Evaluation of a Lung Health Advocacy Program in Northeast Urban Public City Schools

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Introduction

- Asthma prevalence has increased globally and nationally, especially in urban cities.
- Industrialization has increased air pollutants.
- Minorities and children living in poverty are disproportionately affected by air pollution.
- To decrease air pollutants, community engagement is needed to advocate for lung health initiatives in their communities.

LHAP curriculum was created by the site advisor
Curriculum used evidence-based information from the American Lung Association, CDC, KidsHealth, Rush University, and articles for Journal of Child Health and Human Development
- 5 sessions that last 40 minutes

Figure 2: Asthma Keywords After the Intervention

Purpose

To evaluate the impact and retention of this curriculum to improve children's health literacy and to advocate for lung health initiatives in their communities.
1. Compare students' use of asthma keywords before and after the program.
2. Explore teachers' perception of students' knowledge.

Methods

- A pre and post-test design and semi-structured interview.
- Three 7th grade participants and one teacher participant.
- Evidence-based project methodology

Figure 1: Asthma Keywords Before Intervention

Intervention

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Results

- Interquartile Range (IQR) and median difference of asthma keywords before and after the intervention was 1.
- The teacher believed the students' knowledge of asthma and general health increased after the program.
- The teacher believed a visual stimulating handbook will help assess the students' engagement with the educational material.

Conclusion

- Student participants were able to list at least one more asthma keyword after the intervention
- The teacher believed the program increased her students' knowledge of asthma and lung health.
- Future studies should create a standardized children's health literacy tool.

Sustainability

- Program is temporarily suspended due to Covid-19
- Site Advisor is currently working with the Community Health Interest Group to implement LHAP at different public schools in the area
- The program is set to continue in the fall.

References:


