Using the Omaha System to describe outcomes of MCH clients receiving public health nurse home visiting services
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Introduction

Today’s MCH programs need to demonstrate their effectiveness to funding sources. Routine documentation using the Omaha System allows public health nurses to generate client outcomes information.

This research demonstrates how Omaha System data describe nurse-sensitive client outcomes.

Omaha System

The Omaha System is a standardized nursing vocabulary recognized by the American Nurses Association. It is a taxonomy comprised of three schemata: Problem Classification Scheme (nursing diagnoses), Intervention Scheme, and Problem Rating Scale for Outcomes. The structure of the Omaha System lends itself to automation and data retrieval.

Methods

Reliable electronic Omaha System documentation data were aggregated, then analyzed using SPSS.

Sample

The sample consisted of reliable Omaha System documentation for 208 maternal-child health clients, aged newborn to 53 years. Of caregivers, 17% were married and 29% were teens. Nurses visited each subject a median of 4 times (range 2-39).

Results

Clients showed significant overall improvement in knowledge, behavior and status following nursing services.

Pre-Post Comparison

The sample consisted of reliable Omaha System documentation for 208 maternal-child health clients, aged newborn to 53 years. Of caregivers, 17% were married and 29% were teens. Nurses visited each subject a median of 4 times (range 2-39).

Factors

- Teen status
- Marital status
- Race/Ethnicity
- Number of visits
- Length of services
- Number of Omaha System problems
- Initial knowledge, behavior and status scores

Omaha System Problems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem Scheme</th>
<th>Initial Rating</th>
<th>Final Rating</th>
<th>t Value</th>
<th>p Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge/Behavior</td>
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<td>Knowledge</td>
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Results

After controlling for initial knowledge and behavior, being a teen significantly added to a lower final knowledge score and a lower final behavior score.

Conclusion

Omaha System data describe client problems and outcomes for purposes of research and program evaluation.