

Oral Health Outreach and Supplies for Farmworkers, Youth and Families in Eastern North Carolina

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Background

Farmworkers in rural North Carolina face many social determinants of health that limit their access to dental care, including language barriers, socioeconomic difficulties, limitations from documentation status, and lack of transportation. North Carolina has one of the ten states with the largest population of farmworkers.¹

Ratio of dentists to population²

1.7 : 10,000

6.1 : 10,000

Sampson County, NC

National Average

Methods

- Set goals and timeline
- Formed local, state, and national partnerships.
- Interest meeting + call to action
- Donation collection + bagging.
- 1st FLOSS visit: farmworkers
- 2nd FLOSS visit: farmworker youth and families

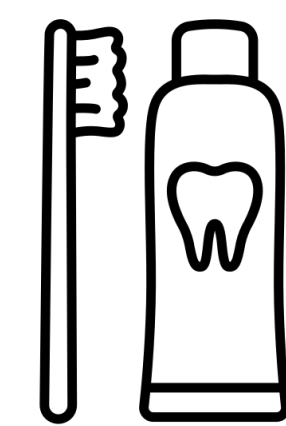
Results

As of January 2023...

 **31** UNC students, faculty, and staff answered the call to action.

124 Farmworkers, youth, & family reached

Donations:



360
toothpaste
tubes

288
dental
floss

144
tooth
brushes

The mission of Farmworker Labor and Oral Salud Services (F.L.O.S.S.) is to provide outreach, education, and dental supplies to the farmworker population in Eastern North Carolina and educate providers on how to advocate for and serve the farmworker population.



"I lived my whole life without knowing how to properly brush my teeth, I thought I was doing it right this whole time"

"Viví toda mi vida sin saber cómo cepillarme bien los dientes, pensé que lo estaba haciendo bien todo este tiempo"

"I am tired of having to interpret for my mom every time she has an appointment"

Discussion

Key Lessons

- Importance of dental career mentorship with farmworker youth.
- Importance of partnerships + collaboration.
- Key role of prevention, education, and hygienists.

Obstacles

- Distance, Eastern NC.
- Lack of Transportation.
- Audience exhaustion.
- Flexibility, last-minute dates.

Future Directions

- Resume campsite visits when seasonal workers arrive.
- Maintaining relationships with current partners for sustainability, expanding mission to provide services post-licensure.

Updates

- Grant received through HSDA.
- Interprofessional collaboration at a vaccination pop-up clinic.
- Protective Apparel Drive for Farmworker Awareness Week.
- Dental School Tour x Juntos.

Acknowledgements and Partners

UNC-CH Hispanic Student Dental Association (HSDA), Student Action with Farmworkers (SAF), NC Farmworker Project, UNC-CH American Association of Public Health Dentistry (AAPHD) local chapter, farmworkers, predoctoral dental and dental hygiene students from UNC-CH Adams School of Dentistry (ASOD), and the Levante Leadership Institution (LLI).

1) Arcury, Thomas A, and Sara A Quandt. "Delivery of health services to migrant and seasonal farmworkers." Annual review of public health vol. 28 (2007): 345-63. doi:10.1146/annurev.publhealth.27.021405.102106

2) North Carolina Health Professions Data System, <http://www.shepscenter.unc.edu/programs-projects/workforce/>, Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Created January 09, 2023 at <https://nchealthworkforce.unc.edu/interactive/supply/>.