

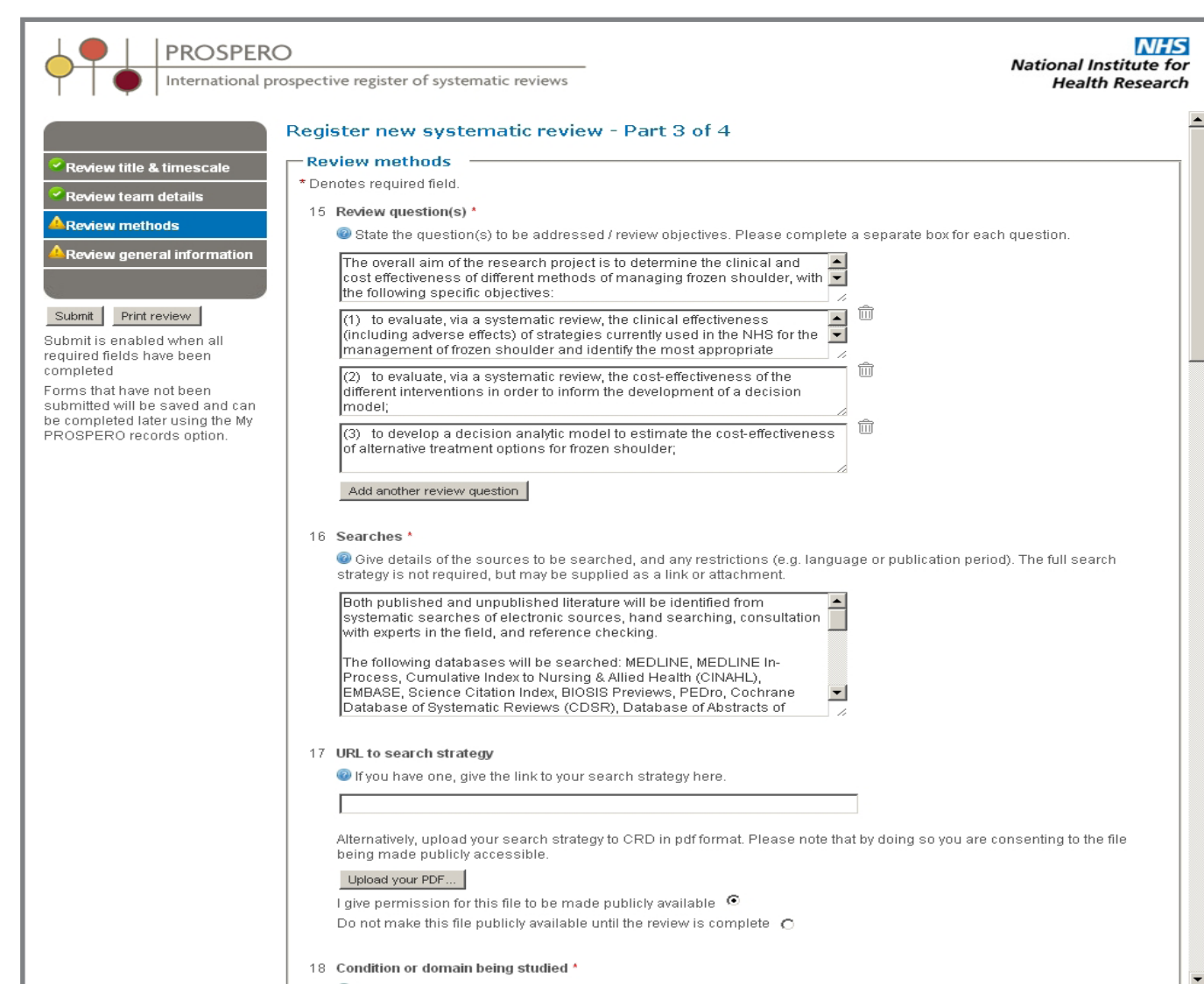
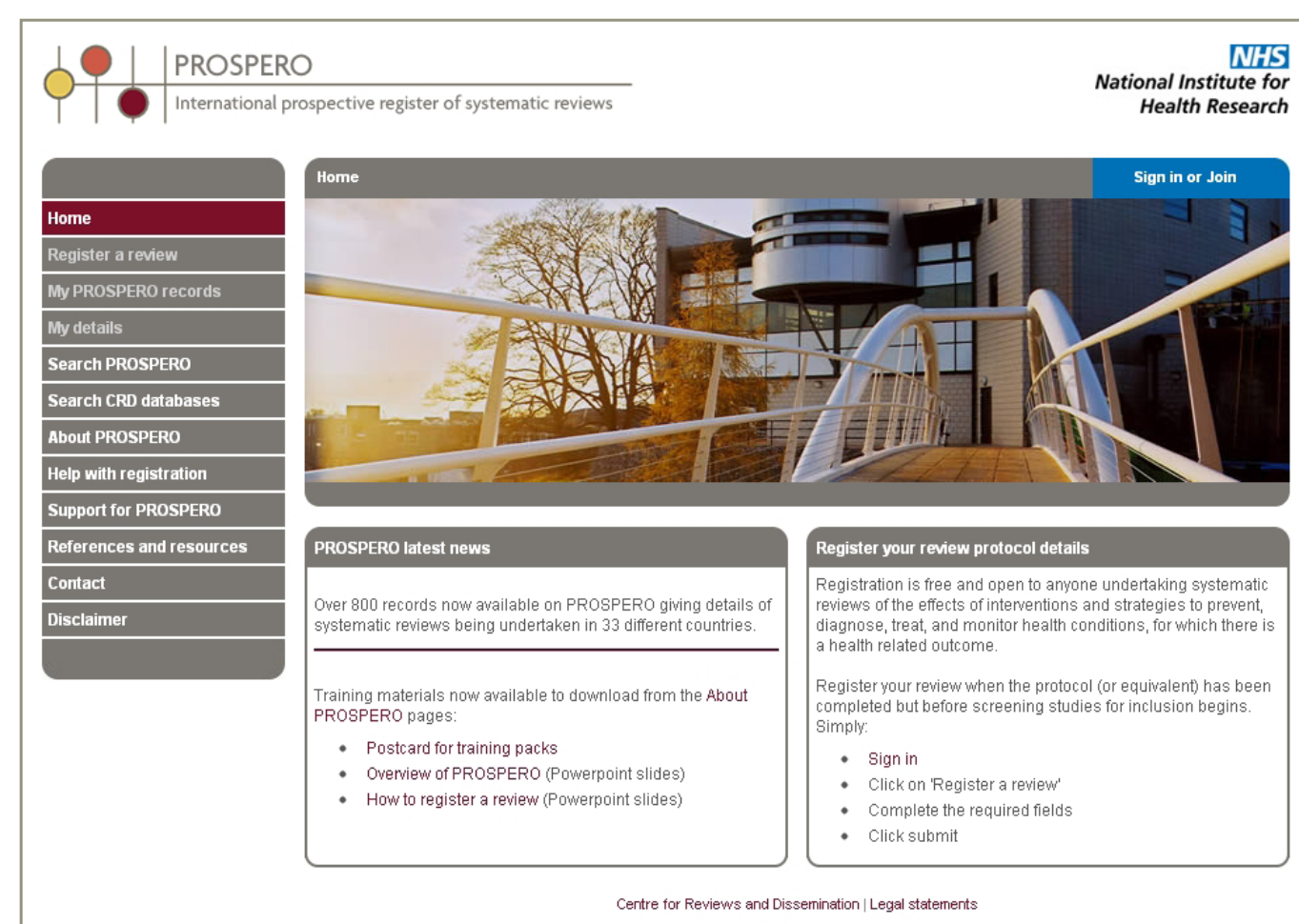
PROSPERO: the first year of an international prospective register of systematic reviews

Alison Booth¹, Mike Clarke², Gordon Dooley³, Davina Ghera⁴, David Moher^{5,6}, Mark Petticrew⁷, Lesley Stewart¹

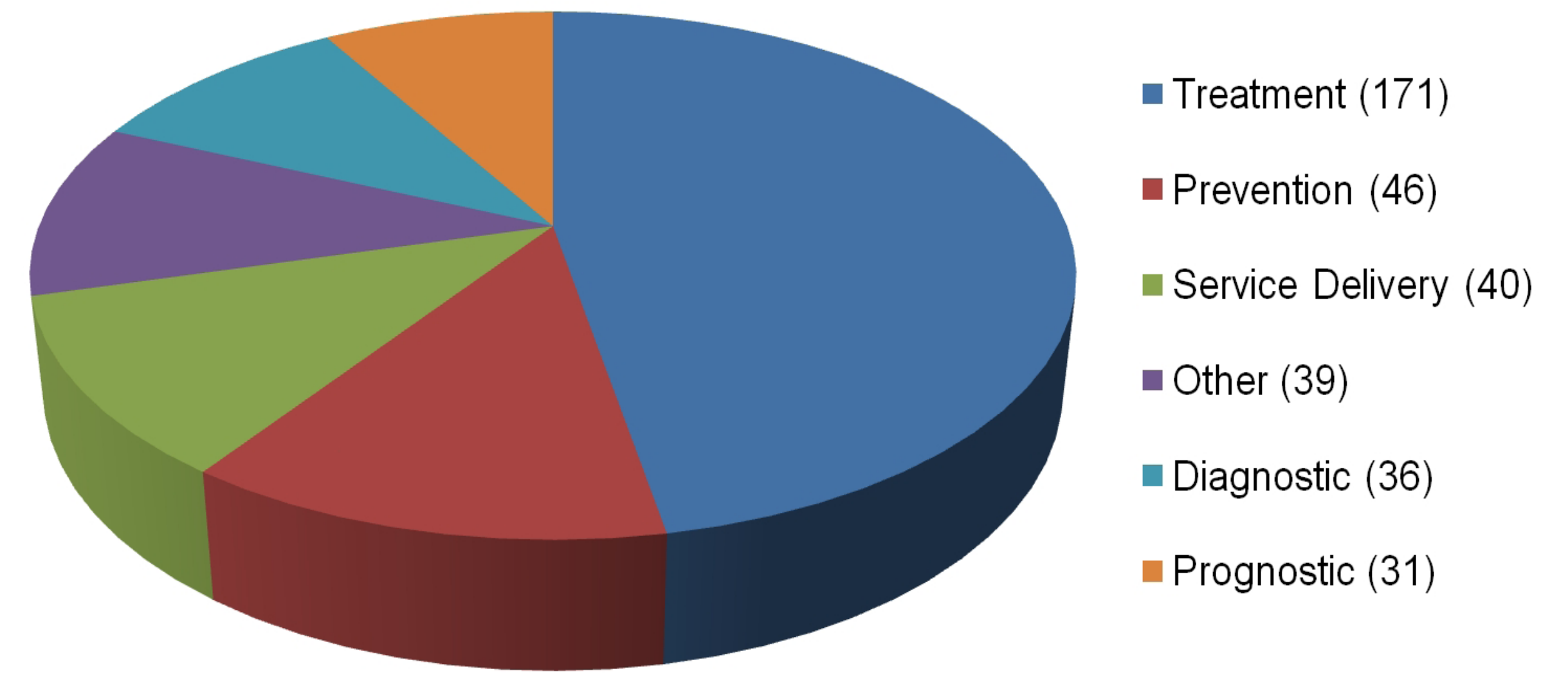
¹Centre for Reviews and Dissemination, University of York, UK. ²Centre for Public Health, Queen's University Belfast, Belfast, UK. ³Metaxis, Oxford, UK. ⁴Research Translation Branch, National Health & Medical Research Council, Canberra, Australia. ⁵Clinical Epidemiology Program, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, Ottawa, Canada. ⁶Department of Epidemiology and Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada. ⁷Department of Social and Environmental Health Research, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, UK.

Introduction

PROSPERO is an international database of prospectively registered systematic reviews in health and social care that records key design features at the outset of a systematic review.



Types of review registered



Evaluation of the process

An evaluation of the registration process was undertaken in February 2012, in which over 230 registrants provided feedback.

- 81% of respondents had a written protocol before completing the registration form, 19% had not
- Overall experience rated good by 50%, excellent by 49%
- 99% found joining and navigation easy or very easy
- 80% found registration fields relevant to their review
- 96% rated turn round time as good or excellent
- 80% found supporting materials helpful or very helpful. (19% were unaware of them or aware but did not use them)
- 60% completed the registration form in <= 60 minutes; 16% > 60 minutes; the remainder could not remember how long it took

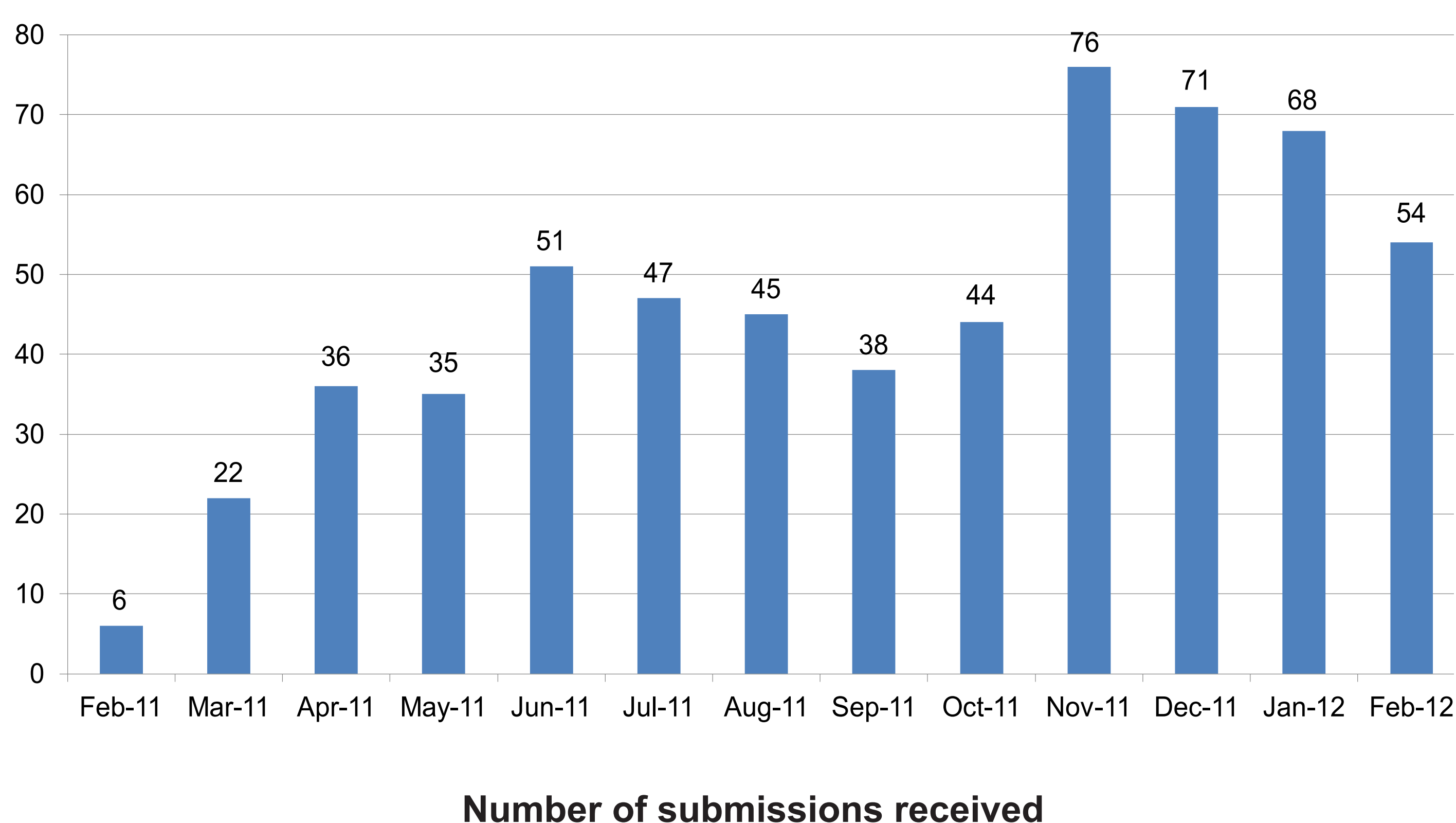
Registration aims to provide transparency, reduce unplanned duplication of reviews and help reduce bias in conduct and reporting by enabling comparison of reported review findings with what was planned in the protocol.

PROSPERO is web-based and accepts registration from anyone undertaking a systematic review of the effects of interventions and strategies to prevent, diagnose, treat, and monitor health conditions, for which there is a health-related outcome.

The first year

Following an international consultation to establish the dataset of 22 required and 18 optional reporting items, PROSPERO was launched in February 2011.

As of March 2012, PROSPERO contained 359 registration records of reviews being undertaken in 33 different countries. The UK had the highest number of registrations (141), probably as a result of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) making registration mandatory across all their programmes. Canada (50), USA (38), Australia (32) and Brazil (19) made up the top five.

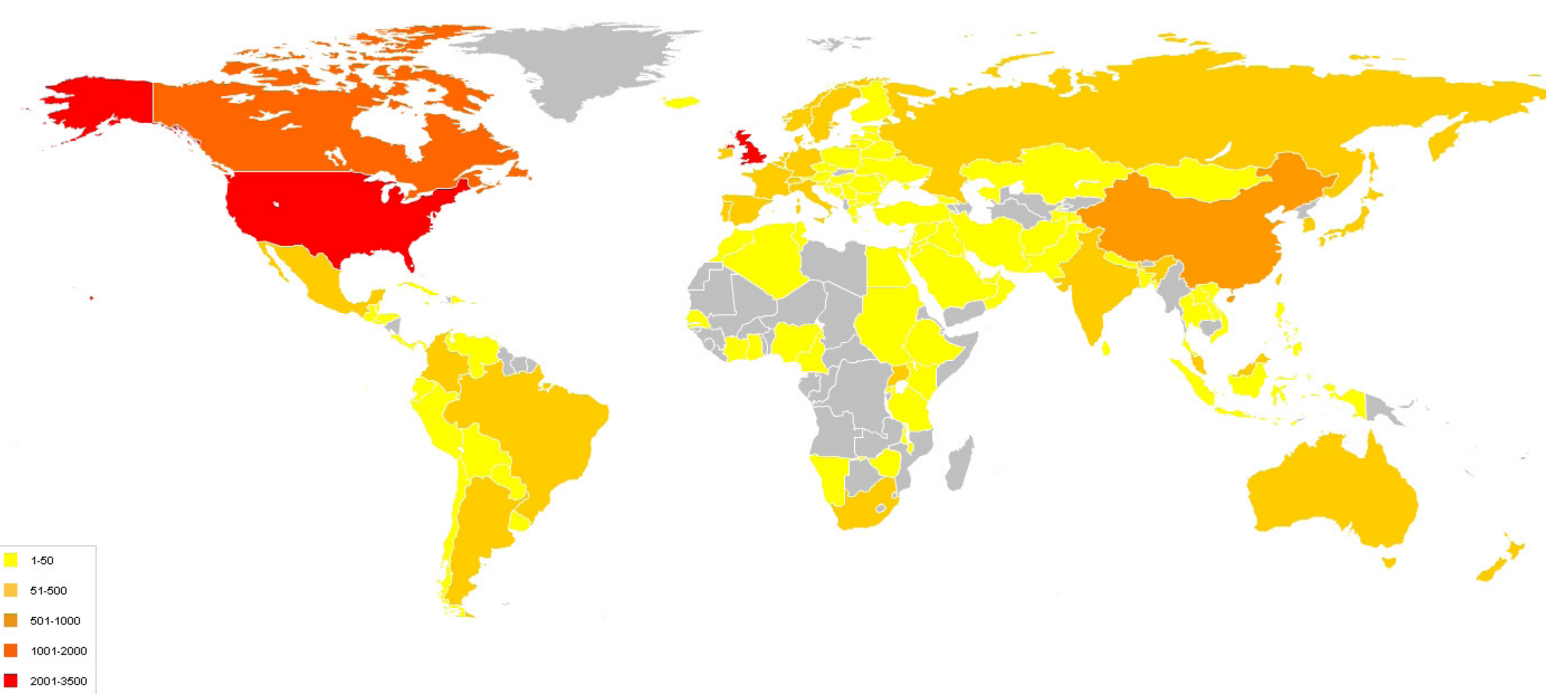


Registrations are in English as for practical reasons this is the only language accepted, though attached protocols may be in other languages. All but one of the reviews will be reported in English; one will also be written in German, two also in Norwegian, and one in Spanish only.

89 submissions were rejected, mostly because the review was already completed or too far advanced. Average administration turn round time for submissions was one working day.

Who is accessing PROSPERO?

Over 15,000 visitors had viewed over a million pages in the first twelve months of operation.



Colistimethate sodium powder and tobramycin powder for inhalation for the treatment of Pseudomonas lung infection in cystic fibrosis, published in June 2011, was the most accessed record with 229 visitors viewing the page 345 times.

What next?

Include automatic feed of Cochrane Review protocols.

Continue to work with funding and commissioning agencies to encourage registration.

Promote PROSPERO as a tool for avoiding duplication of reviews.

Expand the scope over time to include all systematic reviews for which there is a health related outcome in the broadest sense.