Interprofessional Education Project: Access to Care for Senior Citizens

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Objectives

The Problem:

Concerns and Barriers Senior Citizens Experience

- Chronic Health Conditions
- Medication Side Effects
- Uncontrolled HBP and Diabetes
- Oral diseases
- Compromised Immune Systems
- Inadequate or no coverage
- Transportation/Mobility

Background Information

Target Population: Senior citizens. Health disparities due to

certain diseases and disabilities

Cost: Healthcare costs continue to rise

Current Outcomes: Health outcomes are not showing

significant improvement despite efforts to improve access

Need: Health screenings, chronic disease management, and
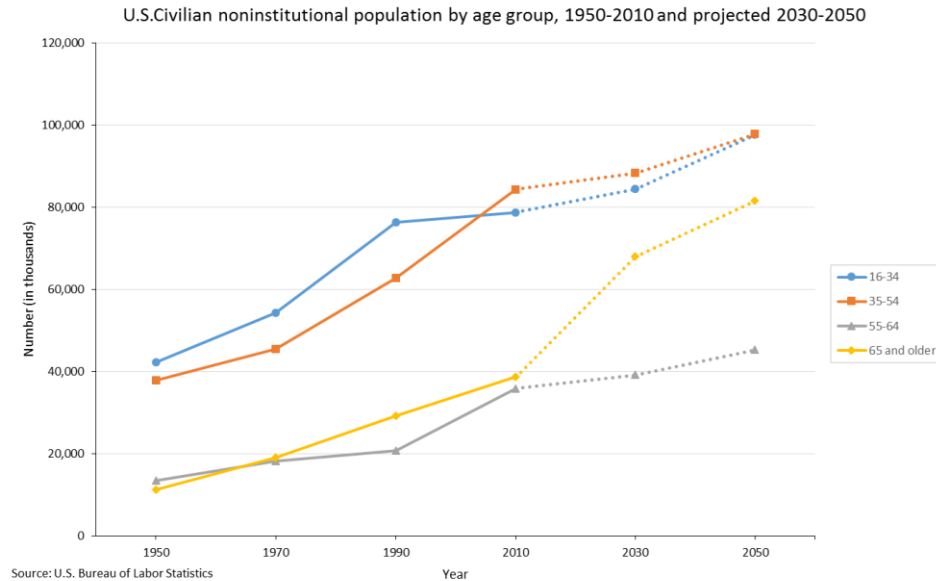
urgent care

U.S.Civilian noninstitutional population by age group, 1950-2010 and projected 2030-2050

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Image from: https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/productiveaging/dataandstatistics.html

Intervention: Mobile Health Services Van

- New healthcare model

- Connect patients to other medical and social resources

- Provide accessible and sustainable care

Expected Results

- Improvements in health outcomes of chronic diseases

- Better health behaviors/self-management

- Emphasis on interprofessional collaboration

- Increase in disease diagnosis/intervention

- Increase in effectiveness of connecting with appropriate healthcare providers

- Increase in number of senior citizens seeking healthcare

- Reduction in uncontrolled diseases

Funding Solutions

- **Find a local partner: hospitals, universities**

- **Federal funding programs**

- **Health insurance companies**

Limitations

Cost and Finances

Space Restrictions

Recruitment & Staffing

Following up with patient care/referrals
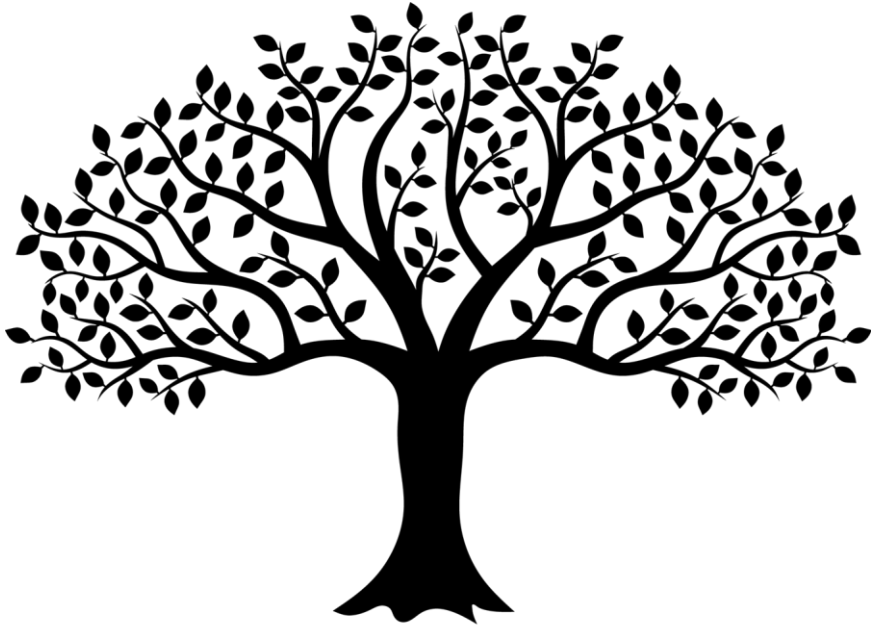
Potential Implications

- Disapproval from other healthcare providers

- Being viewed as a threat to job security

- Interprofessional cooperation

Creator: https://pixy.org/ | Credit: https://pixy.org/4766240/

Systems Thinking

Each individual patient is a leaf, the mobile clinic connects them to the larger healthcare system

Image from: https://www.freepatternsarea.com/designs/black-tree-silhouette-vector-art/

Roles of the Professionals

Dental Hygiene

- Administer various health screenings, vaccinations, preventive dental services
- Offer and provide patient education
- Work interprofessionally with public health professionals in care coordination
- Work interprofessionally with other healthcare providers for comprehensive/continuing patient care

Public Health

- Assist patient with navigating healthcare systems, such as establishing coverage and verifying insurance status
- Identify available medical and social services for patients
- Locate participating healthcare providers as potential referral sources and set up those as needed

Making the Coordination Effective

Must be aware of the importance of interprofessional collaboration

Providers plus those knowledgeable about navigating the health network

Specific skill sets but a common goal

Competitiveness & Ethics

Healthcare is a competitive field

Situations and problems involving ethics will arise

Responding through leadership is crucial

Summary/Conclusion

In summary, the health services vans would help meet the unmet needs of the community while connecting patients to the wider network of community resources. As Public Health and Dental Hygienist professionals, we have a responsibility to our community to properly provide for them. We must strive to increase quality of life, care, and closing the gap on health inequities, and providing senior citizens with a mobile health services van will do just that.

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