Conducting a Scoping Review

What is a scoping review?
Before conducting a systematic review or meta-analysis, researchers start with a scoping review. This process is used at the planning stage to:
1. Estimate the number of studies eligible for systematic review.
2. Assess feasibility of a systematic review.
3. Refine the research question: broadening to ensure adequate literature, narrowing to ensure feasibility.

Click on each of the steps below to learn more.

- **IDENTIFY**
  - a broad research question and search terms

- **SEARCH AND RETRIEVE**
  - studies from one or more databases

- **SELECT**
  - studies randomly from the retrieved set to reduce screening burden

- **SCREEN**
  - based on proposed eligibility criteria

- **EXTRAPOLATE**
  - number of expected studies based on screening results

- **REFINE**
  - research question based on extrapolation

After this process, the review team will have a **feasible, refined research question** ready to propose for a systematic review and meta-analysis.