

Research Gap Taxonomy

SUE CURRY

DISCLAIMER: THESE POINTS
REPRESENT MY OPINION AND
DO NOT REPRESENT NIH, ODP



USPSTF Research gaps

85 topics and 120
letter grade
recommendations

46 (38%) have a
letter grade of “I”

All recommendations
have brief statement
of research gaps

Challenges: Why are we doing this?

Task Force

- Repeated "I" statements with subsequent updates
- Ability to make recommendations for some but not all key populations

Funders

- Prioritizing amid many research gaps
- Specificity regarding study designs

Scientific community

- Designing for aggregation/dissemination

Opportunities: What can a taxonomy contribute?

Common language and format for TF, EPCs, NIH, other funders

Objective criteria for prioritization of funding initiatives

Roadmap for researchers to design and implement impactful research



Attributes of taxonomy: What are we aiming for?

Credibility

- Recognizes, respects, and understands EPC and TF methods
- Uses available resources from evidence reviews and evidence synthesis (e.g., analytic frameworks, PICOTS)

Simplicity

- “Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication”
- “If you can’t explain it to a six-year-old, you don’t understand it yourself”