

Methods: Mind the Gap Webinar Series

Approaches to Evidence Synthesis in Systematic Reviews of Public Health Interventions Methods and Experiences of the Community Preventive Services Task Force

Presented by

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)







Evidence Synthesis in Systematic Reviews of Public Health Interventions:

Methods and Experiences of the Community Preventive Services Task Force (CPSTF)

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Disclaimer

The findings and conclusions in this presentation do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention "provides administrative, research, and technical support for the Community Preventive Services Task Force."

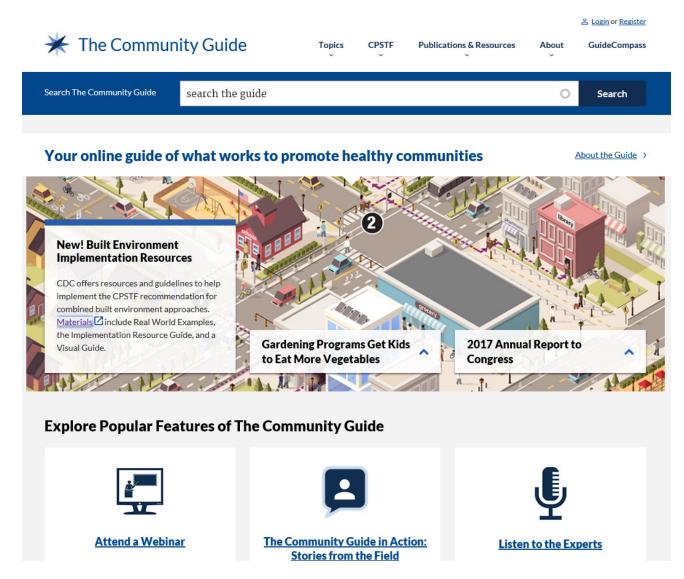
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Webinar Agenda

- Community Guide (CG) and Community Preventive Services Task Force (CPSTF)
- Conceptual approach to an evidence-base for public health
- Methods in systematic reviews of population-based interventions
- Practice-based evidence in Community Guide reviews
- Systematic reviews on economic evidence
- Persistent challenges

The Guide to Community Preventive Services (The Community Guide)

- Systematic reviews of populationbased interventions
 - Communities
 - Health care systems
- Methods for the broad consideration of evidence on effectiveness and other issues
- Reviews support the findings of the Community Preventive Services Task Force (CPSTF)



Community Preventive Services Task Force (CPSTF)

 Is an independent, nonfederal, unpaid panel of public health and prevention experts

Oversees the systematic review process and development of methods

 Produces recommendations and identifies evidence gaps to help inform decision making

2018 Community Preventive Services Task Force

Jonathan C. Fielding, MD, MPH, MBA

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Douglas Campos-Outcalt, MD, MPA

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UCLA School of Public Health

UMD-New Jersey Medical School

Colorado Trust

Mercy Care Plan

University of Chicago

University of Illinois

Loma Linda University

Drexel University

Johns Hopkins University

University of Pennsylvania

University of Michigan

George Mason University

University of Wisconsin

Colorado Dept. of Public Health

Rush University

Topics with CPSTF Intervention Reviews and Recommendations (1996-2018)

Health equity (Determinants of Health)

Reviews by Risk Behavior	Reviews by Specific Condition
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Alcohol abuse/misuse Cancer Oral Health

Tobacco use Mental health

Poor nutrition Increasing Appropriate Vaccinations

Physical inactivity Violence

Unhealthy sexual behaviors Motor vehicle injuries

Cardiovascular disease prevention Diabetes

Reviews Organized by Setting Reviews Organized by Life Stage

Worksite health promotion Adolescent health

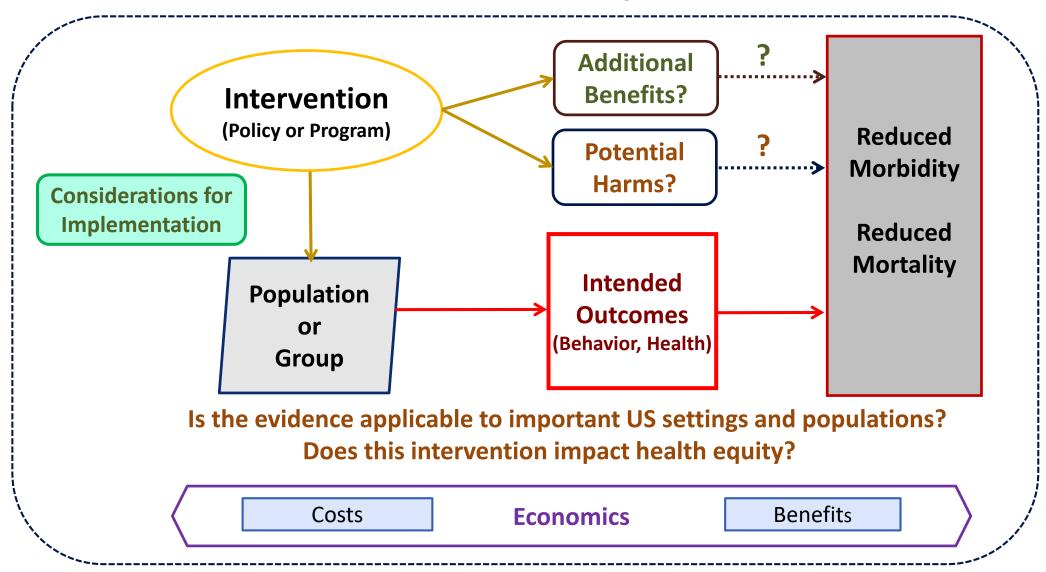
Special Projects

Health communication Emergency preparedness

CPSTF Topic Priorities for New and Expanded Intervention Reviews (2015)

- Cardiovascular disease prevention and control
- Diabetes
- Increasing physical activity
- Obesity prevention and control
- Social determinants of health
- Violence prevention
- Mental health: Improving
- Independent living for older adults
- Injury prevention
- Environmental health (health equity)
- Sleep health
- Substance abuse

Issues Considered in Community Guide Reviews



CPSTF Goal: Providing Sets of Related Intervention Reviews and Findings

Health Equity: Education Programs and Policies	# Included Studies	CPSTF Finding
Center-based Early Childhood Education	49	Recommended-strong
Expanded In-School Learning Time	11	Insufficient Evidence
Full-Day Kindergarten Programs	55	Recommended-strong
High School Completion Programs	177	Recommended-strong (11 types)
School-Based Health Centers	46	Recommended-sufficient
Year-Round Schooling	29	Insufficient Evidence
Out-of-School-Time Academic Programs -Programs with minimal academic content -General academic content -Math-focused -Reading-focused	1 21 5 23	Insufficient Evidence Recommended-sufficient Recommended-sufficient Recommended-strong

U.S. Partners in Reviews and Recommendations

Community Preventive Services Task Force (CPSTF)

Public Health Prevention Perspective

Smoke-free Policies

Mass Media Campaigns

Provider Reminder Systems

Quitlines

U.S. Preventive Services
Task Force (USPSTF)

Primary Care Prevention Perspective

Tobacco Smoking Cessation for Adults

"A" Recommendation (Screening through treatment)

Complementary Preventive Services and Options

Community Preventive Services Task Force (CPSTF)

U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF)

Public Health Prevention Perspective

Primary Care Prevention Perspective

Smoke-free Policies

Community-level interventions

Mass Media Campaigns

System-level interventions

Provider Reminder Systems Screening, assessment and advice

Community-level referable preventive service

Quitlines ← Cessation counseling, medications



What Do Interventions to Improve Population Health Look Like?

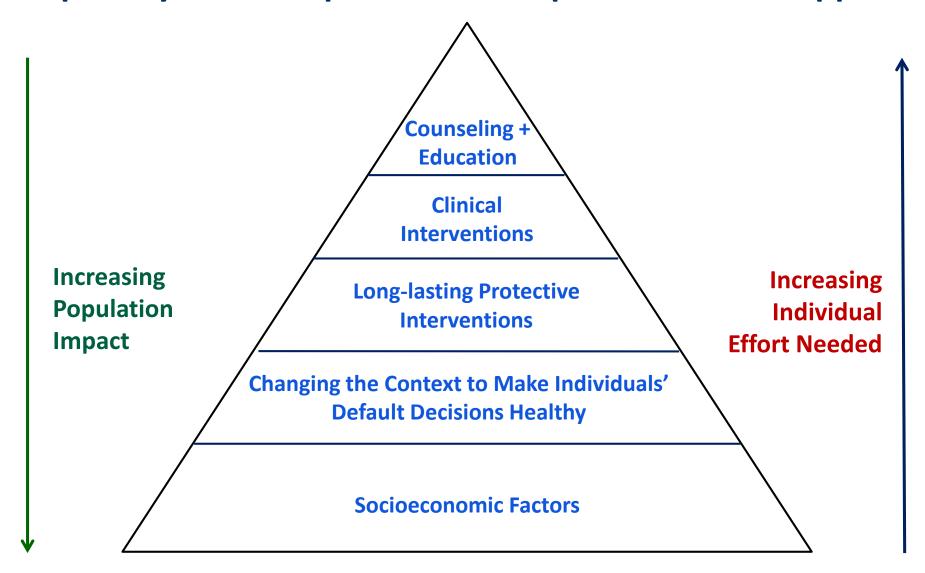
- Programs, services, and policies
 - Implementation scale may be broad and variable
 - Often implemented opportunistically with available resources

- Interventions can be complicated
 - Multiple facets that vary across locations (components, settings, populations)
 - Often adapted to meet local needs and resources
 - Rarely implemented in isolation—several potential confounding factors to consider
 - Results may depend on context

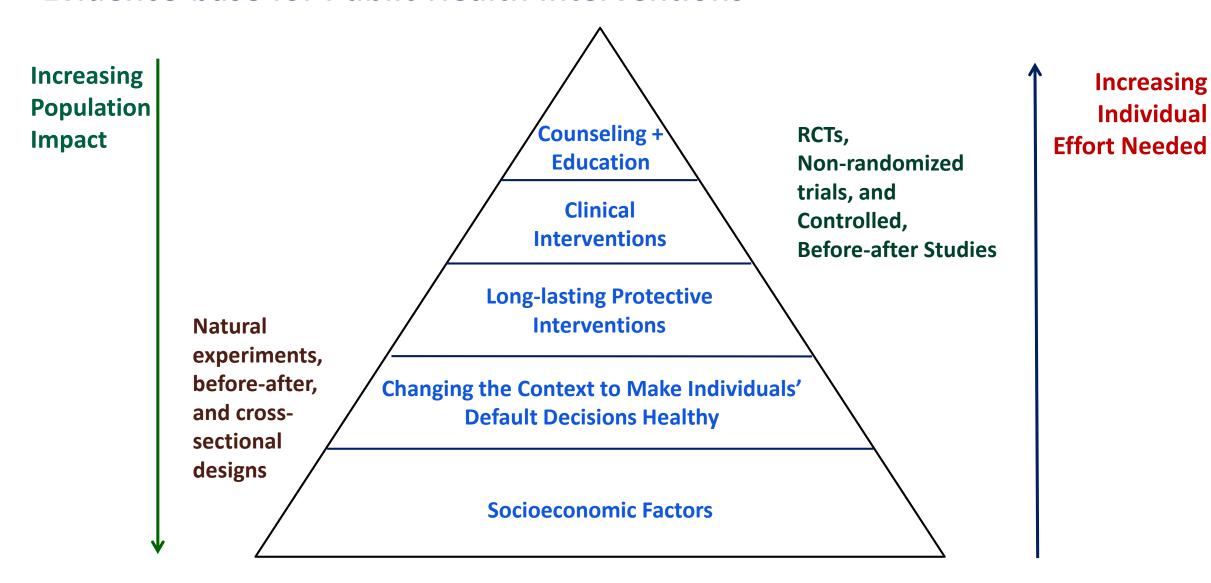
Critical Questions to Address About a Public Health Intervention

- Does it work?
- How well?
- For whom?
- Under what conditions?
- How does it influence health disparities?
- What is the cost?
- Does it provide value?
- What are important considerations for implementation?
- Perspective: <u>Tentative answers</u> to these questions are preferable to no answers.

Health Impact Pyramid: Importance of Population-based Approaches



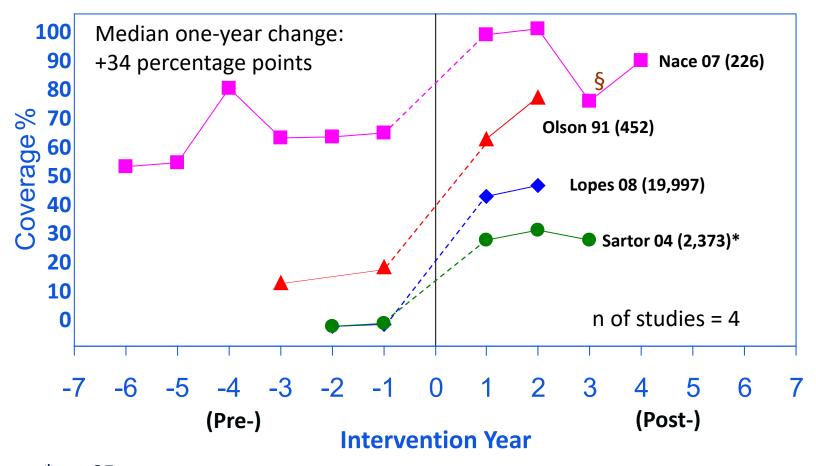
Evidence-base for Public Health Interventions



Rationale for Including a Range of Study Designs in CG Reviews

- Retains evidence potentially important for assessments of generalizability
- More information to consider for each of our research questions
 - "Lumped" effects
 - Effect modification
- Potential biases can be assessed
 - Empirically
 - By considering systematic sources of bias that may vary by study design
 - Triangulation

Observational Studies as Evidence on Effectiveness: Time-Series Studies of Worksite Influenza Vaccination Programs



^{*}p <.05 § Shortage year

Implications of A Broad Consideration of Evidence

- Most Community Guide (CG) reviews of population-based interventions will encounter mixed bodies of evidence requiring categorization and evaluation of subsets of studies
- Most CG reviews will not be candidates for meta-analyses
- CPSTF will be faced with challenging deliberations
 - How to weigh subsets of evidence?
 - What is a consistent (robust) demonstration of intervention effectiveness?
 - Are the magnitudes of effect meaningful?

Selected CG Methods Relevant in the Consideration of Evidence on Population-based Interventions

Steps in Systematic Intervention Reviews for the Community Guide

General Approach	Methods Steps in Community Guide Systematic Reviews
Experts help us to set up our	CPSTF works with partners to identify important topic areas for work
systematic review	Recruit Coordination team (Team) of partners and subject matter experts
	Team identifies important interventions to review within the topic
	Defines intervention, causal pathway, research questions, inclusion criteria, applicability
	Search literature (Included/excluded study designs based on Team/CPSTF decision)
CG staff, with Team and CPSTF oversight,	Assess relevance: screening
systematically identify and evaluate evidence on	Assess quality (both study design suitability and quality of execution)
effectiveness and other	Analyze and summarize findings using simple summary effect measures
important issues	Assess applicability to U.S. populations, settings, intervention characteristics
CPSTF uses the review as the	CPSTF translates the evidence into a conclusion and recommendation
basis for their guidance to the field	CG staff post, publish, and disseminate CPSTF findings and evidence gaps

CG Methods Step: Study Design Inclusion/Exclusion

- Exclusion of intervention evidence based on study design is an important, early scoping decision of the Coordination team and CPSTF
- Judgment is usually topic, intervention, or outcome-specific
 - For this topic/intervention, which study designs are stronger and weaker?
 - How well do they control for internal and external threats to validity?
 - What might be learned from comparing the findings of studies using different designs to evaluate the same community preventive service?

Common Team and CPSTF Deliberations on Inclusions by Study Design

CG Suitability		Type of Intervention Review		
of Study Design	ranga di Pangangan di Kabupatèn Kabupatèn Kabupatèn Kabupatèn Kabupatèn Kabupatèn Kabupatèn Kabupatèn Kabupatèn	Health System Intervention	Community Program	Policy Intervention
Greatest	RCT-individual			
	RCT-Group			
	Controlled Before-After			
Moderate	Interrupted Time-Series	0		
Least	Before-after	0		
	Cross-sectional			0

Included

Included for some intervention reviews

Excluded

Community Guide Methods for Assessment of Study Quality

- Quality category-based assessment of threats to internal and <u>external</u> validity
- Assessment tool with basic judgment prompts
 - Coordination team input on review-specific modifications
 - Coordination team input on threshold decision rules
- Two evaluators with consensus resolution
- Overall quality assessment for each study
- Quality-based <u>exclusions</u>
- Category-specific assessments across the included studies

A Comparison of Study Quality Assessment Categories

Community Guide Study Quality
Assessment Categories
(category limitations: up to 9)

Description (1)

Sampling (1)

Measurement (2)

Data analysis (1)

Interpretation of Results (3)

Other (1)

Cochrane Risk of Bias Categories

(Category assessment: high, low, unclear)

Random sequence generation

Allocation concealment

Blinding of participants and personnel

Incomplete outcome data

Selective reporting

Other sources of bias

Additional Differences

- -Conduct-specific focus
- -Sensitivity analyses/exclusions
- -Outcome-specific assessments

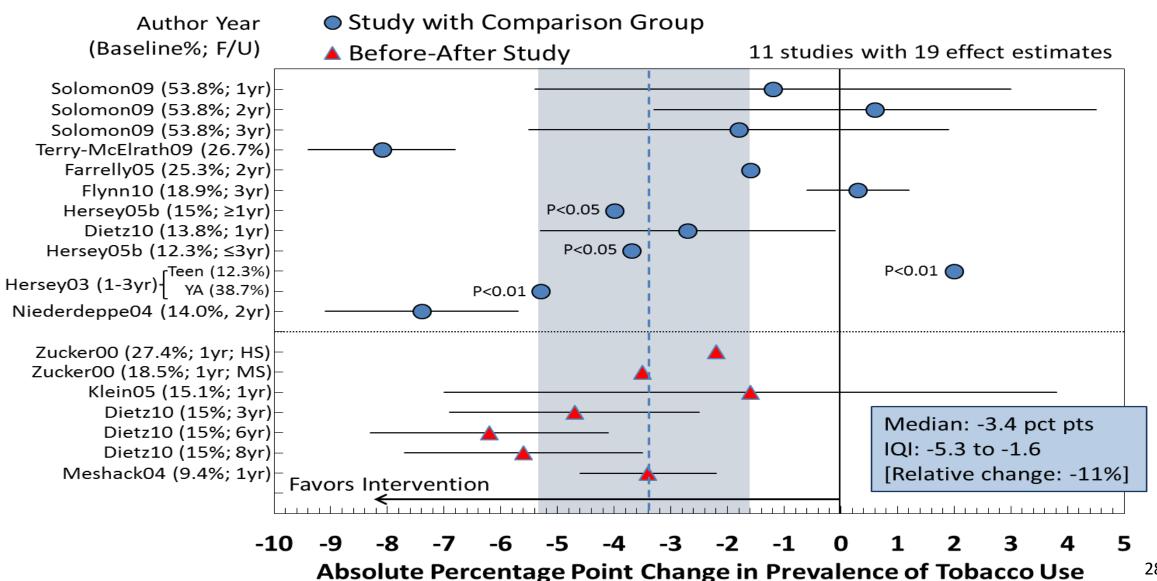
Community Guide Systematic Review Body of Evidence Display

Quality of	Suitability of Study Design			
Execution	Greatest Moderate*		Least*	
Good (0-1 limitations)	2 studies	0 studies	0 studies	
Fair (2-4 limitations)	3 studies	2 studies	12 studies	
Limited (>4 limitations)	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded	

^{*} Study design exclusions are a review-specific Coordination team and CPSTF decision

Example of a Community Guide Review Summary Results Display:

Effectiveness of Mass-Reach Health Communication Interventions in Reducing Tobacco Use among Youth



CPSTF Strength of Evidence Assessment Table

CPSTF Rating for the Strength of Evidence on Effectiveness	Required <u>suitability of study</u> <u>design</u> within the included studies	Required <u>quality of</u> <u>execution</u> within the included studies	Required <u>number of</u> <u>studies</u> of that study design suitability and quality of execution	Overall assessment of the distribution of study results for the recommendation outcome or outcome pathway	Overall assessment of the (population) health impact based on findings from included studies for the recommendation outcome or outcome pathway
	Greatest	Good	2 or more	Consistent	Meaningful
STRONG	Moderate or a mix of Greatest and Moderate	Good	5 or more	Consistent	Meaningful
	Greatest	Fair <u>or</u> a mix of Fair and Good	5 or more	Consistent	Meaningful
	Included studies meet criteria for S and supports UPGRADING the stre	LARGE			
	Greatest	Good	1	NA	Meaningful
SUFFICIENT	Moderate or a mix of Greatest and Moderate	Fair <u>or</u> a mix of Fair and Good	3 or more	Consistent	Meaningful
	Least, or a mix of Least and higher	Fair <u>or</u> a mix of Fair and Good	5 or more	Consistent	Meaningful
	Included studies meet criteria for STRONG body of evidence, but CPSTF assessment finds one or more issues and theref strength of the evidence to SUFFICIENT (see supplementary table)				ore decides to DOWNGRADE the
INSUFFICIENT (Identified evidence does not meet one or more criteria)	Identified evidence does not meet minimum requirements or combinations based on design suitability, quality of execution, or number of studies		Or overall assessment is that study findings are Inconsistent	Or overall assessment is that studies demonstrate Small or No Effects	



Community Guide Methods: Formal Consideration of Applicability

- Coordination team identifies important characteristics on applicability for inclusion in the review (abstraction, evaluation, stratified or subset analyses)
 - Settings of implementation
 - Target populations
 - Intervention components
- Coordination team makes a priori judgements on likely generalizability with respect to the factor in question

Example: Mass Media Campaigns to Reduce Tobacco Use

Category	Factor(s)	a priori	Considerations
Settings	- US/Non US - National/state/local	Probably applicable	Population-level responses to media messages may be similar
Population	- Age (youth/adults)- Gender- Race/ethnicity- SES	Unsure	Interventions implemented for different populations might have differential effectiveness
Intervention characteristics	-Stand-alone campaign -With other interventions -Comprehensive program	Probably applicable	Promotion content might be more important than implementer type
	IntensityTargetingContentChannelPlacementTagging	Unsure	These factors might influence intervention effectiveness

Potential Conclusions on Applicability

- Stratified subsets of included studies are examined for evidence of effectiveness on each characteristic and factor:
 - Are these interventions effective across all examined settings and population groups?
 - Are there gaps (settings or populations that were not examined)?
 - Should differences or gaps be identified in Task Force findings (beyond the call for additional research)?
- Available evidence is assessed for concordance with a priori expectations
 - Confidence in generalizability is a function of the priors and the empirical evidence
 - Initial judgment on importance can inform CPSTF decisions and placement of findings
 - Useful in the absence of evidence

CPSTF Options Guidance Table for Findings on Applicability

A Priori Expectation for Factor (aspect within a factor)	Evidence Quality/Quantity	Similar Results Across Strata?	Potential Conclusions (Based on evidence + broader literature + Team/CPSTF deliberations)
	Moderate or High	Consistent	Applicable
Probably Applicable	Little or None	Consistent/Not applicable	Likely Applicable, with Evidence Gap, OR Evidence Gap, OR Split Finding
	Little	Inconsistent	Likely Applicable, with Evidence Gap, OR Evidence Gap, OR Split Finding
	Moderate	Inconsistent	Evidence Gap, OR Applicability Concerns, with Evidence Gap
	High	Inconsistent	Applicability Concerns, OR Split Finding
Probably Effect Modification	Moderate or High	Inconsistent	Applicability Concerns, OR Split Finding
	Little or None	Inconsistent/Not applicable	Applicability Concerns, OR Split Finding
	Little	Consistent	Applicability Concerns, with Evidence Gap, OR Evidence Gap, OR Split Finding
	Moderate	Consistent	Evidence Gap, OR Likely Applicable, with Evidence Gap
	High	Consistent	Applicable, OR Likely Applicable
	Moderate or High	Consistent	Applicable, OR Likely Applicable
Unsure	Little or None	Consistent/ Inconsistent/Not Applicable	Evidence Gap
	Moderate	Inconsistent	Applicability Concerns (effect modification)
	High	Inconsistent	Applicability Concerns, OR Split Finding

Example of Community Guide Review Findings on Applicability

Category	Factor(s)	Findings from Pertinent Studies	Assessment
Settings	- US/Non US - National/state/local	Majority US studiesResults comparable for national and state- based campaigns	Applicable
Audience	- Age (youth/adults)- Gender- Race/ethnicity- SES	 Effective for both youth and adults Effectiveness demonstrated for many population groups 	Applicable
Intervention characteristics	-Stand-alone campaign -With other interventions -Comprehensive program	Effective in all three situations	Applicable
	IntensityTargetingContentChannelPlacementTagging	 Intensity directly associated with effectiveness Channel: Most studies used TV ads Tagging documented as effective in increasing use of cessation services 	Discuss findings in Rationale

CPSTF Options Table for Adjustments to Strength of Evidence Conclusions

Given: A body of evidence which otherwise meets CPSTF Translation Table requirements for a conclusion on effectiveness and recommendation regarding use.

<u>Upgrade</u> Strength of Evidence Rating from Sufficient to Strong

-Large magnitude of effect

Included studies meet criteria for SUFFICIENT but not STRONG body of evidence, AND the magnitude of effect is meaningful and substantial in a population or public health context

<u>Downgrade</u> CPSTF Conclusion to Recommend Against

-Evidence of an Important Harm

There is adequate evidence of at least one important harm of meaningful impact on health in a population or public health context.

-Evidence: Increasing Health Inequity

There is adequate evidence that intervention would increase health inequity in the population to an unacceptable degree.

-Adequate evidence of no effect

Intervention studies provide either strong or sufficient evidence of no (or a very small) effect on any of the recommendation outcomes.

<u>Downgrade</u> Task Force Finding to Insufficient Evidence

-One or more serious concerns about the included evidence or results

Included studies meet criteria for Strong or Sufficient body of evidence, but overall CPSTF assessment incorporates at least one of the following concerns:

- Serious, recurring flaws or gaps in study methods or reporting
- Applicability findings or gaps
- · Concerns with link to health outcomes
- Harms or equity concerns

Downgrade Strength of Evidence Rating from Strong to Sufficient

-One or more concerns about the included evidence or results

Included studies meet criteria for Strong body of evidence, but overall CPSTF conclusion incorporates one or more of the following concerns:

- Moderate, recurring flaws or gaps in study methods or reporting
- Applicability findings or gaps
- Concerns with link to health outcomes

Narrow the Recommendation (Option for Split Findings)

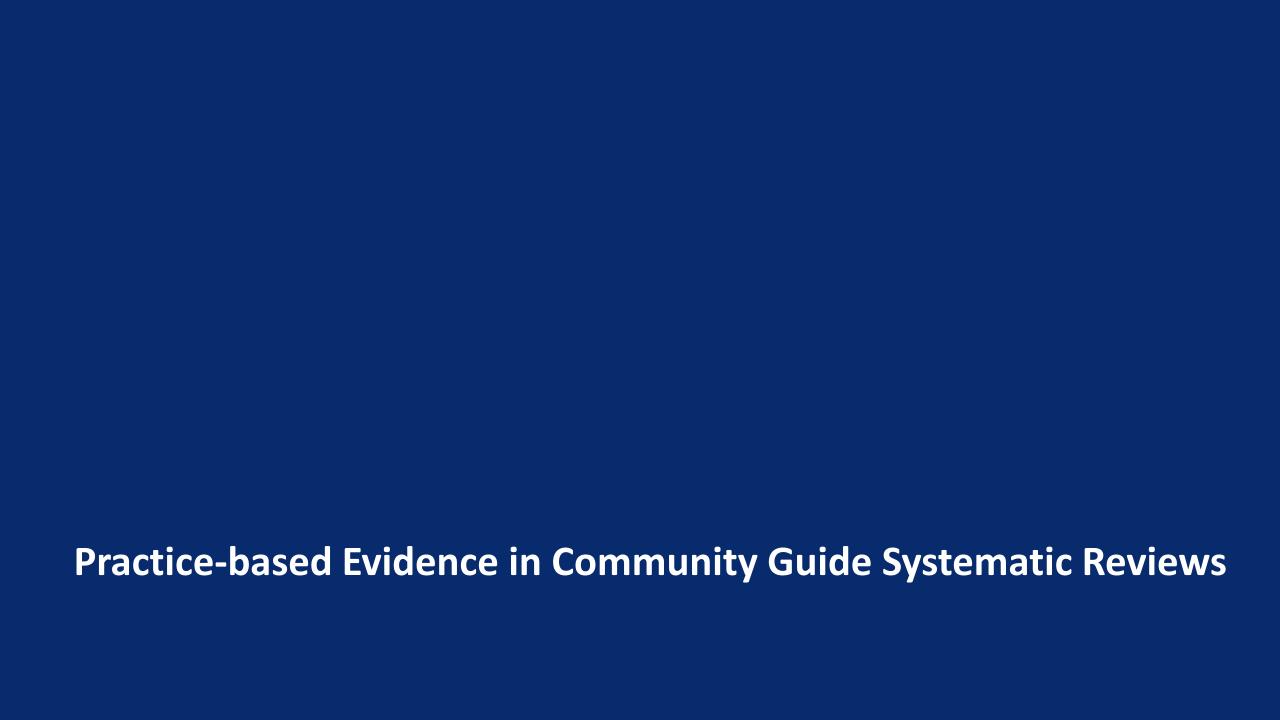
-Differential findings or gaps across the body of included studies

Appropriate subsets of the included studies have important differences in the evidence on effectiveness such as:

- Differential and meaningful findings on applicability
- Differential evidence, or concerns on harms or equity

CPSTF Systematic Review Findings (n=234; 2001-2017)

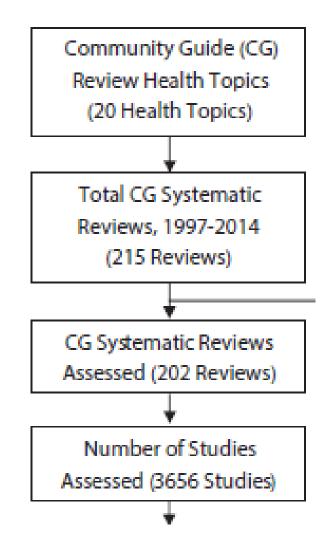
CPSTF Finding and Strength of the Supporting Evidence	Number of Findings (%)	Comments
Recommended based on <u>Strong</u> Evidence on Effectiveness	86 (37%)	Evidence of effectiveness driven by studies with comparative designs
Recommended based on <u>Sufficient</u> Evidence on Effectiveness	54 (23%)	Evidence of effectiveness driven by findings from observational studies
Insufficient Evidence	92 (39%)	#1: Not enough studies #2: Inconsistent effects
Recommended-against use	2 (1%)	Sufficient evidence of harms (1) and unfavorable direction of primary outcome (2).



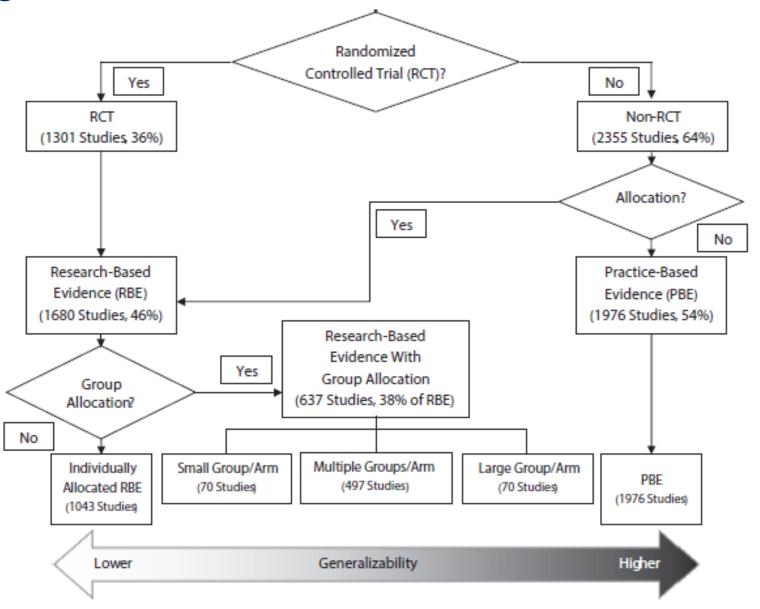
Study: Practice-based Evidence in Community Guide Reviews

Research Goals

- Develop operational definitions of practice-based (PBE) and research-based evidence (RBE)
- Determine the relative contributions of evidence types within and across CG topics and reviews
- Characterize differences in evidence by
 - Study design
 - Intervention type
 - Setting
 - Study location
 - Study quality of execution



Evidence Categorization Process and Results



Adapted from Figure 1: Vaidya N, Thota AB, Proia KK, Jamieson S, et al. Practice-Based Evidence in Community Guide Systematic Reviews. Am J Public Health 2017; 107: 413-420.

Distribution of Evidence for Selected Community Guide Topic Areas

CG Topic	# Reviews	# Intervention Studies	% Practice-based Evidence (#)	% RBE-Group (#)	% RBE-Ind. (#)
Alcohol	10	218	79% (173)	5% (11)	16% (34)
Tobacco Use	21	550	61% (337)	12% (66)	27% (147)
Health Equity	11	185	61% (112)	5% (10)	34% (63)
Violence	23	147	52% (76)	20% (29)	29% (42)
Physical Activity	14	147	48% (71)	28% (41)	24% (35)
Mental Health	5	121	33% (40)	19% (23)	48% (58)
Obesity	12	73	23% (17)	22% (16)	55% (40)
Cancer	37	397	21% (85)	28% (111)	51% (201)
Totals (all 20 topics)	202	3656	54% (1976)	17% (637)	29% (1043)

Adapted from Table 2: Vaidya N, Thota AB, Proia KK, Jamieson S, et al. Practice-Based Evidence in Community Guide Systematic Reviews. Am J Public Health 2017; 107: 413-420.

Characteristics of Studies by Type in Community Guide Intervention Reviews

Characteristic	Research-based Evidence # Studies (%)	Practice-based Evidence # Studies (%)	Total
Intervention Type			
Program	1588 (58%)	1166 (42%)	2754
Policy	27 (4%)	692 (96%)	719
Program + Policy	65 (36%)	118 (64%)	183
Setting			
Health care	645 (64%)	365 (36%)	1010
Worksite	112 (46%)	129 (54%)	241
Community	725 (34%)	1403 (66%)	2128
Health care + community	198 (71%)	79 (29%)	277
Suitability of Study Design (CG)			
Greatest	1632 (71%)	655 (29%)	2287
Moderate	16 (4%)	424 (96%)	440 (12%)
Least	32 (3%)	897 (97%)	929 (25%)

Systematic Reviews of Economic Evidence

- Prioritization
- Scope
- Search for evidence
- Abstraction and evaluation
- Synthesis of findings
- Conclusions on economics

- Economic projects prioritized by CPSTF for selected effectiveness reviews
- CG economics team conducts review with oversight from CPSTF and effectiveness coordination team

- Prioritization
- Scope
- Search for evidence
- Abstraction and evaluation
- Synthesis of findings
- Conclusions on economics

- Adopts scope of effectiveness review
- Evidence from World Bank designated High-income countries
- Societal perspective

- Prioritization
- Scope
- Search for evidence
- Abstraction and evaluation
- Synthesis of findings
- Conclusions on economics

- Dedicated search for economic evidence
 - Adopts search strategy/terms from the effectiveness review. Adds economic keywords
 - Search expanded to include economic relevant databases
 - Includes evidence identified in the effectiveness review

- Prioritization
- Scope
- Search for evidence
- Abstraction and evaluation
- Synthesis of findings
- Conclusions on economics

Abstraction of economic evidence

- Intervention
 - Components and component costs
- System-related expenditures
 - Components and component costs
- Outcomes
 - Outcome-attributable costs
 - Outcome-attributable benefits

- Prioritization
- Scope
- Search for evidence
- Abstraction and evaluation
- Synthesis of findings
- Conclusions on economics

Evaluation of economic evidence

- Components driving cost, expenditures, benefits identified
 - Intervention costs
 - Expenditures
 - Outcome costs/benefits
- Quality evaluated for each estimate based on inclusion/absence of drivers
 - Completeness of capture

- Prioritization
- Scope
- Search for evidence
- Abstraction and evaluation
- Synthesis of findings
- Conclusions on economics

- Standardized estimates after adjustment
 - Intervention duration; population size
 - Inflation (CPI)
 - US dollars
- Evidence categorized
 - Intervention cost estimates (median; IQI)
 - System expenditures (median; IQI)
 - Cost-effectiveness estimates (median; IQI)
 - Net benefit/benefit to cost ratios

- Prioritization
- Scope
- Search for evidence
- Abstraction and evaluation
- Synthesis of findings
- Conclusions on economics

- CPSTF reporting on
 - Intervention costs
 - Comparison of intervention costs to change in system expenditures (+/- productivity)
- CPSTF findings on cost-effectiveness
 - Two or more good quality study estimates
 - QALY saved < \$50,000
 - DALY averted < per capita income
- CPSTF findings on net benefit/benefitcost ratio
 - Two or more good quality study estimates
 - Positive Net benefit
 - Benefit-cost ratio >1

QALY, quality-adjusted life year; **DALY**, disability-adjusted life year

Persistent Challenges

Areas for Current and Future Work

CPSTF member turnover brings new perspectives

- Expanding literature base
 - Search and screen

Relevant, published systematic reviews

- Minimizing overlap with USPSTF recommendations
 - Primary-care referable services



Thank You!

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The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



Discussion

Additional Slides

Key References for this Presentation

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Legislative Requirements of the CPSTF

- Develop new topic areas for evidence-based recommendations
- Update existing Community Guide systematic reviews every 5 years
- Integrate federal government health objectives and targets for health improvement
- Enhance dissemination of CPSTF recommendations
- Provide technical assistance to agencies and organizations implementing recommendations
- Provide annual reports to Congress and related agencies, identify research gaps, and recommend priority areas for further examination
- Collaborate with the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, and examine how each task force's recommendations interact at the nexus of clinic and community

CG Methods: Study Quality of Execution Assessment Framework

Domain	Potential Reasons for Limitations	Maximum Limitations
Description	 Was the study population well described? Was the intervention well described? What was done? When it was done? How it was done? Where it was done? How was it targeted to the study population? 	1
Sampling	 Was the sampling frame/universe adequately described? Were the inclusion and exclusion criteria clearly specified? Was the unit of analysis the entire eligible population or a probability sample at the point of observation? 	1
Measurement	 Were outcome measures valid and reliable? Was exposure to the intervention assessed? If yes, were these exposure measures valid and reliable? 	2

Quality of Execution Assessment Framework (continued)

Domain	Potential Reasons for Limitations	Maximum Limitations
Data Analysis	 Appropriate statistical testing conducted? Reporting of analytic methods and tests? Appropriate controlling for design/outcome/population factors? Other issues with data analysis 	1
Interpretation of Results	 >80% completion rate? Data set complete? Study groups comparable at baseline? If not, was confounding controlled before examination of intervention effectiveness? Biases that might influence the interpretation of results including other events/interventions that might have occurred at the same time. 	3
Other	 Other biases or concerns not included in the previous domains (e.g., evidence of selective reporting) 	1

CPSTF Goals: Growing an Evidence-Base for Public Health Action

