

Title of Intervention: Installation of Heating Systems in Public Housing

Intervention Strategies: Environments and Policies

Purpose of the Intervention: To improve the quality of life for children with asthma and their families

Population: Children with asthma

Setting: Public housing area that has a high proportion of damp housing; home-based

Partners: None mentioned

Intervention Description:

- Environments and Policies: Homes received one of four heating system installations: gas central heating, electric storage heating, solid fuel central heating or oil fired ventral heating.

Theory: Not mentioned

Resources Required:

- Staff/Volunteers: Facilitators, people to install the heating units
- Training: Not mentioned
- Technology: Not mentioned
- Space: Homes
- Budget: Not mentioned
- Intervention: Heating units
- Evaluation: Questionnaire

Evaluation:

- Design: Pre- and post-test
- Methods and Measures:
 - Questionnaires assessed respiratory symptom and absenteeism from school.
 - Inspection was done of the house by housing officers for mold, insulation and energy efficiency.

Outcomes:

- Short Term Impact: Not measured
- Long Term Impact: All respiratory symptoms were significantly reduced after the intervention. The greatest reduction was seen in nocturnal cough. School age children lost significantly less time from school for asthma.

Maintenance: Not mentioned

Lessons Learned: The intervention proved to be very effective, but very costly as well.

Citation(s):

Somerville, M., I. Mackenzie, et al. (2000). "Housing and health: does installing heating in their homes improve the health of children with asthma?" Public Health 114(6): 434-9.