

# Increasing number of authors in Cochrane reviews

## Objectives

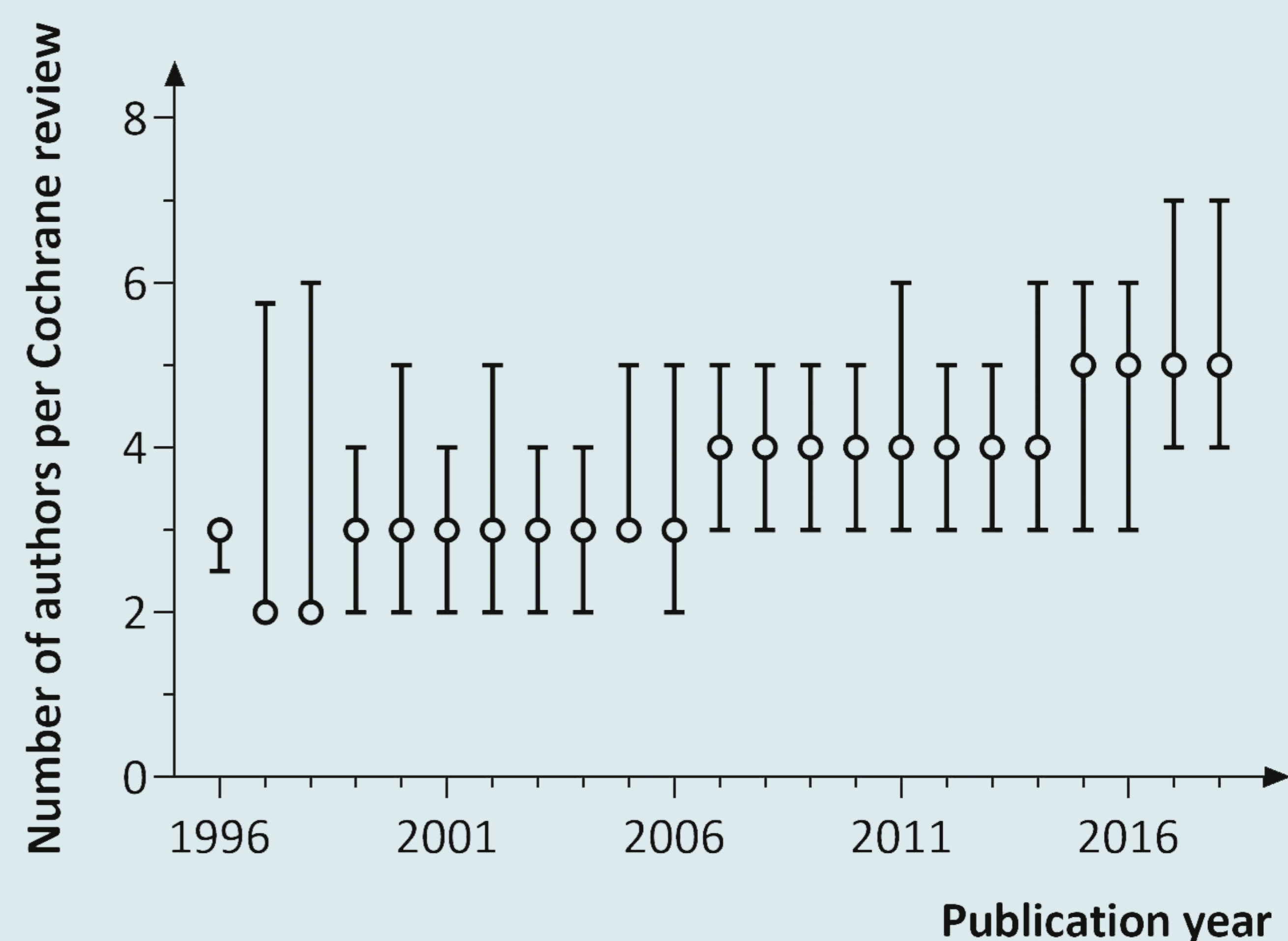
- To investigate authorship trends in Cochrane reviews; both overall and within each of the editorial groups
- To examine if the authorship criteria from ICMJE were met for Cochrane reviews with more than 15 authors

## Methods

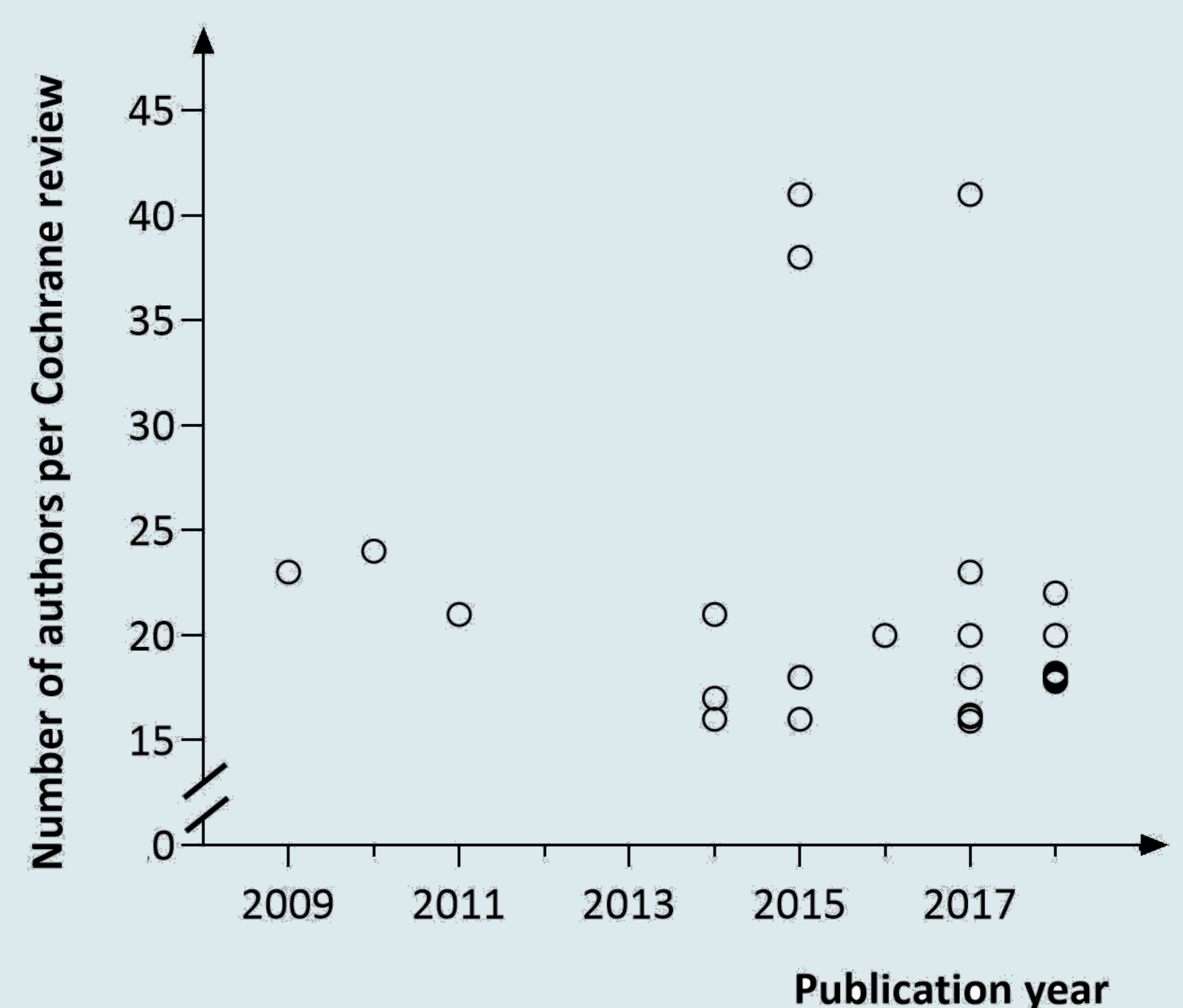
- Included all Cochrane reviews from 1996 to 2018
- Data extracted from the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews
- Assessed the section “Contribution of authors” with regard to the first and second authorship criteria from ICMJE

## Key results

- Included: 7,447 Cochrane reviews
- Gradually increase in the median number of authors through the years (Figure 1)
- Median number of authors per Cochrane review (Figure 1):
  - In 1996: 3 (IQR 2.5-3, range 2-3)
  - In 2007: 4 (IQR 3-5, range 1-13)
  - In 2018: 5 (IQR 4-7, range 2-22)
- Authorship trends within editorial groups:
  - Increasing: 47%
  - Unchanged: 53%
- 27 Cochrane reviews with more than 15 authors (Figure 2)
  - 59% of the reviews did probably not fulfill the authorship criteria



**Figure 1.** The median number and interquartile range of authors per Cochrane review from 1996 to 2018



**Figure 2.** The total number of authors in Cochrane reviews with more than 15 authors from 1996 to 2018

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