

## **Dental and Mental Health Programs in School-Based Health Centers: A Snapshot from the *Caring for Kids* Grant Initiative**

The following tables summarize data from a national grant program, *Caring for Kids: Expanding Dental and Mental Health Services through School-Based Health Centers* (SBHCs) funded by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. In 2001, building on its 25-year commitment to school-based health centers, The Johnson foundation invested \$3.4 million dollars to increase the capacity of the centers to provide dental and mental health care. Eight mental health and 7 dental health projects were funded for 3 years, with each grantee receiving up to \$225,000. The following data describe the services provided and revenues received from patient care reimbursement. These data offer insights into the organizational and funding opportunities and challenges faced by these services.

### **The Dental Health Grants: Services and Reimbursement**

#### **Key points:**

- Jan – Mar 2004 became the timeframe for developing a “snapshot” of the program. The services had been established for 2 years and data systems had been in place for a year, suggesting that the data reported would be reliable.
- During the Jan – Mar quarter, 7 dental grantees provided care through 15 school-based health centers that served 17 schools. The 17 schools included 8 elementary schools, 4 middle schools, 4 combined elementary and middle schools, and 1 high school. The schools served a total of 13,087 students. The school-based health centers enrolled 10,223 (72%) of these students.
- To track service organization and delivery, grantee reported information on dental health staffing, dental care recipients, and services provided as well as oral health education. Information on the health insurance status of enrolled students plus revenues generated through third-party billings was also provided.

#### **1. Who was funded?**

The dental grants were awarded to school-based health center programs on the East Coast, in the Mid-West and in the South. Sites in the east included SBHCs in Newark, New Jersey and New York City; sites in the south were located in Huntsville, Alabama and San Antonio, Texas, and sites in the Mid-West included Detroit, Michigan, and Kansas City, Missouri

**Table 1. Caring for Kids: Dental health program participants**

State and City	Sponsoring Institution	Participating Schools
Alabama – Huntsville	Health Establishment at Local Schools (HEALS)	Terry Heights Elementary School Lincoln Elementary School
New Jersey – Newark	Children’s Hospital of New Jersey	Shabazz High School Dayton Street Elementary School Morton Street Elementary School George Washington Carver Elementary School Berliner Street School Elementary School
Michigan – Detroit	St. John Community Health Investment Corporation	Butzel Elementary/Middle School Carstens Elementary School Cornerstone Elementary/Middle School Grant Elementary School Nolan Middle School
Missouri – Kansas	Samuel Rodgers Community Health Center	McCoy Elementary School
New York – New York City	New York Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University School of Dental and Oral Surgery	IS 52
New York – New York City	Montefiore Medical Center	DeWitt Clinton High School
Texas – San Antonio	Methodist Healthcare Ministries	John Glenn Elementary School Norma Krueger Elementary School

**2. How many students attended schools participating in the Program?****Table 2. Types of schools participating in CFK dental program: school enrollment by school type**

Type of School	Average	Median
Elementary schools (8)	358	485
Middle schools (4)	453	250
Combined ES/MS (4)	2501	561
High school (1)	4,296	--

**3. Who staffed the dental programs?**

Dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants were the main providers of dental services. Other staff included dental hygiene students who delivered oral health education, and outreach workers who enrolled students in insurance programs and followed up with parents of students needing restorative dental work. Dental residents also rotated through some school-based health centers as part of their clinical training.

**Table 3. Dental health staffing at SBHCs, January – March 2004**

Providers	Number of Sites			
	E.S (8)	M.S. (2)	Elem/Middle (4)	H.S. (1)
<b>Dentist</b>				
> 35 hrs per week	1	--	--	--
20 - 35 hrs per week	--	--	--	1
10 - 20 hrs per week	1	--	2	--
< 10 hours per week	6	2	2	--
<b>Dental Hygienist</b>				
> 35 hrs per week	--	--	--	1
15 - 35 hrs per week	2	1	--	--
10 - 20 hrs per week	3	--	2	--
< 10 hours per week	2	1	2	--
<b>Dental Assistant</b>				
> 35 hrs per week	1	--	--	1
15 - 35 hrs per week		1	--	--
10 - 20 hrs per week	3	--	2	--
< 10 hours per week	2	1	2	--

**4. During the Jan - Mar 2004 quarter, how many students received what kinds of services?**

**Table 4. Dental Services by Number of Students Served, January – March 2004**

Service	Elementary schools (8 schools)	Combined ES/MS (4 schools)	Middle schools (4 schools)	High schools (1 school)	Total
<b>Diagnostic services</b>					
Exams/screenings	575	195	445	71	1286
Routine X-Rays (# of students)	434	27	146	173	780
<i>Total</i>	1009	222	591	244	2066
<b>Preventive services</b>					
Cleanings	417	195	338	107	1057
Sealants (# of students)	268	5	308	50	631
Fluoride treatments (# of students)	395	117	425	104	1041
Space maintainers	4	0	0	1	5
<i>Total</i>	1084	317	1071	262	2734
<b>Restorative services</b>					
Fillings (# of students)	233	38	14	115	400
Root canals (# of students)	13	0	0	1	14
Crowns (# of students)	15	0	0	0	15
Extractions (# of students)	80	8	5	0	93
<i>Total</i>	261	38	14	116	429