

Unit Two: International Systematic Review Initiatives

Learning Objective

- To be familiar with international groups conducting systematic reviews of the effectiveness of public health and health promotion interventions

There are a number of groups around the world conducting systematic reviews of public health and health promotion interventions. Reviews are often published on the group's internet website, and follow guidelines/methods developed by the individual organisation. It is useful to visit each of the organisations listed below to view the different styles of systematic reviews. Reviewers seeking to conduct a Cochrane Review should visit the Cochrane website for more information (<http://www.cochrane.org>) or contact the Cochrane Health Promotion and Public Health Field (<http://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/cochrane/>).

Useful websites of systematic review initiatives:

1. The Cochrane Collaboration – The Cochrane Library:
<http://www.thecochranelibrary.com>

Reviews relevant to health promotion and public health are listed on the Cochrane Health Promotion and Public Health Field website:

<http://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/cochrane>

2. Guide to Community Preventive Services:
<http://www.thecommunityguide.org>

3. The Evidence for Practice Information and Co-ordinating Centre (EPPI-Centre):
<http://eppi.ioe.ac.uk/>

4. Effective Public Health Practice Project:
<http://www.city.hamilton.on.ca/PHCS/EPHPP/EPHPPResearch.asp>

5. Health Development Agency (HDA):
<http://www.hda-online.org.uk/html/research/effectiveness.html>

Note: These reviews are systematic reviews of systematic reviews (not reviews of individual primary studies).

6. Centre for Reviews and Dissemination:
<http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/>

7. The Campbell Collaboration
<http://www.campbellcollaboration.org/>

ADDITIONAL READING

Shea B, Moher D, Graham I, Pham B, Tugwell P. A comparison of the quality of Cochrane reviews and systematic reviews published in paper-based journals. *Eval Health Prof* 2002;25(1):116-29.

EXERCISE

1. In your own time visit each of the above websites:
 1. Try to read at least one review from each organisation
 2. Compare the different styles of reviews
 3. Try to locate any methodological work or guidelines relating to the conduct of each review (i.e. Methods papers for The Community Guide)

International systematic review initiatives



Sources of systematic reviews in HP/PH

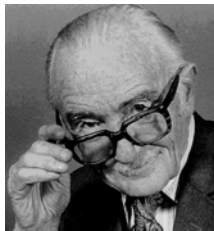
- Cochrane Collaboration
- Guide to Community Preventive Services (The Guide), US
- The Effective Public Health Practice Project, Canada
- Health Development Agency, UK
- The Evidence for Policy and Practice Information and Co-ordinating Centre (EPPI-Centre), UK
- Centre for Reviews and Dissemination, UK
- The Campbell Collaboration

Cochrane Collaboration

- Named in honour of Archie Cochrane, a British researcher

In 1979:

"It is surely a great criticism of our profession that we have not organised a critical summary, by specialty or subspecialty, adapted periodically, of all relevant randomised controlled trials"



Cochrane Collaboration

International non-profit organisation that prepares, maintains, and disseminates systematic up-to-date reviews of health care interventions



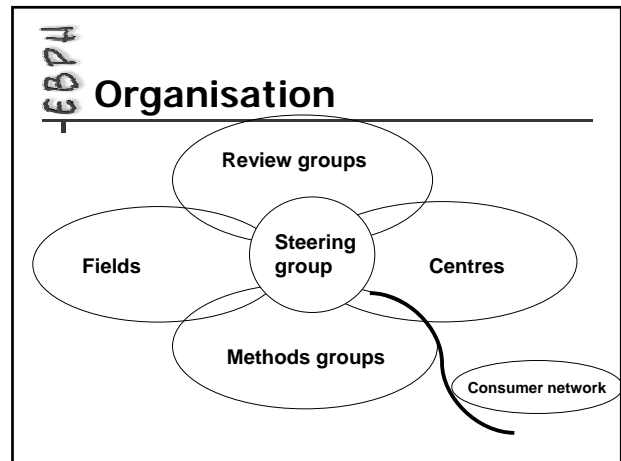
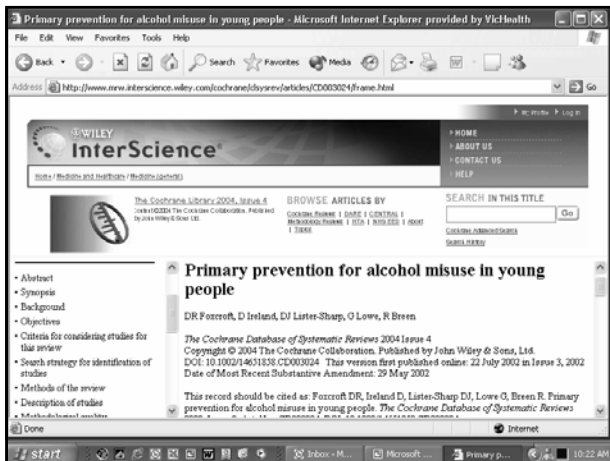
THE COCHRANE COLLABORATION®

The Cochrane Library www.thecochranelibrary.com



The Cochrane Library

- **Cochrane Systematic reviews** : Cochrane reviews and protocols
- **Database of Reviews of Effects**: Other systematic reviews appraised by the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination.
- **Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials**: Bibliography of controlled trials (some not indexed in MEDLINE).
- **Cochrane database of Methodology Reviews**: Cochrane reviews of methodological studies.
- **The Cochrane Methodology register**: Bibliography of studies relating to methodological aspects of research synthesis
- **About the Cochrane Collaboration**: Information about review groups, Fields, Centres, etc. Contact details provided.
- **Health Technology Assessment Database**: HTA reports
- **NHS Economic evaluation database**: Economic evaluations of health care interventions.



Collaborative Review Groups

- Focused around health problems (50)
- Produce reviews
- Editorial base facilitates review process
- International and multidisciplinary

eg.

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| Airways Group | Drugs and Alcohol Group |
| Heart Group | Injuries Group |
| Skin Group | Breast Cancer Group |

Cochrane Centres

- Support review groups and reviewers within area (13)
- Promote Cochrane Collaboration
- Link to Government and other agencies
- **Not** a production house for reviews

eg.

- Australasian Cochrane Centre
- South African Cochrane Centre
- Italian Cochrane Centre

Cochrane Health Promotion and Public Health Field

- Registered in 1996. Administered from Melbourne. Funded by VicHealth (Co-directors at EPPI-Centre, UK)
- 330 members on contact database across 33 countries

Aims:

- Promoting the conduct of reviews on HP/PH topics
- Educating HP/PH practitioners about the Cochrane Collaboration, encouraging use of systematic reviews
- Referring professionals to other databases

Reviews in HP/PH

- Primary prevention of alcohol misuse in young people
- Parent-training programmes for improving maternal psychosocial health
- Interventions for preventing childhood obesity
- Interventions for preventing eating disorders in children and adolescents
- Supported housing for people with severe mental disabilities

EBPH

For further information

The Cochrane Collaboration
<http://www.cochrane.org>

The Cochrane Health Promotion and Public Health Field
<http://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/cochrane/>

The Australasian Cochrane Centre
<http://www.cochrane.org.au>

The Cochrane Library
<http://www.thecochranelibrary.com>

EBPH

Other sources

The Guide to Community Preventive Services
<http://www.thecommunityguide.org/>



EBPH

Other sources

Effective Public Health Practice Project (EPHPP)
<http://www.city.hamilton.on.ca/PHCS/EPHPP/default.asp>



EBPH

Other sources

Health Development Agency
<http://www.hda-online.org.uk/>



EBPH

Other sources

Evidence for Policy and Practice Information and Co-ordinating Centre (EPPI-Centre)
<http://eppi.ioe.ac.uk>



EBPH

Other sources

Centre for Reviews and Dissemination
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EBPH

Other sources

The Campbell Collaboration

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