

4.15 Global-commissioning initiative brief evidence

Only one of 70 global commission reports published since January 2016, in describing their commissioners singled out the expertise in any of the eight forms of evidence that decision-makers typically encounter.

When commission reports explicitly reported in their methods section that they drew on any of these forms of evidence in their own work, modeling was the most frequent form (13 reports) and evidence synthesis (6) and technology assessment / cost-effectiveness analysis (5) were the next most frequent. Complementing this analysis of methods sections, an analysis of reference lists found:

- 64 of 70 reports had a reference list
- only 32 of these 64 reports had at least one citation of an evidence synthesis
- only 3% of citations (526 of 17,605) appeared to be evidence syntheses based on their titles
- The mean and median number of citations of evidence syntheses were 8.2 and one per report, respectively.

We also analyzed the citation lists for the Global Sustainable Development Report 2019, which was prepared by an independent

group of scientists appointed by the UN Secretary-General and which, accordingly, one might expect to be a positive outlier.(20) However, in this report only 1.8% of citations (17 of 941) appeared to be evidence syntheses based on their titles. When evidence syntheses were cited, it wasn't clear whether questions of 2478.1401 Tm()s syntheses (.)TJ-0.9 -1.4 Td(W)18 (e also analyzed in so le2f4d to 55ses based on /A

Forms of evidence		Number of commission reports
Basis for describing the expertise of members of the commission (not including their individual bios)	Technology assessment / cost-effectiveness analysis	1
	All other forms of evidence	0
	Not explicitly reported	69
Source of evidence drawn upon	Modeling	13
	Evidence synthesis	6
	Technology assessment / cost-effectiveness analysis	5
	Data analytics	3
	Evaluation	2
	Guidelines	2
	Behavioral/implementation research	1
	Qualitative insights	1
	Not explicitly reported	49
Focus of recommendations	Modeling	1
	Evaluation	1
	Qualitative insights	1
	Technology assessment / cost-effectiveness analysis	1
	Guidelines	1
	All other forms of evidence	0
	Not explicitly reported	66