

ABSTRACT

Violence Prevention in Jamaican Children The Health care workers response

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Violence is a public health problem. Symptomatic effects of violence exposure have been documented and may have serious implications if left undetected. The objective of this study was to determine the factors that influence the violence prevention skills and advocacy role of the primary care clinician, utilizing the PRECEDE/PROCEED model. An evaluative cross sectional survey was conducted with paediatricians, primary care physicians and nurse practitioners in the south east region of Jamaica during February to March 2002. A self reported questionnaire was used to collect data on demographic feature, knowledge attitudes and beliefs about violence prevention and factors which enable and deter violence prevention practices. A focus group discussion was also conducted

Primary Care doctors were the ones most likely to see more than ten patients per annum but were least likely to ask about behavioural problems and discipline. The nurse practitioners were the least likely to identify children with violence related problems, were the least likely to have a knowledge of somatic complaints of violence but stood out as rating their role as advocates as very important. The paediatricians were identified as more likely to identify children with violence exposure problems but were the least likely to rate their role as community advocates as very important. The PRECEDE model identified lack of time, lack of training and lack of guidelines as hindrances to violence screening. Self-confidence in educating parents in conflict resolution, anger management and discipline were identified as reinforcing factors. The model also identified training and educational material as factors that would enhance the paediatrician's role as advocates.

The PRECEDE model identified factors that may improve violence prevention practices including screening and advocacy at the community level. These interventions should be part of a collaborative effort from all sectors of society to address the epidemic of violence

Keywords : PRECEDE model, violence prevention practices, community advocates