

Supporting decision makers in Chile



During the COVID-19 pandemic, policy makers need quick answers to their questions. We worked with the Chilean National Ministry of Health to create summaries of Cochrane Reviews in a format to help answer their most urgent questions.

What we did



Aim

In April 2020, we contacted the Department of Health Technology Assessment and Evidence Based Health in the Chilean Ministry of Health (HTA). We knew that they were likely providing evidence-based responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and to joint efforts could be helpful. We offered our help to summarise the existing evidence so it could be used for making decisions.



Activity

- Together with the Health Policies Informed by Evidence Unit of the HTA Department we prioritised which Cochrane reviews were most relevant based on the issues that had not been answered yet by the HTA department and their urgency, then we created an evidence agenda.
- Based on their needs and our capacity we developed tailored summaries (SUPPORT summaries) of the Cochrane Reviews.
- At the Ministry of Health's request, we presented our SUPPORT summaries to staff at the Ministry using virtual meetings.



Collaboration

Health Policies Informed by Evidence Unit of the Department of Health Technology Assessment and Evidence Based Health in the Chilean Ministry of Health.
Cochrane Chile.

Cochrane EPOC Chilean Satellite is part of the Evidence Center UC hosted by the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.

What we achieved

As of December 2020, we had produced 4 SUPPORT summaries supporting the Chilean Ministry of Health's questions on COVID-19, with another 10 in progress.

We have presented these summaries directly to over 30 policy makers at the Ministry, including the regional Heads of Department. Feedback from the Ministry was that they were grateful for this work and that it was presented in a way that could be used in decision making.

The presentation of evidence opened the dialogue between decision-makers on the considerations of implementation to the local context of the evidence. Besides, generating an instance to clarify technical doubts about the results encourages the approach to making decisions informed by evidence.

What next?

We continue to work with the Ministry of Health to support their decision making. We are working with final year medical students to support us in producing the summaries.



“We will continue to create a joint agenda with the Ministry of Health to be able to put Cochrane Systematic Reviews in front of key decision makers.”

Luis Ortiz-Muñoz

See more here:

<https://es.cochrane.org/es/recursos/evidencias-covid-19/res%C3%BAmenes-support-satellite-cochrane-epoc-chile>

What we learnt

1

Be proactive. We approached the Ministry of Health and asked what they needed. We created the research agenda together with the decision makers and the teams that support them and focused on the questions that mattered to them. We found the SUPPORT summary format was appreciated by our policymakers.

2

Prepare to listen! We weren't expecting the Ministry of Health to invite over 30 people, including regional Heads of Department, to the meeting to present the SUPPORT summaries. This gave us a great opportunity to hear about their local experiences and helped ensure our resources responded better to their needs.

3

Think about how to engage others to increase capacity. We knew that we couldn't continue to produce SUPPORT summaries without help. By engaging final year medical students in the process, we are building their skills in using evidence to support decisions, whilst also allowing us to better support the Ministry of Health – a win-win!



Learn more

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