



The Cochrane Public Health Group Proposal for a new Cochrane Review

Please complete and email this form to jdoyle@vichealth.vic.gov.au
[Jodie Doyle, Review Group Co-ordinator, Cochrane Public Health Group, c/o VicHealth, 15-31
Pelham St, Carlton Sth, 3053 PH. +61 3 9667 1336 Fax: +61 3 9667 1375]

Authors completing this form must note that they are required to read and follow The Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions in preparing their review <http://www.cochrane.org/cochrane/handbook/hbook.htm>
Please also see the *Notes for Review Authors Completing the Title Registration Form* at the end of this form to help you to complete all sections.
Write your responses below in the grey shade areas.

Proposed Title (Using Standard Format - see Cochrane [Handbook section 4.2.1](#))

Interventions for reducing adverse health effects of high temperature extremes and heatwaves

Contact Author Name

Simona Vecchi

Motivation for the Review (why do you want to undertake this review)

Every summer, high temperatures and heat waves are associated to a detectable burden of mortality and morbidity throughout the world (Basu et al. 2002, Hayat et al. 2010). Climate change scenarios for the 21st century predict an increase in the number of people suffering from death, disease and injury from heat waves and other extreme weather events. The adverse health effects of heat waves are partially preventable, and after the 2003 heat wave, many European countries have devoted considerable resources in reducing the impact of extreme temperatures on health. Many cities have implemented heat wave plans that include a wide range of public health interventions suited according to local needs and available resources: however, to date, there is limited evidence of their effectiveness. In Italy since 2004 a national program for the prevention of heat health effects has been implemented with the support of the National Department of Civil Protection and the Ministry of Health. (for more details, <http://www.ccm-network.it>). National guidelines have been developed on the basis of WHO guidance (ref.) that identifies core elements of heat-health action plans and stress the need to carry out process and outcome evaluation of prevention activities put in place. Moreover, a EU ongoing project (Public Health Adaptation Strategies to Extreme weather events, PHASE) promoted within the Second Programme of Community Action in the Field of Health (2008-2013), identifies the need to overcome the lack of evidence on the effectiveness of prevention activities in order to better exploit resources devoted to preparedness and emergency measures. This review will form part of both the Italian national program and the EU project.

Description of proposal

(a) Objective

To investigate the effectiveness of public health interventions to prevent the effects of extreme of temperatures and heat waves on health.

(b) Rationale for review (what is the *need* for this review?)

After 2003 heat wave a wide range of public health measures for the prevention of heat health effects have been implemented in many European countries, just like in the U.S. in the nineties (Kovats et al. 2006, O'Neill et al. 2009). According to WHO guidelines most of national prevention plans include heat health warning systems capable to predict days of heat-associated mortality and specific interventions such as informative campaign, activation of dedicated telephone-line, and different health care and social activities.. The critical point of interventions concerns their potential effectiveness. To date measures put in place are not based on the available scientific evidence and need still to be formally evaluated. Few literature reviews on this issue have been published (Bassil 2010, Hajat 2010). Existing reviews generally show a lack of attention to potential sources of bias in the individual studies and focus on evaluating interventions that are implemented simultaneously, so that comparison of one with another has not been summarized within the reviews. Accurate estimates of effectiveness are needed in view of the increases in heat waves frequency and intensity forecasted throughout Europe and the associated negative effects on population health.

(c) Types of study

Randomised controlled trials, quasi-RCTs, controlled before and after studies, interrupted time series, non experimental studies.

(d) Participants

General population from any setting of any age, gender, ethnicity and nationality

(e) Interventions and specific comparisons to be made

Public health interventions used during heat episodes. The following interventions will be included:

- educational/information campaign
- health care activities (activation of hospitals and nursing home emergency protocols, active surveillance of high risk individuals by GPs, medical and social personnel)
- social activities (activation of telephone help-line or tele-monitoring, scheduled home visits, and delivery of pharmaceuticals provided by social workers)
- opening of cooling centers

(f) Outcomes

Primary: all cause mortality

Secondary: hospital admission

(g) Other information relevant to this proposal, including a) relevance to developing countries, and b) in highlighting issues of equity

Identifying effective intervention to reduce the health impact of the heat can improve preparedness and help to exploit available resources. Many studies showed that the impact of health is higher in specific population subgroups (i.e.elderly, people with chronic disease, having low socio economic position). The identification of effective prevention measure to be addressed to susceptible individuals may contribute to reduce inequalities in health care access.

Review author team and area of expertise

	Name	Area of expertise <i>(please indicate the background and skills of each review author and the expertise they bring to the review team e.g. content, methodology; statistics)</i>
Contact author:	Simona Vecchi	Experienced systematic reviewer. She worked as TSC with Cochrane Drug and Alcohol Group (CDAG). Methodology
Co-author(s) :	Anna Maria Bargagli	Epidemiologist. Experience in planning and conducting epidemiologic studies and public health programs for the prevention of heat-wave health effects. Content
Co-author(s) :	Manuela De Sario	Epidemiologist, Experience in epidemiological studies on air pollution and heat exposure. Methodology
Co-author(s) :	Paola Michelozzi	Epidemiologist, experience in epidemiological research on the effects of heat waves, air pollution, electromagnetic fields and cancer. Content
Co-author(s) :	Patrizia Schifano	Epidemiologist, experience in advanced statistical methods. Statistics

Do you or your co-authors have any interests in this topic that could be perceived as conflicts of interest?

Cochrane Reviews should be free of any real or perceived bias introduced by the receipt of any benefit in cash or kind, any hospitality, or any subsidy derived from any source that may have or be perceived to have an interest in the outcome of the review. It is a matter of Cochrane Collaboration policy that direct funding from a single source with a vested interest in the results of the review is not acceptable.

See <http://www.cochrane.org/docs/commercialsponsorship.htm>

Yes No

If 'yes', what are they?

Is this review the subject of specific funding and/or does it need to be finished within a specific timeframe? If yes, please give details.

Has the review already been carried out or published?

No

If yes, where has it been published?

Roles and responsibilities

TASK	WHO HAS AGREED TO UNDERTAKE THE TASK?
Draft the protocol	Bargagli, De Sario, Vecchi
Develop a search strategy	Vecchi
Search for trials (usually 2 people)	De Sario, Vecchi
Obtain copies of trials	Vecchi
Select which studies to include (2 + 1 arbiter)	De Sario, Vecchi
Extract data from studies (2 people)	De Sario, Vecchi
Enter data into RevMan	Vecchi

Carry out the analysis	Schifano, Vecchi
Interpret the analysis	Bargagli, Michelozzi, Schifano
Draft the final review	De Sario, Vecchi
Update the review	De Sario, Vecchi

Other information

Have you or a co-author written a systematic review before?..... Yes x No

 If yes, was it a Cochrane Review?..... Yes x No

Do you have a copy of the Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions?..... Yes x No

Have you attended a Cochrane Review training workshop?..... Yes No x

 If yes, which one?.....

 If no, are you planning to? Which one?.....

Do you have a copy of RevMan 5.1, the Cochrane Review Manager software? Yes x No

Have you seen the Cochrane Public Health Review Group website?..... Yes x No

Do you have ready access to email and the internet?..... Yes x No

Do you have access to:

The Cochrane Library Yes x No

 MEDLINE Yes No x

 PubMed Yes x No

 EMBASE Yes No x

Do you have access to a medical library: Yes x No

 If yes, can you order journal articles not held in the Library? Yes x No

Do you have access to reference management software: Yes x No

 If yes, which software, and what version?...PROCITE.....

Are you familiar with using RevMan 5?..... Yes x No

Are you familiar with using the databases on *The Cochrane Library*?..... Yes x No

Do you have access to a statistician (strongly recommended)?..... Yes x No

Are you aware of funding/scholarship opportunities?..... Yes No x

Do you predominantly speak/write in a language other than English?..... Yes x No

Provisional dates for submission of drafts to editorial base

| Draft PROTOCOL March 2012

| Draft REVIEW December 2012

Agreement to Editorial Review and Publication in The Cochrane Library

By completing this title registration form, you agree to submit a draft protocol within 6 months of the title being accepted for registration. If there is no correspondence from you during this period, or no draft protocol has been received, the Cochrane Review Group reserves the right to de-register the title or transfer the title to a new author.

By completing and returning this form, you are accepting responsibility for maintaining and updating the review in accordance with Cochrane Collaboration policy, i.e. you will be responsible for ensuring the review is updated at least every two years. If you are unable to update this review the Review Group reserves the right to transfer the review to a new author.

The support of the editorial team in producing your review is conditional upon your agreement to publish the protocol and finished review, together with subsequent updates, in The Cochrane Library. By completing and signing this form you undertake to publish firstly in The Cochrane Library (concurrent publication in other journals may be allowed in certain circumstances with prior permission of the editorial team.).

I understand the long-term commitment necessary when undertaking a Cochrane Review.

Form completed by: Date:

Details of contact author

Prefix (e.g. Ms, Dr): First name: Simona.....

Middle names: Family name: Vecchi.....

Email address: vecchi@asplazio.it..... Web address:

Job Title/Position: Epidemiologist.....

Department: Department of Epidemiology

Organisation: Lazio Regional Health Service

Street/Address: Via S. Costanza 53

City: ...Rome.....

State/Province:

Post/Zip code: 00198..... Country: ...Italy.....

Telephone number: +3906 83060457 Fax number: +3906 83060374.....

Mobile number:

Privacy: Hide address details Yes No
 Hide email address Yes No
 Hide mobile ph. Yes No

Bulk mailings accepted: None From primary entity only From affiliated entities only All

Country of origin: Italy Gender: Female Male

Has this author ever written a systematic review previously? Yes No

If yes, was it a Cochrane review? Yes No

Details of co-author(s)

Prefix (e.g. Ms, Dr): First name: Anna Maria

Middle names: Family name: Bargagli

Email address: bargagli@asplazio.it..... Web address: ...

Job Title/Position: Epidemiologist

Department: Department of Epidemiology

Organisation: Lazio Regional Health Service

Street/Address: Via S. Costanza 53

City: Rome.....

State/Province:

Post/Zip code: 00198..... Country: Italy.....

Telephone number: +3906 83060457..... Fax number: +3906 83060374

Mobile number:

Privacy: Hide address details Yes No
 Hide email address Yes No
 Hide mobile ph. Yes No

Bulk mailings accepted: None From primary entity only From affiliated entities only All

Country of origin: Italy Gender: Female Male

Has this author ever written a systematic review previously? Yes No

If yes, was it a Cochrane review? Yes No

Details of co-author(s)

Prefix (e.g. Ms, Dr): First name: Manuela.....
Middle names: Family name: De Sario.....
Email address: desario@asplazio.it..... Web address: ...
Job Title/Position: Epidemiologist
Department: Department of Epidemiology
Organisation: Lazio Regional Health Service
Street/Address: Via S. Costanza 53
City: Rome.....
State/Province:
Post/Zip code: 00198..... Country: Italy.....
Telephone number: +3906 83060408..... Fax number: +3906 83060374
Mobile number:
Privacy: Hide address details Yes No
Hide email address Yes No
Hide mobile ph. Yes No

Bulk mailings accepted: None From primary entity only From affiliated entities only All

Country of origin: Italy Gender: Female Male

Has this author ever written a systematic review previously? Yes No

If yes, was it a Cochrane review? Yes No

Details of co-author(s)

Prefix (e.g. Ms, Dr): First name: Paola
Middle names: Family name: Michelozzi.....
Email address: michelozzi@asplazio.it..... Web address: ...
Job Title/Position: Epidemiologist
Department: Department of Epidemiology
Organisation: Lazio Regional Health Service
Street/Address: Via S. Costanza 53
City: Rome.....
State/Province:

Post/Zip code: 00198..... Country: Italy.....

Telephone number: +3906 83060494..... Fax number: +3906 83060374

Mobile number:

Privacy: Hide address details Yes No x
 Hide email address Yes No x
 Hide mobile ph. Yes No x

Bulk mailings accepted: None x From primary entity only From affiliated entities only All

Country of origin: Italy Gender: Female x Male

Has this author ever written a systematic review previously? Yes No x

If yes, was it a Cochrane review? Yes No x

Details of co-author(s)

Prefix (e.g. Ms, Dr): First name: Patrizia

Middle names: Family name: Schifano.....

Email address: schifano@asplazio.it..... Web address: ...

Job Title/Position: Epidemiologist

Department: Department of Epidemiology.....

Organisation: Lazio Regional Health Service

Street/Address: Via S. Costanza 53

City: Rome.....

State/Province:

Post/Zip code: 00198..... Country: Italy.....

Telephone number: +3906 83060402..... Fax number: +3906 83060374

Mobile number:

Privacy: Hide address details Yes No x
 Hide email address Yes No x
 Hide mobile ph. Yes No x

Bulk mailings accepted: None x From primary entity only From affiliated entities only All

Country of origin: Italy Gender: Female x Male

Has this author ever written a systematic review previously? Yes No x

If yes, was it a Cochrane review? Yes No x

Cut and paste more co-author sections as necessary

Thank you for completing this form.