PRISMA 2020 numbers worksheet

Fill in each count. Use the checks at the end before drawing your diagram. Box names follow the PRISMA 2020 flow diagram (Page et al., BMJ 2021;372:n71).

A. Databases and registers

Box	n
Database 1: _____	
Database 2: _____	
Database 3: _____	
Database 4: _____	
Register(s): _____	
Records identified (total)	
Duplicate records removed	
Records marked ineligible by automation tools	
Records removed for other reasons	
Records screened	
Records excluded	
Reports sought for retrieval	
Reports not retrieved	
Reports assessed for eligibility	
Reports excluded (total)	
Reports of included studies (this column)	

B. Other methods (websites, organisations, citation searching)

Box	n
Records identified from websites	
Records identified from organisations	
Records identified from citation searching	
Other: _____	
Reports sought for retrieval	
Reports not retrieved	
Reports assessed for eligibility	
Reports excluded (total)	
Reports of included studies (this column)	

C. Reasons for exclusion at full text

Reason	Column A n	Column B n
Total (must equal reports excluded)		

D. Included

Box	n
Reports of included studies (A + B)	
Studies included in review	
Difference explained by (e.g. linked reports): _____	

E. Arithmetic checks

Check	OK?
Sum of per-source counts = records identified	[ ]
Identified - duplicates - automation - other = records screened	[ ]
Screened - excluded = reports sought	[ ]
Sought - not retrieved = assessed (each column)	[ ]
Sum of reasons = reports excluded (each column)	[ ]
Assessed - excluded = reports of included studies (each column)	[ ]
Studies included ≤ reports included; difference explained	[ ]
Same numbers in abstract, results text and diagram	[ ]

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