

## Evidence-Based Resources for Public Health Practice

### Best Practice Initiative

<http://www.osophs.dhhs.gov/ophs/BestPractice/> or  
<http://list.nih.gov/archives/ashbestpractices.html>

Best Practices in Public Health from the ASH (Assistant Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services). Short reports on project accomplishments (Best Practices) are reviewed by a Regional Health Administrator and then by Health and Human Services staff. Reports of public health practices with successful and measurable outcomes are approved and added once a month. The aim is to foster an environment of peer learning and collaboration. Archives of reports can be searched. Users may register for free e-mail delivery of monthly reports. Available for free online access.

### CDC Recommends: The Prevention Guidelines System

<http://www.phppo.cdc.gov/cdcRecommends/AdvSearchV.asp>

Produced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Provides access to current CDC recommendations and guidelines for the prevention, control, and treatment of public health conditions. Documents that have been cleared by the CDC publication process are reviewed by a team of health scientists, and those that convey some elements of guidance in public health practice are selected for inclusion. The guidelines recommend some kind of action to prevent or control a public health problem in a defined population. The recommendations are graded by the strength of the supporting evidence. Links to full text documents and Internet sites are provided. Over two-thirds of the documents have been published in the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)*. Guidelines are limited to those published under the auspices of the CDC. Out-dated guidelines are removed from the system and archived for research or historical purposes. The system can be searched and users can navigate to specific sections of some guidelines. Available online for free access.

### Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) – Healthy Aging Initiative – Evidence Reports

<http://cms.hhs.gov/healthyaging/EvidReports.asp>

Produced by RAND, a private health care research organization, under contract from CMS as part of the Health Aging Process. The reports are produced in collaboration with the Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research (AHRQ), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Administration on Aging, and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The reports synthesize the evidence on how to promote health and prevent functional decline in older adults. The evidence is systematically reviewed by project staff. The site provides links to full reports in PDF format, but is not searchable. Available online for free access.

## **Cochrane Health Promotion and Public Health Field**

<http://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/cochrane/welcome/index.htm>

The field seeks to represent the needs and concerns of health promotion and public health practitioners in the work of the Cochrane Collaboration. The field promotes and identifies systematic reviews of effectiveness of health promotion and public health interventions. The site directs users to other sources of systematic reviews for topics not covered in the Cochrane Library. Identified reviews are accessible in the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews. Explicit quality criteria and standard methodology are used to assess and summarize randomized control trials. Meta-analyses are performed when possible. The reviews are presented in a standardized format and include descriptions of included and excluded studies. The database provides links to MEDLINE citations and to full text references if available. Tables and graphs that summarize the evidence are provided. The database can be searched and is updated quarterly. Available only by subscription.

## **The Effective Public Health Practice Project**

<http://www.city.hamilton.on.ca/sphs/ephpp/>

An initiative of the Public Health Research, Education and Development (PHRED) Program in Canada, funded by the Public Health Branch of the Ontario Ministry of Health. The project staff conducts systematic reviews on the effectiveness of public health interventions, and summarizes recent, high quality reviews produced by others. Public health researchers, practitioners, and policy-makers from Ontario, Canada are involved with the project. The resource includes summary statements and systematic reviews in PDF format, public health policy statements, and links to full-texts reviews in PDF format. Systematic reviews completed by the project are submitted for inclusion in the Cochrane Library. The reviews are displayed in alphabetical order and are not searchable. Available in print and online for free access.

## **The EPPI-Centre Database of Promoting Health Effectiveness Reviews (DoPHER)**

<http://eppi.ioe.ac.uk/EPPIWeb/home.aspx?Control=Search&SearchDB=rore&page=/hp/>

Produced by the Evidence for Policy and Practice Information (EPPI) Centre, based at the University of London. The EPPI Centre is a collaborating partner of the Cochrane Health Promotion and Public Health Field. The resource is a searchable database of references to systematic and non-systematic reviews of health promotion effectiveness. Sources used to locate reviews include EMBASE, ERIC, MEDLINE, PsychInfo, Social Science Citation Index, Sociological Abstracts, Social Services Abstracts, the Cochrane Library, DARE, Bibliomap, personal contacts, reference lists and agencies involved with health promotion. All reviews are keyworded according to their health focus and to the methods used to conduct the review. Other databases available from the EPPI-Centre include the Bibliomap Database of Health Promotion Research and the Trials Register of Promoting Interventions (TRoPHI). Available for free online access.

## **Evidence Based Health Promotion: Resources for Planning**

<http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/phb/ebhp/index.htm>

Systematic reviews of the effectiveness of public health interventions produced by the Victorian Government Health Information, Australia, Public Health Group. The reviews identify the most effective and efficacious interventions and are targeted to those making decisions about the development and implementation of public health programs. The reviews include critical appraisal of findings, recommendations for implementation, and evidence tables for comparison of strategies. The site provides online links by topic to executive summaries of the reviews and to full text documents in PDF format. The site is not searchable, but navigation within individual reviews to specific sections (e.g. *Recommendations and Conclusions*) is possible. Available for free online access.

## **Evidence-Based Healthcare**

<http://www.harcourt-international.com/journals/ebhc/>

Evidence-based journal published by Harcourt International. The chief editorial advisor is Dr. Muir Gray, Director of Research and Development, National Health Service (NHS) Executive, Oxford, UK. Key articles are selected and reviewed from over 70 journals in the field of health care management and provide evidence about the financing, organization, and management of health care. Articles are in the form of structured abstracts and include search strategies, inclusion/exclusion criteria, conclusions, and expert commentary. The journal can be searched and users can navigate directly to *Commentary* and *Literature Cited* sections within articles. Public health journals covered include the *American Journal of Public Health* and the *European Journal of Public Health*. The journal is published four times a year and is not currently indexed in MEDLINE. Available online and in print by subscription only.

## **Guide to Community Preventive Services**

<http://www.thecommunityguide.org>

Produced by the Task Force on Community Preventive Services, an independent group appointed by the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The task force reviews and assesses the quality of available evidence on the effectiveness of essential community preventive health services. Explicit rules are used to conduct systematic literature reviews with the support of experts, methodologists, and scientific staff. Summaries of the evidence are released topic by topic and organized as chapters. The Community Guide provides recommendations on population-based interventions, effectiveness ratings, economic effectiveness findings, evidence tables, and links to additional sources. Interventions with insufficient evidence are identified and recommendations are made for further prevention research. Summaries of findings and full text reviews are available in PDF format. The task force plans to update existing chapters and add additional topics over time. The Community Guide does not provide a tool to search the chapters, but the website can be searched by keyword and users can navigate to specific sections (e.g., *Interventions*) of topic summaries. Available for free online access.

## Health Development Agency (HDA) Evidence Base

<http://www.hda-online.org.uk/evidence>

Developed by the Health Development Agency (HDA), London, UK. It aims to present a wide range of information that could be used to inform public health practice about what works to improve health and reduce health inequalities. The HDA works with key experts and organizations in the field including the Cochrane and Campbell Collaborations, the National Health Service Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (NHS CRD) and the NHS Evidence for Policy and Information (EPPI) Centre. Topics covered span a wide range of the public health field, from bio-medical interventions to the impact of social factors on public health. The resource is a searchable database of online systematic reviews of effectiveness, literature reviews, meta-analyses, expert group reports, and other review-level information available in PDF format. Specific criteria are used to determine the content of the database. The focus is on electronically available information relevant to public health. Available for free online access.

## Health Evidence Bulletins Wales

<http://hebw.uwcm.ac.uk/>

Maintained by the Health Promotion Division of the National Assembly for Wales. The objective of the bulletins is to assist health authorities with local and national planning for the delivery of health and social care. A specific methodology is used to determine the content of the bulletins. The bulletins include information from randomized controlled trials as well as high quality evidence from observational and other studies. The resource includes summary statements of current research in specific subject areas, details of supporting evidence in chart form, online links to the evidence if available for free access, and summary charts with references and grades of evidence. The bulletins are listed in alphabetical order. Users can search the bulletins by keyword but cannot navigate to specific sections. Available in print and online for free access.

## Healthy People 2010 Information Access Project

<http://phpartners.org/hp/>

Developed by the National Library of Medicine and the Public Health Foundation (PHF). The resource provides links to pre-formulated (filtered) PubMed searches for selected *Healthy People 2010* objectives. It also provides links to chapters in *Healthy People 2010*, relevant guidelines, and MEDLINEplus topics. *Healthy People 2010* is a prevention agenda for the United States composed of national health objectives designed to establish goals to reduce significant preventable threats to health. The Information Access Project is ongoing and aims to cover additional *Healthy People 2010* focus areas in the future. All pre-formulated searches are reviewed by PHF staff or by external subject matter experts. The resource can be searched by focus area and further searching can be performed in PubMed.

## **NHS Economic Evaluation Database (NHS EED)**

<http://agatha.york.ac.uk/nhsdhp.htm>

Produced by the National Health Service (NHS) Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) at the University of York, UK. A database of structured abstracts of economic evaluations that compare two or more treatments or care alternatives and examine costs and outcomes. Full economic evaluations in the database include cost-benefit analyses, cost-utility analyses, cost-effectiveness analyses, cost-minimizations analyses, and cost-consequence analyses. The economic evaluations are identified by searching: Current Contents-Clinical Medicine, MEDLINE, CINAHL, and EMBASE; hand-searching specific journals; examining working papers from research centers specializing in health economics; and assessing published technology assessments for inclusion in the database. Identified abstracts are checked and edited by a health economist. The database can be searched and combined with other NHS CRD databases: Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE) and Health Technology Assessment Database (HTA). The database is updated monthly and available for free online access.

**[Evidence-Based Medicine Resources from the Lamar Soutter Library web site.](#)**