Community Dental Health Coordinators Provide Solutions Now

What is a Community Dental Health Coordinator?
CDHCs are community health workers with dental skills, and they are members of the dental team. They focus on case management, navigation, oral health education and promotion, motivational interviewing and community mapping. Their expertise links patients into available, but underutilized, dental care.

CDHCs Increase Access and Improve Patient Outcomes NOW

- In New Mexico, a CDHC working with diabetes patients in a tribal community health center successfully eliminated missed appointments among her patients.
- In Arizona, a CDHC working in a single-dentist practice doubled the clinic’s patient base and increased access to care in this remote, rural location.
- In Green Bay, Wisconsin, a CDHC working in 30 schools provided 1,200 screenings, 1,300 cleanings, and more than 2,000 sealants for children.

“CDHCs ... improve patient health beyond drilling and filling.”
Calvin Hoops, CDHC
“One of the greatest aspects of the CDHC program is the ability to improve patient health beyond “drilling and filling.” The strongest part of the curriculum was the community health worker portion, especially with regards to identifying barriers to care and using motivational interviewing.”

Calvin Hoops, CDHC

“I have seen firsthand the great need for the role of a dental navigator, such as a CDHC, and truly believe it can improve the quality of life for individuals and communities as a whole.”

Jenna Linden, R.D.H., CDHC

“The residents of every underserved community in America, and every vulnerable population group (no matter where they reside) could benefit greatly from the efforts of a trained CDHC!”

Ms. Marsha Beatty, Assistant Professor of Research, Co-Director of CDHC Pilot Site, University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry

“Until you have a CDHC, you don’t realize how much potential it has for the clinic, it can relieve you of the burdensome follow up specialty medical and dental care can sometimes cause.”

Dr. Richard Huot, Former Interim Dental Director, Treasure Coast Community Health Center

“As a dental hygienist, my skills have improved since training as a CDHC. I am more aware of the reasons behind a patient not showing up for their dental appointment. I have a better connection with my community by becoming more involved in my community’s needs. I am also a resource for our community if someone has a dental question, needs dental assistance, or education. The members of my community know they can contact me with any dental issue.”

Lori Wood, R.D.H., CDHC

For more information, contact Jane Grover, D.D.S., M.P.H. Director, Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention groverj@ada.org | 312.440.2751 | ADA.org/action