Teledentistry in Arizona

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Objectives

● Describe traits of an urban/suburban teledentistry program.
● Apply lessons learned from the development and implementation of a teledentistry program.
● Identify areas of focus for the future success of teledentistry.
Support and Disclaimer

- Teledentistry project at ATSU-ASDOH primarily funded by HRSA, Grant #D85HP20045
- Additional support from MouthWatch, LLC
- Delta Dental of Arizona Foundation awarded ATSU-ASDOH $40,000 in grant funding to purchase the teledentistry vehicle
- The presenter is a clinical advisor with MouthWatch, LLC
The Stats for Arizona and Phoenix

- Phoenix is the 5th largest city
- Phoenix metro has the 12th highest population
- Arizona children have some of the highest rates of dental disease
- Adults might make it to a dentist but for what reason?
- Most children in Arizona live close to a Medicaid dentist, so why do they have disease?
Why aren’t people going to the dentist?

Cost / Afraid of Dentist / Inconvenient location or time / Trouble finding a dentist / No original teeth / No perceived need / No reason / Other
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic Stability</th>
<th>Neighborhood and Physical Environment</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Food</th>
<th>Community and Social Context</th>
<th>Health Care System</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>Literacy</td>
<td>Hunger</td>
<td>Social integration</td>
<td>Health coverage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>Language</td>
<td>Access to healthy options</td>
<td>Support systems</td>
<td>Provider availability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td>Safety</td>
<td>Early childhood education</td>
<td></td>
<td>Community engagement</td>
<td>Provider linguistic and cultural competency</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debt</td>
<td>Parks</td>
<td>Vocational training</td>
<td></td>
<td>Discrimination</td>
<td>Quality of care</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical bills</td>
<td>Playgrounds</td>
<td>Higher education</td>
<td></td>
<td>Stress</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Walkability</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Zip code / geography</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Health Outcomes**
Mortality, Morbidity, Life Expectancy, Health Care Expenditures, Health Status, Functional Limitations
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What options do we have to reach populations?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community water fluoridation</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>School-based programs</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Water fluoridation</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sealants</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fluoride varnish</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fluoride rinses</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mobile vans</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Portable dentistry</strong></td>
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Working at the Top of Your Scope

With any system of care delivery, it will only be most efficient if everyone is working at the top of their scope. Some systems allow for this, others inhibit it. With advancements in technology, we have ways for all members of the oral health team to work at the top of their scopes.
What is teledentistry?

Teledentistry is the use of technology (including digital radiographs, digital photos/videos, electronic health records, the Internet, etc.) to facilitate the delivery of oral healthcare and oral health education services from a provider in one location to a patient in a physically different location.

American Dental Association
Teledentistry and Telehealth

TELEDENTISTRY

TELEPSYCHOLOGY

TELEDERMATOLOGY

TELEMEDICINE

TELECARDIOLOGY

TELEPATHOLOGY
Steps to Developing a Program

- Learning about teledentistry
- Learning about state laws
- Being in compliance for reimbursement
- Developing community partners
- Developing curriculum
- Purchasing equipment and supplies
Learning About Teledentistry

"Teledentistry" means the use of data transmitted through interactive audio, video or data communications for the purposes of examination, diagnosis, treatment planning, consultation and directing the delivery of treatment by dentists and dental providers in settings permissible under title 32, chapter 11 or specified in rules adopted by the board.
A dentist who holds an active license pursuant to this chapter and a dental hygienist who holds an active license pursuant to this article may enter into an affiliated practice relationship for the delivery of dental hygiene services.
Developing Community Partners

- Maricopa Juvenile Detention Centers
- East Valley Adult Resources
- Maricopa Reentry Center
- Arizona Recreation Center for the Handicapped
- Children’s Rehabilitative Services
Being in Compliance for Reimbursement

- Patient focus is those on Medicaid or no insurance
- Medicaid requires in person consent
- Only a hygienist can bill D0191
- CMS Policy on Asynchronous Reimbursement:
  - As a condition of payment, **you must use an interactive audio and video telecommunications system** that permits real-time communication... **Asynchronous “store and forward” technology**... is **permitted only in Federal telemedicine demonstration programs in Alaska or Hawaii**.
- Asynchronous may be covered if explicitly stated in law or policy
Developing New Curriculum

- Become familiar with teledentistry laws and regulations
- Identify options for technology and gain confidence in using technology
- Learn how to diagnose using digital records
- Learn what data should be collected in the field to diagnose in clinic
- Develop plans for overcoming barriers to teledentistry
Developing New Curriculum

Classroom
- Lecture 1: What is teledentistry? and practicing using digital records
- Lecture 2: Review of teledentistry concepts and guest speaker
- Lecture 3: Plan your own teledentistry program

Lab
- 3 hour intraoral camera lab

Teledentistry Rotation
- Provide preventive care and gather clinical data in field
- Review cases and develop treatment plans at school
Purchasing Equipment and Supplies

- Portable dental unit
- Nomad and sensor
- Chairs
- Computers
- Cameras
- Disposables
- Preventive supplies
- Tubs/tool boxes to carry instruments and supplies
- EHR
What about the future?

- State legislation should allow all members of the oral health team to work at the top of their scopes
- Supervision constraints should be evaluated and revised if needed
- Reimbursement mechanisms need to be fine tuned
- Dental students should be trained how to use digital records to diagnose
- Hygiene students should be trained how to collect digital records
- Practicing providers should be trained how to use teledentistry to advance their practices and reach additional populations
Questions?
Thank you!

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