Communicating Health Equity and Value-Based Care in Dental Education: An Environmental Scan

Presenting Author: Nithya Puttige Ramesh, BDS, MPH
Dental Public Health resident, Harvard School of Dental Medicine

Other Authors: Tooka Zokaie, MPH, MAS – AIDPH Fellow, American Institute of Dental Public Health
Amrita Tembhe, BDS, MPH – AIDPH Fellow, American Institute of Dental Public Health
Jasmine Joseph, RDH, MPH – Project Manager, AIDPH
Anthony Palatta, DDS, Ed.D. – Assistant Adjunct Professor, New York University College of Dentistry
Annaliese Cottron, DHSc, MS, CPH – Executive Director, The American Institute of Dental Public Health
Rebekah Mathews, MPA – Director, Value-Based Care, CareQuest Institute for Oral Health

Background & Objective

• Dental education programs develop effective future practitioners by educating students in the most innovative approaches to patient care delivery
• As the dental workforce steadily grows, dental schools should be visible in communicating how both didactic education and patient care experiences align with that growth
• This environmental scan of dental schools aims to assess how dental schools communicate educational approaches and organizational commitment to health equity, care integration, public health, and value-based care (VBC) through their websites

Methods

• An environmental scan was completed using websites of all 68 dental schools measuring 24 data points
• Data were analyzed to evaluate differences based on size, type of school, geographic location and organizational infrastructure

Principal Findings

• The US currently has 25,995 students enrolled in predoctoral dental education programs. Of the 68 accredited dental schools, 41 are public institutions, 23 are private and 4 are private-state related
• 61% (75% of public and 35% of private) dental schools have a diversity, equity, and inclusion initiative, however, one fifth (21%) listed equity in the school’s mission, vision or objective
• Other findings are summarized in Table 1

Key Findings

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data</th>
<th>Overall (n, %)</th>
<th>Private (n, %)</th>
<th>Public &amp; Private-State related (n, %)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School type</td>
<td>68 (100%)</td>
<td>23 (34%)</td>
<td>45 (66%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has a DPH program</td>
<td>16 (23%)</td>
<td>6 (26%)</td>
<td>10 (22%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote intra-professional training on website</td>
<td>33 (48%)</td>
<td>10 (43%)</td>
<td>23 (51%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote inter-professional training on website</td>
<td>41 (60%)</td>
<td>17 (74%)</td>
<td>28 (62%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CE training on Value based care</td>
<td>9 (13%)</td>
<td>4 (14%)</td>
<td>5 (18%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equity in vision, mission, values of school</td>
<td>7 (10%)</td>
<td>4 (17%)</td>
<td>3 (6%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Discussion

• A strong understanding of the models of dental care delivery, their cost and quality outcomes is essential to improve the quality of care provided
• A value-based care model incentivizes prevention and personalization in care, as well as reduces waste, lowers costs, and importantly, improves oral health outcomes for patients
• However, dental schools currently fall behind in the training provided to students in relation to value-based care, and promotion of team-based care approaches through inter-and intra-professional training

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School type</th>
<th>Overall (n, %)</th>
<th>Private (n, %)</th>
<th>Public &amp; Private-State related (n, %)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public</td>
<td>45 (66%)</td>
<td>27 (22%)</td>
<td>8 (18%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>23 (34%)</td>
<td>16 (23%)</td>
<td>6 (13%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private-State related</td>
<td>4 (13%)</td>
<td>2 (5%)</td>
<td>2 (5%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

References


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