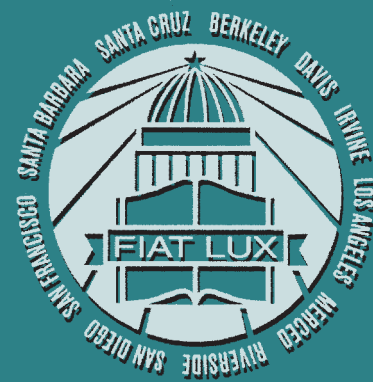


Background

The U.S. Surgeon General has identified dental disease as a silent epidemic, and acknowledged that profound socioeconomic disparities prevent certain groups from achieving good oral health. The California Program on Access to Care (CPAC) under the auspices of the University of California Office of the President's California Policy Research Center (CPRC) has long recognized the importance of research in the area of access to oral health care.



CPAC / CPRC-Funded Published Research Related to Oral Health

Access to Dental Care for Medi-Cal Recipients

Peter C. Damiano et al. June 1990. Available by mail from CPAC.

Early Childhood Dental Caries

Laurence J. Platt and Maria C. Cabezas. September 2000. Available online at www.ucop.edu/cprc/platt2.pdf.

Policy Implications of Access to Dental Care for Immigrant Communities

Marvin Marcus, Carl Maida, Roberto Beloso, Norma Guzman-Becerra, and Linda Fidell. October 2000. Available online at www.ucop.edu/cprc/dentalaccess.pdf.

Access to Health Care for California's Hired Farm Workers: A Baseline Report, October 2001.

Don Villarejo et al. Available online at www.ucop.edu/cprc/fwaccess.pdf

In Their Own Words: Farmworker Access to Health Care in Four California Region

The California Institute for Rural Studies. Undated. Available online at www.cirsinc.org/CPAC.pdf.

Evaluation of Strategies to Recruit Oral Health Care Providers to Underserved Areas in California

Kevin Grumbach, Edward O'Neil, and Elizabeth Mertz. July 2004. Available online at www.futurehealth.ucsf.edu/chws/underserved.html.

Recent CPAC-Funded Research Related to Oral Health

Strategies to Improve Dental Access and Use for California's Young Children.

Moira Inkelas, UCLA. \$30,840. Grant period: March 1–August 31, 2004.

The California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) provides the first statewide information on dental care coverage and use of services. Just over half of children age 2-5 years, and only 40% of those age 3-4 years, have ever seen a dentist. Few young children have had a visit within the last six months. At least one-quarter lack dental coverage. This project will (1) identify characteristics of young children at risk for late (or no) initiation of dental care, and for inadequate use of preventive dental services; (2) assess the association of provider supply with young children's use of care, and (3) present policy and programmatic options for improving dental care access.

Dental Check-up of the Healthy Families Program.

Umo Isong, UCSF. \$10,000. Grant period: March 1–August 31, 2004.

For each child in the United States without medical insurance, there are 2.6 children without dental insurance. The August 1997 enactment of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) launched a new initiative allowing states to implement innovative approaches to providing health insurance coverage to eligible low-income uninsured children. The Healthy Families Program (HFP), California's SCHIP plan, includes dental care for enrolled children. This study will use CHIS data to evaluate dental care access

among HFP beneficiaries in 2001. Utilization will also be compared to Medi-Cal and uninsured children.

Oral Health of Native Americans

Nancy Reifel, UCLA. \$9,500. Grant Period: March 1-June 30, 2004.

Most research about American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) oral health status and the effectiveness of oral health programs comes from studies conducted through Native American organizations that represent only 20% of California's AI/AN population. CHIS data allows the comparison of an AI/AN sample drawn from the general public to that of a sample drawn from client lists of tribal and Indian organizations. This project assesses the effect of using Native American organizations as a point of entry into the community for the purpose of conducting oral health surveillance, research, and interventions.

Other Collaborative Efforts to Increase Access to Oral Healthcare

In July 1999 CPAC sponsored a workshop on Oral Health Care for Youngsters (the OHCA program).

In March 2001 CPAC sponsored a lecture by F. Ramos-Gomez on Early Childhood Caries at the University of California's Cooperative Extension, Merced County.

About The California Program on Access to Care

The California Program on Access to Care (CPAC) is an applied policy research program established by the University of California at the request of the state legislature to address issues related to access to health care for low-income populations.

CPAC is administered by the California Policy Research Center (CPRC), a UC system-wide research program overseen by a Steering Committee that includes appointees

of the Governor, the Senate President Pro Tempore and Minority Leader, the Assembly Speaker and Minority Leader, and the UC President.

The University has committed \$1 million annually over three fiscal years to provide core funding for this effort. CPAC has also received supplemental funding from California foundations and various state and federal sources for special projects.

CPAC achieves its objectives by:

- Administering a competitive policy research grants program;
- Providing technical assistance to the state legislature and executive branch agencies;
- Convening experts and other stakeholders to discuss issue areas related to access to health care;
- Maintaining a database/roster of university faculty with expertise on health care issues.

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