 2008	Health Sciences*	Evidence is the information after systematic reviews ("systematic reviews" inhere refers to a set of methods for efficient and scientific information processing system, do not just a research type).[12]
13	Oxman 2009	Health Sciences*	Evidence concerns facts (actual or asserted) intended for use in support of a conclusion.[13]
14	Brownson 2009	Public Health	For a public health professional, evidence is some form of data —including epidemiologic (quantitative) data, results of program or policy evaluations, and qualitative data—for uses in making judgments or decisions.[14]
15	Brownson 2009	Public Health	Public health evidence is usually the result of a complex cycle of observation, theory, and experiment.[14]
16	Hoffmann 2009	Health Sciences*	The term 'evidence' in evidence-based practice serves a specific purpose. Its purpose is to highlight the value of information from research which has so often been ignored.[15]
17	Mathews 2011	Social Sciences*	Evidence is often viewed as information generated by the process of enquiry or research.[16]
18	Mathews 2011	Social Sciences*	Evidence is the product of research , defined as a form of structured enquiry capable of producing generalisable knowledge.[16]
19	Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 2013	Social Sciences*	Evidence is any information that Defra (Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs) can use to turn its policy goals into something concrete, achievable and manageable.[17]
20	Nutley 2013	Public Service	The focus is on evidence that is underpinned by research . [18]
21	Barends 2014	Management	When we say evidence, we mean information, facts or data supporting (or contradicting) claim, assumption or hypothesis.[19]
22	National Institute for health and Clinical Excellence 2014	Health Sciences*	Evidence is information on which a decision or recommendation is based.[20]

23	Chen 2015	Health Sciences*	Evidence in evidence-based medicine mainly refers to patient centered human research evidence, including research on etiology, diagnosis, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and prognosis.[21]
24	Ma 2015	Social Sciences*	Synthesis of information generated for monitoring and evaluation systems, academic research, historical experience, and "good practice" information.[22]
25	Ma 2015	Social Sciences*	Accessible carriers of facts , or information that implies the truth and validity of a belief or claim.[22]
26	Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) 2016	Education	Evidence is a powerful tool to identify ways to address education problems and build knowledge on what works.[23]
27	Cheng 2016	Nursing	Evidence is available facts .[24]
28	Cheng 2016	Nursing	Evidence is a judgment on whether something is true and effective.[24]
29	Cheng 2016	Nursing	Evidence can also be a belief of opinion.[24]
30	Roberts 2016	Education	In scientific disciplines where research gives weight to data as evidence.[25]
31	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 2016	Public Health	Evidence encompasses a broad range of information that employs the different data sources and measurement activities discussed above that can serve to provide insight into policy and programmatic decisions.[26]
32	United States Environmental Protection Agency 2016	Social Sciences*	A piece is the evidence derived from a particular experiment or observational study . A piece of evidence is the minimum unit that might be weighted.[27]
33	Kriegler 2019	Social Sciences*	Evidence in this context does not refer to the law of evidence or applied forensic science, but rather to knowledge derived from the scientific method. This means the systematic accumulation of ideas that have been empirically tested and haven't yet been proven wrong.[28]
34	Salafsky 2019	Social Sciences*	The available body of facts or information indicating whether a belief or proposition is true or valid.[29]

35	Salafsky 2019	Social Sciences*	Information that informs inferences regarding a condition, cause, prediction, or outcome.[29]
36	Salafsky 2019	Social Sciences*	Relevant information used to assess one or more hypotheses related to a question of interest.[29]
37	Zhuo 2019	Management	Available facts or information indicating whether the opinion or proposition is true or valid.[30]
38	Durham University 2020	Education	Evidence, on the other hand, we take as data which have been subjected to some form of validation so that it is possible, for instance, to assign a 'weight' to the data when coming to an overall judgement.[31]
39	Xu 2020	Social Sciences*	Evidence is broadly defined as information that contributes to a conclusion.[32]
40	Steele 2020	Health Sciences*	The definition of evidence relies on knowledge that is gained through empirical research studies that are well controlled and carefully carried out.[33]
41	Dong 2021	Education	Evidence is a collection of available facts and information (used) to show whether a belief or argument is true or convincing, i.e., "facts and information".[34]
42	Dong 2021	Education	Evidence is also " reason ", but it obviously means some better reason.[34]

(*) Unknown specific discipline

(#) Definitions were taken verbatim; then the original was in Chinese it was directly translated into English. The bolded words were definiens.

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