

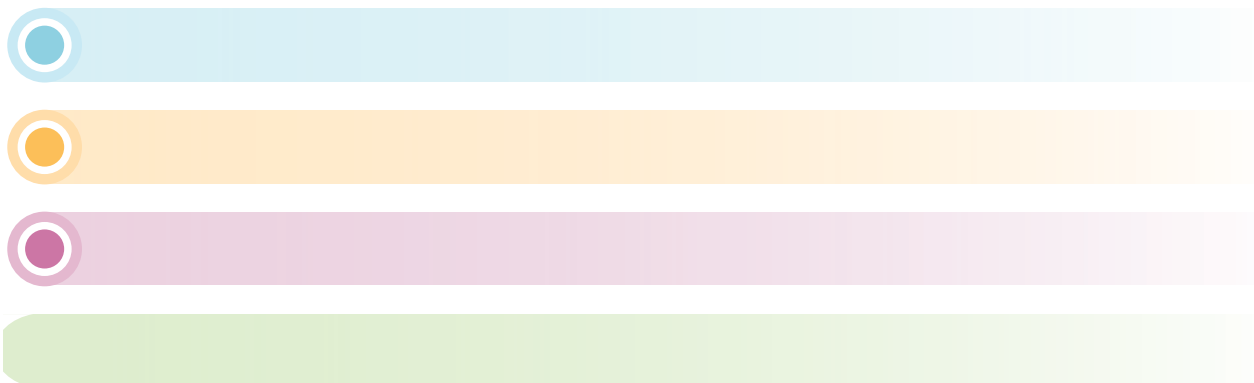
4.7 Living evidence-based policy

For all the forms of evidence that decision-makers typically encounter are not available as ‘living’ evidence products, meaning they are regularly updated as new data are added or new studies are published. Many such living evidence products began as part of the COVID-19 evidence response. Fewer exist in sectors other than health. We provide examples below.

Many government policy makers and other decision-makers have come to expect such regular updating for COVID-19 and will likely start to ask how such products can be maintained for other high-priority societal challenges where there is significant uncertainty and a high likelihood of evidence emerging to address that uncertainty. The growing use of artificial intelligence, among other innovations, will likely make it easier in the future for evidence producers to meet these greater expectations. However, evidence producers will need to take steps to ensure that these innovations do not inadvertently perpetuate or increase the risk of discrimination (e.g., using race or variables associated with race in a way that disadvantage certain groups). They will also need to support decision-makers to interpret and use the findings appropriately, especially when causal inferences are being made.

- The WHO COVID-19 Dashboard provides a set of data analytics about the stringency of public-health measures being taken to address COVID-19, the UK Health Security Agency’s surveillance reports (bit.ly/3DeaSlc) provide a set of data analytics about COVID-19 in the UK, and Opportunity Insights’ Economic Tracker provides a set of data analytics about COVID-19 impacts on the economic prospects of people, businesses and communities in the US
- The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Weekly Tracker of Economic Activity to Oppose provides a set of data see bit.ly/3KQ8Dc

A thematic analysis of a listser discussion among the COVID-END Commission identified differing views about:



Such issues will likely be the focus of intense debate in the coming years. Additional details about the rationale for linking evidence syntheses and the issues involved in maintaining them can be found in a brief note co-authored by one of our commissioners.⁽⁹⁾

In [section 4.13](#), we describe some of the key characteristics of the linking evidence syntheses maintained as part of the COVID-19 evidence response.