

Title of Intervention: Increasing the Use of Child Restraints in Motor Vehicles

Intervention Strategies: Campaigns and Promotions, Group Education

Purpose of the Intervention: To increase child restraint use

Population: Hispanic community members

Setting: Health centers, day care centers and neighborhoods in the west sector of Dallas, Texas; health care facility-based, community-based

Partners: The Texas Transportation Institute

Intervention Description:

- Campaigns and Promotions: Pamphlets about the program and general information were distributed through local stores, churches and community centers. Local Spanish-language radio and television shows were used to distribute educational materials about child safety seats. Pediatricians at the health centers promoted child safety seat use with "prescriptions" for proper seat use. Class instructors participated in health fairs and events sponsored by the health center. The program was promoted through block parties, raffles, games designed to promote safety seat use, local festivals and other events.
- Group Education: Child safety seat classes were held in Spanish and English. Parents were required to take a class in order to receive a car seat. The program offered traffic safety workshops which included information on vehicle safety, driver's licenses, immigration, social security laws and proper installation of child safety seats. Classes for parents and children were conducted by a Hispanic policewoman known as "La Protectora" who explained safety laws and procedures.

Theory: None mentioned

Resources Required:

- Staff/Volunteers: Class leaders, staff to run events, health center pediatricians
- Training: Not mentioned
- Technology: Not mentioned
- Space: Room for education classes
- Budget: Not mentioned
- Intervention: Car seats, class curriculum in Spanish and English, pamphlets, information sheets, health fairs, event planners, raffles, games
- Evaluation: Observers

Evaluation:

- Design: Cohort
- Methods and Measures: Observations of safety seats and seat belt use were made at three locations: the community health center and day care centers where the interventions were held and the parking lots of eight grocery stores used mostly by Hispanics.

Outcomes:

- Short Term Impact: Not measured
- Long Term Impact: Child safety seat use increased significantly in all three settings, particularly in the health centers.

Maintenance: Not mentioned

Lessons Learned: An intervention that incorporates community, culture and religion may be successful with racial or ethnic populations. The use of child safety seats and restraints was found to be associated with adult driver's seat belt use.

Citation(s):

Istre, G. R., M. A. McCoy, et al. (2002). "Increasing the use of child restraints in motor vehicles in a Hispanic neighborhood." *Am J Public Health* 92(7): 1096-9.