

TITLE: Washington County Dental Health Access Project: Innovative Partnership to Achieve Equity in Access to Oral Health

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STUDENT SUBMISSION: No

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Policy makersHealth care systemsCounty/ local public health departmentsOral health/ dental professionals

ABSTRACT: Oral health access is a recurring issue identified in local community health assessments. There are significant disparities in access to oral health services in Washington County, especially for uninsured and Latinx communities. There is also limited access to culturally responsive care, significant gaps in connecting uninsured patients to a 'dental home' and ensuring closed loop referral to other services. As a result, oral health access was identified as a priority area in the 2017 Washington County Community Health Improvement Plan. Washington County Public Health, Oregon Oral Health Coalition, and Pacific University partnered to develop an innovative dental access program to determine: does having a certified Community Dental Health Coordinator (CDHC) make an impact on increasing closed loop referrals, improving access to oral health care and increasing donated community resources for the uninsured. To determine the impact of this model, a bilingual bicultural CDHC was placed in a community-based dental hygiene outreach program to work in partnership with the Providence Promotores de Salud. The program has increased closed loop referrals and enhanced the success of the Promotores. This project has clearly demonstrated the need and positive impact of community-based navigation, education and care coordination.

OBJECTIVE(S): Describe role and function of a Community Dental Health Coordinator (CDHC)

Describe impact of innovation partnership and collaboration to improve access to oral health

Describe example of collaborative Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) strategy
