In a meta-analysis of estimates from multiple years, the I-squared statistic serves as a measure of heterogeneity of these year-by-year estimates. When I-squared is small (and its p-value is large), there is less year-by-year variation and a fixed effects confidence interval can be justified. When I-squared is quite large (and its p-value is small), there is more year-by-year variation, and a 'random effects' confidence interval can be used to take the heterogeneity of estimates into account. The default 'fixed effects' estimator was specified, but the I-squared statistic has been used as a diagnostic tool for potential year-year variation.

In advance, we specified decision rules for the I-squared statistic as follows: (1) When the p-value for I-squared <0.05, the meta-analysis is re-specified so that the 'random effects' summary estimator is reported and used in subsequent analyses; (2) When the I-squared p-value is larger than 0.05 but less than 0.15, results based on both 'fixed effects' and 'random effects' summary estimators are presented; (3) Otherwise, the fixed effects summary estimate is presented, with considerable confidence that the between-year variability of estimates is acceptably small for the fixed effects approach. The 'metan' command was performed on the logit scale and transformed back to a proportion as illustrated by Vsevolozhskaya & Anthony (2014).

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