

Campbell Collaboration Social Welfare Coordinating Group
Title Registration Form

Please complete this form to begin the process of registering a review with the Campbell Collaboration Social Welfare group. When approved by the editorial board, the title and registration form will be posted in the Campbell Library (<http://www.campbellcollaboration.org/Fralibrary2.html>). Please be explicit about what you will and will not do. Use as much space in the form as you wish. Please return the completed form to awi@nokc.no.

1. Title of review (Suggested format: [intervention/s] for [outcome/s] in [problem/population] in [location/situation]. Example: behavioural therapy for reducing violence among adolescents in institutions)

Cognitive-behavioural interventions for preventing youth gang involvement for children and young people (7-16).

2. Background and objective of this review (Briefly describe the problem and the intervention.)

Youth gang members are disproportionately involved in crime, particularly serious and violent offences, compared to non-gang youth and non-gang delinquent youth. Youth gangs are prevalent across the United States and have been identified in developing and developed countries in South America, Europe, Asia, and Africa. Cognitive-behavioural interventions, drawing on cognitive and learning theories of delinquency and behaviour change, have been used with a variety of behavioural and psychological disorders, including delinquent and antisocial behaviour among children and youth. This review will assess the effectiveness of cognitive-behavioural interventions for preventing youth gang involvement among children and young people.

3. Define the population (Who is included and who is excluded?)

Children and young people aged 7-16 who are not involved in a gang.

4. Intervention/s (What is given, by whom, and for how long? What are the comparison conditions?)

Programmes with cognitive-behavioural interventions as the majority intervention component (at least 50% of total programming based on frequency and duration). Techniques within cognitive-behavioural interventions may include anger management, empathy, social perspective taking, lateral thinking, critical thinking, problem solving, self-control, self-instruction, life skills development, goal setting, moral reasoning, social-information processing, or social skills training.

Programmes with cognitive-behavioural and other interventions, such as recreational intervention or opportunities provision, will be included only if the cognitive-behavioural intervention is the majority component. Multi-intervention programmes that include cognitive-behavioural interventions but have opportunities provision as the majority intervention may be included in a separate review currently in preparation (Opportunities provision for preventing youth gang involvement for children and young people (7-16)). Studies with any other intervention as the majority component will be excluded. Also, programmes directed at youth already involved in gangs or parents/caregivers of young people will be excluded.

The primary control comparison for cognitive-behavioural interventions will be no intervention. Comparisons against other interventions will be included but will be discussed separately.

5. Outcome/s (What are the intended effects of the intervention? Primary and secondary outcomes should all be mentioned.)

Primary outcomes: gang membership status (binary) and gang-related delinquent behaviour and

criminal offences, including homicide, assault, robbery, burglary, and drug trafficking.

Secondary outcomes: measures of behavioural, cognitive, or social skills, i.e. anger management, empathy, social perspective taking, problem solving, self-control, self-instruction, goal setting, moral reasoning, or social-information processing; delinquent behaviour and criminal offences external to gang activities or committed by an individual not involved in a gang (as determined by self-report or official data); association with delinquent peers (measured as a binary variable, percentage of time spent with delinquent peers, or percentage of friends who are identified as delinquent); drug use; hospitalisation or injury; firearm possession; truancy and achievement of scholastic benchmarks for youth eighteen and under at outcome measurement; and employment status for youth sixteen and older at outcome measurement.

Instruments to measure behavioural, cognitive, and social skills must meet minimum standards: i) the psychometric properties of the instrument should have been described in a book or peer-reviewed journal; ii) the instrument should be either (a) a self report, or (b) completed by an independent rater or relative. Instruments used to measure other outcomes can include self-report or official records, such as school, police, probation, or court data. When applicable, self- and other-reported outcome measures will be analysed separately due to possible divergence.

6. Methodology (What types of studies are included and excluded? Please describe eligible study designs, control/comparison groups, measures, and duration of follow-ups.)

Studies are eligible for inclusion if allocation to group was by random allocation or quasi-random allocation (for instance, by alphabetical order or day of the week). Studies comparing cognitive-behavioural interventions to another intervention or to no-treatment control, in which control group outcomes were measured concurrently with intervention group outcomes, also will be included.

Outcomes must be reported in quantitative terms and data must be reported for the end point (post-intervention) scores for both experimental and control groups. Change in score must be reported for non-randomised trials. Outcomes will be measured post-intervention, after a short-term follow-up period up to 6 months, after a medium-term follow-up period up to 18 months, and after a long-term follow-up period up to 5 years, as data are available, to assess the durability of the intervention.

Reviewer/s

Lead reviewer (Name, address, telephone, fax, e-mail):

Herrick Fisher, Department of Social Policy and Social Work, 32 Wellington Square, Oxford, OX1 2ER. (44) 01865 270325 (phone), (44) 01865 270324 (fax). cricket.fisher@hertford.ox.ac.uk

Other reviewer/s:

Paul Montgomery, DPhil; Frances Gardner, DPhil.

Do you need support in any of these areas: methodology and causal inference, systematic searches, coding, statistics (meta-analysis)?

Yes, please.

Once the editorial board approves the registration of your title, you have six months to complete the protocol. If the protocol is not finished after six months, the review area is opened up for others. Queries should be addressed to awi@nokc.no