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Healthy Kids & Families: Overcoming Social, Environmental and Family Barriers to Childhood Obesity Prevention

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Presenter Information

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Keywords

Worcester Public Schools, childhood obesity prevention, community health workers

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Healthy Kids & Families™

Overcoming Social, Environmental and Family Barriers to Childhood Obesity



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Background

The UMass Worcester Prevention Research Center (UMass PRC) was funded (2014-2019) to implement interventions to promote health and well-being among families.

Its core project, The Healthy Kids & Families study is implemented in collaboration with 9 Worcester Public School system schools, located in economically distressed areas .



Program Outcomes

Families are involved in the intervention for 2 years, and assessed at baseline, 6-, 12-, 18- and 24-months. The study outcomes are:

- Body Mass Index (BMI)
- Dietary behaviors
- Physical activity
- Sedentariness

Target Population

N= 244 parent-child dyads

Inclusion criteria :

- Dyads of parent and K-6th grade child at participating schools
- Access to a telephone
- English or Spanish speaking
- Plans to live in the area for 2 years.

Exclusion criteria:

- Medical condition or advice from a doctor that precludes the child from walking or eating fruits and vegetables.

HEALTHY KIDS & FAMILIES INTERVENTION



Collaborators

This project is led by the UMass Worcester Prevention Research Center at UMass Medical School.

Collaborating partners include:

- Worcester Public Schools, and
- Oak Hill Community Development Corporation

Contact Information

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Program Goals

To test the impact of a community health worker (CHW)-delivered intervention aimed at helping families overcome barriers to childhood obesity prevention. The intervention addresses social, environmental, and family barriers to healthy choices. The intervention is compared to a comparison condition consisting of a CHW-delivered intervention aimed at helping families improve positive parenting skills.

