

Title of Intervention: Northern Manhattan Traffic Safety Program

Intervention Strategies: Group Education, Environments and Policies

Purpose of the Intervention: To decrease road-related injuries among children

Population: School-aged children under the age of 17

Setting: Urban communities and elementary schools of northern Manhattan; school-based, community-based

Partners: New York City Department of Transportation, New York City Department of Parks, American Academy of Pediatrics

Intervention Description

- Group Education: A puppet theater company presented city traffic safety education to children.
- Environments and Policy: New playgrounds were created in order to provide off-street outdoor play areas for children in the community. These playgrounds have fenced perimeters to prevent easy access to the street by children at play, and many have sprinklers to deter children from playing in the streets around open fire hydrants. The program was also influential in moving existing summer outdoor programs for children from blocked off streets to the newly refurbished park areas.

Theory: Not mentioned

Resources Required:

- Staff/Volunteers: Puppet theater company, staff of Department of Parks
- Training: Not mentioned
- Technology: Not mentioned
- Space: Classrooms
- Budget: Not mentioned
- Intervention: Skit for puppet theater company, new park equipment
- Evaluation: Northern Manhattan Injury Surveillance System data

Evaluation:

- Design: Cohort
- Methods and Measures: Northern Manhattan Injury Surveillance System data provided traffic injury data

Outcomes:

- Short Term Impact: Not measured
- Long Term Impact: The average number of traffic injuries among children declined significantly. The largest intervention impact seems to have been on pedestrian injuries of those at greatest risk, the 6 to 10 year age range.

Maintenance: Not mentioned

Lessons Learned: Not mentioned

Citation(s):

Durkin, M. S., D. Laraque, et al. (1999). "Epidemiology and prevention of traffic injuries to urban children and adolescents." *Pediatrics* 103(6): e74.

Davidson, L. L., M. S. Durkin, et al. (1992). "The epidemiology of severe injuries to children in northern Manhattan: methods and incidence rates." *Paediatr Perinat Epidemiol* 6(2): 153-65.