



## CPAC/CPRC-Funded Published Research Related to Oral Health

The U.S. Surgeon General has identified dental disease as a silent epidemic, and acknowledged that profound socioeconomic disparities prevent certain groups from achieving good oral health. The California Program on Access to Care (CPAC), under the auspices of the University of California Office of the President's California Policy Research Center (CPRC), has long recognized the importance of research on access to oral health care.

### *Access to Dental Care for Medi-Cal Recipients*

Peter C. Damiano et al. June 1990. Available by mail from CPAC.

### *Early Childhood Dental Caries*

Laurence J. Platt and Maritza C. Cabezas. September 2000. UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities/CPRC. Available online at [www.ucop.edu/cprc/platt2.pdf](http://www.ucop.edu/cprc/platt2.pdf).

### *Policy Implications of Access to Dental Care for Immigrant Communities*

Marvin Marcus, Carl Maida, Roberto Belloso, Norma Guzmán-Becerra, and Linda Fidell. February 2000. UCLA School of Dentistry. Available online at [www.ucop.edu/cprc/dentalaccess.pdf](http://www.ucop.edu/cprc/dentalaccess.pdf).

### *Access to Health Care for California's Hired Farm Workers: A Baseline Report*

Don Villarejo et al. October 2001. Available online at [www.ucop.edu/cprc/fwaccess.pdf](http://www.ucop.edu/cprc/fwaccess.pdf).

### *In Their Own Words: Farmworker Access to Health Care in Four California Regions*

The California Institute for Rural Studies. Undated. Available online at [www.cirsinc.org/CPAC.pdf](http://www.cirsinc.org/CPAC.pdf).

### *Evaluation of Strategies to Recruit Oral Health Care Providers to Underserved Areas of California*

Elizabeth Mertz, Gena Anderson, Kevin Grumbach, and Edward O'Neil. July 2004. Report available online at <http://futurehealth.ucsf.edu/cchws/underserved.html>. CPRC summary available at [www.ucop.edu/cprc/oralhcreproviders.pdf](http://www.ucop.edu/cprc/oralhcreproviders.pdf).

## Recent CPAC-Funded Research Related to Oral Health

### *Strategies to Improve Dental Access and Use for California's Young Children*

Moira Inkelas, UCLA. Grant period: March 1–December 31, 2004.

The California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) provides the first statewide information on dental care coverage and use of services. Just over half of children age 2–5 years, and only 40% of those age 3–4 years, have ever seen a dentist. Few young children have had a visit within the last six months. At least one-quarter lack dental coverage. This project will (1) identify characteristics of young children at risk for late (or no) initiation of dental care, and for inadequate use of preventive dental services; (2) assess the association of provider supply with young children's use of care; and (3) present policy and programmatic options for improving dental care access.

### *Dental Check-Up of the Healthy Families Program*

Umo Isong, UCSF. Grant period: March 1–December 31, 2004.

For each child in the United States without medical insurance, there are 2.6 children without dental insurance. The August 1997 federal enactment of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) launched a new initiative allowing states to implement innovative approaches to providing health insurance coverage to eligible low-income uninsured children. The Healthy Families Program (HFP), California's SCHIP plan, includes dental care for enrolled children. This study will use CHIS data to evaluate dental care access among HFP beneficiaries in 2001. Utilization will also be compared to that of children covered by Medi-Cal and of uninsured children.

### *Oral Health of Native Americans*

Nancy Reifel, UCLA. Grant period: March 1–October 31, 2004.

Most research about the oral health status of American Indians/Alaska Natives (AIAN) and the effectiveness of oral health programs for them comes from studies

conducted through Native American organizations that represent only 20% of California's AIAN population. CHIS data allow the comparison of an AIAN sample drawn from the general public to that of a sample drawn from client lists of tribal and Indian organizations. This project assesses the effect of using Native American organizations as a point of entry into the community for the purpose of conducting oral health surveillance, research, and interventions.

### **Collaborative Efforts to Increase Access to Oral Health Care**

Since 1998, CPAC has conducted major activities to increase access to oral health care, including the following:

- In 1999 and 2002, provided technical assistance to the Assembly Budget Committee to promote access to oral health care for underserved populations, particularly low-income children from immigrant families;
- In 1999 and 2000, established Oral Health for California Youngsters Coalition (OHCA) as a study group to identify models for improving access for low-income children and for improving training of dental and medical providers (chaired by Dr. Francisco Ramos-Gomez, UCSF);
- In 1999 and 2000, assisted legislative author and co-authors in adoption of Assembly Bill 1065 (Ducheny-Moreno), the Children's Dental Care Pilot Project;
- In 2002 and 2003, provided technical assistance, through Dr. Ramos-Gomez, to the Oral Health/First 5 (Proposition 10) Coalition to promote the use of First 5 funds statewide and at the county level for oral health care and provider training; and
- In 2003, jointly sponsored a Binational Forum on Oral Health with the California-Mexico Health Initiative at the 61st Annual Meeting of the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Association.

### **About the California Program on Access to Care**

The California Program on Access to Care is an applied policy research program established by the University of California at the request of the state legislature to address issues related to access to health care for low-income populations.

CPAC is administered by the California Policy Research Center, a UC systemwide research program overseen by a Steering Committee that includes appointees of the Governor, the Senate President Pro Tempore and Minority Leader, the Assembly Speaker and Minority Leader, and the UC President.

The University has been committing \$1 million annually since 1997 to provide core funding for this effort. CPAC has also received supplemental funding from California foundations and various state and federal sources for special projects.

CPAC achieves its objectives by:

- Administering a competitive policy research grants program;
- Providing technical assistance to the state legislature and executive-branch agencies;
- Convening experts and other stakeholders to discuss issues related to access to health care;
- Maintaining a database/roster of university faculty with expertise on health care issues; and
- Disseminating research findings and related policy information through electronic and print media.

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### **California Program on Access to Care**

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