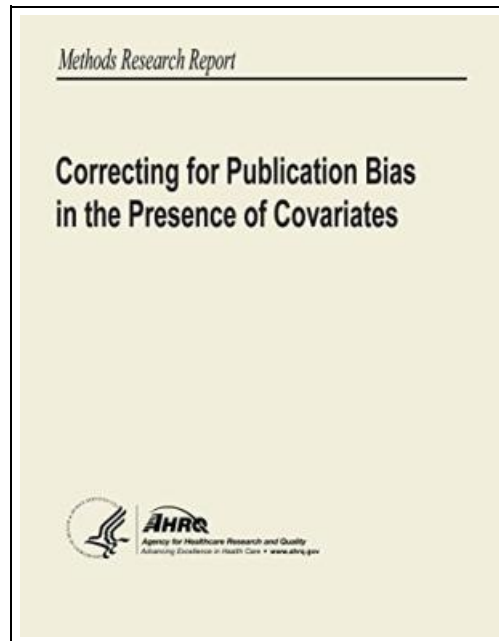


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Createspace, United States, 2013. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 279 x 216 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Meta-analysis has become increasingly popular in the last decade and is now in the top position on most proposed hierarchies of evidence. Meta-analyses are also the most cited study design in the health sciences literature. The traditional role for meta-analysis has been to compile information from diverse studies on the same topic, thus increasing power. However, there is increasing recognition of the challenges that heterogeneity presents in data synthesis. It is important to quantify, assess, and potentially interpret heterogeneity and try to distinguish between genuine between-study heterogeneity and biases. Meta-analytic studies provide a very useful tool for sensitizing researchers, physicians, and public health practitioners to the almost ubiquitous presence of biases in research. The focus in the present report is on one such bias, publication bias, which has been suggested as the most important threat to the validity of meta-analyses. The trim and fill method was developed by Duval and Tweedie to address the issue of publication bias in meta-analysis, and it is now widely used in practice in many areas of public health research. It relies on scrutinizing a funnel plot for asymmetry, assumed to be a manifestation of publication bias (see below). The goal of this research was to extend the trim and fill method to those situations where covariates are available as possible explanations for some of the funnel plot asymmetry. Publication bias is the term used for the bias that may occur when the research on a particular topic does not include the whole population of studies that has been performed. The danger to interpretation under these conditions is that the wrong conclusions may be drawn if the available studies differ systematically from the...



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