How do we help students and teachers engage in the health sciences through student-designed research experiences which build awareness and understanding of adolescent health issues?

- Teachers need support in implementing quality science and health instruction materials and strategies.
- There is a need for quality health science education programs.
- There are a variety of factors that influence personal health choices.
- Involvement in health science research will lead to healthier personal choices and decisions.
- Adolescents involved in their own health science research projects will gain greater understanding of the science, and how science is done.

Assumptions

Inputs

Teachers (grades 5-8)
Science Curriculum Developers and Educators
Curriculum materials and science equipment
Exhibit Developers
Health Science Researchers and Experts

Activities

Curriculum and material Development
Model teaching and classroom support
Classroom visits by health researchers
Teacher Institutes and training
Public Programs (families & adults)

Outputs

Curriculum implemented in 5 classrooms in Year 1
100 students participate in diet and nutrition research activities
10 teachers participate in summer institute
Additional classrooms and students participate in program
50 adults in adult program, and 20 families participate in 4 family workshops

Outcomes

Students excited about health and science
Students improve understanding of science of health
Students practice & learn research design skills
Students gain awareness of influencers of health decisions
Teachers’ understanding of science, health, and research increases
Students’ awareness of health careers increases
Public’s understanding of health science research increases

Impacts

More students pursue science and health beyond middle school
Adolescents increase healthy behaviors
Teachers increase healthy behaviors
Healthy communities