

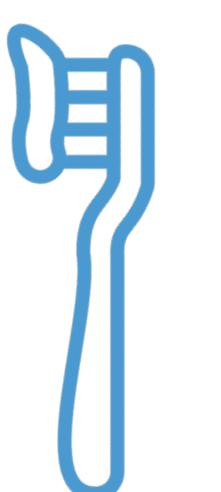
Oral Health Education and Outreach in Wake and Granville North Carolina Title I Schools

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Background:

Children from low-income families have higher levels of dental caries and unmet treatment needs. Prevention and treatment programs should be focused on schools that have a high proportion of students eligible for the National School Lunch Program.¹

 **37-73% of students**
in the partnering Title I schools were considered economically disadvantaged²

Purpose:

To provide oral hygiene supplies and education to under-resourced children in Wake and Granville County, NC through partnerships with local Title I schools.

Methods:

Phase 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Goal and timeline establishment• Key partnership formation
Phase 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outreach (social media + email)• Donation collection
Phase 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Record of inventory• Packaging
Phase 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Distribution of donations
Phase 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education sessions

Dental hygiene students have the power to promote health equity by forming partnerships with local stakeholders and focusing oral health education and supplies toward Title I Schools.



- 1) Clark BJ, Graves RC, Webster DB, Triol CW. Caries and treatment patterns in children related to school lunch program eligibility. *Journal of Public Health Dentistry*. 1987;47(3):134–8
- 2) U.S. news education [Internet]. [cited 2023Jan4]. Available from: <https://www.usnews.com/education/k12/north-carolina/barwell-road-elementary-210991>

Results:

Initial goal: 180 oral hygiene bags to 3 schools
Outcome: 427 oral hygiene bags to 5 schools

Oral Hygiene Supplies Collected and Donated	
Toothbrushes	582
Floss picks	372
Toothpaste	483
Total oral hygiene supplies	1,437
Total oral hygiene bags	427
Total # of Schools	5

Discussion:

Key lessons:

- Leveraging partnerships from public + private sector.
- Positive reception of grassroots local efforts to give back to the community.

Obstacles:

- Balancing ratios of donated supplies.
- Theft from donation boxes.

Future Directions:

- Improving sustainability + scope through partnerships with student led organizations.

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