

Trial Registries for Systematic Reviews

What Are Trial Registries?

Trial registries are publicly accessible databases that list clinical trials, including ongoing, completed, and unpublished studies. Searching them helps minimize **publication bias** and identify **grey literature**.

Major Trial Registries to Search

- **ClinicalTrials.gov**

<https://clinicaltrials.gov> Largest global registry maintained by the U.S. National Library of Medicine. Covers trials worldwide.

- **WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP)**

<https://trialsearch.who.int> Aggregates multiple national and regional registries into a single search portal.

- **European Union Clinical Trials Register (EUCTR)**

<https://www.clinicaltrialsregister.eu> Contains interventional clinical trials conducted in the European Union and European Economic Area.

- **ISRCTN Registry**

<https://www.isrctn.com> A primary clinical trial registry recognized by WHO and ICMJE.

- **Chinese Clinical Trial Registry (ChiCTR)**

<http://www.chictr.org.cn> Primary registry for trials conducted in China.

- **Clinical Research Information Service (CRiS)**

<https://cris.nih.go.kr> South Korean clinical trials registry.

How to Search Trial Registries

- Use broad keywords and synonyms related to your PICO question.
- Filter by study status (e.g., recruiting, completed).
- Export results where possible for screening.
- Document search date, strategy, and results as part of your review.

Why Search Trial Registries?

- Identify unpublished or ongoing trials to reduce **publication bias**.
- Access detailed protocols, sample sizes, and outcomes.
- Check for **discrepancies** between registered protocols and published reports.

From:

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Last update: **2025/07/01 17:04**

