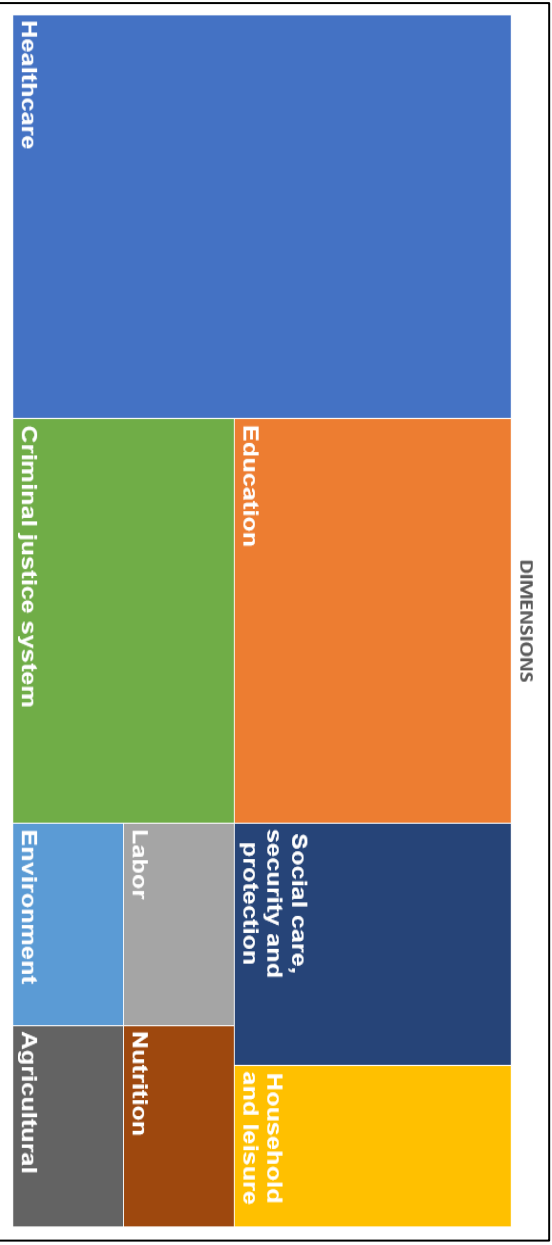
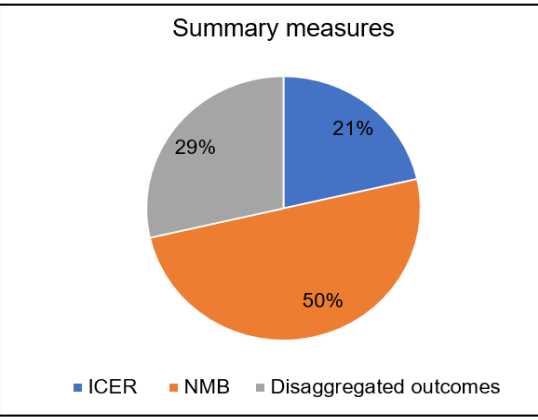
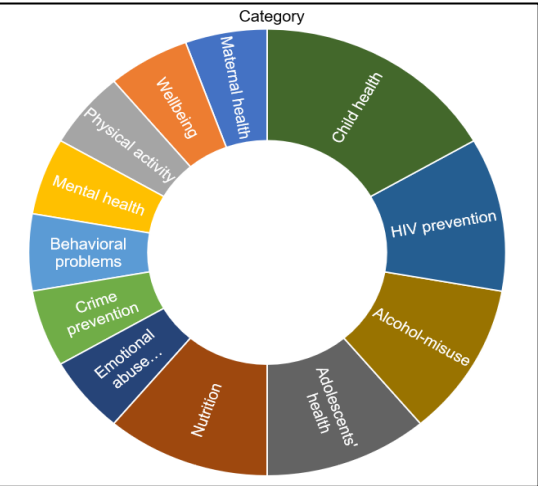
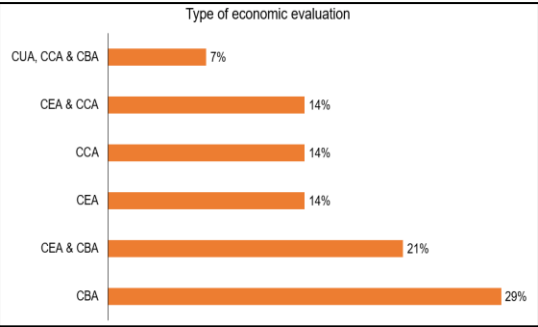
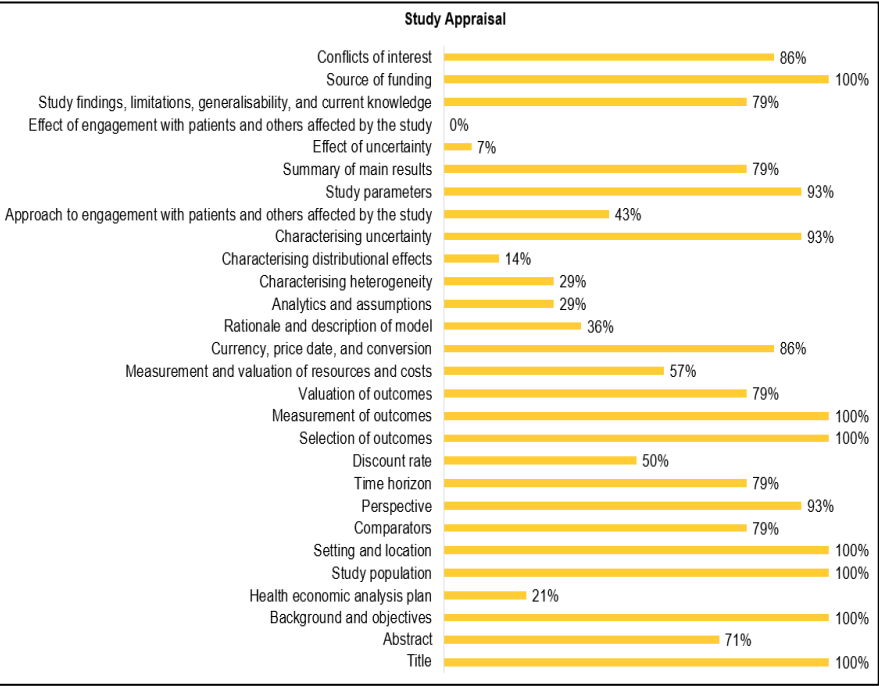


BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE

Economic evaluation of multi-sectoral public health programs is complex. This review aims to examine and map economic evaluation approaches for multi-sectoral public health programs.

METHOD

Five electronic databases were searched, namely PubMed, EBSCOHost, Scopus, NHS-EED, and ProQuest, to identify economic evaluations of multi-sectoral public health programs or interventions published in English between 2000 and 2023. Data on program characteristics, study design, economic evaluation methods, main economic outcomes, and key conclusions, were extracted. The findings were synthesized through a narrative approach and organized thematically.



RESULTS

Out of the 523 initial records, 14 case studies were included. Methodological quality of these studies varied due to heterogeneity in analytical approaches. Most studies (80%) were conducted in high-income countries, with only a few studies (20%) in low- and middle-income countries. Public health issues largely focused on adolescent and child health.

Majority (50%) of the studies aggregated outcomes using the net monetary benefit measure, in a cost-benefit analysis. Healthcare and education are the dominant dimensions for which outcomes were measured and valued. Criminal justice and social care are also recurring dimensions while agriculture and environment are emerging themes in the literature.

CONCLUSIONS

Combining multiple sectoral outcomes in a money metric (e.g., net monetary benefit) remains the most practical approach. Multi-sectoral economic evaluations are still lacking in low- and middle-income countries. Further research should prioritize developing instruments for valuing and aggregating cross-sectoral outcomes, in addition to incorporating equity aspects in economic evaluation of multi-sectoral public health programs.