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How useful is what we have? Limitations of Cochrane Reviews, the case of substance treatment in pregnancy

Original Citation


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### Treatment Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contingency Management</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>546</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motivational Interviewing</td>
<td>958</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>984</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Insufficient Evidence for Psycho-social Interventions Overall

- Insufficient evidence to support the use of Motivational Interviewing.
- No evidence to recommend one treatment over another.

### Generalisability

- >90% of all study participants were poor, African American, unemployed, with extremely limited access to medical care.
- Generalisability: Overall >90% of all study participants were poor, African American, unemployed, with extremely limited access to medical care.

### Large Losses to Follow-Up

- >90% of all study participants were lost to follow-up.
- Large losses to follow-up between studies were poor, African American, unemployed, with extremely limited access to medical care.

### Large Heterogeneity

- Generalisability: Overall >90% of all study participants were lost to follow-up.
- Generalisability: Overall >90% of all study participants were poor, African American, unemployed, with extremely limited access to medical care.

### Small Sample Sizes

- Small sample sizes across studies.
- Possibility of Type II error.