

Module 11: Sustainability

Time: 60 minutes



Learning Objective:

Describe your role in the evaluation and sustainability of the community-based oral health plan that has been chosen for your community.

Additional Materials Needed

- PowerPoint Presentation
- PowerPoint Handout
- Sustainability Worksheet



Training Tip: This module begins with a short PowerPoint presentation followed by a worksheet asking participants to answer questions about sustainability before beginning a discussion of sustainability.

Now we are going to talk about sustainability.

Turn on the projector.

Slide 1



Sustainability is a complex issue. Sustainability means the resources to operate a program are adequate and available when needed. Sustainability also means that the purpose, spirit, and ideals of the program stay intact even when there are changes in staff or who is sponsoring or funding the program.

Slide 2



It may seem strange to talk about sustainability even before we have started a community program. Yet, like evaluation, sustainability must be addressed when planning a program. Otherwise, these important issues get lost in the day-to-day operations or are dealt with only when a crisis occurs. It is difficult to be creative and think long term if we are struggling to pay for supplies or hire people to keep a program operating.

Slide 3



So what do we need to know to assure community carries prevention programs are sustainable? There is not an easy answer to this question. Why? Sustainability is affected by local conditions. We may know influential people, organizations, or institutions that could initiate, fund or support a local program. Yet, this information may not be helpful in another community.

Slide 4



When considering what is needed to attain sustainability, think about what is being evaluated. Data collection and evaluation reports are critical when communicating program performance and what keeps a program successful. Evaluation reports also provide justification when approaching current and future funding organizations.

Slide 5



Turn off projector.

Now we're going to do an exercise on sustainability. You'll need the "Sustainability Worksheet," "Oral Health Intervention" and "Next Steps" handouts from earlier in the day. Work as a group to answer the four questions as they relate to your interventions.

Have participants work in groups of 4. Have everyone count off 1-4 to get into working groups. Participants will be discussing the questions on the sustainability worksheet. This should take 20 minutes.

After about 20 minutes, bring the small groups back together into a large group and have one person from each group report their answers to the questions on sustainability. Have someone record the answers on newsprint.

Question

Can you see how important it is to plan for sustainability now instead of later?

You can see the many ideas we have on how to make our oral health interventions sustainable in our communities. I will incorporate these ideas into our Community Oral Health Plan.