


Involving Students in Public Health Initiatives

Allied Directors Meeting
Philadelphia, PA
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Erie, Pennsylvania



Objectives

- Describe access to care issues in Erie, PA
- Discuss alliances between Fortis Institute Dental Hygiene Program and Public Health Agencies
- Identify difficulties and positive outcomes of our alliances

Background

- City of Erie has a poverty rate of 22%
- Refugee population has increased 800% since 2006
- PA Access insurances reduced dental coverage for adults



Alliances

- North West PA Area Health Education Center
- Erie County Diabetes Association
- Community Health Net
- Greater Erie Community Action Center
- Advisory Council for Refugee Health
- Multicultural Community Resource Center

Diabetes Education Classes

- Since 2010:
 - We have participated in courses for newly diagnosed or referred diabetics
 - Present dental education, discuss diabetes/perio link
 - Inform of our preventive care clinic services
 - Have treated 21 people in the clinic who came because of the class

Community Health Net

- 3-4 referrals a month
- Clients have already been screened and diagnosed:
 - Periodontal treatment needed
- Those referred have limited financial resources, little or no insurance coverage

CHN

- | | |
|---|--|
| Positives | Negatives |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students have many experiences treating periodontal disease• Oral health education is provided• People without insurance coverage can receive treatment | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• High appointment failure• Poor completion rate• Some cases too difficult for students due to medical conditions and/or severity of periodontal disease |

GECAC

- Greater Erie Community Action Committee
- Head Start
- We provide required school screening exams
 - See 55-75 children a year
 - Dental exam, prophylaxis, fluoride varnish, x-rays if needed
 - Refer for restorative treatment

Erie County Multicultural Community Resource Center




Refugee Arrivals in Erie, PA

Oct. 2012-Sept 2013	Country of Origin	Oct. 2013-March 2014
292	Bhutan	115
52	Burma	49
4	Cuba	2
33	Dem. Rep. of Congo	5
11	Eritrea	1
2	Ethiopia	3
94	Iraq	35
2	Jordan	0
1	Liberia	0
3	Nepal	4
0	Russia	2
1	Sierra Leone	0
43	Somalia	79
16	Sudan	8
10	Syria	0
20	Ukraine	3
584	Total	306

* #'s from Pennsylvania Refugee Resettlement Program





Bhutanese Population
Since 2005 over 46,000 Bhutanese refugees have arrived in the United States
Majority spent over 20 years in camps



Refugee Camps

- No electricity
- High #'s of population on anti-depressants
- Betel nut use common

Student Interactions

- November 2012
 - 10 students, 58 senior Bhutanese participants
 - Dental health education
 - Dental screening exams
 - Assembled, demonstrated and distributed power brushes to those who participated in the screenings

Methods

- Interpreters at the MCRC had three weeks prior to class to help participants complete medical history forms.
- Simple PowerPoint with mostly pictures
- Students spoke in short sentences, then waited for the interpreter to translate
- Screenings and small group lessons followed presentation

Challenges

- Translator did not have much dental knowledge, struggled with descriptor words
- Q and A session difficult
- Screenings performed in small medical rooms with minimal equipment and lighting

Positives

- The participants were so patient and grateful
 - Power brushes a big hit!
- The students working in small groups teaching homecare, overcoming language barriers with hands-on education
- The caseworkers had a starting point for dental treatment needs

Results

- 22 from first group came to the clinic for treatment
- 12 of those actually completed initial treatment
- 6 of those 12 are in recall system

Barriers to Continuing Care

- Availability of translators
- Transportation to our clinic
- Clinic operating hours
- Severity of periodontal disease
- Medical conditions (High BP)
- Medical/Dental IQ of participants

Student Interactions: MCRC

- December, 2012 and March, 2014
- Preschool dental health lessons
- Dental screenings (2014)
 - 16 Children seen, age range 3-5
 - Suspicious area(s) seen in 4 children(25%)

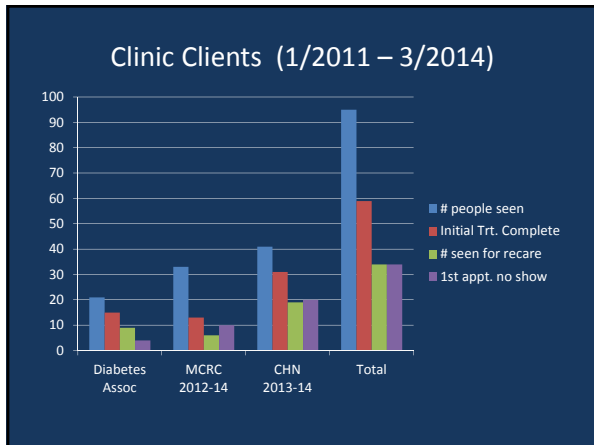
Preschoolers



Student Interactions: MCRC

- October, 2013
- Dental education and screenings
- 2 interpreters, including one signing for the deaf population
- Mixed age group – young adults through seniors – total of 38 participants, 17 screened





- ### Plans - MCRC
- Schedule quarterly education classes with screenings
 - Open up classes to other refugees
 - Work with MCRC and refugee advisory board to tackle issues with transportation and clinic hours.
 - Develop a better tracking system with CHN to ensure participants are receiving necessary follow-up treatment.

Plans - CHN

- Work with CHN to track and share patients
- Implement experiential learning for students with a rotation to a CHN site.
- Encourage more diabetes class participants to seek dental care
- Increase student involvement with the diabetes education classes

Questions?