

**Medical College of Wisconsin Master of Public Health Program  
PUBLIC HEALTH STUDENT WRITING TUTORIAL**

**SAMPLE ABSTRACT #1**

**Background**

A lack of access to dental health care for rural and underserved populations throughout the country and State of Wisconsin is a critical health care problem. Studies at the state and national levels have failed to reach a consensus on solutions to this problem, and many states are falling below the goals of Healthy People 2010 to ensure adequate access to dental care.

**Methods**

A literature review of both population and dental provider demographics evaluated the extent of unmet dental needs. The Surgeon General's *2000 Report - Oral Health in America*, the American Dental Association *2005 - Report on Current and Projected Dental Workforce*, and the Wisconsin Dental Association/Delta Dental Report 2010 - *Supply and Demand for Dental Services Wisconsin* provide the basis for this study.

**Results**

Data indicate there is no shortage of dental providers nationwide or statewide in Wisconsin, but the problem is one of distribution. Contributing to the lack of access in the rural areas is the Federal Medicaid (MA) program that provides low re-imbusement rates resulting in low provider participation and utilization of services. The establishment of Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), expanding auxiliary dental provider positions, and the development of market based partnerships have been proposed to eliminate the disparity of dental care delivery.

## **Conclusion**

Efforts in states to increase the reimbursement rates paid to dental providers have been shown to increase utilization. Initiatives to target rural pre-dental students for admission to dental schools and admission of in-state students will increase the retention of dental graduates in the state in all practice locations. The introduction of innovative dental personnel, such as the dental therapist and community dental health coordinator, may also increase access and utilization of services. The development of market-based initiatives that partner dentists and auxiliaries with local state and national programs has been shown to significantly improve the a0( de)4(dnt)r1gn ti i

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**SAMPLE ABSTRACT #2**