

**1,802** Records identified through  
PUBMED database searching

**528** additional records identified from  
Advanced Google Scholar, Cochrane  
Library and WHO databases including  
grey literatures

Total of **2,216** records obtained after removing duplicate  
retrievals

**1,942** records were excluded  
because their titles are not  
related to the review topic and  
found to be non-relevant

Abstracts of **274** records were  
accessed and screened

**237** records were excluded  
because the abstracts did not found  
to be relevant based on the  
exposure and outcome variables

**37** Full text articles/ reports were  
accessed and assessed for eligibility  
based on the pre-set criteria

**18** full-text articles excluded

- In **6** studies, place of birth were not compared and no adequate data for analysis
- **8** studies compared planned home birth with planned hospital birth
- **3** studies used perinatal mortality as outcome variable
- **1** study used insufficient data

**19** fulfilled the eligibility criteria and  
included in the systematic review and  
meta-analysis