



DENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

SUMMARY

What a joy it is to be able to share a big, healthy smile with everyone you meet! The Dental Health Initiative at St. Luke's continues to help people share smiles across the Lehigh Valley and beyond. During the past year, over 2,879 children and 2,220 adults received dental care through the St. Luke's Community Health Dental Program. With a total of four clinics, two stationary and two mobile, high quality dental care is provided to those with Medicaid insurance plans, traditional insurance plans, and to low income community members without dental insurance.

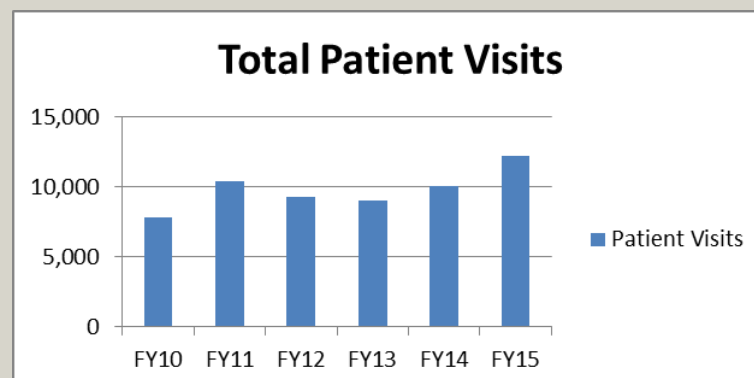
Our General Practice Dental Residency Program contributes to the success of the Dental Health Initiative by training dentists in public dental health, community and school based dental health initiatives, special needs dental care, and treatment of patients with complex medical concerns. Since 2003, 30 dental residents have assisted St. Luke's in providing dental care across the Lehigh Valley.

Through collaboration with Northampton Community College's School of Dental Hygiene, our Sealant program places preventive dental sealants on children enrolled in the Bethlehem Area School District. The placement of dental sealants is scientifically proven to reduce dental decay. This joint effort provides dental hygiene students with hands-on experience in community dental health prevention and education.

St. Luke's Community Health Dental Initiative and our network of community partners including local government, schools, community organizations, and local businesses are dedicated to improving the quality of life and health of residents in the Lehigh Valley one big, healthy smile at a time.

HIGHLIGHTS

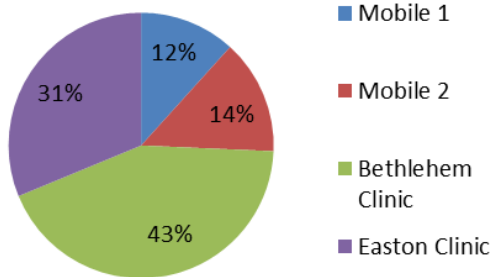
The Mobile Dental Program provided services in Bethlehem, Allentown, Bangor, Quakertown, Easton, and Whitehall/Coplay Area School Districts. Dental care was also provided at Neighborhood Health Centers of the Lehigh Valley, Allentown Community Services for Children, Pinebrook Family Services, and Allentown and Bethlehem KidsCare.



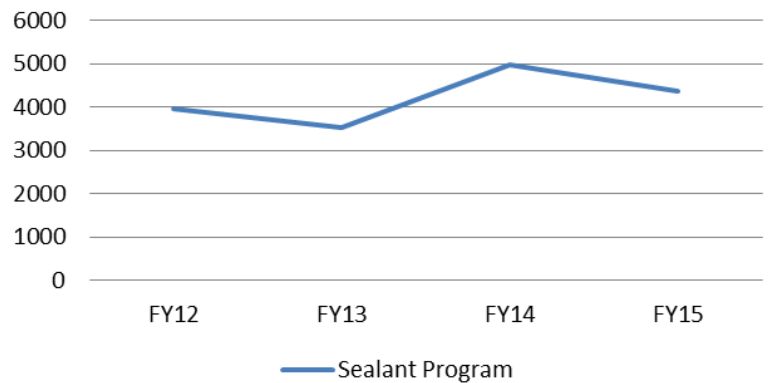
SUCCESSSES

- ◆ By treating students in the schools they attend, the problem of obtaining access to dental care issues due to parent work schedules or transportation issues is decreased.
- ◆ 3,130 dental visits were provided on the Mobile Dental Vans in FY2015.
- ◆ \$324,460 in free dental care was provided to uninsured students in six area school districts in FY2015.

Visits By Clinic FY2015



Sealant Program



CHALLENGES & NEXT STEPS

- ◆ The Mobile 2 Dental Van is getting older and is in need of equipment replacements and repairs. Funds will need to be raised to keep both dental vans in good service.
- ◆ Improve patient care by creating more efficient and consistent work-flow systems, adding digital panography to Easton and Bethlehem clinics, and adding a hand held digital x- ray unit for dental vans and school based dental health services.
- ◆ The Dental Program would like to initiate a dental sealant program in Allentown School District and a Primary Teeth Sealant Program in FY16. Insurance does not offer reimbursement for sealant placement in primary teeth. Additional funding sources are needed.

