

Systematic searching in the age of uncertainty: identifying the evidence for NICE guidelines

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25 November 2020

NICE guidelines

NICE National Institute for
Health and Care Excellence

Search NICE...



Sign in

NICE Pathways

NICE guidance

Standards and indicators

Evidence search

BNF

BNFC

CKS

Journals and databases

Read about [our approach to COVID-19](#)

Improving health and social care through evidence-based guidance

Find NICE guidance

Browse guidance by area:

Conditions and diseases

Health and social care delivery

Health protection

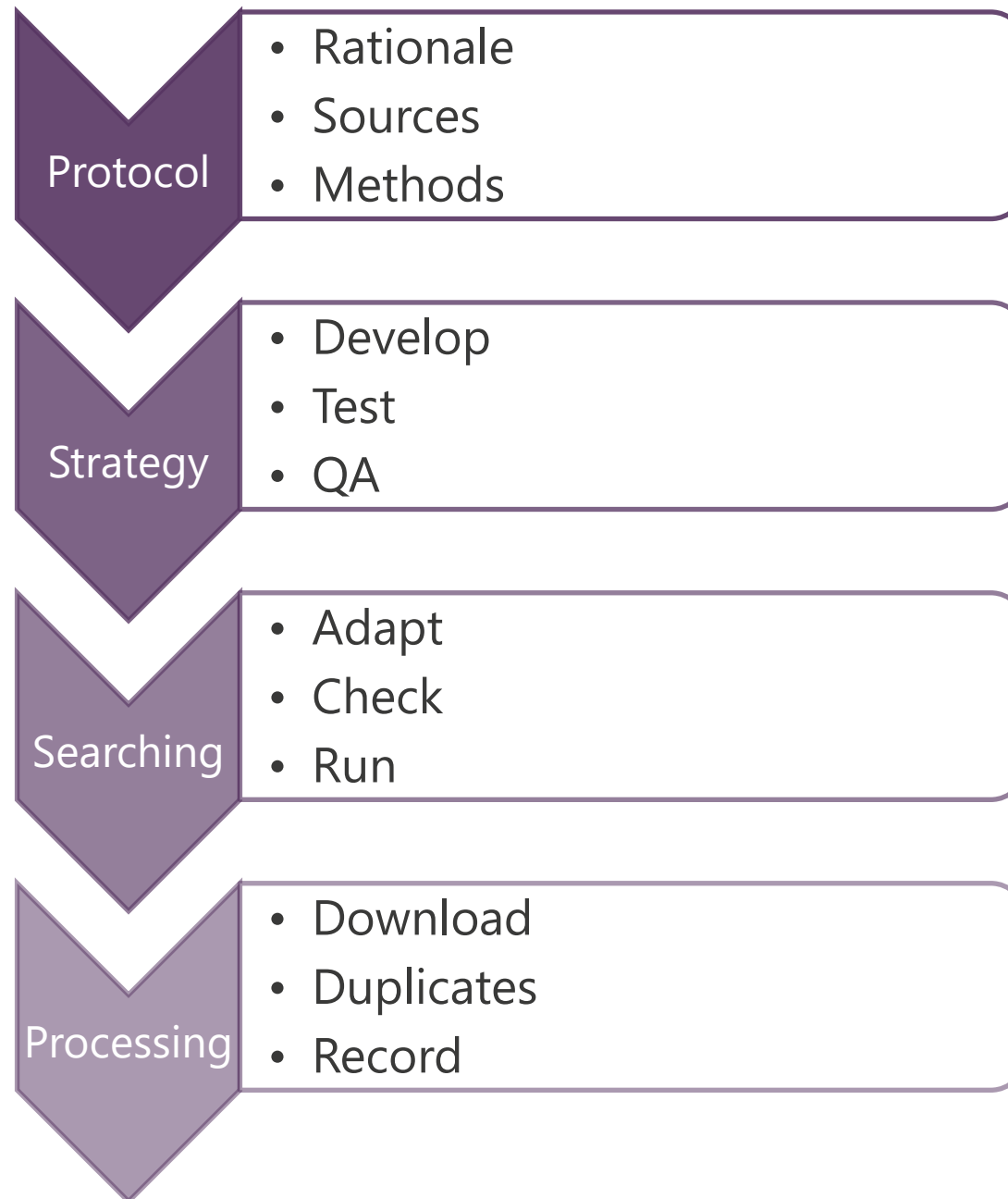
Lifestyle and wellbeing

Population groups

Settings

NICE

Search process



Gemcitabine for treating pancreatic cancer



Protocol
Strategy developed

Strategy
Gemcitabine AND Pancreatic Cancer

Searching
Databases
Other sources

Processing
Full search
Write up

Public health searching



Which campaigns delivered through digital media

are effective and cost effective

in preventing take up of smoking

in children, young people and young adults?

Search design



Guidance
2008

Surveillance
2016

Draft
protocol



Review team

QA

Committee



Test

Adapt

Topic sources



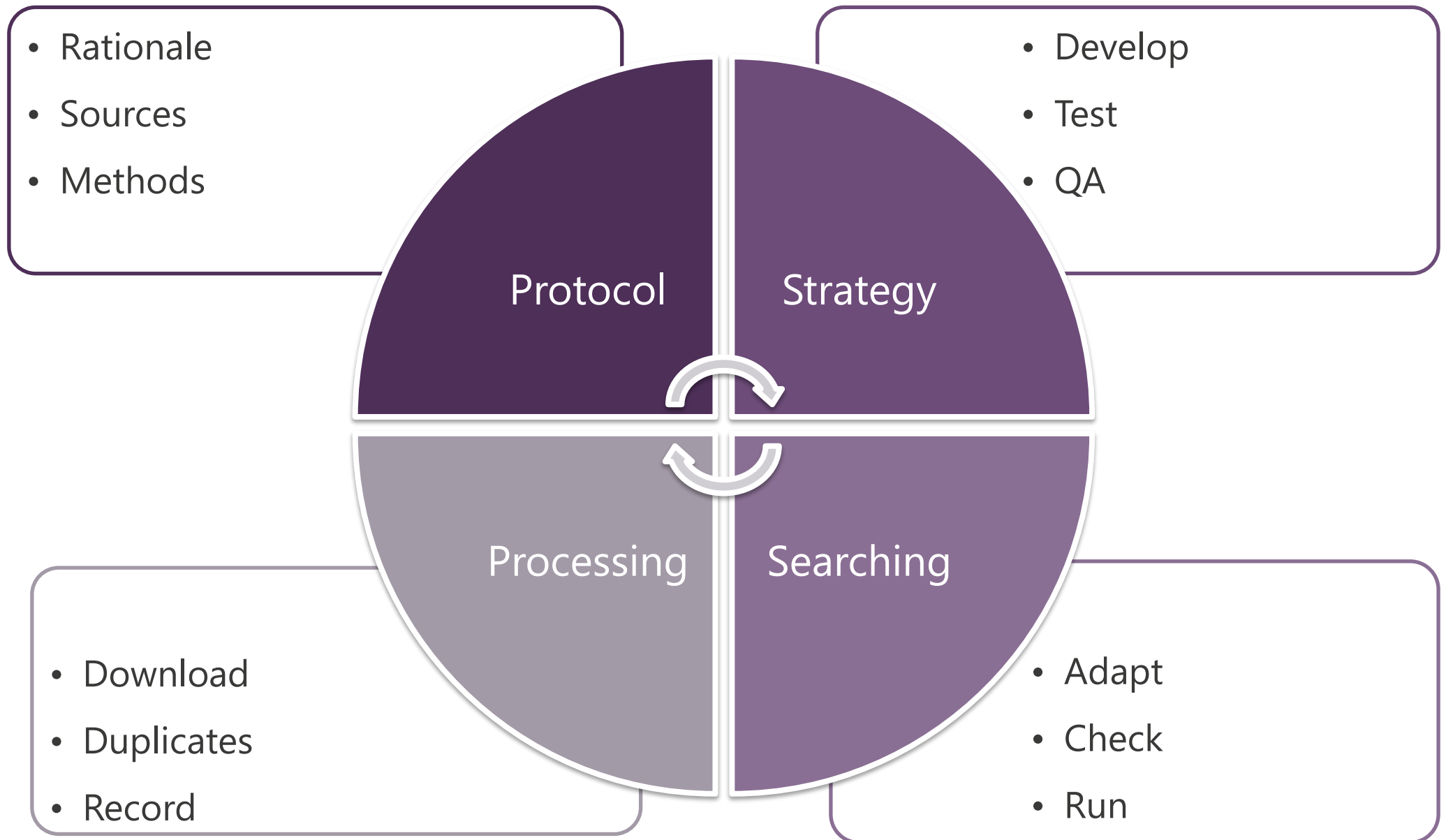
Run

Record

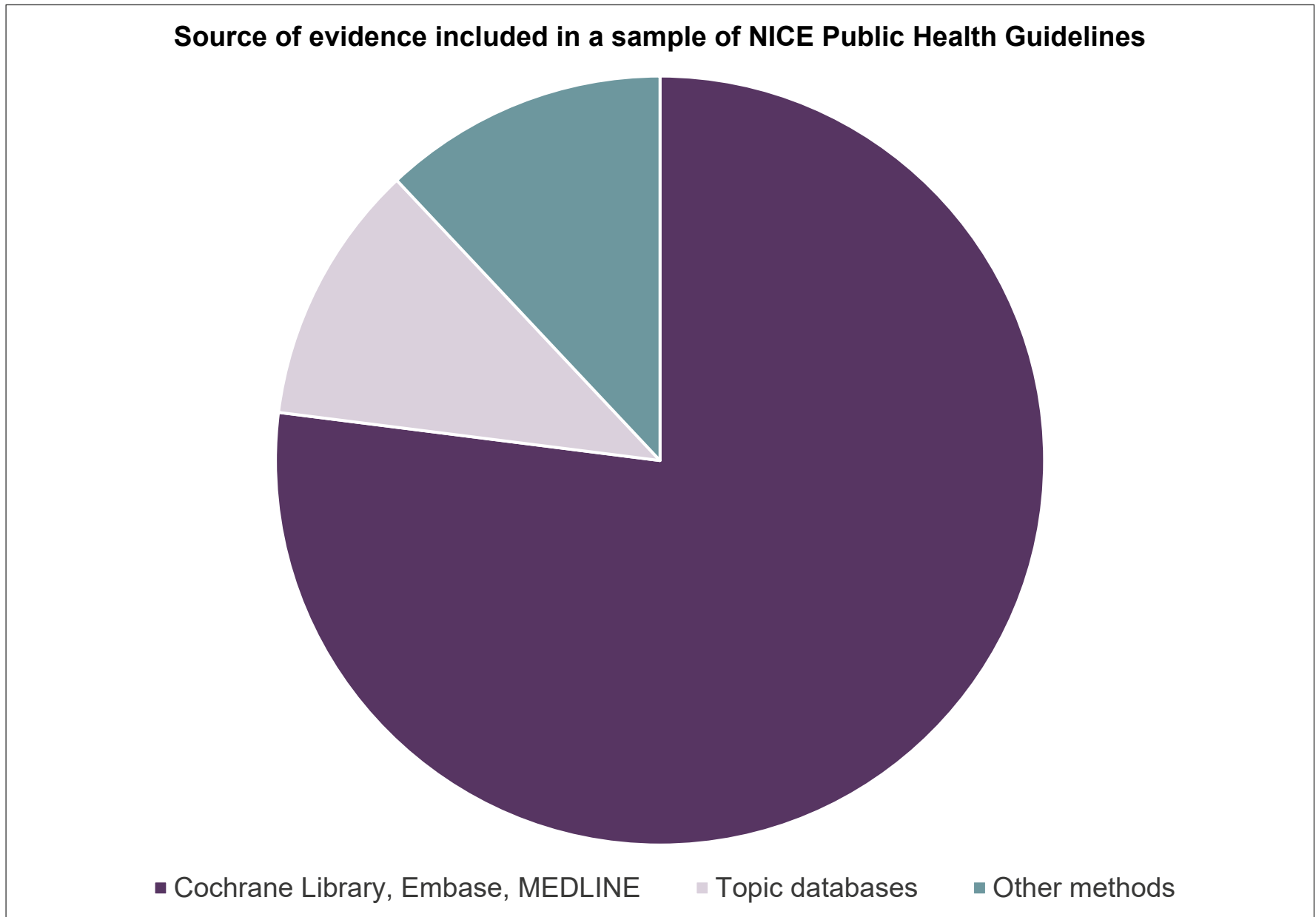
Report

NICE

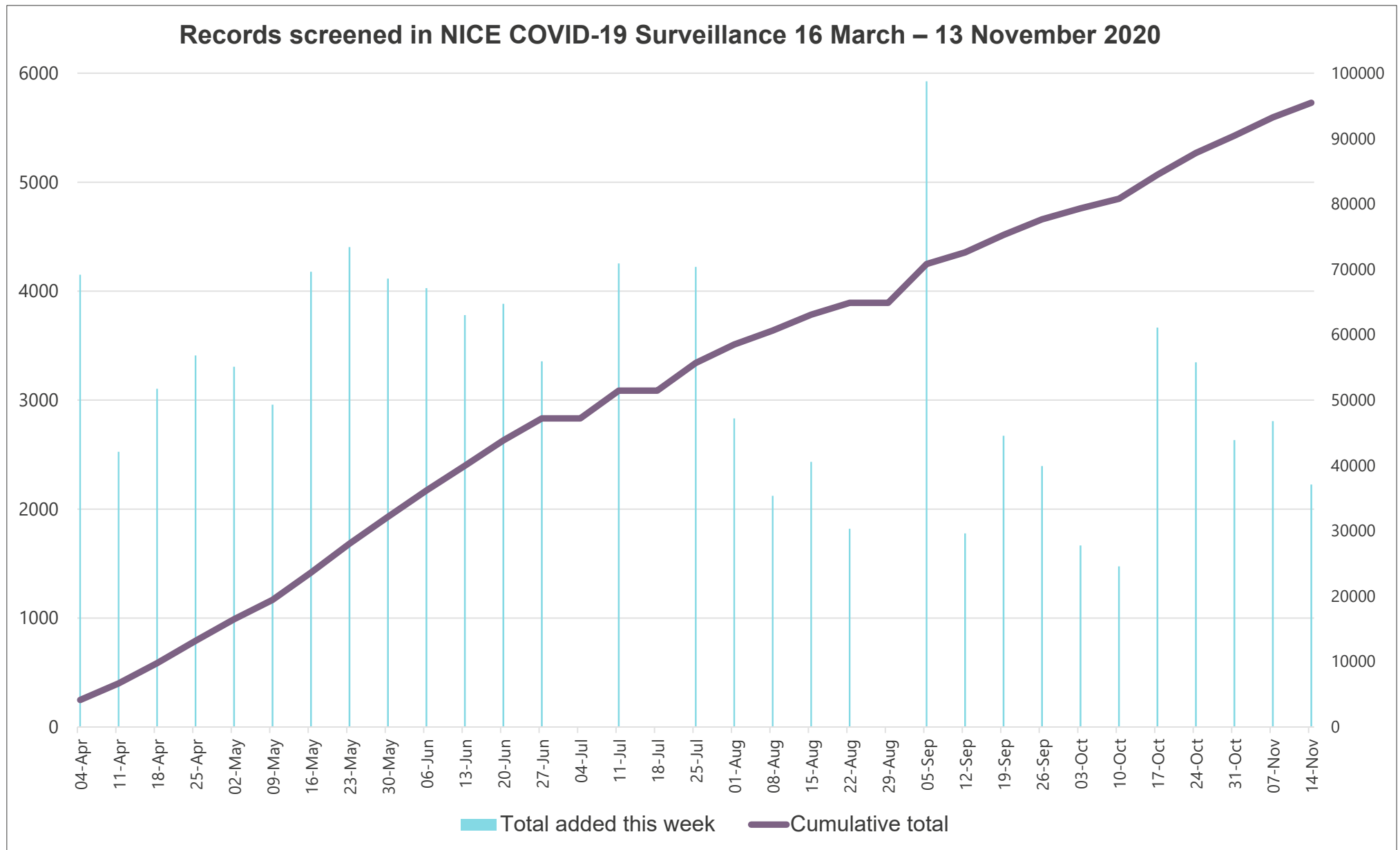
Current search process



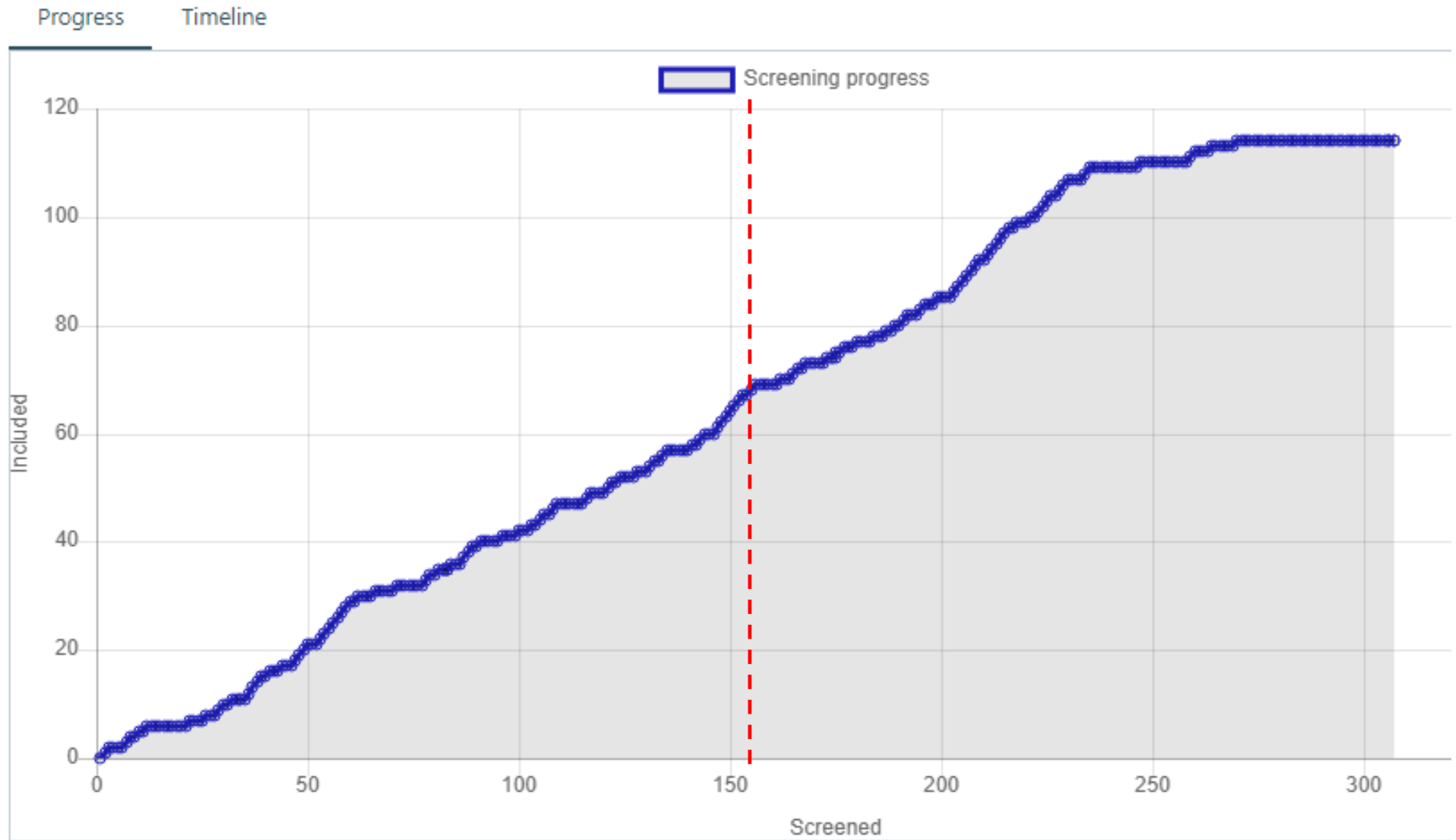
Choosing the right sources



Monitoring the COVID-19 literature

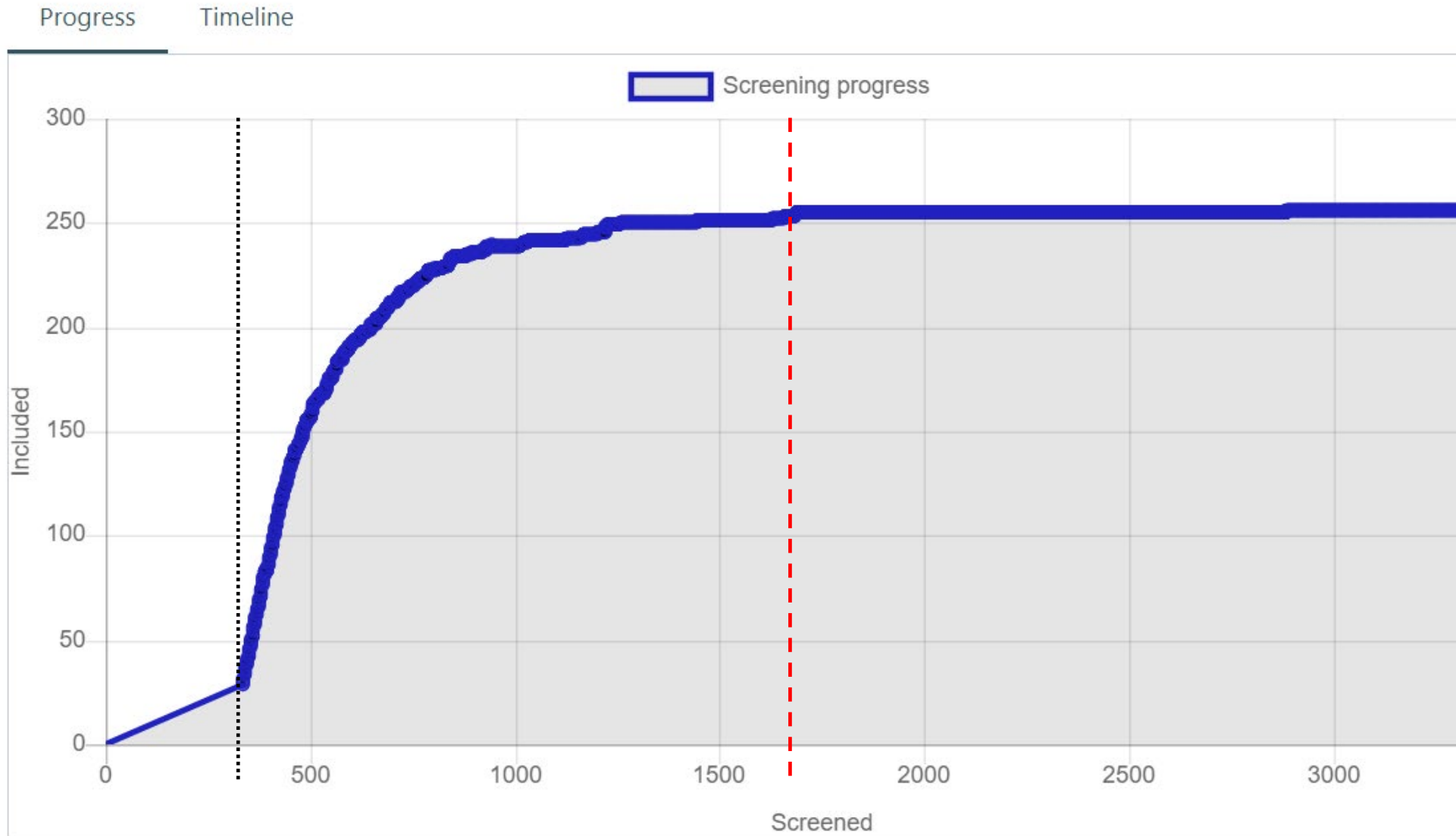


Screening results – inefficiently



NICE

Screening results – more efficiently



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Purpose of searching

The systematic identification of evidence is an essential step

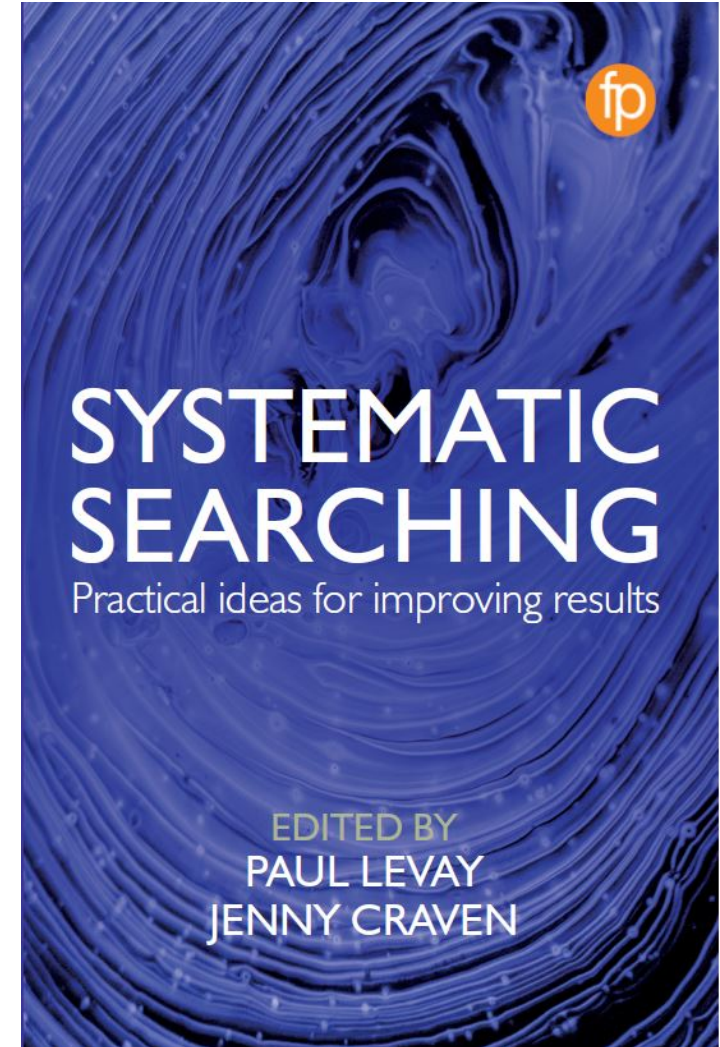
The aim is to identify the best available evidence to address a particular question

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Salvador-Oliván, José Antonio, Gonzalo Marco-Cuenca, and Rosario Arquero-Avilés. "Errors in search strategies used in systematic reviews and their effects on information retrieval." *Journal of the Medical Library Association: JMLA* 107.2 (2019): 210.

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