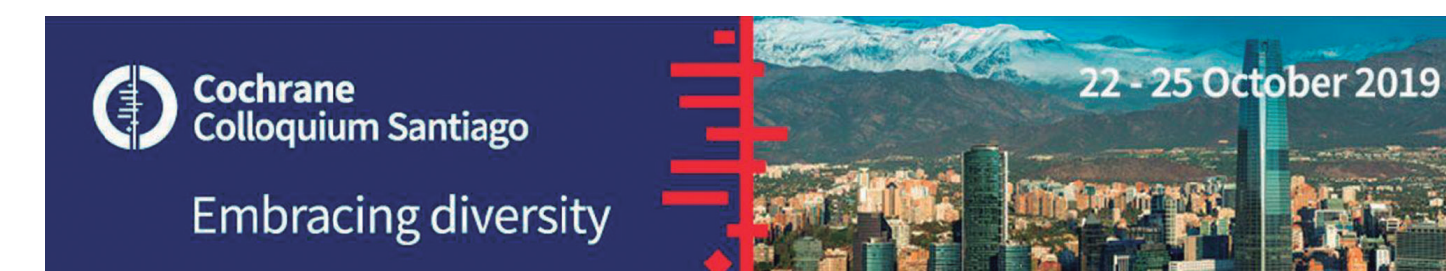


# Sex and gender consideration in Cochrane reviews of intervention for HIV/AIDS and hypertension: pre-post study after implementing a guidance

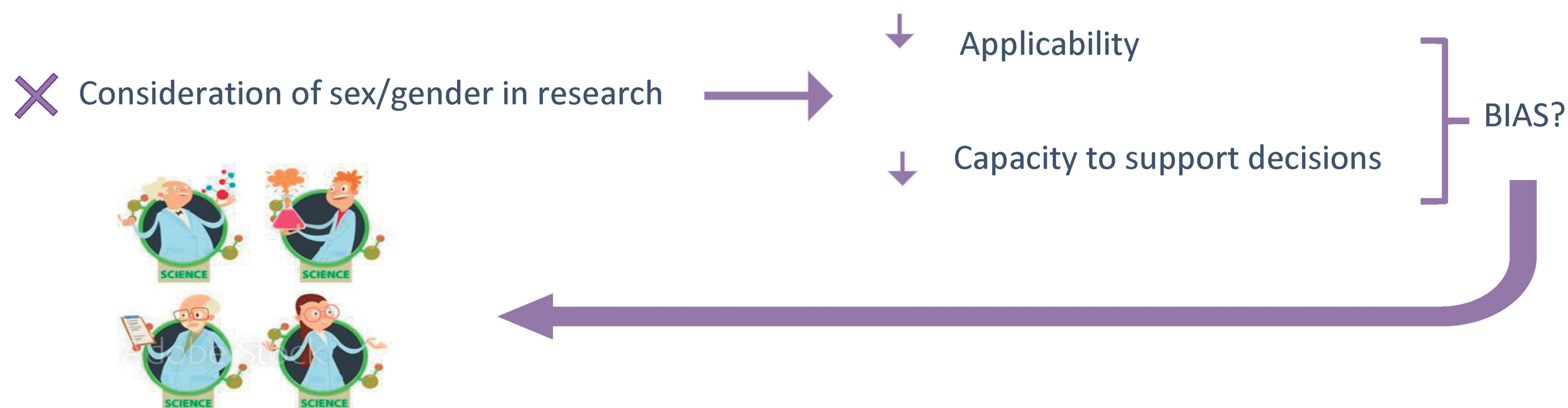
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Conflict of interest: none Funding: poster printed by Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau (Barcelona)



## Introduction



In 2014 Cochrane's Sex/Gender Methods Group (SGMG) published a guidance to address sex/gender for systematic reviews of HIV/AIDS and hypertension.

## Objectives

To describe the impact of the SGMG recommendations on sex/gender reporting and analysis in Cochrane systematic reviews (SR) of intervention for HIV/AIDS and hypertension.

To evaluate the association between sex/gender consideration and gender of authorships.

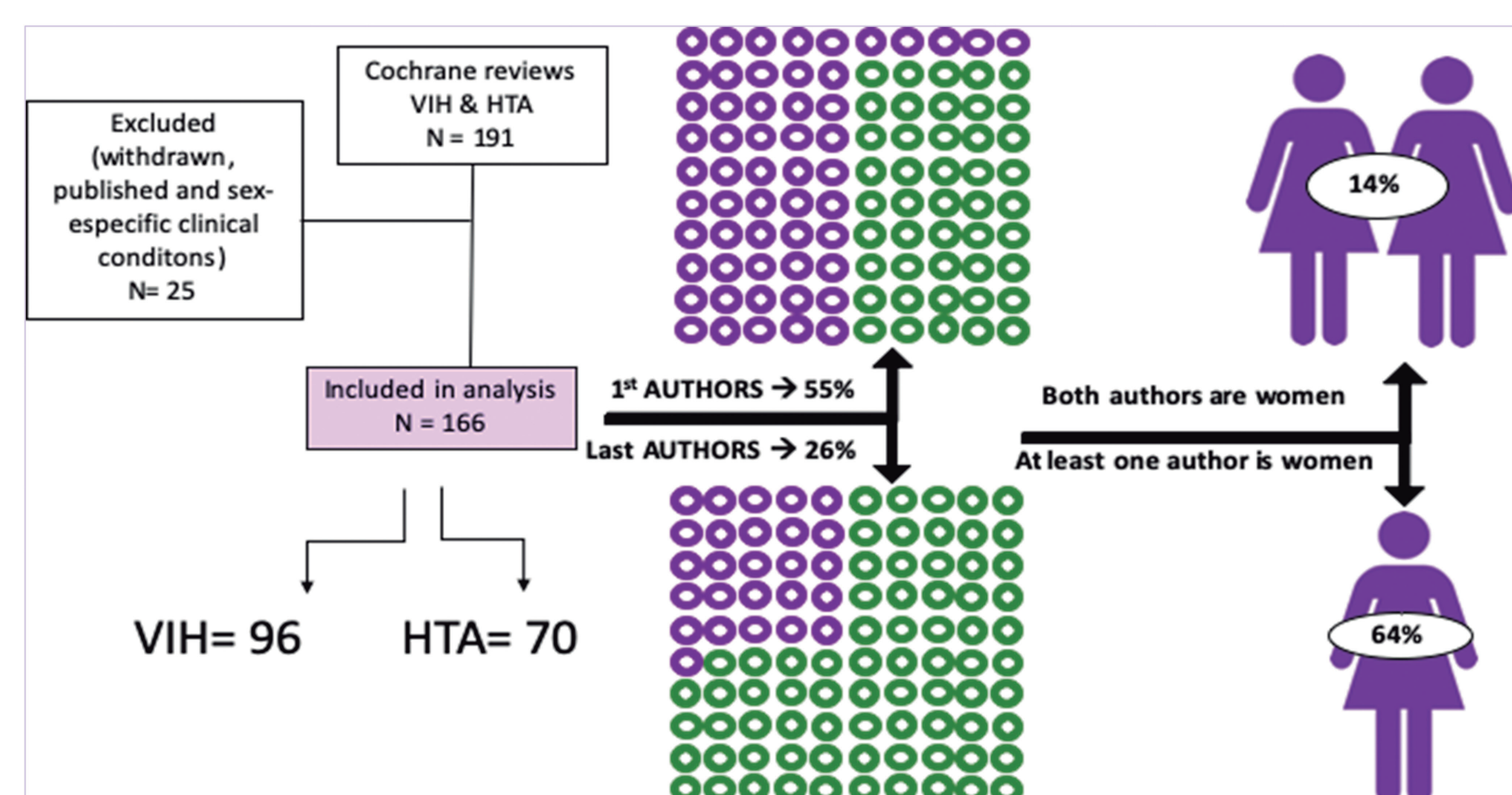
## Methods

Pre-post uncontrolled retrospective study.

We screened Cochrane SR for HIV/AIDS and hypertension published between 1995 and 2018, and removed the ones addressing sex-specific medical conditions. We classified the SR as pre- or post-guidance of SGMG (title registered in Archie after 1 January 2015). We collected data on gender of first and last authors and documented the sex/gender terms used in each section of the SR. In the results section, we separated descriptive and analytic approaches. We used 'not applicable' when insufficient primary studies or data precluded the intended analyses.

We performed descriptive statistics, comparative statistical test and regression analyses.

## Results



Review sections	Guidance introduction (year)			Cochrane group		
	<2014	>2014	P	VIH/AIDS	HTA	P
Abstract	18% (23)	17% (7)	0.848	24% (23)	10% (7)	<b>0.021</b>
Methods	24% (30)	44% (18)	<b>0.015</b>	20% (19)	41% (29)	<b>0.002</b>
Results: descriptive	71% (81)	85% (35)	0.070	66% (59)	88% (57)	<b>0.002</b>
Results: analytic	34% (31)	32% (11)	0.826	28% (20)	42% (22)	0.120
Discussion	22% (27)	24% (10)	0.728	26% (25)	17% (12)	0.163
In ≥2sections	50% (55)	55% (22)	0.588	45% (39)	59% (38)	0.089
All sections	6% (14)	10% (2)	0.360	6% (6)	7% (5)	0.833



HTA reviews are 16% more likely to report by sex / gender than HIV reports regardless of year of publication and gender of the author [OR = 2.6 (95% CI 1.26 to 5.3; P < 0.05)]

Abstract
Plain language summary
Authors' conclusions
Summary of findings
Background
Objectives
Methods
Results
Discussion

## Conclusion

Consideration of sex/gender in Cochrane SR for HIV/AIDS and hypertension is scarce. The guidance implementation showed a significant increase in sex reporting in the methods section. The differences found between the SR of HIV/AIDS and hypertension were probably due to both the Cochrane group and the effect of the SGMG guidance. Gender of authorship had no association with the probability of sex reporting.