
Dental Health & Access to Oral Health in Georgia: A Part of What We Know as Georgians

July 17, 2012
GHSU College of Dental Medicine

Area Health Education Centers

Dental Public Health

Bridging the Gap: Moving Forward: AUC and GHSU
Today’s Focus

- Community Outreach
- Loan Forgiveness
- Pediatric Dentistry
Community Outreach

2006 — 6 locations
- Ben Massell
- Columbus
- Dalton
- Dublin
- Fulton County
- Rome

2012 — ~23 Locations
- Ben Massell
- Columbus
- Dalton
- Dublin (2 sites)
- Fulton County (5 sites)
- Rome
- Savannah (3 sites)
- Gracewood (Augusta)
- Good Samaritan (Atlanta)
- Good Samaritan (Cobb)
- Gainesville
- Whitefoord (5 schools)
AHEC Role

- To help find clinical clerkship locations
- To find affordable housing for students
- To introduce students to community

Partially supported since 2005 by DCH Administrative Medicaid Grants: C. Drisko PI, C. Hanes CO-I
Georgia Community Based Dental Clinic Sites
Public Health Clerkship Program 2012-2013

North Georgia Health District - Dalton
Good News Clinic – Greene Warren Dental Clinic

Northwest Georgia Health District – Rome
South Central Health District – 2 dental clinic sites: Dublin (main site) & Eastman (one day per week)

Good Samaritan Health Center of Cobb
Richmond County Health Department (Associated w/ Dental school as occasional volunteer clinic site)

Fulton Co. Dept. of Health & Wellness (8 dental clinic sites)
East Central Regional Hospital – Gracewood Campus

Ben Massell Dental Clinic
South Central Health District – 2 dental clinic sites: Dublin (main site) & Eastman (one day per week)

Good Samaritan Health Center of Atlanta

Whitefoord Community Program School-based Clinics (4 dental clinic sites)
East Georgia Healthcare Center – Vidalia Clinic

West Central Health District - Columbus
JC Lewis Health Center

Georgia Health Sciences University

Richmond

Muscogee

Floyd

Hall

Whitfield

Cobb

DeKalb

Fulton

Richmond

Laurens

Dodge

Toombs

Chatham

Whitfield

Floyd

Hall

Muscogee

Fulton

Cobb

DeKalb

Richmond

Laurens

Dodge

Toombs

Chatham
Procedure Totals for All Clinic Rotation Sites

* Incomplete data
Loan Forgiveness

HRSA Grant 2006*

- $150,000 total
- 2 dentists - $75,000@
- >$51,000 of unreimbursed care
- >12,500 patients tx.

HRSA Grant 2009*

- $600,000 total
- 10 dentists – $50,000 - $75,000@
- >$483,500 of unreimbursed care
- >1500 patients tx. (to date)

*PI on grants Dr. Carole Hanes, CO-I, Dr. James Barenie
Georgia Oral Health Workforce Advancement
Ten Loan Repayment Dental Sites 2010-2012

- Dentist MF
  DeKalb (Decatur, GA)
- Dentist BA
  Spalding & Henry Counties (Griffin and Hampton, GA)
- Dentist MA
  Spalding & Henry Counties (Griffin and Hampton, GA)
- Dentist AA
  Harris (Hamilton, GA)
- Dentist ND
  Calhoun (Arlington, GA)
- Dentist CK
  Dougherty (Albany, GA)
- Dentist JC
  Grady (Cairo, GA)
- Dentist EM
  Richmond (Augusta, GA)
- Dentist MY
  Chatham (Savannah, GA)
- Dentist LW
  Tift (Tifton, GA)
Dentists for Della

- Each month 30 dental students from all classes voluntarily provide preventive care, denture repair and simple restorations for 60-100 patients at the Georgia War Veterans Home

Supported by:
- Mary Allen Branan Foundation
- Patterson Dental Supply
- Community Foundation of the CSRA
Partnership between Public Health Department in Waycross, GA and GHSU CDM on Teledentistry Project: 2009 to present

To provide screening, preventive services and oral health education for pediatric students who may not have access to dental care
Early Childhood Caries
Southeast Telehealth Network
Teledentistry Project

- Children are seen at school
- Children come to school ready to learn because they experience less dental pain
- Schools reduce travel time
- Services include cleaning, fluoride, x-rays, examination and education
- Children are introduced to a dental home for future services

Georgia Health Sciences University
College of Dental Medicine
The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) recognizes early childhood caries (ECC – formerly termed “nursing bottle caries”) as a significant public health problem.

Epidemiologic data from national surveys clearly indicate that:

- ECC is highly prevalent and increasing in poor and near-poor US preschool children.
- It is largely untreated in children under age 3.
- Those children with caries experience have been shown to have high numbers of teeth affected.
Data on Teledentistry Triage Exams since 2009

- Patients with obvious clinical caries: 585 (= 74.4%)
- Referrals to private practice: 536 (others had decay in primary teeth due to exfoliate soon and were not referred)
- Patients triaged: 786
- Referrals to GHSU for operating room dental rehabilitation: 11
Early Childhood Caries

Consequences of ECC include:

- higher risk of new carious lesions in both primary and permanent dentitions
- hospitalizations and emergency room visits
- increased treatment costs
- diminished ability to learn
- risk for delayed physical growth and development
- loss of school days and increased days with restricted activity
- diminished oral health-related quality of life

AAPD 2012 reference manual
Southeast Telehealth Network Teledentistry Project

- Parents save with transportation costs, decrease in lost wages and long-term benefits of preventive care
- Clinic outcome is mailed to caregivers with follow-up phone call offering assistance
- Case management is provided to families who need assistance with follow-up
- Services are not billed, thus allowing local dentists to access payor source
- Dental providers have access to screening information as well as an untapped payor source
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