

# Systematic reviews

## Current reviews and methods development

### HIV Prevention

#### Behaviour change communication:

Summarizing RCT evidence of educational interventions to reduce incidence of HIV and risk behaviours involved in contracting HIV.

**Structural interventions:** Summarizes evidence on interventions that change structural factors like extreme poverty, gender violence and poor education.

**Biomedical interventions:** Summarizing evidence from interventions like safe male circumcision, prevention of mother-to-child transmission, anti-retroviral therapy.

**Combined interventions:** Summarizing evidence from studies that report interaction of multiple interventions.



Systematic Review training in Namibia

### Mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC)

#### MUAC as a predictor for child mortality:

Summarizing evidence on studies that evaluate MUAC versus other anthropometric indicators (h/a, w/h, and w/a) to predict child mortality.

#### MUAC as a diagnostic indicator of child malnutrition:

Summarizing evidence on the diagnostic accuracy of MUAC versus other anthropometric indicators (w/h and w/a) to classify a child as acutely malnourished.

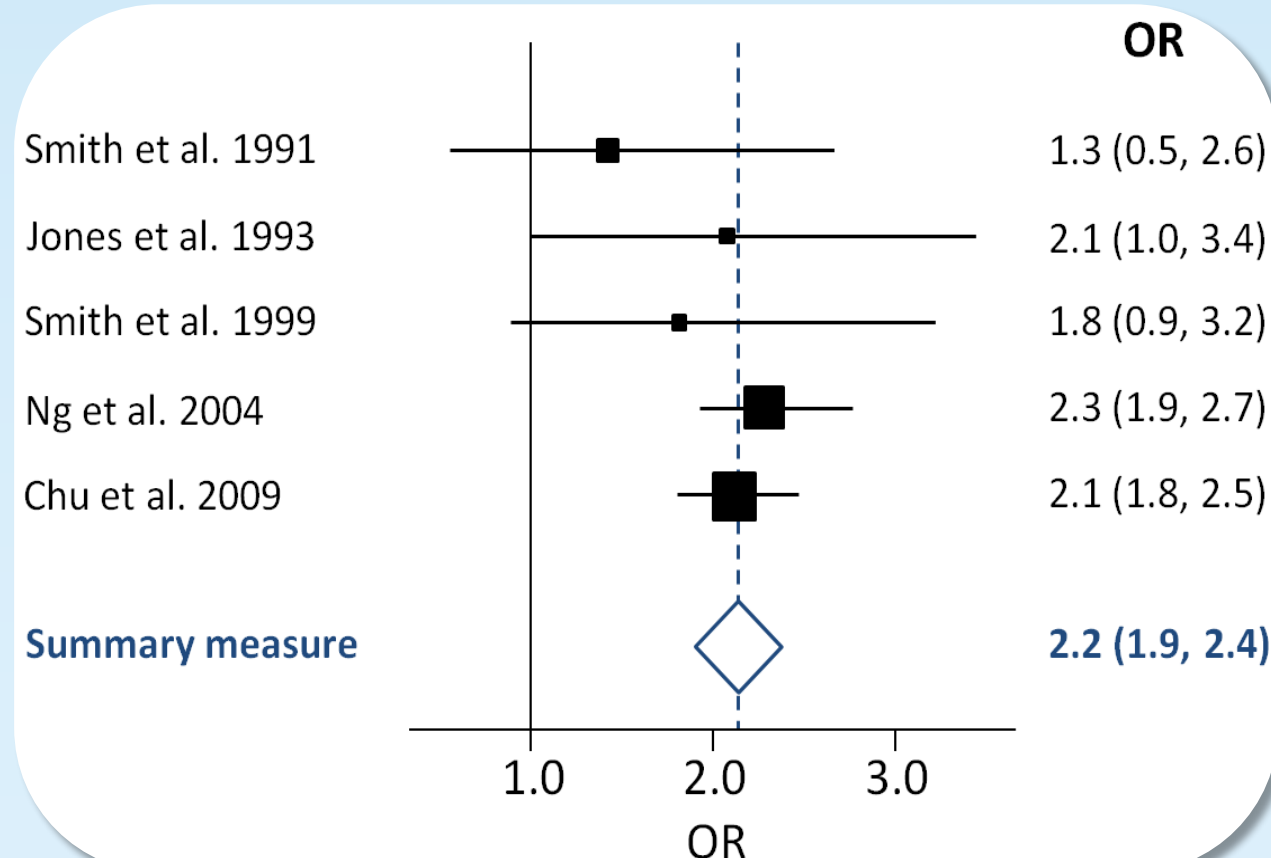


A child in Cross River, Nigeria has his MUAC measured

### Quality assessment tools

**AMSTAR** assesses the methodological quality of SRs of RCTs on public health interventions. Cited over 500 times, AMSTAR has been incorporated by Sign50 as their tool of choice for systematic reviews, and is used by the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH) and The Cochrane Effective Practice and Organization of Care Group (EPOC).

**AMSTAR-NRS:** Currently under development, this tool assesses systematic reviews of non-randomized studies, to guide the review process and to increase quality of evidence. This work is funded by CIHR.



Forest plots summarise systematic review findings



Participatory Research at McGill

**CIET** Building the community voice into planning

#### Training Initiatives:

- CIET's problem-based learning workshops
- One to three week in-class sessions

#### Websites:

- [www.cochrane.org](http://www.cochrane.org)
- [www.sign.ac.uk/guidelines/fulltext/50/annexc.html](http://www.sign.ac.uk/guidelines/fulltext/50/annexc.html)
- [www.gradeworkinggroup.org](http://www.gradeworkinggroup.org)