

Project Description: Population Health Driver Diagram to Increase Use of Oral Health Care Services

The *Healthy People 2020* Leading Health Indicator, “[Increase the proportion of children, adolescents, and adults who used the oral health care system in the past year](#),” can be achieved more effectively and efficiently through collaborative strategies by public health and health care organizations. With funding from the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Public Health Foundation (PHF) is leading an effort to develop a driver diagram to help public health and health care organizations work together to increase the use of oral health care services. A public health driver diagram identifies primary and secondary drivers of a population health goal, and helps to promote alignment of activities across sectors to address community health challenges, such as increasing the use of oral health services.

An interdisciplinary team of experts in quality improvement, oral health, epidemiology, and public health practice, is being assembled to serve on PHF’s Oral Health Care Advisory Group to help identify and map primary and secondary drivers that can lead to increased use of oral health care services, and develop the Population Health Driver Diagram to Increase Use of Oral Health Care Services. Once the driver diagram is complete, PHF will seek sponsors to help test and further refine the driver diagram for potential use in communities throughout the United States.

PHF has successfully used this approach before, having developed and piloted the [Public Health Antibiotic Stewardship Driver Diagram](#), which outlines primary and secondary drivers of optimal antibiotic use. Among the pilot sites testing the driver diagram, a key accomplishment was greater collaboration between public health and health care, which improved the processes and protocols used by stakeholders to improve the use of antibiotics in the community. PHF is enthusiastic about applying this interdisciplinary framework to improve use of oral health care services.

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