

# Meta-analysis made (somewhat) painless

Marissa A. Bowman, MS

Graduate Student, Clinical-Health Psychology

Mechanisms and Moderators of Sleep Health Laboratory

University of Pittsburgh

[mabowman5@pitt.edu](mailto:mabowman5@pitt.edu) , @PittSleepGirl



Sleep T32

Pittsburgh, PA

September 27, 2019



# But first, Twitter...

- Follow our Twitter & tweet at @PittSleep
  - Send me your articles to share!



# But first, Twitter...

- Tweeted about sjPlot package in R and I have 120+ likes on it!

---

---

<i>Predictors</i>	<b>Unadjusted model</b>				<b>Interaction</b>				<b>Adjusted model</b>			
	<i>Estimates</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>95% CI</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>Estimates</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>95% CI</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>Estimates</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>95% CI</i>	<i>p</i>
(Intercept)	11.77	1.05	9.70 – 13.83	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	11.50	1.18	9.19 – 13.80	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	22.17	8.34	5.89 – 38.46	<b>0.008</b>
Time	-0.20	0.06	-0.32 – -0.08	<b>0.001</b>	-0.29	0.18	-0.65 – -0.07	0.112	0.03	0.17	-0.30 – -0.36	0.869
Sleep health	-1.34	0.26	-1.86 – -0.83	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	-1.27	0.30	-1.86 – -0.69	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	-1.11	0.29	-1.67 – -0.55	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
Sleep health x Time					-0.02	0.05	-0.11 – -0.07	0.602				

# Outline

- What is a meta-analysis?
- Why conduct a meta-analysis?
- How do you do one in seven “easy” steps?

# What is a meta-analysis?

- Meta-analysis is a quantitative method to aggregate findings from many published articles to more precisely estimate the observed effect size between two variables of interest
  - allows you to weight high-quality studies (based on their sample size or rigor) more than lower quality studies.

# Weighting

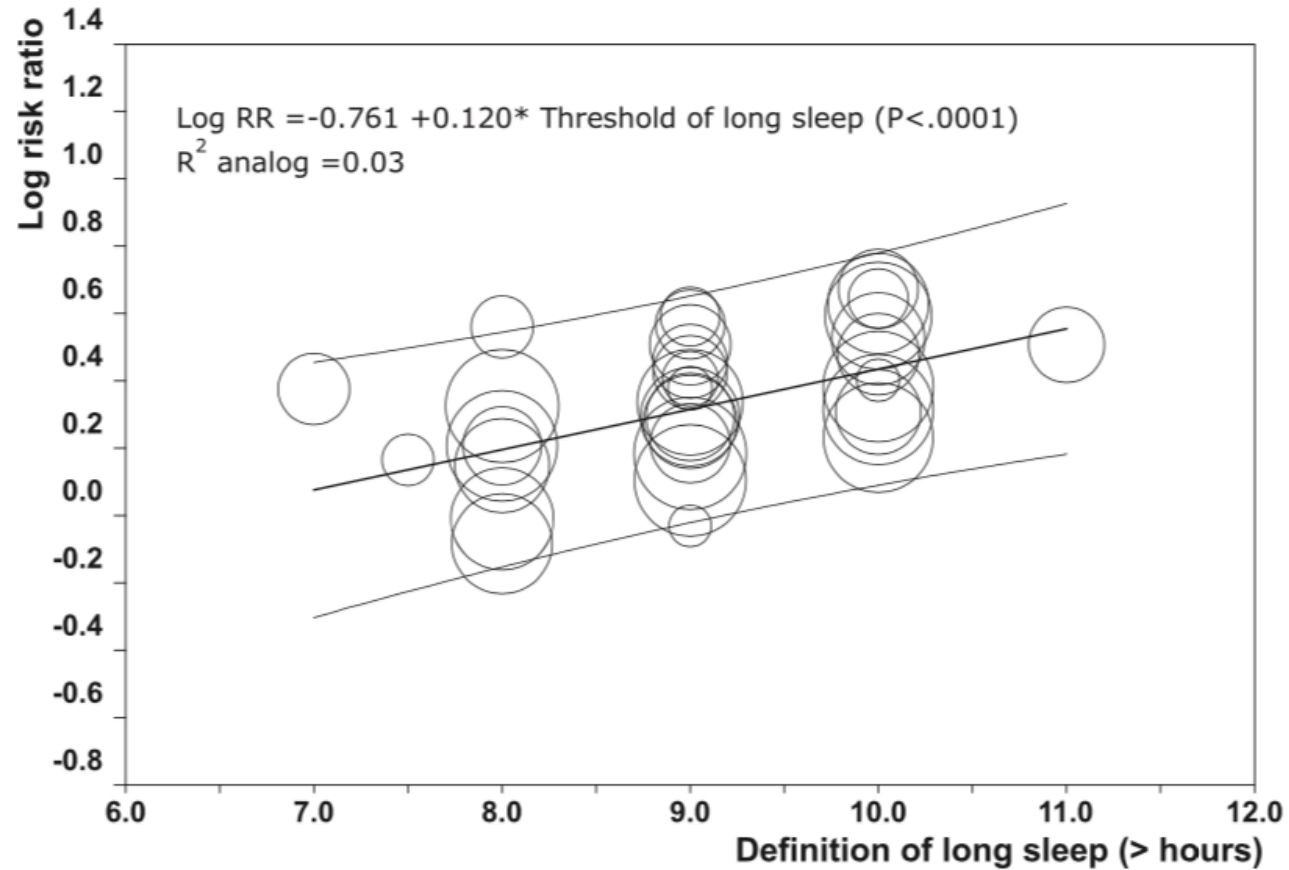


Fig. 5. Meta-regression for specific values of long sleep duration in mortality.

# Why a meta-analysis?

## Intuition behind vote counting

How many studies found a significant effect?



3 out of 6 studies

Overreliance on p-values

## Intuition behind meta-analysis

What was the studies' average effect size?

0.51, 0.13, 0.62, 0.30, -0.05, 0.19

$M = 0.28$

# Seven “easy” steps

1. Identify your question
2. Develop your search terms
3. Pre-register your meta-analysis on PROSPERO
4. Organize your screening flow
5. Recruit colleagues to serve as independent raters
6. Perform your pre-designed screen
7. Conduct your meta-analysis!



# Seven “easy” steps

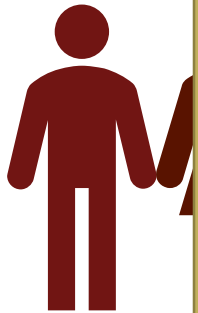
1. Identify your question
2. Develop your search terms
3. Pre-register your meta-analysis on PROSPERO
4. Organize your screening flow
5. Recruit colleagues to serve as independent raters
6. Perform your pre-designed screen
7. Conduct your meta-analysis!

# 1. Identify your question

- Is your research question best answered by a meta-analysis?
  - Good question: What is the overall effect of insomnia on risk for incident major depressive disorder?
  - Bad questions (for a meta): Interest in integrating disparate literatures; areas with few articles

# Integration of disparate literatures

- Only ONE study tested the full model statistically – one wanted to, but couldn't because race was unrelated to nocturnal blood pressure non-dipping
- Goal of our review became showing how strong each individual literature is, and where future directions might be



Black compared to white

**dipping**

ssure non-

# Insufficient # of studies

Sleep and Telomeres		
Category	Sample Size	Total studies
Duration	245	
Duration	434	
Duration	154	
Duration	283	
Duration	497	5 adults studies
Duration - Children	1567	1 child study
Quality	245	
Quality	954	
Quality	154	
Quality	283	
Quality	87	
Quality	239	6 adults studies
Latency	245	1 adults study
Insomnia	497	
	236	
	140	3 adults studies
Shift work	4117	
	619	
	150	3 adults studies

# Sleep across the lifespan



# Current project



**Key question:** Is there an association between age and sleep in healthy individuals (i.e. no medical, psychiatric, sleep disorder comorbidities)?

**Previous meta analysis (2004):** Includes 65 polysomnography and actigraphy studies, and suggests that the answer is yes!

**Current meta-analysis:** Extends this study by using actigraphy-assessed sleep duration, efficiency, AND timing and regularity

# 1. Identify your question







- Once you think you have a good question, search carefully to ensure it has not been published (on PubMed) or is not in-preparation elsewhere (PROSPERO; <https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/prospero/>)



# Searching PROSPERO

42 records found for **sleep and aging**

Show checked records only | Export

<input type="checkbox"/>	Registered	Title	Type	Review status
<input type="checkbox"/>	06/08/2019	A meta-analysis of actigraphy-assessed <b>sleep</b> characteristics across the lifespan [CRD42019137424]		Review Ongoing
<input type="checkbox"/>	29/03/2019	A systematic review and meta analysis on the effect of multidomain interventions to improve cognition in older adults [CRD42019126899]		Review Ongoing
<input type="checkbox"/>	30/03/2017	A systematic review on the relationship between telomere length and <b>sleep</b> [CRD42017058472]		Review Ongoing
<input type="checkbox"/>	20/05/2019	Aging fingerprints on cognitive control, attention and working memory related brain oscillatory activity [CRD42019121575]		Review Ongoing
<input type="checkbox"/>	17/07/2019	Association of vitamin D with the quality of <b>sleep</b> in older adults: a meta-analysis [CRD42019132111]		Review Ongoing
<input type="checkbox"/>	03/05/2016	Clinical and economic outcomes reported within interventions to reduce antipsychotic and benzodiazepine use within nursing homes: a systematic review [CRD42016038601]		Review Completed published

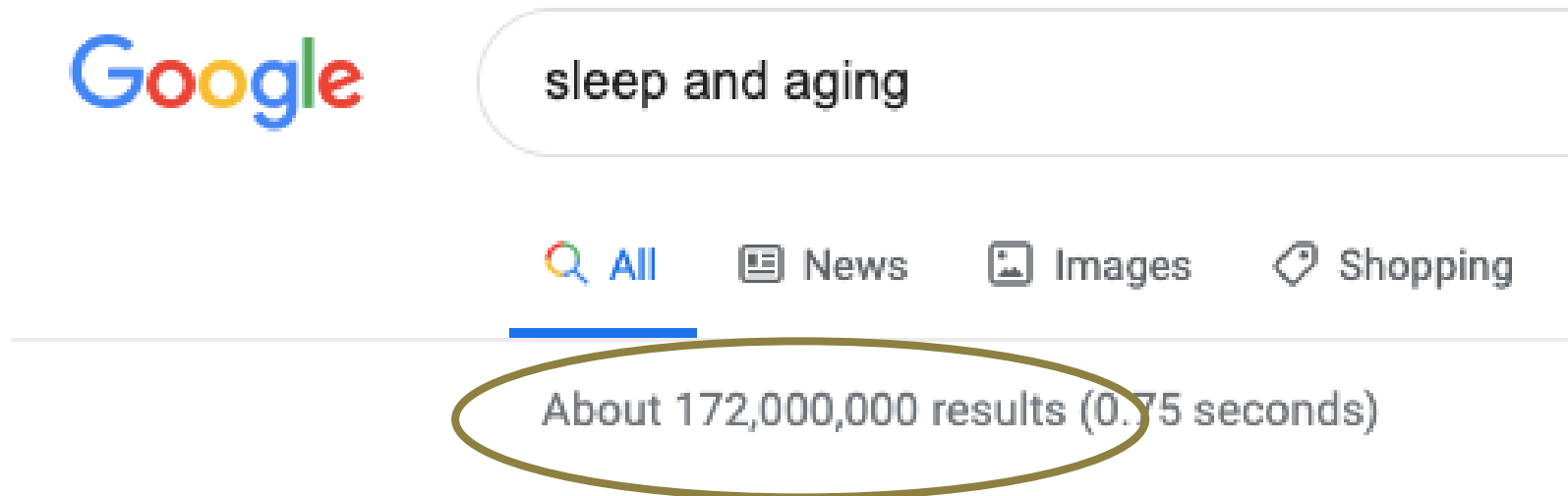


# Seven “easy” steps

1. Identify your question
2. **Develop your search terms**
3. Pre-register your meta-analysis on PROSPERO
4. Organize your screening flow
5. Recruit colleagues to serve as independent raters
6. Perform your pre-designed screen
7. Conduct your meta-analysis!

## 2. Develop your search terms

- Think of what happens when you type something into Google...

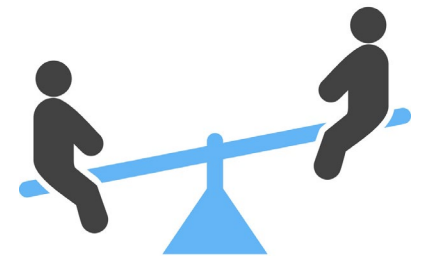


## 2. Develop your search terms

- Collaborate with an expert librarian!
- Our PubMed search terms

```
((("Humans"[Mesh]) AND (((sleep*[text word] OR parasomnia*[text word] OR dyssomnia*[text word] OR circadian rhythm*[text word] OR dyssomnia[MeSH Terms] OR circadian rhythm[MeSH Terms] OR sleep[MeSH Terms]))) AND (actiwatch[text word] OR actillum[text word] OR actigraph*[text word] OR acceleromet*[text word] OR activity sleep monitor*[text word] OR accelerometry[MeSH Terms]))) OR (((((sleep*[text word] OR parasomnia*[text word] OR dyssomnia*[text word] OR circadian rhythm*[text word] OR dyssomnia[MeSH Terms] OR circadian rhythm[MeSH Terms] OR sleep[MeSH Terms])) AND (actiwatch[text word] OR actillum[text word] OR actigraph*[text word] OR acceleromet*[text word] OR activity sleep monitor*[text word] OR accelerometry[MeSH Terms]))) NOT (("Animals"[Mesh] OR mice[tiab] OR mouse[tiab] OR gerbils[tiab])))
```

- She then did the same process for Cochrane Central, PsycINFO, and EMBASE



# Seven “easy” steps

1. Identify your question
2. Develop your search terms
3. **Pre-register your meta-analysis on PROSPERO**
4. Organize your screening flow
5. Recruit colleagues to serve as independent raters
6. Perform your pre-designed screen
7. Conduct your meta-analysis!

### 3. Pre-register your meta-analysis on PROSPERO

Why pre-register?

- Increases transparency
- Maybe will help prevent “scooping”?
- Practically, you have to complete a form with 30 questions about the meta, and it is helpful to think through these in advance

Takes 2 months + to be reviewed, then you might have to make revisions, so recommend that you do this ASAP

# 3. Pre-register your meta-analysis on PROSPERO

## A meta-analysis of actigraphy-assessed sleep characteristics across the lifespan

*Marissa Bowman, Martica Hall, Daniel Buysse, Anna Marsland, Aidan Wright, Jill Foust*

### Citation

Marissa Bowman, Martica Hall, Daniel Buysse, Anna Marsland, Aidan Wright, Jill Foust. A meta-analysis of actigraphy-assessed sleep characteristics across the lifespan. PROSPERO 2019 CRD42019137424 Available from: [https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/prospero/display\\_record.php?ID=CRD42019137424](https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/prospero/display_record.php?ID=CRD42019137424)

### Review question

Do actigraphy-assessed sleep measures change across the lifespan?

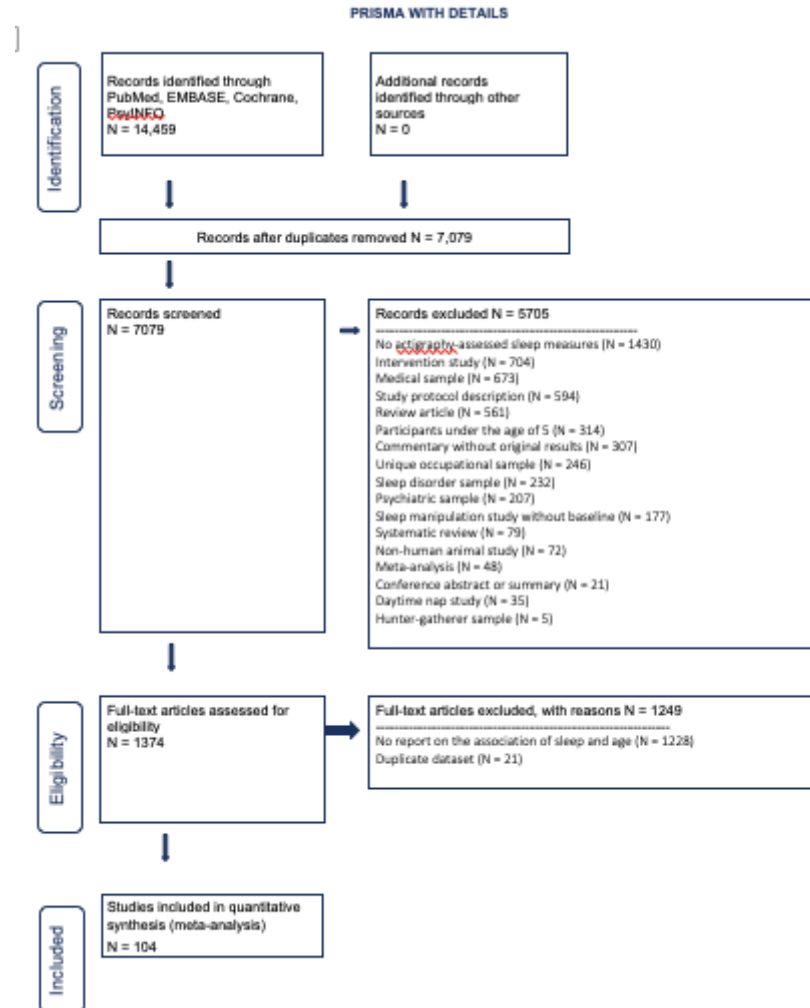
### Searches

The search will be completed in the following electronic databases: PubMed, EMBASE, Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL), and PsycINFO. There is no date restriction or language restriction.

# Seven “easy” steps

1. Identify your question
2. Develop your search terms
3. Pre-register your meta-analysis on PROSPERO
4. **Organize your screening flow**
5. Recruit colleagues to serve as independent raters
6. Perform your pre-designed screen
7. Conduct your meta-analysis!

# 4. Organize your study flow

















# 4. Organize your study flow

## Distiller SR

My Tasks   Project Progress   DistillerAI

Welcome to Sleep Health Across the Lifespan !

mabowman5@pitt.edu, there are references assigned to you. Please click "Unreviewed" below to start reviewing.

-  Title/abstract Screening - Title and Abstract Screening
  -  0 Unreviewed
  -  7079 Reviewed by you
  -  0 My Conflicts
-  Full text screening - Full Text Screening
  -  20 Unreviewed
  -  1375 Reviewed by you
  -  0 My Conflicts
-  Data extraction - Data extraction
  -  101 Unreviewed
  -  1 Reviewed by you
  -  0 My Conflicts

# 4. Organize your study flow

cycle are potential modifiable risk factors for cardiometabolic disease. The aim of this study was to evaluate the relationship between objective measures of sleep-wake timing and stability with cardiometabolic disease risk.

**METHODS:** In this multicenter, cross-sectional, population-based study, actigraphy data were obtained from the 2,156 adults, aged 18 to 64 years, recruited from the Sueno ancillary study of the Hispanic Community Health Study/Study of Latinos (2010-2013). These data were correlated with measures of cardiometabolic disease risk, including systolic and diastolic BPs, homeostatic assessment of insulin resistance, glycosylated hemoglobin, BMI, and hypertension and diabetes status.

**RESULTS:** Each 10% decrease in interdaily stability was associated with a 3.0% absolute increase in the prevalence of hypertension (95% CI, 0.6-5.3;  $P < .05$ ), an increase in systolic BP by 0.78 mm Hg (95% CI, 0.12-1.45;  $P < .05$ ) and an increase in diastolic BP by 0.80 mm Hg (95% CI, 0.28-1.32;  $P < .05$ ). In addition, delaying the midpoint of sleep by 1 h was associated with an increase in systolic BP by 0.73 mm Hg (95% CI, 0.30-1.16;  $P < .01$ ) and diastolic BP by 0.53 mm Hg (95% CI, 0.17-0.90;  $P < .01$ ). These associations were not significant after

Submit Form and go to this form next reference [View this form](#) [Print](#) [Share](#)

## Full Text Screening

1. Does this study report the association between age and at least one of the sleep outcomes as a main effect?

- Yes  Yes, but don't report test statistic or p-value  No, but adjust for age on sleep  
 No, but adjust for age on different outcome  No [Clear Response](#)

2. Is the mean and standard deviation of at least one outcome of interest reported? (If no, study will still be included but authors will be contacted)

- Yes  Yes, the mean is weighted  Yes, the mean is stratified by a variable  
 No, the mean and standard deviation are not reported  No, the mean is age-standardized  No [Clear Response](#)

3. Does this study need to be excluded because the same dataset has already been used in another study? (Exclude the study with smaller sample size or less complete data reported in-text)

- Yes (exclude)  
 No

[Clear Response](#)

## 4. Organize your study flow

- Alternatives to Distiller SR
  - Covidence – mobile app
  - Rayyan – free but clunky

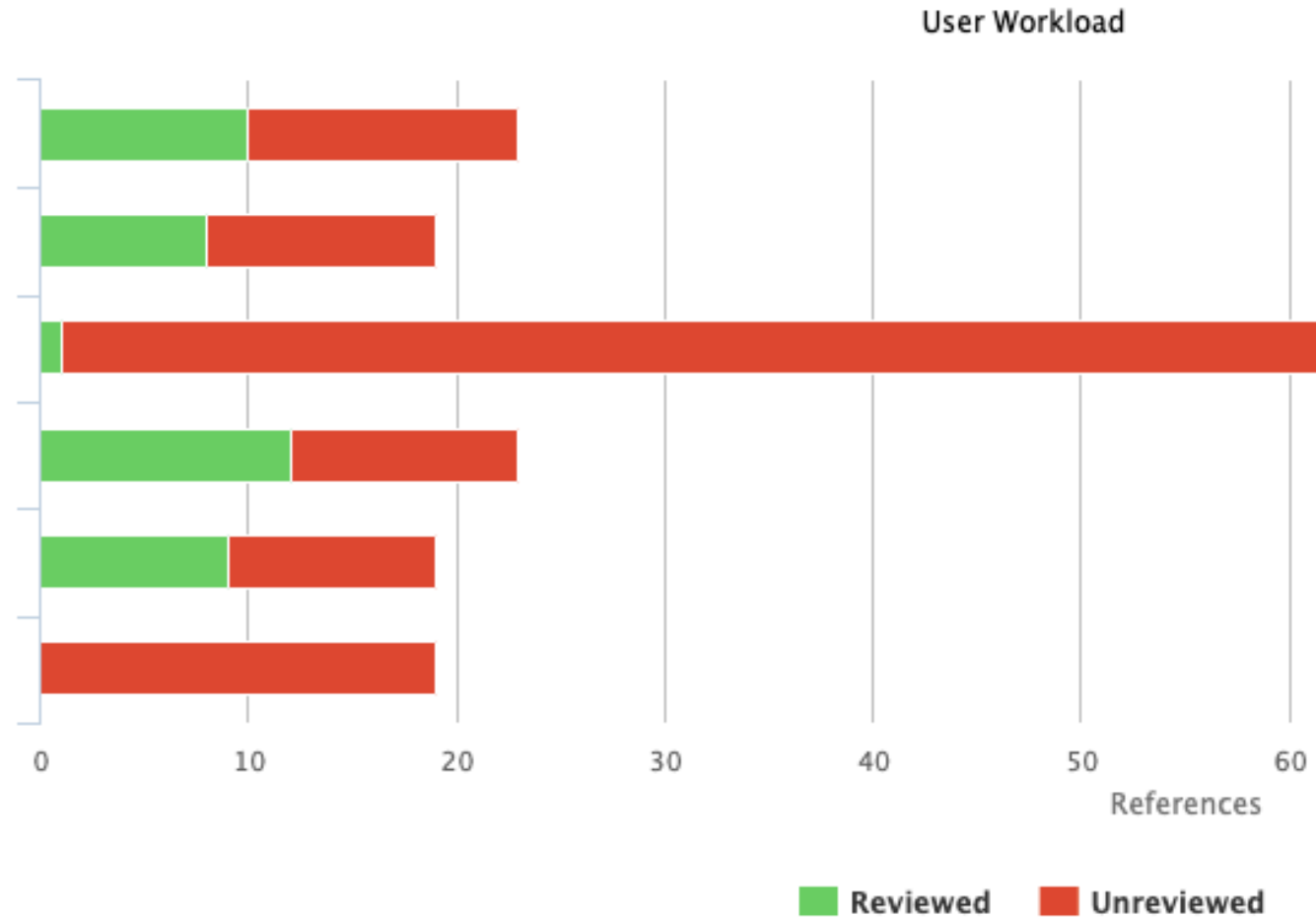
# Seven “easy” steps

1. Identify your question
2. Develop your search terms
3. Pre-register your meta-analysis on PROSPERO
4. Organize your screening flow
5. **Recruit colleagues to serve as independent raters**
6. Perform your pre-designed screen
7. Conduct your meta-analysis!

## 5. Recruit independent raters

- Independent raters are recommended at title/abstract screening and data extraction stage to reduce risk of bias
  - With 7,000+ tiab, I absolutely noticed that some days I was more inclusive than other days..
  - For data entry, other people interpret manuscript wording differently..
- I would recommend a very specific SOP for your raters, in-person training, and checking the first ~10 articles they do

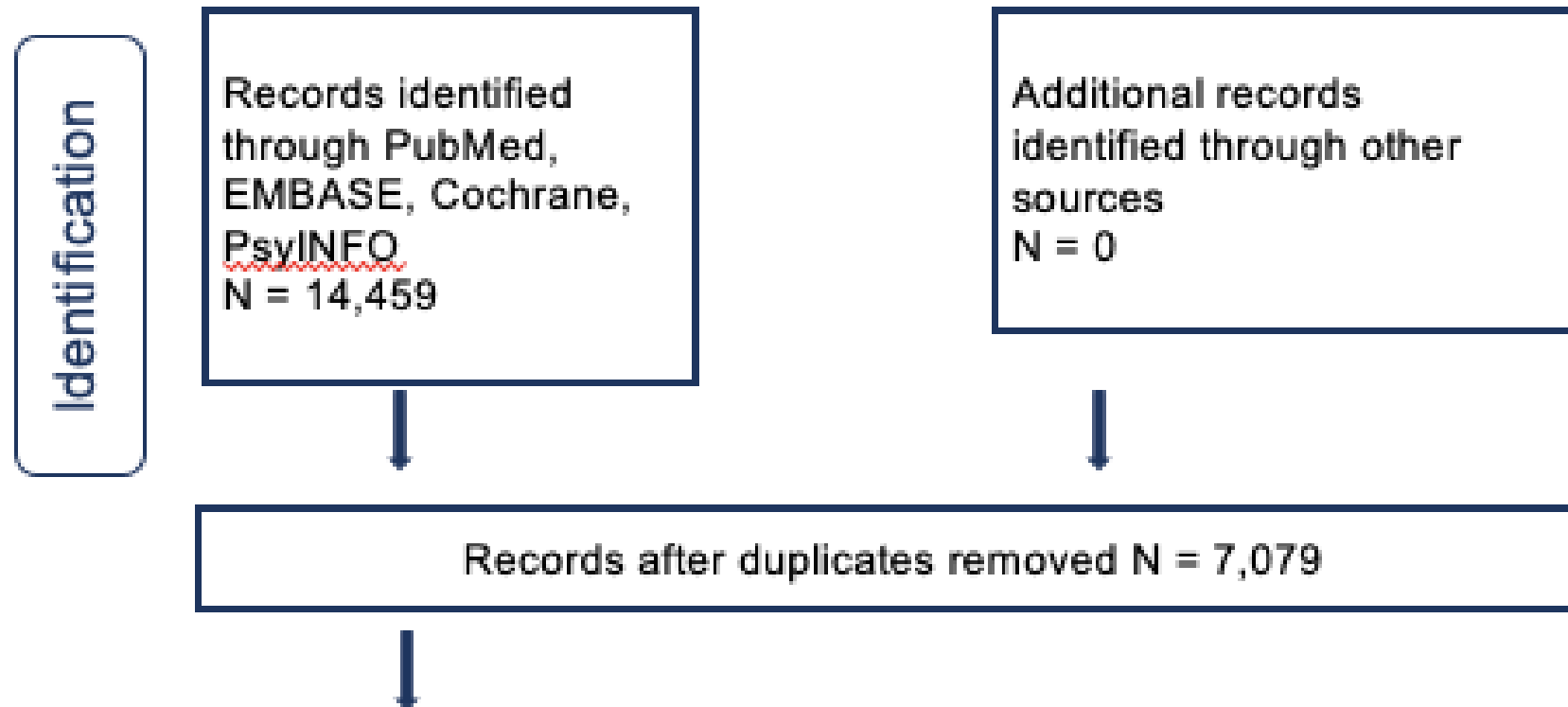
# 5. Recruit independent raters



## 6. Perform your pre-designed screen

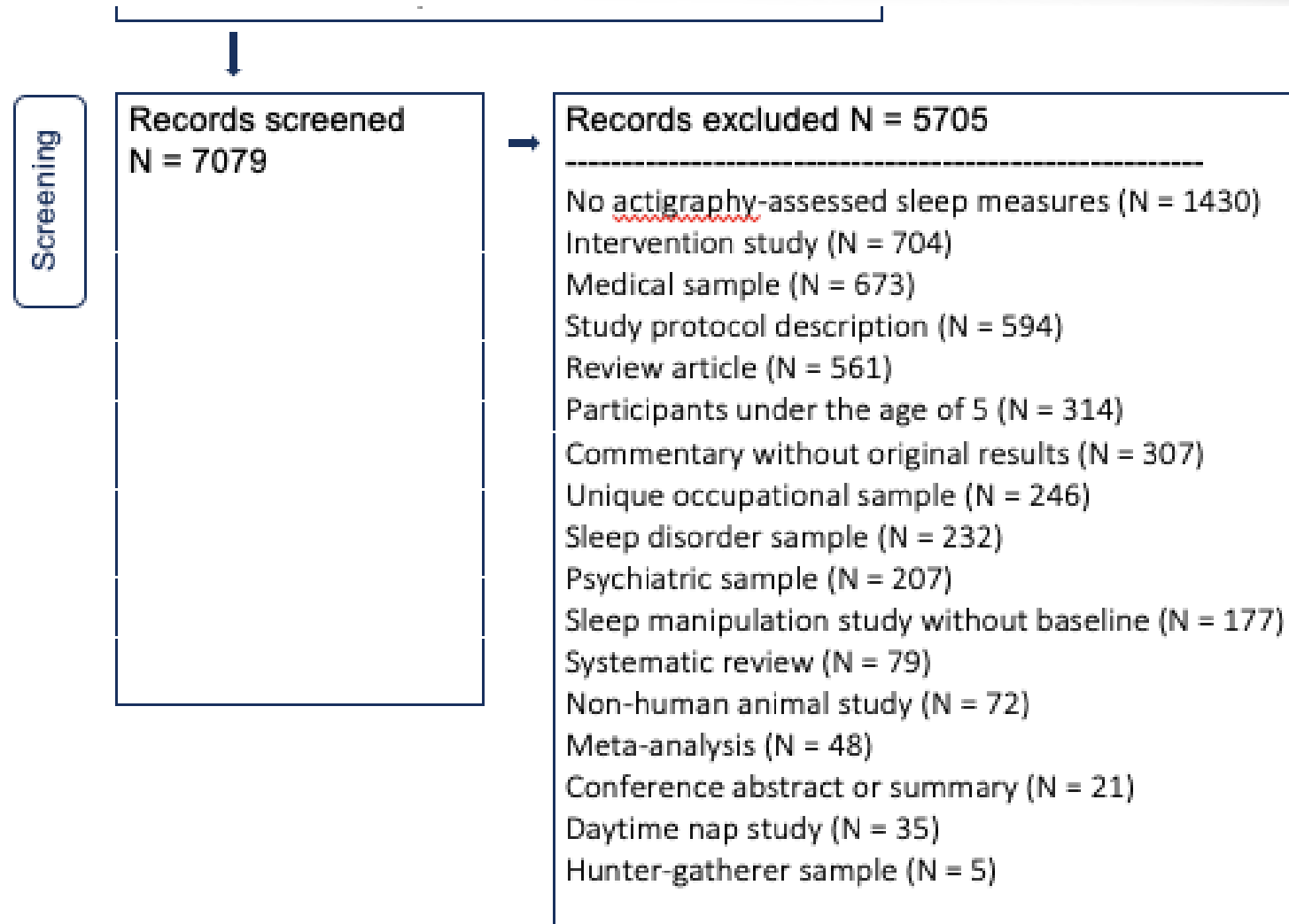
- This is the majority of your time!
  1. Title/abstract screening (7,079)
  2. Download all PDFs that are eligible for full-text (1,374)
  3. Full-text screening (1,374)
  4. Data extraction (104)

## 6. Perform your pre-designed screen

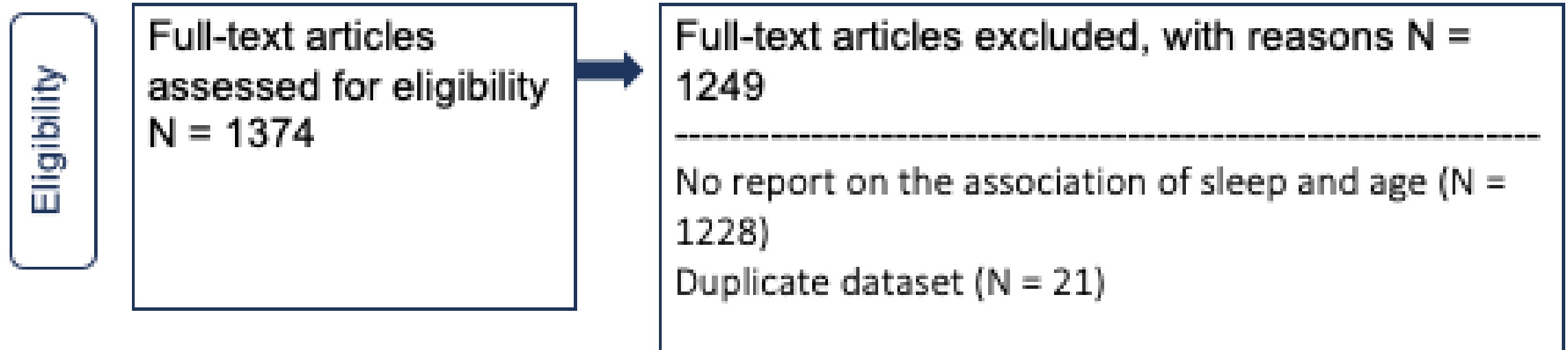




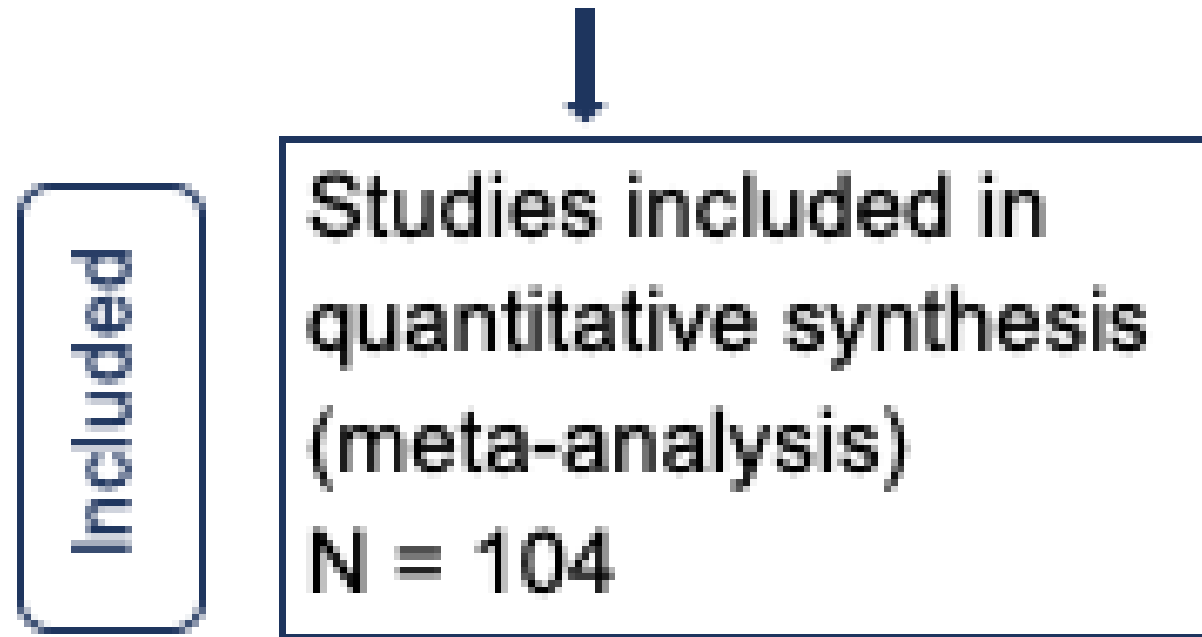
## 6. Perform your pre-designed screen



## 6. Perform your pre-designed screen



## 6. Perform your pre-designed screen



# Seven “easy” steps

1. Identify your question
2. Develop your search terms
3. Pre-register your meta-analysis on PROSPERO
4. Organize your screening flow
5. Recruit colleagues to serve as independent raters
6. Perform your pre-designed screen
7. **Conduct your meta-analysis!**

## 7. Conduct your meta-analysis!

- Packages designed for the purpose:
  - Comprehensive Meta-Analysis (CMA) and RevMan
- Syntax available online for more general-purpose statistical packages
  - SPSS, Stata, and R

# 7. Conduct your meta-analysis!

## Comprehensive Meta-Analysis software

The screenshot displays the Comprehensive Meta-Analysis software interface. The main window shows a data table with the following columns: Study name, Group-A Events, Group-A Total N, Group-B Events, Group-B Total N, Odds ratio, Log odds ratio, Std Err, Variance, J, K, L, and M. The rows are numbered 1 through 26. A dialog box titled 'Group names' is open in the foreground, containing the following fields:

- Group names for cohort or prospective studies**
  - Name for first group (e.g., Treated): Group-A
  - Name for second group (e.g., Control): Group-B
- Binary outcome in cohort or prospective studies**
  - Name for events (e.g., Dead): Events
  - Name for non-events (e.g., Alive): Non-events

Buttons for 'Cancel', 'Apply', and 'Ok' are located at the bottom of the dialog box. A 'MORE VIDEOS' button is visible in the bottom left corner of the software window.

# Thank you

- What questions do you have?

