

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)

Opportunities provision 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. Opportunities provision, echoing anomie and strain theories of delinquency and gang involvement, is a common and promising prevention approach in the United States. This review will assess the effectiveness of opportunities provision programmes 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 opportunities provision as the majority intervention component (at least 50% of total programming based on frequency and duration). Opportunities provision encompasses tutoring, supplementary or remedial education, job training and preparation, job development, job placement, and other programmes designed to increase economic or educational opportunities or enable individuals to take advantage of them.

Programmes with opportunities provision and other interventions, such as recreational intervention or cognitive-behavioural skills training, will be included only if opportunities provision is the majority intervention. Multi-intervention programmes that include opportunities provision but have cognitive-behavioural skills training as the majority intervention may be included in a separate review currently in preparation (Cognitive-behavioural skills training 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 opportunities provision 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: employment status for youth sixteen and older at outcome measurement; truancy and achievement of scholastic benchmarks for youth eighteen and under at outcome measurement; 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; and firearm possession.

Instruments used to measure these outcomes could 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 opportunities provision 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):

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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