

**Supplementary Materials 1 Details of literature search**

	Result of search	Experimental' science studies excluded	Potentially relevant studies	Duplicates excluded	Abstracts screened	Reviewed for basic information	Reviewed in full	Of which related to health
<b>Database searched</b>								
Proquest	36	0	36	17	19	17	2	0
Repec (Research Papers in Economics)	111	0	111	68	43	35	8	7
Econlit	49	0	49	21	28	21	7	3
Ovid Medline	34	28	6	5	1	0	1	1
Embase 1947-Present	5	1	4	4	0	0	0	0
Pubmed	26	0	26	21	5	4	1	1
ASSIA (American Psychological Association)	6	0	6	4	2	0	2	2
SocIndex	9	0	9	9	0	0	0	0
Sociological Abstracts	3	0	3	1	2	1	1	1
TRIP	7	1	6	5	1	1	0	0
CINAHL (Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health)	3	0	3	2	2	1	1	1
Psychinfo	11	4	7	5	2	1	1	1
Business Source Premier	21	0	21	5	16	15	1	1
EBSCO Professional Development Collection	3	0	3	3	0	0	0	0
ERIC (Institute of Education Sciences)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)	7	2	5	5	0	0	0	0
<b>Other sources</b>								
World Bank	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
RAND corporation	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
Citations of key articles	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	17	11	6	4
Author searches	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	2	0	0
References from studies reviewed	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	7	3	7	5
Google Scholar	318	0	318	250	68	53	12	10
What Works Scotland (note 1)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	8	6	2	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>38</b>

**Notes**

1) Brief review of methodology published March 2015 - this review had access to some additional sources

2) For all searches except Google Scholar, Pubmed, Ovid Medline and Embase 1947-Present the search term used was "synthetic control\$" in the full text". The search term was narrowed to "synthetic control\$ method\$" for Google Scholar, Pubmed, Ovid Medline and Embase 1947 as a large number of experimental science papers were returned with the wider term.