1,802 records identified through PUBMED database searching

528 additional records identified from Advanced Google Scholar, Cochrane Library and WHO databases including grey literatures

Total of 2,216 records obtained after removing duplicate retrievals

1,942 records were excluded because their titles are not related to the review topic and found to be non-relevant

Abstracts of 274 records were accessed and screened

237 records were excluded because the abstracts did not found to be relevant based on the exposure and outcome variables

37 full text articles/ reports were accessed and assessed for eligibility based on the pre-set criteria

18 full-text articles excluded
  - In 6 studies, place of birth were not compared and no adequate data for analysis
  - 8 studies compared planned home birth with planned hospital birth
  - 3 studies used perinatal mortality as outcome variable
  - 1 study used insufficient data

19 fulfilled the eligibility criteria and included in the systematic review and meta-analysis