

Title of Intervention: Neighborhood Asthma Coalition

Intervention Strategies: Campaigns and Promotions, Group Education, Supportive Relationships, Environments and Policies

Purpose of the Intervention: To increase awareness of asthma and improve community response

Population: African American communities

Setting: Low-income neighborhoods, schools and health clinics in St. Louis; community-based, school-based, health care facility-based

Partners: Grace Hill Neighborhood Services, Washington University in St. Louis

Intervention Description:

- Campaigns and Promotions: Campaign tactics included a media campaign, posters, flyers asthma walk-a-thon, asthma skate-out and community health fairs.
- Group Education: The Neighborhood Asthma Coalition (NAC) implemented the Open Airways Program as part of a Summer Day Camp. The Open Airways Program was designed by the American Lung Association. Lesson topics included general information and feelings about asthma, recognition and management of asthma symptoms, problem solving and decision-making regarding medication and symptom severity, identification and control of asthma triggers, activities to remain physically active and problem identification and solutions related to school and asthma. To promote an active learning process, interactive teaching methods were used, including group discussions, stories, games and role playing. Teaching materials included handouts, brightly colored posters and puppets. In addition to these lessons, students were given take-home assignments designed to reinforce the key messages in each lesson to complete with parents.
- Supportive Relationships: The NAC recruited neighborhood residents to assist in NAC activities and act as Change Asthma with Social Support (CASS) workers. CASS workers provided basic education and support to parents and children.
- Environments and Policies: The NAC conducted evaluations of current practices in the neighborhoods and discussed accessibility issues with providers. They then worked with the providers to address those issues and encourage routine visits to a primary care provider instead of using the emergency room of hospitals as a primary provider.

Theory: PRECEDE-PROCEED Model

Resources Required:

- Staff/Volunteers: Facilitators, coordinators
- Training: CASS workers were trained
- Technology: Not mentioned
- Space: Meeting space in schools and neighborhoods
- Budget: Not mentioned
- Intervention: Educational materials, Open Airways Program, posters, flyers
- Evaluation: Telephone surveys

Evaluation:

- Design: Pre- and post-test
- Methods and Measures:
 - Attendance logs recorded CASS worker interactions with community members and attendance at events.
 - Surveys assessed the parent's views of asthma as controllable, their own confidence in managing their children's asthma, their confidence in their children's ability to manage their own asthma, and their agreement with the view that, if their asthma is properly managed, children with asthma can lead full active lives.

- Index of Asthma Management assessed parental responses to questions about scenarios with their child's asthma.

Outcomes:

- Short Term Impact: There was an improvement in attitudes and beliefs about asthma. There was also an improvement in asthma management.
- Long Term Impact: Acute care rates for children with asthma decreased.

Maintenance: Not mentioned

Lessons Learned: The community organization approach to chronic disease care used in the NAC accomplished the goals of instituting a neighborhood promotional and educational campaign, encouraging involvement of neighborhood residents in planning and implementing asthma management classes and recruiting neighborhood residents to provide social support for parents and children.

Citation(s):

Fisher, E. B., R. C. Strunk, et al. (2004). "Community organization to reduce the need for acute care for asthma among African American children in low-income neighborhoods: the Neighborhood Asthma Coalition." *Pediatrics* 114(1): 116-23.

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