



DENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

SUMMARY

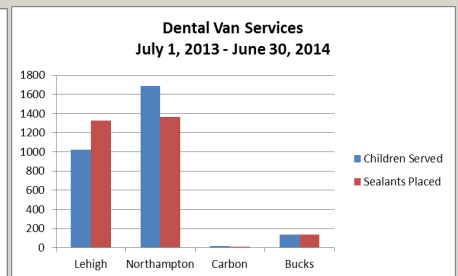
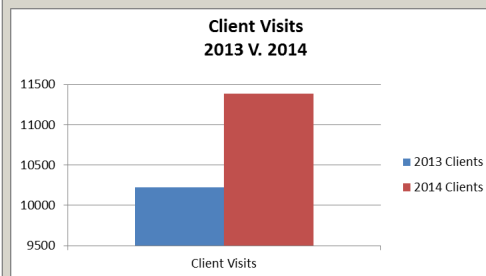
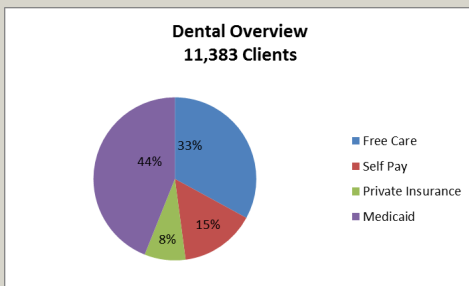
The Dental Health Initiative at St. Luke's continues to make strides toward decreasing dental disease and increasing awareness of the importance of good oral health and its relationship to overall health. With the addition of a second mobile dental van, a dental clinic in Easton, and a clinic in Bethlehem, access to affordable, preventive oral health and treatment services increased 11% throughout Lehigh, Northampton, Carbon, and portions of Bucks counties. In St. Luke's 2012 Community Health Needs Survey, low income was identified to be a barrier to care in our communities. Thirty one percent of respondents with annual incomes below \$25,000 stated they have gone 5 or more years without receiving dental care. To address this issue and align with the Healthy People 2020 Oral Health objectives, St. Luke's two mobile dental vans serve all school aged children regardless of ability to pay for treatment. Our clinics in Bethlehem and Easton also continue to provide care at reduced fees, and in many instances at no cost, for low income clients who would otherwise go without needed care. Preventive treatments such as oral hygiene instruction, dental sealants, cleanings, and fluoride applications are a primary service on the dental vans. We believe increasing access to integrated, prevention-focused care helps to build healthier communities one smile at a time.

Easton Dental Center continues to provide pediatric and adult services to the eastern portion of Northampton and surrounding counties.

Dental Health Center at NCC Fowler Building: The collaboration of the Bethlehem dental clinic and Northampton Community College's School of Dental Hygiene provides unique opportunities for dental residents and dental hygiene students to gain experience side by side in a fast paced community health learning environment. Dental hygiene students graduate with a better understanding of public health dental settings and dental residents receive referrals from the school for restorative treatment.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Mobile Dental Program added a second van in 2013 to increase service to Allentown and Lehigh County school districts. Between the two dental vans, dental care was provided in Lehigh, Northampton, Carbon, and Bucks county schools and special programs.



SUCCESSES

Dental Van Program: The dental vans help to eliminate the access to care problem by treating children at the schools they attend.

- 2,862 children received care. This is a 150% increase over 2012 due to the addition of the second dental van.
- 2,838 dental sealants were placed to help prevent dental decay.
- Over \$54,000 in free care was provided to school students in the 2013-2014 school year.

CHALLENGES & NEXT STEPS

The severe winter weather did prove to be a challenge to the mobile dental vans this past year. We commend our drivers, dental staff, and schools for working together to adjust schedules.