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:

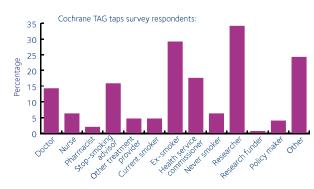
Survey 1 (n=304)

stakeholders, includling SRNT 2016 delegates to

Survey 2 (n=175)

The findings of survey 1

Workshop



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?

Mental health and substance abuse

- 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?

Survey ranking: 1 of 15 Workshop ranking: 3/4 of 15

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

Population level interventions

- 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?

2. What are the most effective and cost-effective methods pregnant smokers can use to give up smoking?

Addressing inequalities

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

Survey ranking: 3 of 15

Survey ranking: 4 of 15

Workshop ranking: 3/4 of 15

Workshop ranking: 5/6 of 15

- 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?

- 1. How safe are e-cigarettes when used during pregnancy, and are they as safe as other products?

Survey ranking: 6 of 15

Workshop ranking: 7/8 of 15

Young people

Pregnancy

- 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 guit 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?

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

effective as other products?

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?

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

- 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?

Initiating quit attempts

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

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

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 quit smoking, and how much training do they 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

Addressing inequality

Efficacy