

Drug Checking Services Evaluation and Monitoring: A Rapid Review

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Introduction: To inform the development of the Evaluation Plan and Monitoring Framework for Drug Checking Services in Queensland, the authors conducted a rapid review of the literature on evaluation and monitoring of drug checking services, including key evaluation methods, and strengths and limitations of these methods.

Methods: Searches were conducted in Pubmed, Web of Science, PsychINFO, Scopus and Embase. Recognising this as a rapidly expanding field, included studies had to be published in English and published after 2021, a date which was selected to provide an update on an earlier systematic review of drug checking services by Maghsoudi et al (2021).

Results: Initial searches identified a total of 829 studies, with reviewers screening a total of 406 studies. After screening, 30 studies were provisionally selected for inclusion, with further review of final inclusions anticipated. The results explore the key outcomes of the included studies, evaluation methods, and strengths and limitations of evaluation methods, as well as key considerations for ongoing monitoring and evaluation of drug checking services.

Discussions and Conclusions: There is a need for further research on the key issues for ongoing monitoring and evaluation of drug checking services, including optimal methods that are feasible for ongoing data collection by drug checking services in a range of settings.

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