

University of Windsor

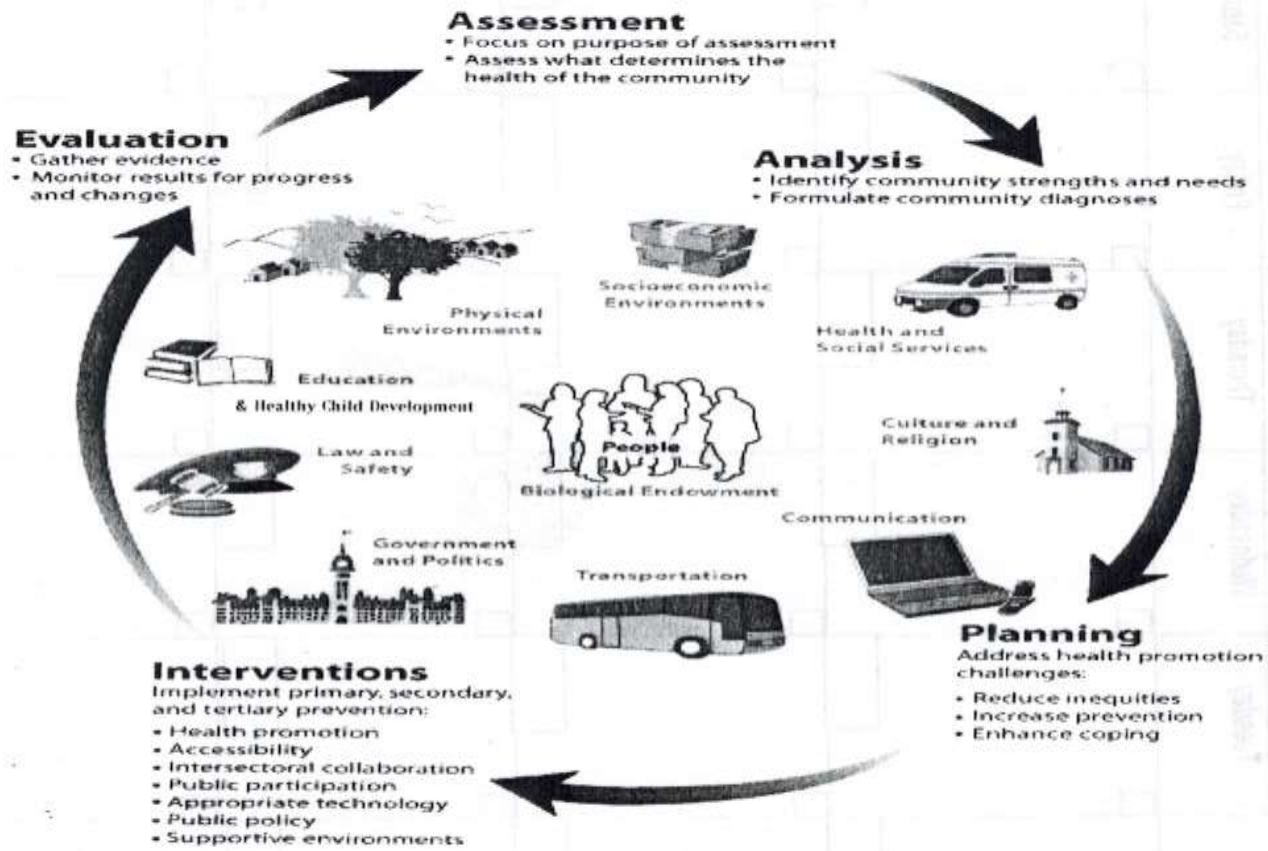


Nursing Students Support Multicultural School Aged Children Living in Low Socioeconomic Conditions to Meet Their Social Determinants of Health

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Community Health Promotion Model



Yiu, L. (2012). Community care. In L. Stamler, L., & L. Yiu. Community Nursing: A Canadian perspective, 3rd ed. Toronto, ON: Pearson Canada, p. 216.

Population Demographics

- Windsor is the 4th most multicultural city in Canada
- 27.1% are immigrants living in Windsor
- Each culture influences how health practices are valued
- Each social determinant of health is important for well-being

Population Demographics

- Windsor had the highest unemployment rate in Canada for years at 9.7%
- 7.3% of Windsor people are unable to find work now
- 1 in 5 adults spend >50% income on rent
- 16, 000 children & youth live in poverty

School Health History



Collaborative Partners

Nursing Students work collaboratively with:

- the Windsor Essex County Public Health Nurses in the Comprehensive School Health Program
- the Principal and Vice Principal of each school & various School Teachers & Staff
- Parents & Caregivers
- Children's Aid Society, and other Community Partners.

Health Screening Services

- Health screening for vision with a Snellen chart
- Hearing assessments applying Webber, Rinne and Whisper tests
- Measuring height & weight; documented on WHO graph to determine average, above or below average



Screening continued

- Hair & scalp assessment for nits, lice or abnormalities
- Oral mouth & teeth assessments for concerns
- Fine motor skills in colouring their own report book
- Gross motor skills while walking, climbing stairs etc.
- Observation of exposed skin for abnormalities
- Assessing mood and feelings reported by each child



Physical Environment

- Safe friendly classroom environment for health screening
- Hand hygiene
- Observe, correct, or report any school or playground hazards to teachers and principal
- Promote recycling and garbage waste reduction
- Discussing environmental health issues with students during health fairs and classroom presentations



Documentation



- All health screening results documented in a report booklet to be sent home to the child's family by the school teacher
- Booklet is created with pictures and simple text for each assessment
- Measurements are printed in both Metric and Imperial measures
- The front page is a letter describing if it is recommended that the child be followed for further vision, hearing or dental assessment and how to do so

Education

- Health teaching 1:1 during health screening re: dental hygiene, nutrition, physical activity, sleep, hydration
- Health teaching in classrooms according to the ON Health & Physical Activity Education Curriculum
- Health fairs conducted for various grades at the school to meet the priority needs of the population
- School newsletters-health column
- Researching information requested by teachers



Communication



- Communicate directly 1:1 with children of all ages
- Communicate with children in classrooms & at health fairs-promote interaction, answer questions
- Communicate with teachers, principal, other school staff eg. settlement workers who speak various languages
- Communicate with the school health PHNs *WECHU
- Communicates with parents directly or indirectly
- Communicates with CAS if necessary

Culture and Religion

- Culture is “the way we think, live, act, and feel (Stamler & Yiu, 2012)
- Religions may affect the healthcare practices of family members (Stamler & Yiu, 2012)
- Nursing students work with children from all over the world and demonstrate cultural sensitivity by providing equal care to each individual child and respecting what they can and cannot do.



Socioeconomic Environment

- Nursing students discuss local, provincial & federal strategies to reduce poverty
- Assist with the free breakfast or lunch programs
- Mindful of health teaching re: nutrition to focus on low cost healthy foods
- Promote free and low cost activities locally for families
- Encourage students to grow their own gardens
- Advocate for schools experiencing family financial strains
- Refer for free optometrist exams and help obtain free glasses if needed through the Eye See Eye Learn program.



Socioeconomic continued

- Refer children with observable dental cavities/decay to free Healthy Smiles program at local Health Unit.
- Raised awareness and held a toothbrush drive at the University campus & collected > 450 brushes & toothpastes, knowing that many children have never owned a toothbrush



Law and Safety

- Health teach safety of playgrounds, sun protection, safe play near pools & natural water environments
- Health teach about risks with substance abuse, smoking, alcohol, internet relationships, bullying, & strangers
- Health teach about law enforcement and keeping clean records



Law and Safety Cont.

- Health teach about proper fitting of bicycle helmets and street & bike safety plus many more topics
- Abide by Ontario Safe Schools Act, locked school rules; entrance only allowed by staff
- Adhere to school & Faculty of Nursing policies



Transportation

- Encourage walking
- Advocate for Walk Safe programs and Bike Safe pathways to help children increase physical activity
- Collaborate with parent council and school officials for safe bus and car drop off /pick up zones
- Health teach about street signs & traffic signals



Government and Politics

- All health teaching strictly follows the Ontario Health and Physical Education Curriculum
- By law any signs, symptoms or communication about a child being abused must be reported to the teacher, principal and local Children's Aid Society
- Nursing Students always adhere to CNO Standards and Guidelines
- Nursing students join RNAO to promote healthy public policies



Roles practiced by Students

- Researcher
- Collaborator
- Educator
- Leader
- Advocate
- Health Promoter
- Proactive Change Agent
- Community Health Nurse Role Model

Conclusion



- Nursing Students make a significant impact on the health of school aged children
 - One impact is helping school children build greater abilities to learn
- Parents and children express thanks for the nurses caring and help towards scholastic success
- Collaboration is positive between nursing students and PHNs to accomplish greater health goals
- Families benefit from more health education and community information

Questions?



References

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- Windsor-Essex County Health Unit. (2014). Social determinants of health in Windsor-Essex County. Retrieved from <https://www.wechu.org/about-us/reports-and-statistics/2014-social-determinants-health-windsor-essex-county-report>