

Environmental scan of medical-dental integration in public health settings: targeting cardiovascular disease

Authors:

Susan McKernan, Julie C. Reynolds, Raymond A. Kuthy, Laurel Tuggle, Dina T. Garcia

Abstract

Objectives: A U.S. based environmental scan was conducted to close gaps in knowledge regarding public health approaches to foster medical-dental integration. This presentation will describe study findings related to public health activities targeting cardiovascular disease within the dental setting. **Methods:** The scan included primary data collection via literature review (peer-reviewed research, state oral health plans, grey literature), stakeholder surveys (state oral health programs, chronic disease programs, community oral health programs), and key informant interviews.

Results: Literature review identified 13 interventions in dental settings targeting cardiovascular disease: 10 healthcare system interventions, 2 environmental approaches, and 1 community-clinical linkage. The most common intervention components were provision of information(n=10) and clinical activities(n=8), focused on blood pressure screenings and referrals. Among community oral health program survey respondents(n=30), a majority reported that they implement active referrals of high risk patients to primary care, via medical consults, warm hand-offs, and scheduling assistance. **Conclusions:** Comprehensive integration interventions typically include formal patient management protocols, standardized training of dental providers, active referrals, and use of EHR to facilitate and track outcomes. Results of this scan will be available for stakeholders to inform development of future initiatives.

Source of Funding: Environmental scan funded by a CDC Special Interest Project Grant through the University of Iowa Prevention Research Center (3U48DP005017). NIH CTSA grant #U54TR001356 supported use of REDCap (Research Electronic Data Capture) to collect and manage data.