1733 records were identified through database searching in Embase.com, Medline Ovid, Web of Science, Cochrane CENTRAL and Google.

No additional records were identified through other sources.

1223 records remained after automated duplicate removal.

1223 records were screened.

1191 records were excluded, with reasons:
- no association between change in weather conditions and incidence of SSIs
- change in weather conditions did not demonstrate a seasonal pattern
- language other than English
- conference abstract

32 full-text articles were assessed for eligibility.

12 full-text articles were excluded, with reasons:
- no data regarding the influence of seasonality on the incidence of SSIs
- the term 'seasonality' did not refer to factors regarding climate

20 articles were included for qualitative review.

14 articles were included in qualitative synthesis (meta-analysis).