

PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM SURVEY- Chronic Disease

Contact Information

Lynda Horsley, Oral Health Consultant
Michigan Department of Community Health
Phone: 517-335-8523 Fax: 517-335-8697
Oralhealth@Michigan.gov
P.O. Box 30195, Lansing, MI 48909

Short Title: MI Door: Addressing underserved adults who lack access to dental services

Program Location: Detroit, Michigan (Wayne County)

Objectives and Goals:

The Goals for MI Door were to:

1. Provide free access to dental care for uninsured adults while placing a high priority on patients suffering from dental infections or pain.
2. Raise public awareness of the increasing difficulty low-income adults and children face in accessing critical dental care.
3. Challenging Medicaid patients, policy-makers and dental professionals to work together to improve the oral health of those who have been promised care by the state.

Methods:

Under the leadership of Governor Jennifer Granholm, a dedicated committee comprised of dental professionals, dental and dental hygiene professional associations, academia, Salvation Army, United Way, Head Start, MDCB, the Governor's office and other stakeholders was formed to develop the infrastructure for the series of MI Door events. Each objective and goal was evaluated to determine logistics, seek donations, recruit volunteers, etc.

Program Length:

Planning for the first MI Door event began in November of 2008. The first MI Door event was held on May 16th, 2009 to be followed by a series of additional events in target areas across the regions of Michigan.

Number of target population reached by effort:

1,200 people showed up for free dental care on May 16th.
Of the 1,200, 413 patients received care and 250 vouchers were given out to patients by UDM. There were a total of 30 sponsors and a total number of 320 dental and non-dental volunteers.

Demographic Info:

The population MI Door served was uninsured and underinsured adults in the Detroit area who lacked access to oral health care. Detroit, located in Wayne county, has an oral cancer mortality rate of more than 3.0 per 100,000 persons in Michigan (Burden of Oral Disease in Michigan 2006). Two Federally Qualified Health Centers and less than twenty dentists provide dental services within Detroit; the need far exceeds the resources available.

Detroit has a population of over 950,000. The population is 81.55% Black or African American, 12.26% white, and 6.19% Asian, Latino and other races. 45.12% of the population rents housing, making it a very transient population. The median income is \$29,109; far below the U.S. median household income. The city has seen a 12% decrease in population within the last year and has an unemployment rate of more than 18%. Approximately 30% of the population has not completed high school.

Overall Cost:

The cost of the May 16, 2009 MI Door Event was \$33,574.

This includes the in-kind donation of the facilities, supplies, and equipment from the University of Detroit, Mercy School of Dentistry (UDM). The event also received donated supplies, the volunteer time of committee members and dental providers, UDM School of Dentistry faculty, staff and students, and other volunteers on the day of the event. One full time employee was dedicated to organizing the event.

Funding Sources:

65 % Federal
10 % State
25 % Local

Percentages are estimates.

Outcomes:

- 413 patients received emergency dental care and 250 patients received a voucher to come back for emergency dental care at their own time.
- The services provided were 153 fillings, 445 extractions, 64 prophylaxis, 13 endodontic treatment, 8 denture repairs, and over 800 radiographs were taken.
- 143 individuals received free prescriptions for antibiotics and Ibuprofen.
- The value of dental treatment delivered exceeds **\$241,000** for the one-day event.

- There is an increased awareness about the lack of oral health care access for low-income and underserved adults.
- Of the volunteers completing a post-event survey, all stated that they would participate in an annual MI Door event in Detroit. As one dentist noted: “These people NEEDED services and were there at 7 in the morning waiting. They thanked me for being there. The experience moved me greatly and the connection between humans was inspiring.”

Did you make any estimates regarding costs deferred, outbreaks averted or deaths prevented?

Over \$241,000 worth of dental services were provided.

Additional Information:

There were additional services provided at the MI Door event. Display tables were set up in the waiting room to provide education on geriatric, adult, and child oral health care. Additional tables provided services and information on nutrition, smoking cessation, oral cancer, blood pressure screening, diabetes testing, cholesterol level testing, and HIV/AIDS testing.

All volunteers who attended the first MI Door event and completed a volunteer survey responded that they would volunteer again. Some dentists, as a result of MI Door, have hosted their own smaller version of this event in their own private practice, working in collaboration with each other to address the lack of access to oral health care within their own community.

Future Plans:

Preliminary plans are in progress to develop the infrastructure to host an additional MI Door event in Flint, Michigan in March of 2010. Future events are to be held and the target areas include Detroit, the thumb region, the Upper Peninsula, the southwestern region, and the northern Lower Peninsula.