PRISMA 2020 flow diagram: the box labels

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Keep every label word for word. The box after screening says “Records excluded”, and its footnote does the explaining.

The template for new reviews (databases, registers and other sources)

Where	Label
Column 1, first box	Records identified from*: Databases (n =) · Registers (n =)
Beside it	Records removed before screening: Duplicate records removed (n =) · Records marked as ineligible by automation tools (n =) · Records removed for other reasons (n =)
Column 1, second box	Records screened (n =)
Beside it	Records excluded** (n =)
Both columns	Reports sought for retrieval (n =)
Beside it	Reports not retrieved (n =)
Both columns	Reports assessed for eligibility (n =)
Beside it	Reports excluded: Reason 1 (n =) · Reason 2 (n =) · Reason 3 (n =) · etc.
Column 2, first box	Records identified from: Websites (n =) · Organisations (n =) · Citation searching (n =) · etc.
Last box	Studies included in review (n =) · Reports of included studies (n =)

Headings. Columns: “Identification of studies via databases and registers” and “Identification of studies via other methods”. Bars down the left: “Identification”, “Screening” and “Included”.

The footnotes

- * “Consider, if feasible to do so, reporting the number of records identified from each database or register searched (rather than the total number across all databases/registers).”
- ** “If automation tools were used, indicate how many records were excluded by a human and how many were excluded by automation tools.”

The templates for updated reviews add “Previous studies” · “Studies included in previous version of review” · “Reports of studies included in previous version of review” · “Identification of new studies via databases and registers” · “Identification of new studies via other methods” (with other sources) · “New studies included in review” · “Reports of new included studies” · “Total studies included in review” · “Reports of total included studies”.

Boxes that do not apply. “The boxes in grey should only be completed if applicable; otherwise they should be removed from the flow diagram.” (PRISMA 2020 statement, Figure 1)

Sources: Box labels and footnotes from the PRISMA 2020 flow diagram template (Page MJ et al. BMJ 2021;372:n71; CC BY 4.0). The four templates: prisma-statement.org/prisma-2020-flow-diagram. The full guide, with every source: evensift.com/guides/prisma-flow-diagram/

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