

Introduction

SBU produces evidence maps of systematic reviews on topics relevant to health care and social services. The literature is identified by searches in various bibliographic databases. Over the last years new databases that register systematic reviews have been introduced, for example Epistemonikos and KSR Evidence.

We wanted to investigate whether searching these two databases could be useful for SBU Evidence Maps. To answer this, we asked whether the systematic reviews included in the last six SBU Evidence Maps:

- were registered in Epistemonikos and KSR Evidence?
- could be identified with structured searches?

Methods

36 systematic reviews included in the six latest published SBU Evidence Maps were used as a gold standard for this evaluation. The topics extended into both health care and social services.

Methods for evaluating database coverage

For each of the 36 systematic reviews, a title search was performed in both databases. The aim was to see if the references were registered in each respective database.

Methods for evaluating search functionality

A subject search per evidence map/research question was performed in both databases. All searches were based on the original search, but adapted to the search options of each database. All hits were exported into EndNote, where title searches showed if each systematic review was found in one of the databases or in both.

Results

Results of database coverage

Of the 36 systematic reviews in our set of gold standard references, 35 were registered in KSR Evidence and in Epistemonikos.

Results of structured searches

Taken all our searches together, a slightly higher number of our references were retrieved from KSR Evidence compared to Epistemonikos.

Only in one area did the structured searches identify all of the gold standard references.

The results of the subjects searches are presented in detail in the charts below.

Conclusions and discussion

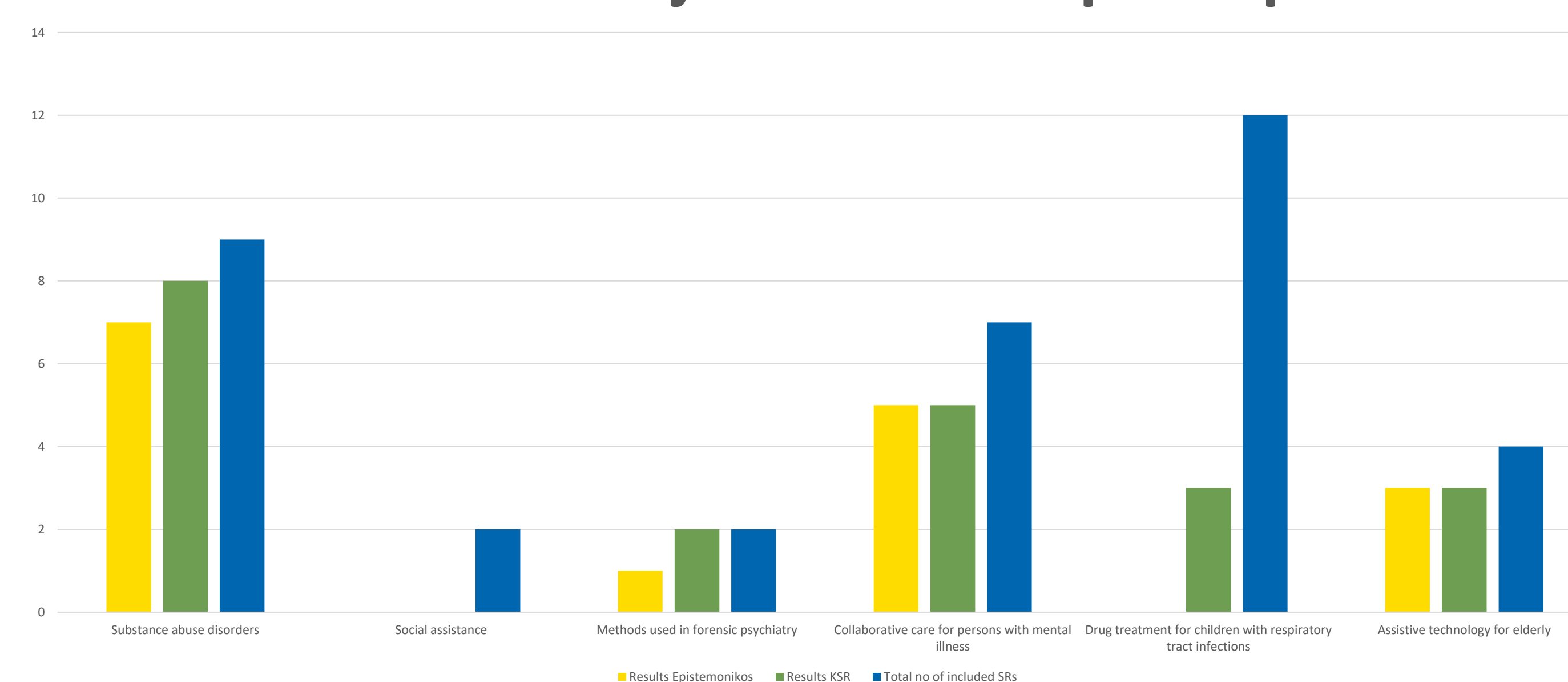
Epistemonikos and KSR Evidence mainly covers topics from the health care area, but nearly all of our gold standard were registered in both databases.

Structured searches, however, only retrieved a part of the references. The simplified search strategies and the heterogenous vocabulary of the social services area might be part of the explanation. More unexpectedly, only a small part of the systematic reviews on respiratory tract infections- a medical topic- were identified. This implies that either the search strings were not comprehensive enough, or that the databases are not suited for exhaustive searches.

We find Epistemonikos and KSR Evidence to be valuable resources for identifying systematic reviews, but not sufficient to replace any of the databases usually used for SBU Evidence Maps.

Both databases has extra features that might be valuable for SBU Evidence Maps, and we will continue our evaluations.

Result of subject searches per topic



Result of subject searches per database

