Measuring Access to Dental Services

Texas Oral Health Coalition
November 7, 2014

Connie Berry
Texas Primary Care Office
Texas Department of State Health Services
• How access to dental care is measure

• Where the dental shortage areas exist in Texas

• Resources available to address the shortages
Texas Primary Care Office

• **Our Vision**
Through timely and accurate assessment and planning all Texans will have access to primary care.

• **Mission Statement**
To improve the health of Texans who live in underserved areas, through timely and accurate assessment, planning, and assistance, to increase access to primary care providers of medical, dental, and mental health services.
Texas Primary Care Office

• About Our Program

Texas Primary Care Office (TPCO) works with health care providers and communities to improve access to care for the underserved, by recruiting and retaining providers to practice in federally designated shortage areas and expanding new and existing Federally Qualified Health Centers. Funding for programs is provided by Health Resources and Services Administration and the State of Texas.
A TEXAN'S MAP
OF THE
UNITED STATES

CardCow.com
How is Access to Dental Care Measured?

It’s Complicated

But Not Impossible!
Health Professional Shortage Areas

• HPSAs, in general
  – Created in the 1970s for the National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program
  – Where are the areas of greatest need for:
    • Primary Care?
    • Dental?
    • Mental Health?
How are Shortage Areas determined?

• Simply put- HPSAs are based on the ratio of Population to Provider
• Each discipline has a different ratio:
  – Primary Care HPSAs >3500:1
  – Dental HPSAs >5000:1
  – Mental Health >10,000:1

But it’s never quite that simple. . .
How we measure ACCESS to Dental Services: *Population side*

- For Dental HPSAs, the ratio can go from 5000:1 down to 4000:1, if
  - More than 20% of the population of the area are below the Federal Poverty Level
  - The majority of the area’s population does not have fluoridated water supply
- The population counts people who are “resident civilians,” not incarcerated, institutionalized or inpatient care.
How we measure ACCESS to Dental Services: *Provider side*

- Dentist Full Time Equivalencies or FTEs
- PLUS: Dental Auxiliaries and Age of the Dentist raises or lowers the FTE (Dental Assistants or Dental Hygienists)
- One dentist ≠ One FTE, except . . . TPCO multiplies the actual practice hours by the weight below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Auxiliaries</th>
<th>&lt;55</th>
<th>55-59</th>
<th>60-64</th>
<th>65+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No auxiliaries</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One auxiliary</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two auxiliaries</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three auxiliaries</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four auxiliaries</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How we measure ACCESS to Dental Services

Where does the dentist data come from?

Old Source: Texas Board of Dental Examiners
New Source: National Provider Identifier (NPI)
Verification of FTEs: TPCO surveys each Dentist
Then What?

- The TPCO looks at the surrounding counties or census tracts to see if there are dentists nearby by could serve the population
  - Are they accessible or is it a HPSA?
  - Are they within 40 minutes travel time?
If the subject area has a ratio greater than 5000:1 and there is insufficient access in the adjacent areas, it is submitted to the federal Office of Shortage Designation for HPSA Designation.
Where are the Dental HPSAs in Texas?
Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) in Texas 2014

Dental HPSAs in Texas
Whole County 106
Partial County 4
Low Income 7

Percent of Need met 63.6%

Dentists Needed to eliminate HPSAs: 354
Resources available to address the Dental HPSAs

• Scholarships and Loan Repayment:
  – National Health Service Corps
    • Scholarships for Dentists
    • Loan Repayment for Dental Hygienists and Dentists
    • Current Participants: 51 Dentists, 3 Dental Hygienists
    • NHSC Requirements: HPSA + + + +
      Accept Medicaid, Sliding Fee Schedule for patients who are uninsured below 200% FPL, Site Approval, DIRECT PATIENT CARE DENTISTS
  – Saint David’s Foundation Health Service Loan Repayment Program (Central Texas)
    • Current Participants: 3 Dentists
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Obligated Health Professionals in Texas June 30, 2014</th>
<th>NHSC</th>
<th>NURSE Corps</th>
<th>PELRP</th>
<th>St David’s Foundation</th>
<th>J-1 Visa Waiver</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physicians (MD or DO)</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physician Assistants</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurse Practitioners</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered Nurse; Advance Practice Nurses</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dentists (DDS or DMD)</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Hygienist</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychiatrists (MD or DO)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental &amp; Behavioral Health Providers</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>403</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>937</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Resources available to address the Dental HPSAs

- Dental Education Loan Repayment
  - De-Funded in 2011/ Budget Crisis
  - Not restored
  - Similar to the National Health Service Corps
    (Service provided in a Dental HPSA)
  - Funded by Tuition Set-Aside from Dental School Tuition
Challenges for Texas

- Growing population
- No new Dental Schools
- Challenges over fluoridation
- Debates over scope of practice (all health professionals)
- Changes in the insurance market place
Greater need for partnerships and coalitions
Contact Information:

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www.TXLRP.org

Other websites:

National Health Service Corps: www.nhsc.hrsa.gov

Health Professional Shortage Areas: www.hrsa.gov/shortage/index.html