

# Social Systems Evidence: Summary of key features and functions

A free online repository of pre-appraised, synthesized research evidence for social-system policymakers and stakeholders



[www.socialsystemsevidence.org](http://www.socialsystemsevidence.org)

## Key features

- Social Systems Evidence is the world's most comprehensive, continuously updated repository of pre-appraised, synthesized research evidence about the programs, services and products available in a broad range of government sectors and program areas, as well as the governance, financial and delivery arrangements within which programs and services are provided and the implementation strategies that can support getting these programs and services to those who need them.
- The program and service areas covered include:
  - citizenship
  - children & youth services
  - climate action
  - community & social services
  - consumer protection
  - culture & gender
  - economic development & growth
  - education
  - employment
  - energy
  - environmental protection
  - financial protection
  - food safety & security
  - government services
  - housing
  - infrastructure
  - natural resources
  - public safety & justice
  - recreation
  - transportation
- These program and service areas cover all of the Sustainable Development Goals, with the exceptions of the health part of goal 3 (which is already well covered by three existing online repositories, namely ACCESSSS for clinical evidence, Health Evidence for public health evidence, and Health Systems Evidence for evidence about how to organize ourselves to get the right health programs and services to those who need them).
- Social Systems Evidence supports policymakers, stakeholders and researchers who want to access the best available research evidence in a timely manner through a number of features, including:
  - a powerful search engine and sort function to ensure the most relevant results are quickly identified;
  - an intuitive user interface that streamlines the process of conducting advanced searches through the application of filters for program and service areas, social-system arrangements and implementation strategies, the Sustainable Development Goals, populations (e.g., older adults), outcomes of interest (e.g., economic), disciplines from which the evidence has been produced (e.g., business administration), areas of focus (e.g., countries that are the focus of the document), document features (e.g. type of document or publication date range) or any combination of these;
  - a guided search tool for users who want additional assistance in applying filters;
  - the ability to save documents or searches and subscribe to free, customized, monthly e-newsletters that provide links to newly added content in any area of interest;
  - independently assigned quality ratings for each included review;
  - hyperlinks to scientific abstracts, user-friendly summaries (when they exist), and all of the included studies (labelled by country to facilitate local applicability assessments);
  - responsive design, which automatically gives users access to the site in a format optimized for use on their device of choice (e.g. mobile, tablet or desktop); and
  - multi-lingual support – search Social Systems Evidence in English or French (and later, in other languages).

## Search Social Systems Evidence on your desktop or mobile device

Social Systems Evidence optimizes the interface for the device you are using.



## Choose your preferred language

Select the language you prefer when using Social Systems Evidence. Social Systems Evidence is available in English and French.



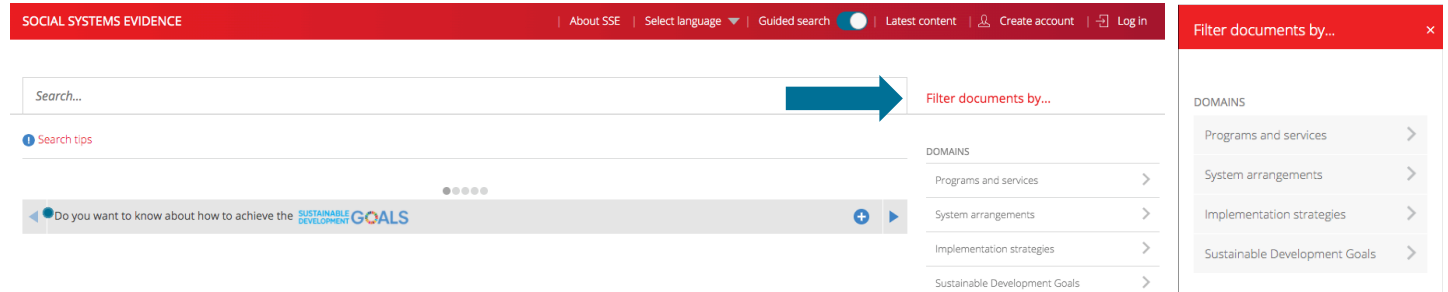
## Get help by using the guided search

Respond to these questions to guide you in applying the filters available on Social Systems Evidence. The guided search can be turned off or on (indicated by the toggle at the top of the screen) and can be expanded or hidden on a mobile device.



## Apply advanced search filters

Explore the full list of search filters available on Social Systems Evidence, which you can then apply to narrow your search.



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Social Systems Evidence website. The search bar is on the left, and the 'Filter documents by...' dropdown menu is open on the right. The dropdown menu lists several domains: Programs and services, System arrangements, Implementation strategies, and Sustainable Development Goals. A blue arrow points to the 'Filter documents by...' button.

Narrow your search so that you retrieve documents that address the domains you're most interested in, focus on the country or region you work in and retrieve particular types of documents. Your results can be narrowed by combining filter types (e.g., system arrangements and Sustainable Development Goals), and expanded by selecting more than one filter within a type (e.g. governance arrangements and financial arrangements within system arrangements, or reduced inequalities and sustainable cities and communities within Sustainable Development Goals).

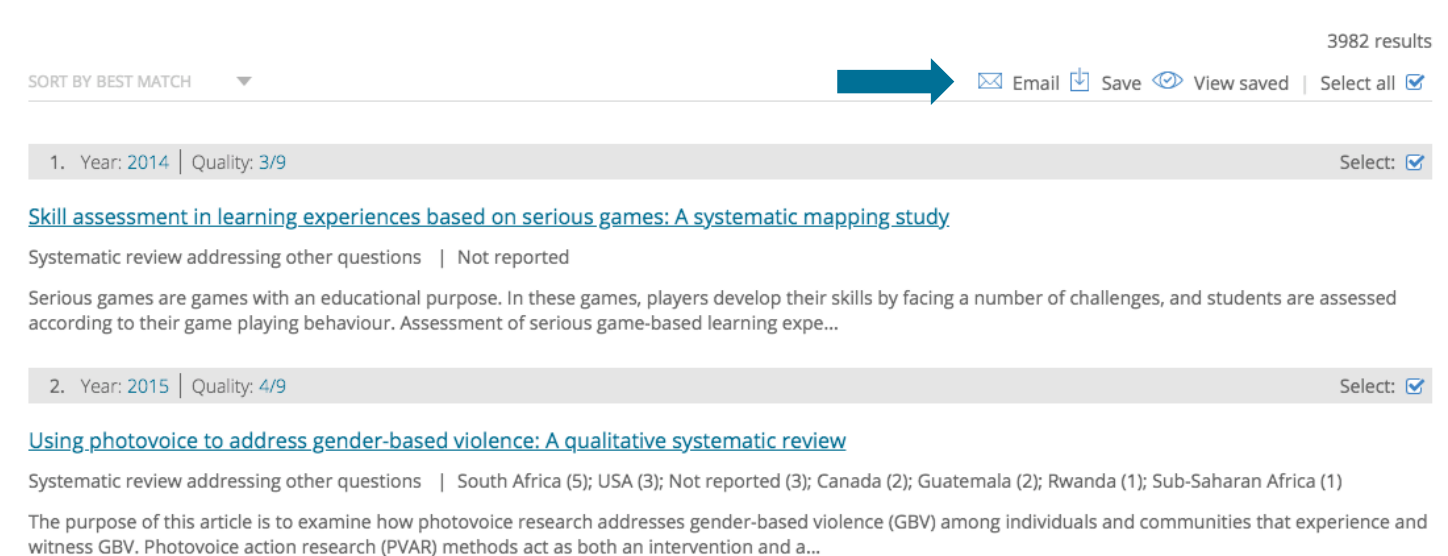
## Register for a free account

For users who create an account and log in to use Social Systems Evidence, several advanced features are also available, including the ability to:

- access more than 20 search results;
- save documents of interest to a personal clipboard for future reference;
- email lists of selected and saved documents to keep for future reference, or for sharing with others;
- save searches that are found to be the most useful for finding relevant documents; and
- subscribe to saved searches (and searches curated by the Social Systems Evidence team) in order to receive monthly updates via email of new evidence that addresses these same topics.

## Email and/or save selected documents (when logged in)

Send the list of documents selected from your search results by email to yourself or others, and/or save the list of documents selected from your search results directly to your personal 'saved documents' clipboard.



The screenshot shows a search results page with 3982 results. The 'SORT BY BEST MATCH' dropdown is visible. A blue arrow points to the 'Email' button. The first result is titled 'Skill assessment in learning experiences based on serious games: A systematic mapping study' and is dated 2014 with a quality score of 3/9. The second result is titled 'Using photovoice to address gender-based violence: A qualitative systematic review' and is dated 2015 with a quality score of 4/9. Both results have a 'Select' checkbox checked.

## View saved documents (when logged in)

View the list of documents you have saved from previous searches. Your saved documents can also be managed (i.e., retained on or deleted from your profile) on this page.

SOCIAL SYSTEMS EVIDENCE | About SSE | Select language | Guided search | Latest content | lotts1@mcmaster.ca | Logout

### Saved documents

Documents you saved will be kept on this page for up to 6 hours. You can email or export these documents.

Select all

1. Year: 2017 | Quality: 8/9 | Select:

[Behavioral economics and energy conservation: A systematic review of non-price interventions and their causal effects](#)

Systematic review of effects

Research from economics and psychology suggests that behavioral interventions can be a powerful climate policy instrument. This paper provides a systematic review of the existing empirical evidence on non-price interventions targeting energy conse...

## Save and subscribe to your favourite searches (when logged in)

Save your search strategy and subscribe to receive a monthly email containing links to any documents that have been newly added to Social Systems Evidence and meet your search parameters. Your subscriptions can be managed on the 'Saved searches' page, where you can also subscribe to past searches you have saved, as well as to any of the suggested 'Curated searches' prepared by the Social Systems Evidence team.

SOCIAL SYSTEMS EVIDENCE | About SSE | Select language | Guided search | Latest content | lotts1@mcmaster.ca | Logout

climate action

Filter documents by...

Search tips

Save search | Save and subscribe

DOMAINS

Programs and services

System arrangements

SOCIAL SYSTEMS EVIDENCE | About SSE | Select language | Guided search | Latest content | lotts1@mcmaster.ca | Logout

### Saved searches

Do you want to know about how to achieve the SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Sort by BEST MATCH

1. Year: 2006 | Quality: 11/11

[School feeding for improving the physical and psychosoci](#)

Systematic review of effects | China (6); Kenya (5); USA (4); Jamai (1); Canada (1)

BACKGROUND: Early malnutrition and/or micronutrient deficiency programs are designed to improve attendance, achievement, gro

poverty

Keywords: poverty

Subscribe to search

For more information, please email [sse@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sse@mcmaster.ca).

For evidence and insights drawn from Social Systems Evidence, follow us on Twitter [@McMasterForum](https://twitter.com/McMasterForum).

Lavis JN. Social Systems Evidence: Summary of key features and functions. Hamilton, Canada: McMaster Health Forum, 2019.

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