Health departments are welcome to adapt this tool. Requirements for adapting this tool include: Health Evidence™ and Peel Public Health are acknowledged for tool development; and adapted tool cannot be used for profit (not to be sold).

PICO Search Terms Table: For Searchable **Quantitative** Research Questions

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **P**opulation | **I**ntervention or **E**xposure | **C**omparison | **O**utcomes |
| **From clinical question** | Describe the **population** that you come into contact with and are relevant to your practice.  This could include:   * **General population** * Specific **community types** (e.g., rural or urban-dwelling) * Other population-based descriptors such as:   + **Age** (e.g., youth / adolescent, seniors/elderly)   + **SES** (e.g. low-income, homeless)   + **Risk status** (high risk, at risk, MSM, IDU) | **Intervention** refers to the therapy, test, organizational / systems strategies that we want to find out more about. This can be about environmental factors, health services, counseling, or screening (diagnostic tests).  **Exposure** refers to the population’s exposure to a risk factor, disease, condition or harm. | The **comparison** can be standard or routine interventions, an alternative treatment or exposure, or no treatment. | Make a distinction between the **outcome** which is relevant to your population of interest or the issue/problem and the outcome measures deployed in studies. Spend some time working out exactly what outcome is important to you, your population, and the time-frame which is appropriate. |
| **Synonyms or other key words or phrases** |  |  |  |  |
| **MeSH headings**  \*Consult each specific database’s thesaurus for specific terms used (e.g. in MEDLINE these terms are MeSH headings, other databases use other terms) |  |  |  |  |

**🗸** Remember: Save the table and search strategy used in the bibliographic database(s) for future reference and to document your search process

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P.S. Search Terms Table: For Searchable **Qualitative** Research Questions

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **P**opulation | **S**ituation |
| **From clinical question** | Describe the **populations** that you come into contact with and are relevant to your practice.  This could include:   * **General population** * Specific **community types** (e.g., rural or urban-dwelling) * Other population-based descriptors such as:   + **Age** (e.g., youth/adolescent, seniors/elderly)   + **SES** (e.g, low-income, homeless)   + **Risk status** (high risk, at risk, MSM, IDU) | This refers to the phenomenon or **situation** we want to find out more about, such as:   * **Circumstances** * **Conditions** * **Experiences** |
| **Synonyms or other key words or phrases** |  |  |
| **MeSH headings**  \*Consult each specific database’s thesaurus for specific terms used (e.g. in MEDLINE these terms are MeSH headings, other databases use other terms) |  |  |

***🗸*** Remember: Save the table and search strategy used in the bibliographic database(s) for future reference and to document your search process.

**Have you used this tool?**

We would appreciate hearing from those who have used the tool, perspectives on its usefulness, how it was adapted, and any suggestions for revision:

[**info@healthevidence.org**](mailto:info@healthevidence.org).

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