

Prioritising the unanswered questions in tobacco control

A summary of the 20th Anniversary Priority Setting (CTAG taps) project



@CochraneTAG #CTAGtaps

Funded by NHS National Institute for Health Research

About the project

The Cochrane Tobacco Addiction Group celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2016. To mark the event we completed a project funded by the UK National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) School for Primary Care Research.

The goals of the project were to:



Identify and prioritise areas where further research is needed in the areas of tobacco control and smoking cessation from a wider stakeholder perspective. Our stakeholders include: members of the public who smoke or have smoked, researchers, health professionals, policy makers, funders, care commissioners, health campaigners.

To identify CTAG-specific research goals from the outcomes of our first goal.

We achieved this through three stages:

Survey 1 (n=304)	
We asked our stakeholders, includling SRNT 2016 delegates to tell us which questions they would still like to see answered by tobacco control research. This identified 183 unanswered questions, within 15 research categories.	olders day they biorities day chand search n.

The top eight tobacco-related research categories and their top three unanswered research questions, prioritised for CTAG taps by Cochrane Tobacco Addiction Group stakeholders:

Electronic cigarettes

- 1. How safe are e-cigarettes, and are they as safe as other products?
- 2. How can we educate people effectively about the risks and benefits of using e-cigarettes?
- 3. Are e-cigarettes an effective and cost effective aid to help people to stop smoking, and are they as effective as other products?

Addressing inequalities

- 1. What are the most effective stop smoking interventions for smokers who are part of a hard-to-reach group?
- 2. Which interventions reduce the difference in the number of smokers in low socioeconomic compared with high socioeconomic groups most effectively?
- 3. Which interventions are the most effective to help people stop smoking in communities where smoking as a group has cultural and social value?

Mental health and substance abuse

- 1. How can we encourage and help mental health workers to offer stop smoking services to their patients with mental illness? 2. What is the most effective and cost-effective way to help people with mental health problems to quit smoking inside and
- outside of mental health treatment settings?
- 3. What is the most effective and cost-effective way to help people who also have drug and alcohol problems to quit smoking?

Initiating quit attempts

- 1. What is the most effective way to make people want to quit smoking?
- 2. What makes people decide to quit smoking?
- 3. Why has the number of people who are trying to quit smoking reduced in the UK?

Efficacy

Survey ranking: 2 of 15 Workshop ranking: 1 of 15

Survey ranking: 1 of 15

Workshop ranking: 3/4 of 15

Survey ranking: 5 of 15 Workshop ranking: 7/8 of 15

- 1. Are any current interventions aimed at the general population effective in reducing the number of people who smoke and the harms linked to tobacco use? If so, which ones?
- 2. Does standardized packaging stop people from taking up smoking?
- 3. Do interventions which aim to change tobacco related social norms reduce the demand for tobacco?

Survey ranking: 6 of 15 Workshop ranking: 7/8 of 15

- 1. How safe are e-cigarettes when used during pregnancy, and are they as safe as other products?
- 2. What are the most effective and cost-effective methods pregnant smokers can use to give up smoking?
- effective as other products?

Survey ranking: 7 of 15 Workshop ranking: 5/6 of 15

- 1. What is the most effective and cost effective way to stop young people from starting to smoke, in particular those in hard-to-reach groups?
- 2. Are there effective interventions to stop early trials of smoking from turning into tobacco addiction?
- 3. How can we stop the children of smokers from starting to smoke themselves?

Survey ranking: 12 of 15 Workshop ranking: 2 of 15

- need to be most effective?
- 3. What are the most effective interventions that can be used in primary care (e.g. doctors' and dentists' surgeries, pharmacies) to encourage more people to use stop smoking services and to give up smoking?

Overarching priorities identified at the CTAG taps workshop:

Cost effectiveness

Comparing active interventions



Survey ranking: 3 of 15

Survey ranking: 4 of 15

Workshop ranking: 3/4 of 15

Workshop ranking: 5/6 of 15

35



Population level interventions

Pregnancy

3. Are e-cigarettes an effective and cost effective aid to help people to stop smoking during pregnancy, and are they as

Young people

Treatment delivery

1. How can we ensure all healthcare providers provide cessation treatment that has been found to be effective, safe & cost-effective? 2. What type of health providers provide the most effective support to help people to guit smoking, and how much training do they

Addressing inequality



What's next? Our action plan following the CTAG taps project:

Report CTAG taps findings

We are currently writing a full report of our findings which we will post on our website: https://tobacco.cochrane.org/ctag-taps-project. The findings will also be published in the journal Addiction.

Set CTAG priorities

The unanswered questions and overarching priorities identified will be used to commission new Cochrane systematic reviews and plan updates of existing reviews.

About the Cochrane Tobacco Addiction Group

The Cochrane Tobacco Addiction Group was established in 1996 at the University of Oxford, UK and forms part of Cochrane. Cochrane is an international not-for-profit, independent organisation, dedicated to producing and disseminating up-to-date, accurate information about the effects of healthcare worldwide.

The major product of Cochrane is the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews which is published as part of The Cochrane Library.

The Cochrane Tobacco Addiction Group produce systematic reviews by amalgamating the evidence on interventions to prevent and treat tobacco addiction. This includes interventions for

Acccess our systematic reviews online at the Cochrane Library

http://www.cochranelibrary.com/review-group/Tobacco Addiction Group

smoking cessation, for preventing smoking uptake, and public policy interventions for reducing smoking prevalence.

We are passionate about disseminating our reviews and getting quality evidence out there to the people who need it- researchers, healthcare commissioners, policy makers, service providers and people who may wish to give up smoking.

Our work relies on the input of dedicated healthcare professionals and researchers. If you are interested in getting involved in the group please email us at cochrane.tobacco@phc.ox.ac.uk.



Keep in touch

If you would like to be involved in

- suggesting a review title,
- writing our reviews,
- peer review.

Or if you would like to find out more please contact us:

Contact us: cochrane.tobacco@phc.ox.ac.uk

Tweet us: @CochraneTAG

Visit our website: http://tobacco.cochrane.org

