

Abstract: My Practice Experience in CAMP

My practice initiative was an evaluation of the Children and Moms Project (CAMP) at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children Ambulatory Pediatric Clinic. CAMP is a three year collaborative program designed to incorporate screening for domestic violence into a pediatric healthcare setting. CAMP activities include providing training and support to residents and attending physicians to screen the mothers of their pediatric patients for domestic violence and to refer positive screens to appropriate resources. Many partners have been involved in this initiative, including St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, the Institute for Safe Families, Lutheran Settlement House, and the Health Federation of Philadelphia.

The long-term goal of CAMP is to improve the health and safety of children and their families. Objectives of the program include increasing identification of women who experience domestic violence so that they can be referred to appropriate resources, increasing physician domestic violence screening rates, and increasing physician knowledge, positive attitudes and beliefs, and comfort level regarding screening for domestic violence in a pediatric setting.

My role in CAMP was working with the Health Federation of Philadelphia to evaluate impacts of CAMP in the second year of the program on physician knowledge, attitudes and beliefs, comfort level, and behavior regarding screening for domestic violence. This involved the following activities: abstracting data on documentation of domestic violence screening from patient medical charts; analyzing data from the chart review and physician surveys; discussing program successes and barriers with program partners; developing recommendations based on evaluation results with program partners; and writing an evaluation report incorporating results from the above activities.

CAMP required several important components of public health practice. These included collaboration between various partners to develop an institutional policy and plan to address the issue of domestic violence, development of innovative techniques to link individuals to domestic violence services, training to assure competency of hospital staff regarding domestic violence, and evaluation of the effectiveness of a program that provides feedback for improvement.

Evaluation has revealed several impacts of CAMP on St. Christopher's Hospital for Children. Chart review has shown significant increase in physician screening rates for domestic violence and surveys have shown increases in physician knowledge and comfort levels regarding screening for domestic violence. Evaluation has also identified barriers to screening in the pediatric setting and has provided a basis for discussion of improvement of the program and recommendations for future programs and similar initiatives at other institutions. It is hoped that CAMP may continue to expand at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children and that it may be used as a model program for addressing the public health issue of domestic violence at other institutions. Such activities can improve accessibility to domestic violence services and contribute to the improved health and safety of children and their families.