

## Categories of Strength of Evidence

Both OR and NAS have 2-tiered categorizations on strength of evidence: one more scientific and another more accessible for the public. NAS's includes the traditional epidemiologic definition of evidence ("conclusive; strong evidence from RCTs) and emphasizes the overall inadequacy of the evidence more than Oregon's.

### OREGON

**SUBSTANTIAL (DOES)** – evidence indicates robust scientific findings that support the outcome and no credible opposing scientific evidence;

**MODERATE (CAN)** – evidence indicates that scientific findings support the outcome, but these findings have some limitations;

**LIMITED (MAY)** – evidence indicates modest scientific findings that support the outcome, but these findings have significant limitations;

**MIXED (NONE)** – evidence indicates both supporting and opposing scientific findings for the outcome with neither direction dominating;

**INSUFFICIENT (NONE)** – evidence indicates that the outcome has not been sufficiently studied.

### NAS

**CONCLUSIVE (INCREASES; IS LINKED TO; IS ASSOCIATED WITH)** – strong evidence from RCTs to support or refute a statistical association; many supportive findings from good-quality studies with no credible opposing findings. A firm conclusions can be made and the limitations to the evidence can be ruled out with reasonable confidence.

**SUBSTANTIAL (IS LIKELY TO INCREASE)** – strong evidence to support or refute a statistical association; several supportive findings from good-quality studies with very few or no credible opposing findings. A firm conclusions can be made but minor limitations to the evidence cannot be ruled out with reasonable confidence.

**MODERATE (MODEST)** – some evidence to support or refute a statistical association; several findings from good- to fair-quality studies with very few or no credible opposing findings. A general conclusion can be made but limitations to the evidence cannot be ruled out with reasonable confidence.

**LIMITED (UNCLEAR)** – weak evidence to support or refute a statistical association; supportive findings from fair-quality studies or mixed findings with most favoring one conclusion. A conclusion can be made but there is significant uncertainty.

**NA/INSUFFICIENT (UNCLEAR)** – no or insufficient evidence to support or refute a statistical association; mixed findings, a single poor study, or has not been studied at all. No conclusion can be made because of substantial uncertainty.