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Submitter Information

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Abstract Information

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Systematic review of Multisystemic Therapy: An update

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Abstract:

This paper presents an update of the Campbell/Cochrane review of effects of Multisystemic Therapy (MST) for youth (ages 10-17) with social, emotional, and behavioral problems. MST is a short-term, home-based and community-based intervention that is used to improve youth and family functioning, and prevent out-of-home placement of youth involved in the juvenile justice, child welfare, and mental health service systems. MST was developed in the USA and has been implemented in many other countries. The initial Campbell/Cochrane review of MST was completed in 2005 and included results of eight randomized controlled trials (RCTs); of these, 6 trials were conducted by MST developers in the USA, 1 multi-site trial was conducted in Norway, and 1 multi-site trial was completed in Canada. The updated review includes these studies plus several newer studies, including a multi-site trial conducted in Sweden. Initial results suggest that effects of MST are not consistent across studies, in contrast to the conclusions of many published, traditional reviews. This presentation explores discrepancies between traditional and systematic reviews of MST, problems encountered in secondary analysis of trial data, and issues in updating a Campbell/Cochrane review.
