Supplementary File 1. STROBE checklist [12]

	Item No	Recommendation	Page No
Title and abstract	1	(*a*) Indicate the study's design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract	1
		(*b*) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found	1
Introduction			
Background/rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported	2
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses	3
Methods			
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper	3
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection	N/A
Participants	6	(*a*) *Cohort study*—Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants. Describe methods of follow-up *Case-control study*—Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of case ascertainment and control selection. Give the rationale for the choice of cases and controls *Cross-sectional study*—Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants	N/A
		(*b*) *Cohort study*—For matched studies, give matching criteria and number of exposed and unexposed *Case-control study*—For matched studies, give matching criteria and the number of controls per case	
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable	N./A
Data sources/ measurement	8*	For each variable of interest, give sources of data and details of methods of assessment (measurement). Describe comparability of assessment methods if there is more than one group	
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias	N/A
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at	N/A
Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why	
Statistical methods	12	(*a*) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding	N/A
		(*b*) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions	N/A

		(*c*) Explain how missing data were addressed	N/A
		(*d*) *Cohort study*—If applicable, explain how loss to follow-up was addressed *Case-control study*—If applicable, explain how matching of cases and controls was addressed *Cross-sectional study*—If applicable, describe analytical methods taking account of sampling strategy	
		(*e*) Describe any sensitivity analyses	
Results			
Participants	13*	(a) Report numbers of individuals at each stage of study—eg numbers potentially eligible, examined for eligibility, confirmed eligible, included in the study, completing follow-up, and analysed	N/A
		(b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage	
		(c) Consider use of a flow diagram	
Descriptive data	14*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders	N/A
		(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest	
		(c) *Cohort study*—Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount)	
Outcome data	15*	*Cohort study*—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time	
		Case-control study—Report numbers in each exposure category, or summary measures of exposure	N/A
		Cross-sectional study—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures	
Main results	16	(*a*) Give unadjusted estimates and, if applicable, confounder-adjusted estimates and their precision (eg, 95% confidence interval). Make clear which confounders were adjusted for and why they were included	N/A
		(*b*) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized	
		(*c*) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period	
Other analyses	17	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses	6
Discussion			
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	6
Limitations	19	Discuss limitations of the study, taking into account sources of potential bias or imprecision. Discuss both direction and magnitude of any potential bias	12
Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence	12

Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results	12
Other information			
Funding	22	Give the source of funding and the role of the funders for the present study and, if applicable, for the original study on which the present article is based	13

*Give information separately for cases and controls in case-control studies and, if applicable, for exposed and unexposed groups in cohort and cross-sectional studies.

Note: An Explanation and Elaboration article discusses each checklist item and gives methodological background and published examples of transparent reporting. The STROBE checklist is best used in conjunction with this article (freely available on the Web sites of PLoS Medicine at http://www.plosmedicine.org/, Annals of Internal Medicine at http://www.annals.org/, and Epidemiology at http://www.epidem.com/). Information on the STROBE Initiative is available at www.strobe-statement.org.

Appendix 1: Data extraction of 56 studies included in our scan

Citation	Purposes of environmental scans	Methods and data sources for environmental scans
[21]Abrahamyan, Wong, Pham et al., 2014	"The primary objective of this study was to conduct an environmental scan to identify all community-based multidisciplinary wound care teams in Ontario and describe their service models." (p.23)	• Systematic survey with three search strategies to identify all community-based multidisciplinary wound care teams in Ontario • Contact with community care access centers, online would care forums/newsletters, and snowball sampling was used to identify eligible teams • Leads of eligible complete survey to describe team's service model
[22]Aslakson, Schuster, Miller et al., 2014	"This protocol outlines three categories of pertinent questions to guide the conduct of the environmental scan…: (i) current evidence on advance care planning decision aids, (ii) gaps in knowledge about advance care planning decision aids, and (iii) details about existing advance care planning decision aids." (p.209)	• Review of peer-reviewed and grey literature • Review of written and verbal data sources from lay and professional perspectives • Literature review (systematic review) • Key informant interview • Family and patient engagement
[23]Bednar, Walsh, Baker et al., 2018	"The purpose of the environmental scan was to effectively capture information and knowledge to assess an external site's clinical environment and capacity to undertake a QI [quality improvement] project, identify barriers and facilitators to assist in brainstorming and development of future QI interventions, and to identify risks and opportunities to achieve a future QI project's goals." (p.1483)	• A mixed-methods approach was employed using quantitative and qualitative data collected from past QI, reviews of internal processes, literature, and each oncology care settings • Literature review • Key informant interviews • Data collection form
[24]Blasi, King & Henrikson, 2015	"We conducted an environmental scan to learn from HPV [human papillomavirus] vaccine	• Internet materials • Expert consultations

	campaigns present in and missing from the research literature." (p.898)	
[25]Charlton, Doucet, Azar et al., 2019	"The objectives of this study are to map the extent, range and nature of evidence that describe the definitions, characteristics, conceptualisations, theoretical underpinnings, study limitations and other features of the environmental scan in the health services delivery literature and to propose a working definition specific to this context." (p.1)	• Review of peer-reviewed and grey literature • Literature review (scoping review protocol)
[26]Cote, Lauzon & Kyd-Strickland, 2008	"The purpose of this scan was to place our project within the context of the health care system and government drive towards interprofessional collaboration. We needed to identify key resources and verify if any other large academic health science centre had implemented a system-wide management model addressing interprofessional collaboration." (p.451)	• Literature review • Key informant interviews • Information summaries • Internet materials
[27]Donnelly & Thompson, 2015	"For the environmental scan, we will identify decision aids by supplementing the systematic review search with Internet-based searches and key informant consultation." (p. 1)	• Literature review (systematic review) • Internet materials • Expert consultations
[12]Gibb, 2013	"The environmental scan aimed to deepen our understanding of the aged care work culture and to ascertain the readiness of the workers to advance towards team-based quality care provision." (p. 293)	• Key informant interviews • Focus groups • Practice observations • Team diagnostic survey

[3]Graham, Evitts & Thomas-MacLean, 2008	"A goal of environmental scans includes the design of health programs that are geared toward and incorporate the needs of specific communities. In all domains, environmental scans are designed to help plan for the future, to provide evidence about the directions of an organization or profession, to raise awareness of issues, or to initiate a project." (p.1022)	• Passive approach: data collection from existing knowledge • Active approach: data collection from creating new knowledge • Internal: memos, personal communications, meeting minutes etc. • External: corporate sources, government documents, academia
[28]Kalula, Scott, Dowd et al., 2011	"This paper describes a pilot study conducted to determine the need and feasibility for the adaptation of the CFPC [Canadian Falls Prevention Curriculum] for developing countries and concludes with recommendations for next steps. The pilot consisted of an environmental scan to determine existing knowledge, and programs and services that may enable successful implementation and uptake of the CFPC". (p.461)	• A mixed-methods approach was employed using data collected from three sources • Literature review (systematic review) • Scan of health promotion programs • Falls prevention education
[29]Kassam, MacLeod, Collins et al., 2011	"…environmental scan was an explanatory study to inform the design of a web-based resource for health professional preceptors." (p.2)	• Internet materials • Needs assessment survey
[30]Legare, Politi, Drotlet et al., 2012	"We conducted an environmental scan looking for programs that train health professionals in SDM [shared decision- making]." (p. 159)	• Literature review (systematic review) • Expert consultations
[31]Liddy, Johnston, Irving et al., 2013	"…an environmental scan was conducted to gain a better understanding of the nature, scope, strengths and weaknesses of existing self-management support resources…" (p. 540)	• Literature review (scoping review) • Key informant interviews

[32]Liddy & Mill, 2014	"…we performed an environmental scan to identify provincial and territorial government strategic policy documents that support patient self-management." (p.55-56)	• Internet materials • Key informant interviews
[33]Luke, Doucet & Azar, 2018	"(1) To provide other organizations with useful information when implementing paediatric navigation programs and (2) to inform the implementation of a navigation care centre in New Brunswick for children with complex health conditions." (p.e46)	• Internet materials • Key informant interviews
[34]McPherson, Leo, Church et al., 2014	"To identify and explore current clinical practices around weight assessment and management in paediatric spina bifida clinics." (p.207)	• Online, self-report survey
[35]Moore, Lee, Milligan et al., 2015	"…we have conducted an environmental scan of the prevalence and characteristics of physical activity services offered by FHTs [family health teams], including the population reach, and any internal service evaluations being performed. Second, this environmental scan will characterize the qualifications of the individuals heading the programs and the presence of Health Promoters acting as physical activity therapists." (p. 302)	• Key informant Interviews
[36]Nagi, Rogers Van Katwyk & Hoffman, 2020	"In this manuscript we aimed to (1) summarise and critically evaluate the available evidence on global health research expertise at Canadian universities through research inputs, activities and outputs	"We developed a three-pronged rapid environmental scan to evaluate Canadian global health research expertise that focused on research funding inputs, research activities and research outputs." (p.1)

	and (2) assess Canada's overall global health research expertise using strengths in select research inputs, activities and outputs." (p.2)	
[4]Naumann, Reynolds, McColl et al., 2013	"The purpose of the environmental scan was to collect the evidence required to raise awareness of the state of FASD [fetal alcohol spectrum disorder] service availability to residents in Eastern Ontario, explore the experience of FASD at the grassroots level and to identify and illustrate gaps in service delivery." (p.36)	• Review of peer-reviewed and grey literature • Literature review (scoping review) • Expert consultations • Internet materials • Data trends
[37]O'Connor Duffany, Finegood, Matthews et al., 2011	"To describe the physical and spatial aspects of both the study intervention and comparison communities. The purpose of the environmental scans is to describe the physical and spatial aspects of both the intervention and comparison communities. The scans were designed to examine the availability, accessibility, and affordability of healthy versus unhealthy food options, opportunities for physical activity, and environments that encourage/discourage tobacco use." (p.54)	• Key informant interviews and surveys • Community Health Environmental Scan Survey • Policy review
[38]Porterfield, Hinnant, Kane et al., 2012	"We conducted a literature review and environmental scan to develop a framework for interventions that utilize linkages between clinical practices and community organizations for the delivery of preventive services, and to identify and characterize these efforts." (p.S375)	• Literature review (scoping review) • Internet materials • Expert consultations

[39]Pourmohammadi, Bastani, Shojaei et al., 2020	"This study was conducted to provide a strategic direction to public hospitals in Iran via environmental scanning in order to equip hospitals to plan and perform proactively and adapt with the everchanging environment." (p.1)	• Key informant interviews and surveys
[40]Reitmanova & Gustafson, 2009	"The purpose of the environmental scan was to identify the range of existing mental health care services in St. John's with particular attention to those targeting visible minority immigrants." (p.615)	• Internet materials • Key informant interviews
[6]Rowel, Moore, Nowrojee et al., 2005	"The purpose of this study was to elicit lessons learned to maximize the utility of the environmental scan as a tool for public health." (p.529)	Some characteristics of environmental scans: • Examining a broad range of issues • Collecting data from a variety of data sources • Input from experts from inside and outside field of scan • "out-of-the-box" thinking is promoted to examine trends in other professions and industries • Literature reviews • Surveys • Key informant interviews • Expert consultations • Focus groups • Site visits • Formal sources (professional guidelines) • Informal/personal sources (internet)
[15]Scobba, 2010	"The environmental scan focuses on the identification, collection, and translation of external information that may potentially influence an organization's decision-making process…Health researchers are employing environmental scans to build on established knowledge with the goal of	• "Initially, a broad spectrum of issues is examined, involving social, political, technological and other trends. Second, information may be gathered from a variety of sources, including literature reviews, surveys, interviews, focus groups, and site visits. Third, critical analysis and dissemination of collected data is promoted by the recruitment

	improving the design and effectiveness of community health programs." (p.184)	of experts from both inside and outside the fields being scanned. Environmental scans can utilize a wide sweep of information sources, ranging from formal, established data, such as published reports, to informal, personal contacts."(p.184-185)
[41]Sibbald, McPherson & Kothari, 2013	"The purpose of the environmental scan was to identify recent, current and planned PHC [primary healthcare] quality-related activities and capacities in Ontario." (p.3)	• Key informant interviews • Internet materials
[42]Wijeysundera,Trubiani, Abrahamyan et al., 2012	"Our objective was to address these important gaps in knowledge, through a comprehensive field evaluation, whereby real world practice for HF patients in Ontario was assessed in 2010. Specially, we aimed to understand the current availability of specialized HF [heart failture] clinics in the province, and the intensity and complexity of services offered." (p.2)	• Key informant interviews
[5]Wilburn, Vanderpool & Knight, 2016	"…we describe the steps for an environmental scan and use as an example the environmental scan that we conducted of a federally funded human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination project in Kentucky. Our goal is to help public health practitioners successfully apply this methodology in the context of public health practice and research." (p.2)	• "Seven-step approach: (1) Draw on experience to determine leadership and capacity for the project; (2) Establish the focal area and purpose of the environmental scan; (3) Create and adhere to a timeline and set incremental goals; (4) Determine information to be collected for the environmental scan; (5) Identify and engage stakeholders; (6) Analyze and synthesize results from the environmental scan into a concise summary report; and (7) Disseminate results and conclusions to key stakeholders." (p.2-4) • Literature reviews

		• Online database assessments • Social media • Policy review • Key informant interviews • Expert consultations • Competitor appraisal