

Using the Population Health Driver Diagram to Increase Use of Oral Health Care

To create opportunities for public health and health care collaboration to improve community health, the Public Health Foundation (PHF) has created a population health driver diagram framework. Grounded in the belief that public health and health care are more effective when their efforts are aligned than when they work separately, this approach can be used to tackle challenges at the crossroads of these two sectors.

A population health driver diagram can be used to help focus and align a community's efforts to make progress on a defined community health challenge. The driver diagram consists of a general AIM statement, goals of the AIM statement, and primary and secondary drivers that specify actions that can be taken to help achieve the desired goals for improved population health. Population health driver diagrams serve as a starting point and framework for discussion, and offer flexibility for identifying and addressing unique community characteristics and needs. They also help to create an atmosphere of collaboration and cooperation by enabling each participant in these discussions to identify roles already being played by their organization and others in the community, and determine additional action that can be taken individually and collectively to positively impact the particular community health challenge.

The Population Health Driver Diagram to Increase Use of Oral Health Care includes an AIM statement, goals, and primary and secondary drivers. When this driver diagram is being used by a community, changes may be desirable to any component of the driver diagram. For example, there may be other drivers that the community identifies and decides to address that are not specified in the driver diagram, or the AIM statement and goals may need to be refined so that they better relate to the community. It also is important to note that while the driver diagram articulates many drivers, choosing a subset of drivers to address may help focus community efforts and achieve desired results. Depending on the progress a community is making, additional drivers may be addressed over time, existing drivers may be refined, and other drivers may be added.

This population health driver diagram was developed by PHF with funding from the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. We encourage you to use this driver diagram to increase use of oral health care in your community. We also encourage you to provide us with your feedback.

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Population Health Driver Diagram to Increase Use of Oral Health Care

AIM

Increase the proportion of children, adolescents, and adults who use oral health care, education, prevention, and treatment

Goals

- Increase affordability of oral health care for consumers
- Increase availability and use of oral health care based on evidence and disease management
- Prevent diseases of the mouth
- Achieve oral health equity

PRIMARY DRIVERS

Education about Importance and Urgency

Broad Access to Preventive Care and Treatment

Infrastructure and Capacity

Data Monitoring and Risk Assessment

SECONDARY DRIVERS

Patient, Population, Provider Knowledge

- Increase knowledge of comorbidities
- Outreach to high-risk and underserved groups
- Educate about available insurance coverage for oral health care
- Educate dental and non-dental health professionals about oral health as a population health issue
- Engage families and caregivers regarding importance of oral health

Diverse Care Settings, Affordability

- Provide oral health care in non-traditional settings
- Expand use of and insurance coverage for services provided by dental hygienists and other non-DDS/DMD providers, especially for school-based dental sealants
- Increase diversity of professionals providing oral health care
- Increase and strengthen publicly funded dental coverage
- Increase proportion of primary care and public health settings that include an integrated oral health program

Professional Education, Partnerships, Planning

- Align provider incentives to use the prevention and disease management model
- Educate dental students in clinic settings with allied-health professionals
- Educate primary care providers and team members to provide basic oral health risk assessments, prevention, and education
- Increase stakeholder engagement and skill building to ensure capacity and improve oral health outcomes
- Require all dental professional education programs to include community service and social responsibility curricula

Surveillance, Analysis, Feedback

- Identify high-risk populations with comorbidities
- Identify risk and protective factors at the individual, family, school, and community levels
- Identify policies that affect oral health
- Track community oral health status