

# Assessing Impacts of Training Opportunities in the Safety Net For Dental Students and Residents

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# The Oral Health Workforce Research Center

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- A cooperative agreement between the Center for Health Workforce Studies (CHWS) and the Health Resources and Services Administration
- Created as a partnership between CHWS and the University of California, San Francisco in 2014
- Supports workforce research aimed at expanding access to oral health services for vulnerable populations
  - An available, competent, and well distributed professional workforce is required to meet unmet need for oral health services
  - The work of the OHWRC is designed to inform workforce planning for the delivery of oral health services

# Acknowledgements/Disclaimers

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- OHWC researchers participating in these studies:
  - Survey of FQHC Directors/Dental Directors: **Margaret Langelier; Simona Surdu and Carol Rodat**
  - Survey of Post Graduate Dental Residency Completers: **Ginachukwu Amah, Matthew Jura, Elizabeth Mertz**
- These studies were supported under the Oral Health Workforce Research Center Cooperative Agreement (U81HP27843)
- The information, conclusions and opinions expressed in this presentation are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent positions of HRSA

# Oral Health in the Safety Net: What's Changing?

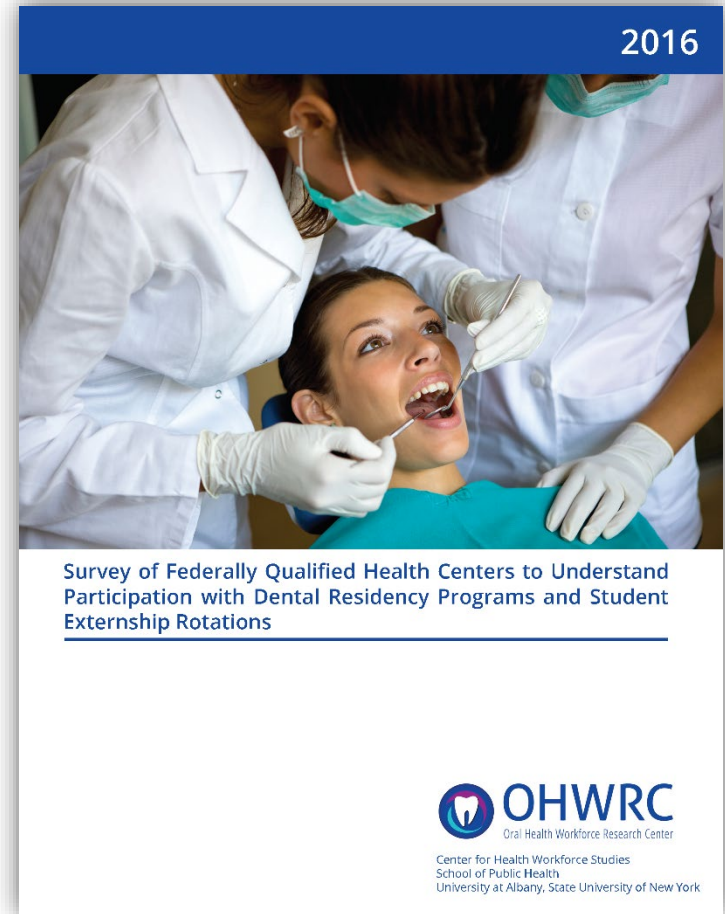
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- In 2016, HRSA awarded \$156 million in oral health expansion grants to over 400 FQHCs
- At the same time, there is growing attention to community service for oral health students, including clinical training opportunities in safety net settings
  - Dental schools are placing strong emphasis on community service learning
  - The Commission on Dental Accreditation requires dental, dental hygiene and dental assisting schools to provide more 'extramural' learning

# 1. Survey of FQHCs on Participation in Dental Residencies and Dental Externships

## Purpose of the study

- To assess the extent to which FQHCs support clinical training opportunities for dental students and dental residents and to identify:
  - Barriers to participation
  - Benefits of participation



# Survey Findings

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- 2016 survey of FQHC Directors/Dental Directors - 26% response rate
  - 81% of respondents provide direct dental services to their patients
  - 15% participate in dental residencies
  - 39% participate in dental student externship programs
- Barriers to participation
  - Lack of structural capacity (operatories and staff)
  - No sponsoring academic institutions available
- Reasons to participate
  - Expanded capacity to serve patients
  - Opportunity to recruit new dentists

## 2. Survey of Post-Graduate Dental Residency Completers

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### Purpose of the study

- To examine practice decisions of graduates of longstanding primary care dental post-graduate training programs with a history of HRSA funding
  - Assess impacts of training experience on current practice and access to care
  - Measure the long-term impact of these programs on improving the capacity of dentists to meet the needs of the underserved

Currently underway

# Methods

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- Identified post-graduate dental training programs that received HRSA funding
- Recruited a sample of 9 geographically diverse institutions encompassing 17 individual programs (AEGD, GPR, Pediatrics, Public Health)
- Conducted key informant interviews with program faculty to learn more about the programs
- Completed a literature review to identify similar studies and surveys used in these studies
- Drafted and pilot tested a program participant survey
- Launched survey of program completers (currently in the field with 7 of 9 institutions)



# Survey Content

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- Program attended and year
- Educational background
- Motivations for pursuing post-graduate dental (PGD) training
- Professional activity since completion of dental training
- Opinion of and satisfaction with the program
- Initial practice/employment after PGD training
- Current practice/employment information
  - For those in clinical care – specialty, time spent, payment sources, patient information - population and counseling
- Demographics

# Key Informant Interviews: Characteristics of Participating Programs

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- **Program Type**
  - Hospital based (3)
  - Health Center/Community-based (1)
  - Dental School (8)
- **Applicant Source**
  - Mostly Local (3)
  - Mostly Regional (2)
  - National (7)
- **Location**
  - Predominately Urban (10)
  - Predominately Suburban (2)
  - Predominately Rural (0)
- **Trajectory of Program**
  - Grown over time (3)
  - Remained the same (9)
  - Reduced in size (0)
- **Other funding**
  - Yes (11)
  - No (1)

Source: Interviews of Program Directors at Participating Institutions

Includes 12 programs from the 7 participating institutions that have fielded surveys.

# Key Informant Interviews: How is HRSA Funding Used?

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- **Program Growth**
  - New programs
  - Expand resident class size
  - Open new sites
  - Increase resident lines and locations
- **Operations**
  - Run operating rooms
  - Run programs
- **Faculty**
  - Loan Repayment
  - Hire and develop faculty
- **Development**
  - Develop MPH and other Masters programs
  - Allow residents to learn and research public health matters
  - Improve curriculum
  - Permanently improve didactic training
  - Become self-sustaining
- **Resources**
  - Tuition support and stipends
  - Purchase equipment

Source: Interviews of Program Directors at Participating Institutions

Programs included are from the 7 participating institutions that fielded surveys.

# Participant Survey Response N & Rates

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Institutions	Weeks in Field	Response Rate (9/24/2018)	Response N (Total=739)
Institution 1	10	75%	442
Institution 2	5	10%	49
Institution 3	4	59%	40
Institution 4	1	9%	6
Institution 5	6	15%	58
Institution 6	8	86%	83
Institution 7	8	70%	61

# Questions?

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**Study of FQHC Participation in Dental Residencies and Dental Student Externships**

To view report, click [here](#)

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**Survey of Post-Graduate Dental Residency Completers:**

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