

# Did our systematic review and health technology assessment courses result in more peer-reviewed publications of research synthesis?

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# Aim of project

To evaluate whether courses on research synthesis run by the West Midlands Health Technology Assessment Collaboration (WMHTAC) at the University of Birmingham led to subsequent publication of systematic reviews or health technology assessments

# Three courses

- How to do a Systematic Review
  - From 1998-2001
- MSc in Evidence Based Healthcare and Health Technology Assessment
  - From 2001 onwards
- Single module from MSc, run as a short course, called Methodological Basis of HTA
  - From 2001 onwards

# Methods

- All participants identified through student records and data on file
- Name, topic title and other details on Excel spreadsheet
- Contacted by letter, telephone or in person to find current job and whether their topic was ever published
- Names searched in Medline and Embase for relevant publications

	How to do a systematic review course	MSc EBH& HTA	Short course module
Started course	43	27	23
Dropped out mid way	5	4	3
Not finished yet	N/A	1	N/A
Finished course	38	22	20
Published HTA report	17	4	1
Published paper etc	17	3	5
Any publication	25	6	5
Total publications	36	7	6
Potential HTA report	0	4	0

# Discussion and conclusions

- Very useful evaluation
- Participants on 'How to do a systematic review' course had more publications than other two courses
- Possibility this was because of the increased individual attention
- Will be reintroducing this course from April 2006