The Arts and Public Health: a review of the literature on outcomes and impact.

Provisional list of ‘included’ studies.

We are conducting a review and critical appraisal of the evidence to show how the arts can, and are being used to promote health and wellbeing in a non-clinical setting: which interventions work, which ones do not seem to work, where does the case remain unproven? Issues around implementation and equity will also be explored.

The main research question to be addressed by this study is

“What is the impact of the arts (creative or participatory) on health and wellbeing in a non-clinical setting?”

We have searched the following databases: CINAHL; Cochrane Library; Embase; Medline; PeMedline; Psycinfo; Sociological Abstracts; Web of Knowledge; Applied Social Sciences Index and Abstracts (ASSIA); International Bibliography of the Social Sciences (IBSS); EBSCO.

The criteria for inclusion/exclusion in the review are:

Studies were included if:

1) the study collects or reports primary data (so it has to collect data or it is a systematic review of primary studies);

2) the reported outcomes were described in terms of health or wellbeing or both;

3) the intervention was described as an arts-based activity.

Studies were excluded if:

1) they were not in English;

2) participants were the audience or where the author/artist defines and limits the role of the participant;

3) the intervention or activity was described as a therapy and/or led by a health professional.

Reviewing abstracts of articles against the inclusion/exclusion criteria has resulted in 157 articles being retrieved for appraisal of quality, data extraction and then synthesis.

If you are aware of suitable studies that are not included in our list (pages 2 to 12), we would appreciate if you could email a copy of the report or a link to the article to j.cloke@liv.ac.uk

Thank you for your time.


health arts and film festival on stigma and recovery." Acta Psychiatrica
Quintanilla, P. (2010). "A program designed for youth with incarcerated parents using hip
hop music as a therapeutic tool." Dissertation Abstracts International: Section B:
The Sciences and Engineering 70(12-B): 7862.
program for individuals with dementing illnesses." American Journal of Alzheimer's
Disease and other Dementias 17(3): 175-181.
Reynolds, F. (2010). "'Colour and communion': Exploring the influences of visual
art-making as a leisure activity on older women's subjective well-being." Journal of
Aging Studies 24(2): 135-143.
benefits of writing poetry for people with serious illnesses." Australasian Psychiatry
Theorell (2011). "Health effects on leaders and co-workers of an art-based
leadership development program." Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics 80(2):
78-87.
Rock Challenge: Young people's perspectives on a drug-prevention and
and evaluation of creative writing courses offered to people affected by cancer." Psycho-Oncology 18: S2.
Sanchez-Camus, R. (2009). "The problem of application: Aesthetics in creativity and
cost-effectiveness of a participative community singing programme as a health
promotion initiative for older people: protocol for a randomised controlled trial." Bmc Public Health 11.
"Learning to Relate: Interweaving Creative Approaches in Group Counseling with
Sole, C., M. Mercadal-Brotons, S. Gallego and M. Riera (2010). "Contributions of music to