Systematic Reviews (SR) relevant to children and adults within the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (Issue 4, 2002) N=408 (%)

SR authors intended to only include adult data N=67 (16)
SR authors intended to only include child data N=45 (11)
SR authors intended to include adult and child data (mixed) N=153 (38)
SR authors did not specify N=143 (35)

No included trials N=23 (6)
Only included adult trials N=78 (19)
Only included child trials N=50 (12)
Included adult and child trials (mixed) N=163 (40)
Unable to determine ages of trial participants N=94 (23)

Adult-child effect size differences could be analysed N=37 (9)
Unable to determine if adult-child effect size differences could be analysed N=137 (34)
Adult-child effect size differences could not be analysed N=83 (20)

Subsample N=40

**Reasons why some trial data omitted**

1) Outcome not measured
   Median 1 trial (IQR 0-5)
2) Data summaries not usable
   Median 0 trials (IQR 0-2)
3) Age characteristics not reported
   Median 0 trials (IQR 0-1), 18 yr cutoff
   Median 0 trials (IQR 0-1.5), 14 yr cutoff
4) Mixed trials, data not stratified
   Median 1 trial (IQR 0-4), 18 yr cutoff
   Median 1 trial (IQR 0-2.5), 14 yr cutoff

**Reasons for uncertainty**

Trial age characteristics at SR level:
1) None reported; N=7 (18)
2) Some reported; N=22 (55)
3) All reported; N=11 (28), all mixed

Trial age characteristics at trial level:
By SR, median 72% (IQR 45-100) of trials also did not report age characteristics