



## Boston Senior Oral Health Program Boston, Massachusetts

### Program Overview

The Boston Senior Oral Health Program provides dental screenings and multi-lingual oral health education to older adults living in public housing developments, with referrals to federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) for those in need of dental care. All individuals are offered navigation assistance from Resident Health Resources, who are existing public housing residents trained as oral health advocates for their fellow residents. The program provides dental care free of charge to participating older adults.

### Program History and Development



The Boston University Partnership in Health and Housing, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the Boston Housing Authority, and the Boston Public Health Commission conducted the initial research demonstrating the need for this program. A survey revealed that of all the older adults living in Boston's public housing developments, 52 percent were in need of dental treatment, 41 percent were in need of new dentures, and 28 percent were found to have potentially cancerous lesions. Only six percent were able to afford dental insurance.

The program first started as a Massachusetts Department of Public Health initiative in 2009. Since 2013, the program has continued as part of the Partnership in Health and Housing at Boston University School of Public Health.

### Program Sustainability

- Boston Senior Oral Health Program receives funding through a partnership between Boston University Schools of Public Health and Dentistry, Fenway Community Health Center, the Boston Housing Authority, the Sunshine Lady Foundation, and the DentaQuest Foundation.

### Program Impact

- In 2013, the Boston Senior Oral Health Program assisted 245 older adults in public housing with free dental care.
- The program screened over 260 older adults in 2013 and successfully referred 80 percent of these individuals to FQHCs for preventive and restorative care.

### Program Contact Information

Program Website: [https://www.bostonhousing.org/en/News/The-Partnership-in-Health-and-Housing-\(PHH\)-at-BU'.aspx](https://www.bostonhousing.org/en/News/The-Partnership-in-Health-and-Housing-(PHH)-at-BU'.aspx)



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### Program Features

Note: A checked box below indicates an existing program feature.

Age	Service Delivery Model	Dental and Oral Health Services
<input type="checkbox"/> 0-17 (Children and Youth) <input type="checkbox"/> 18-60 (Adult) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 60+ (Older Adult)	<input type="checkbox"/> Dental clinic model (e.g. permanent setting) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mobile-portable model <input type="checkbox"/> Eligibility and enrollment model (e.g. referrals, care coordination) <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual model (e.g. telehealth) <input type="checkbox"/> Event-based model <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach and education model	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basic services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Screenings <input type="checkbox"/> Cleanings <input type="checkbox"/> Fluoride varnish <input type="checkbox"/> Sealants <input type="checkbox"/> X-rays <input type="checkbox"/> Comprehensive services <input type="checkbox"/> Fillings <input type="checkbox"/> Scaling/root planing <input type="checkbox"/> Extractions <input type="checkbox"/> Oral surgery <input type="checkbox"/> Root canals <input type="checkbox"/> Dentures, partials, relines, repairs <input type="checkbox"/> Crowns <input type="checkbox"/> Bridges <input type="checkbox"/> Orthodontics
Specific Populations	Staffing	Other Program Services
<input type="checkbox"/> Homeless individuals <input type="checkbox"/> Individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities <input type="checkbox"/> Individuals with physical disabilities <input type="checkbox"/> Individuals with specific or complex medical conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Individuals with low income <input type="checkbox"/> Individuals with no dental insurance <input type="checkbox"/> Individuals with Medicaid <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans <input type="checkbox"/> Refugees/immigrants	<input type="checkbox"/> Dentist <input type="checkbox"/> Dental hygienist <input type="checkbox"/> Dental therapist <input type="checkbox"/> Dental assistant <input type="checkbox"/> Dental/dental hygiene students <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing staff <input type="checkbox"/> Community health workers <input type="checkbox"/> Non-dental clinical staff <input type="checkbox"/> Non-clinical staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referrals to dental and oral health services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Care coordination/care management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patient education <input type="checkbox"/> Caregiver education <input type="checkbox"/> Provider education <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/coalition
Geography	Payment for Care	Integration with Services
<input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban	<input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No charge to client <input type="checkbox"/> Sliding fee scale <input type="checkbox"/> Out of pocket <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial dental insurance	<input type="checkbox"/> Medical services <input type="checkbox"/> Behavioral health services <input type="checkbox"/> Vision services <input type="checkbox"/> Pharmacy services <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Translation services <input type="checkbox"/> Nutrition services
Service Delivery Setting	Program Funding	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hospital <input type="checkbox"/> Dental school <input type="checkbox"/> Community/safety net clinic <input type="checkbox"/> Private dental office <input type="checkbox"/> Long-term care facility <input type="checkbox"/> Senior center/community center <input type="checkbox"/> Private residence <input type="checkbox"/> Fairgrounds/stadium/parking lot <input type="checkbox"/> Church <input type="checkbox"/> School <input type="checkbox"/> Homeless shelter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public housing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Foundation/organization grant <input type="checkbox"/> Public funding (e.g. local, state, federal) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private donations (e.g. individuals, businesses)	

This profile was prepared using publicly available information. Date of last update: March 2016