



Dental Public Health Activities Descriptive Summaries

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North Carolina Institution-based Dental Services for Persons with Disabilities Living in the Community

Two institution-based dental clinics in North Carolina serve persons with disabilities who live in the community. In the Murdoch Center, the dental program fully integrates dental care for persons living in the community with dental care for residents of the institution. In the Riddle Center, a separate program provides dental care for persons living in the community which operates independent of the dental program for residents of the institution. Both programs have a common objective of providing access to dental care for persons with disabilities who live outside the institution and are unable to obtain care from community sources. The cost of the Riddle dental program is higher than the Murdoch dental program because it has full time staff dedicated to serving outpatients; however, the Riddle program has the potential for serving more patients. Both dental clinics represent an innovative approach to utilizing scarce oral health resources which include trained dental professionals and institutional dental facilities. During the decades of de-institutionalization of persons with disabilities, many states have reduced or eliminated these institution-based dental clinics.

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