1.1.3 Cochrane organization and structure

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Cochrane currently involves over fifty Cochrane Review Groups (CRGs), responsible for supporting the production and publication of reviews within specific areas of health. The review authors working with these groups include researchers, health professionals and people using healthcare services (consumers), all of whom share a common enthusiasm for generating reliable, up-to-date evidence relevant to the prevention and treatment of specific health problems or groups of problems.

CRGs are supported in this work by Methods Groups, Centres, Fields and by the Cochrane Editorial Unit (CEU). Cochrane Methods Groups provide a forum for methodologists to discuss development, evaluation and application of methods used to conduct Cochrane Reviews. They play a major role in the production of the Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions and, where appropriate, chapters in this volume contain information about relevant Methods Groups. Members of these Methods Groups have made major contributions to systematic review methodology (Chandler 2013). Cochrane Centres are located in different countries. Collectively, they represent all regions of the world and provide training and support for review authors and CRGs in addition to advocacy and promotion of access to Cochrane Reviews. Cochrane Fields focus on broad dimensions of health, such as the setting of care (e.g. primary care), the type of consumer (e.g. children), or the type of intervention (e.g. vaccines). People associated with Fields help to ensure that priorities and perspectives in their sphere of interest reflect the work of CRGs. The CEU provides strategic support and direction, and leads initiatives to improve and assure the quality of review activity across Cochrane.