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Background

Randomised Controlled Trials (RCTs) are considered the gold standard when evaluating interventions.

Many methods exist: Simple, block, stratification, minimisation.

Methods perform differently in different trial designs, but there is a lack of consensus on which methods are most appropriate.

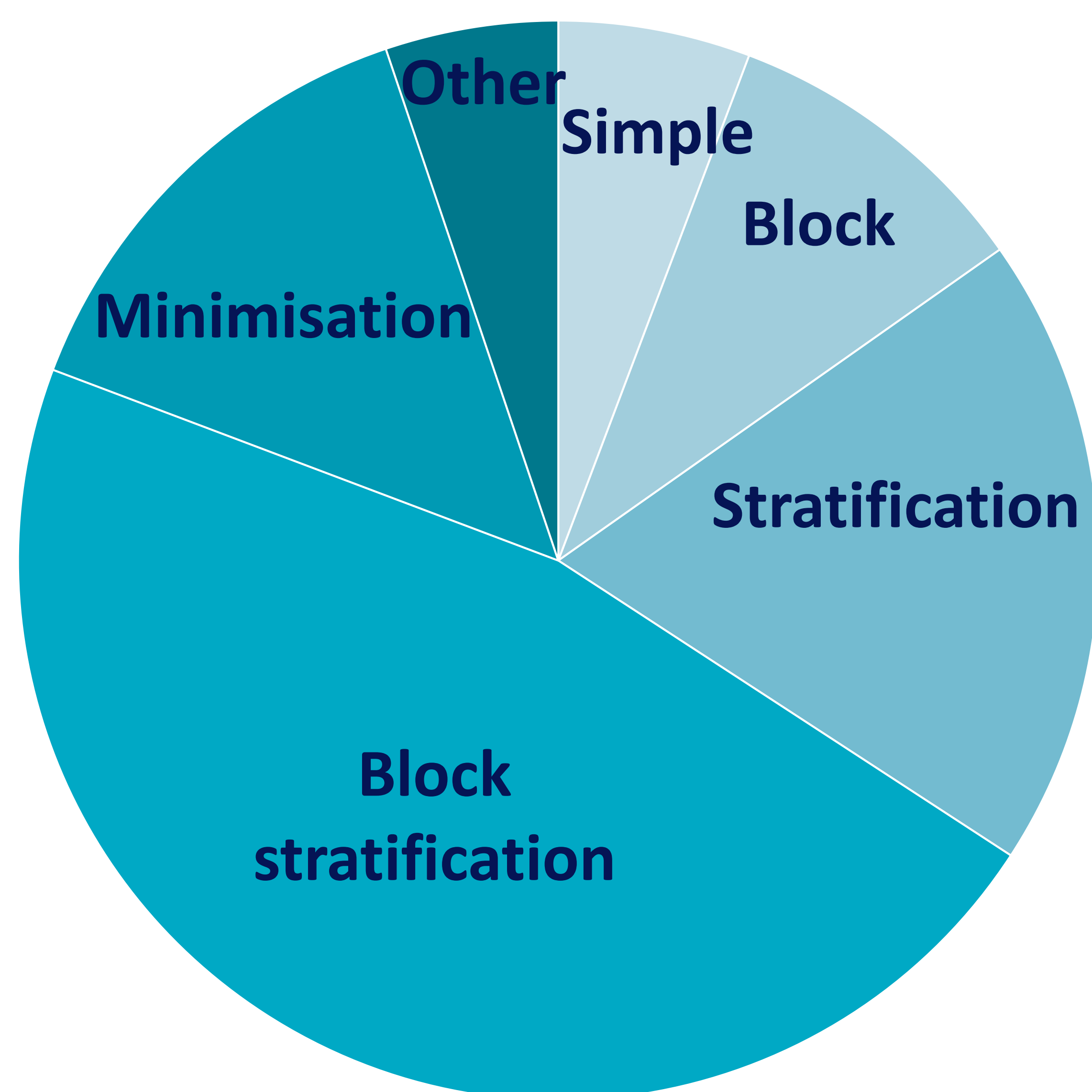
Methods

We conducted a review of papers published in five journals in 2019. This review was to:

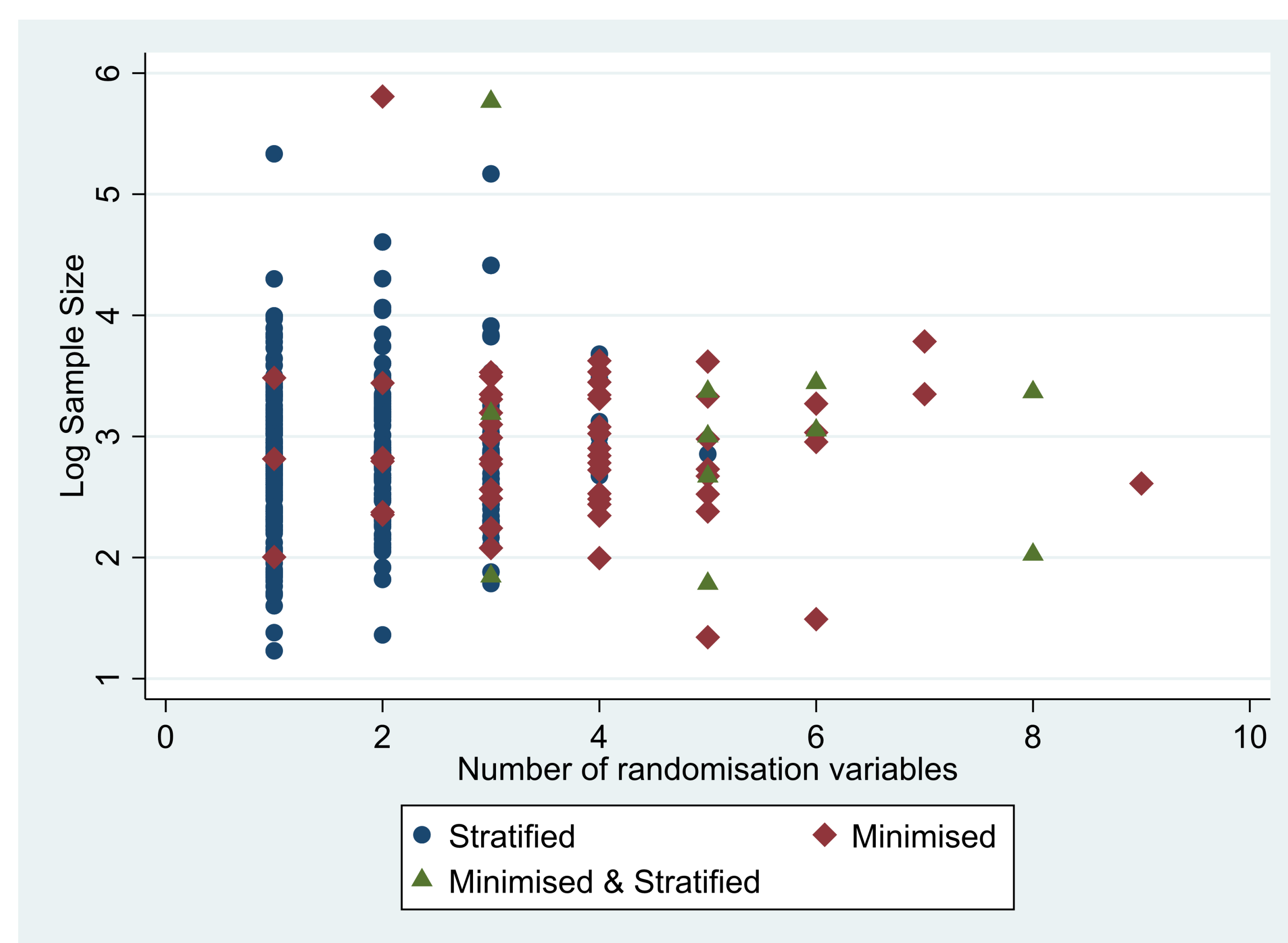
- Assess which randomisation methods are most commonly being used
- Identifying study design features associated with the choice of randomisation method.
- Compared randomisation method use with a similar review conducted in 2014.

Results

Randomisation method use in 2019



Sample size vs number of variables included in the randomisation



Conclusions/Discussion

Randomisation method use is widely unchanged since 2014 with the same four methods being most common.

There does appear to be a polarisation of method use, with an increase in the use of simple methods, but an increase in the complexity of more complex methods, with greater numbers of variables included in the analysis, and a greater number of strata.

