

Title Registration for Reviews

PROVISIONAL TITLE (please try to keep to the following format: "Intervention FOR condition FOR/IN population group/setting):

Cognitive-behaviour programs in residential treatment of antisocial behaviour in youth.

Define the population (e.g. adults or children, acute or chronic, home or community, substance misusers, etc. (Specify excluded groups.))

Participants include youth between 12-20 years old that have been placed in a residential setting because of chronic antisocial behaviour. This includes criminality (stealing, violence) and drug abuse, and behaviour that is defined by the terms of conduct disorder, offender, and delinquency. Included participants will not be limited to those who have been arrested, but to those who have shown behaviour that seriously brake the rules in the society in a way that enables the society to make decisions about placement against their will. This does not exclude voluntary placements if the behaviour is serious enough to justify involuntary placement. The review will not include studies that mainly focus on antisocial behaviour in mentally retarded young people, but it will include antisocial behaviour in young people with psychiatric problems.

Specify the intervention (e.g. behavioural therapy, tenants choice allocation mechanism, family support. Specify length of treatment/ delivery system/ duration or frequency of intervention, if relevant, and operationally define the intervention itself.)

Interventions include every treatment intervention or technique based on cognitive behaviour approach that takes place in a residential setting. This includes interventions which are described by the authors as behavioural or cognitive-behavioural or which describe the use of cognitive-behavioural interventions.

Residential treatment settings include group treatment of youth (more than two) together in out of home settings where the treatment interventions are given by a staff (more than two). This excludes foster homes with only one youth, and also treatment foster homes (Treatment Foster Care) as well as family like interventions with several youth but only two adults, like Teaching Family Homes. Residential treatment will include both secure and open settings. Prison like placements that include treatment interventions will be included.

Specify the control comparison (e.g. versus no-treatment control, wait-list control, etc..)

The following comparisons will be made:

Residential treatment that includes interventions based on cognitive-behaviour approach will be compared with any other residential treatment.

Residential treatment that includes interventions based on cognitive-behaviour approach in open setting will be compared with residential treatment that includes interventions based on cognitive-behaviour approach in secure settings.

Define the outcome(s) of interest

What was the intended goal of the intervention?

Goal of the intervention is to reduce antisocial behaviour in seriousness and rates; reduction of criminal behaviour (stealing), reduction of violent behaviour, and reduction of drug abuse in "normal" settings in society after discharge from residential settings.

Even if the goal of treatment is reduction in these outcomes, research has shown that antisocial behaviour is linked to cognitive and social abilities. The review will therefore include studies that use measures of changes in such abilities as outcomes if they at the same time are linked to reduction of antisocial behaviour.

What do I/we (the reviewer[s]) think is important?

We think it is important to synthesise the evidence from research regarding treatment effects of residential treatment on antisocial behaviour. It is an objective to describe whether interventions in residential settings based on cognitive behaviour approach are more effective than other interventions in residential treatment.

Questions the review will seek to answer are:

- Does residential treatment based on cognitive behaviour approach change antisocial behaviour more than residential treatment based on other approaches?
- If so, are there systematic differences between the residential treatments based on cognitive behaviour approach in different settings (open vs. secure)?

The review will include both randomised controlled studies and quasi-experimental studies. There are very few randomised controlled studies in this area of research. Quasi-experimentally designed studies will be included. This may give important indications and focus on areas where more research is needed. All studies will be rated with respect to quality of the study in terms of degree of control over important variables. The findings from randomised controlled studies and non-randomised studies will be compared. Quasi-experimental designed studies will only be included if they supply information about similarity between the groups or pre- post measures on important variables (seriousness of behaviour problems, etc.) by use of registered data, standardized instruments, and so on.

The search for studies will be:

1. Randomised controlled studies
2. Quasi-experiments with control groups or pre-post measures

At what time(s) will outcomes be measured?

Outcomes will be measured for several periods of time after ended treatment. The main focus will be on studies that have measured outcomes for two or more years after treatment intervention, but it is also interesting to find outcomes for shorter time.

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