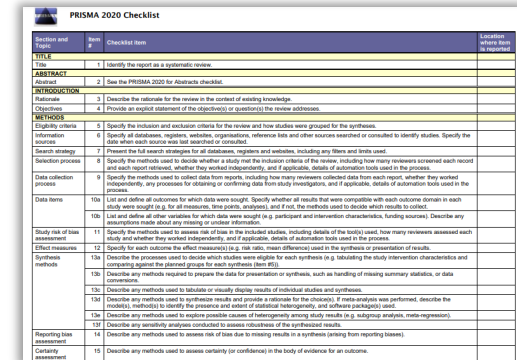


Guidelines for Systematic Reviews & Meta-Analyses

- If we meta-analyze evidence in biomedical research or on the effect of an intervention, it is advisable to follow the **Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA)**
- For meta-analyses of psychological and behavior research, the American Psychological Association's **Meta-Analysis Reporting Standards (MARS)** may be followed
- Although these standards largely comment on how meta-analyses should be reported, they also have implications on best practices when performing a meta-analysis.



Section and Topic	Item #	Checklist item	Location where item is reported
TITLE	1	Identify the report as a systematic review.	
ABSTRACT	2	See the PRISMA 2020 for Abstracts checklist.	
INTRODUCTION	3	Describe the rationale for the review in the context of existing knowledge.	
Objectives	4	Provide an explicit statement of the objectives or questions to be answered.	
METHODS			
Eligibility criteria	5	Specify the inclusion and exclusion criteria for the review and how studies were grouped for the synthesis.	
Information sources	6	Specify all databases, registers, websites, organisations, reference lists and other sources searched or consulted to identify studies. Specify the date when each source was last searched or consulted.	
Search strategy	7	Present the full search strategies for all databases, registers and websites, including any filters and limits used.	
Selection process	8	Specify the methods used to decide whether a study met the inclusion criteria of the review, including how many reviewers screened each record and each report assessed, whether they worked independently, and if applicable, details of software tools used in the process.	
Data collection process	9	Specify the methods used to collect data from reports, including how many reviewers collected data from each report, whether they worked independently, any processes for obtaining or confirming data from study investigators, and if applicable, details of software tools used in the process.	
Data items	10a	List and define all outcomes for which data were sought. Specify whether all results that were compatible with each outcome domain in each study were sought (e.g. for all measures, time points, analyses, and if no, the methods used to decide which results to report).	
	10b	List and define all other variables for which data were sought (e.g. participant and intervention characteristics, funding sources). Describe any analyses made available and missing or missing outcomes.	
Study risk of bias assessment	11	Specify the methods used to assess risk of bias in the included studies, including details of the tools used, how many reviewers assessed each study and whether they worked independently, and if applicable, details of software tools used in the process.	
Effect measures	12	Specify for each outcome the effect measure(s) (e.g. risk ratio, mean difference) used in the synthesis or presentation of results.	
Synthesis methods	13a	Describe the programme used to decide which studies were eligible for each synthesis (e.g. tabulating the study intervention characteristics and comparing against the planned groups for each synthesis (see 8)).	
	13b	Describe any methods required to prepare the data for presentation or synthesis, such as handling of missing summary statistics, or data conversions.	
	13c	Describe any methods used to tabulate or visually display results of individual studies and syntheses.	
	13d	Describe any methods used to synthesise results and provide a rationale for the choice(s). If meta-analysis was performed, describe the model(s) used to identify the presence and extent of statistical heterogeneity, and software package(s) used.	
	13e	Describe any methods used to explore possible causes of heterogeneity among study results (e.g. subgroup analysis, meta-regression).	
	13f	Describe any sensitivity analyses conducted to assess robustness of the synthesized results.	
Reporting bias assessment	14	Describe any methods used to assess risk of bias due to missing results in a synthesis (arising from reporting biases).	
Conflicts of interest assessment	15	Describe any methods used to assess conflicts of interest in the body of evidence for an outcome.	

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