



Access to Oral Health Care for the Residents of Public Housing

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What is NNOHA?

- A nationwide network of safety-net oral health providers and their supporters
- Established in 1991 by a group of Dental Directors from Federally Qualified Community Health Centers (FQHCs) who recognized the need for peer-to-peer networking, services, and collaboration to most effectively operate Health Center dental programs.



What is NNOHA?

- **Mission:** “To improve the oral health of underserved populations and contribute to overall health through leadership, advocacy, and support to oral health providers in safety-net systems.”
- Currently about **2,400** individual members


About Health Center Oral Health Programs



- Health Centers are non-profit clinics that provide high-quality health care services to underserved, low-income individuals with little, or no insurance.
- In 2011:
 - **862** out of 1,128 Health Centers across the country offer dental services (**76%**).
 - Health Centers provided dental care to **4 million** patients. At the same time, Health Centers provided medical care to about **17 million** patients (**23%**).
- Medical capacity **exceeds** dental capacity in Health Centers

2011 National Public Housing Data



- **61 grantees nationwide**
 - **187,992** total patients
 - 69,306 patients under 19 (37 %)
 - 109,368 patients ages 19-64 (58 %)
 - 9,318 patients ages 65+ (5 %)
 - **43,072** dental patients with 110,488 visits **(23%)**
 - 32.3% of Patients best served in a language other than English
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Access Challenges for Residents of Public Housing



- Transportation
- Language
- System navigation

- Public housing residents were more than twice as likely as other city residents not to have had a preventive dental visit in the past 2 years.

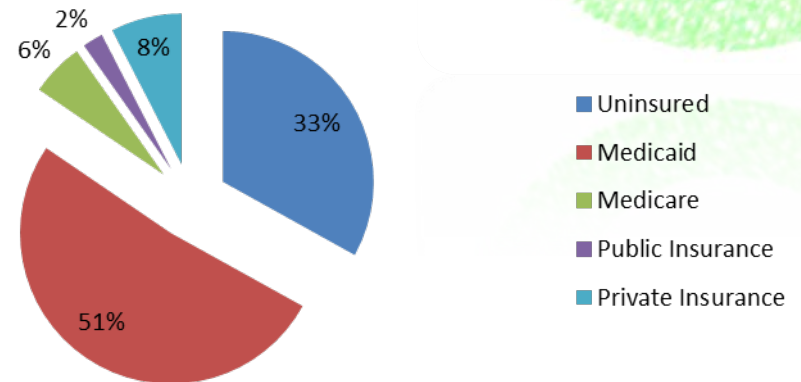
Use of a Population-Based Survey to Describe the Health of Boston Public Housing Residents (2008)



Insurance Challenges

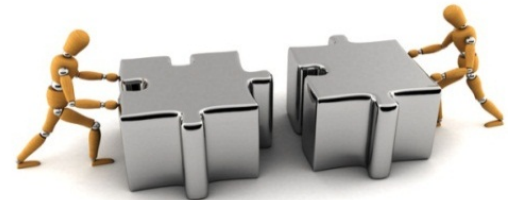
- Lack of Insurance Options
 - Medicare - Only covers very narrowly defined dental services
 - Medicaid - Most states do not cover routine dental care for adults

Public Housing: Principal Third Party Medical Insurance Source



Access Strategies

- Adding a dental program
- Local / state resources
- Interprofessional oral health competencies
- Workforce innovations



Starting a Dental Program



- How to Start a Dental Clinic:
 - <http://www.nnoha.org/practicemanagement/startclinic.html>
- Safety Net Dental Clinic Manual
 - <http://www.dentalclinicmanual.com/>
- ASTDD Basic Screening Survey for Older Adults Planning and Implementation Packet
 - <http://www.astdd.org/basic-screening-survey-tool/#adults>

State & Local Resources

- Health Centers, FQHC's and look-alikes
- Dental & Dental Hygiene Schools
- Local Programs
 - Senior Oral Health Project- low-income seniors residing at Boston Housing Authority public housing
 - <http://www.bphc.org/programs/cib/chronicdisease/oralhealth/sohp/Pages/Home.aspx>



Local Events

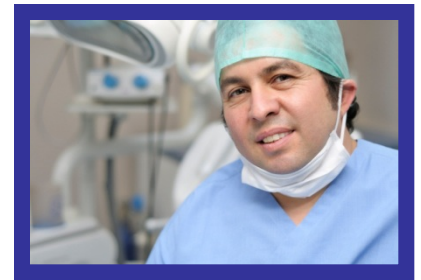


- Mission of Mercy
 - Currently in over 20 states
 - <http://www.adcfmom.org/>
- Remote Area Medical (RAM):
 - <http://www.ramusa.org/services/dental.htm>



Interprofessional Competency

- Medical providers screen/access/refer
 - MDs, NP, PAs
 - Oral cancer screenings
 - Early Childhood Caries risk assessment
 - Self management skills
 - Fluoride



Workforce Innovations

- RDH Direct-Access States
 - http://www.adha.org/governmental_affairs/downloads/direct_access.pdf
- Community Health Corps
- Teledentistry



Health Center Highlight:

Heart of Texas Community Health Center (Waco, TX)

- Public Housing Grantee since 2007
- Targeting children and pregnant women
- Clinic few blocks from one of three Public Housing complexes in Waco
 - Located between the Public Housing complex and local elementary school many children attend



Health Center Highlight:

Heart of Texas Community Health Center (Waco, TX)

- Community Health Corps Program
 - 2 navigators stationed at the housing complex to schedule appointments
- Over 80% of children living in Public Housing receive oral health care from HTCHC
- Challenge
 - Better understanding of the importance of oral health care

Health Center Highlight:

San Ysidro Health Center (San Ysidro, CA)

- Free dental screenings and other SYHC medical services at the Public Housing sites or retail sites were Public Housing residents shop
- The San Ysidro Health Center's "Healthy Steps Mobile Unit" visits Public Housing sites to offer Medical and Oral Health Screenings.
- **Referral** average to the Dental Department: 90 per month



San Ysidro Health Center

Health Center Highlight:

San Ysidro Health Center (San Ysidro, CA)

- What is working?
 - Medical Provider at the Mobile Unit personally recommends dental appointment to the patient/parent
 - The patient/parent provided with dental appointment before departure from mobile unit.
 - Free transportation
 - Short appointment wait time
- Challenges
 - Belief oral health not as important as other health needs
 - Lack of knowledge how to navigate CHC systems and sliding fee scale



Contact Us!

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