

Evaluation of a Lung Health Advocacy Program in a Northeast Urban City School

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Abstract

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to evaluate the impact and retention of the Lung Health Ambassador Program (LHAP) curriculum to improve children's health literacy of asthma and to advocate for lung health initiatives in their communities.

Methods: A pre-test post-test study design was used to examine the knowledge retention of asthma by comparing students' use of appropriate words for describing asthma before and after the completion of the program. In addition, a semi-structured interview was used to explore a teacher's perceptions of students' knowledge of and ability to advocate for lung health. There were three student participants and one teacher participant.

Results: The results demonstrated that students were able to list at least 1 additional asthma keyword after the intervention. The teacher discussed that the program increased students' general knowledge of asthma and lung health, however, the students did not become engaged in their communities after the completion of the program.

Implications: The LHAP can provide a good foundation for exploring the effects health literacy education can have in school settings. Future studies should develop a standardized children's health literacy tool with means for simultaneously assessing health literacy and self-advocacy skills.