Module B4 – Systematic Reviews

Overview

Purpose

The purpose of this module is to provide an understanding of the methods used in systematic reviews and a basic introduction to the techniques of meta-analysis.

Learning objectives

On completing this module, participants will be able to:

1. formulate a topic for a systematic review
2. understand techniques for locating published & grey literature
3. design the framework for screening and eligibility of studies
4. compute effect sizes
5. perform and interpret a basic meta-analysis

Who should attend, and module pre-requisites

This module is designed for policy makers and people interested in learning more about evidence based policy and systematic reviews, as well as people who wish to conduct a systematic review of research evidence or synthesize quantitative research evidence using meta-analysis. Whilst no prior statistical knowledge is needed for the systematic review component of the module, the meta-analysis component assumes a knowledge of regression techniques.

Topics covered

Session 1

a) Introduction to systematic reviews
b) Information retrieval
c) Screening and coding

Session 2

d) Computing effect sizes
e) Introduction to meta-analysis