

# Reviews of Reviews: just how meta does it get?

By: Nova Smalley

MRC/CSO Social and Public Health Sciences Unit



Medical  
Research  
Council



CHIEF  
SCIENTIST  
OFFICE



University  
of Glasgow

# What is a Review of Reviews

Reviews of reviews and Systematic reviews are  
very much alike

# What are the similarities?

Systematic review

Review of reviews

Use a protocol

Screening process

Data Extraction

Synthesis

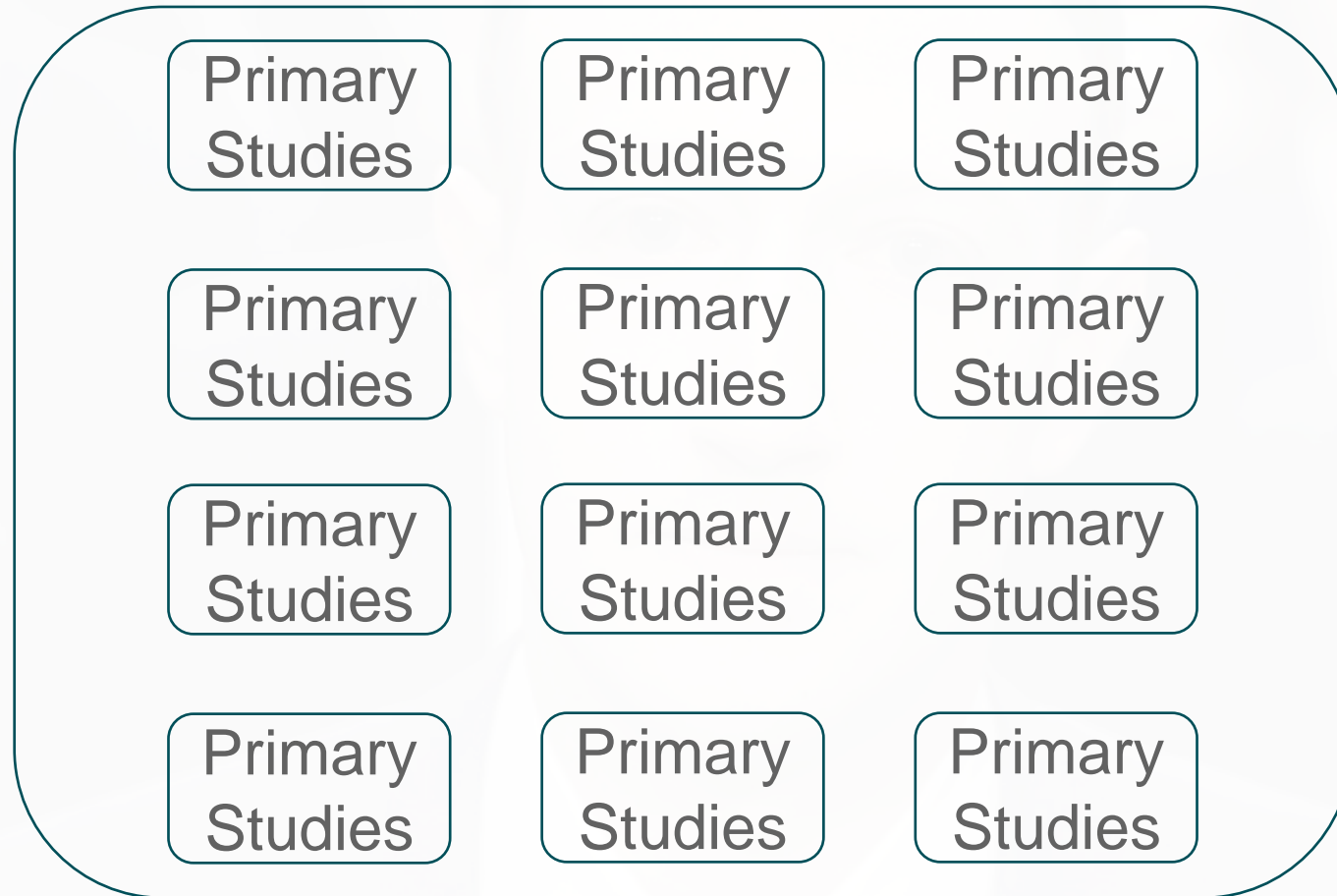
# So what's the difference?

Although they are similar, there are two main differences between them

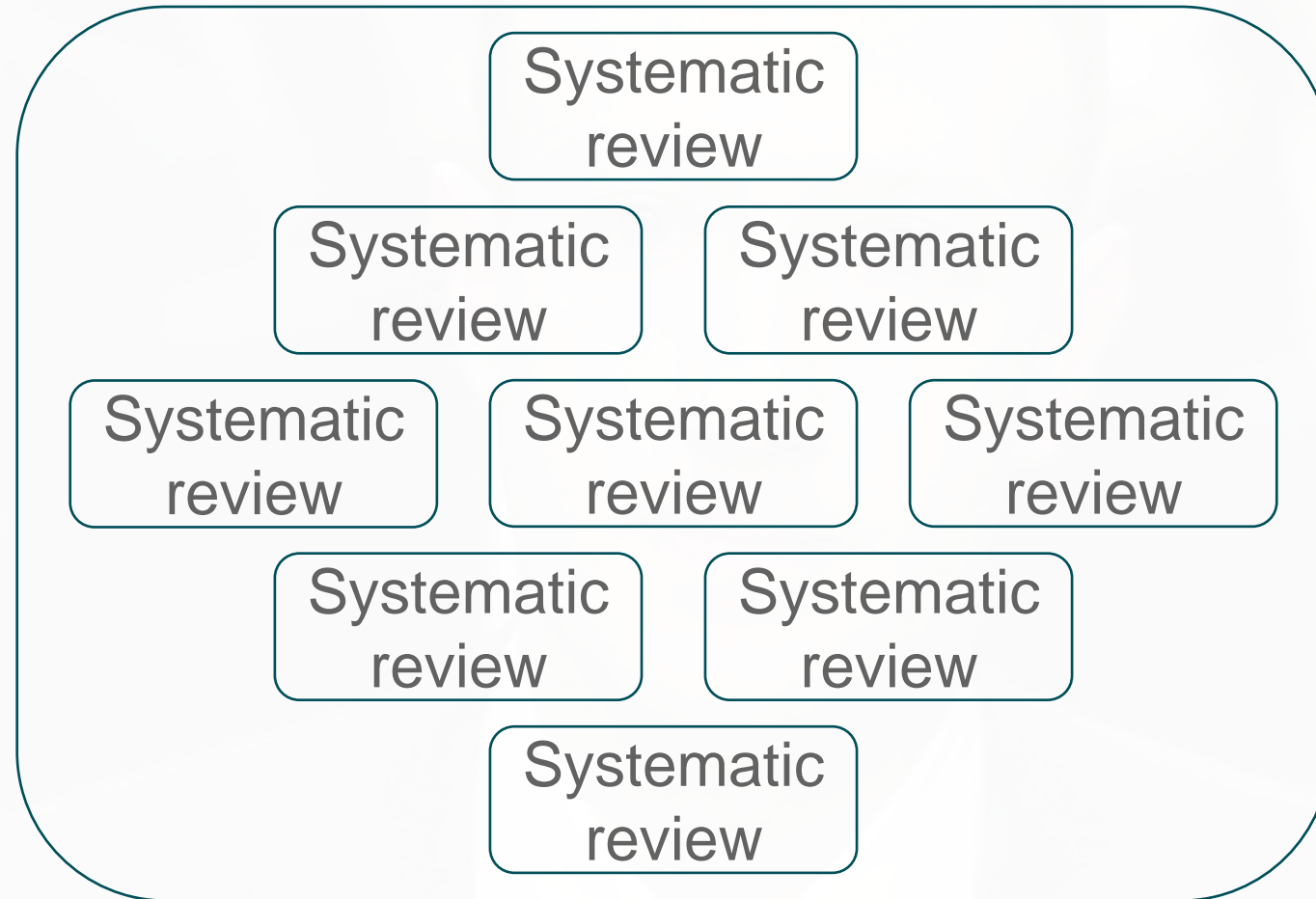
What's being reviewed

Checking overlap

## Systematic review

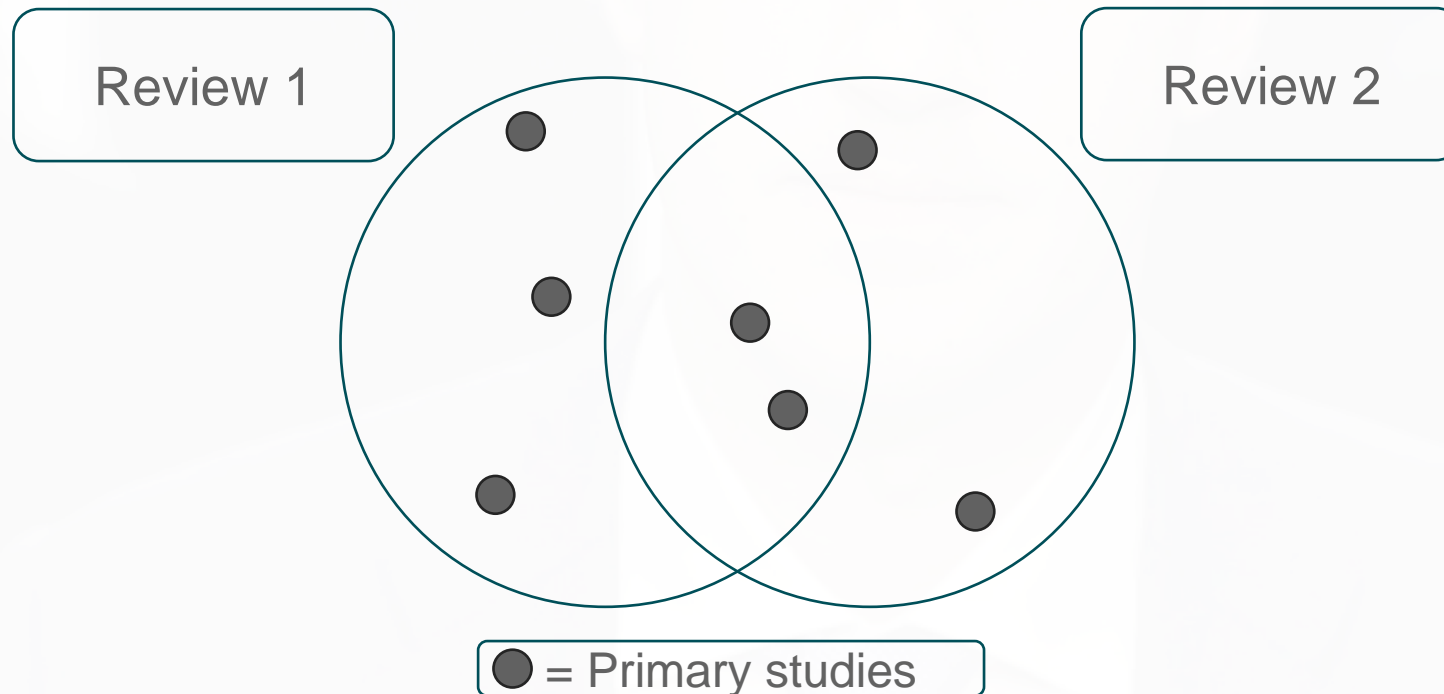


## Review of reviews



# Overlap

- Reviews of reviews analyse systematic reviews
- Each of the systematic reviews can overlap



# Citation matrices

	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3	Review 4
Primary publication 1	x			
Primary publication 2	x			x
Primary publication 3	x	x	x	x
Primary publication 4	x	x	x	
Primary publication 5	x	x		x
Primary publication 6	x			
Primary publication 7	x	x	x	
Primary publication 8	x			
Primary publication 9		x		
Primary publication 10		x		
Primary publication 11				x
Primary publication 12				x

$$CA \text{ (covered area)} = \frac{N}{r \ c}$$

$$CCA \text{ (Corrected CA)} = \frac{N - r}{r \ c - r}$$

**Table 1.** Interpretation of CCA

CCA	Overlap
0–5	Slight
6–10	Moderate
11–15	High
> 15	Very high

*Abbreviation:* CCA, corrected covered area.

*Screenshots taken from Pieper et al. 2014*



# Citation Matrices

- Not a perfect solution
- If one study has many more primary studies than another it can affect how well the method works

Number of Reviews ( <i>c</i> )	Total number of publications ( <i>N</i> )	Number of Unique publications ( <i>r</i> )	CCA
2	189	37	0%

# How I'm using it

- NCD Umbrella review
- The goal is to provide an overview of the current coverage by systematic reviews on NCD's in 7 key areas

Cardiovascular  
Disease

Cancer

Diabetes

Bone Disease

Mental Health

Chronic respiratory  
Disease

Cardiovascular  
Disease

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# The end

To contact me or to access  
the slides again please  
scan the QR code



# References

- 1. Pieper D, Antoine SL, Mathes T, Neugebauer EAM, Eikermann M. Systematic review finds overlapping reviews were not mentioned in every other overview. *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*. 2014 Apr 1;67(4):368–75.

