

Title of Intervention: Canadian Standards Association's Standards for Playground Equipment

Intervention Strategies: Environments and Policies

Purpose of the Intervention: To reduce the number of playground injuries at schools

Population: School children

Setting: Public elementary schools in Toronto, Canada; school-based

Partners: Ontario School Board Insurance Exchange

Intervention Description:

- Environments and Policies: The Toronto District School Board worked with an independent playground consultant to assess the compliance of all playground equipment with the 1990 and 1998 Canadian Standards Association's standards and guidelines. Those not meeting the guidelines were replaced with safer equipment. By 2001, equipment had been fully replaced in 86 schools.

Theory: Not mentioned

Resources Required:

- Staff/Volunteers: Facilitators, planners
- Training: Not mentioned
- Technology: Not mentioned
- Space: Playgrounds
- Budget: Not mentioned
- Intervention: New playground equipment
- Evaluation: Injury reports

Evaluation:

- Design: Pre- and post-test with a control group
- Methods and Measures:
 - Injury reports were examined from the time period before the policy was enacted and the time period after. Injuries included those attended to by teachers or school staff as well as those in which the child went home or to a health facility. All injuries to children 4-11 years of age were included.

Outcomes:

- Short Term Impact: Not measured
- Long Term Impact: The injury rate in the intervention schools decreased. The equipment-related injury rate in the intervention schools decreased. This translated into 117 equipment-related injuries avoided.

Maintenance: Not mentioned

Lessons Learned: The Canadian Standards Association's standards were effective in identifying schools with unsafe playground equipment. Removing unsafe equipment and replacing it with equipment compliant with safety standards reduced the rate of playground injuries.

Citation(s):

Howard, A. W., C. MacArthur, et al. (2005). "The effect of safer play equipment on playground injury rates among school children." *Cmaj* 172(11): 1443-6.