LOGIC MODEL

Ohio Head Start Oral Health Special Project

8-13-02

Conditions

Multiple Barriers to Access

Head Start children, like all low-income children, "enjoy" the highest rate of dental coverage. YET, they also experience the highest rates of tooth decay, the most unmet dental care needs, the highest rates of dental pain, and the fewest dental visits (Edelstein, 2000).

Head Start staff and parents are instrumental in making sure children get the care they need. Parent-related barriers (e.g., education & income) and staff-related barriers (e.g., staff-turnover) contribute to the problem.

As providers of oral health care, dentists seem unwilling to provide care to low-income young children because of the Medicaid system and the age of the children.

Assumptions

Multiple barriers to access to oral health care services can be addressed through:
-Education
-Collaboration-
-Intervention (e.g., through statewide and professional dental entities, HS/EHS programs)
-Parent involvement/ advocacy for child
-Monitoring
-Medicaid system

Multi-pronged assessments can shed light on barriers.

Barriers to access may be related to:
- age of child
- type of coverage (e.g., Medicaid)

Facilitating access may be related to:
- child's enrollment in Head Start

Inputs, Activities, Outputs

Local, regional, state, national dental, medical & policy entities

Medicaid System

Dentists in private practice and public systems

Parents

Head Start Programs

Research/ Evaluation Support

Preschool oral health (open-mouth) screening survey

Dentists' mail survey

Telephone interview of HS/EHS parents about barriers

Telephone interview HS/EHS staff about barriers

Telephone Interview of HS/EHS staff about innovations/ "approaches that work"

→

Short-term Outcomes

- Understand barriers
- Develop strategies to address barriers
- Implement promising practices/ "approaches that work"

→

Intermediate Outcomes

Improved access to oral health care as measured by:
- Medicaid utilization data
- Head Start Program Information Report (PIR)
- Annual data from sentinel preschool sites

Improved oral health status of HS/EHS children as measured by:
- Head Start Program Information Report (PIR)
- Follow-up to pre-school oral health (open-mouth) screening survey

→

Long-term Outcomes

The Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Oral Health Services and The Evaluation Services Center, University of Cincinnati