



This is one in a series of briefings on new and current mental health services evaluations, resources, and methods. We hope FastFacts will be a quick and easy way for you to learn important information in the field of evaluation. If you have any ideas on how FastFacts could be more useful to you, please contact Dow Wieman, Ph.D. at 617-876-0426 x2503 or dwieman@hsri.org.

Cochrane Library is Resource for Service Effectiveness

The growing movement toward “evidence-based medicine,” “exemplary practices,” and “best practice guidelines” is increasing the value of and demand for systematic reviews of literature on the effectiveness of different mental health services. These reviews can range from narrative summaries of the literature to quantitative methodologies of evaluation synthesis like meta-analysis. One resource for such systematic reviews is the Cochrane Collaboration and Library.

The Cochrane Collaboration is a non-profit organization comprised of an international network of individuals and institutions dedicated to “preparing, maintaining, and disseminating systematic reviews of the effects of health care.” The goal of these reviews is to help health care providers, consumers, researchers, policy makers, and others make well-informed decisions about health care issues. The Cochrane Collaboration disseminates these systematic reviews via The Cochrane Library.

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The Evaluation Center@HSRI

is a technical assistance center funded by the federal Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and operated by the Human Services Research Institute (HSRI). The mission of the Center is to provide evaluation technical assistance to state and non-profit and private entities including, but not limited to, consumers, families and provider groups. The Center presently has six programs designed to fulfill this mission—

- Conferences & Training
- Consultation Program
- Knowledge Assessment & Application
- Multicultural Issues in Evaluation Program
- Toolkit & Evaluation Materials
- Topical Evaluation Networks & Web

For more information on the Center, please visit our website at:

<http://www.tecathsri.org>

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The Cochrane Library is a quarterly electronic publication available to subscribers on CD-ROM and diskettes and includes four main resources: The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR),

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The Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effectiveness (DARE), The Cochrane Controlled Trials Register (CCTR), and The Cochrane Review Methodology Database.

The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR) is the primary resource in the Library. This is where users will find the regularly updated reviews of the effects of various forms of health care from the approximately 50 Collaborative Review Groups (CRGs). CRGs are organized by diagnoses and treatments/services. Examples of diagnoses

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Examples of diagnoses and treatments/services reviewed in the Library are Schizophrenia and Case Management for People with Severe Mental Disorders.
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CRGs include the Depression, Anxiety & Neurosis Group; the Schizophrenia Group; and the Tobacco Addiction Group. An example of a treatment/ser-

vice CRG is “Case Management for People with Severe Mental Disorders.” As new evidence becomes available, reviews are updated accordingly. CDSR also includes a Protocols section that defines the background, objectives and methods of reviews being prepared.

The Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effectiveness (DARE) contains assessments and abstracts of quality systematic reviews previously published elsewhere and for which there is not presently a Collaborative Review Group. This database is prepared by the National Health Service Centre for Reviews and Dissemination at the University of York, England. DARE contains four primary types of information: structured abstracts, American College of Physicians Journal Club abstracts of reviews, International Network of Agencies for Health Technology Assessment reports, and references to other

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For more information on The Cochrane Library, visit their website at <http://www.cochrane.co.uk>.
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published systematic reviews.

The Cochrane Controlled Trials Register (CCTR) is a bibliography on controlled trials. The CCTR, more specifically known as CENTRAL, enables an efficient flow of information on studies within the Collaboration and ensures that each Collaborative Review Group is aware of other studies that might be relevant to its scope.

The Cochrane Review Methodology Database contains bibliographic information on articles, conference proceedings, and books on the science of re-

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viewing research. The Library holds other sources regarding the science of research review and evidence-based medicine including a handbook that describes the standard format used for preparing and maintaining a systematic review, a glossary of relevant methodological terms, and “Netting the Evidence,” which helps users find Internet resources on using evidence in health care practice. For more information on The Cochrane Library, you can access their website at <http://www.cochrane.co.uk>. A subscription or “user license” ranges in cost from \$225 for a single user to \$630 for a 6-10 user network. Subscription and technical information is available from the following U.S. Publisher and Technical Support Group:

Update Software Inc.

936 La Rueda,

Vista, CA 92084

Tel: 760.727.6792

Fax: 760.734.435

Email: updateinc@home.com

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In the next issue of Evaluation FastFacts:

An interview with Dr. Paul Weaver of the new Kentucky Center for Mental Health Studies. You must order this document through The Evaluation Center Publication System. Please go to the Publication Section of our site to order the document.

Thank You, Publication Manager

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