

Campbell Crime and Justice Group Title Registration Form

(Submit to Charlotte Gill at charlotte.gill@cantab.net)

Instruction: Briefly address each item below. Provide enough information to allow the CCJG the ability to evaluate the scope of the review, appropriateness for the Campbell Collaboration, and any possible overlap with existing registered reviews.

1. Title of the review

Effects of drug substitution programs on re-offending

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

Background: As drug addiction has been spreading throughout the western world for the last decades, drug prescription and substitution programs have been widely set up. Many studies have aimed at determining whether they are efficient at reducing criminality. Thus, the review will aim at evaluating the effects of drug prescription or substitution programs on criminal behavior among participants.

3. Define the population

Populations can be adult or adolescent drug (i.e. mostly heroin) users.

Studies published in any language after 1960 will be considered.

4. Define the intervention

Any form of substitution therapy, particularly prescription of methadone and opiates. Interventions can be court-ordered or unrelated to any involvement of the criminal justice system. Only interventions based on substitution therapy (using e.g. methadone and/or opiates as substitution drugs) will be considered.

5. Outcome(s) (what is aimed to accomplish – Primary and secondary outcomes should all be mentioned)

Re-offending (measured by any available indicator) after the onset of treatment. Treatment effects beyond re-offending, such as eventual medical outcomes, will not be considered.

6. Methodology (What types of studies are to be included or excluded and what will be your method of synthesis? Will you use meta-analysis?)

Randomized studies, quasi-experimental studies and before-after comparisons will be included, provided that they meet certain methodological requirements. Studies published in any language after 1960 will be considered.

A coding protocol will be prepared along the guidelines of the Campbell Collaboration. Moreover, our review will comply with the current standards of meta-analysis (e.g. as specified in *Practical Meta-Analysis* by Lipsey & Wilson). Details relating to the techniques used will be determined once the exact number of studies meeting the eligibility criteria is known.

7. Do you need support in any of these areas (methodology, statistics, systematic searches, field expertise, review manager etc?)

No support needed. Our team has been involved in a major effort to evaluate several drug substitution programs in Switzerland during the years 1994-2002, covering some 1,200 subjects..

8. Lead reviewer(s) with contact information

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