

499 titles & abstracts identified from searches – see Additional file 1

25 full text articles obtained for further consideration

7 included studies
1 RCT
4 CBA
1 Case control study
1 Before-after study

*Of the 492 excluded studies
>300 did not evaluate CHWs*

The other excluded studies evaluated the following roles or aspects of CHWs:

- CHW impact on maternal mortality
- CHW impact on trachoma morbidity
- CHW impact on tuberculosis morbidity
- CHW ability to diagnose pneumonia
- CHW knowledge
- Community attitudes towards CHWs
- Adherence to treatments delivered by CHWs
- Hygiene education by CHWs
- Comparisons within a CHW program of differing interventions without the use of a non-CHW control group

RCT: Randomised controlled trial

CBA: Controlled before and after study