

ORAL HEALTH PRIORITY AREA

There is a strong relationship between oral health and overall health. Oral diseases significantly affect all facets of life, restricting activities in school, work, and home and reducing one's quality of life.

Improvements in the oral health of Americans is due largely to technological advances in dental care in the second half of the twentieth century. However, minority, rural and low-income populations still face significant barriers to accessing dental care. Consequently these populations are more likely to have tooth decay, suffer from higher rates of dental caries and gum diseases, and less likely to receive preventive care.

The landmark 2000 Surgeon General report, National Call to Action to Promote Oral Health, recognized the "silent epidemic" of disparities in the oral disease burden and stressed the urgent need to promote effective oral health interventions.

Priority Points

- Tooth decay is the most common chronic disease of childhood
- Low-income children suffer from cavities at twice the rate of their more affluent peers and lack access to proper treatment
- More than 51 million school hours are lost each year due to dental-related illness
- Employed adults lose more than 164 million hours of work each year due to dental disease or dental visits
- Over 40 percent of low-income adults have at least one untreated decayed tooth compared to 16% of non-poor adults
- For every adult 19 years or older without medical insurance, there are three without dental insurance
- Over 50% of children ages 5-9 have at least one cavity or filling; this proportion increases to 78% among 17 year olds
- 25% of low-income children have not seen a dentist before entering kindergarten

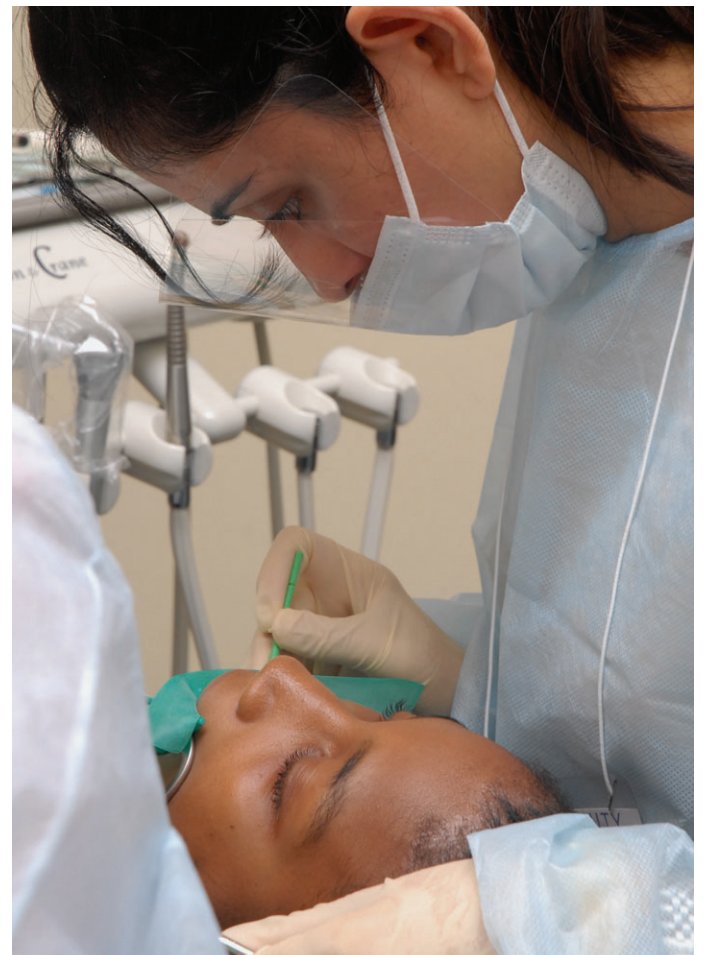
Strategic Approach

Low-income, underserved and uninsured minority populations suffer the most from dental disease. The Foundation's goal is to improve the oral health of underserved children and adults in South Florida by supporting projects that increase access to preventive oral health care, regular dental visits and dental education.

Areas of Focus

Health Foundation of South Florida works with community partners on:

- Prevention strategies, such as application of fluoride varnish, (fluoride applied to the tooth surface) and dental sealants (plastic material bonded into the grooves of the molar teeth) to protect teeth against decay
- Clinical efficiency assessment and improvement strategies that reduce no-show rates, decrease patient wait times and increase reimbursement levels
- Capacity building strategies which include expansion of facilities that serve low-income and/or uninsured individuals
- Public policy advocacy activities such as education of legislators on topics such as increased Medicaid reimbursement for dentists and increasing the number of dentists in public health settings



Investments in oral health services are delivering results.

Since 2008, 21 organizations have received more than \$2.4 million in funding for oral health services.

Examples include providing \$60,000 to Miami Dade County's Seals on Wheels program, a \$75,000 award to Community Health of South Florida and Borinquen Health Center respectively for portable dental equipment. In addition, a \$358,000 grant was awarded to the Chapman Partnership (formerly Community Partnership for the Homeless) for a mobile dental unit.

Oral Health Data for Florida

Infrastructure

- 23% of Floridians on public water systems do not receive fluoridated water
- There are 216 community based low-income dental clinics in the State
- Only three mobile dental clinics exist in the State that provide dental and restorative services
- There are only two dental schools in the State and 18 dental hygiene schools

Provider Shortage

- There are about 9,600 dentists practicing in Florida, which equates to one dentist per ever 1,900 residents
- Only about 14% of total dental providers participate in Medicaid, equivalent to one dentist per 9,750 Medicaid children or one dentist per 40,000+ Medicaid adults
- The ratio of pediatric dentists to children age 0-14 is about 1:12,400
- 20.9% of Florida's population is living in Dental Health Professional Shortage areas and 17.1% of the population is estimated as completely unserved. 788 dentists are estimated needed through the state to remove this shortage designation

Utilization

- 32.7% of the adult population age 18+ has not visited a dentist within the past year
- 32.6% of the adult population age 18+ did not have their teeth cleaned by a dentist or dental hygienist within the past year
- 88% of persons below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) do not have documented access to publically funded or volunteer dental programs

Children

- Florida is one of only four other states to receive an "F" grade by the Pew Center on the States for access and coverage to children's dental care, meeting only two of 8 policy benchmarks
- Only 20.9% of children under age 21 below 200% FPL receive dental services through Medicaid
- 91% of 2nd and 7th graders in the State do not receive sealants in school-based programs
- Currently, 80% of children in grades K-5 in Florida in non-fluoridated areas do not participate in fluoride mouthrinse programs

Data is from the National Oral Health Surveillance System, The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, the Florida State Oral Health Improvement Plan, and Pew Center on the States.

As of 1/20/12

County-Level Data

Indicator/County	Miami-Dade	Broward	Monroe
Adults with an annual dental visit (2002)	71.2%	72.3%	71.1%
Adults who could not see a dentist in the past year because of cost (2007)	20.7%	19.3%	16.9%
Low-income adults with an annual dental visit (2002)	60%	61.7%	58.6%
Active licensed dentists (2009)	1,461	1,233	29
Active dentist to population ratio per 100,000 (2009)	58.52	68.83	37.00
Active licensed dental hygienists	1,109	1,051	38
Adults enrolled in Medicaid (FY 2008-09)	333,382	131,982	4,252
Children enrolled in Medicaid (FY 2008-09)	304,975	185,273	4,352
Dentists enrolled as active Medicaid providers (FY 2008-09)	224	105	2
Pediatric dentists enrolled as active Medicaid providers (FY 2008-09)	8	21	1

Call to Action

The most dramatic and sustainable improvements invariably involve collaboration. Health Foundation of South Florida actively seeks community partners to leverage resources and maximize the impact of health services and programs. If you are part of a community, regional or statewide effort to improve health for residents in Broward, Miami-Dade or Monroe Counties, we want to hear from you. Please contact us to see how we can work together to improve the health of South Floridians.

