

Title of Intervention: A Community-based Oral Health Program for Senior Citizens

Intervention Strategies: Campaigns and Promotions, Supportive Relationships, Individual Education

Purpose of the Intervention: To facilitate oral health care for older adults

Population: Residents of Clinton County age 55 and older who had not seen a dentist in the last 12 months

Setting: Rural Clinton County, Indiana; community-based, faith-based

Partners: Oral Health Research Initiative, local pharmacies and newspapers, the county hospital, senior clubs, churches

Intervention Description:

- Campaigns and Promotions: Promotion activities included information and stories in local newspapers, and education and special events in faith-based and community-based settings. Oral health care providers offered "Senior Day at the Dentist."
- Supportive Relationships: Volunteers provided support by assisting seniors with choosing a dentist, making the initial appointment, providing transportation and offering help with follow-up appointments.
- Individual Education: Public dental screenings provided an overview of a patient's oral health conditions and needs.

Theory: Not mentioned

Resources Required:

- Staff/Volunteers: Oral health care providers, volunteers
- Training: Not mentioned
- Technology: Not mentioned
- Space: Spaces for screenings, promotional messages
- Budget: Not mentioned
- Intervention: Promotional materials
- Evaluation: Not mentioned

Evaluation:

- Design: One group, pre- and post-test
- Methods and Measures:
 - Data collection to assess the number of new patients at each dental office

Outcomes:

- Short Term Impact: Not measured
- Long Term Impact: There was an increase in the number of senior citizens who were new oral health care patients.

Maintenance: Not mentioned

Lessons Learned: Many dentists feel challenged in treating older persons because dental schools generally have not placed emphasis on geriatric education.

Citation(s):

Koerber, L. G. and S. A. Kelly (1993). "A community-based program to facilitate dental care for senior citizens." J Indiana Dent Assoc 72(4): 18-23.