

SMILE: Sharing MedlinePlus® /MEDLINE® for Information Literacy Education

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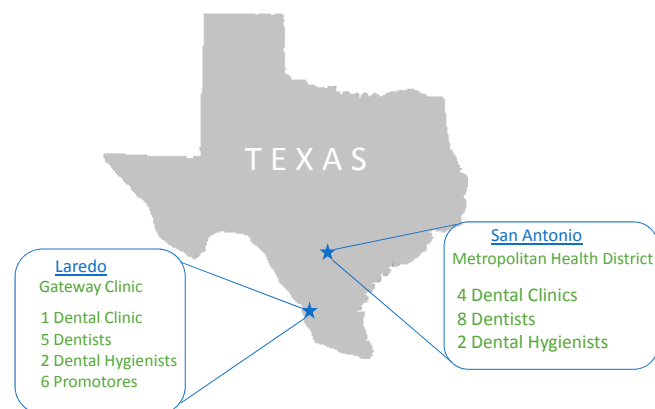
ABSTRACT

The *SMILE* project is a partnership among the UT HSC Libraries, the Gateway Clinic in Laredo, and the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District. *SMILE* addresses information-access components of Healthy People 2010 and oral-health objectives specified in Healthy Border 2010. The project focuses on improving South Texas public health dental practitioners' and community health workers' ("promotores") awareness of and access to reliable information resources, as well as integrating the best evidence from these resources into their public health dental practice and educational activities. The *SMILE* project provides information literacy skills needed for lifelong learning. By equipping practitioners with these skills they can impact the lives of patients and their families.

OBJECTIVES

- Develop an understanding of information literacy for dental health practitioners.
- Identify web-based information tools of value in retrieving and assessing public health dental resources for professionals.
- Recognize the value of public health partnerships that leverage the expertise and resources of libraries.

SETTING



OVERVIEW

Large Group and Small Group Training

The library staff conducted three large sessions at each site in San Antonio and Laredo. Each large group session was part of the monthly scheduled staff meeting where all of the dental public health team attended. The staff also conducted small-group sessions where the participants had opportunities to gain hand-on experience



TRAINING TOPICS



- Document Delivery Services
- Staying Informed (RSS & Blogs)
- Loansome Doc®

Document Delivery

The UT HSC Libraries provided document delivery services to the public health dental practitioners through the Circuit Librarian Health Information Network (CLHIN). They had access to librarians to do mediated searches and to access articles in the professional literature.

Technology + Tools



<http://www.library.uthscsa.edu/connected/>

Blog Postings



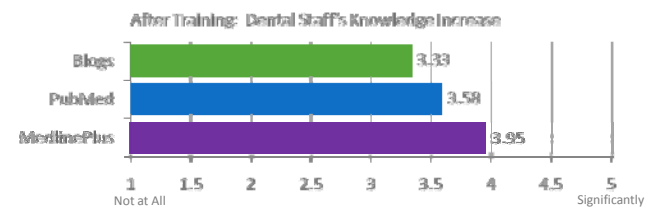
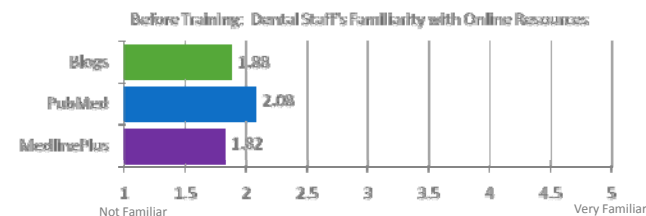
<http://www.library.uthscsa.edu/find/resources.cfm>

Online Resource Guide

- Online Tutorial
- Dental Public Health Links on

EVALUATION

Focus groups and a survey were used to determine the information needs and baseline skill levels of the dental health teams from the target clinics: Gateway Clinic in Laredo and Metro Health Clinics in San Antonio. Data from the focus groups and survey informed the staff on the training and resources provided in the training for the dental staff.



CONCLUSIONS + LESSONS LEARNED

- MedlinePlus® is a valuable tool for dental patient information and for the promotores' education and foundation of knowledge.
- Dental hygienists have opportunities to educate dental patients about general health needs, not only oral health needs.
- When working with health professionals, librarians need to emphasize utilities for timesaving and clinical decision making including empowering the searchers to search the literature themselves.
- Even without Internet access in the field, promotores can print information from MedlinePlus® and supply it to their clients.
- These dental professionals continue to use MedlinePlus® and PubMed® for their professional literature and patient information needs.
- This project fostered opportunities for expanded partnerships.

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