



Immigrants

Laura Burns, Briana Hall, Kayla Jones, & Cindy Ly



## Objectives:

1. Review the importance of health served vans for underserved communities.
2. Explain the benefits of collaboration between public health professionals and oral health professionals.
3. Identify the advantages of oral health and health screenings.



## Importance of Health Service Vans



Mobile health service vans provide services to the underserved, such as immigrants, that live in rural areas, have mobility or transportation issues, or are not able to get to an in-house clinic. During the pandemic, they allow those communities easy access to COVID-19 testing, contact tracing, and vaccinations.

“Mobile health units help underserved communities overcome common barriers to accessing health care including time, geography, and trust, and have demonstrated improvements in health outcomes and reductions in costs” (Malone et al., 2020, p.1).

Using interprofessional collaboration helps ensure immigrants are getting the quality healthcare they need and deserve.

- Vaccinations can be easily and more rapidly administered to communities via health service vans to vulnerable populations
- Patients can receive health education on their overall health, including oral health, in the health service vans

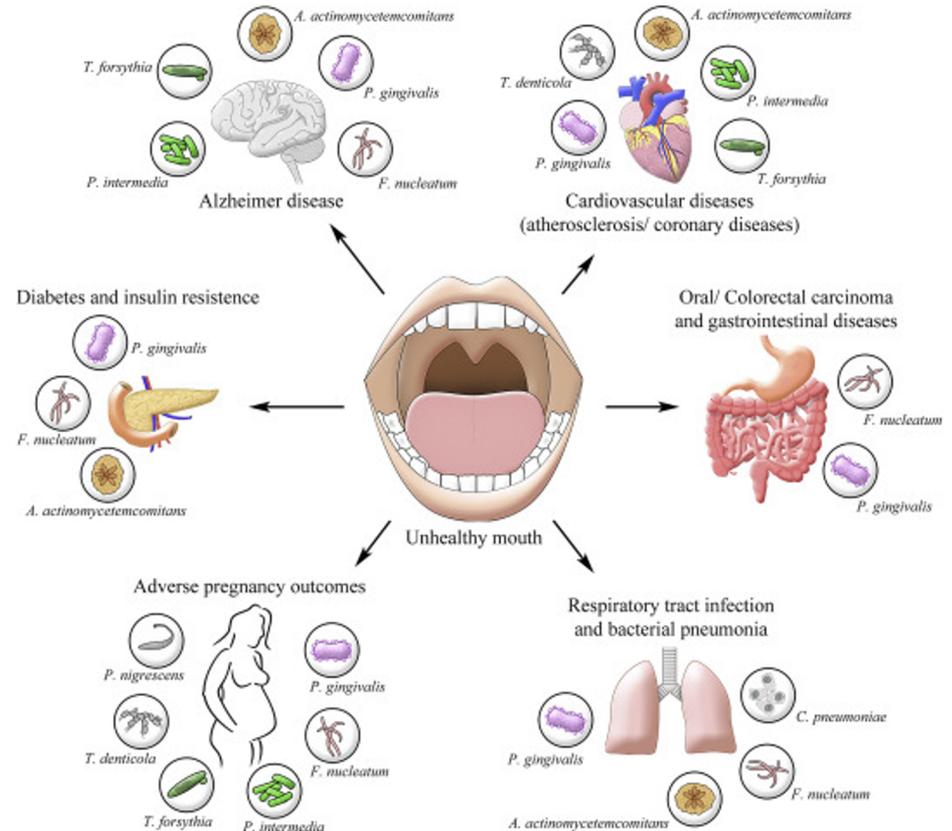


# Collaboration

Implementing a registered dental hygienist alongside a healthcare provider in the health service van for immigrants will ensure those communities in need have access to all preventative first line healthcare essentials.

There is a strong correlation between cardiovascular disease and periodontal disease (also known as gum disease), along with diabetes, periodontal disease and many other oral health factors that can cause negative effects on the body.

“According to the CDC, periodontal disease is considered to be a worldwide pandemic, causing disability, speech impairment, low self-esteem, and reduced quality of life” (Bui et al., 2019, p.27).







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# Health Outcome



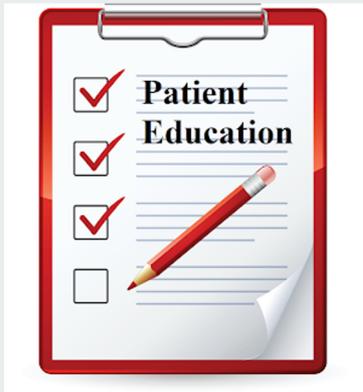
## **Increase overall community health**

**Goal: Increase overall community health as assessed by an increase in dental screening in the immigrant population by 25% from June 2021 to June 2022.**

**Additionally, increase dental screenings in the immigrant population by 10% each year thereafter.**



## Additional Health Outcomes



- Increased vaccination rates
- Increased health education provided
  - Oral hygiene
  - Nutrition
  - Blood Pressure
  - Diabetes
- Lower average community blood pressure
- Lower average diabetes A1C levels



# Referral to Professionals



- Referral to physician
- Referral to oral clinic





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# Competition and Ethics

- Transparency to the public through publicly available communication
- Public best interest always a priority
- Government regulations and oversight
- Fair representation of minority groups



## Prevention Approach

- Increase overall community health of the immigrant population through the addition of a comprehensive oral health screening which would include:
  - Nutritional counseling to aid in reducing caries risk and promoting a healthy diet based on their culture and systemic health
  - Smoking cessation
  - Educate on gingivitis process
  - Educate on periodontitis process
  - Educate on the oral-systemic link
  - Educate on proper oral hygiene home care regimens
    - Brushing and flossing
  - Oral cancer screening and educate on the risks and prevention of oral cancer
  - Sleep apnea screening
  - TMD screening
  - Oral abscess/infection screening



## Prevention Approach

- A study investigating the importance of oral health in immigrant and refugee children, concluded “multiple factors influence the development of dental caries and oral health problems in immigrant and refugee children. Knowledge of protective factors as well as the important role culture plays in the way different ethnic communities interact with health systems can help improve outcomes for high risk populations. Healthcare providers in all disciplines should strive to build therapeutic relationships with at-risk populations and deliver care that is culturally appropriate and can address oral health disparities” (Crespo, 2019, p.5).



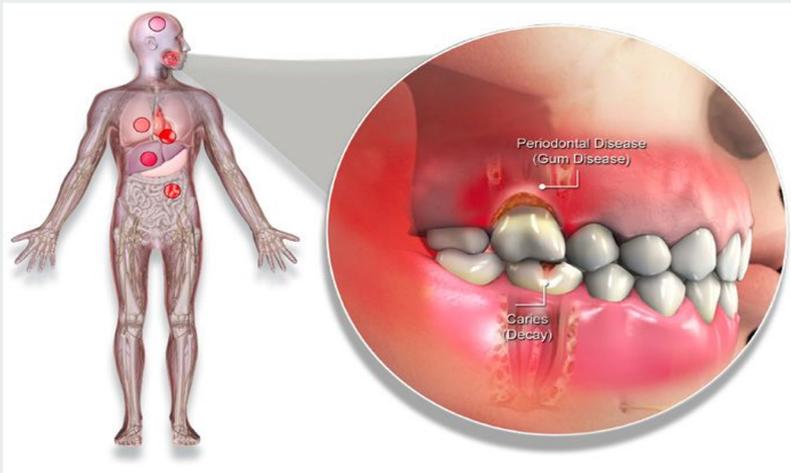
# Theoretical Models



- **Health Belief Model** - Individuals wish to avoid injury and disease and specific behaviors will prevent disease.
- **Social Ecological Model** - The environment shapes health outcomes.
- **Critical Period Model** - Critical periods of life affect certain exposures.



## Evidence Supporting the Intervention



An analysis of the 2013 to 2014 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey found that more than 50 percent of noncitizens in the United States were diagnosed with periodontal disease and 38 percent had dental caries. (Manchir, 2018)



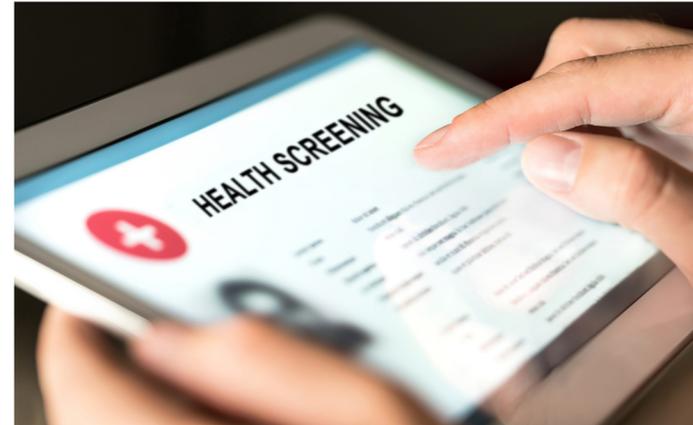
## Evidence Supporting the Intervention (cont.)

- “In a cohort of 5900 patients who visited the Family Van of Harvard Medical School between 2010 and 2012, patients who initially presented with high blood pressure exhibited average reductions of 10.7 mmHg and 6.2 mmHg, in systolic and diastolic blood pressures respectively, during their follow-up visits. These reductions are associated with a 32.2% and a 44.6% lower relative risk of myocardial infarction and stroke respectively” (Yu et al., 2017, p. 4).



## Evidence Supporting the Intervention (cont.)

“The HABITS for Life mobile screening program noted that 78% of its screening participants engaged in healthier behavior changes as a result of having participated in the screening” (Yu et al., 2017, p. 5).

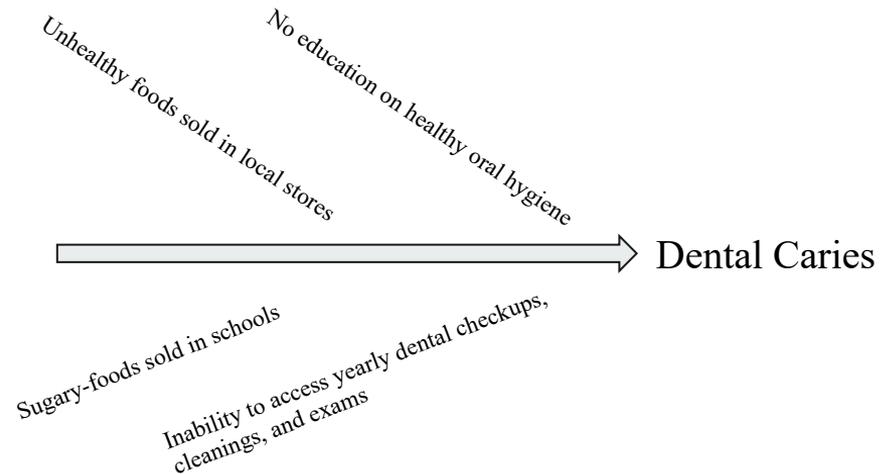


<https://www.ontask.io/resources/blog/what-you-need-to-know-about-covid-19-digital-waivers-health-screening-forms/>



# Systems Approach

- **Feedback Loops** - Ensuring the intended output is being met.
- **Ishikawa Diagram (Fishbone)** - Identifying possible causes leads to possible solutions.





## Conclusion

- Intervention is needed to address the lack of easy healthcare access for the underserved immigrant community
- Mobile health service vans provides access to preventative care at a reduced cost, eliminating barriers to healthcare
- The interprofessional collaboration between registered dental hygienists and public health professionals can help improve the overall community health of the immigrant population.
- This coordination is effective because implementation of comprehensive oral health screenings as a preventative approach can not only aid in improving the client's oral health, but will also aid in the assessment of the general systemic health, thus influencing the clients to seek out further recommended treatment.

# References



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