

Paper presentation

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**Effects of interventions for
substantiated child abuse and neglect-
a survey of systematic reviews**

Review team

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Introduction

- It is essential for service providers to be aware of empirically validated interventions since the consequences of maltreatment could be devastating to the child.
- The results of the review are important for future direction and guidelines of support and service models in our country.

Objective

- The main objective of this review is to provide a survey, based on systematic and other research reviews, of the results of interventions for substantiated child abuse and neglect.
- This aim includes the assessment of relevance (to the Swedish context) and an assessment of quality of the retrieved research reviews and to describe the existing field of knowledge regarding interventions for the families just mentioned.

- The current state of scientific evidence and the need for renewed production of systematic reviews will be presented.

Categorisation of research studies

Primary prevention: interventions aimed at whole communities or populations irrespective of any known particular risk. These programmes are variously targeted at professionals, parents, children and communities.

Secondary prevention: interventions aimed at individuals who are identified as being at high risk of abuse

Tertiary prevention: interventions aimed to ensure that abuse which has already occurred does not occur again, which includes the provision of help to children who have been abused. (MacDonald, 2001. *Effective interventions for Child Abuse and Neglect*)

Selection criteria

- *Type of reviews:* the reviews to be included in this survey should preferably meet the criteria for a systematic review.
- *Population:* interventions for parents who have abused and/or neglected their children are the main focus of the survey. Interventions for the family or the child and interventions for at-risk families will also be included.

- *Type of intervention:* Interventions shall be aimed directly or indirectly towards the children exposed to maltreatment. The intervention toward the parents/care givers shall be aimed to improve parenting skills (interventions e.g. aimed to reduce the parent's/care giver's substance abuse will be excluded).

Literature search

- The search is focused on research reviews (systematic, narrative and meta-analyses). Databases affiliated with organizations developing methods for producing systematic reviews will primarily be searched (databases listed in group A). And databases mainly containing primary studies will be listed in group B.

Databases

Group A

- Cochrane Reviews (Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews)
- RIPE (Register of C2 Systematic Reviews of Intervention and Policy Evaluation)
- DARE (Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects)

Group B

- HTA (Health Technology Assessment Database)
- Medline/Pubmed
- ASSIA (Applied Social Science Index and Abstracts)
- Social SciSearch (Social Science Citation Index)
- PsycINFO

- EMBASE
- CINAHL
- ERIC (Education Resources Information Center Database)
- Social Services Abstract
- Social Work Abstracts
- Sociological Abstracts
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Methods

Assessment of the references:

- **Screening of titles and abstracts**
- **Inclusion of reviews**
- **Quality assessment and level of evidence rating**
- **Parallel assessment of primary studies**

Analysis and synthesis

Analysis and synthesis will be narrative for conclusions of (1) effectiveness of specific interventions and (2) effectiveness of families of interventions or programs which are specified from the included reviews.

Preliminary results

- The search in Group A databases (*Cochrane Database, Register of C2 Systematic Reviews and DARE*), yielded **32** references
- After screening of titles and abstracts **23** reviews were ordered in full text.
- Finally **18** reviews were included.

Types of interventions

CBT individual/group

- Intensive family preservation programs
- School-based education programs for prevention of sexual abuse
- Psychotherapy (psychodynamic, ecological, multisystemic and so fort)
- Casework
- Family therapy
- Home visiting programs
- Parent training or education

Interventions

- Two registered titles at Campbell include:
 - Family group conferences for children at risk of abuse and neglect
 - Cognitive beh therapy for physically abused children and their families
- And one Cochrane and Campbell protocol include:
 - Kinship care for the safety, permanency and well-being of children removed from the home for maltreatment

Included primary studies

Overlap:

- These 18 reviews have included 184 primary studies and 59 of these primary studies have been included in more than one review.