



Project of the Vermont Research Partnership among the Vermont Agency of Human Services, Vermont Department of Education, Vermont Association of Regional Partnerships, and The University of Vermont

Project: Mental Health - ADHD Initiative

Outcome of Well-Being: *Youth Choose Healthy Behaviors (#6)*

Project Participants: 21 pediatricians at five practices

Project Location(s): Practices are located in 3 out of 14 counties in Vermont.

Project Description:

A collaboration with pediatric providers to improve diagnostic and treatment processes and knowledge related to care of school-aged children with Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). The Vermont Child Health Improvement Program (VCHIP) provides continuing medical education, office system changes and collaborative learning opportunities to assist providers with implementing the 2001 American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) guidelines regarding ADHD diagnosis and treatment. A baseline assessment (medical chart reviews and primary care provider (PCP) confidence survey) indicated the following areas for improvement: 1) improving the diagnosis of ADHD co-morbid conditions, 2) using symptom-based treatment goals to guide treatment, 3) appropriate follow-up of medications, and 4) increasing coordination between PCPs, schools and parents. This work is being conducted within the framework of the Care Model for Children's Health (adaptation of the Chronic Care Model). By improving the targeted diagnostic and treatment processes, we expect to show improvements in the health status and subsequently the academic and psychosocial functioning of children with ADHD.

Indicators Used to Track Progress:

1. Percent of children assessed for ADHD according to the AAP guidelines (medical chart reviews)
2. Percent of providers participating in education interventions (practice feedback sessions, case-based email education)
3. Percent of providers implementing office systems changes relating to ADHD diagnosis & treatment.

Findings To-Date / How this Project Contributes to Well-Being Outcome #6:

Use & Adjustment of Stimulant Medication

- 89% of participating PCPs were "mostly" or "highly" confident starting stimulant medication
- 92% of charts indicated a prescribed ADHD stimulant medication
- 79% of participating PCPs were "mostly" or "highly" confident in adjusting/monitoring stimulant medications
- 72% of charts indicated dosage adjustments after initial prescription

Coordination of Diagnosis and Treatment

- Only 37% were "mostly" or "highly" confident arranging for/coordinating non-pharmacological ADHD treatment
- 68% indicated they communicated with school personnel regarding ADHD patients either "most" or "almost all of the time"

- 85% of charts indicated parent involvement
- 77% of charts indicated consultation with school personnel in the initial assessment

Project Timeline / Status:

Baseline Assessments in Fall 2004; Educational Intervention began February 2005; Site visits in March-April 2005; Educational intervention ends Winter 2006; Follow-up assessments in Winter/Spring 2006

Program Partners:

Vermont Department of Health, UVM Dept. of Pediatrics & Psychiatry, VT. Dept. of Education.

Researchers and Institutional Affiliations:

Vermont Child Health Improvement Program (VCHIP), College of Medicine, University of Vermont, Vermont Department of Education

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