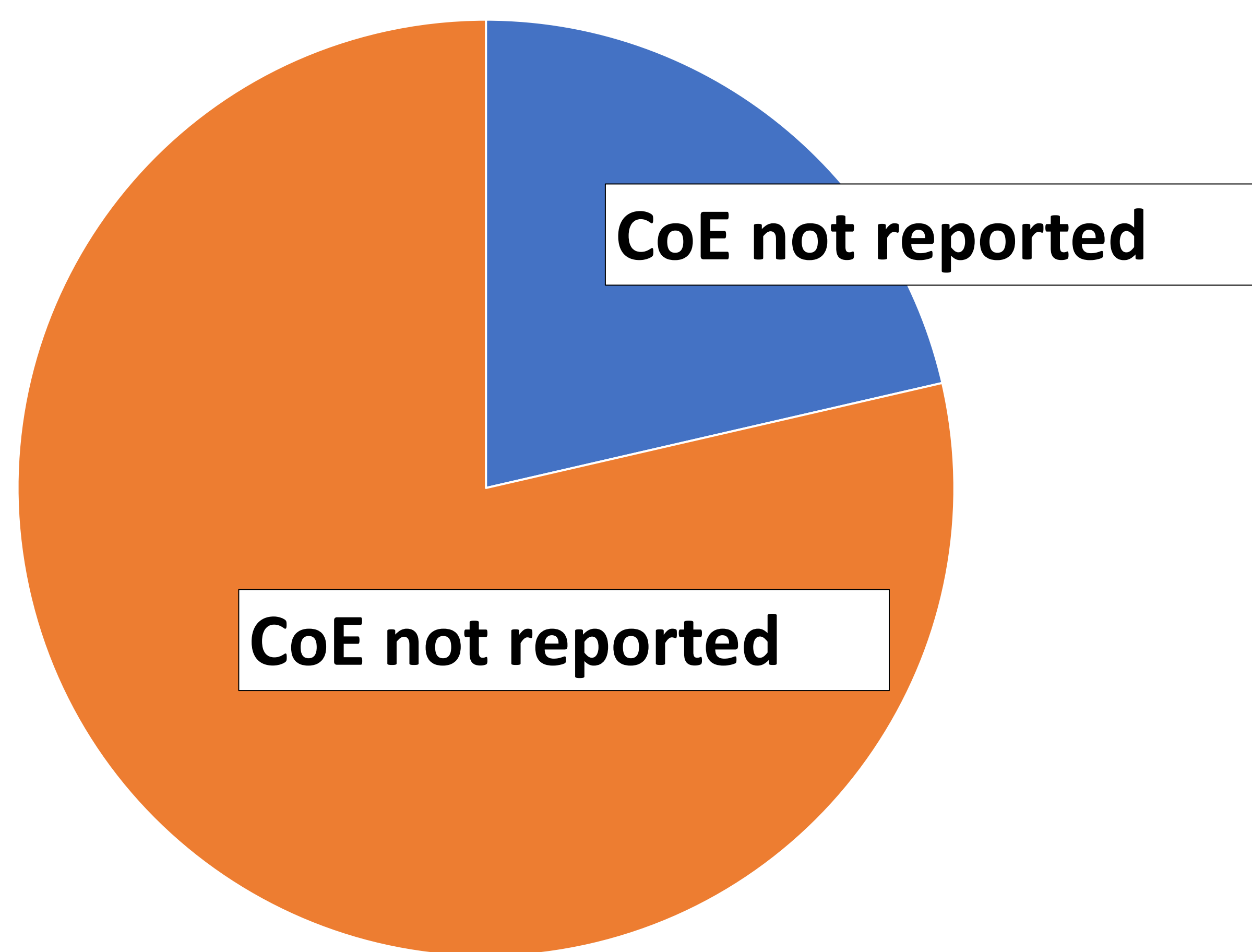


# The overall CoE is poorly reported in systematic reviews in infertility journals

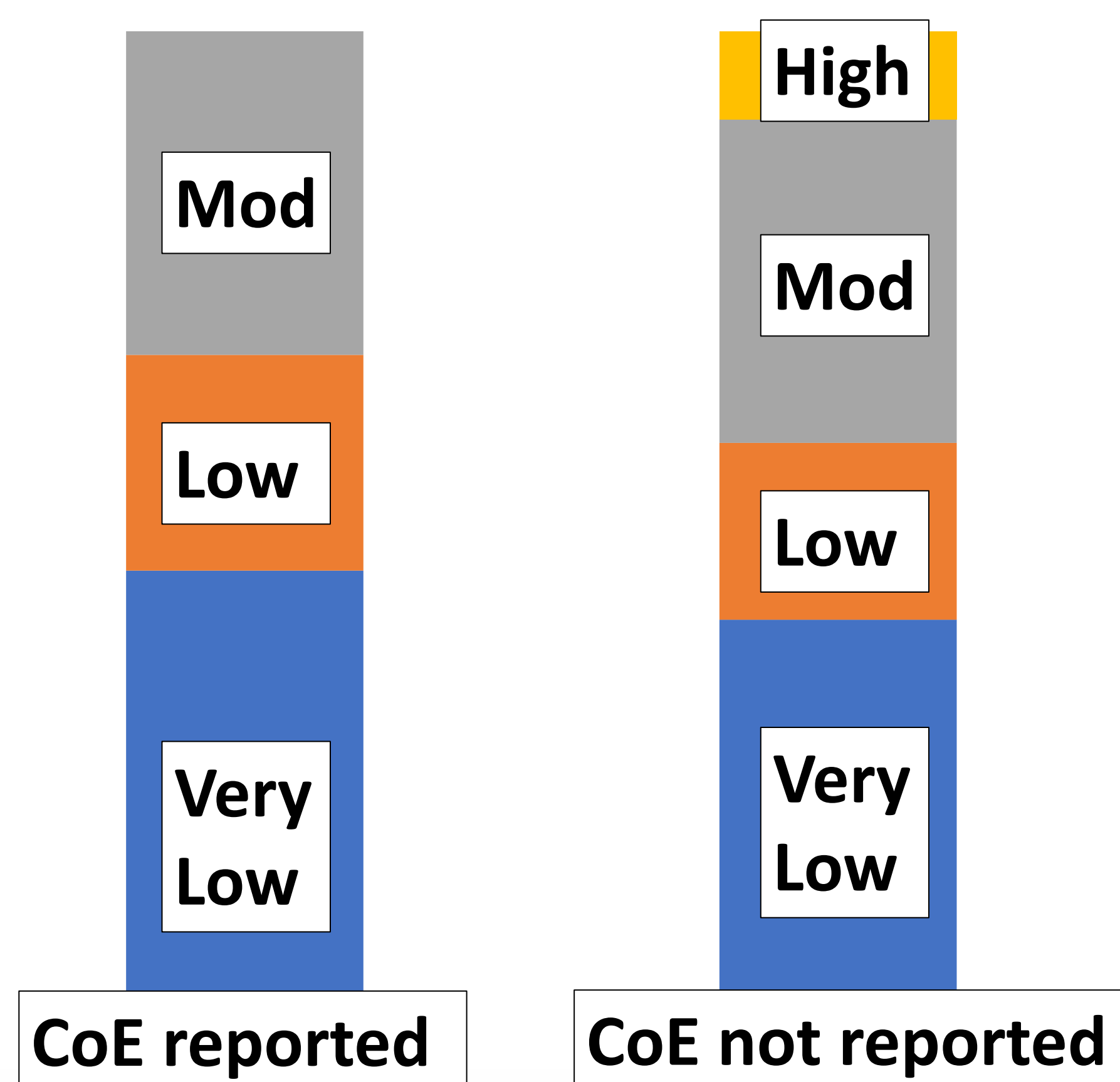
*Certainty of evidence matters: is it reported and interpreted in infertility journals?*

**Background:** Even well-conducted systematic reviews (SRs) do not guarantee high confidence of evidence (CoE) for the assessed outcomes. Therefore, it is critical to ensure correct reporting and consequent interpretation.

Result 1: Only 21.4% (9/42) reported the CoE



Result 2: 57.6% (19/33) of those that not reported CoE had low or very low CoE



The **magnitude of the effect was not expressed** with consistent wording in 54.8% (23/42) of the SRs, whereas **CoE was not expressed** with consistent wording according to Cochrane recommendations in 92.9% (39/42).

## Methods

Cross-sectional study

1 All systematic reviews with meta-analysis published in 2017 in the 5 journals focused on human reproduction with the highest impact factors were included.

2 We evaluated 178 studies by title and abstract, selected 50 to evaluate by full-text and included 42 for analysis.



human reproduction

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**Conclusion:** CoE was poorly reported in SRs in top-five infertility journals and when used, appropriate wording to describe that CoE. GRADE and Cochrane reporting recommendations are not mandatory, however inconsistent reporting represents a barrier to correct interpretation



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