

Title of Intervention: The Access to Baby and Child Dentistry Program (ABCD)

Website: www.abcd-dental.org

Intervention Strategies: Environment and Policy, Campaigns and Promotions, Supportive Relationships

Purpose of the Intervention: To prevent and control major dental problems and costs

Population: Lower income, Medicaid-eligible children under age five and their families

Setting: Private dental offices in Spokane, Washington; community-based, faith-based, health care facility-based

Partners: Spokane District Dental Society, University of Washington, the State Medical Assistance Administration

Intervention Description:

- **Environment and Policy:** In the new ABCD program, enrolled children received enhanced benefits that included coverage for three fluoride varnish treatments per year for children at high risk of caries, sealants and fillings in primary teeth and annual family preventative oral health instruction. All routine dental services for children were included.
- **Campaigns and Promotions:** The staff members from the State Medical Assistance Administration and the Spokane Regional health district carried out community outreach through agencies and the media. Outreach took place at health fairs, Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Supplemental Nutrition Program centers, Head Start, food bank, churches, welfare offices and immunization clinics.
- **Supportive Relationships:** The health district provided orientation and follow-up for families to ensure that they knew how to identify a certified provider and utilize care.

Theory: Not mentioned

Resources Required:

- **Staff/Volunteers:** Health district staff, university faculty
- **Training:** Not mentioned
- **Technology:** The Medicaid Management Information System (a computerized database)
- **Space:** Not mentioned
- **Budget:** Not mentioned
- **Intervention:** Promotional materials, supplies for oral health treatments, educational materials
- **Evaluation:** None mentioned

Evaluation:

- **Design:** Experimental
- **Methods and Measures:**
 - Records to assess the proportion of children who had at least one dental claim during the period

Outcomes:

- **Short Term Impact:** Not measured
- **Long Term Impact:** There was an increase in utilization of services. Those in the intervention group utilized dental services more often than those in the control group.

Maintenance: Not mentioned

Lessons Learned: In terms of serving rural communities, the ABCD program points to the need for more vigorous outreach and follow-up efforts and more emphasis on preventive visits by outreach workers. Of the general population, children from low-income families have the greatest need for and get the most benefit from dental services. Efforts to serve this population are important, and partnerships to achieve this goal are needed.

Citation(s):

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Nagahama, S. I., S. E. Fuhrman, et al. (2002). "Evaluation of a dental society-based ABCD program in Washington state." J Am Dent Assoc 133(9): 1251-7

Grembowski, D. and P. M. Milgrom (2000). "Increasing access to dental care for medicaid preschool children: the Access to Baby and Child Dentistry (ABCD) program." Public Health Rep 115(5): 448-59.

Kaakko, T., E. Skaret, et al. (2002). "An ABCD program to increase access to dental care for children enrolled in Medicaid in a rural county." J Public Health Dent 62(1): 45-50.