

Title of Intervention: The Community Dental Facilitator Project

Intervention Strategies: Campaigns and Promotions, Supportive Relationships

Purpose of the Intervention: To facilitate access to oral health services

Population: Lower income, urban, Canadian parents

Setting: Strathcona-Seymour neighborhood of Vancouver, British Columbia; community-based

Partners: Local community groups, committee consisting of parents, teachers and oral health care providers

Intervention Description:

- Campaigns and Promotions: Facilitators, who could speak the three common languages in the community, promoted their role in the community daily by sending letters to parents and attending community events.
- Supportive Relationships: They facilitated individual families' access to funding by determining their eligibility, working with financial assistance workers, assisting parents to complete the necessary forms and working with the government to expedite the process. Once parents had obtained the funding, the facilitators recommended several dentists to each family. In some cases, the facilitators took the children to the appointment.

Theory: Not mentioned

Resources Required:

- Staff/Volunteers: Chinese, Vietnamese and English speaking individuals, certified dental assistant
- Training: Training of facilitators in procedures to help families apply for funding
- Technology: Equipment for dental screening
- Space: Space for oral assessments
- Budget: Not mentioned
- Intervention: Space for family assistance
- Evaluation: Flashlight-and-tongue depressor assessment, printed questionnaires, access to records

Evaluation:

- Design: Pilot
- Methods and Measures:
 - Questionnaire to identify parents' barriers to getting treatment for their children
 - Record of the number of children enrolled in the dental benefit program

Outcomes:

- Short Term Impact: The number of children that had been enrolled for dental benefits significantly increased. At the end of the initial funding period, the number of dental appointments made was greater in the screened group than the self-referred group.
- Long Term Impact: Not measured

Maintenance: Not mentioned

Lessons Learned: Barriers to dental care for lower income children go beyond economics. A community facilitation model can improve lower income children's access to existing dental services and may reduce the barriers to access for some children requiring treatment.

Citation(s):

Harrison, R. L., J. Li, et al. (2003). "The Community Dental Facilitator Project: reducing barriers to dental care." J Public Health Dent 63(2): 126-8.