

# Summary: IHS Dental Depression Screening Demonstration Project

- Project Purpose:** Promote depression screenings in I/T/U dental programs
- Evidence Base:** 2009 U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommendation on adult/adolescent depression screens
- Desired Outcome:** Demonstrate that dental programs can effectively screen for depression and embrace the “whole body” treatment concept, playing a part in the integration of BH into primary care
- Project Dates:** 1 October 2016 – 31 March 2017 (six months)
- Participating Sites:** 12 IHS and tribal dental programs
- Project Components:**
1. Pre-project survey to assess current level of screenings and BH interactions
  2. Education on depression screenings (Miranda Carmen, who served as SME on the project)
  3. Continued support from the IPC team (Ben Feliciano and Susan Anderson)
  4. 4 webinars to assess progress: 30 Nov 2016, 25 Jan 2017, 22 Feb 2017, and 22 Mar 2017
  5. Final survey of sites to assess outcomes (see graphs below)
  6. Development and review of final project report to leadership
  7. Completion of clinical guideline for OHPG, dissemination to I/T/U programs

- Project Results:**
1. All sites (- 1 dropout) greatly increased screenings and referrals
  2. Many developed PDSAs and used QI tools to develop and test changes
  3. All reported improved dental-BH communications
  4. Using lessons learned through the project, a clinical guideline was drafted, approved by the DOH Director, and is ready to be disseminated to I/T/U dental programs

