

Dental Program

What is the Michigan Dental Program?



The Michigan Dental Program (MDP) is a comprehensive dental access program for Michigan residents living with HIV/AIDS. To qualify for the program applicants:





The MDP has increased access to dental services for People Living With HIV/AIDS (PLWHA).



On August 1, 2016 the MDP began a contract between the MDHHS Oral Health Program and Delta Dental plan of Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana to be a dental benefit administrator for the enrolled clients of the MDP. The program has shown significant growth since the partnership began.

Oral Health Program Purpose Statement

We serve Michiganders to reduce the impact of dental disease with special attention to those experiencing health inequities by:

Promoting access and use of affordable and timely preventive oral health care.

Collaborate with key stakeholders and community base on health organizations that guide program and policy development to address oral health.

Encouraging behavior change through increasing access, awareness and education to oral health resources.

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Michigan Dental Program Goals

Collaborate with dentists to educate clients on the importance of oral health care.

Use data to identify areas of social determinants and try to meet the population needs.

Increase access to quality dental care as a part of overall health.

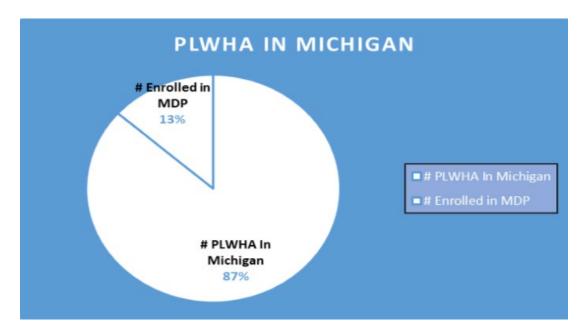
Oral Health Care for People Living with HIV/AIDS



Good oral health is recognized as important to the well-being of all population groups, according to Dr. Regina Benjamin, MD, MBA from the National Center for Biotechnology Information. It is especially critical for PLWHA individuals. Inadequate oral health care can undermine HIV treatment and diminish quality of life, yet many individuals living with HIV are not receiving the necessary oral health care that would optimize their treatment.



The Michigan Dental Program is making a difference in the lives of PLWHA individuals in Michigan by reducing barriers to good oral health. MDP offers a dental benefit to PLWHA that do not have access to private dental coverage. The graph below shows the total HIV population in Michigan and the percent enrolled in the MDP.





CLIENTS BY RACE

1,029 ********

917 ******

White

135 RR Hispanic

53 1

More than once race

21 R

8 🕏

American Indian/Alaska Native

Not Specified

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Pacific Islander

1 🦎 Other

ACCESS FOR CLIENTS

Clients have received services across the entire state including dental offices in the Upper Peninsula.



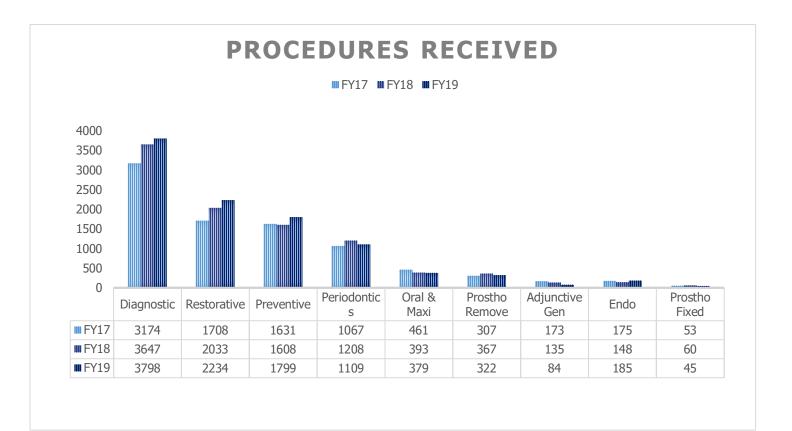
CLIENTS BY GENDER

1,723 旅旅旅旅旅旅旅旅旅旅旅旅旅旅旅

412 *** * * * * * * ***

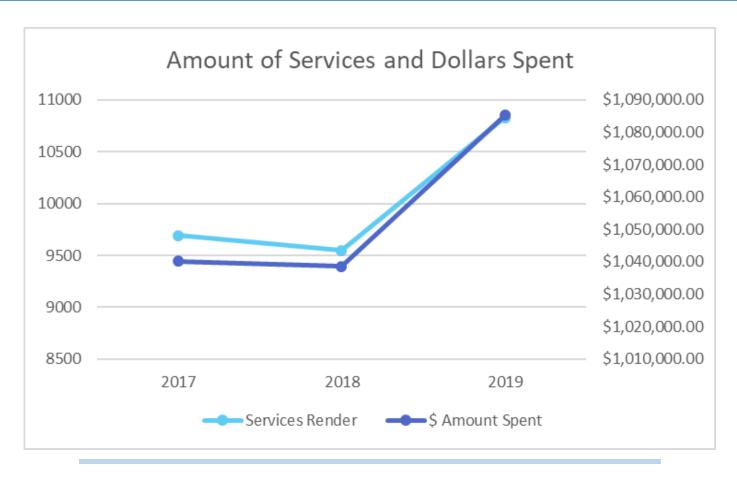
Female

33 R Transgender



- New clients enter the program with higher unmet dental needs.
- The highest utilization and costs are seen in the diagnostic and restorative categories. Restorative treatment includes services, such as crown and bridge work, in addition to fillings. As members have their urgent dental treatment needs met, preventive services have increased (prophys and fluoride treatments).
- Keeping clients enrolled and receiving preventive care is the goal for the Michigan Dental Program.
- As clients receive regular care, other more expensive and invasive treatments such as extractions, dentures and root canals have decreased.





The Michigan Dental Program has reduced barriers to dental service resulting in an increase of utilization. By partnering with Delta Dental PPO of MI, the dental network is expanded to over 2,000 network dentists and specialists. Barriers are reduced for: out of pocket expenses, transportation, appointment wait time, and stigma is reduced at appointments by presenting an insurance card.





A Health Equity Social Justice Lens



Applying a Health Equity Social Justice lens to the program will better serve the MDP members. The MDP is looking for the best health and access to effective, affordable, oral health care. By ensuring health equity and social justice systematic changes, we can make oral health care a right and not a privilege. One method is encouraging members to utilize case managers, so they can be informed of and connected to additional resources, such as housing and transportation, within their community.







Past, Present, and Future

The Michigan Dental Program (MDP) continues to grow and increase access to oral health to more people each year. In 2019, the MDP touched the lives of 2,526 people living with HIV/AIDS. Of that number 1,508 enrolled members received a dental service. Over 10,000 dental procedures were covered under this program. The average cost per enrolled individual was \$416 dollars. The majority of the people served in this program are African American men and women. This is a group that is disproportionally under-insured and, historically, faces more barriers to care. Dental treatment services reached every corner of Michigan, including both lower and upper peninsulas.

Future Projects Include:



Member Satisfaction Survey — to be mailed to each enrolled member.



Education of Dentists and Dental Hygienists — a HIV Dental Symposium geared toward direct delivery of dental care for patients living with HIV/AIDS.



Enrollment process — improvements have been made to streamline the current enrollment process and will continue.



Online Application — working with our partners in the Ryan White Care unit to develop an online application for the MDP.









Michigan Dental Program Staff

Christine M. Farrell, RDH, BSDH, MPA Oral Health Program Director

Jaymee Clark, BS
Michigan Dental Program Financial and Reports Analyst

Jennifer Calkins Michigan Dental Program Eligibility Specialist

Pam Manning, RDH, BAS
Michigan Dental Program Coordinator



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