

What Factors Contribute and Detract from PHN's Delivering Pediatric Environmental Risk Reduction Education in the Home Setting? A Process Evaluation of ERRNIE

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OBJECTIVES: To explore the readiness, acceptance and confidence of public health nurses' to deliver environmental health and pediatric environmental risk reduction messages. To describe nurses' perspectives regarding perceived barriers and opportunities to integrate environmental health into their nursing practice, and to further explore if this new content adds stress or influences job satisfaction for these nurses.

METHODS: Qualitative methods, one-to-one telephone interviews, are being used to learn about nurse's experiences delivering a home-based environmental educational intervention to 80 rural, low income families with young children. The intervention, Environmental Risk Reduction Through Nursing Intervention and Education, consists of 4 modules delivered over 4 home visit sessions. All nine of the public health nurses trained to deliver the intervention will be interviewed. Interview questions ask about barriers and facilitators to integrating public health nursing practice with environmental health, nurses' relative acceptance and support of the concept, their confidence in their own ability to deliver the intervention, and any added stress or changes in satisfaction associated with this expanded role.

RESULTS: Early findings indicate the nurse's are supportive and eager to integrate environmental health into their nursing practice. They believe it is within their scope of practice and fundamental to improving community and population level health. However, barriers are also being identified. Nurses described added work-related stress when they don't have adequate management and organizational support for their role in the intervention, feel they don't have enough training and background in environmental health and report time pressures as more responsibility is added to their already full and demanding schedules.

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