# Tips for writing up the review results

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| **Tip** with a link to relevant Cochrane Handbook Chapter | **Explanation** |
| 1. **Report effect estimates with confidence intervals (**[**Part 2, Chapter 15.3**](https://training.cochrane.org/handbook/current/chapter-15#section-15-3)**)** | It is good practice to include confidence intervals when presenting numerical results. P values should not be used as an alternative to confidence intervals, as they provide less information on the range of possible effects. |
| 1. **Report number of studies and participants contributing to the outcome (**[**Part 1, Chapter III.3.4**](https://training.cochrane.org/handbook/current/chapter-iii#section-iii-3-4)**)** | When you’re presenting numerical results, it is useful to include the number of studies and participants contributing to each result. This is because not all studies, and not all participants, will have contributed data to every outcome. |
| 1. **Report both absolute and relative effect estimates (**[**Part 2, Chapter 15.4**](https://training.cochrane.org/handbook/current/chapter-15#section-15-4)**)** | By presenting both absolute and relative estimates, the effect is more easily understandable by readers. If the risks vary substantially between different populatons (e.g. people at low and at high risk), it is advisable to present the effects separately for each population. |
| 1. **Ensure the direction and meaning of the result is clear (**[**Part 2, Chapter 15.5**](https://training.cochrane.org/handbook/current/chapter-15#section-15-5)**)** | When writing up your results, you should bear in mind that many of your readers may not be experts in the particular outcome measures or statistical measures. It is therefore helpful to explicitly state whether an effect estimate means an increase or decrease in the outcome you’re measuring, and whether that’s a good or bad thing. |
| 1. **Present the certainty of evidence for each outcome (**[**Part 2, Chapter 14.2**](https://training.cochrane.org/handbook/current/chapter-14#section-14-2)**)** | The assessment of the certainty of evidence should be an integral part of the presentation of effects of intervention. When writing up your results, include the effects for each outcome, the certainty of the evidence, and explanations of your assessment for each outcome. The overall summary of the certainty of evidence across outcomes should be given in the ‘Discussion’ section of the review. |
| 1. **Don’t overlook studies not included in the meta-analysis (**[**Part 2, Chapter 10.12**](https://training.cochrane.org/handbook/current/chapter-10#section-10-12)**)** | You should be careful not to leave out any studies that could not be included in the meta-analysis, for example because they did not provide results in a useful format. They may still contribute some information to your review. For example, you could consider whether their  findings are broadly consistent with the findings of the meta-analysis. |
| 1. **Report any subgroup or sensitivity analysis (**[**Part 2, Chapter 10.11**](https://training.cochrane.org/handbook/current/chapter-10#section-10-11)**)** | If you performed any subgroup and sensitivity analyses, as planned in your Protocol, report the findings here. |
| 1. **Avoid excessive repetition – refer to forest plots (**[**Part 1, Chapter III, supplementary material 1**](https://training.cochrane.org/handbook/current/chapter-iii-supplementary-material)**)** | If the majority of your results are included in forest plots or other tables, avoid excessive repetition in the Results section – you can refer your readers to the plots or tables for the detail – but remember to make sure that the Results section gives a clear picture on its own, even if the reader does not follow up the detail. |