

**EVIDENCE ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ALLIANCES FOR
HEALTH PROMOTION: A SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE
SEARCH AND QUALITATIVE ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

**Brenda Roe, Lorna Guinness, Anne-Marie Rafferty, Pamela Gillies
and the Health Promotion Information Centre**

**Centre for Policy in Nursing Research
Department of Public Health and Policy
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
and the
Health Education Authority
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1. INTRODUCTION

This project was conducted in association with the Health Education Authority for England (HEA) during February and March of 1997 on behalf of the World Health Organization (WHO) in preparation for the 4th International Conference on Health Promotion, Jakarta 21st - 25th July 1997. This report presents the objectives of the project and describes the methods used for the systematic search of published literature in English from 1986 to the present on effectiveness of alliances and community development for health promotion, and the retrieval and handling of the references generated. A total of 19 international databases were searched which generated details of 185 discrete references. An electronic database of these references has been established at the HEA with the intention that further references may be added as they become available. It forms a resource for people wishing to undertake work in this area and will provide a source of references on randomised controlled trials of alliances in health promotion from which future systematic reviews and meta-analyses can be undertaken. A qualitative annotated bibliography of published randomised controlled trials that have tested the effectiveness of health promotion using alliances is presented in this report. Details of inclusion criteria, of health promotion subject, country of location, setting, level of alliance and intervention (micro or macro) and information on health and economic outcomes, where available, have been included. The implications of this work are discussed in relation to methodological issues, further research and health policy. Conclusions are also made for the mapping of future priorities and pathways for action.

1.2. BACKGROUND

The origins of health promotion lie in the World Health Organization's (WHO) original definition of health (WHO 1946) with further impetus and recognition gained in the Health for All By the Year 2000 Initiative (HFA 2000) and the development of 38 targets for its achievement in the European Region (WHO 1984, 1985). Primary Health Care (PHC) was seen as the key for achieving HFA 2000. Further progress for health promotion was made with the Declaration of the Alma Ata (WHO 1978) and the recognition of inequalities and inequity between people being socially, politically and economically unacceptable. The promotion of health

