

Next steps: protocol

- Once you have a draft protocol – you can start the search



Developing a search strategy

- Identify keywords
- Find subject headings
- Apply search filters [Hedges] for study type (if appropriate)
- Combine the search strings
- Weigh up whether to apply limits to your search...**bias**



Editing & finalising the search

- Test the search
 - Does it capture key papers?
 - Are there too many irrelevant papers?
- Share your search strategy with colleagues or a librarian
 - Ask for comments on coverage, relevance, accuracy...
- Review & finalise – iterative process



Advanced search: PubMed



Final PubMed search

1. "Sugar-Sweetened Beverages"[Mesh] OR "Energy Drinks"[Mesh]
2. soda*[tw] OR soft drink*[tw] OR energy drink*[tw] OR sweetened beverage*[tw] OR beverage*[ti]
3. 1 OR 2
4. "Taxes"[Mesh:NoExp]
5. tax[tw] OR taxes[tw] OR taxation[tw] OR levy[tw]
6. 4 OR 5
7. "Energy Intake"[Mesh] OR "Drinking"[Mesh]
8. consume*[tw] OR consumption[tw] OR intake[tw] OR purchas*[tw] OR buy*[tw] OR bought[tw]
9. 7 OR 8
10. 3 AND 6 AND 10
11. Apply a 'hedge' to limit to studies in children



Searching across multiple databases (1)

- Choose which databases to search
- Adapt the search for each database
- Export the results into reference management software



Searching across multiple databases (2)

- **ASSIA** – Social care & social work
- **CAB Abstracts** – agriculture, environment & nutrition
- **Cochrane Library** – systematic reviews & trials
- **CINAHL** – nursing & allied health
- **Embase** – health & medicine
- **Global Health** – Population health
- **Medline** – health & medicine
- **PEDRO** – physiotherapy
- **PsycINFO** – psychiatry & psychology
- **Science Citation Index** – Science
- **Scopus** - Multidisciplinary



Next steps: Grey literature

- Identifying grey literature
- Additional search methods to identify papers that might have been missed by the structured search

