A WELL FACTSHEET

Health impact of handwashing with soap

Hygiene promotion and handwashing

Why promote handwashing with soap?

What evidence is there for the health impact of handwashing with soap?

a) Diarrhoea

Table 1. Summary of the findings of reviews on the impact of handwashing on the risk of diarrhoea

Author		# studies	Reduction in diarrhoea risk
			%
			%
			%

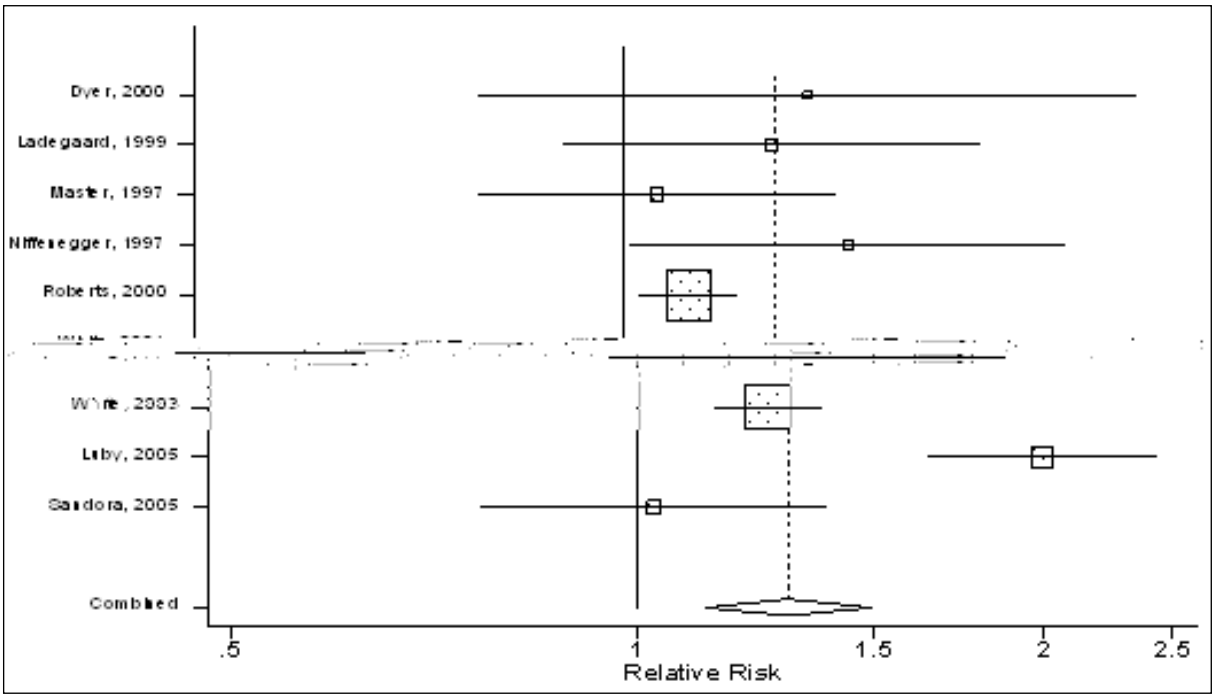
Dyer, 2000
Ladegaard, 1999
Master, 1997
Niffenegger, 1997
Roberts, 2000
White, 2003
Luby, 2005
Sandora, 2005
Combined
.5
1
1.5
2
2.5
Relative Risk

Figure 1.

d) Eye infection

Limitations of the evidence

What are the benefits of the use of soap?

Knowledge gaps

References

7(11)

5(1)

13 (1)

366

116 (3)

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