

Nurse Practitioner led Community Intervention for Families Living in Housing Instability a Correlational Analysis

Yvonne Parry

Flinders University, Adelaide, South Australia

Eileen Willis

Flinders University, Adelaide, South Australia

Sally Kendall

Centre for Health Services Studies, University of Kent

Rhonda Marriott

Ngangk Yira Research Centre for Aboriginal Health and Social Equity, Murdoch University

Nina Sivertsen

Flinders University, Adelaide, South Australia

Matthew Ankers

Flinders University, Adelaide, South Australia

Background

One in five Australian children (0-14 years) live in housing instability. The innovative, and embedded Nurse Practitioner health intervention addressed the deficits in current health care through an in-depth assessments of children's health needs, facilitation of treatment plans, referrals to appropriate health services, support to aid referral compliance and provide parental education on developmental health checks.

Aim of the study

The aim of this research was to identify the health needs of marginalised children; referring them to appropriate services including health, educational and welfare, and encourage regular health checks.

Methods

This mixed methods design included quantitative data collection from in-depth and comprehensive health and psychosocial assessments. The data included the use of extended referral follow-up services and barriers to engagement. Quantitative statistical analysis used in this study includes the use of correlational analysis, is a theory-driven analytical approach to a priori specified hypothesis between measurable and/or latent variables.

Results

Biopsychosocial data collected by the NPs provided the variables. We found correlational relationships between the ill-health in children and the lack of access to health services. Aspects of the clinic delivery system included home visiting, housing [in]stability, presenting conditions and treatment with or without follow-up.

Conclusions and implications

Embedding child focused nurse led health interventions in the community is imperative if we are to address the lifelong health impacts on children from disadvantaged populations living in housing insecurity.