

The Use of Cochrane Reviews For Decision Making by a Local Public Health Department

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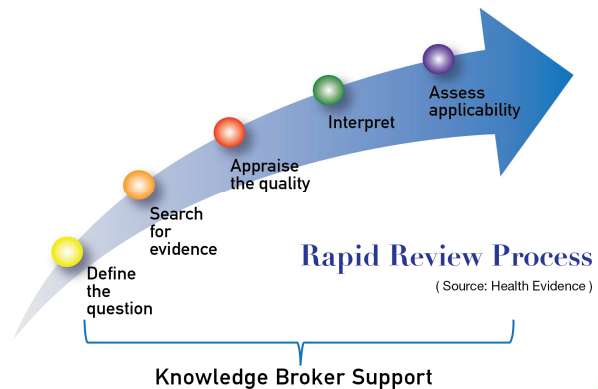
Peel Public Health Rapid Reviews using Cochrane Reviews:

Program Area	Rapid Review	Year Completed	# Cochrane Reviews/ Total Reviews Used	Number of Unique Primary Studies	Decision Made
Workforce Development	Learning Concepts in Workforce Development of Public Health Professionals	2010	5/7	180	Use a mix of didactic and interactive approaches incorporating Adult Learning Theory.
Tobacco	Quit and Win Contests for Smoking Cessation	2010	2/2	22	Discontinue the 'Driven to Quit' contest.
Physician Communication	Communicating Effectively with Physicians to Influence Practice	2010	7/11	436	Reduce use of print and didactic teaching and increase academic detailing, audit and feedback, and interactive sessions.
Tobacco	The Health Impacts of Exposure to Outdoor Tobacco Smoke	2011	1/2	61	Support by-law restricting tobacco use in selected outdoor settings. By-law passed February 14, 2013.
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome	Effective Interventions for Preventing Alcohol - Exposed Pregnancies	2011	1/3	49	Use targeted, not universal, strategies to reduce alcohol-exposed pregnancies.
Healthy Sexuality	Effective Health Promotion Strategies to Reduce Sexually Transmitted Infections	2012	3/6	108	Explore interactive computer programs.
Breastfeeding	Effect of Peer Support on Breastfeeding Initiation, Duration, and Exclusivity	2012	1/3	24	Develop model for combined peer and professional breastfeeding support.
Tuberculosis	Strategies for Improving LTBI Treatment Completion Rates	2012	1/3	39	Refine the process to get more accurate reporting on completion rates. Until more accurate rates are available, make only minimal efforts to translate knowledge to physicians (eg web site).
Tobacco	Workplace Smoking Cessation	2013	1/2	178	Develop a workplace smoking control program.
Active Transportation	Interventions to Increase Active Travel to School Among School Aged Children	2013	1/3	21	Develop walking school bus, walk to school day and environmental supports for school boards.

A Model for Evidence-Informed Decision Making in Public Health



(Source: National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools)



Rapid review details and findings can be found at:
<http://www.peelregion.ca/health/library/literature-reviews.asp>

Assessment of Applicability and Transferability:

Construct	Things to consider	Questions to Ask
Applicability <i>(feasibility)</i> Can the intervention we found work for us?	Political acceptability or influence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the intervention be allowed or supported in the current political climate? • Is there a potential public relations benefit for local government? • Will the public and target groups accept and support the intervention in its current format? • Is this intervention allowed/expected or required by local or provincial legislation /bylaws?
	Social acceptability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will my target population be interested in the intervention? • Is the intervention ethical?
	Available essential resources (human and financial)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who / what is essential for the local implementation? • Who will do the work? Are these people available (or are they too busy with other projects)? Do they know how? If not, is training available (and affordable)? • How much will the intervention cost? Can we afford to deliver the program (or is our budget already committed to other projects)? • How do we need to change the intervention to suit our local situation? • What are the full costs (include supplies, systems, space requirements for staff, training, technology/administrative supports, etc.)? How much will this intervention cost per unit of expected outcome? (total cost divided by number of people we expect to help) • Are there any other incremental health benefits to consider that could offset the costs of the intervention?
	Organizational expertise and capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the intervention fit into the organization's current strategic and operational plans? • Does the intervention fit with the organization's mission and local priorities? • Does the intervention overlap, or will it compliment, existing programs? • Will this program enhance the reputation of the organization? • What barriers/structural issues or approval processes within the organization need to be addressed? • Is the organization motivated and open to new ideas? Is it a learning organization?
Transferability <i>(generalizability)</i> Can we expect similar results?	Magnitude of health issue in local setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the need exist? • How many people in my local population does this issue affect now? (i.e., what is our baseline prevalence?) How does this compare to the prevalence of the issue (risk status) described in the intervention we are considering?
	Magnitude of the "reach" and cost effectiveness of the intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the intervention effectively reach a large proportion of the target population?
	Characteristics of target population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the local population comparable to the study population? • Will any differences in characteristics (ethnicity, socio-demographic variables, number of persons affected) influence the effectiveness of the intervention locally?

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