

Trainings and Technical Assistance to Continue and Improve HIV Oral Health Services During COVID-19

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NATIONAL
RYAN WHITE
CONFERENCE
ON HIV CARE & TREATMENT

Background

- Maintaining good oral Health is an important part of maintaining overall health, especially for people with HIV.
- The Arizona and Los Angeles AETCs have been improving training and technical assistance efforts through collaborations for more than 15 years, including programs that assess and address the needs of HIV oral health providers.

Introduction



- The Arizona and Los Angeles AETCs partnered with Dr. Fariba Younai DDS, PAETC Oral Health Training Director and Dr. Ardis Moe, MD, infectious disease specialist and several community partners to deliver two webinars for Ryan White oral health service providers in our 2 regions, which have differing service delivery models.
- These webinars covered links between oral health and COVID-19, addressed patient and staff concerns about COVID-19 safety measures including vaccines, and discussed oral health services in a post COVID-19 era.
- Because webinar content was relevant to anyone providing HIV oral health services during COVID-19 and these trainings were hosted via Zoom video conferencing, we expanded both webinars to a national audience and offered free dental continuing education units.
- HRSA HAB oral health leadership opened the first webinar held in August 2020. We conducted a follow up webinar when vaccines were widely available and services were reopening in May 2021.

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Webinar 1

Providing HIV Oral Health Services in the Covid-19 Era

- August 27, 2020
- 237 attendees

Learning Objectives:

1. Discuss the impact Covid-19 has had on HIV oral health services since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and in the months beyond.
2. Consider challenges and best practices for providing HIV oral health services during Covid-19.
3. Review what providers, agencies and planning groups have done to maintain HIV oral health services as policies and resources change.
4. Plan locally and regionally to prepare for delivery of emergency and other HIV oral health services in a continuously evolving environment.

Webinar 2

Oral Health, HIV, and Covid-19

- May 13, 2021
- 102 attendees

Learning Objectives:

1. Explain links between oral health and Covid-19.
2. Address patient and staff concerns about Covid-19 safety measures.
3. Discuss the Covid-19 vaccine with staff and HIV-positive dental patients.
4. Prepare for post Covid-19 HIV oral health care.

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Outcomes

Learning Objectives	Before	After	Change
Discuss the impact Covid-19 has had on HIV oral health services over the past 4 months and will continue to have in the coming months and beyond.	1.94	2.5	0.56
Consider challenges and best practices for providing HIV oral health services during Covid-19.	1.92	2.46	0.54
Review what providers, agencies and planning groups have done to maintain HIV oral health services as policies and resources change.	1.86	2.45	0.54
Plan locally and regionally to prepare for delivery of emergency and other HIV oral health services in a continuously evolving environment.	1.89	2.35	0.46
Explain links between oral health and Covid-19.	1.81	2.63	0.82
Address patient and staff concerns about Covid-19 safety measures.	2.20	2.73	0.53
Discuss the Covid-19 vaccine with staff and HIV-positive dental patients.	2.00	2.67	0.67
Prepare for post Covid-19 HIV oral health care.	1.88	2.56	0.68

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Profession	Number 2020 (n=237)	Percent 2020 (n=237)	Number 2021 (n=102)	Percent 2021 (n=102)
Dentist	59	25%	23	23%
Other	45	19%	7	7%
Other Dental Professional	35	15%	28	27%
Social Worker/ Case Manager	29	12%	8	8%
Public Health Professional	24	10%	15	15%
Nurse	17	7%	5	5%
Practice Administrator	13	5%	6	6%
Community Health Worker	7	3%	5	5%
Physician	3	1%	0	0%
Nurse Practitioner	2	1%	2	2%
Pharmacist	2	1%	1	1%
Physician Assistant	1	1%	0	0%

Lessons Learned

1. There is an interest in and need for trainings on emerging issues related to HIV care among oral health providers.
2. AETCs have an important role in assessing and addressing HIV-related training needs of oral health providers.
3. Oral health providers can improve the HIV care continuum by referring patients for PrEP, STI treatment, and testing services. There is a need for linkage between oral health and HIV and STI prevention services.
4. Oral health providers can have a positive impact on HIV prevention and care by referring patients to Substance Use Disorder treatment (including MAT) and prevention services.

