

Title of Intervention: An Oral Health Promotion Program for Vietnamese children

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

Purpose of the Intervention: To improve oral health outcome for Vietnamese preschool children

Population: Inner-city Vietnamese preschool children

Setting: Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada; community-based

Partners: Vancouver Health Department

Intervention Description:

- Group Education: A video on infant dental health called 'Healthy Teeth, Happy Children', the English translation of a familiar Vietnamese proverb, was made available in five languages. The community dental health worker (CDHW) used this video in presentations to 'mums 'n tots' groups at local community centers and neighborhood houses.
- Campaigns and Promotions: An article written by the CDHW was featured in a local Vietnamese magazine and distributed around the community. Other activities included child dental health booths at local festivals and a neighborhood health fair, window displays near bus stops during Dental Health Month and an infant and child oral care brochure for nurses.
- Supportive Relationships: The CDHW continued contact with the mothers through counseling sessions and follow-up telephone calls. One-on-one oral health counseling between mothers and the CDHW occurred at immunization visits.

Theory: Not mentioned

Resources Required:

- Staff/Volunteers: Community dental health worker
- Training: Not mentioned
- Technology: Telephones, audiovisual equipment
- Space: Community centers, neighborhood houses
- Budget: Not mentioned
- Intervention: "Healthy Teeth, Happy Children" video, magazine articles, dental health booths, window displays, oral brochures
- Evaluation: Questionnaire, mouth mirror, explorer, flashlight

Evaluation:

- Design: Cohort
- Methods and Measures:
 - Interview/questionnaire by the CDHW to assess parenting skills, awareness of the community outreach activities and suggestions about improving child dental health
 - Dental examinations to assess the dental health of participating children

Outcomes:

- Short Term Impact: Not measured
- Long Term Impact: Participating children 18 months of age and older had significantly fewer decayed surfaces than at baseline. Infant feeding and comforting practices reported by mothers were significantly better than at baseline.

Maintenance: Not mentioned

Lessons Learned: This oral health promotion program was successful in large part because of lay health educators.

Citation(s):

Harrison, R. L. and T. Wong (2003). "An oral health promotion program for an urban minority population of preschool children." *Community Dent Oral Epidemiol* 31(5): 392-9.