

Integrating qualitative studies and trials in reviews: reflections from reviews about teenage pregnancy, parenthood and social exclusion

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BACKGROUND AND AIMS

- **Methods for the systematic review of qualitative studies are developing fast.**
- **Its important to keep reflecting on methods and asking whether they 'add value' to standard effectiveness reviews.**
- **Field of health promotion and public health challenging area for study of methodological development.**

REVIEW SCOPE

What is known about effective, appropriate and promising interventions...

...to reduce unintended teenage pregnancy?

- Employment and careers
- Financial circumstances
- Education and training

• Trials measuring teenage conception or birth rates

• Studies of young people's perspectives and experiences ('views' studies)

...to support teenage parents?

- Housing, Childcare
- Education and training
- Employment and careers
- Financial circumstances

• Trials measuring emotional well-being; education & training; repeat births

• Studies of young people's perspectives and experiences ('views' studies)

REVIEW PROCESS

Searching, screening and mapping

Pregnancy prevention

1) Trials (n=10)

1. Quality assessment
2. Data extraction
3. Meta-analysis

2) 'Views' (n=5)

1. Quality assessment
2. Data extraction
3. Qualitative synthesis

3) Cross-study synthesis

1) Trials (n=18)

1. Quality assessment
2. Data extraction
3. Meta-analysis

2) 'Views' (n=20)

1. Quality assessment
2. Data extraction
3. Qualitative synthesis

3) Cross-study synthesis

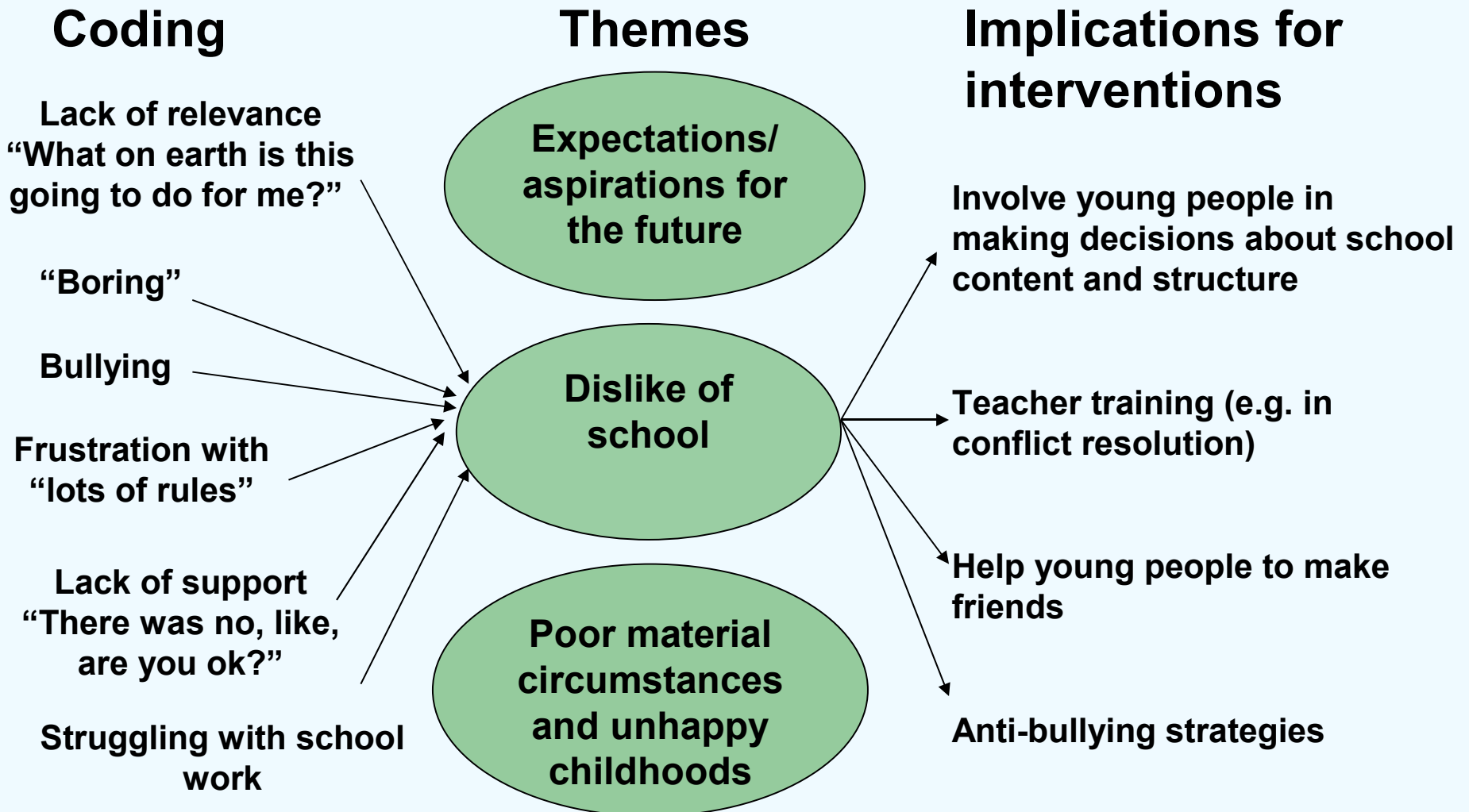
Parenting support

SYNTHESIS OF 'VIEWS' STUDIES (1/2)

Pregnancy prevention

- What are the perspectives of young people in the UK on the role of education, employment and income in teenage pregnancy?
- What are the implications for interventions to prevent unintended teenage pregnancy?
- Study findings broken down via line by line coding.
- Findings integrated across studies via listing of recurrent themes.
- Implications for interventions derived from each theme.

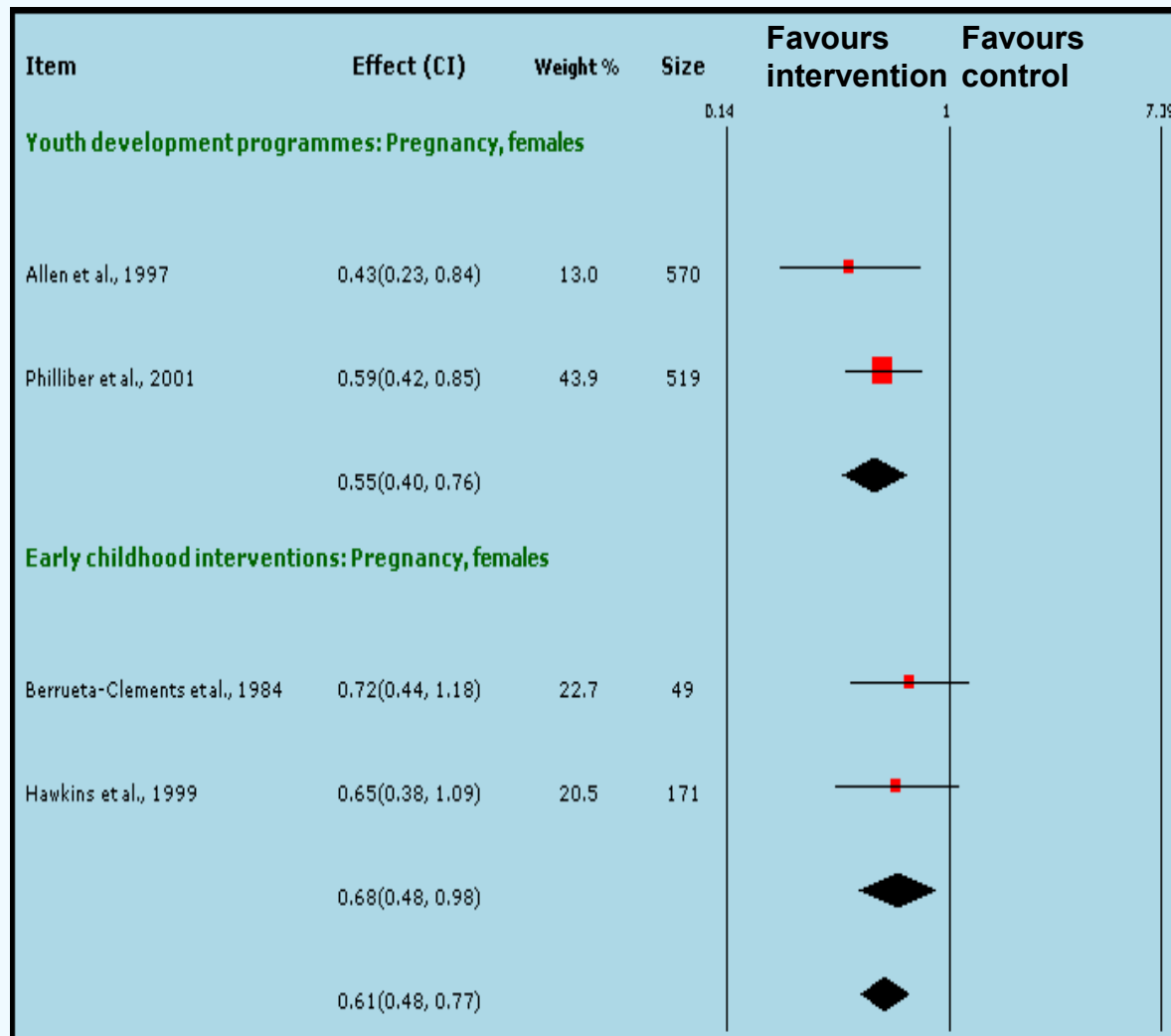
SYNTHESIS OF 'VIEWS' STUDIES (2/2)



TWO SUB-REVIEWS, EACH WITH 3 SYNTHESSES

1. Pooled effect sizes from trials.
3. Lists of themes and implications for interventions derived from young people's perspectives and experiences.
5. Identification of:
 - Effective and appropriate interventions
 - Effective but inappropriate interventions
 - Research gaps

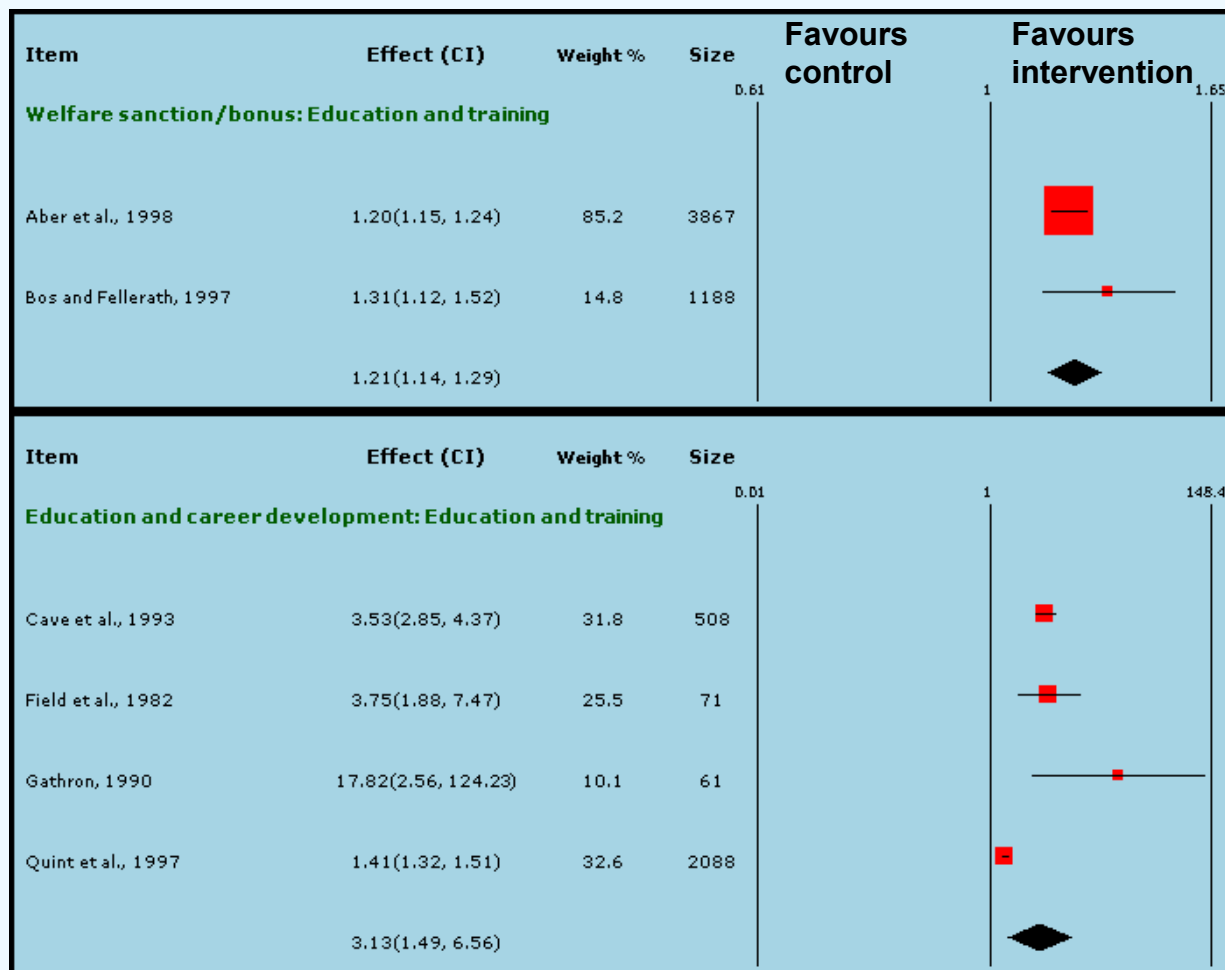
Figure 1: Effect of interventions on pregnancy rates amongst young women



Youth development and early childhood programmes in the US reduce teenage pregnancy rates by 39%

But are they appropriate for young people in the UK?

Figure 2: Effect of interventions on young parents' participation in education and training



Welfare sanctions and career development programmes in the US increase young women's participation in education and training by 21% and 213% respectively.

But are they appropriate for young parents in the UK?

The perspectives of young parents

THEMES

Struggles against negative stereotypes of teenage mothers

Diverse needs and preferences but lack of choice

Heavy reliance on family

Wider costs and benefits of education and employment

Continuity of problems existing prior to parenthood

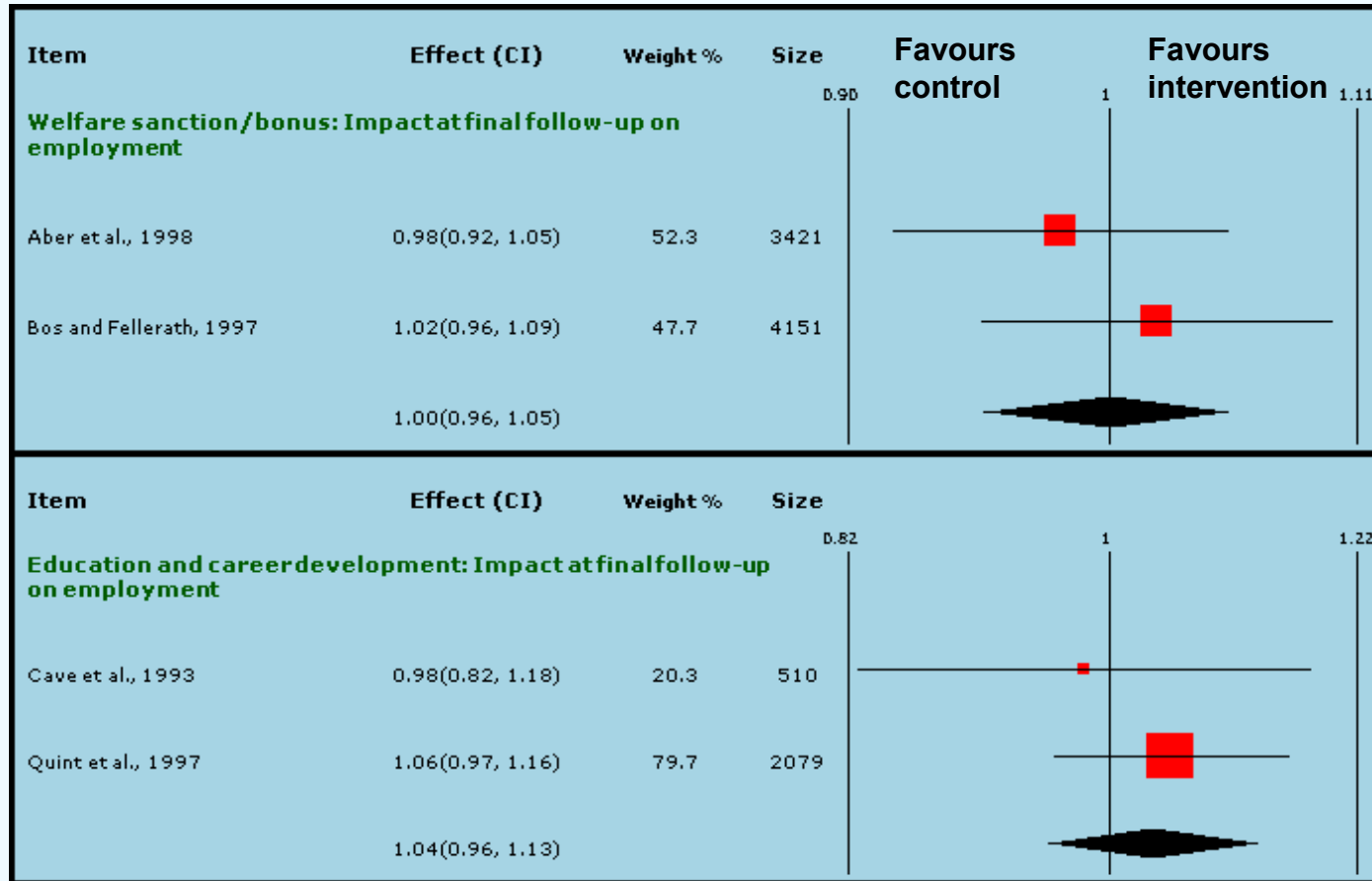
Welfare sanctions may exacerbate negative stereotypes

Welfare sanctions take away choice

Career development programmes do not cater for diversity

Welfare sanctions ignore wider costs and benefits

Figure 3: No effect of interventions on young parents long-term employment



RESEARCH GAPS

Examples of promising interventions...

...to reduce unintended teenage pregnancy

Involve young people in decision making about school structure and content

Create better employment opportunities for young people

Interventions to prevent domestic violence

...to support teenage parents

Anti-discriminatory policy and practice

Creation of viable choices

Choice of learning environments

Reality workers

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

- **In reviews dominated by US trials, including qualitative studies from the UK helped us to:**
 - **Assess appropriateness**
 - **Explore reasons for success and failure**
 - **Establish a future research agenda**
- **These methods created an opportunity to consider the views and experiences of young people.**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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