It is well documented that the special needs population has difficulty accessing dental services on a timely basis. The Rose F. Kennedy University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) dental program provides: (1) clinical dental services to patients with developmental disabilities, (2) training in special care dentistry to postgraduate dental residents and fellows, and (3) outreach to patients and caregivers in promoting oral health maintenance procedures and practices. The dental program is an integral service and training component of the broader Kennedy Center, which serves as a tertiary referral center for children with genetic and developmental anomalies. The Special Care Dentistry Fellowship Program, incorporated into the dental program, is one of only a few programs nationally that provides comprehensive training in all aspects of special care dentistry from training in genetics through the provision of treatment under general anesthesia. The dental clinic has logged 5,100 patient encounters in FY 2005 at a cost of $1,180,897 (approximately $231 per visit). The dental program is presently documenting it’s mode of operation so that others may replicate this model of dental care delivery.

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