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Abstract:

Recently, a number of reviews summarising insights from qualitative, empirical studies have been published in the broad field of health care. Many of them aim at informing policy and practice. Examples of syntheses bringing together findings on one particular target group, giving a broad international perspective, appear regularly in high quality journals. We conducted a qualitative evidence synthesis with a focus on country-specific issues, including perspectives from different target groups functioning in the same local environment and between the boundaries of the Belgian health care, political and socio-economic system. This paper discusses the methodological issues related to the choice to proceed with summarising evidence from a particular local context only and addresses issues such as the number of studies retrieved through local contacts or local databases, the likelihood of transferring findings to other target groups, settings or countries and the importance of local networks in retrieving relevant studies.
