

Summary of Differences Between Wicked and Tame Problems
1. Re. "Problem definition"

<p>TAME PROBLEM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The clear definition of the problem also unveils the solution. ○ The solution is determined according to criteria revealing the degree of effect—goal is achieved fully or partially, outcome is true or false. 	<p>WICKED PROBLEM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No agreement exists about what the problem is. ○ Each attempt to create a solution changes the problem. ○ The solution is not true or false—the end is assessed as "better" or "worse" or "good enough."
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(Kreuter et al., 2004—based on Rittel & Webber, 1973)

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2. Re. "Role of multiple stakeholders"

<p>TAME PROBLEM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The causes of a problem are determined primarily by experts using scientific data (e.g., clinical trials). 	<p>WICKED PROBLEM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Many stakeholders are likely to have differing ideas about what the "real" problem is and what its causes are.
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(Kreuter et al., 2004—based on Rittel & Webber, 1973)

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3. Re. "The lack of a 'stopping rule'"

<p>TAME PROBLEM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The task is complete when the problem is solved. 	<p>WICKED PROBLEM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The end is determined either by stakeholders, political forces, and resource availability or a combination thereof
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4. Re. "Unique nature of the problem"

<p>TAME PROBLEM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The problem is like other problems for which there are scientifically based protocols that guide the choice of solution(s). 	<p>WICKED PROBLEM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Solution(s) to problem is (are) based on "judgments" of multiple stakeholders; ○ there are no "best practices." ○ Every problem is unique and solutions must be tailored.
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(Kreuter et al., 2004—based on Rittel & Webber, 1973)

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