

Living Evidence Synthesis of the Measurement Properties of Mental Health Patient-Reported Outcome Measures

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Introduction

Patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) such as the PHQ-9, GAD-7, WHODAS-12, and RCADS-25 are widely used in mental health research and clinical practice due to their brevity and ease of use.

The PROMs have recently been recommended as common outcome measures to be routinely collected in mental health research by a consortium of funders and journals, with the aim of improving comparability across studies¹.

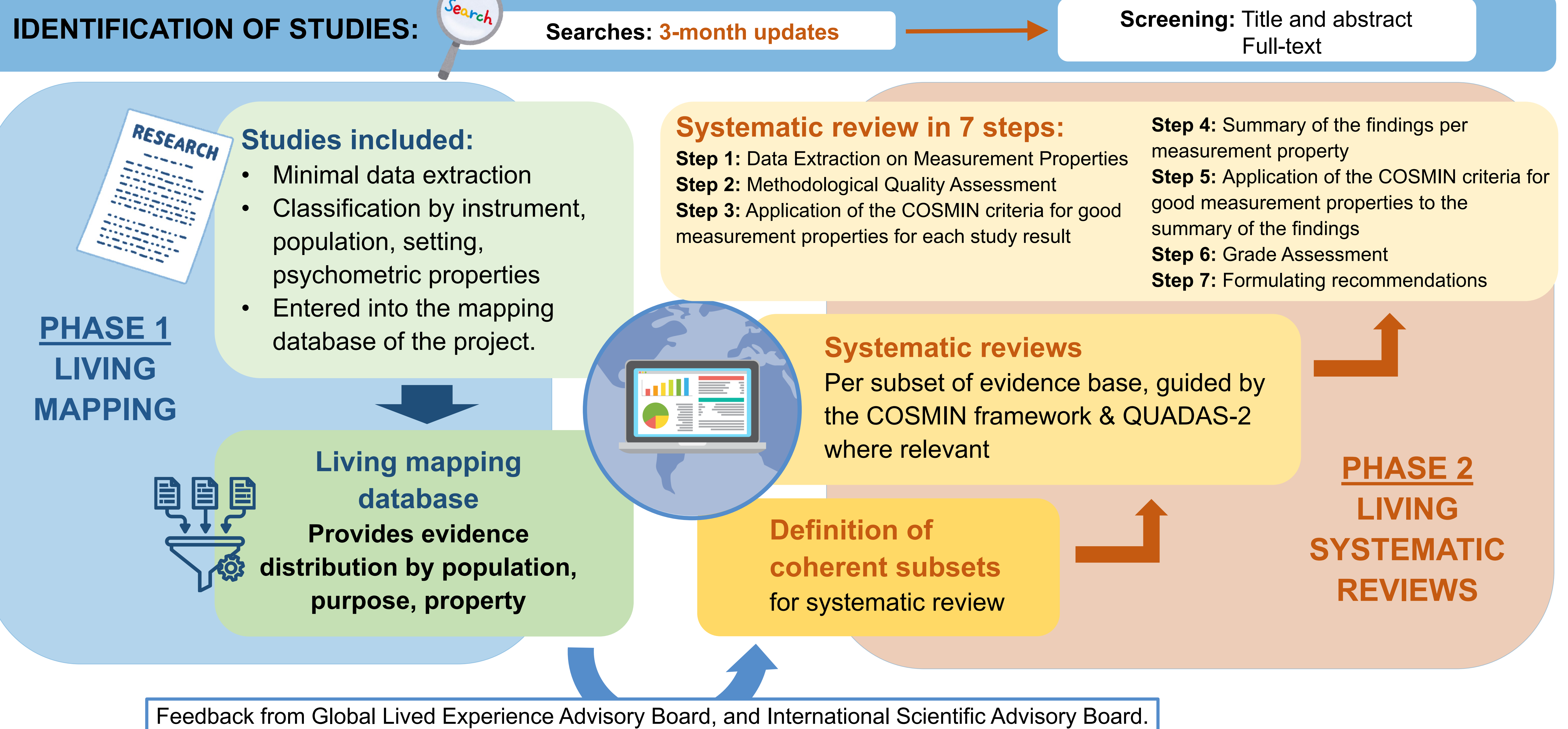
However, evidence on their psychometric properties is fragmented and inconsistent, with existing reviews limited to specific populations or domains.

This project addresses this gap by providing a continuously updated, standardized synthesis of psychometric evidence across instruments, populations, and contexts.

Objective: To conduct four living systematic reviews on the psychometric properties of GAD-7, PHQ-9, RCADS-25, and WHODAS 2.0, made available via an open-access online platform, allowing users to generate tailored evidence synthesis outputs for specific scenarios.

Methods

We apply a two-phase living evidence framework (see diagram below). **Phase 1** continuously identifies and maps studies in a living database, classifying evidence by instrument, population, setting, purpose, and psychometric properties. **Phase 2** conducts living systematic reviews of selected evidence subsets, following COSMIN² guidelines (and QUADAS-2³ where applicable) to appraise methodological quality, synthesize measurement properties, grade the evidence, and develop recommendations.



Expected impact

The living systematic reviews will identify strengths and gaps in the evidence base of the measurement properties of each PROM (e.g., populations or properties with low-quality or missing data), providing actionable recommendations for researchers and clinicians about its use, scoring, and future harmonization and validation priorities.

The open-access online platform (<https://ies.epistemonikos.org/home>), will allow users to generate tailored evidence synthesis outputs for specific scenarios.

A parallel scoping review will examine the impact of completing these measures on respondents' lived experience.

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Images: Canva

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