

2009 International Campbell Collaboration (C2) Colloquium

Submitter Information

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Abstract Information

Abstract Title:

Costing program implementation using systematic review: programs to prevent adolescent depression

Format:

Paper

Themes:

Highlighting the need for relevant and reliable evidence. Summarising evidence on resource use and costs. Economics methods.

Authors:

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Abstract:

OBJECTIVE: Systematic reviews can provide up-to-date synthesis of reliable evidence on 'what works' to help people make well-informed decisions about social and behavioural interventions. However, constrained budgets mean decision makers often need to consider not only the balance between beneficial and harmful effects of interventions but also their cost (Shemilt and others, 2008). One element of cost is the 'upfront cost' of program implementation. This study tests a new coding tool designed to collect resource use data from intervention studies included in systematic reviews, with a view to costing the resource inputs needed for program implementation. METHODS: The resource use coding tool was applied to 35 intervention studies included in an ongoing systematic review of programs for the prevention of adolescent depression (Pössel and others, in preparation). The analysis adopted a multi-sector perspective. Data were analysed using SPSS v14.0 and summarised using tables and a narrative summary. Results were used to generate illustrative profiles of key components of the 'upfront cost' of program implementation. RESULTS: Thirty-five intervention studies incorporated 45 pairwise comparisons testing the effects of universal or selective prevention programs. Overall, the studies report sufficient data to allow provisional description of the types and amounts of key resource inputs needed to implement programs, including personnel and training, and which sectors provide the resources. DISCUSSION: This study demonstrates the feasibility and usefulness of collecting resource use data from studies that do not necessarily include any formal economic analysis. The resource use coding tool provides a systematic framework for collecting these data in a format that can provide 'building blocks' towards assessments of the costs of program implementation. REFERENCES: Shemilt I, Mugford M, Byford S, Drummond M, Eisenstein E, Knapp M, Mallender J, Marsh K, McDaid D, Vale L, Walker D. Campbell Collaboration Methods Policy Brief: Economics Methods (updated April 2008). The Campbell Collaboration, 2008. Available from http://camp.ostfold.net/resources/methods_policy_briefs.shtml Pössel P, Shemilt I, Valentine JC, Mugford M (in preparation). A systematic review of universal and selective programs to prevent depression in children and adolescents.
