

Analyzing Project Ideas

Issue	Considerations	Examples
<p>Scientifically sound approaches and health outcomes</p>	<p>Are there established clinical or community-based protocols or guidelines recommended by national organizations?</p> <p>Has there been a consensus conference or an evidence-based review?</p> <p>Who are the experts in the area/state who can provide us with information on appropriate approaches for the project?</p>	<p>Recommendations for Using Fluoride to Prevent and Control Dental Caries in the United States. <i>MMWR</i>, 50 (RR14):1-42, Aug 17, 2001. www.cdc.gov/mmwr</p> <p>Promoting Oral Health: Interventions for Preventing Dental Caries, Oral and Pharyngeal Cancer, and Sport-Related Craniofacial Injuries. <i>MMWR</i>, 50(RR-21):1-13, Nov 30, 2001. www.cdc.gov/mmwr</p> <p>NIH Consensus Development Conference on Diagnosis and Management of Dental Caries Throughout Life. <i>J Dent Edu.</i> 65 (10):935-1179, Oct 2001. www.nidcr.nih.gov.</p> <p>For expert advice, contact the state oral health program (see list at www.astdd.org) or the nearest dental school (see list at www.adea.org) for resource people.</p>
<p>Appropriateness for target population</p>	<p>Is the approach developmentally appropriate? Has it been used effectively in this age group?</p> <p>Will any cultural beliefs or health behaviors make it unacceptable to members of the target population?</p> <p>Will potential barriers such as transportation or need for multiple appointments interfere with participation and acceptance?</p>	<p>Dental sealants are most effective in certain permanent teeth, which do not usually start erupting until children turn 5 or 6 years old; sealants are also used in primary teeth, but effectiveness is not as well documented.</p> <p>Fluoride mouthrinses are not appropriate for most preschool age children since they have not developed sufficient motor skills to swish and spit.</p> <p>Healthy snacking ideas that require significant preparation time or foods that are expensive or not eaten by the family probably will not be used.</p>

Analyzing Project Ideas

<p>Tracking health outcomes and behavioral changes</p>	<p>How often do we need to check on progress? How long will it take to do this?</p> <p>What measures do we use?</p> <p>Should we collect both qualitative and quantitative information?</p> <p>How do we record and analyze the information?</p> <p>Who is available to help us do this?</p>	<p>You cannot track progress without first establishing baseline data on a group.</p> <p>Measuring prevention of or reductions in dental caries in a group will usually take at least 1-2 years, if not longer; various standardized methods that vary in complexity are available to document changes.</p> <p>Measuring improvements in periodontal health of mothers may be accomplished after a week or two, and measured over selected months or after a year.</p> <p>Changes in behavior may occur immediately and then fade over time, or may occur gradually; decide when periodic reinforcement is needed. Track behavior change over short intervals and then longer ones. Reasons for lack of progress can be queried so other approaches might be used; reasons for successful changes (supports) can also be identified.</p>
--	--	--