

APPENDIX 3: DESCRIPTION OF STUDY DESIGNS

Study Design	Description
Audit	An assessment of current practice within a specific setting or context, in line with best practice or to inform best practice, using for instance an audit checklist [84]
Case study	Description of policy or model within a specific context or setting, along with presentation of routinely collected data pre- and post-introduction, such as Teske <i>et al.</i> (2011) [137]
Qualitative	Qualitative research concerns itself with aspects of research such as experience and understanding. Techniques used include in-depth semi-structured interviews and focus groups, and data can take any form including audio recordings or words, such as Boscarto <i>et al.</i> (2014) [29]
Scoping review	“A scoping review or scoping study is a form of knowledge synthesis that addresses an exploratory research question aimed at mapping key concepts, types of evidence, and gaps in research related to a defined area or field by systematically searching, selecting, and synthesising existing knowledge” [175]
Mixed methods	Involves quantitative components such as a national survey involving the police; and qualitative components such as focus groups and interviews [57].
Controlled before and after study	A controlled before and after study compares one group receiving an intervention with another (control) group that typically does not receive the intervention. This can be a parallel group where the comparison is made at the same time that the intervention group receives the intervention, or a retrospective comparison can be made where for example those referred to court diversion schemes are compared with a retrospective group of defendants referred for psychiatric reports by the same courts in the 1-2 year period immediately prior to the introduction of the diversion scheme [64].
Service evaluation	This describes and evaluates a service or model to examine practicality, feasibility or pilot of a model within its’ initial stages. For example, to examine the practicability of a recommendation to abolish or amend Magistrates’ power to remand people perceived to have mental health problems in custody for psychiatric reports and report the first 12 months of the service [33].
Survey	Typically using questionnaire to gather information within a specific time point. For example, using a questionnaire distributed to health and criminal justice staff to explore factors that impede or facilitate information exchange between criminal justice and health agencies [77].
Description of model	Description of the development and implementation of a model of interagency collaboration, for example of a joint protocol for the investigation of crimes against vulnerable adults [56]
Prospective observational study	An observational study, often longitudinal in nature, for which the consequential outcomes of interest occur <i>after</i> study commencement (including creation of a study protocol and analysis plan, and study initiation) [176].