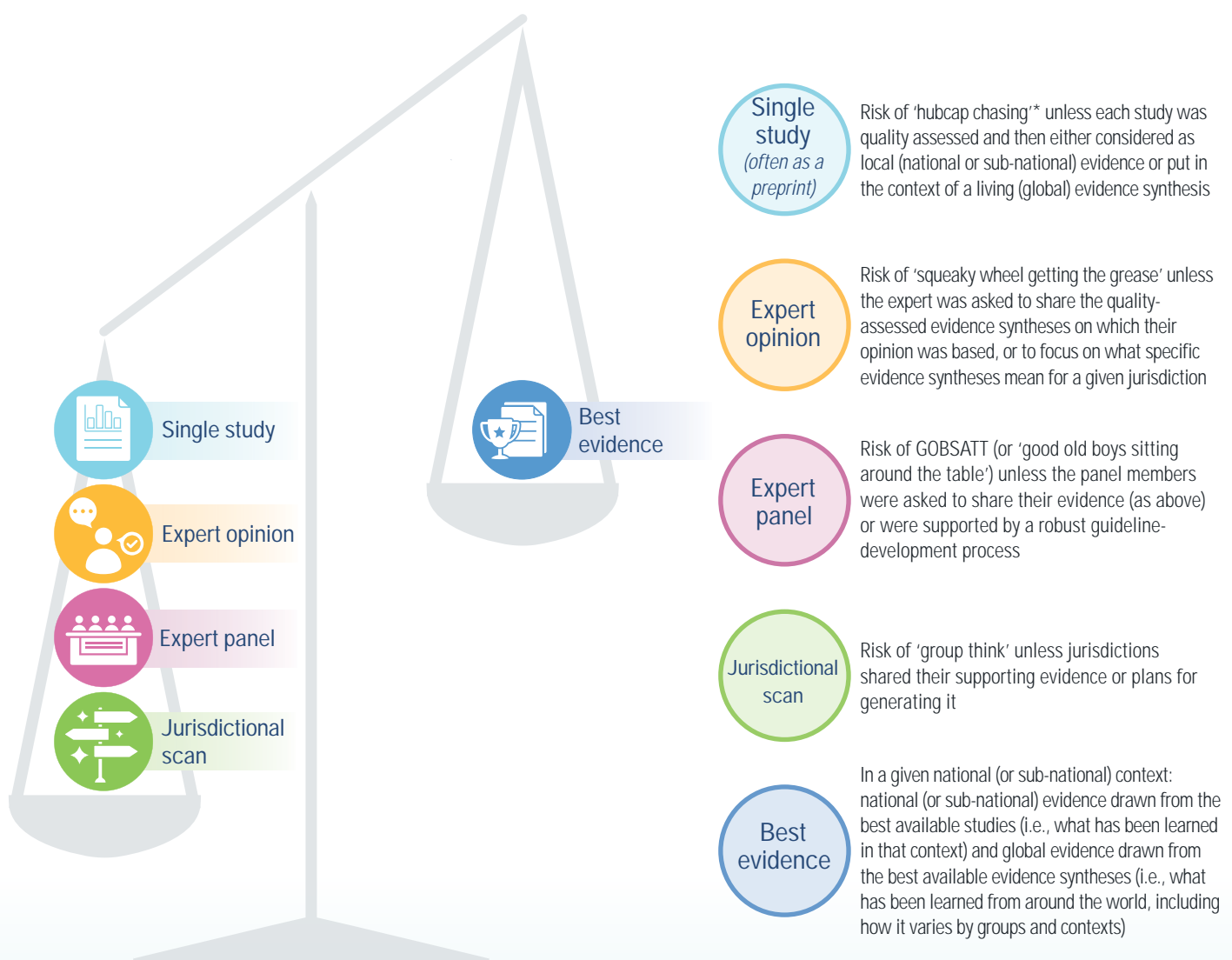


## 4.13 Weaknesses in many COVID-19 evidence-support systems

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a global crisis marked by the need for rapid-fire decision-making by high-level government authorities over several ‘waves’, and by both significant uncertainty and a quickly evolving (and often indirect) evidence base. In many jurisdictions, evidence appeared to play a more visible role in government policymaking during the COVID-19 pandemic than it has in many decades. That said, misinformation flourished, and citizens and other stakeholders struggled to understand why the evidence changed over time. ‘Other things’ than best evidence often had greater visibility than best evidence, and some forms of evidence often had greater visibility than others. We addressed misinformation in **section 4.11** and we provided additional context for the terms used here in **sections 4.8** (‘other things’ than best evidence), **4.2** (forms of evidence) and **4.5** (distinguishing high- from low-quality evidence).

### ‘Other things’ than best evidence that were more typically encountered by COVID-19 decision-makers



\* As noted in **section 4.8**, we use the term ‘hubcap chasing’ (i.e., dogs repeatedly barking at and chasing cars) as a metaphor for sharing and commenting upon each new study that captures one’s attention.

