

Title of Intervention: Portable Dental Services

Intervention Strategies: Environments and Policies

Purpose of the Intervention: To increase access and utilization of dental care to underserved and uninsured children

Population: School children

Setting: New York City public schools; school-based

Partners: Bureau of Dental Health services

Intervention Description:

- Environments and Policies: Mobile dental units were used to improve the existing fixed-site clinics at public schools. Special attention was placed on adolescents who were underserved and at high risk for caries. The use of rotating mobile units allowed populations to be targeted at different schools.

Theory: Not mentioned

Resources Required:

- Staff/Volunteers: Oral health practitioners
- Training: Not mentioned
- Technology: Portable dental clinics
- Space: Not mentioned
- Budget: Not mentioned
- Intervention: Not mentioned
- Evaluation: Audit forms, observation forms

Evaluation:

- Design: Comparison study
- Methods and Measures:
 - Relative Value System audit to measure productivity
 - Observation of dental encounters and the number of users to measure utilization

Outcomes:

- Short Term Impact: Not measured
- Long Term Impact: Utilization of dental services increased significantly among adolescent students.

Maintenance: Not measured

Lessons Learned: The benefits of this system have been flexibility in placement of clinics, capability to provide comprehensive dental services, lower cost compared to fixed-site clinics and outcome equivalent to conventional dental delivery system.

Citation(s):

Herman NG, Rosenthal M, Franklin DM. Delivery of comprehensive children's dental services using portable dental clinics in NYC public schools. A six-year analysis. N Y State Dent J. Apr 1997;63(4):36-41.