

	Test by visual inspection	Adjusts for the overall mean	Deals with heterogeneity	Time-lag (decline) effect	Independence: recommend?	Non-independence: recommend?
Funnel plot	yes	no	yes	not applicable	yes	yes <sup>1</sup>
Regression method (non-multilevel)	no	yes <sup>2</sup>	yes	yes	yes	no
Correlation method	no	no	no	maybe	no	no
Cumulative meta-analysis (forest plot)	yes	not applicable	not applicable	yes	yes	no
Fail-safe <i>N</i> method	no	yes <sup>3</sup>	no	not applicable	no	no
Trim & fill method	no	yes	maybe <sup>4</sup>	not applicable	maybe	no
<i>P</i> -value based methods	no	yes	no	not applicable	no	no
Selection models	no	yes	yes	not applicable	yes	no
Multilevel meta-regression	no	yes	yes	yes	not applicable	yes