The Cochrane Collaboration College for Policy at GMU

**Mission:** Ensuring that independent evidence informs health and social policy decisions to increase the benefits and reduce the costs to the public.

**Best considered:** A resource center for public officials at all levels of government and private decision makers who are weighing health and social policy options and related spending.

**Analogy:** Consumer reports for healthcare and social policy evidence: summarizes effectiveness, costs, benefits and harms.

**Goal:** Become a self-funded, go-to group for trusted evidence that makes a difference at a low and fair cost, that increases safety, reduces costs, improves public health and well-being.

**About The Cochrane Collaboration** [http://www.cochrane.org](http://www.cochrane.org)
- First-ever institutional partnership with world leader in healthcare evidence, the Cochrane Collaboration
  - Most trusted, authoritative word on healthcare and social intervention effectiveness
    - Benefits, harms, costs, accuracy, number needed to treat
  - Unites world leaders in healthcare research across 113 countries
  - Patient-centered care
  - Independent: low bias, rigid control of conflict of interest
  - Findings permeate daily life, with a number of game-changing results
  - Many countries have direct government support for Cochrane infrastructure
- **Game changing evidence**
  - Salt
  - Mammograms
  - Scared straight, drug courts
  - “Back to sleep”, oxygen for neonatal care
  - Vitamin C, Zinc, Antibiotics for sinus infection
- **Delivery changing evidence**
  - Immunization reminder systems
  - Substitution of doctors by nurses in primary care
  - Interventions for increasing the proportion of health professionals practicing in rural and other underserved areas

**About Cochrane at Mason** [http://cochrane.gmu.edu/](http://cochrane.gmu.edu/)
- Brings Cochrane brand to US healthcare and social policy debates
- Provides
Multidisciplinary analyses of health and social policy issues as they unfold
- Center-initiated evidence summaries and trend analyses
- Evidence packages by request

Staff
- Multidisciplinary faculty from across the university (10 commitments)
- Core staff (Director, Asst. Director, Manager, Public Affairs, doctoral support)

Primary products
- Evidence packages and briefings
  - Systematic review of policy/intervention effectiveness (exhaustive, authoritative)
  - Comparative effectiveness (head-to-head comparison of intervention options)
  - Benefit-cost analyses/cost-effectiveness
  - Rapid review (fast turnaround, evidence scoping)
  - Training on evidence access and evidence for decision makers
  - Policy triage
    - Scope of problem
    - Related laws/regulatory guidelines
    - Professional best practices
    - Current operational systems
    - Evidence on interventions
    - CONCLUSION on fits and gaps among policy proposal and evidence
- Publicly available, open access resources
  - Current themes and debates in healthcare and social policy
  - Mapping and graphing of constituent data and representative voting