Taking to the Streets A healthy sexuality risk reduction nursing outreach initiative

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Service de santé publique



At a glance...

- The Health Sexuality Risk Reduction Outreach Initiative – *Brief overview*
- The Evaluation Strategy Quantitative and qualitative approaches
- Evaluation Recommendations A few examples
- The Nurses in Outreach Implications for nursing practice



SDHU Catchment





The Healthy Sexuality Risk Reduction Outreach Initiative - Overview











Program Objectives

There were four key objectives:

- 1. Outreach to harder-to-reach populations;
- 2. Increasing access and reducing barriers to sexual health and risk reduction services;
- 3. Development of community partnerships;
- 4. Sustainability and effectiveness.





Evaluation Plan

Phase I

Development of questionnaire and pilot testing

Phase II

Questionnaire implementation

Phase III

Staff and partner interviews





Findings – Clinic Site Differences

- At PHN/NP sites (98% $\stackrel{\frown}{_{_{_{_{}}}}}$)
 - Over 540 client contacts for sexual health counselling, birth control and screening
 - > 270 client contacts for STI testing and treatment
- At PHN-only sites (x6)
 - > 60:40 male to female ratio
 - Main reasons for attending = STI/Sexual Health, Hep B, Hep C and HIV counselling and testing
 - Vaccinations





Findings - Questionnaire

- Demographics:
 - > ~ 75% of clients were under 25 years of age
 - ✓ Of these, 65% were 15-18 year olds
 - > 9% Aboriginal or Métis
 - > 10% identified various cultural identities beyond English, French and Canadian
- 1/3 indicated 'no family doctor'
- Overall, 40% rated their health as Very Good to Excellent, while ~11% rated their health as Fair or Poor





Findings - Questionnaire

- Top reasons for attending the clinics:
 - Pap screening <u>and</u> birth control
 - > Time and location convenient
 - Wanted STI testing
- Learned about the service through "word of mouth"
- Most were "very satisfied" with the service
- Nurses/NP are well-suited to meet the needs of clients
- Risk behaviours and benefits of counselling





Recommendations

A total of 19 recommendations were made under 4 broad themes, resulting mainly from interview findings:

- 1. Outreach to priority populations
- 2. Increasing access and reducing barriers
- 3. Community partnerships
- 4. Sustainability and program effectiveness



The Nurses in Outreach





Implications for Practice

- May 2008—clinic moved to a downtown mall, which made services more accessible for our target population
- May 2009—offered "drop-in" hours only: Monday and Friday 0830-1530
 - in 2008 we saw ~ 9,000 clients
 - in 2009 we saw 10,000 clients and 50% of these were "drop-ins"
- Street outreach one afternoon and one evening a week



Issues/Obstacles



- Lack of primary care health practitioners
- Public health mandate
- Scope of practice
- Time



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