

Improving Accessibility to Health Care Resources for Children in Storm Lake Community School District

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INTRODUCTION

Problem Statement: Impaired accessibility to health care resources impacts the health and wellbeing of the pediatric population in rural areas of the United States. In Storm Lake, Iowa, the largest barriers are insurance status, inability to coordinate health care services, and transportation insecurity; all of which result from various social determinants of health.

- There are 2,841 children enrolled in the Storm Lake Community School District (SLCSD)¹, with an estimated 5% uninsured.²
- Of the 11,269 individuals living in Storm Lake, an estimated 16.4% live in poverty and 32.9% are foreign-born.³
- 52.6% of children in SLCSD are Hispanic.¹
- In the United States, Hispanic children are less likely to receive health care than non-Hispanic white children.⁴
- There are 24 languages spoken in SLCSD; 57.7% of students are English-Language Learners.¹ In Storm Lake, 51.9% of individuals speak a language other than English at home.³
- Non-English-speaking children are up to 3 times more likely to not receive necessary health care, compared to their English-speaking counterparts.⁴
- Children residing in rural areas are less likely to have appropriate access to primary care services, and therefore are at greater risk for compromised health outcomes.⁵
- School-based care coordination programs throughout the United States have had positive impacts on the health of students and their educational success.⁶

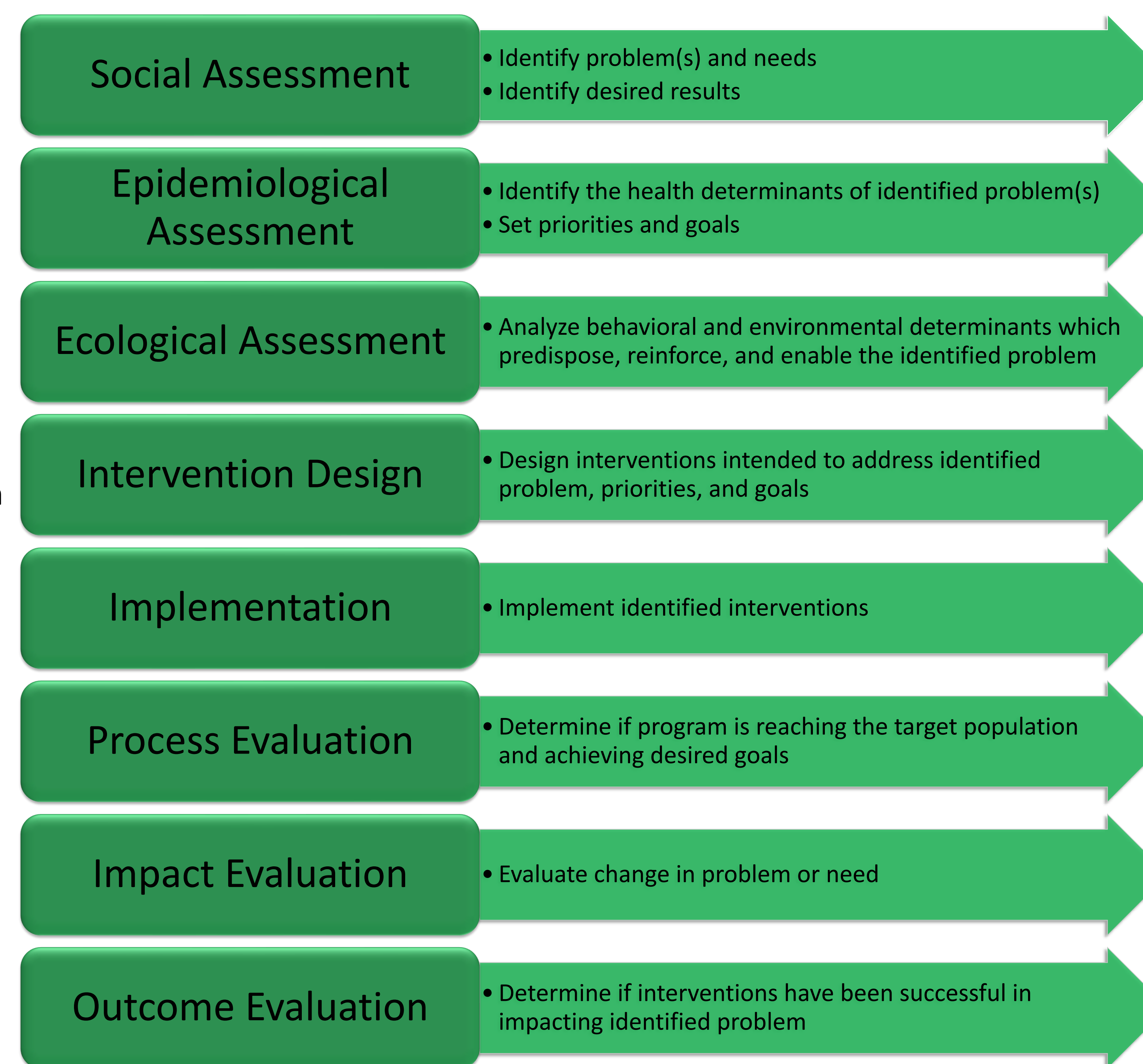
PURPOSE

- Purpose: The purpose of this study is to evaluate the efficacy of interventions designed to improve accessibility to health care resources for children in the Storm Lake Community School District.
- Objective 1: Enroll uninsured children in available insurance programs
- Objective 2: Coordinate health care services for children in need
- Objective 3: Utilize volunteer-based transportation program to get children to health care appointments when caregivers are unable

METHODS

- Project deemed non-human subject research
- Setting: Storm Lake Community School District
- Population: Children attending Storm Lake community schools
- Model: PRECEDE-PROCEED is a framework for development of a community-based health intervention or promotion program.⁷
- All data collected was deidentified aggregate counts of the number of children who needed the service (enrollment in insurance, care coordination) and how many children successfully received that service.
- Additional data collected for anecdotal purposes included the types of services for which children received care coordination.

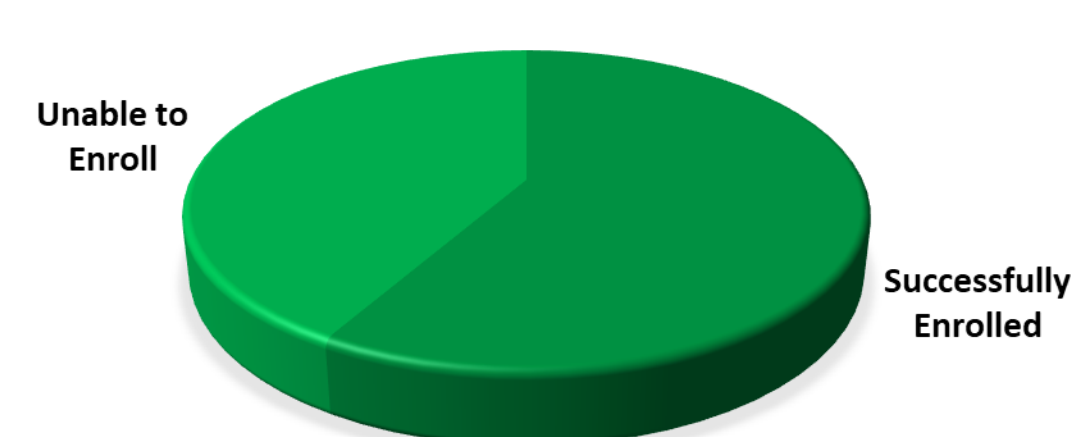
PRECEDE-PROCEED MODEL



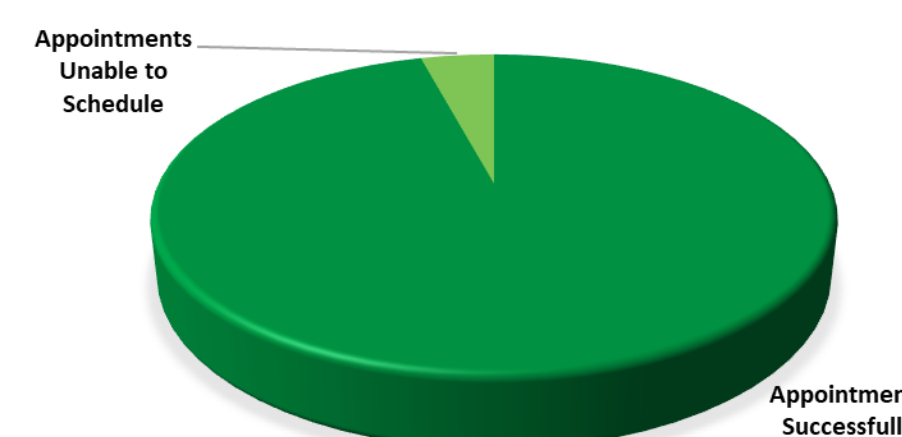
OUTCOMES

1. Between 1/17/2022 and 3/11/2022, 80% of children who are identified by school personnel as uninsured will be enrolled in an available insurance program by *Facilitator of Student and Family Services*.
 - 14 of 24 students were enrolled in health insurance.
2. Between 1/17/2022 and 3/11/2022, 90% of students who are identified as needing care coordination for health care services, will have that coordination performed by *Facilitator of Student and Family Services*.
 - 46 of 48 appointments were successfully scheduled.
3. At least 75% of children who need transportation assistance to health care appointments, will receive it through the SLCSD sponsored transportation program.
 - The program has not been fully implemented.
 - There are 11 volunteers in the process of becoming Student Service Drivers.

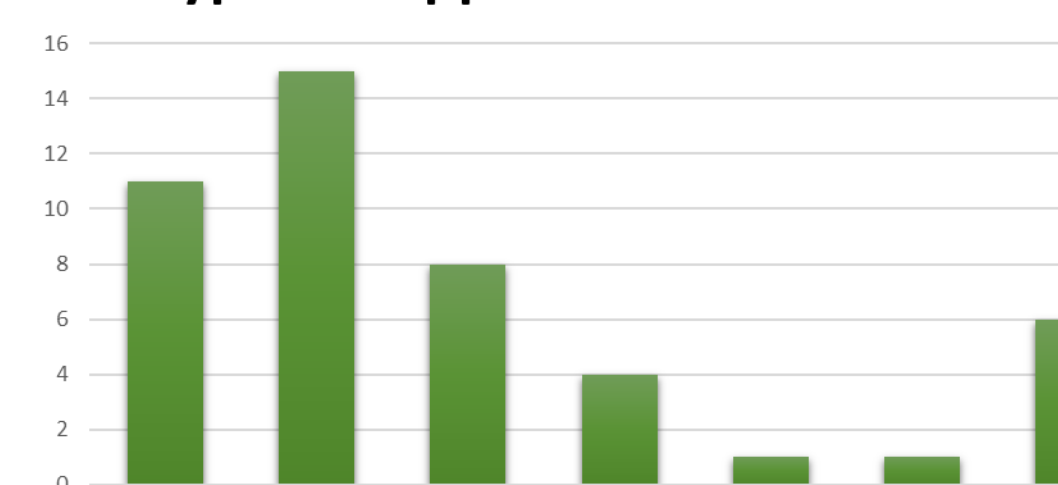
INSURANCE ENROLLMENT



CARE COORDINATION



Types of Appointments Scheduled



EVALUATION

Outcome 1: 14 of 24 students (58.3%) were successfully enrolled in health insurance.

- The primary barrier to enrollment in insurance is eligibility. 9 children could not be enrolled because they were ineligible.

Outcome 2: 46 of 48 students (95.83%) were successfully scheduled for the appropriate health care appointment.

- One student was blocked from scheduling with primary care providers in town due to repeated no call-no shows.
- One student's parents refused care coordination services.

Outcome 3: Transportation Program has not been fully implemented.

- Barriers for implementation include coordination between parties: principal investigator, school district, school district's attorney, and local health care organizations.
- There are 11 volunteers in the process of becoming a Student Services Driver.

CONCLUSIONS

- Facilitators of Student and Family Services are a valuable resource in improving accessibility to health care resources.
- The work done by the SLCSD facilitators decreased the number of children who are uninsured. Their efforts ensured that 14 children now have easier access to health care due to insurance status.
- Utilizing facilitators to perform care coordination in scheduling appointments is largely successful.
- Additional benefits of Facilitators of Student and Family Services: developing trust-based relationships with the students and their families; performing home visits to address unique needs; and addressing truancy issues.
- The Transportation Program has the potential to be successful. There is significant interest by volunteers and the initiative to develop the program has been well received by the community.
- Other school districts in Iowa should implement the services provided by SLCSD in order to improve accessibility to health care resources for their students. Doing so can improve health outcomes and educational success.⁶

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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