BACKGROUND

The health care in the European Union (EU) was established in 2001 as an outpatient of the UCLA Health & Environment Studies at UCLA Anderson School of Management.

Health literacy was defined as a significant barrier to dental health. People with lower health literacy were less likely to seek dental care and more likely to have poor oral health outcomes. The project was designed to:

• Increase adoption of effective preventive interventions.
• Increase awareness of the importance of oral health to overall health and well-being.
• Improve oral health prevention practices by parents with limited health literacy and their children.
• Manage acute illnesses of their children. Our data shows a reduction in inappropriate use of emergency care (pain/acute problems) rather than for preventive reasons.
• Reduce disparities in oral health by improving access to effective preventive dental services.

Rationale

Responding to the Urgent Problem of Oral Health

Good general health requires good oral health.

• Tooth decay is one of the most common chronic diseases worldwide.

• Oral health complications may be associated with admission pregnancy outcomes, respiratory disease, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes.

• Most common dental diseases are PREVENTABLE.

• Linking health literacy to effective prevention, diagnosis and treatment of oral disease.

• Oral hygiene is a neglected area of international health. (1) "Margaret Chan, Director-General of the World Health Organization, during the 120th WHO Executive Board meeting.

• Dental care (access to care) is the most common chronic disease on the planet—yet it is preventable." The Oral Health Atlas (FDI World Dental Federation publication, 2009)

• The greatest burden of oral diseases is on the disablistically and socially marginalized (WHO, 2003).

• Children are part of the most vulnerable groups.

Oral health in Europe

• Oral diseases, including dental caries and periodontal disease, are major health burdens in Europe, affecting most of children and a great majority of adults.

• Eastern Europe has large numbers of children who visit the dentist with dental emergencies (acute problems) rather than for preventive reasons.

• Producing oral health disparities persist across the EU and within Member States, leading to economic, social, and health outcomes.

Call to Action for Better Oral Health in Europe

Promote education, prevention, and access to dental care.

Oral health in the Czech Republic

• 72% of children 13 and under had affected dental caries.

• The Oral Health Epidemiology Project in the Czech Republic. The survey had 29 multiple-choice questions. Behavioral responses gave a snapshot of families' habits regarding their day-to-day dental hygiene and will be an essential element for the long term.

• The Czech Republic has a well-developed system of dental health care, including preventive services, which are covered by the public health insurance.

• Oral Health Assessment

The pre and post training child assessments were conducted by the same dental hygienist. The assessment served two purposes. The first purpose was to establish a baseline for the children's dental health so we could evaluate the impact of the intervention. A second purpose was to share the results of the children's oral health and post training so they could see the impact and hopefully be motivated by the results. All assessments were conducted with the HAI support of local schools and parents during the training day. This included time out of class, assignment of a translator, and signed permission slips.

Activities

• Pre-Post Assessment of Parents (n=300)

• Parents enhanced oral health knowledge. Children showed improvement in oral health outcomes as recorded through their Oral Hygiene Index (OHI). Flushing was seen in Prague (60% pre to 61% post). Hygiene levels were scored on a scale of 0 (poor oral hygiene) to 5 (excellent oral hygiene). In Prague, 70% of children had never visited a dental hygienist. In Ostrava, 70% of children had never visited a dental hygienist.

• Findings at baseline revealed that

• 37% of parents did not know the importance of oral health prevention.
• 72% had never had their teeth cleaned.
• 51% of children had never visited a dental hygienist.

• At the post intervention, an oral hygiene assessment, including evaluation of plaque levels by an oral health professional was conducted. Parents and children learned the importance of proper dental hygiene.

• Handouts for Children

Taking Care of Your Teeth

Péče o vaše zuby

• Results

Combined Pre/Post Survey Results

Children Oral Health Status

Change in OHI (oral health index)

Children Oral Health Status

Pre-Post Survey June 2012

Post

Pre

Results

Pre-Post Results for Parents (n=380)

Childhood Illnesses

Head Start

Oral Health

Early Head Start

You’re Having

Obesity

A FAMILY HEALTH LITERACY APPROACH

Evidence-based dental health promotion interventions.

• Low cost interventions have the potential to lead to better oral health outcomes. These comprehensive family, low-literacy approach can be an important factor in improving oral health outcomes.

Contact

Funding: UCLA Anderson School of Management, Harold and Maude Price Center for Entrepreneurial Studies

Acknowledgments

• Oral health disparities persist across the EU and within Member States, related to health care services, lower income and education levels.

• Eastern Europe has large numbers of children who visit the dentist more often. The health care in Eastern Europe has the potential to lead to better oral health outcomes.

• The Oral Health Atlas (FDI World Dental Federation publication, 2009)

• Oral hygiene is a neglected area of international health. (Margaret Chan, Director-General of the World Health Organization, during the 120th WHO Executive Board meeting.

• "Dental care (access to care) is the most common chronic disease on the planet—yet it is preventable." The Oral Health Atlas (FDI World Dental Federation publication, 2009)

• The greatest burden of oral diseases is on the disablistically and socially marginalized (WHO, 2003).


• Tooth decay is one of the most common chronic diseases worldwide. (1) "Margaret Chan, Director-General of the World Health Organization, during the 120th WHO Executive Board meeting.

• Oral health complications may be associated with admission pregnancy outcomes, respiratory disease, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes. (1)

• Most common dental diseases are PREVENTABLE.

• Linking health literacy to effective prevention, diagnosis and treatment of oral disease.

• Oral hygiene is a neglected area of international health. (1) "Margaret Chan, Director-General of the World Health Organization, during the 120th WHO Executive Board meeting.

• Dental care (access to care) is the most common chronic disease on the planet—yet it is preventable." The Oral Health Atlas (FDI World Dental Federation publication, 2009)

• The greatest burden of oral diseases is on the disablistically and socially marginalized (WHO, 2003).

• Children are part of the most vulnerable groups.