

# Cochrane Health Promotion and Public Health Field

September  
2006

## FIELD NEWSLETTER

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Editorial
- Update from the EPPI Centre
- Handsearching update
- Free BMJ access
- WHO announces new standards
- Update on Field's contact database
- Our latest Field contributors
- Snippets from The Cochrane Collaboration 2006 Cochrane Colloquium in Dublin
- Upcoming events
- New Cochrane reviews and protocols
- Abstracts from *The Cochrane Library*
- Contact database form

### Editorial

Welcome to the September 2006 edition of the HPPH Field Newsletter.

Jodie Doyle gave birth to a healthy baby boy: Jesse on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Jodie will be on leave until February 2007. During this time Chris Lamb has been employed to work 2 days/week. If you have urgent matters that would generally be directed to Jodie please contact Rebecca Armstrong [rarmstrong@vichealth.vic.gov.au](mailto:rarmstrong@vichealth.vic.gov.au) or [christopher.lamb@deakin.edu.au](mailto:christopher.lamb@deakin.edu.au).

As many of you will know, the CHPPH Field is primarily funded through a Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth) grant. Our funding is due to cease in April 2007. We are currently going through a review process to obtain additional funds. It therefore seemed timely to review our progress to date and consider our strategic directions. There has been much support both from within the Steering Group and our members and partners to consider a shift to a Review Group. Whilst we have continued to work closely with Review Groups, particularly on our priority reviews, the

process continues to be problematic for authors. We therefore propose that we now become a nested review group within EPOC. This is with a view to becoming a Review Group in time. This is an exciting and changing time for the HPPH Field and we will keep you updated as things progress. It is also an opportunity to establish satellite or working groups in other countries, and if you have any ideas re. funding opportunities and interest, we would be delighted to discuss.

In the last edition I outlined the pending priority setting discussions within the Steering Group. The meeting was held during April in Khon Kaen and was incredibly productive (and thanks to the on-hand ENT specialist who helped with an elusive prawn!). As a result the Steering Group has produced a document which proposes several projects. These include summarising existing policy or practice related lists of priorities and match to existing Cochrane reviews and protocols, encourage each entity to develop a priority setting process, fund up to nine entities to undertake demonstration models of priority setting for priority reviews, publish papers on prioritization in medical journals to raise the profile of The Cochrane Collaboration in this area and establish a central team of 'rapid response' editors and authors to do very high priority reviews. The Steering Group is very serious about progress in this direction, and if you are interested in being involved in any aspect, or if you would like a copy of the proposal please contact Chris Lamb.

The top three reviews accessed on the Cochrane Library in May this year were public health reviews: preventing falls in the elderly, preventing obesity in children and compression stockings for preventing DVT in airline. Whilst we appreciate the overall complexity and challenges involved in public health, it is terrific to see reviews on The Cochrane Library that are so

---

relevant to public health, and how important they are to users.

We are now gearing up for the 2006 Colloquium in Dublin, discussions with the Equity Group regarding methodological guidelines in this area, and further planning re: Editorial team for proposed Review Group. If you are available and interested in this type of role, please do contact me. Over the next few months we will forward a draft outline of the proposed new Review Group structure and function for consultation, and look forward to your involvement and support. We look forward to catching up with many of you during October in Dublin.

*Liz Waters*  
Co-Director

### Update from the EPPI Centre

*(Sandy Oliver at the EPPI Centre shares directorship of the HPPH Field)*

#### *Methodology*

The EPPI-Centre's expertise and capacity in preparing and supporting systematic reviews have been recognised by its role as part of the National Centre for Research Methods ([www.ncrm.ac.uk/](http://www.ncrm.ac.uk/)) funded by the UK Economic and Social Research Council. This Centre is a Hub-Node network of research groups, each conducting research and training in an area of social science research methods, coordinated by the Hub at the University of Southampton. The EPPI-Centre is the node advancing methods in research synthesis. As part of this work EPPI-Centre staff have led workshops about preparing and using systematic reviews across England and in Canada and Norway.

Synthesis methodology was recently debated at the Research Methods Festival, with a particular emphasis on the integration of 'qualitative' research into reviews. Presentation slides that discuss both statistical meta-analysis and more qualitative approaches are available at [www.ccsr.ac.uk/methods/festival/programme/index.shtml](http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/methods/festival/programme/index.shtml).

#### *MSc in Evidence for Policy and Practice*

We are very pleased to introduce our MSc in Evidence for Public Policy and Practice. This programme has been designed for graduates and

policy-makers, practitioners, managers and researchers wanting to become more skilled in systematic reviewing, with a critical understanding of the relationships between research evidence and public, policy and practice decisions.

The course will equip students with conceptual and practical skills for conducting and appraising systematic reviews and evaluating the potential for the use of research evidence for policy and practice. Students will study theory, empirical research, and practical examples of a broad range of approaches to synthesis, models of research use, research questions, study types and types of data.

Professor Ian Diamond, Director of the UK Economic and Social Research Council, will join us to launch this MSc on September 26, 2006 and the first group of students will start classes in October.

For further information please contact:

Cesar Bazan ([EPPIAdmin@ioe.ac.uk](mailto:EPPIAdmin@ioe.ac.uk))

+44(0)20 7612 6131

<http://eppi.ioe.ac.uk>

#### *Access to trials and reviews*

The Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CCTR) is not currently being updated with submissions from group specialised registers. Nevertheless, people preparing reviews or seeking evidence to inform decisions in health promotion and public health can access the latest trials and reviews through two registers on the EPPI-Centre www site. Indeed, we have recently updated the search interface for these registers.

**TRoPHI** at

<http://eppi.ioe.ac.uk/webdatabases/Intro.aspx?ID=5>

The Trials Register of Promoting Health Interventions (TRoPHI) is a web-based register of randomised controlled trials and controlled trials (non-randomised) of public health and health promotion interventions. It currently contains over 2,300 trials, identified in the following ways:

- as the official register of the Cochrane Health Promotion and Public Health field, TRoPHI contains the results of

hand searching journals conducted by the Field;

- from August 2004, TRoPHI has been updated with quarterly sensitive searches of three databases: the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL), Medline and Embase; and
- as a result of searches for research for systematic reviews within the EPPI-Centre (most recently on the topics of teenage pregnancy and parenting, accidents and injury; and incentives for healthy behaviour).

Reports of trials have been systematically keyworded with:

- generic keywords (e.g. country, health focus, population group and intervention characteristics (including setting, provider and type))

Searches can be carried out using these keywords, or by using free text terms. Individual search stages can be combined in the 'Search History' using the boolean operators AND, OR and NOT. Several other functions have recently been added to facilitate searches on this database. Use 'Explore' to browse a list of studies which have been coded according to a selected keywording term. The 'Crosstabs' function can be used to generate a table comparing keywording terms against each other.

**DoPHER** at

<http://epi.ioe.ac.uk/webdatabases/Intro.aspx?ID=2>

This web-based register contains details of approximately 1,700 reviews of health promotion effectiveness. Reviews are identified in three ways:

- through searches of specialist databases of reviews;
- through hand searching the websites of national and international organisations who carry out effectiveness reviews; and
- as a result of searches for research for systematic reviews within the EPPI-Centre (most recently on the topics of teenage pregnancy and parenting, accidents and injury; and incentives for healthy behaviour).

From January 2006, DoPHER has been updated quarterly to keep it as current as possible.

Reports of effectiveness reviews have been systematically keyworded with:

- generic keywords (e.g. health focus and population group); and
- keywords concerning the quality of reviews (aims, search, inclusion criteria, quality assessment methods, data extraction methods and analysis methods).

Searches can be carried out using these keywords, or by using free text terms. Individual search stages can be combined in the 'Search History' using the boolean operators AND, OR and NOT. Several other functions have recently been added to facilitate searches on this database. Use 'Explore' to browse a list of studies which have been coded according to a selected keywording term. The 'Crosstabs' function can be used to generate a table comparing keywording terms against each other.

For both DoPHER and TRoPHI we shall conduct a user consultation exercise to ensure that users are able to search the databases easily and in the most relevant ways.

*Sandy Oliver*  
*HPPH Field Co-Director*  
*EPPI Centre*

### **Handsearching update**

The EPPI-Centre agreed to extend the handsearching pilot project carried out by Field staff, with a focus on 'difficult to locate' studies specifically studies not indexed in databases, non-English language publications or unpublished literature. Eight people from the Field contacts database originally volunteered to carry out handsearching. Four of these have been available to continue with the project (two based on the US, one in Colombia and one in Thailand). EPPI-Centre staff will also be carrying out handsearching.

Journals being searched (all issues for 2005) include Evaluation and Program Planning; Education and Health: Journal of the Schools Health Education Unit; Health Education; Journal of Community Psychology; American Journal of Health Education, and; Abstracts of the Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association.

### **Outcomes to date include:**

#### *Identification of non indexed journals*

A shortlist list of approximately 100 journals not currently indexed in Medline or Embase has been generated using a number of journal directories. Particular attention was given to resources from outside the USA or outside the traditional publishing model (e.g. <http://www.scielo.org>). A key source was the Core Public Health Journals list <http://info.med.yale.edu/eph/phlibrary/phjournals/>. Data collection for version 1 of this list commenced in 2001, and a large proportion of HP&PH journals not then indexed in Medline were found to have been added to Medline. Version 2 of the core list will be published in Summer 2006 and will be a useful resource for ongoing work on handsearching.

Six journals selected for handsearching were identified on the basis of advice from HPPH Field and EPPI-Centre staff. The preferences of handsearchers and their ability to access journal titles were also taken into account.

#### *Training and support*

Training has been provided to handsearchers using the Fields handsearching manual. No further feedback on resources has been sought at this stage.

A useful resource for handsearchers has been Brown University's online training course (<https://webct.brown.edu/public/Handsearching/index.html>). At the end of this course participants are asked to complete a journals search exercise using the British Journal of Ophthalmology. We have been in discussions with Brown University about the possibility of linking into this course by offering HPPH participants the opportunity to complete the final exercise using a HP&PH journal.

Additional support needs have been identified for handsearchers using English as a second language.

#### *Development of online systems*

Work has commenced on the development of online systems to support the handsearching process. This will be available later this year.

The timescale for this piece of work has been extended to the end of the 2006 to allow sufficient time to pilot online resources with handsearchers.

*Chloe Powell*  
*HPPH Field Register coordinator*  
*EPPI Centre*

### **Training and support news**

As outlined in the last newsletter, we have been providing one-on-one support to reviewers rather than undertaking a program of training people in conducting systematic reviews. This appears to be working well. Reviewers who need assistance should contact me. Remember that all training materials including handbook, slides and activities are available on our website [www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/training](http://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/training). We are happy to discuss commissioning of training courses or to support you to deliver the course via our train-the-trainer package.

We have recently developed a two-day course on Evidence-Informed Public Health. This is based on a course developed by our previous Senior Training and Support Officer Nicki Jackson. This is now offered as an off-campus module through the Professional Development Unit at Deakin University. It will also be offered as a two-day short course in Melbourne on December 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 2006. Registrations for this course will open shortly. Information will be posted on our website.

### **From research to reality: testing methods that combing evidence with context**

Field staff are currently involved in an exciting project funded by Queensland Health (AUS) to devise policy recommendations that consider both research and context. We will be focussing on three key areas: falls in the elderly, mental health and wellbeing of children and mental health and wellbeing of adults (aged 25-44 years) with families (focussing on work-life-balance). Phase one involved gathering evidence from systematic reviews and primary studies where key gaps emerge. Phase 2 involves a series of key informant interviews. Phase 3 will combine the findings from these first two phases to make recommendations for policy and practice. The project is due for completion in October 2006. if you would like more information about the

---

project and/or are interested in the findings please contact Rebecca Armstrong: [rarmstrong@vichealth.vic.gov.au](mailto:rarmstrong@vichealth.vic.gov.au).

### **Get real: Incorporating complexity in models of evidence-informed decision-making.**

Continuing on from last year's successful 'Cutting Edge Debates', the Field co-sponsored the next symposium 'Get real: Incorporating complexity in models of evidence-informed decision-making'. The aim of the symposium was to explore the realities of decision-making at organisational and policy levels and connections with theoretical perspectives. The day was a great success. Researchers were challenged by policymakers, policy makers were challenged by community health workers and all were both supportive and critical of theoretical approaches to evidence-informed policy and practice. A link to the slides from the day is available on our website.

The Guidelines update is almost complete. Thanks to all Taskforce members who assisted in this process. The Guidelines will also feature in the next edition of the Cochrane handbook as a chapter in Part B. This is a new initiative whereby entities can submit chapters that provide additional guidance to supplement the Cochrane Handbook.

### **Evidence summaries**

Dr Philip Baker, Field Advisory Group Member has been working tirelessly to summarise Cochrane and non-Cochrane reviews across a number of topic areas. Core Field staff have completed summaries of Physical Activity reviews. If you would like more information about these summaries please contact Chris Lamb: [christopher.lamb@deakin.edu.au](mailto:christopher.lamb@deakin.edu.au). They will be included on our webpage as it is upgraded.

### **Free BMJ access**

The BMJ now provides free access to its journals for 113 countries. The list of countries is at: [www.bmjournals.com/subscriptions/countries.shtml](http://www.bmjournals.com/subscriptions/countries.shtml)

This includes the Evidence-Based Journals (Medicine, Nursing, and Mental Health) <http://ebm.bmjournals.com/>

### **WHO announces new standards for registration of all human medical research**

The World Health Organization (WHO) is urging research institutions and companies to register all medical studies that test treatments on human beings, including the earliest studies, whether they involve patients or healthy volunteers. As part of the International Clinical Trials Registry Platform, a major initiative aimed at standardizing the way information on medical studies is made available to the public through a process called registration, WHO is also recommending that 20 key details be disclosed at the time studies are begun. The initiative seeks to respond to growing public demands for transparency regarding all studies.

**Website:**

<http://www.who.int/ictrp/en/index.html>

### **Update on the Field's contact database**

The Field's database now contains 400 potential contributors to the Field. Since our last newsletter, the Field has welcomed our first representatives from Brazil and Northern Ireland.

The Field always welcomes newcomers so if you think your country is under-represented, why not recruit some local colleagues to join the Field!

See back page for the form.

Also, please email [cochrane@vichealth.vic.gov.au](mailto:cochrane@vichealth.vic.gov.au) if your own details have changed.

### **Thank you to our recent contributors....**

The Field would like to acknowledge the contribution of several of our members (and those recruited to the roles) in the production of Cochrane reviews of health promotion and public health topics or in the presentation of Field activities in the last year:

#### ***Reviewers of the HPPH priority topics***

Sherrri Sheinfeld Gorin (USA)  
Anita Peerson (Australia)  
Marion Pineros (Colombia)  
Andrés Cardona (Colombia)  
Diana Rivera (Colombia)  
Ilyas Mirza (UK)  
Sabrina Pit (Australia)  
Helen Duxbury (UK)  
Janaki Vidanapathirana (Sri Lanka)  
Managala Randeniya (Sri Lanka)  
Clarine Van Oel (The Netherlands)

Countries where those on the Field's contact database are from (accumulative totals)

Country	April 01	Jan 2006	Augst 2006
Australia	20	161	163
Belgium		1	1
Canada	18	50	52
Denmark	1	3	3
Finland	1	1	1
Germany		3	3
Hungary		1	1
Israel		1	1
Japan	1	1	2
Lebanon		1	1
The Netherlands	1	3	3
New Zealand	1	9	10
Nigeria	1	2	2
Philippines	1	2	2
Portugal	1	1	1
Sweden	1	3	3
Switzerland	1	5	5
UK and Ireland	20	64	65
USA	1	32	32
Turkey		1	1
Pakistan		2	2
South Africa		8	8
Russia		1	1
China		2	2
Fiji Islands		1	1
Thailand		4	4
Bahrain		1	1
Norway		3	3
India		3	3
Indonesia		1	1
Afghanistan		1	1
Argentina		3	3
Saudi Arabia		1	1
Senegal		1	1
Sri Lanka		2	2
Uruguay		1	1
Colombia		2	2
France		1	1
Iran		1	1
Spain		3	3
Malaysia		1	1
Vietnam		1	1
<b>Brazil</b>			<b>1</b>
<b>Northern Ireland</b>			<b>3</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>400</b>

Mark Tully (UK)  
Jessica Thomas (UK)

#### *Participation in review advisory groups*

Elizabeth McCurdy (USA)  
Premila Webster (UK)  
Nguyen Ngoc Quang (Vietnam)  
Mark Andersen  
Vikram Patel  
Rachel Jenkins

Helen Herrman (Australia)  
Boyd Swinburn (Australia)  
Lee Choon Siau (Australia)  
Chad Nye (USA)  
Herb Turner (USA)  
Lawry St Leger (Australia)  
Bo Haglund (Sweden)  
Andrew Joyce (Australia)  
Hilary Thomson (UK)  
Nonglak Pagaiya (Thailand)  
Marion Carey (Australia)  
Holly Piontek-Walker (Australia)  
Bev White (Canada)  
Kelly-Anne Williams (Australia)  
Megan van de Kuilen (New Zealand)

#### *Handsearching*

Karen Peters (USA)  
Elizabeth McCurdy (USA)  
Lisa Wallis (USA)  
Ceralda Lorza (Colombia)  
Kerry Allen (Australia)  
Amjad Chaudry (Pakistan)  
Liz Smith (Australia)  
Kannika Vitsupakorn (Thailand)  
Tracey Lloyd (Australia)

#### *Providing feedback on review of the Guidelines for Reviewers of Health Promotion and Public Health Interventions*

Elizabeth Pienaar (South Africa)  
Ginny Brunton (UK)  
Jonathan Shepherd (UK)  
Jennie Popay (UK)  
Betsy Kristjansson (Canada)  
Laurie Anderson (USA)  
Mark Petticrew (UK)  
Sandy Oliver (UK)  
Chloe Powell (UK)  
Josephine Kavanagh (UK)  
Helen Thomas (Canada)  
Wendy Rogers (Australia)  
Ross Bailie (Australia)

#### *Abstracts/ presentations on behalf of the HPPH Field*

Sabrina Pit (Australia)  
Betsy Kristjansson (Canada)

---

## Snippets from the Cochrane Collaboration

- Lorne Becker, former Co-ordinator of the Cochrane Primary Health Care Field, will be replacing Mark Davies as Co-Chair of the Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group in October. Donna Gillies, the Author representative on the Steering Group, has accepted the role of Treasurer
- The Behavioral Medicine Field was officially registered with the Collaboration on 27 February 2006. Convenor is Karina Davidson - [kd2124@columbia.edu](mailto:kd2124@columbia.edu)
- Abstracts of orals, posters and workshops from the Melbourne Colloquium are now available on the Cochrane website at [www.cochrane.org/colloquia/abstracts/index.htm](http://www.cochrane.org/colloquia/abstracts/index.htm). If you would like any policy matter discussed at the next Cochrane Steering Group (22 and 26 October 2006 in Dublin), in addition to the items on the draft agenda, please forward to the Field Coordinator ([cochrane@vichealth.vic.gov.au](mailto:cochrane@vichealth.vic.gov.au)).
- Cochrane Childhood Cancer Group officially registered with The Cochrane Collaboration on 5 May 2006. The Co-ordinating Editor of the Group is Dr Leontien Kremer: [l.c.kremer@amc.uva.nl](mailto:l.c.kremer@amc.uva.nl), and the Review Group Co-ordinator is Mrs Jos Noorman: [j.k.noorman@amc.uva.nl](mailto:j.k.noorman@amc.uva.nl)
- Cancer Network looking for funding and co-convenor/s to secure the long term future of the Network. Contact [callen@cochrane.org](mailto:callen@cochrane.org) if interested.
- Cochrane Health Equity Field now has co-registration status with the Campbell Collaboration. Given that the Campbell Collaboration organizational structure is different from that of Cochrane and they don't have a 'Fields' entity, they are registered with them as the 'Campbell Equity Methods Group'
- Consumers and Communication Group invite suggestions for review topics – go to [www.latrobe.edu.au/cochrane/reviewideas.htm](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/cochrane/reviewideas.htm) or email [cochrane@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:cochrane@latrobe.edu.au)
- Update to Cochrane Collaboration's commercial sponsorship policy available at [www.cochrane.org/docs/commercialsponsors/hip.htm](http://www.cochrane.org/docs/commercialsponsors/hip.htm)
- 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the Cochrane Methods Group Newsletter available at [www.cochrane.org/newslett/MethodsGroupNewsletter2006.pdf](http://www.cochrane.org/newslett/MethodsGroupNewsletter2006.pdf)
- Update Software and the Ibero-American Cochrane Network have joined forces with BIREME - the major health information source for the whole of Latin America and the Caribbean - to provide access to La Biblioteca Cochrane Plus (BCP) via the Evidence portal of BIREME's Virtual Health Library (BVS). This will integrate products, services, news and events related to evidence to support the decision-making processes in health in Latin America and the Caribbean. Read the full article at <http://espacio.bvsalud.org/boletim.php?articleId=04160637200639> and link to BCP at [www.update-software.com/Clibplus/clibplus.asp](http://www.update-software.com/Clibplus/clibplus.asp)
- UK Cochrane Centre has launched its new website at [www.cochrane.co.uk](http://www.cochrane.co.uk)
- New website for the Cochrane Qualitative Research Methods Group: [www.joannabriggs.edu.au/cqrmg/index.html](http://www.joannabriggs.edu.au/cqrmg/index.html)
- Applications are invited for the Thomas C. Chalmers Fellowship in Systematic Reviews at the Chalmers Research Group, Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario Research Institute, Ottawa, Canada. This is a one-year appointment to commence in early 2007 specifically to build capacity for innovative multidisciplinary research involved in conducting reviews. The Fellowship is open to those with an academic background in health sciences including medicine, epidemiology, pharmacy or pharmacology or an allied medical profession. Application deadline: October 15th, 2006. For more information go to [www.cochrane.org](http://www.cochrane.org)

## 2006 Cochrane Colloquium in Dublin

This year's Cochrane Colloquium promises a terrific mix of hard work and craicing good fun,

as it being held in Dublin, Ireland from September 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup>. For information and registration details visit [www.colloquium.info](http://www.colloquium.info)

The Field will be well represented, with 2 staff from its Australian base and 4 from the EPPI Centre attending and presenting. We would be delighted to meet individuals with an interest in better evidence for health promotion and public health interventions.

Field activities taking place at this next annual Colloquium include:

### **Meetings**

*Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> 1100 - 1230* All Fields Closed meeting (ie for Field reps only)

*Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> 1530-1700* Meet the Entities (general meet and greet session – great opportunity to find us and introduce yourself!)

*Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> 1530 -1700* Health Promotion & Public Health Field open meeting

*Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> 0800-0900* Health Promotion & Public Health Field & Health Equity Field Joint (open) Meeting to discuss role of equity in Cochrane reviews and update if Guidelines for Conducting Systemtic Reviews of Health Promotion and Public Health Interventions

### **Workshops**

*Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> 13.30 - 15.00:* Chloe Powell, the Trials Search Coordinator - “Developments in handsearching - an international and health promotion and public health perspective”.

*Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>, 13.30 - 15.00:* Rebecca Rees and Josephine Kavanagh - Helping ensure review relevance: exploring the potential benefits and costs of multi-perspective review advisory groups”.

*Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> 13.30 - 15.00:* The Methods for Research Synthesis Node of the ESRC National Centre for Research Methods - Methodological challenges in evidence synthesis

Luis Gabriel Cuervo and America Valdés (Research Promotion & Development, PAHO / WHO), Elizabeth Waters and Rebecca

Armstrong (Cochrane Health Promotion and Public Health Field, Deakin University), Jimmy Volmink (Stellenbosch University and South African Cochrane Centre (MRC)), Peter Tugwell, Lara Maxwell, and Viviane Robinson (Cochrane Equity Field, University of Ottawa, Canada):  
Strengthening collaboration between policy makers and evidence providers, and facilitating cooperation (time not yet known).

### **Presentations** (dates and times as per program)

Angela Harden - “Does study quality matter in systematic reviews which include qualitative research?”

Also keep an eye out for HPPH Field and EPPI Centre **posters!**

Please remember to register on-line for meetings and workshops to avoid missing out. To sign up for meetings or workshops, please log in to the Colloquium web site at [www.colloquium.info](http://www.colloquium.info).



**Come and enjoy  
the craic!**

## **Upcoming Events**

\* Indicates Field representative attending and presenting

\*15th Annual Meeting of the Australasian Epidemiological Association  
18-19 September 2006  
Melbourne, AUSTRALIA

[www.conferences.unimelb.edu.au/aea2006/about.htm](http://www.conferences.unimelb.edu.au/aea2006/about.htm)

7th IUHPE European Conference on Health Promotion and Health Education  
October 18-21, 2006  
Budapest, HUNGARY  
<http://www.equityinhealth2006.hu/>

\*XIV Cochrane Colloquium  
23-26 October 2006  
Dublin, IRELAND

\*The Global Forum for Health Research 2006 annual meeting



Oct 29 – Nov 2, 2006

Cairo,  
EGYPT

[www.globalforumhealth.org](http://www.globalforumhealth.org)

\*Symposium on non-RCT evaluations

November 6, 2006

London, UK

Contact [huyette.shillingford@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:huyette.shillingford@lshtm.ac.uk)

Meta-synthesis of qualitative research (two day course)

20-22 November 2006

Leuven, Belgium

contact [ester.vanachter@med.kuleuven.be](mailto:ester.vanachter@med.kuleuven.be)

UK and Ireland Cochrane Contributors Meeting  
19 March, 2007

Contact Caroline Rouse, UKCC Administrator  
([crouse@cochrane.co.uk](mailto:crouse@cochrane.co.uk)) if you have any questions.

\*119th World Conference on Health Promotion and Education

June 1-3, 2007

Vancouver, Canada

<http://www.iuhpeconference.org/>

\*The Asia Pacific EBM Network Conference  
2006

8-10 December, 2006

Hong Kong

<http://www.hkcochrane.cuhk.edu.hk>

**New Cochrane reviews and protocols of interest to health promotion and public health from Issues 2 and 3, 2006 of *The Cochrane Library*:**

**REVIEWS**

- Vaccines for preventing malaria (SPf66)
- Insecticide-treated nets for preventing malaria in pregnancy
- Interventions in the alcohol server setting for preventing injuries
- Speed enforcement detection devices for preventing road traffic injuries
- Weight loss for primary prevention of stroke in people with overweight or obesity
- Whole grain foods for the prevention of type 2 diabetes mellitus
- Smoking bans for reducing smoking prevalence and tobacco consumption
- Alcoholics Anonymous and other 12-step programmes for alcohol dependence
- Effects of routine oral iron supplementation with or without folic acid for women during pregnancy
- Exercise for diabetic pregnant women
- Exercise in prevention and treatment of anxiety and depression among children and young people
- Influenza vaccination for healthcare workers who work with the elderly

- Interventions to improve water quality for preventing diarrhoea
- School-based secondary prevention programmes for preventing violence
- Screening for prostate cancer
- Vaccines for preventing influenza in the elderly

**PROTOCOLS**

- Behavioral interventions to reduce the transmission of HIV infection among commercial sex workers and their clients in developed countries
- Family support in reducing morbidity and mortality in HIV-infected persons
- Parenting programmes for the prevention of unintentional injuries in childhood
- Household interventions for prevention of domestic lead exposure in children
- Vitamin A supplementation for breastfeeding mothers
- The impact of health financing strategies on access to health services in low and middle income countries
- Interventions for the prevention of nutritional rickets in term born children
- Interventions to support children through bereavement
- Smoking cessation interventions for smokers with current or past depression

---

### Abstracts from *The Cochrane Library*

Issue 3, 2006 of *The Cochrane Library* ([www.thecochranelibrary.org](http://www.thecochranelibrary.org)) was released in July. There are 111 new reviews, 58 updated reviews, 94 new protocols and 2 updated protocols on this issue of *The Cochrane Library's* Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews. Below are two abstracts of new reviews from *The Cochrane Library* that are relevant to health promotion and public health.

The abstracts below are taken from Cochrane Collaboration's website at <http://www.cochrane.org/reviews/index.htm>

(Abstracts of Cochrane Reviews are compiled and produced by Update Software Ltd on behalf of the publisher, John Wiley & Sons Ltd.) An up-to-date list of all Cochrane reviews and protocols of health promotion and public health interventions is kept on the Field's website at <http://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/cochrane/activities/reviews.htm>.

### Abstracts from *The Cochrane Library*

Issue 3, 2006 of *The Cochrane Library* ([www.thecochranelibrary.org](http://www.thecochranelibrary.org)) was released in July. There are 111 new reviews, 58 updated reviews, 94 new protocols and 2 updated protocols on this issue of *The Cochrane Library's* Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews. Below are two abstracts of new reviews from *The Cochrane Library* that are relevant to health promotion and public health.

The abstracts below are taken from Cochrane Collaboration's website at <http://www.cochrane.org/reviews/index.htm>

(Abstracts of Cochrane Reviews are compiled and produced by Update Software Ltd on behalf of the publisher, John Wiley & Sons Ltd.) An up-to-date list of all Cochrane reviews and protocols of health promotion and public health interventions is kept on the Field's website at <http://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/cochrane/activities/reviews.htm>.

---

**TITLE:** School-based secondary prevention programmes for preventing violence

**AUTHORS:** Mytton J, DiGuseppi C, Gough D, Taylor R, Logan S.

**REVIEW GROUP:** Injuries Review Group

#### ABSTRACT

##### Background

Early aggressive behaviour is a risk factor for later violence and criminal behaviour. Despite over 20 years of violence prevention interventions being delivered in the school setting, questions remain regarding the effectiveness of different interventions for children exhibiting aggressive behaviour.

##### Objectives

To examine the effect of school based violence prevention programmes for children identified as aggressive or at risk of being aggressive.

##### Search strategy

We searched CENTRAL, Cochrane Injuries Group specialised register, MEDLINE, EMBASE, other specialised databases and reference lists of articles. We also contacted authors and organisations to identify any further studies.

##### Selection criteria

We included trials meeting the following criteria; 1) participants were randomly assigned to intervention and control groups; 2) outcome data were collected concurrently; 3) participants comprised children in mandatory education identified as exhibiting, or at risk of, aggressive behaviour; 4) interventions designed to reduce aggression, violence, bullying, conflict or anger; 5) school based interventions; 6) outcomes included aggressive behaviour, school and agency responses to acts of aggression, or violent injuries.

##### Data collection and analysis

Data were collected on design, participants, interventions, outcomes and indicators of study quality. Results of any intervention to no intervention were compared immediately post-intervention and at 12 months using meta-analysis where appropriate.

## Main results

Of 56 trials identified, none reported data on violent injuries. Aggressive behaviour was significantly reduced in intervention groups compared to no intervention groups immediately post intervention in 34 trials with data, (Standardised Mean Difference (SMD) = -0.41; 95% confidence interval (CI) -0.56 to -0.26). This effect was maintained in the seven studies reporting 12 month follow-up (SMD = -0.40, (95% CI -0.73 to -0.06)). School or agency disciplinary actions in response to aggressive behaviour were reduced in intervention groups for nine trials with data, SMD = -0.48; 95% CI -1.16 to 0.19, although this difference may have been due to chance and was not maintained, based on two studies reporting follow-up to two to four months (SMD = 0.03; 95% CI -0.42 to 0.47). Subgroup analyses suggested that interventions designed to improve relationship or social skills may be more effective than interventions designed to teach skills of non-response to provocative situations, but that benefits were similar when delivered to children in primary versus secondary school, and to groups of mixed sex versus boys alone.

## Authors' conclusions

School-based secondary prevention programmes to reduce aggressive behaviour appear to produce improvements in behaviour greater than would have been expected by chance. Benefits can be achieved in both primary and secondary school age groups and in both mixed sex groups and boys-only groups. Further research is required to establish whether such programmes reduce the incidence of violent injuries or if the benefits identified can be maintained beyond 12 months.

**Citation:** This record should be cited as: Mytton J, DiGiuseppi C, Gough D, Taylor R, Logan S. School-based secondary prevention programmes for preventing violence. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2006, Issue 3. Art. No.: CD004606. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD004606.pub2.

---

**TITLE:** Interventions to improve water quality for preventing diarrhoea

**AUTHORS:** Clasen T, Roberts I, Rabie T, Schmidt W, Cairncross S.

**REVIEW GROUP:** Infectious Diseases Group

## ABSTRACT

### Background

Diarrhoeal diseases are a leading cause of mortality and morbidity, especially among young children in developing countries. While many of the infectious agents associated with diarrhoeal disease are potentially waterborne, the evidence for reducing diarrhoea in settings where it is endemic by improving the microbiological quality of drinking water has been equivocal.

### Objectives

To assess the effectiveness of interventions to improve water quality for preventing diarrhoea.

### Search strategy

We searched the Cochrane Infectious Diseases Group Specialized Register (December 2005), CENTRAL (*The Cochrane Library* 2005, Issue 4), MEDLINE (December 2005), EMBASE (December 2005), and LILACS (December 2005). We also handsearched relevant conference proceedings, contacted researchers and organizations working in the field, and checked references from identified studies.

### Selection criteria

Randomized and quasi-randomized controlled trials comparing interventions aimed at improving the microbiological quality of drinking water with no intervention in children and adults living in settings where diarrhoeal disease is endemic.

### Data collection and analysis

Two authors independently assessed trial quality and extracted data. We used meta-analyses to estimate pooled measures of effect, where appropriate, and investigated potential sources of heterogeneity using subgroup analyses.

### Main results

Thirty trials (including 38 independent comparisons) covering over 53,000 participants met the inclusion criteria. Differences between the trials limited the comparability of results and pooling by meta-analysis. In general, the evidence suggests that interventions to improve the microbiological quality of drinking water are

effective in preventing diarrhoea both for populations of all ages and children less than five years old. Subgroup analyses suggest that household interventions are more effective in preventing diarrhoea than interventions at the water source. Effectiveness was positively associated with compliance. Effectiveness was not conditioned on the presence of improved water supplies or sanitation in the study setting, and was not enhanced by combining the intervention to improve water quality with other common environmental interventions intended to prevent diarrhoea.

#### **Authors' conclusions**

Interventions to improve water quality are generally effective in preventing diarrhoea, and interventions to improve water quality at the household level are more effective than those at the source. Significant heterogeneity among the trials suggests that the actual level of effectiveness may depend on a variety of conditions that research to date cannot fully explain. Rigorous, blinded, multi-arm randomized controlled trials conducted over a longer duration in a variety of settings may help clarify the potential effectiveness.

**Citation:** This record should be cited as: Clasen T, Roberts I, Rabie T, Schmidt W, Cairncross S. Interventions to improve water quality for preventing diarrhoea. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2006, Issue 3. Art. No.: CD004794. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD004794.pub2.

#### **Contacts:**

##### **Field Co-Director**

Professor Elizabeth Waters  
Chair, Public Health  
Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences  
Deakin University, Melbourne Campus Burwood  
VIC, Australia  
Ph: +61 3 9251 7265; Fax: +61 3 9244 6017  
Email: [ewaters@deakin.edu.au](mailto:ewaters@deakin.edu.au)

##### **Field Co-Director**

Sandy Oliver  
Institute of Education, Social Sciences Research Unit  
18 Woburn Square, London, WC1H 0NS  
Ph +44 0 171 612 6807 Fax +44 0 171 612 6400  
Email: [s.oliver@ioe.ac.uk](mailto:s.oliver@ioe.ac.uk)

##### **Field Coordinator**

Jodie Doyle

C/o Victorian Health Promotion Foundation  
PO Box 154, Carlton South,  
VIC 3053, AUSTRALIA  
Email: C/o Victorian Health Promotion Foundation  
PO Box 154, Carlton South,  
VIC 3053, AUSTRALIA  
Email: [jdoyle@vichealth.vic.gov.au](mailto:jdoyle@vichealth.vic.gov.au)

##### **Training and Support Officer**

Rebecca Armstrong  
C/o Victorian Health Promotion Foundation  
PO Box 154, Carlton South,  
VIC 3053, AUSTRALIA  
Ph +61 9667 1336; Fax +61 9667 1375  
Email: [rarmstrong@vichealth.vic.gov.au](mailto:rarmstrong@vichealth.vic.gov.au)

##### **Research Assistant**

**Chris Lamb**  
Deakin University, 221 Burwood Highway VIC,  
Australia  
[christopher.lamb@deakin.edu.au](mailto:christopher.lamb@deakin.edu.au)

##### **Field Studies Search Coordinator**

Chloe Powell  
Institute of Education, Social Sciences Research Unit  
18 Woburn Square, London, WC1H 0NS  
Ph +44 0 20 7612 6807 Fax +44 0 20 7612 6400  
Email: [c.powell@ioe.ac.uk](mailto:c.powell@ioe.ac.uk)

**Join US**

#### ***Become a Field member***

*If you have not already filled out the attached form and would like to be on the Field's contact database, please fill it out now and send via email, fax or post to the Coordinator.*

*Being on our database allows us to keep you informed of Field activities, funding and training opportunities and allows us to tailor requests to members' areas of expertise and interest.*

### Cochrane Health Promotion and Public Health Field – Contact database form

First Name:	Family Name:
Place of Work:	Your role:
Mailing address:	
Email address:	
Telephone (work):	Fax (work):
Languages read (other than English):	
Have you contributed to the Field, or to the Cochrane Collaboration, in some way in the past?	
No      Yes How? <input type="checkbox"/> I have prepared a systematic review <input type="checkbox"/> I have peer-reviewed a systematic review <input type="checkbox"/> I have done some handsearching of health promotion/public health journals <input type="checkbox"/> I have been involved in lobbying for funding to support the production of systematic reviews <input type="checkbox"/> I have presented at a conference/workshop/seminar on systematic reviews in health <input type="checkbox"/> I have presented information related to the Cochrane Collaboration at a conference/workshop/seminar <input type="checkbox"/> I have provided comment back to the Field on various matters <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please provide detail)	
Would you like to contribute to the Field in some way in the future?	
No      Yes How? <input type="checkbox"/> I am interested in doing or assisting in a systematic review of a health promotion/public health topic <input type="checkbox"/> I would be available to peer-review a systematic review or protocol <input type="checkbox"/> I would be available to do some handsearching of health promotion/public health journals <input type="checkbox"/> I would be prepared to do a presentation of the Field's aims and objectives at an appropriate meeting, or relevant conference <input type="checkbox"/> I would be prepared to present at a conference/workshop/seminar on why and how to prepare systematic reviews in health promotion and public health <input type="checkbox"/> I would be prepared to be involved in lobbying for funding to support the production of systematic reviews in health promotion/public health <input type="checkbox"/> I would be prepared to provide comment back to the Field on areas of interest to myself or my organisation. <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe)	
What is your area of expertise or special interest? (eg. obesity, mental health, injury, environmental health, etc)	
Would you like to maintain contact with the Field?	
No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Send me Field newsletters electronically <input type="checkbox"/> Send me Field newsletters via the post <input type="checkbox"/> Send request for help as indicated in my response above <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please provide detail)	
How did you find out about the Cochrane HPPH Field?	

Thank you. Please send completed form to:

**The Coordinator, Cochrane Health Promotion and Public Health Field,  
 C/o Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, PO Box 154, Carlton Sth, VIC 3053, AUSTRALIA**  
 Or via email: [cohrane@vichealth.vic.gov.au](mailto:cohrane@vichealth.vic.gov.au) or Fax: +61 3 9667 1375