

Oral health care: the forgotten need for HIV positive populations in the continuum of care

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Urgent need for dental care

- Most people with HIV experience oral manifestations of the disease
- Preventive care can stall progression of periodontal disease
- Preventive care/prompt treatment can reduce discomfort – better nutrition, ability to take medications
- Detection of oral symptoms may serve as trigger for medical care

Unmet need is high

- Surgeon General's report – significant oral health disparities
- Unmet oral health needs among HIV+ people are higher than for the general population (Marcus et al, 2000)
- Unmet needs for oral health care are higher than unmet needs for medical care (Helsin et al, 2001).
- CDC estimates that 30% HIV+ people do not receive medical care
- 40-50% of HIV+ people do not receive oral health care.

Outreach Initiative

- HRSA-funded study to test outreach interventions to promote engagement and retention in HIV medical care
- Located at 10 sites in 9 cities (Seattle WA, Portland OR, Los Angeles CA, Detroit MI-2, Miami FL, Washington DC, Boston MA, New York NY, Providence RI)

Study measures

- Client interviews, baseline, 6 and 12 mos
 - Socio-demographics
 - Mental health, substance use
 - Competing needs, unmet needs
 - Health beliefs, stigma
 - Practical barriers to care
- HIV primary care visits, lab values
- Outreach encounters

Findings

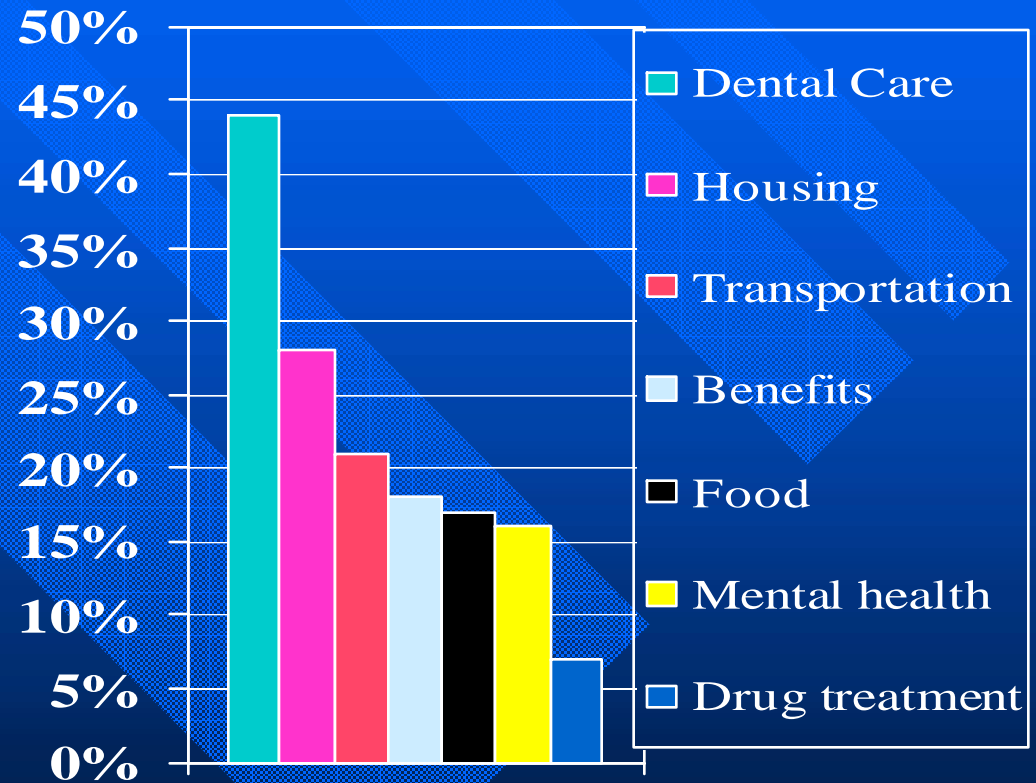
- Outreach/systems navigation/care coordination/motivational interventions were effective in promoting engagement and retention in medical care
- Health beliefs, poor mental health, active drug use and practical barriers were associated with non-engagement in care
- As people became connected to care, their other unmet needs declined as well

What about Dental Care?

- Eight of ten sites asked study enrollees about their unmet need for:
 - Dental care
 - Housing
 - Food
 - Transportation
 - Mental health services
 - Benefits
 - Drug treatment
- Baseline, 6 and 12 months
- This is what we learned from the 505 individuals who responded to this question over a 12 month period

Unmet need for dental care was *high* at baseline

Higher than the unmet need for housing, food, mental health, transportation, benefits or drug treatment.

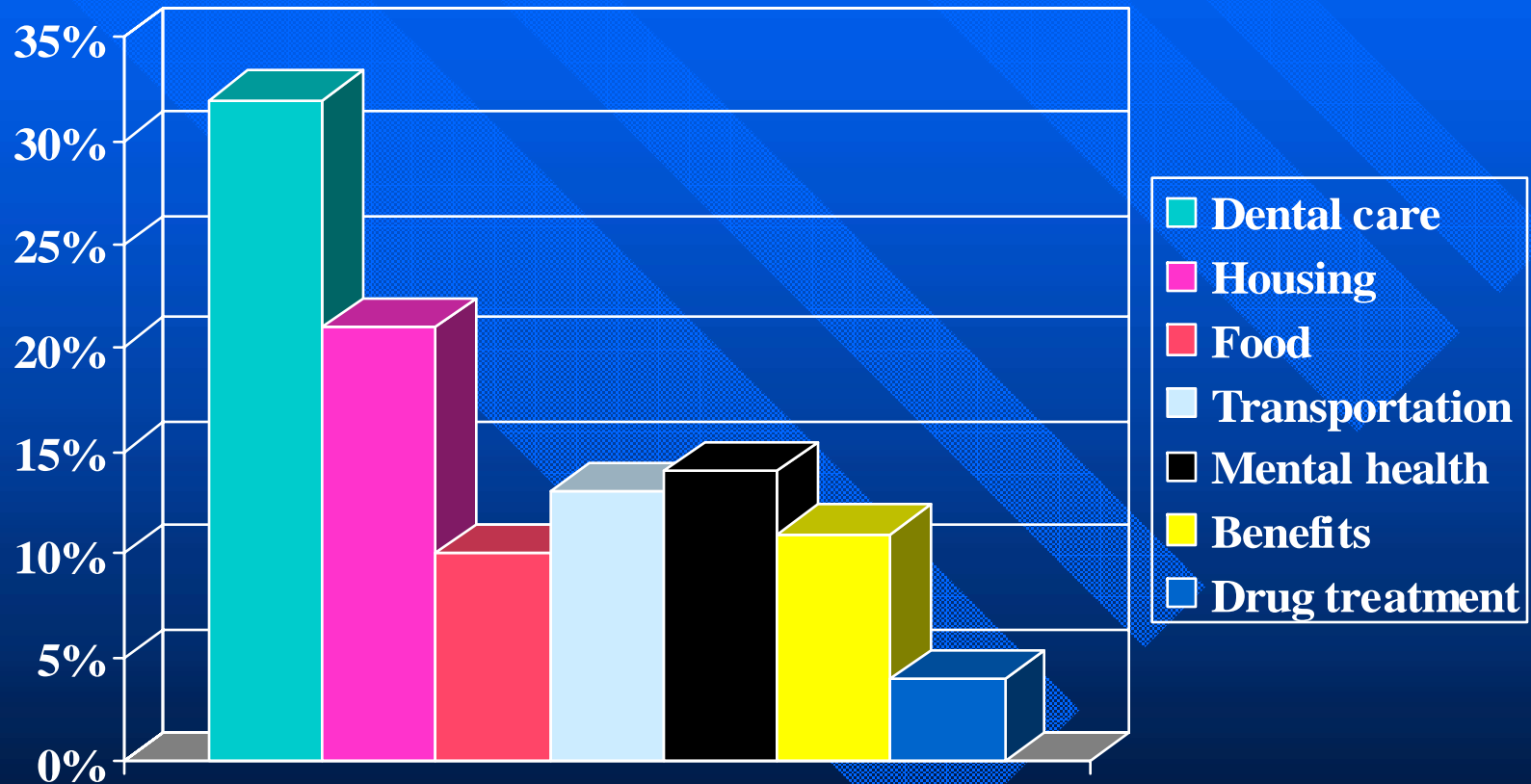


Factors associated with unmet need for dental care at baseline*

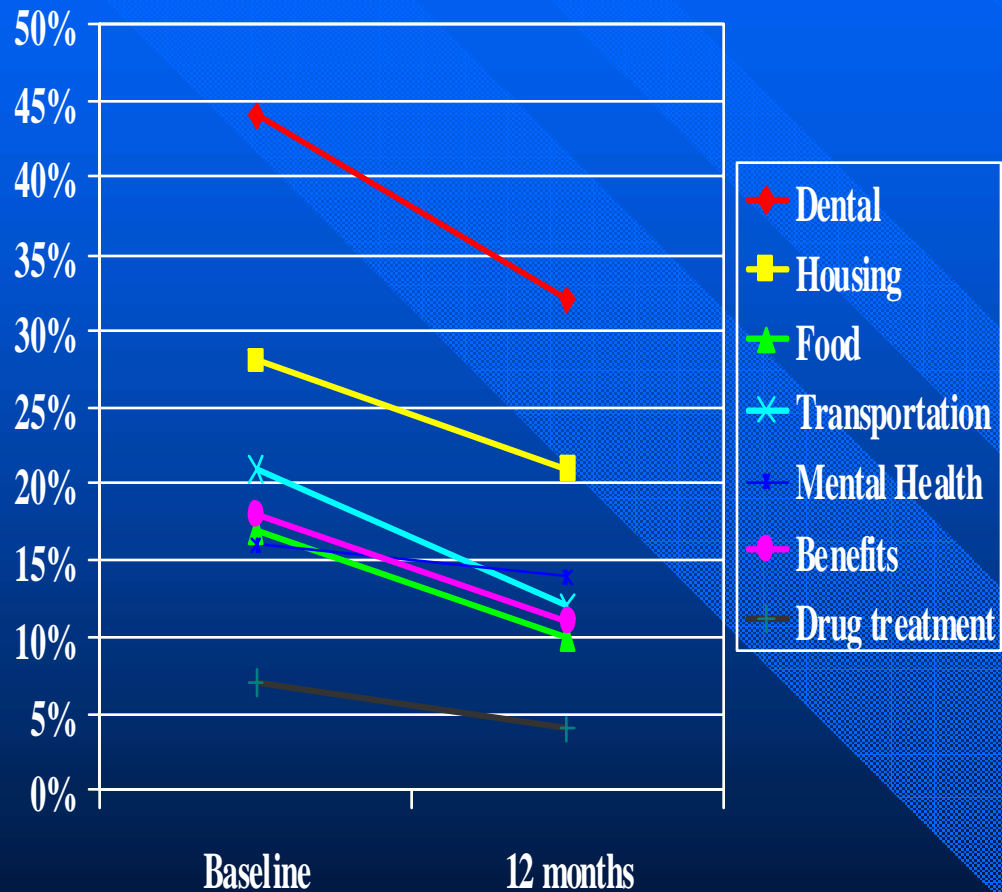
- Poorer physical health (PCS score)
- Poorer mental health (MCS score)
- Less than two medical visits in past 6 months
- Lack of health insurance
- Unmet needs for mental health care, transportation and housing

*In multivariate analysis controlling for race/ethnicity, education and CD4 count

Unmet needs at 12 months



Change in Unmet Need



- Dental care still the highest unmet need
- 10% change for mental health, 28% change for dental, 38%-45% change for all other needs

Implications for care

- Efforts to promote engagement and retention in medical care *can* promote entry into dental care
- But it is not automatic.....
- Interventions were more likely to address other unmet needs – housing, food, transportation, benefits, drug treatment; except for mental health.

Need to re-double efforts to promote HIV oral health care

- SPNS demonstration project funding 15 innovative program to expand access to HIV oral health care
- 8 rural programs, 7 urban programs
- 4 mobile vans
- 3 mobile dentists
- 2 mobile equipment
- 7 with co-located medical and dental services
- One program at a dental hygiene school

Strategies to bring people into care

- Provide oral health info and education to HIV case managers and medical providers
- Convene dinners, support groups for clients of AIDS Service Organizations
- Newsletters, web-pages, Spanish language radio interviews, fliers
- Patient navigators/dental case managers

Sustainability strategies

- Collect process and outcome data to make the case for sustained funding
- Explore all avenues of Ryan White funding
- Obtain FQHC licensure/delegated rate status/maximize Medicaid where possible
- Cross subsidize with private clinic patients, pediatric patients
- Private/foundation fundraising
- Medicare billing for certain medical procedures in the mouth