

NFP Hudson/Union Counties

Nurse-Family Partnership of Hudson/Union (NFP H/U) is a nurse home visitation program of the Partnership for Maternal and Child Health of Northern New Jersey, serving 130 low-income, first time pregnant families (65 in Union County and 65 in Hudson County) by a team of six Nurse Home Visitors (NHV), one supervisor and an administrative assistant.



Background

- Bed bugs are a public health concern and can cause a variety of negative physical health, mental health and economic consequences.
- Bed bugs are easily transported by NHVs as they travel between homes.
- In November 2017, several families served by the NFP H/U program experienced bed bugs infestation (4.2% of clients enrolled).
- At that time no protocol for the NFP program was in place.
- Best practices were developed to assess bed bugs infestation of homes, identify and support affected clients, minimize transmission by NHVs, and decrease NHVs anxiety about bed bugs transmission.



Methods

A plan-do-study-act (PDSA) cycle was performed over seven months (November 2017 – June 2018).

Plan

- Evaluate staff knowledge regarding bed bugs prevention.
- Assess staff comfort level and decrease their anxiety.
- Design tools to assess client's homes to identify bed bugs infestations.
- Develop policy and procedures to address best practices.

Do

- New tools developed: intake screening tool & assessment check-in.
- Bed bug tool kits developed and provided to staff.
- Alternative visits offered to clients.
- Bed bug education resources added to training for new staff.



Act

- Weekly support was offered during supervision and team meetings.
- No reported cases of transmission to NHV.
- Staff reported decreased anxiety and improved knowledge.

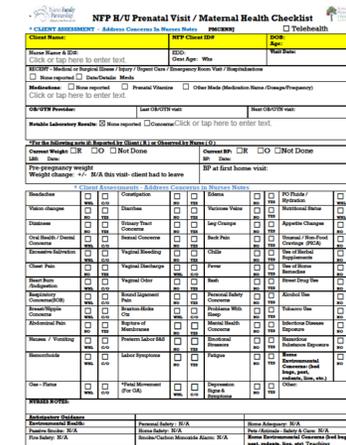
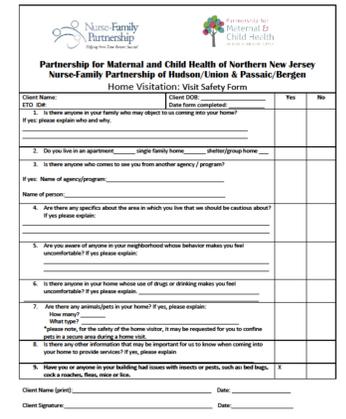
Study

- Implementation of this initiative led to new NFP program policy development.
- This initiative was presented for replication and integration as best practice for home visitation programs statewide.

Results

This PDSA cycle was successful for NFP H/U:

- 1) There was no increase in bed bug cases among clients.
- 2) There was no transmission of bed bugs to staff's homes.
- 3) Clients experiencing an active infestation during this study cycle were retained and continued with the NFP program.

Conclusion

The implementation of the bed bugs PDSA cycle initiative led to new policy development, prevented transmission, retained NFP clients in the program, decreased staff's anxiety, and improved health and wellness for staff and clients. Bed bugs tool kits were promoted for integration as best practices for home visitation programs.

