

4.4 | Evidence local and global evidence

Decision-makers need both local evidence (i.e., what has been learned in their own country, state/province or city) and global evidence (i.e., what has been learned around the world, including how it varies by groups and contexts). Both 'local' and 'global' evidence can take many forms, including local data analysis, a local evaluation, and local implementation research. The global evidence typically takes the form of an evidence synthesis, which are mentioned below.

Decision-makers may benefit from recommendations that draw on both local and global evidence. Guidelines, by definition, provide recommendations. As noted in the introduction, in times of crisis, we must often initially rely on emerging guidance (e.g., we don't yet know enough about what is or is not the case) and then on replacement guidance (e.g., we now have evidence indicating that masks reduce transmission). At all times, we need to be open to what has been called 'reversals,' which is when accumulating evidence shows that approaches thought to have benefits turn out to do no good at all, or even cause harm. Technology assessments may provide recommendations, or they may provide a type of evidence support by complementing the available evidence with an assessment of the social, ethical and legal factors that may also influence a local decision.

Modeling is most commonly a form of local evidence. However, it can provide a basis of synthesizing the best evidence globally, as is done in high-stakes domains like climate action, medicines reimbursement, and macroeconomic policy. Modeling can also provide a form of local evidence support, with modelers effectively acting as a type of evidence intermediary. This is the case with many jurisdiction-specific

