

PRIORITY: ACCESS TO CARE

GOAL 1: Improve dental health of Medicaid recipients and low income, uninsured persons.

Current Situation

Many adults with Medicaid dental coverage in Washtenaw County have difficulty accessing dental health care due to lack of providers accepting current or new Medicaid patients. Over 24,000 adults in Washtenaw County had Medicaid coverage with dental benefits in July 2012. However, that same year only 8 dentists or dental practices reported accepting Medicaid for current patients; and only 4 dentists or dental practices reported they are accepting new Medicaid patients. With the advent of the Healthy Michigan Plan Medicaid expansion, even more individuals will have dental coverage—but they will need access to providers. The need for a new public health dental clinic is supported by a coalition of local partners including: Michigan Community Dental Clinic, Washtenaw Health Initiative, Washtenaw County Public Health, and St. Joseph Mercy Health System. (Data sources: Medicaid Green Book, July 2012; Oral Health Task Force survey, 2012).

Alignment with State or National Initiatives

Healthy People 2020 states that lack of access to dental care for all ages remains a public health challenge. This issue was highlighted in a 2008 Government Accountability Office report that described difficulties in accessing dental care for low-income children.

Source/Evidence Base

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) has convened an expert panel to evaluate factors that influence access to dental care. Potential strategies to address these issues include: Increasing the number of community health centers with an oral health component.

Center for Healthcare Strategies, Inc. published a document titled, “Catalyzing Improvements in Oral Health Care: Best Practices from the State Action for Oral Health Access Initiative” (2006). Expanding the dental safety net by expanding services in the community is a recommended best practice. The project was funded by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Policy Component

Yes, funding organizations will be required to make a policy decision to support (fund) this clinic.

Objective:

Increase the percentage of low-income adults who report they have visited a dentist, dental hygienist or dental clinic within the past year from 50% to 55%.

Outcome Indicator	2010 Baseline	2014 Update	2020 Target	Data Source
Low-income adults who report they have visited a dentist, dental hygienist or dental clinic within the past year	50%	n/a*	55%**	HIP Survey

*No new HIP Survey data available. Next survey scheduled for 2015; data will be available 2016.

**10% improvement set using HP2020 method

Action Plan:

Program Activities	Baseline	Person/Group Responsible	Timeline	Performance Indicator
Continue planning process to open a new Public Health dental clinic serving low-income residents without dental coverage and with Medicaid in geographic area of greatest need (eastern Washtenaw County/Ypsilanti City/Township)	Ongoing	Washtenaw County Public Health; Washtenaw Health Initiative; St. Joseph Mercy Health System; Michigan Community Dental Clinics	2013-2015	Planning meetings, clinic plan complete, funding commitments
Open a Public Health-owned dental clinic in Ypsilanti	New	Washtenaw County Public Health; Washtenaw Health Initiative; St. Joseph Mercy Health System; Michigan Community Dental Clinics	2015-2018	Opening in February 2015, track number of visits and number of patients seen (target 10,000 per year)
Promote dental clinic through multiple channels and as part of Medicaid expansion and enrollment	New	Washtenaw County Public Health; Washtenaw Health Initiative; Washtenaw Health Plan; St. Joseph Mercy Health System;	2014-2018	Location of advertising; types of advertising; track other to-be-determined outreach methods
Together with the Oral Health Task Force and the Washtenaw Health Initiative's Community Outreach and Dental Services Workgroup, conduct a new dental needs assessment	New	Washtenaw Health Plan; Washtenaw Health Initiative Community Outreach and Dental Services Workgroup; Oral Health Task Force	2014-2015	Completed dental needs assessment and updated plan

GOAL 2: All Washtenaw County residents will have health coverage.

Current Situation

An estimated 25,249 individuals aged 0-64 years were believed to be uninsured per year between 2009-2011. In 2014, over 10,000 individuals in Washtenaw County purchased health coverage through the Marketplace under the individual mandate of the Affordable Care Act. (Some of these individuals previously had other health coverage.) Over 10,000 more individuals in Washtenaw County enrolled in the Healthy Michigan Plan when Medicaid expanded in April 2014. Over the coming years, the challenge will be to encourage the remaining uninsured individuals—perhaps 10,000 of them, to get health coverage. Data Sources: American Community Survey, US Census Bureau 2009-2011; Washtenaw Health Initiative analysis, 2014; Medicaid Green Book, 2014.

Alignment with State and National Initiatives

Per Healthy People 2020, lack of adequate health coverage makes it difficult for people to get the health care they need and, when they do get care, burdens them with large medical bills. Current national policy efforts focus on the provision of insurance coverage as the principal means of ensuring access to health care among the general population.

Source/Evidence Base

The Affordable Care Act was passed in 2010. Implementation of the individual mandate began in January 2014 and, in Michigan, implementation of the Medicaid expansion (Healthy Michigan Plan) began April 2014.

Policy component (Y/N and Explanation)

No, these strategies are focused on helping (through outreach and education) county residents navigate the upcoming health coverage opportunities due to implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

Objective:

Increase the percentage of low income residents with health insurance from 75% to 100%.

Outcome Indicator	2010 Baseline	2014 Update	2020 Target	Data Source
Percentage of low income residents with health insurance	75%	Not available*	100%	HIP Survey

*No new HIP Survey data available. Next survey scheduled for 2015; data will be available 2016.

Action Plan:

Program Activities	Baseline	Person/Group Responsible	Timeline	Performance Indicator
Promote community based enrollment to ensure uninsured Washtenaw County residents have access to information about Medicaid and upcoming health insurance exchanges through in-person assistance and public education	Ongoing	Washtenaw Health Plan; Michigan Dept. of Human Services	2014-2015	# of enrollment and education events, # of trainings
Focus on enrolling teens, immigrants and homeless families into Medicaid and health insurance exchanges through in-person assistance and public education. ("Coverage Counts" Grant from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services)	Ongoing	Washtenaw Health Plan	2014-2015	# of enrollment events, # of assisted Medicaid applications, # of Medicaid applications for immigrant families, homeless families, families with teens.
Implement "Get Covered" Campaign to heighten awareness about the need for, and availability of, health coverage	October 2014	Washtenaw Health Plan		Locations of billboards and advertising; estimated in-kind advertising amounts; social media contacts (followers); visits to healthcarecounts.org web sites
Participate with Washtenaw Health Initiative on Access to Care projects	Ongoing	Washtenaw Health Plan, Washtenaw County Public Health, Washtenaw Health Initiative (WHI)		# meetings, # minutes from WHI Medicaid Outreach and Enrollment Committee and Community Outreach and Dental Services Committee